

To Senate and House Redistricting Committee:

Good afternoon Senate Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, and House Co-chair Salinas and Boshart-Davis:

My name is Liz Foucher-Branch and I live in the Alberta Arts district, House District 43, Senate District 22, and Congressional District 3, my family has lived in Portland for 95 years now. The Alberta Arts District is a critical part of the historically Black neighborhoods in NE, the greatest amount of gentrification happened to Albina and Alberta and is now spreading out to St. John's. As some of you may know - the big Emmanuel Hospital led to mass displacement. Those of us who could still stay in the community to move to upper Albina. That is why it is important to keep historic community hubs in this area.

In regards to the map proposals, I wanted to discuss House Proposal C HD 43. I think that it makes sense that it keeps Boise-Eliot Elementary, my old elementary school, Albina Youth Opportunity School, and SEI Academy together. As well as Boise-Eliot, and Jesuit Volunteer Community Gardens, which is my Community Garden, it's very important because I live in a food desert. There aren't a lot of stores, so we rely on the community gardens. Additionally, the proposed district would include St. Andrew's Nativity, a historic Catholic school that used to be all Black, and St. Andrew's Catholic Church that serves a lot of immigrant families. Alberta Park, Columbia Park, Peninsula Park are all included as well, I believe that this proposed district really captures the historic parts of Black Portland and where the Black community still lives and gathers today.

I know there is a lot of work to do with the Congressional Districts, I hope that the committees will work toward solutions that include the historic Black communities and other growing communities of color in the rest of the state.

Thank you for your time and work, I hope you think about how the Black community has been pushed into new areas in mind as your draw maps.

Liz

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