

Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee:

I have lived in Beaverton, Washington County, for more than thirty-five years and have witnessed a lot of changes and population growth in those years. But the greatest change occurred quickly in just the last couple of years, and this change seems to have brought together rather dramatically the residents of Washington County. They are united in this: they do not want to become Multnomah County. Sadly, many Washington County residents have told me that they no longer visit downtown Portland, a place they used to frequent in years past.

As one Portland City Council member intimated, Portland has its own ethos. She's right, and it's very different from Washington County's. For that reason—and others—I strongly support the proposed Congress-Plan B map, which divides the congressional districts more fairly, like with like. Let Multnomah County be Multnomah County and Washington County be Washington County. And let the rural areas, sparsely populated and with very different concerns compared to the Portland metro area and the valley, have their fair say, as well. Map B respects more than Map A the existing political and geographical boundaries and common interests.

Oregon prides itself in celebrating its diversity. It's important that we not allow one voice to dominate and drown out all the other voices that deserve to be heard and respected.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sandra Nelson
Beaverton/Washington County