

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING

SPINNERSTOWN HOTEL  
QUAKERTOWN, PA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021  
1:01 P.M.

PRESENTATION ON  
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING  
SOUTHEAST REGION

BEFORE:

HONORABLE SETH M. GROVE, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN  
HONORABLE RUSS DIAMOND  
HONORABLE DAWN W. KEEFER  
HONORABLE ANDREW LEWIS  
HONORABLE RYAN E. MACKENZIE  
HONORABLE BRETT R. MILLER  
HONORABLE ERIC R. NELSON  
HONORABLE CLINT OWLETT  
HONORABLE FRANCIS X. RYAN  
HONORABLE PAUL SCHEMEL  
HONORABLE LOUIS C. SCHMITT, JR.  
HONORABLE CRAIG T. STAATS  
HONORABLE SCOTT CONKLIN, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
HONORABLE ISABELLA V. FITZGERALD  
HONORABLE BENJAMIN V. SANCHEZ  
HONORABLE JARED G. SOLOMON  
HONORABLE JOE WEBSTER

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

HONORABLE JOHN A. LAWRENCE  
HONORABLE F. TODD POLINCHOCK  
HONORABLE MEGHAN SCHROEDER  
HONORABLE WENDI THOMAS

\* \* \* \* \*

*Debra B. Miller*

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## P R O C E E D I N G S

\* \* \*

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Good afternoon.

Today, the House State Government Committee will convene the seventh of eight regional hearings across Pennsylvania on congressional redistricting. Today we'll be hearing testimony about the southeast region of our Commonwealth. Thank you to Spinnerstown Hotel and Representative Staats for hosting us.

I'll turn it over to Representative Craig Staats for a welcome.

REPRESENTATIVE STAATS: Thank you, Chairman Grove, and good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to the best district in Pennsylvania, that being the 145<sup>th</sup> Legislative District right here in Bucks County.

I would like to thank my colleagues for joining the Committee today. I would also like to thank the testifiers. We have the most testifiers of all the hearings so far. I think it's about 45. Twenty-two are in person today and 23 have submitted their testimony, so.

I would also like to take a moment and recognize Sam Morris. Sam works in my district office. Sam received his master's degree from Shippensburg University. He has been with us for about 2 years, and I always say you're only as good as your team, and I have got a really, really

1 strong team and Sam is a big part of that. So thanks for  
2 being here, Sam.

3 Lastly, yes, I would like to thank the Dale  
4 family -- John, Susan, and Anna -- for opening up their  
5 restaurant for us today. This is a great establishment,  
6 and we're very lucky to have it here in Bucks County.

7 Back to you, Chairman.

8 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

9 As a matter of housekeeping, before we get  
10 started, a reminder that each testifier will be given  
11 10 minutes to present their testimony before the Members of  
12 the Committee. Just look at me and I'll give you a  
13 countdown -- 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 -- on the minutes. I will be  
14 keeping firmly to those time limits. We are here to  
15 listen. No questions will be asked of testifiers.

16 Testifiers, please keep your comments relevant to  
17 the topic at hand. We are here to learn about this region  
18 of the State -- its industries, its values, its unique  
19 communities of interest -- and due to recent changes in the  
20 Sunshine Law, the subject matter of testimony must be  
21 confined to the hearing topic only. We don't want the  
22 Office of Open Records knocking on either of our doors  
23 after the hearing.

24 Testimony outside the scope of the hearing will  
25 not be permitted. We are here to learn from you and take

1 your input on congressional districts that will be in  
2 effect for the next decade. This is an important task, so  
3 if a testifier begins to stray from relevant testimony, I  
4 will ask you to refocus to the topic before us. If you  
5 cannot, I will move on to the next listed speaker.

6 We also ask that testifiers speak clearly into  
7 the microphone and that any attendees here in the room with  
8 us today remain quiet and respectful. Today's public input  
9 hearing is being livestreamed at [www.paredistricting.com](http://www.paredistricting.com)  
10 and is also being recorded. Please help us to ensure that  
11 those who are watching at home can easily hear all  
12 testimony. Additionally, under the Sunshine Law, if the  
13 video stream stops, we will recess the hearing until the  
14 issue is fixed.

15 For the Members attending virtually, please  
16 ensure your microphones are off, and recognize that if your  
17 video is on, we can see you.

18 I would be remiss if I did not also mention that  
19 in addition to those testifiers who are present today, the  
20 Committee has also received testimony from people all  
21 across the Commonwealth who have submitted their written  
22 comments online.

23 For the southeast regional hearing, we have  
24 received written testimony from Tobin W. from  
25 Douglassville, Pennsylvania; Allan P. from West Chester;

1 Lisa C. from Bryn Athyn; James V. from Easton; Adam B. from  
2 Lincoln University; Ruth Y. from Schwenksville; Kim K. from  
3 Oxford; Gillian S. from Villanova; Anne M. from Glen Mills;  
4 Ginny K. from Newtown Square; Olivia N. from Hatboro;  
5 Sandra K. from Pipersville; John S. from Brookhaven;  
6 Jeanne O. from Doylestown; Ruth S. from Brookhaven;  
7 Nevaya W. from Lititz; Michael G. from University Park;  
8 Christopher R. from Shillington, PA; Eric T. from Media;  
9 Rachel G. from Elkins Park; Norman J. from Norristown; and  
10 Kathy B. from Warrington. That written testimony is before  
11 each Member of the House State Government Committee for  
12 today's hearing and will be posted online after we  
13 conclude.

14 And finally, before we begin, to our testifiers,  
15 both in person and whose testimony we hold in our hands,  
16 thank you, thank you, thank you for taking an interest in  
17 redistricting and for participating in this  
18 once-in-a-decade process.

19 With that, I'll turn it over to Chairman Conklin  
20 for opening remarks.

21 MINORITY CHAIRMAN CONKLIN: With that said, we  
22 have a lot of testifiers. I'm more anxious to listen than  
23 I am to speak. So, sir, the floor is back to you.

24 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: We will begin this  
25 hearing with an introduction from Members, starting with

1 Members present and then Members attending virtually.

2 We'll start to my right.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LAWRENCE: Thank you,  
4 Mr. Chairman.

5 John Lawrence. I represent the 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative  
6 District in southwestern Chester County and a part of  
7 Lancaster County.

8 REPRESENTATIVE SCHEMEL: I'm Representative  
9 Paul Schemel. I represent portions of the at least equally  
10 beautiful Franklin County.

11 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Seth Grove, State  
12 Representative, the 196<sup>th</sup> District, York County.

13 MINORITY CHAIRMAN CONKLIN: Scott Conklin, the  
14 77<sup>th</sup> District, Centre County.

15 REPRESENTATIVE POLINCHOCK: I'm Todd Polinchock  
16 from the 144<sup>th</sup>, right down the road here in Central Bucks  
17 County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MACKENZIE: Good afternoon.

19 Ryan Mackenzie from the 134<sup>th</sup> District in portions  
20 of Lehigh in Berks Counties.

21 REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Wendi Thomas, the 178<sup>th</sup>,  
22 Northampton and Washington Crossing, the New Hope area.

23 Thank you.

24 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Lewis.

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS: Thank you, Chairman.



1 Representative Lewis, representing the lovely  
2 105<sup>th</sup> District in Dauphin County.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Miller.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: Brett Miller, the  
5 41<sup>st</sup> District, Lancaster County.

6 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Owlett.

7 REPRESENTATIVE OWLETT: Representative Owlett,  
8 the 68<sup>th</sup> District, Tioga and parts of Bradford and Potter  
9 Counties.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Keefer.

11 REPRESENTATIVE KEEFER: Good afternoon.

12 Representative Dawn Keefer, the 92<sup>nd</sup> District,  
13 York and Cumberland Counties.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Nelson.

15 REPRESENTATIVE NELSON: Good afternoon,  
16 everybody.

17 Representative Eric Nelson, Westmoreland  
18 County.

19 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative  
20 Fitzgerald.

21 REPRESENTATIVE FITZGERALD: Good afternoon.

22 Isabella Fitzgerald, representing the  
23 203<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District in Philadelphia -- West Oak Lane,  
24 East Oak Lane, and the Lower Northeast.

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Ryan.

1           REPRESENTATIVE RYAN: Frank Ryan, representing  
2 the 101<sup>st</sup> District in Lebanon County.

3           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Schmitt.

4           REPRESENTATIVE SCHMITT: Good afternoon,  
5 everyone.

6           Representative Lou Schmitt, the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative  
7 District -- the city of Altoona and the townships of Logan  
8 and Allegheny in Blair County. And I want to congratulate  
9 Representative Staats and the Committee on such a wonderful  
10 turnout today.

11          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Diamond.

12          REPRESENTATIVE DIAMOND: Good afternoon,  
13 everyone.

14          Representative Russ Diamond from the  
15 102<sup>nd</sup> District in Lebanon County.

16          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Sanchez.

17          REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Good afternoon.

18          It's Ben Sanchez from the 153<sup>rd</sup> District in  
19 Montgomery County.

20          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Solomon.

21          REPRESENTATIVE SOLOMON: Jared Solomon, the  
22 202<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District in Northeast Philadelphia.

23          Thank you.

24          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Representative Webster.

25          REPRESENTATIVE WEBSTER: Good afternoon, everyone.

1           It's Joe Webster, and I represent the  
2 150<sup>th</sup> District in western Montgomery County.

3           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: And the catchall: Did  
4 I miss anybody?

5           All right. Hearing none, we will move on to  
6 testifiers. And also for Members in attendance, there is  
7 also an overflow room out in the bar area of the tavern.  
8 We do have a TV up so you can watch it from there also.

9           With that, our first testifiers are Commissioner  
10 Bob Harvie and Commissioner Gene DiGirolamo, Bucks County  
11 Board of Commissioners.

12           Gentlemen, please come on up. And as long as  
13 there's a little green button, and I'll put Gene in charge  
14 of that. As a former House Member, he should be used to  
15 that. And when you gentlemen are comfortable and ready,  
16 please feel free to begin.

17           MR. HARVIE: Good afternoon.

18           Thank you for giving me a chance to speak with  
19 you, distinguished Members of the Committee, and thank you  
20 for the work that you're doing.

21           The task ahead of you and the rest of the  
22 Representatives in Harrisburg is a difficult one, and I  
23 appreciate the effort that you are committing to learn all  
24 you can about how your decisions might impact  
25 Pennsylvanians across the Commonwealth.

1           Like my fellow commissioner, Gene DiGirolamo, I  
2 am a lifelong Bucks County resident. I have served as an  
3 elected official at the local level and now the county  
4 level for 18 years and am very proud to represent the  
5 county here today.

6           Bucks County is one of the three original  
7 counties created at the time of Pennsylvania's founding  
8 almost 340 years ago. It's impossible to tell the history  
9 of Pennsylvania without including the history of Bucks  
10 County, and even the founding of our republic has deep  
11 roots in this county. Our history is one of the things  
12 which unifies this county and one of the reasons why I feel  
13 strongly about keeping it contiguous in any redistricting.

14           In addition to our history, Bucks County  
15 communities are knitted together through economic and  
16 social ties, including strong organizations of police and  
17 first responders who work collaboratively to pursue grants  
18 and other opportunities to help them better serve our  
19 residents. All these connections and efforts would be much  
20 more difficult should Bucks County be divided.

21           For us as county commissioners, having one  
22 United States representative for our county is extremely  
23 important. Having one representative allows us to  
24 communicate more clearly about county issues and advocate  
25 for our residents more effectively. In addition, having

1 one representative also impacts our residents and our local  
2 elected officials. They, too, benefit from a system that  
3 gives Bucks County one recognized voice in our nation's  
4 capital.

5           The creators of previous district boundaries have  
6 recognized this benefit as well, and not just as it applies  
7 to Bucks County. A look at the existing map of  
8 Pennsylvania congressional districts shows that an  
9 overwhelming majority of our 67 counties, 56 in fact, are  
10 kept intact, and of those counties who are divided between  
11 districts, three of them are counties larger than Bucks  
12 County who, quite simply, have too many people to be a  
13 district in and of themselves. This explains why they have  
14 had to be divided up between different districts. But even  
15 in those cases, the effort was made to keep them as whole  
16 as possible.

17           Bucks County's population of about 646,000 makes  
18 us the fourth largest county in Pennsylvania and also means  
19 that we already contain about 84 percent of what the  
20 population of a new congressional district would look like.  
21 What's more, because we are surrounded by counties larger  
22 than us, or counties almost as large as us than other  
23 counties in Pennsylvania, any map which divides up Bucks  
24 County will necessitate dividing up other counties around  
25 us as well in order to make districts of the proper size.

1 This would lead to a domino effect, creating more fractured  
2 counties, not fewer.

3 I join Commissioner DiGirolamo in imploring you  
4 to keep Bucks County intact in the process of  
5 redistricting. We are representatives to different  
6 parties, as you know, but we are united in our commitment  
7 to this cause.

8 So I thank you for your time and your efforts  
9 again.

10 MR. DiGIROLAMO: Okay. Thank you, Chairman  
11 Grove, Chairman Conklin. Good to see everybody. It really  
12 is. I certainly miss all my friends up there in  
13 Harrisburg, and it's good to see everybody. But doing very  
14 well here as county commissioner.

15 Just a little nostalgia, and I'm looking at  
16 Chairman Grove, and I remember a few years ago when during  
17 the budget, they wanted to collapse the Department of  
18 Drug and Alcohol Programs, if you remember that, and me and  
19 you kind of got together, and do you remember we put them  
20 large poster boards out in the rotunda? And we ended up  
21 defeating the move from the Administration to collapse the  
22 department, and it ended up turning to be a bipartisan  
23 effort, because it just wasn't the Republicans. There were  
24 quite a few Democrats that were opposed to collapsing that  
25 department.

1           So I think the most important part of the both of  
2 us being here, you can look at it as bipartisan, keeping  
3 the 1st Congressional District whole. And we passed a  
4 resolution back in June, and Bucks County has been one  
5 congressional district for 170 years. That's 10 years  
6 before the Civil War. So it just makes all the sense in  
7 the world to keep it to one congressional district again.

8           Our Congressman, Congressman Fitzpatrick, who is  
9 a Republican, he is in favor of keeping it as well one  
10 congressional district. And as probably all of you know,  
11 there are now more registered Democrats in Bucks County  
12 than there are Republicans.

13           So, I mean, and I look back at my time in the  
14 Legislature, and I went through two reapportionments in  
15 2000 and 2010, and I actually practice what I preach,  
16 because my legislative district for most of the time, there  
17 were almost 5,000 more Democrats in my legislative district  
18 than there were Republicans. So it would have made sense  
19 for me to advocate and try to push to change the district a  
20 lot, but I only had one township, Bensalem Township, but I  
21 thought it was important to keep it just the way it was.  
22 So I never advocated for trying to go somewhere and get  
23 more Republican voters, and I don't think that we should be  
24 doing that. I mean, that's not what reapportionment should  
25 be about.

1           So, you know, with that, we passed a resolution,  
2 the three county commissioners, and signed it back in June.  
3 I have got a copy of the resolution. I'm not quite sure if  
4 the Committee has that or not. I know we sent it  
5 somewhere. But I'm going to leave you a copy. Can I bring  
6 it up?

7           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Yeah.

8           MR. DiGIROLAMO: For both Chairmen. And it  
9 outlines, and again, this is bipartisan. This is good for  
10 everybody. It's good for the residents of Bucks County,  
11 645,000-plus residents here in Bucks County. It's good for  
12 the residents. It's good for the political process. And  
13 so we're just advocating on behalf to please, when you're  
14 making your decisions and going through this, please  
15 consider keeping Bucks County as one congressional  
16 district. So thank you.

17           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Gentlemen, thank you  
18 both. We appreciate your time and your willingness to come  
19 and testify. Thank you both so much.

20           Our next is Commissioner Marian Moskowitz, Chair,  
21 the Chester Board of Commissioners and the Chester County  
22 Board of Elections, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

23           MS. MOSKOWITZ: Almost.

24           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: The hardest thing I  
25 have to do is try to get names right, so I do apologize.



1 MS. MOSKOWITZ: I know; I know. I do, too.  
2 That's fine. I answer to anything close, so don't worry.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: So, Commissioner, when  
4 you're comfortable and ready, as long as you have a green  
5 light, the floor is yours.

6 MS. MOSKOWITZ: Thank you. Thanks. There we go.

7 Good afternoon. I'm Marian Moskowitz. I'm Chair  
8 of the Chester County Board of Commissioners and Chair of  
9 the Board of Elections. I thank you very much for this  
10 opportunity to share my views on the upcoming redistricting  
11 of Pennsylvania's congressional districts.

12 By way of background, I have been a Chester  
13 County Commissioner since January of 2020 and have served  
14 in many volunteer roles in the county and statewide,  
15 including the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State  
16 System of Higher Education and the Chester County Economic  
17 Development Council. And I have been an enthusiastic  
18 supporter of free enterprise, having partnered with my  
19 husband to create over 450 jobs for people in Chester  
20 County.

21 So why am I committed to fairness in  
22 redistricting and want to ensure the same? My experiences  
23 in both the for-profit and nonprofit worlds have taught me  
24 that the economic well-being and good public policy is  
25 dependent upon a system of transparent rules by which we

1 all play. When those principles are manipulated to benefit  
2 one group or another, our faith in the whole system is  
3 endangered.

4           Indeed the practice of drawing legislative  
5 boundaries to favor one party or reduce the influence of  
6 certain voters is a fundamental assault on our system,  
7 resulting in a political monopoly antithetical to our  
8 democracy. And both parties do it, resulting in districts  
9 that are less competitive, push candidates to support party  
10 over policy, and result in polarization instead of  
11 problem-solving. Numerous studies confirm that  
12 gerrymandering contributes significantly to our current  
13 hyper-partisanship.

14           While gerrymandering has been around for a long  
15 time, sophisticated software has allowed both parties to  
16 take the practice to a whole new level, causing notable  
17 increases in gridlock. Research shows that while only  
18 25 percent of "salient issues" deadlocked in Congress  
19 during the 1940s, the figure has reached 74 percent by this  
20 past decade. And because "being primaried" has emerged as  
21 the principal threat to politicians, they are more  
22 ideological and have been forced to tack left and right.

23           In the 2010 redistricting, my home Chester County  
24 was the victim of some of the worst examples of  
25 gerrymandered congressional districts in American history.

1 While most everyone remembers the infamous "Goofy kicking  
2 Donald Duck" 7<sup>th</sup> District that spread across four counties,  
3 including Chester County, with some sections only a block  
4 wide, many forget that other districts, such as the 6<sup>th</sup>, the  
5 12<sup>th</sup>, and the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> were nearly as badly drawn  
6 specifically for political advantage.

7 As an elected official responsible for elections  
8 and a whole host of services in our county, and during my  
9 years of work in economic development, I saw firsthand how  
10 the extreme gerrymandering of Chester County confused our  
11 voters, stalled work to achieve policy reforms, and made  
12 our efforts to access Federal resources more difficult than  
13 necessary.

14 You have the power to prevent this from happening  
15 again and restoring public faith in our system of  
16 government, and I urge you to do the following:

17  
18 When drawing districts, start with a blank map  
19 with no predetermined lines or efforts to protect  
20 or punish sitting Legislators. And do not use  
21 political data except to test that the districts  
22 are not inadvertently gerrymandered.

23  
24 Keep communities and counties whole unless  
25 absolutely necessary and provide an explanation

1 to the public if you decide not to do so. To  
2 that end and based on its population and  
3 overlapping communities of interest, keep Chester  
4 County in one district. Under no circumstances  
5 should any precincts be split.

6  
7 Please consult publicly with experts on the best  
8 ways to ensure racial equity and adherence to the  
9 Voting Rights Act. Communities in my county such  
10 as Coatesville, Kennett Square, and Phoenixville  
11 should not be divided up to reduce their  
12 majority-minority influence.

13  
14 Please resolve to count incarcerated persons in  
15 their home communities as statute requires. More  
16 than 1,000 Chester County residents incarcerated  
17 in prisons across the Commonwealth rely on their  
18 families and friends in our municipalities while  
19 receiving little or no support from the places  
20 that they serve their time in. Indeed,  
21 Legislators in those districts that host prisons  
22 routinely ignore requests for help from inmates.  
23 They should be counted in their hometowns,  
24 information the Department of Corrections has and  
25 an adjustment you can make to the census data

1           that the Supreme Court permits.

2  
3           Be mindful of geographic features that represent  
4           natural borders for districts. In some regions,  
5           that means running lines along a mountain ridge  
6           rather than over it and recognizing major rivers  
7           as natural boundaries. The Schuylkill River  
8           separating Chester County and Montgomery County  
9           is an example of a river boundary that matters.

10  
11          Communities of interest should be considered.

12          For example, Chester County produces more  
13          mushrooms than anywhere in the world, and its  
14          growers face unique challenges. It would make no  
15          sense to divide that largely local community of  
16          interest into multiple districts. Please use  
17          input like this as you set your mapping  
18          priorities.

19  
20          Finally, while I congratulate you on making this  
21          redistricting process more transparent than any  
22          other in my memory, we can do more. Please agree  
23          to publicly share and accept suggestions on your  
24          proposed congressional districts map before you  
25          vote on them. Give the public at least 4 weeks

1 to review the map and offer suggestions before it  
2 is finalized. And please supply your map in a  
3 format the public can understand, along with  
4 information about the criteria used to draw it.

5

6 I thank you for giving me this opportunity to  
7 offer this testimony and for your work to ensure that our  
8 new congressional district map is fair. You have it in  
9 your power to help restore citizens' faith in our  
10 democracy, and I'm very grateful that you allowed me to  
11 speak.

12

Thank you.

13

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you. Thank you,  
14 present Commissioner. We greatly appreciate your testimony  
15 and willingness to testify today.

16

Next is Fred Gaines. Did Fred arrive? All  
17 right. We will try to come back if he does arrive.

18

Next is Representative Paul Drucker, Paoli,  
19 Pennsylvania. Paul, come on up, and when you're  
20 comfortable and ready, and just make sure that little green  
21 light is on, the floor is yours, sir.

22

MR. DRUCKER: Good afternoon.

23

My name is Paul Drucker. I was the State  
24 Representative for the 157<sup>th</sup> District for the 2008-2010  
25 session. I followed Carole Rubley, who was the Republican

1 Representative for 16 years.

2 I was the first Democrat elected to represent  
3 this district. This is important, because until my  
4 election, the 157<sup>th</sup> was considered safe Republican. After  
5 my election in its then configuration, it was considered a  
6 toss-up. As a result, in the subsequent State  
7 reapportionment, in order to protect the then majority, the  
8 incumbent Republican Representative and the then majority,  
9 the district became one of, if not the most, gerrymandered  
10 district in the State House.

11 I can speak to the effects of gerrymandering on  
12 the populace from a firsthand perspective. When I was  
13 elected, the 157<sup>th</sup> was gerrymandered, but only to a slight  
14 extent. I represented all of Tredyffrin, Schuylkill, and  
15 Phoenixville, all in Chester County. I also represented  
16 parts of Montgomery County. I represented two districts in  
17 Lower Providence and one district in West Norriton, which  
18 is part of a point I hope to make. This portion of my  
19 district was so insignificant that I don't even remember,  
20 and I'm not sure I ever knew, of the actual dimensions of  
21 the representation.

22 Schuylkill, Phoenixville, and East Pikeland  
23 consist of the Phoenixville School District. East Pikeland  
24 was, by far, the smallest portion of the district.  
25 East Pikeland was contiguous to and to a certain extent --

1 fire and police protection as an example -- synonymous with  
2 the other two townships. Nevertheless, it was in a  
3 different legislative district. West Norriton and Lower  
4 Providence were in separate school districts from each  
5 other and also from the Chester County townships. In the  
6 time I was in office, I don't remember ever going to a  
7 school district event in these Montgomery County districts.  
8 Conversely, I don't remember ever seeing the Representative  
9 from East Pikeland Township at any of the Phoenixville  
10 events. East Pikeland was approximately the same size as  
11 the Montgomery County districts.

12 I tried not to miss any Tredyffrin or  
13 Phoenixville or Schuylkill events, either school board or  
14 township related. I don't think I ever missed a  
15 Phoenixville Chamber event. I joined the Chamber and the  
16 Paoli businessmen's association. I joined the Chester  
17 County TMACC and was on the Board of Directors. I can only  
18 remember a few Montgomery County events in which I  
19 participated. I joined nothing in Montgomery County.

20 I fought long and hard for funding and grants for  
21 my Chester County residents. Sometimes I was even  
22 successful. I don't remember obtaining anything of a  
23 similar nature from Montgomery County.

24 What I'm trying to say is, geography matters,  
25 school districts matter, governmental units matter, rivers



1 and available access matter. Political affiliation  
2 doesn't, except in Harrisburg, and your concern is not good  
3 governance in the welfare of the populace but in your  
4 continuously being reelected and maintaining a voting  
5 majority in the Legislature.

6 I beseech you not to use party affiliation to  
7 draw the lines for voting districts and, by so doing,  
8 disenfranchising the citizens of Pennsylvania. Instead,  
9 utilize established geographic, community, and school  
10 district boundaries to create the "contiguous and compacted  
11 districts" that the PA Constitution requires and the  
12 citizenry deserves.

13 Thank you.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you,  
15 Representative Drucker. I appreciate your time and your  
16 willingness to testify today.

17 Just double-checking. Did Fred Gaines arrive?  
18 Fred Gaines? No?

19 All right. Ardith Talbott, New Hope,  
20 Pennsylvania. Ardith, are you here? There you are.

21 And as long as you have a little green light  
22 there and you're comfortable, feel free to begin when  
23 you're ready.

24 MS. TALBOTT: So I would like to start by just  
25 thanking you.

1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Is that light on?

2 MS. TALBOTT: It is; yeah.

3 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Pull it a little  
4 closer.

5 MS. TALBOTT: Thank you, Representative Grove and  
6 Members of the Committee, the State Government Committee.  
7 Some of you I have met. It's good to see you today, and  
8 thank you for this opportunity to provide input to the  
9 congressional redistricting process of Pennsylvania.

10 I have lived in Pennsylvania for 46 years and now  
11 reside in Bucks County. In my professional career, I  
12 conducted market research for consumer products and  
13 pharmaceuticals, and in doing so, I have studied many  
14 communities of interest and maps.

15 Since I retired, I have worked as a volunteer and  
16 citizen to end gerrymandering and to ensure fair voting  
17 districts. I have been speaking with hundreds of Democrats  
18 and Republicans, meeting with Legislators, writing letters  
19 to the editor, collecting signatures on petitions, and most  
20 recently I've been studying census data and drawing and  
21 sharing maps. My comments today reflect my personal views  
22 and conclusions based on that experience.

23 As you well know, the 2020 census data shows that  
24 Pennsylvania has grown only 2.4 percent in the last decade,  
25 resulting in the loss of one congressional seat. However,

1 the seven counties which are the focus of today's hearing  
2 grew 5.3 percent, twice the growth rate of the State  
3 overall. The 10-year growth rate was the highest in  
4 Lehigh County, which grew by 7.2 percent, followed by  
5 Montgomery County, 7.1 percent, and Chester County also up  
6 7.1 percent. The population in this seven-county region is  
7 currently equivalent to five congressional districts. Just  
8 as Pennsylvania is becoming less rural and more  
9 multicultural, so is this seven-county southeastern region.

10 In terms of racial composition, the population  
11 growth in these seven counties is driven especially by the  
12 growth in the Hispanic population, which has reached  
13 406,000, up 48 percent since 2010. To put that in  
14 perspective, 406,000 is more than the population of either  
15 Lehigh County or Northampton County.

16 It was very interesting to me to learn that the  
17 Hispanic population is primarily in the lower tier of  
18 Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties. Specifically,  
19 Hispanics represent fully 52 percent of Pennsylvania's  
20 prosperous and third-largest city of Allentown, 69 percent  
21 of Reading, 29 percent of Bethlehem, and 26 percent of  
22 Easton.

23 Many municipalities around these four cities  
24 have also had significant growth in the Hispanic  
25 population. A Muhlenberg College Spanish professor I know,

1 Erika Sutherland, says that the Lehigh Valley's growing  
2 Hispanic population is increasingly highly educated and  
3 actively participates in politics.

4 I am here today to ask you to prioritize three  
5 things when drawing the congressional districts.

6 First, we know that the districts must meet the  
7 Federal requirements of having equal population and having  
8 majority-minority districts where possible to comply with  
9 the Voting Rights Act.

10 Second, although the minority Black and Brown  
11 communities may not be sufficiently large to constitute a  
12 majority district in these seven counties, much of this  
13 population is large, growing, and lives in compact areas  
14 and should be fairly represented. I ask that the voting  
15 power of the minority communities in this region not be  
16 diluted by dividing them.

17 Third, I ask you to draw congressional districts  
18 that fairly represent both Democrats and Republicans here  
19 and in Pennsylvania overall versus gerrymandering the  
20 districts to serve the interest of a particular party or  
21 candidate. It's essential to our representative form of  
22 government that citizens of both parties be represented  
23 proportionally.

24 The current congressional districts are a major  
25 improvement in parts and fairness versus the 2011 map, so

1 we know this can be done. To illustrate how we might  
2 achieve these goals, I'd like to share a congressional map  
3 that I have drawn and focus on just four districts in the  
4 seven-county area.

5 I believe you have a copy of the map, but if you  
6 don't, I'll just hold this up. Very good.

7 So looking first at Berks, Lehigh, and  
8 Northampton Counties, please direct your attention to the  
9 teal-colored district here. This district extends from  
10 Easton on the eastern edge of Pennsylvania through  
11 Bethlehem, Allentown, and Reading, Reading being in Berks  
12 County here. These cities have much in common in terms of  
13 their urban and suburban character, cultural attractions  
14 such as museums and large seasonal festivals, and  
15 institutions of higher education.

