

Public Testimony

**Against** HB488 “Election Districts – General Assembly and Representatives in Congress”

Dear Delegate Wilson and Delegate Wims,

I am writing to **object to HB 488** (proposed redistricting plan for Maryland).

There are pros and cons to all redistricting plans. This one **solves no problems**, but introduces the likelihood that Maryland Republicans may **lose their representation**, which is already small. This would result in a **lack of diversity** of thought in our state, which would be a loss for everyone.

Like many, I am looking for **wise leadership** in Maryland, and that requires **considering all viewpoints** when deciding on legislation. Silencing one party in this process may make Maryland seem united on paper, but this is **not the right way to achieve unity** in our state.

I also **strongly disagree** with this text in Section 8 on the last page of HB488: “...this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety...” This proposed legislation is not at all necessary, and its passage would be detrimental to the citizens of Maryland.

**Please do not move forward with HB 488.**

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Miriam Westcott

Legislative District 39