

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

For the record my name is Anthony Veliz and I live in Woodburn, OR in Marion County, District 5. My grandparents arrived in Woodburn in 1946 as farmworkers. My family has been in Woodburn and now beyond for 5 generations! As Rep. Alonso Leon mentioned, Woodburn is the largest minority/majority community in Oregon, with over 60% of its population who identify as Latino/a/x. By the 2030 Latinos will grow to between 800,000 - 1,000,000 Oregonians, in both rural and urban communities.

- I was fortunate enough to learn from the best, farm workers, when it came to ensuring representation and the importance of public service. My grandparents' generation fought to be seen and heard. Unfortunately, equitable representation was out of reach.
- Two generations later, I have served as the first Latino ever elected to the school board, only the second Latino ever elected to the city council and just coming off my eighth and final year on the State Board of Education, 5th Congressional District. So I know how critically important it is to have representation!
- We have seen how when a community comes together, we can build political power that will allow us to be represented. Our communities of interest in Woodburn share interests beyond just ethnic, racial, and economic groups.
- This is why it's important that throughout this process, we should center impacted communities in the process and outcome. We can do this by using data that is already available such as the American Community Survey, school districts and housing developments across the state. Oregon voters have already implemented backstops for this exact kind of situation so that we can continue this process. Feeling represented in your district is important to my community and we see it with our elected officials in all levels of governance.
- In closing, I along with Frank Garcia, Jr. participated in the redistricting of what is now HD22 in hopes that we would someday elect someone who could represent the growing Latino community. I think that aspiration was fulfilled.

I look forward to working with this committee, the Oregon legislature and our communities to ensure that redistricting engages the Latino/a/x communities statewide 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.