



September 8, 2021

RE: Testimony of Washington County Commissioner Jerry Willey before the House Redistricting Committee

Dear Co-Chairs Boshart Davis and Salinas, and Representatives Bonham, Campos, Drazan, and Pham,

I would like to applaud you for the critical work you are all undertaking to ensure that our decennial redistricting process is a strong success for all Oregonians. As you know, district boundaries are periodically readjusted to account for new population growth and population changes. With the recently completed 2020 Census in-hand, we know that population growth, increased racial diversity and an increased need for representation have been steadfast features across our State, and Washington County has certainly seen tremendous growth in these areas, as well.

As part of our ongoing effort to shine a spotlight on the need for redistricting that puts people and communities first, I wanted to raise a few concerns I have in relation to the House redistricting proposal as it relates to one of Washington County's constituent cities: North Plains. As currently proposed, the Oregon House Redistricting Plans disconnect North Plains from many critical services that residents rely upon. For example, the Plans propose to disconnect North Plains from the Washington County Sheriff's Office who provides public safety, the City of Hillsboro who supplies the City's drinking water, and Hillsboro School District who educates the City's youth. North Plains has spent considerable time in their planning efforts to comport with the growth they have and are currently experiencing. However, those planning activities would be undermined under the current proposal.

I am also concerned by the proposed State legislative House district boundaries for North Plains which would shift the City from House District #30 to House District #31. The lines are drawn to mostly represent rural interests, but North Plains is more aligned with the rapid growth and urbanization needs associated with the cities of Hillsboro, Beaverton, and the urban interests of Washington County. As the former Mayor of Hillsboro, I am particularly sensitive to these key services, like water, sewer and transit.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working collaboratively to find solutions that ensure the success of all Oregonians. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Jerry Willey, Commissioner

Board of County Commissioners

155 North First Avenue, Suite 300, MS 22, Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

phone: (503) 846-8681 • fax: (503) 846-4545