

REGION 9: MENDOCINO



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

Ukiah, CA. 95482

Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

July 25, 2011

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

Sent via email to: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov
fax: (916) 651-5711

RE: California Citizen's Redistricting Commission North Coast Region Comments

Dear Committee,

The Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) wishes to submit comments on the Visualization Maps of the North Coast Region. MCFB is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB currently represents 1300 members in Mendocino County.

In review of the Visualization Maps for the North Coast Region Congressional District, it is concerning to see that the district now extends from the Oregon border to the north end of San Francisco Bay. To the north of Mendocino County, Trinity County has been added. To the south, Lake, Napa and Yolo Counties have been removed and parts of Sonoma as well as the entire County of Marin have been added. The rural counties of the north (Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt and Mendocino) cannot compete with the voice of the more populated counties to the south. Based on the 2010 Census the combined population of Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino Counties is 264, 860 residents while the population of Marin County alone was 252, 409. The addition of most of Sonoma County and Marin County will hinder having equal representation of urban versus rural issues and MCBF does not support this change.

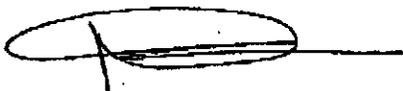
A similar situation can be seen with the Visualization Maps of the North Coast Senate District. This proposal extends the Senate district to the Oregon border and has taken in Trinity County in whole, a portion of Sonoma County and all of Marin County. Napa County and the portion of Solano County have been removed. Again, with the addition of the rural counties to the north as well as the more populated centers to the south, it will be a challenge for rural issues to be heard and MCFB does not support this change.

The State Assembly Visualization Map for the North Coast has removed Lake County and Marin County was not added.

For reference, Lake County shares the Eel River Watershed with Mendocino, Humboldt and Trinity Counties as well as portions of federal lands within the Mendocino National Forest. A number of Lake County residents also depend on Mendocino County and Sonoma County for employment opportunities as well as retail availability.

MCFB appreciates the opportunity to submit comment on the state redistricting process and also appreciates the citizen based redistricting commission. MCFB encourages the California Citizen's Redistricting Commission to consider our concerns regarding the lack of representation of rural counties and rural communities that we see occurring with the current Visualization Maps of the North Coast Districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Anderson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Anderson

President