

September 10, 2021

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

My name is Dr. Adriana Voss-Andreae, I use she/her pronouns and I live in Multnomah County in current House District 42 in inner SE Portland. Thanks for the opportunity to speak today and for the time and dedication put into drawing fair and equitable maps for the next 10 years.

As someone who lives in inner SE Portland on the edge of Ladd's addition, I think it's critical that the new districts are fair and lift up the voices of so many Oregonians who have been currently and historically marginalized. We saw unprecedented and exciting population shifts that will only continue, and our new maps should reflect that.

In inner SE Portland in particular, the major neighborhoods that make up our community should stay together: Ladd's Addition and Laurelhurst park in my House District and further East into the neighborhoods of Mt. Tabor and Mt. Scott for the Senate District. These are all neighborhoods that I frequent often and are connected by major roads: SE Hawthorne, Madison and Division. This would allow natural barriers of the Willamette River, the edge of Mt. Tabor and industrial SE to contain the district into compact and cohesive communities and legislative districts. This denser urban area makes sense, and would hopefully help prioritize zoning decisions to include greater access to affordable housing so more Oregonians could afford to live here.

In terms of the Congressional maps, Map A uses natural and logical community boundaries to draw the lines: it keeps large communities along the Columbia River together and consolidates key transportation links like the Port and the airport, and also includes I-84 -- a major connector for Oregonians-- for over 100 miles. And importantly, the line between CD 1 and CD 3 at 15th and Prescott is a logical place to ensure that the legislature does not split up the historically Black neighborhoods in North Portland. As someone who used to work at a local non-profit dedicated to providing affordable housing to those displaced by gentrification in N Portland, it's critical that this community of interest finally be meaningfully considered after generations of racism and abuse. Truly seeing Black Oregonians when drawing these lines is a first step.

Congressional Map B, on the other hand, does not take these communities of interest into consideration. Instead, it appears to be packing -- a form of gerrymandering intended to dilute a community's ability to effectively engage in the political process. It also overlooks the fact that population growth has over the last decade led to the expansion of metropolitan areas from their urban core as well as the growth of rural towns like Bend, Hood River, and The Dalles -- a trend that is likely to continue in the decade to come.

Thank you for taking seriously and thoughtfully the duty to draw legislative and Congressional lines for the next 10 years. This is an exciting opportunity to make sure all Oregonians are

meaningfully represented and enfranchised in their government. I hope you take what I and others have said about our communities into consideration when finalizing the maps.

Thank you,

Dr. Adriana Voss-Andreae