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October 12, 2011

Washington State Redistricting Commissioners  
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16  
P.O. Box 40948  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0948

RE: Washington State Redistricting

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

The Greater Seattle chapter of OCA, a national organization dedicated to advancing the social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans, strongly supports the creation of "Majority Minority" districts. It is very clear to us that the allocation of an additional congressional seat to the State of Washington is largely due to the population increase among the minority populations (i.e. people of color), particularly immigrants. This fact, we believe, should be ample justification for a "Majority Minority" district.

Thus, on the congressional redistricting level, we strongly support the creation of a "Majority Minority" congressional district in South King County as drawn by Commissioner Huff. Mr. Huff's proposal for such a district is exactly the same as that suggested by many "Unity Map" supporters. We have no doubt that a new congressional district as proposed by Mr. Huff will (1) provide the best chance for representation among our newer immigrants and communities of color and (2) promote and enhance democracy in our state.

Additionally, we also support every effort to keep Yakima and the Tri-cities in the same congressional district.

Regarding the redistricting of the state legislative districts, we strongly urge the creation of "Majority Minority" districts in King County and Tacoma, and at least one in Yakima County. Again, the creation of such legislative district should ensure representative among immigrant and people of color, and ensure participatory democracy in this state.

We appreciate your strong consideration of our request, which would recognize the growing diversity of our state and the increased civic participation among our communities.

Sincerely,

Kim Nguyen  
President  
Board of Directors