

THINKING ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS, I WAS STRUCK BY THE WORDS OF JOHN ADAMS IN 1774:

“REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND TRIAL BY JURY ARE THE HEART AND LUNGS OF LIBERTY. WITHOUT THEM WE HAVE NO FORTIFICATION AGAINST BEING RIDDEN LIKE HORSES, FLEECED LIKE SHEEP, WORKED LIKE CATTLE, AND FED AND CLOTHED LIKE SWINE AND HOGS.”

FAIRLY DRAWN DISTRICTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. SO I PLEAD WITH MEMBERS OF ALL PARTIES TO DRAW ON YOUR PATRIOTISM TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE THE DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT. IT IS TRUE THAT SKEWING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES HAVE LED TO ELECTORAL ADVANTAGES, BUT VOTERS ALSO RESPECT HONEST AND IMPARTIAL LEADERSHIP, AND AS PETITION AND BALLOT INITIATIVES HAVE SHOWN, THERE IS ENORMOUS VOTER INTEREST IN REDISTRICTING. WHY NOT CHOOSE TO BE ELECTED BASED ON MERIT RATHER THAN CARTOGRAPHIC TRICKERY?

I URGE THE COMMISSION TO RELY ON THE WORK OF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE SPENT YEARS REFINING THE TOOLS TO CREATE FAIR DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THE VOINOVICH SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE AT OHIO UNIVERSITY, WHICH WAS FUNDED WITH A \$478,000 CONTRACT FROM THE OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMISSION TO CRUNCH CENSUS DATA INTO A DATABASE USEFUL FOR DRAWING FAIR MAPS.

FOR TESTIMONY UNIVERSITY OF AKRON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021