

"Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp (Ka-nope), and Boshart-Davis; and members of the redistricting committees. For the record my name is Catherine Stearns, my pronouns are she/her/hers and I live in Benton County in current House District 23. I live in the north part of Benton County outside of Adair Village and have for more than 30 years.

First off, thank-you for the diligent work of this committee. There are a mind-boggling amount of complexities to drawing new district lines. And, I am glad you are providing time for citizen input by encouraging citizens, community groups, unions and other communities of interest to participate

*Generally speaking, I support the districts proposed by the committee in House Plan C. The plan keeps communities of interest together, takes into account major transportation links, and respects important existing political and natural boundaries. However, I want to make my case again as I did in April for **NOT** continuing to include the northeast corner of Benton County in with Polk County.*

*For all my years here in the north east part of Benton County I have felt **un**represented as I am NOT a farmer, NOT a rancher and NOT a logger. Polk County remains a part of the valley I have little to do with other than driving through on my way to someplace else.*

The northeast part of Benton County has a rapidly expanding population from over 300 new homes being added on the east side of Highway 99W south of Adair Village. Most of these homes are purchased by folks who work, do business, go to church and recreate in the Corvallis area.

I am a strong supporter of local owner operated businesses and Corvallis has a many covering most services and needs. I travel to Corvallis for shopping, business and medical appointments at least 3 times a week. The majority of my disposable income is spent in Corvallis and in Benton County.

As I am part of an ad hoc neighborhood group, I know this is also true of many of my neighbors. We want to be included with the greater Corvallis area and not be excluded from the rest of Benton County.

I prefer Congressional Plan C as it addresses many of the concerns I've had over the past 30 years; namely, my neighbors and I have more in common with Corvallis than we do with Monmouth or Dallas. We travel south on Hwy 99W to Corvallis for the majority of our business, medical and recreational activities.

This part of Benton County is served by bus transportation out of Adair Village to the Corvallis Transit Depot where we make connections to travel to many other places including most major local employers, Linn-Benton Community College and even to the coast. There are no such connections to places north of us.

There are many retired folks in our area who appreciate being a short drive to Corvallis for doctor appointments, groceries, and many cultural or recreational activities a college town offers. Local children attend Corvallis School District schools by taking the school buses originating in Corvallis.

As the community I reside in considers itself "Corvallis", we want to be in Congressional District 4 as do most of our co-workers, associates and friends.

AND, we want state representatives who know our community as part of Benton County and NOT an extension of south Polk County.

Please consider including northeast Benton County with the rest of Benton County for state representation. I thank-you for listening to my input and for your diligence in the redistricting efforts.