

Hello, my name is James Emerson. I have lived at my current home on Old Germantown Road for 36 years, in the Portland/Multnomah County Forest Park Neighborhood. I am pleased with our current state representatives and senators, as well as with our Representative in Congress, Ms. Bonamici. It takes time for the residents in an area, and their representatives, to get to know each others' interests and strengths. This is particularly the case when so much of our area is strikingly rural, even though it is close to urban areas. I recommend that redistricting is drawn up in a way that will retain our existing representatives in as much of the area as possible, especially the rural areas.

To the extent possible, district lines in this area should hew to County boundaries, since the interests on each side are so divergent. I have found that many people are confused about the multiple boundaries - city, county, school district, fire district, and Metro, for example, before even getting to District boundaries for state and federal offices. This complexity often leads people to avoid interactions or even voting. Keeping boundaries as aligned as possible with each other, and without radical changes every decade, helps foster the understanding and participation needed in a democracy.

I have also just read the input submitted by Ms. Chesarek, who lives in this neighborhood, and I agree strongly with her points.

Thank you for your consideration.

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