

September 9, 2021

Dear Members of the Redistricting Committee,

I live in Congressional District 1 in North Tillamook County, and as a Tillamook County Commissioner, I also represent citizens in Congressional District 5.

I would like to go on record as saying that proposed Senate Plan C is such blatant and shameful gerrymandering that it is embarrassing to me that it was published. It would remove Senator Betsy Johnson from our district entirely, remove her from the Coastal Caucus, and practically take her out of her own county of residence, leaving her to represent a sliver of Columbia County. Plan C would move Senator Johnson from the rural coastal communities she now represents to Washington and Multnomah Counties. One can only conclude that the intention is to unseat Senator Johnson from her strong base of rural and coastal support, where she is beloved, respected and has deep bipartisan support, and move her into an urban and progressive voting base where she could be defeated.

This is the very definition of gerrymandering, it is despicable, and I condemn it in the strongest terms. I implore you to eliminate Senate Plan C.

House Plan C would also be disastrous for Tillamook County. House plan C trisects Tillamook County into three districts, splitting it from North to South along Highway 101, separating the coastline from the inland and lopping off North Tillamook County. This misguided plan flies in the face of the following redistricting guidelines:

- To utilize existing geographic or political boundaries
- Not to divide communities of common interest
- Not to divide communities connected by transportation links

The proposed new Eastern district, largely forested, would cross the coast range, (our existing geographic boundary), into the Willamette Valley to Eastern Polk County to the City of Dallas. This doesn't make any sense. The needs, issues and industries of our coastal communities are very different from those of our neighbors in Polk County.

Rural coastal communities have very specific common interests including our natural resource-based industries of dairy farming, timber and fishing, and our growing tourism industry. We have emergency preparedness in common, as Tillamook has the dubious distinction of having more declared disasters than any other Oregon County, most often floods and windstorms. We have preparedness for a Cascadia earthquake and subsequent tsunami in common. We have clean water, fish health and forest management issues in common. We have aging infrastructure with an emphasis on bridges, culverts, and tide gates. We have strong community pride and community values that bond us as a county.

Tillamook County has a transportation district which serves all of Tillamook County. Moreover, Tillamook County has 27,000 citizens total. Why on earth would we need to be split into three districts?

I support Senate Plan A and House Plan B to maintain the integrity of our coastal representation. House Plan B closely resembles our current house districts, where we have strong bipartisan representation by Representative Weber in the North and Representative Gomberg in the South.

In Tillamook County we are blessed with strong bipartisan representation from our four legislators, all of whom work together to serve our coastal communities with wisdom, energy, distinction, and integrity. My ideal preference would be to maintain our current districts.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mary Faith Bell