

1/25/26

Jeffery McBride – Congressional District 1

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Subject: HB-0488 – Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

Re: Unfavorable Position on Subject Legislation

I submit this testimony in opposition to HB-0488.

- **Constitutional Concerns:** Senate President Bill Ferguson has labeled the proposed map "objectively unconstitutional," arguing it fails the "one person, one vote" standard and breaks apart too many communities. He has warned that the "window for action has closed" and that the map would likely be struck down by state courts.
- **Procedural Critique:** Senate President Bill Ferguson criticized the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Commission, of which he was a member, for a "flawed process," calling it "pre-ordained" and lacking transparency. He noted a lack of testimony from the Office of the Attorney General and local boards of elections regarding the impact on the 2026 election cycle.
- **Focus on Priorities:** Senate President Ferguson stated that Marylanders are more concerned with "affordability, safety—things that are core" rather than partisan redistricting battles.