

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** margaretafoley@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:36 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New congressional maps

I am writing to register my objections to the new congressional district map.

I live in district 6, which runs roughly from the Cross Island on the east to Forest Hills on the west, and from Elmhurst on the north to the Jackie Robinson on the south. The new maps place my section of Queens in district 3, where it's lumped in with northern Nassau County "Gold Coast" towns that have little in common with my area and aren't even part of NYC.

In the past I always felt that my congressperson truly represented my interests and the concerns of my section of Queens, which has an interesting mix of urban/suburban areas and has been dealing with significant development and change during the years I've lived here. With the new configuration, however, particularly given that my section of Queens will be such a relatively small part of district 3, I believe that my family's concerns won't be valued and my political voice will be muffled, drowned out by the generally more affluent and settled communities of Long Island.

I strongly object to the new map. While I can see that parts of the Democrats' map were obvious land grabs, can't we do better than this?

Sincerely,

Margaret Foley  
21119 38th Avenue  
Bayside, NY 11361

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Adriana Barba <adrianabny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:37 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Amsterdam in NY20

To whom concern:

Please keep our Amsterdam in NY20 in connection with the Capital Region.

As a resident of the city of Amsterdam, NY, 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 it's service into Amsterdam. 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.

Thank you for listening,  
Adriana and Eddie Barba

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Anne Ernst <anne.g.ernst@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:38 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** NY Congressional redistricting

Dear Sir,

As a resident of the City of Saratoga Springs NY, 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. Saratoga Springs strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Amsterdam. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities. Placing Saratoga Springs 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 Saratoga Springs in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,  
Anne Ernst  
169 York Ave  
Saratoga Springs

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Linda LaViolette <lalaviolette@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:40 AM  
**To:** Cervas@cmu.edu; Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Comments on Redistricting

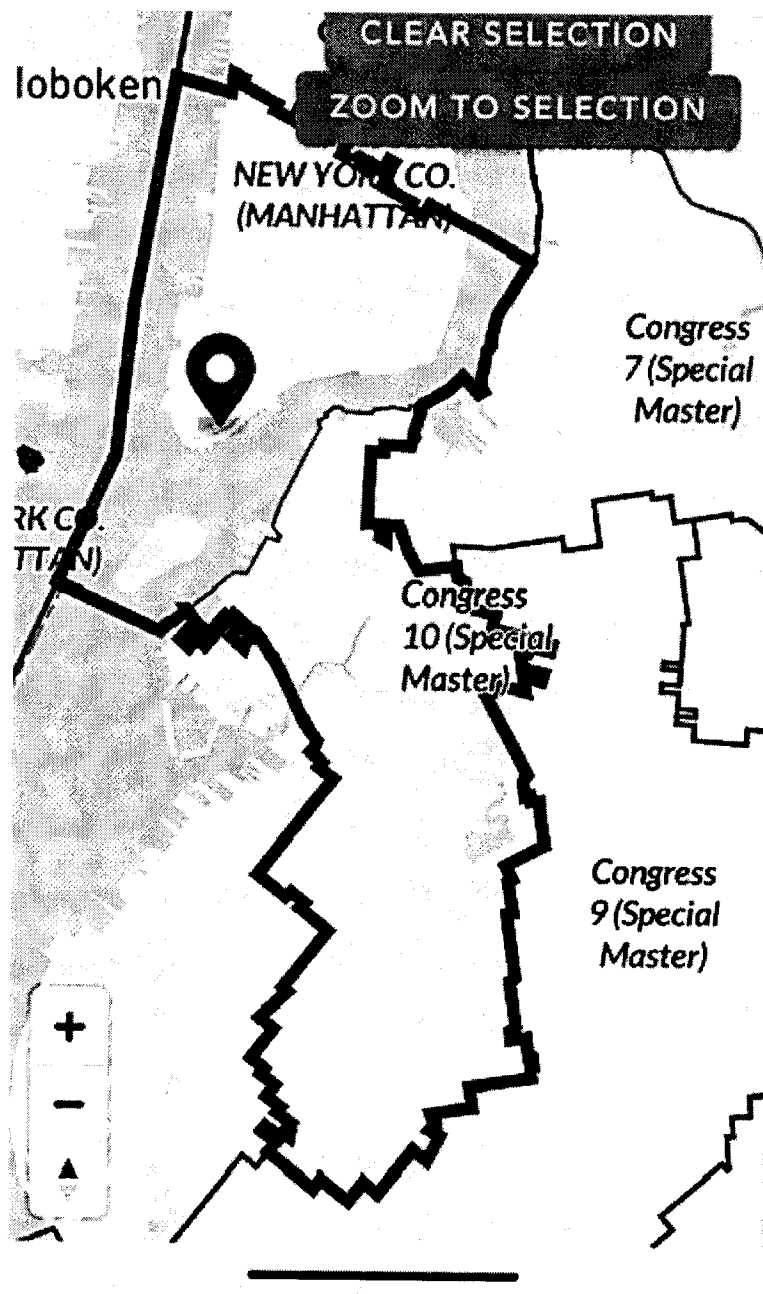
Dear Justice McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

