

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you as a constituent of NY's 17th Congressional District and also as a resident and former trustee in the Village of Piermont in Rockland County. I appreciate you taking the time to read and consider my comments regarding the redistricting process.

Specifically, I would like to advocate that the Redistricting Committee consider the following:

- (1) **All of Rockland County should remain in one Congressional District.** There are a number of issues which are unique to Rockland County, most notably transportation. Many residents who live here commute to work in New York City and Southern Westchester. Although there is public transportation connecting Rockland and Westchester (Hudson Link, Ossining-Tarrytown Ferry), it is inadequate for many of us for daily commuting. Congressman Jones has met with constituents in our County, and has been working with us to advocate for a 1-seat train across the Tappan Zee Bridge. He has also fought for more federal funding to address transportation issues in Rockland. I am concerned that if Rockland were separated into two different Congressional Districts, neither representative would actually champion this issue that is so critical to our residents.
- (2) **The Rivertowns on both sides of the Hudson River should remain in the same Congressional District.** As communities located along the Hudson River, we share similar concerns about the health of our river and about flooding. Our Village government has worked collaboratively with Villages and Towns along the river in Westchester on sustainability initiatives, and we have shared information and planning in the face of hurricanes like Isaac and Sandy. There is a shared culture amongst these river villages, and our local businesses have worked together on tourism initiatives such as showcases of art and history on both sides of the river. The Tappan Zee Bridge Walking/ Biking Path has connected these River Villages even more closely, intertwining our economies, as thousands of people from both sides of the River spend weekends exploring the communities on both sides. Dividing the Rivertowns into two Congressional districts would decrease our ability to organize together on environmental issues, and also for our businesses to work together on funding for economic development partnerships.

Thank you again for reading this and for allowing public feedback as you make these difficult decisions about redistricting.

Sincerely,

Ivanya L. Alpert
Piermont, NY