

September 8, 2021

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

For the record my name is Brian Ettling, my pronouns are he/him and I live in Multnomah County, OR House District 47.

From the end of July 2020 to October 2020, I was an enumerator for the U.S. Census Bureau in Oregon. I took this job because I love Oregon, living in outer NE Portland, and my Wilkes neighborhood. As an American and a proud Oregonian, I felt it was my patriotic duty to count as many of my fellow citizens and residents as I could. Even more, I worked as hard as I could to make damn sure we got that 6th Congressional seat and my area was well represented in the 2020 U.S. Census. Therefore, I am very excited for the opportunity to testify before you today.

I love living in the Wilkes neighborhood around NE 158th and NE Sandy. My wife and I go for neighborhood walks every day and we are within walking distance of two farmers' markets. We love the diversity of people in our neighborhood and our House District, which is possibly one of the most diverse areas in Oregon.

I am testifying today to make sure that my neighborhood is kept whole when the redistricting maps are drawn. My neighborhood is on the top, often forgotten, northeastern corner of the Portland city limits boundary. With our modest apartment complexes along NE Sandy Blvd with middle class family homes south of Sandy to the barrier of I-84, we feel more connected to the neighborhoods of Agray and Parkrose than other neighborhoods south of I-84 within House District 47.

My neighborhood of Wilkes, as well as Agray and Parkrose face the same problems of lack of safe bicycle access trails, high traffic congestion of the single lane highway of NE Sandy Blvd, a food desert of a lack of large scale supermarket, traffic gridlock from the proximity of I-205, noise pollution from the vehicles, the planes flying to PDX & the busy railroad tracks that parallels NE Sandy Blvd. Related to this, is all the air pollution from all the vehicle traffic from the roads and interstate highways, trains, and commercial jets.

My wife and I have lived here for four and a half years and we felt safe living here, until August 21st, when extreme right wing protesters came to NE Sandy and NE 122nd, to express their views of hatred, intolerance, and provoking violence in our peaceful and diverse neighborhoods of outer NE Portland. They seemed to choose the Parkrose, Argay and Wilkes area of Portland because it's an area where they felt like the Portland Police might be less likely to protect these neighborhoods, as opposed to protecting much more affluent and prominent neighborhoods closer to downtown Portland.

In your state redistricting efforts, I ask that you please make every attempt to try to keep the diverse and modest outer NE neighborhoods of Parkrose, Argay, and Wilkes together because of our common geography, issues, and community bonds. With this mind, I ask the Oregon Legislative Redistricting Committee and the Oregon Legislature to approve Legislative House Plan C or a final redistricting map, which takes this request into consideration.

As far as your Congressional mapping, The Columbia Gorge is a unique treasure of Oregon. I like the Congress Plan A proposal to keep the Gorge together from Troutdale to The Dalles. These areas are linked by public services, conservation, tourism, local government bodies, etc. I don't like the Congress Plan B Proposal because it looks oddly similar to how things have been, considering how much this area has grown and changed over the last 10 years. It's sad that partisan interests have made their hatred for the most populous areas in Oregon very clear in recent years, and it seems they are now trying to pack as many folks as possible in to protect their partisan interests.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.