

January 29, 2022

Dear Chairman Gray and Members of the Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee:

Please oppose and further amend HB50. Amendment 0339s does not go far enough to make state representative districts competitive, and does not secure all towns with populations over 3,444 their own, Constitutionally-guaranteed, House district.

As a resident of Cheshire county, I am concerned about the currently proposed state representative districts. I was in support of the Minority's map, which divided districts in such a way as to be incredibly competitive for Cheshire county. The Minority's map had ten competitive seats, whereas the Majority's map had half that at five. The more competition there is in these elections, the more voters will have their voices heard as politicians must work in voters' best interests to be elected. Our communities are stronger when voters have their voices heard.

Further, as a resident of the city of Keene in Cheshire county, I empathize with the residents of Manchester, another of New Hampshire's big cities. Manchester's large population means it could have up to 35 representatives, but amendment 0339s only gives them 33. Underrepresentation cuts out voices that need to be heard, so all voters can elect officials who can meet their needs.

Maps that are not competitive and that under-represent to give one party or another an easy win are gerrymandered. HB50 gives the public gerrymandered maps, and the public does not support gerrymandering. SB240, the gerrymandered NH Senate map, was opposed 604-7. The gerrymandered Executive Council map, SB241, was opposed 585 - 10. The public strongly opposes gerrymandered maps.

Please oppose the gerrymandering of HB50 as the public does, and further amend these maps so that they are competitive, and provide full representation to all Granite Staters.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Take care,
Sara Lobdell