



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Ukiah, California 95482  
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CARMEL J. ANGELO  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board

PAULINE RANTALA  
Senior Deputy  
Clerk of the Board

**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

June 27, 2011

**RECEIVED**

JUL 11 2011

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Citizens Redistricting Commission  
1130 K Street, Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Single Coastal Congressional District-North Coast

Dear Commissioners:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors unanimously urges you to consider maintaining the existing configuration of two North Coast congressional districts. These thoughtful boundaries are well suited to our geographical terrain, unique natural resource characteristics and well defined communities of interest.

Currently, the Northern Coastal region is represented by two congressional seats (CD-1 and CD-6) recognizing the unique characteristics of coastal influences, rural communities, local farms, ranches, vineyards, travel and tourism, and the need to preserve and sustainably promote our significant natural resources. This expansive coastal corridor warrants the two existing congressional districts. This is particularly important in advocating for marine protections, harbor viability, fishing and harvesting regulation and interfaces with a host of federal aquatic regulatory agencies.

Mendocino County's long established commerce network with Lake, Napa, and Sonoma counties emphasizes our agricultural connectivity. North Coast tourism, pasture-based agriculture, wine grapes and seasonal crops generate a shared economic and cultural heritage. The north-south transportation corridors have long defined our essential commerce connections.

At the Santa Rosa hearing held on May 20, 2011, the Commission requested a copy of the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) report titled *Wine Country Interregional Partnership (IRP)* which MCOG's Executive Director, Mr. Phil Dow, provided you. The well researched document clearly acknowledges our interrelated regional economy as differentiated from the Bay Area. This commerce region should maintain associated continuity with congressional representation.

A single narrowly drawn district stretching from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border does not acknowledge the region's complex landscapes and interrelated economies. Such a singular district weakens our ability to advocate for a multitude of coastal and inland concerns, long-standing communities of interest and diverse natural resources.

We respectfully request your consideration of two North Coast congressional districts as the most prudent and responsible congressional delineation.

Sincerely,

*Kendall Smith*  
Kendall Smith, Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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