

September 10, 2021

Legislative Redistricting Committee

I am submitting testimony to this committee because I am an Oregonian and I care about good governance.

I have lived all of my adult life in Wallowa County, am a wife, mother, and grandmother. I have served in many volunteer positions, including two terms on the Joseph School board. I a retired public school teacher-I care about kids, their safety and education.

For the last 28 years my husband, a retired veterinarian, and I have raised and sold Angus beef. It is important for our continued business viability to have elected officials who know and understand our way of life and challenges. Agriculture success today requires navigating many difficult challenges, water, predator control, safety, weather extremes, seasonal employment and many more. We deserved to have the opportunity to vote for those who will represent us and our values. At the same time, we need elected officials our will represent our rural community values.

I am asking this committee to simply follow Oregon state statues in redrawing the state' political districts. Do not use this as an opportunity for partisan gerrymandering. Follow state statues, including preserving communities of common interest and making sure each district has closely matches populations. It is important that the new districts not have a wide a range of divergence from the medium. Do not draw district lines to ensure a party or incumbent will have an advantage.

Of the redistricting plan being considered, I strong advocate for House Plan B. This plan is most fair and will most closely protect many marginalized and disenfranchised populations. It will protect my district from become marginalized and disenfranchised.

Thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Annette Lathrop

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