

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 10:05 pm

First Name: **Denny**

Last Name: **Wells**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **The board now has an opportunity to pair communities divided by the board into their House Districts. This has been a challenge in past decades because the Municipality of Anchorage did not separate in an even number of House seats. Still, this year, the board is fortunate that the Municipality of Anchorage is divided into an exact number of 16 House seats with the small addition of Whittier. Further, the Chugiak-Eagle River area now has two House seats, giving the board the maximum opportunity to bring the community back together. Future boards may not be as fortunate to have this situation and may need to pair Chugiak-Eagle River with South Anchorage or another district outside of their area. With the 2020 US Census data, the board does not need to divide Eagle River or South Anchorage.**

The Superior Court found that the Senate K pair ignored communities of interest in Eagle River and South Muldoon with very little justification. The court reviewed the board's arguments (contiguity through the Chugach, JBER connection to Eagle River) for this pairing and still found little reason.

Denny noted the following:

- Downtown Anchorage is split along 4th Avenue. Denny lived at the district boundary on Barrow Street and noted it was easy walking to Downtown events. District 23 comprises 10,832 residents of JBER and 7,191 Anchorage residents - 2,389 of the Anchorage residents are in Muldoon, and the remainder is South Anchorage and Government Hill residents. If any place in Anchorage constitutes a community of interest, it is Downtown Anchorage - the city's heart. Downtown should be paired with Eagle River.

- Eagle River is split along the Glenn Highway and Eagle River Road. The board also divided along a residential street in Eagle River, a small neighborhood road where people know their neighbors and should be in the same district. Member Marcum stated on April 8, 2022, to a public member that there is only one Eagle River House seat while the other is a Chugiak/Peters Creek/JBER House seat. This is factually

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inaccurate as District 24 has 7,586 residents of Eagle River and Eagle River Valley community councils - 33% of the total population of Eagle River community councils. The Eagle River Fred Meyer, business boulevard, and Carr's are all in District 24. District 24 is most certainly an Eagle River House seat.

- District 24 includes a small portion of JBER, but it has no population except for one census block that appears to be noise from the bureau's anonymization efforts. The block is bounded by Eagle River, the Inlet, and Otter Lake and has a population of 197 people with no visible infrastructure; it is 100% adult, 38.6% white versus 74% adult, and 58.9% white in JBER. Other anomalous census blocks like this were discovered in Anchorage bowl; the most obvious was between International Airport Road and Raspberry Road on Walter J. Hickel Parkway. The District 23 and 24 pairings have been justified through the military connection between JBER and Chugiak-Eagle River. Through Denny's experience in his photography business, he has seen this to be true.

- Denny has heard concerns that JBER is more similar to Chugiak-Eagle River than Downtown Anchorage. This argument ignores the 7,200 residents in District 23 who live in Muldoon and Downtown Anchorage, where the Muldoon residents have more in common with Downtown Anchorage than Chugiak-Eagle River. For example, the residents live in older houses on smaller lots, use the city water and sewer service, and use the city-maintained roads.

- Parts of Downtown and Muldoon in District 23 are 43% white, District 17 is 51% white, and District 24 is 73% white. The Downtown and Muldoon parts of District 23 are more similar to the population of District 17 Downtown than in District 24. The JBER part of District 23 is 59% white, closer to District 17's 51% white population. District 23 is 52% white; taking a minority population and combining it with a 73% white district when there are other available options is a sign of racial gerrymandering.

- The pairing of Districts 22 and 9 has been justified because both districts have rural road services, share the same roads, and use septic systems. These justifications also apply to the pairing of Districts 22 and 24. Several houses have wells and septic systems, a long contiguous border with the Chugach, and the same road service area.

- Denny has heard that the pairings in Option 3-B are justified through the Ship Creek hunting area, a tenuous claim because people from all over the state come there to hunt. The site is contained in District 22. If you rely on the constitutional verbiage about drainages justifying Senate pairings, the Ship Creek drainage would support Districts 22 and 23, not 23 and 24, making both pairs well due to the Eagle River drainage.

Denny testified in support of the Senate pairings in Option 2.