I am a resident of Congressional District NY-7. While the proposed map does keep the Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, and Gowanus area together, it excludes Red Hook which should also be included as we share a navigable superfund site (the Gowanus Canal), schools, libraries, a post office, recreational facilities, a community board, etc. Many residents in the adjoining neighborhoods frequently shop, dine, and attend performances in Red Hook, and vice versa. NY-7's representative has chosen Red Hook as her home.

NY-7 is a Latino plurality VRA district and much of the district will lose this vital representation as the proposed maps cut the current NY-7 in half while unnecessarily creating a new and unrepresented NY-10. NY-7 should be drawn to include Red Hook, Carroll Gardens, Gowanus, along with Sunset Park (which shares communities of interest with other NY-7 neighborhoods of Bushwick and the Manhattan Chinatown) which shares a school district (15). Gowanus and its neighbors share communities of interest with the other NY-7 neighborhoods. These neighborhoods and their communities of interest should stay unified in the NY7 Congressional district.

Sincerely,

Linda LaViolette



Linda LaViolette  
917 620 3796  
lalaviolette@hotmail.com

*Keep distractions away from the calm core of your inward mind*

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** drhoyte@restorationplaza.org on behalf of Colvin W Grannum  
<cwgrannum@restorationplaza.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:43 AM  
**To:** STEUBEN\_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu  
**Cc:** Jackson, Tasia; maron.alemu@mailhouse.gov  
**Subject:** Comments on Draft Maps  
**Attachments:** 51722\_ColvinGrannum\_PublicComments onDraftMaps.PDF

Good Morning:

I urge you to consider the comments contained in my letter attached here and the profound effects redistricting would have on the community of Bedford Stuyvesant.

Thank you.

Colvin W. Grannum  
President & CEO  
Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp.  
1368 Fulton Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11216  
Office: (718) 636-6930  
Fax: (718) 636-0511

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.restorationplaza.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cbwise%40nycourts.gov%7C6278d7a62e8242c6e38708da38dc458f%7C3456fe92cbd1406db5a35364bec0a833%7C0%7C0%7C637884816373320727%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=YIZgJm7%2BiMVWAuufa17cWyudsc%2B6V8k06GkfJ%2BbS5rc%3D&reserved=0>

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May 17, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister  
Acting Supreme Court Justice  
Steuben County Supreme & County Court  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, New York 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
Institute for Politics and Strategy  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Posner Hall 386  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

I write to you as the President and CEO of the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation and, more importantly, as a proud, native son of the Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood – a historically Black community that has been the beating heart of the 8th congressional district for over five decades.

Our district, once represented by the legendary Shirley Chisholm, was created in 1968 pursuant to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. For decades, the Bedford Stuyvesant community has remained intact under one congressional district, which has allowed our residents to effectively advocate for our shared needs at the federal level. That is, until now. The draft map that you released on Monday shatters this historic neighborhood and dilutes the voting power of one of the most iconic Black communities in America.


The goal of redistricting is to keep communities of interest together so they can advocate for their shared priorities. I struggle to see how, according to your analysis, Bedford Stuyvesant is not a community of interest that merits being kept whole. From the business corridors of Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue, to our public schools and police precincts, to our public transit hubs, our neighborhood is deeply connected by shared institutions. Our needs simply cannot be adequately represented if our community is torn apart in the haphazard ways you have done in your draft map. Furthermore, the New York State Constitution clearly states that, during the

redistricting process, the core of the congressional districts should be protected. I struggle to see how anyone could deny that Bedford Stuyvesant serves as the core of the 8th congressional district.

