

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
To: [Senate Redistricting](#)
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input
Date: Saturday, September 25, 2021 5:25:46 PM

Date: 2021-09-25
First Name: Miguel
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Hello, my name is Miguel Dacones, representing OCAGH. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I hope that this committee will continue to hold in-person and virtual hearings to allow public input from the entire state.

As a Filipino Asian American who's been involved with community activism in the past year, I'm well aware of the issues affecting the AAPI community right now. In September 2020 of last year, I was assigned to be one of the leads for OCA's literature dropping project. We focused on counting people for the 2020 census and registering them to vote for the 2020 presidential election.

During this process I found myself in these low income communities that were majority people of color and when I went into these communities while lit dropping it felt like I was walking into a different world. The experience brought new light in my perspective on my views on not just the AAPI community but the entire low income minority community as a whole.

The census showed that 95% of all growth in Texas occurred in the African American, Latino, and AAPI communities. The current draft maps do not allow any new opportunity districts based on these census numbers in metroplexes, like Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Austin. Instead, they pack and crack our communities and dilute our votes. I urge this committee to comply with the Voting Rights Act and respect the reality of the new census by allowing people of color the opportunity to choose the candidates of their choice.

Where I live, the Asian population in Fort Bend grew by 82% in the last decade.

I urge this committee to hold additional in-person and virtual hearings that allow public input from the entire state and to create a new Senate map that reflects our community input and the census data, as well as create fair districts for US Congress and TX House. In addition, please continue to allow a fair and open process by providing at least 14 days for the public to review additional maps, 5 days to review any changes to proposed maps, keeping a record of all documents, written communications, emails, text messages and draft maps, and providing analysis of how the new maps impact historically disenfranchised communities of color.

I urge this committee to consider creating more opportunity districts for communities of color, creating a more diverse group of representatives that display the diversity of our cities.

Thank you for your time.

