

Final Congressional Redistricting Plan DATE FILED: October 01, 2021 1:25 PM

**Exhibit D**

**Excerpts from Transcript of the Independent  
Redistricting Commission Meeting**

**September 28, 2021**

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AUDIO-RECORDED TRANSCRIPTION OF  
INDEPENDENT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 2021  
TRANSCRIBED: September 30, 2021

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Requested portion of audio began at 11:55 a.m.)

3 JEROME: Let's go in the same order, if folks are  
4 prepared to make a statement for the record.

5 Commissioner Coleman.

6 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Thank you, Chair and  
7 commissioners and Jerome. I'm not sure who is -- Jerome, I  
8 believe you're the MC at the moment and so thank you.

9 I don't have a statement prepared, but I do want to  
10 say that it has been incredibly -- just an incredible journey  
11 to -- from where we started to where we are now. Having  
12 heard so much public comment and hearing testimony and having  
13 the deliberative conversations we've had to put together the  
14 kind of map and, you know, I -- I feel it has been a process  
15 of the entire Commission to do this and the debate and have  
16 appreciated all sides of that and feel a sense of -- that  
17 this Commission, each and every commissioner here has spoken  
18 and been passionate about the -- the mapping that we've done,  
19 one side and the other, and I just want to say I appreciate  
20 that people have stayed fully engaged and attended, you know,  
21 as much as possible, and also thank the staff.

22 I didn't get to do my thank you's at the beginning  
23 and so we couldn't have done this without the staff, I'll  
24 just say that too. Or the public participation.

25 Thank you.

1 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

2 Commissioner Diawara.

3 COMMISSIONER DIAWARA: Thank you, Jerome.

4 Yeah, it was a long process, but in the interests  
5 of the people of Colorado, I am willing to uphold this Staff  
6 Plan 3 Coleman amendment to be the Commission's final plan.  
7 And here are some of the reasons I have voted yes to the  
8 plan.

9 It did follow the guidelines and recommendations  
10 adopted by the Commission, taking into consideration a number  
11 of issues, including keeping the City and County of Denver  
12 whole to the extent possible, keeping the City of Colorado  
13 Springs whole, keeping all the military basis in El Paso  
14 County in a single district. That was important to me  
15 being -- you know, personally.

16 The plan respects and keeps together a wide range  
17 of communities of interests. We heard from public -- the  
18 public during the hearings and, you know, reading public  
19 comment. The plan also keeps political subdivisions together  
20 as much as possible. Some cities, of course, had to be split  
21 and some counties, including my own county, El Paso, also had  
22 to be split because the redirecting process is based on  
23 numbers. And also seeing the plan creates districts that are  
24 reasonably compact. We saw some districts like City 1 and 6  
25 could be, you know, potentially redrawn to be more compact;

1 however, the boundaries are reasonable and these keep  
2 communities of interest together.

3           Considering the requirement for keeping communities  
4 of interest and political subdivisions together, I believe  
5 this plan provides a competitive, you know, enough, you know,  
6 some districts that are (inaudible), which is also reflected  
7 by public (inaudible).

8           It is important, finally, to mention that the plan  
9 was not drawn to protect any incumbents, candidates or  
10 parties and it was not drawn to dilute the electoral  
11 influence or the voting rights of any languages or racial  
12 minority groups.

13           My name is Moussa Diawara, commissioner from City  
14 5, professor of biology at Colorado State University.

15           JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

16           Commissioner Espinoza.

17           COMMISSIONER ESPINOZA: Thank you, Chair.

18           I also don't have any real prepared comments. I  
19 would say that I echo everything that Commissioner Diawara  
20 just outlined. I think that -- I voted for this map because  
21 it -- in the interest of compromise, that this was one of the  
22 maps that was an alternative map for me. It does a very good  
23 job of addressing most of the comments that we have heard  
24 from public comment in hearings and written. I think it's  
25 very responsive to those requests regarding communities of

1 interest.

