

\*TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE\*  
\*NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE AND HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEES\*

October 19, 2021

I urge the House and Senate redistricting committees to adopt best practices and an open and transparent process and commit to producing non-partisan maps. \*Additionally, I ask that you release your redistricting criteria and draft maps and seek and consider public comment on the drafted maps in county hearings that allow remote public testimony. All residents deserve the opportunity to participate safely\*; the urgency of your work requires no less.

Fair maps are central to election integrity. On the other hand, gerrymandered district lines violate voters' constitutional rights, feed distrust, and drive political polarization, which now threatens our democracy and common purpose.

Please consider the maps and information submitted to you by the non-partisan Fair Maps Coalition and the Granite State Map-a-Thon Project. The Map-a-Thon used best practices, incorporated communities of interest, and propose common sense district lines.

I see no updated guidelines or criteria from the redistricting committees and no information on when the public can consider and comment on the new maps. When I heard statements suggesting you will only look at the numbers, that's insufficient. And when I saw the N.H. Republican Party chair "guarantee" a GOP win because Republicans control Congressional redistricting, that's unacceptable. What will guide your decisions?

A decade ago, N.H.'s redistricting process took the numbers and skewed maps for the Executive Council, Senate, and other legislative districts and created confusing floterial districts, putting into question the one person/one vote mandate.

The last redistricting process stripped away Sunapee's one representative seat despite the town fulfilling the population requirement. Ten years ago, the Committee joined Sunapee and Croydon to create District 2 for what appeared to be a partisan ploy and put Sunapee into District 9, an eight-town floterial that spans from Unity to Plainfield.

Sunapee again meets the standard to be a one-representative town if the Committee uses a +/- 5% deviation. While I believe Sunapee should get a dedicated House seat, a Sunapee-Springfield district would appreciate shared resources. Both towns are in the Lake Sunapee watershed (a resource of paramount importance to the region's wellbeing); Springfield has a contract with Sunapee to use town's transfer station; and Interstate 89, a major transportation route, directly serves both towns.

Granite Staters need an opportunity to view and comment on the new voting districts and the criteria used by the committees. Democracy demands fair maps.

Respectfully,  
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