



September 27, 2011

Washington State Redistricting Commission
ATTN: Ms. Lura J. Powell, Chair, and Commission Members
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Chairwoman Powell & Commission Members:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Redmond to provide you with our City's thoughts on federal Congressional District and state Legislative District boundary lines, now that you have released your initial set of maps.

In short, we very much appreciate the work of all Commission Members in keeping Redmond as a substantial part of both the 48th and 45th Legislative Districts. However, we would urge you to utilize Congressional District proposals that combine us with other "communities of interest" in East King County and the Central Puget Sound, rather than making Redmond an "after-thought" end of a 2nd Congressional District or lumping our city together with 8th Congressional District communities near and beyond the state's mountain passes.

Congressional Districts

Redmond is currently served by both the 1st Congressional District as well as the 8th Congressional District, and we have felt well-served by that arrangement. In looking at the maps issued on September 13, we strongly prefer the Commission maps that place Redmond in the 1st Congressional District. The 1st District is one that has previously included our city, and we are grouped with other "communities of interest" that share characteristics, populations, and key issues, such as Kirkland. We would urge that you utilize the boundaries laid out in either the "Ceis" or "Foster" maps.

We are very concerned that the other two maps either make Redmond an "after-thought" bottom end of a District, or group our city with others that are much more rural in character, or both. The "Gorton" map places Redmond and Microsoft at the far southern end of a 2nd Congressional District we have never been in before, where we are extremely concerned we would become an "after-thought" while the District focused on more familiar and centrally-located communities such as Everett and Bellingham. Redmond also would be in an 8th Congressional District, but in a far-flung district that combines our City with communities much more rural in character, including south Pierce County.

Meanwhile, the "Huff" map is of even greater concern to us. Redmond would be on the far west end of an 8th Congressional District that sprawls across the mountains and includes communities such as Wenatchee, Leavenworth, Cashmere, Ellensburg, Chelan, and Roslyn. The City would also be in a 1st Congressional District with areas such as Sultan, Monroe, Mount Vernon, Lynden, and Everson. While

these are all outstanding communities, we are hard-pressed to see how such 8th and 1st Congressional District communities would have much in common with Redmond in terms of commercial and hi-tech presence, mix of population, etc.

We would, in summary, ask that you focus on the maps that group Redmond with other communities of common interest in the 1st Congressional District. We further would suggest that with respect to King County, any co-mingling of King County cities with an 8th Congressional District that stretches east up to or across the mountains should consist of more rural King County jurisdictions.

Legislative Districts

In writing and in testimony, we expressed a strong preference to remain split between the 48th and 45th Districts, which contain distinct areas of our City and have served Redmond well.

We appreciate the work of all four redistricting Commission Members in laying out Legislative District maps which do just that. Thanks to all of you.

In summary, we appreciate the difficult and complex work all of you are doing, and ask you to keep our aforementioned Congressional District boundary line requests in mind as you continue your negotiations and map refinements between now and November 1.

Sincerely,



John Marchione
Mayor