

Testimony Against Proposed Re-Districting in HD 35

Chairs Salinas, Boshart Davis, Taylor, Co-Chair Knopp and members of the committee.

For the record, I am Margaret Doherty. I have lived in Tigard for 30 years and for 11 of those years I was the State Representative for HD 35. I am here today to present my concern of the map presented for HD 35. I thank you for your interest in our concerns.

My biggest concern is with Map C, as presented. One of the major criteria for the structure of the maps is a community of interest. I believe Map C violates the requirements of ORS 188.010 by ignoring Tigard as a community of common interest and ignoring existing political and geographic boundaries. As presented, the geographic boundaries of the City of Tigard will be split between 5 Representatives. When you are a representative, you are usually advocating for the good of your community. When you have 5 people advocating for a community which is only on their fringes, I can imagine the problems if the City of Tigard priority during a legislative session, directly contradicts the priority of Lake Oswego or Tualatin or West Linn or Beaverton. How is the Representative supposed to fairly advocate without pitting one community against the another. There is no good answer.

Map C also ignores geographic boundaries. The current map cuts out Tigard HS and Cook Park, which is a landmark in Tigard. Those interests are interests of Tigard, not another community. That is where our community meets.

Under the current map, I had represented SW Portland. This part of HD 35 was enlarged in 2011 because of the common thread of transportation, like light rail, and our working with the immigrant and refugee community, which resides in north Tigard and in the SW Corridor. This section was eliminated in Map C and part of Beaverton was added. Map C also drew out our current Representative and strong Tigard advocate, Dacia Grayber.

I realize you have a monumental task ahead of you and I know you will do your best to meet the concerns of the people who are affected by the changes, but I implore you to keep Tigard and SW Portland whole, so we can continue to grow and meet the needs of our diverse communities. We have common goals with those areas, not the part of Beaverton reflected in Map C.

Thank you for letting me present my testimony and I ask that you keep the boundaries of Tigard whole and not redistrict our current Representative.