



COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMISSIONERS ADOPT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

Cumberland County, PA – At their public meeting today, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution 2017-13 to reaffirm their support of establishing an independent citizens commission for legislative and congressional reapportionment and redistricting. The Resolution calls on members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to take timely action on legislative reform to secure affirmative action with a constitutional amendment assigning the task of legislative and congressional reapportionment and redistricting every ten years to an independent citizens commission. The Resolution cites gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts to favor one political party, or political candidate, over another has worked to the detriment of our democracy by discouraging competition in elections and impeding action on critical issues of importance to the people.

Commissioner Jim Hertzler credited his colleague, Commissioner Gary Eichelberger, for perhaps characterizing the issue best when he said this is about bucking the system, a system that needs to be bucked. “What we’re really talking about here is ridding ourselves of a system that has given Pennsylvania – even as we stand as the birthplace of America – the dubious distinction of being one of the most, if not the most gerrymandered state in the nation. This is about the future of our representative democracy. This is about giving voters choices in elections. This is about ending the gridlock in both Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. This is about restoring power to the people where it belongs,” Hertzler said.

The Commissioners are calling on the General Assembly to establish an independent citizens commission to reinstate the power and will of the people in selecting their elected representatives. “I am proud of the fact that this Board, in bipartisan and nonpartisan fashion, is taking a stand on this issue...and playing a leadership role in this statewide discussion. And, I want to thank both of my colleagues for their support of this important reform,” Commissioner Hertzler said.

Cumberland County Commissioners have previously passed Resolutions (Resolution No. 2012-5 & Resolution No. 2016-2) to urge reform of the legislative and congressional redistricting process.

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