

January 8, 2022

Re: Redistricting Bills SB-240 & SB241

Chairperson Gray and Distinguished Committee Members,

Circumstances prevent me from testifying in person before your committee on Jan 10th, so I am emailing my statement for the record.

Others will speak in great detail about the gross gerrymandering clearly evident in the Senate and Executive Council district maps (SB-240 & especially SB-241). Redistricting should be a non-partisan and transparent process, resulting in fair and competitive maps. Yet nothing could be further from that goal than the maps presented by the committee's majority. I could raise numerous objections, but I will focus on just one – process integrity.

If I lived in Russia or China or Belarus or Hungary, I'd know the elections are rigged and that the popular vote is irrelevant. From the outside, residents of those countries would envy the citizens of NH, who directly can address their representatives and be heard. But the real question is whether those voices are listened to.

NH is widely acknowledged to be a very "purple" state, which these proposed maps certainly do not reflect. Do these hearings just serve to give a veneer of legitimacy and respectability to an already pre-determined outcome? Are they just political kabuki? Are you just solidifying power rather than reflecting and protecting democracy? Are we visiting once again the sins of our fathers on another generation?

Will you demonstrate political courage and implement maps that truly reflect NH? The cynic in me is not very hopeful. Prove me wrong!

Gregory Davis
28 Norwood Rd
Salem, NH 03079