

NYS Senator Mary Louise Rath, Retired

705 Renaissance Drive

Williamsville, NY 14221

To Whom it May Concern,

Having represented the Town of Amherst for thirty (30) years (15 in the County Legislature), I respectfully request your consideration of several points I consider critical in the re-apportionment:

Amherst is a unique suburban town because of its size and importance to the economic vitality of Western New York. It is important and appropriate that it anchor its own Senate district.

It should continue to include both Senate and Assembly districts to ensure a unified approach to critical Amherst issues, as Amherst and the North towns of Erie County have their own unique and distinct identity.

Amherst should not be "lumped in" with the City of Buffalo as it is in violation of the principle of maintaining communities of interest. Historically, Amherst has linked closely with Clarence, Akron, and Newstead in the County, State, and Federal level, regardless of which party was in control. It is indisputable that these communities are the definition of "communities of interest". Any new maps should recognize and protect this.

Finally, Amherst has an active agricultural district, and it is critical that this constituency not be combined with the inner-city of Buffalo. Combining it with a large urban core would only reduce and disenfranchise the voice of Amherst residents

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Lou Rath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Lou Rath

NYS Senator, Retired