



May 27, 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:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Redmond to provide you with our community's perspective on redistricting of both federal Congressional District and state Legislative District boundary lines. In short, we believe our city is well-served by being a part of two Congressional Districts and two Legislative Districts, and we would respectfully ask you to maintain that as you redraw your maps.

One of your guidelines is that the Commission should strive to recognize political subdivision lines and communities of interest. In terms of Redmond, and recognizing "communities of interest," it is important to note that our growing and vibrant city is, in effect, the sum of *two different* communities: There is a more rural and agricultural part of Redmond that represents our early history and our ties to the Sammamish River Valley; and a dense, urban core of our community that houses a pair of employment centers along both sides of State Route 520, accommodating a blend of citizens and high-tech firms which depend heavily on infrastructure and public safety services. It thus makes sense to us to have these two subsets of our community represented by two different Congressional Districts and two different Legislative Districts.

Congressional Districts

Redmond is currently served by both the 1st Congressional District as well as the 8th Congressional District. We believe this dual representation works well for our community, with one of our Members of Congress concentrating more on environment and natural resources issues, and the other specializing more in dealing with public safety issues. As noted above, both of these issue areas covers a component of our community. Additionally, as a job center, Redmond's "commute shed" draws heavily on those who live in both the 1st and 8th Congressional Districts.

Having noted the merits of having Redmond represented by the 1st and 8th Congressional Districts, we also recognize the difficult work you face in accommodating a new 10th Congressional District, most likely on the west side of the state. From our perspective, a new

10th District that encompasses many of the East King County communities between Bothell and Renton would be a positive development. If the Commission decided that Redmond should be part of a 1st and 10th District, or an 8th and 10th District, we would certainly be open to working with such an approach.

Legislative Districts

Redmond is currently part of both the 48th District and the 45th District. We believe this has worked well and that our City has enjoyed a very positive relationship with the six Senators and Representatives serving the two districts.

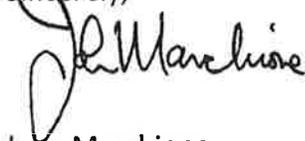
Beyond political representation, however, we believe there are several policy reasons why a split between the 48th and 45th Legislative Districts makes good sense for our community:

- Redmond provides fire and emergency medical services that are both in the dense and heavily urbanized 48th District, but also stretching east to the 45th District;
- Redmond provides 9-1-1 dispatch services, again beginning in the 48th District in downtown Redmond and stretching east to the 45th District and communities such as Carnation and Duvall;
- The Lake Washington School District boundaries which serve Redmond students spread over both the 48th and 45th Districts;
- The Overlake employment center encompasses State Route 520 and heavily used interchanges such as 148th and 124th Streets and the cities of both Bellevue and Redmond – it makes sense to have the 48th District serve Overlake and the two communities;
- At the same time, the area north of Marymoor Park and the Sammamish Valley are more spread out and in some cases agricultural – it makes sense to have these parts of Redmond in the 45th District with areas such as Carnation and Duvall.

In summary, Redmond has been well-served by two Congressional and Legislative districts, and we seek to maintain that representation in the redistricting process for the reasons noted.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of our request and for your willingness to serve in doing critical redistricting work for our state.

Sincerely,



John Marchione
Mayor