

Rosalyn Cahill\

August 3, 2021, Legislative Reapportionment Committee Hearing

End Gerrymandering of Senatorial District 24

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to this legislative committee. My name is Rosalyn Cahill, a voter in Tinicum Township, Bucks County for over 40 years. I am also a member of the League of Women Voters of Bucks County, Fair Districts of PA, and the Tinicum Civic Association, all non-partisan groups. My concern is in the way redistricting has been done. You see we, in the upper Bucks County area were plucked from a Bucks County district and dropped into the strangely configured and convoluted 24th Senatorial District joining residents from Montgomery County and Berks County. It appears to be awkwardly shaped to ensure a legislator's re-election. Prior to 2011 we resided in District 10 which is completely within Bucks County whereas now our little corner of Bucks County is no longer included. District 10 represents voters from all political parties with a balance of interests. It is a competitive district. With the relocation of a portion of voters into District 24 the balance of interests has been altered in that district. It is evident that District 24 is now heavily skewed for one party therefore once the incumbent wins in the primary they are almost guaranteed a win in the general election. I do not feel that our Delaware River communities in Bucks County are represented in District 24 as we had been when in District 10. In fact, we rarely see or hear from our Senator. Many people still call the offices of the 10th Senatorial district for help because they are always responsive to our needs. Most voters in Tinicum do not even realize that we are no longer in a State Senatorial District which is solely in Bucks County. We are a Bucks County community and should stay that way. With that in mind and, as a resident of Bucks County I am concerned that my family's interests are not represented nor heard. It is important that a clear standard against dividing counties and municipalities any more than necessary be presented. This would be one way to keep communities of interest intact. It is also logical that the district boundaries conform to natural boundaries, since we are part of the Delaware River community. These goals were promoted in the Legislative Congressional Redistricting Act. That is not the case right now with District 24. Please prevent partisan gerrymandering. And please keep in mind that the responsibility of redistricting should be done by an independent commission with a diverse membership. Thank you again for giving me the time to express the need to stop gerrymandering and to request that Tinicum Township be returned to its Bucks County Senatorial District 10 with our Delaware River communities.