

WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

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VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF

PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

RE: 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VIA ZOOM

Consisting of pages 1 to 49

June 28, 2021

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Taken Before:

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18	NOTE:	
19	(indiscernible)	= words heard but not understood
20	(phonetic)	= phonetic spelling of name
21	(as read)	= not an exact quotation of document, paraphrased or not verified with source document
22		
23	(audio disruption)	= digital platform audio feed break or garbled transmission
24		
25	(allotted time elapsed)	= Two minutes of time allowed per person ran out; testifier's

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Monday, June 28, 2021, at  
2 7:00 p.m., before Sue E. Garcia, Washington State  
3 Certified Court Reporter, residing at Tacoma,  
4 Washington, the following proceedings were had, to wit:

5

6

\* \* \* \* \*

7

8

CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Good evening, everyone.

9

I'm Sarah Augustine, Chair of the Washington State

10

Redistricting Commission. I would like to welcome

11

everyone to this public outreach meeting, the tenth one

12

of this 2021 redistricting cycle.

13

The topic of discussion tonight is Congressional

14

District 8 and the legislative districts included

15

within the 8th Congressional District.

16

I have more to say about that. But first let's

17

kick things off with a video message from the

18

commissioners.

19

Maria?

20

(Video playing.)

21

22

CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Maria.

23

For those of you from the public joining us today,

24

welcome again. It is my goal as chair to facilitate a

25

process that is as participatory, fair, and equitable

1 as is possible. I will endeavor to engage communities  
2 across Washington as fully as I can and to hear and  
3 address your concerns and requests.

4 Throughout our tenure as commissioners we will  
5 hear public comments that are important. We will  
6 listen to you. I will do my best to synthesize the  
7 comments, and we will endeavor to respond as we are  
8 able.

9 Still, it is possible that you will bring forward  
10 in your public comment ideas, requests, and injustices  
11 that we may not be able to address. We will certainly  
12 deliberate on the issues where we do have jurisdiction.  
13 Where we don't, I will do my best to refer you to those  
14 who may be able to respond more effectively.

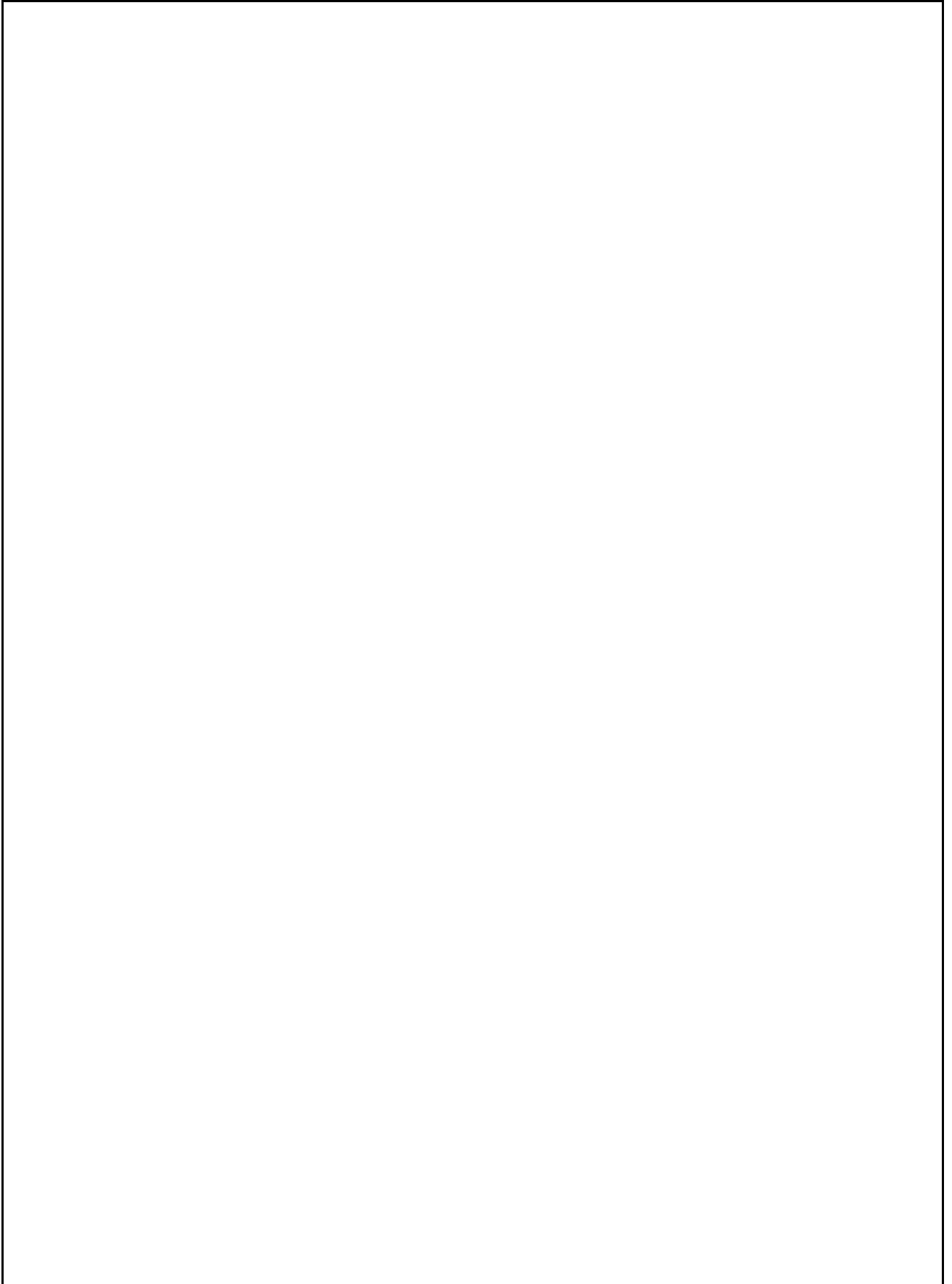
15 I would also like to review the purpose and values  
16 of the commission. Together as a commission we have  
17 agreed to the following values and mission:

18 To provide an open, transparent, credible process  
19 that is grounded in statute and where all voices are  
20 welcome, there's access for everyone;

21 To conduct ourselves with transparency, respect,  
22 and civility, where commissioners will participate and  
23 negotiate in good faith;

24 And to meet the deadline outlined by law;

25 And produce the best possible maps.



1           You may be aware that because of the pandemic this  
2           redistricting cycle promises to be a challenging one.  
3           While we should have received the data from the Census  
4           Bureau that we need to begin redistricting by  
5           April 1st of this year, we don't expect to have that  
6           data until late August.

