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Maryland Resident / [Optional: Republican Voter, District 2] Re: OPPOSED – House Bill 488
(Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress)

Hearing: House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee – Monday, January 26, 2026,
1:00 PM (Virtual) Dear Chair and Members of the Committee: I strongly oppose HB 488, a
rushed, partisan mid-decade redistricting bill that seeks to redraw Maryland's eight
congressional districts in a blatant attempt at gerrymandering. This legislation, advanced
under Gov. Wes Moore's influence through his advisory commission, would manipulate district
lines to favor Democrats in all eight congressional districts, effectively eliminating the state's
last remaining Republican representative in Congress (currently the 1st District, held by Rep.
Andy Harris). Key reasons for opposition:

1. Partisan Gerrymandering to Erase Republican Voices

The proposed map targets the 1st District by severing parts of the Eastern Shore and extending the district across the Chesapeake Bay into heavily Democratic areas of Anne Arundel and Howard counties (including parts of Columbia). This dilutes conservative voters and packs them in ways that make Republican victory nearly impossible. The result? A shift from Maryland's current 7 Democrat–1 Republican congressional delegation to 8–0 Democrat. This isn't fair representation—it's a deliberate effort to silence nearly half a million Maryland Republicans and ensure one-party dominance in our federal delegation.

2. Violation of Fair Process and Timing

HB 488 is being fast-tracked amid a major winter storm emergency declared by Gov. Moore himself, with introduction on Friday, January 23, and a hearing scheduled for Monday with limited public input. Republicans have rightly called this a "rigged process" and "sham," depriving citizens of meaningful participation during hazardous weather. Mid-decade redistricting should be reserved for court-ordered corrections—not political opportunism to "counter" national events or consolidate power.

3. Undermines Democracy and Voter Trust

Maryland's congressional map should reflect communities of interest, compactness, and competitiveness—not engineered outcomes. This bill ignores those principles, risking lawsuits (as seen with prior maps) and further eroding public confidence in our electoral system. Gov. Moore claims to champion democracy, yet this move prioritizes partisan advantage over equitable representation.

I urge the Committee to reject HB 488 outright. Preserve the current map or pursue redistricting through a transparent, bipartisan, post-census process that respects all Marylander's. Allowing this bill to advance would betray the principles of fair elections and disenfranchise Republican voters statewide. Thank you for your consideration. I request this

testimony be entered into the record.

Sincerely,

Corrie Everhart