

Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record, my name is Connie Peterson. I live in NW Bend in what are currently House District 54, Senate District 27, and Congressional District 2.

My Oregon born parents moved back to Oregon when I was 2 weeks old, I lived and attended schools in the Eugene area through my first year of college at U of O, then in Bend for most of the 1970's. I moved out of State for employment for several years until returning to the Bend area in 2012. I am deeply committed to our State, and love Oregon for its scenic beauty. I have been a longtime advocate for protection of our environment and creation of a more inclusive, just and generous world.

I want to acknowledge your important work. I recognize that drawing maps to ensure that we all have meaningful representation has to have been especially challenging due to the delay in census data and the resultant accelerated timeline for completing these maps. That said, it is critical that we all feel like our vote counts and our voices matter, so thank you!

As you know, State law calls for districts to "as nearly as practicable" be internally contiguous, have equal population, use current geographic boundaries and not divide "communities of common interest. The Bend area is one of the fastest growing areas of our State, driven in significant measure by outdoor recreation and tourism in proximity to Mt. Bachelor and wilderness areas. **Congress Plan A** seems to best recognize Bend's commonality with the area surrounding Mt. Hood. While Plan A includes Hood River, Sandy and Troutdale areas, I would like to see the outdoor tourism destination of Sunriver included in CD3 instead of the urban portions of the City of Portland.

Bend is also a forward-thinking community, having much less in common with the residents of eastern Oregon--a disheartening number of which are advocating to become part of the State of Idaho. The Bend area needs representation that is responsive to the concerns and values of our region.

As proposed, **I generally support House Plan C.** However, I would suggest two important considerations in the boundary proposed between HD53 and HD54:

- 1) The area including Central Oregon Community College and the Oregon State University campus should be included in the same House District. It should be recognized that many students live in proximity to and attend one then the other or both of these institutions and have common interests.
- 2) the boundaries between District 53 and 54 should ensure inclusion of the entirety of what is termed the Bend Central District—which is bounded by the Parkway to the west, Revere St to the north, 4th Street to the east, and Burnside St. to the south. Long in the planning stage, on August 5, 2020 the Bend City Council formally created an urban renewal area around the BCD so that Tax Increment Financing (TIF) can be used to achieve this community's identified goals for development of this area. We would hope any elected representative of this area would be invested in this vision. Further, people living in the Bend Central District's census tract are twice

as likely to live in poverty as residents throughout Bend, and this census tract also has three times as many Hispanic and/or Latinx residents than the city as a whole. These neighbors certainly constitute a community of common interest that deserves the best opportunity to have representation in our state legislature.

Although this is outside my immediate area, in consideration of values important to me and your charge to recognize communities of common interest, I want to mention one other aspect of House Plan C I support: the configuration of HD57. As proposed, HD57 includes a significant population of our Native American residents near neighboring Warm Springs and Hispanic/Latino residents residing in proximity to the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge. They too deserve representation that is responsive to the concerns and values of their communities.

Once again, thank you for your service and work on this important issue. Please keep in mind what I have shared when finalizing maps.

Sincerely,
Connie Peterson
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