January 5, 2021 Eric Babson babson@math.ucdavis.edu 1094 Cragmont Avenue Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Secretary Padilla:

I am concerned about democracy. The Senate like the electoral college and the House of Lords is a relic of an outdated political compromise which has brought legislation nearly to a halt for at least a decade with the current inability to act even in the face of an epidemic induced economic collapse a particularly jolting reminder. Perhaps President Obama, Senator McConnell and the 1911 Parliament Act together have the right idea. Instead of the filibuster President Obama objects to, sixty votes could be required to stop a House bill. The business of the Senate could remain what it is now - advice and consent to the executive over judicial appointments. Such a change might maintain a functioning federal democracy.

Please assure me that you will back rules weakening the 117th Senate.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our democracy.

Sincerely, Eric Babson