

Dear Mr. Chairman,

If you want proof that the "Communities plan" put forward by the Montana Democratic Party in 2000 and 2010 is not based on communities, look no further than Missoula County. The lines and boundaries within the county have no resemblance whatsoever on communities, neighborhoods or existing political subdivisions.

This is an attempt by one party to totally dominate the legislative seats within a county. Over the last 8 years under the current map, only one seat has shown to be a place where a Republican can win. All nine other are solidly Democrat because they all originate from the center of the city of Missoula. I find it laughable that Democrats claim their map produces "fair and competitive" results. Not fair for Republicans, Independents, suburban or rural voters.

I urge the commission to look over and study many of the existing lines we have for neighborhoods, city wards, and school districts. In Missoula County and City we have distinct areas like Miller Creek, Target Range, Orchard Homes, the downtown, the Northside, the University area, the Rattlesnake, East Missoula, Frenchtown, the Seeley-Swan and so on. You should do your best to keep these areas separate, and recognize the interests of rural, suburban and urban voters. They have different priorities and would benefit from separate representation.

Please reject maps authored by the Montana Democratic party since they only seek to dominate our county. I urge the commission to look at the Urban-Rural 100 plan and the Subdivision 100 plan. Those are good starting points.

NAME: CARL R. FLOOD

ADDRESS: 11695 O'KEEFE CREEK BLVD.
MISSOULA MT, 59808

E-Mail: No

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MAY 14 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division


Dear Mr. Chairman,

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Please reject maps authored by the Montana Democratic party since they only seek to dominate our county. I urge the commission to look at the Urban-Rural 100 plan and the Subdivision 100 plan. Those are good starting points.

NAME: John R. Libatush 

ADDRESS: 4889 Alex Lane #1

Missoula, MT

E-Mail: 1-jrd@brbman.net

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MAY 14 2012
Montana Legislative
Services Division

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 9:30 AM
To: 'Cal Cumin'
Cc: Weiss, Rachel; Field, Dawn
Subject: RE: Redistricting

Thanks Cal. I will make sure your email is entered into the record.

Joe Lamson
Commissioner

From: Cal Cumin [<mailto:c-cumin@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 7:31 AM
To: Lamson, Joe (D&A Commission)
Subject: Redistricting

Commissioner Lamson:

I support the Communities Plan.

Cal Cumin
9433 Hwy 87
Shepherd, MT 59079

Weiss, Rachel

From: Pat Smith [patsmith@graywolfmt.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 1:54 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: FW: Redistricting

From: Cal Cumin <c-cumin@hotmail.com>
Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 7:32 AM
To: "Smith, Pat" <patsmith@mt.gov>
Subject: Redistricting
Resent-From: <patsmith@mt.gov>
Resent-Date: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 7:33 AM

Commissioner Smith:

I support the Communities Plan.

Cal Cumin
9433 Hwy 87
Shepherd, MT 59079

May 14, 2012

Dear Commission,

I'm writing to voice my opinion on the redistricting process. It seems absurd that one political party should be charged with redistricting. Is the word gerrymandering?

Please, I urge you to reject the 'Communities plan'.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Marble
Roberts, MT 59070

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose for the Montana Democratic Party. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those.

Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME: Amy Seymour Amy Seymour

ADDRESS: 27 Gibson Rd.

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Joliet, MT 59041

PHONE: 912-3260

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Sincerely,

NAME:

Gerry Abel

ADDRESS:

418 Granite Peak Dr.

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Columbus MT 59015

PHONE:

406 321-2093

RECEIVED

MAY 16 1992

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Sincerely,

NAME:

Gratta Haines Duff

ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 574

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Abbeville, Mt 59001

PHONE:

406-328-7202

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Sincerely,

NAME:

Judy Manweiler Judy Manweiler

ADDRESS:

9987 U.S. hwy 212

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Joliet, MT 59041

PHONE:

860 1251

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME:

Kelly Resley

ADDRESS:

66 Granite Rd

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

Jolet, MT 59041

PHONE:

406 855-5088

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

May 11, 2012

to: Montana Redistricting Committee

from: Pat Plowman
PO Box 173
Boyd, MT 59013

subject: Montana Redistricting Map

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I have just seen the maps below:

<http://leg.mt.gov/content/Committees/Interim/2011-2012/Districting/Maps/Urban-Rural-100/urban-rural-100-statewide.jpg> I smell crony politics. Please reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. This defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, following existing subdivisions (counties are good).

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose. The above map ignores communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those. Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. I encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort!

Sincerely,

Patricia Plowman

Arthur & Patricia Plowman
962-3383



RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

April 23, 2012

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

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Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME:



W. (Wayne) Allen Hill

ADDRESS: P. O. Box 707

Red Lodge, MT 59068

EMAIL: hillajj@q.com

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MAY 15 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

To the Members of the Montana Redistricting Commission:

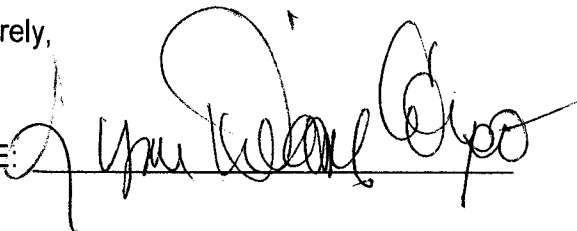
Although most of the residents in Yellowstone are part of the city of Billings, not all of them are. There are distinctions between urban, suburban and rural areas. I believe the urban-rural map recognizes these differences and keeps communities within the county and city together. It preserves traditional neighborhoods, follows subdivisions like schools districts, and has compact and contiguous districts.

