



## The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

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107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

The State House

107 N Main Street

Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Gray and fellow Committee Members:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed redistricting maps reflected in HB 50 - the districts for the House of Representatives.

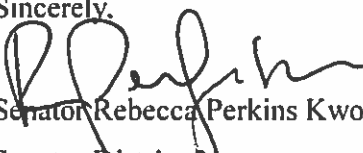
As the State Senator from District 21, which includes Lee, Durham, Madbury, Newfields, Newmarket, Newington, and Portsmouth, I am concerned with the redistricting changes. The proposed maps would group the towns of Lee, Durham, Madbury, and Dover Ward One under one State Representative. This change would dilute the voices of residents in each town and weaken their right to participate in our democracy. It strips our communities of a voice in Concord.

I am also concerned with how the proposed changes impact Portsmouth and Newington. As it stands, the maps would group Portsmouth Ward 1 with Newington, and Ward 5 with New Castle. Similar to the first change, Newington would lose its seat at the table in Concord, as it would be grouped with a more populous city. The changes would also risk having two wards of Portsmouth, one of the state's most populous cities, be represented by a non-resident. Neither Newington or Portsmouth benefits from these changes, with each losing representation to which they are entitled.

Such a structure is not what the voters asked for. Having traveled around the state on the Senate Redistricting Committee, I've heard firsthand from the public on how they want each ward and town to have their own representative when possible. This is, in fact, what our Constitution mandates. Folks also advocated keeping cities together in base and flatorial districts, and when multi-town districts are required, base those districts on communities of interest.

Please consider these matters before voting on HB 50 as amended.

Sincerely,

  
Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka  
Senator District 21