



JOHN J. McENENY  
Member of Assembly

The Assembly  
State of New York

April 6, 2010

Blair Horner & Anna Gifford  
NYPIRG  
107 Washington Ave. #2  
Albany, NY 12210

Dear Mr. *Blair* Horner & Ms. *Anna* Gifford:

I am returning your questionnaire with six of nine boxes checked. I am not checking the three on ethics until the very subjective language is clarified.

There is no definition of 'independent'. Is this a person with no strong opinions, no experience or no knowledge? Are they "non-political" because of indifference, lack of opportunity or just harboring a deeply seated resentment of persons who are involved in the political process, especially if they have been successful.

If on the other hand, independent means they can't be removed before the end of their term, even by the appointing authority as we provided for in the ethics bill, then I'm on board. That provision was endorsed by most good government groups and vetoed by the governor.

As for redistricting, I would rather see strict guidelines enacted into law which end the discrimination in favor of suburbs and against cities (block on border/town on border and too bad about one-person one vote). I feel that many of the good government groups are advocating far more for political agendas than for fairness.

The sarcastic titles for legislative maps show a lack of knowledge of geography, history, civil rights law and relationships between neighborhoods and communities. "Lincoln's hat" follows a county line. "Oops I spilled my coffee" reflects federally mandated majority minority districts for African-Americans and Hispanics, and the "crab" was drawn to keep an urban community intact with the same consideration of the suburban community of interest.

I'd have more confidence in alterative redistricting methods if I felt the advocates actually knew what they were doing instead of assuming all actions by incumbents are corrupt and self-serving. Let's see some decent guidelines with less emphasis on 'who' and more on 'what' best serves the people.

Please do not hesitate to write again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John J. McEneny  
Member of Assembly