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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 29th of November, 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 December 3, 2011.

  
SUE E. GARCIA, CCR, RPR  
WA Lic. No. 2781

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WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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SPECIAL MEETING

November 29, 2011

Cherberg Building  
Olympia, Washington

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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

NOTE: (As read) - paraphrased quote  
(Indiscernible) = words heard but not understood  
(phonetic) = phonetic spelling of name

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, November 29, 2011,  
2 at 10:31 a.m., at 304 15th Avenue, Olympia, Washington,  
3 the following proceedings were had, to wit:

4  
5 \* \* \* \* \*

6  
7 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Good morning and welcome  
8 to this meeting of the Washington State Redistricting  
9 Commission. I am Lura Powell, and I'm chair of the  
10 Commission. And I'd like to go around the dais and  
11 have people introduce themselves and affiliations.

12 MS. BUNNING: My name is Bonnie Bunning, and  
13 I'm the executive director for the Commission.

14 COMM. FOSTER: I'm Dean Foster. I represent  
15 the House Democratic caucus.

16 COMM. HUFF: Hi, I'm Tom Huff, and I  
17 represent the Republican House caucus.

18 MS. O'SULLIVAN: Genevieve O'Sullivan,  
19 communications director.

20 COMM. GORTON: Slade Gorton appointed by the  
21 Republican Senate.

22 MR. CEIS: Tim Ceis representing the Senate  
23 Democrats.

24 MR. FALLIS: Rusty Fallis with the Attorney  
25 General's Office. I'm general counsel to the

1 Commission.

2 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. Thank you.

3 Our agenda item today is all about the  
4 redistricting plans. So as I think many of you know,  
5 we have been -- we split into Republican and Democrat  
6 teams and -- to work on various districts on the west  
7 side of the mountains.

8 And I'd like now to ask for subcommittee reports.  
9 And I think the last time we started out with our  
10 Senate team, so why don't we start with the House team  
11 this time.

12 COMM. FOSTER: We -- since last Tuesday,  
13 which I think we last had a public meeting, Tom and I  
14 have met three or four times. We met over the weekend.  
15 And we are still exchanging plans and maps and ideas  
16 and talking about -- generally our assignment is north  
17 of Oregon, the Oregon boarder on the west side of  
18 Washington up to -- up to the Straits of Juan de Fuca,  
19 including Olympia. So we're exchanging maps and  
20 talking about that area and continue to make progress.  
21 But we're not there yet.

22 COMM. HUFF: Well, there's no question when  
23 you -- when you look at the various plans, starting  
24 with our initial plans and then the -- the -- R plans  
25 and D plans and you get down to working out the

1 numbers, it's -- it's an interesting exercise, and we  
2 particularly went into some areas that are very, very  
3 difficult to resolve. And that's where we're at right  
4 now. And hopefully we'll be able to make more  
5 progress.

6 I think up to this point we've had nominal  
7 progress, but there are certain areas that certainly  
8 are in need of fixing and hopefully soon because today  
9 is almost the end of November and December's right  
10 around the corner. And so I hope we continue making  
11 progress, as Dean has reported. Thanks.

12 COMM. FOSTER: Let me just add to that that  
13 it's more convenient for -- well, Tom has a 100-mile  
14 drive to come here round trip. Our staff, Seattle, and  
15 they come here. And so I appreciate the fact that they  
16 do that. And part of the reason is because we have  
17 more equipment here and can do more stuff. So it's --  
18 it's more difficult for him. It's easier for me since  
19 I live here. But to meet in a restaurant or something  
20 like that probably halfway to Tacoma doesn't provide us  
21 a lot of ability to do a lot of work. So I thank him  
22 for that.

23 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. Senate team?

24 COMM. GORTON: On the informal basis that was  
25 decided a couple meetings ago, Tim Ceis and I have

1 taken on the task of the west side of the state of  
2 Washington east of the Puget Sound from the King-Pierce  
3 County line north to Canada. I think -- I'm pretty  
4 sure we either met or talked every day last week,  
5 except Thanksgiving.

6 MR. CEIS: Uh-huh.

7 COMM. GORTON: And I think both of us had  
8 hoped by this time we would have at least a proposal,  
9 but we don't. We're at an impasse. It's not huge from  
10 the point of view of numbers and shapes, but it's  
11 very -- at this point it's very, very real. And we'll  
12 keep on seeing whether or not we can make progress.

13 MR. CEIS: Yeah. I think that's accurate.  
14 The -- and I think it's safe to say, as you narrow down  
15 to fewer and fewer districts, the choices get harder  
16 and harder.

17 COMM. GORTON: Get tougher and tougher.

18 MR. CEIS: And the compromise gets more  
19 challenging, and we're at that point. And I think  
20 maybe "impasse" is too strong of a word. But it's  
21 certainly -- we've identified our areas of  
22 disagreement, and we have to find a way to resolve  
23 those.

24 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. I guess what I  
25 would like to do is see if there are -- if you have any

1 feel for sort of the process going forward and maybe a  
2 timeline given that we basically have just barely over  
3 a month left before we need to wrap this up.

