Good afternoon, my name is Bob Tiffany, and I'm speaking on behalf of San Benito County.

I am currently the Supervisor for District 4 in San Benito County, and I have been a life-long resident. I was the fourth generation to run my family’s business, Tiffany Motor Company, started in 1910...the oldest Ford dealership in California. Suffice it to say, I have very deep roots in San Benito County, and I know it and the surrounding area extremely well.

With that said, I realize that some of you may not be all that familiar with our county. It’s certainly much more “on the map” than it used to be, but there are still a significant number of people that seem to think we’re somewhere in the San Joaquin Valley. We’re definitely not. San Benito County is located roughly 50 miles inland from Monterey and an equal distance south of San Jose; we’re part of the Central Coast area.

Our county is strongly agriculturally-based, although we have an increasing amount of light manufacturing that’s moving into our area. Nevertheless, we currently have roughly 60% of our working population commuting out of the county, the majority to the north along 101 to Silicon Valley. Demographically, well over half of our residents are Latino, and our population is just over 60,000.

San Benito County and our cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista share many common interests with our neighbors in Gilroy in south Santa Clara County, in the Salinas/Monterey area just to the west of us, and with Watsonville and the Pajaro Valley in Santa Cruz County. Agriculture, of course, is one of the primary things we have in common, but we are also connected due to our traffic flow along the major transportation corridors, primarily north along 101 and to the
west along Highway 156. Hollister and San Benito County residents both work and shop in Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, and up the Peninsula, as well as in Salinas, Monterey, and Watsonville.

Conversely, very few people commute to or do business in Los Banos or other parts of the San Joaquin Valley, which is physically separated by a mountain range and Pacheco Pass. So although geographically San Benito County is adjacent to both Merced and Fresno Counties to the east, it is in no other way connected to that area.

The relationships with our neighbors to the west and north go much further. The local governments of the tri-county area of San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Cruz work closely together on many issues, focusing on transportation, education, health care, social services, agriculture, and broadband. We collaborate together on numerous boards and commissions: the Tri County Alliance, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, and the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership are just three examples. We even share a media market together; San Benito County’s largest television station for local news is KSBW out of Salinas.

And lastly, while dealing with the pandemic, our county’s health department has worked hand-in-hand with the health departments of Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Santa Clara Counties...since we all recognize how interconnected our communities and workforces are.

For all of these reasons and more, it’s critical that San Benito County remains aligned with its western and northern neighbors during this redistricting process. Thank you.