

Hello everyone! My name is Samuel Lewis. I live in Bend, Oregon , SD 27 HD53 and Congressional District 2.

Thank you to the co-chairs, vise chairs, and members of the redistricting committee for listening to this testimony.

Bend is a very special place and is growing in population and popularity. Its culture of the outdoor lifestyle brings likeminded people from all over the country here. The connection Bend has to its clean water, healthy forests, and fresh air shows how important the environment is to our inhabitants. Its access to skiing, biking, hiking, swimming, and other mountain sports, makes Bend a unique and prosperous place to live. With our population growing as it is, it is very important to draw the districts in a way that most accurately represents the political will of our residents.

As I go through some of the proposed districts, some of them make a lot more sense than others. What I like about Congressional Plan A is that it accounts for the population growth of Bend and puts us in the same district as Warm Springs and the Mt. Hood region. Warm Springs has a similar commitment to environmental sustainability and Mt Hood provides the outdoor recreation that Bend also prioritizes. I would also like to say that I hope that you folks on the committee are consulting the Warm Springs tribe throughout this process and are prioritizing their testimonies. I am worried their tribe may not be represented enough.

Congressional Plan B lumps a huge part of the state together. With Bend being a big economy and a growing city, its values, economy, ethics, and lifestyle is vastly different than many in Eastern Oregon. Thus, it doesn't make much sense to combine Bend in with all of Eastern Oregon, as proper congressional representation would be harder to come by.

For the House Plans, because of Bend's unprecedented growth in the past decade, splitting Bend into two different house districts would ensure all our voices are heard and the community of Bend is still kept with each other. Both Plan A and Plan C do this, but I think Plan C makes the most sense. ORS 188 states that the Legislature must attempt to create districts that are 1) contiguous, 2) of equal population, 3) utilize existing geographic or political boundaries, 4) don't unnecessarily divide communities of interest, 5) and are connected by transportation links. I believe that House Plan C does this best by utilizing HWY 97 as the split between districts. The highway splits town neatly into a west and east side. The west side attracts more tourists and has higher end housing while the east side is occupied by more locals and is more industrial. These distinct socioeconomic differences make House Plan C keep communities of interest together and makes the plan a clear priority for me.

Thank you again for putting in the work for the redrawing of the district lines and for considering my testimony. Again, please prioritize Native American Tribes and their testimonies.

Samuel L.