

Thank you, Mr/Ms Chairman,

I'm tired. We are all tired. We are tired of the political shenanigans that go into gerrymandered districts with non-Euclidean geometric shapes that span time and space. It's been formulaic at this point for the past two decades. First, partisans create maps that effectively disenfranchise voters. Then other groups correctly sue and take the legislature to the courts. The courts look at the maps and rule that they are unconstitutional, which took 8 years the last time. The districts get redrawn to be fair for a couple years, and then we start all over again. Meanwhile, Americans get disenfranchised, politicians see no consequences for their actions, and we all end up worse off for it.

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

This is your warning. History shows that if you make democracy more difficult, you'll make governing impossible. I don't want that. I want to see us as a unified people. So Democrats and Republicans need to work together in Harrisburg and be reasonable with the new maps.

As we move forward as a country, there needs to be a reckoning about who we are as a people. Are we fair, equitable, impartial, and cohesive? Or will historians call our society unjust, nakedly biased, and selfish? I think we can be better. Instead of setting up fights that can be avoided, we can make our district lines reasonable from the beginning. The alternative leads us down a dark road -- but one that we can evade with relative ease. All you have to do is be honest with the districting, honest with the Pennsylvanian public, and honest with yourselves.

Thank you for your time.