

January 9, 2022

To: Chairperson Gray and Distinguished Members of the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Re: Testimony Regarding Redistricting Bills SB 241 & SB 254 for NH Executive Council

I am a resident in Carroll County, NH. I'm glad to see the SB 254 map as a much better alternative to that in SB 241. Although it doesn't appear to be ideal in terms of the objectives of fair districting for the Executive Council, it goes a long way in fixing the gerrymandering that is evident in the SB241 map, in particular the cross-state sprawl of District #2. I just can't see how that map could be considered a good-faith effort at non-partisan districting and how Council decisions could provide equitable protection, opportunity and growth, especially for District #2 with such a disparate array of towns.

Any political party that abuses their majority position in government by pushing for such gerrymandering of districts is a party that is increasingly less representative of the people they serve and is generally less willing to compromise and work towards the most equitable laws and solutions to the challenges faced by residents. Such party might believe in the benefit of their increased power in the short-term, but this will inevitably result in under-representation and unfair conditions for many, greater polarization between the political parties, and will become an increasingly serious detriment to the future of New Hampshire.

Please don't contribute to a decline of democracy in this state. SB 254 clearly provides for better districting and should be implemented, not SB 241.

Respectfully,
Thomas Lilley
Albany, NH