

Subject: Please respect the ties that bind our Armenian American community!

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, 2 Aug 2011 15:24:46 -0400

To: [REDACTED]

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Fresno, CA 93721-2916

August 2, 2011

2011 Redistricting Commis California
CA

Dear 2011 Redistricting Commis California:

Dear Members of the California Redistricting Commission and Staff:

Thank you for your time and dedication to helping draw the lines that help ensure the necessary and appropriate representation of all Californians for the next decade to come. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some thoughts regarding the proposed districts as they relate to the Armenian American community.

Most maps drawn in the current draft respect the ties that bind the various neighborhoods and interests of the Armenian community, especially in southern California. For example, generally speaking the California State Assembly district covering the greater Glendale area ties together the communities of Burbank and Little Armenia in Hollywood.

The Congressional district covering the greater Glendale area also connects the main artery of the Armenian American communities from Burbank through Glendale to Little Armenia.

However, in terms of the greater Glendale area there are a couple areas of concern. Both Congressional and State Assembly district maps cut out a portion of Glendale, separating it from the rest of the community. Also, the California State Senate seat in the area creates a corridor between Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena but completely cuts out the Little Armenia neighborhood in Hollywood.

In the San Fernando Valley, the proposed Congressional district generally connects the Armenian American communities of the west and south San Fernando Valley - who share multiple Armenian schools, churches, and youth as well as social service organizations specific to the San Fernando Valley.

However, it is unforutnate to note that this same community is completely fractured when it comes to the California State Assembly and State Senate districts.

The California State Senate district that binds the community of Montebello, Pico Rivera, and Whittier - which is served by a church, a school, and an Armenian Center - is unfortunately split in the State Assembly district (losing Whittier) and in the Congressional district

(losing parts of Montebello).

There are definitely positive aspects to the current draft maps, but we hope that the concerns outlined above can be satisfactorily addressed as the communities being split are bound on a number of levels including the residences of small business owners and their enterprises residing within these communities, schools and churches serving the communities, youth and scouting organizations operating within the communities, and centers and social service organizations tending to the needs of these communities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns.

Sincerely,

Vahan Gosdanian