

Declaration of Grievances On behalf of the Northern California Counties

We, the representatives of the following Counties of Northern California: Siskiyou, Modoc, Glenn, Yuba, Tehama, Sutter, Lake, Lassen, and Nevada,

Hereby declare to the citizens of the State of California, the several states of the Union, and to the Congress of the United States, the reasons for our intention to withdraw from the state of California and create, as the 51st state of the United States of America, the **State of Jefferson**.

Article 4 Section 4 of the United States Constitution states that the United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government.”

a. A Republican form of government implies the enjoyment of all the inalienable rights and privileges recognized as the birthright of each individual lawfully residing in each state of the Union.

b. A Republican form of government presupposes equal representation of the Counties constituting a state, in the government of that state.

The several Counties of Northern California possess an equivalent 6% representation in the California State Legislature, compared to the 114% representation of a few heavily populated counties in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento. This inequitable state of things results in grievous harm to the residents of the Northern California Counties set forth below:

1. This disproportional representation of said Northern Californian Counties makes void the rights of their residents to effectively participate in their self-government as guaranteed to them in the Declaration of Rights of Article 1 Section 3 (a) of the California Constitution which states:

(a) The people have the right to instruct their representatives, petition the government for redress of grievances, and assemble freely to consult for the common good.

2. This disproportionate representation effectively deprives the residents of said Northern California Counties of that self-government necessary to protect their rights imbedded in Article 1 Section 1 of the California Constitution which declares that:

Sec. 1. “All people are by nature free and independent and have inalienable rights. Among these are enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety, happiness, and privacy.”

3. This disproportionate representation, created by an arbitrary cap in 1862 of 40 Senators and 80 Assembly Members to the California Legislature, inevitably devalues the value of each person’s vote. This arbitrary Act violates the fundamental principle of all republican forms of self-government: that all sovereignty and power reside in “we the people” whose right it is to delegate to their representatives only such power and authority that are necessary to preserve all of the rights and immunities of a free people.

a. California's current representation of 1 Assembly person for approximately 490,000 residents and 1 senator for approximately 980,000 people, is even more grossly disproportionate for Northern California County Residents and violates their right to meaningfully participate in their governance; their right to elect representatives to the Senate and Assembly; and their right to meaningfully access the members of the Legislature.

b. These violations of the rights of the residents of the Northern Counties violate the procedural and substantive Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. Due Process and Equal Protection which protect the rights of all U.S. Citizens, are at the very root of ordered liberty and are indispensable to providing justice to all.

c. These arbitrary acts of the government of California also violate the rights of the residents of the Northern Counties to their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, association, press, and the right to petition, all of which are protected by the 14th Amendment from state action.

4. This disproportionate representation results in a few large metropolitan areas in central and Southern California electing public officials who are tied to a political ideology that is foreign to and inimical to the rights and ideals of a majority of the residents of said Northern California Counties. This arbitrary limitation of representation of the Northern Counties has converted the government of California into a virtual liberal oligarchy, regardless of which political party is in power, which is trampling upon the rights of the residents of said Northern Counties

5. This disproportionate representation, dilutes the votes of the residents of said Counties in federal elections by depriving them of an equal voice in electing electors to determine the President and vice-president of the United States, and in selecting senators and representatives to the Houses of Congress.

6. This grossly disproportionate representation has resulted in taxation without fair and adequate representation in the California Legislature.

a. Exorbitant income taxes, corporate taxes, gasoline taxes, property taxes, sales taxes, and a myriad of hidden taxes have combined to make doing business in California uncompetitive with other states. Exorbitant income taxes downgrade the middle class, make the lower classes dependent on state assistance, cause businesses to shutter, and dissolve the family in many instances.

b. Meanwhile reckless spending by the liberal oligarchy in Sacramento has brought the state to the brink of bankruptcy, saddling our children and future generations with exorbitant debt.

c. Taxes collected from the Northern Counties are used to further undermine the self-sufficiency and integrity of these Northern Counties by attaching burdensome demands and restrictions on the use of returned funds, coupled with onerous penalties for misuse.

7. Inequitable water use policies, combined with unreasonable and excessive regulations have placed the farmers, ranchers, and logging industry in the Northern Counties in jeopardy.

a. Farmers are put out of business by draconian water use policies.

b. Northern Counties are deprived of the use of their natural waters by a policy that funnels this water to Southern California

c. Their rights to use Federal Mining Claims in the foothills and the river beds have been impaired.

8. The liberal oligarchy in Sacramento has violated the sacred right of parents to raise their children, to make intelligent decisions on providing health care for their children, and in particular, has usurped parental decision-making by imposing mandatory vaccinations on infants and children that impair their health.

9. The land management policies of the liberal oligarchy in Sacramento has restricted the use of public land, curtailing the expansion of businesses into the Northern Counties; impaired the right of the individual to use and enjoy their private property; mismanaged the forests which contribute to uncontrolled fires that destroy and ravage the property and the habitations of Northern County residents.

10. Mismanagement of the infrastructure of the Northern Counties has resulted in degraded roadways, highways, bridges, and dams, which create unreasonable harm to their residents.

11. Disproportionate representation has taxed Northern Counties to pay for projects, such as the projected high-speed rail, that benefit only the lower Counties of California.

12. The liberal oligarchy in Sacramento has crafted a welfare policy that has made California a magnet for the poor, the homeless, and those who prefer to live off the largess of the state and not provide for themselves.

13. The liberal oligarchy has failed to protect the border and adequately manage the migration of aliens into the state and into the Northern Counties that are overwhelming their schools, hospitals, courts, correctional facilities, and philanthropic institutions.

Moreover, the ills of inadequate representation have worsened with the passing years, while the steady flow of petitions and protestations from the grossly unrepresentative northern Counties have gone unheeded. Counties such as Siskiyou, formed in 1852 with a population of 7,000, had 1 representative in the Senate and Assembly of California. Today, with a population of over 45,000 residents, it shares one Senator with 10 other Counties and an Assembly member with 7 other Counties. The government of the State of California has no plans and indeed has rejected all requests since 1879, to increase the number of representatives in either the Senate or Assembly.

We, therefore, the representatives of the Northern California Counties, appeal to the Creator and Father of our inalienable rights to liberty, the possession and enjoyment of private property, and the privileges of self-government, and further appeal to the Congress of the United States of America,

Hereby petition the Legislature of the State of California to assent to the right of these Northern California Counties to unite together to form the free state of Jefferson, and to enter into union with the existing United States upon the same terms and conditions as previous states have entered that Union.