

March 20, 2021

Sen. Kathleen Taylor
Chair, Senate Committee on Redistricting

Rep. Andrea Salinas
Chair, House Committee on Redistricting

Sen. Tim Knopp
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Redistricting
Redistricting

Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis
Vice-Chair, House Committee on

Dear Senators and Representatives,

My name is Laurie Gould and I have lived in Bend for nearly 35 years, and the Gould family has been in Bend for nearly 100 years. The City of Bend has changed a great deal in the 116 years since it was incorporated. It has grown from a small spot on the banks of the Deschutes River into the largest city in Eastern Oregon, sixth largest in the state.

But, as large as Bend has become, if you ask people where the center of town is, almost all of us would still point to Drake Park and the downtown that is the core of Bend.

Since 1991, the donut and donut-hole configuration has worked well for Bend and Deschutes County. The donut represents the smaller communities and rural areas of the county, while the hole gives the City of Bend the urban-focused representation it deserves. It's your task to create a balanced population within the state's house and senate districts and Deschutes County sits like a big, juicy population pie, ready to be sliced up to balance the population changes in eastern Oregon.

However, the City of Bend is a community of common interest – historically, economically, and culturally, and will remain a community of common interest into the future. It is an urban area, significantly different from its neighbors. Breaking apart our city outside of one senate district is

not to our benefit, nor to the benefit of the surrounding area which has its own unique issues and needs.

We need elected representatives who understand and are focused on the needs and challenges of an urban area, and who will be accountable for how well they help our city address those needs. We may be a burgeoning city that will soon fill a single senate district, but we are a city that has grown from its central core, and we ask that you keep our community together as much as you possibly can by following the historical pattern of Bend – growing out from the urban core along the banks of the Deschutes River.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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