

May 20, 2011

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for undertaking the thankless task of drawing the districts for our Congressional and states representation. It is not an easy job, and I wish you the best of luck. I know that you have heard a great deal from residents of our region, but I would like to add my voice to the discussion. I am a resident of Pasadena, and an Armenian-American. I have held many positions with the Armenian National Committee, but I am writing to you today as a citizen.

Other residents have spoken to you of the strong ties between the city governments, schools and other communities of the cities of Burbank, Glendale, Pasadena and Altadena. But few have talked about the Armenian community. These cities harbor strong Armenian communities that share common goals and interests. I implore you to keep these cities together to preserve our voice in the political process. The cities are all among the top ten cities in America in proportion of Armenian-Americans by population. The Armenian National Committee chapters in the four cities cooperate on many events, and there are deep social ties between the communities. Armenian-Americans in each city worship at churches in another.

I believe that the Armenian-American community is a strong community of interest, and should be preserved in any Congressional or state legislative districts that you draw. Please keep Altadena, Pasadena, Glendale and Burbank together.

Sincerely,



Aida Dimejian
Community Activist

Board member Armenian National Committee of America Western Region