

**PROPONENT/OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:**

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**IN SUPPORT/NOT IN SUPPORT OF:**

Fair Districts for all Ohioans  
Ohio Redistricting Committee

Testimony

**[Cincinnati, Ohio, 8/24/2021]** — The current district maps are such that our representatives are not representing the interests of the citizens of Ohio in proportion to their population. As a result of gerrymandering, lawmakers see themselves in “safe” districts, and no longer need to represent the needs of their constituents. Instead, it seems their agenda is set by their large donors.

That results in things like this: A couple years ago, the state legislature decided to impose a \$200/year fee on electric cars and \$100/year fee on hybrid cars. Did some constituent ask for this? Where did this come from? Whose interest does that serve? Why are Ohioans who are making a responsible choice being penalized? Why is energy-efficient transportation being disincentivized?

Another example: A few years back, the state government delayed the Renewable Portfolio Standard by two years. The effect of this obscure provision was to destroy the SREC incentive to install solar panels. Where did this idea come from? Who benefited? I’m guessing that wasn’t from a constituent!

Those were just 2 examples. We need fair districts to ensure that all Ohioans can have their voices represented in the State and Federal legislatures in proportion to their populations, and that our representatives stay engaged in representing their constituents, not large donors. Please ensure that the new proposed district maps meet the well-understood criteria of fair district-drawing (compactness, continuity, community integrity, etc.) as well as the intent of the voter referenda (that no party is favored or disfavored by those maps).

Thank you for your attention.  
Ken Poleyeff  
Warren County