



Date: September 16, 2021

To: Alabama State Reapportionment Committee,

From: Kristeen Baker

In Re: Reapportionment Committee Redistricting Public Hearing Testimony

Please accept the written version of my verbal testimony given on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at Drake State College. The written version of my testimony includes answers to questions asked by Attorney Dorman Walker.

Good morning,

My name is Kristeen Baker and I have been a resident of Madison County for 21 years. I live in State Senate District 7 [Sam Givhan], State House District 19 [Laura Hall], and Congressional District 5 [Mo Brooks]. I am a member of several community organizations that share like missions of service to the community as a whole.

My community shares the love of the State's favorite pastime, college football. And although we do shout a Roll Tide every now and again, my community's number one war cry is Go Bulldogs! We bask in Bulldog pride always coming together to participate in every Alabama A&M University event! This University keeps us united! Rich in culture and heritage! My community also leans on our religious support...we consistently unite through weekly religious gatherings. My community races at the opportunity to actively contribute to the welfare and wellbeing of our young developing children. Children who may often feel as if they are experiencing the rough/short end of the stick.

The effects of the redrawing of district lines have proven to be vital and impactful in my community. The cracking of communities of interest in State Senate districts 2, 7 and 3 and have resulted in my community being underfunded and poorly represented. This cracking has diluted the minority vote as the line are drawn right in the center of Madison County's black communities. It is imperative that our County remains whole and has representatives who live in our community and understand our needs. My community of interest, Madison County, consists of culture and close-knit community that thrives off unity.

Therefore, I would like to address the transparency of this process. It is important that the redistricting process is FAIR and results in FAIR districts. AL Constituents should be afforded the opportunity to assist in this process. However, it is extremely difficult for us not to feel excluded when State Reapportionment Committee Public Hearings remit several counties from fair accessible meetings. Or when meetings like this one are scheduled at 9am on a Wednesday when most of my community is either at work or school. The use of Google teams can also be difficult to navigate for those who may not be familiar with the platform.

While I have great appreciation for the State Reapportionment Committee supervisor, Mrs. Donna Overton Loftin, who has been accessible and swift to respond to my community's flood of questions, I

still find it troubling that pertinent details about the State's redistricting process is not clearly published on the State Legislature's website....which leads us to flood Mrs. Overton Loftin's phone and

email!!! Because the result of this State process is so impactful to our communities, the constituents deserve accessibility, clear transparency, and fair and equitable results. We deserve our constitutional right to be fairly implemented and that means we, as Alabama Voters, choose our elected officials not the other way around!

I thank you all for this opportunity to share and for your valued time!