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WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

September 13, 2011

Cherberg Building
Olympia, Washington

ORIGINAL

Taken Before:

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APPEARANCES

- LURA POWELL - CHAIRWOMAN
- TOM HUFF - COMMISSIONER
- TIM CEIS - COMMISSIONER
- SLADE GORTON - COMMISSIONER
- DEAN FOSTER - COMMISSIONER
- RUSTY FALLIS - ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
- GENEVIEVE O'SULLIVAN - OUTREACH COORDINATOR
- BONNIE BUNNING - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, September 13, 2011,
2 at 10:00 a.m., at 304 15th Avenue, Cherberg Building,
3 Olympia, Washington, the following proceedings were
4 had, to wit:

5
6 * * * * *

7
8 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Good morning. I would
9 like to welcome all of you, those of you here and
10 online, to this meeting of the Washington State
11 Redistricting Commission.

12 I would like to start out the meeting by having
13 those of us here up front introduce ourselves to you.
14 My name is Lura Powell, and I'm the chairman of the
15 Commission.

16 And, Rusty, you want to . . .

17 MR. FALLIS: Good morning, I'm Rusty Fallis
18 with the Attorney General's Office. I'm general
19 counsel to the Commission.

20 COMM. HUFF: Tom Huff, representing the House
21 Republicans.

22 COMM. CEIS: Tim Ceis, representing the
23 Senate Democrats.

24 MS. O'SULLIVAN: Sorry. I'm Genevieve
25 O'Sullivan, outreach coordinator.

1 COMM. GORTON: Slade Gorton, representing
2 Senate Republicans.

3 COMM. FOSTER: Dean Foster, representing
4 House Democrats.

5 MS. BUNNING: And I'm Bonnie Bunning. I'm
6 the executive director of the Commission.

7 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: I would like to start out
8 this meeting today by asking for approval of the
9 minutes of our meeting of August 9th. So at this
10 time I would like to ask if there's any additions or
11 corrections to the minutes.

12 COMM. GORTON: Move their approval.

13 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. It's been moved
14 approval of the minutes. All those in favor say "aye."

15 COMMISSION MEMBERS: Aye.

16 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Opposed?

17 Thank you.

18 This is just the third time in Washington history
19 that redistricting has been done by commission. Since
20 the census of 2010 preparations have been underway to
21 provide accurate information and maps so that the job
22 of redistricting can be done with great confidence and
23 fairness.

24 A lot has happened in the months leading up to
25 today's meeting. We've had 18 public forums around the

1 state to hear what's important to Washingtonians, and
2 many people have sent us various comments by other
3 means. We've heard from 250 people at the forums, 170
4 additional people commented in writing, and 20 people
5 took the time to put in or submit third-party plans.

6 To those 20 individuals that took the time and
7 interest to really do a detailed plan, we want to
8 thanks them particularly because it takes a lot of time
9 and a significant investment of -- and dedication to
10 engage in this type of thing and to really give a lot
11 of thought to how redistricting should be done
12 throughout the state.

13 There are a lot of choices and subtleties in
14 drawing a map. So you -- you can't really expect your
15 map to be reflected in any of the maps -- all your
16 thoughts to be covered in any of the maps that the
17 commissioners are going to present today. But all of
18 your ideas were factored in as the commissioners
19 thought through how they were going to put together
20 their draft maps.

21 And the -- of course, in addition, this is a part
22 of a process, and rolling out the draft maps today are
23 the first part of -- of the process towards the final
24 map development. So you will -- with the maps you're
25 seeing today, it's unlikely that one of them will be

1 identical to the final maps. But what they do is they
2 will give a lot of early input into how we might do the
3 redistricting in Washington, ultimately culminating a
4 single congressional and a single legislative map at a
5 time we're targeting to be around early November.

6 The draft maps and the final plan have to be
7 crafted to meet many legal requirements, both on the
8 federal and state -- and the state constitution as well
9 as the laws associated with them. In addition -- the
10 first requirement is to try to get nearly equal
11 population in each district.

12 In addition to that, to the extent that it's
13 practical, district lines have to coincide with
14 boundaries of local political subdivisions and
15 communities of interest; the number of counties and
16 municipalities that are divided need to be as small as
17 possible; each district should be composed of
18 contiguous, convenient, and compact territory;
19 precincts should be kept within a single legislative
20 district; the commission should provide fair and equal
21 rep- -- effective representation to encourage electoral
22 competition; and the plan should not be drawn purposely
23 to favor or discriminate against any political party or
24 group.

25 So as you can see, this is really a balancing act,

1 lots of criteria that we are driven to balance as we
2 move forward in developing redistricting plans for our
3 state.

4 So today, to begin, the commissioners will go
5 through their individual plans with a brief explanation
6 of the rationale. And then following all of these
7 presentations there will be an opportunity for public
8 comment. Following that comment period we'll adjourn
9 the meeting and move into a media opportunity so the
10 media can move forward to -- towards the front of the
11 room and be prepared to answer their questions.

12 After we finish with the media briefing, the --
13 and actually, after we adjourn this meeting, there will
14 be large-format versions printed of the commissioners'
15 plans available in Rooms A, B, and C of this building
16 for public viewing, and they will be here throughout
17 the afternoon. And the electronic versions will be on
18 our website by 2:00 p.m. today so that you can take a
19 look at those and drill down.

20 I want to emphasize that today's presentation
21 begins the -- a one-month-long comment period. So
22 there will be plenty of time. we'll take some public
23 comments today. But we know a lot of you will want to
24 take the time to really think through -- look at the
25 maps carefully, think through you're comments. And so

1 you can send in your comments online; you can send them
2 to us, you know, through the mail.

3 And then on October 11th we'll have a multimedia
4 opportunity for people to comment directly before the
5 commissioners both on -- telephonically, in person, and
6 over the web. And we hope that this month-long comment
7 period will give all of you a chance to really have a
8 chance to thoughtfully develop any comments that you
9 want the Commission to consider.

10 So now let's get started with the process of the
11 commissioners' sharing their draft maps. And the
12 commissioners have already determined amongst
13 themselves the order in which they'd like to present.

14 So I'd like to ask Commissioner Dean Foster to
15 begin.

16 COMM. FOSTER: Thank you, Lura.

17 Commissioner Ceis and I will start with
18 legislative district rules, and then we'll move to
19 congressional district proposals.

20 Today we start the next phase of our
21 responsibility, equalizing legislative and
22 congressional district populations. This plan has a
23 population deviation of 54, one district having 26 too
24 many people and one district having 28 too many people.
25 Nineteen districts have under ten deviation. Another

1 15 districts are under 20. And the final 15 are
2 between 20 and 28 population deviation.

3 Population stability is important to this plan.
4 So 41 of the 49 districts have a 70-percent carryover
5 population from the current district. 31 districts are
6 wholly contained in one county, and 22 counties are
7 wholly contained in one district.

8 COMM. CEIS: well, good morning, and thank
9 you all for coming out today. And thank you all who
10 participated in the process up until this date coming
11 to the hearings and attending with us and providing us
12 with your input, which was very important to us as we
13 went through the process.

14 I took a similar approach to Commissioner Foster
15 in developing my legislative map. Surprise to that.
16 And I'm going to take a little different tack. Our
17 deviations are similar.

18 But one of the things we heard in our public
19 testimony -- we heard a lot of things. One of -- some
20 of it was around not splitting cities; so we have tried
21 not to split cities in this map. We have, I think, 50
22 cities that have previously been split, and in this map
23 we are now only splitting 25. We tried to use
24 transportation corridors as significant boundaries. We
25 heard that those tend to connect communities and help

1 sustain communities of interest. So we used those,
2 sometimes at the expense of using county boundaries.
3 And so in this case we currently have 17 counties split
4 in the existing map, and this map, I believe -- 16 in
5 the existing map, and this map splits 17.

6 In redistricting sometime, however, we focus
7 significantly on issues around geography and place,
8 using data to justify where we place these boundaries.
9 And for me, through this process I also discovered that
10 communities of interest can be defined different ways
11 because one of the things we also heard a significant
12 amount of testimony regarding was the issue of
13 communities that have been underrepresented
14 historically in the political process in the state of
15 Washington.

16 And we also realize that, through the census data,
17 we have seen a significant growth in minority
18 populations in the state of Washington. 25 percent of
19 the State of Washington is now minority. And in some
20 communities the minority is now the majority. And it
21 needs to be reflected in how we redistrict. It can't
22 be the only criteria; we have to look at other
23 criteria, as well. But clearly the issue of minority
24 representation in our political affairs is an important
25 consideration.

1 And so, therefore, you have to take other issues
2 into consideration. The ideal legislative district is
3 137,236 people, not places, not lines on a map; it's
4 about the people.

5 So what is it that binds people together in a
6 community? Usually in its political representation
7 people are concerned about the issues and challenges
8 that face them every day in their lives. And what are
9 those kinds of issues that we deal with in our lives,
10 and how do they create communities of interest? So
11 just a quick couple of things on that regard.

12 First of all, backing up, you know, the growth
13 here is particularly relevant, particularly in Central
14 Washington, where you can see the percent of Hispanic
15 population by county in the census. But it is also
16 clearly a factor, just giving one example, in the
17 growth of minority populations in the state of
18 Washington.

19 But there's other factors that go into it, too.
20 So look at regional and social and economic factors.
21 Courtesy of the Annie Casey Foundation, you can see
22 this is a map of uninsured children under the age of 18
23 in counties in our state. It follows a pattern, an
24 interesting pattern, one that isn't necessarily based
25 on urban or rural but more on socioeconomic issues.

1 And then here is the number of children
2 participating in the Basic Food Program, which is a
3 common measure of poverty that we use in statistical
4 analysis. And again you can see a pattern that isn't
5 necessarily urban. In fact, you can see more
6 significant rural poverty in the state of Washington,
7 particularly in some communities -- again when you look
8 back on the map of the growth in Latino population,
9 there seems to be an overlap between minority
10 populations and the prevalence of poverty in our state.

11 So with that in mind, my map also has five
12 legislative districts that happen to be majority-
13 minority, three of them in South King County, where
14 it's very difficult to draw a legislative map without
15 having districts that are majority-minority because of
16 the extraordinary diversity we have in South King
17 County, and then two in Central Washington, where the
18 majority population is Latino in those areas.

19 And then, finally, just looking at some other
20 boundaries and geography and looking at ways to draw
21 maps, there are other factors other than county
22 boundaries and municipal boundaries. There's also the
23 way counties plan together and communities plan
24 together for transportation and land use and human
25 services. And looking at things like the regional

1 metropolitan planning organizations is another way to
2 reenvision how communities combine to work together.
3 And you can see where Benton and Franklin and Yakima
4 and how they divide their responsibilities for meeting
5 federal and state planning requirements.

6 Okay.

7 COMM. FOSTER: The congressional district
8 proposal here has a population deviation of 12, two
9 districts with excess of five people and one district
10 below by seven. Seven congressional districts have
11 above 75 percent carryover population from the current
12 district; that is carryover of half a million people or
13 more in each of those seven districts.

14 Because of the new 10th District that we received
15 in Washington in this last federal census and the
16 relative population growth in Eastern Washington,
17 approximately 150,000 people in Eastern Washington will
18 comprise about one fourth of a congressional district
19 with western Washington population. I use I-90 and
20 US-2 as the transportation connection for that
21 district. And a little later we'll have more of that
22 rationale.

23 Finally, I have located the new 10th Congressional
24 District in the Pacific coast and southern Puget Sound
25 area.

1 COMM. CEIS: So my congressional map varies a
2 little bit from Commissioner Foster's in that I have
3 also placed the 10th in the south; however, it doesn't
4 reach to the coast. The 10th is more a compact
5 district, a more urban district in this map. The 1st
6 District no longer crosses Puget Sound to take in
7 Bainbridge Island. Bainbridge Island is now part of
8 the 6th District, and the 9th District now moves up
9 into South King County and all the way up to I-90 --
10 excuse me -- up to the Newcastle area. You can see
11 here where the new 10th is, again the south Puget
12 Sound, but does not go over to the coast, runs up into
13 Pierce County.

14 I also chose to cross into Eastern Washington and
15 have that population join with a Western Washington
16 district in the 8th District across I-90 and Highway 2,
17 as Commissioner Dean did. And we had some reasons for
18 looking at this, both of us. We're trying to determine
19 where the communities of interest really were in
20 developing that proposal. And we so we looked at a lot
21 of different factors.

22 One was agriculture, looking at what the commerce
23 was between various areas of the state. And you can
24 see by the lighter color orange that Kittitas and
25 Chelan share an agricultural connection with eastern

1 King County and Snohomish County. In addition, when
2 you look at resource lands, again you see a connection
3 in the value of resource lands and the acreage of
4 resource lands and forest land in this map between
5 those counties. Between . . .

6 And then in terms of communications and how people
7 tend to relate to each other through news and
8 entertainment, the communication in media markets, the
9 Seattle-Tacoma media market reaches across the
10 mountains into those areas across I-90 and creates a
11 common community of interest in the information people
12 receive.

13 Again, another example of the connections between
14 Eastern Washington and Western Washington, across the
15 I-90 corridor is the regional commerce and how it
16 moves, rail corridors, significant rail corridors
17 connecting the Port of Seattle. The ports at Tacoma,
18 with eastern agricultural interests, run in the
19 direction of I-90, as well.

20 And then this map illustrates the value again
21 through freight tonnage that's moving on the highway
22 system across from Eastern Washington again to the
23 ports of Seattle and Tacoma. And you can see that that
24 value and the tonnage travels mainly along I-90 to
25 reach those ports for export and for market. So for

1 those reasons we've chosen to use I-90 and connect
2 across through King County into Chelan and Kittitas
3 County.

4 In my map, too, the 9th District actually contains
5 just over 50 percent minority population in that
6 district and primarily because of the South King County
7 diversity that I spoke to earlier. And as we were
8 going through our hearings and we heard a lot of
9 testimony in support of representation for minority
10 communities in south King County, one thing occurred to
11 me is that we were spending a significant amount of our
12 time talking about race as the -- as the community of
13 interest, and clearly it is. I mean, people of color
14 are -- live in the communities of south King County.
15 They work there. They raise their families there.
16 They go to school.

