

Chairs Taylor, Salinas, Vice-Chair Knopp, Boshart-Davis, and Committee members;

I have two different concerns from a personal point of view.

The first regards my own district and the 'shadow' criterion of competition, in combination with the common criteria of Communities of Interest. I am a long-time registered Independent voter. Aside from other obstacles, it can be problematic in getting your voice heard when outside of a party. I live in congressional district 2 which spreads from the border of California to the border of Washington State. In reality, the size is not a problem for the voters, but the lack of diverse views in district 2 (basically the entire east of Oregon) leaves it rather uncompetitive. Many other Oregon districts may be uncompetitive as well, but lean in a different political direction. I encourage successful representation through competitive districts as much as possible.

Like most Oregonians I am hoping for an extra seat with the new census. But while a new seat might drastically change these borders, it may be that the bigger changes come from other areas, due to population. If this eastern/southern district #2 remains mostly intact, I think it is important to keep Ashland and Bend in that same district. Most likely, it will still remain uncompetitive, but if Ashland or Bend (both strong environmentally-minded, outdoor and arts centered and relatively 'left-leaning' areas) were removed from the same district, it would become an **overwhelmingly** 'safe district' where many voters have no voice. Combining Ashland with areas like Coos Bay or Roseburg would have the same effect on Ashland; reducing or eliminating voices.

With both thanks and deference to the job that is being done with these public hearings, I would like to call for support of an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRV) or at the least a Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC).

Before moving to Oregon about 5 years ago, I was very involved with the Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) in Arizona. I helped work on the initial campaigns, attended several public hearings and attended the MAJORITY of their map-drawing sessions, which were both numerous and close to all-day sessions. Additionally, as president of League of Women Voters of Arizona, I co-chaired a public mapping contest, which demonstrated how valuable citizen input can be.

Admittedly, as a leader in the effort to adopt independent redistricting commissions, Arizona made mistakes setting up their IRC (or ICRV as it is referred to in Oregon). Perhaps most notably is the size of the commission (5 members, and only one independent – the chair). In Oregon, the proposal from "**People, not Politicians**" avoids this pitfall, and many others. It is a well thought-out and detailed roadmap for better and consistently fair mapping. I hope that you all will find it reasonable, practicable and effective to support such a change in Oregon law. The Legislature has plenty of other work on which to concentrate.

Thank you again for these public hearings and the opportunity for voters to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Barbara Klein
(Ashland OR)