



September 19, 2011

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OUR STAFF

OUR BOARD

OUR PRESS

Commissioner Tim Ceis
Washington Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Commissioner Ceis,

On behalf of OneAmerica and its members across the state of Washington, we are writing to extend our thanks for listening to the voices of our nearly 200 members that spoke to you during the redistricting public hearings across the state. We would also like to request a meeting with you to discuss our thoughts on the maps that have been released. If you would be open to this, we would very much appreciate it.

Both your map and your comments showed that you have been listening to the voices of real people who care deeply about their communities and their families and want very much for this redistricting process to result in congressional and state legislative districts that will allow their concerns and challenges to be addressed collectively.

We appreciate that you have included a “Majority Minority” congressional district in your recently released draft map. Your inclusion of this district is a strong signal to immigrant and refugee communities and communities of color that their voices matter in our democracy and their issues must be represented in the halls of Congress. We also appreciate your efforts to include three “Majority Minority” state legislative districts in King County and two in Central Washington.

While we have not had a chance to completely analyze your legislative districts, we believe that it is essential that we create at least one majority Latino district in Central Washington, at least three in Western Washington and one in Tacoma. We will continue to study the maps you have released and will provide you with our thoughts in more detail in the coming weeks.

While many people consider these just lines on a map, for those who testified at hearings and for our members, this is about real life. They see—and we see—directly the disparities they experience in education, health and income. Immigrant kids are struggling in school. Immigrant families struggle to preserve their health and find jobs. The challenges they face—whether Asian, Latino, African—have so much in common and deserve to be elevated and addressed by a strong voice in their state and federal districts.



MISSION

As the redistricting process moves forward, we urge you to reject the cynicism that permeates our current political affairs. The statement you made with the release of the maps was powerful and reflected the real values and stories that people shared with you. Please continue to fight for real representation and real solutions. Our communities are too used to be treated as bargaining chips, dismissed and ignored.

VALUES

PRINCIPLES

GOALS

STRATEGIES

ACTIVITIES

RESULTS

IMPACT

OUTREACH

ENGAGEMENT

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

RESEARCH

ANALYSIS

COMMUNICATION

We have real hope now. Please preserve and protect that hope and our futures. If you are willing to meet, please contact Toby Guevin, toby@weareoneamerica.org, so we can arrange a convenient time. We look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Pramila Jayapal
Executive Director
OneAmerica



September 19, 2011

Commissioner Slade Gorton
Washington Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Commissioner Gorton,

On behalf of OneAmerica and its members across the state of Washington, we are writing to extend our thanks for listening to the voices of our nearly 200 members that spoke to you during the redistricting public hearings across the state. We would also like to request a meeting with you to discuss our thoughts on the maps that have been released. If you would be open to this, we would very much appreciate it.

Both your map and your comments showed that you have been listening to the voices of real people who care deeply about their communities and their families and want very much for this redistricting process to result in congressional and state legislative districts that will allow their concerns and challenges to be addressed collectively.

We appreciate that you have included a "Majority Minority" congressional district in your recently released draft map. Your inclusion of this district is a strong signal to immigrant and refugee communities and communities of color that their voices matter in our democracy and their issues must be represented in the halls of Congress. We also appreciate your efforts to include two "Majority Minority" state legislative districts in King County, one in Tacoma and one in Central Washington.

While we have not had a chance to completely analyze your legislative districts, we believe that it is essential that we create at least one majority Latino district in Central Washington, at least three in Western Washington and one in Tacoma. We will continue to study the maps you have released and will provide you with our thoughts in more detail in the coming weeks.

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As the redistricting process moves forward, we urge you to reject the cynicism that permeates our current political affairs. The statement you made with the release of the maps was powerful and reflected the real values and stories that people shared with you. Please continue to fight for real representation and real solutions. Our communities are too used to be treated as bargaining chips, dismissed and ignored.

We have real hope now. Please preserve and protect that hope and our futures. If you are willing to meet, please contact Toby Guevin, toby@weareoneamerica.org, so we can arrange a convenient time. We look forward to meeting with you in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Pramila Jayapal
Executive Director
OneAmerica



September 19, 2011

Commissioner Tom Huff
Washington Redistricting Commission
1063 Capitol Way South, Suite 16
P.O. Box 40948
Olympia, WA 98504-0948

Dear Commissioner Huff,

On behalf of OneAmerica and its members across the state of Washington, we are writing to extend our thanks for listening to the voices of our nearly 200 members that spoke to you during the redistricting public hearings across the state. We would also like to request a meeting with you to discuss our thoughts on the maps that have been released. If you would be open to this, we would very much appreciate it.

Both your map and your comments showed that you have been listening to the voices of real people who care deeply about their communities and their families and want very much for this redistricting process to result in congressional and state legislative districts that will allow their concerns and challenges to be addressed collectively.

We appreciate that you not only included a "Majority Minority" congressional district in your recently released draft map, but the "Unity Map" we have advocated for so strongly at public hearings. Your inclusion of this map is a strong signal to immigrant and refugee communities and communities of color that their voices matter in our democracy and their issues must be represented in the halls of Congress. We also appreciate your efforts to include three "Majority Minority" state legislative districts in King County, one in Tacoma and one in Central Washington.

While we have not had a chance to completely analyze your legislative districts, we believe that it is essential that we create at least one majority Latino district in Central Washington, at least three in Western Washington and one in Tacoma. We will continue to study the maps you have released and will provide you with our thoughts in more detail in the coming weeks.

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Advancing Immigrant,
Civil & Human
Rights

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OneAmerica is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization

