

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Date:	03/03/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time:	06:03 PM to 08:47 PM	Brophy X
Place:	Jefferson County Administration and Courts Facility	Carroll X
		Coram X
		Nikkel E
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Representative Balmer</u>		Pabon X
		Scheffel X
		Schwartz X
		Vigil X
This Report was prepared by <u>Hillary Smith</u>		Balmer X
		Heath X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Golden Public Hearing	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

06:03 PM -- Golden Public Hearing

Representative Balmer, co-chair, called the meeting to order. The committee said the Pledge of Allegiance. Representative Balmer spoke about the mission of the committee and provided an overview of the schedule of public hearings. He said that the committee is charged with completing the redistricting plan by the end of the legislative session. The members of the committee introduced themselves.

06:05 PM

Senator Heath, co-chair, made introductory remarks. He spoke about the significance of public testimony to the redistricting process. Representative Balmer encouraged the members of the public to e-mail the CongRedist2011@state.co.us e-mail account. He introduced Senator Cheri Jahn, who was present at the hearing.

06:08 PM

Tom Morris, Office of Legislative Legal Services, provided a brief overview of the redistricting process. He drew a distinction between congressional redistricting and state House and Senate redistricting. He summarized the federal legal requirements of redistricting, explaining that the population of each district must be as nearly as equal as practicable. Mr. Morris spoke about the requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act. He then discussed other factors of redistricting that have been considered in the past, such as local boundaries (municipal and county), compactness and contiguity, and communities of interest. He said that public testimony is particularly important for defining communities of interest. He posed several questions for witnesses to address in their testimony concerning communities of interest.

06:13 PM

Representative Balmer explained how witness testimony would proceed. He introduced Senator Jeanne Nicholson, Senator Betty Boyd, Representative Max Tyler, and Representative Ken Summers, who were present at the hearing.

The following individuals testified:

06:14 PM -- Lakewood Mayor Bob Murphy, representing himself, described the community of Lakewood. He spoke about recent federal actions that he says solidify Lakewood's identity as a community of interest. Mayor Murphy stressed the importance of keeping the city of Lakewood intact in one district, Congressional District 7. Mayor Murphy then read a letter from a doctor who practices in Congressional District 7 and who is pleased with the competitiveness of the district. Mayor Murphy responded to questions from the committee. Senator Heath asked where Congressional District 7 should gain population. Mayor Murphy spoke about the challenges of aging infrastructure and housing stock. He spoke about what he termed to be the urban challenges of the future.

06:21 PM -- Dr. Flo Raitano, representing herself as a resident of Dillon, spoke about Congressional District 2. She described a community of interest along Interstate-70, including Jefferson, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Summit, and Eagle Counties. She expressed the opinion that I-70 is a pipeline for the major economy of tourism within these counties. She asked the committee to keep this corridor whole as a community of economic interest. Senator Schwartz and Dr. Raitano discussed how Eagle County fits into the I-70 corridor that Dr. Raitano described. Senator Carroll asked Dr. Raitano to suggest areas where Congressional District 2 might lose population. Dr. Raitano expressed the view that Grand County identifies more closely with Routt, Rio Blanco, and Moffat Counties. She said that the cities of Winter Park and Fraser are the exceptions as they are part of the ski tourism economy. Representative Pabon asked Dr. Raitano to address the water connections among Dillon, Summit County, and the Front Range.

06:31 PM -- Dick Bryant, representing himself as a resident of Lakewood, spoke about the community of Lakewood. He said that Lakewood should be treated as a complete entity, regardless of which district the city is in. Senator Schwartz noted that Jefferson County is divided up among various districts, she asked Mr. Bryant to suggest where Congressional District 7 should pick up additional population. Mr. Bryant asked why Jefferson County hasn't been entirely in one district. He expressed his opinion that the "horseshoe" shape of Congressional District 7 does not make sense. He suggested including Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties in Congressional District 7, agreeing with previous testimony that the I-70 corridor is an ideal community of interest.

