

Thank you for letting me speak to you today.

My name is Dave Younkin. I live and vote in Washington Township, Montgomery County in the great state of Ohio. House District 42, Senate District 6. My background is business owner and I operated a heavy construction equipment company in this area for 25 years.

I'm not accustomed to public speaking but I'm compelled to today.

I've lived in Montgomery County for 48 years and I'm tired of my vote not counting. As it is now, my Ohio senate vote is carved and passes over the City of Dayton to connect instead with rural northwest Montgomery County. My wife and I are frequently involved with charities, businesses, entertainment, and activities in the City of Dayton, not Union or Englewood up in that opposite corner of the county. We don't have any special interests that area. My state house vote represents a skewed section of my southeastern urban community near the Greene County line then it's connected to another person's skewed vote in a rural community on the far west side of Montgomery County and as far away as the Preble County line. What a disconnect!

We're all clear eyed that districts have been shamefully gerrymandered. Lines are drawn to create particular outcomes by packing groups of likeminded voters exclusively into a few districts or spreading them out across many to dilute voting power. The candidate in the red district has to be the most to the right and the candidate in the blue district has to be the most to the left. Extremist representatives don't compromise much for the greater good or they won't get reelected. Polarization gets worse. Anger & hostility towards the other group grows uglier. And faith in our government sinks even lower.

It's my sincere hope that this committee doesn't want this practice to continue. That this committee will make the brave choice to reverse this painful divisiveness and set a new standard of fairness and inclusiveness that will begin to reunite us all.

Myself, my friends and neighbors, and my immediate community would like to be represented for the things that matter to us, red and blue alike.

Thank you for your time and hearing today how concerned we are that we have fair representation as intended by our constitution and sacred to those who have sacrificed so much to protect that right.

Thank you