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I have reviewed the maps and ORS 188.010, and reviewed the different redistricting maps.

The most serious concern I see regarding the maps that were drawn in ORS 188.011 are the following items:

- (1)(d) Not divide communities of common interest; and
- (2) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator or other person.

One of the key areas of “common interest” I believe that needs to be taken into consideration are small communities verses large/metropolitan/urban communities.

When communities of common interest are drawn together then they will have better representation in the legislature, and this will provide a more diverse legislature. Without this, then rural communities will be underrepresented in the maps.

Let me comment on each map by group:

Congressional District Maps:

Plan A divides Portland (which could easily be defined a community of common interest) into 3 different sections, and therefore waters down the other communities of common interest, limiting their representation. For example, Polk County (where I reside) and Lake Oswego are both in the same area—but what common interests are there between the two communities?

Plan B follows ORS 188.010 much closer, putting much of Portland in the same congressional district.

I recommend Plan B

Senate Maps

In reviewing Plan A Eugene is divided into 3 different Districts, and Plan C is similar, reducing the representation that the rural areas will receive. This type of division can be seen in other areas as well. Plan B divides into two areas, and keeps much of the common interests of rural communities together.

I recommend Plan B.

Legislative Maps

Similar to what was seen before, Map A and C combine rural communities with urban communities and seem to ignore the statute requiring communities of common interest. A good example of this in Plan A is how Eugene is divided into five different districts, whereas Plan B has three districts. Plan A would lessen the impact of rural Oregon, and the diversity of the Oregon house. Plan C has District 12 almost making a circle around 13, District 9 including much of rural Marion county but also Canby, West Linn and Oregon City.

I would recommend Plan B again.

Oregon's legislature needs diversity. This provides a healthier government for the people of Oregon. Rural Oregon especially needs good representation, not from Lake Oswego, or West Linn, but from representatives who understand the communities they are from.

In all cases, Plan B maps, while not perfect, do a better job creating districts of common interest.

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