

January 11, 2022

House Majority Policy Committee

RE: House Majority Policy Committee Hearing
On Legislative Redistricting

Dear members of the Committee,

My name is Louisa Gaughen and I am a resident in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County. I have lived in Cumberland County for 45 years. First in Hampden Township for 25 years and now in East Pennsboro Township for the past 20 years.

Cumberland County is my home where I have lived with my husband and where I raised my four children. All my adult children and my 8 grandchildren live in Cumberland County where they work, attend school, participate in sports, and attend church. They are all active in their communities.

In the past 45 years in Cumberland County, I have served as a School Board Director in the East Pennsboro's School District, as well as a Director on the West Shore YMCA Board, I am a literacy advocate and an advocate for children with special needs as well as many other community organizations in order to make our county a safer and welcoming county for all families.

It has also been my pleasure to serve my constituents as an elected Republican State and County Committeewoman for many years. The vote of confidence my constituents have given me through their votes is paramount in my decision to present my Testimony to this Committee.

It is imperative that when we elect our Representatives and all other candidates for office that they represent our values. Partisan Gerrymandering does not take that into account because maps do not represent the reasons why voters choose to live in a particular location. Partisan Gerrymandering is simply an attempt to manipulate election outcomes. This does not benefit the residents and only causes resentment.

My roots and daily life are in Cumberland County and not in Dauphin County. Cumberland County is where I live, attend church, shop, support local business, volunteer my time and work to represent my constituents.

East Pennsboro is not a suburb of Harrisburg City in Dauphin County or connected to it in any meaningful way. Placing East Pennsboro Township in a state representative district with Dauphin County is an unnatural fit. East Pennsboro's community problems, population makeup, public school system, emergency services, medical care providers, employers are very different and separate from the urban make up of Harrisburg City.

A more natural connection for East Pennsboro is to be connected to Hampden Township which is literally one street over from my house. East Pennsboro and Hampden Township compete with each other on community sports teams, both use the West Shore YMCA. It is the natural fit. Partisan Gerrymandering disrupts lives and does nothing to bring voters together in an effort to reach across the aisle when unnatural and drastically different communities are tacked together to make a district it serves no one well.

I urge this Committee to take into consideration my testimony. There is a very good reason why Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in Pennsylvania. It is the pride, commitment and hard work of our community residents and our elected officials. We are welcoming to all and provide safe communities, good schools and affordable housing to all who would like to live here.

Thank you for allowing me this time to present my testimony.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louisa Gaughen