I am a Democrat. I want to thank you for serving. I don't know how you find time doing so much work in a 3-month session while having a regular outside job. Especially since some states have a year-round session.

A poll conducted by Goucher College showed 73% of Marylanders preferred an independent commission to draw the voting district lines. Only 20 % wanted the party in power to draw the district lines. As representatives of Marylanders your committee vote should reflect Marylander's wishes.

You should vote on principal to promote democracy. If people think their vote doesn't count because partisan politicians determine the winners of an election and not the voter, less people will bother to vote. The voter turn-out is already too low, don't make it lower.

A lower voter turn-out would actually give the majority party a disadvantage in the election resulting in a greater chance of the minority party winning the governorship for example.

I am starting a grass roots campaign in the primary election. The campaign will promote candidates, even outside my district, who support redistricting reform without exceptions. An unacceptable exception is Maryland will reform only if other specific states reform. Ten states have already reformed and 25 other states are considering reform. I thought Maryland was a leader, however Maryland has not passed reform.

Vote for redistricting reform:

1. to reflect the wishes of 73% of Marylanders

2. to increase voter turnout

3. to shame other states into reforming

4. on democratic principals

James Schifferle

A Democrat