

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

For the record my name is Lorena Mora, my pronouns are she/her. I live in East Multnomah County in Congressional District 3 and am involved with East County Rising.

Thank you for the hard work this committee is doing in the Redistricting process.

House Plans A and C help best maintain the communities of East Multnomah County together and ensure continued access to the services we need.

I was born and raised in the Rockwood-Gresham area. Over the years, I have noticed a huge change within the community and overall the environment within this part of Multnomah county. Although this neighborhood has always been considered dangerous because of gangs and shootings that go on, the truth is that our communities have so much to offer in terms of cultural richness and sense of belonging. Growing up here, I built relationships with my apartment complex neighbors with similar Mexican immigrant backgrounds and cultural ties, often celebrating important holidays and cultural traditions.

When I was younger I attended Alder elementary school and I felt really comfortable thanks to the teachers who spoke the first language that I learned, which is Spanish. My dad was always able to effectively communicate with them as well and get information about different events or opportunities. When my younger sister started attending this elementary school, my mom became a volunteer for the Reynolds School District. She volunteered at a food pantry at this school once a week for about a year and a half and she was able to make a lot of connections with fellow parents in the Reynolds School District. Through my school district, my family had access to helpful services, including rent and electricity assistance.

Public transportation has been very helpful for me since I don't drive. I rely on it to get to school, work, personal appointments or other places that I have to go to in the community. Thankfully, in Gresham there are multiple train stations along Burnside Street that are near my house and within walking distance. My brother has also benefited a lot from public transportation. Before he got his license and a car, he would take the max every morning to get to his job which was about 30 minutes away from where we live and he would take the bus to get to doctor appointments or work meetings. Now that I work with a community-based organization, I have realized that a lot of community members in East County also depend on public transportation to get to their jobs and local spaces in the community. They always appreciate the help that we provide by giving them Hop cards to cover their transportation needs.

Thanks for your service and your work on this important issue. These maps are a good start. Please keep in mind what I have shared about my community and our needs when finalizing maps.

Lorena Mora