Hello, my name is Zena Chafi from CAIR Sacramento Valley/Central California. The general area I will be addressing is Masjid Fresno in Northeast Fresno, within Fresno County. The community of interest bound by N 1st St. to the west, E Bullard to the North, and E Ashlan Ave to the south, then follows N Cedar Ave down to W Shaw Ave over to 168 and down N Chestnut Ave to the east. CAIR SVCC advocates for just policies for our communities, provides pro bono civil rights and immigration legal services to families in need, and builds future youth leaders by organizing civic engagement and education initiatives such as GOTV, Census, and redistricting, to the AMEMSA (Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Communities) in Fresno County between the regions of Bakersfield to Merced. I have lived in Fresno for over 20 years. CAIR is with the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative.

Our community is connected by faith, culture, and language. Friday prayers, youth programs, and mosques bring our community together. The Muslim community generally lives close to mosques for easy access. Masjid Fresno (Northeast Fresno), located on Shaw, right by Fresno State, is the largest mosque in Fresno. The Muslim community in northeast Fresno surrounding Masjid Fresno are primarily South Asian, Palestinian, and Syrian first or second-generation immigrants. In addition, in 2016 there was a heavy influx of Syrian immigrants that reside South of Bullard near Masjid Fresno. Because of the strong immigrant presence in this community, there is a shared concern of immigrant rights, quality education, access to affordable housing and transportation, culturally competent and in language resources and youth programs for our communities to thrive in America. The Muslim community in this region, particularly the Syrian refugee population have migrated from a war ridden developing country and share the need to feel safe and accepted again by being in community with the very people who understand their language, culture, and values.

We hope that the Commission will respect our community of interest and keep it whole. Additionally, we would like to be in a district with West Fresno due to a large Muslim population with shared interests regarding infrastructure, COVID 19, and immigration, with communities in this area. We do not want to be in a district with urban communities surrounding north Fresno and fig garden due to a lack of shared interests and priorities.