I’m a registered voter in CD-17. Thank you for your efforts to improve voting districts.

I disagree with the proposed map that divides Westchester into north and south CDs.  I believe that an east and west division makes much more sense.  As residents of Irvington, we have many more in common with the residents of the river towns (running from Hastings to Peekskill) than we do with residents of the Long Island sound areas of the County.

The current districting divides my town between CD-17 and CD-16. Irvington, Tarrytown, Elmsford, and much of Hartsdale are in CD-17, but Hastings-on-Hudson and Ardsley are in CD-16. All of the Town of Greenburgh should be included in CD-17.

Many of the reasons stated in my previous testimony as to why Greenburgh should not be divided are also applicable to my suggestion that our Congressional district contain all the western side of Westchester covering all of the areas known as the River Towns.

The River Towns share much of the responsibility for the human interaction with the Hudson River and the Hudson River Valley, whether it’s recreational related, transportation related, or most importantly, mitigating the impact of climate change.

As our area has become more developed, we face big challenges with our north/south roads and transportation in general. The east side of the county has Interstate 95 but we have older roads such as Rt. 9, the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Taconic Parkway that are prone to flooding. The River Towns share the Metro-North Hudson Line, which with tracks close to the river, will require addressing with Federal assistance.

It makes sense that all the River Towns be unified when interacting with Federal representatives to obtain Federal agency assistance.

In conclusion, it makes total sense for many reasons that all of River Towns from Hastings to Peekskill be united into CD-17 as we share so many common interests, the current districting confuses voters and is inefficient in interacting with our Federal representatives and agencies.

Thank you.