

DR. MARK ANDERSON, DBA (ABD), MBA

169 South Broad St. • Monmouth, OR 97361 • bookdr@wvi.com

Oregon Legislature, Redistricting Committee
Submitted via email: Oregon.Redistricting@Oregonlegislature.gov
Re: Proposed Congressional Redistricting, Written Testimony

Sept. 13th, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Staff,

Please accept this letter and attached map as my written testimony for the proposed redistricting of Oregon's congressional districts.

I am not a native of Oregon, but I have been here for nearly 25 years. I originally come from New York State, exploring Oregon in 1996 and making the move final in 1997. I lived primarily in Western New York but to finish college, I spent two and a half years some 30 miles north of New York City. As such, I developed a good sense of both east and west sides of the state.

New York State is similar in many ways to Oregon — at least geopolitically. New York has one extremely large urban area that dominates the rest of the state and controls much of what happens, including budgets and policies. Because of its dominance, the rest of the state deeply resents New York City—which somehow manages to be blissfully unaware of just how much the rest of the state resents them. I was amazed, actually, during my time not too far from “The City” (as it's called), how unaware the people were of life in the rest of the state. Unaware of their lifestyles, their thinking, their ordeals and desires, and almost completely lacking in any sense of what rural life entailed.

Undoubtedly, the biggest complaint from the rest of the state is that they don't feel represented. They don't feel like their interests and needs are heard. And, quite frankly, they aren't. The City simply does what it wants and isn't especially aware, or concerned, with the needs of those on the outside.

There is no need for this to happen here in Oregon, my adopted state.

I recognize that you, as a committee, have a difficult task. But I am disturbed to hear that some democrat-drawn proposed redistricting plans would gerrymander Portland to be part of, and influence, 4 of the 6 congressional districts. To give Portland 2/3rds of the representation will only build the same resentment and anger that New York State has engendered. Surely, we are better than that. Does one neighbor on the block get to have a say in how the other households are run?

And giving Portland effective control and influence over four districts, or even three, is not only insulting to the rest of the state, it defies reality. Though they often are unaware of it, urban areas depend on rural areas for the necessities of life. If rural areas went away, urban areas would

soon starve. Conversely, rural areas do not depend on urban areas. If urban areas went away, rural areas would continue to exist. To give Portland, or other urban areas, over-representation in those rural areas deprives the rural areas of their voice and control of their lives they need to be successful. Doing so effectively weakens their ability to provide for not just themselves but for the urban areas that depend on them for their own daily lives.

In other words, if Portland and other urban areas want the goods and services they need and depend on, then they need to support rural areas by giving them a full voice and representation they deserve to take care of themselves and their businesses. Which in turn will make them better, more able, neighbors and support the whole of the state.

While the people of Portland and larger cities support environmental causes, they don't know the environment or how to care for it the way people who live in those rural areas do. And yet as currently drawn, or suggested by some Democrat-drawn maps, Portland, which knows nothing of actual forest management or farming or ranching or the complexity of water rights, would be able to tell people who do know and who must grapple with those issues because they live them, what to do and how to do it.

Imagine if the shoe was on the other foot. Imagine if people in rural areas told Portland how to design their streets or traffic patterns. Or how many bridges they were allowed. (Why does anyone need more than one bridge?) Or decide that Portland businesses had internet access that was too fast. Or they should be forced to do away with that expensive public transit.

What I have described for you should be the basis of redrawing the districts because the districts should be drawn to give these geographical areas a voice. Areas that have commonality; not just geographically but in terms of way of life, outlook, culture, and needs.

It is important to point out that Portland already has a voice and will continue to have a voice in politics by its sheer size of population. They will continue to have the votes to dominate statewide offices, including U.S. senators and presidential candidates, regardless of how districts are redrawn.

That's precisely why it's important to *limit* the influence Portland has on other districts because they already have their own voice. They don't need to dominate others and take away their voices. Redistricting is about giving people in those unique areas their own unique voice. Doing so does nothing to diminish Portland's influence while giving voice to those who feel dominated by Portland already.

Allowing Portlanders to control other districts outside their own is neither fair nor equitable.

As such, what should be considered foremost is commonality of businesses and lifestyles. People are connected to their geographical areas and maintaining that commonality should be foremost. Portland knows a lot about business and commerce but knows little about fishing or coastal issues. People on the coast know fishing and coastal issues and tourism but know little about 5,000- or 10,000-acre ranches and farms. Ranchers whose land extends for miles and miles

in all directions know little about the businesses and communities and college towns of the Mid-Valley.

Each of these areas should be given the ability to do what they do best — without the encroaching of other areas in an attempt to control outcomes politically.

I therefore propose the following basic districts:

CD 1: Portland

Starting in the center of Portland and growing outward to take in the whole of Portland. Portland, as stated, already has a commanding voice in Oregon's politics. They should not be allowed to deprive others of their voice. Likewise, as true Portlanders, their voice should not be diminished by "leaking" suburbs into their district. Portland has its own unique way of dealing with the world but it should influence itself, not artificially extend that influence to others.

CD 2: Portland Suburbs

Voters in the suburbs of Portland have a deep commonality in that they live in the shadow of Portland, and are intimately tied to Portland, but choose not to live in Portland proper. Even so, for business or personal reasons, they want or need to be close to the city. However, the suburbs are not always happy with Portland; to leech Portland into the suburbs literally steals the voice of those who specifically choose not to live in Portland.

The Portland Suburbs District would necessarily incorporate the urban sides of Eastern Washington County and Western Clackamas from their more rural areas and the remaining balance of Multnomah County that isn't already in CD 1.

CD 3: Willamette Valley

The Willamette Valley has a broad mix of industries, businesses, and collegiate cities, and has both rural and urban areas. Still, they are distinct from Eastern Oregon's very rural areas and large ranches and farms, as well as distinct from the coastal areas.

The Willamette Valley District would include Hood River, the balance of Clackamas County, and the Eastern Willamette Valley counties of Marion and Linn, and incorporate both the collegiate centers of Corvallis and Eugene, including the Eastern portion of Lane not in CD 4.

CD 4: North Coast

The North Coast is distinctly different from Portland and its suburbs, but also distinct from the South Coast due to the influx and influence of tourism from the Portland areas as well as from the Northern Willamette Valley. The North Coast has fishing, farmlands, and forestry. It also has port cities and shipping, the gateways to national and international destinations.

The North Coast District would extend westward from the Portland suburbs taking the western half of Washington County, Columbia County; the coastal counties of Clatsop, Tillamook, Lincoln; the Western Willamette Valley counties of Yamhill, Polk, and Linn, and the rest of Lane County that is not in CD 3.

CD 5: South Coast

The South Coast is distinct from both the North Coast and the Eastern side of Oregon. In many ways, especially geographically and culturally, closer to Northern California than to Northern Oregon. It is more rural than the Willamette Valley, with less industry and a greater focus on agriculture and timber.

The South Coast District should include the counties of Douglas, Coos, Curry, Josephine, and Jackson.

CD 6: Eastern Oregon

Essentially, this district would include all of Oregon east of the Cascades. Eastern Oregon has commonality of being more rural than urban, and similar agricultural issues (and supporting industries) due to less rainfall on the eastern side of the mountains than the western. For example, Klamath County might be geographically closer to the Pacific Ocean and South Coast than it is to Wallowa County but both counties share similar water and agricultural land issues.

The Eastern Oregon District would take in the counties of Wasco, Jefferson, Deschutes, and Klamath and all the counties east thereof.

I recognize that some small adjustments may be necessary due to requirements of population but population figures should not be the crutch to gerrymander. Keep in mind, the census on which these new districts will be based was some 18 months ago and there has been great amount of change and migration since. (According to U-Haul's annual net migration study, Oregon was a net loss in 2020, losing more people to outbound migration than New York¹.) So while population has undoubtedly shifted, geography and county lines have not.

I have attached a map showing the basic gist of my proposed redistricting. Note that the map's color choices are not intended to be indictive of anything other than to be distinct from one another. Also, the variations of color within districts are due to color overlays on a map that had pre-existing colors for the counties underneath.

Thank you for your consideration. I am more than happy to testify in person or remotely to address any questions.

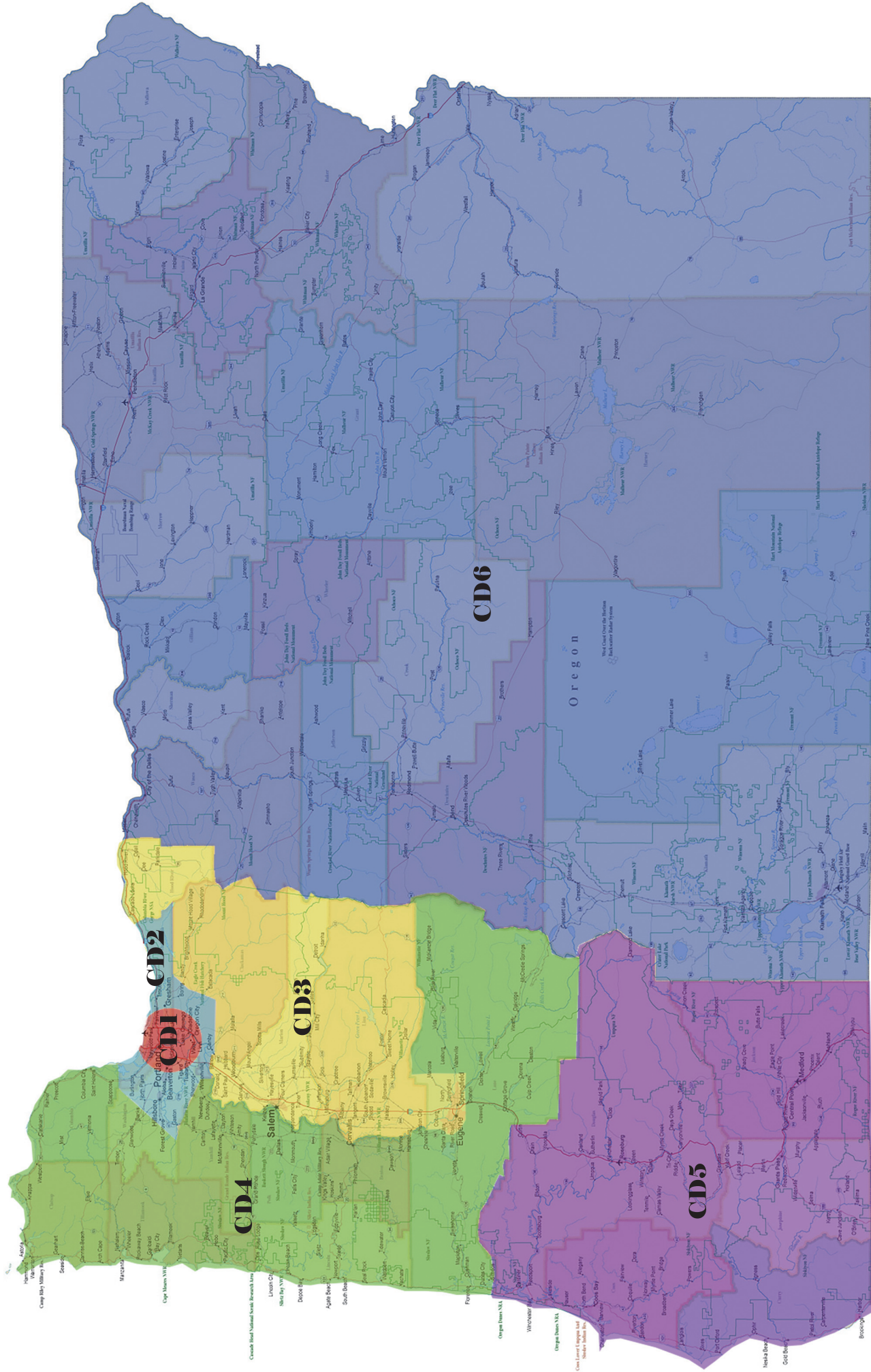
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark D. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Mark D. Anderson, DBA (ABD), MBA

Encl:
Proposed Congressional District Map

¹ <https://www.uhaul.com/Articles/About/2020-Migration-Trends-U-Haul-Ranks-50-States-By-Migration-Growth-22746/>



- O r e g o n**
- State Capitals
 - County Seat
 - Cities 500,000+
 - Cities 100,000-499,999
 - Cities 50,000-99,999
 - Cities 10,000-49,999
 - Cities 0-9,999
 - Metro Areas
 - Airports
 - Toll Roads and Bridges
 - Interstate Highways
 - U.S. Highways
 - State Highways
 - Railroads
 - State Boundaries
 - County Boundaries
 - Major Rivers
 - Intermediate Rivers
 - Minor Rivers
 - Intermittent Rivers
 - Canals
 - Lakes
 - Intermittent Lakes
 - Dry Lakes

Proposed Congressional District Map
Written Testimony Attachment
Mark Anderson
Submitted, Sept 13, 2021