

To the members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committee:

I am writing to urge that the Oregon Coast be treated as a “community of interest” as new legislative districts are drawn. Coastal communities – particularly on the central coast - have much in common with lifestyle, economics, and transportation. Consistently, one-third of our population is over age 65. Our jobs are focused in tourism, fishing, and hospitality. We are connected by a single highway. And we all face the looming threat of a major seismic and tsunami event.

I live in the current House District 10. Proposals advanced by the committees would stretch our district inland to Sheridan in Yamhill County, Philomath in Benton County, Monroe in Lane County, or Falls City in Polk County. To reach Falls City it is necessary to drive outside the current district.

Incorporating valley communities into coastal districts would minimize coastal voices in the legislature as would pairing us with farming communities and bedroom communities to larger I-5 cities.

A better crafting of House District 10 would run from the Tillamook City limits (the current HD 10 boundary) to Florence, including all of Lincoln County and coastal portions of southern Tillamook and northern Lane Counties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Wahlke, Lincoln City