

September 13, 2021

House Interim Committee on Redistricting  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Shelly Boshart Davis, Co-Chair Andrea Salinas and Members of the House Interim Committee on Redistricting,

I understand public comments are being accepted on all three House redistricting maps by the Oregon House Interim Committee on Redistricting. Also, I understand redistricting is the once-a-decade process of redrawing U.S. House of Representatives (Congressional) and Oregon State Senate and Oregon State House of Representatives (Legislative) district boundaries to account for changes in population due to the 2020 Census.

As Mayor of the City of Monroe, I believe that while the currently proposed legislative maps may have positive elements, they do not adequately reflect our communities' interests and should more closely follow the statutory guidelines for redistricting in Oregon (ORS 188.010).

On July 6, Anna Scharf was appointed as our new House District 23 Representative. Since August 26, Rep. Scharf has visited the City of Monroe twice to discuss our looming water infrastructure crisis. I was impressed with Rep. Scharf's knowledge and experience on all topics of water. She took notes, asked questions, listened carefully, and after both visits, including a public listening session, she knew our water issues cold. Rep. Scharf advocated for the City of Monroe immediately.

Unfortunately, Rep. Scharf has heard the same water infrastructure issues plaguing other rural Willamette Valley communities, like Monroe, in her own district. This is a common issue we all share. This is precisely the reason why we need Rep. Scharf to remain our representative, here in Monroe, and rural Benton County. Although Monroe, rural Benton County, and other rural communities in House District 23 share the same water issues, now we have the opportunity under Rep. Scharf's leadership to work together and determine a solution that could benefit all of us. Now we have a voice, thanks to Rep. Scharf.

With all the House proposed redistricting maps, the City of Monroe and rural Benton County will switch to either House District 9 or 10. Both of these House Districts are represented on the Oregon Coast by either Boomer Wright (Reedsport) or David Gomberg (Neotsu). I have nothing against Rep. Wright or Rep. Gomberg or the communities of Reedsport or Neotsu but a rural, agricultural city like Monroe has nothing in common with a coastal town. The City of Monroe's best shot at solving these water infrastructure issues is for our community to remain with House District 23 and Rep. Scharf.

On behalf of my community and the people I serve, I request that the House Interim Committee on Redistricting re-evaluate how best to meet the needs of the City of Monroe and rural communities in Benton County. I call upon the House Interim Committee on Redistricting to ensure that we are provided with fair and equitable representation at the Oregon State Legislature.

Thank you,



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