06:35 PM -- Char Horbatko, representing herself as a resident of Lakewood, asked how the districts can be equalized when there are colleges, multi-family dwellings, and single-family households to take into account. Senator Carroll noted that other witnesses have discussed college areas as important communities of interest.

06:37 PM -- Dan Lynch, representing himself as a resident of Lakewood, spoke about redistricting principles and how they relate to the current appearance of Congressional District 7. He urged the committee to entirely redraw the district. He expressed his shock that Jefferson County is split among so many districts. He asked the committee to consider placing Jefferson County entirely into one district. Mr. Lynch responded to questions from the committee. Representative Pabon asked whether it was more important to preserve county lines or to preserve municipal boundaries. Representative Balmer summarized information he has been told about the current Congressional District 7. According to this information, the district was drawn in an attempt to join Lakewood and Aurora, two "collar cities" (cities that are right up against the Denver metro area), and in an attempt to make the district politically competitive. Mr. Lynch expressed the belief that Congressional District 7 as currently drawn does not make sense.

06:45 PM

Representative Balmer shared further comments concerning the goal and process of the committee.

06:45 PM -- Professor John Dorgan, representing himself as a resident of Golden, said that the current boundaries of Congressional District 7 makes sense for his work in bioscience. He related the story of his friend, Pat Gruber, the Chief Executive Officer of Gevo, Inc., a biofuel company based in Englewood. He spoke about the importance of the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) to Congressional District 7. He said that Colorado School of Mines should not be separated from NREL. He recommended the book *Made in America*, which emphasizes the importance of manufacturing jobs. Professor Dorgan then described the importance of fuel cells to the economy. He also spoke about the Anschutz Medical Campus and Coors Ceramics.

06:52 PM

Representative Balmer introduced Representative Cheri Gerou and former Senator Ken Gordon, who were present at the hearing. Senator Heath commented on Professor Dorgan's testimony. Representative Pabon asked for other examples of connections among cities and organizations in Congressional District 7.

06:54 PM -- Commerce City Council Member Jim Benson, representing himself as a resident of Congressional District 7, stated that he wants Congressman Perlmutter to remain his representative. He expressed the belief that his constituents feel the same. He said that he has heard a rumor that Commerce City would be added to Congressional District 1. He expressed his opinion that Congressional District 7 should expand to make Adams County whole. Councilman Benson made several suggestions for ways to adjust Congressional Districts 1 and 7. He declared that Commerce City's interest lies with Adams County, not with Denver County. He referred to previous comments about the shape of the district, remarking that part of its shape results from Denver International Airport. He expressed his belief that the shape does not hurt the commonality of the cities within the district. Representative Balmer asked whether the I-270 corridor would form a community of interest. Senator Schwartz asked if residents of Commerce City identify with all of Adams County, or just with the urban portion. Councilman Benson spoke about common interests with Brighton, Thornton, and Northglenn. Representative Balmer spoke about a state House district that includes the rural part of eastern Adams County; he asked if that portion of Adams County could be put into Congressional District 4.

07:02 PM -- Jerry Harrison, representing himself, asked the committee to draw boundaries that are squares, rather than boundaries that go around communities of interest. He suggested that this would be a way to address polarization in Congress. He expressed the opinion that safe districts create the recipe for polarization.

07:05 PM -- Benjamin Engen, representing himself, noted that Jefferson County is split among four congressional districts. He expressed his hope that more of Jefferson County would be put into Congressional District 7. He also asked that Arvada be put into a single district.

07:08 PM -- Kyle Giddings, representing himself as a resident of Arvada, spoke about the identity of Congressional District 7 as a competitive district. He expressed his opinion that competitive districts encourage young people to become active in politics. Representative Pabon asked Mr. Giddings for statistics concerning the youth participation in elections in Congressional District 7. Representative Balmer asked Mr. Giddings where Congressional District 7 should expand in order to gain population and in order to become competitive. Mr. Giddings suggested extending the district south into Congressional District 6 to get Republicans and north in Jefferson County to get Democrats. He spoke about the possibility of extending into Littleton. Mr. Giddings responded to further questions from Representative Pabon concerning which district Arvada should be in.

