

TESTIMONY:

Co-Chairs Taylor, Salinas, and Boshart-Davis, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record my name is Kina Condit-Chadwick and my pronouns are they/them/theirs. I live in Bend, in Congressional District 2, House District 53, and Senate District 27.

I moved to Bend a year and ½ ago with my partner and 2 children from the Bay area, where I lived for almost 20 years. We decided on Bend because we wanted to be closer to my partner's family in Seattle, we fell in love with the natural beauty and weather, and we also knew another family who was biracial and queer.

In July, we moved into a house in Northeast Bend and are starting to get to know our new community. My eight-year-old just started third grade at Lava Ridge Elementary, and our two-year-old is starting preschool as well.

The different versions of these proposals treat Bend in various ways. While all three of the proposals before the committee have my family in house district 53, I am concerned about proposals which concentrate the Bend metro area. Map B looks very similar to Bend's current house districts; however, this proposal disregards the massive growth of Bend. The current map divides neighbors from one another, and ignores the many points of connection between central and downtown Bend, and the other parts of our city. Splitting Bend with a donut hole was not the answer 10 years ago and is still not the answer. It unfairly separates communities, and transportation links.

A couple neighbors and I are part of Storydwelling, a faith and justice based community in Bend. Our congregation comes from families and individuals all over Bend. Prior to COVID, Storydwelling held community potlucks, started a childcare cooperative, and had other in-person programs that drew people together from across Bend and beyond.

Through my work with Embrace Bend, an organization that advocates for diversity, equity, and inclusion, I've also met people from across the city. We are currently working with Visit Bend dot com and local businesses on how we can create a more welcoming environment for all folks in Bend. As part of a queer and biracial family, this is especially important to me and I've been excited to see businesses across the city respond with significant interest.

The old formula for Bend made Bend the sun, with the rest of Bend and surrounding areas the universe. That doesn't work for us anymore. Bend needs lines drawn that recognize we've grown from being a small town to a full metro area, as shown by the census data. Our points of connection come through businesses, transportation, faith based communities, and more -- and they need to be recognized by the legislative maps that represent our region. Thank you for your time and consideration.