

409 Missouri Avenue
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

March 27, 2012

Butte Redistricting Commission Meeting

Commissioners,

My name is Cele Pohle. I am a commissioner from Powell County. At your March 13 meeting in Missoula, Commissioner Conner from Granite County testified to our Joint Resolution.

I bring the same message. I have been involved with the Census and Redistricting since 1970 as a census taker and then with various roles in county government. This is the first time in my memory that we have met the criteria and are able to request that Powell and Granite Counties be combined into one legislative district. As a county commissioner and having been active in this process for forty years, I take great pride in being able to present this concept to you.

The support has been positive because we share so many similar characteristics. Our Joint Resolution speaks to our customs and culture that we share because of our rural setting.

We support and endorse the subdivision plan that would achieve the goal of combining Powell and Granite Counties into one legislative district.

Thank You for your time and commitment to the State of Montana.

Cele Pohle

Powell County Commissioner

JOINT RESOLUTION 2011-1

BETWEEN POWELL COUNTY AND GRANITE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Boards of Commission of Powell and Granite Counties are appreciative of our legislative representatives diligent public service on behalf of the people.

WHEREAS, redistricting of legislative districts cause both Powell County and Granite County to be divided into multiple districts.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County are more alike than different in custom and culture.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County share rural characteristics. Powell County has 1,488,889 acres and a population of 7,027 people while Granite County has 1,105,548 acres and a population of 3,074 people. This information is from the 2010 census.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County share significant agricultural economic factors with 273 ranches in Powell County and 104 ranches in Granite County. (Agricultural Statistical Services USDA)

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County share significant timber harvest and wood product economic factors with 25% of the workforce in Powell County employed in this sector and approximately 13% in Granite County.

WHEREAS, Powell County and Granite County both have large percentages of federal forest land with Powell County having 639,018 acres and Granite County having 660,779 acres.

WHEREAS, Powell County has one incorporated town, Deer Lodge, and Granite County has two incorporated towns, Philipsburg and Drummond.

WHEREAS, tourism is a vital part of the economy for both Powell County and Granite County.

WHEREAS, population, boundaries and shared characteristics equal a single legislative district.

WHEREAS, both counties have held hearings and received public support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Powell County and Granite County should be a single legislative district and both counties respectfully request the Legislative Redistricting Commission


DATED this 28th day of Nov, 2011.




POWELL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


CELE POHLE, Presiding Officer



DONNA YOUNG, Member

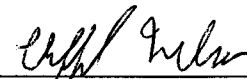

RALPH E. MANNIX, JR., Member

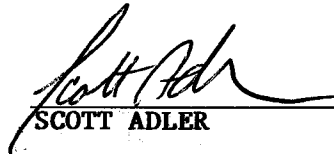
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DIANE S. GREY, Clerk & Recorder

GRANITE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


MAUREEN CONNOR


CLIFFORD NELSON


SCOTT ADLER

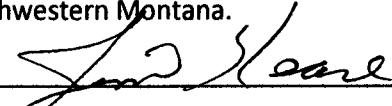
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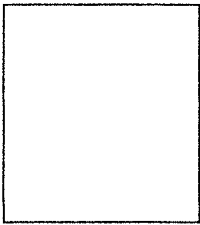

BLANCHE McLURE, Clerk & Recorder

Dear Districting & Apportionment Commission,

Please consider my support for the Communities Plan which: 1) provides fair representation for Butte and Anaconda at the Montana Legislature, 2) recognizes the rich economic, cultural, and social communities of interests within the region; 3) reflects the importance of common transportation networks for commerce and travel; 4) honors the long shared history of mining and agricultural interests in the region; 5) keeps all small towns intact in Southwestern Montana; and 6) allows candidates, regardless of political party, to compete in legislative races across the region.

I urge you to support the Communities Plan for Southwestern Montana.

Jim Keane Print Name  Signature
2131 Wall Address Butte, MT 59701 City/ST/Zip



MONTANA LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Rep. Edie McClafferty
House District # 75

I am sorry that I could not attend today's meeting. My husband Danny and I are on a vacation that was planned last year.

As you know, Montana has to comply with the United States and Montana constitution every 10 years regarding state legislative districts. In some cases districts can grow or decrease in population size. The process of redistricting legislative districts can have a positive effect, as long as this process is achieved in a fair and impartial manor. Respecting all Montanans whether they are Democrat, Republican or Independent is truly what democracy stands for. Let these proposed plans move forward with the input of public testimony guiding the process. Let's do what is best for the people of Montana.

Again I am sorry for my absence.

Thank you

Representative Edie McClafferty
House District 75

Steve Flynn
63 Appaloosa Lane
Deer Loge MT 59722

Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission
P O Box 201706
Helena MT 59620

Dear Sirs,

I support the "Subdivision Plan" for the apportionment of Montana's Legislative Districts. This plan which focuses on county boundaries, meets the Mandatory and Discretionary Criteria for Legislative Districts. The County, as a basic unit of government organization, is important to keep intact for it contains common economic, cultural and legal and governmental attributes. The Subdivision Plan, for instance, is the only proposed plan that does not split the communities of Deer Lodge or Anaconda or both.

The Deer Lodge community and surrounding area has their economic base in agriculture and forest products. The other communities in Powell County, Avon, Gold Creek, Elliston, Helmville and Ovando likewise have their economic and cultural base in agriculture. The Communities, the Deviation and the Urban/Rural Plans combine Deer Lodge and the surrounding area with The Anaconda, Opportunity and Warm Springs communities. These communities have a history of mining and smelting and have cultural and economic influences that are quite different from the Deer lodge community.

I would like to ask that you support the Subdivision Plan in the apportionment of Montana's Legislative Districts.

Sincerely

Steve Flynn

Rep. Mike Miller, HD84
March 27, 2012
Redistricting Commission Testimony in Butte

It is my understanding that the purpose of the proposed Communities Plan is to keep communities together. This is a great goal. However, I do not understand why the plan for HD84 is to split the city of Anaconda in half, thereby dividing that community. This plan takes about half the population of Powell County and combines it with half of Anaconda in Deer Lodge County. It also removes the towns of Avon and Elliston from the rest of rural Powell County.

I realize that a rural district must be large to have enough people to meet the deviation requirements. But I must say that to exclude the ~4000 people in the Powell County towns of Deer Lodge, Avon and Elliston so that half of Anaconda can be included makes no sense to me. This certainly does not meet the requirement of being compact and contiguous. The proposed district would be over 200 miles in length from the top of Powell County to the other end just north of Wisdom. The Blackfoot River and the Wise River do not belong in the same House district!

I urge you to adopt the proposed Subdivision Plan for House District 84 and keep all of Powell and Granite Counties together. Please do not divide us up as proposed by the Communities Plan.