

**Nathan Silcox, President
Hampden Township Board of Commissioners
January 11, 2022**

Chairman Causer and members of the House Majority Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement in regard to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission's proposed House map as it relates to Cumberland County.

By way of background, I serve as the President of the Board of Commissioners in Hampden Township, which at almost 33,000 residents is the largest municipality in Cumberland County. And politically, I serve as the Deputy Vice Chair of the Cumberland County Republican Committee. While neither organization has taken a formal position on the proposed maps, I am personally very concerned about their adverse effect on Cumberland County as well as Hampden Township.

First, it is utterly confounding that the Commonwealth's fastest growing county is not only NOT gaining a new House seat, but in fact would lose a district. Cumberland County gained 24,063 people since 2010 and now stands at 257,848. The loss of these Representatives would be significant for the County.

Current Districts & Representatives	Proposed Districts
86-Stambaugh	87-Rothman
87-Rothman	88-Delozier
88-Delozier	103-Kim
92-Keefer	193-Ecker
193-Ecker	199-Gleim
199-Gleim	

And at a time when maps could be drawn to reflect communities of interest -- such as school district boundaries -- the Legislative Reapportionment Commission would split Cumberland Valley School District, our largest district, amongst three House districts, as well as splitting Big Spring School District, Carlisle Area School District, Mechanicsburg Area School District, South Middleton School District, and the West Shore School District.

It is particularly concerning that this Democrat map would combine municipalities from across the Susquehanna River at a time when the Wolf Administration is proposing a bridge-tolling scheme that would regrettably only serve to keep these communities physically divided.

This map is disturbing in that it divides Hampden Township from its neighbors with which we have close relationships. Silver Spring Township and Hampden Township have a particularly close relationship. We share several major roadways -- the Carlisle Pike,

Wertzville Road and Interstate 81. We are part of the same school district, and schools in our municipalities educate each other's children. We share wonderful natural resources such as the Conodoguinet Creek and State Game Lands. We eat, shop, recreate and worship in each other's communities. Both of our townships have common issues that need to be addressed and having a single State Representative would be helpful, as our current Representative was of assistance in getting PENNDOT fund a safety study of the Wertzville Road corridor.

It is also important to note that Hampden Township has major intergovernmental agreements with our other neighbors, like Camp Hill, as we handle their sewer. We also have mutual aid agreements for fire service with each of our neighbors. Dividing Hampden Township from our current configuration -- and re-arranging the chairs for the sake of re-arranging chairs -- does a disservice to these communities.

Throughout the process, many have espoused principles like "preventing gerrymandering"; "making districts fairer"; and "keeping municipalities intact." Unfortunately, the proposed House map falls short for the citizens of Cumberland County.

I'll end with this. The Pennsylvania Constitution says, "Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming either a senatorial or representative district." Despite this, Mechanicsburg and South Middleton Township are carved up between House seats.

A number of Cumberland County officials, including Democrat County Commissioner Jean Fosci, have stated their concerns about this map.

At the October 6th Legislative Reapportionment Commission, one person came up with a new term – "Nordenberged." It is my hope that Chairman Mark Nordenberg will ensure that this map does not go down in infamy, but rather addresses the shortcomings, particularly as they affect my Cumberland County.

Thank you in advance for your advocacy on our behalf.