07:13 PM -- Commerce City Mayor Paul Natale, representing himself, spoke about Congressional District 7. He expressed the opinion that Commerce City is not like Denver, and the two cities do not belong in the same district. He said that Commerce City needs to be in a thriving district. He agreed with previous testimony that it is very easy to work in the green economy in Congressional District 7. He expressed concern that Commerce City would be forgotten if it were to be put in Congressional District 1. He described growth in Bennett. Representative Balmer spoke about parts of Commerce City that abut Denver.

07:20 PM -- Amy Attwood, representing herself as a resident of Jefferson County, spoke about the C-470 Corridor. She spoke about the community of Jefferson County. She expressed her hope that all of Jefferson County would be placed in Congressional District 7. Representative Balmer asked where to remove population if all of Jefferson County were placed into Congressional District 7. Ms. Attwood suggested keeping Jefferson County with Adams County and moving Aurora out of the district. She added that this plan would keep Commerce City in Congressional District 7.

07:23 PM -- John Crone, representing himself as a resident of Dillon, said that the people of Colorado would be best served if there were a few safe districts and a few competitive ones. Mr. Crone spoke about various issues important to Summit County and to Eagle County.

07:27 PM -- Phyllis Taylor, representing herself as a resident of Wheat Ridge, spoke about that community. She expressed the opinion that Wheat Ridge should continue to be kept intact in the same district.

07:29 PM -- Doug Schroeder, representing himself, suggested that the new boundaries be built on the existing boundaries for Congressional Districts 3, 4, and 5. He expressed the view that it is important to preserve the rural nature of Congressional Districts 3 and 4. He spoke about communities of interest outside of the Denver metro area. He suggested expanding Congressional District 7 west, and having Congressional District 1 reach from the southwest corner of Denver into southern Jefferson County to take population out of Congressional District 6. Mr. Schroeder responded to a question from Representative Balmer concerning whether a community of interest exists between Commerce City and Northglenn. Mr. Schroeder stated that Westminster should not be split.

07:34 PM -- Keith Dameron, representing himself as a resident of Lakewood, echoed Mayor Murphy's comments that Lakewood should stay together. He remarked that Aurora is currently split between two districts. He suggested that Congressional District 7 expand to the west to include northern and central Jefferson County. He expressed his hope that Congressional Districts 3, 4, and 7 would stay competitive. Senator Schwartz asked for clarification regarding Mr. Dameron's suggestions for Aurora. Mr. Dameron spoke about the possibility of putting all of Arapahoe County, including Aurora, into Congressional District 6.

07:40 PM

Representative Balmer indicated that Senator Heath would chair for the remainder of the hearing.

07:41 PM -- Keith Grebe, representing himself as a resident of Lakewood, expressed his hope that Jefferson County would be put into one district. He expressed the view that Lakewood should be in one district also. He referred to Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, stating that the committee should not define districts by race. He expressed his disapproval with the current boundaries of Congressional District 7. He proposed putting Jefferson and Gilpin in the same district, and suggested other counties to include in this district. He said that Congressional District 6 could move to the northeast, and Congressional District 1 could expand to include population in Aurora.

07:45 PM -- Walt Johnson, representing himself, expressed his opinion that Golden and Commerce City do not have much in common. He said that Congressional District 7 should be made more compact.

07:46 PM -- Commerce City Councilman Rene Bullock, representing himself, agreed with previous testimony that Westminster, Arvada, and Aurora should be added to Congressional District 7. He expressed the opinion that Commerce City should stay in Congressional District 7 and should not be put in the same district as Denver.

