

Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, Co-chair Salinas, Co-chair Boshart Davis, and Members of the Committees:

For the record, my name is Michael Powers. I use he/him pronouns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify as you consider how to create new state and congressional legislative districts.

I live and work in Salem, Oregon, Congressional District 5, House District 19. I have lived here for most of the past 25 or so years. I moved here for work, and started my career. I met my wife here in Salem, and together we raised a family.

Your job is really, really important. Your decisions will affect everything about how you represent the interests of all Oregonians, from distributing federal and state funds to building a sustainable economy that will support the next generation.

Our state's population has changed dramatically. The new districts must reflect these changes. The new lines must also reflect the great diversity of Oregon. We have urban, suburban, and rural Oregonians. We also have Black communities, and many growing Latinx communities. And we must also finally ensure that the Native American tribes have their voices fully represented as we promised long ago. To help guide you, ensure compliance with the Voting Rights Act and related legislation. This way, we can have elected officials who are accountable to **all** the communities they represent.

More specifically, areas of interest in Salem include South Salem where I live, the downtown urban core, North Salem, West Salem, and east Salem. I believe that the Willamette River provides a generally good district boundary. I think the communities of North Salem and Woodburn have many common interests and cultural connections, and it makes sense to keep them together in the near future. I would also work to keep the area along Lancaster Road together as well, perhaps using Cordon Road as a boundary.

Thank you Senators and Representatives for all your work, and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

Sincerely,

Michael Powers  
Salem, OR 97306