

## Comments to the NH Senate Election Law Committee on HB50

January 31, 2022

Dear Committee Members & Staff:

Thank you for your service on the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee. I am writing you as a constituent and a concerned resident.

As you consider the proposed revised maps for NH's State House Districts (HB50), I encourage you to VOTE NO for the following reasons:

### Oppose HB50 setting new State House voting districts:

- As you know, NH voters take our elections seriously. And **we are a purple state**. In 2020, Democratic vs. Republican votes were separated statewide by less than 0.5%. These numbers should be reflected in redistricting.
- The NH Constitution guarantees towns with a population of 3,444 have their own district. HB50 as written now **denies that to Newport and Charlestown**. Instead, it puts these two substantial communities (plus Unity) into one district with three representatives! This is grossly unfair. One town could end up with all three representatives, seriously disenfranchising the other two.
- **Proposed flotalial districts are massive and disconnected.**
  - **SU7** combines Charlestown, Unity, and Newport with Cornish & Plainfield, even though the latter two towns are connected to the former via a single spot in the middle of a huge private game park. This is *not* practically contiguous.
  - **SU8** piles eight towns and the City of Claremont into one district. This virtually guarantees that both representatives from this district will come from Claremont, negating the purpose of a flotalial district to these eight towns.
- **Please propose an amendment to HB50 that sustains the Sullivan County State House Districts as they have been for the past ten years.**
  - Sullivan County's population **lost only 600 people** between 2010 and 2020 – a change of barely 1%! *The radical redistricting proposed by HB50 is a solution looking for a problem.*
  - **There is a precedent** for such action. Your Election Law Committee has recommended NO CHANGES in the Executive Council districts.
  - **By keeping the existing districts, Sullivan County voters are closer to their elected officials and towns that deserve their own districts have them.**

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

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