



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

May 24, 2011

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

Dear Commissioners:

As you undertake your work, the San Jose Silicon Valley (SJSV) Chamber of Commerce encourages you to consider the San Jose technology industry as an economic community of interest when you draw new political district boundary lines.

The SJSV Chamber is a coalition of businesses representing more than a quarter of a million jobs across every sector of the economy. We believe that like our community, the strength of our organization is found in its diversity. We are proud that 80% of our members are small businesses, and we recognize them for creating 8 out of 10 new jobs in the valley. Concurrently, the Chamber serves as a voice representing our largest employers, and the pioneers of the high-tech industries that gave Silicon Valley its moniker. These economic pillars are regional assets we must strive to retain in today's global economy.

San Jose lays claim to the designation as the Capital of Silicon Valley, as it leads the nation with over 3,000 utility patents filed in annually. The ripple effect of all this innovation is the job creation it stimulates, in fact, more than 40% of local Silicon Valley job growth can be attributed to start up companies. The City of San Jose has been a leader in the incubation and growth of bio-tech and green tech companies leading the way for our state and nation. Fully 14% of all Silicon Valley jobs are in the emerging green technology sector.

San Jose's Congressional representatives have historically been careful stewards of the technology industry's unique policy needs, which have allowed the economy of our region and state to grow. As Congressional and legislative districts change, the SJSV Chamber of Commerce hopes you will consider designing these districts that allow our representatives to focus on the pressing issues that are unique to our innovation economy. Our members are concerned that our economic community of interest remains intact during reapportionment and redistricting and will be reflected in our representation in Washington and Sacramento which is critical to the overall economy of California and our nation.

Thank you for your service to the people of California by your involvement on the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia E. Sausedo".

Patricia E. Sausedo
Vice President, Public Policy & Communication