

Brian Caine
Regarding HB0488
January 25, 2026

My name is Brian Caine. I am a lifelong Marylander, a registered Democrat and a resident of Maryland's 7th Congressional District. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Moore's proposed mid-cycle redistricting initiative.

Redistricting mid-cycle for partisan reasons is wrong when Republicans do it and it is wrong when Democrats do it. Maryland's participation in a national tit-for-tat response to partisan gerrymandering undermines democratic norms and public trust.

Given the timing and national political context, this proposal appears aimed solely at eliminating Maryland's one Republican congressional seat, not at improving representation or fairness. Claims of "competitiveness" are unconvincing window dressing.

This isn't just a policy issue; beyond policy, it raises serious constitutional issues. Article III of the Maryland Constitution assigns the General Assembly responsibility for congressional redistricting following the federal decennial census. Departing from that established cycle for partisan reasons transforms redistricting from a constitutional duty into a discretionary political weapon wielded against Marylanders, by politicians with more loyalty to national interests than their own constituents.

Maryland's elected officials have an obligation to represent all Marylanders - including those who vote differently - and not to disenfranchise minority viewpoints in service of national political strategy. Engaging in partisan mid-cycle redistricting erodes public confidence in the legitimacy of our electoral system.

I respectfully urge the House Rules Committee and the General Assembly to reject any effort to pursue mid-cycle redistricting for partisan gain and to reaffirm Maryland's commitment to constitutional governance and fair representation.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Caine
Baltimore City, Maryland