

My name is Mercedes Morales for the record, and my pronouns are she/her/hers. I live in House District 42, Senate District 21, and Congressional District 3. I want to thank the committees for having me today.

I've had the chance to look for the proposals and wanted to share a couple of things I noticed. I believe that House Map C HD 46 which follows my neighborhoods subdivisions, is united by common goals and lifestyles. I go to church in this district, just up the street from where I live. I often take Division St. and visit Mt. Tabor, as well as Laurelhurst Park. Additionally, it makes sense to use the natural dividing line of 82nd on the eastern part of this proposed district.

In House Map B, I would be in the new HD 42, this district does not include Mt. Tabor which I strongly feel is a part of my neighborhood since myself and many of my neighbors frequent this area. It also doesn't go out to 82nd even though everything inside of 82nd has economic, and cultural similarities. I don't believe that going more North and South in House Map B makes any sense, and it cuts me off from places I frequent.

I also wanted to quickly touch on the Congressional proposals. I found that Map A's CD 3 connects places I visit. I often drive to the Gorge, and Mt. Hood, on I-84. These places feel like part of the great SE Portland available locations for travel, and exploration. A common sense adjustment after 10 years of big changes in our state.

In Congressional proposal B, it seems like Portland is confined into one small district that doesn't even reach Mt. Hood. This does not make sense to me if we have had 10 years of growth, and it seems like it doesn't understand that folks in Portland are well connected and similar to other parts of the state.

I know that this process is important, and I appreciate all of your hard work. Thank you for your time and consideration.

With gratitude,

Mercedes Morales