

Chairman Regnier and members of the Redistricting Committee:

My name is Bridget Holland. I have lived in Helena since 1972.

*map entitled*  
I find "the communities" ~~map submitted by the Democrats~~ *quite misleading.* quite misleading. It reflects everything except my understanding of a community. The combinations incorporated into quite distorted districts are far from any suggestion of unity, kinship, similarity or neighborhood.

I believe the 3 maps – Urban Rural, Subdivision, and Deviation produced by the non-partisan Legislative Services are far more representative of our individual neighborhoods where each of us choose to live with our own similarities and identity and consequently represented by a person closer to our ideas and values.

The population of the city of Helena would suggest 3 districts of a like minded group of people and in compliance with the ideal district.

East Helena is a neighborhood area unto itself with a unique identity and would also comply the correct apportionment.

The valley has its own identity and flavor representing the interests of the voters in this more rural area.

I hope you will take my suggestions into consideration. Thank you for your time this evening.

Bridget Holland  
1801 Choteau  
Helena, MT 59601  
443-2218  
bridgetholland@bresnan.net

My name is Jean Johnson and I have owned my home on Sierra Road East in the North Helena Valley for 24 years. I appreciate this opportunity to have my comments read to the commission as I am out of town and unable to attend this important hearing.

Five maps are before you for consideration. Four have been prepared by non-partisan staff at Legislative Services; one – the Communities plan - has been drawn by the Democratic Party. Legislative Services maps reflect the Constitutional mandate to create districts "as nearly equal in population as is practicable" plus certain requests from the commission: to hold deviations to 3%; to leave as many counties whole as possible; and to honor community and neighborhood interests to the extent possible.

The Communities plan is influenced by election results, which reflect a predominance of Democrat votes or a predominance of Republican votes. Lines are then drawn to enhance the opportunity to elect a majority of Democrat legislators. In decades past, Republican commissioners have exhibited the same intent. Perhaps now its time for a different focus.

This commission has perhaps the greatest potential in several decades to draw legislative district lines based on Constitutional mandate and commission decisions. Republicans on the commission have chosen to champion directives adopted by the commission as opposed to drawing a "Republican Plan" and I respect that. I urge the commission to reject adopting a plan drawn from vote totals and ballot history. Instead, commit to populations and cohesive county / community interests.

Regarding personal interests with respect to nearly a quarter of a century living in rural North Valley, I believe this area has the population to warrant our own representative and provide a second representative for the Valley east of HD

83 as well. While many Valley residents work in Helena, we choose to live in the more rural setting the Valley provides and subsequently have different interests and concerns.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment. I appreciate your dedication and commitment to the reapportionment effort and wish you well in the months to come.

Jean D. Johnson  
1890 Sierra Rd. East  
Helena, MT 59602  
458-6363  
[smolts@msn.com](mailto:smolts@msn.com)

To the members of the Redistricting Commission,

There are proposals before the commission for forming new legislative boundaries that used election results as a basis for drawing lines. This may be something that is common in other areas, but it is not the way we do things in Montana.

The city limits should be used as a boundary in the Helena area and the Valley should not be put into city districts. The Valley is a different community with a different set of interests from the city, and there ought to be one representative who looks after their needs. That also goes for other existing neighborhoods in Helena.

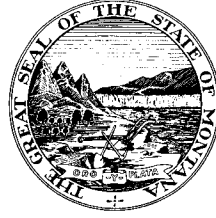
I strongly urge you to reject maps that use political data and election results in the development of district lines for the legislature. Political parties should not manipulate boundaries to maximize the number of seats they *think* they can win in elections. This defeats the purpose of redistricting,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

Thank you,

Connie House  
1217 Wilder Ave  
Helena, MT 59601

*The Subdivision Plan is a good place to  
start.*

# Montana State Senate



**SENATOR DAVE LEWIS**  
SENATE DISTRICT 42

HELENA ADDRESS:  
PO BOX 200500  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0500  
PHONE: (406) 444-4634

