

My name is Joanna Harbour and I reside outside of the town of Estacada, which is within the current Congressional District 3, Senate District 20, and House District 39. I have lived here for 31 years, including time away for college and law school. I am currently self-employed and work out of my home. Previously I had a law firm in the town of Estacada. I am writing this testimony because of the importance that redistricting has to my community, in fact to all communities. The importance of keeping communities of interest together and not dissecting them resulting in the diminishing of their voices is paramount.

Clackamas County is a mostly rural county. The cities are not very large with the largest population being Lake Oswego at 40,731. The Oregon City zip code is about 51,000, which includes outside the city limits, within the city it is 37,572. Multnomah County is mostly urban. Portland is 652,503, however in 2000 it was 468,177 of that was within Multnomah County. Gresham has 114,247 and Parkrose 68,000. These 3 areas in Multnomah alone far out-pace the sizes of cities within Clackamas. Only within the actual cities and small towns does Clackamas have infrastructure like sidewalks, sewers, water, and more. Many families do not have those services but instead rural roads, wells, and septic tanks. We do not have many bicycle lanes. It is not uncommon to be slowed down by a tractor while you are just trying to get to the super market. In fact, many have to drive miles to reach stores, gas stations, and other amenities. So, pairing any part of Clackamas as maps A and C does, drowns out the voice of the rural citizens.

Last year is a great example of the difference. Many parts of Clackamas had to evacuate due to wildfires. In fact, some evacuated to places they later had to evacuate from again and when you have livestock that is a problem. Many homes were destroyed and families are still in the rebuilding phase of their nightmare. Multnomah County had to deal with the smoke from the incident but they do not need the resources to rebuild as Clackamas does. Also, in evacuating from Estacada there were so many people that it took hours to travel what usually takes 30 minutes. We need resources to open more avenues of exit from our rural communities, again not a problem for Multnomah. Additionally, I was warned to “get out now” do not take time to pack when I was already 30 minutes down the road because a neighbor gave me a heads-up hours earlier so I could pack a few important things and get all my animals. (By the way because I was driving the message to evacuate was left on a voice message). We need resource to improve the timing of our evacuation notices (since a few neighbors knew, the system should have been putting out warning messages sooner to pack, and then it could have done the “get out now” message) and also, improve the communication between those working the front lines, as I have heard that was also an issue.

The residents of rural Clackamas generally are concerned with wildfires, covid, lockdowns, the loss of mom-and-pop businesses, rising crime rates (in the towns), access to supplies and goods, affordable housing, and being ignored for the big city issues. The residents of urban Multnomah generally are concerned with homeless crisis, rising crime rates, traffic, covid, lockdown, and affording housings to name a few. The things the two regions share in common are the things the entire country share covid, lockdown, and affordable housing. If you remove the pandemic the main concerns are not the same.

There is only so much money to go around and diluting the rural vote means their problems do not get addressed.

According to the census Multnomah's population is 79% white and Clackamas is 88.9%. When you dip down into Clackamas to include it with Multnomah you are increasing the proportion of white and decreasing the amount of all other races making the districts more white overall. When you factor in Wasco County 91% and Deschutes County 94.1% (only part of Deschutes is part of CD3 in Map A) it becomes even whiter. The addition of Jefferson County cannot help balance it out even though the white population is 75.9% because it is the smallest county by population. For Jefferson County the next biggest segment of population is American Indian and Alaska Native at 18.3%, which is different than the makeup of Multnomah. The addition of Wasco, Deschutes, and Clackamas diminishes the voice of the people of color by adding more white people to the mix. Map B has Multnomah County mostly by itself, preserving the voice of those within its district and the portion that is not within that district is in a district with Washington County, which has similar demographics like 79.6% "White alone" population. Like communities of all kinds from races and urban v. rural to name a few, need to be kept together and not divided up.

The Congressional Map A unfairly brings Bend into the fold; it adds parts of Multnomah, Clackamas, all of Wasco, Jefferson, and parts of Deschutes together. This is more than just the urban rural divide. Jefferson county has a lower minimum wage than the other counties. There literally are not common roads. No shared history or memories between these areas, other than state-wide and nation-wide ones. This map literally makes no sense from a community and group stand point.

Congressional Map B keeps whole counties together and tribal reservation boundaries, with a few exceptions due to population. It definitely keeps communities together. It is divided so both the Urban and Rural will get a voice. It does not trickle down to include more white communities and thereby diluting the representation for persons of color. Congressional Map B keeps communities of interest together to guarantee that everyone gets representation.

Legislative and Senate B maps also keeps communities of interest together better than A or C. With Legislative House District Plan B and Senate District Plan B maps the rural vote will not be drowned out. These maps allow for every voice to be heard and everyone to be equally represented.

I respectfully request that you allow all residents to be represented and not have their voices lost by combining communities that do not belong together. Therefore, I request that map B for all districts be implemented.

Joanna Harbour