

To: Peggy Burdett
Date: 10/19/2011 6:43:17 PM
Subject: Re: Governor Should Veto the Map (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Thank you! I look forward to communicating with you.

Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Peggy Burdett <2010.delegate@gmail.com> 10/19/11 18:43 >>>

http://www.heraldextra.com/news/opinion/article_a2bbeea5-72c3-54f2-ae95-d6ceb1e5423e.html

IN OUR VIEW

Opinion: Governor should veto the map

Posted: Wednesday, October 19, 2011 11:00 am

[image: Utah Governor Gary Herbert address the audience during the groundbreaking ceremony of Nu Skin's Innovation Center in downtown Provo on Monday, July 18, 2011. JAMES ROH/Daily Herald]

Gov. Gary Herbert should take a close look at the congressional district map delivered by the Utah Legislature on Monday, and then veto it for what he finds.

He should not stand for the dissection of Utah communities, regardless of the partisan advantages of doing so. A veto would bring the legislature's foolishness into full public view.

We hope Herbert will take the high road of statesmanship and invite his fellow Republicans to begin to rehabilitate their shattered reputation. And this is coming from the unabashedly conservative Daily Herald.

Senator Ben McAdams, D-Salt Lake City, told the news media that each district in the new map is at least 62 percent Republican, which is either a mathematical miracle or proof that the Republicans' claims of fairness are nothing but an alibi.

Well, it's not a mathematical miracle.

To disregard community cohesion is to commit assault and battery on the democratic process. In Utah County and elsewhere, residents will be carved away from their neighbors arbitrarily. The map splits Lehi in two along Interstate 15, for example -- and American Fork, and Springville, and Spanish Fork, and Payson, and even little Santaquin.

But while a highway may provide a physical pretext for division, it provides a poor standard for understanding the more important dynamics of a city.

Social cohesion is the warp and woot of our fabric of self-government.

In light of this, the Utah Legislature's use of roads to set congressional districts is lazy at best. It achieves a cold numerical balance without taking into account the crucial element of a vibrant political system: the common ground upon which people stand. It does violence to the idea of shared interests, of communication over a back fence or at a grocery store or gas station.

Roads in this case provided cover for political mischief -- the creation of four congressional districts that are now virtual certainties for Republican control and devised in secret for the express purpose of suppressing competing points of view. Very clever work.

We, too, would like to see more conservative votes in Washington. But it matters how this is achieved. While it's true that a majority party can stomp a jackboot and force an issue, it is also true that majorities should be extremely careful in the exercise of this power -- at least if we want a healthy America and not a polarized, political Gulag. Respect for others and a willingness to listen is always better than secrecy and scorched earth.

Statesmanship can work wonders. It did in 2006 when a redistricting committee worked up a four-seat map in response to the proposed trade that would give Washington, D.C., a voting member. The bipartisan vote was 11-1. The committee's work was hailed as good for Utah.

Unfortunately, there are few members of the legislature anymore with the skills of statesmanship and the maturity required to achieve the inclusiveness and goodwill that has long made America special. What we have instead is an increasingly hardening view -- the view that might makes right.

By far the worst feature of the new map is its chopping up of cohesive communities, many of them in Utah County, and assigning the parts to different representatives. A little nick here and there might be defensible to make a map work, but plowing wholesale paths along a highway is unconscionable.

Take tiny Santaquin, for example. It has development emerging on both sides of I-15. An artificial strip of asphalt and concrete does not prevent warm-blooded people from moving daily from one side of town to the other, or from talking to one another, or from going to church or school together. Nor does the freeway inhibit or channel commerce to such a degree that by living on either side residents become creatures of different worlds. In California, perhaps, but not in Santaquin. People on the east side must still go west to buy groceries.

We see no reason that Santaquin could not have been left intact, with the district boundary drawn hard against the mountain, just as Provo's district boundary was drawn hard against Utah Lake. The same applies to all the other communities in Utah that were dissected for the sake of a plan hatched in secret.

