

From: Louise Herbert

Date: Thu, Sep 2, 2021 at 2:53 PM

Subject: Public Comment from San Clemente, California

To: votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov <votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov>

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CONCERNS

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission
September 2, 2021

I am Louise Herbert, a resident of San Clemente for over 38 years and a concerned citizen regarding the potential realigning of the 49th Congressional District.

In a recent past meeting of this Commission it was inaccurately reported, by a local citizen presenting his opinions, that Congressman Levin does NOT reside in Orange County and THAT IS FALSE! Congressman Levin has been a resident of San Juan Capistrano for over a decade along with his wife Chrissy and their two children Jonathan and Elizabeth. Both children are enrolled in San Juan Elementary School located in the heart of San Juan next to our beautiful Capistrano Mission. Both children are participants in the Spanish Emersion Studies programs and are enrolled on local sports teams. The entire family is very connected and active in the community.

San Clemente is a sister town to SJC and has the full attention of Congressman Levin on issues that not only tie our towns together but unite the entire coastline and neighboring communities in Southern California.

There are many services, concerns and pressing issues that bridge the south Orange County and north San Diego County areas of the 49th District. Our two areas share the services of utilities via San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) along with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board. The workings of both these agencies greatly effects the 49th District as a whole.

The LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency, that spans from Los Angeles County through to San Diego County, is another unifying commission and concern to all coastal residents. This agency is facing many challenges. Among them are the Del Mar bluff collapses that have occurred in recent years. This has largely been attributed to the destabilizing effects of urban runoff and erosion from ocean waves and sea-level rise driven by climate change that is expected to exacerbate failures in coming decades. Plus, the continued erosion of the bluffs along the area known as "Cottons" in San Clemente has had impact on the railroad lines along our coast Congressman Levin has worked diligently and successfully to put in place efforts and finances to address both territorial areas and points in between. He has allocated funds for the protection and stabilization of our Pier area that is the Heartbeat of San Clemente. As an Environmentalist on the Natural Resources Committee, he is working for the benefit of both Orange and San Diego Counties. He understands the cultural needs of each of these communities in his district as well as recognizing the interests that most effect our residents.

Our neighboring community of military personal at Camp Pendleton, located in North San Diego Co., has a unique opportunity to send their children to public schools in either county. With officer's homes located at the exact county line, a large percentage of children attend San Clemente Public Schools. Due to this fact, our joint county schools have the same vision to provide for our military families to meet their needs and desires to give their children the best education available regardless of a county line.

A TOP concern for all coastal towns and nearby communities is the issues we face with San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (aka SONGS). The handling and storage of spent nuclear waste located just a few – very few – miles from our home keeps me up at night! SONGS is located in North San Diego County, most people think it's in South Orange County, along with Camp Pendleton. What occurs in this area has great effect on the neighboring towns of San Clemente and Oceanside. You cannot separate one from the other since our concerns, needs and way of life are joined by this bridging area. It takes the focus and expert knowledge of our Congressional Representative to recognize the issues at play, have the insight for measurable actions, the ability to unite the areas and the means with which to work for attainable and "real" change.

In my opinion, these points are just a few of the reasons why the 49th Congressional District should not be realigned in any fashion. **Our two county district's issues and concerns do not stop at the county line!**

Thank you for your time to read my thoughts and for your work with the Redistricting Commission.

Sincerely –

Louise Herbert