Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission,

My name is Jean Bedord and I am a resident of Cupertino, CA, a key part of Congressional District 17 currently represented by Congressman Ro Khanna. I am writing to affirm Cupertino’s geographic status within CD-17, as our overall district contains an Asian-American population that constitutes a community of interest.

Congressional District 17 contains the cities of Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Santa Clara, Milpitas and large portions of Fremont. A portion of San Jose was added to satisfy population equality for Congressional district requirements. Please keep these communities of interest together in one district since this solidarity can elevate our common concerns and interests to enact change. CD-17 is the only Asian-American district in the mainland United States, making it an essential tool of influence and power for our AAPI communities.

Similar reasoning that applied to create Congressional District 17 in 2011 a decade ago still applies today “...The district contains cities and local communities of interest marked by several shared interests, including employment and business based on high technology economies and demographic characteristics linked by income level, housing, and immigration status” Source: https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2011/08/crc_20110815_2final_report.pdf

Therefore, I am requesting that our communities should be kept together for the economic, cultural, and political ties that we all share as a district., rather than being folded into another district.

Warm regards,

Jean Bedord