16 The cities here also face similar challenges due  
17 to rapid industrial and population growth, including  
18 challenges to public schools, transportation, and housing.  
19 And Amtrak is planning two new passenger rail lines, one  
20 from New York City to Allentown and another from  
21 Philadelphia to Reading. These communities are also  
22 physically connected by Route 78 and Route 222. It is  
23 known as the 222 corridor. It takes little more than an  
24 hour to drive from Easton to Reading.

25 As mentioned earlier, this lower tier of the

1 three counties is home to a very high minority population,  
2 most of which is Hispanic. Importantly, 28 percent of this  
3 teal district would be Hispanic, which would help ensure  
4 fair representation of the large Hispanic community in  
5 these three counties. The district overall would cover  
6 69 percent of the total population of those three counties.

7           So next I would like to focus on the northern  
8 tier of these three counties in the district colored in  
9 yellow on the map. That's the northern tier in yellow.  
10 This area consists of more rural, suburban, and mostly  
11 White communities, and to achieve the necessary population  
12 of 765,000 per congressional district, this district would  
13 need to be combined with neighboring counties. This map  
14 shows how the district could include counties to the north,  
15 which are also more rural and mostly White. The population  
16 of the yellow district has grown by only 1 percent in the  
17 last 10 years versus the 6 percent growth.

18           Now moving southward to Bucks and Montgomery  
19 Counties, the map shows two congressional districts, one in  
20 blue and the other in green. The two counties have a  
21 combined population of 1.5 million, equivalent to two  
22 congressional districts. Both counties tend to have  
23 densely populated, suburban communities bordering  
24 Philadelphia, ranging from very affluent to low income.  
25 Meanwhile, the northernmost parts of the two counties,

1 which is where we are today, are somewhat sparsely  
2 populated with very small to midsized towns as well as some  
3 rural and some small farm areas.

4 Racially speaking, Bucks County is 80 percent  
5 White, Montgomery County is 72 percent White, 11 percent  
6 Black, and with the balance in the Asian and Hispanic  
7 communities, but the minority communities in Bucks and  
8 Montgomery Counties are not as concentrated or as compact  
9 and unified as they are in the Berks, Lehigh, and  
10 Northampton Counties.

11 The blue district includes all of Bucks County,  
12 which my previous testifiers have requested, and I echo  
13 that, plus some communities in Montgomery County. The  
14 boundaries are very close, actually, to the current  
15 district boundaries. The boundaries of the green district,  
16 which is mainly Montgomery County, are also very close to  
17 the current lines.

18 So those are the four congressional districts  
19 that I wanted to address today.

20 To summarize, in addition to meeting the  
21 constitutional requirements, it would be very desirable,  
22 I think, to create a district in the seven-county area that  
23 would provide strong congressional representation to the  
24 fast growing multicultural communities in Berks, Lehigh,  
25 and Northampton Counties.

1           So I also look forward to seeing a preliminary  
2 congressional map and another round of regional hearings to  
3 allow the public to comment, and thank you very much for  
4 taking my testimony and your consideration as you undertake  
5 this important process.

6           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much.

7           You did good. It was a lot. And we do have  
8 your written testimony with everything and your maps, too,  
9 so.

10          MS. TALBOTT: Okay. Some of it has been revised,  
11 and I'll be resubmitting it.

12          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: It's all good. Thank  
13 you so much for your time and willingness to testify.

14          Our next testifier is Congressman  
15 James Greenwood, New Hope, Pennsylvania.

16          Congressman, when you're comfortable and ready  
17 and the green light is on, the floor is yours.

18          CONGRESSMAN GREENWOOD: Thank you. Thank you.

19          Thank you, Chairman Grove, Minority Chairman  
20 Conklin, and all the Members of the Committee here and  
21 attending virtually and those who are not on the Committee  
22 and are here just because of your sense of public duty.  
23 And I welcome the opportunity to see my State  
24 Representative, Wendi Thomas. Thank you for the  
25 opportunity.



1           I am Jim Greenwood, and I am currently with the  
2 DLA Piper law firm, and my wife and I reside in Upper  
3 Makefield Township in Bucks County.

4           From 2005 through 2020, I served as the President  
5 and CEO of the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, the  
6 trade association for more than a thousand  
7 biopharmaceutical companies. From 1993 through 2005, I  
8 represented what was then the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District,  
9 comprised of all of Bucks County and portions of Montgomery  
10 County and Philadelphia. I served in the Pennsylvania  
11 Senate from 1987 to 1993 and in the Pennsylvania House from  
12 1981 to 1987. I am a Republican.

13           In 1991, I announced my intention to run for  
14 Congress. I was challenging Democratic incumbent  
15 Peter Kostmayer, who had been elected in 1976. I had been  
16 the campaign manager for the Republican candidate that  
17 year. Also in 1991, Democratic State Representative  
18 Paul McHale announced his intention to challenge Republican  
19 incumbent Congressman Don Ritter, who had been elected to  
20 represent the Lehigh Valley district just to the north of  
21 Bucks County in 1979. 1991 was the year that the  
22 congressional districts were to be redrawn to reflect the  
23 1990 census.

24           Congressman Kostmayer and Congressman Ritter were  
25 sufficiently threatened by State Representative McHale and

1 me that they collaborated to devise a gerrymander that  
2 would divide their districts east and west instead of north  
3 and south the way the county boundaries went. Had they  
4 succeeded, they would have created for themselves districts  
5 that put many of Ritter's Democrats into Kostmayer's  
6 district and many of Kostmayer's Republicans into Ritter's.  
7 The gerrymander would not have benefited the constituents  
8 at all, splitting asunder the Bucks County and the  
9 Lehigh-Northampton County communities.

10 Now, the problem that Kostmayer and Ritter had  
11 was that their challengers, Representative McHale and I,  
12 were serving in the Legislature and thus positioned to  
13 frustrate their scheme. We kept the districts much as they  
14 were and we each defeated the incumbent.

15 Now fast-forward 10 years later. I was the  
16 incumbent during the 2001 redistricting process, and there  
17 I was, in Harrisburg, staring over the Republican staff's  
18 shoulders, pouring over their computer screens, trying to  
19 figure out how to keep my district as safe as possible, in  
20 this case by getting Philadelphia Democrat precincts out  
21 and replacing them with Republican precincts from  
22 Montgomery County. In neither of these cases was the goal  
23 to benefit the constituents but rather to increase the  
24 likelihood of my reelection. What I was engaged in and  
25 what Congressman Kostmayer and Ritter attempted was

1 gerrymandering, plain and simple, and it is the normal  
2 behavior of incumbents across the country.

3           In the 2020 general election, more seats in the  
4 U.S. House were contested than had been since 1920 -- 415  
5 of 435 -- a record number not exceeded in 100 years. Yet,  
6 with all of those challenges, only 13 incumbents were  
7 defeated, all Democrats, and it's no wonder that so few  
8 incumbents lost their elections.

9           In the 1980s and 90s, there were on average about  
10 150 toss-up races for the House seats, meaning that the  
11 candidates' polling numbers were close enough that the  
12 election could have swung either way. In recent years,  
13 there have been no more than 40.

14           The Cook Political Report analyzes the nation's  
15 congressional districts and assigns a Partisan Voter Index,  
16 or PVI, to each. In 1997, 165 districts had PVI scores  
17 that were within the national average of plus or minus  
18 5 percent of either party. In other words, they were  
19 considered swing districts. By 2016, that number had been  
20 reduced from 165 to 72. More than half of the current  
21 congressional districts have nine or more percent of voters  
22 registered in one party than in the other. In these  
23 overwhelmingly lopsided districts, when there is any real  
24 competition, it's in the primary elections, not the  
25 general, and this has two effects.

1           First, people who aspire to serve in Congress in  
2 these lopsided districts have no viable choice but to  
3 challenge the incumbent in the primary. Knowing that the  
4 turnout in primaries generally is low and consists largely  
5 of the most partisan and activist voters, Republican  
6 challengers often try to run to the right of the incumbent  
7 and Democrats to the left of the incumbent. That's how  
8 House Republican Majority Leader Eric Cantor lost his  
9 Virginia seat in the primary to an unknown Tea Party  
10 candidate in 2014 and how House Democratic Caucus Chair  
11 Joe Crowley lost his New York primary to Alexandria  
12 Ocasio-Cortez in 2018.

13           The overall result of this move to the margins is  
14 further polarization in Congress, which is increasingly  
15 composed of far right and far left Members. It also  
16 results in incumbents being unwilling to compromise with  
17 the other party for fear of making themselves ideologically  
18 "impure" and vulnerable to primary challengers, and that  
19 leads to the worsening paralysis of the Congress and our  
20 nation's inability to address critical challenges.

21           The second impact of this is that incumbents with  
22 overwhelming registration leads don't feel threatened in  
23 the general elections, and thus they have no need or  
24 incentive to move toward the center to keep their seats.  
25 Again, more ideological extremism, polarization, and

1 government paralysis.

2           Gerrymandering also leads to public cynicism as  
3 the voters observe yet another example of politicians  
4 scratching each other's backs rather than working to serve  
5 the public. Voter turnout declines and Members of Congress  
6 retire from frustration.

7           Our Founding Fathers worried about the danger  
8 of political parties and partisanship. In his  
9 Farewell Address, George Washington said, quote, "Over the  
10 decades the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of  
11 party are sufficient to make it the interest and the duty  
12 of a wise people to discourage and restrain it," close  
13 quote.

14           Now, we have long since tolerated and, indeed,  
15 embraced political parties, and during my 24 years in  
16 elective office, I fought hard to win my elections and to  
17 help gain and retain Republican majorities in the  
18 Pennsylvania House and Senate and in Congress. But the  
19 real value of parties is not to simply divide us into red  
20 and blue teams battling for power but rather for Americans  
21 to associate with other citizens who share their basic  
22 values and beliefs and to engage in the intellectual  
23 debates, learning from the differences in perspective born  
24 of our varying professions, our religions, our life  
25 experiences, and our circumstances.

1           When candidates are elected by winning these  
2 debates rather than having gerrymandered their way to  
3 victory, the political process attracts and rewards those  
4 who do their homework, master the facts, and have the  
5 intelligence to persuade the voters to their points of  
6 view. As is the case wherever competition is stifled, the  
7 quality of the outcome is diminished. Where competition is  
8 encouraged, the product is excellence.

9           I'm a self-proclaimed centrist, not because I  
10 fail to steadfastly adhere to a set of principles but  
11 because it has been my experience that the truth usually  
12 lies closer to the middle than to the extremes. When far  
13 too many congressional districts include candidates from  
14 each party who have a chance to prevail by winning on the  
15 issue debates, when far too few of them do, we sacrifice  
16 the opportunity to sharpen our thinking and to be convinced  
17 by factual arguments.

18           As I illustrated in my opening, I fully  
19 understand that political parties want to use whatever  
20 leverage they can have to protect their incumbents and to  
21 defeat candidates of the other party. I know that arena  
22 well. My recommendations to you, though, are to take the  
23 long view rather than drawing congressional districts  
24 designed so that the politicians choose their  
25 constituents. Where you can, endeavor to draw competitive

1 districts so the constituents choose their elected  
2 Representatives.

3           Clearly given the geographic distribution of  
4 Republicans and Democrats in Pennsylvania, not all  
5 districts can be drawn to be competitive in general  
6 elections. But in areas where voters of the two major  
7 parties are more evenly balanced, I urge you to resist the  
8 political pressure to undo that balance by manipulating the  
9 congressional district boundaries to artificially favor one  
10 party over the other. Bucks County's 1<sup>st</sup> District, where we  
11 sit, is a perfect example of a swing district that should  
12 not be so divided.

13           True patriotic leaders put the long-term strength  
14 of our nation ahead of short-term partisan issues. I'll  
15 close with this quote. Martin Luther King said, quote,  
16 "It's time for political leaders across the ideological  
17 spectrum to realize that, while partisanship is  
18 understandable, hyper-partisanship is destructive to our  
19 country. We need more visionary leaders who will earnestly  
20 strive for bipartisanship and finding policy solutions that  
21 can move America forward." These are wise words.

22           Thank you.

23           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Congressman,  
24 for your time and willingness to testify this morning. We  
25 appreciate it.

1                   Our next testifier is Deirdre Gibson from Media,  
2 Pennsylvania.

3                   I'll also announce we are joined by  
4 Representative Meghan Schroeder.

5                   And when you're comfortable and ready, please  
6 feel free to begin. And that little green light is on, so  
7 go ahead.

8                   MS. GIBSON: It is on; yep.

9                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

10                  MS. GIBSON: Good afternoon. Thank you so much  
11 for the opportunity to speak with you today about the  
12 process of public involvement in this year's redistricting  
13 work.

14                  I'm a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, and I  
15 have lived in McKean, Bucks, Centre, Philadelphia, and now  
16 Delaware County. I have worked for 50 years both in the  
17 private sector and the Federal government in large-scale  
18 land planning, and I have extensive experience in  
19 conducting public processes around decisions that affect  
20 the lives and well-being of citizens. I mention this  
21 because my testimony today concerns the mechanics of the  
22 public process that will lead to the development of new  
23 congressional maps for Pennsylvania districts.

24                  I was encouraged on July 12<sup>th</sup> to hear the  
25 Committee promise to conduct the "most transparent"



1 redistricting process to date. Representative Benninghoff  
2 stated during the announcement of the process that "the  
3 coming slate of hearings, the publicly accessible website,  
4 and the ability for Pennsylvanians to submit their own maps  
5 and communities of interest clearly makes this effort the  
6 most transparent congressional redistricting in  
7 Pennsylvania history. The work that will be put into this  
8 by the House State Government Committee shows our caucus's  
9 commitment to a process-oriented approach that is  
10 reflective of the people's voice," close quotation. That  
11 commitment to a transparent and reflective process is what  
12 I'll comment on this afternoon.

13           The series of public hearings that the Committee  
14 is holding is an encouraging first step, and I followed  
15 with interest the testimony that citizens have taken the  
16 time to prepare and to provide to you. Hearing testimony  
17 and posting it on a website, though, is only a first step  
18 towards your promise of a transparent and reflective  
19 process.

20           Since July 12<sup>th</sup>, I have been waiting to hear more  
21 about your process, and I'm a bit concerned that the rest  
22 of it is missing or completely opaque. It's regrettable  
23 that there's no law, standard, or even precedent in  
24 Pennsylvania for a truly transparent and reflective  
25 redistricting public process, because this puts you in the

1 difficult-to-defend position of having to make this up as  
2 you go along. Yet, hundreds if not thousands of  
3 transparent public processes are conducted each year in the  
4 U.S., and the steps are well accepted and effective.

5           So I'll suggest some steps to illustrate what  
6 "transparency" comprises, steps that will produce a result  
7 that the public can feel confident of, even if they don't  
8 like it, particularly since public confidence is one of the  
9 Committee's stated goals:

10  
11           First, provide a timeline for your work.

12           State what the target date is for release of  
13 your initial draft map, the dates for public  
14 review, and for submission to the Governor.

15           The recent month-long delay in the  
16 scheduling of half of the hearings is a concern  
17 given the time constraints that the late census  
18 results have posed, and it certainly leads to the  
19 question of whether and how public testimony will  
20 be used in your decisionmaking. Publishing a  
21 timeline would help to assuage this concern for  
22 us.

