

## Blessing, Heather

---

**From:** Tom Mosier <jtmosier1217@bright.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 25, 2021 3:47 PM  
**To:** Testimony; jtmosier1217@bright.net  
**Subject:** August 26th, 2021 Lima, Ohio Hearing

---

---

From: Tom Mosier ([jtmosier1217@bright.net](mailto:jtmosier1217@bright.net))

Date: 08/25/2021

To: Redistricting Committee

My name is Tom Mosier and I am submitting written testimony for the August 23rd, 2021 hearing in Lima, Ohio. I have lived in Mercer County since 1973. I am writing you today to speak out against the way Ohio has been redistricted in the past utilizing a concept known as gerrymandering. Our current State and Federal districts do not represent the will of the people of Ohio because two separate ballot initiatives supporting the development of fair district boundaries without gerrymandered districts have been overwhelmingly passed in 2016 and 2018 by the people of this State to change the way both State and Federal districts would be divided in the future.

How can the will and needs of the people be adequately represented in the 15th Congressional District when their representative is responsible for territory ranging from Upper Arlington all the way to Athens? In my own county of Mercer, we currently have three (3) Congressional Districts (4th, 5th, and 8th) for our 42,000 residents. We have seven public school systems in our county which means that for local school levies to pass we need to canvass multiple Congressional Districts and possibly need to contact multiple Representatives on substantive issues.

I became involved with the gerrymandering issue in 2018 when I personally collected approximately 150 petition signatures to change how Federal Districts would be developed in the future. Additionally, at that time I testified before the legislative subcommittee investigating this issue. In my testimony I stated that I found the people I spoke with supportive of the effort to make our Statewide election process more responsive to the needs of the district and not to the political party in charge of the voting rules. The desire for fairer voting districts can be noted in the fact that in Mercer County alone, Fair Elections/Fair District petition gatherers totaled approximately 1200 valid signatures. This number was attained

in one of the highest percentage Republican counties in the state and one whom voted 82% in the last presidential election for the Republican candidate.

People in my county just can not understand why our small county is divided into three (3) congressional districts. Not only does this segmentation of our county dilute the influence of our voters with their representatives but then spills over to other small counties to dilute their ability to bring issues and concerns they have which are important and critical to them as well. I believe true bipartisan support exists based upon my experience collecting signatures and talking to people about the need to make Ohio's election process fairer. Let's finally end election lines which specifically and intentionally split up municipalities, cities, towns and villages and deny our state's citizens the opportunity to hold their representatives responsible to implement policies, programs and procedures important to them. The time is now to make our election process sensible and fair.

Mosier	Tom
Fast Road	5695
Ohio 45822	Celina,
733-2498	419-