



Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

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Erin D. Skaar, Commissioner

September 9, 2021

Co-Chairs Boshart Davis and Salinas, and Members of the Committee,

I am resident of, and elected representative for, Tillamook County, currently located in Senate Districts 16 and 5, and House Districts 32 and 10, and Congressional District 5. I am pleased to offer testimony today on the redistricting efforts taking place in Oregon. In looking at the draft maps that have been presented I would like to encourage that decisions be based upon key communities of interest to be highlighted below. I strongly request that Tillamook County not be cut into three pieces, as this removes one piece of the county from the communities of interest below.

As a County Commissioner in Tillamook County I believe that we belong to two communities of interest that are vital to ensuring that the residents of our county are fairly represented; we are coastal and we are rural. The presence of the ocean as our western boundary is far more than just a physical feature for us; it is an economic driver, an environmental asset, and a tourism destination. Currently Tillamook County is split into two districts, however, the counties with which we share those districts also largely share the similarity of this western boundary; allowing us to share critical issues and opportunities that can be shared and advocated for at the state level. As you consider redrawing the boundaries based on new numbers, I ask that you keep Tillamook County in districts that also border on the ocean.

As a county with a very limited urban population, the issues of Tillamook County are tied closely to other rural counties. Our residents have chosen to live here in order to enjoy a lifestyle and a livelihood that are supported by open spaces and small communities. Tillamook County is currently a part of districts that share that rural nature and the issues and opportunities therein. As you consider redrawing the boundaries, I ask that you keep Tillamook County in districts that also share our rural lifestyle.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony on redistricting.

Sincerely,

Erin D Skaar

Tillamook County Commissioner