

From: **Fred Keeley** [REDACTED]

Date: Thu, Apr 14, 2011 at 5:17 PM

Subject:

To: "votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov" <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>, Bill Maxfield <bill@millermxfield.com>

Dear Commissioners,

From 1996 through 2002, I represented the Monterey Bay area in the California State Assembly. For most of that time, I served as Speaker pro Tempore. In 2001, I voted **against** the redistricting bills regarding the redrawing of district lines for the California State Legislature. I also spoke on the Assembly floor against the redistricting maps that were adopted by overwhelming votes of both Democrats and Republicans. My basic objection was this: The proposed 15th Senate District did violence to nearly a half century of respect for the communities of interest that is the Monterey Bay area, it violated the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, and, finally, it ignored all public testimony at noticed hearings of the Legislature regarding what the state Senate districts should look like.

As a result of the travesty that became the redistricting of central coast state Senate redistricting, I made two public pledges: 1) I would dedicated much of my time to amending the state Constitution to take the act of redistricting legislative boundaries out of the hands of the legislature and into the hands of an independent citizens redistricting commission; and, 2) **I would not seek election to any office subject to the jurisdiction of the commission.**

As a board member of California Forward, I have worked with other governance reform folks throughout California to create the current independent redistricting process, and am pleased with the work to date.

I do wish to express my belief that the best possible state Senate district for the Monterey Bay area is for this area to be redistricted back into a single district bounded by the Monterey Bay. Such a district, for which I will not seek election as noted above, would meet all requirements of the law: respect for the census results, compactness, adherence to the Voting Rights Act (of which Monterey County is one of the five areas in California that requires pre-clearance from the United States Department of Justice), and respect for "communities of interest."

A district that would continue the existing politically-motivated and executed redistricting of 2001 would do violence to both the spirit and letter of the law passed by voters in 2008 and 2010, that establish both the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission and provided the elegant and

proper rules for the conduct of this year's redistricting. The loss representation for the people of the Monterey Bay area as a direct result of the 2001 redistricting can and must be cured by the fact-driven work of your commission. I strongly urge you to draw a compact state Senate district that includes all of Santa Cruz County and Monterey County, a district that would meet each and every criteria established in state and federal law, and is desired by the people of the Monterey Bay area.

Thank you for your service to the people of California.

Fred Keeley

