

COLUMBIA COUNTY

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Oregon Senate and House Interim Redistricting Committees

oregon.redistricting@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Chair Boshart Davis, Co-Chair Salinas and Committee Members:

As a Columbia County Commissioner, I would like to provide testimony regarding the redistricting maps presented for public comment. Columbia County is a rural county located along the Columbia River bordered on the south by more urban and populated Multnomah and Washington Counties. We are bordered on the northwest by Clatsop County, with a timber, fishing and tourist economy. Over 77% of the land area in Columbia County is forestland with some of the most productive Douglas Fir forests in the world. Our major population areas are located around the perimeters of the forestland.

Our population is rural in nature and our economy is natural resource based. Those who move to Columbia County generally move here because of the pastoral character, citing the idyllic quality of life. The current population and geographical makeup of Congressional District 1 and the Plan A proposal would effectively disenfranchise District 1 voters in Columbia County who are not in the same communities of interest as our suburban and urban neighbors.

Congressional Plan B would place Columbia County in District 5 with our neighboring, more rural counties of Clatsop, Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Lincoln, Benton and Linn and parts of Lane and Marion.

This more closely meets the Constitutional guidelines of keeping counties intact and maintaining communities of interest. I recommend adopting Congressional Plan B.

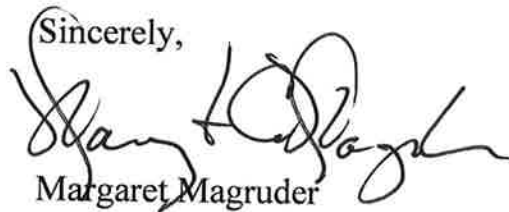
The Legislative House maps presented propose various methods of splitting Columbia County into several Districts and unnecessarily dividing our various school and service districts and our cities, creating management and advocacy issues. The House

Plans A, B, and C all violate the constitutional guidelines by splitting the county, communities of interest and transportation arteries. Plan C would be acceptable if revised to contain all of Columbia County.

The Senate District maps provide additional issues of splitting Columbia County. I recommend that Senate District Plan C be redrawn to remove the current portions of Washington and Multnomah counties and keep Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook counties intact. If this is not an option, then Plan A would be an alternative.

In summary, I urge adoption of Congressional Plan B. I urge the amendments suggested above, for Plan C proposals for both the House and Senate Districts. This would keep Columbia County whole and preserve our communities of interest, our transportation arteries, our municipalities, law enforcement and service districts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Magruder", written over the printed name.

Margaret Magruder