I am a resident of Saugerties, a small Hudson River town at the gateway to the Catskills. It is a cohesive town with an intimate feel and rural roots. It is not uncommon for merchants and customers to know each other by their first names. This kind of familiarity contributes to the community’s security and solidarity. Like my colleague, Ms Gordon, I would like to see our political representation reflect this nature. The Township should not be split; we should have one representative at each level of government.

Furthermore, the districts in which Saugerties is located should include communities of a similar small-town or rural nature; specifically neighboring towns that together with Saugerties make up a culturally homogenous district. To my eyes, nowhere are these principals more strongly violated than in the proposed districts for CD 19. Not only is Saugerties split in each of these, but they each include Albany. Surely, Saugerties interests would be completely lost in districts so structured. Additionally, the Names proposal would surgically remove the communities of Catskill, Athens and Coxsackie from our Congressional district, further skewing us away from one with homogenous community interests. I ask the Commission to restore the district to one that makes more sense for our town.

Thank you for your consideration.

William Barr, Saugerties