
Subject: COMMENT LETTER ATTACHED

Date: Sunday, May 22, 2011 10:46 AM

From: Mari Rodin <[REDACTED]>

To: <[REDACTED]>

Conversation: COMMENT LETTER ATTACHED

Please confirm that you have received the attached letter.

Thank you,

Mari Rodin
Mayor of Ukiah

MARI RODIN

UKIAH, CA 95482

Citizens Redistricting Commission
1130 K Street, Suite 101
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

As a resident of Mendocino County for 20 years and a local elected official for 8 years, I am strongly opposed to changing northern California's districts to an east-west orientation. The seven counties that make up our congressional district are bound by many mutual interests and yet encompass views from across the political spectrum. Our vibrant, diverse, interconnected district already meets the goals of the Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Since ancient times, geography (e.g. a watershed or a mountain range) has shaped society. We along the North coast of California are no different. We share natural geographic features, such as the Russian River Watershed (through Mendocino and Sonoma Counties), the Eel River Watershed (through Mendocino, Lake, Trinity, and Humboldt Counties), and the Cache Creek Watershed (through Lake and Yolo Counties). Because of our geographic affinities, we have a long history of cross-county collaboration on a variety of issues of common interest, e.g., marketing the North Coast region for tourism; local governments collaborating to meet federal clean water discharge regulations; branding our wine region (Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma, Lake, and Yolo); creating shared water supplies; and protecting our coast (the Marine Protected Areas and the California Coastal National Monument cross our districts).

The State and federal road systems even follow this north/south orientation. For many constituents, the travel to the I-5 corridor is difficult because the roads are narrow, windy, and often impassible in the winter. From the rural perspective of Mendocino County, our orientation to urban areas is along the Highway 101 corridor, north to Humboldt and south to the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. It is simply impractical and literally unnatural for us to orient ourselves socially and politically as far East as the central valley.

I strongly urge you to continue to keep Mendocino and its neighboring counties of Lake, Napa and Yolo in the same Congressional District.

Respectfully,

Mari Rodin
Mayor of Ukiah