May 17, 2011

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my strong desire to maintain the binding of communities situated along the 57 corridor, from the 91 interchange to the south to the 210 interchange in the north, in a shared State Senate district. I recognize that the Citizens Redistricting Commission (“Commission”) is trying to avoid creating districts that cross county lines, but in many instances communities of interest transcend county boundaries due to the multitude of issues these communities are engaged in.

As you know, Senate District 29 is currently comprised of portions of Los Angeles County, Orange County and San Bernardino County. The 29th District includes the cities of Arcadia, Bradbury, Brea, Chino, Chino Hills, Claremont, Diamond Bar, Glendora, La Habra, La Habra Heights, La Verne, Monrovia, Placentia, San Dimas, Sierra Madre, Walnut and Yorba Linda.

Cities in North Orange County have similar working class incomes and similar housing needs to the cities in East San Gabriel Valley and even portions of western San Bernardino County like the City of Chino Hills. Our residents likely commute to their jobs using State Route 57 and many of them have our children that attend California State University Fullerton. In addition, the communities of Brea, Fullerton, Placentia and Yorba Linda are deeply connected through the collaboration of public services. For example, the cities of Brea, Fullerton and Placentia have established a joint powers authority to fund and maintain a park that benefits the three communities. The cities of Brea and Fullerton are currently sharing a Fire Chief and other command staff in their fire departments. The cities of Anaheim, Brea, Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Pomona and several others have formed a transportation coalition to address traffic circulation and transportation issues affecting the cities along the 57 corridor. The cities of Yorba Linda and Brea share undeveloped land deemed a "wildlife corridor", which is partly comprised of Chino Hills State Park and a continuing swath of undeveloped rolling hills that bridges the three counties of Orange, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles, and are working together to protect this land for future generations. Our shared interest in addressing transportation issues affecting our region, preserving the ecology and beauty of our open spaces, and public service collaboration are but a few of the many elements that binds us together.
While it is unlikely that the current senate district will remain completely intact due to changes in population since the 2000 Census, I believe that the Commission should strive to keep communities of similar demographics and with issues of mutual interest as part of the same district. Any redistricting effort that divides these communities will dilute our voice in the legislature and compromise our ability to address the issues that matter most to our constituents.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns on redistricting. Our strength as an interactive and collaborative community of interest rests on our ability to have a shared legislative voice. Please respect the integrity of our communities and our quality of life by keeping those communities situated along the 57 corridor in a shared Senate district.

Sincerely,

Scott W. Nelson
Mayor

cc: Senator Huff