

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 02 and HB 02 – Congressional Districting Plan – FAVORABLE SUPPORT

Hello Chairmen and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed Congressional Districting Plan proposed by the Citizens Advisory Redistricting Commission. I very strongly support SB 02 and HB 02. This proposal is a steep departure from the current ultra-gerrymandered Maryland Congressional Districts. It is not a partisan political hit job as is proposed in HB 01 and SB 01. It is a breath of fresh air. SB 02 and HB 02 are concise – barely 19 pages compared to 50 pages for SB 01 and HB 01. The process and development of this plan was made in open sessions that citizens could watch and offer comments and recommendations. The final map was available for comment and posted publicly well in advance of the Special Session. The result is a thoughtful, fair and citizen-friendly plan.

The Congressional Districting Plan laid out in SB 02 and HB 02 proposes compact districts that keep counties whole as much as possible. They pair geographic areas that have similar interests. There are no weird shapes, or thin, winding strips of multiple counties pressed into a single district

I urge you to rise above hyper-partisan gerrymandering and adopt Congressional Districts that meet the Constitutional intent that voters choose their representatives and not the representatives choosing their voters. Please give SB 02 and HB 02 a favorable report.