A similar atrocity was committed in Sanpete County, one of the oldest and most historically insular communities in Utah. Fairview and Mt. Pleasant find themselves in the awkward dogleg of a new fourth district, while their sister cities, Ephraim and Manti, are mapped in the second district, giving them different representation in Washington.

This plainly shows that the Utah Legislature had absolutely no concern for cultural ties, either historical or modern. It was all about 62 percent. Gov. Herbert should refuse to go along with it.

Big changes need strong justifications but the Republicans have offered only flimsy ones. They had the gall to claim that the final map had been submitted by a citizen, David Garber of Provo. But Garber quickly revealed the perjury by posting a notice that "other than the outline of Utah, this proposal bears no resemblance to my own."

Legislators also claimed there was plenty of review time. But in fact only one hour elapsed between the time the final map was introduced in the House and the vote. Likewise, the Senate didn't get but a momentary glance.

There was no need to ram it through. No harm would have been done by waiting a few days so that all members of the legislature and public could conduct a careful examination. After all, the map is supposed to be good for 10 years, until the next Census. If it's good enough to stand for a decade, it would have been good enough to stand for a few more days.

As it turns out, the map looks fine from a high level; but at street level it's horrific. And somehow we suspect that Republican leadership knew this.

An apparently serious senior House staffer even told the Herald that cities might just as well be split because they're going to grow beyond their current boundaries anyway, creating a population and demographic mismatch to whatever districts are devised today.

This is pure mush. City boundaries grow outward relatively slowly, which is why we have a Census once every decade to make adjustments. By contrast, abruptly balkanizing established communities by legislative fiat is an exercise of power worthy of the world's best socialists.

Legislators appear to be slow learners. Their freight-train approach reflects the same attitude of contempt for the people of Utah that showed up last session with the passage of HB-477, which would have closed significant parts of government to public scrutiny. The citizen outcry was loud and sustained in that case, and it should be here, too.

Adding insult to injury is that Utah County has been treated as a pawn, notwithstanding House Speaker Becky Lockhart's keeping her own city -- Provo -- intact at the expense of other communities. (In fairness, she had no alternative. The Dave Clark Five were pressing their own agenda, and compromise was required.)

But Utah County is arguably the most staunchly conservative enclave in the United States. And what does it get? Cut into pieces, and not for some higher good but merely to serve the dubious goal of absolute party dominance.

If this map is signed off by the governor, many residents of cities along the I-15 corridor and elsewhere will be divided from their neighbors in Congress. That is wrong. Intact communities matter if we want our representatives to be beholden to anybody in particular.

Yesterday we said legislators should have their necks wrung like turkeys. But that's unfair to turkeys. The birds didn't do anything wrong.

Republicans in the legislature, by contrast, are committing a serious wrong against all Utahns by playing an exclusionary game. They are willing to tear the social fabric for "light and transient causes" against which we have been so eloquently warned. Convinced of the rectitude of majority rule over statesmanship, sadly, they don't see the problem.

We will now see whether Gov. Herbert is statesman enough to stand up. If he does, the people of Utah will stand up with him.

From: Brad Wilson
To: Allyson Isom
Date: 10/20/2011 4:27:27 PM
Subject: Re: Governor Signs Final Special Session Bills (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Thank you! I look forward to communicating with you.

Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Allyson Isom 10/20/11 16:27 >>>

The attached contains the following content:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2011

Contact: Ally Isom
Deputy Chief of Staff
801.538.1503 desk
801.864.7268 cell
aisom@utah.gov

Governor Signs Final Special Session Bills

SALT LAKE CITY—Governor Gary R. Herbert signed the remaining pieces of legislation from the recent special legislative session. The bills signed were:

S.B. 3001s03 Utah State Senate Boundaries and Election Designation (Sen. Okerlund)

S.B. 3002s19 Congressional Boundaries Designation (Sen. Okerlund)

S.B. 3005 Lieutenant Governor District Determinations (Sen. Okerlund)

Governor Herbert issued the following statement regarding Utah's redistricting effort:

"Redistricting is an emotional and complex issue. For more than six months, the State Legislature engaged members of the public in an unprecedented way. I find that the Legislature followed the law, and the outcome, although not entirely satisfactory to everyone, is reasonable. Let us remember, in the final analysis, our representatives are not chosen by lines drawn on a map; they are elected by the people of Utah."

