

House Co-Chairs Salinas, Boshart-Davis, Senate Chair Taylor and Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record, my name is Osvaldo Avila and I live in the city of Salem. My current house district is HD 20.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in front of the committee and applaud you for taking on such a complicated task.

I have lived in the Salem area since 2012 and my children attend school in my neighborhood. Salem is a special city because of the historic and growing diversity of the communities who live here. Although I live in Paul Evans district, I travel outside of my district to access services and goods, like *mercados*. These culturally specific stores are important to me, my family, and our neighbors. Before COVID, my family and I regularly drove to Woodburn to visit my mother in law and brother and we often visited at least 3 times a month and took our kids to the *paleterias* and supported other small businesses from the community.

I also drive to other parts of Salem, like Lancaster to find those *mercados* that I cannot find closer to where I live. When I want to host a carne asada, I have to drive out to NE Salem to shop for the right meat and spices like at El Ranchero Market, La Tapatia or even when my family wants *pan dulce*.

Some of the proposed maps raise concerns because of the separation of communities of interest that are found in the Woodburn and Salem area. These two cities are contained within one district currently and the Latinx community who reside there, should be kept as close together as possible. House Plan C contains these areas and connects folks like the Latinx farming community along I-5. In addition, Cordon Road demonstrates where folks have been pushed out of Salem proper due to price increases, and is a good dividing line to use when drawing a new district.

House Plan B, splits Salem and Woodburn into two separate districts that look so strange, I don't even understand why they were drawn this way. Destroying the Salem to Woodburn corridor would hinder our everyday life. I strongly encourage you to not support Plan B.

Salem is one of the few places in Oregon that has a concentrated population of Latinx folks. It is vital that my community has the ability to elect a candidate of our choice, someone who speaks our language, understands us, and will advocate for us. House Map C does this.

Again, thank you for letting me testify and I hope you keep the communities of Salem and Woodburn when revising the proposed maps.