

## Tricia Melillo

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**From:** cybelegrier@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 12:00 PM  
**To:** Tricia Melillo  
**Subject:** My opposition to SB240 and SB241

Hi Tricia.

My name is Cybele Grier and I am from Rye, NH. I am opposed to the proposed redistricting maps as it moves the Democratic leaning cities on the seacoast of Portsmouth, Rochester, Durham, and Dover into CD2. It also moves the Republican leaning cities and towns near the Massachusetts border of Salem, Hudson, Windham, Atkinson, and Pelham into CD1. These changes turn CD1, which was formerly a tossup, into a district that leans Republican.

These proposed redistricting maps are clearly gerrymandered, which is harmful to our residents of NH. Some examples of this are:

- CD1 as drafted contains both Portsmouth and Keene, which are on opposite ends of the state.
- This map unnecessarily splits 7 out of 10 counties. The only counties not split are Sullivan, Cheshire, and Coos.
- According to Google Maps, it would take more than 7 hours to drive the most direct route between the 3 corners of the proposed CD 2 (Hinsdale to Pittsburg to Portsmouth- 7 hours 18 minutes). In about the same amount of time, someone in the proposed CD 2 could drive to Washington DC, Niagara Falls, or Nova Scotia.
  - For comparison, it takes about 2 hours to drive the length of existing CD 1 and 3 hours to drive to length of existing CD 2.

Gerrymandered districts like those in the proposed State Senate maps create “safe seats” which means a politician can be in office for a whole lifetime without being worried about losing their seat. Competition helps to ensure voters' voices are heard. Furthermore, competitive districts result in elected officials being responsive to their constituents. Uncompetitive districts worsen the partisan divide and make it harder for more reasonable candidates to get elected. And the last point I want to make is every voice should be heard, and every vote should carry the same weight. By drawing maps to favor one political party, politicians are rigging the process of representation and denying voters their fair say.

Fair Maps did some smart analysis to propose fair new districting maps. The Senate and House must consider these fair maps and reject the current proposed maps before the Senate today.

Kind Regards,  
Cybele Grier  
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