

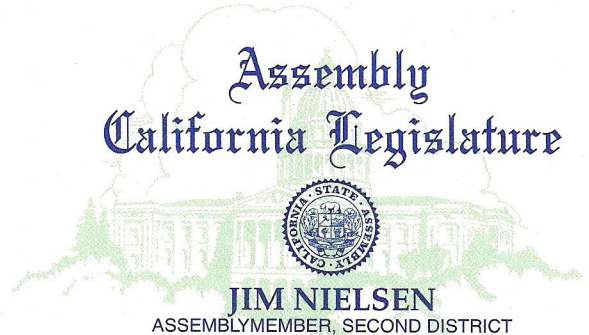
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Assembly California Legislature



JIM NIELSEN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
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March 19, 2011

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

Commissioners of Citizens Redistricting Commission and Mr. Daniel Clay Pool:

I wish to complement the commission for your dedication and vigilance towards achieving a fair and impartial redistricting that reflects the best interests of the citizens of California.

I understand that Q2/Karin MacDonald, one of the applicants, is an entity in which Bruce Cain is a principal/owner.

As a legislator, I've had experience in four state redistrictings. The 1970s, the 1980s (twice), and the 1990s. The legislature conducted redistricting and the legislator's efforts in each cycle resulted in gerrymanders. In the 1970s and 1990s, the courts resolved the district lines. The court imposed redistrictings were widely considered fair and impartial—in contrast to the legislative products. Propositions 11 and 20 improved the process by removing legislators from the redistricting process.

However, the commission has to satisfy not only the requirements of Proposition 11 and 20 that redistricting be fair and impartial, but the perception that procedures, processes, and decision-making have also been conducted in similar manner.

I believe Bruce Cain's association with Q2 creates the appearance of partiality due to his deep involvement with the 1980s redistricting—an egregious partisan gerrymander. I do not know Ms. MacDonald or Mr. Cain and have no personal complaint with them. However, the commission should consider the color of bias that the hiring of Q2 would effect.

I also respectfully request that the commission give due consideration to the unique demographics, economic imperatives, and communities of interest applicable to California's rural counties.

Thank you for your opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

JIM NIELSEN
Assemblymember, 2nd District