07:48 PM -- Richard Seymour, representing himself as a resident of Westminster, stated that northern Jefferson County should be moved into Congressional District 7.

07:49 PM -- Clark Bolser, representing Adams County, spoke about growth in Adams County. He noted that Adams County is currently split among three districts. He expressed concerns that minorities be given an opportunity to elect representatives. He suggested that putting the southern boundary of Adams County into Congressional District 1 with Denver may give minorities an opportunity to elect minority candidates. Mr. Bolser responded to follow-up questions from Representative Balmer.

07:53 PM -- Clear Creek County Commissioner Tim Mauck, representing himself, requested that Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties remain in the same district, and that the district include some Front Range communities. He said that the economies of those counties are inextricably linked with the Front Range. He continued to describe shared interests between Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties. He spoke about the I-70 corridor and the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG).

07:57 PM -- Mario Nicolais, representing himself as a Lakewood resident, asked the committee to unite Jefferson County into one district. He spoke about ways in which Jefferson County and Aurora are split. He expressed the opinion that a district that unites Jefferson County would best represent the interests of the residents of that county.

07:59 PM -- Wheat Ridge City Councilwoman Joyce Jay, representing herself, asked that the boundaries of Wheat Ridge be kept within one district.

08:01 PM -- Jerry Roach, representing himself as a resident of Wheat Ridge, stated that he identifies with all of Jefferson County. He expressed his hope that Jefferson County be unified into one district. He believes that Jefferson County is already split evenly among Democrats, Republicans, and Unaffiliated voters.

08:03 PM -- Donald Ytterberg, representing himself, expressed his belief that districts should not cross the continental divide. He spoke about different interests on either side of the divide. He briefly summarized some statistics concerning Jefferson County. He suggested that the voters of the county are overburdened trying to sort out who it is that represents them. Mr. Ytterberg urged the committee to consider combining Jefferson County into one district. He agreed that the counties on the east of the Continental Divide have much more in common with Jefferson County than counties west of the Continental Divide. He then moved on to a discussion of business communities within Jefferson County.

08:07 PM -- Jeff Orrok, representing himself as a resident of Aurora, distributed a page with four diagrams to the committee (Attachment A). He spoke about the influence of special interests on redistricting. He expressed his belief that the most important community of interest is the taxpayer. He spoke about the possibility of having at-large congressional seats. He expressed the opinion that every district should be competitive. Mr. Orrok referred to his diagrams, which are based on a computer-generated model that uses the shortest possible line to obtain the necessary divisions within the state. He conceded that the lines may need to be adjusted to fit precinct lines. He suggested that a different computer model be used to redistrict every ten years. He said that everyone lives in a global community, regardless of the district in which they live. He spoke about the integration of the economy. He suggested that trying to compartmentalize things does not make sense anymore. Senator Carroll thanked Mr. Orrok for his work.

08:14 PM -- Guillermo Serna, representing himself, described the history of Congressional District 7. He spoke about the need to improve educational values for children. He addressed the interests of minorities. He expressed his hope that Commerce City would stay in Congressional District 7. He commented on the area around the North Platte River up to Brighton. He expressed the opinion that the current map gives representation to Adams and Pueblo County. He said that the only thing Commerce City has in common with Denver is I-70. He expressed the hope that Thornton, Northglenn, and Brighton could be added to Congressional District 7. Mr. Serna responded to follow-up questions from Representative Pabon.

08:24 PM -- Jefferson County Treasurer Tim Kauffman, representing himself, spoke about Jefferson County as a community of interest. Senator Carroll asked for clarification concerning Mr. Kauffman's comments. She then asked for his thoughts on whether it is acceptable to split city boundaries in order to keep Jefferson County in one district.

