

September 13, 2021 written testimony on redistricting Oregon

My name is Heather McGrath. I am 33 years old and I am a mother of two. I have lived in Oregon my entire life; I was born and raised in Junction City, moved to Klamath Falls to attend college at OIT and currently live in Shedd, Oregon where I have been a resident for 9 years.

Redistricting is very important to ensure all the voices of Oregonians can be fairly represented and provide faith in our democracy and electoral process. Gerrymandering needs to be avoided to ensure this. Manipulating of the maps to benefit a certain party or incumbent needs to be avoided. Our current maps do not provide equal inclusion of people. Portland population accounts for only 15 percent of Oregon but 30% of the members of the Oregon House represent at least some portion of the city. Portland should not have such an overly abundant influence on our political system which causes depreciation of the voices and needs of rural communities. Rural communities have very different needs and deserve fair representation with boundaries that do not include urban areas.

I support congressional map B, Oregon Senate map B and Oregon House map B. These maps provide fair representation of all Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this very important matter of fair and equal redistricting.

Heather McGrath