*The Big Sky Country*

COMMITTEES:  
FINANCE AND CLAIMS - CHAIRMAN

HOME ADDRESS:  
5871 COLLINS  
HELENA, MT 59602  
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Dear Chairman Regnier,

In the Helena area, I would encourage you to use city limits as a boundary, and not put parts of the valley into city districts. I represented House District 55 in 2000 and 2002. That House District had two precincts around Kessler School and the rest of the District was valley and rural. I won the two precincts in the city by just a handful of votes and got fifty to sixty per cent outside the city. The people in the city were represented by someone with more rural interests than they had. The major difference was on environmental issues, I would guess. Those people should be represented by a District within the city and not rolled in with the valley and rural areas. They deserve that.

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:

*Senator Dave Lewis*

*Mont. Rep.*

**Gilda A. Clancy**  
**4620 Independence Drive**  
**Helena, MT 59602**

March 23, 2012

To: Montana Re-apportionment Committee

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am unable to attend the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, therefore, am sending my concerns about the district lines.

I live in the Helena valley and understand we have enough residents for a representative of our own. The valley residents have different concerns and viewpoints than of the urban residents; such as infrastructure, agriculture property, and well water concerns, just to name a few.

We have not had a representative in the past eight years who is an adequate voice for the voters in the Helena valley.

I am respectfully asking your committee to create a Helena Valley district.

Sincerely,


Gilda Clancy

To the Members of the Districting and Apportionment Commission:

My name is Beth Ries and I reside in East Helena, in House District 78. I want to begin by saying that the Communities plan is anything but a plan that keeps communities together. I don't believe that partisan politics should be used to create the final map. The districts created to "represent" Helena divide the community.

The plan that I feel best represents the community of East Helena is the Subdivision Plan. I respect that it keeps counties and cities and values existing school districts, city wards, task forces together. I believe that it needs to be tweaked so that the Helena valley has its own district so that the folks out there get adequate representation without the influence of the city. The city of Helena should have no more than three representatives given its population divided by the ideal district size. East Helena should have its own district and should not include any portions of Helena nor Jefferson County. As a woman, it is really important that my neighbors have a legislator that represents their area.

Thank you for your time.



East Helena deserves its own district beginning at the viaduct to Spokane Creek road to York Road to Wylie Drive. This would ~~create a true~~ community. ~~be~~ contiguous and represent a true community. Comm. of interest

March 28, 2012

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Attn: Chairman Regnier  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

**RE: Montana Redistricting**

Dear Chairman Regnier,

I reside in Lewis and Clark County, the north Helena Valley. To understand my frustration, and for an egregious example of gerrymander district abuse, please observe Lewis and Clark County Commissioner's districts map (attached). As you can see, noting the non-contiguous design of District 2 in pink, urban Helena, and by consequence, the Democratic Party dominate and control L&C county government. As a result, I and my rural county neighbors have little to no real or meaningful representation on our County Commission.

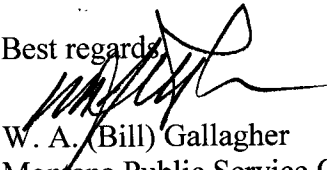
For this reason it is critical that your Commission recognize and protect the rural agrarian values and lifestyle from being likewise negated and dominated by urban and partisan interests at the state level. I urge the Commission to **eliminate from consideration** both the Democrat's proposed "Communities plan" and also, the proposed "Existing plan".

Both are patently and fatally flawed with an **intentional and substantial urban and partisan bias** as demonstrated by the repeated "wagon wheeling" of the state's various urban population centers. That "wagon wheeling" design has the singular purpose of benefiting one political party and over representing urban interests which is contrary to the stated objectives of the Redistricting Commission.

Of the three remaining maps prepared by the unbiased legislative services, I encourage the Commission to **give preference to the "Urban-Rural plan"** because it truly reflects very real, social, economic, political, and value differences that occur between Montana's urban and rural populations. In the end, the Urban-Rural plan would generate a composite legislative body that, irrespective of partisan make up, would accurately reflect Montana's true demographic character.

Thank you for your work and your consideration.

