



STATE OF ARKANSAS

May 24, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

On Monday, May 24, 2021, the Board of Apportionment convened for the first time to discuss a general timeline for the redistricting of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate, otherwise known as the Arkansas General Assembly.

The Arkansas Constitution tasks the Board with redistricting the Arkansas General Assembly in the year immediately following the decennial census. The redistricting of the General Assembly cannot be completed without the relevant redistricting data from the 2020 Census.

The Board of Apportionment has historically performed this work in the spring and summer immediately following the delivery of redistricting data to the states between February and March of the year following the Census. In 2011, the Board of Apportionment received redistricting data from the U.S. Census bureau on February 10, 2011.

The Bureau released 2020 apportionment data for the U.S. House of Representatives on Monday, April 26, 2021: nearly four months behind schedule. A four-month delay of redistricting data would amount to a delivery of 2020 redistricting data to the State of Arkansas by June 10, 2021. However, we have been informed redistricting data will be released to states by September 30, 2021, with a potential release of legacy data sometime in mid-to-late August 2021.

This delay places an unreasonable burden on the Board as it seeks to perform its constitutional duties. More importantly, this delay undermines public trust in the foundations of our democratic republic. As a result, we write to you seeking the release

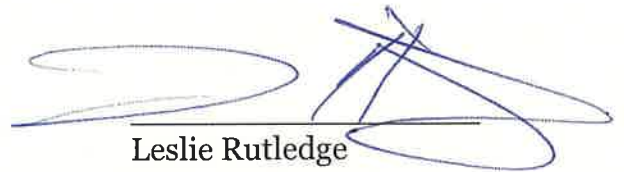
of redistricting data as soon as possible so that we may begin to perform this important task on behalf of Arkansans.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your continued service to our great nation.

Sincerely,



Asa Hutchinson
Governor



Leslie Rutledge
Attorney General



John Thurston
Secretary of State