7           Nonetheless, in late April the Census Bureau did  
8           deliver to the President and the nation the  
9           apportionment data, which told us which states would  
10          gain seats in the U.S. Congress and electoral college  
11          and which would not.

12          Based on the data we know that in the last decade  
13          the population of our state grew by 14.6 percent and  
14          added approximately 1 million residents. Despite that  
15          population growth, it did not change the number of  
16          congressional seats we are entitled to. Washington  
17          will continue to have ten representatives in the U.S.  
18          House of Representatives.

19          Based on population growth in the state, our job  
20          as the redistricting commission is to distribute as  
21          equally as is practical the population among ten  
22          congressional districts and 49 legislative districts.

23          Based on census data from April, Washington had a  
24          population of 7,705,281 residents as of April 1, 2020.  
25          Therefore, we need to draw ten new congressional



1 districts that are compact, contiguous, and convenient,  
2 and made up of approximately 770,528 residents, and 49  
3 new legislative districts that are also compact,  
4 contiguous, and convenient, and made up of  
5 approximately 157,251 residents.

6 Statute also instructs us, as much as practical,  
7 to minimize drawing districts lines that cut through  
8 counties, municipalities, or communities of interest.  
9 And the commission is committed to applying these  
10 principles while we try to create equally proportioned  
11 districts.

12 So while we know the overall population of the  
13 state according to the census, we don't yet know the  
14 particulars of percentage growth across neighborhoods  
15 and counties. State population estimates of the last  
16 ten years do give us a relatively good idea of where  
17 our 7.7 million residents live and which districts need  
18 to get larger in area to add more residents and which  
19 districts will need to get smaller in order to shed  
20 residents. As we add or subtract neighbors from one  
21 district, it will cause the need to make corresponding  
22 adjustments to the neighboring districts.

23 To show you broadly, Maria, can you please pull up  
24 the first map?

25 This map shows Washington state and its ten

1 congressional districts. The darker the brown colors,  
2 more the district needs to grow in size, and the darker  
3 the teal colors, the more the district needs to shrink  
4 in size.

5 So regarding the topic of discussion today, the  
6 8th Congressional District, the map indicates that  
7 the 8th CD, according to state population estimates,  
8 has slightly more residents than the needed 770,000  
9 residents to make it proportional. Depending on the  
10 final numbers we get from the Census Bureau, it looks  
11 like this congressional district may need to shed a few  
12 residents.

13 Now, next slide, please, Maria.

14 The 8th Congressional District includes part of  
15 Legislative Districts 12, 13, 31, 5, and 2. We can see  
16 that only the 12th Legislative District has less than  
17 the needed 157,000. The others have more and will need  
18 to shrink.

19 Now, next slide, please, Maria.

20 The 8th Congressional District also includes parts  
21 of Legislative Districts 11, 30, 33, 41, 45, and 47.  
22 And here we see that the 41st and 45th Districts have  
23 more population than the needed 157,000, while the  
24 others need to grow because they have less than the  
25 necessary population.

1           Finally, next slide, please, Maria.

2           The 8th Congressional District also include parts  
3 of Legislative District 25 and 28. And the map shows  
4 the 25th Legislative District needs to shrink while the  
5 28th Legislative District needs to grow.

6           Thank you, Maria.

7           So that's just a brief overview of the challenges  
8 your redistricting commission faces this year. In  
9 essence, commissioners have to create a new puzzle out  
10 of the state, and the puzzle pieces have to contain  
11 nearly exactly the same population.

12           As we make the puzzle pieces smaller, it's  
13 adjacent puzzle pieces will need to absorb those  
14 additional areas, meaning that every time a boundary is  
15 moved, it creates a cascade of changes in surrounding  
16 districts.

17           I was at a conference a few weeks ago where  
18 Secretary of State Kim Wyman likened our task as  
19 similar to solving a Rubik's cube, which is quite an  
20 apt analogy.

21           So the purpose of our meeting tonight is to listen  
22 to your input about your community and how to ensure  
23 that the districts are fairly balanced in terms of  
24 population but also respect shared community interests.  
25 The commission may not be able to meet every interest,

1 but as commissioners try to weigh the trade-offs  
2 inherent in this process, your opinions are welcome.

3 This evening we had more than 60 individuals who  
4 signed up to testify. We're going to invite  
5 individuals in groups of four to testify. Each  
6 individual will have two minutes to offer their  
7 comment. After four people have testified, we will see  
8 if the commissioners have any questions of the four  
9 testifiers, and then we will move to the next group of  
10 testifiers.

11 With that summary, Sean, let's begin. Please call  
12 the first panel.

13 MR. MURRAY: Good evening, commissioners.

14 Our first panel will begin with Edward Martinez,  
15 Laura Milner, Andrew Hong, and Erin Aboudara.

16 So we'll begin with Edward Martinez. Edward, if  
17 you can turn on your video and begin your testimony,  
18 please.

19 Edward, are you able to turn on your video, unmute  
20 yourself, and begin your testimony?

21 MR. E. MARTINEZ: Video and unmute. Thank  
22 you very much.

23 Hello. My name is Ed Martinez. I am -- I am  
24 calling in from beautiful Lake Wenatchee in Chelan  
25 County. I am currently retired. I'm paying it forward

1 by volunteering in numerous organizations in our county  
2 and in our state, one of which is planning commissioner  
3 for Chelan County.

4 My biggest fear right now is dividing the state  
5 into two partitions that play into Matt Shea's State of  
6 Liberty. I will forward you the maps so you can see  
7 what I'm talking about. But a clear division in our  
8 redistricting RCDs where the boundaries look anything  
9 like his Liberty boundary would only bolster his  
10 hateful rhetoric and further divide our state.

11 Please do not dismiss his attempts. Liberty State  
12 is a constant threat in our county. I ask that you're  
13 aware of this when considering new CDs and LDs. We  
14 live in one of the most beautiful states in the nation.  
15 And I can only say that we are better together.

