I am Tanya Smart and live in coastal Mendocino County. I am unfortunately unable to attend your workshops and presentations but wish to express my opinion regarding redistricting. I support a redistricting plan that maintains the current structural map. The current communities should be kept together for fair and effective representation for the following reasons:

1. Our economies and cultures are shaped by our shared natural environment, thus, our interests, priorities and challenges are best served when we are represented together. Whether it is addressing sea level rise or the threat of a warming climate on our economies, the environmental challenges of the present and future will affect coastal communities in a similar way.

2. Our coastal-moderated forests, particularly the redwoods, form an ecological community that provide shared economic and cultural histories. Likewise, climate change presents unique challenges for this region (sea level rise, reduced summer fog and increasing temperatures).

3. Our region shares similar land-based agricultural interests, including wineries stretching north from Sonoma through Humboldt Counties. Climate change is going to affect agriculture in our region, from warmer temperatures to less precipitation. We are better able to mitigate and adapt together.

4. Although Northwest California is often very rural, we are noticeably different from much of eastern rural California communities. Environmental protection, support for responsible broad based stakeholder management of public lands, and concern about climate change are values shared
in Northwest California. Controversies over these values are best shared within the community rather than animosity over control from other regions of the State.

5. Mendocino County is affected by climate change in a similar way to other counties on the North Coast, where sea level rise and changing ocean conditions, mixed with increased wildfire risk, will affect our economies and our natural resources.

6. We share agency management and protection with our sister counties along the North Coast. Our air quality is protected by the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. Our water quality is protected by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

7. The North Coast of California shares a similar climate that defines our ecosystems. The coasts are marked by redwood forests which give way to Douglas fir/mixed conifer forests further inland before making way to prairies and oak woodlands. These lands are bisected by coastal streams and rivers that form their headwaters in the coastal mountains and drain to the Pacific. Unlike ecosystems further inland, our ecosystems are heavily influenced by the pacific ocean and the marine fog which blankets our coastline through much of the summer.

8. Our climate and environment have helped to shape the economies of the area, and we have developed a similar culture that prioritizes a clean, healthy environment. Ocean fishing is another economic community that ties the North Coast together and which separates us from more inland parts of Northern California.

9. The North Coast contains a uniquely high percentage of state owned public lands. Our State and National Parks and State Beaches draw visitors from across the world. Tourism is important to North Coast economy.
Our community should not be grouped with fellow residents from eastern areas for the following reason:

1. Northern California’s coast and immediately adjacent areas share a common economy and culture; by contrast, we are less similarly aligned with our fellow residents to the east (such as Tehama, Siskiyou or Shasta County). These areas are more culturally conservative and their economies are still more tied to extractive economies. It would cause animosity and disruption to force these areas to be represented together.

Sincerely,
Tanya Smart
Fort Bragg, CA