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Regarding: Congressional

Message:

I am writing in opposition to redistricting during the 2025 legislative special session.

At a moment when Texans are demanding real solutions to life-threatening issues like catastrophic flooding, Governor Greg Abbott is instead maneuvering to prioritize political preservation over public service. At Trump’s urging, Abbott has now prioritized redistricting during the 2025 special legislative session—one that was ostensibly called to address flooding. This pivot, while framed as routine, is anything but. It is a calculated move to entrench Republican power in Washington DC, and it undermines both the intent of the special session and the democratic integrity of Texas’s electoral maps.

Just months ago, Texas successfully defended its current congressional maps in court, arguing that race was not a factor in their creation. Yet, almost immediately afterward, former President Trump publicly called on Abbott to “find” four or five additional GOP seats. Not long after, the Department of Justice concocted new allegations of racial bias in the map-drawing process. While those DOJ claims will play out through legal channels, the political reality is already clear: this is a redistricting effort not driven by fairness or population changes, but by a desire to manipulate outcomes.

Let’s be direct—this is gerrymandering, plain and simple.

To insert redistricting into a flood-focused special session is not just a policy bait-and-switch; it’s a subversion of legislative norms. Special sessions are limited in scope and are meant to address urgent, specific issues. Expanding the agenda to include a hyper-partisan power grab violates the spirit of that process and undermines public trust in our institutions.

This move also raises urgent concerns about the weaponization of state authority in service of federal political goals. For any observer of American politics, this should raise immediate alarms. Redistricting is not a tool to be wielded at the request of political

figures seeking to shore up congressional majorities. It is a constitutional process meant to reflect population changes and uphold the principles of representation. Anything less is a distortion of democratic norms.

The stakes are high. Redistricting determines not just which party holds power, but whether communities—especially communities of color—are given a fair opportunity to elect representatives who reflect their interests. If this effort goes forward, it will further erode faith in the redistricting process and deepen public cynicism about whether representative democracy is even still the goal.

Lawmakers should take a stand now. Any redistricting outside of the regular census-based cycle—especially one initiated under political pressure—must be met with full transparency, rigorous scrutiny, and an unflinching commitment to fairness. Texas voters deserve better than maps drawn in back rooms at the behest of political operatives.

