



# CITY OF PUYALLUP

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City Council

October 5, 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:

We are writing with Puyallup's input on federal Congressional District and state Legislative District boundary lines, based on the initial four maps you presented a few weeks ago. In short, we wanted to express our strong preference for placement in a Congressional District that would link us with other Western Washington and South Puget Sound communities, and we thank you for continuing to make Puyallup a central core of the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District.

Following are our issues and concerns with Congressional and Legislative District boundaries:

## Congressional Districts

Puyallup is currently in the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, and as we feel we have been well served it is our strong preference to remain in the 9<sup>th</sup> District if at all possible. However, we understand that with the addition of nearly one million people to the state's population, and the need to draw in a new 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, a shift of boundary lines in Western Washington and the Central Puget Sound is highly likely.

That said, we would ask Commissioners to work with the "communities of interest" provision of state law (RCW 44.05.090), which reads, "(a) District lines should be drawn so as to coincide with the boundaries of local political subdivisions and areas recognized as communities of interest."

Our specific concern is with two Commission maps that draw Puyallup into a far-reaching 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District extending up to or across mountain passes. We think Central and Eastern Washington cities such as Chelan, Wenatchee, and Ellensburg are outstanding communities, but their interests in transportation, land-use, density,

economic development, etc., are much different than a city such as Puyallup. They do not in our view comprise "communities of interest" with ours. We, additionally, would be opposed to being lumped into a district where a Member of Congress was serving Western Washington and South Sound communities on the one hand, and having to cross over mountain passes on the other.

We respectfully request that in negotiating its final plan, Commissioners place Puyallup in the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District where the city is at least combined with other Pierce and Thurston county communities that must address many of the same federal issues we do. We would further ask that if the Commission feels it necessary to draw any Pierce County communities into the 8<sup>th</sup> District, that you do so with the more rural, East Pierce County cities that have more common interests with Central and Eastern Washington jurisdictions.

#### Legislative Districts

We first wish to thank all four of the Commissioners for continuing to make Puyallup the central hub of the 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District. Puyallup has historically been the bellwether of the 25<sup>th</sup>, and that has provided our city with the opportunity to form close working relationships with both Democratic and Republican members of the Legislature serving the district.

However, we would ask that as you negotiate toward a final map, and draw districts for other areas of the South Sound, that you respect the boundary line between Pierce County and King County. In two of the Commission maps presented on Sept. 13, the 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District is brought south across King County and into Pierce County – in one case surrounding much of Puyallup (*the Senator Gorton map*) and in the other case reaching a bit into the corporate city limits of Puyallup (*the Huff map*).

We are concerned about having a district such as the 30<sup>th</sup>, which has a long history of attending to the interests of King County generally and the City of Federal Way specifically, reaching into or next to Puyallup. Our fear is that our city would be primarily an after-thought of members serving the 30<sup>th</sup> District, and we frankly do not support being combined with King County. We ask that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Commissioner respect the county boundary lines in redrawing a district such as the 30<sup>th</sup>.

In closing, we would like to convey our sincere thanks to the Redistricting Commission for the work you are doing and the difficult and challenging task before you. We are very proud of our state's system of redistricting, and look forward to seeing your final plan jell over the next month. We would also note that we plan to have Doug Levy represent the City of Puyallup at your October 11 public hearing to communicate our issues, concerns, and preferences in person.

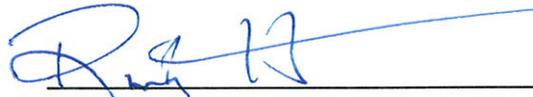
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Kathy R. Turner, Mayor

  
Tami Brouillet, Deputy Mayor

  
Kent Boyle, Councilmember

  
Rick Hansen, Councilmember

  
John D. Knutsen, Councilmember

  
Donald E. Malloy, Councilmember

  
Nicole Martineau, Councilmember