Best regards,

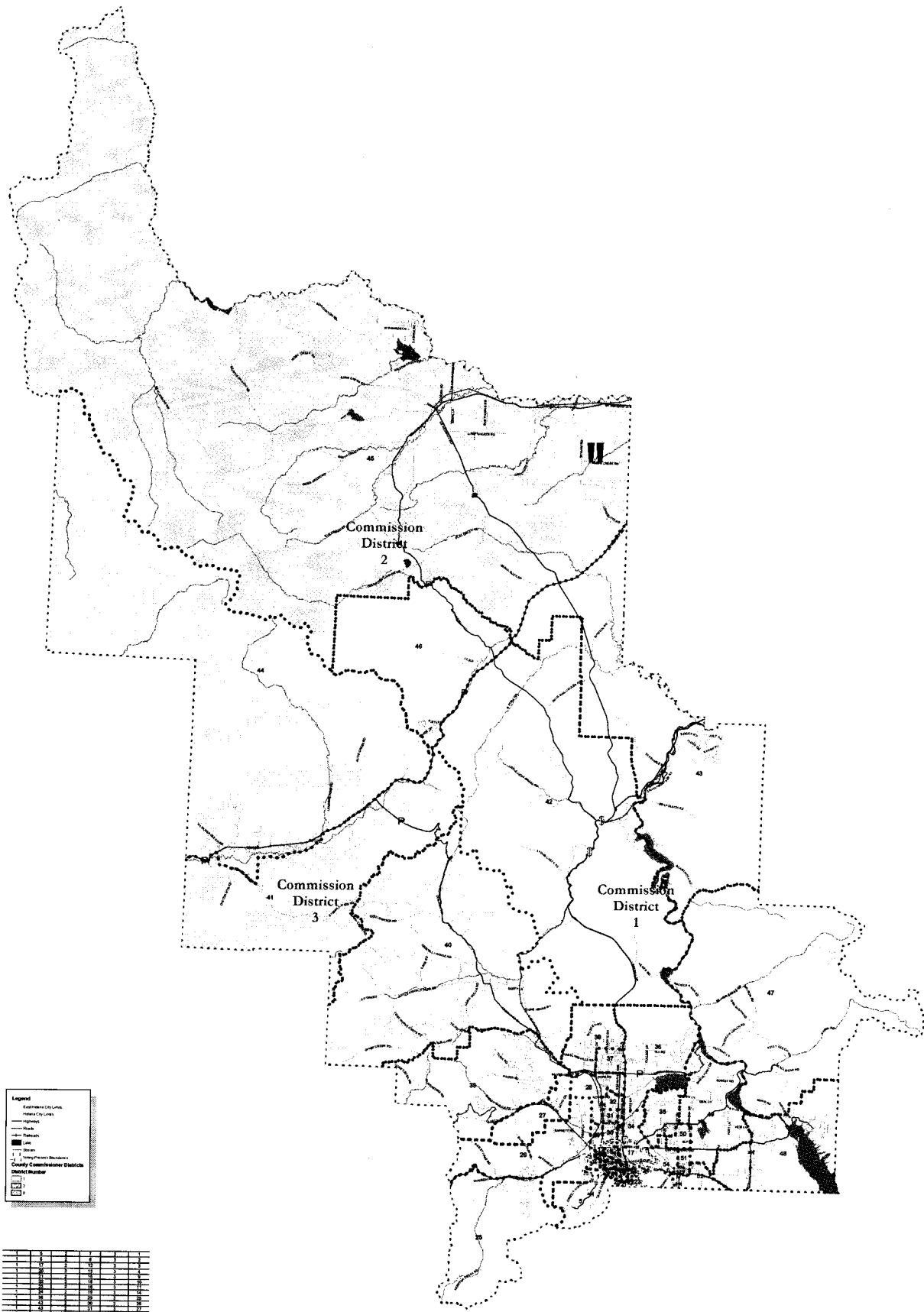


W. A. (Bill) Gallagher  
Montana Public Service Commissioner  
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Helena, MT 59602  
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406-442-5314



# County Commission Districts

County Commission Districts (County Map)



