

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Sat, Apr 30, 2011 at 9:49 AM
Subject: Redistricting: North Coast counties
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League of Women Voters of Humboldt County
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April 30, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
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Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Humboldt County is following the Commission's meetings and public comments with interest. In response to the speakers at the "District 9" meeting in Redding, who urged drawing the district lines from east to west across the north state, LWVHC suggests that it would be an unhelpful approach. To draw such simple lines might seem rational on a flat map, but the topography plus community needs and interests dictate otherwise.

There is considerable precedent for keeping the North Coast counties together. Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity and Mendocino have long histories of working together on issues of common interest. We exist together on a north-south continuum along the Highway 101 corridor. With the coastal influences and resources, these counties have a shared economic base in tourism, recreation, fishing, and agriculture (including timber and dairy). The interests of the northeastern part of the state are more common east of the coastal range along I-5 and into the Central Valley.

Because travel eastward across the mountains to the I-5 corridor can be impossible in

rainy or cold winter months and difficult in the best of weather, networks have developed along the north-south corridor in the areas of health care delivery, specialty agriculture, fishing, and commerce. We share bird, wildlife and marine protected areas, watersheds and wineries. We share the California Coastal National Monument and both state and national Redwood Parks. Our coastal areas lie within the boundaries of the California Coastal Commission. Agriculture in the temperate coastal areas is quite different from inland agriculture.

While the need to adjust district boundaries is understood, the League supports maintaining Del Norte, Trinity, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties in the same Assembly District and looking at a readjustment of the Senate District to include Del Norte.

Respectfully,

Beth Matsumoto

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President, LWV Humboldt County