

To the NH Senate Committee on Redistricting

My son, Nicholas Rivard, and I are registered voters in Chester, NH, a small semi-rural town in Rockingham County. I am writing on our behalf.

We believe that fair maps, created in an open process, are vital to ensuring that all voters voices are heard. This open process should include a remote option so that folks who are unable to participate in person, for what ever reason, but especially during this Covid pandemic, and in a state with a low rate of vaccination, will have the opportunity to be heard.

We also believe that the committee must commit to scheduling additional hearings after the maps are drawn so politicians have to face the public if they try to gerrymander the maps.

In addition, we insist that the town of Chester become its own dedicated House district. We have more than enough population to qualify for this under state law, and our voters unanimously supported this in a warrant article (NH Resolution for Fair, Nonpartisan Redistricting) at our most recent town meeting. One reason that this is important is to make it easier for us to support a House candidate from our own town, both organizationally and financially. We do not feel that our current NH House reps truly speak for us.

Fair redistricting is a nonpartisan issue.

Sincerely,

Laura Thompson