**Legend**

- Existing City Lines
- Water City Lines
- Highways
- Roads
- Railroads
- Lines
- Water
- County Commission Districts
- County Commission Districts
- District Number

District	City	Area (sq. miles)	Population (2000)	Population Density (per sq. mile)
1	Adrian	1.2	1,200	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
2	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
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	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
3	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
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	Albion	1.5	1,500	1,000
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Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

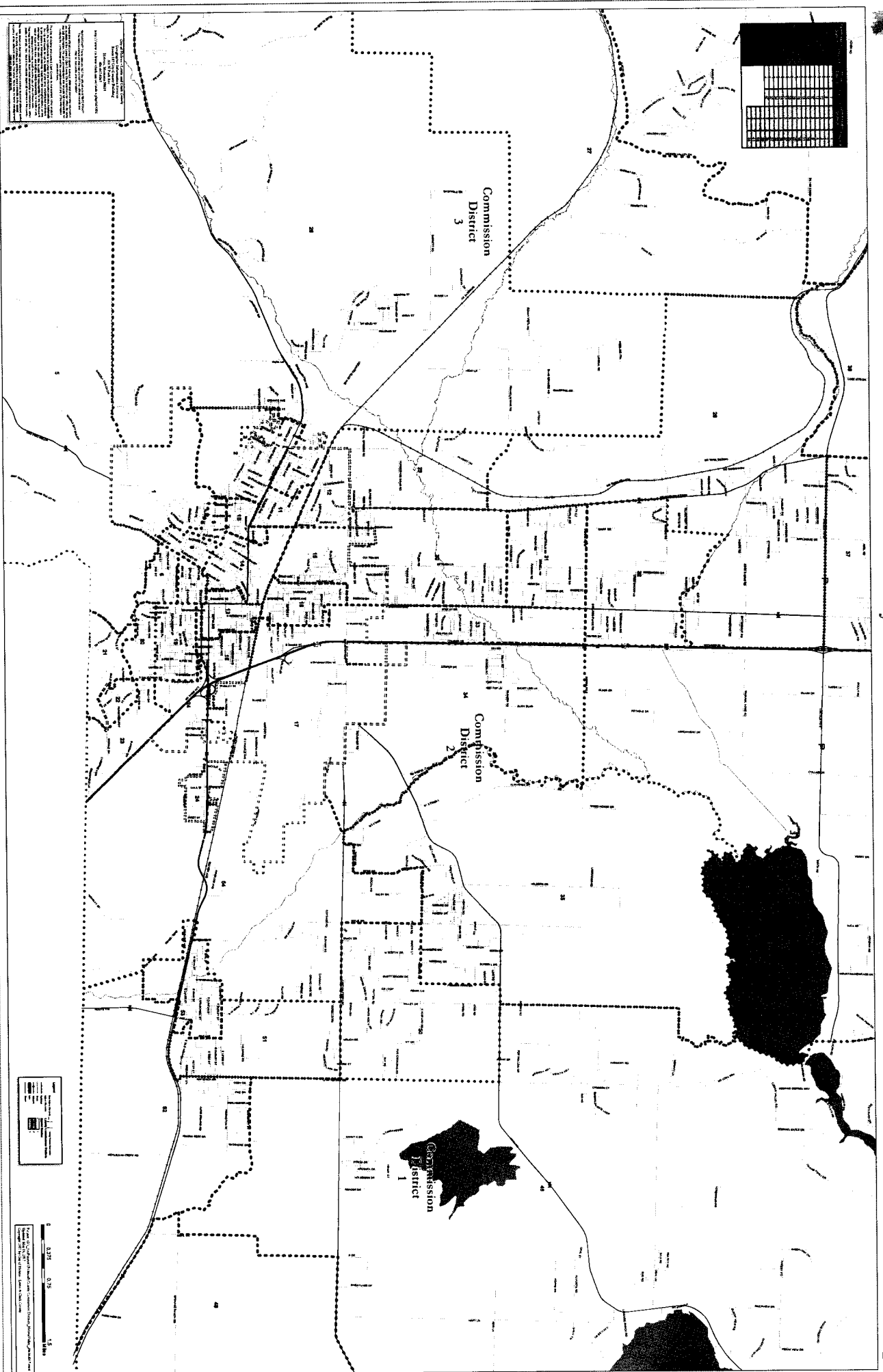
Map Date: 2000

Map Author: [Name]

