

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

For the record my name is Alicia Brown, my pronouns are she, her, hers and I live in Portland in the Madison South Neighborhood. I am in the 3rd congressional district and I have lived in Portland for the past 6 years. I am a special education teacher in the Centennial School District.

Thank you to the members of the committee who have been working on creating the maps. I realize that drawing new district lines is no small task.

Based on the latest census data, Oregon has a unique opportunity in front of us. We have the opportunity to ensure that our congress, house, and senate maps are redrawn in a way that best serves our state and the unique communities that make up our population. We need to make sure that the maps reflect and encompass all the communities of interest that we have in our cities and counties.

The maps that have been proposed are a good start in particular plan A and C, however, there are improvements that need to be made to ensure that communities of interest are represented and important cultural centers are kept intact. My school is on the eastern part of Portland that borders Gresham. There are many thriving and vibrant cultural communities out there that are made up of BIPOC folks who have been gentrified out of inner Portland. There are culturally specific grocery stores, restaurants and businesses that support our unique community. These communities, as well as other similar communities across the state need to be kept in tact with redistricting to ensure fair representation in our state and federal governments.

Once again, thanks so much for your service and your work on this important issue. These maps are a great start and I know that this committee can make these maps better. Please keep in mind what I have shared about my community when finalizing maps.

Thank you,
Alicia Brown