

Dear Chair Salinas and Committee members

My name is Theresa Muth and I am a Columbia County resident, born and raised in Scappoose. My community looks very different today than the one in which I was raised. Our interests and demographics have substantially changed over the years, but this has been especially noticeable during the last decade.

The mills and the pickle factory are gone. The vast majority of Columbia County residents now commute to Portland, Beaverton and beyond. Thousands are employed by Nike and Intel and other high-tech companies. Many of those who work locally tend to work in river or mining related occupations

Columbia County is a hidden gem. The natural beauty and riparian areas of Multnomah Channel, Scappoose Bay and Columbia River draw people here. I am a top-producing real estate agent with John L. Scott Realty and since I began my career in 2015 I have sold over 100 homes. Our young families are no longer comprised of just lifelong county residents. People from all over the Portland area are drawn to the small town feel, recreational access to the river and reasonable home prices.

All of this growth and the influx from the Portland metro area means that what binds our community together also has changed. Scappoose is no longer a community of just loggers and fishermen, but rather residents who love to live, work and recreate along the river corridor.

New residents often find our community through their love of the water. St Helens, Warren, Scappoose and Sauvie Island residents take advantage of the multiple opportunities to bird watch, fish, kayak and participate in other water sports. The demand for housing far outweighs the supply. As Scappoose grows so will our community of former Portlanders

I respectfully request you consider our changing river community's interests when your committee works to redraw district lines.

Sincerely,

Theresa Muth