Map Title: County Commission Districts

County Commission Districts

County Commission Districts (Helena Valley Map)



March 28, 2012

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Attn: Chairman Regnier  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

**RE: Montana Redistricting**

Dear Chairman Regnier,

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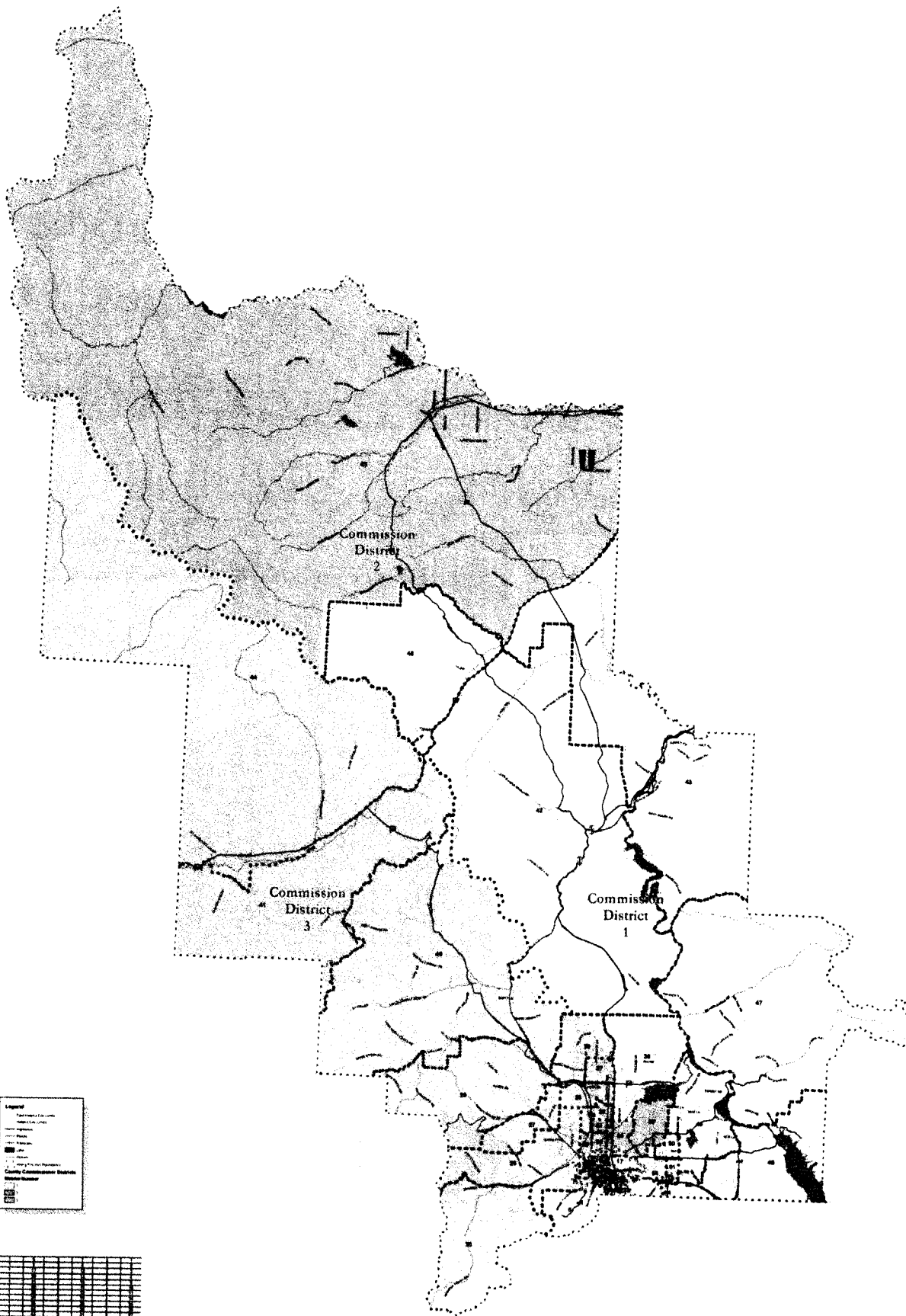
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Best regards,

