

May 17, 2011

Washington State Redistricting Commission
10623 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P. O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the redistricting plan for Washington State. The addition of another legislative seat is very important to every resident in our state.

Mason County is situated on the Olympic Peninsula. The Peninsula contains five counties: Mason, Jefferson, Clallam, Grays Harbor and Kitsap. Historically and currently the economies for these counties are tied to the timber industry.

The Olympic Peninsula is shaped like a round ball. In the middle are the Olympic National Park and National Forest, and private forestlands. Around the outside of the ball are the counties, cities and towns that depend on forests products for jobs for their residents.

U.S. Hwy 101 ties the counties together being the major artery that runs through all of them. This highway provides transportation for the forest industry products and allows local residents access to services not available in the smaller towns and cities.

Water also ties the five counties together. Several counties, Jefferson, Clallam and Grays Harbor are located on the Pacific Ocean. Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason Counties have the Hood Canal and Puget Sound in their boundaries.

The fish and shellfish industry in Mason, Kitsap and Jefferson counties is a major economic factor. This industry is a growing source of jobs for residents. Puget Sound also serves as transportation to the major metropolitan areas of our state. This enables residents to work in the greater Seattle area but live on the Olympic Peninsula.

All of the counties depend on tourism as another source of jobs. U.S. Hwy 101 and the Washington State Ferries allow visitors access to Olympic Peninsula attractions.

The populations of the five counties are similar: Clallam and Grays Harbor both have approximately 71,500 residents. Jefferson is the smallest with 29,500 and Mason has 57,846 residents. Kitsap is the largest with 239,800 residents (OFM 2000 figures. The 2010 census figures are probably larger).

Based on the economic similarities, population growth, and geographical boundaries, it appears the five counties of the Olympic Peninsula should be in one legislative district.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,




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