

**Nathan Silcox**  
**Hampden Township Commissioner (Cumberland County)**  
**January 6, 2022**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement in regard to the 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.

Politically, I serve as the Deputy Vice Chair of the Cumberland County Republican Committee.

While neither the Hampden Township Board of Commissioners or the Cumberland County Republican Committee have taken a formal position on the proposed maps, I am personally very concerned about their adverse effect on Cumberland County.

First, it is confounding that the Commonwealth's fastest growing county is not only NOT gaining a new House seat, but in fact would lose a district.

Furthermore, 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 also concerning that the proposed 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 particularly egregious 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 #170 on Blue Mountain. We eat, shop, worship and recreate in each other's townships. 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 to assist with 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 of interest.

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.

It's my hope that the Legislative Reapportionment Commission will take another look at Cumberland County and address these glaring issues.

Thank you