

Co-Chairs Taylor, Boshart-Davis, Salinas, Vice Chair Knopp, and members of the committee...

For the record, my name is Naomi Strait and my pronouns are she/her/hers.

I live in the Cooper Mountain neighborhood in SW Beaverton, which is located in House District 28, Senate District 14, and Congressional District 1. With the exception of a few years during my infancy and my time in college, I have lived in this community for my entire life; and have witnessed the immense changes that this part of our state has undergone over the last decade.

I want to start off by sharing some concerning things that I observed when looking at the proposed maps. House Plan B, for example, creates an expansive Aloha-based district that combines the diverse, primarily working class families of Aloha with areas like Sexton and Cooper Mountain -- which are wealthier neighborhoods in the Beaverton area that have different values and priorities than communities in the Aloha-area. I believe that this would dilute voices that are absolutely critical to ensuring that our government is accountable to all who it is intended to serve.

Senate Plan B exacerbates this issue -- pairing Aloha with areas such as Murray Hill and Raleigh Hills -- where similar socioeconomic differences to the ones I identified just a few moments ago are present. This would split communities of interest who should be able to work together to elect candidates who are representative of their constituents. If we're going to pair Aloha with something, it should be paired with Hillsboro instead of going further west and further south.

House Map C on the other hand, pairs the Cooper Mountain neighborhood where I live with parts of rural Washington County and northeastern Yamhill County instead of pushing it further North to dilute the voices of historically marginalized communities. Though my area is formally a part of Beaverton (where I spend a lot of time), I know that the values and lifestyle of my neighbors more closely align with those who are living in more rural communities than with those who live closer to the metropolitan area's urban core.

I feel positively about Senate Map C as well, because it follows the same direction as House Map C and connects our hybrid suburban-rural part of Beaverton with McMinnville, Newberg, and Dundee -- a nice mixture of rural and suburban communities all connected by major transportation links like HWY 99.

Before I wrap up, I want to highlight my support for Congressional Map A. Per this proposal, my community would be located in our state's 6th Congressional District. First and foremost, it makes sense to me that the new district would be located in one of the fastest-growing parts of our state. These communities are newer, and their needs are different than other parts of the state.

Looking at its boundaries, I also believe that this district does a great job encompassing many of our state's suburban population centers -- Sherwood, McMinnville, Woodburn, Salem, and Dallas -- who have sizeable population and face some similar challenges to areas like

Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Gresham -- while connecting large BIPOC populations across our state with one another.

Map B, on the contrary, packs Washington County's rapidly growing and diverse communities into one Congressional District despite the fact that Washington County is connected to neighboring counties to the west and is likely to continue growing at a rapid pace over the next ten years.

Thank you all for your time today. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed maps.

Thank you,

Naomi Strait