To the California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is J.R. Fruen. I live in Cupertino, California, presently a constituent part of Congressional District 17, a seat currently held by Representative Ro Khanna. I write to ask that you retain Cupertino as part of CD-17 because it is an important contributing piece of the district’s Asian-American and foreign-born population constituting a community of interest.

CD-17 is the only Asian-American district in the mainland United States, making it an important part of ensuring that the AAPI community sees sufficient federal representation, and that its concerns as a community of interest are addressed in the U.S. Congress. At a time when, per Census 2020 data, the AAPI community is growing quickly in proportion to the rest of the U.S. population, ensuring adequate and enduring representation is paramount. Removing Cupertino—a majority AAPI city, and a majority foreign-born city—from CA-17 would dilute this community of interest in this Congressional district.

When CA-17 was created a decade ago, this reasoning applied; it continues to apply today: “[T]he 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.” See: https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/64/2011/08/crc_20110815_2final_report.pdf

For the foregoing reasons, and in recognition of the economic, cultural, and political ties that we all share as a district, I ask that the Commission work to keep Cupertino in CA-17.

Respectfully submitted,

J.R. Fruen
Cupertino resident