



June 22, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P St., Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Number Assignment to Senate District EALAM

Dear Members of the Commission:

As constituents of the draft Senate district EALAM, we are calling upon you to assign an odd number to our district as you go through the process of numbering the districts.

The Contra Costa Council is a nonprofit, public/private advocacy organization whose mission is economic vitality and quality of life. Our nearly 400 members include business and industry, education, local government, labor and non-profit organizations. It is critical that we are directly represented in the Senate as the Legislature addresses the many public policy issues that affect our economy.

The majority of our district is now in Senate District 7. It is an odd-numbered district, and we are due to elect our next Senator in 2012. If you choose to make our Senate district an even-numbered district there will be no election for State Senator until 2014. Thus, our current Senator will need to step down leaving us with no directly elected representation in the State Senate for two years. It is unacceptable to disenfranchise the residents and businesses of Contra Costa and Alameda counties in this manner.

Cities, elected boards, non-profits and businesses in this district all have need for representation from a State Senator duly elected by the people of the district. State funding for education, transportation, health and human services, parks and recreation, water resources and a host of other services are critical for the district. We need a Senator elected by us to represent us to ensure we receive our fair share of state resources.

We strongly urge you to retain our district as an odd-numbered district so that the residents and businesses of Contra Costa and Alameda counties are not disenfranchised.

Sincerely yours,

Linda Best
President & CEO

Chair of the Board
George Smith
President
GBR Smith Group, LLC
Board Chair

Chair Elect
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