

WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF

PUBLIC OUTREACH MEETING

RE: 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VIA ZOOM

Consisting of pages 1 to 49

June 22, 2021

Taken Before:

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of

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17 NOTE:

18 (indiscernible) = words heard but not understood

19 (phonetic) = phonetic spelling of name

20 (as read) = not an exact quotation of
document, paraphrased or not
verified with source document

21

22 (audio disruption) = digital platform audio feed
break or garbled transmission

23

(allotted time elapsed) = Two minutes of time allowed per
24 person ran out; testifier's
audio was muted

25

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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at
2 6:01 p.m., before Sue E. Garcia, Washington State
3 Certified Court Reporter, residing at Tacoma,
4 Washington, the following proceedings were had, to wit:

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7

8 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: And good evening, everyone.
9 I'm Sarah Augustine. The Chair of the Washington State
10 Redistricting Commission. I would like to welcome
11 everyone to this public outreach meeting, the seventh
12 one in this 2021 redistricting cycle.

13 I'm quickly going to introduce our commissioners,
14 Commissioner Paul Graves, Commissioner April Simms,
15 Commissioner Joe Fain. And Commissioner Brady
16 Walkinshaw is running a few minutes late, but he'll be
17 joining us just as soon as he can.

18 The topic of discussion tonight is Congressional
19 District 2 and the legislative districts included
20 within the 2nd Congressional District.

21 I'll have more to say about that later. But
22 first let's kick things off with a video message from
23 the commissioners.

24 Maria?

25

(Video playing.)

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Maria.

2 To those of you from the public joining us today,
3 welcome again. It is my goal as chair to facilitate a
4 process that is as participatory, fair, and equitable
5 as possible. I will endeavor to engage communities
6 across Washington as fully as I can and to hear and
7 address your concerns and requests.

8 Throughout our tenure as commissioners we will
9 hear public comments that are important, and we will
10 listen to you. I will do my best to synthesize the
11 comments, and we will endeavor to respond as we are
12 able.

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

19 I want to begin by reviewing the purpose and
20 values of the commission. Together as a commission we
21 have agreed to the following:

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

25 To conduct ourselves with transparency, respect,

1 and civility;

2 Where commissioners will participate and negotiate
3 in good-faith;

4 To meet the deadline outlined by law;

5 And to produce the best possible maps.

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

12 Nonetheless, in late April the Census Bureau did
13 deliver to the President and the nation the
14 apportionment data, which told us which states would
15 gain seats in the U.S. Congress and electoral college
16 and which would not.

17 Based on that data we know that in the last decade
18 the population of our state grew by 14.6 percent and
19 added approximately 1 million residents. Despite that
20 population growth, it did not change the number of
21 congressional seats we're entitled to. Washington will
22 continue to have ten representatives in the U.S. House
23 of Representatives.

24 Based on the population growth in the state, our
25 job as the redistricting commission is to distribute as

1 equitably as is practical the population among ten
2 congressional districts and 49 legislative districts.

3 Based on the census data from April, Washington
4 had a population of 7,705,281 residents as of April 1,
5 2020. Therefore, we need to draw ten new congressional
6 districts that are compact, contiguous, and convenient,
7 and made up of approximately 770,528 residents, and 49
8 new legislative districts that are also compact,
9 contiguous, and convenient, and made up of
10 approximately 157,251 residents.

11 Statute also instructs us, inasmuch as it is
12 possible, to minimize drawing district lines that cut
13 through counties, municipalities, or communities of
14 interest. And the commission is committed to applying
15 these principles while we try to create equally
16 proportioned districts.

17 So while we know that overall population of the
18 state according to the census, we don't yet know the
19 particulars of percentage growth across neighborhoods
20 and counties.

21 State population estimates of the last ten years
22 do give us a relatively good idea of where our
23 7.7 million residents live and which districts will
24 need to get larger in area to add more residents and
25 which districts will need to get smaller in order to

1 shed residents. And as we add or subtract
2 neighborhoods for one district, it will cause the need
3 to make corresponding adjustments to neighboring
4 districts.

5 To show you broadly, Maria, can you put up the
6 first map?

7 This map shows Washington state and its ten
8 congressional districts. The darker the brown color,
9 the more the district needs to grow in size, and the
10 darker the teal color, the more the district needs to
11 shrink in size.

12 So regarding the topic of discussion today, the
13 2nd Congressional District, the map indicates that the
14 2nd Congressional District, according to state
15 population estimates, has slightly more residents than
16 needed, that is slightly more than 770,000 residents,
17 to make it proportional. Depending on the final
18 numbers we get from the Census Bureau, it looks like
19 this congressional district may have to shed a few
20 residents.

21 Now, next slide, please, Maria.

22 The 2nd Congressional District includes all of
23 Legislative District 38 and part of Legislative
24 Districts 1, 10, 21, 32, 38, 39, 40, 42, and 44.

25 Based on state population estimates, we can see

1 that the 1st, 21st, 39th, and 42nd have more than
2 157,000 residents that each district should have, while
3 Districts 10, 32, 38, and 40 have less than the needed
4 157,000 residents.

5 Thank you, Maria.

6 So that's just a brief overview of the challenge
7 that your redistricting commission faces this year. In
8 essence, commissioners have to create a new puzzle out
9 of the state, and the puzzle pieces have to contain
10 nearly exactly the same population. As we make one
11 puzzle piece grow smaller, its adjacent puzzle pieces
12 will need to absorb those additional areas, meaning
13 that every time the boundaries move, it creates a
14 cascade of changes in surrounding districts.

15 I was at a conference last week where Secretary of
16 State Kim Wyman likened our task as similar to solving
17 a Rubik's cube, which is quite an apt analogy.

18 So the purpose of our meetings tonight is to
19 listen to your input about your community, and how to
20 ensure that the districts are fairly balanced in terms
21 of population but also respect shared community
22 interests.

23 The commission may not be able to meet every
24 interest. But as a commission we're trying to weigh
25 the trade-offs inherent in this process, and your

1 opinions are welcome and vital.

2 This evening we have more than 40 individuals who
3 signed up to testify. We're going to invite
4 individuals in groups of four to testify. Each
5 individual will have two minutes to offer your
6 comments. After four people have testified, we'll see
7 if the commissioners have any questions of the four
8 testifiers, and then we will move on to the next group.

9 With that summary, Sean, let's begin. Please call
10 the first panel.

11 MR. MURRAY: Good afternoon, commissioners.
12 Our first panel will be Linda Tosti-Lane, Kara Briggs,
13 Spencer Lively, and Andronetta Douglas.

14 We will begin with Linda.

15 And I see Kara is actually up. We'll begin with
16 Kara. Please turn on your video, unmute yourself, and
17 begin your testimony.

18 MS. K. BRIGGS: Hello. I am Kara Briggs, a
19 PCO in the 38th Legislative District. I want to
20 speak to three types of communities of interest in the
21 2nd Congressional District.

22 First, as a PCO on the Tulalip Reservation, I am
23 asking the commission to keep Tulalip whole and keep
24 all reservations of the 29 tribes in Washington whole
25 in their congressional districts and as much as

1 possible in their legislative districts.

2 The Tulalip Reservation was split prior to the
3 year 2000. And I was told it was hard, inconvenient,
4 and time-consuming for those in the 10th LD to travel
5 to participate in it. The effect was to split the
6 native vote and limit tribal participation.

7 Since 2000 Tulalip has been in the 38th, and the
8 tribe has done great work in organizing its voters.
9 The 38th Legislative District is united by the close
10 social, economic, and geographical ties of Tulalip,
11 Everett, and Marysville. These are the heart of the
12 38th. Keep them together. There are voters of
13 colors, voters from low income, union members, and
14 tribal families who live in these interconnected
15 places.

16 And keep the spine of the 2nd Congressional
17 District from Bellingham to Marysville, Everett and
18 Mukilteo intact. These cities, reservations, and rural
19 communities located on the east side of Puget Sound and
20 along Interstate 5 are united by our unique geography,
21 by our place on the Salish Sea, by our economies, our
22 educational institutions, our unions, and our
23 communities of color.

24 In summary I'm asking the commission to keep
25 reservations whole, maintain the heart of the 38th

1 Legislative District, and --

2 (Allotted time elapsed.).

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Please stay
4 with us and the commissioners may have questions for
5 you after the panel.

6 Sean, please call the next panelist.

7 MR. MURRAY: Linda Tosti-Lane, if you're able
8 to, turn on your video and begin your testimony,
9 please.

10 MS. L. TOSTI-LANE: I will be brief.

11 I basically would like to support what Kara just
12 said.

13 And secondarily, when -- I'm from the 1st
14 Legislative District.

15 And in -- last time we did the redistricting
16 Montlake Terrace was split. And I believe that the
17 City of Montlake Terrace should be one -- as a whole
18 and remain in the 1st Legislative District, or whatever
19 the district is 'cause I realize the 1st needs to be
20 shrunk, so that all of Montlake Terrace be in the same
21 district. And I'd like also for the City of Brier to
22 be in that same district.

23 But that's basically my testimony. Thank you.
24 Have a good day.

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

1 Please call the next speaker, Sean.

2 MR. MURRAY: Our next testifier will be
3 Spencer Lively, if you don't mind unmuting yourself and
4 beginning your testimony.

5 MR. S. LIVELY: Hi. Yeah. My name's Spencer
6 Lively. I was born and raised in Mount Vernon for --
7 so I'm also currently a constituent of the 2nd
8 Congressional District in Anacortes. For transparency
9 reasons, I'm the chair of the 40th District Democrats,
10 though all my opinions are my own today.

11 I just want to stress how interconnected the
12 Skagit Valley community is. It's like -- we're just as
13 likely to say that we're from Skagit as opposed to
14 like, "I'm from Mount Vernon," because of how
15 interconnected and interwoven each of those communities
16 are. And that's Anacortes, La Conner, Mount Vernon,
17 Burlington, Sedro-Woolley, and every community in
18 between them.

19 It's like we are driving to these different cities
20 every day to do different things. And we have friends
21 and family in -- all throughout the Skagit Valley. And
22 it doesn't make sense that it's split between three
23 legislative districts and two congressional districts,
24 and with that most egregious example being Mount Vernon
25 and Burlington, which are effectively the same town

1 with the same people living the same lives without
2 regard to the boundary of the river between them.

3 But despite that, they're split by that river and
4 by the municipal boundaries into the 40th, the 10th,
5 and the 39th, and also the 1st and 2nd Congressional
6 Districts within what is effectively the same town in
7 the same community.

8 And it doesn't make sense that people in the rural
9 parts of Mount Vernon, unincorporated eastern parts,
10 would be in the same legislative district as people in
11 eastern King County, as opposed to people that are
12 actually in their family and friends and community that
13 share the same culture, bonds, network. So those are
14 my main points.

15 Otherwise, Bellingham also has a very similar
16 issue with this with the 40th and the 42nd. It
17 doesn't make sense to be splitting Bellingham down the
18 middle into two legislative districts when it is the
19 same community with the same people living there. And
20 I would hope that legislative districts and
21 congressional districts would be reflective of those
22 communities in the north Puget Sound.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

25 Sean, would you please call the next speaker.

1 MR. MURRAY: Yes, Chair.

2 The final speaker for this panel will be
3 Andronetta Douglas, if you don't mind turning on your
4 video and beginning your testimony.

5 MS. A. DOUGLAS: Hi. My name is Andi
6 Douglas, or Andronetta Douglas. I am a member of the
7 42nd LD, and I live in the 2nd CD.

8 In my community in the 42nd we have a Latinx
9 community, the Nooksack Tribe, the Lummi Nation, a Sikh
10 community, and, of course, Point Roberts. All of these
11 are communities of common interest. Plus, we in the
12 42nd have been working very hard to develop broadband
13 because in the -- anywhere outside of Bellingham and
14 anywhere not right on I-5, we've got really bad
15 broadband services.

16 So I encourage you to think about where the Latinx
17 community lives. There's many in Lynden going all the
18 way down Meridian on both sides and then also in
19 central Bellingham.

20 And then, of course, Point Roberts is a weird
21 beast being stuck out there and having to go through
22 Canada to get to the United States or take a small
23 emergency ferry that was set up for the pandemic that
24 comes down to Bellingham. And that is a strange
25 community that needs protection for their needs.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

3 All right. So I want to ask the commissioners at
4 this time if you have questions or comments for the
5 panel.

6 (No audible response.)

7 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I'd
8 like to excuse the panel. Thank you for being here
9 with us.

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

11 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next
12 panel will be Rocio Lopez, John Amell, Mark James,
13 Bennett Massey-Helber.

14 We will begin with Rocio.

15 Rocio, if you're able to --

16 MS. R. LOPEZ: Oh, yes. Can you hear me?

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes.

18 MR. MURRAY: Yes, we can. Please begin.

19 MS. R. LOPEZ: Okay. My name is Rocio Lopez,
20 and I live currently in Mount Vernon. I used to live
21 in Conway. And the Conway area has a Mount Vernon ZIP
22 code.

23 I don't understand why we are considered to be
24 CD 2. It's really inconvenient for me because -- and
25 many others because we don't have any representation.

1 And for me, being Mexican, that is really important.

2 I now moved back -- I had a family emergency -- to
3 my dad's house, to Mount Vernon, which is 3 miles away,
4 and it's in the 40th.

5 It does not make sense that the Conway area has a
6 Mount Vernon ZIP code but is in the CD 2 Congressional
7 District. I urge you all to change that or to, if you
8 can, move the lines for Conway if we are already in the
9 Mount Vernon ZIP code.

10 I will also not be able to have any ability to
11 take leadership roles in Conway if I were to move back
12 here. And that for myself is very frustrating because
13 there isn't any representation in the Conway area.

14 And the reason why I worry about Conway area is
15 because, when my mom retired, she bought a house in the
16 Conway area because at the time it was in the
17 40th LD. I don't think when she retired anticipated
18 the lines to be drawn the way that it has.

19 I don't understand why there's this zigzag of CD 1
20 and CD 2 when it's only 2 miles for me to be in --

21 (Allotted time elapsed.).

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Please stay,
23 and the commissioners may have questions for you at the
24 end of the panel.

25 Sean, if you will call the next speaker, please.

1 MR. MURRAY: John Amell, if you will be able
2 to unmute and begin your testimony.

3 I see that you're unmuted.

4 If you're able to, start your video and then begin
5 testimony, please.

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: So, sir, we still can't
7 hear you, and you may have an audio issue.

8 MR. MURRAY: We're still not able to hear
9 you.

10 We're going to move on, John. We'll make sure
11 that we are able to get back to you if you're able to
12 get your audio issue figured out.

13 At -- and, Chair, the other two individuals for
14 this panel after John have left the meeting.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Great.

16 So it looks like this isn't Mr. Amell's first try
17 at testifying. And so let's work to try and help him
18 get on this evening.

19 MR. MURRAY: Yes, definitely. I will make
20 sure that instructions are sent.

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

22 So it looks like we're going to conclude this
23 panel. And so, commissioners, do you have questions
24 for Ms. Lopez? Or comments?

25 (No audible response).

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I would
2 like to excuse the panel.

3 And, Sean, if you'd please call the next.

4 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. The next
5 panel will be Nancy Sheng, Nicole Ngaqui, Dianne
6 Foster, and Paula Townsell.

7 If we can begin with Nancy.

8 Nancy, if you're able to turn on your video and
9 begin your testimony.

10 MS. N. SHENG: Okay. Can you hear me?

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Welcome.

12 MS. N. SHENG: All right. Thank you.

13 My name is Nancy Kelly Sheng. I'm precinct the
14 committee officer in Bellingham, Washington,
15 Precinct 237.

16 So my request is that when you have the census
17 data, I urge you to consider unifying the City of
18 Bellingham into one district if possible. Bellingham,
19 as others have mentioned already, is currently divided
20 in two. The northern half of the city goes on up to
21 the Canadian border and is in the boundaries of
22 Legislative District 42. The southern half of
23 Bellingham is just pretty much -- the midline between
24 north and south is lumped together with Skagit County
25 and, I believe, Island Counties. And equally

1 inconvenient, Whatcom County is also divided into two
2 districts.

