

Memorandum

TO: Oregon House and Senate Redistricting Committees
FROM: Quintin Kreth
DATE: September 8, 2021
RE: CD 4 Redistricting Testimony – Rural Benton County

Dear Oregon House and Senate Redistricting Committees:

I am a native of the Monroe area in rural, southern Benton County. I strongly encourage you to include our area in a state legislative district primarily based in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, and Linn Counties. South Benton County is closely tied to the Corvallis and Eugene communities and has intergovernmental connections to the central coast through bodies like Linn-Benton-Lincoln ESD. It is important that our next district should accurately reflect these ties, because our current district fails to do so.

For the past decade, the Monroe area has been part of HD 23, a district based in Polk and Yamhill counties, as well as rural Benton and Marion counties. We do not have strong ties to the other, distant communities in HD 23. I believe the disjointed nature of the communities in the current HD 23 contributed to our poor representation for most of the 2010s. In addition, the current SD 12 stretches all the way into the Portland metro, an unfair situation for Monroe and Benton County residents.

As such, our community would be best represented by state legislative maps A or B. On balance, I prefer Plan A, because it does the most effective job of following existing political lines. While House map C would also be a positive change from our current district, Senate map C places us in an absurd district that stretches all the way from Corvallis to the California border. This would be just as problematic as the current SD 12 and not in the spirit of compact districts. Being part of a compact, culturally cohesive district increases the ability of representatives and senators to effectively serve their constituents. I encourage you to keep this in mind as you redraw districts in the Willamette Valley.

Sincerely,

Quintin Kreth