

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

For the record my name is Tryna Muilenburg and I live in the small town of Metolius outside of Madras in Congressional District 2. I work as a personal support worker for my adult aged daughter who is disabled. I have lived here for over 25 years - moving from Corvallis to take a job with the Warm Springs Reservation early childhood education programs. I feel deeply embedded in this community. The work I have done I know provides a great service to other people. I have served off and on the city council and feel a civic responsibility as well. So thank you for serving as well.

I am happy to have the opportunity to testify about redistricting. This process is important to me because I know the state can shape what sort of representation communities like mine will have in the State legislature and in Federal congress for the next decade. Redistricting impacts everything from what laws are passed to which projects get funded to help our communities thrive, and to how much funding our cities and counties and districts receive from the state and from congress.

I have been reading that the Census delays will negatively affect how this process works. But I think it is great that the legislature is taking the opportunity to hear from Oregonians about our communities. And it is important that we also have a chance to give more meaningful input once there is more information and data publicly available. So, I urge this committee to make other types of data available sooner rather than later so we can start understanding population dynamics well in advance of receiving the census data in September.

My personal beef is that as a resident of Metolius and Senate District 30 – I share an elected office holder - State Senator who is asked to represent a tremendously vast and complicated area. From up north to The Dalles up on the Columbia River through the Warm Springs Reservation; Madras; and across the expanse east through mountain ranges to include Baker City; Burns and Ontario. It is close to 300 miles from The Dallas to Ontario and yes – it is sparsely populated eastern Oregon. But our area has communities of interest that need recognition. We in Central Oregon shop; recreate; worship and have relationships here – whether in Madras; Redmond and south to Bend and LaPine, east to Prineville or west to Sisters. Those in eastern Oregon are on a different sphere and some parts even share a mountain time zone with Idahoans. I am not ready to draw a map .... But I hope you will keep that in mind as we divvy up the state legislative seats. I hope you will specifically seek input from our tribal community members, in my region that's specifically the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Thank you again, and I hope that the legislature will continue to seek input about communities of interest and continue to try to educate ordinary citizens about this process in meaningful ways that allow ample time for true participation. It is important that the legislature consider that our communities are not monolithic and continue to seek detailed information that can't always be seen in the data alone. I look forward to watching your efforts and engaging working people in the process. Thank you for your time.

Tryna Muilenburg, Metolius, Oregon

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