



CITY OF BISHOP

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April 28, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
E-mail: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

**Re: City of Bishop and Redistricting of 25th Congressional District
Public Input Hearing - Sunday, May 1, 2011**

Dear Commission Members:

The City of Bishop respectfully requests Commission action to keep our region in the 25th Congressional District. In considering redistricting criteria, Bishop's "community of interest" is economically, geographically and socially linked to southern California.

Significantly, the Bishop area is economically dependent on tourist travel from the south; we are southern California's back yard for world-class recreation - fishing, rock climbing and bouldering, skiing, hiking, and packing. Access via US 395 to / from southern communities is safe, fast, efficient, and winter weather seldom prevents the commute. These recreational uses create strong social ties with the south.

The City of Bishop would specifically object to being placed into a Congressional District to the west or to the north of Bishop and Inyo County. The extremely rugged Sierra Mountain range with its long driving distances, unpredictable and severe winter conditions, and lack of transportation alternatives can effectively isolate us from Fresno, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Due to that isolation the bulk of goods and services coming into Bishop are sourced from the south. There is less economic connection to those more distant communities to the west or north (Fresno, Sacramento, San Francisco, or directly north to the California/Nevada border).

Bishop's geographic, economic, and social ties to Southern California make remaining in the 25th Congressional District a logical choice.

Yours very truly,

Laura Smith, Mayor