

April 22, 2011

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

Dear Gentleman e Mesdames;

The Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee strongly urges the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) to schedule a hearing in the northwestern part of the state to hear redistricting concerns of the citizens of Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte counties. This area of the state forms a very cohesive Community of Interest that is coastal resource dependent, shares strong economic ties, and has long been recognized as united by the Highway 101 corridor.

It is a reality of life in northwestern California that we are distant from other metropolitan areas. Redding to the east is 3-4 hours away by the often hazardous Highway 299. To the south the communities of the San Francisco Bay Area are 5 to 6 hours away by road. Air travel to these metropolitan areas is expensive and subject during much of the year to disruption in scheduled flights.

In comparison to other areas of the State, residents of northwestern California will be severely limited in opportunities to present issues and concerns to the CRC. In numerous cases hearings are scheduled at locations less than one hour's drive from each other, with two hearing locations being just twenty-six minutes apart. Clearly, residents of the North Coast are being placed at a serious disadvantage relative to virtually all other residents of the State.

It appears that the Commission's schedule currently includes a hearing in Auburn on May 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by a meeting in Santa Rosa on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We respectfully request that the Commission modify its schedule to include a meeting here on the North Coast, in either Arcata or Eureka, on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Such an opportunity for hearing citizens' concerns will be absolutely essential if the Commission is to make knowledgeable decisions regarding appropriate representation for our area.

We thank you for your consideration of this reasonable and necessary request, and offer our assistance in making possible such an appearance by the Commission.

Sincerely,

Milton J. Boyd, Chair

Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee