HON. ANDREW JOYCE
CHAIRMAN

ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
HAROLD L. JOYCE ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
112 STATE STREET, ROOM 710
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
PHONE: (518) 447-7168 | FAX: (518) 447-5683
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

NECOLE M. CHAMBERS
CLERK

PAUL T. DEVANE

October 27,2022

Commissioners Volk and Campbell,

On October 12, 2022, the Albany County Legislature submitted recommendations to the Albany County Redistricting Commission (ACRC) and the Majority-Minority District Subcommittee (MMD) that focused on the need to maintain strong and effective majority-minority districts. The Legislature suggests that minority populations will be better served by a more concentrated minority voting age population in the majority-minority districts as this will result in more minority preferred candidates in these districts. Ultimately, the strength of the majority-minority districts created is of the upmost importance, as opposed to the chance to add two opportunity districts. With fewer opportunity districts, minority populations will not be stretched too thin, thereby ensuring their voting power remains intact, as it does with the current districts. The creation of opportunity districts that are not as cohesive and unified as the five current majority- minority districts that exist now runs the risk of the voters losing their ability to elect their preferred candidate of choice, resulting in insufficient representation.

It is worth noting that while the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York does not take effect until next year, the fact that the rate at which protected class members vote can be considered reinforces the idea that actual voter turnout should be factored into any determination of effectiveness. Section 53.3 on page four and five of the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act states, “In determining whether, under the totality of the circumstances, a violation of subdivision one or two of this section has occurred, factors that may be considered shall include, but not be limited to: (e) the extent to which members of a protected class in the state or political subdivision vote at lower rates than other members of the electorate”.

In addition to the above recommendations, as requested from ACRC Commissioners during the Legislative Meeting on October 11, 2022, below are supplemental recommendations from individual legislators. These additional concerns are as specific as possible when discussing the changes requested. Legislators have an understanding of their neighborhoods and communities that is gained through years of representing them. The following recommendations reflect this and are meant to guide your efforts going forward.

Matthew Peter, District 5:

- Use the May map that had 5 strong minority-majority districts or at least use this map as a base and only go to 6 minority-majority districts if you can guarantee they will all be strong, while not crossing municipal lines to do so and respecting where possible communities of interest are. Also, focus on voting population and trends not just census data.

Gary Domalewicz, District 10:

- Return Ohav Shalom, 115 Krumkill Rd. to the 10th district. Ohav has been a part of this neighborhood for over 40 years.

Frank Commisso, District 11:

- The newly proposed 11th district has been stretched into New Scotland, while Legislator Cleary's district (32), which is closer to New Scotland, is now in Albany. Try to return the part of Albany District 11 lost.

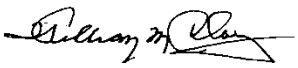
Sean Ward, District 16:

- See attached document

Merton Simpson, District 2:

- See attached document

Sincerely,



Hon. Andrew Joyce	Hon. Dennis Feeney	Hon. Bill Clay
Chairman	Majority Leader	Chairman, Legislative Black Caucus