I'm here to address you today because of the troubling turn the discussion took yesterday evening with regard to the Tri-Cities. Yesterday, the commission gave the direction to revert back to the 1st draft maps, even though your first draft maps literally strips the Tri-cities of crucial political representation at the federal level.

We have known all along that the commission would have to make difficult choices. And because of that, members of our community came out in full force to alert you all to the fact that the first draft maps do not respect our area's history, our people, or our economy. Specifically, splitting the 4th largest city in the Bay Area in Fremont in two out of the three proposed maps, and lumping pieces of the city in with unlike communities in Santa Clara County and East San Jose. This proposal makes the least sense, since it splits the anchor of south Alameda County, and places it with Santa Clara County. Most offensively, it dilutes the fast-growing South Asian community in the Bay Area, which has never had representation in the state Assembly, state Senate, or Congress, even though it's one of the most concentrated areas of this community in the United States.

The decision to revert back to the first draft of the maps discounts the hundreds of voices from the Tri Cities and all throughout the Bay Area who have take the time to come before you and testify to on the matter.

We want to work with you to create a map that reflects our community of interest testimony while respecting surrounding communities of interest. To that end, we have proposed a map that shows how, using your first draft maps as a starting point, you can create a congressional district with the tri-cities anchored in an Alameda County district. Our map shows that it is completely possible given the framework you've given us. I, too, have been keeping track of the community of interest testimony from surrounding areas, and our map greatly took this into consideration.
If you have an issue with specifics like, whether to include San Ramon, or whether to include Milpitas, we completely understand and we are open to compromises. But reverting back to the first draft map is deeply troubling, and discounts ALL of the voices of the people who came before you here, even multiple times.

Our community has struggled greatly with the redistricting issue. Knowing that we needed to make tough choices, we expressed that our top priority was the congressional map. Because we want to be reasonable and respect that the commission has difficult decisions, our community even held its tongue at the Assembly District map, which arbitrarily slices up Fremont and that looks like a dog! While this really doesn't make sense in the slightest, we wanted to send a strong message that our focus is on getting a Congressional District that has the Tri-Cities unified in an Alameda County anchored District.

I hope that the commission doesn't send the message that hundreds of voices that have called for keeping Fremont and the Tri Cities together in a congressional district in Alameda County are something to be ignored. Please reconsider our proposed map as a starting point for the congressional district.

Thank you.

Best of Regards,

Aref Aziz
Dear Commissioners,

I strongly support the new visualizations of the congressional map for the Tri-Cities area. I am very heartened by the new proposed Hayward/Fremont/Newark/Union City/Milpitas Congressional seat.

I fully support the proposal to have a district that includes Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Newark, and Milpitas. I am pleased that Fremont is rooted in an Alameda County-anchored district, respecting our history and institutions. The Commission and Q2 heard our call for one Congressional district -- we are deeply moved by your giving a voice to this community.

This map validates our belief in the citizen commission and the democratic process. By approving this map, the commission is giving voice to the Tri-Cities community. The Commission is putting citizen testimony first and foremost, and demonstrating that the perspective of "communities of interest" matter.

I look forward to supporting this map, and supporting more generally the Commission for their extraordinary work in being responsive to public testimony.

I hope that this will be the final map for the Tri City Area in an Alameda County district.
Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping an open mind and keeping Fremont, Newark, Union City, and Milpitas together in the same congressional district.

Sincerely,
Carol Dutra-Vernaci
Former Councilmember Union City

Carol Dutra-Vernaci

Union City, CA 94587
Subject: Redistricting Map
From: Michelle Snowden <michelle.snowden@example.com>
Date: Fri, 8 Jul 2011 17:22:57 -0700 (PDT)
To: 

Dear Commissioners,

I am very much in favor of the new proposed map for the Tri-Cities area and the Hayward/Fremont/Newark/Union City/Milpitas Congressional seat.

I fully support the proposal to have a district that includes Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Newark, and Milpitas. I am pleased that Union City and Fremont are rooted in an Alameda County-anchored district, respecting our history and institutions. The Commission and Q2 heard our call for one Congressional district. I am pleased by your hearing the voice of this community.

This map validates our belief in the citizen commission and the democratic process. The commission has honored the cohesiveness of Tri-Cities community. The Commission has put citizen testimony first and recognized that "communities of interest" matter.

I look forward to supporting this map and supporting the Commission for their work in being responsive to public testimony.
I hope that this will be the final map for the Tri City Area in an Alameda County district.

Yours truly,
Michelle W. Snowden
Thank you for taking Tri-City input into consideration.
thank you for listening to our concerns in the Tri City area of Fremont, Union City and Newark. I was delighted that a group of concerned citizens would be developing the maps to rid California of illconceived political boundaries. You did "good".

Janet Crocker
Newark, CA
Dear Commissioners,

I strongly support the new visualizations of the congressional map for the Tri-Cities area. I am very heartened by the new proposed Hayward/Fremont/Newark/Union City/Milpitas Congressional seat.

I fully support the proposal to have a district that includes Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Newark, and Milpitas. I am pleased that Fremont is rooted in an Alameda County-anchored district, respecting our history and institutions. The Commission and Q2 heard our call for one Congressional district -- we are deeply moved by your giving a voice to this community.

This map validates our belief in the citizen commission and the democratic process. By approving this map, the commission is giving voice to the Tri-Cities community. The Commission is putting citizen testimony first and foremost, and demonstrating that the perspective of "communities of interest" matter.

I look forward to supporting this map, and supporting more generally the Commission for their extraordinary work in being responsive to public testimony.

I hope that this will be the final map for the Tri City Area in an Alameda County district.
Dear Commissioners,

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I hope that this will be the final map for the Tri City Area in an Alameda County district.

Regards,
Rakesh Sharma
Fremont, CA 94539
Subject: congressional map for the Tri-Cities area
From: luck Chart <[redacted]>
Date: Fri, 8 Jul 2011 11:04:32 -0700 (PDT)
To: [redacted] <[redacted]>
CC: luck Chart <[redacted]>

Dear Commissioners,

I strongly support the new visualizations of the congressional map for the Tri-Cities area. I am very heartened by the new proposed Hayward/Fremont/Newark/Union City/Milpitas Congressional seat.

I fully support the proposal to have a district that includes Hayward, Union City, Fremont, Newark, and Milpitas. I am pleased that Fremont is rooted in an Alameda County-anchored district, respecting our history and institutions. The Commission and Q2 heard our call for one Congressional district -- we are deeply moved by your giving a voice to this community.

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Regards,
Luck Rukchart
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I look forward to supporting this map, and supporting more generally the Commission for their extraordinary work in being responsive to public testimony.

I hope that this will be the final map for the Tri City Area in an Alameda County district.

Jacob Eapen MD.MPH

Board of Director Washington Hospital
Fremont.
Dear Commissioners,

I am pleased with the new visualizations of the congressional map for the Tri-Cities area. Thank you so much. You have done the right thing for our area.

Donna Olsen
Fremont resident