

My name is Sid Snyder. My family has lived in Bend and been actively engaged in civic affairs for eight years.

In that time, I have served on multiple task forces and advisory committees for the new OSU-Cascades Bend campus, the Residential Lands Technical Advisory Committee for the City of Bend UGB remand, and Bend's Citywide Transportation Advisory Committee. Those experiences have driven home the issues around Bend's rapid growth, the interconnectedness of Bend with the rest of Central Oregon, and the centrality of Bend in the economic, cultural, medical, educational, and transportation system development of the region.

We all know that Central Oregon is the fastest growing region in the state. It is also true that the city of Bend (and the city of Redmond) is growing at a much faster rate than the more rural portions of the region. To that end, it is critically important that representation in the state legislature reflect the increasingly urban nature of the city of Bend, both in the House and the Senate.

If the general form of House Districts 53 and 54 are to be retained, the geographical area of each will need to shrink significantly. We must ensure that representation for the increasing number of Bendites that will live in HD53 reflects the urban nature of the population.

Further, there is a Central Oregon identity. It is reflective of the interconnectedness of the region: the communities of the US97 and US20 corridors, the campuses of COCC and OSU-Cascades, the Bend-La Pine School District, Cascade East Transit, and the medical facilities that serve the entire region. I find it curious that the cities of Sisters and La Pine are not represented in the legislature by the same group of legislators that serve the rest of Central Oregon.

Finally, while we Central Oregonians are all connected, the needs of the rural areas of Central Oregon differ in important ways from those of the urban areas, and the population dominance of the urban sector argues for the need to have adequate representation for the rural populace. I'm not sure how you do that, but it is necessary. Good luck.

Thank you,

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