



August 2, 2011

Senator Ralph Okerlund
Chair – 2011 Redistricting Committee
248 S 500 W
MONROE, UT 84754

Representative Kenneth W. Sumsion
Chair – 2011 Redistricting Committee
PO Box 676
AMERICAN FORK, UT 84003

Re: Redistricting

Dear Senator Okerlund and Representative Sumsion:

At the outset, let us express our appreciation and respect for the manner in which the business of the Utah Redistricting Committee has been conducted. This has been an open process with 17 public hearings held throughout the State and has been greatly enhanced by the new tools made available to the public.

We regret that on the evening of Tuesday, July 12th we were not able to attend the Committee meeting in West Jordan as the time conflicted with our City Council meeting. We were able to follow news accounts of the meeting and wanted to share with you our thoughts and suggestions relative to establishing boundaries for the State House seats in Salt Lake County.

It is our understanding that two themes that were voiced at the meeting were those of attempting to keep communities of interest together and the suggestion that this might be best accomplished by establishing, where possible, a single House seat for local government entities. The sense being that a House member who lives in and represents a city would be advantageous.

We thought it might be helpful to the Committee to share the experience of Sandy City where we have 5 members of the House who represent large portions of the City and 2 members who represent a very small sliver of the City. It has been the experience of Sandy City that having several members of the House representing the City has actually proven beneficial. We want to share with you our observations.

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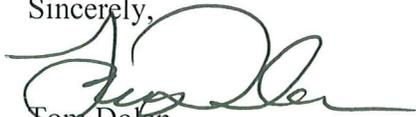
First, there is the opportunity to have a larger audience of representatives who have become familiar with the City and its needs and concerns. This can also prove helpful in having representation on broader range of committees.

Second, given the fact that several of the House members representing Sandy also represent other surrounding communities such as Bluffdale, Draper, Cottonwood Heights, Midvale, Riverton, South Jordan and portions of Unincorporated Salt Lake County provides the representatives with a sense of what surrounding communities are dealing with and broadens their understanding of how municipal government operates. The diversity of these cities will enhance the understanding of a House member that "one size" does not fit all. We have found many times at the Federal level there is not an understanding of differences between cities and the attempt to have one regulation apply to all cities simply does not work and many times creates added problems. At the State level we have the opportunity to share our varied experiences and provide context to the members of the State Legislature.

Third, in the case of the southern portion of the Salt Lake Valley, it would seem that there would be more issues of similarity than there would be disagreement. Yes, some of the cities have matured but they also went through their own times of explosive growth. It would seem that establishing artificial barriers based on not serving more than one community or using some geographic point of reference would prove counter productive in the long run.

In summary, we again express our appreciation to the Redistricting Committee for your hours of hard work and dedication. We understand and have empathy for the magnitude of the task before you. We have shared these thoughts with you with the intent of promoting constructive dialog on the issue of municipal interests in the redistricting process.

Sincerely,



Tom Dolan
Mayor, Sandy City



Steve Fairbanks
Chairman, Sandy City Council

Cc: Members of the Utah Redistricting Committee