

Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Boshart-Davis, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

My name is Debra Dobbs. I use she/her/hers pronouns and live in Hood River -- located in HD52, SD26, and CD2. Thank you for hosting these hearings and giving us the opportunity to make our voices heard.

First and foremost, I want to urge you all to consider passing Congressional Map A. This map's proposed 3rd Congressional District pairs communities like the Gorge with Mt. Hood, Portland, and Bend -- which are all connected via shared values, a reliance on the tourism economy and a great love for outdoor recreation. We are connected to Portland via existing transportation infrastructure such as I-84, HWY30, and the Columbia Area Transit bus -- which spans from The Dalles all the way to the Gateway Transit Center in NE Portland. To Bend, we are connected via HWY35 and HWY26.

When people fly into Oregon, they fly into the PDX Airport. While Portland is a massive tourist attraction for our state, people are drawn to Oregon because of the unparalleled, natural beauty it has to offer. Visitors *and* native Oregonians travel from the I-5 corridor (most frequently, the Portland Metro Area which encompasses a whopping 40% of our state's population) to various other parts of Oregon; with Bend and Hood River being two prominent destinations.

I also feel that this proposal addresses the false narrative that there is an urban-rural divide in our state. While there are certainly differences between our communities, we are one Oregon; and as our state continues to grow it's crucial that we form collaborative partnerships between our state's urban and rural communities to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for our children and grandchildren.

Why wouldn't we keep these communities nested into one Congressional District, represented by someone who seeks to recognize and strengthen these increasingly important connections, and who will prioritize meaningful investments that our regional economies need to continue thriving over the next decade?

Congressional Map B completely neglects to acknowledge that we are linked to communities in and around Portland. Whether our state's rural legislators like it or not, we are not isolated from our state's most populous areas -- it's time to start acting like it.

I also want to take a moment to express my support for House and Senate Maps A and C. By far the most notable improvement of these maps is the fact that it keeps Hood River and The Dalles together while also keeping Mount Hood in the district. Anyone who lives in either of these communities will tell you that they function as one. Folks travel in between these towns for work, to visit loved ones, or to go to a restaurant, medical appointment, or store. Students enrolled at Columbia Gorge Community College also travel back and forth from these towns, as there is a campus in each.

In addition, they are connected by the Columbia River Gorge Commission and Bi-State Advisory Council, as well as by critical service providers such as The Next Door, the Aging in the Gorge Alliance, the Mid-Columbia Center for Living, and One Community Health.

House and Senate Maps B ignore all of these connections, lacking common sense. My heart breaks at the thought of our Columbia Gorge or Mountain communities being split.

Thank you for your time.

Debra Dobbs