

October 15, 2021

Dear New York State Independent Redistricting Commission:

I am writing today as a county legislator from Niagara County. Several years ago, by joint resolution of each of our counties, we formed the Niagara-Orleans Regional Alliance (NORA). The purpose of NORA was to coordinate the efforts of our two counties to tackle common issue.

The top priority of the NORA collaboration has been to facilitate high speed broadband internet access to every unserved household across the two counties. As you are well aware, this took on even greater importance during the COVID-19 pandemic, as residents worked from home, their children learned virtually, and medical appointments became telemedicine appointments.

After several years of unrelenting work, we have recently contracted with an Internet Service Provider to design, build, and operate the solution that meets our requirements, which is provide all rural businesses, tourists, residents, and students with Internet service equal to that of more advantaged areas.

This and many other collaborative efforts have been significantly advanced through the support of our common representation in the New York State Senate. Niagara and Orleans counties have shared a State Senator for as long as anyone can remember, and I believe this has helped further our joint priorities.

On behalf of the NORA, I respectfully submit this testimony urging that Niagara and Orleans counties remain in a single State Senate District.

Sincerely,

David E. Godfrey
Co-Chair, NORA
Niagara County Legislature