2 It's exciting to know that District 8 is very  
3 competitive. I believe the score was 1. something -- 1.3,  
4 and it adheres to all of our constitutional criteria that  
5 we've been charged with doing. I think it represents  
6 iterative process of consideration among all of the  
7 commissioners from across the state in taking into  
8 consideration everything that we have heard from the public.

9 The plan, I agree, was not drawn to protect any  
10 incumbents, candidates or party and it was not drawn to  
11 dilute the electoral influence or voting rights of any  
12 language or racial minority.

13 Thank you.

14 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

15 Commissioner Kelly.

16 COMMISSIONER KELLY: Thanks, Jerome.

17 Yeah, I don't have anything prepared either. I  
18 would just, first of all, want to thank everybody and the  
19 public for sticking in there with us. We're approaching the  
20 midnight hour.

21 In terms of why I voted for this map, I think when  
22 you start looking at the second staff map, we had that  
23 majority, we started coming together and then it was just a  
24 small gamut that Commissioner Coleman made. And I think it  
25 does meet all of the criteria that we have in the

1 Constitution. It's mathematically precise and it also  
2 complies with the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

3 I also think that it takes a reasonable approach in  
4 terms of the counties and political subdivisions that it  
5 split. We heard earlier today, Commissioner Brawner provided  
6 us a report that we've had 5,188 comments that we listened to  
7 as we ran around the state over the last five months, and  
8 that's not including the testimony that we heard from  
9 numerous individuals who provided us feedback on their  
10 communities.

11 And overall, I think this Commission took very  
12 seriously the comments that were made both written and  
13 spoken, and also all of the maps that were submitted. And I  
14 can't express enough of my gratitude for the maps analytic  
15 committee, too, for going through all of those maps and the  
16 time that they spent in order to -- to look at those ideas  
17 and really vet those out.

18 I also believe that it is important that we try to  
19 find some competitiveness here. And the fact that CD8 is as  
20 competitive as it is in this map, certainly I think with us  
21 getting a new district, and that being the most competitive  
22 district I believe on this map, is a good step forward as we  
23 continue to grow in Colorado and as we will certainly  
24 continue to get more districts. And I think it set a  
25 wonderful precedent as future commissions look at

1 competitiveness and as those districts get added to try and  
2 maintain that as the districts grow and keep them as  
3 competitive as possible.

4 So, again, I think this map does a good job of  
5 compromise. Certainly not everything I wanted, I know that,  
6 but it does a great job, I think, of balancing those  
7 interests on a statewide level, and I appreciate everybody's  
8 work on that.

9 So thank you.

10 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

11 Commissioner Leone.

12 COMMISSIONER LEONE: Thank you, Jerome.

13 I too share the sentiments of gratitude towards all  
14 the commissioners and the staff. The staff worked incredibly  
15 hard. I don't think I've ever seen a staff work harder than  
16 they did during this process, and especially given the  
17 shortened timeframe. And although we have not often had an  
18 opportunity to thank them for their work and their hours, I  
19 would feel bad if we didn't do that tonight. So thank you to  
20 the staff.

21 You know, I think that the -- first of all, I echo  
22 everything that has been said so far. Commissioner Diawara  
23 gave a very good outline of why I voted for this map, but at  
24 a higher level, at 50,000 feet, you know, we -- I think this  
25 is a better map than would have been drawn by a partisan

1 legislature by far, which means that the amendment did what  
2 it was intended to do.

3 I think we learned during the process that people  
4 have different views about things and can take a different  
5 viewpoint of a community of interest, a different viewpoint  
6 on the importance of capability of keeping jurisdictions  
7 together, but I do think that it was a productive debate that  
8 resulted in balance. I think balance to me is the key word,  
9 that we balanced a lot of competing interests in a way that  
10 no one, I don't think, can really responsibly challenge.

