



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

August 5, 2021

Senator Duey Stroebel, Chair
Committee on Government Operations, Legal Review
and Consumer Protection
Room 18 South
Wisconsin State Capitol

Representative Rob Swearingen, Chair
Committee on State Affairs
Room 123 West
Wisconsin State Capitol

Dear Senator Stroebel and Representative Swearingen,

We write to express our support for Senate Bill 389 and Assembly Bill 395 and encourage you to schedule a public hearing and vote on these bills in your respective committees.

As you know, with each census conducted every ten years, legislative and congressional district lines are re-drawn. SB 389 and AB 395 will establish a non-partisan Redistricting Advisory Commission and identify rules for the Legislative Reference Bureau for drawing district boundaries. With new census data expected to be delivered in the coming weeks, there is critical urgency to move SB 389 and AB 395 forward through the Legislature.

Elected officials and voters from both parties agree that gerrymandering is one of the greatest threats to fair elections and our government. SB 389 and AB 395 have already gained bipartisan support from members of the legislature and we believe that an open and honest public discussion about the merits of these bills will further solidify support around redistricting reform.

The methods used to determine district lines are under extreme scrutiny from Wisconsin voters. According to a Marquette University Law School Poll, seventy-two percent of Wisconsin voters support a non-partisan redistricting commission. Voters are paying close attention. We must take action now to ensure fair maps and avoid costly litigation for state taxpayers.

As supporters of SB 389 and AB 395, we respectfully request a public hearing and vote for these important bills. Our government is designed for the people and by the people; we hope that the action you take on SB 389 and AB 395 reflects this.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Smith
31st Senate District

Representative Deb Andraca
23rd Assembly District

Representative Ohnstad
65th Assembly District

Senator Kelda Roys
26th Senate District

Representative Sinicki
20th Assembly District

Representative McGuire
64th Assembly District

Representative Pope
80th Assembly District