

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission -

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, I am submitting the following letter expressing our support for Silicon Valley's region being recognized by the Commission as a "community of economic interest."

Please find attached our formal letter looking ahead to the hearing in San Jose on Monday, May 23. We hope that you will include this letter in the Commissioner's briefing materials.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.


Sincerely,

Kirk

--
Kirk Everett
Vice President, Government Relations and Tax Policy

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May 19, 2011

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Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and our member companies, please consider the Silicon Valley region's technology industry and its supporting businesses as an economic community of interest as you deliberate and draw new political district boundary lines.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group is organized to involve principal officers and senior managers of more than 340 companies in a cooperative effort with local, regional, state, and federal government officials to address major public policy issues affecting the economic health and quality of life in Silicon Valley. Leadership Group membership has grown to collectively provide nearly one of every three private sector jobs in Silicon Valley.

Under the California Redistricting Commission's criteria, ***a community of interest is a contiguous population which shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation.*** Silicon Valley as a region clearly represents the intent and definition of a community of economic interest as outlined by the Commission.

- Silicon Valley as a region has a population of 3 million people and is home to greater than 1.3 million jobs.
- Total employment in the five key green job sectors accounts for 175,077 Silicon Valley jobs, or 14% of all employment in the region.
- Silicon Valley continues to maintain its status as the top research and development center in the world and is a leader in patent creation; currently 10 of the top 20 cities are located in Silicon Valley.
- The innovation economy of Silicon Valley has been the economic engine for California and the nation.

At the Federal level, our elected representatives in Congress have been very important to the economic success of our region and state, and to the global competitiveness of Silicon Valley companies. It is critical too that this economically vital region have effective representation in Congress. The Leadership Group and its member companies have worked hard to advocate, educate and participate in policy setting that affects our region, both in Sacramento and Washington DC and we are concerned that our economic community of interest remains intact during reapportionment and redistricting.

Thank you for your willingness to step forward and serve the people of California in this important role.

Sincerely,

Carl Guardino

President and CEO