

I am writing you to address our concerns about the proposed redistricting of our great State. I live the 5th Congressional district and have been a Democratic voter for most of my adult life.

It is apparent by the proposed map that you are engaging in gerrymandering. We have seen many instances across this nation of gerrymandering being done and I always thought Oregon was better than these tactics. That our State leadership actually wanted to do what is best to represent all Oregonians and not just party agendas. The term "political gerrymander" has been defined as the "practice of dividing a geographical area into electoral districts, often of highly irregular shape, to give one political party an unfair advantage by diluting the opposition's voting strength. This is a major issue not only for myself but for MANY Oregonians. I hear from my neighbors, I hear from fellow church goers, from those on the sidelines of youth athletic games and many places where people want to talk about this. It is IMPORTANT that ALL Oregonians feel their vote counts and that the political leadership in this State fairly, equitably and justly complete this process not for party agendas but to bring all Oregonians into the process as believers that the system will work for all.

Please support reform in this area. Please don't see it as a means to guarantee any one political party's power. I realize that this can be very tempting but we didn't elect you to manipulate this for yourselves. Are you following steps to make sure this is equitable to all? Are you following the steps needed for redistricting reforms? If not, why not?

Here is what I think needs to be done. It is NOT too late to do the right thing.

Options for Redistricting Reform

- Independent Citizen Redistricting Commission
- Nonpartisan body of Civil Servants with the criteria set by statute
- Bipartisan Commission with a public interest tiebreaker
- Legislative Redistricting with the public's input and transparency throughout the process, and with Judicial approval

Draw Fair Districts use these Criterias for District Boundaries.

- Develop reasonably equal populations in the districts for each type of elected official
- Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act
- Maintain entire cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest in single districts to the extent possible
- Maintain geographical compactness of districts
- Disregard consideration of political parties, incumbents or political candidates.

This is the future of Oregon. Celebrate our diversity of thought, geography and beliefs by doing the right thing and not gerrymandering.

Thank you.

E. Elmore