

David Helmick – Testimony 11/4/21

First, I want to say that I am a Republican and would absolutely love to see the Democrats completely drawn out of existence. However, the plan that was introduced yesterday is not the way to do it. It's clear that whoever drew this did not even attempt to keep communities whole nor did they attempt to make a map that would last for ten years. The plan also violates the Ohio constitution because none of the districts are compact.

The Mahoning Valley, once again, has been divided into multiple districts. There's absolutely no reason why any of those three counties should be put into a mainly Appalachian district. The culture and economies of the Mahoning Valley and Southeast Ohio are completely different. It's also completely unfair that the Valley won't have a single Representative who can help bring back federal dollars for projects that will solely benefit the area. Now our area will have to share those federal dollars with a total of twelve different counties.

Whoever drew the map could have created a Republican-leaning district based in the Mahoning Valley without dividing any portion of Mahoning, Trumbull or Columbiana Counties. It's entirely possible to create a map that heavily favors Republicans without blatantly gerrymandering it. I ask this committee to throw out the abomination introduced yesterday and instead adopt a plan that actually keeps communities whole.