



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

April 18, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Fax: (916) 322-0904  
[votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov)

Dear Members of the Redistricting Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to request that the Citizens Redistricting Commission hold a Public Input Hearing here on the North Coast. The current schedule of hearings provides no meaningful opportunity for residents of the North Coast to participate in this process which could have such far-reaching implications for our ability to be fairly and accurately represented both in the US Congress and in the State Legislature by elected representatives who truly understand the distinct issues facing our remote, rural region.

The schedule of hearings as currently defined demonstrates a severe lack of appreciation for the tremendous scale, topography and diversity of Northern California. Twenty-six counties, nearly half of all counties in the State, are incongruously assembled into one inexplicably massive region. Humboldt County residents wishing to participate in this process would have to choose between driving three hours to Redding or four hours to Santa Rosa. In either case, the twisting, temperamental mountain roads make a one-day round-trip prohibitively challenging. Residents of Del Norte County would have to add at least three hours to that drive time, round trip.

By comparison, residents from virtually all other regions of the State are offered multiple opportunities to attend hearings within a reasonable two hour drive. 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.

We note 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>. Any logistical difficulties the Commission may encounter in doing so would perhaps be informative to the Commission's understanding and appreciation for the remote and unique character of the North Coast. Such an understanding 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 we are available to assist in making any necessary arrangements.

Sincerely,

Mark Lovelace, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

ML:kh