23  
24           Second, make the process responsive and  
25 interactive rather than one way. Again, limiting

1 the process to simply taking and posting  
2 testimony means that the information is only  
3 flowing in one direction, toward you, and without  
4 actionable results. Surprisingly, Committee  
5 Members who have taken the time to travel to the  
6 remote locations of the hearings -- and I  
7 appreciate how many of you are here today. This  
8 is the best turnout yet, right? But you're not  
9 taking the time to ask questions of the citizens  
10 who have taken time to appear.

11 "Transparent and reflective" means that the  
12 Committee will clarify how the information that  
13 we citizens have provided will be analyzed and  
14 used in your work.

15 Tell us how the information will be  
16 documented, both qualitatively and  
17 quantitatively, so that you'll have the ability  
18 to use it in your work.

19 And prepare and publish a summary set of  
20 conclusions that you have reached based on the  
21 compendium of our public testimony.

22  
23 Third, clarify what criteria are being used  
24 to draw the map.

25 Clarify whether the Committee has committed

1 to using the criteria provided by the U.S.  
2 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act as the key  
3 criteria for developing the map and whether there  
4 are any additional criteria that you'll use as  
5 guidelines. It was so interesting to hear former  
6 Congressman Greenwood describe the criteria that  
7 had been used in past redistricting efforts that  
8 he was aware of.

9 State the priority order of the importance  
10 of the criteria.

11  
12 Fourth, clarify who is involved in  
13 decisionmaking.

14 Describe how the House State Government  
15 Committee will work with the Senate State  
16 Government Committee.

17 Clarify how minority Members of the  
18 Committee and the Legislature will be involved  
19 and included in mapmaking. Are you willing to  
20 commit to an inclusive process in which  
21 amendments offered by other Legislators will be  
22 presented to the public in a timely way and, most  
23 importantly, receive a vote?

24 And disclose the name and qualifications of  
25 any vendor or other consultant or advisor who is

1 drawing the actual map.

2  
3 Fifth, build in time for actual reflection.  
4 "Reflective" means that there will be a  
5 responsive dialogue between the Legislature and  
6 the public. The Legislature was unhappy when the  
7 State Supreme Court handed down a map in 2018  
8 with no consultation. The public will be unhappy  
9 if you do the same thing this year.

10 So ensure that you have built in a minimum  
11 of 30 days for the public to review and comment  
12 on your initial draft map.

13 Present the draft map in a publicly  
14 accessible and user-friendly format such as the  
15 Dave's Redistricting app to make commenting easy.

16 And ensure that you have the time to  
17 incorporate the comments that you'll receive and  
18 to make needed changes.

19  
20 Six, show your work. "Transparency" means  
21 that the question of "why" is fully answered.

22 So provide a written report to accompany  
23 both the initial draft map and the final  
24 submitted map that describes for the public how  
25 and why decisions were made for each district.

1           I'll conclude by saying that in my experience,  
2           few public processes have outcomes that make everyone  
3           happy, and redistricting won't make everyone happy either.  
4           But a well-run, fully transparent, interactive process,  
5           incorporated in steps like those I have just outlined, does  
6           give the public confidence that this outcome is honest,  
7           reflective, and as fair as possible.

8           Chairman Grove, as you stated on July 12<sup>th</sup>, and  
9           I'll quote, "At a time when public trust in government is  
10          low, it is vital that the voices of the people are heard,"  
11          close quote. Mr. Grove and Members of this committee,  
12          Pennsylvanians ask you to follow through and meet the  
13          commitment that you made.

14          Thank you very much for your kind attention this  
15          afternoon.

16          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much for  
17          your testimony and willingness to come in and testify.  
18          Thank you so much.

19          Our next testifier is Eric Bruno from Levittown.  
20          Eric, are you here? Come on up.

21          Thank you so much for taking time out of your  
22          busy schedule. When you're comfortable and ready, please  
23          feel free to begin.

24          MR. BRUNO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members  
25          of the Committee.

1           I think I speak for everyone, or at least  
2 everyone who is not fully politically engaged, to say that  
3 I'm tired. We're all tired of political shenanigans that  
4 go into gerrymandered districts with non-Euclidean  
5 geometric shapes that span time and space half the time  
6 that we see here. It has been formulating at this point  
7 for the past two decades, at least.

8           First, partisans create maps that effectively  
9 disenfranchise voters, then other groups correctly sue and  
10 take the Legislature to court. The courts look at the maps  
11 and rule that they are unconstitutional, which took 8 years  
12 last time. The districts get redrawn to be fair for a  
13 couple of years, then we start all over again. Meanwhile,  
14 Americans get disenfranchised, politicians see no  
15 consequences for their actions, and we all end up worse off  
16 for it.

17           Can we skip it this time? Seriously. We the  
18 voting public are tired of these elementary schoolyard  
19 games. We only ask that you serve in our Legislature with  
20 a sense of integrity, honor, and duty to your constituents.  
21 Let's stop wasting time and money on these battles where  
22 every Pennsylvanian ends up on the losing end.

23           This is your warning, though. History shows  
24 that if you make democracy more difficult, you'll make  
25 governing impossible. I don't want that. I want us seen

1 as a unified people, so Democrats and Republicans need to  
2 work together in Harrisburg and be reasonable with the new  
3 maps.

4 As we move forward with the country, there needs  
5 to be a reckoning about who we are as a people. Are we  
6 fair, equitable, impartial, and cohesive, or will  
7 historians call our society unjust, nakedly biased, and  
8 selfish? I think we can be better.

9 Instead of setting up these fights that can be  
10 avoided, we can make our district lines reasonable from the  
11 beginning. The alternative leads us down a dark road, but  
12 one that we can evade with relative ease. All you have to  
13 do is be honest with the districting, honest with the  
14 Pennsylvania public, and honest with yourselves.

15 My comments are much shorter than most of the  
16 people who are here, but I just wanted to be short, sweet,  
17 and to the point.

18 Thank you for all of your time.

19 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
20 taking the time out of your schedule to come in and  
21 testify. We greatly appreciate it.

22 Our next testifier is Dennis Baylor.

23 And we'll move on to Phyllis Blumberg, and if  
24 Dennis does arrive, we will add him on at the tail end.

25 Phyllis Blumberg from -- Bala Cynwyd? Did I get



1 that right? Bala Cynwyd. Obviously, I'm not from the  
2 southeast.

3 MS. BLUMBERG: No, obviously you're not Welsh.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Yeah.

5 Phyllis, when you're comfortable and ready,  
6 please feel free to begin. Thank you so much for taking  
7 time out and testifying today.

8 MS. BLUMBERG: Thank you, Congressperson Grove  
9 and the Members of the Committee for this opportunity for  
10 me to testify today.

11 I am Phyllis Blumberg, and I live in Bala Cynwyd,  
12 Lower Merion Township, in Montgomery County, in  
13 Pennsylvania's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. I'm a  
14 middle-class suburban woman, but I care deeply about proper  
15 representation for all people, especially those of color  
16 and frontline communities.

17 I have lived in this district for over 25 years,  
18 and my area has been redistricted several times. To deny  
19 adequate representation in my suburban Philadelphia and  
20 leaning-toward-Democratic section of Montgomery County, we  
21 have been redistricted inappropriately into other  
22 districts.

23 Once we were sliced into a very thin section and  
24 added to a more rural and leaning-toward-Republican Berks  
25 County district. Next, we were packed into a solidly

1 Democrat and largely Black district in Philadelphia. In  
2 both cases, my community was a token in that district and  
3 not even worth putting into a bus terminal.

4           The representative only was interested in  
5 courting our money when they were up for reelection, but  
6 had absolutely no interest in talking to us once they were  
7 elected. In fact, we felt that we were not even  
8 represented in the U.S. House of Representatives, because  
9 they never came to our neighborhood, they never talked to  
10 us, they never answered our calls, and they never addressed  
11 any of our issues.

12           This was my experience, and this mirrors exactly  
13 what Mr. Greenwood said as an elected official, but this  
14 was my experience as a citizen. I am also concerned that  
15 redistricting can throw us, once again, into a district  
16 that does not represent suburban Philadelphians.

17           While my current district represents my  
18 community, I do not think it represents the entire district  
19 appropriately. My current district includes much of  
20 Montgomery County, which I think is appropriate, which is  
21 suburban Philadelphia, but it also includes a small part of  
22 the eastern part of Berks County, which is more rural and  
23 not as metropolitan Philadelphia centric.

24           I also have concerns about the overall House  
25 district map, and these are really where I want to spend

1 most of my time. Here are my recommendations for how to  
2 improve the redistricting process to make it better to  
3 reflect the reality of Pennsylvania:  
4

5 1. I am concerned about diluting the voices  
6 of urban populations, especially for communities  
7 of color that tend to be concentrated in urban  
8 areas. I offer several examples of the current  
9 dilution of that representation.

- 10 • The maps that were drawn in 2018 were  
11 meant to be proportional in terms of our  
12 overall population voting tendencies.  
13 While this was a step in the right  
14 direction, we did not achieve the goal  
15 completely, because the Republicans  
16 continue to have a geographic advantage  
17 since the Democrats tend to be  
18 concentrated in urban areas. This allows  
19 districts to be cracked and packed, which  
20 dilutes the voices of urban communities.
- 21 • When people of color are all packed into  
22 the same district, they get a  
23 representative, and they get a voice and  
24 that representative gets elected, but  
25 their power is diluted. This may sound

1 counterintuitive, but the dilution of  
2 power occurs for the following reasons:

- 3 • When districts are packed into a  
4 supermajority of people of color, their  
5 voices are limited to just those few  
6 districts, tending to have far less  
7 representation overall.
- 8 • Many studies have shown that more  
9 racially diverse districts tend to lead  
10 to people of color having more voice.  
11 When districts are made up of greater  
12 than about a third of a specific race,  
13 there is a good opportunity that that  
14 person of that "specific" race might  
15 represent the district.
- 16 • People of any race or whether they are  
17 urban or rural should not be divided into  
18 other districts so that they can only be  
19 a token in that overall population. This  
20 was exactly what I experienced in my two  
21 previous districts.
- 22 • Blacks, Hispanics, and Latinx should not  
23 be packed unnecessarily into a few  
24 districts, particularly as their  
25 population is growing in Pennsylvania.

- 1                   • Determining the districts, especially in  
2                   Philadelphia, Reading, Pittsburgh, and  
3                   the Lehigh Valley, needs special  
4                   attention to be given for equitable  
5                   representation to Blacks, Hispanics, and  
6                   the Latinx communities.

7  
8                   2. Local voting precincts should be kept  
9                   intact, as many people have already said. School  
10                  districts in Montgomery County should be kept  
11                  intact as a district, but this is not the case  
12                  now.

13  
14                  3. Districts should not be drawn in such a  
15                  way that the shape is crazy. I have a cartoon  
16                  hanging in my house that shows the crazy  
17                  districts of various parts of Pennsylvania as  
18                  well as the nation, and they kind of look like a  
19                  child was just scribble-scrabble.

20  
21                  4. Pennsylvania needs to lose one U.S.  
22                  Representative. There has been a population  
23                  shift away from central, northern, and western  
24                  parts of the State and toward the suburban  
25                  metropolitan areas, particularly of Philadelphia

1           and Pittsburgh. Therefore, the districts need to  
2           reflect the current reality with fewer seats  
3           where they have lost population and appropriating  
4           more seats in the metropolitan areas,  
5           particularly suburban Allegheny County,  
6           Philadelphia, and the five collar counties around  
7           Philadelphia.

8  
9           5. Redistricting should not prioritize  
10          keeping incumbents in office. And I'm going to  
11          say that again: Redistricting should not  
12          prioritize keeping incumbents in office. It  
13          would be better to start with a clean slate to  
14          make district maps.

- 15           • This might mean that the two incumbent  
16           officials might actually run against each  
17           other, but that would be an effective  
18           way for voters to choose who represents  
19           them.
- 20           • It would also provide opportunities for  
21           new candidates to emerge. And having had  
22           some friends who would like to run but  
23           feel that they have no chance of ever  
24           winning, I think it would be a good  
25           opportunity for new candidates to emerge.

- Just because one of Pennsylvania's Representatives in Congress is seeking election to the U.S. Senate, that does not mean that the voters from that district should be reapportioned into other districts as a way of protecting the current incumbents. This district is actually gaining in population and should not be chopped up.

In summary, my major concerns are diluting the voices of urban populations, especially for communities of color that tend to be concentrated in urban areas, and my second major area is prioritizing current elected officials to keep incumbents in office and not prioritizing the voice of the people and population shifts.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide the testimony of a citizen and for your attention to these concerns.

MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for your testimony, Phyllis. We greatly appreciate your time.

Our next testifier is Robert Paul from Merion, Pennsylvania.

Robert, come on down. Thank you so much for your time and willingness to testify today.

1 MR. PAUL: Oh, thank you, sir.

2 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: The green light is on,  
3 so when you're comfortable and ready, please feel free to  
4 begin.

5 MR. PAUL: All right. Well, thank you for having  
6 me.

7 I'm unfortunately in the middle of a hearing in  
8 Federal Court, which I'm rushing in in the middle of to do  
9 this.

10 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: I hope you're not the  
11 plaintiff.

12 MR. PAUL: I don't think I'll answer that  
13 question.

14 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Good.

15 MR. PAUL: Either way.

16 While reapportionment -- and I speak and I'll  
17 say this very quickly. I have been certified as an expert  
18 in reapportionment by the Federal Court in the Eastern  
19 District of Pennsylvania. In the 1980 reapportionment, I  
20 designed maps in the 1980 reapportionment, and I testified  
21 in front of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania on that  
22 subject, so I have a little bit of knowledge in this area.

23 While reapportionment is a political process, it  
24 can only be performed in conformity with the requirements  
25 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. These requirements were



1 set out clearly in two Pennsylvania Supreme Court cases --  
2 *Mellow v. Mitchell* in 1992 and *League of Women Voters v.*  
3 *Commonwealth* in 2018, which I'm sure you're all familiar  
4 with, the second certainly. Some of you may not be  
5 familiar with the first one. These cases provide that the  
6 plan for the districts must be compact, contiguous, equal  
7 in population, does not divide a county, city, town,  
8 borough, township, or ward -- my specific election division  
9 happens to be split between two congressional districts  
10 under the present plan -- except when necessary to ensure  
11 equality of population.

12 Further, the *League of Women Voters* court held  
13 that partisan gerrymandering violates the Pennsylvania  
14 Constitution. In *Mellow*, the court appears to have said  
15 that maximizing the ability of minority populations to be  
16 heard by not cramming them into one or more districts or  
17 cracking them by spreading them out among districts so  
18 their voices cannot be heard as they are too small a group  
19 in the district should also be a goal in the process to  
20 prevent both packing and cracking.

21 Further, given the importance of the matter, the  
22 Committee should alert the public to its thinking, and not  
23 just in a hearing such as this, but actually give us the  
24 maps that you are planning to do before you adopt them, and  
25 provide opportunity for public comment on the plan as it is

1 being developed, not just release a plan and then force the  
2 public to comment by litigation only. Because the reality  
3 is, there's going to be litigation about this plan no  
4 matter what.

