

My name is Nancy Boever and I am a resident of Bend, OR representing and speaking for myself and no group. I am testifying today to urge you to retain Bend, as a whole unit, when considering how to draw district boundaries.

Bend is an urban, cultural center within Central Oregon, giving it unique characteristics that deserve the undivided attention of its legislative representative in Salem. The issues that Bend faces in the areas of housing, transportation, education, and the opportunities it sees in tourism, business development and its vibrant and growing BIPOC community, all make it a growing urban center with uniquely urban opportunities and challenges that are distinct from its rural neighbors.

The rural needs of our neighbors deserve a dedicated representative that is steeped in the unique challenges and opportunities within the rural community of Central Oregon.

Each unique community, urban Bend and rural Deschutes County, deserves its own representative in Salem who will bring a rich knowledge of the specific needs of the community that they represent.

Housing and land use issues are vastly different for Central Oregon's urban and rural communities. Transportation challenges and urban growth opportunities require that Bend's advocate in Salem be chosen by the people of Bend.

Please retain Bend as wholly as possible within its own district. Given that some population of Bend may need to be split into another district, maintaining an urban focus for both districts will strengthen Bend. Our voices and our community's needs should not be diluted by an over-broad district that is too varied in its needs and we lose urban Bend representation in Salem.

thank you,
Nancy Boever