

Dec. 3, 2021

Janet Katz  
143 Spa Drive  
Annapolis, MD 21403

Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD

RE: HB0002 Redistricting maps special hearing testimony

Dear Members of the Maryland General Assembly,

Governor Hogan, who has maintained support from both political parties in Maryland during his tenure, formed a redistricting commission of bi-partisan members during his first term. None of those members were an elected official and therefore had no vested interest in playing politics with the maps they created. On the other hand, former Governor Martin O'Malley proved politics can be used to manipulate the maps when he testified in court that he purposefully gerrymandered the Legislative and Congressional districts in order to benefit Democrats in Maryland.

The Governor's Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission worked to make the districts fair for the voters. Fair elections mean the voters choose who their elected representatives are, not representatives choosing their constituency. The Princeton Gerrymandering Project, which evaluates redistricting proposals based on partisan fairness, competitiveness and geographic features, gave the congressional maps proposed from the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission an "A" based on this criteria.

I expect you to conduct your affairs, as representatives of the people of Maryland, to stand up and be Statesmen and Stateswomen **by voting for the Governor's map** drafted by those people who are non-partisan citizens of this state.

Best regards,

Janet Katz