

**PRIVATE**  
**STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING**  
**OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT**  
**REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS**

		Attendance	
		Aislinn Kottwitz	E
		Amber	X
Date	08/07/2021	McReynolds	X
		Blanca Uzeta	X
		O'Leary	
		Constance	E
		Hass	
		Danny Moore	X
		Elizabeth	X
Time	01:11:07 PM to 04:31:05 PM	Wilkes	
		Gary Horvath	X
		Heather Barry	X
		Hunter Barnett	X
		Jason Kelly	X
		John Buckley	X
		Jolie Brawner	X
Place	Durango	JulieMarie	
		Shepherd	X
		Macklin	
		Kevin Fletcher	X
		Lori Schell	X
		Martha	X
		Coleman	
This Meeting was called to order by	Lori Schell	Moussa	E
		Diawara	
		Paula Espinoza	X
		Robin	X
		Schepper	
		Samuel	X
		Greenidge	
This Report was prepared by	Matthu Beck	Simon Tafoya	X
		William Leone	X
		Carlos Perez	X
		Carly Hare	X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, \* = Present after roll call

Hearing Items

Action Taken

01:27:00 PM Ms. Karen Pontius, representing self, testified. She testified that the preliminary map divides up communities of interest related to business, climate, and public lands. She stated that a competitive map for CD3 had been submitted (Attachment A).

- 01:32:35 PM Ms. Jean Walter, representing self, testified. She spoke on her preference for state House District 59 and how higher education should be a community of interest. Commissioners asked follow up questions regarding proposed districts.
- 01:42:12 PM Mrs. Terri Oliger, representing self, testified. She stated a preference for Archuleta County to be included with the preliminary state House District 52.
- 01:44:09 PM Mrs. Carol Cure, representing self, testified. She asked that the commission to combine counties near La Plata in order to preserve the resort town community of interest. She stated that the current state house and senate plan violates the community of interest and keeping political subdivisions whole. She submitted written testimony (Attachment E).
- 01:47:42 PM Ms. Christi Zeller, representing self, testified. She asked that Montezuma County be included in State House District 52 due to public lands and shared services.
- 01:49:32 PM Ms. Tiffany Lee, representing self, testified. She testified that voters are confused about the current districts and that going from La Plata County to Gunnison County is challenging.
- 01:53:08 PM Ms. Anne Markward, representing self, testified. She referenced a Cook Political Report Index on competitiveness and stated that the proposed CD3 would turn the district from leaning Republican to being strongly Republican. She also referred to the attachment submitted by Karen Pontius and spoke on how it would be more competitive.
- 02:05:26 PM Mr. Dale Ruggles, representing self, testified. He read from a flyer that had been circulated through the community and shared his own thoughts on not wanting political interest groups to sway the commissions' decisions.
- 02:10:40 PM Mr. John Porco, representing self, testified. He asked that La Plata County and Archuleta County be kept in the same state house district and gave common interests between the two counties.
- 02:14:50 PM Mr. Allen Maez, representing Montezuma County Republicans, testified. He stated that Montezuma County would not have proper representation by being in a state house district with La Plata County.
- 02:18:26 PM Ms. Sidney Zink, representing self, testified. She stated that competitiveness was a misguided goal to put as a requirement. She stated support for Terri Oliger's previous comments.
- 02:21:01 PM Mr. Jack Turner, representing self, testified. He asked that the committee consider unaffiliated voters when making competitive districts.
- 02:25:23 PM Mr. Herbert Bowman, representing self, testified. He stated that he would like to see the forests, ski towns, and public lands in Southwest Colorado kept together.

