New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

 Nov. 22, 2021

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Cathleen Kane and I live in Senate district 55. I have been a resident of Monroe County since 1981, living first in the City of Rochester and now in Irondequoit.

I want to start by thanking you for drafting more compact, Rochester centered Senate districts for Monroe County. For my own neighborhood, I prefer Senate district “SDD” in the letters plan because it includes the Charlotte neighborhood of the city of Rochester. I have heard comments from residents of other suburbs who have suggested creating more compact Senate districts by splitting Rochester into two districts bordered by the Genesee River. I am not averse to that option. Speaking on behalf of the City of Rochester residents, I appreciate that the proposed Assembly districts are much more compact than the 2012 districts. I much prefer the IRNDQYRCHST Assembly district in the Names plan. The letters Assembly plan, AD EG, does not follow the Rochester/Irondequoit boundary. Either Congressional plan works well for Monroe County.

We all agree that these drafts have shown us what better districts can look like. Now I am going to ask you to please set aside your partisan loyalties and create one Congressional, one State Senate and one Assembly map that provides equal protection for all New York voters. Of course, that is a difficult task but this is your expertise. If you release one set of maps on Jan. 1 that is an unbiased effort to fairly represent all New Yorkers, that would be a great service to us all. Yes, the legislature may reject your plan, or eventually amend your plan. There may be litigation over the plan and the final districts may look different than the fair plan you release. But such a plan would inform New Yorkers of what a fair map looks like and help us to more easily identify ways in which subsequent iterations protect or discriminate against various communities.

Thank you for your time, and for coming to Rochester in October.

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