

Redistricting Congressional District 5
September 9, 2021

Thank you to the Senate Interim committee members for your input on re-districting for the state of Oregon.

Being new to politics this past year I am unfamiliar with how these maps are designated. As a citizen of this state I would like to see options of no gerrymandering within these new districts.

It is important to me NOT to be a part of a populated city as their values and common interests are typically different than those who live in a rural area.

I lived in the heart of Portland most of my life and moved to rural Clackamas County in 2001.

Since moving here I have come to appreciate and understand the lifestyles of country living. The obstacles, I as a home and landowner, face and have to deal with are not at all what I experienced when living in the big city.

Here in the country I use common sense, practicalities and physical brute strength to take care of issues that arise.

In the city I didn't need to think for myself but only make a phone call to have someone else take care of a problem or issue for me. Hence when a major issue that affected east of the cascades was placed on the ballot I didn't have a gauge to help me make an intelligent decision for what would benefit them the most.

People that reside in the area are the ones who need to make the most appropriate decisions for themselves rather than those who have no clue what it's like to live in that kind of environment and geographical location.

What transpires in the city is not what people in rural and country areas deal with and vice versa.

Logical and practical thinking seldom is present when one area is trying to tell another area how they are to live.

I personally regret some of the stances I took for issues that I really knew very little about nor understood the outcome of what my vote did for those who live in a particular area.

It is important to keep geographical communities, school districts and like-minded communities together.

I would like to see these new map outlines incorporate areas that are represented by State and local representatives that actually live in the area they will be representing rather than speaking for the broad spectrum they are now.

Respectfully,
Leila Blakely
Clackamas County