

Dear Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Salinas, Co-Chair Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written feedback and testimony on the redistricting maps and process. I live in Springfield, Oregon, where I am well-represented by Sen. Lee Beyer and Rep. John Lively. I imagine many citizens are also providing feedback, so I will endeavor to be succinct.

Regarding my own district, I am very pleased that in all proposed maps Springfield remains its own house district. I think adding population by including Glenwood and the areas of North Springfield and South Springfield outside the current boundaries of HD12 is the right thing to do. Moving forward in this way preserves the Springfield character of the district into the next decade.

Regarding the Congressional district proposed maps, I think 'Congress - Plan A' is far superior. In my district CD4, this map preserves the community of interest of mid-to-south Oregon coast, while uniting communities of interest in southern and eastern Oregon.

Regarding the proposed maps of State House and State Senate districts, I think the Legislature should prioritize maintaining the voting strength of communities who have been historically marginalized and including the totality of a city in a single house district when the city is the approximate size of a house district (i.e. Springfield). After these two considerations, I think it is important that as many districts as possible contain areas that are urban, suburban, and rural within the same district. I learned from your retired colleague Rep. Phil Barnhart how providing constituent services to a broad array of constituents enhances the proficiency of the legislator. I would go a step farther and say this could be one of the most effective ways to bridge the urban-rural divide - at least at it manifests in our politics. I think House and Senate Plan A and Plan C do a better job of adhering to this principle, so I hope you will give them preferred consideration over Plan B.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this feedback and for everything you do to build a better Oregon. You are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chris Wig
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Springfield, OR