May 5, 2021

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

Dear Chair Andersen,

On behalf of the constituents in District 5 of Napa County and District 1 of Solano County which share County borders, we write to you urging the Citizens Redistricting Commission (Commission) to keep Napa County and the southwest portions of Solano County (Vallejo and Benicia) within the same Congressional District.

There are strong ties and long-term relationships that are shared by Napa and Solano Counties, and it is therefore essential that these interests and relationships be represented in a common, shared Congressional District. To begin with, both Counties share common roadways that are essential for the travel of goods and workers – State Route 37 (SR37) Corridor and State Route 29 (SR29).

SR37 is vulnerable to sea level rise that has caused flooding in recent years, resulting in shut downs and traffic diversions at times lasting for weeks. Also, a greater number of commuters on SR37 are essential workers from Napa and Solano County who drive East to their jobs in Marin and Sonoma Counties. From Mare Island to Sonoma Raceway, only one lane in each direction accommodates the demand. This slows down traffic, which can add up to an additional hour of commute time in both directions. This cost of time in the current SR37 configuration is unsustainable.

Improving SR37 by addressing sea level rise and adding lanes is important for the continued flow of goods and services in the North Bay. With this in mind, it is imperative that Napa and Solano County continue to work together to obtain federal funding for the reconstruction of SR 37 in order to withstand rising seas and storm surges while improving mobility and safety along the route.

In addition, American Canyon and Suisun are the logistics hub for wines leaving our counties. The commonality of logistics systems tied to high value agricultural products is best leveraged through combined advocacy efforts at the federal level.

The regions we represent are commonly referred to as the Tri-Cities area (American Canyon, Vallejo and Benicia). Their proximity along the North Bay, major roadway systems and young growing families makes their commonality worthy of your consideration as you embark on drawing new Congressional Districts.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage and respectfully request that the Commission keep Napa and Solano counties within the same Congressional District. Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have questions, or wish to discuss our position, please do not hesitate to contact us at Belia.Ramos@countyofnapa.org and Ehannigan@solanocounty.com.

Sincerely,

Belia Ramos
Napa County Board of Supervisors
District 5

Erin Hannigan
Solano County Board of Supervisors
District 1