

To the members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge that the Oregon Coast be treated as one “community of interest” when drawing new legislative districts. Coastal communities—particularly on the central coast—have many lifestyle, economic, and transportation issues in common. Consistently, one-third of our population is over age 65. Our jobs are focused in tourism, fishing, and hospitality; and our services struggle to survive the seasonality that is a character of this coastal economy. As one cohesive district, we can better represent ourselves with a narrower and more united focus, threaded together by a single important highway. And looming over all other coastal issues is the 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 certainly minimizes our coastal voice in the legislature. Likewise, pairing us with farming communities and bedroom communities of larger I-5 cities with such dissimilar issues and influence in state politics certainly will overshadow our input and needs. 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 Woodruff, Councilor
City of Waldport
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