

Weiss, Rachel

From: Brad Hamlett <senatorhamlett@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2012 10:30 AM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Senate Pairings

Dear Sirs:

I testified at Helena in front of your commission and represented my views on what had happened to SD-10, Cascade County HD's and the future pairings. I still believe that the House Districts need to be amended and I stated why. Although this may not be a popular view in Cascade County I spoke for the people that I represent not for myself. Going forward the decisions made by you will greatly affect the outcome of the Legislature for the next 10 years. It is your charge to be as neutral and fair as possible and in this endeavor I wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Senator Brad Hamlett
SD-10
Cascade County

Weiss, Rachel

From: Chris Mehl <CMehl@BOZEMAN.NET>
Sent: Friday, November 30, 2012 12:53 PM
To: Redistricting
Subject: Montana Districting Proposals

Dear Commission Members,

First, thank you for your long and tireless work on this important task. I appreciate the sacrifices involved and amount of attention your work is receiving and the spotlight you are performing under.

I write as a city commissioner in Bozeman to urge you to consider a redistricting plan that appropriately recognizes the demographics and voter clustering in Gallatin County. As one of the largest cities in the state, it seems only fair and proportional that the city have two state senate districts that are all or largely representing our city limits.

Furthermore, our city is one of the faster growing in the state. Already our housing permits for new construction are at high levels and we are sure to grow quickly again during the next ten years while the districting plan is in effect. A plan that represents Bozeman effectively today is also the most likely to represent the area fairly seven, eight, or nine years from now.

In addition, a plan that splits Bozeman's senate representation into many parts would not be in the spirit of electing officials who can reasonably speak to the needs and desires of their constituents. I do not understand why the commission would consider a plan to deliberately including a wide variety of scales and towns within one single district, when an alternative of more seamless representation is available and meets with all applicable laws and regulations. In short, providing Bozeman with more unified Senate seats is good legally as well as for policy.

Sincerely,

Chris Mehl
Bozeman City Commission
cmehl@bozeman.net
406.581.4992

All City of Bozeman emails are subject to the Right to Know provisions of Montana's Constitution (Art. II, Sect. 9) and may be considered a "public record" per Sect. 2-6-202 and Sect. 2-6-401, Montana Code Annotated. As such, this email, its sender and receiver, and the contents may be available for public disclosure and will be retained pursuant to the City's record retention policies. Emails that contain confidential information related to individual privacy may be protected from disclosure under law.

MT Districting & Appt. Commission,

We believe that the districts should be districted with more commonality. We live in South Phillips County and are currently in a district with 3 Indian reservations. We do not have representation. We urge you to redistrict including all of Phillips County into the same district along with Valley County and on east including full counties until we have the desired population for a district. It would be sensible to have the reservations have their own district even though they would not be geographically connected, they would still have a lot of common issues and views.

The reservations are a sovereign nation and claim that the same laws don't apply there. They are allowed to hold all Indian rodeos and very specific activities that exclude all other nationalities. For some reason this is not considered discrimination, so be it. We do not feel comfortable being represented by a person voted in by a far majority of the people who have these views as is the case in the district we are in now. We feel it is taxation without representation the way we are currently districted.

We urge you to please redistrict putting all of Phillips County into one district so the person voted in to represent us has more commonality with the issues in our area.

Thanks in advance for your common sense and consideration,

Mike and Nancy Ereaux

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 or Broadwater County, I would ask that you combine House District 74 (Broadwater County) and House District 75 (Jefferson County) into one Senate District.

Both Counties are similar in size, the basic industry is agriculture, and both share concerns about rapid growth. Broadwater County could lose its identity if combined with a District from Gallatin County, as could Jefferson County if combined with Butte/Silver Bow or Lewis and Clark Counties.

