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Washington State Redistricting Commission
Attn: Laura J. Powell, Ph.D., Commission Chair
P.O. Box 40948
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Re: 2011 Redistricting

Dear Chairwoman Powell,

On behalf of the Port of Grays Harbor Commissioners, I proudly offer the following comments to help guide you and your colleagues in your deliberations on redistricting. Our community is situated on Washington's Pacific Coast at the southern edge of the Olympic Mountains. Our economy is driven by wood products, fishing, sustainable manufacturing and international trade. The Port of Grays Harbor has experienced unprecedented growth over the last five (5) years due in large part to the outstanding Federal and State elected officials that have served our community.

Grays Harbor is the southern anchor of the Olympic Peninsula. Our community provides the social and economic ties to the Northern Pacific Coast of Washington. The rail heads in our community provide the area with access to national markets and our marine terminals provide access to international markets. Essentially, we are more closely aligned socially, economically and culturally with our neighbors on the Olympic Peninsula than the lower Columbia River region.

Commissioners

Jack Thompson

Chuck Caldwell

Stan Pinnick

We have long been part of the 6th Congressional District. There is a long legacy of service and commitment to our community by our Congressional representatives. The economies, communities and issues of Grays Harbor are very closely aligned with the rest of the 6th District. The cultural ties to logging and fishing, combined with the rural nature of the community, make us more like the rest of the 6th District than our neighbors to the South or East. In short, we think our community will be best served by remaining a part of the 6th Congressional District than melded to another District.

Executive Director

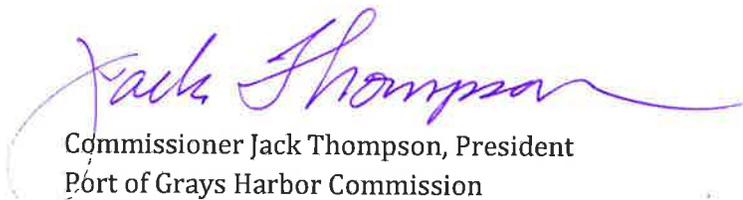
Gary G. Nelson

At the State level our region is served well by the current districting and would be the best configuration for the future. Our County is bounded by the Pacific Ocean to the West and only one way into town in each of the other directions. Even though we are a diverse rural County, we have worked well with State elected officials to promote job creation and economic activity for our citizens. I believe the current configuration of three districts that

link regions within our county to our neighboring counties is in the best interest of my constituents in Grays Harbor County.

I know you have a difficult job in front of you and the simple adage of "if it ain't broke don't fix it" is not an option for the Commission. However the success my colleagues and I have had in resurrecting our local economy is due in large part to having elected officials who understand the challenge of job creation in rural Counties. The current Federal and State legislative districts have served us well and we encourage you to leave them in tact to serve us long into the future.

Respectfully Submitted,



Commissioner Jack Thompson, President
Port of Grays Harbor Commission