

## TESTIMONY FOR EQUITABLE REDISTRICTING

Greetings Chairs and members of the committee,

You are well appreciated for providing space for hearings and listen to my testimony for Oregon redistricting process. Kuko Mofor is my name. I have the privilege to serve several immigrant groups in the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization (IRCO). My colleagues, community members, and I are here to provide testimonies so elected leaders should not consider redistricting the communities in which these BIPOCS reside.

For 40years plus, IRCO ( a culturally specific/dynamic non-profit) has supported immigrants and refugees that reside in the greater Portland area including North East Portland, East Portland, and North Portland the regions; I would like to express my vision and needs.

My vision is for these elected officials to serve people in a diverse and racial equitable and socially just way, allowing them to practice democracy, advocacy and provide them with a self-sufficient and sustainable future through creative and innovative projects/programs. For this to be achieved, this diverse region must remain in the same congressional district as the rest of Portland, ensuring BIPOC, immigrant, and refugee residents are not marginalized as voters, that they hold power and agency over their congressional representation.

I am concerned and worried redistricting would cancel memorable significant landmarks like rivers, highways, parks, shopping areas, gathering places like schools, community centers, religious places, and social service agencies. The list can go on and on,...

To conclude, if these aforementioned communities are drawn such as District 3, Senate District 25, house district 49 and 50, and more, they will hold less power. Elected officials would not care about: -affordable health care, fair immigration policy, protection from eviction, preventing hate crimes, small businesses staying open, equal access to covid-19 vaccines, food, and jobs, and community-based organizations that speak the same language as those residing in the same areas. Hence, the solution is to keep communities that share common interests, cultures, and economic factors. This way elected leaders will respond to their concerns.

Much gratitude goes to the committee for not redistricting the North Portland, Northeast Portland, and East Portland neighborhoods, but rather keep them together.

Sincerely,

Kuko Mofor