It is said that, 'When everyone is thinking the same, no one is thinking". I'd like to come at the redistricting issue from a different perspective.

Essentially what Ohio voters told the state legislators through overwhelming majorities is that they want political bias taken out of the redistricting process. Political bias favors one party over another, giving one party an advantage that is unobtainable by the other. Ohio voters don't want a biased system, they want a fair system whereby no party has an advantage over the other. Ohio voters want fairness it is that simple.

The maps presented still contain large amounts of Republican party bias. Some Republicans may think that this is good, helping to insure one party rule in the state of Ohio. Yes, it may do that, but it also guarantees and advances a corrosive and corrupting influence of the political process. It may create an environment that appears to hobble Democrats or other challengers, but in reality, it is a corrosive influence on the Republican party itself and weakens it. It undermines the party by increasing the indifference, lethargy, and provincialism that arises when there is little need to pay attention to needs and issues outside the party. And what about those Republicans who may be paying attention to issues outside the party and speak out as such? The corrosive influence marks them, isolates them and challenges their loyalty. The party entrenches itself further in its own limited view. Entrenchment leads to corruption. Entrenchment leads to corruption. Let me say it again, Entrenchment leads to corruption.

If we want to break out of the confines of our current political impasse, let us start by eliminating political bias from the redistricting process. Bias, is a corrosive environment and it is not beneficial to the long-term health of either party. Eliminating bias will energize both parties and the voters. It will lead to better candidates, more responsive legislators, and better solutions to the problems we face in the state of Ohio. Isn't that what we want?

Thank you for your attention.