

Dear Commission Members -

I'm now 71 years old and graduated from Stony Brook University (SBU) before some of you were born. After more than fifty years living in this community I have not only seen the University blossom, I've seen Brookhaven National Lab blossom, and I've seen the fruits of their union. They have made Suffolk County what it is. They are not only our largest employer, they are Suffolk's largest creator of jobs through their research and incubators.

You were chosen because you understand politics. Here's the politics of why it is so important to keep the Lab and University together in NY1. Whether it has been Democrat Tim Bishop or Republican Lee Zeldin, our Member of Congress has made those two research centers their primary concern. Why? The success of each builds the success of both. No matter what the party, they make incumbency almost a foregone conclusion. And while I may not like it when the MoC is not someone from my party, I still would not separate the two just to try to make NY1 or NY3 more blue, even though I am a Democrat. What is more important is what those two institutions do - together - for our economy and for our quality of life.

If SBU was moved into NY3, as your first map suggested, it would screw SBU, and in the process, hurt BNL. Seriously - NY3, which stretches from NYC to Suffolk, is already an absurdity. To stretch it further to include SBU would leave us with an MoC who would not make SBU their first priority. They care about votes. If most of the people who work at SBU live in NY1 and not NY3 - there's not a whole lot of incentive for the NY3 MoC to put the same effort into a public state university that does not get most of its funding from the federal government as there is for the NY1 MoC who currently reaps the benefits the two institutions combined create.

I don't know all the ED numbers to tell you, but the district line can be very straightforward; if you keep all of the Town of Brookhaven in NY1 - the University, which is in the NW corner of Brookhaven - will stay in NY1 with BNL.

Please, keep BNL & SBU together in NY1!

Thank you!

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