



May 5, 2022

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

Dr. Jonathan Cervas, Special Master  
Institute for Politics & Strategy  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Posner Hall 388  
5000 Forbes Ave.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

To Judge McAllister and Dr. Cervas:

Please accept this letter expressing our support of the Petitioners proposed redistricting maps. Our region in Central New York has fallen victim to the State Legislature's brazen gerrymandering. The Court's intervention is an opportunity to correct this abdication of constitutional obligations by the State Legislature.

The Petitioner's maps combine social, governmental and economic community's common interest. During the recent COVID-19 pandemic response Onondaga, Madison, Cortland, Oswego and Cayuga counties worked jointly to administer community-wide testing, implement education policy and deploy vaccinations to our residents. Onondaga County welcomed residents from neighboring counties to large community facilities for testing and vaccination. The neighboring counties helped to direct residents to these central services and helped to provide vital support services. In addition, leaders from these counties met virtually, daily, to share progress and information. Aptly referred to as the "Central New York Region", this coalition of counties was appropriately put together due to our many shared interests. If this coalition of counties was appropriate for fighting a one-hundred year global pandemic, then surely this same coalition, or one very similar, is good enough to serve as a Congressional District. We believe the proposed 24<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in the Petitioner's proposed maps acknowledges this network of neighboring counties with like interests.

Furthermore, these counties share economic interests. It is very common to have employees in Onondaga County who reside in Cayuga or Oswego counties. Onondaga and Oneida counties comprise the Federally recognized 50-mile "Drone Corridor" which New York State has invested over twelve million dollars to support through its investments in the Tech Garden in Syracuse. The Federal Aviation Administration established this drone-testing corridor and New York State Governor Kathy Hochul has recently announced a seventy million dollar investment in the regional 5G Network to support this corridor.

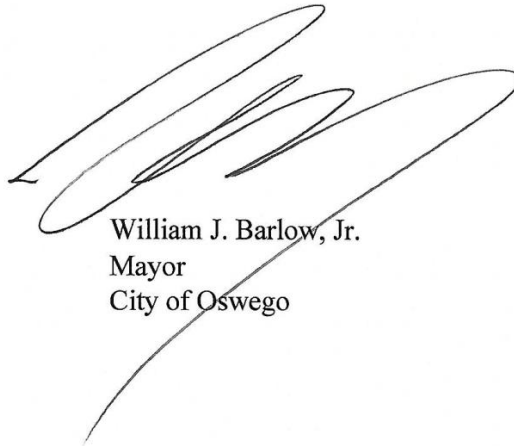
As you can see, these counties which have been grouped in the Petitioner's map are communities of like interests, including economic interests. The New York State Legislature and the past two Governors have acknowledged the connections between these communities. The Defendants maps bisect the drone corridor, placing the City of Rome in the 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District which includes 12 counties and stretches to the border of Vermont. In addition, the Defendants map splits Cayuga County into two separate Congressional Districts, keeping Auburn in a southern-tier district which runs to the border of Ohio. Finally, Oswego County and the northern portion of Cayuga County are included in a district which is based in western New York on the Defendant's maps. Oswego and Cayuga counties do not share the same close connection with Erie and Niagara counties that Onondaga and Syracuse has with its neighboring counties.

For the above outlined reasons, we respectfully request that the court grants the Petitioners maps and addresses the egregious gerrymandering our local voters have been made victim.

Respectfully,



J. Ryan McMahon, II  
County Executive  
Onondaga County



William J. Barlow, Jr.  
Mayor  
City of Oswego