

Hello,

My name is John Zielinski, I live just Northeast of Salem. I am a registered voter and feel compelled to testify about the redistricting that will happen here in Oregon.

As a farmer and a person who is part of a small rural community I feel that it is important to be sure that farm and ranch families are kept in districts where their voices are collectively strong and represented, not diluted by drawing them into districts with higher population density and different needs and perspectives! Group people by the needs of their local community. Agriculture dependent rural communities need to be grouped together so their concerns are heard and represented by elected people with similar needs from their community.

The divide between urban and rural continues to grow. Rural communities should be able to elect people who know and live with the same concerns. If district lines are drawn that attach rural areas to urban areas the rural residents will not be represented well.

Oregon is a mix of urban and rural, please make sure that both are represented by people that have their best interest at the top of their mind. I was sorely disappointed that the bipartisan ballot initiative to address redistricting failed. I fully support a constitutional amendment to establish an independent nonpartisan or bi partisan commission to draw districts.

Thank you for your time,
John Zielinski