

Brenda A. Wise

From: Ellen Kelly-Lind <ellenkellylind@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

to the Special Master; Regarding Congressional District Map

Sir,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the new voting maps you have drawn (although, the comment period is VERY short).

I live in the Town of Bethlehem in NY20.

Bethlehem is a suburb of Albany. Albany is considered to be in the Capitol Region of NY, as are Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy.

These five cities and their surrounding areas should be kept together in one Capitol District Congressional District. We have a strong identity together and are served by the same transportation systems, educational institutions and cultural institutions.

Additionally, I know that in the ideal world, every Congressional District in the State would have the same number of residents. However, I don't understand how your drawing the maps that way (give or take one, up or down) ensures that communities of interest stay together.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,
Ellen Kelly-Lind

9 Maple Terrace, Delmar, NY 12054

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jim Adams <jima@naturalpower.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:12 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Good afternoon,

I'm writing this note to express my displeasure with the proposed redistricting that will take the City of Saratoga, the location where I chose to start my business out of the Capital Region's Congressional District. As a business owner with over 40 staff located throughout the region, I can tell you that our interests and needs are much more closely aligned with that of the broader Capital Region than the North Country. Separating the City of Saratoga from the Capital District would be a shame and I most certainly would not feel that our needs are being represented appropriately relative to our area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Jim

Jim Adams
President, North America Operations
tel: +1 518 308 0200
mobile: +1 518 867 6090
email: jima@naturalpower.com

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Brenda A. Wise

From: ERM <erm476@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:15 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Hello

Keep our district together. We are the capital district and we need our representative to cover this district.

We understand that you can fix our district by restoration of the capital regions Congressional district.

Thanks
Elizabeth Mulvey
Albany NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Susan Robbiano <robbianos@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:16 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Please keep Amsterdam and Saratoga Springs in the 20th Congressional District. They share municipal commonalities and must be 'together'!

Thank you.
Susan Robbiano

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Brenda A. Wise

From: JoAnn Coughlin <joann.t.coughlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

Good afternoon,

As a resident of the city of Amsterdam, NY for my entire life, I am strongly opposed to the draft Congressional map that would remove my community from a Congressional district centered in New York's Capital Region.

Amsterdam strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Saratoga Springs. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities, and just this month it was announced that the Capital District Transportation Authority would be expanding its service into Amsterdam. The United Way of the Greater Capital Region announced that Montgomery County will be joining their ranks. Here are two prime examples of how the Capital Region sees value in being connected to our area and how our relationships continue to strengthen.

Placing Amsterdam into a district that stretches to the Canadian border with communities that have much different needs than our own will ultimately be detrimental to our community. I urge you to include Amsterdam in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Coughlin

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Claire Tarantino <cstarantino16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Saratoga Springs should stay in 20th district

What in the name of God are you
doing to the city of Saratoga Springs ?
Many Saratoga residents do NOT belong in a strong Republican district!
We are diverse in the city of Saratoga Springs. We are forward thinking, not reactionary.
Many Republicans are fighting to
keep the people from moving forward to protect our diversity.
I strongly disagree with being forced into the 21st district.
Many of us have less in common
with the North Country than we do
with Albany & parts South.
Stop trying to force people to stay
as your minions.
I am trying to remain an Independent.
I am losing faith daily in the autocratic policies of todays GOP.
Claire Tarantino

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Gmail <sandycrenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I have lived in this district my whole adult life between Albany and Saratoga. It is extreme disappointing to see this attempt at redistricting. Please keep the the 20th as it is.

Alexandra Crenson
Saratoga Springs, NY

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Jess Bodie Richards <jessbodie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: New York State Senate Districts: Bay Ridge 17, 26, 23

Dear Justice McAllister's Clerk,

I do not follow voter redistricting closely, however, I'm alarmed that the most recent state senate district for my neighborhood, Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, will be gerrymandered into 3 different districts: 17, 26, 23. I understood this independent redistricting was meant to be more fair and give better representation to neighborhoods. Despite the diversity of this neighborhood, Bay Ridge is a cohesive and true neighborhood. It's perimeter goes a few blocks beyond the highways that surround it. The new state senate map lines look completely random with a big jagged line through the middle. These new district lines will dilute the voice of Bay Ridge in the NY State Senate, and will therefore dilute MY voice. Please reconsider the Bay Ridge state senate district lines to adhere more to the true neighborhood Bay Ridge lines (refer to the surrounding highways).

Regards,

Jessica Bodie Richards

97 80th St.

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Karen Carpenter <kc17912@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:21 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Have Paul Tonko's district include his hometown of Amsterdam.