16 Thank you very much.

17 And here is what the State of Liberty looks like.  
18 If you show any sort of boundaries like that for our  
19 CDs, you're only playing into Matt Shea's hands. And  
20 by the way, this is one of the proposed redistricting  
21 maps that I have found, and it clearly shows a line  
22 right where Matt Shea has his state. Please consider  
23 this.

24 And thank you very much for your hard work and  
25 commitment.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Mr. Martinez.  
2 We sure appreciate your comments.

3 Sean, would you please call the next testifier.

4 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

5 Our next testifier will be Laura Milner. I see  
6 your video's on, if you can unmute and begin your  
7 testimony, please.

8 MS. L. MILNER: Thank you. My name is Laura  
9 Milner. I reside in Ellensburg, Washington,  
10 8th Congressional District, 13th Legislative District.

11 I want to thank you for allowing public testimony  
12 on redistricting. Non-jerrymandering redistricting in  
13 principle is an easy discussion but in practice is  
14 difficult. I applaud you for participating at the  
15 highest levels of this very serious undertaking.

16 I've only recently returned to the state of  
17 Washington from five years in the state of Wisconsin.  
18 So that gives you my frame of reference. The state of  
19 Washington is more diverse than Wisconsin, but you  
20 would not really know it from the faces of our  
21 legislators.

22 So my first request is to let the possibility of  
23 increased diverse representation be your primary  
24 guiding principle, understanding that I'm a white  
25 non-Hispanic. But I'm concerned that unless we're more

1 welcoming to people of all races and ethnicities, we  
2 will absolutely fail to prosper.

3 All states are corporations at some level tasked  
4 with increasing economic prosperity for all of their  
5 citizens. Current data from Harvard, large tech firms  
6 like Google, indicates that diversity drives those  
7 variables that support prosperity, including fact-based  
8 decision-making and innovation.

9 So what better way to appeal to welcoming people  
10 of all races and ethnicities than to allow through  
11 redistricting the real opportunity for diverse citizens  
12 already making Washington state their home. And  
13 through increasing that diverse representation, the  
14 state of Washington is more likely to thrive  
15 economically than those states who don't.

16 My second request is to focus on Kittitas County.  
17 Apparently, we are a swing county. Sometimes we're in  
18 the 4th, and sometimes we're in the 8th. I would  
19 suggest that we have more in common with those of the  
20 8th District than the 4th. While many people view us  
21 as rural and agriculturally based, less than 6 percent  
22 of us are in farm-related industries.

23 We've become a bedroom community of Seattle  
24 effectively. Current figures indicate that 16 percent  
25 of us are commuting out of the county. Don't have the

1 current data, but I would suggest, with half of the  
2 commuters going to King County, we are more -- we're  
3 more vested in our western Pierce than our eastern --

4 (Allotted time elapsed.)

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much for  
6 your testimony.

7 Sean, would you please call the next speaker.

8 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

9 Our next speaker is Andrew Hong. Andrew, I see  
10 your video's on, if you can begin your testimony,  
11 please.

12 MR. A. HONG: Hi, commissioners. My name is  
13 Andrew Hong.

14 I wanted to talk today about the boundary between  
15 the 8th and 9th Congressional District, specifically on  
16 the east-side suburbs of Seattle.

17 I think that, you know, currently the east side is  
18 divided into three different congressional districts  
19 despite being, one, like a very unique and very, also,  
20 you know, much wealthier community than the rest of  
21 Washington state. And all -- you know, I don't think  
22 it's a coincidence that all three of the  
23 representatives in those districts are from the east  
24 side.

25 So I'm proposing that the commission really focus



1 on making sure the east side is not into three  
2 different districts but into one or two different  
3 districts. When you have, you know, one community  
4 that's like less than 10 percent of the state  
5 population representing 30 percent of our congressional  
6 representatives, it silences working-class communities  
7 in Kittitas County, you know, in the 8th, and rural  
8 Whatcom County in the 1st, and in south King County in  
9 the 9th.

10 Simply, the east-side representatives that  
11 currently represent those districts don't have the same  
12 lived experiences or, like, community priorities as  
13 those different working-class communities throughout  
14 Washington state.

15 Yeah. And I think another point I just wanted to  
16 nail down here is that we should be drawing these  
17 districts for communities, especially working-class  
18 communities in the state that have been  
19 underrepresented in our governments. And we shouldn't  
20 be drawing them for partisan interests or for the  
21 interests of current incumbents.

22 Thank you.

23 Oh, and then one more point I wanted to make was  
24 in the 30th Legislative District communities of --  
25 Auburn is diverse -- Auburn is diversifying super

1 quickly, and folks in Auburn, especially communities of  
2 color in Auburn, want to maintain in the 30th LD, where  
3 there's a significant people-of-color population in the  
4 western parts of the 30th.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

6 Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

7 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

8 Our last speaker will be Erin. I see your video's  
9 on, if you're able to begin your testimony, please.

10 MS. E. ABOUDARA: Yes. It's Erin Aboudara,  
11 for the record.

12 I live in a community that is an urban  
13 unincorporated part of east King County. I live inside  
14 the 8th Congressional District boundaries in the 11th  
15 Legislative District. My neighborhood is called  
16 Fairwood. It is the -- as my understanding goes, it's  
17 the largest remaining unincorporated urban area in King  
18 County. There's about 25,000 people in this community.

19 At this time I don't feel that we are well served  
20 by all of our 11th Legislative District  
21 representatives. And I actually ran a few years ago.  
22 And what I found is that if you happen to be a  
23 Republican, there's -- there's no way that you can get,  
24 you know, more than, you know, 30 -- 30, 32 percent.  
25 That's about all you can get.

1           Our community is increasingly diverse, though.  
2           And it just seems to me that the 47th District and the  
3           5th District are also both very diverse communities.  
4           And it just seems to me that, as an unincorporated  
5           area, the representatives in those communities may  
6           better represent our community.

7           I like the 8th Congressional District. But,  
8           honestly, I would gladly give that up if I could just  
9           get some decent representatives and a state senator  
10          that actually listens to those of us in our community.

11          We may need to eventually annex to the City of  
12          Renton, which is fine with me, even though I used to  
13          oppose it.

14          But we need attention. We need funding, you know,  
15          economic development and things like that in our  
16          community to make that possible.

17          Thank you.

18                   CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

19          So at this time I would like to ask members of the  
20          commission if you have questions or comments for the  
21          panel.

22                                   (No audible response.)

