

September 13th, 2021

Good Evening, Co-Chairs Taylor, and Salinas, Boshart-Davis and Vice Chair Knopp (Kah-nope), and members of the redistricting committee

For the record my name is Jessica Colburn, my pronouns are she/her and I've lived in Bend, OR for all 36 years of my life. I want to thank the redistricting committee, as I recognize the time and work that went into creating well-thought out and fair maps, especially considering the many variables and complexities when drafting new district lines.

Given these dynamics, I am grateful for these maps as a good starting point. For instance, Bend is way too big to be in one district, and the way it was split was smart in the Congress-Plan A. It is a clear improvement on how it was split for the last decade. The needs of Bend are as diverse as the surrounding communities, such as Redmond, Madras and Prineville.

Additionally, House and Senate Plan C use Highway 97 and The Deschutes River as a line to draw districts, which takes into account two boundaries that already exist.

It is important to know that Deschutes County is the fastest growing region in Oregon in the past decade. With that comes an abundance of community changes, and our maps need to reflect that. Bend, and the surrounding communities of Sisters, Black Butte Ranch and Eagle Crest, are highly dependent on the tourism and recreation industries. These industries sustain our communities. To best serve our population, these areas need to be reflected in the district lines. Bend is not an island and should not be treated as such, like in House Plan B. Along these lines, Redmond is not Bend, and is much more akin to Prineville, so a separation between the two just makes sense.

Furthermore, it is important to note that Bend itself is divided along Highway 97 and along Highway 20/Newport Ave. Both of these are major roads that I use daily to drive to school, drop my kids off, go grocery shopping, or enjoy the many activities Bend has to offer. These are both thoroughfares that connect our town, but also divide it. East of Highway 97 needs more affordable housing while West of Highway 97 needs updated infrastructure to accommodate our booming tourist economy. One cannot exist without the other. None of the proposed Senate and House plans take Highway 20 into account.

Given the above factors, Congress Plan A is the most logical. House and Senate Plan C both need to include a line along Highway 20 to best connect our tourism and outdoor recreation industries.

The redistricting committee has a great opportunity to ensure that our congress, house, and senate maps are redrawn in a way that best serves our state and the unique communities that make up Oregon's largest Congressional District.

Once again, my genuine thanks for your service and work on this extremely important issue. The maps presented are a great start and I sincerely request that you consider my testimony today about my community when finalizing maps.

Respectfully,

