

March 18, 2021

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

For the record my name is Karina Guzmán Ortiz, my pronouns are she/her/ella and I reside on the land of the Kalapuya, now known as Marion County. I am represented by Senator Patterson and Representative Moore-Green. I have been in the general Salem area since the young age of 4, when I would join my parents in strawberry fields across the Willamette-valley and wait in the car with my younger sister while they picked berries on their knees.

I grew up on the Northeastern side of town, where you can find the Mexican mercados with piñatas hanging above your head, the carniceria (meat shop) with the store owner who makes you feel like you are in the Mexican fresh market. I grew up attending our public schools. Schools with hundreds of students of color from many ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Our community has grown and we have expanded throughout town, now that I live on the Southeast end I am glad to have fresh fruits and vegetables available from the small mexican shops just a short drive away. Our schools have also seen a slow but growing number of educators that represent the diverse student body. Our community is constantly changing, however, we continue to lack representation from our elected officials at all levels.

- It is important to consider that this area is home to people of various ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. We are working class people who are impacted by systemic racism and who face barriers to access health, educational, and economic resources every single day. I am a mother of two, and I know that for my children's identity development it has been important to be in a community that reflects the language, the food, and the culture that they see and hear at home. Until COVID-19 hit, we would gather with dozens of other families of Mexican and Latin American descent as a part of a local organization to plan cultural community events, practice and perform our traditional dances and music, cook and celebrate our traditions together. My children know their roots and are proud of who they are. I want this to continue to be the norm for everyone in my community and across Oregon. It is important that our communities not be split apart- that we have state and local level representation of our people. Growing up in N. Salem and seeing a woman of color represent our community has been empowering.
- As you move forward with this redistricting process please keep the following in consideration. 1) We need to have impacted communities be centered

throughout the entirety of this process because the outcome will have long-term impact on real lives and people. We are not mere numbers and 2) Genuine representation of community matters.

- It is important that you stay engaged and in communication with community until we have census-data driven maps to move forward with. In the meantime, we can use data from the PSU Population Research Center, the American Community Survey and from our school districts and housing developments to begin this process .
- We need concrete visuals and information to have our community engage, examples of maps would be helpful. In my community lie people of different languages and literacy levels, this is true for our rural and suburban areas. It is important that as a committee you make conscious effort to ensure the accessibility of this process to all people.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages our BIPOC, Latinx, and multilingual community and that it responds to our growing needs.

Thank you very much for your time and work on this issue.

Karina Guzmán Ortiz