- 02:35:15 PM Ms. Deborah Schulte, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony that Southwest Colorado is a community of interest and commented on population requirements for state house districts.
- 02:38:12 PM Mr. Gregory Schulte, representing self, testified. He stated opposition to Archuleta County being separated from La Plata County in the state house district and shared reasons the two counties are connected.
- 02:45:11 PM Mr. Daniel O'brien, representing self, testified. He stated that he would like Lake County to be with Summit and Eagle Counties in current state House District 61.
- 02:47:48 PM Ms. Mary Dodd, representing self, testified. She stated that tourism communities need to be kept together in CD3.
- 02:51:29 PM Ms. Debra Greenblatt, representing self, testified. She asked that all the ski areas in the state be included in CD3.
- 02:54:31 PM Mrs. Deborah Meyers, representing self, testified. She stated that common interests in health care should be considered on the congressional level and shared key points from the 2020 Colorado Health Report.
- 02:57:54 PM Ms. Becca Conrad-Whitehead, representing self, testified. She testified on the shared interests in Southwest Colorado including infrastructure, public lands, and rural broadband.
- 03:03:59 PM Dr. George Foster, representing self, testified. He testified on the importance of keeping major ski areas and outdoor recreation together in a district. Commissioners asked follow up questions regarding suggestions and how communities may be able to work together on a federal level.
- 03:19:59 PM Mr. Patrick Hegarty, representing self, testified. He stated that the continental divide needs to be considered when drawing districts. He reiterated previous support for Archuleta County staying with La Plata county.
- 03:24:45 PM Mr. David Peters, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous testimony on keeping La Plata County and Archuleta County together.
- 03:28:15 PM Mr. Guinn Unger, representing self, testified. He stated concerns with the competitiveness of CD3 and CD7.
- 03:30:19 PM Laura Lewis Marchino, representing Archuleta County Commissioners, Region 9 Economic Development District of SW Colorado, San Juan County, testified. She submitted a map of planning and management regions to the commissions (Attachment C). She reiterated previous support of Archuleta County being included in state Senate District 7.
- 03:36:26 PM Mr. Douglas Walker, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous support for keeping communities of interest in the area intact.

