

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

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August 17, 2021

California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Citizen Redistricting Commission,

Humboldt County is inseparably tied to our sister counties in Trinity, Del Norte, and Mendocino Counties and together form a community of interest that should be preserved through redistricting. Our communities share similar cultural and economic ties that bind us together and face similar challenges moving forward.

Humboldt County is connected to our sister counties through shared physical linkages. Highway 101 serves as a vital connection between Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. Similarly, Highway 299 connects Humboldt and Del Norte Counties to the I-5 corridor. With major linkage projects under development, such as the Last Chance Grade project, which will fix a landslide-prone section of Highway 101 outside of Crescent City, California, the North Coast benefits from having representation that understands the critical importance of maintaining these highways. Because of our remote, rural setting, residents often will travel to other counties for air travel, as carriers and destinations vary for each.<sup>1</sup>

As small, rural counties, our populations are often too small to support necessary community institutions by ourselves. Thus, Humboldt County shares many resources and burdens with our adjacent counties that bind us together. Shared institutions include, but are not limited to, the College of the Redwoods (which has instructional sites that serve Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity Counties), Area 1 Agency on Aging (which serves Del Norte and Humboldt Counties), Redwood Transit Authority (which connects Humboldt County to Del Norte and Trinity Counties), Redwood Coast Regional Center (which provides services for over 10,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in Humboldt, Del Norte, Mendocino and Lake Counties), and so on. These community institutions will continue regardless of how redistricting works

Our area shares a similar economic base that unites our region. Working lands are important to our economy, with timber, ranching, dairy, cannabis, and wine as large parts of our economy. Particularly on cannabis, Humboldt shares a cultural legacy together with Mendocino and Trinity Counties as part of the "Emerald Triangle" and together our three counties are trying to adjust and adapt to new cannabis regulations. Preserving our ties through redistricting is important to effectively participate in legislation that protects this burgeoning industry.

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Our region is also proud of the natural environment that we share. California's wet North Coast is home to some of North America's only temperate rainforests and our redwood forests provide both economic and cultural ties that unite us. The redwoods have been part of our shared economic heritage and helped "build" our region; today still, private timber production is an important shared part of our economies with major employers, like Green Diamond Resource Company, spread across multiple counties. While timber production is important, our last remaining redwood is likewise an important economic driver. These superlative trees, bigger than any other on the planet, draw visitors from across the world to our region. Our region's rivers likewise bind us together, as many flow through multiple counties (such as the Klamath, Trinity, Van Duzen, Mad, and Eel Rivers). These both unite our communities and pose shared management challenges, such as restoring our fisheries or contending with drought.

California's rugged North Coast binds the North Coast, generally, from Marin to Del Norte County. The North Coast is noticeably different from the rest of California's coastline—it is more rural and wetter, for one, and often shaped by a geography so rugged that roads are near impossible to build or maintain. The communities along the coast are tucked into pockets of flat land. These communities are vulnerable to sea level rise, a shared threat to our region. Our coastal environments are also under threat from more violent storms and ocean acidification, both exacerbated by climate change. As a coastal county, it is important that our voice be heard by our representative. This is best accomplished by pairing the North Coast together in legislative districts.

Wildfire poses another threat that unites much of the region. Humboldt, Del Norte, Sonoma, Mendocino, Trinity, and Lake Counties all experienced large wildfire events, which have resulted in both loss of life and property damage. These events similarly unite the area and we have been working collaboratively with our sister counties on how we can best address the threat posed by wildfire and provide resources to each other during these events. Coastal fire response is best coordinated by maintaining coastal areas together. This allows for better and faster response from our government to fire emergencies.

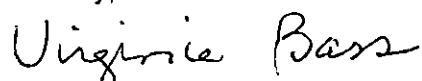
State agencies likewise recognize the important connections that are shared by our coastal communities. Caltrans District 1 is charged with our roads in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties. The North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District ensures clean air for Del Norte, Humboldt and Trinity Counties. The North Coast Water Quality Control Board tends to clean water for Humboldt, Del Norte, Trinity and Mendocino Counties, among others. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife draws together the same four-county region too, together with other northern California counties.

It is important to distinguish that though we are friends with and have close connections to other northern California counties, we are different from Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and other inland counties. We ask that this distinctness be recognized in future redistricting maps.

Humboldt County looks forward to discussing this further with the neighboring counties

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Virginia Bass, Chair  
County of Humboldt