



September 8th, 2021

Co-Chairs Taylor, Knope, Co-chairs Salinas and Boshart-Davis and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record: my name is Michelle Hicks, my pronouns are she/her, and I am a resident of House District 46 and Oregon's third Congressional District in Multnomah County. I am also the Field Manager and submitting testimony on behalf of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). Our organization serves the Asian Pacific Islander community throughout Oregon. APANO unites Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development, and cultural work.

First off, thank you for the incredibly hard work of this committee, especially those of you who have worked diligently to produce thoughtful and nuanced maps of our communities. I know there are a lot of complexities to drawing new district lines.

In particular, I want to share some of the detailed ways that these maps should reflect the reality and needs of my community, the Asian Pacific Islander community in Southeast Portland.

Division, Burnside, SW Powell Blvd, and 82nd are the most important transportation routes in my area. I can get from my house to the APANO offices of Orchards of 82nd or our Wing Ming Office via 82nd street. On my weekly shopping trips I usually go to Hong Phat or Fubonn Market on 82nd street. Here I can get groceries that meet my household's cultural needs. Many of the places we gather as a community to break bread, worship, and relax take place in the Jade District, in the neighborhood around southeast 82nd avenue and Division street.

I bring up these areas in particular because Jade District is the heart of my community in current House District 46. In Map C, our community in the Jade district is directly divided and split between House Districts 46 and 48. The restaurants, markets, worship houses, and the places we gather are directly divided between two house districts.

The current maps ignore the realities and needs of how our communities gather, worship, work and play as a vibrant and diverse community around 82nd and Division street. We must prioritize keeping together BIPOC communities and historically marginalized communities who have been intentionally shut out from the political process for too long.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages ALL communities and that it responds to our growing needs. The Legislature's process for engaging Oregon communities in redistricting is imperative.

Thank you for your time.

Michelle Hicks



Field Manager