23                   CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would  
24          like to thank the members of the panel for your  
25          comments. Thank you for spending this time us with

1 this evening. And you are excused.

2 Sean, if you would call the next panel, please.

3 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next  
4 panel will be John Haggerty, Joni Sensel, William  
5 Miller, and Nancy Miller.

6 If we can begin with John Haggerty.

7 John Haggerty, are you able to -- I just saw you  
8 for a split second, if you're able to turn your video  
9 back on and begin your testimony. I can hear you.

10 MR. J. HAGGERTY: It looks like I'm good.

11 MR. MURRAY: Yes.

12 MR. J. HAGGERTY: Can you hear both? Okay.

13 I'm John Haggerty from Manson. And I'm here to  
14 talk about redistricting from the point of view of  
15 Chelan and Manson, or the Chelan Valley.

16 I reviewed draft maps proposed by the League of  
17 Women Voters and some others. And they all are  
18 problematic in not responding to the interests of the  
19 valley in some key ways.

20 Now, my view is that redistricting should keep  
21 together places and people who are alike in interests  
22 and avoid breaking up those natural connections in  
23 groupings as much as possible. I think that's in the  
24 guidelines you were given.

25 My suggestion is, therefore, to look at those

1 natural and existing connections as one means of  
2 allocating how voters should be grouped into the  
3 legislative and congressional districts.

4 Now, the Chelan Valley has two industries, ways of  
5 life, really. One of them is agricultural, fruit and  
6 wine production, and the other is tourism and  
7 hospitality. These complement each other and have come  
8 to do so more and more over time. And together they  
9 connect the Chelan Valley to Wenatchee and in turn to  
10 Washington west of the Cascades.

11 Our connection to Wenatchee, well, it's our big  
12 city. It also has -- is part of the same big  
13 fruit-producing and hospitality area. It has available  
14 specialized medical and shopping opportunities. And  
15 something important not to be overlooked is that both  
16 have a very strong and vibrant Hispanic community whose  
17 interests would be diluted if they are divided by the  
18 new district boundaries. Now, both -- that's  
19 connecting Manson and Wenatchee.

20 The valley and Wenatchee also have strong  
21 connections to western Washington. Most of our  
22 tourists come from over there. Retirement, second  
23 home, and the Seattle area is, of course, another tier.

24 So my summary is that districting decisions should  
25 promote and not damage these connections and support --

1 should support that vision that we're really part of --

2 (Allotted time elapsed.).

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I apologize  
4 that you exceeded your time. But love to see your  
5 written comments if you would be willing to submit  
6 those to an email address.

7 Sean, if you'd call our next speaker, please.

8 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

9 Our next speaker is Joni Sensel. I see your  
10 video's on, if you can unmute and begin your testimony,  
11 please.

12 MS. J. SENSEL: Hi. My name is Joni Sensel.  
13 I live in Green Water, which is a rural area east of  
14 Enumclaw in a little weird corner of Pierce County but  
15 on the west side of the mountains.

16 And I really appreciate the opportunity to share  
17 some comments, and I also appreciate the hard work. I  
18 know this must be a very difficult problem to do this  
19 puzzle.

20 I just wanted to say that you've already noted  
21 that districts should be contiguous and as compact as  
22 possible, and I agree. I also agree that they should  
23 not divide natural communities with similar concerns as  
24 much as possible. And that includes ethnic  
25 communities.

1           I do think that the common-concerns issue is  
2           important because I think that because District 8,  
3           Congressional District 8, spans both sides of the  
4           mountains, that gives us one congressional district  
5           that has two considerably different climates, economic  
6           concerns, ecosystems, and resource concerns.

7           Just one example is it that here, even in my very  
8           rural part of the west side, roads and traffic and  
9           transit and infrastructure bottlenecks are a major  
10          concern more so than I believe they are on the east  
11          side. And I've spent some time there, so I have some  
12          sense of that.

13          Whereas, on the rural part of the district, on the  
14          east side, I know that irrigation and rural broadband  
15          access are much greater concerns than they are in many  
16          places here on the techy west side.

17          So in summary I just feel that I would like to  
18          encourage you as much as possible to consider the  
19          community concerns and the community makeup as you make  
20          these very difficult decisions.

21          And thank you for your time.

22                 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
23          your comments.

24          Sean, if you would call the next speaker, please.

25                 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

1           Our next speaker is going to be William Miller.  
2           William, I see your video's on, if you can begin your  
3           testimony.

4           MR. W. MILLER: Thank you. Can you hear me?

5           MR. MURRAY: We can.

6           CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Thank you.

7           MR. W. MILLER: Okay. Well, I'm Bill Miller.  
8           I live near Lake Wenatchee in Chelan County, and it was  
9           104 today.

10           The diverse community of north central Washington  
11           has benefited from the redistricting that was done in  
12           2011. And that has made this area much stronger  
13           because of the connection with western Washington. It  
14           has provided coalitions that have pushed through  
15           agricultural projects that couldn't have been done  
16           otherwise, working with both the Republicans and the  
17           Democrats but having the access to the delegation.

18           And an example, we're in the middle of cherry  
19           season, and it is the ports in Seattle and the markets  
20           in Seattle that drive the profit for the community  
21           around here. And so having a footprint on both sides  
22           of the mountain in our congressional district is really  
23           valuable because it -- we have common interests, and  
24           that includes improving the transportation system.

25           So the mountains are not barriers, but they are



1 the helpers.

2 And then having a congressional footprint on both  
3 sides of the mountain benefits all of Washington at the  
4 federal level and makes us stronger in pushing  
5 legislation.

6 And as Carole King would have said, winter,  
7 spring, summer, and fall, Chelan and Douglas County are  
8 frequently -- frequented by friends and family, who  
9 consider the mountains an asset.

10 And so when you're dealing with the future  
11 footprint of the 8th Congressional District, we want to  
12 continue to straddle the mountains and keep the  
13 Wenatchee metro area in the 8th Congressional District.  
14 And that includes East Wenatchee because of the  
15 commonality and the Hispanic community that makes up  
16 about 30 percent of those two communities. So  
17 splitting them in any kind of way would divert -- hurt  
18 them.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
21 your comments.

