

Dear Redistricting Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony. My name is Donna Torres, I live in Senate District 1, House District 1, and Congressional District 4.

I'm a Mom of 3 grown children and grandmother which were raised in Oregon and am now retired from the technology industry. I am a small business owner, farmer, and homeowner in rural Douglas County in the town of Azalea. My fiancé is a cattle nutritionist, serving the rural areas of Oregon.

I feel it is imperative that the redistricting process use an intelligent approach that keeps neighborhoods, cities, counties, and school districts whole.

Partisan politics and manipulating maps to benefit a certain party or incumbent, by law, are required to be left out of the redistricting process.

Under our current maps, 30% of the members of the Oregon House represent at least some portion of the City of Portland while the City of Portland represents only 15% of the total population of the state of Oregon. Portland should NOT have an outsized voice in our political process. It marginalizes our under-served rural communities and way of life. We now have an opportunity to **fix** this and I urge you to do the right thing and choose a map that **FIXES** this problem, such as Maps B across the board with a few minor tweaks.

Our rural communities have **VERY** different needs and concerns than the urban centers and **DESERVE** representation and political boundaries that do **NOT** include urban areas. Unfortunately, some of the proposed maps bring an inordinate amount of the Portland Metro like areas into our rural communities. This IS **NOT** representative of our communities.

Most of my community members here in Douglas County are small business owners, ranchers, farmers, nurseries, and timber industry folks. Maps A & C are placing me and my community into districts that have **completely opposite** industries within it and appears to be splitting our rural communities apart and incorporating them into urban areas. The industries in my community do **NOT** align with commercial shopping, businesses, residential apartments, roadways, transportation, or services in the urban areas that is combined in these maps if approved. We **cannot** be properly represented by a Representative with any of these boundary changes as it does **not** keep a larger amount of us farmers or ranchers together. It combines us into areas that do **not** correlate with our livelihoods.

**Congress Plan A** is completely and utterly way off base. It completely divides our rural communities in half and away from each other, especially Roseburg and Southern Douglas County and moving my communities into eastern Oregon which absolutely makes no sense. I cannot imagine anyone trying to represent both sides of the Cascades in proposed District 2. This division clearly separates our rural communities from each other almost as if intentional. It incorporates a clear majority of urban areas into the divided rural communities giving District 4 and District 2 a more urban influence into the rural areas, an unequal representation.

**Congress Plan B** at least does a much better job in keeping the western side of Oregon on the western side of the Cascades, moving Grants Pass and part of Medford appropriately to the western side and keeping the eastern side of Oregon on the eastern side of the Cascades. It looks to clearly represent both rural and urban equally. I'm not sure how you can justify Plan A at all as even the climates between these two regions are entirely different and separated by Mountain passes at elevations as high as 5000'. How can anyone properly represent us with that kind of division?

### **HOUSE MAPS:**

**House Map A** divides and separates all of our communities and combines them with more urban areas like Grants Pass for those of us in the Southern portion of Douglas County and removes us from Roseburg and puts our current district around Roseburg way north along the border of Lane County and the Southern Eugene area. Grants Pass used to be a timber community like Roseburg, but it is no longer. There is a much higher poverty rate, a high # of retirees that have moved into the town from California and less industry period. This plan clearly separates and divides our current district and directly incorporates urban communities into rural communities, and cutting rural communities away from the Roseburg area which we have like interests. Urban and rural communities have entirely separate interests. Several small business owners in our communities have shops and nurseries in Roseburg where most of us shop. Many of us belong to the Elks Lodge in Myrtle Creek as well from Roseburg all the way to Glendale and over to Tiller. Our communities do not align with the Grants Pass, Eugene or Cottage Grove communities at all.

**House Map C** is very similar to Map A, as it combines rural communities into urban communities with no like interests, however, its even worse because it completely separates the Roseburg area away from our rural communities. It puts Roseburg into the lower portion of Lane County and too far north close to the Cottage Grove area which share no common interests whatsoever. Once more, it breaks apart Glendale and Azalea from Myrtle Creek and Roseburg – all of which are in Douglas County and puts our communities into the Josephine County of more urban areas which we have no common interests, services, roadways, businesses or transportation.

**House Map B** although it divides the Douglas County rural communities, it is a better division than any of the other two maps (A & C) because it keeps rural communities together with like rural communities and separate from urban communities, notice Grants Pass is in it's own district in this map (District 4) and District 2 where Azalea would be incorporates Jackson County rather than Josephine County which are more rural areas and keeping rural with rural. The only tweak I would make to this Map is to move the line to incorporate Glendale into District 2 to be with Azalea, rather than District 1. The Azalea residents here share services with the Glendale community, such as the schools – both elementary and high school, ambulance services, medical facilities, community library, local farmer's market, and groceries and the two should be in the same District.

### **SENATE MAPS**

**Senate Plan B** makes the most sense to me. Our current Senator lives in Roseburg and is accessible to all of our rural communities. We all have like interests. District 1 in Plan B keeps all our communities together with like communities and removes us from urban areas like Grants Pass and Coos Bay. Most ranchers and farmers live in these rural areas of Coos, Douglas, and Curry

Counties. It makes sense to have a Senator represent these rural communities without urban influence.

**Senate Plan A** Makes no sense at all. It completely removes my rural community from other rural communities in Douglas County and puts my community into a more urban community like Grants Pass and Merlin in Josephine County. It also separates my community from the Myrtle Creek community, again where we have and do business. It makes no sense whatsoever unless your intent is to separate our rural communities and put them into urban communities so that we aren't properly represented. If you keep Senate Plan A, I would suggest that you move the line from District 1 to the southern Douglas County border at the top of Josephine County thus keeping our rural communities in Douglas Co. together.

**Senate Plan C** Again, is very similar to Plan A and completely removes my rural community of Azalea/Glendale from like communities of Douglas County and puts them into Josephine County and more urban areas which we have no common interests. If you use this plan, again, you will need to move the line of District 4 to be along the southern border of Douglas County so that our communities remain together with like communities and do not force us into urban communities which we share no interests or services.

In closing, I want to iterate that I support Congressional Map B, Oregon Senate Map B and Oregon House Map B with a few minor tweaks I mentioned in moving Glendale into District 2 in order to keep the two communities of Glendale and Azalea in the same District.

I feel that these maps do a more efficient and fair job of keeping political boundaries and communities of interest intact and providing a more fair representation to the citizens of my community and the other citizens of Oregon.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to making the right decisions so the citizens of Oregon can be represented properly and fairly.

Warmest regards,

*Donna Torres*

*"Life is a magic dance,*

*May you always enjoy the dance" -Donna T*

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