

RESOLUTION 2021-7
CONCERNING REDISTRICTING AND THE DRAWING OF TWO RURAL
DISTRICTS IN COLORADO

WHEREAS, Every ten years the State of Colorado needs to redraw all of the congressional districts to equalize population between them; and

WHEREAS, rural Colorado has unique interests that are sometimes contrary to the interests of Front Range communities; and

WHEREAS, Colorado is expected to receive an eighth congressional district through the reapportionment process; and

WHEREAS, the Western Slope has historically been considered a community of interest; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Plains and Southern Colorado is an easily defined community of interest; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a primary driver of the economy in many rural counties; and

WHEREAS, energy production is a primary driver of the economy in many rural counties; and

WHEREAS, both agriculture and energy are historically considered a community of interest; and

WHEREAS, rural communities' water interests sustaining agriculture and recreation are often counter to the water interests of urban/suburban communities; and

WHEREAS, Western Slope counties are often over 50% made up of publicly owned lands, with some approaching 90% publicly owned; and

WHEREAS, Rural communities have unique infrastructure needs, including telecommunications, public transportation and utilities; and

WHEREAS, tourism is a primary driver of the economy in many rural counties; and

WHEREAS, roughly one fourth of the population of the State of Colorado lives in these rural counties that rely on agriculture, energy production, and tourism to drive their economy; and

WHEREAS, drawing two rural districts allows the Congressional Redistricting Commission to better meet Constitutional requirements for compact districts with the remaining six congressional districts; now, therefore

Be it resolved by the Commissioners of Kiowa County:

(1) That the Western Slope of Colorado is a community of interest that deserves to be made whole within one congressional district;

(2) That the Eastern Plains and Southern Colorado is a community of interest that deserves its own congressional district; and

(3) That we, the Commissioners of Kiowa County, encourage the Congressional Redistricting Commission to ensure Colorado's rural population is effectively represented through the creation of two fully rural (or as near as possible) districts.

ADOPTED this 27th day of May, 2021.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF KIOWA COUNTY, STATE OF COLORADO

Donald Oswald, Chairman

Howard "Butch" Robertson

Michael Lening

ATTEST:

Delisa Weeks, County Clerk