



Ohio Environmental Council
[Action Fund]

November 16, 2021

To: Members of the Ohio General Assembly
From: Heather Taylor-Miesle, President, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund

Re: **Scorecard Alert - Urging a NO Vote on SB 258**

Dear Honorable Senators and Representatives,

I am writing to inform you that the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) Action Fund will be scoring the vote on the proposed Congressional Redistricting Plan, particularly the map included in SB 258 for the purposes of our Legislative Scorecard for the 134th Ohio General Assembly. **For both the committee vote and the floor vote in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, we urge a no vote on SB 258. This bill and proposed congressional map goes against the express wishes of Ohio voters and violate the Ohio Constitution.** To the extent that the proposed Congressional Redistricting Plan passes, the OEC Action Fund will be doing extensive public education on the content and the votes on this legislation due to its detrimental impact to Ohio's democracy, Ohio's environment, and the health of Ohioans.

SB 258 violates the spirit of the 2018 congressional redistricting reform passed by a supermajority of Ohio voters. Ohioans overwhelmingly called for an end to partisan gerrymandering, a practice that sharply divides communities across the state and gives one political party a disproportionate share of representatives in Congress.

Ohioans overwhelmingly want clean water, healthy public lands, and increased renewable energy. The past ten years of gerrymandered congressional districts illustrate that without representatives responsive to their whole electorate, rather than one political party, Ohio's congressional delegation ignores these needs.

With urgent problems facing us, like the climate crisis, Ohioans deserve fair districts today. If SB 258 is amended to comport with the requirements of the Ohio Constitution and the express desire of Ohioans for fair districts, we will accordingly shift how we score the bill.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Trish Demeter at tdemeter@theoec.org.

Sincerely,

Heather Taylor-Miesle
President OEC Action Fund