

**434 Parkway Dr.  
Kalispell, MT. 59901**

**November 1, 2011**


**Dear Commissioners,**

**Flathead County has grown in population during the last ten years and with that growth, it appears certain so will our county's representation in Helena.**

**The criteria for legislative districts adopted on May 28, 2010 states that each House district should have between 9,597 and 10,190 residents. (9,894 people plus or minus 3%) According to the Flathead County GIS Department's latest estimates, our eight legislative districts have 87,697 people, which averages out to 10,962 residents apiece. This is well above the standard set on May 28, 2010. 2,731 Flathead County residents reside in HD11 with the rest of the population of that district in Lake County. That brings Flathead County's total population to approximately 90,428. At the very least we should have one more district in Flathead County. Otherwise, residents of this county are underrepresented.**

**I, along with my associates, will be observing with great interest how the Commission divides up our legislative districts to make sure it is done fairly and in accordance with the law and standards governing this process.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Wolf". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

**Julie Wolf  
Director  
NW Montana Patriots**

**Weiss, Rachel**

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**From:** Tim Tharp [ttharp@sunburst.k12.mt.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 09, 2011 3:32 PM  
**To:** Redistricting  
**Cc:** Rob Cook; Jones, Llew  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Districting and Apportionment Commission  
Legislative Services Division  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

To Whom It May Concern:

I certainly understand that the Commission has a great deal of work ahead of it as it considers how to split Montana into new legislative districts. The concern I have is how the rural areas often end up getting attached to a larger town in order to make the population numbers work out. But when this happens, the rural area often has nothing in common with the population center and therefore is ignored.

When I was living in Scobey many years ago, I was in HD 96 which included all of Daniels County, a portion of Valley County, and the town of Glasgow. The bottom line was that the population of Glasgow could easily out-vote the entire rural area. And now I live in House District 16 which includes a small portion of Toole County including the town of Sunburst, but we are thrown in with the majority of Glacier County (except most of Cut Bank). So I am living again in a rural area that is easily out-voted by the larger community in that Browning has so many votes that Sunburst is not represented at all in our elections. The census data from the 2000 census shows the racial differential in that HD 16 has approximately 30% white and over 67% Native American. This observation is not intended to be racial in nature, but shows how little impact north-western Toole County can have on an election when all candidates are from Browning. What is more frustrating is that I attempted to contact my Senator and Representative many times during this past session and had ZERO response. Why would a politician from Browning care about Sunburst if they don't need us to be elected?

I encourage the committee to do less gerrymandering to make population numbers work and leave house and senate districts more homogeneous.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Tharp  
P O Box 144  
Sunburst, MT 59482