Yakima 6/8

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May 9, 2011

Washington Redistricting Commission
Olympia, WA

Dear Sirs:

I believe that there are at least three reasonable ways to shift 140,684 people currently in the 4th Congressional District to a combination of the redrawn 3rd and 8th CDs. The three possibilities I identified are:

1.) Place Klickitat County, the entire Yakama Reservation and most of the Lower Yakima Valley in the 3rd CD.

2.) Place Kittitas County and part of Yakima County in the 8th CD, and place Klickitat County in the 3rd CD.

3.) Place Klickitat County and part of Benton County in the 3rd CD.

The first option is the only one I have ever heard anyone say was likely to be adopted. Thus far I have heard Dick Morrill, Dwight Pelz and George Fearing all say the same thing. I hope that you will consider other options and take care to avoid stripping the largest minority group from Central Washington. The population of the Lower Yakima Valley and the Yakama Reservation is predominantly minority and I suspect that, consciously or not, they will be targeted.

On your website you refer to a deadline for the filing of comment by third parties. I am not clear as to what is meant by third parties. If the term includes the Yakama Nation then I ask if the Commission reached out to the Yakamas to inform them of the deadline? The nation has affiliations in all directions surrounding their Reservation. If the term refers to civic organizations, did Central Washington Progress receive notice of the deadline for comment?

When you consider how to shift 50,404 of the 5th CD population to the 4th CD to reach equalization, I ask that you draft at least one option for a division that runs east and west, instead of north and south. A boundary line that follows the crest of the Stuart Range seems better to me given the physical terrain, the markets for broadcast and print media, and patterns of economic activity.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor Hungate