

CoChairs Taylor, Knope, Cochairs Salinas and Boshart-Davis and members of the redistricting committees,

My name is Marchel Hirschfield, my pronouns are she/her, and I am a Hillsboro and Congressional District 1 resident. I have lived in Washington County for the majority of my 11 years in Oregon. I am a single mom of 2 boys ages 8 and 5 who attend Ladd Acres Elementary School in Hillsboro. Despite Asian and Pacific Islander's being a fast growing population in Washington County, that representation is not reflected in the teachers and administration in my children's elementary school or in our local elected officials. However, we are here; we've been here! I love that my children have access to Ka Mo'olelo classes up the street that was put together by a community member who saw the need to teach our children. Ka Mo'olelo is the teaching of stories, myths, legends, and history of Pacific Islanders. It is important that my children be in community with other Asian and Pacific Islanders that are rooted and being raised with the culture, traditions, and values that have been carried forward through our ancestors. This space and its participants are a community of interest through practicing our cultural traditions and being in community together.

In the last 11 years I have seen Washington County's API community grow. I see more local food trucks and small businesses opening and owned by neighbors and community members, new and old. I am sure that the 2020 census data will reflect the growth that I see and live everyday.. My kids point out every time we are driving and they see a Hawaiian sticker on a car. But to actually be in community, I have to look hard for it because we are not organized via traditional means but rather through mutual understanding of being other in such a white dominated state. I know that my community is here but we are still lacking our seat at the table where decisions are being made about our ability to thrive and grow.

Throughout this process I believe these three key things should be at the forefront of consideration: 1) impacted communities need to be centered in the process and outcome. 2) Oregon voters have implemented backstops for this exact kind of situation 3) Feeling represented in your district.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages the API community and that it responds to our growing needs. It's impossible to include the most impacted communities without a larger effort to engage them. Our people do not always see a flyer or one-pager on such a complex issue that will have impact for the next 10 years. This is a complicated process that requires education, and a deeper understanding of the impacts of redistricting. The Legislature's process for engaging Oregon communities in redistricting is going to be critical.

Thank you,  
Marchel Hirschfield