

Good Evening,

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

My name is Brian Bixler, and I live in Newberg, Oregon which is in Congressional District 1.

I want to commend members of the committee for the work they have done thus far and the work they are going to continue doing on behalf of Oregonians. It takes intentionality and dedication to create maps that serve the best interest of the people of Oregon. I know there are a lot of complexities in drawing new district lines, especially as you consider the many aspects of our communities around the state.

As an elementary educator in McMinnville for the last 15 years, I have seen first hand the growth of the communities near my home and surrounding areas. Our communities are growing not just in numbers, but in the racial and cultural diversity of our residents. I see that growth reflected in the demographics of my students whom I challenge to reach for great things. I ask this committee to center our communities of interest, like our LatinX community and try to ensure that they are represented fairly as you draw maps. Making sure to account for natural boundaries like Pleasant Hill and Parrot Mountain to the East that helps to welcome travelers into our wine country. It is also important to note that highway 99 west is a huge transportation artery that connects many towns in the community, but has a very strong tie between the 3 cities of Newberg, Dundee, and McMinnville.

Taking into consideration these factors, I believe that House Plan B tries to capture this, but cuts off Dundee from a connected neighbor in Newberg. It is my observation that both House Plan A and C do capture my aforementioned community observations. That being said, I think there is still room to improve on all our maps when it comes to centering historically under-represented communities of interest and ask that this committee center a little more on these voices.

Thank you very much for your time have a great evening,

Brian Bixler