Two other proposed maps, the Existing District Map and the Lamson-Smith Democrat plan are both poor choices for the city of Billings and Yellowstone County. Both have very non-compact districts. Both cut through and across neighborhoods and communities within the city. Both were developed at one point in time by the Montana Democratic party as a way of bolstering their chances in legislative elections. The commission should reject these two maps as bad starting points for a new map. Political data and election results should not play a role in the development of legislative lines.

If you pay attention to neighborhood task force lines, school districts, city wards and other political subdivisions, both parties should have a reasonable chance of electing voters. The key is having candidates that work hard and reach out to voters rather than drawing districts where the outcomes are certain to go to one party or the other.

Sincerely,

NAME:



ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 996
Big Timber, mt. 59011

EMAIL:

Decon @ mtintouch.net

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

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Although most of the residents in Yellowstone are part of the city of Billings, not all of them are. There are distinctions between urban, suburban and rural areas. I believe the urban-rural map recognizes these differences and keeps communities within the county and city together. It preserves traditional neighborhoods, follows subdivisions like schools districts, and has compact and contiguous districts.

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Sincerely,

NAME:

James L. Colapinto

ADDRESS:

*P.O. Box 996
Big Timber, MT. 59011*

EMAIL:

Decoy@mtstouch.net

RECEIVED

MAY 15 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

100%

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

If you are going to consider the three discretionary criteria you set up at the beginning of this process, you will understand why none of these proposals make any sense.

- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible, the remain population staying with its Community of Interest in Madison County.
- 2.) Following geographic boundaries. The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. Jefferson and Madison Counties share an MSU Extension Agent. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "Community of Interest", and should remain together.

Jefferson County is located between three large urban counties, Lewis and Clark, Butte/Silver Bow, and Gallatin. It is important that we keep our own district so that we can maintain our proud identity. Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their "Community of Interest" in Northern Madison County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name Bill J. Kenworthy
Address PO Box 321 Whitehall - 59759

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Name

Jan Burnett

Address

Box 522 Whitehall, MT 59759

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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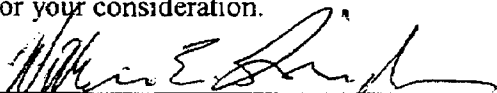
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Thank you for your consideration.

Name



Address

289 McKeown Ln, Cardwell, MT 59721

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

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Name Martha Amute

Address PO Box 109 Whitehall, MT 59759

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P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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Thank you for your consideration.

Name Carolene Hall

Address 44 Kaddy Ln - Box 176 Whitehall MT 591

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

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Thank you for your consideration.

Name Kenneth Edsall

Address 44 Kaddy Ln Box 176 Whitehall MT

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Regnier and Commissioners,

Of the proposed legislative redistricting plans before you for consideration, the Communities Plan is the best baseline. It splits notably less small towns (both incorporated and unincorporated) than any of the others, and it keeps the average population deviation between districts to 1.18%. These communities represent critical Montana communities of interest, and they are overall best served by the Communities Plan.

The Communities Plan has other benefits as well. It best recognizes the shared commonalities between urban and suburban voters. Suburban voters shop in town. They work in town. Their children go to school in town. Splitting them off into rural, agricultural districts serves neither their interests nor the interests of Montana farmers and ranchers.

In these highly partisan, gridlocked times, it is important to create districts that encourage legislators to work hard, listen to voters, and come together to compromise and get things done. As the most generally balanced plan, the Communities Plan offers that benefit as well.

I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name:

Calvin Hande

Address:

1723 River Stone St
Billings, MT 59106

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Regnier and Commissioners,

Of the proposed legislative redistricting plans before you for consideration, the Communities Plan is the best baseline. It splits notably less small towns (both incorporated and unincorporated) than any of the others, and it keeps the average population deviation between districts to 1.18%. These communities represent critical Montana communities of interest, and they are overall best served by the Communities Plan.

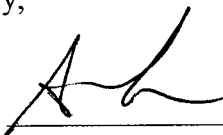
The Communities Plan has other benefits as well. It best recognizes the shared commonalities between urban and suburban voters. Suburban voters shop in town. They work in town. Their children go to school in town. Splitting them off into rural, agricultural districts serves neither their interests nor the interests of Montana farmers and ranchers.

In these highly partisan, gridlocked times, it is important to create districts that encourage legislators to work hard, listen to voters, and come together to compromise and get things done. As the most generally balanced plan, the Communities Plan offers that benefit as well.

I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name:

 ANNA LUCAS

Address:

2910 7th St. N
Billings, MT 59101

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

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I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name:

Heri John Leland

Address:

*820 Miles Ave
Billings, MT 59101*

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

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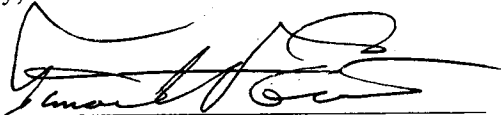
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I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name:



Address:

6815 Jamyne Ln
Shepherd, MT 59079

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

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I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name: Chrissantha Cramer
CHRISSANTHA CRAMER

Address: 1210 PRINCETON AVE
BILLINGS, MT 59102

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

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In these highly partisan, gridlocked times, it is important to create districts that encourage legislators to work hard, listen to voters, and come together to compromise and get things done. As the most generally balanced plan, the Communities Plan offers that benefit as well.