Through my work with the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, I've seen firsthand how our community members are struggling as the cost of living continues to rise and life-long neighborhood residents are being pushed out of the places they've called home for generations. Breaking apart Bedford Stuyvesant, as you have done with your draft map, injects unnecessary chaos into a community that is still recovering from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic and enduring the economic consequences of gentrification. Our diverse and tight-knit neighborhood is undergoing rapid change and, to meet the challenges that come with this, it is imperative that we have stability and consistency in our representation to best advocate for our community's needs as a whole – as we have had the ability to do for over five decades.

I urge you to reconsider the boundaries of the congressional districts you have drawn in Central Brooklyn and to truly take into account the history of the Bedford Stuyvesant community as you finalize these new maps.

Sincerely,



Colvin W. Grannum

President & CEO, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation





May 17, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister  
Acting Supreme Court Justice  
Steuben County Supreme & County Court  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, New York 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
Institute for Politics and Strategy  
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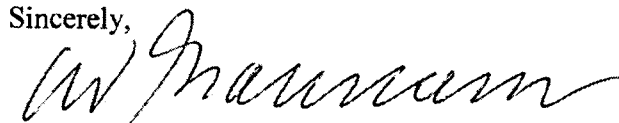
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Sincerely,



Colvin W. Grannum

President & CEO, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** J Edward Kautz <jedkautz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:41 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep the Capital Region Congressional District Together!

Dear Special Master,

I am a resident of Schenectady, NY. I am disappointed by your proposed Congressional District 20 boundaries. It separates Amsterdam and Saratoga Springs from District 20. These cities are now part of District 20. Other Cities in the "Capital District" are Albany, Schenectady, and Troy. "Capital District" cities share many of the same services like CDTA and SUNY Colleges.

Please revise the boundaries of District 20 to include Amsterdam and Saratoga Springs

Sincerely,

Jerry Edward Kautz  
[jedkautz@gmail.com](mailto:jedkautz@gmail.com)  
1147 Keyes Ave  
Schenectady, NY 12309

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Osse, Chi <COsse@council.nyc.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:41 AM  
**To:** STEUBEN\_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; 'cervas@cmu.edu'  
**Cc:** Hopkins, Naomi  
**Subject:** Response to proposed maps  
**Attachments:** Response to Proposed Maps.pdf

Dear Judge McCallister:

I am the Council Member for New York City's 36th District representing, Bedford-Stuyvesant and North Crown Heights. I write to express serious concern with the draft congressional map released by the Special Master. This map was drawn – and would be imposed – in an undemocratic manner and against the interests of my community. I urge you not to adopt it.

My constituents in Crown Heights and Bedford Stuyvesant will be negatively impacted if this map is allowed to stand. The elected representatives of these historically Black communities of Bedford Stuyvesant and Crown Heights were ignored and overruled. Our community underwent intensive processes of education and organizing to present their desires during the public comment period. The proposition of these maps ignores their hard work and desire to keep their community culturally whole. Considering the plight of Black families and elders in this state, we should embrace their voices as opposed to supplanting their decisions with those of an unelected white technocrat from outside of New York City.

These lines, commissioned by a conservative court, were drawn without local input and with almost surgical precision to diminish Black voting strength in our city and state. They are unacceptable.

In that vein, I again state my opposition to the draft map and urge you to reconsider alternatives, like the unity map proposed by civic and good government groups.



Chi Ossé  
New York City Council Member, District 36

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**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
RESTORATION PLAZA  
1360 FULTON STREET, SUITE 500  
BROOKLYN, NY 11216  
**TEL:** (718) 919-0740  
**FAX:** (718) 857-3555

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1743  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
**TEL:** (212) 788-7354  
**FAX:** (212) 788-8951

**E-MAIL:** District36@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**CHI OSSÉ**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 36<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

**CHAIR**  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES,  
AND INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS

**COMMITTEES**  
CONSUMER AND WORKER PROTECTIONS  
FINANCE  
GENERAL WELFARE  
PUBLIC HOUSING  
SANITATION AND SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
YOUTH SERVICES

**May 18, 2022**

**DRAFT - SENT VIA E-MAIL**

Hon. Patrick McAllister  
Steuben County Supreme & County Court  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, NY 14810

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These lines, commissioned by a conservative court, were drawn without local input and with almost surgical precision to diminish Black voting strength in our city and state. They are unacceptable.