11 The fact that this was not a partisan process I  
12 think could not be more in evidence than the rounds of voting  
13 tonight. When we were unable to reach a super majority early  
14 in the evening and began to consider other maps, I concur  
15 with Commissioner Wilkes, at one point we had two democrats  
16 and two republicans supporting an alternative map and that  
17 doesn't happen in a partisan process. That's evidence of a  
18 good faith, nonpartisan approach to the problem. And so I'm  
19 thankful for that and I think that will not go unnoticed as  
20 the Supreme Court reviews this map.

21 And lastly, I will apologize to everyone for any  
22 moments of intemperance or additional passion. I've been a  
23 trial lawyer for many years. No one has ever accused me of  
24 not being passionate about the things that I believe in. I  
25 simply know no other way, but I do think that one consequence

1 of that is everybody knows where I'm coming from all the  
2 time. I don't hide it. I put it out on the table and I  
3 advocate for it, whether you like it or not. But I apologize  
4 if I offended anyone in the course of the debate.

5 Thank you.

6 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

7 Commissioner Shepherd Macklin.

8 COMMISSIONER SHEPHERD MACKLIN: Thank you. I am  
9 ecstatic that we have reached this point, and I see it as a  
10 true success and a true win.

11 When I reflect on the art of this Commission,  
12 really going all the way back to the -- the election fees and  
13 leading up to the adoption of Amendments Y and Z and even  
14 really probably prior to that, in the conversations that were  
15 happening in a bipartisan fashion, I knew that this was --  
16 this represented such an important idea and critical work and  
17 a real unique opportunity for Colorado.

18 And I think when I -- I remember talking about and  
19 doing lesson plans around these amendments in class, and I  
20 don't think at that time I ever would have imagined I would  
21 be sitting here tonight, and so it really is an honor to have  
22 served Colorado in doing this work, being part of the  
23 inaugural commission and learning and getting into the weeds  
24 and learning more about synthesis blocks than I ever thought  
25 I would alongside each and everyone of you and I truly do

1 want to reiterate my gratitude.

2 One of the student projects researching this, I  
3 remember a student comment that a student asked me or made  
4 the statement of: Why would someone be opposed to this  
5 process? It just makes sense.

6 And when I think about this map and where we've  
7 ended tonight, it just makes sense. And I think back on  
8 the -- the work that we've done, holding 44 hearings, hearing  
9 from nearly a thousand individuals at those hearings with  
10 even more attending, traveling thousands of miles  
11 collectively to understand and see communities and get  
12 insights into people's live experiences in all parts of the  
13 state, reviewing the thousands of public comments, almost 200  
14 maps. We've held time and space to discuss our work and  
15 we've done so in a methodical, thoughtful, professional way.  
16 Sometimes it has been heated or impassioned, but I think our  
17 north star has always been doing the work that this  
18 Commission was charged to do and I am grateful for that.

19 And all of that work and that energy has brought us  
20 to this point today, and so again, I'll use the word ecstatic  
21 and enthusiastic that I could support this plan and cast this  
22 vote this evening.

23 This map honors our constitutional considerations  
24 of equal compliance -- or equal population, compliance with  
25 the Voting Rights Act, contiguity, preserving communities of

1 interest, being mindful of political subdivisions,  
2 compactness and competitiveness. And this is a tall order to  
3 take into account all of these factors, especially since some  
4 of them were less clearly defined in the Constitution than  
5 others. However, because of the work we've done, I'm  
6 confident that we have appropriately given attention to all  
7 of these factors and that work is reflected in this map.

8 I see merits and the intentionality of this map  
9 across the entire state, but a couple of things I just want  
10 to point out from my corner of the state in Aurora in the  
11 current CD6, that I especially appreciate the city of Aurora  
12 was kept whole. This did mean some splits to places like  
13 Douglas County, Arapahoe County and Adams County; however,  
14 that split was reasonable and in direct response to public  
15 comment. And I think that it is -- that fact is mirrored in  
16 other places where we did have to make those difficult  
17 decisions to potentially split a county or a city boundary.

18 I would reiterate that this plan was not drawn to  
19 protect incumbent candidates or specific party and it was not  
20 intended or drawn to dilute any electoral influence or voting  
21 rights of language or a racial minority group.

