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Sophie Holdorff
Written Testimony
January 20, 2022

Redistricting Final Roadshow
Louisiana State Capitol
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Good evening Madam Chair and Mr. Chairman. My name is Sophie Holdorff and I am a member of Orleans parish here in Louisiana. I have been a resident of Orleans for the past four and a half years. I am here with my community members and larger coalitions as I urge you to keep my community together and thank you for your consideration of my testimony for January 20, 2022. My goal for this redistricting process is for our elected officials to pass fair and equitable maps that do not deflate my power in the election process.

I live in the Uptown neighborhood near Tulane and Loyola University. It borders the Carrollton, East Carrollton, and Broadmoor neighborhoods. A few assets I would like to keep in this community are the culture, factual history, and equitable representation for the residents of Orleans parish and Louisiana. I live in a safe area of New Orleans which comes with a high price to pay due to the large disparity between rent and minimum wage here in Louisiana. My community is vibrant and must be accurately represented by the racial and economic demographics that account for Orleans parish and Louisiana residents. I do not want to move out of this beautiful city and state but, similar to so many others I've known who leave directly after college, there are no decent jobs for us to make a fair living while staying in the community we all love and appreciate. The maps that we currently have do not reflect the third of Louisiana residents being Black and we need that representation in our legislature. In this demand of ensuring democratic values are upheld, I speak on the critical and unjust historical counts of packing Black voters and gerrymandering the state of Louisiana which dilutes the power of one's individual vote. In addition, the college area by Tulane and Loyola, which I reside in, has continued to become gentrified. Gentrification in Orleans parish has been on the rise in my community by the grand economic oppression of Black people and families having no other option than to move out of their homes, thus allowing for folks to renovate and lease houses and apartments to college students or majority white families.

I decided to move to Louisiana because of the authenticity and the culture that this city embraces. However, if the city and state continue to use inequitable and oppressive maps then the city we all love will continue to push out the very folks who need equitable representation. I have hope that this redistricting process allows our elected officials to show up, speak up, and accurately represent people like me who love and appreciate New Orleans for what it is. New Orleans is the most vibrant, loving, and oppressive city I have lived in. I thank you for your time and consideration while reading this testimony. Please let the people of Louisiana know their vote and voices shall be heard on this day and for the foreseeable future.

Thank you,
Sophie Holdorff



Orleans parish, Louisiana.