

Hello.

First, I want to thank the members of the Committee for their service. I am fully aware that they have undertaken a difficult task and appreciate their considerable efforts and your's, Craig. I am concerned, however, that the Committee has included in District 10, which stretches from west of Mopac all the way to Lakeway and the most western city limits, my neighborhood just to the east of of Balcones Drive.

Since I began visiting my grandmother in Austin in 1960, I have wanted to live in the Balcones area. Now, after moving to Austin at least nine times, I finally do -- on the first street off Balcones, Edgemont Drive. My neighborhood, unlike the newer developments to the west, out 2222, is an older one. My house, for instance, was built the same year as I, in 1955. As an older neighborhood, we have an entirely different set of issues than those of the much newer neighborhoods to the west. As I am sure you have been informed, these concerns have been identified by the board of our neighborhood association, HPWBANA, as including (1) the future development of state-owned properties, like Camp Mabry, which sits directly behind my house; (2) wildfire risks in natural wooded areas, like those behind my house, whether owned by my neighbors and I or by Camp Mabry; and (3) the expansion of MoPac, which is already clearly audible in my back yard. The proximity of my redwood house, my beautiful old live oaks, my two dogs, and myself make these issues of acute concern to me.

For these reasons, I would very much appreciate it if you would reconsider including the Balcones and Highland Park areas in District 10. It would be far more suitable to include these areas with other older neighborhoods, like Tarrytown and Rosedale, with which we share these common issues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sarah Duncan