

[REDACTED]

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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

At one of the few public hearings the Senate had regarding redistricting, Chairman Phil King bristled at the repeated notion that Republicans are racist - and his distress seemed genuine and not performative and not in bad faith. Hopefully that is true, and if so, I would remind him of the old adage that actions speak louder than words. Regardless of intent, gerrymandering has race-based results - you cannot vote for something that repeatedly disenfranchises minority communities and then later plead innocence or ignorance. The new map under consideration would further disadvantage minority communities of color, and approving it means you give your approval, explicit or not, to that outcome.

Chair King urged citizens to know their history and reminded us, correctly, that many civil rights acts passed in the 1960s with the help of Republicans, over the objections of the Southern Democrats. That is true, but it is also important to know the context of history: all of those "Southern Democrats" would now be Republicans - and many Republicans from that era would be without a party, as they would have no place in the modern GOP. Many of those Congressional Republicans were willing to go against the President - they were the ones who effectively urged Republican Richard Nixon to resign when it was clear he broke the law, and they were willing to go against him to preserve the nation and avoid a constitutional crisis. Those Republicans stood up for what was right, against the leader of their own party, with integrity that is in very short supply in the modern Republican party.

I urge you to stop this redistricting effort and instead adopt a nonpartisan, independent redistricting committee. You need to stand up against this immoral dictate to redistrict and do right by your constituents, your state, and your nation.

[REDACTED]