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**Subject: U.S. Congressional District Combining Eastern Riverside County with Imperial County Makes Sense****Date:** Saturday, May 21, 2011 7:26 PM**From:** Hoag Anita <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** U.S. Congressional District Combining Eastern Riverside County with Imperial County Makes Sense

My husband and I moved to the Coachella Valley 22 years ago and currently are retired and living in Rancho Mirage, CA.

After attending the May 12 Palm Springs Public Input Hearing held by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission, I returned home invigorated and inspired by the impassioned testimony of so many of my fellow citizens. I too want to give testimony to support what I heard as the overriding logic from the majority of the assembled speakers to the idea of creating a U.S. Congressional District that would combine the Eastern section of Riverside County, the Coachella Valley and Imperial County allowing for two (2) full State Assembly Districts and one (1) State Senate District to be nestled closely into it. What uncommon sense, providing actual fair representation, truly democracy at work! This solution also would satisfy those who often repeated at the hearing that they wanted, "the Coachella Valley to be kept whole."

Riverside County is split into two distinct geographical sections by a large mountain range including Mt. San Jacinto. The mountains themselves make a logical dividing line between the highly urbanized communities to the west and northern end of Riverside County having much more in common with and greater access to Los Angeles and Orange Counties, and the largely suburban and rural desert communities to the eastern end of Riverside County. These communities to the east share the economies of agriculture, tourism, health care, house many retirement communities and have also become destination cities for large sports events, art festivals, music concerts and lifestyle celebrations. The far eastern, mainly arid desert, section of Riverside County shares many water and transportation issues which cross Imperial and Riverside County lines, not to mention the ecological disaster challenges of California's largest lake, the Salton sea. Imperial County is currently split into two U.S. Congressional Districts, as is the Sea, thereby dividing and diminishing the people's ability to be represented. This is empirically true. The lack of attention received by these citizens is evident in the high unemployment rates, lack of sufficient health care and public transportation. Bringing Imperial County into the same U.S. Congressional District with the eastern end of Riverside County would bring much needed fair and equal representation to the people of California living to the south east between the borders of Mexico and Arizona and the Coachella Valley.

One of the most exciting messages I heard between the testimony and the questions asked by the Commissioners at the Palm Springs Public Hearing was the unparalleled opportunity within the Eastern Riverside County, Coachella Valley and Imperial County

area to expand and develop solar, wind and geothermal energy industries. This new Congressional District could become a leader of innovation and technology not only to the county but to the state and the nation as well. Proper federal governmental representation and support could allow for the development of the natural resources intrinsic to the area creating clean, safe sources of energy and giving endless career opportunities and growth to what is now, unfortunately, in some areas, isolated and forgotten desert land and citizens.

I encourage the Commissioners to create a U.S. Congressional District combining Imperial County to Eastern Riverside County giving us two full State Assembly Districts and one full State Senate District nestled within, extending from the Mexican Border up to the cities of Banning-Beaumont and over to San Jacinto.

Thank you for your efforts and due diligence in making California a more fairly represented state.

Anita W. Hoag