Hello Commission,

My name is Tammy Vang and I am looking over Fresno. I am the Fresno Field Organizer for Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP). HIP’s mission is to strengthen the political power of two of the largest Hmong American populations in the state. I was also born and raised in Fresno and have lived here for 26 years. Fresno is my hometown and is a place near and dear to my heart. As a child, I moved around in Fresno a lot due to poverty and economic disparities, so I know the areas in which my community resides very well. HIP also serves as a member of the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative.

The Fresno Hmong community is one of the largest Hmong communities in the US and people come from all over the country to participate in it’s annual Fresno Hmong New Year. The Hmong community used to be concentrated into one area in Central Southeastern Fresno, but throughout the years, it has expanded and we now live in clusters throughout Fresno, with particular landmark concentrations provided below. I will submit a written copy of my testimony with more information about where our Hmong communities are located.

Community Boundaries (Mapping Attach Below):

- **99 & Shaw Ave area**: W Shaw Ave to the north, N Marks Ave to the east, W Shields Ave to the south, N Grantland Ave to the west
- **FIRM area**: E Clinton Ave to the north, N 1st St. to the east, E McKinley Ave to the south, N Fresno St. to the west
- **Melody Park**: Ashlan Ave to the north, N Armstrong to the east, E Shields to the south, Clovis Ave to the west
- **Stone Soup area**: Near El Dorado Park; E Barstow Ave to the north, N 6th St. to the east, E San Jose Ave to the south, N 1st St. to the west
- **Sunnyside**: E Kings Canyon Rd. to the north, Fowler Ave to the east, E Jensen to the south, S Chestnut to the west
- **The Fresno Center Area**: E Olive Ave to the north, N Temperance Ave down to E Kings Canyon Rd. and S Fowler Ave to the east, E Jensen Ave to the south, and Maple Ave to the west.
- **Westside**: S West Ave to the west, E Jensen Ave to the south, SR-41 to the east, and W California Ave to the north
- **Vang Pao Elementary School area**: E Kings Canyon Rd to the north, S Maple Ave to the east, E California Ave to the south, S Orange Ave to the west
Our communities share a variety of characteristics such as:

- We’re made up of first-generation immigrants who fled war in the early 1980s and 1990s, resettled in low-income and affordable housing areas of Fresno. Due to lack of access to financial capital and literacy, our community are more as renters than homeowners in the area. As community members obtained more financial capital, most have moved to the suburban areas such as Clovis, Sanger, and Central side.
- Our community has been in the United States for over 45 years with the current median age for our community being 23 years old with a huge proportion of them being American-born. There is still a population of community members who are 60 years and over with limited English proficiency (LEP).
- To financially support themselves, some families established small businesses in the farming industry and creative clothing outlets. Some in the service and manufacturing industries. Others in the medical health and nonprofit sectors such as myself.
- Our community members tend to graduate from high school but have low rates of college attainment due to a long history of disenfranchisement.

These characteristics mean that our community has many shared concerns, particularly issues such as providing more culturally appropriate programming in schools, better language access in government assistance programs and services, and including the need for tenant protections, adequate health, housing, mental health services, and more.

Finally, we ask the commission to respect our communities of interest to the extent possible. We hope that our community can largely be grouped with the nearby Latinx communities in the current AD-31, as we have many shared interests and characteristics. However, since our community is spread over such a large area and may need to be divided, we support keeping those in the Clovis area with nearby folks who are also in current AD-23.
We believe this is critical to help nurture and foster healthier, stronger, and happier neighborhoods. When people in our community are involved in the process of shaping their environment and community, they get to share ideas, become invested and committed in helping find solutions and creating strategies to address the issues in their communities.

HIP is committed to helping the Hmong community through increasing their civic participation and preserving fair maps to protect the ability for a community to help choose aligned political representation. Thank you for your time.