4 COMM. HUFF: well, I will say this: we're  
5 going to continue making every effort. we're -- for  
6 instance, Foster and myself are meeting again right  
7 after this meeting here. we've sort of come up with  
8 some new proposals to see if we can work around some of  
9 the edges. And so that's going to be our venue, as I  
10 see it.

11 Certainly I think we're -- I'm certainly anxious  
12 to get this process out of the way; my wife just had  
13 knee surgery, and so she needs attention. But we're --  
14 I just hope we continue making more progress and --  
15 rather than sort of sliding sideways and backwards and  
16 so forth.

17 And I -- I guess it will about boil down to us  
18 putting our shoulders to the wheel and continuing to do  
19 that. And somewhere along we'll make more progress  
20 than we have. And unfortunately at this point we -- I  
21 think we've had some really good progress. But when  
22 it's all said and done, it's probably in the nominal  
23 area, and that's what we're dealing with.

24 So to answer your question, we're going to  
25 continue working at it. I don't know what else to tell

1       you.

2                   COMM. FOSTER: I don't have any specific  
3       proposals. We keep talking. We take two steps  
4       forward. Sometimes we go back one. Sometimes we go  
5       back two. But it's not a discouraging situation we're  
6       in. We have some differences of opinion, and we draw  
7       maps, and we articulate those. And I don't think  
8       changing this process at this point would be any help  
9       at all.

10                So from that point of view, we'll be here next  
11       week, and we'll see what happens between now and next  
12       Tuesday.

13                   CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Any other thoughts?

14                Okay. I mean, I realize you guys are all working  
15       hard. And, Dean, I know you -- you've been through  
16       this before, so you probably -- you know, you've seen  
17       the process, and you do end up --

18                I just hope we can end it all up before January 1  
19       just so, you know, people have a chance to check. But  
20       sounds like you all are devoted to pushing forward as  
21       quickly as possible.

22                   COMM. FOSTER: My guess is we've already had  
23       two or three times as many meetings in our small  
24       groups --

25                   CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay.

1                   COMM. FOSTER: -- than we had last time. I  
2                   don't know that for a fact. But I do think it's just a  
3                   matter of continuing to talk.

4                   And let me assure everybody that we're all mindful  
5                   of the January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

6                   CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Oh, I'm sure you are.

7                   MR. CEIS: Very.

8                   COMM. GORTON: That's the signal.

9                   CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Okay. Are there any  
10                  other comments that anyone wants to make before we go  
11                  into public comment?

12                  Okay. We're -- do we have anyone signed up for  
13                  public comment?

14                  Okay. They'll be bringing the forms forward. And  
15                  just to let you all know, when you do come up to the  
16                  table, please make sure you both state and spell your  
17                  name so -- because we are having transcription done.

18                  So it looks like Doug Roulstone. Doug, is that  
19                  right?

20                  MR. ROULSTONE: Yes, ma'am.

21                  Doug Roulstone, D-o-u-g R-o-u-l-s-t-o-n-e, from  
22                  Snohomish County, citizen.

23                  Given the challenge that you're having with  
24                  developing these legislative district plans, and given  
25                  fact that the legislature is now in session and

1 incumbents are prevented from campaigning and raising  
2 funds and such and conducting campaign operations while  
3 they're in session, and given the challengers to these  
4 incumbents aren't so encumbered and so they have an  
5 undue advantage over the incumbents that are in session  
6 now, and given the fact that it might be a good idea to  
7 look at something fresh, I recommend that the  
8 Commission consider focusing on the congressional  
9 redistricting plan.

10 All the congressional candidates desire to have  
11 their districts clearly defined. And fund-raising is  
12 much more difficult for congressional candidates,  
13 particularly if they don't know what their district  
14 lines are. Also, congressional candidates have to  
15 raise normally considerably more funds than do  
16 legislative candidates.

17 And it just so seems that, given that there seems  
18 to be somewhat of a stalemate here, that maybe looking  
19 at things fresh and taking the approach maybe that you  
20 did with the with legislative plans and coming up with  
21 one Republican plan and one Democrat plan and then  
22 working those plans, that maybe the congressional  
23 district plans will happen faster. And they still have  
24 to happen by 1 January.

25 So my recommendation, given watching this process

1 and -- it seems to be kind of stalled. I'm a Navy  
2 pilot, so, you know, we don't like stalls; they lead to  
3 crashes. So I recommend that the Commission would  
4 consider going to the congressional plans, and maybe  
5 they can get them through, and having solved that  
6 problem, maybe the legislative district plans would  
7 come a little bit faster.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Thank you for your  
10 comment.

11 MR. ROULSTONE: Any questions? No?

12 CHAIRWOMAN POWELL: Are there any other --  
13 that's the only person signed up. So does anyone else  
14 want to make any comments?

15 And I don't see anyone online, Gen, unless I've  
16 overlooked something.

17 So is there any other business to come before the  
18 Commission today?

19 Okay. Hearing none, we're adjourned, and we'll be  
20 back next Tuesday.

21 (Proceedings concluded at 10:42 a.m.)  
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24  
25