

RCCC Testimony to State Redistricting Board – 4-7-22

My name is Ann Rappoport. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Rabbit Creek Community Council which I co-chair. I had every intention of being at this hearing in person until my husband testified positive for COVID last night.

The Rabbit Creek Community Council is one of Anchorage's 38 Community Councils that provide a direct means for citizens to participate in government and local affairs. We represent residents and landowners in southeast Anchorage, along the Hillside.

I am here to state our strong opposition to any Senate redistricting that would combine our area, as well as any Hillside areas with Eagle River for the purposes of government representation.

I submitted more extensive written comments – the ones we submitted in February 13 when the Anchorage Assembly needed to redraw Assembly member districts. Those are just as applicable to this effort and included the same legal requirements.

Anchorage's Hillside and Eagle River are not contiguous, nor are they compact, or a relatively integrated socio-economic area, For the State, as you know, Each senate district is to be composed of two contiguous house districts;

These two separate areas are not integrated thru' socio-economic interactions, land use patterns, businesses, roads and traffic patterns or schools. Travel from Hillside to Eagle River requires traversing several intervening districts. It is inappropriate to use the large, steep, uninhabited Chugach State Park as justification to combine Eagle River and Hillside into one Senate district

Additionally, the Constitution's consideration to local government boundaries also speaks to the need to pay attention to the Anchorage Assembly districts which were decided in favor of keeping Eagle River with Eagle River neighborhoods; Hillside neighborhoods together with adjacent areas, and East Anchorage neighborhoods together with East Anchorage neighborhoods. As we emphasized in the attached comments, Chugach State Park is uninhabited; it does not create contiguity between the Hillside and Eagle River.

we urge the Redistricting Board to adopt a map that keeps our neighborhoods together! This can be accomplished with either the current proposed map for Senate Pairings, Option 2, or by going back to the original map proposed by Redistricting Board member Melanie Bahnke.