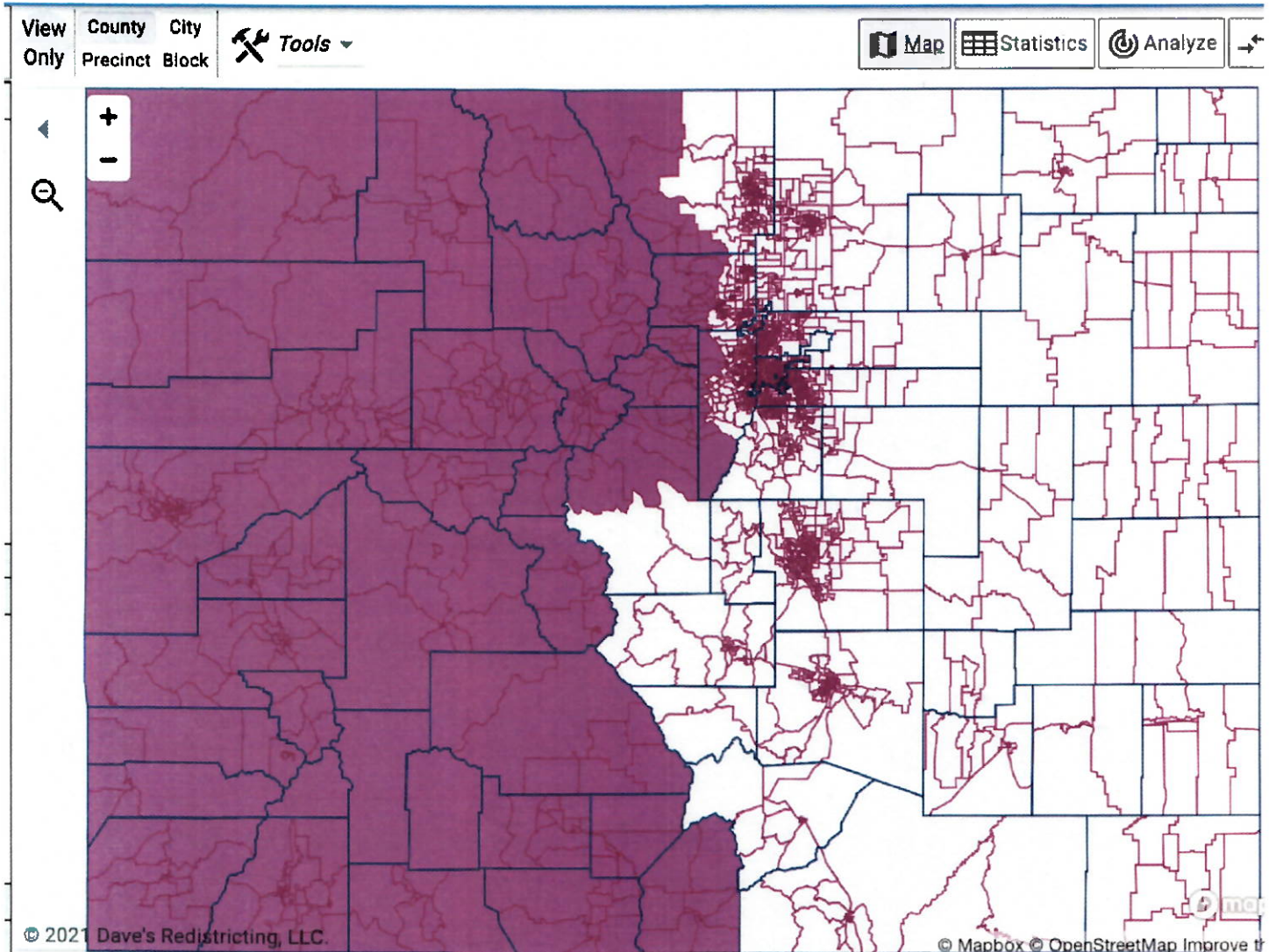
- 03:38:18 PM Mr. Root Routledge, representing self, testified. He spoke on the importance of water in the area and needing to focus on Western Colorado as a whole instead of just the Western Slope.
- 03:41:22 PM Mr. Jasper Welch, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous testimony on keeping the Western Slope intact in CD3. He also reiterated previous testimony on the state house and senate districts. Commissioners asked follow-up questions on what counties fit with the Western Slope.
- 03:48:15 PM Mr. Doug Lyon, representing self, testified. He stated satisfaction with the current preliminary maps and asked that the commission not make any major changes.
- 03:50:55 PM Ms. Karen Zink, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony in support of the maps and keeping the Western Slope together.
- 03:52:04 PM Mr. Bead Blake, representing self, testified. He stated that the area has more in common with the San Luis Valley than some may think. He reiterated previous testimony to not split Montezuma County and to keep Archuleta County with La Plata County.
- 03:55:06 PM Dr. Laura Godfrey, representing self, testified. She testified in support of previous testimony that mountain towns are a community of interest that should be kept together. She stated that not everyone supports a southern district.
- 03:58:36 PM Mr. Maurice Emmer, representing self, testified. He asked that state House District 54 not split the Roaring Fork Valley. He asked that ski areas be kept together in a congressional district.
- 04:04:40 PM Mr. Casey McClellan, representing self, testified. He testified on state House District 52 and how the communities impacted by water should be drawn together. He submitted written testimony (Attachment D) and a proposed map (Attachment E).
- 04:08:30 PM Ms. Gwen Lachelt, representing Western Leaders Network, testified. She spoke on her experience working with the state government and reiterated previous support of removing Park, Teller, and Fremont counties from CD3 and adding the San Luis Valley instead.
- 04:11:49 PM Dr. Suzanne Null, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony to maintain whole counties, competitiveness, and communities of interest within districts.
- 04:15:16 PM Mr. Kermitt Barret, representing self, testified. He stated that overall the preliminary map groups communities that work together and that he supports them other than a few nuances.
- 04:17:23 PM Ms. Marian Tone, representing self, testified. She asked that the commissions not ignore the voices of agricultural citizens as they may not be able to submit their thoughts and reiterated previous testimony on keeping the Western Slope separate from the ski resorts when possible.

04:31:05 PM

The committee adjourned.

# CD3 Competitive or Alternative Map

A



## Federal Lands:

- Black Canyon, Colorado, Great Sand Dunes, Mesa Verde, Rocky Mountain **National Parks.**
- Canyons of the Ancients, Chimney Rock, Dinosaur, Hovenweep and Yucca **National Monuments.**
- Arapahoe, Arkansas Headwaters, Browns Canyon and Curecanti **National Recreation Areas.** (All monuments except Florissant Fossil Beds, visitation 60,000/year.)
- Arapahoe, Pike, Roosevelt, Routt, San Isabel, White River **National Forests.**
- Buffalo Peaks, Byers Peak, Cache la Poudre, Collegiate Peaks, Comanche Peak, Eagles Nest, James Peak, Indian Peaks, Neota, Rawah, Never Summer, Ptarmigan Peak, Sarvic Creek, Vasquez Peak **Wilderness Areas.**

## Snow Sports areas:

- Arapahoe, Aspen / Snowmass, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Buttermilk, Copper, Crested Butte, Eldora, Keystone, Loveland, Purgatory, Silverton Mountain, Steamboat Springs, Telluride, Winter Park, Wolf Creek, Vail.

