July 19, 2011

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Congressional District Maps NEBAY & YUBA

Dear Commissioners:

When you last discussed the Congressional District designated as NEBAY on July 13, you considered Lake County’s request to add us to the NEBAY Congressional district instead of the YUBA Congressional District.

You concluded that you could not do this without dividing either Vallejo or Benicia if you wanted to keep Lake County whole. You did not want to divide Vallejo or Benicia.

You asked us to let you know if we would consider splitting Lake County so that Fairfield, currently split between these two districts, could be made whole within the YUBA district. This would involve a population transfer of 27,691 people.

With this invitation from you in mind, we appeared again before you on July 16 and said that, although we preferred to remain whole, we would accept a split so that part of our county would be in NEBAY and part in YUBA. We presented you with a map suggesting how this split could happen. That map is enclosed.

In our proposal, our City of Lakeport (the county seat) and our communities of Middletown, Soda Bay, Clearlake Rivera, Kelseyville, Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, and Clearlake Oaks would be whole within NEBAY and the other city, Clearlake and communities of Hidden Valley Lake, Lower Lake, and Spring Valley would be whole within YUBA. In exchange, Fairfield in Solano County would be whole within YUBA.

Because we had appeared on July 16 at what we thought was your invitation, we were therefore very surprised when you did not even discuss Congressional Districts NEBAY and YUBA at all that day. Our testimony was referenced only during your discussion of the Assembly District that included Lake, Napa and Yolo Counties, something we never intended at all.

We realize that the Commission has heard from thousands of speakers and read thousands more comments submitted in writing. We appreciate the difficult task you have in keeping track of all of these comments and the multiple requests made of you. However, since you specifically asked us to comment on splitting Lake County between the NEBAY and YUBA Congressional Districts, we
are respectfully requesting that you consider this option before you finalize the Congressional maps.

At this point we believe adding a portion of Lake County to NEBAY, as we have demonstrated on our map, and keeping Fairfield whole within YUBA to be fine tuning and technical adjustments limited to two proposed Congressional Districts, not substantive, wholesale changes that would ripple across multiple districts.

Thank you for your consideration and for the work you are doing on behalf of the people of the State of California.

Sincerely,

LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jim Comstock, Chairman

Denise Rushing, District 2

Rob Brown, District 5

Jeff Smith, District 2

Anthony Farmington, District 4
Message Body:
My husband and I have lived in Lake County for 35 and 22 years, respectively. We do not agree that Lake County should be included in a congressional district with the Sacramento Valley counties. Socioeconomic factors must be considered. We in Lake County have always considered ourselves allied with the coastal counties: Our agriculture, our business contacts, our shopping are all contained in the area that includes us. My husband and I have lived in Lake County for 35 and 22 years, respectively. We do not agree that Lake County should be included in a congressional district with the Sacramento Valley counties. Socioeconomic factors must be considered. We in Lake County have always considered ourselves allied with the coastal counties: Our agriculture, our business contacts, our shopping are all contained in the area that includes these counties. Lake County is one of the four premier wine-growing counties in Northern California, along with Napa, Sonoma, and Mendocino. When we shop out of county, we go to Santa Rosa (Sonoma) or Ukiah (Mendocino), we don’t drive hundreds of miles through the central valley to Sacramento. Numerous businesses in our area contain the words “Mendo-Lake” in the title.

We lack even a geographic tie with the Central Valley. My husband and I have two businesses: One is called Northwest Biosurvey, and does business in Lake, Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. The other is a corporation, "Coast Range Wetlands, Inc." Our service area is restricted to the "Coast Range" of northern California and is based on drainage basins and eco-regions. We hope you will seriously reconsider the current redistricting plan.

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This mail is sent via contact form on Citizens Redistricting Commission
Subject: Public Comment: 9 - Lake
From: Ellen Karnowski <[redacted]>
Date: 7/22/2011 5:27 PM
To: [redacted]

From: Ellen Karnowski <[redacted]>
Subject: Please reconsider the boundaries

Message Body:
If redistricting lumps Lake County together with Sacramento, our natural beauty will not be enhanced. Separating us from the urban centers we are near (Santa Rosa and Ukiah) limits us. Our future economic growth relies on us attracting visitors to our healthy air and waters.

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