

House Co-Chairs Salinas, Boshart-Davis, Senate Chair Taylor and Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record, my name is Ira Cuello-Martinez and I am a resident of Salem, in House District 22. My family and I have lived here for over 25 years and I most recently became a homeowner at the age of 24. I decided to settle in this neighborhood because of how accessible and culturally responsive services are within this community.

My family and I have access to grocery stores like Mega Foods and Walmart, both of which are less than 10 minutes away. We also buy the best fruits and vegetables in the city from Fruteria La Cabaña and Ray's Produce since they are only down the street from our house. My siblings are fortunate to attend schools that offer bilingual programs to maintain their Spanish language skills. On the weekends (prior to the pandemic), I got to enjoy the bailes (or dances) with people who share similar music tastes at venues that are near my area. My current district is incredibly important to me and is the reason why I choose to live here today.

The House Proposal B map raises some major concerns and generally does not respect the communities that live within these areas. House District 22 as drawn in Proposal C ensures that Woodburn is contained within one district and changing that would disenfranchise residents from political participation. On the contrary, House Proposal B disrupts these communities and completely eliminates the Woodburn to Northeast Salem connection which feels like a blatant division of Marion County's Latinx community.

I want to specifically focus on Lancaster Drive as it is a very important transportation link. Along this road, you can find the local Flea Market, Miranda's Bakery, El Torito's Meat Market, Courthouse Club Fitness, La Tapatia Market, among many other businesses. House Proposal B does not take into consideration the significance that this road has in our communities and proposes to split the area into 3 distinct districts.

Senate Proposal C keeps communities in Salem that are along Lancaster Dr and communities that are adjacent to Salem but who frequently travel into parts of SE and NE Salem together in one Senate District. Senate Proposal B isolates these communities, who frequently travel into Salem for grocery shopping or to go to doctor's appointments, from parts of the region that they are closely connected to.

I call on the legislature to revisit their proposed maps and make certain that the communities who make up NE and SE Salem are able to remain unified. Specifically, I want to emphasize my concern for how House Proposal B dilutes our state's single minority-majority district. A textbook example of racial gerrymandering.

Thank you in advance for all of your hard work and the staff in ensuring that communities of interest are kept together and that Republican racial gerrymandering does not get in the way.