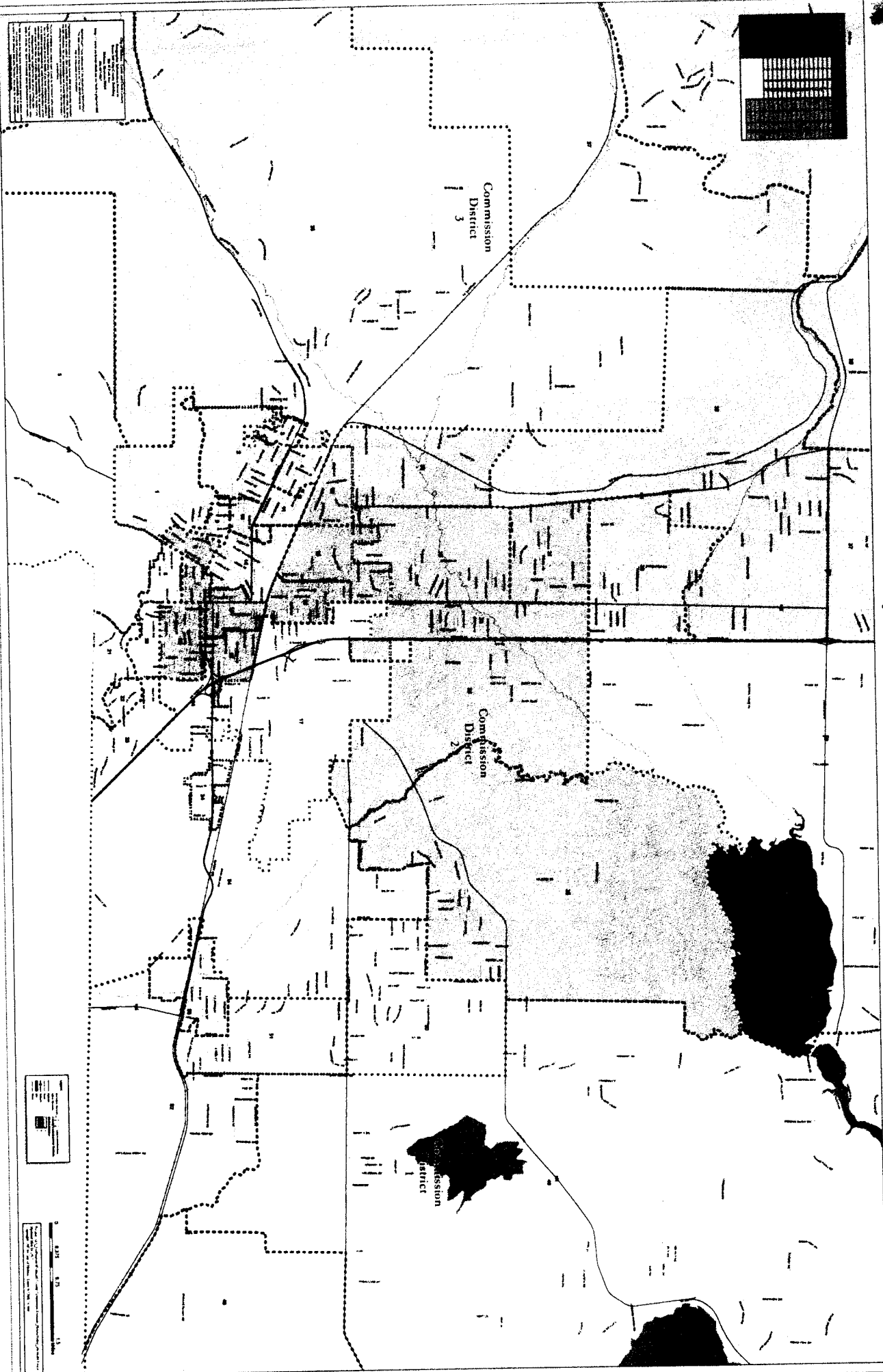


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County Commission Districts

County Commission Districts (Helena Valley Map)



**TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION:**

**MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. ONCE AGAIN I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE IN UNDERTAKING THIS HUGE RESPONSIBILITY.**

**LAST NIGHT IN BUTTE, I PRESENTED YOU WITH COPIES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY'S PREFERRED LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT. I JUST WANT TO REITERATE THAT IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY TO PROTECT OUR UNIQUE IDENTITY AND NOT GET ABSORBED BY THE THREE LARGE URBAN AREAS SURROUNDING US. PEOPLE LIVE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY FOR A REASON OR SEVERAL REASONS. AS I SAID LAST NIGHT, WE HAVE HELD FOUR PUBLIC MEETINGS OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND THERE IS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT TO KEEP JEFFERSON COUNTY AS WHOLE AS POSSIBLE AND TO BE REPRESENTED BY SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN AND UNDERSTANDS WHAT JEFFERSON COUNTY IS.**

**LAST NIGHT IN BUTTE, WE HEARD SEVERAL PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THE "COMMUNITY PLAN". AS YOU WILL RECALL, MOST OF THOSE COMMENTS WERE FROM BUTTE FOLKS INTENT ON PRESERVING BUTTE/SILVER BOW'S FOUR LEGISLATIVE SEATS, WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR HOW IT MIGHT IMPACT THEIR NEIGHBORS.**

**I HOPE YOU PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SEVERAL OF THE BUTTE LEGISLATORS AND A NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WHO WOULD BE REPRESENTING JEFFERSON COUNTY UNDER THE "COMMUNITY PLAN". IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THEIR REMARKS THAT THEY HAD NO IDEA ABOUT ISSUES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY.**

**ONE OF THEM TALKED ABOUT DRIVING FROM BUTTE TO HELENA, THROUGH ELK PARK, BASIN, BOULDER, AND JEFFERSON CITY AND HOW ALL OF THAT MINING TIED IN WITH BUTTE/SILVER BOW. WE HAD A SENATOR WHO WOULD REPRESENT US UNDER THE "COMMUNITY PLAN" TALK ABOUT HOW THE REAL GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARY WE SHOULD BE FOLLOWING IS A ROCK FORMATION CALLED THE BOULDER BATHOLITH BECAUSE THAT TIES ALL OF OUR MINING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY IN WITH BUTTE/SILVER BOW.**

**APPARENTLY NONE OF THESE POTENTIAL OR CURRENT LEGISLATORS HAD THE TIME OR MADE THE EFFORT TO DO ENOUGH RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND JEFFERSON COUNTY AND THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING BEFORE THEY GOT UP LAST NIGHT TO SAY HOW MUCH THEY WANT TO REPRESENT US.**

**NOT ONE OF THESE PEOPLE MENTIONED THE ISSUES WE ARE HAVING WITH WOLVES IN JEFFERSON COUNTY; WOLVES THAT HAVE BROUGHT MANY OF**

**OUR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS TO THE BOILING POINT, WHERE THEY ARE CONSIDERING ENDING BLOCK MANAGEMENT OR NOT ALLOWING HUNTING ON THEIR PROPERTY UNTIL FISH, WILDLIFE, AND PARKS CAN GET CONTROL OF WOLF MANAGEMENT.**

**NONE OF THESE LEGISLATORS OR POTENTIAL LEGISLATORS MENTIONED OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS BEING TRAMPLED ON BY THE PASSAGE OF H.B. 198 DURING THE LAST SESSION, WHICH GAVE THE RIGHT OF EMINENT DOMAIN TO ANY COMPANY, FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC, THAT CAN GET A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE FROM DEQ. THEY DIDN'T TALK ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF EMINENT DOMAIN BEING USED TO FORCE A 500 KV POWER LINE ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY IN JEFFERSON COUNTY BY A FOR PROFIT COMPANY.**

