

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

My name is Danita Harris, I use They/Them pronouns. I am a long-time resident of Salem and a small business owner. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My house district is HD 21 and I am highly engaged in other surrounding house districts.

I wish I could tell you that I can find an abundance of culturally specific foods and services in my area or - that the unincorporated areas around my neighborhood, neighborhoods rich in diversity, are safe for pedestrians but in reality, they are not. For a long time, Salem and its surrounding areas have had an increase in population due to the gentrification happening in Central Salem area pushing communities of color out even past Lancaster.

Folks find themselves pushed all the way to Cordon road. Resulting in split communities. In my opinion, respecting Cordon Road and using it as a new marker is good since communities on each side are different. House plan C compacts these communities as much as possible and keeps in mind the ways in which communities interact with each other. In order to address the ongoing urban-rural divide that faces so much of our state, we cannot continue drawing lines upon political factions but drawn lines that support communities of interest which C has done.

I quickly wanted to mention that House Plan B for this area is in no way justifiable. Anyone who lives in the Salem / Woodburn area knows how wrong this map looks. It splits communities into large rural districts where pockets of communities that are closer to Salem and who share the same socioeconomic status, languages, and culture would no longer feel represented. House Plan B just feels like it would be the wrong choice.

Drawing district lines is no easy task and I certainly do not envy you all, this act and the many decisions that are made in drawing lines will have reverberating impacts for decades.

Thank you for hearing me and considering my testimony.

Danita Harris