

**Subject: Public Comment: Redistricting****Date:** Thursday, May 19, 2011 1:16 PM**From:** Virginia Strom-Martin <[REDACTED]>**To:** <[REDACTED]>**Conversation:** Public Comment: Redistricting

From: Virginia Strom-Martin &lt;[REDACTED]&gt;

Subject: Redistricting

## Message Body:

I am a former Assembly Member who represented the 1st District between 1996-2002. (I will not run for any elected state office in the future.) Collectively this District included five counties and was always referred to as the Northcoast. Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma County made up this district. When redistricting was done in 2000, the Senate District 2 was redrawn to eliminate Del Norte Co. and put it in Senate District 1. This effectively cut off the Northcoast at Humboldt Co. The Senator that ended up representing Del Norte Co. (Senate District 1) lived in Grass Valley (Nevada Co.) As a result of this travesty (slicing up the Northcoast) I voted "no" on the entire redistricting plan of 2000. My point is that communities of interest must be considered first when redistricting. The Northcoast is a distinct region in California for a number of reasons: it shares a contiguous coastline as was recently recognized by the Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Marine Life!

Protection Act, a task force I served on for over a year. The counties of the Northcoast share two major watersheds: the Eel River and Russian River. All five counties are linked economically, socially and geographically. My Select Committee on Rural Economic Development produced five reports documenting the unique characteristics of these counties upon which I based much of my legislative efforts. The Native American tribes in this area are also closely connected and participate in inter-tribal councils. Again, they were integrally involved in the Marine Life Protection Act proceedings recently concluded in this Northcoast region.

I supported Proposition 11 as an active

Democrat and was pleased to see the outcome of that election and the creation of a citizen's commission. I strongly urge the commission not to repeat the mistakes of the past where a senator from Grass Valley, Nevada Co. has to drive to Oregon (Hwy. 5) and then into Del Norte Co. to represent his constituents. Transportation corridors should also be carefully considered, but, most of all, I ask you to please honor the integrity of communities of interest, such as the Northcoast counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake and Sonoma, when drawing the district lines. Thank you.

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