

April 5, 2021

Members of Redistricting Committee

I respectfully ask that you pass legislation to get the responsibility out of the hands of partisan legislators and into a nonpartisan, independent commission for redistricting. The impact of this decision will be felt for the next ten years.

As a 4th generation Oregonian, I have noticed that redistricting has become a huge issue to those of us living outside of any city limits. I grew up on a 300 acre ranch (in the same district as I currently live) and now live on a small ranch, I consider myself as living in "rural" Oregon. I live in Linn County, House District 11, and our district goes down into part of Lane County. Our community in Linn County has no real connection with Lane County and our representation has little in common with us. We need to have this district redrawn to allow for those of us in southern Linn County to be in a district with those with the same life style and concerns. With the current district boundaries, many of us in the farming areas have no real voice.

I witnessed a Town Hall in Halsey with our House Representative. It wasn't a good meeting, the farmers had questions that the Representative was unable to answer and many of his solutions created even more problems for the farmers. This Representative's ideas were totally biased against farmers. The farming communities deserve to have their voices heard and their concerns taken to heart.

It would be in the best interest of all of us to keep the cities and farming areas separate. Those of us in the farming communities have little in common with the urban areas of Lane County. We need to be in districts where we can work together and not against one another.

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