

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2100

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Robert Dalrymple**, and I am a resident of Carroll County, Maryland. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 2100.

The fundamental purpose of redistricting is to ensure fair and effective representation. Districts should respect established communities of interest, preserve county integrity whenever practicable, be geographically sensible, and give citizens confidence that they are choosing their representatives—not that representatives are choosing their voters.

Carroll County and Montgomery County are not the same community. Carroll County is predominantly rural, agricultural, and small-town in character. Our residents share common concerns involving agriculture, farmland preservation, rural transportation, volunteer emergency services, well and septic infrastructure, local businesses, and responsible growth. Montgomery County is a densely populated urban and suburban county with different demographics, development patterns, transportation systems, and policy priorities. These are distinct communities with distinct interests.

Combining Carroll County with Montgomery County in a single congressional district would weaken the ability of Carroll County residents to have their voices heard. Effective representation depends upon elected officials understanding the communities they represent. When counties with substantially different interests are combined, the concerns of the smaller community can be overshadowed by those of a much larger population center.

Maryland should adopt district maps that follow recognized redistricting principles: respect for communities of interest, compactness, contiguous districts, and preservation of political subdivisions whenever feasible. These principles help produce districts that are understandable to voters and strengthen public trust in the electoral process. They also reduce the perception that district boundaries are being manipulated for political advantage.

Regardless of political affiliation or the anticipated outcome of any election, every Maryland voter deserves a fair map that reflects genuine communities rather than artificial combinations of unrelated populations. Carroll County deserves representation that reflects its unique identity and interests, not representation diluted by being joined with a county that has fundamentally different priorities.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an unfavorable report on HB 2100 and ask the General Assembly to adopt congressional districts that preserve Carroll County as a distinct community of interest and avoid combining it with Montgomery County unless no practical alternative exists.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Dalrymple