



PA House Majority Policy Committee Hearing
“South Central PA Policy Hearing on State Legislative Redistricting”
January 11, 2022
4:00 PM – Upper Allen Township Building
100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055

Written testimony submitted by:

Lemoyne Borough Council

Josh Nagy, Lower Allen Township Commissioner, Lower Allen Township

Porter Township Board of Supervisors

Wormleysburg Borough Council

925 Shetter Ln
Camp Hill, PA 17011
nagyjoshua@gmail.com

Legislative Reapportionment Commission
c/o Legislative Data Processing Center
Senate Box 64, Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Commission Members:

Thank you for taking comments on the redistricting of PA State House Legislative District 88, Cumberland County. Currently this district has a combination of our township, Lower Allen, as well as Upper Allen and Mechanicsburg. This current district keeps municipalities of similar interests and needs grouped together for accurate representation. Unfortunately, the removal of Upper Allen to add Hampden Township destroys this community grouping without any clear benefits for the constituents of the 88th or 87th.

The 88th already was a well-designed district, meeting the guidelines for the geographic compactness by being a logical grouping of municipalities in the southeast corner of the Cumberland County. Now it stretches from the southern border of the county to the far northern edge of the county line. It also now violates Article II, Section 16 of the Pennsylvania Constitution for redistricting; splitting a municipality. The new 88th divides Mechanicsburg Borough down the middle into two different legislative districts.

Geographic grouping also ties directly into the next guideline; the communities that live there. Geography effects community interests and community integrity. Upper Allen and Lower Allen share more than just a similar name; they share a similar culture, population, and needs. The current 88th has shared interests of its citizens as Upper and Lower Allen flow seamlessly into one another with citizens living, working, commuting, and using resources of both on a regular basis. Having a state representative that can speak for this bloc of citizens allows them to have better representation and strength. Also of shared interest in this geography is school district. The current district almost fully encompasses two school districts for which these communities and the elected leaders have established strong connections. The preliminary map now adds a 3rd school district from Hampden. This new school district is one of the largest populations in the state. It is hard to imagine that the elected representative would be able to give an appropriate and equal amount of time to the 3 school districts. It is also does not make sense for the current school districts to lose their community representation.

Using the guidelines for redistricting, the 88th was already appropriate for population equality. The unfortunate decision to change prison inmate population adversely affects the townships they reside within. Changing the inmates' district to their previous home location ignores the resources and time that the state prisons use of our communities and local state officials. The current population of SCI Camp Hill is over 2000 individuals. State officials also still work on behalf of these inmates with prison issues, family members, etc. Removing their population from the calculation means we will have a large population that requires representation and resources but does not logically count them as part of our district.

We hope that you strongly consider maintaining the 88th district as-is by keeping Lower Allen and Upper Allen together as well as maintaining school district boundaries for the benefit of the residents who reside here.

Sincerely,

Joshua and Amber Nagy

January 3, 2022

Resolution by the Porter Township Board of Supervisors

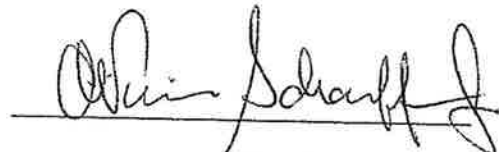
We the elected Supervisors of Porter Township have recently been made aware that the Reapportionment Commission has taken action to reassign our township out of the 125th legislative district, and combine our area with a district based in Northumberland County.

We strongly believe that it is in the best interests of our community to continue to be in a district that is composed of communities in Western Schuylkill County and Northern Dauphin County (currently the 125th legislative district). We have significant economic and social partnerships that encompass these two areas, despite the county line that separates us. We strongly encourage the reapportionment commission to reconsider the lines they have proposed, and keep the Williams Valley areas (including Porter Township) in the 125th legislative district.

