

Dear Members of Oregon's Senate and House Redistricting Committees,

Thank you for your work on this most important of responsibilities for Oregon. Thank you also for the opportunity to be a part of the process with our public comments.

I have lived in Wasco County for 47 years. My husband and I raised two children here. I am a retired high school biology teacher (of 32 years) and my husband is a retired small business owner. I have lived both in a more rural area of Wasco County, specifically on Mill Creek Road, and for the past 37 years, I have lived in the city of The Dalles. We love living here, and never cease to appreciate the small town atmosphere and the world class scenery and recreation at our doorstep.

For the US Congressional District map options, I strongly favor Plan A, which groups together counties with a shared interest in two of Oregon's most prominent and important features – the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area, and Mount Hood. These counties share economic interests, we recreate together, and we grow similar agricultural products. We share a major transportation corridor in I-84, as well as a growing public mass transit system – Columbia Area Transit. We have so much more in common with our neighbors to the west, than with our neighbors to the east, and so Plan A makes the most sense for Wasco County. Whatever final adjustments you may make, I do hope that Wasco County will be in the same district with its Columbia River Gorge neighbors to the west.

For the Oregon Legislative District map options, I also favor Plan A for both the Senate District and the House District, for the same reasons as stated above, with a slight modification. The boundary line for both House and Senate Plan A encircles the city of The Dalles, then is drawn southwest along Mill Creek Road, placing neighbors on the east side of Mill Creek Road in HD 57 and SD 29, and neighbors on the west side of the road in HD 52 and SD 26. I believe this boundary line is arbitrary and detrimental to our community for two major reasons. First, people along this and other county roads going out of The Dalles are all part of our greater The Dalles community: we share schools, we share health care services, we share economic and agricultural interests and much more. Residents on both sides of this road use water from Mill Creek for irrigation. Second, about 8 miles from The Dalles, out Mill Creek Road, on the east side of the road, is our major city water supply, Wicks's Reservoir, and our city municipal watershed. The current boundary lines for Plan A would place Wick's Reservoir and our municipal watershed in a different house and senate legislative district from the city itself. As we look to the future through the lens of climate change, we must acknowledge that water will be a most critical resource. Keeping communities AND their water supplies together within legislative districts should be a

priority wherever possible. And this should be a feasible possibility in this case. To move the boundary a bit east to the watershed boundary instead of the road, or possibly even a bit further to the east, to capture more people who are part of the greater The Dalles community, would not add a large number of people. I know you must consider the population size of each district, but I think my suggestion might involve a small enough number of people so as to make it feasible. I hope you will consider this possibility as you work to make the maps as fair as possible for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,
Deborah Ferrer
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The Dalles, OR