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Jericho, VT 05465  
October 11, 2021

Vermont Legislative Apportionment Board  
Tom Little, Special Master  
% VSAC  
PO Box 2000  
Winooski, VT 05404

Dear Members of the Reapportionment Committee:

The Jericho Board of Civil Authority has had several meetings and conversations during the last couple of months to determine what we feel would be in the best interest of the citizens of Jericho in terms of representation in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. One of our members has done extensive research regarding ideal population density for each seat in each chamber and this has also factored into our conversations.

The following is the result of our deliberations and should be considered as recommendations to the committee regarding what would be most beneficial to Jericho:

1. We strongly support the current two town/two representative model to the House of Representatives. Underhill and Jericho together elect two representatives and have done so for decades. There has been a long standing tradition which has been continuously honored by the major parties that one representative comes from Underhill and one from Jericho but that they both represent both towns. This has been beneficial to the citizens of both towns because they have had two officials to turn to when they felt a need to converse with their representative. Underhill and Jericho currently share many municipal and community resources, some of which are schools, the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, the Underhill-Jericho Fire Department, the Underhill Jericho Park District, the Jericho Market, etc. We would advocate that Underhill and Jericho continue to have a two member representative district and that no changes to this status quo be effected.
2. We agree that the six member block of senators that currently represent a swath of Chittenden County including Jericho be resized. Jericho currently has little input into the choosing and election of these officials due the much larger population of other towns with which we are affiliated. We strongly feel the need for a sense of community within the Senate district to which we will belong. The current Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District comprises Underhill, Jericho, Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington. The affiliation of these towns in a unified school district has made each of them stronger by becoming a part of a larger entity. We would advocate that these five towns remain together as a Senate district.

3. We do recognize that the MMUUSD is a significant departure from the theoretical mean population for a senate district in the state. A deviation of 27% may be impossible to make happen. Our number one priority remains that the towns of the MMUUSD remain together in a senate district. If more population needs to be brought in with us to make this a reality we would advocate that the towns in the Essex School District be included. Those towns are Essex Junction, Essex Town, and Westford. These three towns are nearby and are border towns and their qualities and characteristics are similar to the various towns in the MMUUSD. Bringing together MMUUSD and ESD in a two senator district would still accomplish the goals in recommendation 2 and would have a population deviation of only 7%.

We all understand and appreciate that the work of your committee is difficult and very interdependent. We appreciate being able to provide you with our opinion as you move forward to solidifying a draft report. We look forward to providing further feedback to the committee either as a reaction to the draft report or as a direct request from the committee about a specific proposal that involves Jericho. Thank you for the work you are doing and for your consideration of the recommendations included in this letter.

Sincerely,

Michael Weinberg  
Chair, Jericho Board of Civil Authority