

Written Testimony

Submitted to NYIRC

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My name is Gavin Trautman and I am a student from Rensselaer County. I recently viewed the commissions' draft plans for my region, and I was disappointed to see the level at which both proposals split the core of my home area into several different districts. The "letters" proposal completely splits off Schenectady, one of the core "tri-cities," into a much more rural district to the west while grouping Albany and Troy with southern exurbs that have much less in common with the urban and suburban areas of the Capital District. The "names" proposal does a bit better at preserving our community of interest, but it cuts off northern suburbs and instead groups the area with much further cities to the south such as Kingston.

I have attached an ideal configuration, in my view, for keeping as much of our metropolitan area together as possible. This map's district 20 unifies all of Albany, Troy, and Schenectady into one district and includes some surrounding satellite cities such as Clifton Park and Amsterdam. The district shown here is much more compact than either proposal as well. I have attached another completed map of the upstate districts to demonstrate that this district is completely possible to create without interfering with neighboring districts.

Reading through the testimony submitted to the commission from my area thus far, I have seen that a significant proportion of Capital District residents favor the maintaining of a district in these five counties. This is not the only way to draw the lines in the region, but regardless, I request that the commission strongly consider **keeping Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and southern Saratoga counties unified in the same district**. Creating fair districts is about keeping like-minded people together; since our metro area is almost exactly the population of one district, it would be in our best interest to stay united. Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing this process continue.

