

## Jessi Tracy

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**From:** Goodrich, Chris <goodrich@middlebury.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 31, 2022 4:49 PM  
**To:** Redistricting2022  
**Subject:** [External] Comments

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I will be traveling all day tomorrow and am unable to attend the hearing for Addison county reapportionment but I would very much like to have my views considered.

The Bridport BCA has already met and submitted it's feedback but I would like to also emphasize that neither proposal meets the requirements set out in Section 1903(b) of V.S.A. Title 17.

Specifically "(2) recognition and maintenance of patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties, and common interests;" Bridport does not have strong social ties, common markets, or even share the same school district with New Haven, Waltham, Orwell, or Hubbardton.

And "(3) use of compact and contiguous territory." These proposals require 45 minutes to an hour to travel from one end of the district to the other. Some of these towns are not even in the same county. I am also not pleased that the number of voters in this district is larger than average. I understand that numbers have to deviate from the mean somewhat but it would be fairer to have larger numbers in more densely populated areas to minimize travel.

It appears that the alternate proposal being considered is just an attempt to stay with the status quo. It does nothing to address deficiencies that have been handed down through the years. I believe that the legislature's main priority here has been to protect current seats rather than to achieve the best possible representation. Though Vermont is fairer than some states this still reeks of gerrymandering. I do appreciate the effort that has been put into coming up with a solution agreeable to all but I'm afraid this may be beyond the abilities of mere humans. You have used computer programs to assist in analyzing your results but I would suggest that you let the computer offer its solution first, then look to see if anything has been missed. Start with the criteria spelled out in Section 1903(b) and add what is needed. If the program you are using can't do this there are others that can.

It is more important to do this right than it is to protect the status of those currently in the legislature.

Thank You,  
Chris Goodrich, Bridport

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