

S.11 EMAIL, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

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Rama Schneider

Williamstown, VT

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Senate Committee on Government Operations

RE: S.11, "An act relating to limiting senatorial districts to a maximum of three members"

This letter is intended as public testimony. I am not an attorney.

My name is Rama Schneider, and I live in Williamstown, VT. My testimony is simple on its face: Vermont's current scheme for distributing state Representative and Senate districts is in direct violation of the United States constitution and Supreme Court of the United States

(SCOTUS) precedents.

I will for the purposes of illustration use the current Chittenden Senate district with six elected Senators and the Orange Senate district with one elected Senator.

Each individual in the Orange district is legally empowered to vote for and be represented in the Vermont Senate by one Senator. Each individual in the Chittenden district, however, is entitled to six Senators both in the voting booth and the Senate chambers. The math is

simple: an individual Chittenden district voter will have six times the representation that an individual in the Orange district will have.

The vernacular term "one man/one vote" defines in rough terms the federal constitutional requirement that states provide each individual with a republican form of government that ensures equal representation.

There is a SCOTUS decision, *Brown v. Thomson*, 462 U.S. 835 (1983), that allows for variations in the number of individuals a single elected representative may represent; but there are NO decisions that allow for an individual to have a varying number of elected representatives.

The logic of this is clear. Federal constitutional law requires there be no variation in the number of elected representatives from district to district.

I thank you for your time and consideration.