

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

For the record, my name is Cristal DeJarnac, my pronouns are she, her, and hers, I live in Bend and work as a Home Care Worker for my best friend. I have lived in Central Oregon for 9 years after moving here from Las Vegas in 2012, I have lived in Bend for 6 of those years. I moved here in order to be closer to my grandkids after my husband passed suddenly.

In that time, I have seen Bend's population grow and continue to outgrow its boundaries. There have been many changes with this growth, including our homeless population. We have affordable housing needs and infrastructure issues too. We need fair representation that will embrace this growth and lead us into a brighter future, we cannot just keep putting band-aids on these issues. That's why redistricting is so very important.

The things I love most about Central Oregon I feel are the same reasons we have had this growth, the sense of Community and the many outdoor activities, whether it's going for a drive along Cascades Lakes Highway, skiing or mountain biking Mt Bachelor, visiting the Breweries, participating in the many festivities that go on year-round in town or just floating the river. I've always been a big city girl coming from Southern California by way of Las Vegas. Being in Bend has the best of both worlds, we have most of the conveniences of a big city with the feel of a small town. I absolutely love it here and don't ever want to leave.

Thank you for hearing public testimony about redistricting. I am grateful that Oregon uses this deliberative process, and that you seek input from the public. "As a resident of House District 54 and Senate District 27 I know that we have seen amazing population growth, even without the official census numbers. It's evident in voter registration numbers, but also just when I look around my quickly changing community. Since the last census, we have had a huge number of remote workers move to Bend, a new Oregon State Cascades campus bringing in college students, and of course seen massive growth in our tourism economy. For example, as of January 2021 – Senate District 27 in Bend & Redmond had the most voters - 121,000 registered voters while most other Senate districts are under 105,000 registered voters. I know the district boundaries are going to have to change quite a bit to accommodate this growth. It's likely that Bend will need to be split into two House districts. And regardless of how this committee chooses to do it, I urge you to keep Bend united in a single Senate district.

Our community is unique and distinct from much of the rest of Congressional District 2, and we are even very different from our neighbors to the north in Redmond. Please continue to engage communities thoroughly through the duration of this process. I hope that along with listening to regular people like me, that this committee will start really digging into data, sooner rather than later, so we can have a thorough, well-vetted process and the fair, transparent redistricting process that Oregon and our legislative body has become well known for. I know that having representatives who understand what makes this region special is important to make sure this community gets the funding and resources it needs to thrive as we recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Please continue listening to the public and working hard to engage Oregonians who are often overlooked when it comes to political participation and representation - like low-income and working Oregonians, Black and Indigenous People of Color, immigrants, and non-English-speakers. As well as the essential and frontline workers like me, who are allowing people to live independently from institutionalized care with all of the problems we know exist - especially in this time of pandemic.

I look forward to continuing to watch and particulate in your work and am excited to watch how you continue to engage working people in the process. Thank you for your time.

Cristal DeJarnac