

I hope to testify at the hearing tomorrow, but in case I'm unable to do so, I am sending this by email. My name is Anne Taliaferro. I live just North of Pedee, in Representative Mike Nearman's district.

I'd like to urge you to cast your votes in favor of this bill. We've all seen the Red/Blue maps that purportedly show how divided our country is. This impression is exacerbated by the "winner take all" nature of our elections.

A map that shows the proportional vote BY COUNTY, shows a very different picture. Polk County, where I live, shows up on the map as bright red. However, 42.5% voted for Hillary Clinton and 8% voted for a third party candidate.

Our state shows up on these maps as solid blue, and yet over 40% of the electorate voted for Donald Trump and more than 7% voted for a third party candidate.

We are really a purple country.

As you know, we have an embarrassingly large proportion of eligible voters who don't even bother to vote. Given that the votes of Republicans living in so-called Blue states, and Democrats living in "Red states" don't even count, this is not surprising. Independents, whose ranks are growing every year, are at an even greater disadvantage.

This is not good for democracy. Presidential candidates should strive to earn votes from every American- not just those in swing counties in swing states.

You have an opportunity to correct this dangerous path our country is on by passing this bill and encouraging your colleagues to support it.

I urge you to do so.

Sincerely,
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