

Dear Redistricting Committee,

I am writing to you as a life long Oregonian. I have reviewed the two maps designed by your committee. It is my request that the committee adopt Map(s) B. It is imperative that we have a balanced state government and that balance starts with fair representation of all Oregonians in our state legislature, as well as in the halls of Congress. The new district maps need to follow natural boundaries as much as possible and align with the many geographical differences we all love about our state. It absolutely must reflect the interests and life styles of the very diverse communities across this state and not just of the states urban cities. Those who live in the urban cities do not have the life experience, nor understanding of what's best for the more rural and coastal regions because they do not live it. Rural and coastal Oregonians have a tendency to be more in touch with the industries, like agriculture, timber and fishing, that provide for their local economies, where urban Oregonians do not have that same experience that brings the knowledge needed to make decisions. To be honest, I also find it rather appalling that Map A gives Multnomah county voters a say in 4 Congressional districts. I believe that Map B provides the balance and representation that Oregonians need and deserve. I ask you, please do the right thing and adopt the map that gives a voice to those most affected.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Brent Atkinson
Salem, OR