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Sent: Friday, January 28, 2022 12:38 PM
To: House & Governmental Affairs; s&ga@legis.la.gov
Subject: Redistricting Input

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I live in the 70820 region of Baton Rouge. I just switched my party affiliation to Independent. I've been registered as a Republican and Democrat in the past. I want state redistricting maps that are swing districts in nature. I want both political parties to have to come to my district and make their cases on why I should vote for them. I don't want to be packed into a super blue or super red district where I end up feeling like I'm not represented. This always ends up with my state representatives ignoring my emails, phone calls and even hand written notes sent to them on the floor during sessions, despite me being polite in my messages. I want to be in a swing district and have my candidates fight for my vote so I feel important and involved in the democratic process. I've often found myself voting against my own party in elections merely because their opponent took the time to reply to my messages and answer my questions. It shouldn't be like that which is one of many reasons I recently left the Democratic Party and became an Independent. Neither party cares about the views and opinions of those of us in the middle. They pack us into a super red or blue district, and ignore us when we try to participate in the democratic process because they know they can't lose re-election.

More swing districts is the *answer* not the *problem*.

For the federal districts, I'm of the opinion that if the census data shows the African-American population increasing to the point where a second minority district should be drawn, then I am all for that. It shouldn't "hurt" the Republicans. If anything, it'll force them to make their case to that constituency. If Republicans want to win the African-American vote, I think it's entirely possible that they can, but they have to try first, and a second district will make them engage in that community more, which should be a win for everyone.

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