

**Good afternoon,**

**On this recent anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we are engaged in examining the proposed Ohio voting district maps that have been submitted and approved by the Republican members of this commission as their “working drafts” for this important work of redistricting.**

**Despite clear and unequivocal messages from Ohio voters back in 2015 demanding districts that are proportionally fair, compact, and include fair representation for Ohio’s minority populations, the Republican members of this commission have voted to INSTEAD accept these unconstitutional maps as their starting place.**

**How do you justify beginning this critically important process with seriously flawed maps that clearly do not meet the demands of Ohio voters for fair districts?**

**How do you justify beginning with these flawed maps considering the extremely tight timeline you are working under?**

**Why are you not beginning with carefully developed maps that do meet the demands of Ohio voters for fair districts?**

**You have several maps available TODAY that you could use as the starting basis for this process - maps that already comply with the mapping criteria in the Ohio Constitution.**

**You have fair maps available today that are clearly superior to the maps that have just been voted on by this commission.**

**Maps that have been developed by citizens of Ohio who have engaged in the map-making process.**

**You have maps available today that have been carefully scrutinized and analyzed by the Advisory Committee for the State Legislative Mapping Competition – that meet the mapping criteria in the Ohio Constitution.**

**You have these Constitutional maps available today that have been scrutinized by the citizens of Ohio.**

**You have these maps available today -  
Maps that have clearly written  
explanations of the decision-making  
process that went into developing the maps  
- in accordance with the constitutional  
criteria.**

**INSTEAD – By choosing to begin this  
redistricting process with the obviously  
flawed maps that you voted to approve,  
you are deliberately and insidiously  
poisoning this process.**

**The citizens of Ohio deserve better from  
you!**

**You have a responsibility to the citizens of Ohio to meet their demands for fair districts and to do so by beginning this process with the best possible maps available. You have those maps – they are available TODAY.**

**If you choose to ignore these resources and instead persist in using the partisan gerrymandered maps as your starting point, you need to understand this action for what it is – an attack on our representative democracy – one that seeks to manipulate and distort the will of the people. You are choosing to attack the very heart of our democracy – the lifeblood of our democracy – which is fair representation for our citizens.**

**We endured an attack on our citizens 20 years ago initiated from outside our borders. This feels like another attack – but this time coming from within our borders – indeed – from within our own statehouse. We deserve better from you. Do not attack our democracy from within by poisoning this process with these partisan maps. We deserve better.**

**Thank you.**