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*House of Representatives*

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

January 3, 2022

**CHAIR**  
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEES**  
REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE

**LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS**  
STATE PLANNING BOARD  
YAMPO

Mark A. Nordenberg  
Chairman  
Pennsylvania Legislative Redistricting Commission

Dear Chancellor Nordenberg,

The House State Government Committee embarked on the most open and transparent congressional redistricting process in the history of the commonwealth. This process started on Jan. 24, 2021, with a joint hearing with the Senate State Government Committee on the U.S. Census data delay. In July, House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff and members of the House Republican Caucus announced a series of hearings and the launch of an unprecedented public input website: [www.PaRedistricting.com](http://www.PaRedistricting.com). In total, the House State Government Committee executed 13 hearings including eight regional hearings. This process culminated with the selection of a citizen-drawn map for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth. Most importantly, this citizen's map was created and updated without the use of partisan data to ensure partisan gerrymandering is a relic of the past. This is an important development in redistricting I think we should all prioritize.

More importantly, this fact was announced at the House State Government Committee's meeting on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, where the citizen mapmaker, Ms. Amanda Holt, testified and thoroughly went through her map design and map decisions. This was an important transparency step as it was scheduled after the preliminary map was released but before the House State Government Committee took any action on the preliminary map. Further, the preliminary map was posted on [www.PaRedistricting.com](http://www.PaRedistricting.com) for public comment over eight days. The current updated citizen's preliminary map was posted for public comment on [www.PaRedistricting.com](http://www.PaRedistricting.com) on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021 and continues to be available for public comment.

I believe the Legislative Reapportionment Commission would have been in better position had it followed the House State Government Committee process of releasing the preliminary prior to formal action by the Commission and provided Dr. Jonathan Cervas, the map creator, to testify before the Commission.

While the Commission cannot go back in time to release the preliminary map prior to it being approved, the Commission can and should hold a hearing to allow Dr. Cervas to testify on

his map decisions and allow members of the Commission, including yourself to vet these decisions in public.

We have an opportunity in Pennsylvania to do redistricting differently and move this Commonwealth away from partisan gerrymandering, provide much needed public input, and provide greater transparency to this process. I am hopeful you will hold a hearing with Dr. Cervas and join me in truly making this redistricting process the most open and transparent in Pennsylvania history.

Sincerely,

**Seth M. Grove**  
State Representative  
196<sup>th</sup> District

Cc: Speaker Bryan Cutler  
House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff  
President Pro Tempe Jake Corman  
Senate Majority Leader Kim Ward  
Geoff Moulton, Court Administrator of Pennsylvania