From:	Neita Takahashi
To:	zzRedistricting Commission Voicemail
Subject:	Support the creation of Majority Minority Districts based on the Unity Maps
Date:	Monday, October 10, 2011 2:46:10 PM

Dear Redistricting Commissioners,

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

The decisions the commissioners make will have a dramatic impact on the political process in our state and have the ability to help or harm our communities. For this reason, I urge you to draw final maps that will encourage and allow full participation of communities of color in Washington, including the following:

Congressional Districts

· I support the "Majority Minority" district in South King County, as drawn by Commissioner Huff. Many Unity Map supporters advocated for this exact district and it was truly gratifying and empowering to see this very map, the "Unity Map," included in the draft plans. We believe this district—with no incumbent—presents the best opportunity for strong representation of immigrant communities and communities of color in Congress. We appreciate that Commissioner Huff listened to our communities.

· Continue to keep Yakima and the Tri-cities in the same Congressional District. All four maps have Yakima and Tri-cities in the same Congressional District. We support this effort.

State Legislative Districts

· I support the creation of "Majority Minority" state legislative districts. As a result, I urge you to create three majority people of color state legislative districts in King County, Tacoma and at least one majority people of color (by minority voting age citizens) state legislative district completely contained in Yakima County.

· Create a state legislative district in Yakima County where a majority of citizens of voting age are people of color. However, I believe the true measure of fair representation for this district is the percentage of voting age minority citizens.

· I support a unified Pasco. All of the commissioners said during the release of the maps that keeping cities together is a priority. However, two of the four maps cut Pasco—with its large Latino and immigrant population—into two different districts. Cutting Pasco in half will only dilute the power of the large Latino and immigrants populations in the city.

As Commissioner Huff mentioned in his release of the maps, it is important for commissioners to listen to the "will of the people." I am excited to see better representation of immigrant communities and communities of color in our area and across Washington State. Thank you, again, for your work and we urge you to continue to provide us with the hope of fair representation.

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