

09/09/2021

Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Vice-Chairs Knopp and Boshart-Davis and members of the redistricting committee.

For the record, my name is Karla Marks and I have lived in Salem and Congressional District 5 for 26 years. I testified before this committee back in March, sharing my experience and concerns related to this process of redistricting. I wanted to see that any changes in how districts are realigned would improve participation in the decision making process by our elected representatives and those they serve. I have been actively involved in advocacy for seniors and people with disabilities and their caregivers for many years. As a retiree, I have served as a volunteer with a growing population of neighbors who are living outside, on the streets, under bridges and in vehicles. These are two segments of our communities who desperately need humanitarian attention and a voice at the table.

I have reviewed each of the plans this committee has presented and first of all, I want to compliment you on your work. It is clearly evident that you have worked hard to develop plans based on just a whole lot of expertise, public input and an eye to what the statutory guidelines dictate. As I compare what the districts look like now and how they would change, I tend to favor Congressional Plan A and Plan C for the State House and Senate. The boundaries make sense. There's not a lot of dramatic shifts in the district lines. I know there's a lot of talk about gerrymandering to support one political party or the other, but I think these plans are solid in drawing lines to add a 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District with a commonsense touch. I also think that diversity within districts helps strengthen us as a society and allows us to tackle community issues with the collective wisdom of the people who live there.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. I look forward to seeing the finished map!

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