



SPONSOR TESTIMONY OF:

Samuel Gresham
255 Oldtrail Drive, Columbus, OH 43213

IN SUPPORT OF:

Maps proposed by the Ohio Citizens' Redistricting Commission
submitted to the Ohio Redistricting Commission

[Columbus, Ohio] Samuel Gresham Jr., Chair, Common Cause Ohio
Commission Member, Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission

Good afternoon Co-Chair Antonio, Co-Chair Faber and members of the Ohio Redistricting Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

My name is Samuel Gresham Jr., I am the Chair of Common Cause Ohio and served as a commission member of the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission.

I was born in an era where the Black community had to fight to make our voices heard and I have dedicated my life to that cause.

I served for 20 years as the President of Columbus Urban League. Decades of work in urban planning and community service organizations has guided my deep understanding of the implications that political powerlessness has on poor, minority, and other underserved communities.

I worked on both reform amendments that led to the creation of the process by which we are currently drawing maps. Voters overwhelmingly supported these changes twice -- giving you all a mandate to ensure that Ohio citizens have fair maps and equal representation.

Gerrymandering undermines our democracy and has contributed to some of the most concerning political extremism any of us have seen.

We did the work as a citizens commission, we have maps that meet the constitutional requirements and give our communities an equal voice. We can do it and so can you. We must consider the legacy we leave for the next generation -- will it be one where there are fair maps and ideas can be debated through a fair fight in our democracy, or will it be one that contributes to the deep division in our state and country?



Thank you for your time, this concludes the testimony on behalf of the Ohio Citizens Redistricting Commission. We will take any questions you may have at this time.

OPPONENT TESTIMONY OF:

Lis Regula

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