Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to speak about the redistricting plans.

My name is Kathy Gordon and I am a resident of Saugerties NY. Saugerties could hardly be more beautiful, sitting between the Hudson River on the east and the Catskill Mountains in the west. Our 65 square miles consist of Saugerties Village and rural areas dotted with unincorporated hamlets. With a population of 19,038 people, Saugerties is the second largest municipality in Ulster County, second only to Kingston, the county seat. We lie in the corridor along the river between Albany and New York City. Our interests are different from those cities and different from areas further west and north. Our identity is clearly as a Mid-Hudson Valley community.

Saugerties needs to be in districts that reflect that identity and the issues that the Mid Hudson region shares. I will not be adequately represented if I am in a district with the cities of Albany and Troy, where both Congressional plans place me. Those cities’ combined population of over 150,000 would overwhelm little Saugerties. Their urban issues are not mine. My concerns about keeping family farms and attracting new employment to our rural community are not their concerns.

But worse yet, only the eastern part of Saugerties is in those districts. In the LETTERS plan for Congress, my Saugerties neighbors four miles to the west in the hamlet of Mount Marion are in the U district. This stretches to Waverly, NY, a 3 hour drive of 173 miles to our west. In the NAMES plan, Saugerties neighbors in the hamlet of Blue Mountain would be in the Jefferson-Ulster district. This stretches north to Alexandria Bay on Lake Ontario, over 247 miles and four hours to our north.

The LETTERS proposal for NYS Senate splits Saugerties in a similar manner into east and west districts to be represented by different senators.

This is unacceptable. We are a united community with a Mid-Hudson identity. Districts for all these offices should reflect that.

When trying to reach a final proposal I ask that all 19,038 residents of Saugerties have one representative in Congress, one in the NYS Senate, and one in the NYS Assembly and that we are in districts with our neighbors in the Mid-Hudson Valley.

I thank you for your time. Undoubtably redistricting is a thankless task in which you cannot possibly please everyone. Thank you for listening