

House Committee on Redistricting
March 20, 2021
John D. Curtis
14370 Hwy 62
Eagle Point, OR 97524

Good afternoon Chair Salinas, Vice Chair Boshart Davis, and members of the committee. My name is John Curtis. I have lived in southern Oregon for 65 years. I am severely disabled.

My Congressional District is OR2, my House District is 55 and my Senate District is 28. My State Representative lives three and a half hours away and my State Senator two hours. Needless to say, they seldom come over to my neck of the woods.

Being able to meet with my legislators is important to me. But the great distances between us make this impractical. Besides that, there is little commonality of interest shared with our respective communities. Although it is rural, Eagle Point is nothing like Beatty or Prineville.

I feel so left out when my Rogue Valley friends tell me how satisfying it is to meet with their state legislators personally at one-on-one coffees, meet and greets or town halls. Representative Democracy breaks down when the person-constituent gets separated from their legislator and can only participate in the process through mail, email or by phone. I know my communications will be quickly forgotten or easily dismissed. I sympathize with my fellow constituents who dread what I presently experience.

It has been far too long since my area has had local representation. Perhaps this will change in 2022.

Sincerely,

John D. Curtis