

House co-chairs Salinas and Boshart Davis, Senate Chair Taylor, and Vice-chair Knopp

For the record, my name is Cynthia Ramirez, and I live in HD 21, Congressional District 5.

I live in NE Salem and have for the past 23 years and stayed to attend Willamette University from where I graduated in 2020. I now work in Woodburn and drive about 20 minutes to get to work. I've known Salem my whole life and have so much appreciation for the community that surrounds me. I know that my neighbors are also appreciative of the ways in which our community has flourished despite how much we have been disenfranchised historically. Redistricting allows communities of interest to stay together and the Woodburn and NE Salem communities have been one house district because of the commonalities we share. Splitting these two areas up, the ways House Plan B does is absurd.

I spoke before this committee in the spring and I would like to quote myself again for the record, "historically communities of color have been gerrymandered to make them the minority vote. Our communities are being sliced up because they know if the community could vote together, we would vote for our community and for real change. They do not want to see low-income, minority communities take action and succeed."

This same exact thing is happening in House Plan B, by splitting up the Woodburn and NE Salem, you are slicing up communities who share common interests and are diluting their power. By placing them in large rural districts, which absolutely makes no sense, you are erasing the communities who live in these areas. Plan B divides up Salem in a way where no district is majority BIPOC in a region that has a large and vibrant Latinx Community. Keeping Woodburn and NE Salem is justifiable because the current district already has them together.

Lancaster Road is also an important transportation link because you can find Starbucks, a panaderia, gas stations, grocery stores, and almost anything else you could think of. Before Lancaster road was seen as a marker between urban and rural areas but so many people have moved to the east of Lancaster road until Corban road which makes sense as an indicator where the district could stop.

I would like to advocate for House plan C as it's the one that makes the most sense, it keeps NE Salem and Woodburn together and keeps most of the Hayesville down to Four Corners compact as well.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to me,
Cynthia Ramirez