



Board of County Commissioners
Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania

Resolution

WHEREAS, the citizens of Carbon County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial and depoliticized process of the decennial drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, legislative and congressional redistricting has often resulted in the gerrymandering of districts to favor one political party or the other; and

WHEREAS, such gerrymandering of legislative and congressional districts has worked at times to the detriment of our representative democracy by impeding action on critical issues of importance to the people; and

WHEREAS, politicized districting has led to the exclusion of Summit Hill Borough citizens from participating in elections for the PA House of Representatives, Legislative District 122, even though Summit Hill has a long tradition of voting in this district and has supplied several former State representatives to this district, including one who rose to be the Speaker of the House; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a truly independent citizens redistricting commission devoid of political motivation or partisanship will help to ensure a fair and accurate legislative and congressional redistricting process that respects political subdivisions and communities of interest, will prohibit districts from being drawn to favor or discriminate against a political party or candidate, will promote transparency, the use of impartial and sound methodology when setting district boundaries, and allow for public input, and will fully comply with the Constitutional requirement that "no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward" be divided "unless absolutely necessary."

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved The Carbon County Board of Commissioners hereby supports legislative efforts to secure expeditious action to make a constitutional amendment that would, among other reforms, assign the decennial task of both legislative and congressional redistricting to an independent citizens redistricting commission, and orders copies of this resolution be distributed to the proper persons whose further action is required to achieve the purpose of this resolution, including all members of the Carbon County delegation to the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Governor Tom Wolf, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and Fair Districts PA.

ADOPTED this 27th day of April, 2017.

CARBON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Wayne E. Nothstein
Wayne E. Nothstein, Chairman

Tom J. Gerhard
Tom J. Gerhard, Vice-Chairman

William J. O'Gurek
William J. O'Gurek, Member

ATTEST:

Eloise K. Ahner
Eloise K. Ahner, Chief Clerk/County Administrator