

**Final**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Date:	03/12/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time:	<b>02:30 PM to 04:39 PM</b>	Brophy X
Place:	Pueblo County Conference Room	Carroll X
		Coram X
		Nikkel X
This Meeting was called to order by		Pabon X
<u>Senator Heath</u>		Scheffel X
		Schwartz X
This Report was prepared by		Vigil X
<u>Kurt Morrison</u>		Balmer X
		Heath X

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

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

**02:34 PM -- Pueblo Public Hearing**

Senator Heath called the meeting to order. All committee members were present. Senator Heath asked the committee members to introduce themselves to the audience. Senator Heath provided some background about the creation of the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting. Ms. Brita Darling, Office of Legislative Legal Services, provided background information regarding redistricting law. Specific laws were discussed regarding minority representation requirements.

**02:46 PM**

Representative Balmer encouraged the public to provide testimony via electronic mail to the committee. Senator Heath asked for witnesses to testify.

**02:47 PM --** Mr. W.R. Steely, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee. Mr. Steely discussed various communities of interest.

**02:57 PM --** Mr. Jacob Hobson, representing the Pueblo County Farm Bureau, provided testimony to the committee. Mr. Hobson discussed the congruence of ethnic and local issues. Testimony copies were provided to the committee (Attachment A).

**03:03 PM** -- Mr. David Barber, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee.

**03:05 PM** -- Mr. Ron Greenwell, representing the Pueblo County Democratic Party, provided testimony to the committee.

**03:08 PM** -- Mr. Lon Robertson, representing himself and the Pinon Canyon Exposition Opposition, provided testimony to the committee. Mr. Robertson discussed agricultural communities within the 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district.

**03:16 PM** -- Dr. Elvin Rivera provided testimony to the committee. Mr. Rivera asked about current redistricting legislation before the General Assembly. Testimony copies were provided to the committee (Attachment B).

**03:23 PM** -- Mr. John Singletary, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee. Mr. Singletary expressed concerns regarding the drawing of a district that included both Pueblo County and El Paso County.

**03:28 PM** -- Mr. Norma Oldham, representing herself, provided testimony to the committee. Ms. Oldham stated that the Arkansas River Valley ought to remain in a single district.

**03:31 PM** -- Ms. Jane Rawlings, representing herself, provided testimony to the committee. Ms. Rawlings asked that Pueblo County remain in the 3rd congressional district.

**03:35 PM** -- Commissioner John Cordova, Pueblo County Commission, provided testimony to the committee.

**03:37 PM** -- Councilman Steve Naurocki, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee.

**03:40 PM** -- Commissioner Kevin Karney, Otero County, provided testimony to the committee. Mr. Karney asked that Otero County be drawn within a single congressional district.

**03:55 PM** -- Former Representative Liane "Buffie" McFadyen, representing herself, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:06 PM** -- Mr. John McMadrid, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:08 PM** -- Mr. Jack Rink, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:12 PM** -- Ms. Theresa Trujillo, representing the Colorado Progressive Coalition, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:15 PM** -- Mr. Jerry Denney, representing himself, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:16 PM** -- Mr. Ed Hunnicutt, representing the Otero County Republican Party, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:26 PM** -- Mr. Dan Davis, representing Otero County, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:31 PM** -- Mr. Bob Senderhauf, representing the Custer County Republican Party, provided testimony to the committee.

**04:39 PM**

Representative Balmer provided closing comments. The committee adjourned.

Colorado U.S. House of Representatives Redistricting Special Committee  
Hearing in Pueblo, Colorado March 12, 2011

Dear Honorable Members

As President of Pueblo County Farm Bureau and member of the Action 22 Redistricting Task Force I direct these remarks to you.

It is my firm belief that the districts further from the centers of population should receive your first attention during the present consideration of the redistricting process mandated by the 2010 Census.