5 My point and the reason I'm urging upon you to do  
6 a nonpartisan way of looking at this is that whatever your  
7 private preferences are in the matter of the districts  
8 should be put aside in favor of the public interest as  
9 described in the *League of Women Voters* case. The plan  
10 must be in place by January 24<sup>th</sup>. A plan which fails to  
11 meet the criteria in the *League* case will be rejected by  
12 the courts, leading to chaos. This should be avoided. A  
13 plan more like 2018 than 2011 should be adopted by you to  
14 make the process of the 2022 election go more smoothly.  
15 People need to know what district they live in sooner  
16 rather than later, and the counties need to be prepared and  
17 the more time the better.

18 Finally, while our Montgomery County population  
19 is bigger than one district, the least amount of division  
20 should be the goal. Spread out elongated districts  
21 designed to reduce the role of cities into split counties,  
22 such as the split in Pottstown and other places, and  
23 smaller units from areas of natural affinity by geography  
24 should be avoided.

25 So with that, I'm happy to answer any questions

1 you guys may have, but otherwise, thank you for the  
2 opportunity. And please, please, please do not make this a  
3 partisan process, make it a nonpartisan process, because  
4 otherwise, the Supreme Court is going to decide it. And  
5 would you rather have a plan that you can sign off on?

6 And I'll speak as a lawyer. Why do cases settle?  
7 Cases settle because both parties would rather have their  
8 fates decided by themselves rather than by some judge or a  
9 jury, and I urge you to give that serious, serious  
10 consideration in the way this plan is proposed and the way  
11 it is adopted.

12 Thank you.

13 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you very much. I  
14 appreciate your time and your willingness to pop out of  
15 court to give us your testimony today.

16 Our next testifier is Angel Figueroa. Did I get  
17 your last name kind of right?

18 MR. FIGUEROA: I'll correct you when I get up  
19 there.

20 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: All right. I  
21 appreciate that.

22 MR. FIGUEROA: It's not Segura.

23 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Segura.

24 MR. FIGUEROA: It's Figueroa.

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Figueroa.

1 MR. FIGUEROA: Yes.

2 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

3 ---from Reading, Pennsylvania. And the green  
4 light is on. When you're ready and comfortable, please  
5 begin.

6 MR. FIGUEROA: Hello. My name is Angel Figueroa.  
7 I am a resident of Berks County, Pennsylvania, where my  
8 wife, Isamac Torres-Figueroa, and I have decided to raise  
9 our two beautiful daughters, Olivia and Natalia.

10 Isamac is currently the Interim Chairwoman of the  
11 Berks County Latino Chamber of Commerce, and in her  
12 professional capacity, she works for the Kutztown  
13 University Small Business Development Center, helping new  
14 and existing entrepreneurs. I tell you this so you can see  
15 that our family is fully vested in making sure our  
16 communities move forward.

17 As a former veteran of the Pennsylvania Army  
18 National Guard, I learned early on in my career that  
19 service to country is one of my core values, hence why I am  
20 employed by the Institute of Leadership, which is a  
21 nonprofit located in southeast Pennsylvania helping  
22 underserved communities to seek the resources and skills  
23 they need to get out of poverty.

24 As the first and former Puerto Rican elected  
25 official in the city of Reading, I want to thank all of

1 you, especially thanks to Chairman Grove and the Committee  
2 Members, for giving this opportunity today, because I, too,  
3 understand what it is and what it takes to listen to your  
4 constituencies. So I applaud you.

5 My focal point today will really emphasize an  
6 opportunity for all of you to do something great during  
7 this time of redistricting. So I would encourage you to  
8 please pay attention.

9 The seven counties which we are focused on in  
10 this hearing is home to nearly one-third of Pennsylvania's  
11 total population, which translates to five congressional  
12 districts. The seven-county region is the fastest growing  
13 region, with a population increase of 5.3 percent versus  
14 2.4 percent for the State overall. Moreover, Allentown and  
15 Reading are two of the State's fifth largest cities, and  
16 most recently, the city of Reading was named the fourth  
17 largest city in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

18 The map below shows population changes by region  
19 over the last two decades and shows a strong two decades of  
20 growth in southeast Pennsylvania versus other regions.

21 This seven-county region is also multicultural,  
22 with 29 percent counting as "minorities." It is home to  
23 406,000 Hispanics, or 39 percent of the State's growing  
24 Hispanic population. The Hispanic population is up by  
25 48 percent in this seven-county region, the Black

1 population is up 7 percent, while the White population  
2 dropped 4 percent.

3 I would like to propose two districts which would  
4 include Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties. These  
5 districts are included in the map of the 17 congressional  
6 districts for the whole State that is suggested here in the  
7 link which you currently have, according to Dave's  
8 Redistricting app.

9 First, looking at Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton  
10 Counties which are yellow and teal, there in the northern  
11 tier is the yellow, which is mostly rural, racially White,  
12 and declining in population. That region is similar to the  
13 counties of the north -- Schuylkill, Carbon, and Monroe.  
14 So the northern tier of Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton  
15 Counties is included with those neighboring counties to  
16 create the district in the yellow on the map.

17 The second region and the district that one of my  
18 colleagues has drawn in teal is the one that we want you to  
19 particularly focus on today, and you can see it to my far  
20 left, which is the teal section. It represents the  
21 southern tier of Berks, Lehigh, and Northampton Counties.  
22 This district is a growing urban, suburban, industrial  
23 corridor and includes Easton, Bethlehem, Allentown, and  
24 Reading and southwestern Berks County. Along this  
25 well-traveled corridor, you'll find the world headquarters

1 of Air Products, PPL, Crayola, as well as the Mac Trucks,  
2 Braun, and 700 manufacturing companies, and the fastest  
3 growing warehouse industry, including Amazon.

4           The urban corridor is connected by Interstate 78  
5 and Routes 22 and 222, which are very crowded highways.  
6 Allentown International Airport is in the region. Amtrak  
7 is planning to expand passenger lines to Allentown and  
8 Reading, which will only fuel growth and the accompanying  
9 increase in the demand for improved systems to support the  
10 region.

11           It is important to state that this growth be  
12 sustained. There's excellent universities and colleges  
13 such as Lehigh, Muhlenberg, Lafayette, and I would be  
14 remiss if I don't name some in Reading, Albright and  
15 Alvernia, as well as Kutztown University, which I got my  
16 MBA from, by the way.

17           The district is also home to a large, growing  
18 Hispanic population. It represents over 70 percent of  
19 Reading, over 50 percent of Allentown, and over 30 percent  
20 of Bethlehem. The Latino community calls it "el Corazon de  
21 la comunidad," the heart of the community, or what I would  
22 call "el Corazon de la condados," connecting three major  
23 counties.

24           I have shared with you some links so you could  
25 reference them within my speech.

1           In this congressional district, Hispanics will  
2 represent 28 percent of the total population, and Blacks  
3 will represent 11 percent. Given the concentration in  
4 growth of Hispanic populations in the southeast region,  
5 this is a very important district. Keeping these Hispanic  
6 communities united in one district protects their  
7 interests. Having a congressional representative focus on  
8 the changes needed of this vibrant region over the next  
9 10 years is the right thing to do.

10           As a side note, I will give you a real example of  
11 this reality. Currently with the American Recovery funds  
12 that have been disbursed in many towns, cities, and  
13 counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, by  
14 far, Hispanics and Blacks have been disproportionately not  
15 included in the processes in terms of making decisions on  
16 how these funds will be allocated.

17           Another example. Most recently, our Berks County  
18 Latino Chamber collaborated with the Berks County Chamber  
19 of Commerce in the distribution of over \$700,000 during the  
20 CHIRP funds, which all of you were very instrumental in  
21 appropriating, over \$700,000 for Latino entrepreneurs that  
22 perhaps if we would not have been in contact, on the  
23 ground, knocking on these businesses, they would not have  
24 known, and this was very true and very evident in other  
25 communities. Fortunately, in the city of Reading, that was



1 not the case.

2 In summary, population growth and population  
3 decline both present a policy challenge, but there are  
4 different challenges with different solutions. For  
5 example, population growth, particularly in the  
6 222 corridor in Northampton, Lehigh, and Berks Counties,  
7 brings a huge amount of challenges of strained  
8 infrastructure, education, and services, including the need  
9 for workforce. I would like to ask the State Government  
10 Committees to introduce a map that will provide a  
11 congressional district support to serve the interests of  
12 each of these distinctly different areas.

13 One way to ensure that this continues going  
14 forward is to have voting districts that represent the  
15 interests of urban parts of the region very well and also  
16 have districts that will represent rural regions well. The  
17 interests are different, but well-drawn districts will  
18 enable voters to elect candidates that will truly represent  
19 their interests. If we do not, we risk having districts  
20 that are highly polarized, which I believe tends to  
21 paralyze progress on important issues and angers  
22 constituents.

23 A good example of Latino voters on why my  
24 testimony today is very nonpartisan, Berks County is an  
25 example of electing the first Puerto Rican county

1 commissioner in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania,  
2 Michael Rivera; the first Puerto Rican elected to the city  
3 of Reading, Eddie Moran; and the first Hispanic and Berks  
4 County State Representative, Manuel Guzman. This speaks to  
5 the fact that Latinos tend to vote for people. We care  
6 less about the partisan rhetoric. All we want to do is  
7 what's right to serve our communities and really continue  
8 to be a part of our great American democracy.

9 I look forward to seeing the preliminary  
10 congressional map that the State Government Committee  
11 proposes and to the future hearings to comment on this map.  
12 Once again, gracias. Thank you for this opportunity.

13 In the event that you would like to host this  
14 hearing in Reading or in Berks County or the 222 corridor,  
15 let me know, and again, thank you.

16 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much, and  
17 thank you for your service. We really appreciate it.

18 All right. Our next testifier is  
19 Victor Martinez, Vice President of Spanish Broadcasting,  
20 Allentown, Pennsylvania.

21 Victor, please come on down. The green light is  
22 on, so when you are comfortable and ready, please feel free  
23 to begin.

24 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you for having me here  
25 today. And much like my friend, Angel Figueroa, I am here

1 representing our Hispanic community.

2 First of all, I would like to thank you for the  
3 opportunity to be here today and testify in front of you.  
4 My name is Victor Martinez. I live, work, and raise my  
5 family in Allentown, Pennsylvania, which is a lot better  
6 than having to drive to Harrisburg to testify, which I did  
7 a couple of weeks ago.

8 I am the owner of the only independent Spanish  
9 Broadcasting Company in Pennsylvania. I am proud to say  
10 that I own three Spanish radio stations in this great  
11 Commonwealth -- one in Philadelphia; one here in the  
12 Lehigh Valley, Allentown; and one in Reading, Pennsylvania.

13 As part of these radio stations, I also host a  
14 morning show every day, Monday through Friday, and this  
15 gives me a unique opportunity to talk to our local  
16 residents, and this issue is very present with them right  
17 now. We have talked about it on the radio. We have  
18 discussed it with them on the radio. And there's a big  
19 concern in the community, a fear of being left out.

20 I have been involved with and I have rallied the  
21 Hispanic community around several outstanding Hispanic  
22 candidates running for office in the past few years, and we  
23 have come close each and every single time. But, you see,  
24 the legislative lines are drawn every 10 years, but somehow  
25 the Hispanic community is divided between the lines, making

1 it near impossible for us to elect someone of our choice.  
2 But that's a topic that I covered during the LRC.

3 In your case, the body in charge of drawing the  
4 congressional lines, I want to share that even when our  
5 community is not big enough to anchor a congressional  
6 district by itself, we have been able to develop enough  
7 influence to be engaged and have some influence with the  
8 current congressional map. That's why I would like to  
9 respectfully urge you to please keep the Lehigh Valley  
10 together in a single congressional district. With a  
11 relatively large and growing Hispanic population, this area  
12 should be kept in the district map, it should keep us  
13 together in the district map, so we have one common  
14 interest.

15 According to the latest census, we now are over  
16 a million strong here in the State of Pennsylvania. The  
17 Hispanic community has grown to over a million Latinos.  
18 In case you don't know, in the city of Allentown, the  
19 Hispanic population now, it's 55 percent. In Reading,  
20 we're 70 percent. In Bethlehem, we're 30 percent. In  
21 Philadelphia, we are 15 percent, and we continue to grow.

22 The Allentown School District currently has  
23 73.13 percent Latino population. So if you want to get a  
24 window of what the future is going to look, if you want to  
25 be able to some way, somehow predict what the community is

1 going to look like, look no further than the Allentown  
2 School District, because if the school district right now  
3 is 73 percent, that means within the next 10 years, the  
4 Hispanic population in the city of Allentown, it's going to  
5 be 60, 70 percent.

6           These numbers and the population decline in  
7 western Pennsylvania justifies the argument that the new  
8 map for eastern Pennsylvania should see minimal changes  
9 from the 2018 court-ordered map. Our community, the  
10 Hispanic community in Pennsylvania, deserves more  
11 representation in Washington, DC, or at least have the same  
12 level of representation. Our small businesses, our school  
13 children, need a voice and need to be represented.

14           So I ask you to please keep this in mind when you  
15 are making the decision and when you are making your maps.  
16 It is important for us to be able to engage and participate  
17 and have a voice, have someone that can represent us. So  
18 once again, I am here to respectfully ask you to keep the  
19 Lehigh Valley together in one district.

20           Thank you very much.

21           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Since you own some  
22 Spanish broadcasting, I just want to let you know,  
23 Speaker Cutler needs some practice on his Spanish. He is  
24 semi-good, so if you need somebody, yeah.

25           MR. MARTINEZ: And the great thing is that even

1       though we are a Spanish radio station, we are bilingual.

2                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE:   Great.  I want to  
3 challenge him, because it has been a while, so.  You can  
4 tell him Craig Staats sent you.

5                   MR. MARTINEZ:   There you go.

6                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE:   Thank you so much for  
7 your testimony.

8                   MR. MARTINEZ:   No, no, thank you for having me.

9                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE:   We really appreciate  
10 it.  Thank you.

11                   And our next testifier is Marian Levine from  
12 Merion Station.

13                   Marian, come on down, and when you are  
14 comfortable and ready, please feel free to begin.

15                   MS. LEVINE:   Thank you.

16                   My name is Marian Levine.  I live in Merion  
17 Station, not Marion Station as it says there, in Montgomery  
18 County, 1 mile west of the Philadelphia city line, and I  
19 have been here for 35 years.

20                   I have voted in every election, including  
21 primaries, since I turned 21, which is how old you had to  
22 be then.  I taught my kids to vote regularly, too.  The  
23 issue of drawing up districts is important to me because  
24 the division of Pennsylvania, and other States, into  
25 districts is fundamental to our entire democracy.

1           I have taught United States and Pennsylvania  
2 history and civics. I care about this stuff. I taught  
3 about how a democracy is supposed to work, both from the  
4 point of view of electing people and representing them. It  
5 should be a transparent process -- you and your community  
6 elect a representative. Your community is your township,  
7 your borough, city, county, State, depending on the level  
8 of government. And the composition of your district makes  
9 sense, usually based on geographic features or political  
10 boundaries and equal in population to the other districts.  
11 People need to see that their representative is speaking  
12 for them and their community.

