

Tricia Melillo

From: Dorthea Seybold <dorthea1955@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022 3:07 PM
To: James Gray; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Donna Soucy; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Tricia Melillo
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing me to speak today in opposition to House Bill 52 regarding redistricting for the State. As my first experience of speaking in front of any committee at the State House it was interesting and educational. Following is a copy of the statement that I made. I did not include it in an attachment as I am not sure of what your rules are regarding attachments. Again, thank you for your time.

Dorthea Seybold

Good afternoon.

My name is Dorthea Seybold and I live in Jackson NH. I have been a NH resident for over 46 years and recently retired after 32 years as the General Manager for over 500,000 square feet of retail development in the Conway area. I served as the first female Town Moderator in Conway and oversaw many local and national elections in that position. I am here today to share my concern and alarm over the redistricting plan proposed by the Republican majority of the state house. While I do not pretend to be a redistricting expert, I can see that this plan upends over 140 years of bi-partisan agreement on the formation of NH districts. While the 2020 census revealed small adjustments are necessary to keep districts fair, no reasonable representative in this state would allow this blatant and partisan gerrymandering attempt. Most alarming is the prospect of the North Country, which already receives scant attention from those in power in this state, further losing representation. Which means we lose our voice. With this plan, there will be no need for politicians to speak to all of us in order to be elected. We deserve districting that reflects the shared concerns of the communities that make up the district. Creating blatantly partisan districts will further erode the will of the people and allow for more and more extremists from both parties representing us. These representatives will no longer care about our concerns for clean water, property tax relief, affordable housing or any of the real problems facing our state. Instead, they will serve only the interests of the minority and be part of a growing and alarming national effort to retain power at any cost.

We respectfully request the committee to amend the maps to be as competitive as possible.

In closing, what we see happening in other states cannot come to NH. With its first in the nation primary status, we have long held that our votes best reflect not only the will of the people of NH, but also the country. What has happened to us that we are now on the cusp of a radical redistricting plan that reflects not the will of the people of NH, but rather the will of extremist politicians in Washington. Thank you for your time today. I will not be answering questions.