

Hello Redistricting Committee Members,

I live in La Pine, in Deschutes County, about a half hour south of Bend. I am in Congressional District 2, House District 55, and Senate District 28.

Here in La Pine, we have much more of a connection to Bend and to rural Deschutes county than we do to anywhere in our own house or senate district. By putting us in HD55 and SD28, we feel like a rounding error. We are not really represented, so I am asking you to please put us in house and senate districts with our neighbors in Deschutes County.

I'd like to address some of the categories specified in ORS 188.010:

Transportation Links. If we have to go anywhere outside of La Pine, whether for shopping, activities, or to see friends, we drive on highway 97 through rural Deschutes County to Bend. We are not connected by "transportation links" to other parts of our district, such as Prineville, Klamath Falls, or Butte Falls, any more than we are to any other part of the state. There is some limited public transit in La Pine, and it connects us to Sunriver and to Bend, not to other parts of HD55.

Communities of Interest. While this term is ambiguous, any possible definition of "community of interest" would tie us to the rest of Deschutes County, not to the rest of HD55.

Utilizing Existing Political and Geographic Boundaries. Currently, our district crosses multiple county lines, and even crosses the mountains. If existing boundaries were utilized then we'd be with other areas of Deschutes County.

We are in the same school district as Bend and the areas of rural Deschutes County in between Bend and La Pine. A school district is obviously a political boundary, and if our school district and our children don't constitute a "community of interest," then I can't imagine what does.

We share transportation links and communities of interest with the rest of rural Deschutes County and Bend, and if existing political boundaries were used, we'd be with our neighbors to the north, not in HD55. Perhaps most importantly, we do not feel represented in Salem.

I am asking you to please put La Pine and South Deschutes county in with the rest of the county. I realize the population of Bend is too high to put us in the same House District as Bend, but at least please put us in a house district with the rest of our community between Bend and the south county line, and in the same senate district as Bend.

Thank you,



Deren Ash