

Board of Civil Authority, Chelsea, Vermont
P.O. Box 266
Chelsea, VT 05038

11 February 2022

House Committee on Government Operations

Dear Committee,

The Chelsea Board of Civil Authority held a public meeting on Thursday 10 February 2022 to discuss proposed House redistricting; and to receive an update from board member Levar Cole who provided testimony to your committee on Friday, 28 January 2022.

Thank you for considering our concerns related to dismissing our town's connection to our neighbors however, we cannot support the proposed map posted to the committee web-site on 10 February 2022 as it splits Williamstown. Given this proposed split of Williamstown, and a previous proposed split of Washington, we ask that you not consider splitting Chelsea. When asked about an option to split Chelsea during his testimony, Mr. Cole said the Chelsea BCA was not advocating that. We are emphatically requesting that our town remain intact and not split.

We are also frustrated by the deadlines for commenting on proposals. We are required to warn our BCA meetings days in advance, and as maps and proposals change, we are not able to meet and provide useful feedback to this committee. This concern was also expressed by our counterparts at the 28 January hearing, and by members of the Williamstown BCA at our 10 February meeting.

Our board, while frustrated with this process, still recognize the challenges you must navigate as a committee to ensure apportionment achieves substantially equal weighting of the votes of all voters. As you work, we ask you endeavor to preserve and strengthen the voice of rural Vermonters. If this requires a political district organized along the same lines as those today, then we ask that you accept a variance.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Board of Civil Authority