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Date: April 13, 2022, 10:16 pm

First Name: **Jason**

Last Name: **Warfield**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Jason is a 40-year Anchorage and stated that Option 3-B joins Districts 22 and 9, and the Hillside community has generally spoken against this pairing. The municipal reapportionment committee made this case and took part of Hillside and put it into municipal District 2. Throwing a portion of District 6 (about 12K people) into Municipal District 2 would result in a far underrepresentation due to population disparity, thus not being an equal pairing.**

The Option 3-B pairings, while not optimal, also represent the fairest map. The two districts share a 35-mile border and are demographically similar; an argument made during municipal reapportionment when trying to pair Districts 6 and 2. Both communities have a similar population and would equally be represented by their state senators. The map also puts JBER with Eagle River instead of pairing it with Downtown Anchorage. Through Jason's experience working at an auto shop in Downtown Anchorage, several military clients lived in Eagle River, not Downtown.

NOTE: District 6 = South Anchorage, District 2 = Eagle River

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Date: April 13, 2022, 10:20 pm

First Name: **Queen**

Last Name: **Parker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Sterling**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Queen testified in support of Option 3-B as it would be fair for all residents.**

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Date: April 13, 2022, 10:25 pm

First Name: **Laura**

Last Name: **Bonner**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Laura testified in support of the following:**

- 1) Pairing the two Eagle River House districts, Eklutna is closer, and it is illogical to pair Eagle River with Anchorage**
- 2) Keeping Girdwood with South Anchorage since the only proximity to Eagle River is through a mountain range that can only be traveled by foot**
- 3) Downtown Anchorage districts should be paired together.**

Laura lives in Lower Hillside and prefers to be paired with her neighbors above her. Laura is unsure which map outlines her preferences but believes it may be Option 2.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 9:47 am

First Name: **Yarrow**

Last Name: **Silvers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Yarrow addressed various comments and characterizations heard over the last week:**

1) Yarrow has heard that Map 2 is partisan. Yarrow introduced this map and it was arrived at by the East Anchorage plaintiffs with legal guidance who advised that pairing Muldoon with Eagle River, and then pairing the districts that were left unpaired was the method that most closely followed the remand order from the court which had ruled that the splitting of Eagle River, to increase representation, was a partisan gerrymander violating equal protection. No incumbent information or partisan data was accessed and Yarrow does not know where incumbents live nor the districts they represent.

2) It is known that both independent makers of Option 3-B, Member Marcum and Randy Ruedrich, have seen incumbent information during the mapping process. In contrast, the Option 2 pairings were based on logic, reason, similarity between communities, the constitution, and the remand requirements.

3) Most of the testimony, which favored Map 1, to introduce Map 2 which the ADN has reported Cathy Giessel, who appointed John Binkley to the board, as stating that the map "was a very elegant solution" and one she prefers.

4) Most of the testimony backs up the non-partisan and inherently fair nature of Option 2 which has broad bipartisan support. There have been several testimonies about the irrationality of Option 3-B from organizations and individuals who are not partisan or left-wing. In contrast, the majority of the testimony for Option 3-B is based on partisan considerations, number of Republican Senate seats, specific incumbents, "do it because you can", or one-line statements with no reason included.

5) Despite the quick timeframe of the process and there being a significant amount of testimony against these pairings in the municipal process, Chairman Binkley has

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indicated that those testimonies do not count because the numbers and considerations are different. Yarrow asked which numbers and considerations are different and stated the false contiguity, distance, broken communities, and lack of commonality are the same. The only difference is that the lowest deviations were sacrificed to have meaningful contiguity in municipal districts which resulted in a municipal map with deviations of 5% and where Eagle River was underpopulated by several thousand people. While it was originally believe by the mapmakers that South Anchorage and Eagle River had socioeconomic connections, both community's residents stated it was not and the Assembly listened.

6) In the redistricting process, Eagle River is being split despite having enough population for one Senate seat. Yarrow believes most people want effective local representation that reflects the unique communities regardless of political affiliation, and Map 2 reflects that. If the board chooses a map that uses second-rate or false contiguity for pairings, then the burden of proof falls on the board to show why a constitutional map is not possible.

