

AGPA01

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2010 1:19 PM
To: Voters First Act
Subject: Support Dr. Gabino Aguirre

Hello,

I am writing in support of Dr. Gabino Aguirre's application to be seated on the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

As a 20-year-plus journalist, my dealings with Dr. Aguirre have always been positive; he is forthright, honest and unruffled even under fire. His level of dedication to social justice and equal representation for all is exemplary.

Dr. Aguirre is also intimately aware of the ramifications of redistricting: Santa Paula, where Dr. Aguirre served with distinction on the City Council for eight years, was caught in the snare of redistricting by Legislators. The entire mostly rural Santa Clara River Valley - an agricultural area of only about 50,000 residents - found itself in a State Senate district almost entirely aligned with a much, much larger and wealthier area of East Los Angeles County. The demographics could not have been more opposite. There was practically no interest at all from the elected official who probably viewed this area as an afterthought - and one only rarely had. This was not the fault of the elected official as much as the "mix" within this district that created lopsided representation.

Dr. Aguirre is highly respected in the community not only for his devotion to "doing the right thing" but also for the innate kindness he demonstrates when dealing with all living creatures. He is respectful of others, listens to all opinions, weighs such input and bases decisions on facts, not flights of fancy. He is also someone who can be trusted with all matters of confidentiality. He is highly intelligent, extremely well spoken and sees issues through to conclusion.

Dr. Aguirre would be a much valued addition to the commission that was culled from an original 36,000 or so applicants. Yourselves as panelists have already shown the caliber of the selection process: I firmly believe your next step is appointing Dr. Aguirre, an individual of high integrity who would greatly benefit the mission of this panel.

Regards,
Peggy Kelly

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