Sent from my iPhone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Paul Kligfield <pkligfi@med.cornell.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Please keep the Capitol district together

As a citizen of Saratoga Springs, I urge you to keep the current Capitol district intact so that we will continue to be represented by Paul Tonko in Congress. We have unique local issues that he understands and our representation would be diluted by admixture in more northern districting.

Thank you,

Paul Kligfield, MD
10 Stratton Street
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Louise Pillai <louisepillai@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Dear Leaders Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Carl Heastie, Michael Gianaris, & Andrew Lanza and anyone else concerned:

I support the Columbia County Democratic Committee's recommendation that my county, Columbia County, should be kept whole, without any distortions of boundaries that would exclude or divide towns or the city of Hudson in any redistricting plans. Members of the Committee have attended the Independent Redistricting Commission meetings and analyzed the draft plans. They have found that those plans significantly disadvantage Columbia County based on the following:

1. Preservation of Political Subdivisions
2. Compactness
3. Preservation of Communities of Interest
4. Historical Representation

These categories are explained by the Committee as follows:

PRESERVATION OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS Our 648 square mile rural/agricultural county is composed of 18 towns and the small city of Hudson, that are economically, historically, and culturally bound together. According to the 2021 US Census data, Columbia County has a population of 61,570 people. Our county should be kept whole, without any distortions of boundaries that would exclude or divide towns or the city of Hudson in any redistricting plans. The City of Hudson is the seat of County government. Dividing our county would dilute constituent engagement and constituent services. Throughout our county, we need greater housing

options and affordability, upgraded roads, bridges and dams, improved public transportation, expanded sewer and water infrastructure, increased broadband access and availability, greater access to healthcare, continued historic preservation efforts, and conservation of our natural resources. Having a single legislator to advocate for our entire county whether in Congress, the State Assembly or the State Senate will best serve our current needs and future challenges. We are rural, not urban or suburban. Dividing our county would undermine the political power we have grown over the past decade. We are stronger together.

COMPACTNESS

Columbia County is located along the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley and should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties when redistricted. The counties of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster and Greene in the Mid-Hudson Valley have a common history, developing major agricultural and industrial centers because of their proximity to the Hudson River. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined population of the 5 counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average Congressional district.

PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

The unique specialty agriculture of the Mid-Hudson Valley requires representation that understands what makes it thrive. Much like our neighboring counties, Columbia County has many small to mid-sized farms, orchards, livestock, wineries and breweries. These are our economic drivers. Farms, farmers' markets and farm stands are an integral part of Columbia County landscape and an outsized contribution to the quality of life, open space and rural character. They provide much of the local foods to the thriving restaurants, inns and resort areas in the region that attract visitors and new residents alike to our area. Many of these small farms and farmers are leaders in conservation, biodynamic farming, regenerative agriculture and sustainability in NY State. Of the 16 types of agriculture listed in the USDA 2017 Census, one or more of these 5 Mid-Hudson Valley counties were among the top 10 New York State producers in 7 of these categories. Being represented by a single legislator means funding can be directed toward

continued leadership in this area. Historically, the first great American art movement, the Hudson River School of painters led by Thomas Cole and Frederick Church, developed because of the distinctive character of the region. Their homes still exist as state historic sites, as do other homes of notable historic New Yorkers throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley.

Neighboring rural counties, with small populations as well, located along the Hudson River are a rich source of year-round outdoor recreational activities that draw many visitors, and add to the tourism economy. Our proximity to New York City, has created a rich year-round arts community, with many artists, painters, dancers, musicians and actors, galleries and antique stores, that all create a destination for tourism. A growing population of NYC dual homeowners and new residents who moved northward to escape the Coronavirus has accelerated the trend. Newer residents are starting local small businesses adding to the economic diversity in their county.

Throughout the Hudson Valley, there are small to medium sized cities with diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic and gender/sexual orientation. The city of Hudson's diversity is a dynamic source of Columbia County's cultural pride. The five County Seat Cities of Hudson, Poughkeepsie, Troy, Kingston and Catskill had a similar rise as major industrial cities that suffered steep economic declines in the first half of the 20th century, but are now experiencing a great resurgence. These cities have higher poverty levels than the surrounding countryside, and have similar challenges to meet the need for infrastructure, broadband, workforce housing, and healthcare throughout the counties.