7) Regarding the justifications heard for Option 3-B, Yarrow heard District 23 is actually not Eagle River, but the map does include the northern part of Eagle River including parts of its business district.

8) Yarrow has heard that Eagle River and South Anchorage share the longest border. She would like to ask the board to consider how long the populated area of the border is compared to the unpopulated area that Member Simpson has been heard referring to as "basically affixion" in another part of the map. Member Simpson's sentiments are true in this case, too. It is irrational to pair Districts 9 and 22 just because they touch when there is another logical pairing.

10) There have been statements about how JBER and Eagle River should be paired together while obtusely ignoring that the communities of Downtown Anchorage, Government Hill, and South Anchorage must be split in order to accommodate this false vision of JBER. JBER is integrated into the municipality, including Government Hill and Downtown Anchorage where a JBER access gate is located in Government Hill and is utilized by the majority of service members. Also, service members living off-base are already represented by the communities they reside in while on-base members are most connected to communities in the Anchorage proper outside of their respective gates - not Eagle River. Some say the pairing of JBER and Eagle River has been done historically, but this doesn't mean it should be done today.

In closing, Yarrow feels that East Anchorage residents have gained their voice back through legal remedy. Yarrow also feels deep regret that some members of the board seem tempted to shift the burden of harm and silence to another community. Yarrow implored the board to stop fighting for unconstitutional maps and choose the right thing instead.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 9:55 am

First Name: **Roger**

Last Name: **Holland**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Alaska State Senate**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **South Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Senator Holland testified in support of Option 2 and noted that South Anchorage (District 28) and the Muldoon curve (District 27) have different family types with additional needs. During the tax proposals that Senator Holland worked on recently, everything in Muldoon had big-ticket intersection issues with much concrete work, and everything in South Anchorage was much smaller. A typical project in District 27 was millions of dollars, and a typical project in District 28 is hundreds of thousands of dollars.**

Senator Holland understands that the Chugach mountain makes Eagle River and South Anchorage contiguous, but it is impassable. The constitution states contiguity as a factor, but contiguity also means access and flow, but there is no flow of trade or commerce between Eagle River and South Anchorage.

As a Senator, representing Eagle River and South Anchorage is challenging if a Senator's intentions are to be present and representative of the communities.

Option 2 has great pairings that solve many complications that Senator Holland has seen in District N (Districts 27 and 28, as stated above).

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Date: April 14, 2022, 11:37 am

First Name: **Lora**

Last Name: **Reinbold**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Lora Reinbold spent 10 years as a Huffman resident, 15 years as an Eagle River resident, and spent time in Girdwood with family members who have cabins there. Thus, Lora knows these areas very well and testified against Option 3-B as it makes the political gerrymandering called out by Judge Matthews even worse.**

Lora testified in support of Option 2 that pairs House Districts 22 and 24 together and strongly encouraged keeping Eagle River together.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 12:13 pm

First Name: **Lance**

Last Name: **Pruitt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Lance has not heard much dialogue about JBER and military personnel, and this compelled Lance to testify. They do not have enough residents to make up a Senate district and are more tied to Eagle River and East Anchorage than other parts of Anchorage. The board is left with an option to ensure that military personnel are taken care of by keeping them in a Senate district pair with Eagle River.**

One fact is that Eagle River High School would not exist if it wasn't for the military. If the military was not present, Eagle River High School could fit into Chugiak High School. Thus, you must tie the two together as they have the closest socioeconomic similarities. Also, the board must consider military personnel on voting ballots. There is usually a higher turnout from the military during the presidential elections.

Lance addressed comments about the long distance driving from Eagle River to South Anchorage and stated that a senator will likely spend more time in further districts as they want communities to know they are being considered and heard.

Lance testified in support of Option 3-B as it considers the military, a key group that has not had a strong presence in public testimonies. To support the military, you must pair JBER with Eagle River.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 1:30 pm

First Name: **Joelle**

Last Name: **Hall**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **AFFR**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **AFFR testified in support of the recently withdrawn Map 1 and has read the court remand to the board to pair Muldoon and Eagle River. AFFR supports the move to withdraw Map 1 to narrow the scope down to Options 2 and 3-B.**

Breaking apart Eagle River with no basis to pair it with another part of Anchorage in an attempt at gerrymandering is why we are here today. Unbelievably, the board appears to be giving real consideration to a map that does the same thing. Mathematically, Eagle River is entitled to one Senate seat.

