

Greetings Members of the Redistricting Committee,

My name is Dana Greenblatt and I use she/her pronouns. I am from Ashland and work with the Rogue Action Center in Phoenix. We are a community organization engaged directly with underserved folks and other community members in our region including Latinx, LGBTQ+, low income folk and renters, and members of minority faith communities, among others. We are also one of the community organizations working directly to support fire survivors from last year's almeda and obenchain fires here in Southern Oregon.

Last September we watched as the Almeda and Obenchain Fires tore through our community, burning thousands of structures and displacing over 3,000 residents. Tragically, the 2020 fires disproportionately impacted mobile homes, manufactured home parks and affordable housing units. Many fire impacted individuals have been unable to receive government provided disaster assistance due to not being insured prior to the fire, documentation status and language barriers in the application process. Today, close to 600 people who lost their homes are still living in a hotel while others are residing in trailers that are over capacity or staying with friends or family.

While the rebuild process is well on its way, we have several concerns regarding how the towns of Phoenix and Talent will be rebuilt and who will hold the power throughout the recovery process. Residents who had insurance prior to the fire and have the funds to do so are already in the process of rebuilding their homes. For thousands displaced however, this route is not an option. Individuals who lived in a mobile or manufactured home park or were renters are at the mercy of their landlords or park home owners to determine if they will be able to return home. A staggering 80% of impacted homes were constructed prior to 2010 and will likely be rebuilt by units with a significantly higher market value. Without intervention, it is likely that a large percentage of folks impacted by the fires will be unable to afford returning to the neighborhoods and towns they were displaced from.

Southern Oregon residents displaced from the 2020 fires deserve to remain in the communities they were displaced from and receive assistance in order to make a full recovery from their devastating loss. In order to recover and return home, fire survivors need to be able to organize together to create the future of their communities. Fire survivors also elected representatives who will listen to their stories, advocate for their best interests and ensure they retain decision making power during the recovery process. Therefore I urge you to take into consideration the impacts of the 2020 fires into account during the redistricting process and prioritize keeping fire impacted communities together. The maps proposed by your committee accomplish this.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to share this story on behalf of myself and my community.

Sincerely,

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**Dana Greenblatt (she/her)**

Rogue Action Center

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