This is especially true for House District 3 which at present encompasses all the Western Slope, the San Luis Valley and a portion of the Arkansas River Drainage—and should be drawn first to ensure that the representative for the next 10 years has as cohesive and accessible a district as possible.

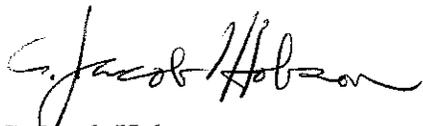
Thus the district should be drawn as compact as possible, utilizing whole counties as much as possible.

Should any district need to split a county or municipality the individual county commissioner districts or city council districts should be followed to allow the representative the privilege of having that person or persons as contact persons regarding the feeling within his or her district regarding any legislative issue that might arise.

Within the area served by the Action 22 membership (both the greater Rio Grande River and the Arkansas River drainage in Colorado, the Hispanic Population is spread out and represents 42-43% of the population. Whereas this population and other ethnic minorities have history of having been here since the late 1800s and the Hispanic population since the 1500s, we find that the interests of people in Southern Colorado are more attuned to local issues rather than ethnic ones.

Pueblo and El Paso Counties have definite and divergent interests, with Pueblo County's interests more in tune with the rest of SE Colorado than with El Paso County and the rest of the Front Range.

Sincerely,



C. Jacob Hobson  
President Pueblo County Farm Bureau  
Member Action 22 Redistricting Task Force

Redistricting Hearing  
State Legislature  
March 12, 2011

Pueblo Conference Center  
Pueblo, CO  
2:30pm

Chairmen Balmer and Heath,  
& Distinguish State Legislators,

My name is Dr. Alvin Rivera, Pueblo Colorado resident, native of Fremont County, and concerned citizen about the nature of these hearing. Concerned in that I question the need and purpose of why the hearings are being held at all. That is not at all clear to me.

From my perspective, I am concerned that House Bill 1276 is not an authentic bill at all. I believe it is being driven entirely by political gamesmanship without any true regard for the origin of what "Counties of Interest" mean. Let me try to explain my precise meaning:

- 1) Let's start at the beginning. I was reared in Fremont County, in Florence. In my opinion, like "communities of interest" would be Fremont, Pueblo, Chaffee.
- 2) Likewise, with a name like "Rivera," I'm obviously Hispanic, and of Mexican background. A like "community of interest" would have been Pueblo and the city of Fountain, when I was being reared in Fremont County. During those years, the 50s, 60s and 70s, there was no talk of "communities of interest" and the need was there.
- 3) Yet, the thrust of the House Bill 1276 is about making the priority of the largest counties to be the focus on their "communities of interest." This is clearly moving in the wrong direction. In fact, Colorado has been driven from time in memorial around these very "communities of interest" in northern Colorado, starting with Colorado Springs. This is nothing new, and an affront to all Colorado citizens, not just southern Colorado, but throughout the state.
- 4) Now, I hear talk of merging Colorado Springs and Pueblo. What backward thinking would have hatched such nonsense? These two communities could not be more different. They share major differences of socio-economic, ethnic, racial, political and, I would even argue religious as well.
- 5) H.B. 1276 undermines the very notion of calling for "counties of interest." As the kids say these days, "Get real." This bill is contrary to the "spirit of its own purpose." Moreover, that's why I question, what is the actual purpose of your visit here today?

6) I submit that H.B. 1276 is designed to interfere with the Colorado judiciary process, by “tying the hands” of future Appellate judges and keep them from weighing in on this highly partisan conflict. History has shown us that every ten years for the last 40 years or so, the Colorado judiciary intervenes to settle this usual partisan dispute. Frankly, I like it that way. It is not always right, but it seems to be always fair. Anyway, I smell a dead fish in this Bill. I guess the only question is which political party is doing the blinking here?

7) Since H.B. 1276 was created in the State House of Representatives, I wish to close by asking the Co-Chair, David Balmer, a Republican, could you please answer my question: Do you support or oppose this House Bill and why? I am prepared to wait for your response. Thank you.

Alvin Rivera  
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