

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Bobby Scott
The Honorable Don Beyer
The Honorable Jennifer McClellan
The Honorable Suhas Subramanyam
The Honorable Eugene Vindman
The Honorable James Walkinshaw
United States House of Representatives

Dear Colleagues,

Six years ago, nearly 65 percent of Virginians amended our Constitution to create an independent redistricting commission and remove congressional map-drawing authority from politicians. That reform was bipartisan, voter-driven, and clear in its purpose: to prevent partisan gerrymandering and prevent politicians from picking their own voters.

You are now urging voters to suspend that independent system and return map-drawing power to politicians in the General Assembly ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

We write to express our strong disagreement.

For many years, you have spoken forcefully against partisan gerrymandering. Congressman Bobby Scott described mid-decade redistricting in North Carolina as “stealing three seats.” Congressman Eugene Vindman has said, “We didn’t start this fight here,” and acknowledged, “I am 100% in favor of a national program that would eliminate gerrymandering, but that is not where we are right now.” Congressman Don Beyer stated plainly, “Gerrymandering is cheating. It allows politicians to select their voters, when it should be the other way around.”

In 2019, Governor Abigail Spanberger said, “Gerrymandering is detrimental to our democracy. Opposing gerrymandering should be a bipartisan priority.” While running for governor, she added, “Short answer is no. I have no plans to redistrict Virginia.”

More recently, she stated that if opposition elsewhere were stronger, “the necessity of what you call fighting fire with fire or equalizing the quote unquote playing field would be less necessary.”

These statements make clear that the current proposal is not being advanced as a matter of neutral principle. It is being justified as retaliation.

If drawing district lines to secure a majority is “stealing seats” elsewhere, and if such actions are said to distort legislative outcomes and weaken oversight, it does not become principled governance when attempted in Virginia. A principle does not cease to apply because the political environment has shifted.

Virginia’s current congressional maps were drawn pursuant to the voter-approved constitutional framework by bipartisan experts appointed by the Virginia Supreme Court. They reflect the competitive political reality of our Commonwealth. The proposed 10–1 map, by contrast, would dramatically reshape Virginia’s representation in Congress and move nearly half of Virginians into new districts to engineer a predetermined outcome.

The ballot question asks voters whether the Constitution should be amended to “restore fairness in the upcoming elections.” But fairness was already restored in 2020 when Virginians removed map-drawing authority from politicians.

Nothing in Virginia's census data has changed. The Constitution has not changed. The only thing that has changed is the political environment.

Constitutional guardrails exist precisely for moments like this — when the temptation to alter the rules for short-term advantage is strongest. If those guardrails can be suspended once, they can be suspended again.

A circuit court judge has already found that the referendum process was likely advanced in violation of Virginia law and the Constitution. Despite that finding, the General Assembly has scheduled a referendum vote for April 21.

This is a consequential decision for the integrity of our constitutional framework and for the confidence Virginians place in their electoral system. This decision carries consequences far beyond one election cycle. It concerns whether constitutional guardrails can be suspended whenever the political stakes are high enough.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider your support for this amendment and to join us in defending the independent redistricting reform that Virginia voters overwhelmingly approved.

Sincerely,

Virginia's Republican Members of Congress

The Honorable Robert J. Wittman

The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith

The Honorable Ben Cline

The Honorable Jen Kiggans

The Honorable John J. McGuire