

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:47 PM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-03-15
First Name: Rathna
Last Name: Prabhakar
Title: N/A
Organization: SELF
Address: [REDACTED]
City: Amarillo
State: TX
Zipcode: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Hi, my name is Rathna Prabhakar. I'm testifying on behalf of myself and I'm testifying because I want a 2021 redistricting process that is fair and transparent and logical and with a lot of common sense and people sense.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education. If politicians are elected from districts that don't reflect the population, you end up with situations where politicians support policies that the vast majority of people oppose, or they won't support policies that the vast majority of people support.

When politicians manipulate maps for personal or political gain, it prevents residents like me from having our voices heard on all of these policies that affect us. Purposefully breaking up communities takes away the community's ability to come together and advocate for important issues.

I care about issues like affordable housing, gun control, and urban infrastructure. When maps are unfairly rigged, you end up seeing a legislature that represents special interests and politicians, instead of representing the people. In the past, state politicians have made the redistricting process worse by doing everything behind closed doors, discriminating against minority communities, and not giving the public any chance to comment on what is happening. In order for our democracy to function, the public needs to have a voice in the process. Therefore, I am asking that this Committee commit to holding a public hearing with public testimony on any maps before they are passed. They must give the public sufficient notice and capability to review the maps before this hearing. I also want the legislators who draw the maps to explain why they chose to draw them the way they did, and to not hide any communications they have had regarding drawing the maps. In order to build trust that the maps have not been unfairly manipulated, I ask that the legislature doesn't look at partisanship when coming up with maps.

Thanks for your time and serious consideration of the importance of logical, fair, and common-sense approach to any redistricting in any part of Texas.

[REDACTED]