



From the Desk of Ana Lachelier

Connecticut General Assembly Reapportionment Commission
Legislative Office Building, Room 5300
Hartford, CT 06106

20 July, 2011

Dear Senator Williams, Representative Cafero and Members of the Reapportionment Commission,

As a citizen tax payer of Connecticut and a member of CT Common Cause, I urge this Committee to come forward and pledge to the voters of Connecticut that the process of redistricting in Connecticut be an open, transparent and accessible one. My reasons for this request are quite simple: I believe in open government and cannot comprehend how a State as evolved as ours does not have full transparency in redistricting. Why isn't the citizen entitled to know the "who", "what" and "where" of the process?

In connection to this, for better transparency, would it not be prudent for the Reapportionment Committee to consider allowing better media coverage and outreach? Since the issue of redistricting is an issue that concerns us all, why has an assumption been made that the public will comprehend the census data and indeed take the time to access the mapping software at the legislative office building? Better media coverage would correct this assumption.

The issue of counting prisoners in towns in which they are incarcerated and not their home addresses has totally baffled me. I urge this Committee to correct the federal census data to count incarcerated people at their legal address, the home where they will return, for redistricting purposes.

Finally in the nearly 30 years I have lived here in Connecticut I have come to admire and respect this State for its ability to correct its errors and come forward with decent, rational decisions and laws. We are not Texas with the likes of a Tom Delay who blatantly used his position to gerrymander that State. Hopefully we do not have those among us who would with blind partisanship sacrifice fidelity to the rule of law for partisan gain. This would be not only illegal but unjust.

I respectfully request that this Committee adhere to the principals of justice in this important decision on redistricting.

Sincerely,

Ana M. Lachelier
Board Member, Common Cause in Connecticut
128 Haynes Road
West Hartford, CT 06106

