

3/16/21

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

For the record my name is Debbie Denise Cabrales, my pronouns are She, her, hers and Ella, and I live in Marion County congressional district 5. Woodburn will forever be my home, and it is important to me because I live among people who speak my language, look like me, and share the same struggles as I do.

One of the main struggles is not being able to have more elected officials that look and represent people who look like me, which is why I decided to run for Woodburn City Council. We all know that in order to make a change in the community, it takes everyone to be involved, which means getting people that have the same background as we do to represent us.

I trust that the Legislature is the best body to do redistricting because as an elected official we know our communities and what they need. At the moment the way the commission is structured, it would exclude so many people like myself and those in my community that should be involved. Without a dedicated process to do a commission there would be a lot of labor asked without compensation. There are extreme barriers for our community members to be involved in the commission due them having families of their own and having to work. Our community doesn't come from generational wealth, and as much as they would love to be a part of these conversations and commissions, they just can't take time off of work. We should also note that there aren't any examples of maps showing what the redistricting would look like, which makes things really difficult for our community to understand what the change will be. Which is why we should ask ourselves, how can we have a commission without actual representation of the communities that we are trying to redistrict?

I would just like everyone here to know that it feels so amazing being able to walk through downtown Woodburn and be able to support our small business, eat amazing foods and deserts, and be around people who represent my culture and community.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages our Latinx community and that it responds to our growing needs. The Legislature's process for engaging Oregon communities in redistricting is going to be critical.

Thank you very much for your time and work on this issue, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Debbie D. Cabrales