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September 29, 2021

To Senate Committee on Redistricting

RE:Hillsborough County

Dear Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for the public hearing on September 30, 2021, being held at St. Anselm College.

I appreciate the hard work you are all putting in to the process of drawing fair electoral maps for NH for all the voting districts (US Congress, county, Executive Council, NH Senate, NH House).

I have 4 specific asks for your consideration:

1). Make your criteria for drawing the maps available to the public. Transparency is key for the electorate to be assured the maps are fairly drawn.

2). Once the maps are ready, a second round of public hearings are necessary so that the citizens can provide input, once they have seen the maps actually drawn. This is a significant and vital step to the process.

In addition, provide ample time for the the public to digest and understand the maps, before notice of the public hearing to receive input on these drawn maps.

3). Special attention to the Executive Council districts is needed before they are redrawn, especially concerning District 2, and careful study must be made to the new maps so that the districts are balanced and fair.

4). Goffstown currently has a NH House floterial district representing Goffstown, Weare, and Deering. We (Goffstown) have no connection or affiliation (ie. shared schools, sports etc) with Weare or Deering. I would ask that you look at this floterial district and reconsider the inclusion of these unrelated towns, especially Deering, which might more appropriately be linked to the town of Hillsboro. It is quite a stretch for a representative to live in Deering and be able to talk with constituents in Goffstown (or vice versa).

I am confident the committee will assure integrity and fairness, and will heed the testimony submitted at these public hearings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Barbara Schult
Goffstown
Hillsborough County

