

Dear Judge Mann:

Thank you for your efforts to shape a fair and rational redistricting plan for the State of New York. We applaud the principles that have guided your work and recognize the many commendable qualities in the proposal before you.

We write to you as individuals who currently serve as elected local officials in Westchester County shore communities on Long Island Sound to raise serious concerns the court drafted redistricting plan now proposed for Westchester County.

Specifically, we respectfully object to the manner in which proposed Congressional Districts 16 and 17 divide Westchester and Rockland counties.

Our communities share crucial issues with communities upstream related to flooding, stormwater management, and a variety of related issues affecting Long Island Sound. In recent years the Sound Shore has suffered hundreds of millions of dollars in flood damage, incurred increased costs for our sewage treatment plants that flow into Long Island Sound, and have sought increased intermunicipal cooperation from upstream communities that share our watershed. As you are aware, our watersheds travel North/South.

The existing districts recognize and benefit our communities because they unify the shared interests of central and southern Westchester communities with forceful representation in Washington. To split these watersheds will greatly diminish our ability navigate these issues effectively and in concert with each other and with focused representation at the federal level.

More broadly, our voice will be additionally diluted and diminished in the following ways:

**Proposed Congressional Districts 16 and 17 would shatter the core of the districts that currently comprise the lower Hudson Valley.** The Sound Shore region and central Westchester have together formed the core of a single district for at least 30 years. Under this proposal, the link between the Sound Shore and central Westchester would be severed for the first time in more than a generation.

**Proposed Congressional Districts 16 and 17 separate hundreds of thousands of residents from their current representatives.** A majority of Westchester and Rockland residents would be placed in new congressional districts, without sufficient regard for continuity of representation.

**Proposed Congressional Districts 16 and 17 would divide a community of interest.** With nearly 950,000 residents, Westchester County has more than enough population to have an entire Congressional District drawn entirely or almost entirely within its borders. Doing so would facilitate effective representation for the many interests that bind Westchester residents together, including shared public institutions, transportation networks and infrastructure, commuting patterns, first responder needs, water quality and environmental concerns, and taxation policies. Instead, this proposal divides Westchester nearly in half.

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Our current representative, Nita Lowey, for many years, has been the most important champion for the Long Island Sound and flooding relief in Congress and is now a senior member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. The restoration and preservation of Long Island Sound has been a long, expensive and critical effort for enhancing and protecting the quality of life and values of our communities.

The effort is not complete. We need to continue the work to ensure that Long Island Sound continues to be cleaned up and protected for our residents, real estate values and our environments. We need Nita Lowey to continue to fight for Long Island Sound and us with a continued focus on the shared interests between Southern and Central Westchester County. This vital issue in our communities is a prime example of the need to maintain continuity of representation for the cores of Congressional districts, and we respectfully request that you consider adjustments to the current proposal to reunite these communities with such great shared interests.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Nancy Seligson

Supervisor, Town of Mamaroneck

Joshua Mandel

Mayor, Village of Larchmont

Catherine Parker

City Council Member, City of Rye

Barry Fertel

City Council Member, City of New Rochelle