I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Name: *Olivia Stockman*

Address: *937 N. 24th St.*
Billings MT 59101

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

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In these highly partisan, gridlocked times, it is important to create districts that encourage legislators to work hard, listen to voters, and come together to compromise and get things done. As the most generally balanced plan, the Communities Plan offers that benefit as well.

I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name: Paula Berg

Address: 816 Avenue B
Billings MT 59102

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

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In these highly partisan, gridlocked times, it is important to create districts that encourage legislators to work hard, listen to voters, and come together to compromise and get things done. As the most generally balanced plan, the Communities Plan offers that benefit as well.

I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name: Sally Nunlow

Address: 23 Wyoming Ave
Billings, MT 59101

RECEIVED

MAY 16 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Weiss, Rachel

From: Senator Jason Priest [jason@priest2010.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 2:57 PM
To: Redistricting
Cc: Jason S. Priest - SD 30
Subject: Carbon & Stillwater Counties

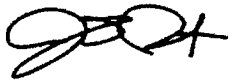
Dear Chairman Regnier,

Stillwater County strongly believes it should be kept together as part of one single legislative district. Since the county population is under the ideal district size of 9,984 residents, it makes sense to add a portion of Sweet Grass County and keep Stillwater County in one piece.

We understand that there are proposals out there that split our community. One plan used voting preferences and election results as the main driver for drawing lines, and it should not be taken seriously. Any proposal brought forward in such a manner should be suspect.

Counties are communities. When you split them up unnecessarily, you are splitting up those traditional communities we have recognized for 100 years. As such, the best choices to use are the Subdivisions 100 map and the Urban-Rural map.

Kind regards,



Senator Jason Priest

Senate District 30

Montana State Senate



The Big Sky Country

SENATE DISTRICT 30

HELENA ADDRESS:	COMMITTEES:	HOME ADDRESS:
Capitol Building	FINANCE AND CLAIMS	PO Box 743
PO Box 200500	PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY - CHAIR	Red Lodge, Montana 59608
Helena, Montana 59620-0500	ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	Phone: (406) 425-0674
Phone: (406) 444-4800		

Weiss, Rachel

From: Karen and Mike Stevenson [karen.stevenson71@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 8:46 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Support the Communities Plan

Dear Commissioners,

Of the redistricting plans prepared for your consideration, the Communities Plan is best. It splits the least small towns, which are unique and critical Montana 'communities of interest'.

For Polson, Livingston, Four Corners, Glasgow, Ulm, Clancy, Troy, and more, we need the Communities Plan.

The plan manages to do this while keeping districts highly evenly sized, preserving our constitutional right to 'one person, one vote'.

Sincerely,

Karen and Mike Stevenson
PO Box 1176
Miles City, MT 59301

Weiss, Rachel

From: Don Reed [donreed@usadig.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:21 AM
To: Redistricting
Cc: glslcv@bresnan.net; corkyleola@aol.com; William Rash; Bob Riehl; Carlotta Hecker; Earl Blakley; Penny Helms; Mike Vinton; Conrad Stroebe; Woody Woods; Carl Peters; Nancy Belk; Eileen Johnson; Taylor Brown
Subject: One of the most iconic images of the Billings area is that of the Sacrifice Cliffs towering over the Yellowstone River
Attachments: One of the most iconic images of the Billings area is that of the Sacrifice Cliffs towering over the Yellowstone River.doc

Please accept these comments in regard to redistricting in Yellowstone County. I have had every intention of being present at the public hearing tonight in Billings but I have an important Lockwood School Board meeting I must attend at the very same time.

Hopefully, this will express my thoughts adequately.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Don Reed

Comments regarding the 2013 redistricting of Lockwood, currently classified as Yellowstone County HD44B

Submitted by **Don Reed**: Chairman, Lockwood Steering Committee; Board Member, Lockwood Urban Transportation District and; Trustee, Lockwood School District
May 15, 2012

One of the most iconic images of the Billings area is that of Signal Mountain towering over the Yellowstone River (It is sometimes referred to as the South Rims or-erroneously-as Sacrifice Cliffs). Coburn Road accesses the cliffs, part of the Four Dances Recreation Area, from Lockwood to the east. This area is impressive to visit and provides a wonderful vantage point from which to view the entire Yellowstone River valley all the way to the Beartooth Range. These rims present a virtually impenetrable barrier between Lockwood and all other points to the west south of the river.

This line of cliffs is not in the City of Billings but actually constitutes the western-most extent of the Lockwood area. As previously proposed as District D1 to the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission by others who are not from Lockwood, large areas several miles further west, including Blue Creek, Briarwood and Canyon Creek would be included in the same House District as Lockwood. If such realignment were done, much of the criteria set forth by the commission would be disregarded.

It would not be a compact and contiguous district in that travel from Lockwood to the rest of the district would have to go across the Yellowstone River and through Billings and other house districts. It would not follow established lines of political units in that there are separate school, water/sewer, fire, transportation and irrigation districts. Simply said, there are major significant geographical and municipal differences.

