

Dear Members of Rules and Executive Nominations Committee:

Marylanders deserve to be heard. Mid-cycle redistricting is unnecessary and unwanted. We are struggling with energy costs, housing, a fentanyl crisis, and more, yet democrats are putting a partisan power grab front and center, before the needs of Marylanders. The stated purpose is a retaliatory swing at the U.S. President's call for red states to redistrict. The proposed changes are shockingly absurd, pulling democrats from the middle of the state near urban centers across the Bay Bridge and into the rural republican Eastern Shore. While the Speaker created a Rural Caucus supposedly to amplify minority voices in places like the Eastern Shore, her party is simultaneously trying to eliminate those voices altogether. I urge you to reject HB488, and report favorably on HB482 to create an independent commission that would meet only after the decennial census.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Jones