PUBLIC COMMENT

DISTRICTING & APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 12, 2011

Districting & Apportioment Commission
July 12, 2011

Exhibit 3

June 26, 2011

To the Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

As long-time residents of the Philipsburg area, we would like to have Granite County combined with Powell County or the Seeley Lake area to create a legislative district. This area was once a district and was changed during the 2000 re-districting cycle. Granite was combined with an urban area of Deer Lodge County. The area does not share the same economic and social interests as rural Granite County.

The district we are proposing shares similar interests; those being agriculture, timber and mining.

We are requesting the Re-Districting Commission to create a legislative district similar to the one that we are proposing.

Thank you.

Ed and Connie Lord

4 Cattle Drive

Philipsburg, MT 59858

Tel: 406 859 3364

Weiss, Rachel

From: Lyle Meeks [lylem@nciengineering.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 2:28 PM
To: Districting
Subject: district boundaries

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

I live in southern Chouteau County, and was represented by a Representative from Winifred, about 150 miles away, fro several years. My current senator is in Judith Gap, 120 miles away. There is no such thing as knowing and having contact with my elected representatives. Maybe this is their fault, but these districts got so gerrymandered after the last census, we have lost the local out of local politics.

Make common sense decisions that truly represent and benefit all of Montana, and stop counting seats in both houses.

July 6, 2011

Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

To Whom It May Concern:

I certainly understand that the Commission has a great deal of work ahead of it as it considers how to split Montana into new legislative districts. The concern I have is how the rural areas often end up getting attached to a larger town in order to make the population numbers work out. But when this happens, the rural area often has nothing in common with the population center and therefore is ignored.

When I was living in Scobey many years ago, I was in HD 96 which included all of Daniels County, a portion of Valley County, and the town of Glasgow. The bottom line was that the population of Glasgow could easily out-vote the entire rural area. And now I live in House District 16 which includes a small portion of Toole County including the town of Sunburst, but we are thrown in with the majority of Glacier County (except most of Cut Bank). So I am living again in a rural area that is easily out-voted by the larger community in that Browning has so many votes that Sunburst is not represented at all in our elections. The census data from the 2000 census shows the racial differential in that HD 16 has approximately 30% white and over 67% Native American. This observation is not intended to be racial in nature, but shows how little impact north-western Toole County can have on an election when all candidates are from Browning. What is more frustrating is that I attempted to contact my Senator and Representative many times during this past session and had ZERO response. Why would a politician from Browning care about Sunburst if they don't need us to be elected?

I encourage the committee to do less gerrymandering to make population numbers work and leave house and senate districts more homogeneous.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Tharp
P O Box 144
Sunburst, MT 59482

Weiss, Rachel

From: Rachel Lopez [rl.snowstorm5@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Weiss, Rachel
Subject: RE: Reminder: Districting Commission to meet today

It would have been great to know about this meeting more than two hours in advance. Not much time to be informed or prepare a response. I hope that Blaine County will not suffer from this redistricting. I hope that the redistricting will keep the Tribes and Reservations in mind, and focus on fair representation for 11% of Montana's population. Thanks, Rachel Lopez

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From: rweiss@mt.gov
To: rl.snowstorm5@hotmail.com
Subject: Reminder: Districting Commission to meet today
Date: Tue, 12 Jul 2011 12:18:23 -0600

The Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission will meet this afternoon at 2 p.m. in Room 137 of the Capitol. They will discuss and adopt the process they will use to divide the state into 100 state house districts and 50 state senate districts.
The meeting will be broadcast live on the Internet and the state's broadcasting service, TVMT. For a list of TVMT channels in your area, visit www.leg.mt.gov/tvmt. To listen online, visit http://leg.mt.gov/css/Audio/audio_broadcast.asp.
Meeting materials, including an agenda, are available at www.leg.mt.gov/districting.
For more information about the commission, please visit www.leg.mt.gov/districting or contact Rachel Weiss or Joe Kolman at 406-444-5367 or 406-444-9280.