

COUNTY OF SONOMA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95403



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Per \_\_\_\_\_

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Region # 8: San Francisco/  
Sonoma Bay Area Region

May 20, 2011

Commissioners  
Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: 2011 State and Federal District Re-apportionment

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to offer our input as you formulate the new Assembly, State Senate, and Congressional Districts boundaries. We appreciate your time and dedication to crafting the most logical, effective and appropriate districts and ask that you consider our comments in your deliberations.

Political districts which consist of similar communities of interest have stronger and more effective representation when their elected officials clearly understand and articulate county priorities from both local and regional perspectives. Further, we have seen our residents interests served more effectively by shared representation with our neighboring counties. Sharing districts with our neighbors provides Sonoma County the opportunity to work together on behalf of all residents to enhance the quality of life.

Historically as the largest county on the north coast, Sonoma County has been in legislative districts connected with surrounding counties who share similar issues such as agriculture, wine, natural resources, tourism, water, transportation, and coastal issues to name a few. Districts have traditionally run from north to south connecting coastal counties, such as Sonoma, to their adjacent neighbors (Lake, Mendocino, Napa and Marin) together. This has resulted in effective representation on quality of life issues and allowed us to better work together. Sonoma County has benefitted from being a "split" county and we believe it will continue to benefit Sonoma County residents.

As the Commission ponders district configurations, we ask you consider the number of factors

which connect Sonoma County to its neighboring counties and to whom a shared benefit exists from shared districts, such as we currently have. Please consider the following factors:

- Sonoma, Napa, Lake and Mendocino Counties all share the incredible wine industry and the economic engine of tourism;
- Sonoma and Mendocino County share a common watershed as well as coastal, timber, tourist and fishing issues;
- Sonoma County shares coastal issues such as fishing, transportation and tourism with Humboldt and Del Norte counties;
- Sonoma and Mendocino counties also share the Highway 101 corridor which connects us and provides a common route for North Bay and North Coast commerce;
- Sonoma and Lake counties share the largest geothermal fields in the world – an industry which is greatly impacted by federal legislation and regulation.

There are numerous other examples as well.

Having federal and state elected officials who understand our shared interests strengthens Sonoma County's voice in Washington and Sacramento. It is the history of effective enfranchisement to which the Board requests the Commission consider these factors as you deliberate. The people of Sonoma County are served well by districts which connect and empower. We have always had multiple state and federal representatives due to the County being split. This has served Sonoma County well and we ask that this continues. We urge the Commission to fully review the strength that exists from our current north to south running districts and the regional and community based representation they enable.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your consideration of our comments. If we can provide any additional information, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



EFREN CARRILLO,  
Chair and Fifth District Supervisor  
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors