



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Oregon Legislative Policy and Research Office
Attn: Redistricting Team
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Chair & Committee Members:

The following comments are my personal comments as one member of the Wasco County Commission and not on behalf of the entire Board.

Following the criteria for redistricting is critical in developing any new district maps. Some of these are compactness, preservation of counties and other political subdivisions, preservation of communities of interest and preservation of cores of prior districts. Any new districts must follow these criteria.

I consider the maps in the context of these criteria. With that in mind I cannot support the proposals in the 'Plan A' proposals because almost none of the criteria would apply to Wasco County.

Let me provide some comments on some of the specific proposals:

Congress Plan A – This map takes a mostly rural chunk of land and grabs the bulk of the population at either end of the district and calls it good. For most of this proposed district, which is very rural, we end up with the bulk of the 706,000 people being in the urban areas of Portland and Bend and in all likelihood, the bulk of the district will have very little representation for our rural issues.

House Plan A – Two big issues here, one is that the bulk of the 70,000 residents in this district are also urban dwellers in the Portland Metro area which have little in common with our rural needs. This plan also carves up Wasco County into 3 different districts which make little sense when considered in regard to the criteria that is supposed to be directing the formation of the districts.

Senate Plan A – The situation here is exactly the same as for the proposed House Plan A – the bulk of this district's 141,000 people are living in urban areas and our county is chopped up into 3 different pieces with no consideration of the criteria that is to be considered. This plan fails miserably in regards to preservation of counties and other political subdivisions, preservation of communities of interest and preservation of cores of prior districts!



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So, it's clear that I am not supportive of the proposed Plan A versions because, for Wasco County, they are not following the criteria that are intended to guide the formation of the districts. For Wasco County all of these proposals fail in significant ways.

I would ask you to consider the Cascade mountain range as a clear line of demarcation between the west and the east and largely urban and rural and do not pull the district that Wasco County resides in over the Cascades...it does not make sense and we have very little to no communities of interest across that line. We need representation at the Federal and State levels and we will mostly lose this if put in with a largely urban district.

Please consider my comments carefully and adjust the maps accordingly. I want to see rural areas of the state have rural districts and rural representation...it is critical to our success.

Thanks for your time and considering these thoughts.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Hege", written in a cursive style.

Scott C. Hege
County Commissioner, Wasco County