17 But those are the issues that I became interested
18 in at our last hearing when we heard testimony about
19 community of interest being looked at a different way,
20 which is what -- what do people have in common, what do
21 they share across those racial boundaries, because it
22 is a very diverse community, and it's not just one
23 minority.

24 And so when we're looking into it, I found that
25 there are issues around economic issues, as well, as

1 you can see from this chart, the census data, that
2 poverty has moved out of the central city, and poverty
3 now exists at greater degree in south King County and
4 indeed in north King County than it does in the city
5 itself. And that's a trend that's occurring over the
6 country. The Brookings Institution is doing some work
7 on that now, actually will be out here in October
8 having meetings and discussions about that issue.

9 The disparity in education is one we hear a lot
10 about. And how does it manifest itself? well, you can
11 see that for education and high school graduation, it's
12 not too significant. But when you look at attainment
13 in higher education, it's very significant in
14 communities across south King County.

15 Another issue that the people have a common
16 interest in, no matter who they are and where they live
17 in South King County, access to healthcare, another
18 issue that is very important to people and again is in
19 common, have -- people have in common in South King
20 County, which is the fact that the lowest percentage
21 with healthcare tends to be in south King County.
22 People in poverty have a difficult time affording
23 healthcare.

24 And then in those health indicators you can see,
25 too, that in South King County, as compared to the rest

1 of King County, people in poorer or fairer health is a
2 higher percent of the total population than anywhere
3 else in the county.

4 So for those reasons, I think we should consider
5 having a south King County district that keeps those
6 communities together as much as we possibly can because
7 there are issues that people share in common that they
8 are trying to resolve together to improve their lives
9 together, whether it's in education or health or in
10 income or social position.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. Thank you very
13 much for your presentations.

14 I'd like to call on Commissioner Tom Huff.

15 COMM. HUFF: Hello. Well, it's good to be
16 here. And been working on this for a while. And it's
17 interesting to see the various plans as they unfold.

18 Our driving purpose, the principals are based on
19 equalizing representation, criteria outlined in the RCW
20 44.05 and the state constitution. And, of course,
21 public input has been very, very important, maps, held
22 testimony, written comments, and third-party plans.
23 And we've developed a plan here to create more
24 competitive swing districts and correcting population
25 disparities.

1 Our plan takes into consideration district
2 patterns and population shifts in order to remedy
3 unbalanced representation, which we have today. Our
4 redistricting goal is that every citizen in Washington
5 have a fair and equal vote. I see my role as
6 commissioner of being one of a team of four
7 commissioners with a goal of redistricting a fair and
8 equitable plan, and I believe we can accomplish this
9 through a fair, firm, frank, and friendly process.

10 This particular map shows you a great disparity of
11 population, and you'll be able to see that more closer
12 up in the other room. But, of course, the red areas
13 are the districts that need to lose population, and the
14 different colors give you an indication of gain and
15 loss. Now, we have disparities as much as 26,400
16 overpopulated, like in the 2nd District, and 17,000
17 underpopulated in the 28th District.

18 As you look at disparity in statewide population
19 by district, you have a great variation there also and,
20 therefore, a need to readjust the boundaries to
21 equalize the various congressional districts. And, of
22 course, we have the 10th that enters into the case.

23 Equalizing disparities of population, just to give
24 you an example, 630,000 in Tacoma and Federal Way --
25 630,000 population in Tacoma and Federal Way. And

1 that's five districts, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33. They have
2 15 legislative seats. While only 40,000 less, about
3 590, around the Tacoma-Federal Way area, District 2,
4 25, 22, and 47 have only 12 legislative seats. So we
5 need to correct that disparity and equalize
6 representation.

7 And it's also true up in the Seattle area.
8 Between 2000 and 2010 Seattle's population and growth
9 rates were well below the state average of 14.1, and
10 most Seattle-based districts grow only in single-digit
11 percentages. Due to the slow growth, current Seattle
12 residents enjoy a disproportionate access to state
13 representation.

14 Additional criteria, electoral competitiveness.
15 Our plan increases swing districts across the state,
16 offering more choices to voters. We reduce the numbers
17 of cities split. Our plan reduces the number of cities
18 split from 53 to 37, and of those 37, 15 are split by
19 five precincts or less.

20 Communities of interest, of course, is a critical
21 issue throughout the state. And our plan pays
22 particular attention to how regional economics
23 interrelate.

24 Congressional plan statewide, 160,000 people need
25 to balance western and Eastern Washington. And as you

1 can see, we move the 8th -- expand the 8th
2 Congressional District east of the mountains to those
3 two counties. Then we also went along the Columbia
4 River and expanded the 3rd District into Kittitas.

5 We strove to maintain integrity of existing
6 congressional-district boundaries wherever possible.
7 We strove to split less counties and less cities. The
8 Congressional District 1 now is pretty much based
9 suburban and rural interests using I-5 as a western
10 border. And Congressional District No. 2 is based on
11 the Puget Sound oriented ports, trade, and so forth.

12 Now, as you get into the congressional plan, we --
13 I moved Legislative District 10 into -- as a majority-
14 minority district, South Seattle area. 7th District,
15 of course, continues to remain in King County; it does
16 move north in and around parts of Lake Washington.

17 So background on that, the new congressional
18 district represents multiple ethnic groups. When
19 Win-Win, One America, and other interest groups
20 testified at our public forums around the state, I
21 heard a consistent message from Seattle to Spokane,
22 Bellingham to Vancouver that majorities feel
23 underrepresented.

24 The 10th Congressional District boundaries were
25 suggested by those minority interest groups and, in my

1 view, represent the will of the people who live there.
2 The new district boundaries reflect the compactness and
3 contiguousness thresholds outlined in the statutes and
4 also respects common community interests.

5 As a former state representative, I believe it's a
6 good practice to respond to the people's voices and, in
7 this case, craft a district for minorities to feel
8 empowered to overcome perceived underrepresentation.

9 I believe that Washington has historically been a
10 diversified body at the state, county, and local
11 levels. Members of minorities have served as elected
12 leaders in a number of positions including governor,
13 legislators, county executives, mayors, and
14 councilmembers; although, historically, minorities have
15 not been elected to the federal positions until
16 representative Jamie Herrera Beutler was elected in
17 2010.

18 Now Washington state joins 22 other states with
19 minority -- majority-minority congressional districts.
20 Currently there are 79 existing majority-minority
21 districts.

22 Furthermore, as a further footnote, Congressional
23 District 7 remains in King County, moving north and
24 east, as I indicated earlier.

25 The legislative plan statewide encourages

1 electoral competitiveness, considers common community
2 interests, including economic and employment factors,
3 limits splitting and dividing of cities and counties.
4 Of particular note, the Seattle-Tacoma-Everett corridor
5 population growth trailed behind most of the state,
6 needing to gain 140 -- gaining over 150 population --
7 140 population to be in balance with the rest of the
8 state. That's equal to one complete district.

