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Chairs and Members of the Senate and House Redistricting Committees,

This is a somewhat modified version of the verbal testimony I gave this morning.

I would have preferred to be testifying before the independent Commission provided for in IP 57. I have been involved in redistricting since 1980, when I was a programmer for the redistricting of the California Assembly. I discovered then how personal and partisan it was when I entered the office for the first time and was told our requirement was to get 41 votes. I was not involved with the drawing of the districts, but I don't think we should tempt a legislator to make a deal with one of their neighboring legislators of the other party — I'll take your Democrats and give you my Republicans and we'll both have safe districts.

In 1984, I ran for the California Senate in a district where many of my likely supporters living within two miles of me had been assigned to a district over the mountains and 112 miles away in order to try to save a seat when the incumbent retired. This supported my concern about legislative redistricting.

The key dividing line within Portland is, of course, the Willamette River and it makes sense to use it for district boundaries. Although I live on the west side of the River, I recognize that on the east side there are more easily identified communities of interest for whom action on the state and federal government levels have more impact. In fact, some of these separate communities result from actions taken by legislators many years ago. These should definitely be taken into account to facilitate their ability to influence current legislation.

I was encouraged by the guidelines presented at the beginning of the public hearing today, especially the one concerning connection by transportation links. I sold my car when I moved into downtown Portland a block from Pioneer Square four years ago, so I have been dependent on walking and public transit. In walking around, I have discovered there is no real distinction between the Downtown area and the Pearl; I am as likely to be walking north to Powell's as south to the Schnitzer Auditorium and Amazon pick-up locker.

When deciding where to go, I prioritize going places accessible by a single MAX, streetcar, or bus ride. I recommend keeping the route of the N-S streetcar line in a single district. This keeps my doctor's at OHSU and my friends at Mirabella in the South Waterfront as well as my pre-Covid Sunday discussion group at the Urban Grind in the Pearl in my district. The Red/ Blue MAX lines give me access to meetings at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Goose Hollow and the White Stag block in Old Town/Chinatown.

Thank you for allowing me to provide my opinion about the upcoming redistricting, especially since the Supreme Court is allowing the legislature to do the job despite the late arrival of Census data.

Kathy Moyd  
Portland, Congressional District 3

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