13           District lines should not be drawn just for the  
14 sake of party politics. Once that's done, there is little  
15 opportunity for voter input on issues. Then the parties  
16 rule, not the people, and the parties tell the  
17 representatives what to support or block. That's not only  
18 the end of democracy, it's the end of government. There is  
19 no incentive for parties to work together, and people lose  
20 faith in their government.

21           We can see this just by looking at how  
22 dysfunctional government has become. At this time, we can  
23 see that the public has lost confidence in the ability of  
24 our government at all levels to move forward in any  
25 direction. Neither party wants to let the other take

1 credit for any achievement, so there's a stalemate. The  
2 public suffers, nothing gets done, and look no further than  
3 a Congress that cannot pass budget bills, can't even pass a  
4 resolution to allow borrowing for more than a month for a  
5 temporary budget. Neither the State nor Congress even  
6 considers long-term solutions to big problems.

7           Everything suffers -- individual people, the  
8 operation of government itself, our national and  
9 Commonwealth infrastructure, our national reputation.  
10 What people learn and say is government can't be counted  
11 on. It doesn't do anything good; it doesn't do anything  
12 at all.

13           I have looked at the current maps of the  
14 Pennsylvania State House and Senate and the United States  
15 congressional districts where I live. I'm an intelligent  
16 grown-up. If I can't make much sense out of the maps, I'm  
17 not sure others can either.

18           I live in what through 2010 was the  
19 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, or shall I say the infamous  
20 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. It ran from here -- I wrote  
21 this at home, so. It ran from part of Lower Merion all the  
22 way to Chester and Lancaster Counties, and as I said, it  
23 included only a part of my township, Lower Merion.

24           After redistricting, I was in the  
25 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional, a predominately Philadelphia district,



1 again dividing Lower Merion. As of 2018, I'm in the  
2 5<sup>th</sup> District, a predominately Delaware County district.  
3 And may I just say that one of our previous speakers who  
4 also lives in Merion and lives around the corner and a  
5 block and a half away from me is in the other district.  
6 It's such an arbitrary line. Interestingly, almost all of  
7 Montgomery County, except for my corner and part of  
8 Lower Merion, is in the 4<sup>th</sup> District. So why would any of  
9 my representatives care about us in Lower Merion or  
10 Montgomery County?

11 I respectfully urge you to draw district lines in  
12 which:

13  
14 The populations are equal.

15 The districts are contiguous.

16 The districts are as compact as possible  
17 without dividing municipalities such as  
18 townships, boroughs, and counties, unless they  
19 are too large for one district.

20 The districts also should fairly represent  
21 their constituents instead of the districts  
22 choose their constituents.

23 And the divisions are not formed for the  
24 purpose of "wasting" or disenfranchising a  
25 portion of their constituents' votes.

1                   Let us restore confidence in our government  
2 "of the people, by the people, for the people." Thank  
3 you.

4                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
5 your testimony and your time this afternoon.

6                   Our next testifier is Jan Swenson, also from  
7 Merion Station.

8                   MS. SWENSON: We're small but we're mighty.

9                   MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: It's all good. We  
10 appreciate it. Hopefully you carpoled.

11                  MS. SWENSON: Yeah, we did.

12                  MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: The green light is on.  
13 When you're comfortable and ready, please begin.

14                  MS. SWENSON: Great.

15                  Well, good afternoon, and thank you for this  
16 opportunity to offer my testimony and concerns for the 2021  
17 redistricting.

18                  I'm a longtime resident of Montgomery County,  
19 Lower Merion Township and Merion Station. My first remark  
20 concerns keeping Montgomery County intact as much as  
21 possible. I request that you do not divide, split, or  
22 fragment Montgomery County. It has a population that is  
23 very similar to the target population of a congressional  
24 district, and we need a representative Congress that  
25 represents our views and values and also represents us as a

1 political entity.

2           If we as a county need help from the Federal  
3 Government or dollars for expressways or light rail or  
4 national parks, we can turn to a single congressperson who  
5 will really represent us instead of our trying to get the  
6 attention of multiple Members of Congress who only  
7 represent a fraction or a small piece of our county.

8           My second concern is about how partisan  
9 redistricting, or gerrymandering, damages democracy.

10           First, partisan redistricting, or gerrymandering,  
11 eliminates swing districts and polarizes any Legislature  
12 where gerrymandering is permitted. The practice of  
13 gerrymandering creates only red or blue districts with very  
14 few competitive districts, so you eliminate Members of  
15 Congress with more moderate views who seek to bridge the  
16 gap between Democrats and Republicans.

17           Second, partisan gerrymandering actively tries to  
18 predetermine the outcome of "democratic" elections. Voters  
19 have the correct viewpoint that their vote doesn't matter;  
20 their vote has been diluted. As a result, they become  
21 demoralized and withdraw from participating in the system,  
22 which hurts democracy.

23           Third, partisan gerrymandering in favor of  
24 incumbent Members of Congress is corrupt and leads to  
25 disrespect of the law and the legitimacy of a democratic

1 electoral system. Predetermined elections cause potential  
2 candidates and other people who want to get involved in  
3 politics to stay on the sidelines because they're  
4 disgusted. Gerrymandering turns elections into an insider  
5 game of "who you know," and when incumbents are handed  
6 districts that are designed for them, it deters credible  
7 challengers from running.

8 Fourth, gerrymandering results in contorted  
9 districts that make it hard for people to identify and get  
10 to know their Member of Congress. It damages communication  
11 between the elected officials and their constituents. It  
12 damages communication between a candidate and the voters.

13 Conversely, when districts are compact and  
14 counties and townships are kept whole, residents know their  
15 congressperson. For example, when you live in a county  
16 represented by one Member of Congress, you know who  
17 represents you. It's easier to get through to the Member's  
18 office to have them listen and understand you and to hold  
19 them accountable. All the members of that county know who  
20 and where their representative is, and they know who to  
21 turn to to have a voice in their government.

22 If a Legislator represents an entire township or  
23 county, everyone knows who to turn to for help and  
24 representation. When counties and townships and political  
25 subdivisions are fragmented, the connection between an

1 elected representative and the people is lost.

2           Finally, split or fragmented districts created  
3 by gerrymandering hurt democracy by making it difficult  
4 or impossible for candidates to run for office. A  
5 door-to-door campaign is nearly impossible, and campaigns  
6 are more expensive for challengers. It makes it difficult  
7 for candidates to communicate with voters.

8           When districts are elongated, simple visits with  
9 potential constituents, like to an Elks Lodge or a town  
10 center, become unreasonably time-consuming, burdensome, and  
11 costly. Personal visits are ineffective because the  
12 constituents in a fragmented district will be represented  
13 by incumbents from all the surrounding congressional  
14 districts. It's particularly difficult to walk a district  
15 if the district boundaries change every other block or the  
16 map is hard to follow.

17           In sum, gerrymandering polarizes Legislatures and  
18 hurts democracy itself. It breeds contempt for a corrupt  
19 system that is more suited to the politburo in China or a  
20 dictatorship like Russia. Gerrymandering is conduct  
21 unbecoming of any Legislator who has sworn an oath to  
22 support and defend the United States Constitution and the  
23 Pennsylvania Constitution.

24           I want to thank you for this opportunity to have  
25 my voice heard. Thank you.

1 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
2 your willingness to testify. We greatly appreciate it.

3 Our next testifier is Susan Hancock from Oxford,  
4 Pennsylvania.

5 Susan, thank you so much for joining us today.  
6 The green light is on, so when you are comfortable and  
7 ready, the floor is yours.

8 MS. HANCOCK: Good afternoon, Representative  
9 Grove and the Members of the House State Government  
10 Committee.

11 My name is Susan Hancock. I have been a resident  
12 of Chester County for 31 years with my husband, Tim. We  
13 have raised 3 daughters here, all of whom are now married,  
14 and we are enjoying 11 grandchildren.

15 I am here today to express my concerns about the  
16 current Pennsylvania 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The  
17 district includes all of Chester County, along with a part  
18 of Berks County that juts out of Chester County. The part  
19 of Berks County is just large enough to bring in the city  
20 of Reading.

21 I would like the Committee to consider redrawing  
22 the district in a way that is more sensible. In  
23 researching the guidelines for reapportionment, I found  
24 four key points according to the National Conference of  
25 State Legislatures as well as the Pennsylvania

1 Constitution, Article II, Section 16.

2 Contiguity is one point -- bordering or being in  
3 direct contact with something. Chester County borders four  
4 Pennsylvania counties -- Delaware County, Montgomery,  
5 Berks, and Lancaster Counties. Looking at a map of Chester  
6 County and its neighbors, the smallest common border is  
7 with Berks County. Both Montgomery and Delaware County  
8 borders are slightly longer and are about the same, and our  
9 shared border with Lancaster County is much longer.

10 The second point is compactness: Constituents of  
11 a congressional district should live as near to each other  
12 as reasonably possible. It takes over an hour to drive  
13 from most of Chester County to Reading, which does not make  
14 the most compact area.

15 My third point is the preservation of political  
16 subdivisions. Ideally, counties, cities, towns, and  
17 boroughs should be kept together in congressional  
18 districts. While it is possible to keep cities, towns, and  
19 boroughs together in a district due to the need for each  
20 district to be the same population size, it's not possible  
21 to keep all counties together. We should expect that some  
22 counties will have to be split into more than one district.

23 The fourth point is communities of interest --  
24 common political, social, or economic interests. Reading  
25 is more industrial than Chester County. Reading is a large

1 city with over 90,000 residents. Chester County's county  
2 seat is West Chester, which is our largest population area  
3 with only 18,461 residents. It seems odd that in a  
4 district that contains all of Chester County with a small  
5 part of Berks, the city of Reading is the largest and most  
6 dominant municipality from a population perspective.

7 Chester County is a collar county of Philadelphia and Berks  
8 is not.

9           Based on these four points, it seems that  
10 combining Chester County with part of Berks County,  
11 especially including the city of Reading, does not have  
12 much in the way of contiguity, compactness, or shared  
13 communities of interest.

14           According to the 2020 census, Pennsylvania has a  
15 lower population than the previous census and, as a result,  
16 will lose one congressional district, making each of the  
17 other districts slightly larger. Outside of Philadelphia,  
18 Montgomery County is the only county large enough in this  
19 area to be its own district. It is obvious that some  
20 counties will have to be divided and combined with other  
21 counties. With that being established, there is a need to  
22 find sections of counties that have contiguity,  
23 compactness, and communities of interest.

24           Lancaster and Chester Counties have the largest  
25 area of contiguity. Adding a section of Lancaster County



1 to Chester County or a section of Chester County to  
2 Lancaster County would have compactness. Residents of both  
3 counties cross the county border daily for many reasons,  
4 including jobs, commerce, and going to church. Both  
5 counties have large agricultural communities, including  
6 the plain people communities. Lancaster General Health  
7 Services has locations in both counties and recently  
8 became affiliated with Chester County Hospital and the  
9 Penn Medicine System. Lancaster and Chester Counties share  
10 many communities of interest, much more so than Chester and  
11 Berks.

12 To further underline the lack of common  
13 communities of interest, it is worth noting that the  
14 Reading-based Tower Health purchased several hospitals in  
15 Chester County a few years ago. The business model was  
16 supposed to funnel patients with serious medical needs from  
17 the outlying hospitals to the flagship Reading Hospital.  
18 Two weeks ago, Tower Health announced they were closing or  
19 selling these Chester County hospitals. Part of the reason  
20 is that the hospitals are located in Chester County  
21 communities that have no historical relationship with the  
22 city of Reading. Patients with serious medical issues do  
23 not want to go to Reading, they want to go to Chester  
24 County Hospital in West Chester.

25 Reapportioning congressional districts using the

1       aforementioned guidelines is sensible and promotes unity  
2       among the residents of all political persuasions. It's  
3       important to reapportion in a way that can be accepted by  
4       both political parties and signed by the Governor without  
5       being dictated by the PA Supreme Court. I would like my  
6       children and grandchildren to live in a PA that is peaceful  
7       and free.

8                       Thank you so much for your time.

9                       MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Susan, for  
10       your time and willingness to testify. We greatly  
11       appreciate it.

12                      And moving on to our next testifier,  
13       Susan Gobreski, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania,  
14       Philadelphia, PA.

15                      Susan, come on down. I think the green light is  
16       on, so when you are comfortable and ready, the floor is  
17       yours.

18                      MS. GOBRESKI: Great.

19                      Good job on the name.

20                      MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Once in a while, I get  
21       it right -- once in a while.

22                      MS. GOBRESKI: Actually, it's Polish, but it's  
23       phonetic, so it's a lot easier. Yeah.

24                      Thank you, everyone, for having me, and I  
25       appreciate all the work that you are all doing to listen.

1 I hope that we'll see aggregated comments and the trends of  
2 comments as you follow up. And also at the end, I have  
3 cards.

4           So I appreciate everyone for having me today. I  
5 now serve on the board of the statewide League of Women  
6 Voters. You are all familiar with our history on this  
7 issue and our interest in this issue, so I'm here to help  
8 represent that and to talk about some of our principles.

9           As you know, the League of Women Voters is  
10 informed by foundational principles. We start with the  
11 understanding that voting is a fundamental right that must  
12 be guaranteed. For over a century, the League of Women  
13 Voters has fought to protect the rights of eligible voters  
14 and expand access for those who have been left out.

15           To that end, one of the issues we have worked on  
16 is to support laws that ensure that elections are  
17 accessible, transparent, fair, secure, and promote  
18 universal voter participation and provide voters with  
19 meaningful choices when they go to the polls.

20           So a key imperative of that, of all of that, has  
21 to be that the voters must pick the Legislators rather than  
22 the Legislators picking the voters. At the end of the day,  
23 that is what it's about. This is a foundation of both  
24 republican and democratic governance. And I put in my  
25 testimony a little uncapitalized "r" and uncapitalized "d."

1 That is part of how we built our nation.

2           So we have been a leader in the fight for a  
3 redistricting process that follows principles, including  
4 advocating for legislation that would provide legal  
5 principles for redistricting to guide you. We remain  
6 concerned that no such principles and guidance exists.

7           And as a matter of principle, the League of Women  
8 Voters does not believe that the political process is a war  
9 and that "to the victor go the spoils." We think that is  
10 part of what happens when you get into gerrymandering.  
11 Gerrymandering is quite simply so cynical that it is toxic  
12 to a free and fair society and a form of corruption. It is  
13 not constitutional.

14           We are one Commonwealth, not two teams. We work  
15 together. We play Little League together. We shop. We  
16 drive on our roads and bump over them, change our flat  
17 tires together. We all pay the same prices for groceries  
18 and gas. We breathe the same air, and we drink the same  
19 water. So every person in Pennsylvania should believe that  
20 every member of our congressional delegation is just as  
21 likely to fight for us and for a responsive Federal  
22 Government.

23           Right now, you are the people with the most power  
24 to make sure that Pennsylvania is a stronger State  
25 regardless of which party has control of Congress. I'm

1 sure that sounds naïve to some people and an anathema to  
2 others, but I continue to believe in those ideals.

