

Senators, Representatives and staff,

My name is Robert Keyser and I live in Clatskanie in Columbia County, where I have lived and worked all my life.

I own and operate a business here, and I have the privilege of serving my fifth term on the Port of Columbia County board of commissioners. I am also in my fifth term as a director with Clatskanie Rural Fire Protection District, currently serving as board president.

I have reviewed the Congressional Redistricting proposals put forward. Plan A will continue to subject all of the voters of Columbia and Clatsop Counties to the whim of the narrow but heavily populated slim portion of western Multnomah and northern Washington Counties. This frequently and almost exclusively results in the voters of Columbia County being overruled by this small portion of Multnomah and Washington Counties, thereby denying us of a representative with our values or even much interest in our communities.

Plan B is the best of the plans put forward in that it encapsulates the rural, agricultural and forest products based economies of the communities throughout the district. It is the least worst option. I urge adoption of plan B for the congressional district.

Plans A and B of the Legislative House maps both have the fatal flaw of separating Columbia County from Clatsop County. Plan A puts separates Clatskanie from the rest of our own county, while Plan B would separate many special districts including our local PUD, School District and the Clatskanie RFPD on which I serve, into 2 separate legislative districts with 2 representatives to try to work with. The Columbia Clatsop county line is a nearly seamless boundary with common interests and great cooperation from both sides. Please do not disrupt this.

Plan C comes the closest to serving our interests with the exception of the odd small portion of eastern Columbia County. This would result in a portion of our cohesive county to be isolated and overruled by the voters of Multnomah County. Please consider revising this plan to include all of Columbia County and I would support it.

The Senate District proposals A and B also seem to be drawn to overrule the voters of Columbia and Clatsop Counties by including a small, heavily populated portion of Multnomah and Washington Counties. Plan C tends to group similar social and economic interests but in addition to stretching the district geographically so no one Senator could attend events in all of the communities effectively, it also has a ridiculous, and I would say petty, line drawn carving out a tiny sliver of eastern Columbia County that would deprive us of our current State Senator Betsy Johnson. Senator Johnson has served Columbia and Clatsop Counties both as a State Representative and then State Senator for more than twenty years. In that time she has enjoyed broad bipartisan support, winning both the Democratic and Republican primaries and enjoying wide margins in her general elections. To deprive Columbia and Clatsop Counties of the choice to retain our Senator is purely political and an affront to the voters of this district. Either move this boundary to the Columbia County line, as the law clearly calls for, or throw out all the Senate redistricting proposals, keep the old District 16 and adjust the line as needed in the southern boundary in Tillamook County.

Thank you for your consideration;

Robert Keyser

PO Box 1017

460 NW 5th Street
Clatskanie, OR 97016
503-728-2771 cbs @clatskanie.com