



Sauquoit Valley Central School District

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Testimony to the Independent Redistricting Commission

Submitted on Behalf of: **Ronald Wheelock**, Superintendent of the **Sauquoit Valley Central School District**

November 23, 2021

Hello, my name is Ronald Wheelock and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Sauquoit Valley Central School District.

This school district represents approximately 950 students and covers the towns of Paris, New Hartford, Litchfield, Bridgewater, Marshall, and Frankfort. Our district is also represented in both Oneida and Herkimer counties. I write today to participate in New York's newly implemented independent redistricting process and the effects redistricting will have on our community.

As a community of interest we are focused on providing a solid public education to the students of our region. Maintaining the Sauquoit Valley Central School District within a single legislative district would ensure our elected leaders understand our issues and are focused on advocating for them at the state and federal level. The continuity of this legislative district is critical to the ability of our school board of education and me to provide services or receive assistance from our current representatives and would more broadly impact our ability to effectively lobby and advocate for decisions and policies that shape our public education system.

My community represents a diverse district, yet its residents share common interests. If my community was to be split up into different districts, our representation would be diminished and would hinder the community's ability to come together. We believe that our current representation is fully committed to listening to my community's/group's concerns.

Thank you to the Independent Redistricting Commission for allowing me to submit testimony. I again ask that you consider the needs of my community so that there may continue to be adequate and fair representation.

Respectfully,

Ronald Wheelock
Superintendent of Schools
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