

Dear Oregon State Legislature,

I live in Oregon's 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, in the Tualatin Mountains west of Portland. I've lived in this home over 29 years and have served on our neighborhood Board for more than 10 years.

I am currently serving as President of Forest Park Neighborhood Association, but these are my own personal comments, based on what I've learned from my many interactions with residents of my neighborhood over the years, and are not on behalf of the neighborhood association.

Forest Park Neighborhood stretches from West Burnside to Cornelius Pass Road. Our boundary includes Forest Park, parts of the city of Portland around the edges of Forest Park in the Tualatin Mountains, plus a broad swath of land in rural unincorporated Multnomah County. The neighborhood is largely forested and located mostly on steeply sloped hillsides that come with many landslide hazards. We have a dense network of headwater streams and thousands of acres of high value wildlife habitat. There are very few businesses or destinations, but over 1,100 homes.

My home is in Oregon House District 31 (Rep. Brad Witt's District) and Oregon Senate District 16 (Sen. Betsy Johnson's District). Roughly half of Forest Park Neighborhood is in their Districts, the rest is in House District 33 (Rep. Maxine Dexter) and Senate District 17 (Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward).

This division works very well for us – Rep. Witt and Sen. Johnson represent the mostly rural portion of the neighborhood and Rep. Dexter and Sen. Steiner Hayward represent the more urban portions. They know us and represent us well. Our State Representatives are interested and attentive, and we appreciate their support. They each have different important strengths. Rep. Dexter recently replaced Mitch Greenlick, who had deep ties in our neighborhood, and she has gone out of her way to establish connections with our neighborhood and make sure she represents our interests. Rep. Witt understands that rural areas have different needs than urban areas. We also need more doctors in Salem, not fewer, particularly in these pandemic days.

I am writing because the proposed redistricting maps that I've seen would shift most of our neighborhood into a District that runs north/south and would be located mostly in Beaverton and Washington County. With all due respect, our neighborhood's values and political affinities are much more strongly aligned with

Portland than we are with Washington County. CPO-1 and -7 representatives from nearby Washington County openly long for more roads to make their car trips faster and easier. Our neighborhood looks for ways to reduce motor vehicle trips, reduce the wildfire hazards around our homes while protecting our regionally significant wildlife habitat.

Forest Park Neighborhood is:

- part of Portland's neighborhood system, and while a large portion of the neighborhood is in Portland most of that ground is in Forest Park and the rest has a distinctly rural feel;
- our local NET (Neighborhood Emergency Team) is part of Portland's NET system;
- if you want to build a home in unincorporated Multnomah County, you go to Portland for many of your permits;
- we are directly affected by Portland's politics and policies;
- our neighborhood works closely with Portland, Multnomah County, and West Multnomah SWCD staff on issues related to Forest Park, wildfire resistance and prevention, wildlife habitat protection and restoration, development application, and many more issues. We do not work with Washington County or the City of Beaverton, and have fought long battles to stay free of Washington County's influence on our local land use and transportation systems.

I fear that if most or all of our mostly rural neighborhood is lumped into a mostly Beaverton District that our interests will be overlooked or dismissed because they won't be relevant to a majority of the District.

If District 33 needs to be smaller, please consider lopping off the southern portion of the district and keeping the northern portion intact.

Please keep the western portions of Multnomah County more aligned with Multnomah County and Portland instead of grouping us into Districts that are primarily in Beaverton and Washington County. You could use the county line as a District boundary, or worst case Hwy 26.

We are in Congressional District 1. Congresswoman Bonamici used to represent us in Salem -- I know and have tremendous respect for her and would love to keep her as our Representative in D.C. But I'm less concerned about being placed into a different Congressional District than I am about being lumped into one or two state Districts that are overwhelmingly in Beaverton and Washington County.

Thank you for your consideration.

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