

City of Clearlake

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May 15, 2025

TO: Honorable Mike McGuire, California Senate President Pro Tempore

RE: SB 226

Senator McGuire:

SB 226 poses a serious threat to the autonomy of local community college districts. By granting a state board the power to redraw district lines over the objections of local boards, the bill undermines local control.

This legislation appears tailored to the narrow interests within the Yuba Community College District, to the detriment of the broader student population and communities it serves. The resulting realignment would be a monumental undertaking, consuming immense time, energy, and likely costing numerous districts tens of millions of dollars.

This unnecessary distraction would divert vital resources away from their primary purpose: supporting students' educational goals and the economic growth of the Yuba district. The fact that amendments requiring local district approval for any realignment, previously passed by the Senate Education Committee, are no longer part of the bill is deeply troubling and signals a potential disservice to the majority of our students.

It is our understanding that the Senate Education Committee previously approved amendments to the bill, ensuring local district approval for any realignment. The fact that these amendments are not currently included in the bill's progression is a significant concern for us.

We respectfully request the opportunity to discuss this pressing issue with you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Russ Cremer Mayor