To the NY Independent Redistricting Commission:

Thank you for holding these hearings and considering the comments of the public. I implore you to come up with one set of maps that is as fair as possible for the people of this state, following the guidelines in the law, and also avoiding partisan gerrymandering.

I live in Saratoga Springs in Saratoga County, and I feel very strongly that our entire County should be included in a Congressional District that attaches to at least one of the other Capital District counties (Albany, Rensselaer or Schenectady). Schenectady County seems the most appropriate to me since part of that county is also north of the Mohawk River.

What is not appropriate is that Saratoga County be included in a “North Country” Congressional District. You will notice that you have included Saratoga County in this hearing for the Capital District. We are also members of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, the Capital District Transportation Authority, the Shenendehowa School District is a member of the Capital District BOCES. We are oriented toward the Capital District, and a large segment of our workforce works in state government and other Capital District companies.

In terms of Senate Districts, Saratoga County has 235,509 people so the whole county fits into one Senate District – and it should be kept in one District in its entirety. We are tired of being split up.

Again with 235, 509 people our population entitles us to about one and a half Assembly Districts. If you add in the southern part of Washington County (61, 302 total for the whole county) to all of Saratoga County you come up with 2 Assembly districts that reach to the Vermont border. I’d recommend that care be taken not to split school districts which usually include several Towns. Saratoga County is not well represented when we are split into our current four Assembly Districts.

You have a difficult task in front of you but we, the public, expect you to come up with reasonable maps. We are invested in your success.

Barbara Thomas

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