TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Dao Vang. I am the Sacramento Field Organizer for Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP), a local grassroots organization based in Sacramento and Fresno committed to mobilizing two of the largest Hmong American populations in the state and nation. Since 2012, HIP has been working closely with Hmong and other disenfranchised communities in the Meadowview and Lemon Hill area. We engage with our voters annually through culturally and linguistically appropriate voter education materials, phone banking, door-to-door canvassing, and empowering Hmong and Southeast Asian young people to realize their power and leadership. HIP also serves as a member of the AAPI & AMESMA Redistricting Collaborative which focuses on empowering Asian American, Pacific Islander, Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian, communities.

Our communities sit next to the major highways (I-5 & 99) and south of Fruitridge Road. Specifically, the Meadowview community is the center of both I-5 and the light rail. The I-5 sits towards the west. The light trail tracks are located towards the east. Open spaces are located in the south. The 99 neighbors the Lemon Hill area to the west along with Fruitridge Road to the north. Train tracks and Florin road are located respectively to the east and south of the Lemon Hill area as well.

Our communities are made up of first-generation immigrants who fled war in the early 1980s and 1990s. They resettled in low-income and affordable areas of Sacramento. Due to the lack of accessible financial capital and literacy, our community are mostly renters in the area. To financially support themselves, some families established small businesses in the farming industry and creative clothing outlets. We also have community members working in the service and manufacturing industries. As community members obtained more financial capital, most have moved to suburban areas such as Elk Grove, North Natomas, and Roseville. 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 that are limited English proficient. Our community members tend to graduate from high school but have low rates of college attainment and job security. In addition, our community has low rates of civic participation due to a long history of disenfranchisement. Due to the intergenerational trauma & post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from fleeing the Vietnam War, our communities have high rates of social, economic, and health disparities which has been exacerbated even more by the pandemic. Lastly, our area still remains one of the least vaccinated areas in the county.

These shared characteristics mean that our community has many shared concerns, including the need for tenant protections, language access, adequate health and mental health services, and more. We ask the Commission to consider these shared characteristics and concerns and respect our communities of interest by keeping the Lemon Hill and Meadowview areas whole. Thank you for your consideration.