

September 13, 2021

Good afternoon, buena tardes

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

For the record my name is Jaime Arredondo . I'm a proud immigrant from Michoacan Mexico, and have lived in Salem, Oregon for 31 years. I'm here in support of House Plan C which keeps together the Woodburn and NE Salem areas--that our communities have sewed together with much sacrifice and love.

When my father landed in NE Salem, 40 years ago, he saw things he had never seen before. An abundance of housing, jobs, schools, and families together. He described a place where everything grew, where the trees touched the clouds, where you could have three meals in one day. But, what he didn't see was how hard the path would be to survive in a new environment. And, while he knew anything was possible, he certainly didn't see that we would go on to achieve much more than having our basic needs met.

After we began buying our own home, and my brother and I went from the fields to college-- I found myself in Woodburn's city hall on August 2, 2000 testifying in support of the creation of House District 22. I still remember the moment very vividly. Honestly, I didn't fully comprehend at the time all that was happening. But something brought me there. It felt like we were charting the future. You could feel that something big was coming. And it has. But, the best is yet to come.

Today, my daughter started her first day of kindergarten in Salem Keizer. She's coming in fully bilingual and bicultural, carrying the best of her abuelos--grandparents--and is also able to navigate this complex world we live in seamlessly like a monarch butterfly. She comes from a community exploding with *cultura*--our gift to Oregon.

She enters kindergarten surrounded and supported by a community of peers and leaders that look like her, including teachers, administrators, State representatives, city council, and school board members .It may feel to her that this is the norm. It's not--not yet at least...

Just imagine what she will see that I haven't--what she will accomplish for the common good.

My dear members of the redistricting committees--keep this knit intact--the best is yet to come.

Thank you.

Jaime Arredondo
Proud Salem community member