

Hello,

My name is Mary Beth Raven. I am a 32-year resident of New Hampshire. I have lived in Londonderry and, for the past 30 years, in Merrimack. I am here today not only for myself, but also to speak for the residents of the town of Merrimack. Merrimack had a warrant article on their town ballot this spring, asking for competitive redistricting. The measure passed 3 to 1.

The voters in the town of Merrimack passed this warrant article because they want competitive districts. Competitive districts mean that elected officials must be responsive to their constituents in order to get re-elected.

- In SB 240, The Senate map proposed by the Majority party, increases margin for Republicans in 16 districts, making the districts less competitive & locking in incumbents. This is not what the citizens of Merrimack voted for when they passed the competitive redistricting warrant article.
- SB 240 Packs college towns, including Lebanon/Hanover with Plymouth into one Senate district, leaving adjacent districts more conservative. This packing makes the votes of Republicans in this district matter less, and will suppress turnout. Packing of districts means both minority and majority voters will matter less, lowering turnout. This is not what the citizens of Merrimack voted for when they passed the competitive redistricting warrant article.
- Therefore, I, on behalf of all 26 thousand residents in the town of Merrimack, ask you to OPPOSE SB 240.

SB 241 is the executive council district map proposed by the Majority party. It is identical to the gerrymandered 2010 map which includes the packed "District 2" that goes from the Vermont border to the seacoast. Even Gov Sununu has cited district 2 as gerrymandered. This district Packs Democratic-leaning towns into it, leaving adjacent districts more Republican. making the districts less competitive & locking in incumbents. This is not what the citizens of Merrimack voted for when they passed the competitive redistricting warrant article.

- While the town of Merrimack is not in this district, ALL towns in NH suffer from Gerrymandered executive council districts
- Therefore, on behalf of all 26 thousand residents in the town of Merrimack, I ask you to OPPOSE SB 241. And I ask you to support **SB 254** – which is Competitive, and takes some communities of interest and county lines into account

Can we come together and find a bipartisan solution – together, I hope you can create an amendment that results in more competitive districts which will ensure that each of our votes continues to matter.