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**From:** Dale Sochia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022 10:23 AM  
**To:** House & Governmental Affairs  
**Subject:** Redistricting

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

Chairman Stefanski, Chairwoman Hewitt, members of the committee,

I am writing regarding the current discussion/plan on redistricting Louisiana. I am a resident of Jefferson Parish, born and raised in LA. I was born in New Orleans and my parents moved to Jefferson Parish when I was 5 years old. I moved out of state briefly while in my 20's, but after getting married, my husband and I moved back to Louisiana because we wanted our children to be raised here. I have lived in Louisiana for a total of 52 years. I love Louisiana. I love the culture, the traditions, and especially the strong family and community ties ... something that is rare nowadays. I have 5 children, and my two oldest sons are married and also live in Louisiana with their families.

I am a constituent of United States Representative Stephanie Hilferty in Congressional District 94. I have been a nurse in Louisiana for 25 years. I am a wife, mother, and grandmother, and I am a homeowner in Jefferson Parish. I also volunteer on a regular basis in my community, and attend many neighborhood events. My husband pastors a church in Boutte, LA, and we do regular community outreaches, including, most recently, feeding hot meals to thousands of people after Hurricane Ida.

Based upon the recent Census and the **very small** change in our state's population, I believe our Congressional district boundaries do **not** need major changes. **Please keep the boundaries as they are.** They were already approved by the Obama Justice Department as being compliant with voter representation guidelines. Boundaries are to be redrawn **only if** the Census shows a greater than 5% change. Only two out of six districts meet that criteria, and they are only slightly greater than 5% -- the population in District 6 increased by only 5.2% and District 4 decreased by just 6.2%. Due to Hurricane Katrina, people have been rebuilding and moving back, however due to Hurricane Ida, many are currently displaced and will be rebuilding for a long time. Our states population, however, has basically stayed very close to the same through all of the hurricanes, and we deserve representatives that represent the needs of their district.

Most importantly, the current Congressional District Boundaries are based on the common interests of the people represented, including the economy and various other needs of the

respective districts. North Louisiana is mostly rural, agricultural and focused on Christian values. The coastal area of Louisiana are concerned about coastal restoration and largely employed in the oil and seafood industries. The urban districts are distinctly different in needs and goals from adjacent districts. Each district has unique needs, and deserves representation in Congress that makes their unique needs a priority (for example, combining communities that may be mostly urban with part of a more rural/agricultural community, will not adequately represent the more rural/agricultural community).

Gerrymandering based upon race was declared illegal by the Supreme Court in their 1993 decision, Shaw vs Reno. Gerrymandering also hurts voter confidence at a time when voter confidence is at an all-time low. The Cook Partisan Voting Index (CPVI) shows that our districts already are extremely balanced according to party. There is only 14-25% more Republicans or Democrats in each of the six districts, not a huge difference. **Please keep our boundaries intact.** It is fair to all voting groups, and it follows the laws of redistricting.

*Thank you.*

*Mrs. Michelle Sochia  
Jefferson Parish, LA*