

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Support for Linda Akutagawa ID# 22971
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 12:07:35 PM

California Re-districting Commissioners,

My name is Warren T. Furutani. I am a past member of the Los Angeles (LAUSD) School Board of Education, the LA Community College Board and the California Assembly. While serving in the Assembly I chaired the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus for 3 terms.

I do not envy your task of selecting the 6 additional commissioners to round out the Re-districting Commission. Listening in on some of your discussions it is obvious to me that you understand the need to enfranchise as many communities in this process as you can.

From that basic point of view the regional, gender, ethnic and class considerations are as varied as is the landscape of California. Relative to the API community you cannot have a commissioner from each of the API communities in Cali. Consequently, you need a commissioner that understands and has worked in a coalition context relative to API. As of the candidates I heard you are considering, **Linda Akutagawa** fits the bill.

Linda lives and is knowledgeable of the bursting API community in Orange County but for decades she has worked with API's throughout the State, especially LA. Her organization Leadership Education for Asian Pacific (LEAP) has been doing leadership training in the API community throughout the State for years. She knows the broad API community that is the largest in any state of the union. With Linda you get a statewide perspective and an API perspective. Quite a two-fer.

As I said I don't envy the task in front of you but the work before you is critical.

Sincerely,
WARREN T. FURUTANI
Cell: [REDACTED]