

Below are my comments on the committee's work on redistricting. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

I'm Bob Danko and I live in Hood River County's Upper Valley which is in state House District 52 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District. I have lived here for more than 30 years and my focus the last few years has been our local community center. I also served 9 years on our local School Board and am active in several other volunteer efforts.

I sure appreciate your work to produce the redistricting maps—what a challenge. I know there are a lot of complexities to drawing new district lines and I can only share how this pertains to the area I have been active in for decades.

Hood River and The Dalles should be in the same state House district that stretches west toward Portland. Such a district makes sense as our two communities share similar values, are near each other, have the same local newspaper, etc. It also makes sense to include the community of Corbett as we all share a similar sense of community values throughout the Gorge.

Map B apparently uses Highway 35 to divide our small county into two districts. This makes no sense to me. Because of geography, the city of Hood River and the Hood River Valley are critically tied together. Every local institution (police, fire, schools, water, power, the library, and the community center I am active in) serves the entire Hood River Valley. I can't think of a worse outcome than separating the Hood River Valley into two House districts, or separating the valley from the city of Hood River.

For Congressional Redistricting, the gorge (from Portland to The Dalles) is a geographic community of interest. It makes much more sense to have the Hood River and The Dalles areas be part of a Congressional District that stretches down the gorge toward Portland and south to Bend rather than to have us continue to be part of the sprawling Eastern and Southern Oregon district. Bend and the communities in the George including Hood River have much more in common than the district they currently reside in. Both areas having growing populations that have a tourism focus. They should be in the same Congressional district. Thus, Map A is a much better approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your work on this important issue.

Bob Danko  
Hood River County Resident