Since the remand, Joelle has listened to contorted explanations attempting to justify Option 3-B pairings. What is more compact, contiguous, and socioeconomically integrated than keeping a community whole?

The court has found that Eagle River is a community of interest whose needs can be considered with context to the larger Municipality of Anchorage. This leads to the debate on one of contiguity: the dividing line of Districts 22 and 24 is the majority of Eagle River Road, the heart of Eagle River that runs 13 miles. The neighborhoods on both sides attend the same elementary schools, recreate at the same parks, and shop at the same places. The contiguity of Option 2 is better than Option 3-B.

The board has made some tough contiguity calls in the process, such as Valdez, but Eagle River, South Anchorage, and Downtown Anchorage are not tough calls. There is a simple, rational, legal, constitutional solution.

Testifiers have continued to give the board rationales to break these communities apart, but the underlining constitutional question remains: What is more practicably contiguous? Is Option 3-B more practicably contiguous than Option 2? (It is not.)

Option 2 has side-by-side districts as the constitution envisions; there are no contortions required and no contiguity slights of hand. Joelle encouraged the board to adopt Option 2.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 1:44 pm

First Name: **Mike**

Last Name: **Edgington**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Girdwood**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Mike testified in support of Option 2 as it is the most rational of the proposed options. Mike offered the following anecdotes:**

1) Mike reviewed some history in the last 4.5 years of visiting places. He rarely visited Eagle River and South Anchorage, often more than once per week. This is likely similar to most of his Girdwood neighbors.

2) Mike referred to a discussion on second-rate contiguity between Judge Matthews and the board's legal counsel, Matt Singer. In this discussion, the sea and unpopulated mountains are used as contiguity, and this type of second-rate contiguity has been used to justify Option 3-B. This does not make sense as there is no practical way of traveling along the Chugach Mountains between districts.

3) There have been discussions on the Municipality of Anchorage's reapportionment process. Several testifiers supporting Option 3-B have mentioned objections to a proposal in the reapportionment process to combine some of Hillside Anchorage with Eagle River; this was true later in the process, but at the beginning, the city's contractor proposed other maps. One of the maps combines South Anchorage, Girdwood, and Turnagain Arm with Eagle River. Mike heard several objections from his community to this combination as they felt the two communities were not connected.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 1:51 pm

First Name: **Judy**

Last Name: **Eledge**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Judy addressed Yarrow Silvers' comments about political organizations supporting Option 3-B and noted that both Yarrow and Denny Wells have supported the Eagle River and Hillside combination during the Anchorage Assembly reapportionment. Judy believes this is documented.**

Judy asked others not to accuse other testifiers about their reasons for testifying. Judy noted that Cathy Giessel made sure Eagle River was represented as meetings in Eagle River were well-attended by Cathy when she was a senator.

Anchorage and Eagle River residents share similar socioeconomic backgrounds. Also, Judy consulted with a friend who is an attorney and confirmed that the constitution does not state that there must be a transportation corridor. There must be a geographical link shared, not a road. If this was the case, rural Alaska would not be represented.

Judy testified in support of Option 3-B.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 2:15 pm

First Name: **Leighan**

Last Name: **Gonzales**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Leighan testified in support of Option 2 and noted that she did not intend to testify until she watched the April 8, 2022 hearing and saw how her neighbors were mistreated during the online and in-person verbal testimonies. Leighan expressed concern about the board asking testifiers questions who are not subject matter experts on constitutional law. The public is participating because they care about their communities.**

Leighan asked the board to follow the constitution and the public's request to keep East Anchorage together, keep Downtown Anchorage together, and keep Eagle River together.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 2:20 pm

First Name: **Margarite**

Last Name: **Leeds**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Girdwood**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Margarite testified in support of Option 2, which pairs her community of Girdwood with South and Hillside Anchorage. These communities share common interests, allowing her to be fairly represented. This option also gives representation to East Anchorage and maintains representation in Eagle River.**

