

Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Vice-Chairs Knop and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees,

For the record my name is Brando Martin, my pronouns are he/him and I live in Marion County, Congressional District 5.

I have lived in Keizer for my entire life and only until recently has my hometown actually begun to feel like home. I currently work with renters and tenants in Marion County, who are facing many crises as the pandemic persists and the deadline for the current statewide eviction moratorium approaches. District 5 encompasses several counties, but today I'm speaking as a resident and community member of Marion County.

A community of interest refers to a group of people with a common set of concerns that may be affected by legislation. I believe the voice of the low-income renting community in Marion County needs to be heard and is a significant community of interest as we share concerns with one another and are deeply affected by legislation. Part of the required redistricting criteria is to not divide a community of interest. And as Marion County and specifically Salem continues to develop, longtime residents who rely on and need affordable housing should not be forgotten or divided in any redistricting proposals.

It is my hope that the committee considers how the current iteration of Congressional District 5 is serving, or not serving, low-income renters and how any redistricting proposal would affect this community. Throughout all of District 5, not just Marion County, the need for affordable housing is dire and blatant. I speak and work daily with tenants in this district who cannot find or access affordable housing. Public housing authorities, like the Salem Housing Authority, have closed their wait lists because the wait time can be up to 2 years long.

As new buildings, both commercial and residential, continue to be developed throughout District 5, these questions must be asked: Who do these buildings serve? Which communities have access to and benefit from this expansion and development? How will redistricting proposals for District 5 consider plans for urban development, affordable housing, and residential growth, especially for low-income renters?

As this process continues and testimonies continue to be shared, I hope that if or when Congressional District 5 undergoes change, it will be for the benefit of all residents, including renters and tenants, so that District 5 can feel like home for all. I also hope that the committee makes use of alternative data, such as that provided by school districts, to inform their decision making process.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that low-income renting communities are heard. Thank you for your time and work on this issue, and I'm happy to answer any questions.

Brando Martin