



TO THE MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. MY NAME IS LEONARD WORTMAN AND I AM CHAIR OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION.

FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR GIVING US THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AT THIS PUBLIC HEARING. AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING OF YOUR TIME TO WORK ON THIS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ISSUE.

ALSO, PLEASE KNOW THAT I UNDERSTAND THE DAUNTING TASK BEFORE YOU AS YOU TRY TO DIVVY UP MONTANA INTO 100 DIFFERENT DISTRICTS OF THE SAME SIZE. WHAT AN AWESOME UNDERTAKING.

SECONDLY, I WANT THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE OF BUTTE/SILVER BOW TO KNOW THAT WE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY VALUE YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND THOSE MANY RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

HOWEVER, I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO TALK ABOUT THE FEELINGS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY ABOUT THESE PROPOSALS AND HOW THEY WOULD AFFECT JEFFERSON COUNTY.

WHEN I ATTENDED YOUR PUBLIC MEETING IN HELENA WHEN THESE PROPOSALS WERE PRESENTED, I WAS SURPRISED AND DISMAYED TO SEE THAT ALL FIVE PROPOSALS PUT SOME PORTION OF JEFFERSON COUNTY IN WITH SOME PORTION OF BUTTE/SILVER BOW. I UNDERSTAND THAT BUTTE/SILVER BOW LOST POPULATION TO THE EXTENT THAT BUTTE/SILVER BOW WOULD LOSE A LITTLE MORE THAN HALF OF A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT. WHAT CAUSED ME SO MUCH CONCERN WAS THAT MOST OF THESE PROPOSALS WOULD MAKE BUTTE/SILVER BOW WHOLE AT THE EXPENSE OF SPLITTING JEFFERSON COUNTY INTO PIECES THAT WOULD CAUSE US TO LOSE OUR UNIQUE IDENTITY AS A COMMUNITY.

JEFFERSON COUNTY IS LOCATED BETWEEN THREE LARGE URBAN COUNTIES; LEWIS & CLARK, GALLATIN, AND BUTTE/SILVER BOW. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR OWN IDENTITY SO WE DON'T GET SWALLOWED UP BY THESE URBAN AREAS.

OUR PROPOSAL IS SIMPLE AND IT VERY CLEARLY MORE CLOSELY FOLLOWS YOUR DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA THAN ANY OF THE PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY THIS COMMISSION OR MEMBERS OF THIS COMMISSION.

CURRENTLY H.D. 77 IS ALL OF JEFFERSON COUNTY EXCEPT THOSE PEOPLE SOUTH OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 90 FROM CARDWELL-WEST. THOSE PEOPLE SOUTH OF THE INTERSTATE FROM CARDWELL WEST ARE

CURRENTLY PART OF H.D. 71 WHICH COVERS OUR NEIGHBORS TO THE SOUTH IN MADISON COUNTY. WE HAVE A SMALL PORTION OF LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY IN H.D. 77.

OUR PROPOSAL WOULD DROP THE LEWIS AND CLARK PORTION AND MOVE THE TOWN OF WHITEHALL BACK IN WITH THE REST OF JEFFERSON COUNTY. EVERYTHING LEFT THAT IS SOUTH OF INTERSTATE 90 WOULD GO WITH H.D. 71 AND MADISON COUNTY. IF WE NEEDED TO TINKER ANY, SOME PORTION OF SOUTHEAST JEFFERSON COUNTY COULD BE LOCATED WITH THE DISTRICT THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE THREE FORKS AREA IN GALLATIN OR BROADWATER COUNTIES.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND YOUR DISCRETIONARY CRITERIA.

- 1.) FOLLOWING THE LINES OF POLITICAL UNITS. NONE OF THE FIVE PROPOSALS COME CLOSE TO DOING THAT. JEFFERSON COUNTY'S PROPOSAL FOLLOWS THE LINES OF A POLITICAL UNIT.
- 2.) FOLLOWING GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES. ALL OF THE FIVE PROPOSALS CROSS THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE BETWEEN JEFFERSON AND BUTTE/SILVER BOW COUNTIES. JEFFERSON COUNTY'S PROPOSAL KEEPS US IN THE SAME GEOGRAPHIC AREA.
- 3.) KEEPING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INTACT. WHILE THE RESIDENTS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY VALUE THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLE AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT LARGE URBAN AREAS HAVE TO OFFER, WE DON'T REALLY SHARE A "COMMUNITY OF INTEREST" WITH BUTTE/SILVER BOW. SOUTHERN JEFFERSON COUNTY DOES SHARE A "COMMUNITY OF INTEREST" WITH NORTHERN MADISON COUNTY. OUR FIRE DISTRICT EXTENDS INTO MADISON COUNTY, AS DOES OUR ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS. MADISON AND JEFFERSON COUNTY SHARE A COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT AND OUR CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN 4-H TOGETHER AND ATTEND THE MADISON COUNTY FAIR IN TWIN BRIDGES.

I WISH I COULD SAY THAT WE HAVE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL, BUT SOON YOU WILL BE HEARING FROM A FEW FOLKS WHO WILL TELL YOU THAT THE DEMOCRATS COMMUNITY PLAN IS THE WAY TO GO. THAT PARTICULAR PLAN WOULD SACRIFICE TWO LARGE AREAS OF JEFFERSON COUNTY TO BUTTE/SILVER BOW. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND WHO IS SUPPORTING THAT PLAN AND WHY.

THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO KEEP JEFFERSON COUNTY AS WHOLE AS POSSIBLE AND WE HAVE HELD FOUR PUBLIC MEETING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY. I HAVE PERSONALLY ATTENDED MANY OTHER PUBLIC MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS, AND I WILL TELL YOU NOW, THAT THERE IS OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY'S PROPOSAL.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE ENCLOSED MAP OF JEFFERSON COUNTY'S PREFERRED LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT AND THESE COMMENTS AS OUR OFFICIAL PREFERENCE.

THANK YOU.

**LEONARD WORTMAN
JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONER**