

To the members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committee:

My wife and I are retired and have lived in current House District 10 for the past 8 years. We have seen several redistricting proposals advanced by the committees - as well as an OPB summary in the form of several proposals that they think different groups of Oregonians want to see.

With respect to the OPB summary - https://www.opb.org/article/2021/09/10/oregon-census-congress-legislature-redistricting-special-session/?utm_medium=email - two of the four proposed redistricting maps presented have the entire west coast of Oregon as a single district over 350 miles long! There is no way that a single elected representative, no matter how good he or she is, could effectively cover constituents residing in such a long district. On the other hand, I do believe that the Oregon Coast - especially the Central Coast - should be treated as a "community of interest" as new legislative districts are drawn. So, I would hope that the coast would be divided into several, manageably long, contiguous districts.

In that regard, our district 10 and the current districts to the north and south of it, currently comprise a definable common "Central Coast" community. They have much in common with their similar lifestyle, economics, and transportation. Consistently, one-third of our population is over age 65. Our jobs are focused in tourism, fishing, and hospitality. We are connected by a single highway. And we all face the looming threat of a major seismic and tsunami event.

Proposals advanced by the committees would stretch our House District 10 inland to Sheridan in Yamhill County, Philomath in Benton County, Monroe in Lane County, or Falls City in Polk County. To reach Falls City it is necessary to drive outside the current district.

Furthermore, incorporating valley communities into coastal districts would minimize coastal voices in the legislature as would pairing us with farming communities and bedroom communities to larger I-5 cities.

My wife and I strongly feel that a better crafting of House District 10 would be to have it run from the Tillamook City limits (the current HD 10 boundary) to Florence, including all of Lincoln County and coastal portions of southern Tillamook and northern Lane Counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

- - Jay & Georgia Roelof
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