

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

For the record my name is Maria Hinojos Pressey, my pronouns are she/her/hers and I live in SE Salem, Marion County, and Congressional District 5.

I testified earlier in the year during the first redistricting hearings and shared about the communities of interest I see around my neighborhood and the areas I frequently visit. It is important that these communities, which are so unique in Oregon, are kept together as much as possible and become visible in a state that frequently erases the voices of non-dominant groups.

My neighbors and I share similar interests and shop at the same type of grocery stores and I have also seen a lot of new development happening in my neighborhood. After reviewing the proposed maps I wanted to share my appreciation for the maps that keep the Woodburn and Salem corridor together. Although I work in Salem, I work in Woodburn and commute there via I-5 which takes me about 20 minutes depending on traffic.

In the current house map, these two areas are already contained because of the recognition of the communities that live, play, and share space with each other. These areas have been able to flourish thanks to the work the community has done and separating Woodburn and NE Salem would retract community building and development.

Both House Plan's A and C respond to these needs. Plan A shows how the Salem area is home to a thriving and vibrant Latinx community, and many of us who live in North East Salem, travel up to Woodburn where you can find Lucero's shop, to pick up platos de barro, and Luis's Taqueria, to get authentic food or buy a piñata for a family birthday party.

I also like that these maps follow the I-5 and would like to highlight that the farming communities along it are central to this area and I appreciate that this map respects that. If you drive through this highway, after leaving Woodburn and entering NE Salem, it is as if you never left either city. I urge this committee to not separate these communities as it would be devastating to further disenfranchised communities who have worked endlessly to achieve accurate representation on all levels of government.