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Subject:Public Comment: 8 - Contra Costa

Date:Mon, 13 Jun 2011 23:55:41 +0000

From:Susan Wittenberg <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

From: Susan Wittenberg <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Redistricting concerns

Message Body:

I am greatly troubled by the proposed redistricting regarding Contra Costa County (George Miller's district). According to the proposed change, the city of Richmond (excluding East Richmond Heights) will become part of Barbara Lee's district that will also include Oakland and Berkeley. This change appears to be a highly regressive move towards segregation along color lines in districting. In addition, it seems highly unlikely that Ms. Lee can effectively work on behalf of two of the most troubled, poorest, and needy cities in the East Bay. What will happen is that Richmond will be the step child in Ms. Lee's heirarchy of issues. That is definitely not going to benefit Richmond during these very difficult times.

Richmond will also lose the deep knowledge base that George Miller has regarding Richmond's strengths, weaknesses, and profound problems. The value of history will also be lost, thus requiring an enormous learning curve for Ms. Lee.

With the proposed change, West Contra Costa County is being carved up not only along racial lines, but also along economic lines. For years, George Miller has been able to create a balance in his work in support of Contra Costa's poor populations and its affluent populations and has often been able to share his knowledge of the hardships our poorer populations face with those more affluent. With the new districting, his expertise in working with communities of color and need will be wasted, and he will be faced with a district of disproportionate wealth, whose problems will be miniscule compared to those he has always dealt with.

I ask you as an individual and as someone who has worked for 40 years throughout West County and especially Richmond to reconsider the new boundaries. Please change the proposed boundary to include Richmond as part of George Miller's district. We need his perspective, his attention, and his knowledge.

Thank you.

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