

To Chair Salinas, Chair Taylor and members of the committee,

Thank you for receiving written testimony to hear what my community vision and needs are for Oregon's redistricting process.

My name is Karen Caudillo Roman and I've lived in the Buckman neighborhood since January of this year. I'm a 25 year old immigrant women of color that identifies as Latinx. I moved here to work with a racial justice community-based organization (Brown Hope) that works with multi-racial/multi-generational folks in the greater Portland area. Many of the folks I serve identify as Black, Native, Latinx, Asian, and many other identities including but not limited to biracial. I support a program that hosts an estimated 130-170 people of color weekly on zoom to build community and heal together by holding space. My goal is to bring my experience of working with different constituencies to strengthen relationships, support community care efforts, and to listen to folks by centering their stories/struggles. Many of the folks I serve live in Northeast Portland, East Portland (Gresham/Lent, Rockwood/Cully/etc), Washington County, and surrounding areas. One in three people in the State of Oregon now identify as person of color. These communities are impacted by different issues, but some that are common include gentrification/displacement, environmental injustices, racial injustices, food deserts, discrimination of all sorts, and many more issues. Without a fair redistricting process there is less probability of adequate representation within new districts formed. It's important to keep these communities in mind and together to have better representation and access to resources. Communities of color deserve to thrive in this state especially since we are the most likely to be impacted by climate change, displacement, racism, and many more critical issues.

More about the communities I'm apart of in the day-to-day:

Personally, I spend most of my time traveling to buy groceries at la Tapatia in Gresham, visiting my doctor in SE, visiting my eye doctor in Gresham, gardening in Sauvie Island, volunteering with an immigrant mutual aid group in Milwaukie, Oregon, biking with my BIPOC bike crew around all of Portland, sometimes driving out to Hillsboro/Beaverton area to bike with other Brown folks, and working from home in the Buckman neighborhood. This week I plan to attend 'El Grito' for the first time to celebrate with other Brown folks. This is a tradition that I have celebrated for years in Florida where I grew up and plan to continue here. I'm very grateful to slowly find community because it is not easy for people of color in Oregon to do so. While I miss many things about where I grew up, the relationships I've formed here are the reason I see myself building longterm community here in the state.

Thank you for taking the time to read my written testimony. I believe my community should be kept together for reasons listed above. I want to again thank everyone on the committee for their consideration of keeping communities of color together and holding a fair redistricting process.

In equity,

Karen Caudillo Roman