

**Address to the Redistricting Committee  
and all map-making teams & individuals  
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As a former social studies teacher, I want the Committee to know that I appreciate the complexity of the map-drawing process and all the decisions that must be made during and after the examination of all maps produced.

OHIO: Many people, many interests. While that complicates the map-drawing task, we should all be cognizant of the significant diversity of humans in this state, and what an asset that is in our job sectors, business markets, cultural organizations, universities and research institutes.

My concerns are these:

1. It should be a point of ethics for no discussion to take place by map-making teams that contains the name or party of the current representatives of those districts under discussion.

After all, this process is about the people, not the politicians, who have a direct vested interest in preserving their soon-to-be-former districts.

2. While Ohioans have many views on the many governmental issues and processes that affect them as voters, citizens and families, the ultimate maps should reduce the number of people whose voting jurisdiction would place them in an interest group where their voice can never be heard. SO, hear it again: no packing, no stacking, and no cracking!

3. ***This third issue is dear to my heart, as a country girl who eventually moved to the city.*** I'd like you to truly consider how to manage the urban-rural divide, one of the most significant political divides in our state, with neither constituency ever feeling heard. The legislature could do a better job serving the needs of both if each were allowed a full consideration of their issues and needs. Suburbs could also be left largely whole if alternating within the outer bands of the cities, and not randomly so, but with the input of their residents as to which

Yes, it would take some creativity, compromise and horse-trading to properly serve those needs in all three of these types of areas. But in the end, I think we'd become less divided and a more realistic and accommodating people by knowing that both urban & rural residents have a full voice and neither is unheard, underserved or denigrated and thus, alienated from the process we call democracy.