In that vein, I again state my opposition to the draft map and urge you to reconsider alternatives, like the unity map proposed by civic and good government groups.

Chi Ossé  
New York City Council Member, District 36

CC: John Cervas, Special Map Master

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Paul Peluso <ppeluso@powerpalletinc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:43 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting

As a life long REPUBLICAN resident of the city of Amsterdam I am strongly opposed to the draft congressional map the would remove Amsterdam from the district centered in New York's capital region. Amsterdam strongly identifies with the capital region in every way. Many work in the capital district schools are identified with the capital district. Amsterdam is truly a city of need much like the inner cities of the capital district. There are many minorities here with economic needs transportation needs etc. This city has nothing in common with the north country Please please don't change this status.

Sincerely

Paul Peluso

Amsterdam NY

**Paul Peluso**

**Business Development**

**4715 State Highway 30**

**Amsterdam, NY 12010**

**Office: (518) 843-3100 Ext. 149**

**Cell: (518) 365-7290**



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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Dora Aminov <daminov87@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:43 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Protest

My name is Dora Aminov. 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 legislatures 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 has 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,

Dora Aminov

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Jay Rogoff <jrogoff@skidmore.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:45 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise; cervas@cmu.edu  
**Cc:** Jay Rogoff  
**Subject:** Keep Saratoga Springs in CD 20

Dear Justice McAllister and Prof. Cervas,

I want to thank you for your hard work in redrawing New York's Congressional Districts, done at great speed and under great pressure.

I'm writing, however, as a 37-year resident of Saratoga Springs to object strongly to the inclusion of our city in the redrawn Congressional District 21. I want to urge you to reinstate Saratoga Springs into District 20, along with the other Capital Region cities. Demographically and politically, our city has much more in common with those larger cities to our south than with the state's North Country, which is overwhelmingly rural, agricultural, and wilderness. Many who live here work in Albany, Schenectady, or Troy, and our economic needs, and our social and political concerns, sort much more closely with those of other citizens in that region than with those of residents living up near the Canadian border. The urban and suburban issues we face in Saratoga Springs will receive far closer attention, and will have much more effective representation, if we remain in District 20.

Thank you,  
Jay Rogoff

Jay Rogoff  
35 Pinewood Avenue  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-2622  
[jrogoff@skidmore.edu](mailto:jrogoff@skidmore.edu)

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Alison Rhodes <alison.rhodes51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:45 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Congressional Map

Hello!

As a resident of the city of Saratoga Springs, NY, 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. Saratoga Springs strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Amsterdam. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities. Placing Saratoga Springs 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 Saratoga Springs in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

Alison Rhodes-Devey

39 North Street

Saratoga Springs 12866

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Alison Rhodes <alison.rhodes51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:45 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Congressional Map

Hello!

As a resident of the city of Saratoga Springs, NY, 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. Saratoga Springs strongly identifies with the greater Capital Region and has strong economic and transportation ties to communities like Schenectady, Albany, Troy, and Amsterdam. Many of our residents work and have families in these communities. Placing Saratoga Springs 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 Saratoga Springs in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.

Alison Rhodes-Devey

39 North Street

Saratoga Springs 12866

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Anna Everhardt <everhardt@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

Good morning —

As a resident of the city of Amsterdam, NY, 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 it's service into Amsterdam. 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,  
Anna Everhardt

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Clark Richters <clark12401@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Cc:** CahillK@nyassembly.gov  
**Subject:** E2022-0116CV Harkenrider v. Hochul

I do not agree with dividing the City of Kingston into two congressional districts. and I support Assemblymember Cahill's public comment.

Clark Richters Sr  
3 Garraghan Dr, Apt 1334,  
Kingston New York

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** B Kasirer <femalefeld@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:47 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Senate districts

My name is brooke kasirer, 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 legislatures 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 has 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,  
Brooke Kasirer

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Best regards,  
B. Kasirer, Psy.D.