This geographical separation is not the only feature that makes Lockwood stand out as a unique community. Lockwood is an independent, unincorporated yet closely-knit community of 8437 people. (This population number was established in the 2010 census by the Yellowstone County GIS Office and covers an area -the Lockwood Catchment Area- that closely aligns with the present HD44B). It is home to an extensive number of commercial, industrial and trucking firms as well as a broad variety of residents. We are, by and large, an independent-minded, accepting, mutually supportive population that maintains a strong work ethic. Lockwood is not like other parts of Yellowstone County and certainly cannot be considered in the same community of interest as Briarwood and Canyon Creek.

It is for these reasons Lockwood should be considered in the up-coming realignment of legislative districts as deserving its own status. It is noteworthy that this is definitely not an alignment that would favor one political party or another. It is not a Democrat thing or a Republican thing but, simply, a Lockwood thing. Lockwood has its own unique history and developmental issues. Many people in our community are striving to develop a reasonable, fair and effective system of self-government that is reflective of and responsive to the needs of those of us who live here. Having a House District designated for our area would provide better representation for us.

If the present population of Lockwood is deemed to be less than sufficient for a separate House District, then I would suggest that, in the least, an area more aligned with the area south of Huntley to the east be considered. This effectively would include what is currently HD44B and HD44C. There is much more geographical contiguity and social/cultural similarity.

Weiss, Rachel

From: S Miller [mtmsskjr@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Comments on Legislative Redistricting Plans

May 15, 2012

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I have comments to the legislative redistricting plans currently being introduced and discussed state-wide. I am a concerned Montana voter and veteran that wants fair and balance in the process, not allowing an advantage to any one political party or group over another [to include the tea party]. Montana is a unique state with heavy civilian participation in the legislative process by "common" folk, not as supportive toward professional politicians as seen in so many other state governments; this is a good thing. I urge you to maintain that ideology when evaluating the legislative redistricting proposals. My comments are discussed below:

1. The ideology in Stillwater County is similar to that of Carbon County and Sweet Grass County. With relatives in Stillwater County I understand the issues in Stillwater County [as well as my home county of Carbon County] and firmly believe [and it makes sense] to combine portions of Sweetwater County with Stillwater County [thus maintaining Stillwater County in one piece] **AND** to maintain Stillwater County in the same Senate district as Carbon County given the many shared interests at stake. I understand there are options that propose splitting our community as supported by the Montana Democratic Party to allow the imbalance toward liberal concerns in our represented State Legislature ... these proposals should not be taken seriously and skew the balance of representation with our state representative government. Gerrymandering deprives voters of honest representation in Helena. Historically the bonds between Carbon, Stillwater, and Sweet Grass Counties are strong and would be best served by the choice of the Subdivisions 100 map and the Urban-Rural map.

Montana is a rural state like our neighboring states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Idaho; and as such it needs to be heavily weighed to separate rural from urban in considering the Legislative redistricting efforts as rural interests are different from urban interest; and problems have philosophical different solutions. Partisan politics is not as much a driving factor in rural areas as in urban areas given the need to work toward common goals that are for the best interest of rural community [county government, school district trustees, Cooperative utilities trustees, irrigation districts, etc]; thus my support for **Subdivisions 100 Map** and the **Urban-Rural Map**.

2. I believe the **Deviation Map** would provide an imbalance to legislative redistricting by splitting counties and political allegiances to meet a number quota that would not allow fair representation in Helena by rural [and urban] residents and voters.

3. The **Existing Map** introduces chaos into the redistricting efforts by splitting counties, political ideologies/interests, and neighbors without thought to the needs of residents and voters.

4. I see the [so called] **Communities Plan** having a disruptive effect on Carbon County [and the state as a whole]:

- a. It doesn't follow the state constitution's compactness requirements for urban communities of Great Falls, Bozeman, Billings, Missoula, and Helena.
- b. Uses Politically Motivated Deviation Techniques to under populate and overpopulate political party leaning geographical represented legislative seats.
- c. To the casual observer it is obvious democrat geographical boundaries are drawn to allow victory in districts where a fair boundary would not be possible [or at best limited], and heavily load already highly populated Republican geographical areas to limit the controlled legislative represented seats [thus biasing political

Weiss, Rachel

From: Doug Kary [dougkary@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 9:46 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Redistricting for Montana

Please let "common sense" prevail! After looking over all of the plans I don't see a lot of difference in most of them with the exception of the "communities plan". I have made a phone call to my city councilman and asked if the "communities plan" was presented to them. The response was NO. How do anyone place a name on their plan without consultation with the community in an open forum?

My recommendation would be for the "urban-rural" plan for Yellowstone County. I trust the board members will do what is right for all of Montana.

Doug Kary
District 48
Montana House of Representatives

Weiss, Rachel

From: Tim Crawford [crowdadt@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Support the Communities Plan

Dear Commissioners,

Of the redistricting plans prepared for your consideration, the Communities Plan is best. It splits the least small towns, which are unique and critical Montana 'communities of interest'.

For Polson, Livingston, Four Corners, Glasgow, Ulm, Clancy, Troy, and more, we need the Communities Plan.

The plan manages to do this while keeping districts highly evenly sized, preserving our constitutional right to 'one person, one vote'.

I wholeheartedly support the Communities Plan.

Sincerely,

Tim Crawford
15 South Tracy Suite 8
Bozeman, MT 59715

Weiss, Rachel

From: wwallassociates@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 12:58 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: "NO!" - Communities Plan

Dear Chairman Regnier, I respectfully urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest. I hope you will include Carbon County and Stillwater county in the same Senate district. The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria. The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those. Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Warene Wall
317 Broadway Ave. So.
Red Lodge, MT 59068

Weiss, Rachel

From: Molly Bell [mollypbell@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 2:51 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: input on redistricting plan

My name is Molly Bell. I live on the west end of Billings and I support the Communities Plan. Among other things, I like that it follows the east/west transportation corridors of Billings, like the city is laid out. It makes the most sense to me and I hope you support it.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Molly Bell

Weiss, Rachel

From: Kelly Fulton [kelly.fulton@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2012 4:50 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Communities Plan Letter of Support

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Regnier and Members of the Commission,

I support the proposed Communities Plan and I hope you do too. When it comes to Billings, the plan follows the east/west transportation corridors of the city. Of the various proposals, I think this layout most adequately captures Billings neighborhoods.

I also like that the Communities Plan preserves the most small towns of any of the proposed plans.

Kelly Fulton
616 Clark Ave.
Billings, MT 59101

--

Kelly Fulton

406.672.9826

616 Clark Avenue
Billings, Montana.
59101

Weiss, Rachel

From: Linda [lindapres@q.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 11:28 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Districting plan

Dear Commission:

Having looked at the maps and listened to the comments presented in Miles City, I am **voicing my support for the subdivision plan**. Second and third choice would go to the urban/rural plan and the deviation plan. I am **NOT** in support of the communities plan.

Thank you,

Linda Prescott
Glendive, MT

SANDRA L CHRISTENSEN
County Treasurer

OFFICE OF

AMY METZ
Chief Deputy

The County Treasurer

RICHLAND COUNTY

201 WEST MAIN
SIDNEY, MT 59270

(406) 433-1707 Phone
(406) 433-6838 Fax

May 16, 2012

Redistricting Committee
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

RE: Redistricting Committee

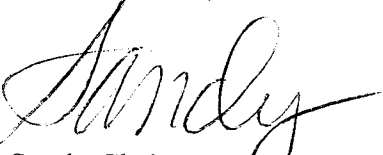
Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed redistricting plan for Richland County. I realize that the 2010 census does not show the current impact our county is experiencing but it would be very appreciative if you would consider the current situation when deciding where to place the dividing borders. It will be very difficult for all of us to come together as a county in order for issues to be resolved when it comes to the legislature.

We need fair representation in our county and splitting up the county so that county residents could potentially be pitted against each other on issues is very unfair and unacceptable.

Please reconsider your decision to split our county into separate districts. We need to be kept together. With everything going on here, we need to work together as much as we possibly can.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sandy Christensen
Richland County Treasurer

May 15, 2012

Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

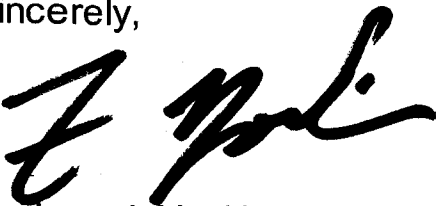
Dear Members of Districting and Apportionment Commission:

I believe no districts should be drawn to protect an incumbent politician, or advantage a particular candidate, whoever that may be.

Please consider keeping fair representation for Richland County by favoring a redistricting plan that would let it stand as its own district.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z. Yockim', written in a cursive style.

Zachary J. Yockim
Chief Technology Officer
Richland County

May 15, 2012

To: Districting Committee

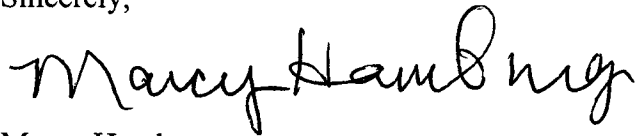
I understand the Districting Committee is once again looking at the districts and considering redistricting.

I believe it is in the best interests of Richland County and our citizens that Richland County be a standalone district or our current district(s) alone. Splitting our County into even more districts, "communities plan", would not be in our best interests.

Richland County and the public services continue to be heavily impacted by the oil industry development in our area and the oil activity.

We need Legislators who live in Richland County and can fully understand what is happening here to carry our concerns and vote for our County's best interests during the Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcy Hamburg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Marcy Hamburg

May 15, 2012

To: Districting Committee

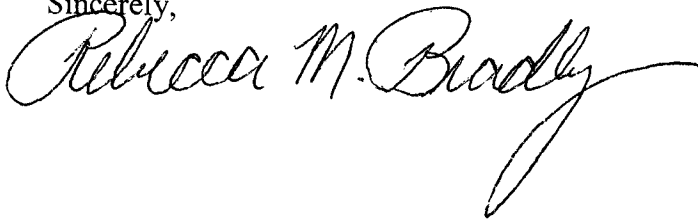
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Richland County and the public services continue to be heavily impacted by the oil industry development in our area and the oil activity.

We need Legislators who live in Richland County and can fully understand what is happening here to carry our concerns and vote for our County's best interests during the Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca M. Brady". The signature is written in black ink and features a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

May 15, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

As a resident of Richland County, I am requesting that you make Richland County into their own district since it meets all of the required criteria, or leave it as in two districts, but please do not make into three.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carla Messmer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carla Messmer

May 15th, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am a registered voter in Richland County and I am requesting that you make Richland County into their own district since it meets all the required criteria, or leave as it is in two districts, but please do not make into three. Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Errecart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Peggy Errecart

May 15, 2012

To whom it may concern:

As a registered voter I request that Richland County be made into their own district since it meets all the criteria. If not, do not split it into three districts but leave it as two.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Carnduff". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Becky Carnduff

Redistricting Committee
State of Montana

May 14, 2012

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed redistricting plan for Richland County. Richland County has the population and needs the representation that we have now in Helena.

The districts in Richland County are fine as they. If some redistricting must be done, please consider putting ALL of Richland County in one district. Please DO NOT split us into 3 districts. Putting Richland County in one district would simplify the voting process for several of our precincts. This would also all impacted people to vote on impact issues.

With all the oil impact we are currently experiencing we need all the representation we can get in Helena. Please consider carefully before you split our county apart any farther.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Penelope J Verhasselt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Penelope J Verhasselt
35019 CR 122
Sidney, MT 59270

May 15, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

Since Richland County meets all the criteria, I would request that you put Richland County in their own district. If not leave as two districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelly A. Rosaaen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

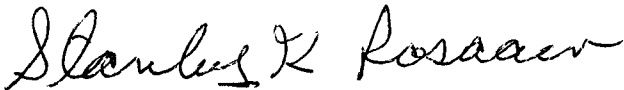
Shelly A. Rosaaen
904 7th Ave. SE
Sidney, Mt. 59270

May 15, 2012

To Whom it May Concern:

As a registered voter, I would request that you put Richland County in their own district. If not leave as two districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stanley K. Rosaaen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and address.

Stanley K. Rosaaen
904 7th Ave. SE
Sidney, Mt. 59270



DANIEL T. FARR
Superintendent

NICOLE BEYER
District Clerk

LEIGH MERRITT
Personnel Payroll Clerk

NANCY VAIRA
Assistant Clerk

ALICIA CLAYTON
Administrative Assistant

Sidney Public Schools

200 3rd Ave. SE • Sidney, Montana 59270 • 406-433-4080 • Fax: 406-433-4358

May 15, 2012

Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Commissioners:

The task of redistricting congressional districts is certainly not an enviable charge and I will thank you in advance for your work on behalf of each Montanan.

As the superintendent of Sidney Public Schools, I serve a school system comprised of an elementary and high school simply because the district does not have contiguous boundaries and have experienced the challenges and complications associated with this absence of contiguous boundaries. In review of the five (5) redistricting plans presented for public input, the Communities Plan splits Richland County into three districts and appears to do the same for the community of Sidney. This proposed plan would ultimately complicate the existing plan and is not palatable due to regional oil and gas development, impact and associated growth.

In review of the mandatory criteria to be used for redistricting purposes, equity/deviation in population, compact and contiguous districts, voting rights protections, and race; any plan should work to keep Richland County whole as in the existing plan or any subsequent plan. Additionally, consideration of discretionary criteria for legislative districts (following the boundary lines of counties, cities and town, and school districts) is not reflected in the community plan and again, complicates representation. Lastly, keeping communities of interest intact is the final criteria that I encourage the commission to consider fully moving forward. Sidney and our surrounding communities are of economic interest due to area oil and gas developments, population influx and growth, occupational growth, changing culture and lifestyles, trade and industry, and for other related reasons.

As per the criteria, "all congressional districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable." Practicable is the operable word in our region at present and I would again ask the commission to consider keeping Richland County whole based on the aforementioned criteria—the Community Plan will be a disservice to Richland County and the Community of Sidney.

Sincerely,


Daniel T. Farr, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Kelly Dey, Chairperson, Sidney Board of Trustees

Sidney Public Schools Serving Parents and Students

To the members of the Redistricting Commission,

I understand there are proposals before the commission for new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in Washington, D.C., New York or California, but it's not the Montana way.

I believe it is impossible to follow the criteria you adopted while also taking into account political data. Relying on statistics about how areas vote lead to many of the problems of the current map: urban domination of suburban and rural areas, unnecessary splitting of counties and cities, and inconsistent application of deviation. Please do not adopt any map that uses such statistics or has any resemblance to the current map.

It appears the commission has at least three good proposals put together by non-partisan staff members (urban-rural, deviation, subdivision).

Thank you for your work and for listening to regular Montanans. Please stay away from manipulating lines for political purposes and stick to the state constitution.

Yours Truly,

(NAME):

Ben Schaffer

(ADDRESS):

11 Martini Rd.
Otter, mt - 59062

(EMAIL):

bschaffer@wbaccess.net

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

I appreciate how tough the task at hand must be in redrawing district lines in the Legislature, but I don't know why you must have proposals that gerrymander based on how people vote in certain areas. Doesn't that go against the criteria you adopted? Montana shouldn't just follow the bad examples of other states that allow one political party to draw seats that help them in elections. You should reject those kinds of maps.

There are at least a couple of maps on the table that seem to follow your criteria. I think the urban-rural 100 map is a common sense recognition of the differences between cities and rural areas of the state. I think the subdivision 100 map is also a good approach since it seems to keep many counties and towns together when possible.

Allowing the Democratic party to have a map that draws lines to help them is ridiculous. It shouldn't even be under consideration.

Thank you for listening to my comments,

Name: Bru Schaffer

Address: 11 Martine Rd.
Otter, Mt. 59062

Email Address: bschaffer@wbaccess.net

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Thank you for listening to my comments,

Name: Carla Kay Bowers

Address: 233 E. River Rd.
Broadus, MT 59317

Email Address: tcbtowers@hotmail.com

Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission,

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Name:

Thomas J. Bowers

Address:

233 E. River Rd.

Broadus, mt.

59317

Email Address:

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Name:

Eleanor Bauer

Address:

234 E. River Rd.

Brookings, Mt. 59317

Email Address:

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Name: Kathy K. Bowers

Address: 230 E. River Rd
Brooks, MT 59317

Email Address: bowers@rangeweb.net

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Address: 230 East River Rd.
Broadus, Montana 59317

Email Address: _____

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Name:

Tyler S Bowers

Address:

233 East River Rd
Broadus MT 59317

Email Address:

TylerBowers1@Hotmail.com

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose for the Montana Democratic Party. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those.

Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME: Thomas F. Bowers

ADDRESS: 233 E. River Rd.
Broadus, mt
59317

EMAIL: _____

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EMAIL: tcbtbowers@hotmail.com

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Sincerely,

NAME: Tyler G Bowers

ADDRESS: 233 East River Rd Bozeman MT 59317

EMAIL: Tyler Bowers 1@Hotmail.com

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ADDRESS: 230 East River Rd.
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EMAIL: _____

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NAME: Eleanor Bowers

ADDRESS: 234 E. River Rd.
Broadus, Mt. 59317

EMAIL: _____

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ADDRESS: 11 Martini Rd.
Offer, Mt 59062

EMAIL: bschaffer@wbaccess.net

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NAME:

Eddy Schaff

ADDRESS:

11 Martini Rd
Otter, MT 59062

EMAIL:

bschaff@wbaccess.net

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(ADDRESS):

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Orton, MT 59062

(EMAIL):

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Yours Truly,

(NAME): Eleana Bowen

(ADDRESS): 234 E. River Rd.
Bozeman, MT 59317

(EMAIL): _____

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(NAME):

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(ADDRESS):

230 East River Rd.

Breadus, Montana 59317

(EMAIL):

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(ADDRESS):

233 E. River Rd.

Bozeman, mt.

59317

(EMAIL):

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(ADDRESS):

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(EMAIL):

tcbtowers@hotmail.com

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Yours Truly,

(NAME):

Tyler S Bowers

(ADDRESS):

233 East River Rd
Broadus MT 59317

(EMAIL):

TylerBowers1@Hotmail.Com

Montana State Senate



SENATOR GARY BRANAE
SENATE DISTRICT 27

415 YELLOWSTONE AVENUE
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101
(406) 245-2127

COMMITTEES:
TAXATION
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES
AGRICULTURE

The Big Sky Country

Dear Chairman Regnier and Members of the Commission:

I attended part of the redistricting hearing in Billings and will take this opportunity to express my opinions regarding the process in which you are involved.

I lived through the last redistricting – and survived! In 2000 I won a seat to the Montana House in what was then HD 17. In a following cycle I was re-elected in HD 54, which was somewhat different from my previous district. At first I was not too happy with the redistricting since, politically, it made the district more difficult to win for me, a Democrat. However, in retrospect, I believe the other changes that occurred outweighed this fact and created a district that is a good representation of not only the city of Billings, but also the state of Montana. The new district is much more diverse and includes people from various socio-economic classes. I feel this can be very beneficial for a legislator. The issues we address in the legislature cover the whole spectrum of society and it helps to understand and represent the various groups that are affected.

I would briefly like to address the issue of gerrymandering that came up at the hearing. I know there have been a lot of statements from the Republicans over the last ten years that the last process of redistricting was controlled by democrats in such a way that it played to their advantage in terms of electing candidates. I find this hard to believe. I have served in the last six sessions of the legislature, four in the House and two in the Senate, and have never been in the majority. I believe the last redistricting process made elections much more competitive, and this is healthy for a democracy. My hope is that when the final plan is adopted, neither side will spend time accusing the other side of gerrymandering.

When considering the various plans proposed, I like the Existing Plan and the Communities Plan. I believe that they include many of the strongpoints of the system that now exists. With respect to Billings, I like the idea of developing a plan that is influenced by the East-West layout of the city.

I understand that the final version will most likely not be a simple selection of any one of the various plans presented. I wish you the best in your deliberations and thank you for your work in this important process.

Yours truly,

Gary Branae

Montana Legislative
Services Division

MAY 17 2012

RECEIVED

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

If you are going to consider the three discretionary criteria you set up at the beginning of this process, you will understand why none of these proposals make any sense.

- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible, the remain population staying with its Community of Interest in Madison County.
- 2.) Following geographic boundaries. The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. Jefferson and Madison Counties share an MSU Extension Agent. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "Community of Interest", and should remain together.