22 And, Sean, if you would call our last speaker on  
23 this panel, please.

24 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

25 Our last speaker for this panel will be Nancy

1 Miller, if you can begin your testimony.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

3 MR. MURRAY: You're currently muted. You are  
4 currently muted, Nancy. I'm sorry.

5 MS. N. MILLER: Okay. Is that better?

6 MR. MURRAY: Yes.

7 MS. N. MILLER: Yeah. Sorry about that.

8 I'm Nancy --

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: No problem.

10 MS. N. MILLER: I'm Nancy Miller. And I've  
11 lived in Leavenworth for 17 years, and I'm a retired  
12 school teacher.

13 And a month or so ago I had the opportunity to  
14 look at some maps that had been sketched out to  
15 redistrict the state by local both people and  
16 organizations. And it's what motivated me to contact  
17 this group when the opportunity presented itself  
18 because I thought that the people who were drawing the  
19 lines maybe didn't understand the nature of our  
20 communities, or if they understood them, something else  
21 was more important.

22 And I understand that one of your charges is not  
23 to divide communities, either geographic communities or  
24 communities of interest. And I want to emphasize that.

25 The draft in one case -- one that I saw simply cut

1           Wenatchee in the half for the convenience of the  
2           drawer, and I don't think that anyone would consider  
3           doing that.

4                    But one nibbled bits from the edges of the city so  
5           that they would be little pockets of population that  
6           could be added into districts that needed some  
7           population. And what it did was -- aside from the  
8           numeric thing, is it created little islands, political  
9           islands that were isolated from the larger community  
10          that they should be a member of.

11                   Three of these plans divided Wenatchee's urban  
12          communities in two, one east to west and one separating  
13          the south end of the city off from the rest of the  
14          city.

15                   Both of these plans have real negative  
16          consequences to Wenatchee's diversity and  
17          representation. And I think the 8th being what it is,  
18          it's both diverse and well represented. And those  
19          things should be protected.

20                   We in the 8th are largely oriented toward the west  
21          side of the state. Our trade and transport go by road  
22          and rail and river carrying our crops to the world.  
23          The Port of Seattle is of vital interest to us.  
24          Emergency or specialized medical care is often one  
25          airlift away from a Seattle hospital, not a Spokane

1 hospital or a Tri-Cities hospital. We go west for  
2 essential activities.

3 Our active-arts community connects and enriches  
4 the Seattle area as venues are provided for  
5 professional talent. But we also have Sleeping Lady  
6 and other such --

7 (Allotted time elapsed.)

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I'm sorry that  
9 you exceeded your time but would love to see your  
10 comments in writing addressed to our email account.

11 So now I would just ask the commissioners if they  
12 have questions and comments.

13 And I see Commissioner Graves. Go ahead.

14 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Thank you very much,  
15 Madam Chair.

16 I don't have anything specific so far because you  
17 guys are all providing really terrific testimony about  
18 your communities.

19 I just wanted to say, Bill, it hit 112 degrees  
20 here on the west side of the state where I live, so I  
21 hope you enjoyed that downright frosty 104-degree day.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner  
23 Graves.

24 Looking to other commissioners, do you have  
25 comments or questions for these panelists?

1 (No audible response.)

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I'd  
3 like to thank the people on this panel for coming and  
4 spending this time with us this evening. And I wanted  
5 to assure you that all of your comments are taken into  
6 account as we -- as we pull together all of the  
7 comments from across Washington state. You're excused.  
8 And thank you again.

9 And, Sean, if you would call the next panel,  
10 please.

11 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next  
12 panel will be Marlene Pfeifer, Jeff Olson, Gretchen  
13 Chambers, and Corey Bailey.

14 We will begin with Marlene.

15 MS. M. PFEIFER: Hi there. Can you hear me?

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Welcome.

17 MS. M. PFEIFER: Thank you. And thank you  
18 for all the work, commissioners, that you are doing.

19 I am a resident of Kittitas County and was born  
20 and raised and currently live in Ellensburg.

21 We are a rural county. I believe we are  
22 specifically a rural county, but yet we also have a  
23 state university, which leads us to similar issues and  
24 concerns, as do other counties with larger populations.

25 We're not just about irrigation and broadband, but

1 yet water is the most major issue here, as a lot of  
2 eastern Washington. And I believe it would be -- we  
3 would be best represented by having more congressional  
4 representatives to deal with that in the state.

5 So I would encourage you to keep Kittitas County  
6 in the 8th.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
9 your comments.

10 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

11 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

12 Our next speaker is Jeffrey Olsen, if you'd begin  
13 your testimony.

14 MR. J. OLSEN: Thank you.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

16 MR. J. OLSEN: Hopefully you can hear me.

17 But --

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: We can.

19 MR. J. OLSEN: I'm from the 5th Congressional  
20 District.

21 And in the outreach of the 5th and 4th the general  
22 argument was eliminate the north-south access for the  
23 congressional district. So Okanogan and Douglas County  
24 is moving into the 5th, and all the counties bordering  
25 Oregon will be going to the 4th. When we do this, the

1 4th reached the 770,000 needed to stable, which -- the  
2 3rd is at that range, which means Chelan County, you  
3 got a bull's-eye. The excess that the 5th has to go  
4 has to come from you.

5 And I'm free to answer any question.

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Mr. Olsen. So  
7 we'll wait until the end of your panel, and then the  
8 commissioners will be invited to ask questions at that  
9 time. But we appreciate your input. Thank you.

10 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

11 MR. MURRAY: Our next speaker will be  
12 Gretchen Chambers, if you're able turn on your video  
13 and begin your testimony.

14 MS. G. CHAMBERS: Okay. Hi. I'm Gretchen  
15 Chambers, and I'm from Cle Elum.

16 I believe Kittitas County should remain in 8th CD  
17 for three reasons. First, we are vitally connected  
18 with Pierce and King Counties. I-90 is the state's  
19 east-west corridor and the literal backbone of  
20 Kittitas, carrying our commuters, students, products,  
21 and services across Snoqualmie Pass.

22 In 2019, 16 percent of our population commuted to  
23 west-side jobs. More west-siders are moving here to  
24 telecommute. Many are retiring here. More than half  
25 of CWU students hail from the west side. We need

1 representatives who appreciate this connectedness and  
2 its effects on our transportation, housing, employment,  
3 education, business, and the environment.

4 Second, we should not be moved again so soon.  
5 Kittitas was moved to the 8th from the 4th just ten  
6 years ago. We need to continue to build on  
7 relationships created by this still-new arrangement  
8 rather than start over again.

