

Dear Redistricting Committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to input testimony on the redistricting maps that were presented at your joint meeting on September 3. Thank you all for all your hard work on this very large task.

My husband and I live in Banks, House District 31, Senate District 16 and 1st Congressional District. I have lived here for over 40 years, mostly on my husband's family farm, where he has almost always lived. We raised our children here and they attended the Banks School District. I have also commuted to Portland for over 30 years. I am very aware of the differences between Washington County and Multnomah County.

I noticed that while plan B Proposed Maps keep most counties intact, and also more like communities, Plan A and C Maps seem to unnecessarily divide some areas, while combining dis-similar areas. Here in Washington County, we have a very diverse population in many ways, racial, language, industries, perspectives, ways of life, economics, and so much more. We are also growing very quickly, but we generally have different views and values than our urban neighbors in Portland. People here need to be represented, and our voices should be heard, not diluted into the big city views. Portland is its own community and should be its own district, while our rural communities also need a separate and equal representation. Important too are our neighbors in Tillamook, Clatsop and Columbia Counties that also need to have their voices heard.

In reading some of the testimony submitted on September 8th, I see that many of the details of the merits of the Plan B Maps have been covered. So as to not be redundant, I will keep this short.

For these reasons, I believe the Plan B Maps do a better job of keeping the like-communities together, while keeping communities of different interests separate, so they can each be fairly represented. If the purpose of the redistricting is to keep our representation fair, then the Plan B Maps look like the best way to do so.

With fair representation, we will have different points of view and differences of opinion all represented. This is the best way for us to all be able to work together to find the best ways forward that represent all of the people, not just one group drowning out the others.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit.

Karen Schmidlin