

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Friday, March 24, 2023 9:27:27 AM

Date: 2023-03-24
First Name: Nimra
Last Name: Shahzad
Title: N/A
Organization: Emgage

[REDACTED]
City: Richmond
State: TX

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: ALL

Message:

Hello Chairman and Committee Members. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak virtually. My name is Nimra Shahzad and I live in Fort Bend County in congressional district 22. As you know, Fort Bend is one of the fastest-growing counties in the country. The census data has shown that most of that population growth was by people of color, especially the Asian American community. However, these proposed maps crack their voting power. I ask you to please keep Fort Bend County and its unique cultural and language communities together as much as possible. Texans should be able to select their leaders. Please give us a choice in our elections and do not create safe seats. Gerrymandering hurts ALL Texans because it makes our government less responsive to all and only responsive to some. When voting power is diluted by the maps, people will be discouraged, and civic engagement will decrease. This will lead to widespread distrust. Distrust is detrimental to democracy. Right now, we have the ability to restore hope by creating fair, nondiscriminatory maps. I urge you to take a look at the maps of interest submitted to you by local community organizations. Seriously consider them and look at how they unify communities of interest. On the national level, this state was given two new congressional districts during apportionment. 95% of this state's population growth over the last decade came from the minority population. We deserve representation in those two new seats because we gave you those two new seats. I ask that the Committee draw maps that are fair and competitive. I ask that the maps seriously attempt to represent all kinds of Texans. Thank you again for this opportunity and I hope you all have a good day.

[REDACTED]