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From: Brad Wilson
To: Lee Davidson
Date: 10/21/2011 12:04:09 PM
Subject: Re: SL Tribune inquiry (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Thank you! I look forward to communicating with you.

Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Lee Davidson 10/21/11 12:15 >>>

Rep. Wilson,

This is from Lee Davidson with the Salt Lake Tribune.
Could you please give me a call or email me? I am working on a follow-up on redistricting and am trying to talk to Republicans who voted against the congressional map, and Democrats who voted for it. I'd like to ask about reasons for your vote.
My numbers are: work, 801-257-8752; cell, 801-455-9372.

Thanks,

Lee Davidson
Salt Lake Tribune

From: Brad Wilson
To: Glen Dalton
Date: 10/21/2011 12:35:37 PM
Subject: Re: Out of Office: Special Invite & Redistricting Update (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Representative Brad Wilson

>>> "Dalton, Glen" 10/21/11 12:35 >>>

I am out of the office for a few days. I will respond to your e-mail, if needed; by about Oct. 28th.

From: Brad Wilson
To: Adam Lloyd
Date: 10/21/2011 12:35:54 PM
Subject: Re: Out of Office: Special Invite & Redistricting Update (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Adam Lloyd 10/21/11 12:35 >>>

I will be out of the office on vacation October 16-23. During this time you may reach my Systems Engineer, Dave DeCesare at 303-257-4655 or david_decesare@symantec.com. You may also try reaching my District Sales Manager at John_Zilinskas@symantec.com.

Otherwise, I will return your message when I return to the office on October 24.

Licensing: 888-727-8671
Basic Support: 800-927-4017
Essential 24x7 Support: 800-854-5441
Customer Service: 800-721-3934

Alternatively, you can also initiate a technical support request using the following:

- Web Support: <https://mysupport.symantec.com>
- Email: enterprise_support@symantec.com

From: Brad Wilson
To: Chris Dallin
Date: 10/21/2011 12:36:09 PM
Subject: Re: Out of Office: Special Invite & Redistricting Update (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Thank you! I look forward to communicating with you.

Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Chris Dallin 10/21/11 12:35 >>>

I will be out of the office until Monday, October 24 with limited access to e-mail. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Lori Morris at (801) 387-7750.

Thank you

From: Brad Wilson
To: Paul Miner
Date: 10/21/2011 12:36:09 PM
Subject: Re: Out of Office: Special Invite & Redistricting Update (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Paul Miner 10/21/11 12:35 >>>

I will be out of the office until Monday the 24th

[<https://images.mtnam.org/images/image.aspx/1927/e913f29f/1/100/126/1>] Paul Miner
Branch Manager, Layton Branch
+1 801-776-4212 tel
pminer@macu.com
<http://www.macu.com>

[<https://images.mtnam.org/marketing/image.aspx/e913f29f>]
[<https://images.mtnam.org/marketing/image.aspx/2/fb>] [<https://images.mtnam.org/marketing/image.aspx/2/tw>]
NMLS#: 487114

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From: Brad Wilson
To: Josh Spilker
Date: 10/21/2011 12:36:39 PM
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: Special Invite & Redistricting Update (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Thank you! I look forward to communicating with you.

Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Josh Spilker 10/21/11 12:36 >>>

Thank you for your e-mail. I will be out of the office until October 24th. I will reply to your e-mail when I return.

Thanks,
Josh Spilker

From: Brad Wilson
To: Lenard Johnson
Date: 10/21/2011 12:36:53 PM
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: Special Invite & Redistricting Update (Thank you for your email! I appreciate those engaged and willing to communicate with me. I receive a large volume of emails, but I will personally read your message and try to respond as quickly as possible.)

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Thank you! I look forward to communicating with you.

Representative Brad Wilson

>>> Lenard Johnson 10/21/11 12:38 >>>

I'll be out of office Friday on Vacation.. Please contact Mike Serr and Eric Holdsworth for Vision support and David Dorn for the rest. Try my cell in case of emergency.

Thanks