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Subject: Redistricting in the Inland Empire

Date: Mon, 9 May 2011 10:00:00 AM (PST)

From: George Kopp

To: votersfirstact@...

I write to you as a gerrymandered voter, for all practical purposes disenfranchised and unrepresented in the state legislature.

I live in Joshua Tree, an unincorporated area of San Bernardino County, where I am president of the local Chamber of Commerce. Joshua Tree's assemblyman is Paul Cook, of the 65th District. I have met Mr. Cook on several occasions, and exchanged views with him. Though I do not always agree with him, he does take an active interest in our community.

Mr. Cook is not my assemblyman, however. For some reason, probably having more to do with electoral politics than with representing constituents, I live not in the 65th District but in the 34th District.

My assemblywoman, Connie Conway, has never been to Joshua Tree, as far as I know. Even though her district includes the Twentynine Palms Marine Base, I have never seen her at the Base events I attend frequently. Of course I can vote against her (and I do), but my vote means nothing when voters in Tulare, Inyo and Kern Counties keep electing her. (San Bernardino County comprises less than 5% of her district.)

The desert communities of Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms share common concerns and economic interests. They should share an assembly district as well, that includes all the residents of these areas.

I will not be able to attend the meeting in Norco, but I wanted to share my views with you.

Sincerely,

George Kopp
Joshua Tree, CA