9 Third, keeping Kittitas in the 8th avoids  
10 favoritism. The 8th is one of the few purple CDs in  
11 the state. To represent us, our representatives must  
12 work across Snoqualmie Pass and the aisle, which in  
13 this time of extreme polarization is very valuable.

14 In sum, to represent our connectedness, to spare  
15 us another big change in short order, and to avoid  
16 favoritism in a hopelessly polarized state, please keep  
17 Kittitas in the 8th.

18 Regarding the 13th LD, please keep all of  
19 Kittitas in the 13th. Do not divide us into  
20 competing pieces. And please make the 13th more  
21 compact and convenient. It would make more sense to  
22 include Kittitas with Chelan and parts of King or  
23 Yakima rather than Lincoln County.

24 Finally, regarding the entire state, allow  
25 communities of interest to vote together.



1 Specifically, the Yakima Nation should be unified, and  
2 the Latino communities of East Wenatchee and Wenatchee  
3 should not be divided.

4 Thanks very much for this opportunity.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
6 your words this evening.

7 Sean, if you would call the next panelist, please.

8 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

9 Our next panelist and final panelist for this  
10 panel will be Corey Bailey. I see your video's on, if  
11 you can begin your testimony.

12 MR. C. BAILEY: All right. Good afternoon.

13 And appreciate the commissioners taking testimony  
14 this -- this wonderful and record-breaking evening.

15 And, you know, to everybody else that's testified  
16 and will testify this evening, thank you very much.  
17 Your -- your passion and your love for our politics, it  
18 definitely shows through.

19 I just want to speak specifically, being a former  
20 candidate both for the Congressional 8th District and  
21 the Legislative 5th District, that there is a little  
22 bit of a disconnect between the -- the voters in both  
23 districts in that, you know, while we pretend that it  
24 is a, quote/unquote, purple district and while we  
25 pretend that this isn't a partisan activity, let's be

1 real. It actually is.

2 I mean, the bottom line is that Republicans are  
3 not well represented in the 5th or the 8th. They are  
4 represented by Democrats across all three -- all four  
5 elected positions. And the bottom line is that  
6 population-wise, the winners of Issaquah end up getting  
7 the -- getting elected.

8 And so I would just urge the commissioners to take  
9 that under consideration and to be very focused on the  
10 rural impacts.

11 And yeah. That's what I got. Thank you.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

13 At this time I'd like to ask the commissioners if  
14 you have questions for the folks on this panel or  
15 comments.

16 (No audible response.)

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, thank  
18 you very much for your time this evening, people on the  
19 panel. We appreciate your presence here with us. And  
20 you are excused.

21 Sean, if you would please call the next panel.

22 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair. Our next  
23 panel will be Yanah Cook, Glenn Rudolph, Richard Black,  
24 and Dennis Smith.

25 We'll begin with Yanah, if you are able to turn on

1 your video and begin your testimony, please.

2 (No audible response.)

3 MR. MURRAY: We will come back to Yanah as  
4 they have not turned on their video.

5 Glenn Rudolph, if you're able to turn on your  
6 video, unmute yourself, and begin testimony.

7 MR. G. RUDOLPH: Okay. Kittitas County  
8 should remain in the 8th. Seattle's spilling over fast  
9 and growth -- it's growing.

10 So one thing, you know, if you need to shave the  
11 8th down a little bit, why not look at some of the  
12 areas -- you know, I didn't realize the 8th went all  
13 the way down Roy, you know, by the -- by Fort Lewis.  
14 It goes all the way down there. I just was wondering  
15 what -- you know, that place is growing like crazy. So  
16 you could probably, you know, shave a little bit off  
17 there. So . . .

18 Anyway, the 13th LD, I think, should stay the  
19 same, except Lincoln County probably should go away.  
20 Our boundary, we -- it goes all -- the 13th goes all  
21 the way from Snoqualmie Pass within 20 miles of  
22 Spokane. It's a long chunk of landscape. And Lincoln  
23 County, we don't -- you know, I don't see any reason  
24 why it's part of the 13th.

25 So anyway, that's all I got to say today. Good

1 luck. It's like water witching. So it may take --  
2 good luck to you. Thank you.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
4 your comments.

5 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

6 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

7 Our next speaker will be Richard Black, if you're  
8 able to begin testimony.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So we -- looks like you  
10 unmuted yourself for a minute. So please try and  
11 unmute yourself again.

12 There you go.

13 MR. R. BLACK: Okay. Yes. Thank you very  
14 much. It's a pleasure to address you.

15 I'm a long-term Wenatchee resident. And I had the  
16 great privilege of being selected through the  
17 congressional process to attend the service academy at  
18 West Point, and I served in the Army for 31 years. And  
19 now I've retired and returned to my home city of  
20 Wenatchee. I've watched it from 1945 onward. And I've  
21 seen it grow over the years into two municipalities,  
22 Wenatchee and East Wenatchee.

23 And initially for the 1950s, '60s, and into the  
24 '70s, kind of became competitive municipalities. But  
25 of late, in the '80s and beyond, I've -- they have, as

1 municipalities, discovered that they've got more to  
2 gain by cooperating and doing things together than they  
3 do by competing. And so I'll give you some examples.

4 We now -- instead of having two separate  
5 individual municipal police departments, we have a  
6 thing called RiverCom, and they share resources and  
7 share responsibility for the protection both in  
8 policing and fire protection for the community.

9 We've also learned to cooperate where we have the  
10 social services. The community health is primarily on  
11 the west side in Wenatchee. But our only airport now  
12 is on the east side. And that's where that comes from.

13 And I've heard several of the other speakers speak  
14 about not breaking up the community. Well,  
15 emotionally, or from a social perspective, we've got  
16 the combined Chelan-Douglas County Health District that  
17 serves both of these counties.

18 And in the social system, agriculturally we have  
19 the -- in cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation,  
20 the irrigation system that is shared between the two  
21 counties and within the environment of the -- or the --  
22 environmental area of the Wenatchee Valley, East  
23 Wenatchee and Wenatchee.

24 Certainly with the transportation system we talked  
25 about and with the --

1 (Allotted time elapsed.)

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. I'm sorry that  
3 you've exceeded your time. But we'd love to see your  
4 written comments if you want to send those to our email  
5 address.

