

July 8, 2011

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Joint Select Committee on Reapportionment
200 East Colfax
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Members of the Committee on Reapportionment:

Thank you for your service to our communities in Colorado. Many of us recognize the difficult task you face in the reapportioning process and appreciate it.

I want to address the issue of "communities of interest" along the Front Range immediately west of Denver.

First and foremost I consider myself a Coloradoan who appreciates the entirety of our wonderful state. Born in Gunnison, I grew up in Grand and Gilpin Counties. I lived in Boulder while attending the University of Colorado. I currently reside in Wheat Ridge where both my home and business are located. I have family and friends in every nook and cranny of the state. I hold no part of the state more highly than another.

As I have been a part of the reapportionment conversation in my community; I often hear the Front Range communities referred to as the mountains. I strongly disagree with this perception. Growing up in Gilpin County meant waiting for the weekends so we could head up to the mountains to ski or head down to the suburbs to see friends and eat at a Pizza Hut. I also understood that many, if not most of my friend's parents drove into Lakewood, Arvada or Golden for work, shopping and recreation. They headed into the mountain resort communities almost exclusively for recreation.

Now I enjoy mountain biking or hiking in and around the foothill communities on the weekends. I spend half of my month working all over the foothills and western suburbs. I drive all of the corridors connecting these communities. In my experience these communities depend on each other for all of the factors that make-up our daily lives. These foothill communities that border the metro area have more in common with the west metro area than their western slope neighbors.

Respectfully,

Shane Nicholson