

I live in Jackson County, which is about evenly split between Republicans and Democrats. Yet Oregon's huge Congressional District 2 gives undue influence to far-right areas of central and eastern Oregon.

Our newly elected US Representative Bentz is a perfect case in point: he voted not to recognize the results of the 2020 presidential election, thus encouraging the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol and our democracy. Why should I be represented by a traitor?

Bentz beat a very weak Democratic candidate with only 53.77% of the vote in Jackson County. Thus the votes and voices of the 46.33% of Jackson County citizens who did not vote for Bentz were dismissed.

This is not how democracy functions. Geographically, Jackson County should obviously be in District 4. Or, if the unwieldy District 2 is divided, Jackson County should be kept with Deschutes Country so Democratic voices can be heard in central Oregon.

Of course, an *independent* redistricting commission should make redistricting decisions based on common sense and fairness, not political gerrymandering.

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