



napa valley vintners

March 16, 2011

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

Dear Commissioner Barabba,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the re-drawing of district lines in California. The Napa Valley Vintners (NVV) is a non-profit trade association representing 400 member wineries located in Napa County and of which our members contributes 34% towards the state-wide economic wine industry impact of \$42.4 billion annually.

The NVV was interested to see the criteria in the Legal Handbook for the Citizens Redistricting Commission for drawing of district lines focuses on geographical compact and continuous areas that include agricultural communities of interest.

The NVV appreciates this distinction and recommends that the northern California wine industry in the counties of Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma and Yolo be considered by the Citizens Redistricting Commission to be geographically continuous, compact and an agricultural community of interest and be incorporated into one Congressional district. All five counties are actively engaged in agriculture, grape growing and wine making. The citizens live in similar rural agricultural areas, share common social and economic interests, and many of the same standards of living such as common transportation facilities, work opportunities, and access to the same media outlets as relevant to the election process and therefore would be better served by not being drawn in the same district as an urban area.

Therefore the NVV appreciates the Citizen Redistricting Commissions consideration of including Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma and Yolo Counties in one Congressional District.

Thank you for your service and consideration of this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Heitz Myers
President, Napa Valley Vintners Board of Directors

cc: Lake County Winegrape Growers
Mendocino Winegrape and Wine Commission
Napa Valley Grapegrowers
Napa County Farm Bureau
Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
Winegrowers of Napa County
Yolo County Visitors Bureau