

My name is Susan Palsbo and I live in the southwestern edge of the city of Eugene, currently Senate District 4 and House District 8.

My area of several hundred homes has been developed substantially since the last redistricting. The district boundary is less than 3/4 mile north of my home. The closest public transit stop is in Senate District 7. Children in my neighborhood walk to Churchill high school or ride the school bus to elementary and middle schools across the district boundary. All major connector roads entering and leaving my neighborhood terminate across the district boundary. The nearest convenience store, and all major shopping stores, are across the district boundary.

Senate District 4 extends south of Sutherlin nearly to Roseburg, and eastward to the summits of the Cascades. There is zero transportation between Eugene and the rest of Senate District 4, and I do not consider myself as part of those communities. The community of which I am a part, in which I live, socialize, do volunteer work, and shop (and have bus service) is mostly Senate District 7.

Given today's built housing developments, proposed housing developments, and current public infrastructure, I believe that the existing boundary between Senate District 4 and 7 violates two of the district boundary criteria, namely that the boundaries "do not divide communities of common interest", and that "communities within the district be connected by transportation links". Moving the boundary in my neighborhood to coincide with the Eugene city limits would better fit the district boundary criteria. I do not consider our neighborhood to be a part of Sutherlin's community.

I agree with the proposals that drawing new district lines should be up to an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. If the Legislature or Secretary of State draws the district lines, there are inherent conflicts of interest to preserve the political status quo or to draw boundaries that give one political party an unfair advantage in elections and representation. Even if the Legislature or Secretary of State draw the boundaries, there is the appearance of self-interest. "Caesar's wife must be above suspicion."

Thank you for considering my testimony.