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Chairs Salinas, Borshart-Davis, and Taylor, Members of the committee,

My name is Patrick Sheehan and I reside at the address above. I represented House District 51 in the 76th Legislative Assembly of 2011-12 when our state was last redistricted, and have been watching the current process with great interest and concern. I'll limit my written testimony to one subject which causes me great uneasiness.

As I have followed testimony, I am gravely concerned that at the beginning of each proceeding, the Chair declares that testimony will be limited to the committee maps only, not maps submitted by the public.

The question is: What should a proper redistricting plan look like? The people should have a voice in arriving at that answer.

The Chair should not discourage or prohibit public testimony from being entered into the record. Such discouragement and/or prohibition is counter to the openness and transparency that the State of Oregon has guaranteed its people.

It is implicit in the presentation of an alternate plan that the person testifying is critical of other plans submitted or considered.

Failure to consider an alternate plan demonstrates an unwillingness to consider all factors to lead to an equitable redistricting plan.

It is my hope that the Chairs will reverse course and allow testimony on public submission of district maps.

Respectfully Submitted,

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