

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

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ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Bethel 10/19 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 25, 2021

Name: **Myron Naneng Sr.**

Mr. Naneng has lived in Bethel since the 1970's and has been asked by the village, city, and corporation of Hooper Bay to represent and testify on behalf of them. One item they have discussed for the last year, knowing that redistricting has been coming up, is the fact that they have been represented from Nome and Kotzebue, but they feel their connection to Bethel is stronger as it is their hub for transportation and medical services. They can also get much work done in their village with the help of a representative and senator from Bethel as they understand their needs more. There have been many projects over the last few years and most of the support has come from the Bethel senator who they have expressed their concerns directly to him in person.

Mr. Naneng strongly urged that Hooper Bay be grouped with the Bethel district.

Mr. Naneng added that his brother-in-law, who is on the village corporation and a tribal council, is from Scammon Bay and stated that he would also support having Scammon Bay with Bethel because they are similarly situated between Hooper Bay and Scammon Bay.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Bethel 10/19 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 25, 2021

Name: **Mary Peltola**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: Ms. Peltola is a Bethel resident who served on the Alaska State Legislature from 1999 to 2009. Ms. Peltola expressed concern for the Senate Minority Caucus map. Having Platinum and Goodnews Bay in the Dillingham district would make sense as they get their health services from the Bristol Bay corporation. There are also many family relationships between Togiak, Twin Hills, and Manokotak. Having Kipnuk, Cheforak, Nelson Island, Nunivak Island separated from Bethel is complicated as Bethel is their hub for transportation and logistics supply chain. Also, they are apart of the Kuskokwim Intertribal Fish Commission and the Kuskokwim River is in favor of keeping the Kuskokwim villages in tact. If the Kuskokwim River can include Aniak and Kalskag, this would be beneficial.

Ms. Peltola noted that it is unfortunate that all the districts in Alaska can't be larger to include more of the villages Bethel already has a relationship with.