

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Appointment to 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 4:39:09 PM

In support of the nomination of: Linda Akutagawa #22971

Name: Audrey Yamagata-Noji
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COMMENT:

Dear Esteemed Commissioners,

Thank you for your service. I realize that you have a most difficult and critically important task in appointing the balance of commissioners.

I write to urge your consideration to appoint **Linda Akutagawa** as a commissioner. Linda is a resident of Orange County, her work location is in the civic center of Los Angeles, and she serves as the CEO of one of the largest, most influential Asian and Pacific Islander American non profits in the state and the nation. Linda is familiar with the demographic, political, electoral, and socio-economic issues of all Asian Pacific Islander American communities throughout California. She is frequently called upon to provide expert testimony and consultation about the needs of a wide spectrum of individuals, especially the most under-served, under-represented, and minoritized populations. Linda would be an asset to your work. Having a fair electoral and representative process depends on having established districts/voting areas that are fair and representative. Linda understands this. Linda's work demonstrates her knowledge and effectiveness in studying communities and of speaking forthrightly to address the most critical issues related to representation.

For 25 years I served as an elected official within the County of Orange. I believe I may be the longest elected Asian Pacific Islander American woman elected to political office in Orange County. During those years I worked very closely with electoral processes, including redistricting. I have seen and experienced both the good and bad: forthright efforts to establish fair representation and a complete manipulation of the process to benefit specific individuals.

We need individuals like Linda Akutagawa to represent all communities, and especially to ensure adequate representation from the Asian Pacific Islander American community and Orange County.

I urge you to appoint Linda Akutagawa. She is fair, she studies all the issues, she is a good listener, and she would be a critical representative on your commission.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,
Audrey Yamagata-Noji, Ph.D.

