

Congressional District 5 Redistricting Hearing
9-13-2021 @ 8:00 am
Written Testimony

My name is Tina Turner-Morfitt. I currently live in Congressional District 5. I am a 65 year old Black female retiree from the Department of Corrections after 38 years of service. I am a Willamette University graduate, Class of '78. I have been a political activist my entire work life and still remain so during my retirement.

I would like to thank the Redistricting Committee for the ability to submit testimony regarding the proposed legislative and congressional changes based on the 2020 US Census.

I would also like to applaud you on your efforts to provide a transparent and inclusive process, albeit difficult to follow at times. Your efforts have enabled the general public the ability to review and connect the dots during this very daunting process. The act of redrawing the legislative and congressional district lines is a process proven to be not for the faint at heart.

In order to meet the multiple thresholds set forth within this exercise each submission must pass an integrity test. Each submission encounters multiple factors and requires strict focus to legislative guidelines. It should take into account the actual growth over the past 10 years and also take into consideration shifting population patterns. A successful redistricting process should not dilute communities of common interest and should not serve to minimize the strength of the fastest growing population in Oregon.

My testimony today is in support of the adoption of the Albina Soul District Plan.

The Albina Soul District Plan gives deference to the growth of the communities of color, which are reflective of the largest growth cited in Oregon according to the Census. It also takes into consideration the Black flight that has occurred within Multnomah County, resulting in the relocation of Black families to areas outside of the central Portland area. The proposed Albina Soul District Plan maintains the contiguous lines of like communities of interest. The proposed map connects the current State House districts 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, and 59.

The proposed plan unifies and strengthens the voices and concerns within the communities of color and working low income families.

In closing, I must post an objection against Plan B, in that it only serves to create division in Congressional District 5. Congressional District 5 should remain intact, allowing the surrounding communities to maintain their inherent independence. The end result is that the congruent lines create a competitive effort amongst the residents to become more engaged in the electoral process.

Again the adoption of the Albina Soul District plan supports a plan that doesn't simply follow the guidelines to create political dominance for any set party, but incorporates a process of increased representation of the changing demographics that created the additional congressional seat. Given the growth over the past 10 years, it is far past time to give deference to Oregon's increasing diverse population. If not now, then when?

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina Turner-Morfitt