Margarite testified against Option 3-B because the map pairs communities together with different concerns. For example, Eagle River has well-developed infrastructure while Girdwood has underdeveloped infrastructure, including police, fire, and emergency medical services. This option also violates the Supreme Court ruling splitting Eagle River would result in political gerrymandering. Overall, Option 3-B would damage her community of Girdwood.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 2:22 pm

First Name: **Erik**

Last Name: **Steinfort**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Girdwood**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Erik testified in support of Option 2 and testified against Option 3-B. It seems like there is an intent to dilute Girdwood's voting representation, and the board is trying to find reasons to hide blatant gerrymandering.**

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Date: April 14, 2022, 2:46 pm

First Name: **Lisa**

Last Name: **Gentemann**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Eagle River**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Lisa testified in support of Map 2 as it keeps the Eagle River districts together. Lisa lives on Eagle River Road and has been residing there for 25 years.**

Lisa testified against Option 3-B which would only work "if we were mountain goats." In Lisa's experience supporting campaigns, door-knocking is already a challenge, and adopting Option 3-B would make campaign door-knocking hazardous. The houses in Eagle River are already far enough apart.

Constitution starts with "con" which means "together". Lisa hopes that the board considers keeping the community together.

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Date: April 14, 2022, 2:50 pm

First Name: **Shelley**

Last Name: **Chaffin**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Shelley testified in support of Option 2 and asked the board to follow the guidelines set forth by Judge Matthews and affirmed by the Alaska Supreme Court. Map 2 is the constitutional choice.**

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Date: April 14, 2022, 3:47 pm

First Name: **Robert**

Last Name: **Hockema**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Robert noted an automatic assumption that JBER belongs to Eagle River and vice versa because many JBER families end up moving to Eagle River among other reasons. This is false, JBER belongs to all of Anchorage because JBER residents live and play in Anchorage. People often forget that there are two sides of JBER that have different social and economic behaviors.**

JBER residents on the airport side are most associated with Downtown Anchorage and residents on the Fort Richardson side will most likely be seen in Muldoon and Eagle River. However, all JBER residents still travel to Anchorage. JBER does not belong to Eagle River.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 3:48 pm

First Name: **Corwyn**

Last Name: **Wilkey**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Corwyn spoke in favor of Option 2 as it is the consitutional choice and it makes sense to keep communities together. Option 3-B is an obvious attempt at political gerrymandering.**

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Date: April 14, 2022, 3:52 pm

First Name: **Miles**

Last Name: **Baker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Miles Baker testified in favor of Option 2 as it keeps District 24 paired with District 17. Miles has spent most of his life in Anchorage and feels he has a good understanding of Anchorage. He has lived in Turnagain, Rabbit Creek, and now owns a home in Government Hill, one of Anchorage's oldest neighborhoods. Government Hill is a sizeable community that does not work and lives on JBER, nor do they have access to JBER.**

Miles does not intend to disenfranchise military members and veterans. The results of the September 11th tragedy have significantly limited public access to JBER, so it does not feel realistic to use a purely geographic bird's eye view to develop district boundaries.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 4:02 pm

First Name: **Dan**

Last Name: **Saddler**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **Eagle River**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB
Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Dan testified in support of Option 3-B as it pairs Districts 9 and 22 together in a single Senate district. District 22 includes the Eagle River Valley, a semi-rural area characterized by people living in or on the Chugach Mountains. District 9 encompasses a semi-rural area characterized by people living in or on the Chugach Mountains. The state constitution also requires continuity, and Dan has heard people from the public disqualifying the Chugach Mountains as contiguity. Dan reminded everyone that Alaska is a big state and Anchorage is a big municipality, so House districts and Senate pairings reflect these sizes.**

Senators also have access to constituents by telephone, mail, teleconference, email, and the internet, which discounts the implications of pairing Eagle River and South Anchorage together, thus creating a long driving distance for senators

Option 3-B better reflects the common interests between districts.

Dan testified against Option 2, which would pair Districts 23 and 17. Dan represented District 18 in the State House, which linked the two areas - this was when he learned that the two communities are different.

Dan cautioned everyone against characterizing the motive of board members and cautioned the board against inferring any partisanship on the part of testifiers.