

Elizabeth Janney

Gunnison, CO

## REAPPORTIONMENT STATEMENT

Thank you for coming to Gunnison County. My name is Elizabeth Janney and I am officially retired but spend much time as a volunteer. Currently I am a Board member of the Gunnison Arts Center as well as active in the Gunnison Valley League of Women Voters. I have been the leader of the Crested Butte Music Festival and the Crested Butte Wildflower Festival. I also have taken classes at Western State College.

I am urging you to not divide Gunnison County in the current reapportionment of the State House. Our Gunnison Valley has many common interests which make it critical that we have one representative in the State House.

1. We are in the Gunnison Valley very dependent on our tourist trade. Gunnison hosts many sportsmen as well as outdoor enthusiasts. Crested Butte welcomes skiers of all terrains and the entire county benefits from the Crested Butte Mountain Resort. Our tourists travel here from all over the country. We are a remote valley and both ends of the county band together in providing our customers with **transportation** to the Gunnison Valley. Our interests are synonymous in promoting good transportation in the form of airline routes and common bus service. We need one representative to represent our tourist interests in the State House.
2. Our second common interest is Western State College. Both ends of the valley depend on our access to the college and we support its striving for excellence. One voice, fully committed to Western State, is critical.
3. We are finding that our common interest in the arts is growing and bringing us together in hard financial times. We see continued growth in the visits from people interested in the arts. Our art festivals, our galleries and our music performances benefit from a common approach in our remote valley. We need one point of focus in the State House to help grow our arts.
4. We already share many things. We have a common library system, a common hospital, retirement facility and nursing home, the Gunnison <sup>Crested Butte</sup> ~~County~~ airport, the Gunnison Valley Foundation, and a common Chamber of Commerce. This time of economic uncertainty necessitates one elected official to represent us in the State House.

To split our county would do considerable harm to what we all consider to be the critical needs of a large but sparsely inhabited county which functions in large measure as one entity. Please do not divide us.