

To: Legislative Redistricting Committee

From: Skip Berrien, Exeter, NH

Re: Redistricting Senate District 23

Date: October 5, 2021

Thank you for your work to address the monumental task of creating social, economic and political balance within New Hampshire. This is a dangerously polarized time for our state and you have the opportunity to address this fractured status by creating responsible and fair electoral districts in an open and transparent manner.

Rockingham County has experienced considerable growth and transformation in the last decade with changes to its population's social, economic and political dynamics. In particular I would like to address the needs of Senate District 23 in which I live and from which I served for three terms in the NH House.

The current district includes towns extending from Exeter in the east to Chester in the west.. These towns have divergent orientations either toward the Salem/I-93 corridor versus the seacoast region of Rockingham County.

If you could consider a redistricting of Senate District 23, I propose a plan that would acknowledge the social and economic realities of this part of the state. (See reverse side). This plan would completely or almost completely include three large school districts or SAU's which are currently distributed among four separate Senate districts. This alternative district also includes major commercial centers located in Epping and Exeter which are frequented by the people in these towns. This alternative plan would take into account the natural affinities of this population in everyday life.

Politically, District 23 has been dominated by Republican voters for decades. This alternative plan by my estimation would continue with Republican voter domination. However, judging by the current House Reps in these towns, there would be a slight increase in Democratic voters, thus contributing to more equitable political division...a goal of redistricting.

I offer this plan for your consideration which maintains a stable population size within the district. As you proceed with your deliberations in an open and transparent manner with time for public scrutiny and comment I acknowledge that you have many issues to consider as you look at each and every electoral district in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration.

Current District 23	
Town	'20 Population
Exeter	16,049
Brentwood	4490
Kingston	6202
Fremont	4739
Chester*	5232
Danville*	4408
Sandown*	6548
Epping	7125
East Kingston	2441
Total Population	57,234
Alternative District 23	
Exeter	16,049
Brentwood	4490
East Kingston	2441
Newfields*	1796
Stratham*	7669
Kensington*	2095
Epping	7125
Kingston	6202
Newtown*	4820
Fremont	4739
Total Population	57,426

* towns effected