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Henry Butler <bedstuyhank@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:49 AM  
**To:** STEUBEN\_SUPERIOR; Brenda A. Wise; Cervas@cmu.edu  
**Cc:** Henry Butler  
**Subject:** Redistricting Response Letter  
**Attachments:** Redistricting Response Letter.pdf

Good morning Honorable Patrick McAllister and Jonathan Cervas,

Please see the attached letter with my response to the congressional district map submitted for the 8th congressional district.

*Thank You*  
*Henry L. Butler*  
*District Manager*  
*Brooklyn Community Board #3*

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May 17, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister  
Acting Supreme Court Justice  
Steuben County Supreme & County Court  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, New York 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
Institute for Politics and Strategy  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Posner Hall 386  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

As Bed-Stuy's Community Board 3 District Manager, I must address the attack that the new Congressional map proposed by a Special Master represents for Bedford-Stuyvesant. Bed-Stuy has been gerrymandered, ignored and discriminated against in the past, but to see it happening now is unconscionable. We have long been a predominantly black community, and throughout history, we have fought to be able to organize and vote together in order to fight for the shared needs of our community. Our iconic and history-making community saw a successful fight against an unfair gerrymander in the 60s, and now, after decades of being able to work as one force to elect one representative, the community faces a split down the middle.

The gerrymandering of Bed-Stuy has a long dark history which we had expected not to be repeated with such blatant disregard for the residents who call Bed-Stuy home. In 1966, in response to Bed-Stuy having been divided among 5 Congressional districts in order to break down our voting power, a lawsuit was filed to right this wrong. Once that injustice was corrected, in 1968, Bed-Stuy voted under one congressional district and were able to help elect the first black woman to Congress to represent them, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm.

Our community is strongest when we are able to push for change together, have a common and unitary point of view in respect to our political needs and advocacy. Historically, that has meant the ability to work together to find candidates, like Shirley Chisholm who embodied the ideal of what the community wanted, and it is how we should be allowed to continue. By splitting up Bed-Stuy so carelessly, these arbitrary divisions will only serve one purpose: diluting our representation.

We have been represented in Congress for the last five decades by one Congressional member, and that has allowed us to act as a community to find the candidate of our choice who can respond to our needs in Bed-Stuy. Cutting up our neighborhood to destroy our political power and try to dilute our impact by gerrymandering us out of existence is the same attempt to make Bed-Stuy "politically impotent" that we saw in 1966 and this cannot stand.



Henry Butler

Community Board 3 District Manager



May 17, 2022

Honorable Patrick McAllister  
Acting Supreme Court Justice  
Steuben County Supreme & County Court  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, New York 14810

Special Master Jonathan Cervas  
Institute for Politics and Strategy  
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5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213

Dear Judge McAllister and Special Master Cervas,

As Bed-Stuy's Community Board 3 District Manager, I must address the attack that the new Congressional map proposed by a Special Master represents for Bedford-Stuyvesant. Bed-Stuy has been gerrymandered, ignored and discriminated against in the past, but to see it happening now is unconscionable. We have long been a predominantly black community, and throughout history, we have fought to be able to organize and vote together in order to fight for the shared needs of our community. Our iconic and history-making community saw a successful fight against an unfair gerrymander in the 60s, and now, after decades of being able to work as one force to elect one representative, the community faces a split down the middle.

The gerrymandering of Bed-Stuy has a long dark history which we had expected not to be repeated with such blatant disregard for the residents who call Bed-Stuy home. In 1966, in response to Bed-Stuy having been divided among 5 Congressional districts in order to break down our voting power, a lawsuit was filed to right this wrong. Once that injustice was corrected, in 1968, Bed-Stuy voted under one congressional district and were able to help elect the first black woman to Congress to represent them, the Honorable Shirley Chisholm.

Our community is strongest when we are able to push for change together, have a common and unitary point of view in respect to our political needs and advocacy. Historically, that has meant the ability to work together to find candidates, like Shirley Chisholm who embodied the ideal of what the community wanted, and it is how we should be allowed to continue. By splitting up Bed-Stuy so carelessly, these arbitrary divisions will only serve one purpose: diluting our representation.

We have been represented in Congress for the last five decades by one Congressional member, and that has allowed us to act as a community to find the candidate of our choice who can respond to our needs in Bed-Stuy. Cutting up our neighborhood to destroy our political power and try to dilute our impact by gerrymandering us out of existence is the same attempt to make Bed-Stuy "politically impotent" that we saw in 1966 and this cannot stand.