Enacted this 3rd Day of January, 2022

Sincerely,


Supervisor/ Chairman


Supervisor/Secretary


Supervisor/ Vice-Chair



**BOROUGH OF WORMLEYSBURG
BOROUGH COUNCIL
20 Market Street • Wormleysburg, PA 17043**

January 10, 2022

Chairman Mark A. Nordenberg
2021 PA Legislative Reapportionment Commission
P.O. Box 203079
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Subject: Opposition to PA Redistricting as Proposed for District 103

Dear Chair Nordenberg and Commissioners,

I am writing as Council President on behalf of the residents of Wormleysburg Borough, which is located on the west bank of the Susquehanna River directly across from Downtown Harrisburg, to stand in unanimous opposition to the redistricting plan. If implemented as outlined in the Composite Listing (dated 12/16/21) for the House of Representatives, Wormleysburg would be removed from District 88, based wholly in Cumberland County, and added to District 103, which shares various parts of Harrisburg City in Dauphin County.

Wormleysburg was founded in 1815, more than 200 years ago. Over that time, residents have always been actively and deeply connected to their Cumberland County history and roots. Likewise, Borough Council is linked directly with many neighboring and nearby communities and employers on the West Shore with few relationships in the City of Harrisburg.

And for good reason.... The City's interests have customarily been opposite that of the small suburban communities which surround it. It would be an enormous challenge—if not impossible—for one person to represent both sides of the many issues that will arise. That person would be placed in a constant state of conflicting interests, continually unable to meet the needs of constituents in a meaningful way.

Our concerns include the following points.

- For decades, Wormleysburg leaders and elected representatives have cultivated and maintained strong, often lifetime, relationships with the elected officials from the Commonwealth of PA, our District 88 House Representative, our District 31 Senator, the Capital Area Council of Governments, the Cumberland County Commissioners, and the County's various departments, staffs, boards and work teams. This is necessary to facilitate the multitude of government functions that support Borough operations. Compelling the Borough to link into a cross-county district would represent a significant disservice to our residents, along with an

unfair expectation that residents should be compelled to shoulder the burden of increased costs to maintain both networks.

- Students from Wormleysburg attend the schools within the West Shore School District, also based in Cumberland County. The proposed move to District 103 would add not only the WSSD but also East Penn and Camp Hill districts, making that representative responsible to four school districts, all of which have vastly different student populations with very diverse learning and support needs. It would also be unreasonably difficult for school administrators and leaders to coordinate on common issues. When the legislature should be reducing barriers to participation and cooperation, this plan adds more organizational voices in the mix, making collaboration unnecessarily complex and, at some point, more costly.
- Wormleysburg and the Borough of Lemoyne share police and fire services by long-standing cooperative inter-municipal agreements for the West Shore Regional Police Department (merged in 1995) and the West Shore Bureau of Fire (merged in 1999). Additionally, these agreements have led to the acquisition of shared debt for common operating costs, such as the mortgage on a new fire house. We will also share the cost of the new emergency management radio system being implemented for use of emergency responders in Cumberland County.
- In the last two years, Wormleysburg has been working on a strategic revitalization plan to add services, assess options for more affordable residential housing, enhance business opportunities, and build stronger engagement with residents. Much of this work has been undertaken through or with endorsements from Cumberland County-based agencies and partnerships for grants and other funding opportunities for deferred maintenance and general improvements. Compelling Wormleysburg into Harrisburg-focused funding channels would likely result in a loss of the Borough's competitive position or failure to qualify for development opportunities and funding.
- The proposed communities of interest that would form a new District 103 share few, if any, commonalities as constituencies. These populations do not share infrastructure, micro-economies, hospital or ambulance services, public transportation, demographics, lifestyles, socio-economic profiles, nor locations from which residents access human service programs.
- The geographic boundaries of the Susquehanna River bifurcate and break the physical contiguity of representation, nor is it compact, which is a violation of two of the primary recommendations from the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Council. The best examples to prove this point are Central PA's two largest chambers. Wormleysburg Borough is a proud and active member of the West Shore Chamber of Commerce but has never once been invited to join nor participate in the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- Civic activities are shared and promoted within shore-based social media networks and publications. There have been few, if any, ties to any part of the City of Harrisburg, nor do residents show any interest in developing such ties. This is further evidenced by the purposeful choices people make when purchasing property, electing an east or west shore homestead, to meet their personal needs.

