“Re: Long Beach Community of Interest (COI) – Keep Long Beach Together Dear State Redistricting Commission: My name is Samantha Mehlinger, and I write today to request the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission keep our community together as you consider statewide redistricting in the current process. Ten-years ago, the first California Citizens Redistricting Commission kept most of Long Beach intact in Congressional, State Senate and State Assembly districts and we have been so grateful. The Commission listened to our community and we implore you to do so again. We made a huge community push 10 years ago and we are doing so again. Long Beach’s 76 unique neighborhoods are diverse, strong and united as one city. We are a city that is tied together in a symbiotic balance of local industries, shared history and common interests. Our downtown serves as a hub for all our community’s enclaves, as do our coastline, airport, school district, university campus, world-renowned parks system, and outstanding medical groups and hospitals. Your support a decade ago allowed us to strengthen our community and led to the formation of our own Independent City Redistricting Commission modeled off your state commission. Keeping Long Beach together has enabled our communities to work together in ways that have truly benefited our city, our families, and city pride. We have built relationships with elected officials, and advocated for government resources and grants that have built our city up over the last 10 years. And we have built relationships with neighboring communities. Our Congressional district includes bordering cities in Orange County who are neighbors and partners, and our state districts strengthen ties with LA County. Through the 2020 state redistricting process, you have the opportunity to help build upon this work. That is why we are asking you to keep our city together. Please support Long Beach. We have worked hard to make our voices heard. Thank you so much.”