I’m a lifelong Californian - raised in Sacramento, but have lived most of my life here in the inner East Bay - as a student at Cal, raising my kids in Oakland, and now as a grandfather and great grandfather.

I’d like to talk to you about Oakland and our neighboring cities. For lack of a better term, I’ll call it the Inner East Bay.

Here’s one example of how interconnected we are: While visiting the inner East Bay, you may find yourself driving down Alcatraz Avenue and completely unbeknownst to you, you would be passing in and out of Oakland, Emeryville and Berkeley multiple times. It’s unclear which City that you’re in as we share a similar fabric: we all share a diversity of people racially and socioeconomically, AC Transit and bike lanes, all types of houses of worship, and sadly, many unhoused neighbors. The only way to know what city you are in is to look at the color of the street sign: Green for Oakland, Brown for Berkeley, or Blue for Emeryville.

I vote in every election but I’ve never really thought about the district boundaries or how they should change. And I think that is because our districts are good as is. Communities with so many similarities are combined to make up our districts.

- We are an urban community - we’re not suburban like Lamorinda through the tunnel nor like the Tri-Valley which is over the East Bay Hills and way out inland.
- Our neighborhoods are denser, our housing stock is older, and our residents are more diverse than the suburbs.
- Because of our direct proximity to the Bay, we enjoy the temperate climate from the Bay’s breezes. The East Bay hills offer both a geographic and atmospheric divide. I know that this particular weather was one of the many reasons I chose to live in this community.

I’m not technologically savvy enough for your online software - so I’ll just simply breakdown my request:
I ask you to please ensure that Oakland remains in districts with similar cities like those nestled along the 880 or 580 freeways in the Inner East Bay: Berkeley, Emeryville, San Leandro, Alameda.