

Good evening and thank you for holding these very important hearings.

My name is Lew Henry and I live in Gilmanton.

Your Redistricting task is a very difficult one, but it is extremely important! The Redistricting's ten year life span means that having it done correctly now is paramount.

Redistricting needs to be accomplished in a fair, nonpartisan, and transparent manner, unfortunately the previous two Redistricting Plans, from 2001 and 2011, were not done this way, leading to much controversy. A lot of time and money went into, unfortunately, less than successful attempts to correct them.

So I thank you again for being here this evening seeking input into the process, and I thank you in advance for coming back here to hold a similar listening session when you have completed your preliminary mapping.

In 2011 my home town of Gilmanton was Constitutionally entitled to a single, non-shared seat in the NH House. We did not get it. Not only is this seat specified in the NH Constitution, it is also the fairest way to reach the ideal of "one person, one vote". Instead we were given two seats shared with Alton, and one seat shared with Barnstead and Alton. Gilmanton is a very different place than Alton, we share very little except a border. We do not share a school nor an Executive Councilor. Our geography is different, as we are mostly fields, forests, and farms, with very few businesses. We do not share a shoreline of Lake Winnepesaukee with Alton. Our tax structure is very different from Alton's. Because of the total lack of transparency and fairness in the 2011 Redistricting process we had no input into correcting it. This is a violation of the NH Constitution which we hope your Committee will rectify before more violations are forced on us. The next thing that could happen is placing us in a district with a non-contiguous town, which would also violate the Constitution.

I am including with this statement a copy of the letter from Gilmanton's Board of Selectmen to the leaders of the NH House and Senate and also a copy of the Warrant Article 18 that was voted on at our Town Meeting. Based on the overwhelming, bipartisan vote (435 yes, 125 no) in support of Warrant Article 18 titled "New Hampshire Resolution for Fair Nonpartisan Redistricting", our Board of Selectmen urge that the Redistricting Committee ensure a fair and transparent Redistricting plan, without gerrymandering, by holding public meetings such as you are here, and that Gilmanton be given its single, non-shared Representative in the NH House.

Thank you, Lew Henry