

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Public Comment

Date:Sun, 5 Jun 2011 23:31:40 -0700

From:Belia Ramos Bennett <[REDACTED]>

To:[REDACTED]

I am writing in regards to the visualization maps concerning the Congressional seat currently held by Congressman Thompson. The proposed 3rd Congressional District includes 3 partial counties and divides up the Northern California wine region into two different districts. Despite requests from county officials that Napa County be kept intact, the current visualization splits American Canyon from the rest of Napa County. Despite the requests from vitners and agricultural organizations, the current visualization splits Napa and Lake counties from Sonoma and Mendocino Counties.

American Canyon is a young city, only 19 years old. For years we have struggled to associate this community with the rest of Napa County, to which we belong. For decades the community of American Canyon used the zip code of a neighboring city from a different county. For years we have been defending our place in Napa County and fighting the description of North Vallejo (Vallejo is in Solano County). By lumping American Canyon together with Solano County will place a further divide between American Canyon and the county it is a part of—Napa. There are countless reasons to keep Napa County whole, as county officials requested, and no good reason to sever American Canyon. First and foremost, the Redistricting Commission should seek to keep counties whole as much as possible. In the visualization of Thompson's district, American Canyon is split from Napa County and Esparto, Guinda and Rumsey are split from the rest of Yolo County. It would be logical and wise to place all of Yolo County in Congressman Garamendi's district and all of Napa County in Congressman Thompson's district. Second, the premium wine region of Northern California benefits from having a strong voice in Washington—that is Congressman Thompson. American Canyon is very much a part of the wine industry. Not only do we have warehousing and bottling facilities, we also produce wine. Our proposed congressional district does not share our same interests and industries. American Canyon is a part of Napa County. To place a congressional boundary between American Canyon and the rest of Napa County would create regional barriers that would negatively impact all of Napa County. I urge the commission to modify the Congressional district that includes Napa County to also include American Canyon. This can likely be accomplished by swapping the Northern Yolo County area for American Canyon and Southern Napa County between the districts held by Congressman Thompson and Congressman Garamendi. This would unify two counties that are currently split in your visualization. The Redistricting Commission should consider not just numbers, but county lines and industries when drawing the lines.

Respectfully submitted-

Name : Belia Ramos Bennett

Address : [REDACTED]

City : American Canyon

State : CA

Zip_Code : 94503

Telephone : [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

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Belia Ramos Bennett
[REDACTED]

"Individual commitment to a group effort --that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." ~Vince Lombardi
