
From: Hattie Broussard [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 10:30 AM
To: House & Governmental Affairs
Subject: Roadshow letter -testimony
Attachments: Redistricting Roadshow letter -HMB.docx

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Please include the attached letter in the folders of the Joint Committee members and in the Roadshow record.

Thank you,
Hattie M. Broussard, Esq.

Hattie M. Broussard, Esq.
151 Turnberry Drive
New Orleans, La. 70128

Dear Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairperson Hewitt and House Chairperson Stefanski, Committee Co-Chairs, and all of the members of the Joint Committee,

I am Hattie M. Broussard, an attorney and community volunteer who has lived in New Orleans, La. for my entire adult life. I was born and raised in Ruston and attended LSU in Baton Rouge for my undergraduate degree and obtained my JD degree from Tulane University School of Law. I am a member of New Orleans Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Pontchartrain Chapter of the Links, Incorporated, Together Louisiana and Together New Orleans, IWO, and the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. However, I am representing myself in writing this letter for inclusion in the January 20, 2022, Legislative Redistricting Roadshow record.

I live in Senate District 3, House District 100, and the 2nd Congressional District. While I have been able to elect the representative of my choice because I live in the majority-minority City of New Orleans, this is not true for many other African American citizens of our great State. The 2020 census revealed that African Americans make up over one-third (33.13%) of the state's population. However, our representation in Congress, the Louisiana House and Senate, and on BESE and the Louisiana Supreme Court does not currently reflect our increased portion of the population. The 14th and 15th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and the 1965 Voting Rights Act require that African Americans be fairly and equitably represented at all levels of Louisiana's elected government. Therefore, I am writing to support and advocate for an increase in Black political participation in this State, based upon the size of the African American population, as established by the 2020 census count. Certainly, there should be no decrease in the current level of African American participation when our population in the state has increased.

I urge you not to engage in racial or political gerrymandering, as you undertake the momentous task of redistricting by redrawing the maps. Please refrain from packing African Americans into overpopulated majority-minority districts, or cracking and disbursing the African American population into many districts to dilute our votes. I am requesting that you draw maps that create competitive districts that allow African Americans to elect the representatives of our choice.

Finally, I endorse the maps that have been submitted by a group of nonpartisan social justice organizations to reflect a second majority-minority Congressional District in the 5th Congressional District. I also endorse the request that is being made by the Governor and others for an additional majority-minority BESE District.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit this letter. I will be actively following the Special Session beginning on February 1, 2022, as you undertake drawing the maps.

Sincerely,

Hattie M. Broussard

Hattie M. Broussard, Esq.