

## Testimony for Redistricting Plans for Congressional District 2

Thank you for remembering 9-1-1 and allowing me to testify before your committee. My name is Eric Hofeld and my wife and I have been Oregon residents for over 70 years. I am a veteran and retired CPA. We have lived in Eugene and Portland for many years, and most recently moved to the Redmond area – Congressional District 2.

In reviewing the legislative maps that have been proposed for CD2, I had one overarching question for the Redistricting Committee:

Can you honestly say that the guidelines in Oregon law were followed and gerrymandering avoided when the maps for CD2 were redrawn?

By comparing Maps A and B for CD2 to the Oregon Law guidelines I raise the following:

### Guideline - Don't Unnecessarily Divide Communities of Interest:

Map A – How does the community of Portland have the same interests as those in Bend? Does Bend align with daily anarchistic activity? Does Bend align with growing homelessness and crime? Portland is in no way similar to Bend which is much more rural and conservative.

Map B – Appears to Keep Bend and North Central Oregon a part of Eastern Oregon where they have much more in common than Portland or Lake Oswego.

Map A - How would splitting Bend into North and South Districts not constitute dividing this community and at a minimum not keep it contiguous? Bend/Redmond have a stronger commonality than Bend has with Prineville or Powell Butte.

Map B – Seems to keeps Deschutes County and Bend whole as one community and reduces the “donut hole”.

### Guideline - Keep Each District Contiguous:

Map A - How does splitting Douglas County in half result in a contiguous district? Does population growth warrant this?

Map A - How does separating the very similar communities in Bend from the Redmond community when they are contiguous?

Map B – Seems to keep Bend and Redmond together since they are contiguous. It splits Jackson County only to equalize the population as required by Oregon law.

### Guideline – Do Not Dilute the Voting Strength of any Language or Minority Group:

Map A - How would breaking up the Warm Springs Indian Reservation not constitute dividing and thereby diluting the voting strength of these peoples?

Map B – Splits Marion and Clackamas counties to keep Warm Springs whole and also keeps the Warm Springs, Umatilla, Burns, Paiute, and Klamath tribes together.

Guideline - Districts are to be Connected by Transportation Links:

Map A - Where is the transportation link between Jefferson, Wasco, or Multnomah Counties to Deschutes County?

Map B – Recognizes there is no major transportation links (Interstate freeways, bus or light rail) from the Willamette Valley to Deschutes County.

Guideline - No District Shall be Drawn to Favor any Political Party or Legislator:

Map A - Doesn't the spitting of Bend into two North/South Districts favor Democratic legislators at the expense of the Republican legislator?

Map A – How is splitting Portland 3 ways and spreading it into three urban districts not an example of gerrymandering to ensure a Democratic majority in those districts?

Map B – Seems to keep Portland and Bend in largely the same boundaries. For CD 2, It recognizes the natural boundary of the Cascade Mountains.

Map A seems to heavily favor the Democrats and appears to ignore the guidelines in favor of gerrymandering in order to gain more voting power.

In contrast, Map B appears to more closely follow Oregon Law guidelines, keeps the natural boundary of the Cascade Mountain Range, and keeps Deschutes County whole which I support.

In conclusion, Map B is not perfect, but our hope is that the Committee and Legislature choose to follow the guidelines set forth in Oregon Law to finalize the redrawing of Oregon's political boundaries to be fair and uphold the long-held values of all the peoples of Oregon – Democrats, Republicans, Unaffiliated, and our treasured native Americans and Immigrant voters.

Thank you for allowing my testimony to be heard.

Eric Hofeld