9 Higher population growths in areas in the central
10 Snohomish, eastern King, Pierce, Clark, Benton, and
11 Franklin counties required population shifts that
12 resulted in more compactness in their respective
13 districts.

14 Spokane market, in Spokane we respected the
15 division -- separation of urban and suburban and rural
16 areas. We added urban areas to existing Legislative
17 District 3. And Legislative District 3 needs to gain
18 17,000 population. And, of course, the surrounding
19 districts -- 4, 6, 7, and 9 -- require adjustment due
20 to population deviations, as indicated.

21 The Tri-Cities legislative plan, Legislative
22 District No. 8 generally is pretty consistent with the
23 current boundaries. Exceptions are southwest Benton
24 County. Walla Walla and Columbia counties are located
25 solely in the 16th District. Yakima and Klickitat

1 County boundaries make up the western boundary corridor
2 for 16, except for Prosser, which is properly part of
3 the Yakima Valley community.

4 A legislative plan for Clark and Cowlitz County,
5 we moved the 18th -- the 18th District is entirely in
6 Clark County now, and the 19th gains population
7 extending eastward, promoting a protimber community of
8 interest in Cowlitz and Lewis Counties. The 19th
9 Legislative District anchors -- or includes all of
10 Longview and all of Kelso. And then the 24th
11 District, Aberdeen and Hoquiam are reunited. 49th, of
12 course, is located entirely in the City of Vancouver.

13 Legislative plan for Puget Sound area, the King
14 County -- Seattle-King County districts west of Lake
15 Washington experienced low population growth, as
16 indicated earlier, and had a gain -- had to gain an
17 additional 72,000 people to balance their populations,
18 which is equivalent to over 50 percent of a legislative
19 district.

20 The challenge in Puget Sound is to keep
21 communities of interest whole in compacted areas. We
22 limit the number of divided/split cities in order to
23 respect city limits and identities, and we respect
24 current boundaries wherever possible and work
25 judicially to remain within county lines and natural

1 barriers, such as rivers, lakes, so forth.

2 Pierce County, major population shifts occur
3 between the 2nd Legislative District, which has to lose
4 26,000 population; that's the largest loss in the
5 state. The 28th Legislative District has to gain
6 18,000, which is the largest gain in the state, most
7 extreme population shifts in the entire state.

8 Expanded 28th Legislative District will
9 consolidate Joint Base Lewis-McChord communities to
10 better unify military interests and life. Population
11 gains of 3,500 is needed in the 27th District and
12 10,000 in the 29th District; therefore, the 28th
13 District moves further to the south and to the east.

14 Legislative plan for Snohomish County, western
15 Snohomish County Districts 31 and 38 need to expand
16 eastward and require the 44th and the 1st to move
17 eastward, also. Population growth in the 44th,
18 19,236 -- 223, rather; it's the fourth largest in the
19 state in gain. And the 1st Legislative District has to
20 gain 10,000; so, therefore, they need to lose a total
21 of nearly 30,000, which causes those districts to
22 contract considerably.

23 In Marysville we listened to testimony. And I
24 personally would like to have all of Marysville all in
25 one district. We have reduced it down from six to

1 three, and that is a significant difference, and I
2 think that works out great. I've heard diverse
3 testimony. Some cities like more representation; some
4 cities like less. And in this case, they would have
5 representation from three different legislative
6 districts for a total of nine in the House. I'm going
7 to -- that's Marysville right there.

8 And then King County north doubles the number of
9 swing districts. And we've got a number of
10 districts -- swing districts in King County. And the
11 44th -- 48th Legislative District consolidates pretty
12 much all of Redmond. 41st pretty much retains Mercer
13 Island, rather. And the 45th Legislative District
14 retains most of Kirkland.

15 King County south, the 30th Legislative District
16 maintains the southwest boundary to avoid moving into
17 Tacoma port area, plus unifying the City of Milton.
18 The 5th Legislative District retains Valley -- Maple
19 Valley and surrounding areas. And the 11th District
20 consolidates pretty much around Renton. And then the
21 37th and 11th are more compact than they are
22 currently.

23 well, summary of plan is that Washington's first
24 majority-minority congressional district would take
25 place. We respect rural areas, like Congressional

1 District No. 1. We achieve increased electoral
2 competition throughout the state. We limit crossing
3 city limits and county lines. And we very much follow
4 the RCW, the *Washington State Constitution*.

5 while we introduce a major majority-minority
6 congressional district, we make, as I said, originally
7 Congressional District 1 more rural, or pretty much
8 rural. We achieve, sorting through the whole plan, a
9 greater increased electoral competition. We've
10 certainly paid a lot of attention to communities of
11 interest and wherever possible limited the numbers of
12 cities, as I indicated, splits, and improved district
13 compactness.

14 For more information, available through the
15 Commission, and that web page is
16 www.redistricting.wa.gov.

17 And then finally I thank you. I think the
18 redistricting process, commission process is a very
19 good one. I am looking forward to negotiating with my
20 fellow commissioners to achieve an overall fair plan
21 that best serves the citizens of the state. I consider
22 the internal commission deadline for completing a
23 bipartisan map November 1 as a serious deadline. I
24 believe the people of Washington have a right to view
25 the maps prior to the last-minute submission, which

1 unfortunately has occurred in the past. Finalizing the
2 plans early, I think, have many benefits that I won't
3 take the time to go into at this point.

4 The commissioners' unanimous vote on the final
5 negotiating plans, I believe, is the outcome we are all
6 striving for. I think that the Commission has worked
7 well to this point. I have enjoyed working with them
8 and look forward to continuing the process and the
9 final agreement. Thank you.

10 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you, Commissioner
11 Huff.

12 Commissioner Gorton.

13 COMM. GORTON: Both the constitution and the
14 statute under which this commission is created have as
15 their number one goal, population equality. In the
16 congressional plan that I will present, that is met to
17 less than one one-hundredth of 1 percent of ideal
18 district population.

19 The next criteria are to keep communities
20 together, counties and cities. This reduces the number
21 of cities that are split between congressional
22 districts from 23 to three: Seattle, Tacoma, and Kent.
23 And only two counties that are smaller that are a
24 congressional district are split, both in Eastern
25 Washington: Skamania County, where the line is very

1 similar to the present line, and Walla Walla County,
2 where the two western rural school districts are
3 included in the 4th Congressional District.

4 There's been one case on geographical compactness
5 in the state after the 2000 elections, one in which I
6 was involved. And under the Kilbury standard of
7 compactness, this is more compact with ten
8 congressional districts than the present system is with
9 nine.

10 More highlights, there is a majority-minority
11 district in -- designated the first, and it is an open
12 district. The 10th District is entirely outside of
13 metropolitan Seattle. It's a largely rural district,
14 and that's in accordance with the way the population
15 increased in the state. The four metropolitan Puget
16 Sound counties -- King, Pierce, Snohomish, and
17 Kitsap -- are entitled to five and a half districts
18 dividing their population. And this still gives them
19 six districts with a majority of the population from
20 the metropolitan area and four districts that are non-
21 -- that are non-metropolitan Puget Sound in area.

22 Every incumbent's district who's running for
23 reelection, except for the 2nd District, is composed
24 primarily of the present constituents of that district.
25 And in the case of the 2nd, the political composition

1 is a little bit more in favor of Congressman Larsen.

2 And then, as you will see in parentheses, I'm
3 going to suggest to my fellow commissioners that we
4 renumber, ultimately, all of the districts from west to
5 east in accordance with the way we do our highway
6 systems. The renumbered districts are in parentheses.
7 The districts to compare with the present districts are
8 in regular numbers there.

9 The two that do not have an incumbent living in
10 them are No. 1 and No. 10.

11 And obviously where to cross the mountains, where
12 to get that 150,000-plus Eastern Washingtonians in a
13 western Washington district is probably the great
14 question in connection with congressional
15 redistricting. This one does it in the northern part
16 of the state along the Canada border in order that it
17 be a non-metropolitan Puget Sound district. It is
18 essentially a rural and a small-city district in the
19 northern part of the state.

20 The 5th District is simply the present district
21 withdrawn a little bit by reason of its overpopulation.
22 The 4th District is somewhat more changed. The 3rd
23 District is very similar to the present district except
24 that it loses all of Thurston County. And in order to
25 see to it that only two counties that are smaller than

1 a congressional district are invited, the slight excess
2 in population needed for the 3rd District is in Pierce
3 County rather than in Thurston.

4 Thurston County is united in one congressional
5 district. Kitsap County is united in one congressional
6 district other than the present ones. And each of
7 those districts meets the compactness standard.

8 The 1st -- the 1st Congressional District is not
9 precisely what was suggested by the win-win groups, but
10 it is essentially the same minority population and is
11 much more compact than the one that was suggested.

12 The 2nd District becomes clearly an urban
13 district. It's urban Everett and south Snohomish
14 County and some portions of northern -- of northern
15 King County.

16 This does not attempt to do in any of the eight
17 congressional incumbents who presumably are running for
18 reelection. None of them is seriously disadvantaged by
19 these lines. I just simply want to reemphasize that
20 where we had many divided counties, there are only two
21 divide counties in this one that are smaller than a
22 congressional district and only three divided -- and
23 only three divided cities.

24 So summary of the congressional districts, the 1st
25 District is in south Seattle and east King County, and

1 it's majority-minority. The 2nd District is urban
2 Snohomish and northeast King County. The 3rd District,
3 95 percent of its population is currently in the 3rd
4 Congressional District and is centered around
5 Vancouver. The 4th district is Yakima and Tri-Cities;
6 98 percent of its population is currently in the 4th
7 District. And the 5th District, 100 percent of its
8 population is currently in the district. The 6th
9 District is Tacoma, Kitsap, and the Coast; that's an
10 82 percent level. The 7th District is north Seattle
11 and south Snohomish; 72 percent is currently in the
12 7th. The 8th District is rural King and Pierce;
13 76 percent currently in the 8th. And the 9th is
14 Thurston and ex-urban Pierce together with the City of
15 Federal Way in King County; and 55 percent of its
16 population is currently in the 9th. The 10th, of
17 course, is all new and is northern -- is northern
18 Washington.

19 The legislative plan, every district is within
20 one-tenth of 1 percent of ideal populations, smaller
21 than the maximum deviation in 2001. It reduces by
22 nearly two-thirds the number of cities smaller than a
23 district that are split from 49 at the present time to
24 17. Two particular examples is: Renton is now in five
25 different legislative districts, which we reduced to

1 one; Everett is in four different legislative
2 districts, and it is reduced into one. And they are
3 essentially as compact districts as the present
4 districts are.

5 76 percent of the population statewide remains in
6 the current legislative district in which they live.
7 It does create a majority Hispanic district in the
8 15th Legislative District. The rather odd shapes on
9 that boundary are so that the entire Yakama Indian
10 Reservation is include in the 14th District instead
11 of being divided.

12 Only three legislative districts out of 49 have
13 less than 50 percent of the population of the present
14 district. Two of those are in Spokane, which is
15 designed to make all of the Spokane districts
16 competitive rather than heavily one party or another.

17 The third is the 11th District, which is moved
18 from being a very long and narrow district at the
19 present time simply to being greater Renton. It
20 includes the City of Renton and the immediate area
21 around Renton. Every other district, all 46 other
22 legislative districts in the state, are 60 percent or
23 more -- have 60 percent more of their present
24 population.

25 we attempted in almost every case to keep the

1 heart of existing districts as they were. The Seattle
2 city districts, of course, have to get larger because
3 the Seattle population gained only a very small number
4 in -- between the last two censuses.

5 The northern boundary of the 46th District is
6 the northern boundary of the City of Seattle. So 46,
7 36, and 43 are entirely located in Seattle, and the
8 majority of 37 and 34 are located in Seattle. 11 is
9 taken entirely outside of it. And you can see that the
10 districts are reasonably compact, all subject to
11 population -- all subject to population mandates.

12 Here's a chart. Residents who are currently in
13 the district is that percentage in the middle. The
14 rough description of the districts is indicated there.
15 And where there are cities split that are less than a
16 district in size, they are indicated, as well.

17 We aim to follow the statutes and the constitution
18 to the maximum possible extent, reducing the number of
19 divided counties and divided cities, coming up with
20 communities of interest wherever it was possible to do
21 so, but respecting the will of the people as they voted
22 in the last elections and not arbitrarily putting
23 legislators in districts that they would regard as
24 completely foreign.

25 And that is it.

1 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. Thank you. Thank
2 you very much.

3 Okay. We'd now like to start a period of public
4 comment. And we will be taking public comment from
5 those of you in the room as well as, if someone online
6 wants to have a public comment provided and read into
7 testimony, we will read that into the record.

8 Okay. So the first person -- and we're going to
9 ask you to keep your comments down to roughly three
10 minutes. There will be a light that comes -- a yellow
11 light that you'll see comes on about 30 seconds before
12 you need to wrap up. And then a red light will tell
13 you the time's up.

14 I'd like people to come forward sort of in twos.
15 The first person I mention will be the first to
16 testify. Then I'll say "to be followed by" the second
17 person. So that just sort of gives you a chance to get
18 up from where you are seated and move towards the
19 front.

20 So our first speaker will be Tom Hilyard to be
21 followed by Oscar Eason.

22 Now, when you do come forward, I'd like to ask you
23 to please both say your name and spell your name
24 because we do have a court reporter here to capture
25 your comments.

1 MR. HILYARD: Thank you, Chair Powell,
2 members of the Commission. My name is Tom Hilyard,
3 spelled H-i-l-y-a-r-d.

4 I have --

5 COMM. FOSTER: Move your microphone over.

6 MR. HILYARD: Move this one? Okay.

7 Do I need to repeat myself?

8 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: I think you're fine.

9 MR. HILYARD: I have been a part of a
10 coalition of people-of-color communities, and it is my
11 privilege to speak from that perspective and to speak
12 from the perspective of the Tacoma-Pierce County black
13 elective.

14 Let me begin by saying we're proud that we have
15 educated and encouraged our communities of interest to
16 be involved in the 2011 redistricting process. Over
17 500 Unity Map supporters have attended the various
18 meetings, and 150 have testified. And we've been at
19 nearly every redistricting forum around the state.

20 We have turned out our diverse numbers and members
21 of our communities who care deeply about our democracy
22 and want to make sure they are not sidelined by the
23 often inaccessible political processes that have in the
24 past ignored those communities.

25 And it is exciting to hear the issue of

1 communities of interest as a part of the narrative of
2 the Commission in a number of the presentations of
3 commissioners for the redistricting alternatives that
4 will be discussed over the next 30, 45 days, and we
5 expect to be a part of that discourse.

6 The hundreds of testimonies given make the case
7 for how communities of color in Yakima, Pierce County,
8 and south King Counties share civic disenfranchisement
9 and neglect in common. These issues can be seen in
10 questions of health, wealth, and education and are
11 clearly demonstrated as a mutual interest of the
12 communities of color and are very apparent in the
13 gaping disparities when areas are compared one to
14 another.

15 with major issues impacting our communities like
16 closing the educational achievement gap, addressing low
17 birth rates, lack of maternal health, and high rates of
18 diabetes, those especially living in south Seattle have
19 more in common with those living in Kent or Federal Way
20 than in north Seattle. These communities should be
21 given the opportunity to influence whether or not
22 elected officials feel obligated to respond to the
23 communities' needs and take action to reduce health,
24 wealth, and educational disparities.

25 we are committed to continue working with the

1 commissioners and the legislature to make sure that
2 this redistricting process does not simply become the
3 same political process that regularly sidelines
4 communities of color and communities in need from
5 accessing services, participating in democracy, and
6 ensuring that all of our communities move forward
7 together.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

10 I would like to ask Reverend Aaron Williams to
11 come forward.

12 MR. EASON: Thank you very much,
13 Commissioners. My name is Oscar Eason, Jr., and I am
14 president of the Alaska-Oregon-Washington State Area
15 Conference of the National Association for the
16 Advancement of Colored People, the NAACP, and also
17 chairman of the Washington State Commission on African
18 American Affairs.

19 And this is my second time coming before you, and
20 I'm very encouraged this morning.

21 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Excuse me, sir. Can you
22 just spell your name.

23 MR. EASON: Oh, it's O-s-c-a-r E-a-s-o-n, Jr.

24 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

25 MR. EASON: Thank you.

1 The last time I appeared before you, I was
2 encouraged by what I've heard. And, of course, you --
3 if you'll remember, what I was supporting is the Unity
4 Map, of which I think by now you're all familiar with
5 because several people spoke on it.

6 I think statistically about 25 percent of
7 everybody in the state of Washington being a person of
8 color is a contrast to what I think most of us who came
9 to Washington in the earlier days -- when I came to
10 Washington, we had less than 1 percent
11 African-American. So that, in fact, would be, I think,
12 a benchmark from what -- from where I base my
13 statement.

14 I think Martin Luther King, Jr., said at the time
15 in the 1950s when he was speaking about voting -- he
16 said blacks in the South are prohibited from voting;
17 blacks in the North have no reason to vote. And, of
18 course, what we are witnessing today and what we -- I
19 think what's being signified by this majority-minority
20 district, I think, is exemplary of what we have been
21 striving for for a long time here in the state of
22 Washington. We now, if, in fact, this is come to
23 fruition, we will have a minority-majority district.
24 And in that regards, I think what we're entitled to is,
25 in fact, a person of color being representative of that

1 particular district.

2 Now, if you look at the maps, I think there were
3 at least two of these maps that signified -- that did
4 show the majority-minority district in the south King
5 area or in the King area. That's good.

6 But if you look at the Unity Map, you'll see that
7 the configuration is basically similar. But we are
8 encouraged by that and hope that goes through in the
9 congressional district and hope that will be the
10 benchmark from where you at least start to make a -- or
11 establish a minority-majority district in the state of
12 Washington.

13 Thank you very much. The light's come on, and I
14 feel like I should congratulate you for your hard work.
15 And we really want to thank you for, you know, being at
16 the very forefront and being aware of the concerns of
17 the people of color in the state of Washington.

18 Thank you so very much.

19 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you for your
20 comments.

21 I would like to ask Reverend Robert Manaway to
22 come forward, please.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Aaron Williams.
24 I serve as the senior pastor of Mount Zion Baptist
25 Church, which is located in the 37th District.

1 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: will you please spell
2 your name.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: A-a-r-o-n w-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

4 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. First of all, I just
6 want to thank you for the tremendous amount of work
7 that each of you have done. I know that you have taken
8 a lot of the comments into consideration in how you
9 have laid out the map for redistricting.

10 Also, I notice as I looked at the map in terms of
11 the first majority-minority district, it was basically
12 identified in terms of Hispanics. And -- but I think
13 it's important that when you talk about minority-
14 majority, you must also underline that with African-
15 Americans, with East Africans, with Ethiopians, with
16 all people of color. I know that probably the Hispanic
17 population is on the rise, but I think that we should
18 also acknowledge African-Americans and other peoples of
19 color within that district, as well.

20 We see that some of the Commission's proposed maps
21 do take into account the growth of communities of
22 color. And we are cautiously optimistic that this is a
23 good starting point for the Commission to work with our
24 communities in the process.

25 I am optimistic. I really appreciate all of the

1 work that you've done, putting much thought into it.
2 But we will continue to shepherd the proposal through
3 this process as it moves toward the completion on
4 January 1st.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you for your
7 comments.

8 Okay. And I'd like just to remind people, after
9 you state your name initially and begin to testify,
10 just sort of spell it out so our court reporter gets
11 your name on the record appropriately.

12 And I would like to ask Ada Williams Prince to
13 come forward, please.

14 MR. MANAWAY: Good morning. Thank you so
15 much for allowing me this opportunity to greet the
16 Commission. And my name is Robert L. Manaway, Sr.
17 That's Manaway, M-a-n-a-w-a-y.

18 I am a resident of the City of Des Moines for 22
19 years. I have been the senior pastor of the Tabernacle
20 Missionary Baptist Church in the city of Seattle for 28
21 years, and I'm currently the president of the North
22 Pacific Baptist Convention, which deals with overseeing
23 the responsibility of approximately 28 congregations
24 from the Seattle area, Spokane, Yakima, Vancouver areas
25 of our state. So that's a very large constituent that

1 we -- that we represent in that -- in that capacity.

2 I am pleased for what I have heard today from the
3 commissioners and especially the emphasis of the
4 majority-minority. It is so important for me and our
5 communities and those who I represent that clear
6 information communicated about the Commissions'
7 adherence to or at least the invite and attention given
8 to those minority populations are communicated as such.

9 I came today with a completely different point of
10 view, not being present at many of the Commission
11 meetings. And today hearing for myself and seeing the
12 proposed maps gives me great hope. My encouragement
13 today with all the hard work that you've done is a
14 clear follow-through. I'd very much like to see the
15 continuation, especially as we get to the final drafts
16 of the redistricting, that those clearly represent what
17 we have stated today in principal.

18 Also, I would like to just say one word about
19 how -- the perceived representation of our
20 redistricting. For those of us who are minorities,
21 there are very few things that are perceived for us,
22 that are real for us. And I would like for the
23 Commission to really understand that the health, the
24 wellness, the poverty, all those issues for minorities,
25 are very real. And we would like to really have

1 representation from that standpoint.

2 I agree with everything that's been said by those
3 who spoke before me. My only hope for this commission
4 is that there is a sincere follow-through as we go
5 toward the drafting of that final draft and even more
6 determination of clearly communicating what this
7 commission is actually doing as it communicates back to
8 those communities, especially the majority-minority
9 communities.

10 Thank you so much for this opportunity.

11 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you for your
12 comments.

13 I would like to ask that Cherry Cayabayab come
14 forward, please.

15 Ms. Prince, you can start.

16 MS. WILLIAMS PRINCE: Hi. I've been with you
17 a couple times now, and so, glad to see you again. And
18 I'm here on behalf of One America.

19 Oh, wait. Sorry. I just forgot to introduce
20 myself. I'm Ada Williams Prince, and I'm here on
21 behalf of One America.

22 Do I need to spell that, or are you okay?

23 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Please just do it for
24 the -- the last name for the court reporter.

25 MS. WILLIAMS PRINCE: It's Prince, like

1 Prince Charles.

2 I'm here on behalf of One America and its members.
3 And I think you know now that One America is a
4 member-based organization and the largest immigrant
5 advocacy organization in the state. And our mission is
6 to advance the fundamental principals of democracy and
7 justice through building power in immigrant communities
8 in collaboration with key allies.

9 Our members are across the state and include
10 immigrants and allies from multiple communities,
11 including African, Latino, Asian, and many other
12 ethnicities. And what our members all share -- what
13 our members and allies all share, in spite of where
14 they come from or where they were born, is this deep
15 desire to participate in our democracy and to have
16 their interests represented.

17 We're proud that we have turned out real members
18 of real communities across the state to speak about
19 their priorities and how they can truly be involved in
20 shaping our communities and our democracies. We turned
21 out hundreds of people throughout the process at nearly
22 every state -- every single redistricting hearing. And
23 these are people who care deeply about our democracy
24 and want to make sure that they are not sidelined by an
25 arcane political process that ignores them.

1 Repeatedly our organization and its members have
2 shared the importance of creating a Unity Map provided
3 to the Commission by the United for Fair Representation
4 coalition.

5 And I just want to say thank you to those
6 commissioners who have listened to the voice of the
7 people and for all of your hard work, particularly
8 Commissioners Ceis and Huff, who -- for recognizing the
9 communities of interest, who have been historically
10 underrepresented in the political process. Some of the
11 maps reflected what we have said is essential and
12 reflect the shifts in demographics.

13 The reality is that with major issues impacting
14 our communities such as high rates of diabetes, low
15 birth-weight rates, and lack of maternal health,
16 closing the educational achievement gap, and other
17 things, these communities should be given the power to
18 influence whether or not elected officials feel
19 obligated to respond to the communities' needs and take
20 action.

21 So we're cautiously optimistic that the plans
22 recognize these communities of interest and that this
23 will survive a vote in the legislature this fall.
24 We'll be watching closely so that our communities won't
25 be used as a bargaining chip during negotiations. And

1 we're committed to working with all of you on that.

2 So thank you very much.

3 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

4 And I'd like to ask Yemane Gebremicael to come
5 forward, please.

6 MS. CAYABAYAB: Hello my name is Cherry
7 Cayabayab, Cherry, like the fruit, C-h-e-r-r-y,
8 Cayabayab, C-a-y-a-b-a-y-a-b. And I represent the
9 United for Fair Representation coalition, a coalition
10 of community leaders and organizations across the state
11 serving communities of color that have come together
12 through this 2011 redistricting process.

13 We are proud that we have educated and encouraged
14 our communities of interest to be involved in the 2011
15 redistricting process. We're excited that 500 Unity
16 Map supporters have attended and 150 have testified at
17 nearly every single redistricting forum around the
18 state. We have turned out diverse members of our
19 communities who care deeply about our democracy and
20 want to make sure that we're not sidelined by an often
21 inaccessible political process that often ignores them.

22 We appreciate the difficult work of the
23 commissioners and staff, who are giving their time and
24 expertise to such an important process and have been
25 present for these hearings around the state.

1 We see that most of the commissioners' proposed
2 maps do take into account the growth of communities of
3 color in Washington state over the last decade that was
4 concentrated primarily in King, Pierce, and Yakima
5 Counties. We appreciate and would like to thank in
6 particular the three commissioners that have proposed
7 Washington state's first-ever majority-minority
8 congressional district. And thank you for listening to
9 the voices of communities of color and Unity Map
10 supporters who have come out to these redistricting
11 forums and who have also submitted online public
12 comment.

13 We are cautiously optimistic that this is a good
14 starting point for the Commission to work with our
15 communities in this process. We will continue to
16 shepherd our proposal through this process as it moves
17 forward to completion on January 1st.

18 We're committed to continue working with the
19 commissioners and the legislature to make sure that
20 this redistricting process does not simply become the
21 same political process that regularly sidelines
22 communities of color and communities in need from
23 accessing services, participating in democracy, and
24 ensuring that all of our communities move forward
25 together.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

3 I would like to ask Steve Lindstrom to come
4 forward, please.

5 Sir, you can start whenever you'd like.

6 MR. GEBREMICAEL: Thank you very much. My
7 name is Yemane Gebremicael. My last name is spelled
8 G-e-b-r-e-m-i-c-a-e-l.

9 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: And why don't you spell
10 your first name for her just so she gets it.

11 MR. GEBREMICAEL: My first name is Yemane.
12 It's Y-e-m-a-n-e. Thank you.

13 Thank you very much.

14 This is my third time to come and testify before
15 this commission. And I want to say that I was a proud
16 American. I am a proud American. I came to this
17 country 18 years ago from Ethiopian. Today I feel
18 still more proud because of what I've heard today.

19 I, myself, and the people who I represent, the
20 East African community, organizations, and people, we
21 believe that you have taken our voices seriously. We
22 believe it still continue. We believe that this will
23 be properly instituted in everything that this state is
24 going to do in this legislature and everything
25 that's -- in making sure that people are included in

1 the democracy of this country are included in
2 everything that we do.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

5 I -- is Mr. Lindstrom here? Steve Lindstrom?

6 Okay. We do have a comment from online I would
7 like to read from Van Anderson of Packwood, Washington.
8 That's V-a-n and then A-n-d-e-r-s-o-n.

9 Mr. Anderson states:

10 "I have been studying the historic maps of
11 legislative districts available from the Secretary of
12 State's office and have noticed an anomaly that I
13 believe should be considered when moving forward, which
14 is that the Coulee Dam area does not seem to ever have
15 been unified in a single legislative district. This
16 area can simply" -- "be simply defined by the
17 boundaries of the Grand Coulee Dam School District and
18 the K-through-8" --

19 whoops. It just jumped on me. Excuse me.

