

Members of the Minnesota House Redistricting Committee:

I am writing to let you know that as a Minnesota resident I care about the redistricting process, and I am paying attention because I believe redistricting is a cornerstone of our democracy.

I am a white, educated, married, upper-middle-class woman living in St. Paul, and by that narrow definition am part of a group that has typically had pretty good representation in government. But I define my community of interest to be all Minnesotans who want to see fair districts drawn that put people over parties. District lines should equitably represent the people living in them, not incumbents and partisan interests. I want representation in government to be implemented as fairly as possible for everyone.

The 2020 census data also shows that Minnesota is growing, with the largest portion of that growth in the Twin Cities, and continues to grow racially diverse. I urge this committee and the legislature to pay special attention to redistricting principles and map drawing processes to avoid cracking, stacking, and packing the racial, ethnic and minority voters of the Twin Cities.

I reside in District 5, which is one of the two most diverse districts in Minnesota, and I'm disappointed by the lack of notification of this hearing. I ask that you make the redistricting process transparent, accessible, and accountable to the public. This includes hosting live translation and making information available in English, Spanish, Hmong and Somali, as well as hosting meetings on evenings and weekends when community members are available to participate.

Thank you.

Jennifer Tong

64B

St. Paul