

Dear Committee Members;

I have lived in Washington County for over 30 years and currently live in Tigard, CD1. From a Facebook post by Lindsay Berschauer of CD 1 I was made aware that our State and my Congressional District is in the process of redistricting for congressional, state senate and state house districts. While it may be a necessary thing to do at this time, I would like express my desire and hope that the members stay as neutral and fair as possible during the process.

I hope you will keep towns and communities together and not divide them. I agree with Ms. Berschauer that districts must be kept within reasonable geographical ranges. I have looked at our state district maps in the past and wondered about a few of the district sizes and shapes (like CD1 going all the way to the coast but also including part of Portland's Westside? Totally different cultural areas of Oregon.). I also know that geographical features such as rivers and mountains (even in this day and age!) can create sense of division (Westside verses the Eastside of Portland is a good example) or enhance community cohesion. If this is an opportunity to refine the map to better reflect Oregonians and our communities – then great! If it might cause an imbalance in population representation or greatly diverge from common sense boundaries, like towns and counties – then not good! These are things I care about.

I understand that there are neutral, technology-based, data-driven processes to draw lines based on population. This sounds hopeful and useful. At the same time, please continue to listen to your constituents.

Thank you for considering my testimony and my hope that the process stays as neutral and non-partisan as possible.

Heather Teshera