From: Julia Eckels
To: zzRedistricting Commission Voicemail
Subject: Majority Minority Districts Will Strengthen Representation
Date: Sunday, October 09, 2011 10:32:00 AM

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

Thank you for your work thus far on the redistricting maps! I urge you to support important redistricting priorities for immigrant communities and communities of color in Washington State.

The decisions you make will have a dramatic impact on the political process in our state and have the ability to help or harm our communities. While many people consider these just lines on a map, for those who testified at hearings, these maps have real consequences. For example, there are real disparities in education, health and income that our communities have in common and that elected leaders need to address.

For this reason, I urge you to draw final maps that will encourage full participation of immigrant communities and communities of color, including the following:

- “Majority Minority” state legislative districts. I urge you to create three majority people of color state legislative districts in King County, one in Tacoma and at least one majority Latino state legislative district in Yakima

- “Majority Minority” congressional district in South King County, as drawn by Commissioner Huff. I believe this district—with no incumbent—presents the best opportunity for strong representation of immigrant communities and communities of color in Congress. I appreciate Commissioner Huff’s listening to our communities.

As Commissioner Huff mentioned in his release of the maps, it is important for commissioners to listen to the “will of the people.” Thank you, again, for your work and I urge you to continue to provide us with the hope of fair representation.

Sincerely,

Julia Eckels

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