

June 24, 2011

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Dear Commissioners:

My name is Jeffrey Bailey and I've lived in Modesto all of my life...that's 55 years!

Unfortunately, my work schedule posted before I saw the notice for your Stockton hearing so I couldn't change it. Thank you for letting my comments be read today.

First, thank you for putting my county – Stanislaus – back with Merced County in the Assembly plan. This is how it was before partisan gerrymandering changed it in 2001.

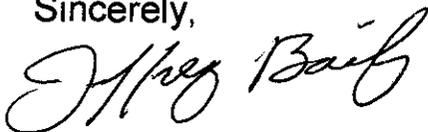
I know you may have to split Modesto in some instances, since it's our most populated city. From what I see of the 1st draft maps, you split us the right way when you had to. You honored our differences in the city and kept the southern Modesto area together.

This is important. This is where I grew up. Southern Modesto is known as the areas west of Highway 99 and the areas south of Highway 132. The people in these areas have lower household incomes, the area is more diverse, and the people have more in common with people in the City of Ceres to the south than they do with their fellow Modestans in the north.

You also separated the valley from the foothill/mountain areas in the state legislative maps, which is good. Their economy is based around tourism and recreation and ours is based on rural Ag and smaller mom and pop businesses.

In short, you did well by us so far. Good job! Please preserve your good work in our area.

Sincerely,



JEFFREY BAILEY

Modesto, CA 95355