

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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October 29, 2012

The Honorable Joe Straus
Post Office Box 2910
Austin Texas 78768

Dear Speaker Straus:

I am writing to express my concerns over some of the issues raised by Representative Trey Martinez Fisher in his October 22 letter to you regarding redistricting. I initially was tempted to discount Representative Martinez Fisher's allegations, believing them to be mostly partisan in nature. But having looked at them more closely — and especially considering the depositions and emails which he provided — I do find some of his claims disconcerting.

Although I do not believe that any member of the House acted with the intent to discriminate or deprive anyone of their voting rights, I can see how the facts as presented by Representative Martinez Fisher might indicate otherwise. Political gain appears to have had a greater priority than propriety and fairness.

The emails and depositions attached to Representative Martinez Fisher's last letter certainly demonstrate that some members of the House were excluded from the map drawing process. And especially considering the scrutiny that the Voting Rights Act places Texas under, we should avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

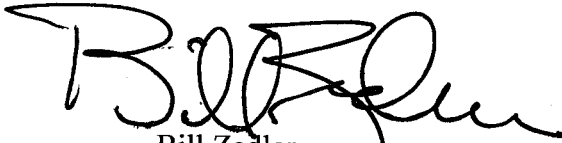
There are many more specific claims to be made, but clearly the process could have been handled better. As a member of the House and a steward of the taxpayers' dollars, and considering that these issues will presumably now have to be brought before the House yet again, I feel justified in seeking answers. And while I do not formally speak for other members in this letter, I have heard from others who share these concerns.



Page Two

The House members who in good faith voted for these redistricting maps certainly have the right to know that the process was conducted properly and fairly. I respectfully ask that you respond to the claims made so that the House and the people of Texas will have all of the facts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Zedler". The signature is stylized with large, sweeping letters and a long, trailing flourish that extends downwards and to the right.

Bill Zedler
State Representative

cc: Texas House of Members