

Dear Ms Humes,

I write to express my firm opposition to counting incarcerated people as residents of the place where they are incarcerated. The most basic definition of residency hinges on an intent to be someplace. No prisoner intends to be where they are incarcerated. They intend to be where they're from. It's why they leave when they're released. They have NEVER intended to reside at a facility they were assigned to without volition or input.

I wish we lived in a society where this was a tiny insignificant rounding error. But it's not. It's millions of displaced people further traumatized and disempowered by counting their voices as supporting their captors.

Prison gerrymandering is offensive precisely because it expropriates the power of the most voiceless and defenseless in our society, and arrogates that power to their captors.

That's just fundamentally un-American.

Thank you.

David Feige