3 I would argue that residents of Whatcom County and
4 Bellingham city would be better represented by one
5 state senator and two legislators rather than six
6 different representatives.

7 However, if it is not realistic to unite the City
8 of Bellingham proper and its adjoining county
9 residents, I would ask you to at least consider
10 unifying certain neighbors that share common interests.

11 I understand that the Bellingham and Whatcom
12 League of Women Voters and also the Washington State
13 League of Women Voters have studied the current maps
14 and drawn some proposed maps for you, which may not be
15 perfect, but I hope that you will consider them as a
16 starting point for your discussions once the data is
17 available.

18 And thank you for giving me the opportunity speak
19 tonight.

20 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

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

22 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

23 Nicole, I see your video's on. Looks like you're
24 ready to testify, if you can unmute and begin.

25 MS. N. NGAQUI: Yeah, I can try. I'm sorry.

1 I'm driving. And (indiscernible). So sorry about this
2 (indiscernible).

3 I live over in Stanwood in the LD 10. And I also
4 believe that we need to keep, due to our demographics
5 and interests, between Bellingham to Mukilteo the same.
6 We've got farmers. We have -- which is a huge -- very
7 interconnected. And so we need to keep that
8 (indiscernible) communities of interest
9 underrepresented have the (indiscernible) need to have
10 their voices heard.

11 Also, there seems to be a little bit of -- that
12 needs to be cleaned up between the 38th and the
13 39th Districts, that lines there are a little bit
14 squiggly. So we might want to take a look at that and
15 straighten that out.

16 I think that's all I have. Yeah. Thank you.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Nicole.
18 Unfortunately, your audio was in and out. So it would
19 be great if you'd be willing to write your comments and
20 submit them to us via email --

21 MS. N. NGAQUI: Okay.

22 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: -- so that we can be sure
23 to capture all of your testimony. Thank you.

24 MS. N. NGAQUI: Thank you. I will definitely
25 do that.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. Sean, if you'd
2 call the next speaker. Thank you.

3 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

4 Our next speaker will be Dianne Foster, if you
5 don't mind unmuting and beginning your testimony.

6 MS. D. FOSTER: Okay. This is Dianne Foster.
7 And I don't believe that my webcam is working.

8 But anyway, can you hear me?

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. And we can see you.

10 MS. D. FOSTER: Oh, you can? Oh, dear.

11 Okay. Well, anyway, I live in the 2nd
12 Congressional District in Bellingham. And I've been
13 hearing people talk about legislative redistricting.
14 But I believe this is only about the CD, from my
15 understanding of this meeting.

16 But anyway, I've lived here for many years. And
17 my biggest concern about the CD --

18 And also I wanted to add, I agree with all the
19 previous speakers and all their points.

20 But my biggest concern is that it tends to
21 represent the military industrial complex of Snohomish
22 County and the tens of thousands of employees of Boeing
23 and of the tech industry. And I'm not sure how we can
24 redistrict our way out of that other than making it
25 more democratic, small d, and representing tribes and

1 ordinary people, which then can somewhat offset the
2 influence of, again, the military industrial complex.
3 And I see that as the biggest problem.

4 So -- and that's all I have to say about the
5 congressional district.

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. And, Dianne,
7 just for your information, your Washington State
8 Redistricting Commission is redistricting congressional
9 districts and legislative districts. So we are talking
10 about all of that this evening.

11 MS. D. FOSTER: Oh, okay.

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay.

13 MS. D. FOSTER: Thank you.

14 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thanks very much for your
15 testimony.

16 MS. D. FOSTER: Yes.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Sean, if you would please
18 call the next speaker.

19 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

20 Our next speaker will be Paula Townsell. And I
21 see your video's on, if you can begin your testimony.

22 MS. P. TOWNSELL: Thank you. My name is
23 Paula Townsell. I'm a PCO in the City of Everett
24 within the 30th Legislative District. I appreciate
25 the opportunity to share my thoughts with the

1 commission this evening.

2 I would urge this commission to pay significant
3 attention to the communities of distinct and common
4 interest in our area, such as the Tulalip tribal
5 community, and not divide or carve up any of the
6 reservation area.

7 Also, within CD 2, particularly the City of
8 Everett, our community is based on similar interests
9 with a strong union-employee force, common schools of
10 higher education located in our area, and between the
11 Salish Sea and the area waterways.

12 In Everett most residents are within the 38th
13 LD, but we also have residents of the precincts in the
14 21st LD, which doesn't really seem fair or equitable
15 for those people, as I'm sure they often feel
16 overlooked. I would look forward to your work to
17 create a just and fair district for us.

18 I do have a number of items that I am concerned
19 about and feeling frustrated that I want to call to
20 your attention. There's an appearance at times that
21 this commission may be tone deaf and living to -- to
22 what we're living in right now, and the need for
23 conscious and transparent choices appears to be absent.
24 It's frustrating that the redistricting process will
25 base so much on the flawed 2020 statistics and

1 demographics. It's frustrating that multiple media
2 advisories from the commission have contained errors
3 and required correction to include correct references
4 to the LDs of the congressional districts.

5 It also frustrating that the original public
6 comment for CD 2 was set for this past Saturday, on
7 June 19th, which is also known as Junteenth, and
8 certainly a notable faux pas of this commission.

