

Dear Lt. Governor Wasinger,

I love America because we are divided.

Not necessarily that there is a left and a right, but that there's a fork in the road - a choice. We spend a lot of time pondering our differences, arguing over who is wrong and who is terrible and who is indoctrinating our kids. We argue about the future of our country, the present, and the past. We bite each other's heads off about the economy. I've witnessed heated arguments about whether it was sprinkling or misting outside (it was sprinkling, but I digress).

The point is, Americans disagree - and we're allowed to. From the moment our Constitution was written, we were given the right to free speech. We were given the right to write about our opinions. We were given the right to protest things we disagree with. Our Founding Fathers gave us the greatest freedom we could have asked for - the freedom to disagree.

Watching the Olympics this winter made me realize that despite all of our differences, the citizens of America can put our differences aside and root for our country. For example, no one I know had heard of curling before, but suddenly the whole country was an expert, proudly cheering for the USA. I mean, we couldn't just let Canada win! In these moments, our differences fade, and we all truly love supporting our amazing, free country.

Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand", but I'd like to amend that. I say a house divided against itself cannot stand if it refuses to listen. But if it debates, learns, and ultimately chooses unity, it doesn't fall. It becomes stronger than it ever was before.

And this is why I love America. I don't love it because we all think the same, but because we think differently; we're allowed to disagree. I love America because we are free enough to choose unity anyway.

Thank you,

Eleanor Fishing