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Testimony in Case of HB2100, and the 2026 Maryland General Assembly Special Session to Amend the Maryland Constitution

I am strongly opposed to HB2100 and any effort by the Maryland General Assembly to amend the Maryland constitution regarding requirements for congressional districts. Removing the constraints for congressional districts will open the floodgates to manipulation by the majority party for political advantage. This may in part be what occurs now, but HB2100 proposes a constitutional amendment that would remove any safeguards intended to give Maryland citizens a say in who represents them in Congress.

Currently, the constitution requires that districts consist of adjoining territory, be compact in form, and that due regard shall be given to natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions. These are the guardrails needed to ensure at least somewhat fair congressional districts.

We all know why the General Assembly wants to rewrite the constitution via HB2100. They want the ability to conduct extreme gerrymandering of Maryland districts. They want 53% of Maryland voters to decide who will represent 100% of Maryland voters. How is this fair? If anything, this is the model example of the “tyranny of the majority.”

I urge you not to vote for HB2100 nor forward any amendment to the Maryland constitution regarding redistricting. One of the most repugnant aspects of HB2100 is that it is in response to pressure from the House Minority Leader from New York and other states Democratic representatives. Since when do we Marylanders let elected officials from other states, or the national political party decide how we will organize our state for fair elections?

What is clear is this effort to amend the constitution has nothing to do with fairness or equitable representation of Maryland citizens. It is a blatant power grab, designed to do exactly that – grab power. In doing so, you will have robbed approximately half of Maryland citizens their say in how they want their nation governed.

I urge the General Assembly to drop the charade, and drop the amendment, and vote against HB2100.

John G. Dumler