9 It's frustrating that the commission has allowed
10 placement of a former state senator, Joe Fain, to the
11 districting panel since he has a credible rape
12 allegation against him. It is beyond a faux pas. It's
13 very disturbing, and it corrupts this process by moving
14 the focus on to the commissioners, away from a fair
15 process. We shouldn't be validating the character of a
16 former elected official through this commission --

17 (Allotted time elapsed.)

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
19 your comments.

20 And that concludes this panel. And so I want to
21 ask the commissioners if you have additional questions
22 or additional comments for the panelists.

23 (No audible response.)

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, thank
25 you very much for sharing with us this evening. You're

1 excused.

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

3 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

4 Our first panelist will be Karl de Jong -- I see
5 you already. Perfect. Thank you -- Rita Sullivan,
6 Larry McDonough, and Gerald "Jerry" Hill.

7 Karl, if you can begin your testimony, please.

8 MR. K. DE JONG: Thank you. Good evening,
9 commissioners. My name is Karl de Jong.

10 And I would like to acknowledge that I live on the
11 traditional lands of the Upper Skagit Tribe.

12 I am a city council member in the great City of
13 Sedro-Woolley, Washington. My opinions here today are
14 of my own and should not be reflected upon any elected
15 status.

16 I am here to speak about the 2nd Congressional
17 District, of which we are encapsulated. However, our
18 ZIP code, 98204, does split across into the 1st
19 Congressional District. In fact, our food bank is
20 right across the street from the 1st Congressional
21 District.

22 We also in the 39th touch or are boundaried by
23 ten different legislative districts from King County,
24 Whatcom County, Okanogan County, and Kittitas County.

25 We are a special and unique community that thrives

1 on its self-reliance and independence. We are indeed
2 connected, as Mr. Lively brought out earlier, by a
3 river that contains all five species of salmon. And
4 that is very true that it does connect us from
5 Anacortes all the way up through Newhalem.

6 And we want to stay whole in a legislative
7 district and also in a congressional district. And we
8 look forward to your process of redistricting.

9 We also -- I would also like to reiterate what was
10 said before. Please do look at the participation rate
11 of data from the census. We do have a high
12 population -- an intense population of those who do not
13 participate because of their immigration status. And
14 as a second-generation immigrant, I understand that.

15 Thanks for your time.

16 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

17 Sean, if you'd please call the next panelist.

18 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

19 Rita Sullivan, if you can begin your testimony,
20 please.

21 MS. R. SULLIVAN: Hello. I am a resident of
22 Anacortes in the 2nd Congressional District and the
23 40th Legislative District in Skagit County. So my
24 concern mostly is with the borders of the 40th and
25 the 10th Legislative District.

1 The south part of Fidalgo Island and La Conner
2 have long wished to be part of the 40th District. And
3 the communities of interest in Skagit County are
4 really -- Spencer spoke to this earlier. We are one
5 county, and it would be -- it would be particularly
6 appropriate for the entirety -- well, perhaps not the
7 entirety but at least the western Burlington, Mount
8 Vernon, La Conner, Anacortes, Fidalgo Island areas to
9 be part of one legislative district.

10 So that's my concern. Thank you.

11 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

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

13 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

14 Our next speaker will be "Jerry" Gerald Hill,
15 please begin your testimony.

16 MR. J. HILL: Hi my name is Jerry Hill. I
17 live on Whidbey, and I've lived here for 43 years. And
18 my Wash- -- my family are native Washingtonians.

19 The 10th Legislative District is an area whose
20 economy relies heavily on marine resources and tourism.
21 We are made up of many rural communities that are
22 diverse yet interconnected through resources like the
23 Skagit Valley College with campuses in Mount Vernon,
24 Anacortes, Burlington, and Whidbey Island.

25 Another resource is our interconnected

1 transportation system including a free bus system.

2 At the center of our area is Island County, with
3 37 percent of its population having at least an
4 associate degree. We have -- are a predominately rural
5 area with small cities like Langley, Coupeville, Oak
6 Harbor, La Conner, Mount Vernon, and Stanwood.

7 In our region we are known for many artists,
8 including well-known painters, sculptors, glass
9 artists, woodworkers, metalworkers, potters,
10 photographers, authors, poets, actors, and musicians.

11 It's important that we keep these communities from
12 being divided, like in the last redistricting when
13 Mount Vernon was split in two.

14 Along with the attraction of buying locally grown
15 produce, we have wineries, breweries, and event centers
16 at these businesses. All of this makes us a community.

17 With 18 state parks mostly on Whidbey Island,
18 including the most visited in the state, Ebey's Landing
19 National Historic Preserve, and Deception Pass State
20 Park and six marinas, that makes outdoor activities
21 from camping, hiking, boating, which includes
22 motorboats, sailing, and human-powered watercraft,
23 important to this area. All of this contributes
24 \$250 million to our economy through tourist activities
25 and their needs, like lodging, dining, the events

1 centers, and shopping.

2 We have two ferry terminals, one that travels from
3 the greater Seattle area and the other to and from --

4 (Allotted time elapsed.)

5 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

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

7 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

8 Our final speaker will be Larry McDonough, if you
9 can begin your testimony, please.

10 MR. L. McDONOUGH: How's that? You got me
11 now?

12 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Welcome.

13 MR. L. McDONOUGH: Okay. Good. Thank you
14 very much.

15 First of all, I want to thank you all for taking
16 my call.

17 And before I continue with my testimony I'd ask --
18 would like to ask the commissioners to please consider
19 not allowing participants in this meeting to make
20 slanderous and salacious allegations against people
21 that are involved in our legislative process without
22 due process on their part. A commentator earlier in
23 the evening did so. And I would ask you to not allow
24 people to do that, and if they start that again, to
25 stop it by cutting them off.