3           The court struck down the previous map because it  
4 prioritized partisan factors over neutral factors. The  
5 2011 map was an egregious mockery of the process. It was  
6 also an egregious case of "sore winning" where political  
7 advantage was abused. The losers, though, were  
8 Pennsylvanians -- our votes, our right to fair  
9 representation, our hard-earned dollars, and our trust. We  
10 do not want that to happen again, and we will be passionate  
11 champions for a fair process and a fair outcome.

12           So a lot of this has been said. I thought, you  
13 know, spend time as everyone did agonizing over our  
14 testimony, and we all came to say the same thing, which I  
15 think, hopefully, means a lot to all of you that you are  
16 hearing the same kinds of things over and over. So:

17

- 18           • Transparent and objective principles should be  
19           expressed and evident.
- 20           • Maintain reasonable compactness; minimize the  
21           division of existing boundaries, like  
22           townships and municipalities.
- 23           • Start with a blank canvas: the interests of  
24           voters require that you ignore incumbents. We  
25           know that is really difficult, but it's the

1           job.

- 2           • Don't draw maps to lock in advantage for one  
3           party or person, and avoid partisan bias.

4

5           So here's what we'll be looking for when we sit  
6           down to talk with each other and any representation we  
7           need:

8

- 9           • That it follows the imperatives that are  
10          stated and suggested by our Constitution;  
11          • That the geography of maps makes sense with  
12          minimal division of existing governance  
13          structures -- things like townships and  
14          municipalities;  
15          • Districts that reflect the proportion of  
16          registered voters -- we will look for evidence  
17          of cracking and packing;  
18          • That communities of people of color are not  
19          divided and diluted -- so neither cracked nor  
20          packed;  
21          • That there is no discriminatory effect,  
22          intended or not, on voters for their  
23          affiliation or preferences;  
24          • That there is no punitive effect on voters for  
25          their political preferences or affiliations;

- 1 • That there is a clear reliance on citizen and
- 2 expert input; and
- 3 • That we maximize the number of competitive
- 4 districts.

5

6 I thank you for the opportunity to testify. What

7 stakeholders seek is fairness. We seek ideals to take

8 shape in the form of modern policy, to shift away from

9 partisanship that has taken ahold of genuine discussion and

10 debate, and to have a chance to decide on our

11 representation.

12 And I would also be remiss if I didn't mention

13 that I also come here today as a mother and as a person who

14 is raising children who will hopefully take over and do

15 better than we all did at running the nation. And I think

16 that my kids and your kids hopefully will be able to work

17 together for a common purpose. So thank you.

18 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Susan. We

19 greatly appreciate your testimony and willingness to come

20 in and testify. Thank you so much.

21 MS. GOBRESKI: Is it okay if I just leave these

22 up here?

23 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Yeah; sure. Yep. Yep.

24 MS. GOBRESKI: Thank you.

25 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you.

1                   Next is Joseph Chapmond, Nottingham,  
2                   Pennsylvania.

3                   Joseph, thank you so much for coming in and  
4                   testifying. And the green light is on, so when you are  
5                   comfortable and ready, please feel free to begin.

6                   MR. CHAPMOND: Good afternoon, Representative  
7                   Grove and the Committee Members. Thank you for the  
8                   opportunity to comment on the congressional redistricting  
9                   process.

10                  My name is Joseph Chapmond, and I am a resident  
11                  of Chester County, and my family has lived in the  
12                  Oxford-Nottingham area since 2003.

13                  We know that Pennsylvania is losing one  
14                  congressional district next year. Seventeen new districts  
15                  must be created, each with a larger population of about  
16                  147,000 residents per district. This is an opportunity to  
17                  create more appropriate congressional districts in our  
18                  southeast PA region.

19                  I am speaking today specifically about the  
20                  current 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and how that region of  
21                  Pennsylvania could be redrawn.

22                  Other speakers have talked about priorities of  
23                  "compactness" and "contiguity," and those priorities are  
24                  highly recommended by good government organizations. Such  
25                  districts are closer to the people and may reduce the



1 appearance of partisan gerrymandering.

2 Another recommended priority, though, is  
3 "communities of interest." I would like to discuss this  
4 approach using my community as an example. We are  
5 identifying communities with a shared history or shared  
6 economic interests, land use, demographics, and so forth as  
7 a priority for redistricting.

8 The southwest corner of Chester County, where I  
9 live, borders Maryland to the south and Lancaster County to  
10 the west. The Oxford-Nottingham area is a rural community  
11 of about 7,000 people, with active farms up to 100 acres or  
12 more. Amish and Mennonite families are all around this  
13 area. There are many retirees and retirement communities  
14 around and a fair amount of manufactured housing. It is a  
15 quiet, friendly, laid-back area.

16 Our family incomes trend below the Chester County  
17 averages as you move further south and west. We have only  
18 a few large employers in the area, such as Herr Foods and  
19 Lincoln University. Ten miles east is Jennersville with a  
20 grocery store and some medical offices. Unfortunately,  
21 Tower Health has announced it is closing the Jennersville  
22 Hospital soon, leaving our community with a huge gap. This  
23 was already discussed by Mrs. Hancock. And then a bit  
24 further east towards Kennett Square is the large mushroom  
25 industry.

1           So this community of interest is important for  
2 southern Chester County, but our area of interest also  
3 includes southern Lancaster County, Solanco as we call it,  
4 just to the west and north. This includes areas around  
5 Octoraro Creek and the small towns of Quarryville,  
6 Kirkwood, Strasburg, Gap, et cetera. These southern areas  
7 of Lancaster County are close to that long border with  
8 Chester County, so even though we live in Chester County,  
9 Lancaster County is part of our life. We buy plants at  
10 Groff's and get house repairs from Amish carpenters. We go  
11 to the DMV in Lancaster, which is closer.

12           I can contrast this rural community of interest  
13 around Oxford and Solanco with Chester County overall.  
14 Since 2010, the Chester County population has increased by  
15 7.1 percent, about 35,000 more people. More population  
16 growth is expected, especially in the northeast part of  
17 Chester County, and that is roughly the areas on or north  
18 of Highway 30 and east of the Brandywine River.

19           In recent years, these areas in the northeast of  
20 Chester County have built up a dense suburban footprint.  
21 This area is now a large, affluent community with a big  
22 retail base, corporations, and extensive medical  
23 facilities. In contrast, my community in the southwest,  
24 southwest Chester County, has grown more slowly and remains  
25 mostly rural and traditional with small boroughs.

1           So for a "communities of interest" approach, I  
2 have to say the populous suburban northeast part of  
3 Chester County has very little in common with my  
4 community in southern Chester County, okay? The land use,  
5 income, property taxes, and yes, the values, are very  
6 different.

7           Therefore, I request you to consider the  
8 following approach with Chester County and the current  
9 congressional 6<sup>th</sup> District:

10  
11           1) Replace it with a new district that combines  
12 the townships on both sides of the border between  
13 Chester County and Lancaster County. This  
14 district would also include communities in rural  
15 southern Chester County, including the districts  
16 of Oxford, Avon Grove, Kennett Consolidated,  
17 Octoraro, and Unionville. These are communities  
18 of interest with much more in common with  
19 southern Lancaster County than the rest of  
20 Chester County. These our rural, historical,  
21 agricultural areas, including the Pennsylvania  
22 Dutch and the mushroom industry. Also, this  
23 combination with Lancaster County will help to  
24 provide the higher population needed for the new  
25 congressional districts. Neither Chester County

1 nor Lancaster County is large enough to be its  
2 own district.

3 2) In the more populous and suburban  
4 northeastern part of Chester County, a separate  
5 congressional district should be created. That  
6 district should combine with another similar  
7 suburban county, such as adjacent Delaware County  
8 or parts of Montgomery County. Such combinations  
9 will allow this new district to get the required  
10 population target.

11 3) Finally, the portion of the current  
12 6<sup>th</sup> District in Berks County should be removed.  
13 Berks County and its city of Reading have even  
14 less in common to Chester County, and Berks is  
15 not a collar county around Philadelphia.

16  
17 If communities of interest and shared values in  
18 our State are important, then this gives you a reasonable  
19 way to redistrict the current 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

20 Thank you for your time and consideration.

21 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Joseph. We  
22 really appreciate your time and willingness to testify  
23 today. Thank you so much.

24 Our next testifier is Melissa Egbertson, Ambler,  
25 Pennsylvania.

1           Melissa, the green light is on, so when you are  
2 comfortable and ready, the floor is yours.

3           MS. EGBERTSON: Okay.

4           Good afternoon. Can you hear me okay? Okay.

5           Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and Committee  
6 Members. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak  
7 today.

8           My name is Melissa Egbertson, and I'm here today  
9 to give testimony about a community of interest, which is  
10 the townships and boroughs surrounding the former  
11 Willow Grove Naval Air Base. So my testimony will have  
12 four parts: first, my background and relationship with my  
13 proposed community of interest; water purity issues that  
14 affect my COI; redevelopment issues that affect my COI; and  
15 my suggestions for drawing districting lines to best  
16 represent my COI.

17           So first my background.

18           I am a resident of Horsham Township in Montgomery  
19 County. Currently, I am in U.S. Congressional District 1,  
20 Brian Fitzpatrick's district, and I'm represented in the PA  
21 House by Representative Todd Stephens, House District 151,  
22 and in the PA Senate by Senator Maria Collett, Senate  
23 District 12.

24           I live and work in the following places: I have  
25 lived and voted in Horsham Township for 32 years. My

1 children attended the Hatboro-Horsham public schools. I  
2 have an Ambler mailing address and worked at Merck & Co.  
3 in North Wales for 25 years as a medicinal chemist. I  
4 currently do pharmaceutical consulting for academic and  
5 start-up clients, operating from my home. I do most of  
6 my shopping in Montgomeryville, Spring House, Ambler,  
7 Willow Grove, and Warrington. I attend a religious  
8 congregation in Warrington that is located in State House  
9 Representative Todd Polinchock's district, No. 144.

10 I spend a lot of time in both Montgomery and  
11 Bucks Counties, and I spend a lot of time driving around  
12 the perimeter of the former Willow Grove Naval Joint  
13 Reserve Air Base. I am here to describe what I believe to  
14 be a community of interest, which consists of the townships  
15 and boroughs in Bucks and Montgomery Counties that surround  
16 or are impacted by the former Willow Grove Naval Joint  
17 Reserve Air Base and also the nearby Naval Air Development  
18 Center, which closed in 2011. These communities share  
19 common water purity and land development issues.

20 First, let's talk about water purity.

21 In 2016, Horsham Township's water supply was shut  
22 down after thousand part per trillion concentrations of  
23 PFOS, a chemical used in firefighting foams, was found in  
24 Horsham Township Water and Sewer Authority wells. High  
25 levels were also found in local residents' private wells.

1 A health advisory level for PFOS in drinking water has been  
2 set by the EPA at 70 parts per trillion. PFOS accumulates  
3 in tissue over time, so having very low concentrations in  
4 drinking water is very important.

5 Just last week on October 13<sup>th</sup>, the PA Departments  
6 of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Health issued  
7 a "Do Not Eat" advisory for all fish in and around  
8 Neshaminy Creek because of PFOS that continues to emerge  
9 from the contaminated soil and aquifer. Similarly,  
10 Warwick, Warminster, and Warrington Townships also draw  
11 from the local aquifer and found very high levels of PFOS.  
12 Ambler Borough wells are also affected, and in the future,  
13 three wells will be piped into a treatment system that will  
14 serve residents of Upper Dublin Township. In summary, the  
15 contaminated aquifer affects communities across the Bucks  
16 and Montgomery line.

17 Fortunately, action was taken by our local  
18 officials and Representatives, and we were able to tap into  
19 the North Wells Water Authority for drinking water while  
20 filtration devices were added to treat Horsham wells.

21 In 2019, in a bipartisan effort, PA Act 101 was  
22 passed that creates a mechanism to fund remediation in our  
23 local communities. In its first year, MIRIA, the Military  
24 Installation Remediation and Infrastructure Authority,  
25 channeled \$12.4 million in State taxes generated on parcels

1 of land to the Horsham, North Wales, and Warminster Water  
2 Authorities for water remediation and another \$2.8 million  
3 to local water-related infrastructure projects. Private  
4 wells are being added to newly created water mains so that  
5 everyone can have treated water. My neighbors on  
6 McKean Road are having theirs done this week. I want to  
7 emphasize that this is a cross-county effort. The board of  
8 MIRIA includes both Bucks and Montgomery County  
9 Representatives.

10 This is great work to manage the problem, but the  
11 problem is not solved. It will be with this community for  
12 a long time. The estimated levels of contaminants in the  
13 aquifer are high and will not go away soon. We will  
14 continue to need to draw on water supplies from the  
15 North Wales Water Authority. The contamination may spread  
16 further to other communities, and the contamination is the  
17 biggest bottleneck to the redevelopment of the old naval  
18 base property.

19 So now let's talk about redevelopment.

20 Ongoing support for funding will be needed to fix  
21 the contamination issue so that redevelopment of the old  
22 air base property can go forward. Some of you on the House  
23 Republican Policy Committee may have participated in a tour  
24 of the air base hosted by MIRIA and Horsham officials in  
25 September, so you will be familiar with the issue. We will



1 need dedicated representation to get the Federal military  
2 entities to acknowledge their part in this mess and to help  
3 fix it. Development could benefit the surrounding  
4 communities with new opportunities for businesses and  
5 greatly needed affordable housing; or, if the land remains  
6 a brownfield for the foreseeable future, that will also  
7 affect all the surrounding townships.

8 I am presenting to you this community of interest  
9 because when redistricting takes place, I think it would be  
10 beneficial to my community to be grouped together in some  
11 type of legislative district. I am not an expert at  
12 mapping, although I have made some attempts, and appreciate  
13 that this is not an easy job. That being said, I would  
14 like to suggest some possible ways to redraw the district  
15 lines around my community of interest.

16 First, to be clear, this is what I do not want.  
17 I do not want to see my community split into three  
18 U.S. congressional districts as was the case after the 2011  
19 redistricting. Then, my home was gerrymandered into what  
20 was then called U.S. Congressional District 7 and combined  
21 with people as far away as the Delaware border and  
22 Lancaster County. The rest of my community of interest was  
23 divided between 2011 Districts 8 and 13. To put it mildly,  
24 this was not helpful to my community.

25 The current situation is the following:

1 Right now, many of the townships and boroughs I  
2 have described are grouped together in the PA Senate  
3 District 12, which crosses the Bucks-Montgomery county  
4 line. That is a good thing. So as this group is focusing  
5 on U.S. congressional redistricting, let's talk about that  
6 and if something similar could be accomplished.

7 The communities I have described are currently  
8 split up between two U.S. congressional districts,  
9 District 4 and District 1, with the air base property in  
10 Montco District 4 and the rest of Horsham, Warrington,  
11 Warminster, and Warwick in Bucks District 1. Although  
12 better than the 2011 lines, it is my opinion that splitting  
13 the communities in this way is not a good thing.

14 In the redistricting that will take place soon,  
15 Bucks County will need to be combined with part of some  
16 other county to meet population balance between U.S.  
17 congressional districts. As the lines are drawn now,  
18 something similar is happening with Souderton, Hatfield,  
19 parts of Lansdale, Montgomeryville, and the northern part  
20 of Horsham Township scooped out of Montgomery County and  
21 added to Bucks District 1.