B

## Legislative Redistricting Comment:

My name is Carol Cure, I'm a retired lawyer and a 15-year resident of Durango, CO in La Plata County. I'm here to provide comments about HD59 Legislative Redistricting. I do not believe the preliminary house plan produced by staff complies with the constitutional mandates set forth in Article V of the Colorado Constitution, specifically Section 48.

There are two main problems with the preliminary house plan. First, it completely ignores the requirement that a district "preserve whole political subdivisions" such as counties to facilitate the efficient and effective provision of government services. Instead, it splits Montezuma in half, separating out the western part of the County, and lumping the northeastern part of Montezuma County which includes the county seat of Cortez in with La Plata. This makes absolutely no sense in terms of the provision of county services and would potentially pit the representative and constituents of half the county against the representative and constituents of the other half. It's my understanding that Montezuma residents as well as its government officials are opposed to that plan and have strongly voiced their desire to be kept whole and combined, instead, with a district including Montrose, San Miguel, Delores and Ouray, other counties with significant rural agricultural concerns.

Second, the preliminary house plan totally ignores the constitutional requirement that the plan "preserve whole communities of interest." Montezuma County shares almost no legitimate community interests with La Plata County. We have little in common with Montezuma's rural agricultural economy. Instead, we have much more in common with Gunnison County, which like La Plata is home to a major four-year college and to a well-known ski resort. Fort Lewis College is very similar to Western Colorado University. Both are situated in mountain resort areas and emphasize their outdoor recreation, mountain sports and wilderness pursuits, with world-class skiing in their backyards at Crested Butte and Purgatory Ski Resorts.

Both counties, as well as the contiguous counties of Hinsdale, San Juan and Archuleta share many common policy concerns. These communities are tourist and outdoor recreation destinations with San Juan County's county seat of Silverton as the destination for the Durango to Silverton narrow gauge railway and the Silverton Mountain Ski Resort. The train supports much of the tourism economy in both towns.

Hinsdale County is covered by mountains, including multiple "fourteeners," the 14,000-foot mountains that people from all over come to Colorado to climb. Archuleta County is home to Pagosa Springs, where you can find the world's deepest geothermal hot

springs and well as many other tourist attractions, including nearby Wolf Creek ski resort with some of the best snow depths in the area.

Small businesses, tourism, public lands, and outdoor recreation are the lifeblood of these mountain resort communities and the importance of legislation protecting these common interests and unique policy concerns cannot be underestimated. The climate crisis has led to drought, a reduction in snow and rainfall, and an increase in in wildfires and their severity, which negatively affects both winter and summer outdoor recreation tourism...the biggest industry in our communities.

I am asking the Commission to combine La Plata County with Gunnison, Hinsdale, San Juan and Archuleta Counties. This configuration would best recognize and protect our local mountain resort counties as a community of interest as mandated by the Colorado Constitution.