08:28 PM -- Commerce City Councilman Dominick Moreno, representing himself, agreed with Mayor Natale that Commerce City should stay in Congressional District 7. He expressed his belief that Commerce City helps keep the district competitive, and he described the benefits of competitive districts. He spoke about the district's interests in energy. He stated that people in urban and suburban areas identify more with their city than with their county. Councilman Moreno then addressed the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge. He stated that Commerce City remains independent of Denver, and expressed the opinion that the city would lose its voice if it were to be put in Congressional District 1. He said that Brighton and Commerce City should be in the same district, and that Commerce City is best served by being in Congressional District 7.

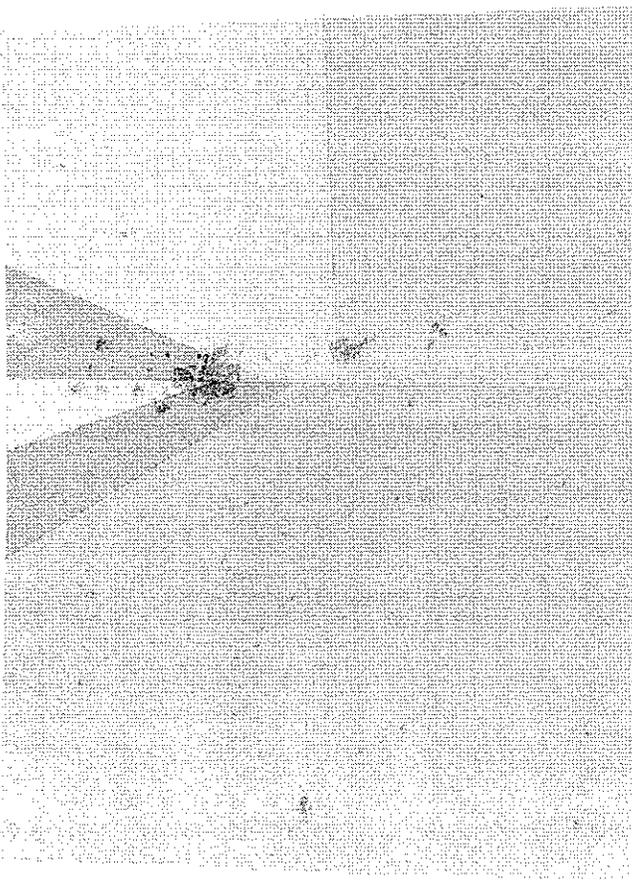
08:34 PM -- Former State Senator Ken Gordon, representing himself, spoke about legislative actions concerning redistricting that occurred in 2003. He expressed the view that various groups have selfish reasons for wanting to draw the boundaries in certain ways. He referred to previous comments concerning competitive districts, stating that this is the best way to ensure that everyone is heard. Senator Gordon stated that legislators from competitive districts are more likely to be responsive to the needs of their constituents. He asked the members to not try to seek a political advantage for their party. He said that a representative from Congress should have the same amount of influence over this process as anyone else. Senator Gordon responded to comments from Senator Schwartz regarding keeping communities whole. He said that while it is convenient for political subdivisions to be kept together, people who ask for that want their voices to be heard in Congress; it is his opinion that the best way for people's voices to be heard is for them to be in competitive districts.

08:41 PM -- Scott Spendlove, representing himself, distributed a handout to the members of the committee (Attachment B). He explained that the handout represents a draft plan for redistricting. He walked the committee through the details of his plan. He expressed his opinion that the residents of the three competitive districts in Colorado have benefitted from being in competitive districts.

