Redistricting Testimony August 8th: 5:30pm – 8:30pm

Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice Co-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees: My name is Danielle Droppers (she, her, hers) and I'm a 10 year resident of Multnomah County, specifically in Senate District 21, House District 41, and Congressional District 3.

I work for the Oregon Health Authority Office of Equity and Inclusion for over seven years. However, I'm here this evening as a member of my community, and not representing my employer.

My home is in the Sellwood neighborhood where my family also spends time at the Springwater corridor on the east side, and the Willamette River Trail on the west side. We live very close to the Sellwood bridge and use it often to cross between the east and west side of the river in car, on foot, and bike.

For work, when we're in person, I'm also traveling to the border of downtown and old town nearly daily. To get there I take the Sellwood bridge or the 99 when driving or take the Springwater corridor when biking.

I also have connection to Milwaukie and Woodstock neighborhoods through community events and schools. My children who are five and six years old, frequently enjoy the wonderful parks and community centers around these areas. We also attend local community events and support local businesses in these communities. For example, my family is in Milwaukie at least weekly to attend their Farmer's Market, as well as to visit restaurants in the area. We often take the 99 and 224 to travel around these areas. So, connectivity to the lines for HD 41 and SD 21 are a big part of our worlds.

When I testified to you in March I shared that, "given the delays with the release of census data, I was hoping that there will be more opportunities for community conversations, especially reaching out to communities of color and those who speak languages other than English to engage them in sharing their wisdom in how to build upon community strengths for more equitable redistricting."

I will close by sharing my gratitude to this committee for your hard work on this complex topic. And from looking at the various maps given the delays with the release of census data, I wanted to share my preference for House and Senate Plans C, and Congressional Map A. I think these proposals make the most sense because they are more inclusive of the communities that I just mentioned being part of and it's really important to me that we're able to keep our communities and our interests together.

Once again, thank you for your work on this important issue and for your consideration.

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