

Dear Redistricting Committee,

Thank you for tireless work on the redistricting process. I am writing to give examples of the strong connection between West Springfield and the University of Oregon and express my support for Congressional Map A and Senate Map C.

I have lived in Springfield since 2005, where as a young professional working at the University, moving to downtown Springfield allowed me to buy a house within just 3 miles of campus. The story that is often told of the divide between Eugene and Springfield had me ready to believe that I would be living in a radically different environment - but I was not. The political signs were the same, and in fact, I found that my neighborhood was full of faculty and staff from the university. We have a common interest because we are the same community.

When my partner and I purchased our second house, we found that our new neighbors included two university administrators who are deeply involved in Springfield's community and governance. This was a house purchased from the family of a former mayor of Springfield, who himself graduated from and taught at the University of Oregon Law school, as well as serving on the Board of Higher Education and as Springfield's city attorney. Our house was designed by the same architect who designed Springfield's City Hall, a man who was chair of Springfield's planning commission and was also a graduate of and professor at the University of Oregon architecture school.

Looking to a more famous connection, Bill Bowerman perfected the waffle pattern shoes at the Boothe Kelly mill site in Springfield.

I ask you not to base your decision on the insular strain of Springfield's politics that seeks to define our city as "Not Eugene" and in doing so denies the deep connection that West Springfield has with East Eugene.

Kevin Schaper