



December 1, 2021

Mr. David Imamura, Chair
Mr. Jack Martins, Vice Chair
New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

Transmitted via email to blattk@nyirc.gov & breakelld@nyirc.gov

Dear Chair Imamura & Vice Chair Martins,

As the Mayors of Albany, Schenectady, and Troy, we write to urge the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission to ensure our three cities remain in the same Congressional district.

The New York State Legislature tasked this Commission with crafting new Congressional maps as a result of the 2020 Census while also considering existing districts and communities of interest that share “enough social and economic interests of importance that suggest said community should be included in a single district for effective and fair representation.”

Albany, Schenectady, and Troy comprise a singular media market, are the largest cities in our contiguous counties, and share many of the same opportunities and challenges. Our cities are home to the largest communities of color in our respective counties and as well as some of the poorest census tracts. These communities share social and economic interests that must not be diluted. As mayors, we continuously work alongside one-another to ensure we are advocating for those interests with a common regional approach in mind.

Our cities have partnered numerous times to combat vacant and abandoned buildings, advocate for vital water, sewer, street, sidewalk, and broadband infrastructure funding, and secure the necessary revenue replacement to not only overcome the challenges of the ongoing pandemic but also make transformative investments to reverse decades of disinvestment in our cities. Our cities are also part of the same public transportation district - Capital District Transportation Authority - the same regional planning and resource center - Capital District Regional Planning Commission - and the same metropolitan transportation planning organization - Capital District Transportation Committee.

Being divided into two districts and represented by two different Congressional members would not only fly in the face of the charge issued to the Commission by the New York State Legislature, but it would have a direct, negative impact on some of the most historically challenged Census tracts in our region. We implore this Commission to ensure our three cities remain in the same Congressional district and provide our residents with the most effective form of federal representation possible.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sheehan
Mayor, City of Albany

Gary McCarthy
Mayor, City of Schenectady

Patrick Madden
Mayor, City of Troy