June 17, 2021

CA Citizens Redistricting Commission – Zone D
721 Capitol Mall, Suite 260
Sacramento, CA. 95814
Re: Yolo and Solano Counties

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

I strongly encourage the unification of the entire Solano and Yolo County area in your line drawing efforts. This is known by many as the I-80 biotech/agriculture research and manufacturing corridor. Our counties have a shared culture, transportation infrastructure, economic drivers, and natural resources that would benefit from having unified state and federal representation. We also share a common and cooperating approach to addressing issues in the Latino and low-income communities.

While both counties are destinations in their own right, a key feature of each is our proximity to both the Bay Area and Sacramento - creating suburban cities for both regions. Interstate 80 (I-80) bisects many of the population centers including West Sacramento, Davis, Dixon, Vacaville, Vallejo, Fairfield, and Suisun City. Interstate 80 serves as a connection between all of these cities and a shared suburban culture. The Cal-Trans District 4 I-80 Corridor System Management Plan lays out the critical nature and the challenges of effective coordination on I-80. The report recognizes that while incremental improvements have been made to this highway system, it has been done in a piecemeal approach causing congestion elsewhere in the corridor. Having elected leaders represent the entire corridor would give this critical traffic artery leadership with a holistic view of the traffic throughput. As we are currently working with Solano County supervisors to address congestion in our corridor, this is essential to our efforts.

It is crucial that we also consider the impact on the Latino and low-income communities. As the Latino Community continues to be the fastest growing population in both Yolo and Solano Counties, we share commonalities that include economic, social, and cultural interests.
We believe the recommended Yolo-Solano Congressional District would be one of continuity that would benefit all communities in particular low-income, where sharing of resources is of value.

UC Davis also straddles both counties, providing a shared economic engine for both counties which focus on innovation, manufacturing, and agriculture. The university holds over 500 active patents that have supported the formation of over 100 startups spread throughout the two counties. The workforce graduating from the university has also attracted a number of larger employers that have spread throughout the two counties, including Bayer Crop Sciences in West Sacramento, DMG Mori Manufacturing and Schilling Robotics in Davis, Genentech in Vacaville, and UTC Aerospace in Suisun City. The growth in these fields have become so apparent that the City of Vacaville established the California Biotech Manufacturing Center to capitalize on this rapid bi-county economic growth. Both counties also rely on their fertile soil and agricultural advancement from the university for a large agricultural economy featuring processed tomatoes, tree nuts, wine grapes, livestock, organic and specialty crops.

The counties also share the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, which was designated as the first National Heritage Area in the State of California by Congress in 2019. The boundaries of the Heritage Area begin at the headwaters of the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel on the Yolo County line and end to the southwest at the mouth of the San Pablo Bay at the Solano County line creating a clear natural boundary. Our communities share a rural, agricultural, and recreational lifestyle that is unique from both the Bay Area and Sacramento regions. We also share unique issues before the state and federal government including levee safety, endangered species protection, and water quality.

I thank the commission for considering unifying all of Yolo and Solano counties to ensure proper representation of our uniquely interconnected counties. We appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,

Jim Provenza, Chair
Yolo County Board of Supervisors