

Dear Committee Members,

First off I want to thank each of you for serving the people of Oregon. As a resident, homeowner, and business owner in US House District 5, I have grave concerns over how redistricting is handled. I have a very clear understanding of the reasons for this process, as well as, how the population has grown in some areas, and decreased in others. My major issue is in the practice of gerrymandering. This is a clear abuse of the system. It is no secret that Democrats currently control the State House and State Senate. And it would be a travesty if the Democrat caucus manipulated the new districts to increase their seats. After all, these are the same people who would have a major issue if these new lines were drawn in order give someone like President Trump a better chance of winning. Yes, it doesn't exactly work that way, but this does serve as a way to show fair and equal equity in how to choose how to draw these new lines.

It seems to me that since natural boundaries can only be used in very limited distances, and gerrymandering can be highly subjective, that a different approach should be explored. Something on the lines of a grid pattern. The size of each box in the grid would be set at the most densely populated area of 68,830 citizens. Then a grid of that sized boxes gets laid over the whole state map. Then each District is formed based on the population density, with the goal to keep the Districts as close to square as possible, with absolutely no regard for perceived political leanings of the area. Current District 60 would be a good example of this idea of sticking to a model of mostly square. Current Districts 22, 23, 25, 27, 44, and 49 would be poor examples of this, and are currently too much on the side of gerrymandering.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts. I challenge each of you to put Fairness, Equality, and Equity above political agenda and fight for the will of the people you work for. And that is, fair and honest politics.

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