



THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Local Governments Committee  
COMMITTEES  
Banks  
Housing  
Insurance  
Labor

September 2, 2020

Orange County Planning Department  
Commissioner Alan Sorensen  
124 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

Dear Commissioner Sorensen:

I write with grave concerns over the proposed changes to Orange County's agriculture districts.

Farm owners across my district have recently been notified of the intent to modify their parcel(s) designation(s) within their current agricultural district. Many prominent active farms have been recommended for removal per notification they received.

According to the proposed modifications removals account for a 13% reduction of the agricultural district in Orange County for an elimination of over 22,000+ acres. This is unacceptable.

At a time when development pressures are at historic highs and farms are facing unprecedented pressure to be able to continue to operate we need to do all in our power to mitigate the number of parcel removals and status changes.

I understand COVID-19 closures and delays impacted this redistricting process, which only heightens the need to make sure this process is done the right way.

On behalf of the farms of the 99<sup>th</sup> District who face negative impacts I urge you to delay final action on the redistricting process within statutory limits until parcels with negative proposed modifications can have their status reviewed and reconsidered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Colin J. Schmitt'.

Colin J. Schmitt  
Member of Assembly  
99th District