

NEW YORK  
STATE  
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



July 22, 2011

Senator John A. DeFrancisco  
333 East Washington Street  
800 State Office Building  
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Senator DeFrancisco,

I appreciated your follow-up appearance to my interview on WSYR's The Jim Reith Show on Thursday regarding the value of an independent redistricting process.

The way that our congressional and state legislative districts are drawn is directly related to the way that New York State government functions, and they should be drawn in a way that allows our voters to be represented fairly. New Yorkers, therefore, deserve to hear an open and honest conversation about this issue.

Following our interviews, the show's producer invited us both to return to the show next week for a joint-interview.

Since Senate Republicans refused to allow an open discussion of this issue during the legislative session, I propose that you and I accept this invitation and return as guests on The Jim Reith Show next week to debate this increasingly pressing issue. This would show listeners that Senators from both political parties and representing different regions of the state are capable of an open, fair and honest discussion about redistricting.

As I am sure you are aware, the New York State Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) started its official public hearings this week, the first of which was held in Syracuse on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, LATFOR continues to be controlled by partisan interests, which furthers the lack of accountability in state government that has long frustrated New Yorkers.

During the last campaign season, candidates of both parties tripped over each other to declare themselves "Heroes of Reform." Unfortunately, since assuming the majority this year, Senate Republicans turned their backs on their promises of redistricting reform that would take effect for next year's elections. We need to show New Yorkers that we can do more than partisan politicking, and this joint interview would be the perfect place to start.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Gianaris".

Michael Gianaris  
New York State Senate