

Testimony of Elizabeth Gallo- Dillsburg

Thank you, Rep. Causer, and the rest of the Committee, for the opportunity to speak this evening. My name is Elizabeth Gallo and I am currently a resident of Northern York County.

I was born and raised in New Jersey and chose to attend Messiah College – now University – in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. I traded not having to pump my own gas, being a 40 minute train ride from New York City, and real pizza and bagels for a part of the country that is more my pace and where I found the people to be more caring and intentional.

After graduation, I elected to remain in Central Pennsylvania. I had a very positive experience at Messiah and over 4 years, was able to build a network of people, many of whom are still great mentors, colleagues, and friends. I bought a house in the summer of 2017 and have lived here ever since.

With that being said, I would like to speak briefly this evening about how these preliminary maps will affect Cumberland County in particular, a place I now proudly call home.

I feel that these maps – which were supposedly drawn based upon population growth – have slighted Cumberland County – the number one growing county in the Keystone State.

I currently work for a railroad contracting business based out of Boiling Springs in Cumberland County and some of the customers we serve on a monthly basis are housed in Cumberland County as well - Ames True Temper, ADM Milling, Cargill, and Allen Distribution – to name a few. These companies are constantly building and maintaining their tracks, as they experience an increase in car volume due to an increase in product demand. With an increase in car volume, comes opportunity to employ more people.

Additionally, the Amazon Warehouse in South Middleton Township in Cumberland County is a facility which houses over 600 employees alone. Inside, the variety of international and state flags is overwhelming. Each flag serves as a representation of the facility's personnel. 34% of the workers are African American, Latino, Native American, and Asian. I believe that this warehouse alone exemplifies the growth of Cumberland County. Over the last 10 years, Cumberland County has grown by 10%. In addition to becoming increasingly diverse, the housing availability and opportunity for jobs is abundant.

I recently served as the Campaign Manager for the re-election of the Mayor of New Cumberland in Cumberland County. Back in August, Realtor.com released its annual hottest zip codes in America list and the borough of New Cumberland came in at number 41 **nationwide**, one of two places in Pennsylvania – the other, Bethlehem – to make the list's top 50.

According to Realtor.com's Chief Economist Danielle Hale, by definition, the zips that make their annual hottest report are very competitive, but in 2021, they were white hot. Homes in

2021's zips were under contract in less than a week, which is 3 times faster than the contract times for 2020's hottest markets.

With all of that being said, it certainly does not make sense to me that the fastest growing county in the region loses a House seat in representation with these new proposed maps.

The following is what happens within Cumberland County:

- Mechanicsburg Boro will now be unnecessarily split in half – partially in the 87th district, partially in the 88th district
 - As a result, Mechanicsburg school district, the newly created borough fire company, and the Simpson Library base all split
- In Upper Allen, the whole township moves to the 87th district for the first time
- Lemoyne and Wormleysburg move to the 103rd district, which encompasses Camp Hill Boro, East Pennsboro Township, the Boro of Lemoyne, the Boro of Wormleysburg, and parts of Harrisburg City
 - As a result, this district would then be in 3 new school districts:
- Camp Hill
- East Penn and
- West Shore

When I examine this, many questions come to mind regarding Cumberland County:

- Where would one's district office be – on the East Shore or the West Shore?
- Would a satellite office be needed on one side of the river?
- What is the cost of having two offices?
- What services are shared on each side of the river? EMS? Police?
- Why is the district crossing the river if not completely necessary?

If any county has earned a new seat, it's Cumberland County. Instead, half of a district will be shared with the unconstitutionally split city of Harrisburg. It's difficult to understand, too, how there is apparently enough growth to accommodate a new seat in the Senate, but not the House.

While there are many more questions that come to mind, the one that stands out in front of all the others for me is why Cumberland County is losing a seat of representation.