22 This is what I would like to see:

23 I think it might make sense to slide the  
24 districting lines of the Montgomery County-Bucks County  
25 border southward so that all of Horsham Township,

1 including the air base, and Hatboro Borough is included  
2 in District 1. I am including Hatboro because then the  
3 Hatboro-Horsham School District would not be split.

4 Perhaps then the more northerly townships of  
5 Montgomery and Hatfield currently in District 1 could be  
6 drawn into District 4; or perhaps Warminster, Warwick, and  
7 Warrington could be added to Montgomery County District 4  
8 and parts of rural Montgomery County added to similarly  
9 rural neighboring townships with common interests in  
10 Upper Bucks as part of District 1.

11 I am not sure how all the population numbers  
12 would work exactly or where exactly to draw the lines, but  
13 keeping the communities surrounding the air base on both  
14 sides of the county line together as much as possible  
15 would, in my opinion, be a good thing.

16 The people in my community of interest share  
17 common concerns about their water supply and its effect on  
18 their health and would like to see the derelict property  
19 that is now a brownfield turned into a community Main  
20 Street -- office parks, housing, and retail space graced  
21 with beautiful green spaces. The path to the school would  
22 be helped or hindered by the redistricting that takes place  
23 this year.

24 I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you  
25 today. I hope that my testimony will be used in a way that

1 is helpful not only to my community but also the rest of  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 Thank you for your consideration.

4 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you so much for  
5 your time and your willingness to testify today. Thank you  
6 so much.

7 Our next testifier is Mike Walsh, Conshohocken,  
8 Pennsylvania.

9 Mike, thank you so much for your time and  
10 willingness to testify today. And the green light is on,  
11 so when you are comfortable and ready, please feel free to  
12 begin.

13 MR. WALSH: Okay. Thank you.

14 My name is Mike Walsh, and I actually don't live  
15 in Conshohocken. I live in Gulph Mills, which is right  
16 next to Conshohocken. Conshohocken is just the mailing  
17 address, and Gulph Mills is a group of neighborhoods a few  
18 miles south of King of Prussia, and it's in Upper Merion  
19 Township, which is in the southwest portion of Montgomery  
20 County. And thanks for giving us all the opportunity to  
21 comment today.

22 I have participated in the Draw the Lines  
23 redistricting mapping competition, which used publicly  
24 available mapping software and the 2010 census data, and  
25 that competition took place between 2017 and 2021. It was

1 a yearly competition. And the contest was sponsored by the  
2 Committee of Seventy. You may have heard of the Committee  
3 of Seventy. It's a nonpartisan, good-government group  
4 based in Philadelphia. The CEO of the Committee of Seventy  
5 is David Thornburgh, son of Dick Thornburgh, former  
6 Pennsylvania Governor and former U.S. Attorney General.  
7 David Thornburgh you'll meet tomorrow. He will testify at  
8 your Philadelphia meeting.

9 In the five Draw the Lines competitions since  
10 2017, 7200 Pennsylvanians from 40 of the Commonwealth's  
11 67 counties participated in the competitions, and 1500  
12 congressional maps were submitted during the competitions.

13 In 2020 -- well, and I should say, these  
14 competitions had different age groups -- high school,  
15 college, and an adult category.

16 In 2020, I participated. I was in the adult  
17 category, and I won first place for my congressional map.  
18 At about that time, the Draw the Lines team created the  
19 Citizen Map Corps, which is made up of Draw the Lines  
20 competition winners from all over the Commonwealth, and I  
21 am on that group, the Citizen Map Corps. The purpose of  
22 this group is to lobby Legislators like yourself for an  
23 open process and fair maps and against gerrymandering, so  
24 that's why I'm here.

25 Another reason I'm here is I was in the infamous

1 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District nicknamed "Goofy kicking  
2 Donald Duck," and that was a humdinger. I think we can all  
3 agree.

4           When the 2020 census data came out in August, the  
5 Draw the Lines team and the Citizen Map Corps created what  
6 we are calling the Pennsylvania Citizens' Map. It is a  
7 composite of the 17-district congressional map that  
8 represents what thousands of Pennsylvanians have  
9 collectively mapped in the Draw the Lines competitions, a  
10 map that meets or exceeds the statistical benchmarks set by  
11 the 1500 congressional maps submitted during the  
12 competitions, and it reflects the values that mappers  
13 declared as important to them. The Citizens' Map in effect  
14 represents everyday Pennsylvanians.

15           This is the first such redistricting map that has  
16 ever been created by such a large group of citizens, at  
17 least as far as I know. The Citizens' Map also comes with  
18 a narrative explaining all major decisions that went into  
19 the map. It's titled "Story" of the Citizens' Map. And  
20 the Citizens' Map can be a very good starting point or an  
21 ending point for the General Assembly's work this fall.

22           The Citizens' Map is available for viewing at the  
23 Draw the Lines website, and I have the link on my  
24 submission. And we recommend that the General Assembly  
25 also produce a preliminary map and a narrative explaining

1 the decisions and priorities represented by the map and  
2 publish it for public feedback before voting for the final  
3 map.

4           And the PA Citizens' Map -- here's one more thing  
5 -- will be distributed in Harrisburg to all Legislators on  
6 October 26<sup>th</sup>. I don't want to spoil the surprise regarding  
7 the form of the map, but suffice it to say that all of you  
8 will receive a fun gift and a memento from the process,  
9 okay?

10           And to switch gears just for a second, I would  
11 like to discuss a different map that I created just Sunday  
12 night with the 2020 census data. I developed this map with  
13 no concern for party affiliation or potential election  
14 outcomes and no concern for the addresses of incumbents,  
15 and I believe that's how redistricting should be done. In  
16 my opinion, there should be no manipulation of the map to  
17 effect any election outcome.

18           I made this map as an experiment just to see how  
19 long it would take to create a non-gerrymandered  
20 congressional map of Pennsylvania. It took me 4 ½ hours.  
21 It would have been -- I would have done it a little more  
22 quickly if I had been more familiar with the mapping  
23 software, but that was the first time I was using  
24 [davesredistricting.org](https://davesredistricting.org) website. The map has compact  
25 districts, and I have a picture of it here. I don't have a

1 color printer, but it is in color in the file that I  
2 submitted to you guys, okay?

3 My map has compact districts and population  
4 deviation down to less than half a percent. The map  
5 doesn't split any towns or cities except Philadelphia,  
6 which was unavoidable, because as you know, it's larger --  
7 you know, it's too large for one district. It's too large  
8 for two districts, as a matter of fact. The map does not  
9 split any precincts.

10 After creating the map, I looked at the  
11 statistics regarding it, and I realized that it has eight  
12 majority Democratic Party districts and eight majority GOP  
13 districts with neither party in the majority. This was not  
14 by design. Equality for the parties came out without even  
15 trying.

16 This map was made simply to demonstrate that a  
17 fair map can be drawn quickly and easily. It's not that  
18 time-consuming, especially if you do not allow partisan  
19 interests to interfere with the mapping process.

20 So please, what I ask is simply put your  
21 nonpartisan caps on during the few hours that you do some  
22 redistricting, and I know that that's difficult, but I  
23 think you can do it. And my map is available if you would  
24 like to use it as a starting point for your map, or as we  
25 said before, as an ending point.



1           So thank you very much for your time. It was  
2 great to be here.

3           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: Thank you, Mike.  
4 Congratulations also.

5           MR. WALSH: Oh, thank you.

6           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: We appreciate your  
7 time.

8           MR. WALSH: That was a year ago, but there have  
9 been new winners since then.

10          See you later. Thanks.

11          MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: See you.

12          And our final testifier is Mr. Robert Williams  
13 from Wayne, Pennsylvania. And your green light is on, so  
14 when you're comfortable and ready, the floor is yours.

15          MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

16          Well, thank you all for coming to our part of  
17 Pennsylvania. I appreciate it, Chairman, for you and all  
18 of you to come down and meet with us.

19          My name is Rob Williams. I am also a participant  
20 in the Draw the Lines, but I think I just met the person  
21 who beat me, because I got honorable mention. But what I'm  
22 more proud of in the Draw the Lines is I mentor two college  
23 students, and I'll tell you about them a little later in my  
24 testimony.

25          I live in Tredyffrin Township, which is in the

1 far northeast corner of Chester County, and I live right at  
2 that intersection where Montgomery, Delaware, and Chester  
3 County all come together. I live within a mile of that  
4 infamous place where Goofy is kicking Donald, so I pass  
5 that frequently in my daily trips.

6           For those of you who aren't here in southeastern  
7 Pennsylvania and those of you, I brought a sample of the  
8 acorns that are dropping, you know, from the sky. I picked  
9 up this sample from my yard. It's only about, you know,  
10 1 square foot worth of acorns, but I bring it as an example  
11 of other things dropping from the sky, and I think Mike had  
12 mentioned this: It's maps. It's citizen maps that are  
13 going to be dropping on you. You know, as you heard from  
14 Draw the Lines, there were 1700 maps from 7,000 people.  
15 You can expect more, I think, and the question is, what do  
16 you do with those maps? How are you going to handle all of  
17 those? And my answer to that would be officially, put them  
18 aside at the beginning. Just move them aside, because  
19 there are other ways to draw the maps than trying to sift  
20 through thousands of citizen maps. There's an important  
21 place for them, but not yet.

22           As you heard from Ms. Hancock and Robert Paul,  
23 you know, you start with our Pennsylvania Constitution.  
24 You start with the four principles. You know, the easy  
25 ones are compactness and contiguity -- contiguity; I have

1 trouble -- and then it's the equal population. So I think  
2 the U.S. Census has said there are 764,000-plus per  
3 district. You have to do plus or minus a person. So  
4 that's where you start, but after that, there is no more  
5 instructions. There is nothing to go on. Then it becomes,  
6 you know, your process inside the State House to figure it  
7 out.

8           But I have a way that I think would help, and the  
9 way that I would like to offer is starting with the example  
10 of southeast Pennsylvania here, Delaware County in  
11 particular. Philadelphia, as you know, has two  
12 congressional districts plus a smidgen more. That smidgen  
13 more would be added, about 74,000 added to Delaware County.  
14 That still leaves it about 100,000 people short. So the  
15 only place that Delaware County could get the rest from, we  
16 have already heard testimony about leaving Montgomery whole  
17 because of the size, so the only other place is Chester  
18 County, and that's what should happen.

19           So I'm offering you an idea of how to make maps  
20 with what I call the unfolding yardstick. And for those of  
21 you who remember these, and not many of us have these  
22 anymore, but the idea would be if this was the border of  
23 Delaware County, you simply add the first Chester County  
24 Township. You're not going to make it. Then you're going  
25 to need to add the second Chester County Township. And

1 then you're going to need to add the third Chester County  
2 Township. But notice they're all along the border.  
3 They're all adjacent along the Delaware County line. This  
4 is a great way to keep compactness, keep contiguity, and  
5 you also are meeting that fourth obligation of not  
6 splitting townships.

7           You keep this going until you're just shy of that  
8 764,000, and then you pick up your other yardstick. And  
9 for those of you who know, this is actually a historic  
10 Craftsman yardstick, so this was hard to get.

11           So this is the precincts, though, and this is  
12 what you do: You add one precinct at a time, and did you  
13 get to the second? Then you add a second precinct, and you  
14 keep doing that along the border until you get to that  
15 target population. And you can do this throughout the  
16 State, and this is how I did my map. Granted, it wasn't a  
17 winner, but this is the way I did my map for the Draw the  
18 Lines. One thing that I think is important about this is  
19 you keep that contiguity, compactness, and you are not  
20 breaking political boundaries.

21           The thing that's a little disturbing about this  
22 is you also have an opportunity, though, you could make a  
23 district like this, or you could make a district like this,  
24 or you could make a district even worse, which is what  
25 we've seen. We have seen these long, spiny districts.

1           And I just looked at two other States which have  
2 already submitted their congressional maps, so the first  
3 being -- well, first off, if you remember, and this may  
4 remind you, Ohio was famous for a district called the  
5 "Snake by the Lake." It was a district that wove from  
6 Cleveland to Toledo, and it was about, you know, 5 miles  
7 wide, but it went hundreds of miles across Lake Erie.

8           The State of Illinois has published its maps, and  
9 it actually has four of these snakes, almost a snake den,  
10 you would think. So that is a Democrat, as largely  
11 acknowledged, a democratically gerrymandered State.

12           Texas has now published their map. Texas has  
13 three of these. So I don't know what the name will be,  
14 but, you know, somebody else will come up with a clever  
15 name. But that has also States that obviously are not  
16 representing compactness. I guess you have contiguity  
17 because they are all attached, but, you know, this is not  
18 the kind of districts we are hoping for.

19           So why this compactness? And I mentioned at the  
20 beginning that I mentored two college students in Draw the  
21 Lines. I worked with them separately. I taught them this  
22 unfolding yardstick method, and they both split first prize  
23 in the Draw the Lines competition -- and the prize money.  
24 I didn't see any of that, but that was going to college  
25 tuition.

1           So my point to you would be, think about this as  
2 an alternative to other ways. There is a place, I will  
3 say, at the end, once you create these, to bring these maps  
4 back. It is very important to look at the community maps,  
5 the community of interest, but only as that fine refining  
6 detail. Move a line, move a township, move a district if  
7 it, you know, makes, you know, a better map. But, you  
8 know, bring this in only late. Think about making layers  
9 in order to make your maps.

10           With that, thank you, and I think the bar is  
11 open.

12           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: I didn't want to say  
13 this, but it has been open the entire time.

14           But, yeah. Thank you so much for your testimony.  
15 We greatly appreciate your presentation.

16           MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

17           MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: With that, that was our  
18 final testifier.

19           I'll throw it over for final comments, Chairman.

20           MINORITY CHAIRMAN CONKLIN: I want to thank  
21 Chair Grove. I want to thank all the testifiers.

22           I want to thank the professor. We may need those  
23 rulers as we go deep into session here soon. But most of  
24 all, I want to thank the Committee and everyone for taking  
25 the time to come out, because your voices are so important

1 in this process.

2 MAJORITY CHAIRMAN GROVE: I echo that and thank  
3 the testifiers for all your input on the impact the  
4 redistricting process has on our communities. I also want  
5 to thank the Members in attendance today, as well as our  
6 hosts, the Spinnerstown Hotel and Representative  
7 Craig Staats.

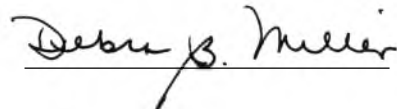
8 I hope it is evident that the House of  
9 Representatives is committed to undertaking the most open,  
10 transparent, and accountable redistricting process in  
11 Pennsylvania history. We believe that transparency and  
12 accountability form the bedrock of good governance, and  
13 public input through these hearings plays an essential role  
14 in that.

15 With that, we are adjourned.

16

17 (At 3:22 p.m., the public hearing adjourned.)

1 I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings  
2 are a true and accurate transcription produced from  
3 audio/video on the said proceedings and that this is a  
4 correct transcript of the same.

5  
6  
7 

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