

Cochairs and members of the Committee,

My pronouns are totally irrelevant in this context.

I was born during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and have had the opportunity to observe the activities of many, many politicians of both major parties. Which leads me to the following:

While I recognize the time and effort that this committee is investing in the arduous process of redistricting in consequence of the results of the 2020 census, I ask you all to do your utmost to see that this is the last time that the legislature performs this function. No matter how hard you may try, it is not possible for you to completely shed your vested interests in the outcome. Any product of this committee, no matter how well-meant, will be suspect in some quarters.

I therefore urge you to undertake, in the next years, well in advance of 2030, establishment an independent, non-partisan commission to carry out the next redistricting. At least 13 other States have taken this route, and it is past time for Oregon to do the same. This is the only way to guarantee a fair, unbiased, evidence-based product, and give the citizens of Oregon what they deserve from their public servants.

Thank you