

Dear Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Vice-Chairs Knopp and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committee. For the record my name is Wes Brain and I live in Jackson County, in Senate District 3 and in House District 5.

In 1956 I moved with my parents to Medford and have spent the bulk of my life growing up, going to school and working in the Rogue Valley. I am a product of public education attending Rogue Valley grade schools and higher education at Rogue Community College and Southern Oregon University.

I support the effort “to not throw the baby out with the bathwater” as the lines drawn in 2011 and followed here in plan A feel right. A primary concern I have is changing boundaries for Congressional District 2. Medford and surrounding suburbs should not be encroached upon with new lines drawn closer to this urban center.

Briefly I was employed for 16 plus years as a firefighter/EMT with the Talent Rural Fire Protection District now called Jackson County Fire District #5 and then over 15 years with Southern Oregon University where I practiced as an “Environmental Health and Safety Technologist” developing policy and delivering services to higher education employees.

I served on the Regional Workforce Development Committee charged with economic improvements for the Rogue Valley. Economic development is tied fundamentally to small local businesses and a general workforce of working people whose family wage jobs together bring financial strength to the region.

Another family interest is recreation - with the Rogue River and Mt. Ashland the valley has great opportunities for swimming, rafting, fishing and hiking in summer, alongside snowshoeing and skiing on Mt. Ashland in the winter. Tourists come to our valley for these and other recreational opportunities. As you know people also come to enjoy the rich culture of the Shakespeare Festival and other regional theater. They attend the Britt Music Festivals in historic Jacksonville.

I’ve strongly supported the Rogue Valley Transportation District from its beginning. Our regional bus system is strong and offers needed services for many people in our area. The lack of public rail service - which was strong a hundred years ago - is unfortunately nonexistent today.

Religious roots for me run deep here in the Rogue Valley. During the 1960’s my grandmother Reverend Violet Bolliger served as Minister of Talent’s Methodist Church.

For all these communities of interest it is imperative that CD2 lines not squeeze Medford with new boundaries. Extending the line further west of Medford would be much better for the Rogue Valley. Thank you for your consideration.

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