

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Bos-hart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees.

For the record my name is Cristal DeJarnac, my pronouns are she, her, hers, I live in Bend and work as a care provider. I have lived in Central Oregon for 9 years after moving here from Las Vegas in 2012. I have lived in Bend for 7 of those years, I moved here to be closer to my grandkids after my husband passed suddenly. The things I love most about Central Oregon I feel are the same reasons we have had such enormous growth – 1) the sense of community and 2) the great beauty and many year-round outdoor activities.

In that time, I have seen Bend’s population grow and continue to outgrow its boundaries. There have been many changes with this growth, including our homeless population. We continue to have affordable housing needs and infrastructure issues too. We need fair representation that will embrace this growth and lead us into a brighter future, we cannot just keep putting band-aids on these issues. That is why redistricting is so very important.

I had the pleasure of testifying before you in March and as a resident of House District 54 and Senate District 27 I said: ***“It's evident in voter registration numbers, but also just when I look around my quickly changing community. Since the last census, we have had a huge number of remote workers moving to Bend, a new Oregon State Cascades campus bringing college students, and of course seen massive growth in our tourism economy. For example, as of January 2021 - SD 27 in Bend/Redmond had the most voters -121,000 registered voters while most other Senate districts are under 105,000 registered voters. I know the district boundaries are going to have to change quite a bit to accommodate. It's likely that Bend will need to be split into two House districts. And regardless of how this committee chooses to do it, I urge you to keep Bend united in a single Senate district.*”**

I appreciate all the hard work you have done on these Redistricting Plans, and I want to thank you for listening to the public and hearing Oregonian’s thoughts and concerns regarding Redistricting.

I am pleased to see the Proposals – Proposals C for the House and C for the Senate – create two Bend House Districts in HD 53 and HD 54. And that the new Senate District 27 includes all of Bend. Thank you for your efforts and let’s get the entire legislature to agree and move this forward.

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