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PRESENTED TO:
2021 OHIO REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
OHIO STATEHOUSE
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Columbus, Ohio September 9, 2021 – Good Afternoon, I’m Debra Saunders. I live here in the Columbus area, in Dublin, and my Ohio Legislative districts are 16 and 21. I provided personal testimony at the Dayton hearing on August 24th, and I also attended the Commission meeting here in the Statehouse last Tuesday August 31st. I will say I came away from that meeting pretty disappointed and it instilled in me a sense of uncertainty, if you the members of this commission, are listening to us, the 70% plus Ohioans who have stated clearly to you, our elected officials, that we want and expect fair redistricting by ending gerrymandering while being informed as to how this will be achieved by this Commission.

First, I commend The Ohio Senate Democratic Caucus in presenting mapping at last week’s meeting to demonstrate it could be accomplished, to be used at least as a working draft prior the Sept. 1st deadline. It showed a real effort and willingness to present a substantive plan for discussion and debate, that provided a catalyst for next steps, and it appears it did compel further mapping submissions as we see here today. I feel the Sept 2nd updated map edition by the Senate Democrats demonstrates a much greater representation of my district without the rogue carve-out that positioned the street I live on, only the roadway, Rt. 33 Riverside Drive, not including any residences, in a different district than I am in, as a conduit to grab residences north of my location.

But we the voters of Ohio now expect to see the officially presented maps coming from this Commission, not just the Democrat or Republican created maps, redistricting maps that we the public can review and then provide comment.

Additionally, we want this entire process to be transparent. The short notice for hearings and commission meetings do not provide a confidence that transparency is happening. We expect this Commission to provide us how you will get to fair redistricting in a constructive, non-partisan manner, with a complete schedule for the introduction of official maps and dates for public hearings for comment on those maps, very soon.

Thank you.