County Commissioners from both Broadwater and Jefferson Counties have endorsed the idea of combining these two House Districts into one Senate District. Please join them in making this happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name hiongh WYND



Address PO Box 891, 107 E PATTS 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

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Jefferson County or Broadwater County, I would ask that you combine House District 74 (Broadwater County) and House District 75 (Jefferson County) into one Senate District.

Both Counties are similar in size, the basic industry is agriculture, and both share concerns about rapid growth. Broadwater County could lose its identity if combined with a District from Gallatin County, as could Jefferson County if combined with Butte/Silver Bow or Lewis and Clark Counties.

County Commissioners from both Broadwater and Jefferson Counties have endorsed the idea of combining these two House Districts into one Senate District. Please join them in making this happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name Colton William Houser

Address 107s Brooke st whitehall MT 59759

To: Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission

From: Charles J. Wideman, Whitehall, Montana

November 30, 2012

TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE COMBINING PROPOSED HD 74
AND 75 TO ESTABLISH A NEW STATE SENATE DISTRICT

1. Testimony heard by the committee from current and recently elected state legislators from across the State of Montana had a common theme: "Keep rural counties together, and keep urban counties urban". An excellent way to heed this advice is to combine proposed house districts 74 and 75 to form a new senate district. Broadwater and Jefferson Counties share a long contiguous boarder, and have rural values. Other possible combinations of proposed house districts around HD 75 can also be accommodated to reach the goal of keeping rural counties together and keeping urban area together. These combinations seem logical, and might have been anticipated by your committee. Combining 74 with 75, 76 with 77, and 91 with 92 keeps two rural counties and four urban areas together, and in the case of both Butte and Helena it keeps neighbors with neighbors.
2. Combination of HD 74 and HD 75 meets a stated goal of the committee, minimizing population deviation, because one district is slightly over deviation while the other is under. It is possible that the combination will result in a deviation of less than twenty potential voters.
3. At a previous meeting, the commission heard testimony from the Butte delegation supporting the combination of HD 75 with HD 76. That was the only support for such a combination. No other, not a single voice, suggested that possibility. Indeed, the county commissions from both Broadwater and Jefferson Counties testified that their constituents all preferred combining HD 74 and HD 75. In those counties meetings were held to see what the local residents desired.
4. Other testimony from Butte Silver Bow was that both Jefferson County and Butte Silver Bow Residents share recreational facilities. That seems like a one-way street. Not many people from Jefferson County recreate in Butte, but the widely held opinion in Jefferson county is that Butte residents are mainly responsible for problems with land owners and ranchers in Jefferson county while they are recreating on local rivers, streams, lakes and hunting areas. Jefferson County law enforcement has major problems with "shared" recreational opportunities, especially around the Delmoe Lake area.
5. Other testimony from the Butte delegation was that the Boulder Batholith unites Jefferson County with Butte. In fact it divides them. The placement of the batholith has helped create the continental divide, and that is a major division between urban and rural communities. The Golden Sunlight Mine near Whitehall, and the mines of Broadwater County near Townsend are completely different than those of Butte, and are in fact competitors within the same industry. The Boulder Batholith makes Butte have much more in common with the surrounding counties

to the west. Butte Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, and Powell counties are now part of the Nation's largest Super Fund site. Those three counties are currently working together as a close-knit group to address problems in common. Their cultural history unites them.

6. Jefferson County and Broadwater County commissioners have worked hard to create local economic development opportunities within their respective counties. So have Butte and Helena. In many cases there have been examples of one development group working against the interests of others. For example, Helena recently tried to annex a portion of real estate within Jefferson County for economic gain. Other examples have come when the Butte delegation and economic development group have worked against the interests of Jefferson County. There is no indication that either group of outside interests would not continue to work against those of Broadwater and Jefferson Counties.

For all of the above reasons, and also because it just makes sense and sounds good, please hear the voices of the citizens of Broadwater and Jefferson Counties and combine proposed House Districts 74 with 75, 76 with 77, and 91 with 92 to form new State Senate Districts.