

Testimony of **George Book**- President & CEO, West Shore Chamber of Commerce

Good afternoon. My name is George Book and I am the President & CEO of the West Shore Chamber of Commerce located in Camp Hill. I am here today on behalf of our over 600 business members and our communities that we serve throughout Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry and York Counties. Over the past 2 years our communities and businesses have spent considerable time, effort and resources trying to come back after the effects of a pandemic. They have been working hand in hand with their neighbors, fellow businesses, schools and elected officials. Now some of them are being told that those they have developed good working relationships with, will have to start over. Dividing communities does not help with the rebuilding efforts.

With the growth in Cumberland County over the last decade, the new maps will reduce the number of districts representing the County from 6 to 5. Rewarding a County that has grown and continues to do so with less Representation at the State level seems to me, as a casual observer, a penalty and not a reward. My thought would be that they should be rewarded with more Representation. I do not view these new maps from the lens of "Republican" or "Democrat" but rather from the lens of preserving our communities, our comradery, and our cohesiveness. The new maps do not take this into consideration. I ask that the Legislative Reapportionment Commission reconsider these maps and perhaps listen to their constituents on how to make these maps more palatable for all the counties, cities, incorporated towns, boroughs, townships and wards when forming both the senatorial and representative districts.

Thank you.