

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

My name is Reyna Lopez and I am the executive director of PCUN which is based out of the beautiful city of Woodburn. PCUN is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower farmworkers and Latinx working families in Oregon. In recent years, we have seen how our community in the Salem and Woodburn area has grown and flourished successfully thanks to the investment and development made in our community.

PCUN has been organizing with our members for decades in Oregon and is excited to engage in the redistricting process once again. We trust that members from this committee and the Oregon legislature will draw maps that accurately reflect the communities of interest across the state. 20 years ago, during the redistricting process, the NE Salem and Woodburn areas were identified as areas that should be kept together in one district. These families are connected through their work, places of worship, and the community that has been built.

Our organization also has sister organizations in Salem that serve Latino families to become self-sufficient and active members of the community, improve the lives of Latino immigrants and their families in Oregon through advocacy, coalition building, leadership development, and civic engagement along with supporting Latino youth leadership in the Salem-Keizer area around issues affecting their daily lives.

Republican-drawn, House Map B - feels like they are blatantly separating us and our sister organizations. It makes no sense to separate this well-established Latinx community that has deep roots in the Salem and Woodburn area. House Map B combines East and West Salem which are two areas that are very different. If you cross Salem Parkway, there is a really obvious switch in the types of communities that live on each side of the road. For example, East Salem has a large concentration of people of color who have been pushed out of areas closer to downtown Salem. West Salem, on the other hand, is populated by folks with a higher socioeconomic status and a very clear barrier through the Willamette River and the Bridge to West Salem.

Colonia Libertad, which is one of the sites from the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation (FHDC) is also in SE Salem, and separating it from Woodburn would be incredibly harmful. FHDC has roots since 1990 and has been central in building and strengthening community partnerships within the Latinx community in both Salem and Woodburn. Senate Plan C respects these communities and allows for further community development.

House Plan C ensures that these communities are kept together and on behalf of PCUN would like to advocate for this map because it keeps our elders connected by the 99 which is a transportation link farmworkers use daily. Splitting up these communities would be devastating. I urge this committee to stand up against racial gerrymandering happening in House Plan B, and seriously consider House Plan C.

Thank you,  
Reyna Lopez