

April 22, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attn: Public Comment

The agriculture community and industry in Lake County strongly recommends that the California Citizens Redistricting Commission keep the counties of Lake, Napa and Sonoma in the Fifth Congressional District.

We believe the residents of our three counties can be best served by remaining in the same Congressional District. Many of our seasonal employees travel throughout the Napa, Sonoma and Lake County wine region, and are part of a shared workforce that spans the county lines to go where there's work to be done.

Lake County shares many interests and similarities with Napa and Sonoma counties. The winegrape, geothermal and tourism industries, along with regional watersheds and water rights, provide strong ties and long-term relationships among our three counties. It is critical that these interests and relationships be represented in a common, shared Congressional District.

Few circumstances are more dire or pressing in our state and in our industry than the threats of fire and smoke damage in the summer and fall months. Lake County's residents and resident industries have benefited significantly in recent years from being close in proximity – and closer still in mutual interests and shared needs – with the capital and population nexuses of Sonoma and Napa counties. We feel best served when our community's priorities and essential requirements are addressed in concert with those of Napa and Sonoma, and when our law enforcement and first responders overlap when orchestrating an emergency response.

We appreciate the difficult job that the Redistricting Commission has in trying to balance competing interests in drawing district lines. Keeping Lake, Napa and Sonoma counties together in a single District not only makes geographical sense, but conforms with the Redistricting Commission's non-partisan mission to create districts of relatively equal population that will provide fair representation for all Californians.

Thank you for considering our request. Please contact me if you have any questions that I might be able to help answer.

Sincerely,
Annette Hopkins
Member Lake County California Women For Agriculture

