

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

For the record my name is Dwayne Thomas, and I use the pronouns he/him/el.

I live in the Mt Scott-Arleta neighborhood of Portland and have for some time. I am currently represented by CD 3, SD 23, and HD 46.

I want to start by thanking you for having these hearings and listening to what I have to say. I appreciate the hard work you all are putting into this big task.

I looked at Plans A, B, and C and have some thoughts I would like to share.

First off, I have a 3yo daughter who will be starting public school soon enough. Top of my mind when reviewing the proposals was language immersion school districts for my daughter to remain connected to her immigrant and Black roots. In the past we've also enjoyed playing with Spanish story time at libraries. I like that Plan C places me more in the area of the school district I want her to attend. I take public transit every chance I get— I'm originally from NYC and we don't really drive there. Portland has some good public transit, but not as much in my neighborhood. I end up riding my bicycle or using my car, which I dislike on Foster or Powell to pick up my child from daycare and to get to work. My daughter and I like many play structures along the way. I like that the district in Plan C centers around the 205 and Foster— I go to the food trucks along Foster all the time. Black Futures Farm in the Brentwood park is also an anchoring point.

Something changes about the neighborhoods as I get farther west into inner Portland— it gets a lot more privileged. That's something that bothers me about Plan B, it kind of lumps in my neighborhood with Mt. Tabor area where there's more upper income rich folks. I live in a more working class and diverse neighborhood, and don't want the voices of my community to get overpowered in these districts, if that makes sense. I see unhomed clustering around less well off areas and would like compassionate longer term solutions to public safety, mental health, and housing issues. While I regretted losing access to the Mt. Scott Community center, the use of Mt. Scott Community Center as a shelter during COVID was commendable and shows our city's most thoughtful policies can be effective.

Senate Plan C addresses that same dynamic well, it feels more balanced and puts the hyper-wealthy neighborhoods in a different district than mine. Even as a software engineer, I like that. By the way I am a volunteer of the Blacks in Technology group.

Senate Plan B looks like it does the opposite — The fact that Mt. Scott/Lents is on the boundary of my district as drawn in Plan B makes me feel like mine and my neighbors' concerns will be treated like "boundary concerns" and diminished. North Portland just like the Brooklyn NYC has gotten so gentrified and lost so much community. Those voices in more welloff Portland being in the same district as my neighborhood will overwhelm public input from folks more like me. In

fact, I'd like our district to also be a self sufficient community for working class families some of who work from home part time and take care of their children at home parttime.

That's also what concerns me about Congressional Plan B— it treats all of Portland like its the same, when the reality is lots of parts of Portland have changed a lot and I don't think that will stop anytime soon.

In closing, thank you to all members of the committee for your time today. Please think about the diversity of Portland and how different neighborhoods have different needs when drawing these maps.

Best,

Dwayne Thomas