

To the ladies and gentlemen who will be shaping the future of Oregon.

I'll keep this brief, because I am a working man and I have only had a few spare hours to look over the maps.

I will argue for House District Map B, Senate District Map B, and Congressional District Map B. In drawing the legislative districts, it is important that populations of the same social temperament be grouped together. In other words, geopolitics must be respected. The electorate of The Dalles has little in common with the electorate of Portland. Our economies are different, our attitudes are different. Portland is decidedly urban and woke, The Dalles and similar communities in Wasco County are rural and conservative. We have little in common, and absolutely should not share a political representative. Let us elect one representative, and the people of Portland elect their own representatives.

Similarly, any map that groups The Dalles with Hood River should be discounted. We are nearer to each other, and we used to be sister cities. But Hood River has become a bedroom community for many Portlanders, and the character of that town has become the antithesis to our own.

Again, I call on you to adopt House District Map B, Senate District Map B, and Congressional District Map B. Unless, *and only if*, another map can be shown to bring balance to the Oregon State Legislature. True, Oregon is a blue state, but Democrats are overrepresented in the House, and quite possibly the Senate. This has given the legislature freedom to adopt laws that are wildly out of sync with the wishes of the electorate, and you know this. Otherwise, why would so many bills be passed with an emergency clause that prevents a referendum?

In the other maps, I see many examples of gerrymandering. Little bits of Portland and Bend get grouped with vast swathes of rural territory. The Urban-Rural divide has been around as long as cities have existed, all the way back in the Bronze Age. The solution is not to make turn rural areas into satrapies of the cities, but to divide power between the two, and let the two govern their own. The metro-focused districts of the B maps are the way forward.