

September 13, 2021

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

My name is Devin Ruiz. I live in Multnomah County in Congressional District 3, House District 44, and Senate District 22. For the past 7 years, I have lived in North Portland. I also work at Next Up Action Fund as the Community Engagement Organizer.

First off, I would like to acknowledge and thank this committee for the tireless work you have done in this redistricting process. I know drawing new district lines is intricate work especially considering how our state's demographics have changed over the last 10 years.

Like I mentioned earlier, I have lived in North Portland for 7 years which is the entirety of my time in Oregon. I have grown so much in this community and have also been a witness to the way this community has changed, through gentrification, construction, and the desire for the community to stay together through all of this. As someone who did not drive in this state until 3 years ago, I got to experience my community first hand through public transportation. Trimet Bus 4 took me from my apartment on North Vancouver to Portland State University, my job at the Boys and Girls Club in North Portland, and my capstone at James John Elementary School. While living off of Interstate and Rosa Parks, I relied on the Max Yellow line to connect me to where I needed to go—like work, the grocery store, the movie theater. These transportation lines and streets like Lombard, Rosa Parks, and Interstate connect my community.

I am in support of Congressional Map A because it keeps North Portland together. By placing the district line at 15th and Prescott, you will allow historically Black neighborhoods to stay together within a single district. This also accounts for the displacement and movement of people further north. I am also in support of House and Senate Map C.

Once again, thanks so much for your service and your work on this important issue. These maps are a great start. Please keep in mind what I have shared about my community when finalizing maps. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Devin Ruiz