

September 9th, 2021

Chair Taylor, Vice-Chair Kah-nope, Co-chairs Boshart-Davis and Salinas, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record my name is Lindsay Jansen-Hostetler, my pronouns are she/her/hers, and I live in Benton County in District 4.

I live in Corvallis and have for the past 21 years.

Thank you to the committee for all of the hard work you have put in. Redistricting is not an easy process, and there are a number of factors to consider when developing these maps. I know that the Mid-Valley in particular has its own set of challenges, including important transportation links, the Willamette River, and the recognized differences between the communities here.

There are a few things I would suggest to make the maps in the Mid-Valley even more reflective of our community. For one, while I acknowledge that the proposed maps connect Corvallis with coastal communities, much like U.S. Highway 20 does, I think it is also important to acknowledge the community connections many of us here in the Corvallis area share with Albany and its surrounding environs. For example, I work for Greater Albany Public Schools and commute daily on Highway 20 to and from work. Similarly, my husband works in Lebanon, and he commutes via Highway 34. Though these communities may have philosophical and political differences with those held in Benton County, we do balance each other out. Similarly, there are plenty of folks who commute to Corvallis for work from Albany and Lebanon via these highways. These two routes are the most important transportation routes in our area, driving our economies together.

Here we are surrounded on all sides by working agriculture. I think it is important that we acknowledge that and acknowledge the influence that Oregon State University -- of which I am a proud alumna -- has had on supporting agriculture here in the Mid-Valley. I would also like to recognize their role, as well as the role of Linn-Benton Community College, in supporting local employers such as Samaritan Health Services, ATI Metals, and Selmet. Our education systems are structured to work together, including our local school districts.

Thank you again for your work on this important issue. I believe these maps are a good beginning, and I hope we can continue to have robust conversations about what best serves our communities here in the Mid-Valley. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Lindsay Jansen-Hostetler