22 I will just end with gratitude and appreciation for  
23 the process and excitement that we have done this work and  
24 have made history as a Commission in Colorado.

25 Thank you.

1 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

2 Commissioner Moore.

3 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Thank you, Jerome.

4 Wow, what a journey this has been. You know, in  
5 2018 when the citizens voted to end political gerrymandering  
6 in our state, many did not believe that 12 citizens -- four  
7 republicans, four democrats and four unaffiliated -- could  
8 actually get the job done, but I think tonight has shown the  
9 purposefulness and the intent that we've had to do what is  
10 right for Colorado, and I think every commissioner has been  
11 devoted toward that.

12 This plan does not violate the 1965 Voting Right  
13 Act. I think we've done a good job of connecting communities  
14 of interest using a thread that Commissioner Brawner often  
15 talked about. We've had over 5,000 comments that we reviewed  
16 to ensure that we understood those communities of interest  
17 and we held twice as many public hearings as we were required  
18 to have by the Constitution.

19 The plan we have is competitive, but we didn't  
20 sacrifice community of interest for competitiveness. No plan  
21 itself is perfect, but I believe this plan reflects the will  
22 of the people of the state of Colorado and it complies with  
23 all the criteria laid out in the state constitution.

24 I will never forget this experience. I thank each  
25 of the commissioners for their effort and their attention to

1 this, and I thank you all for showing grace in the early part  
2 of this.

3 Thank you, Jerome.

4 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

5 Commissioner Schell.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHELL: Thank you, Jerome.

7 So I echo the statements of my fellow commissioners  
8 with respect to the approved map having met all of the  
9 constitutional requirements that have guided this Commission  
10 from the outset.

11 As noted, the Commission has traveled the state,  
12 attending 36 public hearings after the presentation of the  
13 preliminary plan and holding four virtual public hearings  
14 after the presentation of the first staff plan.

15 As noted also, we've received and reviewed over  
16 5,000 public comments. It has been an incredible effort on  
17 the part of the citizens of the state. And that included 170  
18 maps. And I applaud the collectively and herculean efforts  
19 of all of my fellow commissioners in this process.

20 This could not have possibly been accomplished  
21 without an ongoing support from members and staff, for which  
22 I express my sincere thanks.

23 I applaud the drafters of Amendment Y for including  
24 the provision that one of the congressional redistricting  
25 commissioners had to (inaudible) west of the Continental

1 Divide, and I am proud to have served as that commissioner.

2 So despite the crush of time resulting from the  
3 3 1/2 months' delay in the release of the 2020 census, the  
4 Commission has worked diligently to arrive at and approve a  
5 congressional redistricting map that reflects a reasonable  
6 and reasoned compromise among many competing interests.

7 Colorado provides unique challenging -- challenges  
8 to the redistricting process given its large geographic area  
9 and it's wildly uneven population distribution. These two  
10 factors alone have required us to marry population centers  
11 with less sparsely populated areas to achieve that precise  
12 mathematical population equality between districts.

13 My wedding favorite Homily cautioned that not every  
14 day is your wedding day. There will undoubtedly be some  
15 difficult adjustments as each of the districts adjust to  
16 their new union; however, I believe the congressional  
17 districts as mapped out in the congressional redistrict map  
18 approved by this Commission tonight are a good faith effort  
19 to reflect how Colorado has changed over the past ten years  
20 and how we anticipate it may continue to change as it grows.  
21 And this is specifically with respect to Congressional  
22 District 8.

23 I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and  
24 everyone of my fellow commissioners for the journey -- excuse  
25 me -- for the journey that we have made together -- excuse

1 me -- over these past six and a half months and for the  
2 vigorous and sometimes heated debate. Despite the proverbial  
3 bumps in the road that we have shared, I would not have  
4 missed it. Together we have changed the course of  
5 congressional redistricting in Colorado and provided an  
6 example for the rest of the country.

7 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner, we appreciate  
8 those words.

