

Thursday, September 9th from 5:30-8:30

For the record, my name is Parthav Easwar. Thank you Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, Co-Chairs Salinas and Boshart Davis, and members of the committee

I grew up in CD 1, House District 33, and Senate District 17. As a college student interested in politics, I have been tracking the redistricting process and testified in the Spring hearings about my community in Bethany. In my testimony, I asked the committee to consider how it could draw district lines that ensure that communities of interest are kept together in the landscape of unincorporated Bethany and also ensure that the growth of Asian Pacific Islander communities are fairly represented in the new maps.

Having reviewed the current legislative proposals, I have concerns about House Map B. My biggest concern is that it falsely divides Washington County along the Sunset Highway. In doing so, it creates an unnecessary barrier for communities living HD 29, HD 30, HD 32, and HD 33 on the Map B proposal.

Take my district as an example. I live in Bethany, which has seen significant growth of the Indian community in the past 20 years. As our community has grown, so have the grocery stores, temples, hair salons, and other small businesses that serve our community. But nearly all of these places are across the Sunset Highway from my neighborhood.

For example, to get to Chinmaya Mission Temple each week, we cross Hwy 26. To purchase curry leaves, samosas, or basmati rice, we might go to one of the seven Indian grocery stores in Washington County that are on the south side of the Highway.

In addition, many people in Bethany need to cross Highway 26 to get to work. Both my parents cross the highway for their jobs, and many Silicon Forest businesses like Intel, Lam Research, or Mavensoft are south of Highway 26. Families also cross the highway to get to school. This year my sister will start high school at Beaverton Academy of Science and Engineering, which is across the highway. In fact, both the Beaverton and Hillsboro school districts cross Highway 26.

By making Hwy 26 a hard barrier, Map B ignores the cultural, small business, and community connections of many families and neighborhoods in Washington County. It's like this proposal exists in a world where overpasses don't connect roads and communities to one another. I'd like to point out that House Map C understands my concerns listed above and connects my community in meaningful ways.

I know that the legislature must find a compromise to complete redistricting. I appreciate the time to share how my community will be impacted by these proposals.