6 Sean, if you would call our next speaker, please.

7 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely. Our next speaker is  
8 Dennis Smith. I see your video's on, if you can begin  
9 your testimony, please.

10 MR. D. SMITH: Thank you.

11 Can you hear me?

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Welcome.

13 MR. D. SMITH: Okay. Yes. I currently live  
14 in Wenatchee, Washington.

15 And I just wanted to bring to attention that our  
16 counties -- as a previous caller had talked about,  
17 Chelan and Douglas Counties share a lot in common,  
18 agricultural and tourist, where I feel like King County  
19 and Pierce County definitely have different  
20 demographics and a lot of different challenges than we  
21 do over here.

22 And so it -- I know that it's a challenge to try  
23 and get the numbers to fit. But I'd like to see our  
24 district be more in alignment with the people that live  
25 here with the agricultural and all of those things.

1 I -- I understand that, you know, there is interstate  
2 that connects us, but I feel like there's a lot of  
3 things that are different in our two regions.

4 And so just thank you for considering that.

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
6 your time and your comments.

7 Sean, if you would -- is that -- conclude our  
8 panel, or did Yanah . . . ?

9 MR. MURRAY: We'll again try to see if Yanah  
10 Cook is able to testify.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Great.

12 MR. MURRAY: Yanah, if you're able to unmute  
13 and turn your video on.

14 MS. Y. COOK: I can't do my video. And my --  
15 I'm losing my voice. So I'm going to have to submit  
16 mine in writing.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
18 that.

19 MS. Y. COOK: Sorry.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: No problem. Thanks for  
21 being here anyway. We look forward to seeing your  
22 testimony in writing.

23 MR. MURRAY: In that case, that is the end of  
24 the panel, Chair.

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Terrific.

1           So I want to ask the commissioners, then, if you  
2           have questions or comments for members of the panel.

3                           (No audible response.)

4           CHAIR AUGUSTINE:   Okay.   Seeing none, I'd  
5           like to thank you for being here with us tonight.   We  
6           appreciate your comments.   And you're excused.

7           Sean, if you would please call the next panel.

8           MR. MURRAY:   Our next panel will be the final  
9           panel.   We have three individuals.   We have Barbara  
10          Bicchieri, Gordon Steve, and then Paula  
11          Harper-Christensen.   We will begin with Barbara and  
12          then move to Steve and then Paula.

13          Barbara, if you're able to turn on your video and  
14          begin your testimony, please.

15          MS. B. BICCHIERI:   I got it.   Thank you.

16          My name is Barbara Bicchieri.   And I live in  
17          the -- in Kittitas County in the 8th Congressional  
18          District and the 13th Legislative District.

19          Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

20          And thanks also for all of your work, which is a  
21          huge task, I think.

22          I -- the 8th Congressional District, the way it  
23          has been drawn up now, I find that our communities,  
24          with commuters, retirees, farming, tourism, resorts,  
25          and educational institutions, are economically and



1 politically mixed, and the district reflects that. And  
2 I think that's a good thing.

3 The 13th LD, on the other hand, the way it's  
4 drawn now lumps our mixed economy with communities --  
5 with farming communities in the Columbia Plateau. And  
6 that, I think, was appropriate in the past but not so  
7 much anymore.

8 I've lived in Kittitas County for most -- virt- --  
9 all of my adult life, so for 50 years. I'm proud to  
10 say I've voted in every single election during that  
11 time. And as someone that you would probably describe  
12 as a left-leaning moderate, I have often felt that I  
13 have very little voice, especially in local and state  
14 elections.

15 So my focus in redistricting is really aiming for  
16 districts that are politically balanced so that  
17 everybody has -- feels that they have at least a  
18 fighting chance. That way voters will be more  
19 invested, and leaders will have to appeal to more  
20 diverse viewpoints.

21 Therefore, I'd like for the Kittitas County to  
22 remain in the 8th Congressional District, and I'd like  
23 the 13th Legislative District to be changed to put the  
24 county as a whole unit, not split up -- put them in --  
25 put us in with similar mixed economies and communities

1 along the Cascade slopes.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
4 your time and comments.

5 Sean, if you'd call the next speaker, please.

6 MR. MURRAY: Of course, Chair.

7 Our next speaker will be Gordon Steve. You can  
8 begin your testimony, please.

9 MR. S. GORDON: Thanks a lot. This is Steve  
10 Gordon. I'm a fourth-generation south Sound resident  
11 with our family residing in the Puyallup, Sumner, Lake  
12 Tapps area. I've been in Lake Tapps myself now for 25  
13 years, and our business, both Gordon Trucking and  
14 Freightliner Northwest, has been based in Pacific for  
15 40 years.

16 So we've seen a lot of growth down here in this  
17 area, especially along the 167 corridor as distribution  
18 built out over the last 40 years from the farmland that  
19 used to be there. And I think that growth has been  
20 managed very smartly and shows what can be done with  
21 thoughtful leadership.

22 And if you look at the 8th, there's really a lot  
23 of commonality, whether it's on the west side or the  
24 east side of the Cascades in terms of, you know, a lot  
25 of suburban and rural folks and developments that, you

1 know, value open spaces, value nature, are concerned  
2 about property rights, water rights, and how their  
3 roads are going to be developed. Because throughout  
4 the 8th, I think wisely, a lot of critical  
5 infrastructure is contained within the 8th, like I-90,  
6 Highway 18, a portion of 167, a portion of 82, 97,  
7 along with some rail infrastructure.

8 So that only -- not only adds commonality to the  
9 citizens of the 8th but also whoever's going to  
10 represent the 8th. It makes it easier to represent the  
11 needs of both eastern and western Washington  
12 sufficiently and really gives us another issue to unite  
13 across the mountains on instead of divide us.

14 I guess that, lastly, in looking at the process  
15 and recognizing that we may have to give up some  
16 portion of the district -- and if it is having to do  
17 that and we rebalance it at all, I'd certainly lobby  
18 for consideration potentially of Sumner being included  
19 in the 8th where it's now divided. Both Sumner and  
20 Edgewood have deep community ties up to the Bonney Lake  
21 area and the Lakeland Hills area. So it would be great  
22 to see those as a part of the 8th.

23 (Allotted time elapsed.)

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Sorry you  
25 bumped up against time there. And we would love to see

1 your written comments, as well, if you want to submit  
2 those via email.