9 Commissioner Tafoya.

10 COMMISSIONER TAFOYA: Thank you, and thank you,  
11 everybody.

12 You know, I obviously was the lone no vote, but it  
13 is not a reflection on the work that Commissioner Coleman and  
14 all the rest of the commissioners have done to get to this  
15 point. Ultimately I know for, first and foremost, having  
16 attended some of the meetings that you guys on the maps  
17 analytics committee have taken on and, of course, learning as  
18 we do through this process is not for the faint of heart and  
19 especially, I think, given the challenges that we all face as  
20 a Commission to be able to overcome with the cooperation, and  
21 I think this truly speaks to how Colorado becomes the envy of  
22 the U.S. in terms of how collaborative we can be to be able  
23 to work with our Supreme Court in a way that is, of course,  
24 legal and appropriate to engage and make sure that we can  
25 find the space to make sure that we can accommodate for the

1 challenges that we face as a result of the delay in the  
2 census and work in a very tight schedule to achieve what  
3 we've -- where we've gotten to today.

4           So obviously, I thank everybody on this Commission  
5 and everybody who came to our meetings, everybody who has  
6 weighed in, everybody who has followed this process and  
7 engaged, but at the end of the day I think -- and I think I  
8 don't have to repeat everything that I've spoke to in terms  
9 of the challenges that we face as a state and the regions of  
10 our state and the disparities that exist in, you know, across  
11 Colorado, and I think at the end of the day that is why, you  
12 know, I ended up casting a no vote.

13           I didn't vote for Staff Plan 3. I was a no vote  
14 then. I attempted to make some adjustments to improve and  
15 iterate as a -- as an attempt to come to a yes vote, but  
16 ultimately I think that the -- you know, in my heart of  
17 hearts I think that there is a -- such a disparity in the  
18 southern part of the state and in the communities of interest  
19 that we've all seen and heard from that I couldn't in good  
20 faith support a map that deviated from that, from protecting  
21 those voices in south -- southern Colorado, from Towaoc to  
22 Walsh, and I think that is reflected in, you know, what I  
23 spoke to in terms of the socioeconomic issues, the  
24 agricultural issues, the linguistic issues, the Native  
25 American issues and other issues that I've talked to ad

1     nauseam.

2             I know there are some issues that were addressed in  
3     terms of keeping Jeffco whole and, you know, I still think  
4     that there is some challenges as it relates to, you know,  
5     Custer County. I got to a place where I could actually see  
6     Fremont County as it relates to perhaps Jeffco, because as  
7     any federal prison and a large federal -- federal employee  
8     base, but I still think there was a better solution and  
9     ultimately that's why I -- I voted no; but that does not mean  
10    that or take away from the work that the Commission does and  
11    I'm still -- still appreciative of all the work that  
12    everybody has given. You know, I -- we had our (inaudible)  
13    and we had our kumbaya moments and I think at the end of the  
14    day we've all learned a lot through this experiment we call  
15    democracy.

16            So I appreciate everybody's effort and want to  
17    thank everybody, and despite the fact that I did vote no,  
18    doesn't necessarily take away from the work we've done.

19            So thank you very much.

20            JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

21            Commissioner Wilkes.

22            COMMISSIONER WILKES: That you can, Jerome.

23            Okay, this whole journey was something that no one  
24    anticipates. The delays in the census data seemed like an  
25    insurmountable roadblock that we had to overcome. I used the

1 preliminary data from the state demographer that allowed us  
2 to start the beginnings of a plan and drawing -- drawing  
3 plans and reaching out to the public through our hearings.  
4 The data from Mrs. Gardener's office was so accurate that our  
5 preliminary plan had only minor alterations when we finally  
6 got the 2020 census data.

7           Because we chose this route, we were able to spend  
8 a meaningful two months crossing the state to collect  
9 testimony from every corner of the state. We thought this  
10 opportunity was so important that we went above and beyond  
11 the number of hearings required by the Constitution and spent  
12 hours listening to what Coloradoans had to say about their  
13 community.

