

September 10, 2021

Connie Dunham

70823 Dunham Rd

Enterprise, Or 97828

To the Legislative Redistricting Committee:

I am submitting testimony to this committee because I have lived in Oregon for 46 years and I care that the state be divided into fair and logical voting districts so that every Oregonian is fairly represented by those elected in our districts.

I am a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother and I work on our cattle ranch and also raise horses and dogs. My husband bought this ranch from his father in 1961 and our whole existence depends on officials understanding the challenges in agriculture and the particular common interests connecting small communities in this rural area of Oregon. The process of redistricting should follow the Oregon statute, ORS188.010 that says districts should be contiguous, be of equal population, utilize existing geographic or political boundaries, and be connected by transportation links.

I feel that House Plan B most closely follows these directives, out of all the maps that have been submitted. This will enable our district to elect those who will most closely represent us and not disenfranchise our rural population. We have to pick the right answer for all Oregonians. I am in District 29 currently, and the integrity of this district with proper representation is critical to our way of life, which is totally different than the urban interests in the western part of the state. Several of the proposed maps would continue to give Portland area residents great overrepresentation at the expense of rural Oregon. Currently, Portland already has much more representation than the amount their population should receive. I believe in fairness and changing only those boundaries who currently leave out proper division of representation.

I am asking that House Plan B be the plan considered for the redistricting of our state.

Sincerely,

Connie Dunham

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