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March 14, 2012

The Hon. Reena Raggi  
The Hon. Gerard E. Lynch  
The Hon. Dora L. Irizarry  
Three Judge Panel for the  
U. S. District Court  
Eastern District of New York  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Re: Supplemental Submission for Congressional Redistricting In Upstate New York  
Favors, et. al., v. Cuomo, et. al., Docket # 11-cv-5622

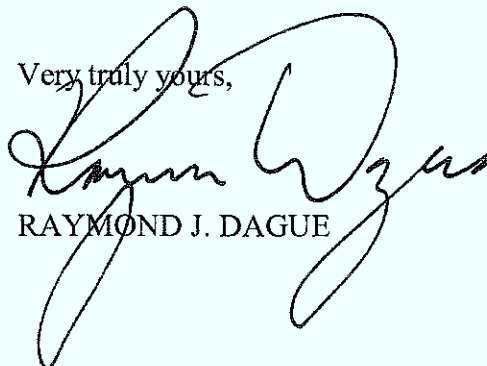
Dear Judges Raggi, Lynch & Irizarry:

I am writing a second time to submit my non-party comments to the redistricting plan of United States Magistrate Roanne L. Mann which is before you and upon which objections are solicited.

I previously submitted my non-party comments to Magistrate Mann, and a copy of those comments are here attached. I will not repeat what I said in that previous comment which was submitted to the court. However it bears comment to you that Magistrate Mann appears to have carefully considered the concerns which I raised in my March 2, 2012 letter regarding the inappropriateness of the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate redistricting plans. Magistrate Mann adopted a redistricting plan which fairly and reasonably keeps Tompkins County as part of the Southern Tier, and Onondaga County as part of Central New York. These are natural communities with a compact focus of local culture centered around principal cities, each served by separate television, radio and print media. Well done, Judge Mann!

I understand that the order of this court of March 12, 2012 requests any objections to the redistricting plan. However if a submission of "non-objection" is in order, I hereby submit this to the court, and urge the adoption of the maps which you have before you as recommended by the magistrate judge which retain the natural communities of Central New York and the Southern Tier in separate and distinct congressional districts.

Very truly yours,



RAYMOND J. DAGUE

RJD/km

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March 2, 2012

The Hon. Roanne L. Mann  
United States Magistrate Judge  
U. S. District Court  
Eastern District of New York  
225 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

## Re: Congressional Redistricting In Upstate New York

Dear Judge Mann:

I am writing to submit my non-party comments to the New York State senate and assembly redistricting plans which are before you and upon which public comment is solicited.

As I understand the proposed maps, both the assembly plan and the senate plan lump Onondaga County (with its principal city Syracuse) into the same congressional district with Tompkins County (with its principal city Ithaca).

For generations, Tompkins County has always been part of the Southern Tier, and Onondaga County has been part of Central New York. These are natural communities with a compact focus of culture centered around these principal cities, and the surrounding area of each has always been part of each. They are served by separate television, radio and print media. For example, the Syracuse Post Standard is the principal newspaper for Central New York, and few people in the Southern Tier subscribe to it. Syracuse TV stations 3, 5 and 9 are not generally available in Southern Tier cities such as Ithaca. Likewise, the Ithaca Journal and the Binghamton newspaper are the principal newspapers for the Southern Tier. They do not circulate in Syracuse. Nor is Binghamton/Ithaca TV station 12 and the other Southern Tier TV stations able to be found in Syracuse, either on cable or by antenna (if anyone still uses antennae to get TV these days).

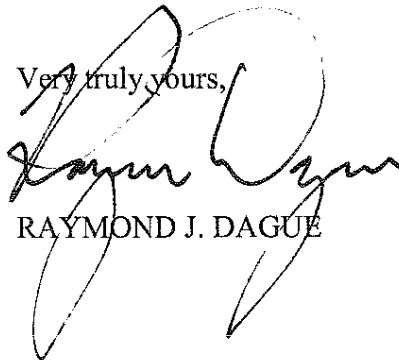
There is certainly nothing wrong with including other Central New York counties and communities such as Cayuga County, Madison County, or Wayne County in a Central New York congressional district. They are served by the Syracuse media. Also, the Southern Tier should be kept together consisting of Broome County (Binghamton), Tompkins County (Ithaca) and Chemung County (Elmira). However, it makes no sense to put a piece of Central New York such as Onondaga County in with a piece of the Southern Tier such as Tompkins County. Cortland County is generally considered part of Central New York, but that county also shares some of the characteristics of the Southern Tier, so that county could go either way.

I would urge rejection of both of these maps. The court should reconfigure what is currently the 25<sup>th</sup> congressional district (a Central New York district) so that it includes only those communities, and does not include any of the Southern Tier communities. Likewise, the Southern Tier communities should be in a district or districts which are in that region, and which do not include Central New York.

Any good student of American history knows about the bizarre dragon-shaped district which Elbridge Gerry was given around Boston to keep him in congress shortly after the founding of our nation. The Gerrymander is our modern legacy of this—districts carved up for political reasons based on the calculation of which party can win a seat, rather than districts which are based on geography, common communities, and the zones of local media coverage which exclusively serve those communities. I do not pretend to know about the communities of downstate, but here in upstate New York the communities are quite separate and distinct. Any redistricting plan should take such natural communities into consideration. The current plan submitted before you does not do so.

As such, this court should reject both of the maps which you have before you, and should retain the natural communities of Central New York and the Southern Tier in separate and distinct congressional districts.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond J. Dague", written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

RAYMOND J. DAGUE

RJD/km