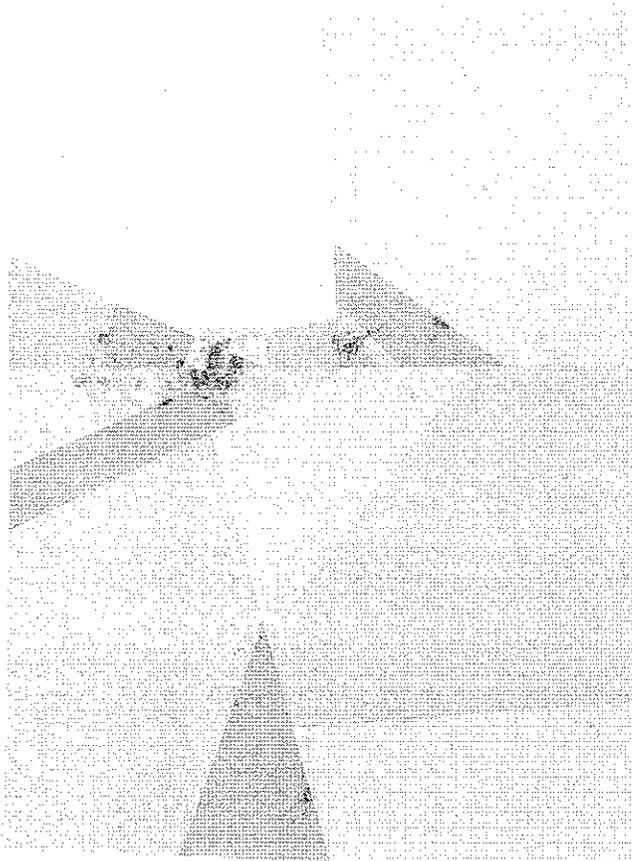
08:45 PM -- Joyce Thomas, representing herself as a resident of Federal Heights, addressed the question of whether Federal Heights should be moved to Congressional District 1. She said that she sees no connection between Federal Heights and Denver, though she would not object to being put in Congressional District 7. Senator Carroll remarked on Ms. Thomas' testimony

08:47 PM

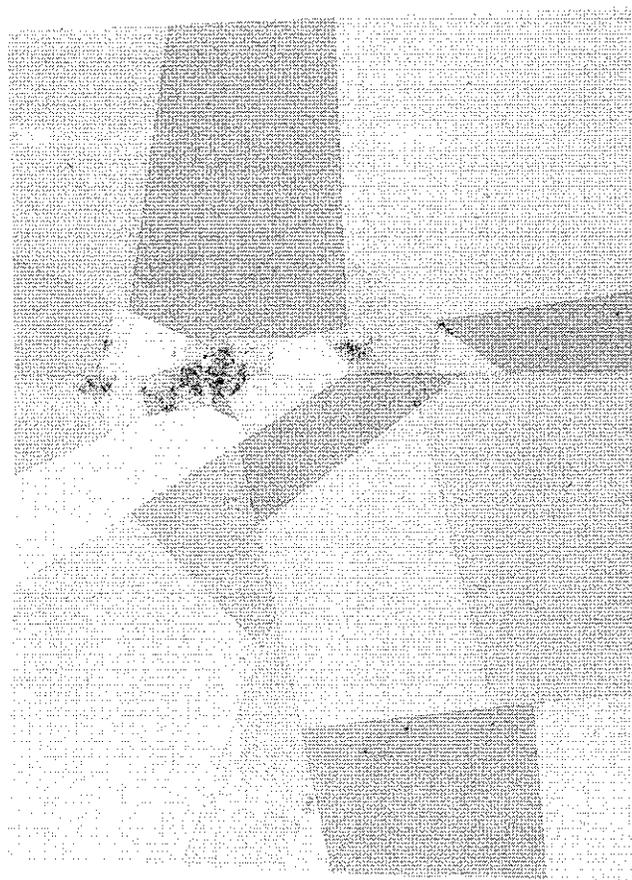
Senator Heath closed public testimony. He thanked everyone for attending. The committee adjourned.



