

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

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Cole Daneman and I am a resident of Ashland.

As a resident of House District 5 and Senate District 3, I am glad that each of the proposals for legislative maps are substantially similar in my area. In each proposal, House District 5 keeps Ashland, Talent, Phoenix and Jacksonville together, and Senate District 3 keeps Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Jacksonville, and Medford together. I appreciate the members of the committees on each side for valuing that these districts maintain a similar composition to the current lines.

However, that same interest in keeping these clear communities of common interest together inexplicably does not extend to Congressional draft plan B. This plan roughly bisects Medford and Central Point, with some of each city in Congressional District 2 and Congressional District 4. Jacksonville is in Congressional District 4, while Phoenix, Talent, and Ashland are in Congressional District 2. Moreover, Rogue River and Gold Hill are in Congressional District 4, while much of the rest of Jackson County is in Congressional District 2.

Here's how I'll illustrate this in more colorful language, perhaps to help you remember. If my brother drove 12 miles to his high school in the morning he would start and end in Congressional District 2. But if he drove three miles across the east side of Medford to the hospital where he was born, he would be in Congressional District 4. If he then decided he needed to go to the bank, he could walk across the street to the credit union and then once again be in Congressional District 2.<sup>1</sup>

I believe it is important, at minimum, that Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Jacksonville, Medford and Central Point be kept together. These cities form a clear grouping in a variety of ways. Additionally, the devastating and continuing affects of fire from 2020 exacerbate the need for accountable leadership in the for the area in the U.S. House.<sup>2</sup>

I strongly encourage you to pursue maps that keep the entirety of Jackson County together. Ideally, Jackson County and Josephine County may be paired together in a district that would acknowledge the extensive connections between these two counties.<sup>3</sup>

Plan A meets this criteria. Plan B awkwardly splits up areas around the state in order to create four winnable seats for Republicans.<sup>4</sup> Despite House Republicans making noise about the importance of compactness in the Congressional map, the statistics show that Plan A in fact is significantly more compact.<sup>5</sup>

As you work to find whatever common ground you may be able to find on Congressional maps, please remember that specifically designing maps around who [politically] is in a district is not acceptable. It is vitally important that areas be thoughtfully kept together. I live in Ashland, and look, I frequently disagree with the Member of Congress that represents me. But the way my district is currently drawn simply makes sense. Our state has a wonderful mixture of attributes, and I encourage you to work to uphold those. I strongly discourage you to create politically competitive Congressional districts at all other costs.

Thanks again for the opportunity to testify.

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Ashland

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<sup>1</sup>The three locations in east Medford I am referencing here are St. Mary's School, 816 Black Oak Dr, Providence Medford Medical Center, 1111 Crater Lake Ave, and Rogue Credit Union, 1330 Poplar Dr.

<sup>2</sup>The Almeda fire "swept through the Rogue Valley within a matter of hours, destroying more than 2,600 homes between Ashland, Talent, Phoenix and Medford" (Jefferson Public Radio, September 8, 2021).

<sup>3</sup>The Rogue Valley's population centers are located along the Rogue River and Bear Creek (which feeds into the Rogue River). Interstate 5, and to an extent Highway 99, follow Bear Creek between Ashland and Gold Hill. Interstate 5 and Highway 99 then follow the Rogue River between Gold Hill and Grants Pass. Note that the current CD2 includes all of Jackson County, plus the Grants Pass area.

<sup>4</sup>The following are the Cook PVI ratings for Plan B via DistrictBuilder: CD1 D+18, CD2 R+11, CD3 D+29, CD4 R+3, CD5 R+3, CD6 D+1. Districts are traditionally considered competitive in a range of equal to or less than R+5 or D+5.

<sup>5</sup>Plan A has a Reock score 0.4328 and a Polsby-Popper score of 0.3449. Plan B has a Reock score of 0.3899 and a Polsby-Popper score of 0.3318.