

TESTIMONY OF DON GENTRY, KLAMATH TRIBES CHAIRMAN  
BEFORE THE HOUSE and SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEES

SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2021

Good afternoon, Co-Chairs Salinas and Taylor and members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees. My name is Don Gentry and I am Chairman of the Klamath Tribes, headquartered in Chiloquin, in the traditional homeland of Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Paiute peoples. I live in Klamath Falls.

Our people have lived in what is now Klamath County since time immemorial. Although being scattered in the 1950's and '60's resulting from the Termination Act, nearly half of our people live in Klamath County within our aboriginal territory. Our Treaty hunting, fishing, and gathering rights remain intact in the 1954 Klamath Reservation area, which is wholly within Klamath County.

Thank you for doing this critical work to improve representation for our people and for all Oregonians.

Almost all the proposed redistricting plans make very beneficial changes to the districts in Klamath County. Our county now is divided into two House districts. This splits our tribal members between the district that includes Klamath Falls and the one that includes Chiloquin. We currently have 1,440 members living in Klamath Falls and 745 members in the next district to the north. We do not know why this splitting was done but it divided our people in a harmful way. We are grateful that the maps in every plan but House Plan C correct this dilution of our voting strength.

Senate Plan A has our support because it has the benefit of placing our people in the same new Senate District as the Warm Springs Reservation and Madras, where many Warm Springs and some of our Klamath tribal members live. This would allow us to combine our votes with our relatives to the north and improve our odds of being better represented in Salem.

We do not have a position on any proposed plan overall at this time. We urge you to adopt the portion of Senate Plan A that includes new Senate District 28 and the portion of House Plan A that includes new House District 55, provided it would be in the new Senate District 28 of Senate Plan A.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on this important effort. Wishing you success in redrawing the maps in a manner they will better serve our Oregon citizens.