

Statement: Fairness and Transparency with the Redistricting Process  
To: Redistricting Committees  
From: Mindy Cope, of Congressional District 2  
Date: September 7, 2021

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Please take into consideration of a tax paying citizen in Deschutes County for District 2. I am reaching out to bring up some important points with this consideration of the redistricting. I feel it is important to hear the voices of all areas and not to lump high density areas with rural areas because the needs of each area are considerably different. What is important to people occupying highly dense city areas are much different than the city limits and rural areas. With that said, I feel that close rural areas should be put together with other rural areas as well as city areas. In doing this, it would be much more efficient with tax payer's goals, needs, and interests.

I currently reside in the South Sunriver area and I feel that this area is out of the Bend area and the 'city'. I think Sunriver and the La Pine rural areas should stay together. I feel it is very important to keep communities of interest together. This would help keep transparency in regards to politics and having diversity in opinion of the residents needs instead of lumping areas (like for example the Portland metro areas creating democrat districts) together. Lumping areas together that consist of a rural outlying residential area that may consist of farm and agricultural land with city centers may clash in terms of the needs and interests of the people. The priorities as well as values and fiscal needs would vary quite differently between these two and they may have a set of conflicting interests. Everyone's voice should be heard.

I live in a quiet area that does not see or experience much traffic, but that is accompanied by longer commutes. The surrounding area is not as developed as denser areas and what I pay for in taxes and the needs of myself and my neighbors reflect this. I moved to this area because I very much appreciate this landscape, quiet living, and the pleasantries that go with the underdevelopment of this area. I believe the people that represent me and how I pay for taxes should and do represent this. The businesses in my rural area and my neighbors all have different values than you would find if living in a more populated city and this is important to keep in to consideration when drawing these lines. If I lived in a larger dense city, than bike lanes and more developed sidewalks would be important to me and I would need people around me to represent my interests and values as such. However, I chose to live where I do, so I ask that you consider this importance when redrawing the district lines. In my rural area, we value farming and agriculture on a smaller scale and love the independence of thriving in a more open space. This is quite different than in denser populations so lumping me in with land areas that do not share this commonality would not represent my district fairly and it would ultimately give me concerns of Gerrymandering taking place, which I would like to believe Oregon would be fair in representing myself and others that live in my area and district.

Deschutes county should stay in the 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district. Bachelor and the national forests should stay together and be kept together in a different district. Bend and Redmond should be together as it is important to keep the cultural and urban interests together. DRW should be a part of Bend and Southern rural areas should belong to another senate district like the Sunriver and La Pine area. Northeast Bend should go to HD 53- the East side of Bend and the West side of

Bend should be carved out differently because the needs of the people are different here too culturally and geographically. Bend and Redmond should stay together and have the school districts stay together.

Please consider this question presented by the Brennan Center for transparency; how should the lines be drawn? A good redistricting process should help a community secure meaningful representation. Many states consider “communities of interest” when drawing their districts and that’s a good place to start. Community of interest is a term for groups of people who share common social, cultural, racial, economic, geographic, or other concerns. These groups are likely to have similar legislative interests as well, and that means they can benefit from common representation in the government. This goes much deeper than Republican or Democrat. A district of farmers, say, and a district of city dwellers will probably elect representatives that reflect differing histories, priorities, and aspirations. Other redistricting goals — like keeping a district compact or within county borders — are usually proxies for keeping communities intact. A good redistricting process will be open and transparent, allowing communities to ask questions and give input. This participation is important, since communities are the basic units of well-designed districts ([www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)).

Once again, please be aware and protect the redistricting from Gerrymandering. We should keep the process transparent and not manipulate the district lines to protect or change political power. The legislature should be responsible for the electoral boundaries not the politicians. John Adams and the Framers of the Constitution thought that legislative bodies should be “an exact Portrait, a Miniature, of the People at large.” Redistricting allows districts to be rebalanced, ensuring to the greatest extent possible that all districts are both equally populated and representative ([www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)).

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns,  
South Sunriver resident  
Mindy Cope

#### Sources

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/7-things-know-about-redistricting>