

[REDACTED]

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Date: 2025-07-29

First Name: Matthew

Last Name: Gonzales

Title: President and Business Manager

Organization: Laborers Local 1095

Address: [REDACTED]

City: Elgin

State: TX

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Congressional

Message:

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Matthew Gonzales (President and Business Manager) of Laborers Local 1095, an affiliate of the Laborers International Union of North America representing over 900 members throughout 66 counties in central and SW Texas.

Redistricting congressional maps at this time is not only unnecessary—it is harmful. It threatens to disenfranchise communities by diluting their voting power and weakening their ability to elect representatives who truly reflect their needs and values. When maps are redrawn with political motives, communities are often split apart, undermining their collective voice and disrupting decades of shared history, culture, and advocacy.

This process risks dividing neighborhoods that have long stood together, replacing unity with confusion and frustration. It's a move that prioritizes political gain over public good.

More urgently, the focus of this special session should be on the tragedy that recently unfolded in the Texas Hill Country. Families are grieving, communities are still cleaning up, and they need our full attention and support now and for years to come. Instead of redrawing lines on a map, we should be drawing up solutions—offering aid, resources, and long-term recovery plans for those affected.

Let's not forget what examples of real representation look like. Just a few years ago, Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Congressman Joaquin Castro stepped up when 500 quality union jobs at Brooke Army Medical Center were at risk. Their leadership preserved not only those jobs but also the high standard of care at one of the nation's top-rated medical facilities—care that serves both our military and civilian personnel.

That's the kind of representation Texans deserve. Not maps that divide us, but leaders who unite us and fight for our communities. Redistricting now is a distraction from the real work Texans are asking for—and it's a step in the wrong direction.

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