

Testimony HB488 - Election Districts - General Assembly and Representatives in Congress

AGAINST

Submitted by: Martin Etzel

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Private Citizen, unaffiliated with any Organization

I am a private citizen residing in Eastport, Annapolis. I am strongly AGAINST this proposal. Despite a very strong outpouring of testimony in the information gathering phase for redistricting, this partisan group went ahead and put this proposal forward. Even worse, now the House takes this up in lightning quick speed as if it's the most important thing for the citizens of Maryland

Let's look at a few facts and observations behind this terrible proposal:

- The state is only 51.2% registered Democrat, 23.7% Republican and 23.2% Independent
- The state is already 88% Democrat in Congress yet you want the last seat. By the above numbers, there should be at least 2 seats in Congress that are Republican
- The "other states are doing it" argument doesn't hold. In Texas, even if the new map goes forward, there will be about 20% Democrats in Congress from Texas
- Maryland has a poor history of gerrymandering, the last proposal was kicked out by the courts
- And if you manage to jam this proposal forward, it will no doubt land in court, and you'll waste my taxpayer \$ defending this charade
- During the earlier hearings, nearly all proponents of this proposal were Democrat politicians or special interest groups. Testimony against the proposal were mostly average citizens like myself
- It's no secret why you are rushing this through you want to put political pressure on one of the few clear thinking Democrats on this issue, Senate President Bill Ferguson

I'd suggest the legislature has a long list of higher priority items to address during this session other than your political games here:

- Maryland ranks 49th for business-friendly environment. The state is losing population and high income taxpayers
- 8 recent state audits identifying over \$3.5B in questionable spending that is unlikely to be reimbursed by federal government
- Likely fraud in many public benefit programs
- Overall high taxation and absurd costs of fees
- High cost of living particularly utility costs due to your green agenda shutting down so much supply. You should also consider opening up fracking as we need low cost and clean energy.

So here's your chance to listen to the citizens. We are all watching

Martin Etzel

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