

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

For the record, my name is Beth Flake. I live in Hood River. I felt motivated to provide public testimony on redistricting after one of my neighbors reached out to me to inform me about the maps the committee were proposing and I think it's important that the next decade's maps are reflective of all of the A proposals -- House, Senate, and Congressional.

I support House and Senate Maps A primarily because they keep Hood River, The Dalles, and Mount Hood together in one House District. Our towns, and the smaller communities along the mountain are very close and interact with each other on a regular basis -- creating one community of interest and shared values that should be kept together. Outdoor recreation is immensely popular here. Our economies are closely tied to one another, sharing a tourism economy and many employers like Insitu, Google, Mt. Hood Meadows, or many of the beloved small businesses that serve locals and tourists in this area.

House Map A also places Sandy in a separate House District, which makes a lot of sense to my community members and me because we have always viewed it as being more of a suburb of Portland. Senate Map A includes Sandy with our area, however, which I think is justifiable not only because it is still adjacent to the mountain, but because it keeps the Oregon Trail School District under one Senate District, which I understand the House Maps do not. House and Senate Map A gives *two* Representatives the opportunity to work with *one* Senator to better support these students and their families.

One of the big reasons why I support Congressional Map A is because it takes parts of our state's *enormous* 2nd Congressional District that have transformed immensely over the last decade and unifies them into a 3rd Congressional District. How can a single elected official possibly represent communities from 18 different different counties?

The needs and values of people in Harney County do not represent those of people in Hood River County -- not even close. This is only one of many irrefutable examples demonstrating why it makes sense for this district to connect Portland to parts of Oregon's current 2nd Congressional District and just how out of touch our state's Republicans have become with the changing communities they claim to stand up for time and time again. The communities along the Gorge, the Mountain, and Bend deserve so much better than to be blindly paired with communities in eastern Oregon with whom we share almost nothing in common.

Thank you all for your time today. I know how complicated this process can be, and that is why I believe the legislature is the right place for the redistricting process to take place. We're counting on you to pass maps that are reflective of our communities.

With gratitude,

Beth Flake