

*Tom Jankovsky*  
District 1

*John Martin, Chair*  
District 2

*Mike Samson, Chair Pro Tem*  
District 3



September 8, 2021

Colorado Congressional Redistricting Commission,

The Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County is disappointed and appalled by the September 3, 2021, First Congressional Staff Plan map, which inexplicably splits Garfield County and moves the western end from Congressional District 3 to CD2. This split recklessly dilutes the voice, and thus the representation, of rural, western Garfield County among the urban centers of Boulder, Broomfield, and parts of Larimer counties, all with whom Garfield County shares little in common.

There is no common bond between these urban centers and western Garfield County or northwest Colorado. We are different geographically, separated by the Rocky Mountains. Traveling from one area to the other requires traversing two mountain passes and traveling through Glenwood Canyon. When time is short or weather is bad, it is Garfield County that will be ignored by potential or actual representatives. We are different environmentally. Garfield County's watershed flows west through the Colorado River. This new CD2 ignores watershed boundaries and disregards the natural geological division of the state, the Rocky Mountains, and the highways that separate us. When conflicts arise between competing interests, Garfield County will have no congressional support.

Garfield County is 67% public lands. Educated and active congressional representation on public land issues is essential to the economic health of our county. Our economy is based on tourism, agriculture, and natural resource extraction. We cannot risk this issue taking a back seat to issues that may be more important to urban areas. There is simply no fidelity between our economics and the economy of the Front Range urban communities included in the currently proposed CD2.

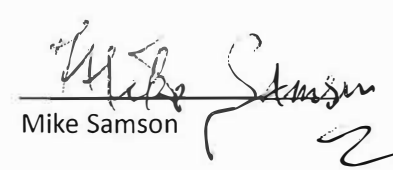
Garfield County is a community of interest. Splitting our county weakens our community. It weakens our shared policy concerns on public lands, agricultural issues, housing, environmental concerns, education, public health, water quality, and transportation. Proposing to divide and dilute Garfield County in the current manner is highly suspect and is obvious and blatant gerrymandering. It is sure to destroy our voice at the federal level and cannot stand.

Keep Garfield County whole. Keep it, and all Western Slope counties, in CD3. We support the June 23, 2021, Preliminary Congressional Map.


Thank you for your consideration.



John Martin, Chair



Mike Samson



Tom Jankovsky