*Carol Cure*

747 Oak Drive

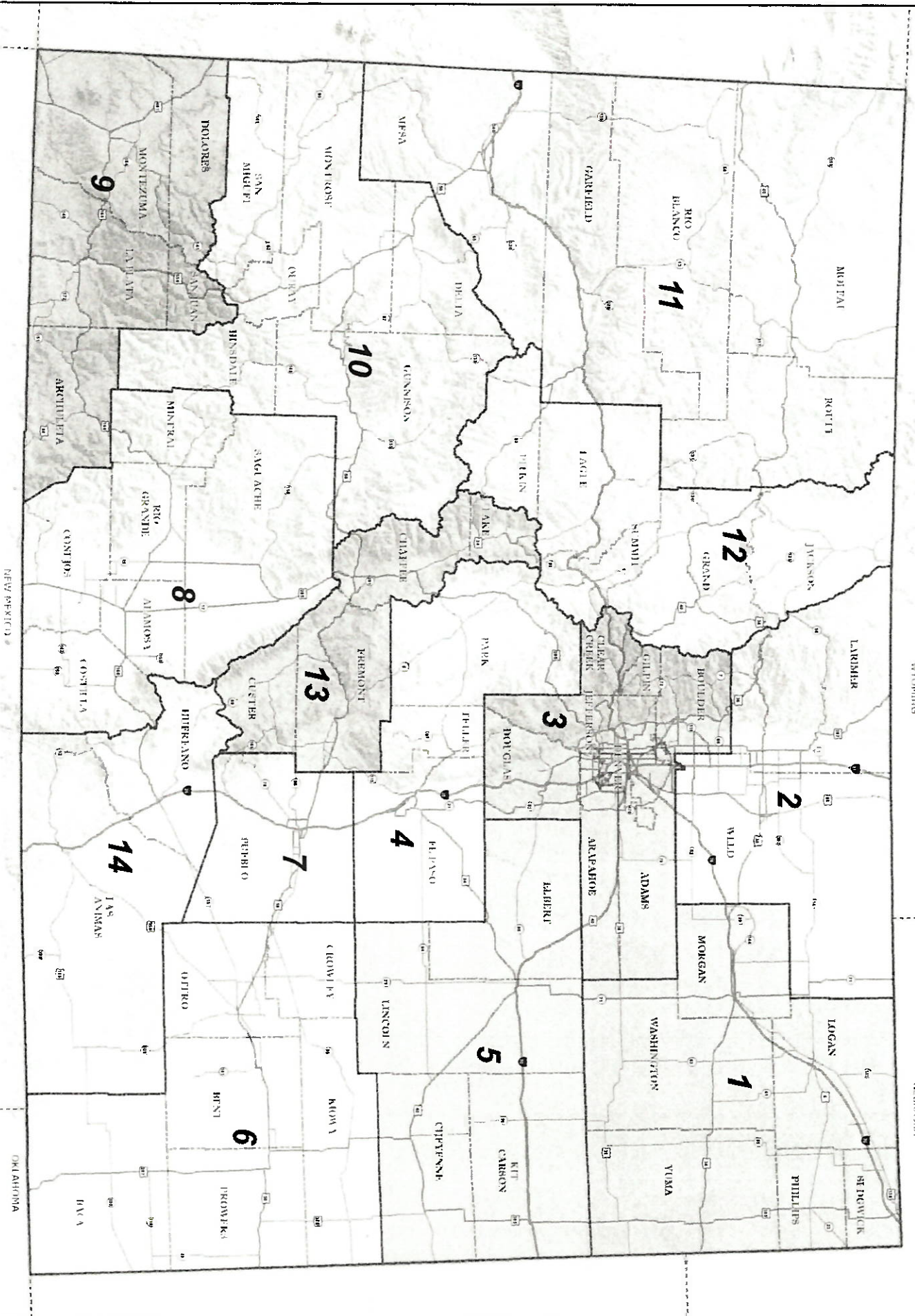
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DQ

August 5, 2021

Casey McClellan  
29985 Hwy 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
970-570-1776

RE: Legislative Redistricting

Redistricting Commission members,

I am writing in regard to the proposed redistricting plan, which combines La Plata, Archuleta, ~~southern San Juan~~, and a portion of Montezuma County into District 52. I support the revised map as proposed, with one exception. Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel and Montrose counties are all significant agricultural communities that rely on irrigation water. The Dolores River travels through all of these counties and it makes sense that the Dolores River watershed remain in one District (as it currently does), and not divided by political jurisdictions. This change would result in an insignificant adjustment of the northern boundary of proposed District 52 only within Montezuma County. It's insignificant in that approximately 99% of the watershed area that would remain in District 53 is public land, with the exception of some river bottom properties and the Town of Dolores, which has a population of approximately 975. A map of the Dolores River watershed is attached and labeled as Exhibit A. This proposed northwestern boundary of District 52 (southern boundary of the Dolores River watershed) is highlighted.

An additional significant benefit is, the geographical challenges that currently exist in HD59 regarding accessibility will no longer exist in HD52. Lastly, House District 52 becomes more competitive as a result of these adjustments.