1 I'm a PCO in the 42nd Legislative District.
2 Whatcom County is a blend of rural and urban
3 populations that need appropriate representation that
4 matches the residents' values and voting expectations.

5 I live in the rural part of the county to the
6 north of Bellingham proper, where we have a great
7 amount of farming families and larger, wide-open
8 spaces. Our viewpoints regarding issues such as
9 zoning, land-use permitting, water rights, et cetera,
10 would naturally differ from residents living in a
11 denser urban population center, such as Bellingham
12 proper.

13 We need those concerns to be the forefront of the
14 minds of our representatives, our city and county
15 council members and planners when decisions are being
16 made that affect all of us.

17 Additionally, we need to keep our political
18 landscape competitive for balanced representation in
19 our district.

20 As a white, adult, conservative male that has
21 lived in western Washington for over 50 years, I have
22 not had the belief that my vote has counted for much in
23 the past 30 years. I am now being disenfranchised by
24 an onslaught of voting and representation that does not
25 reflect my values and beliefs, along with many people

1 that I know and am friends with.

2 With the far-left culture-shifting pressure that
3 we see being brought to bear on our representatives,
4 both liberal and conservative, it is critical that we
5 hold fast to our foundational form of a
6 representative-republic government. I don't appreciate
7 being canceled because my views are different from
8 someone else's that doesn't --

9 (Allotted time elapsed.)

10 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: I apologize that your time
11 is up. And we want to hear all of your comments. So
12 please do submit those to us at our email address.

13 That -- Larry is the last speaker on this panel.
14 So I want to ask the commissioners at this time if you
15 have comments or questions for the members of this
16 panel.

17 (No audible response.)

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right. Great. Seeing
19 none, I want to thank the people who have testified
20 here in this panel. Thank you for your time and for
21 being us with. We look forward to seeing your written
22 comments if you choose to share those with us. And
23 you're excused.

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

25 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our next

1 panel is going to be Chris Davis, Mark James, Gary
2 McCaig, and Peter Condyles.

3 If we can begin with Chris Davis, if could you
4 turn on your video and begin your testimony.

5 MR. C. DAVIS: Sorry. (Indiscernible).

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Here.

7 MR. C. DAVIS: I just wanted to thank
8 everyone here for the opportunity, like the community
9 outreach involved that's been developing in recent
10 months is really, really -- well, it's positive, I
11 think.

12 I would like to ask that during the commissioning
13 process that overall we kind of move away from the
14 representatives in a district being voted for by
15 everyone. I believe that a community should have a
16 voice in its community.

17 That's it. Thanks.

18 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
19 your input.

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

21 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely.

22 Mark James, if you are able to turn on your video
23 and begin your testimony.

24 MR. M. JAMES: I am here. Hold on.

25 Can you see me?

1 MR. MURRAY: Yes, we can. Thank you so much.

2 MR. M. JAMES: Hi. Thank you. Appreciate
3 the time. I apologize. I'm dodging between a couple
4 of different meetings. But I appreciate the time here
5 to come and share just a little bit.

6 I'm a Marysville city council member. And I
7 wanted to just share about the 44th Legislative
8 District and how it's spread out so far right now that
9 you have really different communities. The far, far
10 south end down in Mill Creek really isn't associated
11 with the other three cities that are up north. And I
12 just wanted to point that out first as far as just the
13 urban-rural area versus the suburban-rural and how
14 we're different.

15 The other thing is, if we could make a better
16 delineation between where the 38th comes into
17 Marysville. Right now we're juggling three different
18 zones and -- three different districts, rather. And it
19 would be great to obviously pare that down to two.

20 I think the 39th actually touches just a very,
21 very few homes there. So might be easier to have two
22 extending the 44th in Marysville more to get in more
23 of that area of contiguous community. I love what I
24 heard earlier, the compact, contiguous, and convenient,
25 and that would be exactly what would happen if we move

1 the 44th up north and encompass Marysville with that.

2 So just wanted to share those quick words with
3 you. And thank you for your time.

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate
5 your willingness to spend time with us this evening.

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

7 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

8 I see Gary has his video on. If you can unmute
9 and begin your testimony.

10 MR. G. MCCAIG: Yes. Thank you. Again, in
11 full disclosure, I'm a Democratic PCO in the 32nd
12 Legislative District. I am a retired systems analyst.
13 I am active in five different political groups, only
14 one of which is a partisan group.

15 What I wanted to focus on, this is not little
16 tweaks and changes that one might have for the existing
17 boundaries of the 2nd CD.

18 I'm -- I've been trying to understand how can we
19 best represent all of the groups. And one of the major
20 ways that I see people differing in -- not in their
21 values but in the priority of their values is based on
22 an urban-rural divide.

23 There -- the way they live their life, their view
24 of the world, and not their values but the relative
25 priorities of their values, I think, is something that

1 we need to consider in order to fairly include everyone
2 else in our representative process.

3 In doing so, I would like to see you focusing on
4 that. However, for each of the individual -- to follow
5 up on this, for the -- each of the individual
6 commissioners, what are your relative values? You
7 know, the introduction told us what some of your
8 criteria are and how you will be looking at it.

9 But until I can see the abso- -- you know, the
10 boundaries you've drawn and have some idea of what your
11 relative values are, there's no way that I can
12 reasonably comment except for making little tweaks. I
13 would rather leave that in your hands where you have
14 the staff support that you need.

