

Dear Elected Officials,

I submit this letter as testimony for the CD 5 Redistricting session. I am a long-time resident in zip code 97068, as I moved here with my family in 1997. What I have often appreciated about my community is how interconnected we are to other areas -- economically, commercially, culturally, and in education. As such, we want to ensure that in redistricting, we preserve and respect these shared values and connections for West Linn as well as our connected communities, to ensure fair representation both within the state of Oregon and on the Federal level.

Due to the small geographical boundaries of West Linn, community members often leave our town to engage in shopping and entertainment with adjacent towns and cities, most notably, Oregon City, Lake Oswego, Tualatin, Tigard, and Wilsonville. West Linn is connected to Oregon City and Lake Oswego by Highway 43, which sees vast traffic flows from Downtown Portland (where Highway 43 originates in the north) through the historical Oregon City Arch Bridge (where Highway 43 ends in the south). West Linn is also connected to Wilsonville, Lake Oswego, and Tualatin by Stafford Road. Interstate 205 is the sole major thoroughfare that connects West Linn to the rest of the State and to Washington, bringing crucial economic engagement to our small businesses as well as providing the only major access point for West Linn residents to transport themselves across the region. Our current State legislative boundaries, House District 37 and State District 19, preserve these connections and need to remain respectful of these long-standing connections when redistricting.

My hometown has long been connected to Wilsonville by our exceptional public school district, perennially ranked as some of the best public schools in Oregon and the entire nation. This connection reflects our historical connection as large strawberry producers. The West Linn-Wilsonville school district athletic and extracurricular teams compete with 5A and 6A schools, which includes schools across Clackamas County, such as Canby, Lake Oswego, Oregon City, Tigard, Tualatin, Milwaukie, Portland, Gresham, and Clackamas. West Linn and Oregon City specifically have the longest running football rivalry this side of the Mississippi river (and as a former varsity cheerleader at West Linn High School, this tradition plays a very meaningful role in connecting our two communities). Additionally, West Linn students have often attended Clackamas Community College, with campuses in Wilsonville and Oregon City. When thinking of redistricting, our educational connections must be respected and observed.

Likewise, West Linn serves as a welcoming community for folks across our area. This is seen notably in the number of hiking trails and parks in West Linn, allowing fellow Oregonians to enjoy nature and the outdoors. West Linn has a rich Native history and economical interaction with the Willamette River. West Linn has numerous boat ramps to launch onto the Willamette River, and hopefully, we will soon enjoy the reopened Willamette Locks. Our interaction with the river is shared by our neighbors as well. There are plans currently with Oregon City and West Linn to create a pedestrian bridge across the Willamette River, near the Locks and Willamette Falls. This bridge will serve as a physical representation of the historical connections between these two towns along with the historical and cultural importance we share of the Willamette Falls and Willamette Locks with our Native populations.

West Linn's agricultural history binds us to neighboring communities as well as those located further afield. As previously mentioned, our historical berry farms connect West Linn to Wilsonville and other berry farming communities, such as Hubbard, Boring, and Salem. West Linn's club equestrian team brings students from all over the region to train and compete with other equestrian teams across the State. West Linn's many wineries and vineyards reflect the Willamette Valley's rich viticultural heritage. West Linn wineries and vineyards are part of the Mt. Hood Territory Wine Trail, connecting West Linn to Carus, Sandy, Boring, and Molalla. It is critical that, in redistricting, we preserve these cultural, historical, and economic ties between West Linn and other Clackamas County and Marion County to sustain our communities' economies and traditions. The current federal district, seeing West Linn as part of CD-5, reflects our shared interests and histories, and this must continue as the redistricting process proceeds.

These ties that bind West Linn to other neighboring communities and communities of interest must be maintained in the redistricting process. I appreciate your consideration of the above examples to respect the fair representation we require both on the State and Federal levels. I welcome any questions and appreciate your time in this redistricting process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jenny Koll

Resident of 97068, HD-37, SD-19, and CD-5