

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

For the record my name is Caryn Connolly, my pronouns are she/her and I live in Salem, Oregon Congressional district 5 and have for the past 14 years.

I want to begin by thanking the members of this committee. I know that it must be tough to produce thoughtful maps that try to capture the growth of our communities around the state. I know there are a lot of intricacies to drawing new district lines, but that's why it's so important to get it right.

For instance, we have many Chemeketa Community College students that live and work in Salem. Chemeketa Community College is an important local resource for career and technical education, including for winemaking which is such a central industry for the Willamette Valley. The college reflects the diversity of our community and as an institution of higher learning for Salem it is a key resource for many of my fellow neighbors to a more affordable education. As an educator, I know that it is important for our educational communities to advocate for improved services and it will be possible if we have lines drawn that make sure those voices are uplifted.

Cordon Road is a good dividing line for a district— communities on each side are different. That's why I like Map C. It is important to make sure that we capture this in future versions of the maps this committee works on. In addition, Interstate 5 and the farming communities along it are central to this area and I like that Map C respects that.

Once again, thanks so much for your service and your work on this important issue. These maps are a great start. Please keep in mind what I have shared about my community when finalizing maps.

Caryn Connolly