14           There are so many links. People connected to  
15 people because of heritage, because of lifestyle, because of  
16 jobs, and so many other important links that are affected by  
17 federal legisla- -- legislation. Tired.

18           What we've heard given by people was a web of  
19 connections, links that crossed the whole of our state.  
20 These links don't follow municipalities or county lines.  
21 People are linked to each other by something much more  
22 intangible than where they live. They are linked to each  
23 other by human interaction, by connectivity and by love, and  
24 you can't possibly grasp that in a simple little boxes or  
25 lines.

1           We listened as people in various communities of  
2 interest told us about their communities and the connectivity  
3 that they felt. And to the best of our ability, we tried too  
4 honor as many as of those communities as we could.

5           I personally reviewed over 100 map submissions.  
6 Having drawn my own share of maps, I know what a labor of  
7 love these maps were from people. Some were done by  
8 individuals, some were done by organizations, some by  
9 activists, some by everyday concerned Coloradoans. There was  
10 so much information beyond lines in these maps and their  
11 supporting documentation. It was my honor to review those,  
12 and I appreciated viewing all 170 of the perhaps that were  
13 submitted to us, at least once.

14           We added another speckle of hearings for -- after  
15 the census data finally came out that gave us another insight  
16 into how our movements of lines affected individual lives.  
17 We had so many people share their truths -- their truths in  
18 those four marathon meetings. It showed us how important our  
19 work was to the prosperity and success of Coloradoans. This  
20 was their home that we were dividing and combining.

21           We know our map could not reflect all communities  
22 of interest. We know that a map cannot contain an accurate  
23 representation of something that is as intangible as the  
24 connectivity that people feel with each other. We know that  
25 the hierarchy that we must follow is not something that can

1 answer all needs and requests, but we've worked really hard  
2 to listen to as many people as possible and to make something  
3 that will work for as many communities as possible.

4 So my thoughts about this plan: The plan respects  
5 and keeps together the following communities of interest that  
6 we heard from the public. I'll mostly talk about El Paso  
7 County because that's where I'm from.

8 Most of the El Paso County comments were to keep it  
9 as whole as possible, removing only the population that was  
10 necessary. City 5 in this map is entirely in El Paso County,  
11 keeping all incorporated municipalities within El Paso County  
12 whole, to include Green Mountain Falls, which settles the  
13 county line with Teller. This map complies with all  
14 guidelines set by the Commission and both of the strong  
15 recommendations.

16 Everybody else has already talked about  
17 competitiveness, so I don't need to repeat.

18 And not only was this plan not drawn to protect any  
19 incumbents, candidates or party members, it was also not  
20 drawn to persecute any of those people, and it was not drawn  
21 to dilute the electoral influence of voting rights of any  
22 language or racial minority group.

23 JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

24 Commissioner Brawner.

25 COMMISSIONER BRAUNER: I will keep this brief.

1 Everyone had really fantastic statements that covered such a  
2 wide gamut of what a long, strange trip it has been. And as  
3 I reflect on this, I think what I really want to highlight is  
4 when I look at this final map and the reasons and the  
5 iterations and when we got here, I see all of our  
6 conversations reflected in this map, and I think that says  
7 something about the process, I think that says something  
8 about all of us being part of it, but I also see the people  
9 of Colorado reflected in this map through their public  
10 comments, through their maps, through their testimony at  
11 hearings, and I can see it, and I think that's something we  
12 can be proud of.

13 Yes, we couldn't keep every community of interest  
14 together, but I think we had thoughtful conversations about  
15 communities. I think we passionately debated what we  
16 believed was really important, and I think that matters a  
17 lot.

18 I am super proud of this new congressional district  
19 we added to the state. We identified a community of interest  
20 there that goes from the community of Commerce City being  
21 kept completely whole as they asked, heading up the corridor  
22 where there is growth, keeping Fort Lupton, all of Greeley up  
23 to the Spanish colonies in this map, as identified in the  
24 public comment and the testimony in Greeley. And I think  
25 that's really a fantastic thing that we accomplished.

