

Joseph Lechuga, CD 5

Monday, September 13th from 5:30-8:30

Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the redistricting committees,

My name is Joseph Lechuga and I live in Senate District 21, where I am represented by Senator

Taylor, House District 41, and Congressional District 5.

I've lived in Milwaukee for 10 years and my community is my home. I live less than half a mile

from the old Hector Campbell Elementary School where we hold community events, like annual

picnics. Campbell school is also where the Campbell Community Garden is.

The community

garden has 28 plots for neighbors to rent to grow their own food, and 4 plots where volunteers

grow crops for sharing and food donation. You can also find a lot of community building and

gathering at our downtown Milwaukee public library.

Being so close to the Willamette River, we are very connected to the waterfront along the

Willamette River for community gatherings and events. In the winter, we do bonfires and hot

chocolate, people sing and carol, it's festive, and goes along with our umbrella parade and tree

lighting.

As a gamer and comic book aficionado, I was bummed that some of my favorite comic books

shops are not in my district, but I understand that comic book nerds might be a much smaller

community of interest than other groups you are considering in the redistricting process.

However, I do think that the legislature has done a good job of connecting communities of

interest in the new 6th Congressional district. Map Proposal A is generally a move in the right

direction for our state, and I think it reflects the changes that our state has gone through in the

last 10 years.

In Proposal A, the 6th congressional district keeps agricultural communities together, from

Willamette wine growers to the Latinx farmworkers in Salem. The new district is connected

through many transportation links: I-5, OR-99W, OR-217, and many more. I also really

appreciate that this new district would keep Salem and Woodburn together, which are very

important communities of interest.

I hope that the committees keep these things in mind throughout the rest of this process.

Thank you.