

Oregon State Legislative Districts:

It is critically important to keep the University of Oregon and its surrounds where students and faculty live in one Oregon House District. Similarly, as in the policy established by SOS Bill Bradbury in 2001, if a city, such as Springfield, is about equal to or smaller than the size of a House District, it should be in one district with surrounds as needed for population. Most of the surrounding areas of Springfield are dependent on Springfield for work and basic services.

Similarly, in addition to the University of Oregon and its surrounds, most of the small cities and rural areas south and east of Springfield and east Eugene are depended on those two cities for employment and services. Creswell and Cottage Grove workers are mostly employed in Springfield and Eugene. Ditto for Oakridge. So far as possible East Eugene, including the University of Oregon, and Springfield should be in the same Oregon Senate District.

US House District 4:

Similarly, Congressional District 4 should include the major universities of Oregon, UO and Oregon State University. A the upper Willamette Valley where those two major institutions are located together with the central and South Coast form a major tourist and economic area with major common economic interests. The railroad running from Coos Bay to the Eugene rail yard is a critical transportation link for current wood products and will become even more important if the container port planned for Coos Bay becomes a reality. Eugene is also a major tourist hub for south western Oregon. Combining the South and Central Coast with the education hub of Oregon through its two world class universities makes a compact and economically and culturally coherent Congressional District.

I urge the committee and the legislature to act accordingly,

Phil Barnhart
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Oregon State Representative (2001-2019)

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