We understand the process which underpins this effort; however, we also believe that this proposal does not follow the legal guidelines. Clearly the proposed "new" district is contrary to the constitutional construct which speaks to maintaining the history and geography of legislative districts.

Given the very real differences between, as well as the disparity of challenges faced by, Wormleysburg and Harrisburg, the proposed redistricting map clearly fails to provide for effective representation for the needs of West Shore citizens.

In addition to the obvious lack of fit at the local and regional level, it appears this proposal may be part of an attempt, to make it more difficult for voters to truly elect a representative of their choice. This is especially important in considering the view of our citizens with respect to higher taxes, efficient government spending, and social welfare programs. These concerns could be diluted and, eventually, lost to representation.

On behalf of our constituents, who would be directly disadvantaged by the proposed changes, the borough council stands opposed to any redistricting map that would violate the standing rule of law related to districts being compact, contiguous, and that they respect county, city, borough, and township boundaries. The proposed legislative district map does not consider these elements in its affect on the Borough of Wormleysburg, and more specifically the borough's county heritage, roots and continuity of community.

We strongly encourage the Commission to respect those longstanding connections and allow Wormleysburg and its municipal neighbors to retain representation and leadership that is based in, committed to, and fighting for the specific needs of our citizens.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph Deklinski
Council President
Borough of Wormleysburg

cc:
Borough of Lemoyne Council
Borough of Camp Hill Council
East Pennsboro Township Board of Supervisors
Cumberland County Commissioners
PA House Representative Sheryl Delozier
PA Senator Mike Regan
PA Governor Tom Wolfe
//s

Dear Chairman Nordenberg:

On behalf of Lemoyne Borough Council, I would like to express our opposition to the proposed 2021 redistricting of the 103rd Legislative District, as it relates to our residents and community. Our primary concerns revolve around the fact that the needs of small, suburban communities such as Lemoyne vs. the needs of a Third-Class City like Harrisburg, are vastly different, for a variety of reasons.

First, there is the issue of governance. Lemoyne is governed by an elected, non-compensated Borough Council, whereas the city of Harrisburg is governed primarily by the Mayor and secondarily by their City Council, all of which are paid positions. In addition, the fact that Harrisburg is the state Capital adds greater levels of differentiation that do not directly impact Lemoyne. For example:

- Compensation levels for leadership
- Traffic congestion and control
- Public parking and the private control of same
- Governmental building considerations as related to the tax base
- Infrastructure issues, including public utilities & services
- Law enforcement considerations

Our communities face major differences and requirements in these areas. How can one State Representative advocate for and meet the needs of these vastly different communities?

Secondly, the proposed re-districting plan lumps the urban Harrisburg School District with the suburban West Shore School District and the independent Camp Hill School District. Further, it splits the West Shore School District into two separate districts. Please don't misconstrue this to mean that the students in these districts are not all deserving of equal educational opportunities. Quite the contrary. That is exactly the point: they are! How can one Representative advocate for districts that have vastly different needs for its students, faculties & programs? Further, splitting a school district between two different legislative districts, as is proposed for the West Shore School District (103rd & 88th), significantly diminishes the ability of the school board to govern, to budget and to effect change via different legislative representatives.

For these reasons, we **do not** support the current re-districting proposal for the 103rd Legislative District and are opposed to the detrimental impact this will have on our community.

Respectfully submitted,



Gale E Gallo, President
Lemoyne Borough Council