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To the Independent Redistricting Commission:

I write to share my thoughts and concerns with respect to the proposed boundaries of the 108th Assembly District.

The concern I have with the current proposal is that the City of Rensselaer and Town/Village of Waterford are replaced by expanding the district eastward to Brunswick and West Sand Lake. Replacing Rensselaer and Waterford with these communities is simply not a logical move since these new communities are not communities of interest when one looks at both the history of the 108th (formerly the 106th) Assembly District and the present day challenges these river communities face. My fear is that it will dilute the importance of our voice in the legislative process.

Historically, the 108th district has been one that is known as "The River" district and this dates back over 40 years when it was represented by Neil Kelleher Sr. Subsequently, it was represented by Michael McNulty and Ron Canestrari. All individuals were from the Hudson River adjacent communities of Troy, Green Island, and Cohoes and did a fine job representing the interests that are unique to our proximity to the historic Hudson River.

Please understand that I have nothing against Brunswick and Sand Lake. They are fine communities but very different in tone and tenor from the smaller river communities. I have served as Mayor of Troy for more than 7 years and have had no occasion to work on common issues with the towns of Brunswick and/or Sand Lake. Conversely, I am in regular communication with the other mayors of the river communities. And why is that? Because there are so many commonalities amongst the communities we serve.

- We share families. Many of our residents have siblings, cousins and other close relatives who live across all these cities. We have a great many residents who have lived in two or more of our cities during their lives.
- We share businesses. Hospitality and service businesses have multiple locations across our borders.
- We share the non-profits that provide essential and/or cultural services to our residents.
- Very importantly, we also share very similar social and economic interests that directly affect the families and residents of our communities.
- We share a region-wide mass transportation system.
- The City of Troy provides water to Rensselaer and Waterford.

- Rensselaer is part of the Albany Pool Communities (a unique partnership among the river communities to reduce and ultimately eliminate sewage overflows into the Hudson River).
- And for anyone old enough to remember we used to share a common phonebook.

The point is that in many respects we are one community separated only by lines drawn on a map.

- Splitting us into different Assembly districts will have a direct impact on our representation in Albany.
- Our cities are strong partners.
- We collaborate on common issues impacting the shared interests of our communities and residents.
- As mayors, we are constantly in conversation about challenges we share.
- These conversations speak to the importance of a shared Assembly representative who can effectively advocate on behalf of our residents' particular needs and concerns.

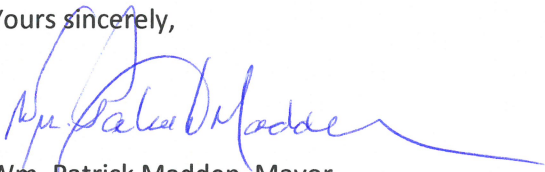
We are close neighbors who are engaged in many shared services agreements and many families consider the various communities within the 108th to be inextricable parts of their own communities and routinely travel or move between the communities.

I hope that you will reconsider the proposed maps and keep the 108th Assembly District map as it currently stands to the greatest possible degree. It makes the most sense.

I appreciate your service to our State and I can only imagine the difficulty of the task ahead of you. I am grateful for this opportunity to share my thoughts with you.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Wm. Patrick Madden, Mayor