

Good Afternoon Commissioners:

My name is Peter Bernstein and I'm a registered voter in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, living in the Village of Irvington, Town of Greenburgh. Thank you for your efforts to reset and improve voting districts and for inviting public comments.

I testified to the Commission previously and I am disappointed in the suggested map that separates Westchester into north and south Congressional districts. I believe that an east and west division makes much more sense. As residents of Irvington, we have many more common interests with the residents of villages along the river like Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Ossining and Peekskill than we do with residents of the Long Island sound areas of the County.

The current districting divides Greenburgh between CD-17 and CD-16. Irvington, Tarrytown, Elmsford, and much of Hartsdale are in CD-17, but Hastings-on-Hudson and Ardsley are in CD-16. My previous testimony suggested that all of the Town of Greenburgh be included in CD-17. We are all represented by the Greenburgh Town Board and Supervisor, and we are all represented by one State Assemblyperson (District 92).

Many of the reasons stated in my previous testimony as to why Greenburgh should not be divided are also applicable to my suggestion that our Congressional district contain all of the western side of Westchester covering all of the areas known as the River Towns. This would run from Hastings-on-Hudson to Peekskill.

The River Towns share much of the responsibility for the human interaction with the Hudson River and the Hudson River Valley, whether it's recreational related, transportation related, or most importantly, mitigating the impact of climate change.

As our area has become more developed, we face big challenges with our north/south roads and transportation in general. The east side of the county has Interstate 95 but we have older roads such as Rt. 9, the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Taconic Parkway that are prone to flooding. The River Towns share the Metro-North Hudson Line, which with tracks close to the river, will require addressing with Federal assistance.

It makes sense that all the River Towns be unified when interacting with Federal representatives to activate Federal agency assistance.

In conclusion, it makes total sense for many reasons that all of River Towns from Hastings to Peekskill be united into CD-17 as we share so many common interests and

the current districtings confuse voters and are inefficient in interacting with our Federal representatives and agencies.

Thank you.