

TO: House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
Senate Reapportionment & Redistricting Committee

FROM: Ella Ennis, P.O. Box 437, Port Republic, Maryland

RE: Joint Hearing on SB 01 and HB 01 – Congressional Districting Plan - OPPOSE

Hello Chairmen and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed Congressional Districting Plan proposed by the Legislative Redistricting Commission.

I strongly oppose SB 01/HB 01 because it continues the outrageously-partisan gerrymandering that was enacted in 2010 and doubles down on the premise that there should be no Congressional Districts where a Republican candidate could have a competitive opportunity to be elected. The effort here is to disenfranchise 1/3 of the voters of Maryland.

The contorted Congressional Districts proposed in SB 01 and HB 01 split far more counties into multiple pieces than necessary to form Districts of equal population. The districts are not compact, and some are not contiguous. They dilute communities of interest. They wind around like a maze, cherry picking the voters to keep Democrat incumbents in office. It takes HB 01 and SB 01 a total of 50 pages to spell out all of the devious slicing and dicing of Maryland. By comparison, HB 02 and SB 02 barely take 19 pages to set out far more fair, compact, and contiguous Congressional districts.

You can do better than this. The citizens of Maryland deserve better than this. Please do not pass HB 01 or SB 01.