

Testimony of:

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Testimony for:

Redistricting Commission, Lima, August 26, 2021

In favor of:

Fair Districts

My name is Jeff Sites. I'm a Lima native, a veteran, I work in warehousing, and I'm a candidate for Congress here in the Ohio Fourth.

I want to start welcoming you to the duck district. There's no better place to talk about redistricting than right here. We are notorious, a poster child for gerrymandering, a national joke.

Except to those of us who live here, the joke's getting old. As a candidate, I've had the opportunity to talk with folks from Wapakoneta to Elyria, from all walks of life with all sorts of politics. And the word that comes up most is frustrated.

Frustrated we have to watch cable news to hear from our congressman. Frustrated we can't get our questions answered, can't get the basic constituent services our tax dollars pay for. Frustrated we have crooks running for the legislature unopposed. And frustrated we can't do much about it.

The government is failing us. The government is selling us out. And our district lines are so rigged we're powerless to stop it. No wonder Ohio's got such a problem with corruption!

We don't expect politicians to serve us out of the goodness of their hearts. We expect politicians to do their jobs because we'll fire them if they don't. When voters are chosen to suit the politicians instead of the other way around, the system breaks down.

I'm advocating for fair districts as a Democrat and a believer in democracy. But fair districts is also about taking the power from the politicians and giving it back to the people. Ohio made it clear at the ballot box what we want. I urge this panel to listen to us.