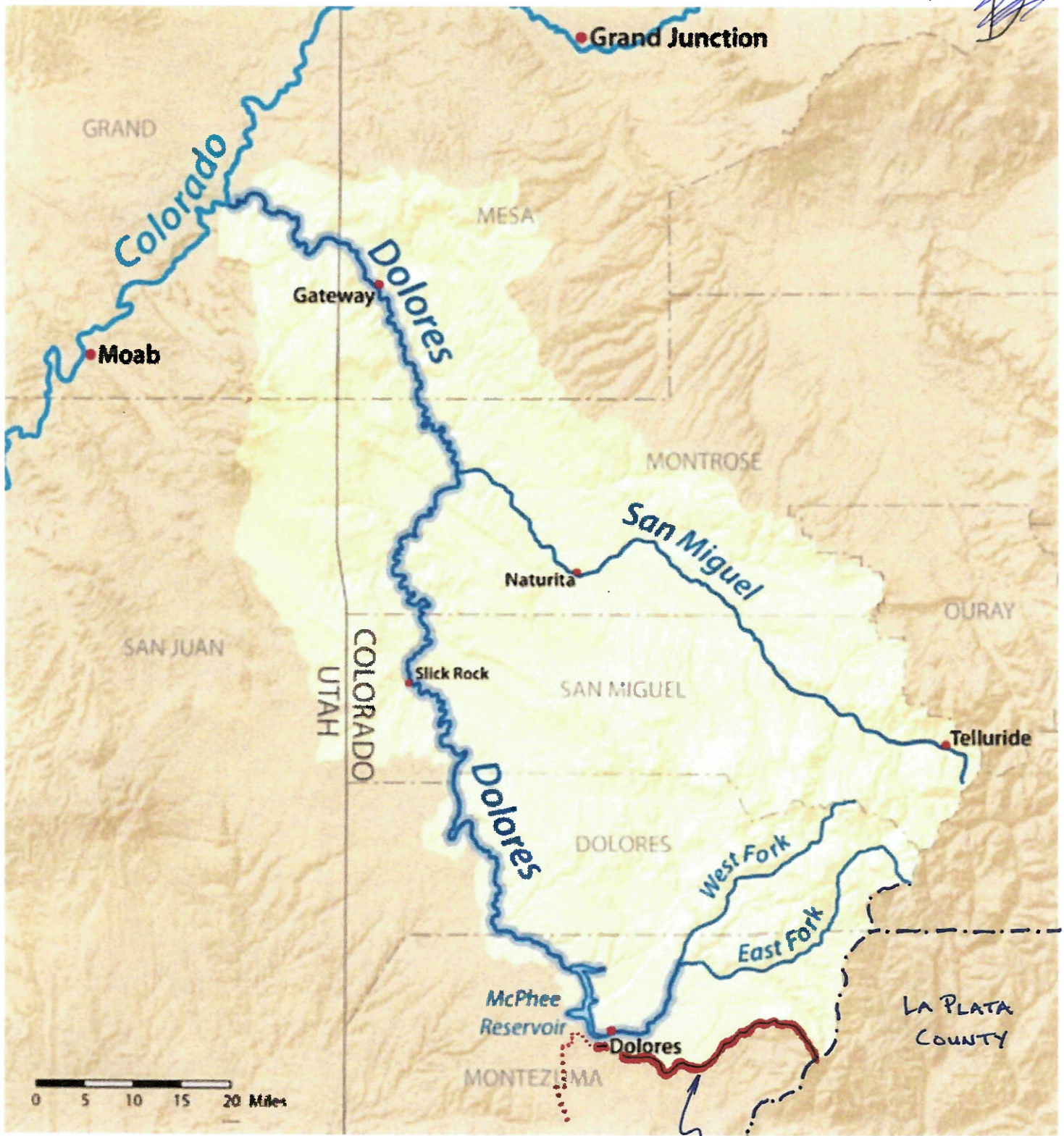
I would like to thank the Colorado Redistricting Commission for being here, seeking local input, and arranging this meeting within the local affected House Districts.

Sincerely,

*Casey McClellan*



F [Signature]



NORTH BOUNDARY OF HD 52 WITHIN MONTEZUMA COUNTY