

By: Anthony "Tony" Pokorny  
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Good morning to all those who read my testimony. The following is my account and concerns about representation to communities all across the State of Oregon. I come to you, like many other fellow Oregonians who are overall angry, even livid, about what representation our respected communities are being represented. The writing and drawing of the district lining has caused a great anguish among Oregonians all across the State of Oregon to the point of desiring to rip the huge part of the State line to joining another state, Idaho.

Is this really what is needed? Better asked: Is this what has to happen? Would such an idea of altering state lines bring embarrassment to Oregon? I would think that such a notion would be embarrassing to every Oregonian Representative. Is it possible that much of Oregon's anger is centered on district lines? My answer: I believe that the re-drawing of the lines over the past 20 to 30 years have a great deal to do with the anguish that Oregon is expressing.

We, Oregonians, are all in one big community. Oregon is diverse with many differing ideals, races, religions, and so forth. It's called democracy. The greatest idea to implement the idea of democracy is the United States of American, and Oregon is just one state part of that great idea.

What lacks in Oregon is diversity. There is a lack of debate between the parties. There is a lack of diversity.

My main point is how the lines have been drawn over the past 20 years or better. My main exemplifying I point out in Lane County, specifically centered around Eugene, dominantly Democrat, while influencing through line drawing much of the surrounding areas from multiple districts that are not as much, or at all, Democrat at all. Due to the current lines, Oakridge, Creswell, Junction City, most of Springfield and all the way from Lane-Deschutes county line to Florence on the Coast, from Linn-Benton down to nearly Roseburg is Democrat led. But, is that accurate? Far from it.

Eugene is perhaps the only Democrat stronghold in for Lane County, likely the only southern most in Oregon. Everywhere else, Oakridge, Creswell, Roseburg, Florence, Junction City and majority of non-metro areas are Conservative. These communities are not being represented, and if at all, very little. Some are completely ignored by their reps. One such community that is not represented near as I can tell, and the election and response shows very much of lack of representing like Oakridge.

I might live in Depoe Bay, Oregon but, only for the past year as of October 2021. Prior, I have lived majority of my 40+ years living in Oakridge, Oregon.

The main general lining in effect has gerrymandering, basically cutting up Democrat led areas, like Eugene, into something like pizza slices, and extending the districts upon rural communities like Junction City, Oakridge and many other smaller communities. It is lining as this that disfranchises those who are more mostly Conservative in nature. From Oakridge, the main complaint is being bullied by Eugene in regards to representatives.

Looking at House Plan for District #7 as example, Plans A and C both have rural communities, like Oakridge, being influenced by Eugene. It really makes almost an easy campaign for any Democrat to represent District #7 as they would only have to campaign around the University of Oregon neighborhood, and have enough votes to always suppress the rest of the district even if the rest of the district is conservative. How is that fair? How is that diverse?

House Plan B keeps Eugene out of rural communities. In fact, Plan B does more to represent far more diverse of Oregon's communities. Granted, I am not very well verse about Portland and Salem areas, but

it still keeps those Democrat strongholds from being pizza slicing metro areas. This district lining plan, Plan B, would bring diversity back to Oregon, something that Oregon boasts and brags about.

The added problem in effect afterwards, in the end results, is ghosting smaller communities that are just as important as neighboring larger communities. Oakridge has been such a community that has been ghosted by representation, a community that has been falling a part and forgotten. Nearly 30 years ago, the mills left due to Democrat ran policies. Since then, Oakridge has crunched down in jobs. Everywhere I have been in past couple of weeks, from Lincoln City down to Florence, to Eugene, Corvallis, Junction City, Eugene, Springfield; all have help wanted and now hiring signs. Everywhere but Oakridge. Oakridge has not have a help wanted sign posted in 30 years, and by current district lining, overall, considered Democrat, when Oakridge is actually Republican.

I believe that the current state of Oakridge is in part due to and because of how the district lining has been drawing up. A lot of other communities have been seeing the same thing as well. Oakridge used to be known as "Heart of the Timber Empire" once upon a time, now nothing more than a pin cushion poorly represented and nearly jobless to be erased from the map because of Eugene's influences.

Additionally, Oakridge, like other smaller rural communities, have little in common with larger communities. Looking at some of the basic requirements in district line drawing, common interests, travel, culture and so forth is part of the recognition in line drawing for these districts. Eugene has nothing in common with Oakridge, or other rural communities near by. Oakridge, Cottage Grove, Creswell, and smaller communities largely contend with a livelihood in agriculture as a living; Eugene and other larger communities utilize agriculture as a hobby. That is a huge difference. Farms going on for acres upon acres, cropland for acres. Urban setting have a little backyard garden on quarter acre, including the house. Big difference. Even music tends to be different, country music in rural settings, and gangster rap in urban settings.

With all due respect, in blunt simple terms so as to keep it short: Draw the lines to represent the communities and bring back diversity as it should be, that will bring back democracy that has been lost. The districting lines are designed to represent community interest, or communities of similar interest. Eugene has it's own culture and interest. The neighboring communities have completely different interests and culture. Pushing the lining to influence other smaller communities or other communities to be like Eugene is merely a form of bullying and neglect of diversity.

Lastly, I want to take the moment to thank you for your time in allowing my testimony to be heard and considered for the record, and additionally, I thank you for your hard work. In my appreciation and gratitude, please bring democracy and diversity back. To do that, these drawing of the lines is a start towards that.

Best Regards

Anthony "Tony" Pokorny  
Registered Voter of Depoe Bay