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September 13, 2021

Redistricting Testimony for the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce

Chairs Salinas, Borshart-Davis, and Taylor, Members of the committee,

The North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce represents thousands of businesses throughout Clackamas County. Our regional coverage represents Happy Valley, Clackamas, Milwaukie, Gladstone, Damascus and the largest portion of unincorporate Clackamas County. Suffice to say, we have a very strong presence in Clackamas County. We are most deeply concerned with House District Plan B, and would like to discuss our concerns;

Rather than connecting Oregon City and Canby, Plan B connects downtown and outlying suburban Oregon City to Jennings Lodge, Concord and Southern Milwaukie. The latter three would best be described as urban/suburban, where an Oregon City and Canby connection would be considered historic/rural, which have greater fusion of communities of interest.

House District Plan B places three districts; 39, 41, and 48 straddling the Multnomah County line – Clatsop Street - where communities of the city of Portland and Gresham are joined with residents of Happy Valley, Damascus and unincorporated North Clackamas. These are autonomous areas with very different community views on policing, transportation, and code enforcement. We believe that Clatsop Street should be a hard northern border for cities and unincorporated areas of North Clackamas County.

It is our position that Clackamas, a large county with established cities of Milwaukie, Happy Valley, Oregon City, and the unincorporated area of Damascus, there should absolutely be separation from the very different needs of the Cities of Portland and Gresham. The county line is different, as are the school districts, water districts, police and fire service, and transportation jurisdictions.

As community leaders in this area, we urge this committee to prioritizing Clatsop Street as the firm northern border for all Clackamas County districts.

Respectfully,

*Laura Edmonds*

Laura Edmonds, CEO