

Dear Committee Chairmen and Members,

My name is Josephine Salazar,

I support SB 02/HB 02 because the proposed Congressional Districts are fair. They are compact in shape, do not divide counties unnecessarily, respect communities of interest and are not intentionally partisan.

I oppose SB 01/HB 01 because they continue the extreme gerrymandering of the current Congressional Districts. Most of the proposed districts in SB 01/HB 01 are stretched out or curve around in strange shapes. They separate counties into several districts, diluting each county's impact on the Congressional representative.

Checks and balances are critical to a principled government, and it is crucial to make sure the district map drawing promotes healthy competition, not an insurmountable monopoly, for candidates.

Please don't create a map that reinforces one-party rule. It's not fair to everyone else and it is not healthy for democracy. Maryland needs a diversity of voices and perspectives from different parties.

Sincerely,

Josephine Salazar

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