

September 13, 2021

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

For the record my name is Joanne Daschel, my pronouns are she/her, and I live in Lincoln City, Lincoln County, Congressional District 5.

My husband Ren Jacob and I have lived in Lincoln City for 17 years. In that time we have started and operated small businesses, worked in retail and non-profits, volunteered extensively and become deeply rooted in this community.

We often hear about family-wage jobs as the main concern during election season, but our observation of need is different. The community is in a constant struggle to provide decent, affordable and stable housing at all levels, and this challenge affects every other issue. Tourism-based businesses can't hire without ample housing for seasonal and year-round employees, schools and hospitals can't recruit new staff to expand services, students can't access technology when they aren't in a long-term housing situation. Housing need also precludes reasoned decisions about more abstract but very real concerns, like managing natural resources that include coastal fisheries, beaches and forests. When folks can't secure basic shelter, they cannot think deeply about other issues.

These other issues are very important to coastal people, however. Clean beaches, abundant fish populations in our rivers and nearshore ocean, and scenic beauty of forests and headlands provide us more than enjoyment. Our coastal tourism and fishing industries depend on protection of these resources. Rising sea levels, increasing severity of storms and ocean acidification represent very tangible threats to built communities and the future of crab and shellfish populations. Prolonged drought threatens not only timber harvests, but the literal survival of foothill communities like Otis/Rose Lodge.

I am writing because we all deserve meaningful representation and to feel like our vote counts and our voices matter. In our existing district, coastal voices are often drowned out by larger communities inland with different priorities and challenges, like timber and farming. Increasingly, our population includes retirees

and remote workers who need increased health care and technology infrastructure. Emergency planning in our communities is vitally important, given that we are likely to be cut off from the major corridors that supply needed goods and skilled repair crews for longer periods of time than valley towns and cities.

After carefully reviewing the various maps and proposals for new and revised districts that would reflect the current population and our needs on the coast, I would strongly prefer Congressional Map A and Legislative Map C. These maps reflect districts that keep our coastal community together, so that our representation is driven by values and concerns that impact us the most.

Because our smaller communities necessitate that we are part of a district with a larger population, the areas containing Corvallis and Eugene seem most logical, given the development of ocean science and education as a growing part of our economy and employment in Lincoln County. Looking ahead, climate issues, the nearshore energy sector and fisheries management are all areas of interest that align with these inland communities' future in scientific research.

My community must be able to elect the candidate of our choice who will do their best to represent all the communities present in our region. Thank you very much for your time and work on this issue, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

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