

Senate Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Knopp, House Co-Chair Boshart Davis, Co-Chair Salinas and Committee.

My name is Katie Glaser. I currently live in HD 11 and Congressional District 4. Thank you for allowing me to speak today and thank you to all the committee members, staff and everyone else for putting so much time into redistricting.

I've had many thoughts and mixed feelings as I've prepared to write my testimony for today. I keep going between anger, frustration and hope. Redistricting is the most important thing happening in Oregon politics right now.

I thought about what I would say as I was in my basement hanging onions from my garden to dry. I was using the same clothes pins and wire hung by my husband's great grandparents. I then started thinking about the lives that they lived and what they went through on a daily basis. Life was so different that many years ago. In some ways it was much harder, but in other ways it was a simpler time. It was a time when people trusted their politicians. They might not have been from the same party or agreed with everything but they felt their representatives had their best interests in mind.

We now live in a time where hundreds of thousands of Oregonians feel silenced and left behind. I can say this as a fact because it's what HUNDREDS of people told me while I campaigned in 2020. There are thousands in my district (HD11) that feel discouraged and discarded. And it's not about the wrong party being elected. It's that we are so divided in this state that both parties are actively working against each other. We all feel it, Republicans, Democrat, Non-Affiliated, Independent and everyone in between.

I spent quite a bit of time studying the different maps. I don't think any map is perfect but the one I think would do the best job representing Oregonians is option B across the board. I came to this conclusion before I knew who put out what map.

I am noticing some of the rhetoric being used for the urban rural divide. Some say it doesn't exist. They couldn't be more wrong! At least, that's not my truth. I've noticed that some say "diverse districts will help people get along more". In fact, it has been stated by one of the Democrats on this committee that they were specifically incorporating diversity into their maps. But that actually goes 100% against the statute that says to keep communities of interest together. The only reason someone wants to separate communities is to disenfranchise some voters to benefit a certain party. That's called gerrymandering. One other person asked for more of an "rural urban interface" but only if they had some things in common. Seriously, that's an oxymoron. You can't have it both ways.

I found it interesting it was stated that the current maps aren't gerrymandered. That in 2011, it was stated "There was no litigation, no complaints and the committees worked collaboratively to come up with fair maps." The part about a collaborative process may be true but it doesn't mean that it's what was best for the people of Oregon. The League of Women Voters called it an "incumbent protection plan". Which is illegal. I personally think there is equal blame for both Republicans and Democrats at that time. I think Republicans were lazy and self-interested and Democrats were ruthless and took advantage of an opportunity.

The Oregonian published on Sept 9th, "An analysis by the Oregonian shows that the initial proposals by Democrats, who already hold supermajorities in the state House and Senate, would generally expand the party's power." And "House Democrats sketched out an obvious power increase..." It is clear that there are districts that were drawn in a very irresponsible way in order to benefit one party. District 11 is a clear example of that. When you have the current Democrat Representative of that District testifying to this fact, you know it's true.

Looking at current Plan A and Plan C maps for Eugene, the irresponsible lines continue to dilute the vote of those living outside Eugene that don't want to be lumped in with the city. I've heard this said time and time again to this committee. Both now and during session. Yet, Plan A and Plan C still did it. Plan B listened to the people and drew districts that follow the statute.

When you give people a voice and a way to be heard it will breed hope and excitement for the future. But only if you truly listen to them. Please give the thousands of us that feel discarded our voice back. Give us hope. Draw these maps fairly.

Thank you for your time.

Katie Glaser
Lebanon, Oregon
Congressional District 4