

December 03, 2021

Dear Committee Chairman and Members,

My name is Quon Kwan. I live at 14913 Bauer Drive, Rockville, MD 20853.

I am vehemently opposed to SB 01/HB 01 because they egregiously propagate the age-old extreme gerrymandering of the State's Congressional Districts. It is obvious to me that the proposed districts in SB 01/HB 01 are distorted into weird, oblong, eccentric shapes. Counties are partitioned into several districts, diluting the influence of each county on the Congressional representative.

Second, I believe that the current voting districts in Maryland are unfair. A *Scientific American* article dated November 2018 entitled "Geometry v. Gerrymandering" called Maryland's districting biased, but this bias survives only because it has dodged court ruling.

The time is ripe for engaging "The Metric Geometry and Gerrymandering Group," a group founded in 2016 of mathematicians which uses computers and a tool called Markov Chain Monte Carlo to identify political maps that disenfranchise voters. I call for a scientific approach to verifying whether bias exists in redistricting maps before they are accepted. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf recently had his state use this tool to re-draw district lines.

The General Assembly must ensure a diversity of voices and perspectives from different parties and fair representation in each Congressional District.

Quon Kwan

Respectfully submitted