



May 18, 2022

Dr. Jonathan Cervas
Transmitted via email to bwise@nycourts.gov

Dear Dr. Cervas,

As the Mayors of Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy, we once again write to urge you to ensure our five cities remain in the same Congressional district.

The New York State Constitution requires the redistricting process consider existing districts and communities of interest that share “enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation.”

As we stated in our letter dated May 4, 2022, Albany, Amsterdam, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, and Troy are the largest cities in our contiguous counties and share many of the same opportunities and challenges. Our cities are home to the largest communities of color in our respective counties and as well as some of the poorest census tracts. These communities share social and economic interests that must not be diluted. As mayors, we continuously work alongside one-another to ensure we are advocating for those interests with a common regional approach in mind.

Our cities have partnered numerous times to combat vacant and abandoned buildings, advocate for vital water, sewer, street, sidewalk, and broadband infrastructure funding, and secure the necessary revenue replacement to not only overcome the challenges of the ongoing pandemic but also make transformative investments to reverse decades of disinvestment in our cities. Our cities are also part of the same public transportation district - Capital District Transportation Authority.

That is why it was not surprising that in the final maps submitted by both sets of IRC Commission Members, ‘Congressional Plan A’ and ‘Congressional Plan B,’ and the maps drawn by the legislature all had our five cities in the same Congressional District.

Being divided into two districts and represented by two different Congressional members as reflected in the draft maps released on Monday, May 16, 2022, would not only fly in the face of the charge issued to the Commission by the New York State Legislature and the maps previously submitted, but it would have a directly negative impact on some of the most historically challenged Census tracts in our region.

We once again implore you to ensure our five cities remain in the same Congressional district and provide our residents with the most effective form of federal representation possible.

Sincerely,



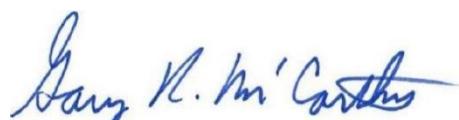
Kathy Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany



Michael Cinquanti
Mayor, City of Amsterdam



Ronald Kim
Mayor, City of Saratoga Springs



Gary McCarthy
Mayor, City of Schenectady



Patrick Madden
Mayor, City of Troy