

Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Boshart-Davis, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the committee,

My name is Tim Counihan. I live in Hood River -- located in HD52, SD26, and CD2. Thank you for hosting these hearings and giving us the opportunity to make our voices heard.

I urge you to pass Congressional Plan A. This plan's proposed 3rd Congressional District pairs communities in the Gorge with Mt. Hood, Portland, and Bend -- which are all connected via shared values, a reliance on the tourism economy and a great love for outdoor recreation. We are connected to Portland via existing transportation infrastructure such as I-84, HWY30, and the Columbia Area Transit bus that provides services from The Dalles to the Gateway Transit Center in NE Portland. We should keep these communities in one Congressional District, represented by someone who seeks to recognize and strengthen these increasingly important connections, and who will prioritize meaningful investments that our regional economies need to continue thriving and that address the common needs of our communities.

Conversely, Congressional Plan B neglects to acknowledge that we are connected to communities in and around Portland but instead links Gorge communities to those in the far southern portions of Oregon with whom we share little connection or interaction.

I also support House Plan A and Senate Plan C. A notable improvement of these plans is connecting Hood River and The Dalles together and keeping Mount Hood in the district. Our communities are inextricably linked by multiple threads. People travel between these towns for work, to visit relatives, go to a restaurant, medical appointment, or store. Students enrolled at Columbia Gorge Community College travel back and forth from these towns since there is a campus in each. In addition, they are connected by the Columbia River Gorge Commission and Bi-State Advisory Council, as well as by critical service providers such as The Next Door, the Aging in the Gorge Alliance, the Mid-Columbia Center for Living, and One Community Health.

Regards,

Tim Counihan

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