

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

For the record my name is Rebecca Pearson and my pronouns are She and They. I was born and raised in southern Oregon; and currently live in rural Ashland -- which is located in Jackson County; the most populous county in Congressional District 2, Oregon House District 5, and Oregon Senate District 3.

Overall, I am supportive of the maps that your committees proposed a few days ago; and want to express my gratitude for the work your committees are doing to take on a complex and difficult task such as redistricting. The maps you have proposed preserve the city limit boundaries of Ashland, Phoenix, and Talent -- the three population centers of House District 5 -- allowing for residents of these cities to elect candidates who are supportive of the cities as a whole. They also preserve the boundaries of the Phoenix-Talent and Ashland school districts.

The proposed district lines take into account major transportation links such as I-5 and HWY99, that connect the community centers in the Rogue Valley to rural surrounding areas that makeup this unique portion of the state.

These transportation links are also critical to preserving communities of interest such as the Muslim and Jewish communities in southern Oregon, who rely on the Mosque located in Talent and the three Synagogues located in Ashland -- the only houses of worship for Muslim and Jewish community members between Roseburg and Redding, CA -- to practice their faith. It is vital that these communities, who have historically *and* contemporarily faced immense discrimination and acts of violence, to have access to spaces to practice their faith and be in community.

In my work as the Field Director with the Rogue Action Center, I have had the opportunity to work alongside and get to know many of the communities within the Rogue Valley and the struggles they are facing. One of the biggest endeavors we have taken on in the last year is supporting survivors of the Alameda fire that ravaged some parts of our region in September 2020. The proposed district lines keep these communities together, allowing the families and small business owners who were impacted to elect their candidate of choice -- one who will be responsive to their needs as they work to recover and rebuild from tremendous losses.

Thank you again for your service and work on this important issue. These maps are a great start, and I hope that you will keep my thoughts in mind as you work to develop finalized district maps for the forthcoming decade. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Pearson

She/They

Rogue Action Center