15 So I would -- again, if you -- you will need to
16 share your relative values after you've had several of
17 these listening sessions. I would appreciate it.
18 Thank you.

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

20 Sean, if you would call the final speaker in this
21 panel, please.

22 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

23 Peter, I see your video's on, if you can unmute
24 and begin your testimony, please.

25 MR. P. CONDYLES: Good evening,

1 commissioners. My name is Peter Condyles. I have
2 lived in the 2nd Congressional District my entire life,
3 with most of that time spent in Marysville. I wanted
4 to talk a bit tonight about the unique position the
5 City of Marysville finds itself in districtwise.

6 In 2010, during the last round of redistricting,
7 Marysville was split into four legislative districts,
8 the 10th, the 38th, the 39th, and the 44th. At the
9 time Marysville residents requested Marysville be
10 concentrated into a smaller number of districts. In
11 response to this, the commission removed the portion of
12 the 10th, leaving Marysville in three districts, as it
13 is today.

14 While this was a good start, more work needs to be
15 done. Marysville's the second largest city in
16 Snohomish County and one the fastest growing in the
17 state but still finds itself in three districts. Even
18 Everett, the largest city in the county, only finds
19 itself in two.

20 I actually did a little research on this. And
21 cities of comparable size include Sammamish, which is
22 in two, Auburn, which is in three, Lakewood in one,
23 Pasco in two, Redmond in two, and Shoreline in one.

24 While getting Marysville's size into one district
25 would prove difficult, I believe that getting

1 Marysville into two districts would be a step in the
2 right direction and help Marysville receive better
3 representation in Olympia.

4 Of the three districts that Marysville is in, I
5 believe extending the 44th north and west to include
6 south Marysville and extending the 39th south to
7 include north Marysville is the best option. The
8 cities in the 39th and the 44th have more in common
9 with Marysville with respect to their size,
10 population-growth patterns, and struggles they face or
11 will face.

12 While Marysville's been in the 38th for most of
13 its history -- recent history, the fact is Everett and
14 Marysville do not share the same needs from
15 representatives in Olympia anymore, and the 38th
16 would be much better served if it could focus solely on
17 the issues involving Everett.

18 In closing I would ask the commission take note of
19 Marysville in its deliberation as its growth and
20 potential for new jobs base with the soon-to-be-
21 constructed Cascade Industrial Center will bring with
22 it need for better and more focused representation in
23 Olympia. This can be done by moving Marysville into
24 two districts, the 44th and the 39th.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

2 At this time I'd like to ask the commissioners if
3 you have questions or comments for members of this
4 panel.

5 (No audible response.)

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Seeing none, I want
7 to thank you for coming and speaking with us this
8 evening. And you are excused.

9 Sean, if you'd please call the next panel.

10 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair. Our final
11 panel will be Jon Rogers and John Amell.

12 Before we begin, I know that John Amell has tried
13 to testify several times.

14 So if you wouldn't mind going to the bottom
15 left-hand corner of your screen, clicking the arrow
16 pointing up next to the mic button, a setting will open
17 up where you will be able to test your microphone and
18 change your microphone settings. I believe that is
19 your issue.

20 With that being said, as John hopefully is able to
21 do that, we will begin with Jon Rogers.

22 MR. J. ROGERS: Yes. Testing 1, 2. Are you
23 receiving?

24 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Yes. Welcome.

25 MR. J. ROGERS: Thank you. My name is Jon

1 Rogers. I am a retired aerospace engineer. I am
2 currently residing in Bow, Washington, District No. 2.
3 And this is my first attempt -- first opportunity to
4 speak to the commission. I really appreciate this.

5 Like many people that have spoken tonight of the
6 2nd District, I believe Rita Sullivan and Karl Jones
7 mentioned something that is of concern to me, as well,
8 and that is the previous districting included the areas
9 of Everett and the islands, which in District 2 did not
10 represent the rural sections that I do live in. So I
11 would --

12 And I noticed that one of the priorities that you
13 spoke of at the beginning of the meeting was to retain
14 as much as possible the county areas, not to cross the
15 county lines as much. And I appreciate that. I think
16 that will bring more equal representation if we can
17 show the people as a homogenous group within counties
18 rather than splitting across counties.

19 I look forward to seeing more from the commission.
20 This is my first opportunity to see what you're doing.
21 And I would appreciate being able to see the proposed
22 redistricting map and having the opportunity to comment
23 further when I have some more and better information.

24 Thank you very much.

25 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you. We appreciate

1 your comments.

2 Sean, if you'd call our next speaker.

3 MR. MURRAY: Absolutely, Chair.

4 John Amell, if you're able to begin testimony.

5 Let's if you're mic works.

6 MR. J. AMELL: Well, let's try it again now.

7 How's that?

8 MR. MURRAY: Perfect. Sounds awesome. Thank

9 you.

10 MR. J. AMELL: Right. Well, Jerry Hill and I
11 were collaborating on our testimony, and he already
12 stepped over a lot of mine, but I'll fill in the blanks
13 here.

14 My name is John Amell. I'm the chair of the 10th
15 Legislative District Democrats. And I wanted to give
16 you just a characterization.

17 10th LD is made up of all of Island County, which
18 is Whidbey Island, Camano Island, and parts of
19 Snohomish and Skagit. Each of those represent
20 20 percent of the registered voters, while Island
21 County has 60 percent.

22 10th LD has approximately 250 miles of shoreline.
23 I believe that's more than any other LD. I could be
24 wrong about that. The 40th, sometimes we go back and
25 forth on that.

