

September 9, 2021

To: Ohio Redistricting Commission members and,
Co-chairs: Senator Vernon Sykes and OH House Speaker Robert Cupp

Thank you for allowing me to submit written and verbal testimony to the Ohio Redistricting Commission. My name is anastasia birosh, and my pronouns are ze/zir/zirs. I currently vote in OH House District 70, OH Senate District 22, and OH Congressional District 16. Brunswick is divided between two OH House Districts (69 & 70) and two Congressional Districts (7 & 16). It's time that Brunswick be in one OH House District and one Congressional District.

I testified before this commission on August 27th in Akron, and I am back because I care greatly about having competitive OH Senate and OH House districts. I acknowledge that my white privilege affords me the opportunity to travel to and attend these hearings occurring in the late morning and announced at the last possible minute.

I am grateful that on it's website, the Ohio Redistricting Commission has a Public Input Tab that when clicked displays a list of all maps submitted to the commission. I would like to draw the commissions attention to Ohio Senate and Ohio House maps proposed by Geoff Wise, Ph.D. Engineer by day, and concerned citizen by night. He has come up with proposed maps that even I, ordinary citizen understand. He was even responsive though hurried when I called him with a few questions last night! It was easier to speak with him than any of my representatives!

What he did with his proposal was no small feat considering the gerrymandered districts drawn up behind closed doors in 2011. In his comments and explanation of the quantitative analysis methodology, he clearly explains how Senate incumbency complicates fixing these gerrymandered districts. And, due to this and other factors tradeoffs and compromise will be necessary.

In the end though, his concern as mine are drawing more equitable and competitive maps than we were presented with in 2011.

Sincerely,

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