

Marilee Nolte

2250 Parkview Drive

Longmont, Colorado 80504

Phone: (303) 678-8281; email: mjnolte@comcast.net

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners! My name is Marilee Nolte. I have lived in Longmont for 16 years and am currently a resident of House District 11. I have taught school in Longmont the past 12 years. It's a privilege to take part in the process in which representation to the Colorado legislature is considered.

In Federalist Paper, Number 39, James Madison defined a republic to be "a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people..." Madison went on to say, "It is *essential* to such a government that it be derived from the great body of the society, not from an inconsiderable proportion or a favored class of it;" Since the reapportionment of 2001 the residents of Longmont, Colorado, have been victims of this favored class phenomenon. The 2001 reapportionment commission chose to ignore the Colorado constitutional criteria used for determining districts. (Article 5, Sections 46-48) Included in these laws are the principles that:

- cities and counties are not to be divided;
- the area within a district must be contiguous and as compact as possible; and
- communities of interest, such as economic, ethnic, or geographic areas shall be maintained.

The city of Longmont and the area immediately surrounding were divided among four Districts. This gerrymandering allowed Democrats to operate as a favored class in Districts 10, 11, 12, and 13. In dividing the city the residents of Longmont and the area immediately surrounding were denied their lawful representation as an undivided, compact, geographic community of more than 70,000 residents.

In the interest of fair, representative government, Longmont should be restored to a single district. The commission should return to the principles of a republic in which we are governed by representatives of the people. If Longmont is not restored to a single district the residents of Longmont will continue to be victims of the corrupt manipulations of politicians.