

December 22, 2011

Mr. Jim Regnier, Presiding Officer
Districting and Apportionment Commission
Legislative Services Division
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Commissioner Regnier,

The Billings Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitors Bureau has been involved in the Billings/Yellowstone County Redistricting proposal that was recently sent to you for your consideration. Our involvement was more in the area of working with the city and county in developing criteria to be used in creating the documents. We feel that the city and county did an excellent job in determining the district boundaries while keeping the variance criteria to a minimum. We also feel that it is beneficial to have compact districts and representation within the confines of Yellowstone County. Currently, Senator Taylor Brown represents a population from Briarwood in south Billings and his district goes almost all the way to Miles City. Also, Senator Alan Olson of Roundup represents a small area in west Billings. Our proposal will correct much of that type of problem.

Additionally, we felt it was important to share this with our other community partners and get their input. To date the following organizations have approved the proposed plan and encourage the Districting and Apportionment Commission to carefully consider the proposal. They are:

Billings Chamber of Commerce/CVB
Downtown Billings Association
Yellowstone County Lodging Association
Rocky Mountain College
Billings Association of Realtors
Montana State University-Billings
Home Builders Association of Billings

We appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this important project and encourage the Commission to consider the Billings/Yellowstone proposal.

Sincerely,



John Brewer, CAE
President and CEO



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