

Good morning/afternoon committee members,

My name is Greg Pettit and I live in Warren (between St. Helens and Scappoose). I'm submitting my testimony today to discuss my county and how much it's changed in the last decade. The Columbia County I live in today is very divided. North County residents generally work, recreate and shop across the bridge in Longview Washington. Those of us who live in South County, which is generally St. Helens and Scappoose, tend to work, shop, and eat in Washington and Multnomah counties. This is because anytime you live in a small town or rural area, you end up traveling to the closest city with amenities. I and hundreds of people drive Cornelius Pass frequently to pick up prescriptions, go to dinner, and shop at large retailers and for entertainment. Columbia County is comprised of several small towns, but our values in south county tend to be more in line with the communities in the Beaverton/Hillsboro area. For instance, I drive all over Washington County and Portland. But many of my north county friends frequently talk about how they only shop in Longview or Astoria because Portland and Beaverton are too far, and they are uneasy in large metropolitan areas. To sum up, I believe that it's vital that you consider the vast differences in Columbia County when you draw the final map. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,
Greg Pettit
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