

To the Oregon Senate and House Of Representatives Interim Committees on Redistricting, Chairwomen Taylor, Chairwomen Boshart Davis, Chairwomen Salinas, Vice-Chairman Knopp, et al.

My name is Matthew Bryan. I am an undergraduate student at Southern Oregon University and a resident of Washington County. I recently submitted my proposal for the redistricting of Oregon's now 6 federal congressional districts, and am now submitting testimony in favor of my plan. While no plan can be perfect and please everyone, I believe that my plan has the potential to have broad appeal because of my focus on three main ideas. Those ideas are: limiting county splits, grouping like-minded communities together, and building competitive districts whenever possible.

The first of my main focuses was to limit county splits. County splits occur when parts of a county are not in the same district as the others. These splits are harmful because they weaken the potential political power of an affected county. In my plan, I have made a map with only five county splits, with the other 31 counties remaining intact. This is an improvement on the current map which contains 8 county splits including splitting Multnomah County into three different districts. This limiting of splits will help to

empower more people through local activism, a goal that I believe most people see as an incredibly positive goal.

The second of my main goals was to group like-minded communities together. One of the most common complaints in Oregon politics is that the citizens of eastern and southern Oregon often feel left out and underrepresented. In an attempt to remedy this, I drew the Second District to encompass most of these regions. This now guarantees that the citizens of these more rural regions of Oregon will be represented by someone of their own choosing in Washington, D.C.. Similarly, I drew the Sixth District to be centered around downtown Portland. This allows for the potentially unique issues faced by urban Oregonians to also be heard and represented. The other four districts (numbers 1, 3, 4 and 5), are a mix of urban, exurban, suburban, and rural communities that serve to highlight and represent the diversity that makes Oregon the state that it is.

The third and final goal is to build competitive districts whenever possible. Competitive districts are always preferable to safe districts for voters since more voters participate in general elections than in primary elections. Of the six districts in my proposal, three of them have projected Cook Partisan Voting Indexes (PVI) in the single digits. PVI is a measurement of district competitiveness compared to the national average. The 3rd district on my map has a projected PVI of EVEN meaning that close to half of the residents voted

for a democrat and half voted for a republican. The other two districts that have single digit PVIs are the 4th with a PVI of R+1 and the 5th with a PVI of D+3. Having three competitive districts is important to making a system that is fair to the largest number of voters possible.

I recognize redistricting is a difficult process and in a state as large and diverse as Oregon, it can be nearly impossible to come up with a plan that pleases everyone. However, by focusing on my three main goals of limiting county splits, grouping like-minded communities together, and building competitive districts whenever possible, I have created a proposal that is hopefully easy to use and considered to be fair by most Oregonians. I would like to thank the members of the Redistricting Committees for reviewing my proposal and I wish them the best of luck during the redistricting process.