Jefferson County is located between three large urban counties, Lewis and Clark, Butte/Silver Bow, and Gallatin. It is important that we keep our own district so that we can maintain our proud identity. Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their "Community of Interest" in Northern Madison County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name

Richard Leo Laurason

Address

Highway 2 west - 462 -

Weiss, Rachel

From: Jeannine Olson [jeannineolson@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2012 6:25 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: NO to Communities Plan

Commission Members -- My husband, Edward Durand Olson, and I are AGAINST a "Communities Plan" because it negatively impacts our voting district. We are registered voters and have deep connections with Montana state and DC politicians on both sides of the aisle. My great grandfather was a state senator. Additionally, our families are financial contributors to numerous Montana state university, medical and business funding programs. You must consider the impact of your decisions on all citizens of this state -- we live in Carbon County. This is NOT the American way--it is certainly not ethical nor fair to Montana voters. Have you fully informed your paying public of your actions? Jeannine Haugan-Parriott-Olson

--

Jeannine Haugan-Olson

"You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply ... with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand." ~ Woodrow Wilson

Cell: 406.698.0719
Fax: 408.516.9804
jeannineolson@gmail.com

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they think they can win in elections. That defeats the purpose of redistricting, which is to equalize the number of people in districts, protect minority voting rights, following existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.

The last map in Montana was developed through a heavy reliance on political data and election results. There is no other way to explain how many communities were divided, other than it served a political purpose for the Montana Democratic Party. The new map should have no resemblance to the current map, because it inconsistently ignores existing political subdivisions, communities of interest, lacks the compactness requirement and all of the other official redistricting criteria.

The commission should use the three maps developed by non-partisan legislative staff as starting points for the new map: the urban-rural, deviation and subdivision maps. The fourth map is just a slightly modified version of the map the Democrats put forward in 2000 using political data and election results. Many local communities are putting forward suggestions for their areas – please pay special attention to those.

Thank you for your work on building consensus throughout this process. We encourage you to reject partisan politics in the redistricting effort.

Sincerely,

NAME: Cyrdi Baker

ADDRESS: 500 Montana Ave NW
BF MT 59404

EMAIL: Cyrdiann101 @ bresnan.net

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MAY 18 2012

Montana Legislative
Services Division

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Chairman Regnier and Commissioners,

Of the proposed legislative redistricting plans before you for consideration, the Communities Plan is the best baseline. It splits notably less small towns (both incorporated and unincorporated) than any of the others, and it keeps the average population deviation between districts to 1.18%. These communities represent critical Montana communities of interest, and they are overall best served by the Communities Plan.

The Communities Plan has other benefits as well. It best recognizes the shared commonalities between urban and suburban voters. Suburban voters shop in town. They work in town. Their children go to school in town. Splitting them off into rural, agricultural districts serves neither their interests nor the interests of Montana farmers and ranchers.

In these highly partisan, gridlocked times, it is important to create districts that encourage legislators to work hard, listen to voters, and come together to compromise and get things done. As the most generally balanced plan, the Communities Plan offers that benefit as well.

I support the Communities Plan and encourage you to do so as well.

Sincerely,

Name: Gene Larson

Address: P.O. Box 1316
Miles City, MT 59301

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Sincerely,

Name: Nelson Kacemes

Address: 1112 N Montana
Miles City, MT 591301

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Montana Legislative
Services Division

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Jefferson County, I am totally opposed to having Jefferson County split up for the benefit of Butte/Silver Bow County. Each of the four plans submitted by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission and the plan submitted by the Democrats on the Commission all put some portion of Jefferson County into Butte/Silver Bow County. This is simply unacceptable.

If you are going to consider the three discretionary criteria you set up at the beginning of this process, you will understand why none of these proposals make any sense.

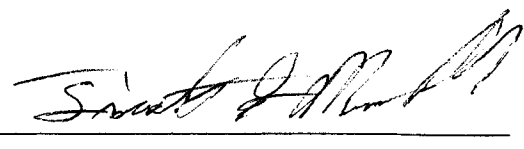
- 1.) Following the lines of political units. Jefferson County is about 1,500 people over the ideal district size. Since our existing district is most of Jefferson County, we should start there and make every effort to keep Jefferson County as whole as possible, the remain population staying with its Community of Interest in Madison County .
- 2.) Following geographic boundaries. The Continental Divide separates Jefferson and Butte/Silver Bow Counties. That is a very distinct geographic boundary between our counties that should be respected.
- 3.) Keeping communities of interest intact. Many people live in Jefferson County because they don't want the impacts and influences of urban areas. Most of Jefferson County should be one district, with an area of the county South of Interstate 90 remaining as part of the district that represents Madison County. The Whitehall Elementary and Whitehall High School District both include portions of Madison County. The Jefferson Valley Rural Fire District also extends into Madison County. Kids from Jefferson County participate in 4-H and the Madison County Fair in Twin Bridges. Jefferson and Madison Counties share an MSU Extension Agent. In short, Southern Jefferson County and Northern Madison County are clearly a "Community of Interest", and should remain together.

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MAY 18 2012
Montana Legislative
Services Division

Jefferson County is located between three large urban counties, Lewis and Clark, Butte/Silver Bow, and Gallatin. It is important that we keep our own district so that we can maintain our proud identity. Please keep Jefferson County as whole as possible and allow a portion of Southern Jefferson County to remain with their "Community of Interest" in Northern Madison County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name

Timothy S Mundanich 

Address

410 N Main St Boulder MT 59632

TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 201706 HELENA, MT 59620-1706
districting@mt.gov FAX 406-444-3036

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Thank you for your consideration.

Name

Lanney Lathin

Address

Box 105 Boulder, Montana 59632

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