20 -- "Nespelem School District, whose high schoolers
21 go to Grand Coulee Dam's Lake Roosevelt High School,
22 which spans four counties: Okanagan, Douglas, Grant,
23 and Lincoln Counties. The very small city of Coulee
24 Dam itself is in all but the Lincoln County. As you
25 move forward, this community is quite small. This" --

1 "this community is quite small with approximately 5500
2 people, but I believe its integrity should be respected
3 in moving forward."

4 Thank you for your comment, sir.

5 Okay. Unless Mr. Lindstrom has returned, those
6 are the only people that I have here that are signed
7 up.

8 would anybody else like to speak?

9 Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. LINCOLN: My name is Marianne Lincoln,
11 and it's M-a-r-i-a-n-n-e, Lincoln, like the obscure
12 president.

13 I am not testifying as a Bethel School Board
14 member, but I am. I'm just going to say that.

15 Excuse me.

16 A thought came to me as I'm listening to all these
17 people talk about the majority-minority district.
18 There's a lot of them, and they seem to be very well
19 organized. I also tend to lean toward the liberal side
20 or the progressives, and so I favor a lot of what they
21 believe in.

22 But I also feel that when you put all the horses
23 in the corral, the cows have the field to themselves.
24 And I don't believe it's a good idea to take a lot of
25 minority people, put them in one district, and dilute

1 every other district around them that may otherwise
2 have more progressives.

3 And I think that I want to remind them not to
4 shoot themselves in the foot doing that because I think
5 a large quantity of them tend to lean a certain
6 direction. And I just think if it's too
7 majority-minority, they hurt a lot of the rest of us
8 that also maybe lean in their favor and would
9 definitely vote for a minority representative to
10 represent us.

11 And I just felt very strongly compelled to say
12 those words based on some of the maps that I saw that
13 seem to give them what they want and hurt a lot of
14 areas around them.

15 I'm from the 2nd Legislative District. And I know
16 one way or the other we're going to be carved up one
17 side and down the other and put somewhere else. And
18 not looking forward to any of this.

19 But thank you.

20 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you for your
21 comment.

22 Anyone else like to make a comment?

23 Yes, sir.

24 MR. SMITH: Hi. My name is Zach Smith,
25 Z-a-c-h S-m-i-t-h.

1 I just wanted to make a point that I think that
2 constituencies are better served when the
3 representative doesn't have to look over their shoulder
4 a lot and say, "Hey, how are the voters going to judge
5 me on this issue when I take a vote or other?" In
6 other words, when we have districts that are solid with
7 one constituency, we have better representation rather
8 than so-called swing districts, where the populations
9 are split or the districts are split between one
10 viewpoint on issues and another.

11 And I just think our government would work of
12 better if we have elected officials that didn't always
13 have to look over their shoulders.

14 That's it.

15 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. Thank you.

16 We did have one question.

17 You can come forward, sir, if you like.

18 We did have one question raised, and while it
19 was -- well, Gen answered it. I just wanted to make
20 sure everyone understands. I think it's a very good
21 question. The question is:

22 "Hello. I heard a statement that the maps will be
23 on the website by 2:00 p.m. They were hard to see live
24 on" -- "on live stream. And when can we submit
25 testimony via e-mail?"

1 And I just -- just so everybody knows, the maps
2 will be up there on a Maps page off of our website, and
3 you'll have the opportunity to both go on to map and
4 testify on individual maps. Or if you have some
5 general comments, there'll be an opportunity that says
6 "Send general comments to the chair." And all of
7 these -- all of these comments will be all part of the
8 testimony that will be, you know, considered and
9 archived.

10 Sir, please.

11 MR. WEBSTER: Thank you. My name is Wallace,
12 w-a-l-l-a-c-e, Webster, w-e-b-s-t-e-r.

13 And I also want to thank this commission for your
14 insights into the need for the majority-minority
15 district. We have been a -- the people of color in
16 this state, which I have been a part of for probably
17 49, almost 49 years, we have not had a foot to shoot in
18 our time here.

19 And I know Commissioner Gorton knows what happens
20 when people feel like they are not part of a system.
21 I'm sure he understands Syria, I'm sure he understands
22 the people of Egypt, and he understands the people of
23 Libya and what -- how they felt about their government
24 because of a lack of the ability to participate.

25 And what you are doing here today is providing

1 hope for people who have been left out, people who have
2 not had the opportunity to have the vote, to
3 participate in the government of this state. And I
4 want to encourage you to do what you're doing --
5 continue doing what you're doing simply because when
6 you have hope, you have aspiration. And when you have
7 hope, you believe. And when you believe, you
8 participate.

9 And that's what this -- that's what this state
10 needs, is not people who are feeling left out and feel
11 that they have no ability to influence our government
12 but who feel that they can participate and encourage
13 our government to do the right thing for all people of
14 this state.

15 And so I want to congratulate you for your
16 insight, congratulate you for your sensitivity to the
17 needs of this state and the citizens of this state.
18 And please let the final map reflect what we have heard
19 here today.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you.

22 We also have an online comment from Arianne Garden
23 Vazquez, and that's spelled A-r-i-a-n-n-e middle name
24 Garden, G-a-r-d-e-n, and then Vazquez, V-a-z-q-u-e-z.
25 And the comment is:

1 "Delighted that real people's voices are taken
2 into consideration. Commissioners not just about
3 drawing maps but community futures. The fact that
4 three out of four commissioners recognize the need for
5 majority- minority congressional districts speaks to me
6 the fact that democracy works, people's voices can be
7 listened to, and the policies that address real needs
8 and disparities in the community of color today."

9 Okay. Does anybody else want to make any comment?

10 Okay. Hearing none, I'd like just make a few
11 final summary wrap-ups.

12 I'd just like to mention the media, we're going to
13 take a break for a little bit, and the media advisory
14 will convene at 11:45 here in this room. Maps are
15 available in Rooms A, B, and C and will be available
16 there all afternoon.

17 As I mentioned just a few minutes ago, our maps
18 will be up live on the website, and they will be
19 interactive so you can work with them by 2:00 p.m.
20 today.

21 And again just to remind you, our comment period
22 runs for the entire month between now and our next
23 commission meeting, which will be on the 11th of
24 October, where you'll have an opportunity to comment in
25 person, online, as people have been doing today, and by

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telephone.

So please -- please keep looking at the maps and sending your thoughts in. We appreciate all of your participation.

I call this meeting adjourned.

(Proceedings concluded at 11:22 a.m.)

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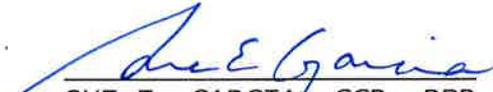
C E R T I F I C A T E

I, SUE E. GARCIA, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, residing at Tacoma, authorized to administer oaths and affirmations pursuant to RCW 5.28.010, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the 13th of September, 2011, and thereafter transcribed by me by means of computer-aided transcription, that the transcript is a full, true, and complete transcript of said proceedings;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any party to this action or relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and I am not financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this September 28, 2011.


SUE E. GARCIA, CCR, RPR
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