

Franklin 2-Fairfax Board of Civil Authority  
*Feedback on H589*

This BCA unanimously recommends, rather than reapportioning any part of Fairfax, to combine all of Fairfax with Fletcher and Fairfield to create a two representative district. *\*Please find the attached map.*

Rationale and comments:

The House of Representatives Tentative Reapportionment Proposal (TRP) outlay of FRA-7 was problematic for a number of reasons and this BCA responded with a reasonable alternative of creating a 2 representative district. As passed by the house, H589 creates a new Franklin-6 and is a far worse alternative for Fairfax residents and their collective voice. Although it keeps county lines and school districts intact as we suggested previously, it also unfortunately splits the town almost down the middle and therefore places all Fairfax residents in a minority voice with neighboring towns (also Georgia's BCA is clear that they do not wish to become a 2 representative district). This split of our town does not follow the standards by which the process is expected to adhere to and does not recognize the value of a unified Fairfax voice. Specifically, the preservation of "communities of interest" including "patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, political ties, and common interests" as well as preserving "contiguous territory" are not seen in H589. H589 not only disrupts the contiguous territory of the Town of Fairfax, it cleaves off vibrant areas. In addition, we contend that Fairfax's growth and vibrancy should be seen as a case where the Fairfax voice is at least preserved if not amplified. With its unique balance of classic rural lifestyle that includes multi-generational Vermont families and new out of state residents, the value of Fairfax's unique voice should be considered. Disjointing the town as seen in H589 seems unconscionable to this BCA and we therefore submit a friendly alternative. In an effort to keep Fairfax intact and truly preserve communities of interest, we have voted unanimously again to propose a 2 representative district with Fairfax, Fletcher, and Fairfield. *\*Please find the attached map.* This should bring the census numbers into line as needed in the reapportionment process with a -2.02 deviation which also takes into account Fairfax's projected continual growth. Again, we feel this recommendation for reapportionment is more consistent with the 17 V.S.A. § 1903 standards and keeps one of the few quickly growing areas of Vermont intact. We urge you to implement our recommendation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
*Franklin 2-Fairfax Board of Civil Authority*