

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
8th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
LARRY HALER

State of
Washington
House of
Representatives



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October 12, 2011

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Chair Lura Powell
Commissioners Slade Gordon, Tim Ceis, Dean Foster & Tom Huff
Washington State Redistricting Commission
PO Box 40948
Olympia WA 98504-0948

Dear Chair Powell and Commissioners Gorton, Ceis, Foster & Huff;

I want to express my sincere gratitude for all the work being done by you and your various staff to see to it that Washington's voters are represented in a fair and balanced fashion. Our state has a rich history of the redistricting process being accomplished collaboratively, in a bipartisan fashion devoid of the gutter politics we often see in other states around the nation.

It is in this light, and with a grateful heart for all the work that has been done up to this point, that I write to you to express my strong support for the redistricting plan submitted by Commissioner Tom Huff.

In my opinion, Commissioner Huff's plan protects communities of interest and does a much better job of keeping cities, counties and school districts whole, as compared to the other proposed plans.

In addition, Commissioner Huff's plan does a commendable job of balancing electoral competition while giving our state's many independent voters a prominent role in the electoral process. Any effort to minimize the impact or influence of Washington's fiercely independent voters would be a huge mistake – one that would most likely spark a serious public outcry.

Finally, I believe Commissioner Huff's proposal honors the importance of the public process by adhering to many public comments made to the commission regarding ethnic representation at the federal level. In his plan, the newly-created 10th Congressional District adequately reflects the concerns expressed by ethnic interest groups and individuals.

It is for these reasons – and many more – that I strongly urge you to consider the details and the spirit of Commissioner Huff's proposal when making your final recommendation to the Legislature.

My sincere thanks for the work you are doing.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Haler".

Rep. Larry Haler
8th Legislative District