

COUNTY OF PLATTE

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

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To: Chairman Ogden Driskell
Chairman Dan Zwonitzer
Members of the Jt. Corporations, Elections, Political Subdivisions Committee

From: Malcolm Ervin, Platte County Clerk

Date: August 31, 2021

Subject: Regional approach for redistricting

Honorable Representatives and Senators,

Thank you for your diligent work to prepare reapportionment for the State of Wyoming. The task is daunting and not one that I envy. I do, however, feel the need to express my opinion in regard to the regional approach your committee chose to pursue at its August 16, 2021, meeting. At that meeting your committee briefly considered that Platte, Goshen, Niobrara and Converse Counties, respectively, would constitute a region consisting of two senate and four house districts. I wholeheartedly support our four counties consisting of a region for three main reasons.

First, I believe that Platte County is more akin to Goshen, Niobrara and Converse Counties than we are with our other neighbors – our similarities are economic, social and geographic in nature. As such, it is my belief that our counties should be a single region in order to increase our chances of producing a legislative delegate who is more representative of the community as a whole – our chance of achieving that representation likely decreases if we were to be lumped into another region.

Second, from an election administration point of view the fewer boundaries within a county the better – more boundaries within a county increase the number of splits. By including Platte, Goshen, Niobrara and Converse Counties as one region, your committee would be more able to use the existing county boundaries as landmarks for senate and house district boundaries. As an election administrator, I will always advocate that Platte County should be included within one senate and one house district in order to limit splits within my county. From an election administration point of view, using county boundaries is an obvious choice.

Third, by not including Platte County into a region with Converse, Goshen and Niobrara Counties would certainly indicate that one or more of our smaller towns – Glendo, Chugwater, Guernsey and Hartville – would be included in a region that would greatly outnumber them. Including Platte County into the proposed region prevents our small communities from being “gobbled up” by larger population centers.

I sincerely appreciate your time and efforts throughout this process and hope you understand the importance of considering Goshen, Niobrara, Converse and Platte Counties as a single region.

Sincerely,



Malcolm Ervin, County Clerk

MALCOLM J. ERVIN, CLERK
CARY SHUBERT, CHIEF DEPUTY · MELANIE KAUSHAGEN, DEPUTY
GENEVA WITHROW, DEPUTY · DANIELLE RAGSDALE, DEPUTY · CHERISH KECK, DEPUTY