

Good afternoon. Co-Chair Salinas, Co-Chair Boshart-Davis Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp and members of the Redistricting Committees.

My name is Aeric Estep, I am a resident of West Linn in Clackamas County. CD 5, HD 37, SD 19. Thank you for hearing my testimony and engaging this important work.

I testified before this committee in April, prior to the release of the newly proposed maps. I implored this committee that it is the obligation of this legislature to use the existing building blocks of our democracy to create boundaries of representation in order to satisfy the requirements delineated in ORS 188.010.

In order to best create representative districts that represent the varied interests and demographics throughout our state we ought to use the existing building blocks of organizational and governmental lines: our school districts, library districts, water districts, cities, and counties. These are the building blocks that can successfully construct our State Representative, State Senate, and Congressional districts.

After observing the proposed maps for my own Congressional district, Representative and State Senate districts, it is clear that the existing building blocks were not used and the problems present in our existing maps were only exacerbated in the new maps.

The people are already organized. We must not let a partisan pencil draw lines. This posture has drawn lines antithetical to the existing governmental and representative structures.

The proposed map A for my Congressional District travels from Junction City all the way to an unexpected sliver of the city of Portland. This is not a community of a common interest but a desired cocktail of voting patterns.

The proposed map B is a more reasonable composition pulling in the lion's share of two counties but could still be improved removing the portion of Multnomah county and adding in more of Marion county.

One would expect the problems to resolve as we looked into smaller representative districts but the same discrepancies remain.

Rather than encompassing the entirety of our West Linn-Wilsonville School district to make the majority of our Representative District 37, our school district was bifurcated and portions of another county were encapsulated. This is not how the people are organized. We live and move and breath within our school district. We approve and pay taxes for our school district. There is no democratic end to creating a disparate district with a mixture of counties, school districts and cities.

The proposed maps for my State Senate district split the school district and each have an odd appendage that reaches up to touch, yet again, the city of Portland. That makes a State Senate district, encompassing approximately 140,000 people, touch the three

most populous counties in the state. This only causes dilution of efficiency and effectiveness for our representatives when they need to talk with the elected leaders or administrators of multiple counties and cities. Each elected member could have represented a more cohesive group of people organized around existing political boundaries.

The people are organized. Please use those organizing structures. Every day they live and interact within these political and organizational boundaries. They are small and thus ideal for use as building blocks for larger districts. Our goal should be to use these blocks in order that the entirety of our representative structure is logical, effective, and representative.

Let us draw well, with our existing political boundaries, that we may be represented well.

Thank you.