

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

My name is Jordan Bruyn and I use she/her pronouns. I am a resident of and work in Jackson County, Congressional District 2, Oregon House District 55, Oregon Senate District 28. In my work with the Rogue Action Center, we engage directly with underserved folks and other community members in our region, including Latinx, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, low income folk, and youth, among others. The redistricting greatly impacts under-represented communities and their opportunity to elect candidates of their choice and voice their needs and interests. Data reveals Oregon is 28.3% diverse -- meaning Oregonians self-selected as BIPOC or multiracial.

As an enrolled member of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, I believe Oregonians who identify as Native, Alaskan Indian, or a combination are the original people of this land and it is critical that we identify how redistricting impacts our communities. Nearly 1% of the state identifies as Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander or a combination with other race(s). Oregon's American Indian and Alaska Native residents grew by 18%. Oregonians who self-identified as American Indian and Alaskan Native Alone or in combination with other races was 4.4%, the ninth highest percentage in the U.S. Fair districting empowers Native communities to have opportunities for appropriate resources and representation. It is important to not divide their voices and keep these communities whole.

I am concerned that some of the proposed maps would divide, dilute the voices of, and disproportionately impact the Indigenous communities located in Southern Oregon. For example, the House Plan C map splits the Klamath Reservation into two different districts, districts 56 and 59. Plan A maps for House, Senate, and Congress, submitted by this committee keep Indigenous communities mostly whole, preserving communities of common interest and those who have been historically left out by systematic and deliberate state violence. Plan A maps are critical towards an equitable Oregon, in which marginalized communities have representation that advocate and are responsive to our needs.

Thank you for your service on this important issue and the opportunity to testify on behalf of myself and my community.

Sincerely,
Jordan Bruyn