HISTORICAL REPRESENTATION

Assemblymember Didi Barrett has represented Columbia County's 106th Assembly District since 2012. Assemblymember Barrett understands the identity of our county and the needs of our community. She just secured \$1 million dollars to support the capital development plans for a new sustainably designed visitors' center at the Olana State Historic Site, the home of the Hudson River painter Frederic Church. Assemblymember Barrett has sponsored many bills and secured funding throughout her tenure for many much-needed services for veterans, women's services, libraries, Lyme disease research and prevention, and our farms and farmers. However, she is

accessible to only some Columbia County constituents, not all, since this small County was divided into 3 Assembly districts during the last redistricting. Particularly egregious has been the gerrymandering of the two small towns of Stuyvesant and Stockport into the AD102 across the Hudson River with no access by land. These mistakes should not be made again. The 106th Assembly district should include all 18 towns and the city of Hudson in Columbia County.

I very much hope you will give due consideration to the above and keep Columbia County whole in your redistricting plans.

Very sincerely,
Louise Pillai

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Brenda A. Wise

From: rph5301 <rph5301@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Saratoga Springs congressional district affiliation

I am opposed to city of Saratoga Springs being affiliated with the North Country congressional district vs. the Capital Region congressional district. Our city has much more in common with the municipalities south of us (Albany, Troy, Rensselaer, Schenectady, etc.) than the rural region of the Adirondacks north of us.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my dismay and opposition to this plan.

Richard Hasenauer
14 Longwood Dr.
Saratoga Springs, NY 22866

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy A11, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Zev Feldstein <zevfeld@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:25 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Redistricting

My name is Zev Feldstein. I am submitting this testimony in protest of the new maps that were released for the New York Senate. The Jewish communities of Kew Gardens Hills and Hillcrest were heavily involved in asking the Independent Redistricting Commission to keep these neighborhoods together. Furthermore, Pomonok Houses, and Electchester cooperative have always been part of our district, they are our neighbors, and many of our families originate from these public housing entities.

In the state legislature's plan, they took into account our testimony and made a district that combined most of the Jewish community in Central Queens. Kew Gardens Hills has been gerrymandered into a South East Queens State Senate District. Pomonok, Electchester and Hillcrest have been split off into a Flushing centered district. This is splitting our communities up. Communities of interest must be together in one district.

We ask that in your final draft, you put the neighborhoods of Kew Gardens Hills, Pomonok, Electchester, and Hillcrest into the district you drew of central Queens with Forest Hills, Rego Park, Middle Village, and Glendale. Please remove Ozone Park and Richmond Hill as they are not the same communities of interest as we are to the neighborhoods mentioned above.

Sincerely,

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Mary Stokes <mestokes67@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:26 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Congressional Districts

I am writing in regard to the new district maps that were issued today
So many people drive across county lines her to work, to shop, to live.
The Capital District is considered as a whole area, splitting it into separate districts will dilute the ability for the residents in those counties to be heard in Washington.
Please reconsider breaking up Congressional District 20
Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Schoharie counties should be in District 20.

Thank you
Mary Stokes
8 Wintergreen Way
Halfmoon, NY 12065

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Louise Roback <lroback@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Cc: Sam Hodge
Subject: Columbia County & Redistricting

Dear Mr. Cervas,

As a long time Columbia County resident, I am very dismayed to learn that you have proposed putting Columbia County with counties far on the other side of the Hudson River, west from Greene County to Chenango and other counties that really have nothing in common with Columbia County.

Our history in Columbia County is focused on the Hudson River, and have no similarities to the western or southern tier counties of Broome, Chenango or Tioga counties and the like. That is also an impossible geographic distance for our Congressional representative to travel east-west.

Columbia County belongs with the other mid-Hudson counties. We share farming/agriculture, economic, historic and creative/artistic endeavors, challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Greene and Rensselaer Counties. We share nothing with Tioga or Chenango counties except perhaps a lack of tall urban office buildings!

Sincerely,

Louise Roback
Stockport, NY

Louise G. Roback
LROBACK@icloud.com
518.788.7510

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Almeda Riley <riley5558@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I have severe doubts about the wisdom of breaking apart what we who live here call the Capital Region, We have many interests either shared or in common. Therefore, being together in one Congressional Ddistrict make huge sense. Please reconsider the district lines, and keep us together!

Almeda C. Riley
156 Lawrence Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Deborah Garrelts <dgarrelts1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:27 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

I have no desire to be included in this unfair redistricting. I live in Saratoga Springs, and her extreme right views do not represent me, my family, my neighbors and my city

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Brenda A. Wise

From: Midge gmail <midgemcgraw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 2:28 PM
To: Brenda A. Wise
Subject: Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

This was not independent redistribution. Nor, does it reflect the population it is supposed to represent. These current maps represent partisan Republican interests and need to be thrown out with "true" independent crafters assigned.

Sent from my iPad

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