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Board of Supervisors  
El Dorado County  
330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667

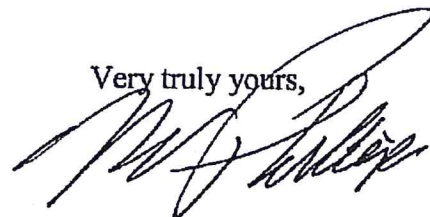
Dear Supervisors,

You have on your calendar a meeting concerning a request by the State of Jefferson for your support of a new state composed of most of the rural northern California counties including El Dorado County

In a meeting which I attended, their supporters claimed that the *Reynolds v. Sims* decision of the United States Supreme Court, which established the "one man" one vote principle for the election of state legislatures, was "unconstitutional" because it violated the Republican form of government established by the nation's founders. This claim is without merit and absurd. However one counts votes for a legislature, we remain a democratic Republic because citizens are still acting through elected representatives rather than directly. This is elementary and requires no legal analysis but only a reference to a standard dictionary.

The proponents of the State of Jefferson also claim that their government will be modeled on the United States Constitution with a bicameral legislature with a lower house elected based upon population and an upper house, or senate, elected on the basis of each county having one or two senators. Again, the proponents of the new state have it wrong. The United States Constitution was adopted by previously sovereign states, hence they reached the form of our government by compromise of the interests of the 13 sovereign states. Counties are not sovereign, but subdivisions of the state of which they are a part. Hence the federal model in which the senate is composed of two senators from each state is not a model for the senate in the State of Jefferson. For this and other reasons, the one man one vote principle, or any modification thereof, will be as applicable to the new state as it is to the State of California. It is likely unnecessary to point out that the proposed senate with equal representation in the senate for large and small counties would be unfair to El Dorado County residents.

Very truly yours,





Instead of dividing our community, we should embrace our California heritage and work together to address today's needs rather than chase yesterday's dreams. Our best avenue for growth and progress is to "Keep It California."

It is a romantic notion to wipe the slate clean, and start all over again. But this road is fraught with unknowns, uncertainty, and more questions than answers.

A decision on whether or not El Dorado County joins the secession movement will ultimately be up to the people. But today, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is receiving information regarding whether or not this is a wise move for EDC. Will it help us be better off? Will we be able to maintain our quality of life? Will we be one of several counties in the footprint of "Jefferson" that will be the "cash cow" to the smaller, more dependent counties? But the fact is that the funding we receive is essential to maintaining our quality of life, and we will illustrate this in our presentation.

The Chair of "Keep It California" and former Sierra County Treasurer and Tax Collector, Cindy Ellsmore, will discuss the financial aspects of what funds we now have, what we would lose and what some of the consequences might be, were we to join the SoJ.

Ted Phillips, a local attorney will address some constitutional issues raised by this proposal.

I will briefly address several of my main concerns.

1<sup>st</sup>

Doing the math, El Dorado and Placer counties would generate 44.6% of the total income of the approximately 18 county Jefferson State. How could we not become the "cash cow" for the proposal?

2<sup>nd</sup>

In the SoJ plan, El Dorado County's 180,000 plus citizens could be outvoted 2 to 1 by Modoc and Sierra. That would allow Modoc and Sierra to tax El Dorado County, and we would not be able to find out how much of our EDC taxes would be taken north to those welfare counties until AFTER Jefferson became a state. Even with our 180,000 plus citizens, we would get only 11% of the Senate seats. How would this improve the representation of the EDC citizens?

3<sup>rd</sup>

Proposition 98 guarantees the funding of K-12. There are NO counties in the SoJ footprint that are able to fund K-12 on their own county funds. El Dorado County receives \$109,020,176 in state revenue for education alone. How would we make that up? How would we maintain our current quality of education?

4<sup>th</sup>

SoJ proponents say every county will be free to design their own curriculum and textbooks. How will we make sure that our schools are accredited and classes meet the standards for admission to a college?

5<sup>th</sup>

College opportunities and tuition is another area of concern. What will happen with a maximum of two state universities, (Humboldt and Chico) and no UC's available for in-state tuition? Neither Humboldt or Butte counties have shown any interest in participating in Jefferson. Aside from accreditation issues, we could be left with no university options at all. This would severely limit our kids' options for higher education, both in terms of cost and educational goals. SoJ presenters have, in past presentations, said that they would negotiate in-state tuition with California, but that seems unlikely to be successful, when California universities are subsidized by taxpayers. Why would California taxpayers want to subsidize the education of another state's residents?

6<sup>th</sup>

Lake Tahoe is one of El Dorado County's greatest assets. How will the SoJ guarantee that it can/will keep its relationship with TRPA? How will El Dorado County deal with the lack of regulations that would be capable of destroying one of our most profitable resources and most beautiful places?

7<sup>th</sup>

Business hates uncertainty. I am personally aware of one very profitable business deal that El Dorado County lost due to uncertainty. I'm sure there are many other examples of lost business growth opportunities. How would El Dorado County benefit by being in a new state where rules and regulations were uncertain and unstable?

8<sup>th</sup>

Proponents say there is too much regulation on timber and mining industries, which prevents them from becoming financially viable. However, in the footprint of SoJ, using all 20 counties in the original plan, there are only 63,000 acres of timberland that the State of California controls. The Federal Government and SPI own everything else. SPI would benefit greatly from relaxed regulations, but the Federal regulations would remain the same. How is it possible to base a large part of the economy, and an entire industry on only 63,000 acres of timberland, which may or may not be available to them?

9<sup>th</sup>

Each county would be responsible for its own roads. Some roads would be better than others, and some roads would be non-existent. How would that encourage business to invest in the SoJ? What would happen to the entire infrastructure of the SoJ?

10<sup>th</sup>

Who is going to pay the cost of litigation that will surely follow?

11<sup>th</sup>

Per our auditor controller's office, we currently receive approximately \$53.2 million dollars from the state for Social Services, Public Health, and Mental Health. Recently, this county considered the idea of closing senior centers in order to reduce costs. The outcry that followed was so intense, that the senior centers stayed open.

What would happen to our quality of life if we were to lose \$53.200,000 for those programs alone? What would happen to programs like CASA, which advocates in court for children who have no families? What would happen to organizations like Summitview, who give abused, neglected and now trafficked young women, (as young as 12!) an opportunity to become viable, tax paying members of society??

What about all the non-profits who receive funding from the state and contribute so much to our quality of life in our county, and who make us proud to live here? And that \$53.2 million is not all we would lose. There is also an additional \$87,052,783 million in state aid. That brings the total amount to \$140,252,783 that this county would lose from the State of California. With a loss of those funds, do you believe our quality of life in this county would remain the same??

12<sup>th</sup>

Why should El Dorado County leave the seventh largest economy on the planet to become one of the poorest states in the nation?

### **In Closing**

We all know government is not perfect. There are legitimate issues to be resolved. The truth is we have a pretty good deal going. The taxes paid by the urban areas help support our schools, roads and services. In exchange, we are the stewards of the water and natural resources that the state depends on.

We believe the problems we have now, are small in comparison to what we would encounter should we opt to join this proposed new state. Keep It California is currently working with Rural County Representatives of California. (RCRC) We are also in the process of establishing a liaison with Senate President pro-tem Kevin de Leon's office, not only to raise awareness of our legitimate issues, but to also find solutions. We believe it is more efficient to fix the problems we have and not create more problems for the future. We believe it is much better to "Keep It California."

We invite the State of Jefferson proponents to join us.

Thank you for your time.

