

I am disappointed with the draft redistricting maps that were recently released by the Legislature. Several of the proposals overrepresent urban areas like Portland at the expense of rural Oregon. For example, Portland accounts for just 15% of Oregon's total population, yet one proposed map would include Portland addresses in FOUR out of SIX Congressional districts. That's not right. No district should be drawn for the purposes of favoring any political party or incumbent or diluting the voting strength of any language or historically marginalized community.

I am also concerned that several of the maps divide up communities of common interest like school districts, counties and city limits. Honoring these existing boundaries is critical to allowing communities to elect representative leadership in Congress and the Oregon Legislature. I urge you to reject any maps that fail to adequately protect communities of common interest.

Finally, I join thousands of Oregonians in worrying that maps drawn by one political party are likely to result in that political party being put at an advantage over all others. As you continue to consider the adoption of new political boundaries, I urge you to reject any gerrymandered maps that blatantly benefit one party at the expense of others.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Roberta Powell
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