Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

As a native and current resident of Imperial County, I would like to share my thoughts with you on the redistricting issue of Imperial County with its neighboring counties. As you redraw our districts, I ask that you highly consider making our state and federal districts similar to our current 80th assembly district. I do not understand why Imperial County is usually placed in the same region as San Diego, like our current congressional and state senatorial district. The only thing we share or have in common with our neighbors to the east, San Diego, is a border.

I believe our state border needs additional representation. Currently, our state border is represented by one congressional representative. This has resulted in a lack of financial resources and prioritization of public policy for our border communities due to the lack of representation at the federal level. I feel that additional federal representation for our California border would lead to much-needed additional resources for the improvement of our border infrastructure, highly outdated infrastructure that much of the bordering business communities count on.

Imperial County has a lot more things in common geographically, economically, environmentally, and demographically with eastern Riverside County, also known as the Coachella Valley. In the past few years, both Coachella Valley and Imperial County have received a lot of interest from developers and investors due to the vast potential of renewable energy development in these two valleys. Due to the increased interest and potential projects that can lead to much needed economic development, both valleys have been collaborating to nurture partnerships that are mutually beneficial. I feel that keeping these two Valleys together in state and congressional districts would benefit these partnerships and support current and future developments.

I ask that you recognize the public comments that you received from the Imperial County residents who attended your public meetings and highly consider the commonalities between these two valleys when you redraw the lines and make our state senatorial district and congressional districts resemble our current 80th assembly district.
Sincerely,

Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter

Heber, CA 92249