

To Chairman Gray and the Members of the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

I'm writing to urge you to oppose HB 52. For the last several years, I've seen this committee approve a number of bills that seem to me to have the effect of suppressing votes, but that supporters justify as necessary to ensure that voters have faith in our elections.

Nothing would undermine voters' faith in elections more than the kind of gerrymandering seen in the district maps included in HB 52. Drawing district lines that predetermine the outcome of elections disenfranchises huge swaths of people who happen to be on the side that is precluded from winning.

I know that across the country both parties have engaged in gerrymandering at one time or another. It is wrong no matter which party does it.

Democracy is not a game; it's our basic value.

Please vote ITL on HB 52.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service.

Best wishes,
Mary Wilke
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