Henry Butler

Community Board 3 District Manager

**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Joyce Jesionowski <joywriter47@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:50 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting-Cayuga County

To the Presiding Judge:

I am urging a reconsideration of the maps drawn by the Special Master. While they may make "logical" districts in NY State, they have been drawn with little consideration of the historic relationships of community and commerce that tie Cayuga County with Central New York, and Auburn with Syracuse. No one legislator would be able to represent the sprawl that the Special Master has created of the Congressional or the illogical patchwork of interests created by the new Senate maps.

This is the result of "objective" map making when the Special Master has no knowledge of the communities involved.

I urge the rejection of these maps. If redistricting is necessary *once again* let someone who knows NY State and its communities participate!

Sincerely,  
JE Jesionowski  
Moravia, NY  
Cayuga County

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Neva Heatt <nevaheatt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:50 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** New York Congressional Map

Dear B. Wise,

These maps are very racially discriminatory. It was intentionally created to Gerrymander people of color from having a voice proportional to their representation.

As a New York resident and voter, I opposed the proposed map by the Special Master.

Neva Heatt

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** sharen inoyatova <sharen.inoyatova@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:52 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Jewish Community Districts

My name is Shiren Inoyatova, 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 legislatures 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 has 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,  
Shiren Inoyatova

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Paul Ricciardi <paul@ancramoperahouse.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:54 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a resident of Columbia County, and the proposed changes would have disastrous consequences for our county. If allowed to stand, Columbia County would be separated from both the Capital District and the Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome for our county when it comes to identity, representation, and allocation of resources.

Columbia County is located along the Hudson River in the Mid-Hudson Valley, and the Department of Economic Development has placed Columbia County in the Capital District. Under the proposed map, Columbia County would be isolated from both regions and be the only county in CD19 on the east side of the Hudson River. Columbia County should be part of a contiguous district of adjoining Mid-Hudson Valley counties. Based on current 2020 Census data, the combined populations of Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties would be 748,393 people, which is within the range of +/- 10 percent of the average congressional district.

Columbia County has been excised from its peers and placed in a congressional district that shares little in common administratively. Our judicial, assembly, and senate districts have little, if any, overlap with other counties included in the proposed CD19. Effective government requires coordination and collaboration. The proposed map diminishes Columbia County's political power.

Columbia, Dutchess, Rensselaer, Ulster, and Greene Counties have a common history, developing major agricultural and industrial centers because of their proximity to the Hudson River. There is no such common history with counties located in the middle and western portions of New York State.

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 small to medium sized cities have diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, socio-economic, and gender/sexual orientation populations. 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. Columbia County should be in a congressional district with its neighbors who face the same challenges and concerns.

Our proximity to New York City has created a rich, year-round arts community, with many artists, painters, dancers, musicians, actors, galleries, and antique stores that all create a destination for tourism. There is a significant and growing population of New York City dual homeowners. Newer residents are starting local small businesses, adding to the economic diversity in our county. Columbia County is also home to many exurban communities of Albany, not Ithaca or Binghamton. Columbia County is tethered economically, culturally and socially to its neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map ignores these connections, and in doing so, denied our county of effective representation.

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic, and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene

Counties as part of the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Dividing Columbia County, or separating us from the Mid-Hudson Valley region, would seriously impact the residents who want to build for the future and be fairly represented in Congress. It would be a gross miscarriage of justice that will have long-term adverse consequences for our residents and our region if these district lines are allowed to stand. We urge you to correct this grave mistake.

Very truly yours,

Paul Ricciardi

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Gabriel Lopez <gabriel@infinmed.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:53 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Amsterdam in NY20

**Importance:** High

To whom it may concern,

I am a current business owner in Albany, NY.

I am an avid outdoorsman in the Adirondacks.

I am the current Board President to Montgomery County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

I am a lifelong member of Montgomery County, Amsterdam, NY.

I've committed much of my adult professional life to putting in time, energy, and donated resources into our small City of Amsterdam, WITHIN THE CAPITAL REGION, to do what I can to help make it a better place. I am but one of the many believers who still has confidence that our small wins we can make a change. Don't take us back decades through one bad call on your part.