1 The near shore and coastal estuaries provide a
2 critical refuge for juvenile salmon as they make their
3 way to the ocean. Our salmon provide food for the orca
4 and for us. As you know, salmon runs are way down, but
5 we're working on habitat restoration in hopes of a
6 better future.

7 Our shorelines also provide homes for forage fish
8 and support the Pacific flyway for migratory birds,
9 like our snow geese. I think Jerry already mentioned,
10 the Skagit Valley is world famous for tulips and
11 daffodils, and we love our seafood and our Puget Sound
12 Dungeness crab and Penn Cove muscles.

13 I'm going to get right to the punch line and just
14 say, if the 10th LD needs to grow in size to meet our
15 LD population target, I would ask that we preserve our
16 characteristics of being shoreline and marine-area
17 based.

18 And I'll let it go at that.

19 We also have a big Navy base.

20 I don't see a clock, so I guess I'm . . .

21 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you very much. We
22 sure appreciate your testimony. Thank you for being
23 persistent in getting here. We're glad that you're
24 here.

25 And so what I would like to ask at this time is if

1 the commissioners have questions or comments for the
2 members of this panel.

3 (No audible response.)

4 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Okay. Well, I will speak
5 just briefly to Jon Rogers in saying that we are
6 waiting for the census data, sir, to begin drawing
7 maps. So typically we should have the data by April 1,
8 and we are expecting it in late August. And so you
9 will see our efforts as we're able to provide them
10 sometime after we receive census data.

11 At this time we're trying to learn about your
12 communities of interest as best we can so that we will
13 take your input into the process of redrawing maps.

14 Just wanted to share that with you. So you can
15 expect --

16 MR. J. ROGERS: Thank you very much.

17 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: -- to see more from us.

18 MR. J. ROGERS: Thank you very much.

19 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: All right.

20 All right. So seeing no more comments or
21 questions, I'd like to excuse the members of this
22 panel. Thank you for being here. We're glad to hear
23 from you and all members of the public.

24 And at this time what I'd like to do is ask the
25 commissioners if you would like to make closing

1 comments at this time.

2 Okay. Great. Commissioner Graves.

3 COMMISSIONER GRAVES: Thank you very, very
4 much. And I just want to say a note of special thanks
5 to everybody who showed up tonight. I thought this was
6 really thoughtful testimony. It really gave us a sense
7 for where you live and the things that you care about.
8 Again, it is frustrating, I think, for all of us not to
9 have the official census data yet and to know that it
10 will be coming later.

11 But I can assure you that I, and I can feel
12 confident to say the rest of my commission -- we will
13 keep comments in mind as we do our best to draw lines
14 that fairly represent you.

15 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
16 Graves.

17 Commissioner Simms.

18 COMMISSIONER SIMMS: Yeah. I would just like
19 to echo what Commissioner Graves said and thank
20 everyone for their testimony tonight.

21 I know the time and the energy that everyone put
22 into being here and to providing us with some
23 context -- really appreciate the deep nuances regarding
24 the various communities of interest and the unique
25 cultural identity of Congressional District 2 and the

1 various legislative districts. And just want folks
2 know that their testimony tonight will provide us with
3 some additional context that we can add to the data
4 that we will be analyzing as we move forward.

5 So thank you, everyone.

6 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

7 Commissioner Fain.

8 COMMISSIONER FAIN: Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 I also want to echo the thanks from my colleagues.
10 These actually have been very helpful in helping a
11 number of us who aren't necessarily from the local part
12 of the state that we're talking about today understand
13 those communities of interest a lot better.

14 It also gives us an opportunity to go back and
15 follow up on the little notations about, you know, the
16 communities of interest and how they fit together and
17 whether, you know, so-and-so shops in this community
18 and this community even though you might not be able to
19 tell that when looking at a map but you can only tell
20 that when people actually show up to testify like this.

21 One thing that I did want to mention is very soon
22 we'll be launching a tool on our redistricting website
23 where you'll be able to go in and actually manipulate a
24 lot of the census data and draw your own maps and be
25 able to -- whether it's showing your communities of

1 interest or actually sending official maps to us to
2 review.

3 And we've received a couple already, and they've
4 already been very helpful at understanding the wishes
5 of a lot of folks in the community. So I would
6 encourage you to take advantage of that tool if you're
7 so inclined.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Fain.

11 Commissioner Walkinshaw.

12 COMMISSIONER WALKINSHAW: Thank you so much,
13 Madam Chair.

14 And my apologies for being late to video. It's
15 great to be on with you all.

16 I was especially looking forward to this one
17 because I was raised in rural Whatcom County, and I'm a
18 graduate of Nooksack Valley High School myself. So --
19 which was originally in the 2nd and now moved to the
20 1st.

21 So it's really great to hear these comments about
22 communities of interest. And really appreciate these
23 discussions about Whatcom County, about Skagit, about
24 San Juan County, and the areas that are impacted by
25 these decisions.

1 So thank you all so much for your thoughtfully
2 testimony.

3 CHAIR AUGUSTINE: Thank you.

4 And with that, we will close.

5 I'd like thank members of the commission, first of
6 all, for your time and then also our staff, all the
7 folks that have made it possible for us to be together.

8 Why don't we break for a half or so and reconvene
9 at 7:30 for -- to greet people from the 10th
10 Congressional District. So we'll see you at 7:30.

11 (Proceedings concluded at 6:58 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 22nd 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 5, 2021.

Sue E. Garcia

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



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