1           Also, we managed to get 11 people to vote yes on a  
2 map, and I think that's pretty amazing. I don't know that  
3 we've had a lot of things that we've had 11 of us vote yes  
4 on, so I think that's something to celebrate too.

5           Again, this map does not violate the Voting Rights  
6 Act, this map does not protect any political incumbents or  
7 persecute any political elected officials. It also does not  
8 dilute any minority groups or minority language groups as  
9 required by the Colorado Constitution, but also it reflects  
10 the people. The reason that they didn't have computers just  
11 draw mathematically exact squares in Colorado is because the  
12 people mattered, and I think it took all of us being here  
13 from all over the state to bring what we had to make this  
14 map.

15           So thank you for working with me on this; I liked  
16 working on this with you; I appreciated the process. Thanks.

17           JEROME: Thank you, Commissioner.

18           Chairwoman Hare.

19           CHAIRWOMAN HARE: As I start most things, I want to  
20 offer gratitude to everyone for being part of this process  
21 together and echo the sentiments for the amount of time,  
22 energy and thoughtfulness that the staff provided, not only  
23 in supporting us, but in stewarding this process that was  
24 also a maiden pilot journey for everyone along that space.

25           I want to offer gratitude to everyone who

1 participated at every level, from public comments, from  
2 public hearings, online, in person, the maps that were  
3 created as shared were so helpful in so many ways. The  
4 background work that each committee did to help us prepare  
5 for these conversations and discussions, the time and energy  
6 we spent the first two months of just understanding this  
7 process, our requirements, building our capacity in context  
8 together were really key to allow us to have these more  
9 complex conversations as we moved into the space. And I'm  
10 just real extremely grateful for that.

11 I am -- I do think that this map that we have now  
12 approved as our final map is -- and it has iterated on the  
13 comments, the community insight, the connections that we  
14 shared. We had to make decisions in every aspect of our  
15 constitutional requirements, but I feel that we held to what  
16 those requirements were. We were conscientious of that along  
17 the entire journey and we integrated that into each step  
18 along the way of our process.

19 We had thoughtful dialogue and debate along the way  
20 and I only had to use mom whisk like two or three times. And  
21 I think that was really helpful in (inaudible) and the candor  
22 we were able to bring into the conversation and the space.

23 I do think we have some unique districts that have  
24 never had the chance to be in space before and I look forward  
25 to what that means for Colorado in the next ten years.

1 I am grateful that we were able to honor all the  
2 federal requirements and also our state mandated  
3 requirements, and we took those on not just as a mantle that  
4 we had to do, but we really embraced that and tried to embed  
5 that in what the actual final map looked like. And thank  
6 everyone for being part of this iterative process again.

7 I will begin my closing statement as -- I will end  
8 my closing statement as I began my opening statement when we  
9 came together. (Spoke in a foreign language): I am  
10 currently here. I am honored and humbled and grateful to  
11 have spent this time with you. It made me stretch into my  
12 Pawnee name, which is Kind Leader of Men, and I tried to hold  
13 that space. And I am a resident of CD8 and excited for what  
14 that means. And I look forward to our -- our iteration and  
15 the dinner we will have at some point together when all of  
16 this is through.

17 And I look forward and I'm extremely grateful to  
18 not only our staff who now will have to play a role, spend  
19 the next 72 hours putting together all the documentation for  
20 this plan, but also our legal counsel and team that also  
21 supported us along the way and will continue to support us  
22 through this process.

23 We know that this isn't the last step and we want  
24 everyone else to know this isn't the last stage of this  
25 process. We submit it to the Supreme Court, we wait to hear

1 what they have to say and we take additional steps from  
2 that -- from their response; but I am grateful for you all to  
3 be part that of process with us.

4 (Requested portion of audio concluded at 12:32 p.m.)  
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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript to the best of my ability to hear and understand the audio recording and based on the quality of the audio recording from the above-entitled matter.

/s/ Dyann Labo

September 30, 2021

Signature of Transcriber

Date

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