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HD 59, SD 29, CD 2

Dear Redistricting Committee:

Review and commentary on proposed redistricting maps with a focus on Wasco County representation:

Congressional Plan A – this map creates competitive disadvantages for both the rural and metro components. Residents of Milwaukie and residents of The Dalles or Madras do not have enough in common on a federal level to justify this map. The rural portions of the map will be focused on federal resource policy as it relates to agriculture production which has little to do with a suburban resident of Milwaukie, or the Californians now residing in Bend who have little context for the reality of farming and ranching and will push back on practical measures in favor of legislating our farmers out of business. A resident of Bend should not be able to inform a shared congressperson about the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area because they do not live in or near it. This map also suggests gerrymandering with the reach into the metro areas to disadvantage dispersed rural populations who will no longer elect their representation - which serves as a subtle form of voter suppression. A congressman elected to represent this district would have to satisfy half of his constituents at the peril of the other half. This map could ignite litigation for obvious gerrymandering to extend a historically urban and Democrat represented district across a natural barrier as huge as the Cascades, into a county as historically conservative and rural as Wasco County. It is extremely unfair and unrepresentative to move a boundary line and change representation from red to blue without an election by the people and to so dilute their voices by putting them in competition with metro communities that differ so much in mindset and living conditions – including but not limited to variances in the minimum wage, rent control, and community & personal safety issues. The socio-economic variance between The Dalles and Bend is profound. The Dalles is a subsistence population while Bend has expendable income as evidenced by average home prices – the average home price in Bend is \$652K compared with \$252K in The Dalles – an obvious disparity in disposable income.

***The CD2 testimony in favor of this Congressional Plan A, spoke in favor of the commonalities of Portland, Bend and Hood River. Not once did they mention Wasco County or The Dalles. This is a self-acknowledged and accurate testimony against commonalities between Wasco County and those communities. Wasco County should remain in CD2.**

Congressional Plan B – this map does a much better job of keeping communities of interest together. Please adopt Plan B.

Legislative Plan A – Wasco County currently has two state reps, one we see, the other we don't. Plan A divides Wasco County three ways. As they say, if you have one dog, you have one dog, if you have two dogs, you have half a dog, if you have three dogs, you have no dogs. That's how it would be for Wasco

County with House Plan A, impossible to get the attention you need and the likelihood of ever electing a representative from Wasco County for any of these three districts is improbable and therefore unrepresentative. It's crystal clear that the reach into the small towns of Wasco County is an intentional gerrymander. This line does not preserve a core or prior district per the criteria but it does gut the representation of Wasco County. Why such poor treatment for Wasco County? The people south of The Dalles have more in common with The Dalles than Hood River or Sherman County. The Dalles is their economic hub and should not be separated from them. As noted in Congressional Plan A comments, It is extremely unfair and unrepresentative to move a boundary line and change representation from red to blue without an election by the people and to so dilute their voices by putting them in competition with metro communities that differ so much in mindset and living conditions. Wasco County is a rural Eastern Oregon county and should not be grouped in any way with Portland suburbs on the west slope of the Cascades. Plan A fails Wasco County miserably by violating the criteria to preserve counties. Plan A feels like an intentional move to carve up and Wasco County for the gain of other districts and truly looks like a favor for the District 52 incumbent.

Legislative Plan B – This plan is preferable for Wasco County. It follows the natural boundary of the Cascades which is a well understood geo and political boundary. It contains all of the Warm Springs Reservation that straddles Jefferson and Wasco County; the reservation has split representation now, but would have a focused rep with Plan B who could invest in fully representing the needs of the reservation. Plan B encompasses the agriculturally focused parts of Hood River County and leaves the forested portions in District 51. Plan B groups the agricultural subgroups of orchards, vineyards, ranching, farming together along with their economic hubs of Hood River, The Dalles, and Madras. The character of the people in this proposed district supports the requirement of grouping by communities of common interest, i.e. rural, hard working, small towns, with more limited access to services. Plan B does something the other maps do not – it creates metro focused districts – Bend is a good example. A city will have different needs than surrounding rural and would be better represented if not competing with rural vs. metro needs or desires.

Legislative Plan C – if Plan C were adopted, I would feel for the people of the Warm Springs – what do they have in common with a bombing range or a Lamb Weston plant in Boardman? Absolutely nothing. Plan C creates an inordinately large District 57, combining counties that have few if any cross county IGAs. A lot of constituents will get ignored in Plan C and again, it cuts off the people of Wasco County from their economic hub in The Dalles. Those two need to stay together and cannot be separated with a gerrymandered line that creates antagonism between The Dalles and fellow Wasco County residents. The community of common interest for The Dalles is greater Wasco County. This map is awful and a complete disservice to the people living in those counties.

House Summary – either move Wasco County out of 52 and back to 59, or move Clackamas County out of 52 and encompass more of Wasco County. Do not split Wasco County three ways. As presented in Plan A and C, the grid of lines through Wasco County violate the criteria of Preservation of counties and other political subdivisions, Preservation of communities of interest, and Preservation of core or prior districts. The existence of Plan B maps confirm there is another way to handle Wasco County in redistricting.

Senate Plan A – back to the dog illustration – this map produces **three senators for Wasco County!**

Again, the gerrymandering line around The Dalles ties it to the suburban Portland metro. Proposed District 26 crosses the well understood geo and political boundary of the Cascades. This is a bad map. It also creates a nearly north to south border to border District 28 which lopes around Bend and connects Wasco County to Klamath County – that is too big to be practically represented by a single senator and Klamath County has very specific resource issues that need more focus and should not be diluted by hundreds of miles of climate, terrain and competing issues.

Senate Plan B - for Eastern Oregon, this map accomplishes a number of things. It defines District 30 without awkward lines, it contains Bend and Western Deschutes County in one District, it encompasses all of Klamath County in one district and it creates a reasonable size Mid-Columbia District 29 that observes the geo political boundary of the Cascades. It contains six counties in their entirety and the populations within the boundaries are connected to economic hubs inside District 29. This is a reasonable and acceptable map.

Senate Plan C – Plan C creates another strange non-contiguous district appendage for District 30 connecting the people in Jefferson County with people in Ontario, OR. Plan C contains the gerrymandered line around The Dalles that separates it from Wasco County and ties the bulk of Wasco County to Wallowa County whose needs and interests are much different from Wasco County. The Mid-Columbia counties are different in needs that the NE counties of Oregon. It does not make sense to put them together and create another inordinately large district.

Oregonians deserve the opportunity to elect representation from within their own communities. Good governance starts with local representation. Our maps should NOT be constructed in ways that attract political imports to move to Oregon to gain a political career. We need maps that will favor local representation and inspire local residents to serve with a heart for the people of their district and not a political agenda. Oregon needs to restore balance within state government. These maps are key to that balance. Maps that group populations to favor the current majority will only perpetuate the imbalance toward extremes and disenfranchise other voices and lived experiences by denying fair representation.