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**Subject: FRAN Redistricting Letter 5-20-11**

**Date:** Friday, May 20, 2011 9:06 AM

**From:** fran freedle <[REDACTED]>

**To:** <[REDACTED]>

**Conversation:** FRAN Redistricting Letter 5-20-11

Dear Commissioners,

I would appreciate your consideration of the issues in my letter.

Thank you,  
Fran Freedle

May 20, 2011

California Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Email [REDACTED]

Dear Commission:

I was speaker #22 at the hearing in Auburn on May 19.

I live in Grass Valley, Nevada County. Our rural community has small businesses, and provides services to many visitors who come to enjoy our historic features and outdoor recreation opportunities including snow related activities in the Eastern County. Our county of 968 square miles has a population of 98,764 people counted in the last census. We have 68% government owned land leaving less than 1/3 for economic use. We have no large corporations, and the largest employer is government. We have three cities (Truckee a 34 mile town in the Eastern County and an hour's drive from the county seat, Nevada City and Grass Valley in the Western County with populations ranging from 3,500 to 13,000.

Our schools in the Western County have a high percentage of high school graduates that go on to college and a robust community scholarship program offering over 3 million annually to graduates. We have a small drop-out rate, and the school systems has programs that focus on keeping students engaged and working toward a diploma.

We have a low poverty rate (approximately 8%) though it has grown over the past several years.

We are very much unlike the coastal communities with high population cities, different business mixes, manufacturing and corporate jobs, and cultural differences. We have a low crime rate, know our neighbors, and support one another in times of need.

Our clean air and rural/wholesome community attract many retired people so that we have many healthy seniors, and the highest percentage of octogenarians in the state. We have about a 93% Caucasian population and about 7% other though the Latino population has grown slowly over the last decade.

These strong values are what hold us all together with common interests. We recognize that we do not have the population in our county to have a single district, but a mega district would only create problems with travel distances that would make it nearly impossible for elected officials to serve constituents. But I want to emphasize that we are best served with voting districts that bring us together with other Northern counties in a North-South configuration because of our similar interests and values.

I respectfully request that the deviation be kept to 2% or less in drawing fair districts throughout the state. When large population centers can skew the vote, it becomes unfair to our more sparsely populated rural areas. The diversity of our state will be respected if the deviation is kept to this minimum.

Thank you for your efforts to redistrict our state fairly and impartially.

Fran Freedle  
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Grass Valley, CA 95949