

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO 101 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80202	
Original Proceeding Pursuant to the Colorado Rules of Reapportionment Proceedings.	
IN RE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Supreme Court Case No. 2011SA282
Clean Water Action 1630 S. College Ave, C-1 Fort Collins, CO 80525 970-221-0148	
Clean Water Action’s Statement Supporting Reapportionment Commission’s Final House and Senate Plans	

Pursuant to the Court’s order, Clean Water Action hereby submits a statement in support of the Commission’s proposed final plans.

STATEMENT

Clean Water Action, “CWA,” is a national environmental organization with its Colorado office in Fort Collins. CWA has tens-of-thousands of supporters in Colorado, mostly in the Denver metro and northern Colorado areas. Clean Water Action’s primary work involves protecting clean water and clean air, and in fighting climate change pollution.

Clean Water Action writes in support of the Colorado reapportionment plans currently under consideration by the State Supreme Court. CWA supports the plans primarily from a geographical viewpoint – as required by the Court, the plans minimize the splitting of city and county boundaries. Because local governments are often the principle level of government where many environmental decisions and policies are enacted in Colorado, reapportionment plans that minimize the splitting of local government boundaries help provide for more consistent protections for Colorado’s air, land, and water. The current plans under consideration by the court allow state house and state senate districts to overlap with local government boundaries to a high extent, thus the plans will give citizens – through their overlapping local governments, state representatives, and state senators – the best possible representation and opportunity to protect and enhance the environment for the betterment of the economy, nature, and the public’s health. Many environmental issues in Colorado are decided at the local government level.

These include:


1. Land-use and Growth Planning – most land-use and growth planning occurs at the city and county level in Colorado and are one of the big factors that influence environmental outcomes in any given area. Good land-use planning minimizes water, energy, land, and other natural resources as well as minimizes impacts on wildlife and air quality.

2. Air Quality – some local governments in Colorado have air quality standards that although mandated by the federal and state government, are implemented by local government.
3. Water Supply and Water Quality – most water supply and water quality decisions in Colorado are made at the local government level. These policies have considerable impacts on river protection as well as the quality of water in rivers, lakes, and streams.
4. Wildlife Habitat and Open Space Protection – many local governments in Colorado have parks, open space, and natural areas programs that protect wildlife and wild lands. These programs are often a principle driver in the natural resource experience of citizens.
5. Solid Waste Management and Recycling – almost all local governments in Colorado run their own solid waste management and recycling programs.
6. Transportation – city and county governments build and maintain the vast majority of roads in Colorado which help determine traffic patterns, air quality protection, growth management, and land protection.
7. Energy and climate change – while regional energy providers are often the mainstay for electricity generation, local governments have an increasingly large

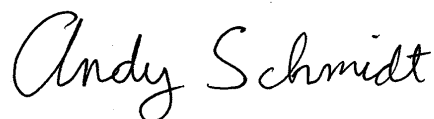
role in helping to determine how much energy Coloradans use through energy conservation, REC investments, and other components of climate action plans.

8. Oil and gas regulations – increasingly, local governments are using their regulatory power to protect property and public health from the impacts of oil and gas drilling and fracking.

In summary, CWA supports the reapportionment plans currently under consideration because they minimize the splitting of local government boundaries which will help maximize the ability of citizens to be represented by overlapping, consistent local and state government entities. Such overlap and consistency will help protect and enhance Colorado's environment and provide a stronger governmental backdrop for implementing local and state environmental protection policies.



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