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Ohio Redistricting Committee
Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4275

Members of the Ohio Redistricting Committee,

I am very pleased to provide this written testimony regarding redistricting for the upcoming 2022 election cycle. It is an honor and privilege to submit the attached proposal for your review, and I am humbled that you are considering your constituents' voices in our representative government.

The map you will be receiving is titled "OH - Proposal for Redistricting Commission." You will be pleased to know my proposed map, made using Dave's Redistricting software, scores well on the metrics of proportionality, minority representation, county splitting, compactness, as well as competitiveness. This proposal, using composite data from selected statewide races from 2016-2020, features 15 total Congressional districts. Eight districts are Republican-leaning and seven are Democratic-leaning districts. This is proportional representation for the state of Ohio.

Using the aforementioned data, Ohio averages a 53.62% statewide Republican vote share, and Democrats 46.38% of the statewide vote. Therefore, eight Republican-leaning districts are proportional in this map. This is because eight out of fifteen seats being held by Republicans at any given time would give Ohioans 53.3% Republican representation in the House of Representatives - identical to the average percentage of the vote received by Republicans in statewide races. Likewise, seven out of fifteen seats held by Democrats at any given time would result in Ohioans receiving 46.7% Democratic representation in Congress - also identical to the percentage of the vote they receive in statewide races.

Republicans do maintain a slight edge in statewide elections here in Ohio, and all legislative maps should reflect that statement. This map is no different, as they will receive a majority of Congressional seats and will largely be representing safe seats. However, competitiveness is a key value in maintaining free and fair elections. This map maintains a favorable competitive advantage for both parties, with seven of the fifteen seats falling in the competitive range of 45-55% vote share. Republicans are competitive in Districts 1, 5, 9, 12, and 13, whereas Democrats are competitive in Districts 10 and 14. This is illustrated in both the 2016 and 2018 Senatorial races. In 2016, Republican Rob Portman won statewide with 58.03% of the vote. In this map, Portman achieves the majority of the vote in every district, with the exception of the safely Democratic 3rd and 11th districts. In 2018, Democrat Sherrod Brown won statewide with 53.41% of the vote. In this map, Brown flips both Republican-leaning 10th and 14th districts into the Democratic column. This represents the competitive nature Ohio maintains in the majority of its elections, valued by voters statewide.

Minority representation is another key tenet in redistricting. 21.6% of Ohio's population are composed of people of color. The most prominent minority group in Ohio are African-Americans, who make up 12.91% of the population. With that in mind, at least two seats should give Ohio's minority population the ability to elect representatives of choice. The 3rd and 11th districts satisfy this need. The 3rd district, containing central Columbus and the majority-black neighborhoods of Bexley, Gahanna, Reynoldsburg, and Whitehall located in eastern Franklin County, is a plurality-minority district containing a 45.51% minority population. The 11th district, containing all of Cleveland, as well as the heavily black neighborhoods of Bedford, Cleveland Heights, East Cleveland, Euclid, and Garfield Heights, contain a 56.82% minority population, and give a significant voice to the region's black residents, who make up 45.22% of the voting-age population. Therefore, this map would be an excellent choice in providing our state's minority population the ability to elect representatives of choice.

Lastly, this map scores well in keeping communities of interest together. Districts 1, 3, and 11 are all entirely contained within a single county to account for Ohio's three largest cities (District 1 = Hamilton/Cincinnati, District 3 = Franklin/Columbus, and District 11 = Cuyahoga/Cleveland). This keeps the districts compact and ensures city residents are not mixed with suburban, exurban, or rural communities who do not share the same interests. Likewise, this pattern is found across the map. District 2, based entirely within the outer Cincinnati metropolitan area, is held together by taking in the remainder of Hamilton County not contained in the 1st district, as well as including Butler, Warren, and northwestern Clermont Counties. District 4 represents the largely rural geography found in western Ohio, and sprawls along the entire Ohio-Indiana border. District 5 takes in communities based in the Toledo Metropolitan Statistical Area, encompassing all of Erie, Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky, Wood Counties, as well as the majority of Seneca County. District 6 is based in southeast Ohio, and maintains similar lines to the current 6th Congressional District. This district, running from Washington County in the south up north to Mahoning County, is designed to keep many of the rural, industrial river towns in the Appalachian region of the state together. District 7 keeps the exurban communities north of Columbus together, stretching from Hancock and Hardin Counties in the west, to Medina County in the east.

District 8 keeps the exurban communities east of Columbus together, stretching from Fairfield County in the south, to Wayne County in the north. District 9 is reconfigured from its current configuration to encompass nearly the entire lakefront to a more compact region, encompassing all of Lorain County, as well as western Cuyahoga County (which was not taken in by the 11th district). District 10 is a majority suburban district which is similar to the current 10th district, encompassing all of Montgomery and Greene Counties, as well as central Clark County to include the city of Springfield. District 12 incorporates the rapidly growing neighborhoods of Dublin, Hilliard, Upper Arlington, and Worthington, located in northwestern Franklin County, as well as all of Delaware County and northern Madison County. District 13 finds its roots based entirely in the Akron-Canton Metropolitan area, taking in all of Summit County, as well as the Stark-based cities of Canton and Massolin. District 14 remains in northeastern Ohio, taking in the eastern Cleveland suburbs found in Lake County, the manufacturing-based counties of Ashtabula and Trumbull, as well as the exurban/rural areas found in Geauga and Portage Counties. Lastly, District 15 is reconfigured to encompass all of southern Ohio, taking in the Columbus' southern exurbs, as well as the more industrial counties of Athens and Morgan, which were not taken in by the 6th district.

In closing, I sincerely appreciate the time you, the members of Ohio's redistricting committee, have taken to review and consider my proposal. I look forward to seeing you select a map that most fairly, accurately, and best represents the people of our great state.

Kind regards,
Anthony Matejcic