Please help us to not have another imprudent decision be made by disengaged and/or ignorant to upstate geography individuals. There's nothing more difficult and hurtful to communities than decisions made by individuals who don't know or who aren't from the area. If you did know our area this wouldn't even be a discussion. **It makes no sense to incorporate our small city in with some of the most rural parts of our state.** We are not the Adirondacks, we are the Mohawk Valley, our Mohawk River bleeds into the Hudson by way of ALBANY approximately 30 minutes away.

Looking at it from a business perspective, I can't imagine the indirect consequences this would cause.

**I understand you may not be from here, or are even remotely familiar with the area. I respectfully ask that you please reconsider removing us from the Capital Region.**

We are a small city 30 minutes from the Capital. Just to put it into perspective, my business is in Albany and it takes me 20 minutes from my office to get to the Capital Building with all the traffic lights. From my house in Amsterdam it takes me 30 minutes to get to the Capital Building. 10 extra minutes is all... I mean if this happens, it would ludicrous. You are here to support us, please do that. We don't want to look back at the decisions you make for us and know that we can't trust you're making decisions in our best interest moving forward.

**We are not The Adirondacks and grouping us in with them will unquestionably be an absurd decision and will be detrimental to the community, the for profit organizations, and the not for profit organizations within it.**

Don't rubber stamp, and please don't just listen to what we are saying. Hear us.

Thank you for your time,  
-Gabriel

Gabriel Lopez



**Managing Business Partner**

**Infinity Med Solutions, LLC.**  
401 New Karner Road  
Albany, NY 12205

**Phone:** (518) 831-5252

**Fax:** (518) 831-5044

**[www.InfinityMedSolutions.com](http://www.InfinityMedSolutions.com)**

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** mdk711@nycap.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:55 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Keep Amsterdam in NY 20

To whom this may concern:

It has come to my attention that you are looking to move Amsterdam from it's long history and affiliation with the Capital Region to become part of NY 21, which shares 15,000 square miles of border with Canada - SIX hours away from Amsterdam.

I am extremely opposed to this re-districting. Amsterdam and the Capital Region are synonymous, a part of the identity of our area, a stones throw away for education, culture, dining, arts and entertainment.

Albany recently had their annual tulip festival, and the sweeping of the streets in traditional dress and wooden shoes of Holland. This is due to the relationship between Amsterdam, Holland and Amsterdam, NY and the relationship between Amsterdam, NY and the Capital Region.

Just recently, the CDTA (Capital District Transportation Authority) announced that Montgomery County is part of them and has created bus lines to make that connection.

PLEASE do not strip Amsterdam of this long storied association with the Capital District, it is who we are and who we want to remain.

I thank you for your consideration of this very important decision and hope for the outcome the people of Amsterdam, NY are looking for.

Sincerely,  
Maria Kowalczyk  
102 Van Dyke Ave  
Amsterdam, NY 12010

Proud member of the Capital District

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Anja Luesink <anja@luesinkstenstrom.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:56 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Columbia County & Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the draft Congressional map released earlier this week. I am a resident of Columbia County, and the proposed changes would have disastrous consequences for our county. If allowed to stand, Columbia County would be separated from both the Capital District and the Mid-Hudson Valley regions, as well as its county neighbors to the north and south. The proposed map groups our county with Southern Tier and Finger Lakes counties, with which it has no commonality or relationship. This is unprecedented and would result in a poor outcome for our county when it comes to identity, representation, and allocation of resources.

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Columbia County has been excised from its peers and placed in a congressional district that shares little in common.

Please preserve Columbia County as a unified community of interest with our neighboring counties. We share similar agricultural, historic, artistic, and economic challenges and opportunities with Dutchess, Ulster, Rensselaer, and Greene Counties as part of the Mid-Hudson Valley region. Dividing Columbia County, or separating us from the Mid-Hudson Valley region, would seriously impact the residents who want to build for the future and be fairly represented in Congress. It would be a gross miscarriage of justice that will have long-term adverse consequences for our residents and our region if these district lines are allowed to stand. We urge you to correct this grave mistake.

