Fwd: Testimony

Voter <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov> Mon, Jul 25, 2011 at 12:38 PM

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

Subject: Testimony

Date: Sat, 23 Jul 2011 23:57:33 -0700

From: Mary Helen Barro

To: <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

Esteemed Commissioners:

Attached is my testimony regarding the Second Round visualizations for Assembly, Senate and Congressional districts involving the community of Bakersfield in Kern County.

It is my hope that you will consider our community of interest and not divide it between two districts. This would be devastating and seriously diminish our ability to elect representatives.

Respectfully,

Mary Helen Barro

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Second Round My Testimony_final - ASSEMBLY, SENATE & CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS.doc

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My name is Mary Helen Barro and I live and work in the community of Bakersfield in Kern County.

The Commission’s maps affect my representation in the following way: The Commission has chopped up the community of Bakersfield, dividing it into two Districts – ASSEMBLY = BAKE AND KINGS, SENATE = TULKE and KINGS, and CONGRESSIONAL KR AND KINGS. The community of Bakersfield needs to be kept intact/united. In the Senate District, it should be placed in the Kings Senate District. As the Commission had divided it, much of Bakersfield is lumped into a district (TULKE) that includes communities with which it has little or nothing in common culturally, business-wise, socially, linguistically, or employment.

The following communities share common social and economic characteristics to my community of Bakersfield: Arvin, Lamont, Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Lost Hills and Earlimart. These communities share much in the way of culture, language, social activities, education, jobs, festivals and jobs.

My community of Bakersfield is different as follows: Bakersfield has NOTHING in common with communities like China Lake, Ridgecrest, Mojave, California City, Edwards, Rosamond and Boron, whose economies, education and culture are based in the aerospace industry. It is urgent for the best interests of our community to keep Bakersfield united. To separate it as you have appears to violate Sections 2 and 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

My recommendation is that the Commission remove the following communities from my district, which includes the community of Bakersfield: China Lake, Ridgecrest, Mojave, California City, Edwards, Rosamond and Boron.

My recommendation is that the Commission add and unite the following communities within my district:

Bakersfield, Arvin, Lamont, Delano, McFarland, Wasco, Shafter, Lost Hills and Earlimart.

I can be reached at (add phone or email)

Signature Mary Helen Barro Date 07-23-2011