

Submission of Karen Cote, Orland

Received: 9/18/21

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K&M Cote <km985cote@yahoo.com>

September 17, 2021

RE: Comment on Proposed State Senate Districts in 2021 for Orland

Maine Apportionment Commission Members

As an Orland resident, I agree with the Democratic caucus proposal for Orland to be in the new State Senate District 8, keeping our town with most of western and southern Hancock County which shares more communities of interest.

The other proposal to maintain Orland in a State Senate District (a proposed SD 30) still extending farther north into Penobscot County and skirting only western Hancock County makes less sense based on representation for communities of interest.

Thank you for your consideration in keeping Orland in a larger community grouping with western and southern Hancock County,

Karen Cote  
Orland

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September 18, 2021

To: Maine Apportionment Commission Members

RE: Consideration for 2021 Redistricting for Orland (in existing State House District 130) in western Hancock County

Based on communities of interest in school district RSU 25, shopping area, recreation, and location in western Hancock County, please consider these towns for a State House District

Bucksport	4,944	
Verona Island	507	
Orland	2,221	
Penobscot	<u>1,136</u> or Castine <u>1,320</u>	
Total	8,808	8,992

Existing House District 130

**Orrington** in Penobscot County and more of a community of interest with Brewer based on school district, shopping area and town center closer to Brewer

**Bucksport** in Hancock County and more of a community of interest with Verona Island, Orland, and western portion of town of Penobscot

Existing House District 130

**Verona Island** in Hancock County and community of interest with Bucksport

**Orland** in Hancock County and community of interest with Bucksport

**Penobscot** in Hancock County, while mostly a community of interest with Blue Hill, has some high school students at Bucksport High School and western portion of town (along Rt. 166) closer to Bucksport and Orland for shopping and recreation

**Dedham** in Hancock County, along Rt 1A, and community of interest with Holden and Brewer/Bangor and also Ellsworth

**Otis** in Hancock County and community of interest with Dedham and Ellsworth

Stockton Springs in Waldo County and community of interest with Searsport and Belfast  
Prospect in Waldo County, while in RSU 25, other communities of interest tend  
toward towns in Waldo County and Penobscot County

**Castine** in existing HD 133 (with Blue Hill), is like the town of Penobscot in  
that it's communities of interest seem to split between the Blue Hill area  
and the Bucksport area with shopping areas and with some high school  
attending in each of those larger towns

Thank you for your consideration in keeping Orland with its communities of interest, Bucksport, Verona  
Island, Penobscot or Castine in western Hancock County when making your final decision for State  
House Districts,

Karen Cote

Orland

Submission of Rebecca Tapley, Penobscot

Received: 9/18/21

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Becky Tapley <beckytapley@gmail.com>

I am writing this as testimony in support of the Democratic Caucus Proposal. In the town of Penobscot, we do much of our business, have common geography and history, and community connections with the Blue Hill Peninsula. Students at the Penobscot School play on the same basketball team with Brooksville, and go to Blue Hill for high school. Our library and primary grocery store is in Blue Hill. I get my snow tires on and eat at restaurants in Blue Hill. There is no connection to towns such as Otis and Dedham (whom we are currently in a district with). Please stay true to what you set out as a community of interest standard and keep the Blue Hill Peninsula together.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Tapley  
35 Bayview Road  
Penobscot ME 04476

Submission of Joel Katz, Penobscot

Received: 9/18/21

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Joel Katz <katzvolenik@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern

The Town of Penobscot is part of a peninsula that includes Brooksville, Blue Hill, and Brooklin. The towns cooperate on various road, school, religious, athletic and social activities. They should be in the same house and senate districts.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Joel Katz

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Joel Katz PO Box 19 Penobscot, Maine

Submission of Janet Baumann, Penobscot

Received: 9/18/21

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<janetlynn821@gmail.com>

I am strongly in favor of redrawing the voting district maps so that once again Penobscot is grouped with other towns on the Blue Hill peninsula. We have much in common with these towns and I think it is best that we come back to our Communities of Interest. I have no knowledge of towns such as Otis and Dedham and the issues of concern to them. PUT PENOBSCOT BACK!!!

Janet Baumann, Penobscot

Submission of Donald Chase

Received: 9/18/21

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Donald Chase <donaldachase@gmail.com>

Thank you.

While I understand that the overall objective for both sides is to keep things relatively even, both in terms of overall population and party strength, I can't believe that both proposals put Waterville and Winslow in different districts. That is just stupid.

Submission of Joanna Rysnik, Penobscot  
Received: 9/19/21

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Joanna Rysnik <jrysnik@icloud.com>

Dear Members of Maine Legislature.

My name is Joanna Rysnik, I am a year round resident of Penobscot, Hancock County, and I am writing to you in regard to the upcoming redistricting following the 2020 census. According to the Maine State Senate proposal by the Republican Caucus, my town, Penobscot, would be grouped with Bucksport, Castine, Dedham, Orland, Otis and Verona Island in district 30, while all the neighboring municipalities of Blue Hill Peninsula will be grouped in district 31.

That defies any logic, really. As wonderful as Town of Otis is, we have nothing in common with them or they with us. Nothing. Same goes for a delightful place of Dedham. Verona Island is fabulous but we pass through when on our way to Augusta or Belfast, and how often does that happen? We have, however, massive number of commonalities with other towns on Blue Hill peninsula: geographical, historical and most importantly social ones. Penobscot children go mostly Blue Hill secondary schools, we do business of all sorts with Blue Hill institutions, when (few years back) our Penobscot Town Hall was closed, its duties were taken over by Blue Hill, not Bucksport or Otis. I get my propane delivered from Brooksville, and got my Covid vaccines in Ellsworth hospital, not in Castine. It's vital for us to be kept together in what is best termed as "community of interest" with district 31 not be torn apart from it by an algorithm or someone's idea of a balanced district map.

I thank you for you attention and hope you will sincerely consider my arguments.

Joanna Rysnik  
336 Bayview Road  
Penobscot, ME 04476

Jrysnik@mac.com



Submission of Lois Kilby-Chesley, Durham  
Received: 9/19/21

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To: Apportionment Commission Members

From: Lois Kilby-Chesley

31 Runaround Pond Rd

Durham, ME 04222

Good day.

I have lived in Durham, Maine for 33 years. During that time my community has been reapportioned at the discretion of the leaders in Augusta more than once. This year it appears that once again our Senate representation will be changed. That both parties aren't in agreement isn't a surprise, but the partisanship divide means Durham could be in District 20 (Auburn ME Durham ME, New Gloucester ME Poland ME) or could be in District 15 (Auburn, Durham, Mechanic Falls, Poland).

Most recently Durham was put onto Senate District 22 (Durham, Greene, Leeds, Lisbon, Litchfield, Sabattus, Turner, Wales, and Wayne.). Durham always felt, to me, like it was an afterthought for the Senator. I can't think of a time in the current alignment when our Senator came to our town to meet with residents. Durham community members may find more interest from a Senator who lives closer to us, and who sees us as an integral part of the Senate district.

In the past Durham has been aligned with Auburn which does make sense since the towns abut. The inclusion of New Gloucester in the same Senate District follows this line of thinking. I hope the Commission members will seriously consider reapportioning Durham with New Gloucester, Auburn, and Poland so that we don't feel like the proverbial "step-child".

I ask that the Apportionment Commission members think about the appropriateness of a Senate District made up of Durham, New Gloucester, Auburn, and Poland. Thank you.