

To: 2021 Oregon Senate and House Committees on Redistricting
From: Sam Lowry, Redmond
Re: Testimony

Committee Members:

Thank you for your work on this difficult issue. My testimony mostly concerns congressional rather than local redistricting. It is disappointing but understandable and entirely unsurprising that the bipartisan committees did not initially generate one single compromise or consensus map. My perception is that each of the two initial maps they did generate represents a solution more or less maximally favoring one or the other party. I do not like either map and hope the committees will in fact negotiate a compromise/consensus map. If they do I believe it should leave the bipartisan compromise of 2011 more or less alone, with five districts served by incumbents unmodified to the extent possible, then with the new sixth district crafted in such a way that it will be competitive, potentially winnable by a Democrat, a Republican, or an Independent. My most fervent wish is that candidates will increasingly seek middle ground, with proposals and policies that will appeal to members of all three constituencies. I hope that such a new and competitive sixth district will begin to move our politics in this direction. Thank you for the chance to comment.