

Hello Redistricting Committee Members,

My name is Lizzy Utterback and I live in Springfield. City Ward 3 and Senate District 6 to be exact. When I moved to the great state of Oregon, it was to be closer to my husband's family. At the time we had a 3rd grader. We were fresh out of college and as young parents we needed to be close to grandparents. We moved to Springfield because our friend had a house he needed to rent. It was one of those times where things just worked out. This was in 2008, so the job search following that recession was brutal. We applied for jobs everywhere and we both found employment in Eugene. Our daughter went to a K-8 charter school in South Eugene and we found our faith community in Eugene. I now work for the University of Oregon and enjoy taking the EmX, the only rapid transit in the county, directly from Springfield to the campus area in Eugene. Specialty doctor's appointments are in Eugene. I have become more active in our local community and following Springfield City meetings and appreciate the eagerness and expertise the UO college interns that volunteer in Springfield bring. Whether it be as a fellow helping the city implement new housing codes or volunteering at various community centers. It is for these reasons I urge you to support Congressional Map A and Senate Map C.

It makes sense to keep the county together given how many services we share and it also makes sense to keep Springfield attached to the UO Campus Community, of which we are completely intertwined already. I have so many neighbors here in Springfield that have a campus connection, either they work or go to school at the UO, and as I already mentioned, many UO students volunteer and are hired as interns in our city. With the redevelopment of the Glenwood area, which includes additional housing, I only see these Eugene/Springfield connections increasing and a greater reliance on the intercity rapid transit.

I understand that my mayor gave testimony that differs from what I have laid out. Frankly I am concerned and disturbed by his remarks explaining that we are "not Eugene" and that we have more in common with Oakridge and Creswell than we do Eugene. When I first moved here, I heard a lot of sentiment about the Springfield/Eugene rivalry, but that just isn't the case anymore and to be honest, that rhetoric is very immature and harmful. I'd also like to point out what we have in common with Oakridge and Creswell is a rise in white nationalist activity and we share members of a new Proud Boys faction called the McKenzie River Proud Boys. Note that the Southern Poverty Law Center has designated the Proud Boys to be a hate group. In my opinion, these are voices that should be diluted, if not eliminated.

I hope you will consider this testimony and support Congressional Map A and Senate Map C.

Sincerely,  
Lizzy Utterback  
Springfield Resident