Hello Commissioners,

I am writing this Sunday evening, June 26th, so it meets the "3 day prior to the meeting" deadline.

I live in Fortuna, CA which is part of Zone A in the redistricting process. Fortuna is know as The Friendly City and the beautiful tall forests that rim us on 3 sides is complimented by the lovely Eel River on our western boundary. Like most of Humboldt County we are a rural community comprised of hard working families, many who have lived here for generations. I am a 3rd generation Humboldt-er myself. At times due to natural disasters (floods in '55 and '64, mud slides, earthquakes, wildfires,) transportation in and out of our county has been stopped or at least delayed. Thus we have learned to rely on our ourselves, our families and our neighbors for support and assistance. The natural resources we have been blessed with comprise the main economic endeavors of our county: fishing from our rivers and the Pacific Ocean; lumbering from our forests, dairy and farming on our rich soil, tourism due to our Redwood Trees and river/ocean locations, and a mild pleasant climate along the coast. Living close to nature is a value for us who live here.

Many of the natural resources and close to nature industries I have described above are also part of the culture of the other five counties who are part of Zone A. Napa and Sonoma counties are famous for their wine cultivation. Del Norte also relies on its fishing industry and tourism. Trinity and Lake Counties prize there wide-open spaces which provide parks and recreational areas to enjoy.

Huge corporations are the exception for the most part in Zone A. Family-owned business are more the norm. Striving to live and work with respect and protection of our environment is another cultural norm for counties in Zone A.

The people who live in Zone A appreciate our unique lifestyle and values. We do not want to be clumped with counties who are highly industrialized and less sensitive to their natural resources and environment. Life here encourages a pioneer, self-sufficiency, speak-your-mind, style of liberalism. This comes through in our political choices and we are proud to demonstrate for the values we hold dear.

I ask that you respect our hard-earned sense of independence and keep Zone A as it presently exists. Being as we are --we are part of what makes California a special and great state.

Most sincerely,
Jo Anne Godinho
Fortuna, CA