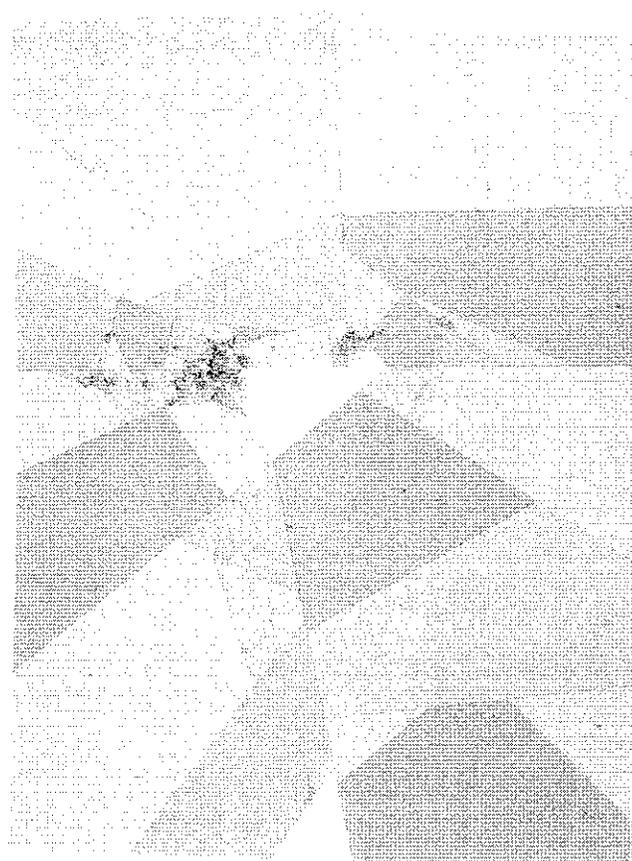
Congressional Districts (7)



State Senate Districts (35)



State House Districts (65)



Unicameral Assembly (100)

Scott Spendlove
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Although I am a registered lobbyist, I am not here tonight representing anyone other than myself, and am here simply as a private citizen.

How I came up with my ideas listed below-I support more competitive districts, more compactness, and less splitting of cities and counties. If Counties must be split, they should not be split into more than two districts. Splits should be along some justifiable or rational line, such as urban versus rural portions of counties. Counties that have historical ties and interests should be reunited with like counties. As an example, my in-laws come from Chaffee County-Chaffee County has much more of an affinity with the Western Slope and the 3rd Congressional District than with the interests of the El Paso County centered 5th Congressional District.

I also believe that Jefferson County has sufficient population that it should be made whole, instead of having portions in multiple congressional districts. During my time living in Jefferson County, I have been a resident of the 6th, 7th, and 2nd Congressional districts.

These are just rough ideas, as the only resource I used was about 20 minutes looking at the 'Over/Under' map on your website, attempting to roughly balance population. I have not looked at any demographic or party registration information.

CD 1-lose Jefferson County portion. Add southern and southwestern/Urban Adams County from CD 7 and CD 2

CD 2-lose Grand, Summit, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Eagle counties to CD 3. Add the rest of Boulder County. Lose Jefferson and Adams County portions. Add Larimer County from CD 4.

CD 3-add Lake, Park, Chaffee, Teller Counties from CD 5. Add Eagle, Summit, Gilpin, Grand and Clear Creek counties from CD 2. Lose Pueblo to CD5, Otero and Las Animas counties to CD 4.

CD 4-add Eastern/rural Arapahoe from CD 7. Add Otero and Las Animas Counties from CD 3. Add eastern/rural Elbert county from CD 6

CD 5-lose Lake, Chaffee, Teller, Park and Fremont counties to CD 3. Add Pueblo County from CD 3.

CD 6-lose rural Elbert county to CD 4. Lose Jefferson County portion to CD 7 Add Arapahoe County portion of CD 7

CD 7-lose Adams and Arapahoe counties to CD 4 and 6. Gain all Jefferson County portions from CD 2 and 6.

In conclusion, I think districts drawn with these parameters would be more competitive, compact, and return several counties that have similar interests to a more natural alignment. Colorado has benefitted by having three competitive districts already; with all due respect to the incumbents, it would be beneficial for the residents of all seven districts to have competitive races and real choices.