Very truly yours,

---

Anja Luesink  
196 Old Gale Hill Road  
East Chatham, NY 12060  
Email: [Anja@LuesinkStenstrom.com](mailto:Anja@LuesinkStenstrom.com)

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Susan Cohen <susanmcohen1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:56 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Do not put Saratoga Springs in the 21st district

***I am strongly against putting Saratoga Springs in the 21st district. The constituencies couldn't be more different!***

***Placing Saratoga Springs 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 Saratoga Springs in the proposed 20th Congressional District when you finalize the Congressional maps.***

Thank you,  
Susan Cohen  
302 Nelson Ave  
Saratoga Springs NY

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Hermena Smith <hermena719@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** Cervas@CMU.edu; SteubenSuperior@nycourts.gov; Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Co-op City Redistricting

Dear Sir or Madam:

Why are you doing this to our Bronx communities, I am an avid voter who votes in every election, and this year, especially this year this I am paying close attention to politics and who is involved in changing for the worse.

Please leave us alone and do not move us into District 14 from District 16. This is a slow move of regentrification! We will lose 17% of our voting population with this move.

Sincerely,  
Hermena Smith  
Resident for over 20 years

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Theo Allen <theoallen3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:58 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** Redistricting Submission

Dear Special Master Dr. Jonathan Cerves:

I am pleased with the creation of the new maps. However, I am not pleased with the new state senate maps. What matters to me, as a resident of the Town of North Castle, is not being placed into a district that represents discrete areas, such as Yonkers and Pound Ridge.

Combining my district with Yonkers, Mount Vernon, Pelham Manor, or New Rochelle, municipalities that directly border New York City, would not represent me in either the state Senate or in Congress. Furthermore, I request that you ensure that my entire town is represented by the same person, instead of the current Congressional maps that creates a district primarily centered in Newburgh where I am in the southeast corner.

For the Senate, I would urge the special master and the court to consider the need to minimize the number of towns and cities split in Westchester. I would like to see my town of North Castle kept with White Plains in both the Senate and Congressional maps, as well as other suburbs of New York City.

Given the need for population equity, keeping the communities of Southern Westchester and Northern Bronx together would require two districts crossing between New York City and Westchester. I would urge the court not to do that.

Sincerely,

Theo Allen

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**Brenda A. Wise**

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**From:** Christopher Formisano <cjfgodfather@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 10:59 AM  
**To:** Brenda A. Wise  
**Subject:** NY 19 Public comment on Redistricting  
**Attachments:** Sheprow\_redistricting.pdf

Dear Judge McAllister,

I am a resident of Red Hook New York, a town in Northern Dutchess County. For the past 10 years, I have been a voter in the 19th Congressional District and now looking at the map, I have been lumped in with downstate voters of the 18th. It has often been said that Dutchess County is where Upstate meets Downstate. I truly believe that.

Northern Dutchess residents like myself have more in common with our neighbors in Columbia County and Ulster County. Our centers of commerce are across the river in Ulster County. I myself do the majority of my shopping in the city of Kingston, which is across the river in Ulster County. Our children went through the Red Hook school district, which represents portions of Southern Columbia County. We have developed lifelong friendships due to that Red Hook school district representation between Columbia and Dutchess County. Why wouldn't we have the same representation on the federal level?

Southern Dutchess is part of the greater New York City suburbs. One may still commute into NYC via Metro North public transit on a daily basis from Poughkeepsie and south. The towns and families of southern Dutchess County have their own economy that has always felt separate and apart from that of my town. I assume that is at least partially why you've already chosen to split a couple of southern Dutchess towns off from the rest of the county to be represented in the 17th Congressional District.

Today, I ask that you consider adding my town, Red Hook, along with the other towns of northern Dutchess County (North East, Pine Plains, Stanford, Amenia, Milan, Clinton and Rhinebeck).

I ask that you consider this letter as my public comment on the new Congressional maps that have been drawn during redistricting.

Sincerely,  
Warren Sheprow  
6 Thayer Lane

Red Hook, NY 12571

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May 17th, 2022

Honorable Judge Patrick F. McAllister Steuben County Supreme Court

3 East Pulteney Square Bath, NY 14810

Dear Judge McAllister,

I am a resident of Red Hook New York, a town in Northern Dutchess County. For the past 10 years, I have been a voter in the 19th Congressional District and now looking at the map, I have been lumped in with downstate voters of the 18th. It has often been said that Dutchess County is where Upstate meets Downstate. I truly believe that.

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I ask that you consider this letter as my public comment on the new Congressional maps that have been drawn during redistricting.

Sincerely,  
Warren Sheprow  
6 Thayer Lane  
Red Hook, NY 12571