

To whom it may concern:

I would like to submit my testimony concerning the redistricting of Oregon's congressional districts.

I have reviewed the maps and I strongly prefer option B. Here is why:

I live in Albany Oregon. I am currently in congressional district 4. Both proposals would move me to congressional district 5. However, the make up for the district is very different between the two proposals.

In order for a congressional representative to effectively represent a people, it's best if there is some uniformity among that people. The key difference between options A and B is how well communities are combined for representation.

In option A, the half of Albany where I live would be joined with far away southeast Portland. There are far more people in Portland. I would feel that my community is unrepresented altogether. I would also feel that my neighboring communities are unrepresented. Communities in the Willamette valley would be split between three congressional districts so that none of the districts represent the valley. Meanwhile, four of the six districts would have a portion of Portland metro, mixed with a large geographic area that stretches in each direction. Every district would lack unity.

Plan B makes sense to me. The whole city of Albany would be represented together with neighboring cities in the Willamette valley including Corvallis, part of Salem, towns outside of Eugene as well as much of the Oregon coast. I think that these communities share commonalities and a representative could represent our issues in all these similar communities, while different districts represent Portland metro in a more unified way.

Thank you for documenting my testimony.

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