

Co-chairs and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

In 2011, I chaired the redistricting committee in Clatsop County, taking this process down to the precinct level. Today, I'm delighted to share a few thoughts about rearranging Oregon's Congressional Districts primarily to accommodate a new member of our federal delegation.

I live in District 1. I grew up in Astoria, and—after school, family, and travels—I ended up back in the district, where I've resided continuously for the past 21 years, in Astoria and now in Tigard.

Some worry that districts that include both urban and rural areas might tend to disenfranchise rural voters. My personal experience living in District 1—from the suburbs of Portland to the north coast of Oregon—contradicts this. I've known each of my representatives in Congress. They treated me just the same regardless of the density of population in my neighborhood.

I'm intrigued with the idea of a new District 6 that follows the Columbia River from Clatsop County to Wasco County, taking in some of Multnomah County. This district would represent a wide range of economic, social, and environmental interests. I've submitted a map that includes this new district.

My submitted map includes four districts that adjoin the Pacific Ocean. Human interdependence with the ocean is becoming more evident. It will be valuable for Oregon to have substantial representation for coastal communities.

My map focuses on the natural characteristics of each district. It benefits all Oregonians to increase our representation in Congress. I hope that my suggestions help you make wise choices.

Respectfully,

Peter Huhtala
12587 SW Bridgeview Ct
Tigard, OR 97223

(503) 468-8038
peterhuhtala@gmail.com