3 And, Sean, if you'd call the final panel.

4 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

5 Our final testifier is Paula Harper-Christensen,  
6 if you can begin your testimony, please.

7 MS. P. HARPER-CHRISTENSEN: Good evening.

8 May I request the commission open all meetings  
9 with a land acknowledgment. Since I live in the 8th,  
10 may we acknowledge that we are on the indigenous land  
11 of Coast Salish Peoples, who have reserved treaty  
12 rights to this land. We thank these caretakers of this  
13 land who have lived and continue to live here since  
14 time immemorial.

15 Gratitude to the commissioners who hold a weighty  
16 responsibility.

17 I live in one the fastest growing districts in the  
18 state. We are a facing a tidal wave of growth that  
19 will dictate our schools and housing needs. As a  
20 child-development specialist, I trust you will be  
21 looking out for the education and the safety of our  
22 children.

23 Listening to the commission's mandates and values,  
24 I heard a commitment to transparency, as all voices are  
25 encouraged at the table. But some will not feel

1 comfortable participating because one of the  
2 commissioners has a credible rape allegation pending  
3 against him.

4 I'm a trained victim advocate. I have heard  
5 stories from victimized women who have suffered sexual  
6 assault. Many survivors would not feel safe working  
7 with Joe Fain, who opted out of the 2018 investigation.  
8 Women deserve to know that their experiences matter.

9 No one with such allegations should be rewarded to  
10 positions of power. Now my tax dollars pay  
11 commissioners -- Commissioner Fain to hold this  
12 once-in-a-decade position where public trust is  
13 essential in determining the boundaries that will  
14 influence us.

15 Respectfully, I am asking for Joe Fain to resign.

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate  
17 your testimony.

18 And, Sean, am I correct that this is the --  
19 everyone in this panel's had an opportunity speak?

20 MR. MURRAY: Correct, Chair. And this is the  
21 final panel, as well.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Great.

23 So I want to ask the commissioners at this time if  
24 they have questions for this panel or comments.

25 (No audible response.)

1                   CHAIR AUGUSTINE:  Seeing none, I'd like to  
2                   thank the people who have been here from the public  
3                   with us.  Thank you for sharing with us this evening.  
4                   And you are excused.

5                   And at this time I would like to offer the  
6                   commissioners an opportunity to provide closing  
7                   statements.

8                   If you just raise your hand, then I'll acknowledge  
9                   you, if you'd like to.

10                  Great, beginning with Commissioner Walkinshaw.

11                  COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW:  I just want to  
12                  thank all the individuals who came on this very hot  
13                  evening to give testimony about such an important issue  
14                  facing our state.  And just thank you for your time.

15                  And we listened to a lot of the really important  
16                  ideas and concerns and reflections that you brought  
17                  forward.  So thank you very much.

18                  CHAIR AUGUSTINE:  Thank you, Commissioner  
19                  Walkinshaw.

20                  Commissioner Graves.

21                  COMMISSIONER GRAVES:  Really big thank you,  
22                  everybody who came out here tonight to testify and to  
23                  give us some of their time and tell us about your  
24                  communities.

25                  I know you're probably frustrated, as we are, that

1 we don't have our final census data yet so we don't  
2 have actual proposed maps to comment on. But for what  
3 it's worth, this is our tenth one so far. We've done  
4 one for every congressional district, and I found them  
5 to be actually pretty helpful. Because we don't have,  
6 you know, particular maps to attack, we can just really  
7 hear from people about what your communities of  
8 interest are like and how your experiences have been  
9 with the current boundaries.

10 So I found this all to be very helpful. And I can  
11 assure you that we'll be taking these things into  
12 account when we ultimately do draw our maps.

13 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner  
14 Graves.

15 Commissioner Simms.

16 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: Yes. Thank you, Madam  
17 Chair.

18 I just want to echo the appreciation from my  
19 fellow commissioners. On an evening like this, as hot  
20 as it's been the past few days, I have deep  
21 appreciation for everyone taking their time to prepare  
22 their testimony and share their thoughts and ideas and  
23 concerns with the members of this commission.

24 I want to say a special thank you to the testifier  
25 who reminded us that we should be beginning our

1 meetings with an acknowledgement of the land that we  
2 are on.

3 So I want to lift up that I am joining you also on  
4 Coast Salish territory, the traditional land of the  
5 first people of Puyallup. And I want to thank them for  
6 the privilege of living and working on their land.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner  
9 Simms.

10 Commissioner Fain.

11 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Yes. Thank you, Madam  
12 Chair.

13 I want to echo the comments of thanks for the  
14 testimony this evening. This is a particularly tough  
15 district to draw being that it is really in the middle  
16 of the state straddling both sides of the Cascades,  
17 a competitive swing district, at least historically.  
18 So there is a lot -- a lot of input that we have  
19 received and will expect to receive on drawing this  
20 district.

21 And so given the temperatures that we're facing  
22 and everything going on tonight, just really  
23 appreciated everyone taking the time to be here.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. And I want to  
25 voice thanks to the members of this commission, the



1 voting commissioners. We appreciate you. And I hope  
2 you can hear my gratitude. I recognize that it takes  
3 quite a lot of time and effort to be in so many  
4 meetings and to take seriously this charge on behalf  
5 all Washingtonians. Thank you.

6 I would also like to thank our American Sign  
7 Language interpreters this evening and our Spanish  
8 language interpreters. Thank you for helping us to  
9 keep our commitment to the public in making this  
10 process transparent and accessible.

11 I'd like to thank the Redistricting Commission  
12 staff. Thank you very much for all that you do to make  
13 these meetings possible and run smoothly.

14 And finally, thank you to the public. This  
15 process works because you show up and share with us  
16 your interest and concerns.

17 Thank you. I am proud to be part of the state and  
18 to get to be part of this important democratic process.

19 Everyone, I hope you have a wonderful evening.  
20 Thank you.

21 (Proceedings concluded at 7:57 p.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 28th of June, 2021, and thereafter transcribed by me by means of computer-aided transcription, that the transcript is a full, true, and complete transcript of said proceedings, consisting of pages 1 through 49;

That as a CCR in this state, I am bound by the Rules of Conduct as Codified in WAC 308-14-130; that court reporting arrangements and fees in this case are offered to all parties on equal terms;

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 July 11, 2021.

*Sue E. Garcia*

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



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