

Members of the Redistricting Committee,

I am Tiffany Canaday, a resident of Hickory and President of the League of Women Voters Catawba Valley. While I would like to speak substantively to the issue of redistricting, I am unable to do so due to the unavailability of maps on which to comment. Instead, I wish to address the procedure of this and the other TWO statewide public hearings. I find the scheduling of these meetings to be inconvenient, obscure and hasty.

The notice of public meetings was published only one week preceding the first scheduled meeting and not widely publicized. I find this to lack the elements of transparency and accountability. Furthermore, the scheduling of only three hearings in the entire state of North Carolina excludes many residents. The timing of these meetings at 4 pm is inconvenient for those who work and/or have children and only one of the meetings is available to live stream. Finally, the lack of available maps on which to comment makes substantive testimony impossible. All of this brings the question of your intent and purpose with these meetings. We would request appropriate timely notice, inclusive hearings and transparency regarding the redistricting process.

Most importantly we request equitable, fair maps without racial or political bias which truly represent the communities in which we live.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.