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April 14, 2011

California State Redistricting Commission  
Public Hearing Testimony by Lori de León

On behalf of the Dolores Huerta Foundation and the various organizations that requested a hearing in Kern County, I would like to thank the Citizen's Redistricting Commission for honoring our request and welcome you to Bakersfield.

Previous testimony has been presented as to the makeup and needs of a few of the towns and cities that are primarily farm worker communities here in Kern County. As an individual that from the time I was a young teen, I lived Kern County and in Delano. Much of my adult life has been working in the farm workers communities of Kern County, representing the needs of farm workers, along the side of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta.

Although the community assessments presented previously were from the southeastern farm worker communities of Kern, from my experience I can honestly say that those communities share the same common interests and needs or our farm worker communities in northern Kern County and the farm worker community in East Bakersfield, a non-incorporated part of the city. The commonality of these communities are primarily agricultural farm workers who are primarily people of Latino decent, and whose communities lack infrastructure support, schools, health, and education.

I am here to present a proposed map of a district that includes the farm worker communities of Arvin, Lamont, Weedpatch, East Bakersfield, Mc Farland, Shafter, Wasco and Delano. This map constitutes communities that historically have not had true representation either in Sacramento nor the Congress.

The current 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District representative, David Valadao does not even have an office, staff person or telephone in Kern County, and Congressman Kevin McCarthy of the 22<sup>nd</sup> District has never represented the interests of farm workers or immigrants.

This Commission has the opportunity to give to those in most need, the people that pick the food we eat every day yet have very little to feed their own families, true representation in the State and Congress.

Thank you,

Lori de León





