

To the NH Redistricting Committee

I have driven almost an hour to attend the redistricting hearing for Grafton County at 6pm Tuesday, September 28th. I would like to express my strong support for the process followed by the nonpartisan redistricting group (a combination of Open Democracy, the League of Women Voters, and the Kent Street Coalition). Their maps are the result of careful surveys, public input, and clearly explained criteria. I am disappointed that there is as yet no plan for the public to express any opinions AFTER your committee proposes specific maps because I consider a fair and transparent process extremely important. I consider partisan gerrymandering one of the most destructive forces threatening our state, our country, and our democracy. Districts drawn to be “safe” for one party encourage extreme positions and discourage the negotiation and compromise on which I believe our strength and unity depend. I feel so strongly about this issue that it will be the major consideration in my votes as I follow the work resulting from your committee.

I will not stay inside for this meeting, but will only hand in this letter after driving to the Grafton County Courthouse, because I live with someone at extremely high risk for covid-19. I am disappointed that there is no provision for people to explain their views if they are uncomfortable being in enclosed spaces for long periods of time with potentially unmasked, unvaccinated people. I would stay and speak if a safer meeting space (tent outside? Zoom?) were provided.

Suzanne Brown

394 Dogford Road

Etna, NH 03750