

Memo

To: The Redistricting Commissioners
From: Norma Smith Davis
Date: June 11, 2011

I am one of the many people who applied to be a commissioner and was not selected. I understand how difficult your task is with the myriad of constraints and criteria you have for redrawing lines. However I must say that if the lines for the congressional district of the North Coast remain as they are, the Santa Rosa area will be totally disenfranchised.

We are part of the North Bay. Our concerns and priorities are with the Russian River health, the coastal preservation, the San Francisco bay as well as the wine production and organic gardening. We have recently given priority to SMART rail. We struggle with traffic jams on Highway 101. We do not belong with "the valley". This is true not only in terms of our different priorities, but in our thinking and outlook on what it means to be part of the north coast sensibilities. We are not a community of interest with the valley.

I see that you have drawn a finger to exclude Santa Rosa from the rest of the county and the coastal community. This does not meet the requirement on contiguous boundaries that respect county lines, communities of interest, access to media, social and economic interests and many of the other criteria you were mandated to fulfill.

I sincerely ask that you reconsider the boundaries for Santa Rosa. We have very little in common with Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba or San Joaquin counties. I personally moved to Santa Rosa from Yuba and San Joaquin counties for the very reason that I felt more "at home" in every way on the North Coast. When visitors come here I take them to the coast, to the redwoods, to the Alexander Valley. Just because some areas of the valley grow some grapes does not mean we have a lot in common. The valley is big agriculture, conservative and rural. We are small, sustainable organic, and liberal.

And incidentally, just because California's coast goes all the way to the Oregon border does not mean that Marin and Sonoma's coastal community has a lot in common with Del Norte County.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

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