**NOT ONE OF THEM MENTIONED THE BURDENSOME REGULATIONS FORCED ONTO OUR SMALL COMMUNITIES, LIKE BOULDER, WHITEHALL, AND CLANCY THAT CAUSE HUGE INCREASES IN WATER AND SEWER RATES. THEY DIDN'T TALK ABOUT A GOVERNOR WHO JUST SO HAPPENS TO LEAD THE PARTY THAT IS PROMOTING THE "COMMUNITY PLAN", WHO VETOED A BILL THAT WOULD HAVE ALLOWED GOLDEN SUNLIGHT MINE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY TO PROCESS THIRD PARTY ORE FROM OPEN PIT MINES AND EMPLOY MORE PEOPLE AND EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE MINE.**

**INSTEAD THEY TALKED ABOUT HOW MUCH WE ARE ALIKE BECAUSE OF A ROCK FORMATION AND MINING. JEFFERSON COUNTY'S POPULATION IS NEARLY 12,000 PEOPLE, AND YES MINING IS IMPORTANT TO US, BUT WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT 400 OF THOSE PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE MINING INDUSTRY. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER 11,000 PLUS PEOPLE?**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY IS SO MUCH MORE THAN JUST A MINING COMMUNITY AND THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO KEEP OUR COUNTY AS WHOLE AS POSSIBLE AND KEEP US ALL WITH OUR "COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST".**

**LEONARD WORTMAN  
JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIR**

March 28, 2012

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Jim Regnier, Chair  
Helena, Montana

Dear Chair Regnier and Members of the Commission:

As a former 4-term state legislator, my term spanned the last redistricting process. The architect of that plan deliberately moved the line ½ mile north of my house in Cardwell to attempt to force me into a primary race against another sitting Republican legislator. I foiled his plan when I moved 50 miles north to Clancy and successfully ran back in my district. I was one of a number of incumbent republicans that had the same thing happen to them. While I'm not here to belabor the last plan's woeful shortcomings, it should be instructive for us all in the current cycle about what not to do this time!

Last cycle, the controlling democrats used the 5% standard deviation to shamefully gerrymander districts for their political gain. Their current proposed map, known as the "Communities Map" also uses standard deviation for political gain, that is, they overpopulate known republican districts and underpopulate known democrat districts in order to construct more democrat districts, albeit at a smaller percentage amount than last time. They also disregarded the commission's requirement that *Each deviation will be accompanied by an explanation of the mandatory or discretionary criteria justifying such deviation.*

As a resident of Jefferson County, I also speak against the Communities Map that breaks up our county! As a county of nearly 12000 people that is growing faster than its surrounding three urban areas, we want one fully-contained district within the county. We shouldn't be swallowed up by adjacent counties, like Butte-Silver Bow in order to shore up their declining populations and give them more representatives than they rightly should have based on their population. We are distinctly different than Lewis & Clark County/Helena and Butte Silverbow and deserve one district that can be represented by someone without divided loyalty to other counties/cities.

As the one whom will cast the decisive vote, I wish to appeal you, Mr. Chair and your expressed sense of decency and fairness. You have an opportunity to return credibility and integrity to this process. As a republican, I'm not asking you to given the republicans an advantage. I am asking that you resist the incredible pressure that is being placed upon you to acquiesce to the democrats and put in place their map that cheats for political gain! For all of their rhetoric, we all can see clearly through it and know that the underlying primary criteria used by them in drawing up their "Communities Map" is political, that is, "*how can we maximize the number of safe democrat seats in the legislature*". This is not the Montana way. Montanan's have a keen sense of fairness and justice. They don't like cheating and gaming the system. The Communities Map does just that.

Finally, I want to appeal to the Chair's long-demonstrated appreciation for The Law and the consistent application of The Law. The Communities Map inconsistently applies the agreed-upon written criteria for this process. Instead it relies on the not-so-subtle underlying criteria of "maximizing democrat districts" as the primary criteria.

Sincerely,



Scott Mendenhall, 214 Solomon Mountain Road, Clancy, Montana 59634