

This is written testimony from Craig Martell of Baker City, Oregon in response to the CD2 Redistricting Hearing.

I am from Baker City, so I live in State Senate District 30 and Congressional District 2. In redrawing these districts, please consider two factors above all else: proximity and highway connections.

In regard to Senate District 30, these two factors dictate that Baker City and La Grande, only 44 miles apart on Interstate 84, belong in the same district. As lines are currently drawn, Senate District 30 is a grotesque gerrymandered monstrosity. It would have been more geographically sensible for House Districts 57 and 59 to be one senate district, and House Districts 58 and 60 to be another senate district.

In regard to CD 2, northeast Oregon does not belong in the same district as southwest Oregon. Enterprise is closer to Bozeman, Montana than it is to Medford. State Highway 140 connects southwest Oregon communities, so Lake, Klamath, Josephine, Jackson, and Douglas counties all belong in one congressional district. Northeast Oregon towns are connected by Interstate 84, so this district could extend past Hood River and into Multnomah County. Many of us in Baker County have business, job, and family relationships with Multnomah County. Very few of us have any connection to the Medford area, with such a large distance being too much of an obstacle.