Marcie Kraft

To: VotersFirstAct@crc.ca.gov

California Independent Redistricting Commission:

My name is Marcie Kraft. I’m a 25-year resident of Simi Valley, which is part of the 25th Congressional District and of the 38th State Assembly District.

Currently the 25th Congressional District and Assembly District 38 encompasses numerous municipalities spanning over 1,500 square miles. As there are no easily identifiable shared interests between Simi Valley and the rest of the CA25, it surprised me greatly to learn that Simi shares a CA25 Congressperson and AD38 Assemblyperson not with the rest of Ventura County but with LA County. This makes absolutely no sense since Simi and the LA County cities are not at all closely associated with one another; our communities have different priorities and focuses, separate law enforcement agencies and fire responders, and none of our school districts or community college districts overlap with one another. The only identifiable connection between Simi Valley and the remainder of the District are the elected State and Federal Seats of government.

One timely example of the specific challenge presented by having multiple Counties represented by a single District has been demonstrated by the response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, and cities within their respective jurisdictions, had different health departments and protocols in place, which made it more difficult for our Representatives to provide their Constituents with constantly-evolving critical health and safety information.

One of the key criteria of developing District boundaries is to respect “communities of interest.” In 2010, the previous Redistricting Commission did not sufficiently protect communities of interest in Eastern Ventura County. I’m writing to express my view that unlike in 2010, this current Commission must respect the given criteria for the development of District maps, and that the interests of Simi Valley, located in Eastern Ventura County, must be recognized with District boundaries that truly represent our geographic region (and not represent the needs of a politician trying to swing an Election).

I ask this Commission to ensure that separate and distinct “communities of interest” are not again artificially connected by arbitrary District boundaries, and that Ventura County, and Los Angeles County, be provided with Representation that is aligned with their specific needs and interests.

Thank you for your time.

Stay well.

Best Regards,

/s/ Marcie Kraft, M.A., M.S., J.D.

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