



Dear Chairman Aguirre and Members of the Commission:

The Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce urges the Citizens Redistricting Commission to adhere to county lines as much as possible when drawing district lines. This is an issue of vital importance to the thousands of Ridgecrest residents who wish to continue to enjoy the same representation at the state and federal level as their fellow Kern County residents.

Ridgecrest is currently part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District, the 32<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District, and the 18<sup>th</sup> Senate District. This puts our community in the same district as Bakersfield, Tehachapi, California City, Mojave, and most of the other major communities in Kern County. As we share services and a county infrastructure with these other communities, it seems logical to keep Ridgecrest represented by the same legislators as most of the county we live in. Our community is home to the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, one of Kern County's major employers. Most of China Lake's occupied and functional land is located in Kern County, and the Weapons Division employs over 6,600 personnel, most of whom live in Kern County.

It is imperative that these workers, who live, work and spend their money in Kern County, are represented by the same legislators as the other residents of the county. We all live here and share common services and interests; we are entitled to the same representation.

The Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce and its hundreds of member businesses appreciate the work of the Commission and its dedication to a fair and nonpartisan redistricting process, and we encourage the Commission to remain faithful to its criteria of respecting "the boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest, and minimize their division, to the extent possible."

Sincerely,

Jay Chun  
President, Board of Directors  
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce