

To The Colorado Reapportionment Commission

My Name is Harry Kottcamp. I am the Chairman of the Republican Party of Grand County. I am here today as a concerned citizen of Colorado.

I am concerned because I had hoped, that after the difficult Reapportionment process that Colorado experienced in 2001, that this year this Commission would implement the Reapportionment as prescribed by the Colorado Constitution, Article V, Section 47, Paragraph 3 pertaining to Communities of Interest. That paragraph prescribes that a Community of Interest should be "preserved within a single district whenever possible." That paragraph of the Colorado Constitution also defines what elements are included in a "Community of Interest".

Grand County is a West Slope county and has, since its creation in 1874 been one Community of Interest with the rest on Northwest Colorado. In fact, all of Northwest Colorado was part of Grand County at that time. Then as now Northwest Colorado is a single "Community of Interest" and should not be split.

If we look in detail at the elements that define a "Community of Interest" we see that Grand County shares none of those elements with Boulder County and we share all those elements with Routt, Moffat, and other Counties in northwestern Colorado.

Ethnically we are nearly identical to the rest of NW Colorado, and quite different from Boulder County. Culturally, we are one with Routt County and share nothing with Boulder County. Economically, we share Skiing, Tourism, Natural Resource Exploitation and Ranching with NW Colorado, all of which are void in Boulder County. Our Trade Area in NW Colorado is tied together by US 40, which doesn't connect to Boulder County. Geographically, we are adjacent to Boulder County but the Continental Divide makes a major separation. We are not connected! The one road that could connect Boulder County to Grand County is the road over Corona Pass. Grand County has tried for years to reopen this road, but Boulder County has consistently blocked that connection. Demographically, we are again consistent with NW Colorado and quite different from Boulder County.

It appears to us in Grand County that there has been no attempt to follow the Colorado Constitution by this Commission. Even Paragraph 2, of the same section of the Constitution, has been abused for example by pulling in Precincts of Adams County into a Jefferson Senate District, apparently just to add more Democrats to that District.

It is time to halt this process and create a bi-partisan approach that will survive the test of the Colorado Supreme Court. Or, do you want to wait until the Supreme Court throws out these maps and then start over. We encourage all Coloradoans to voice their rage about this unconstitutional process.