

I am writing to hopefully still be able to include my testimony as part of the hearings today on redistricting. The OLIS online testimony submission form was not allowing any submissions.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. My name is Amanda Smith and I have been a resident of Portland, Oregon for 15 years. I live in District 3, SE Portland in the Brooklyn neighborhood. The issue of redistricting is very important to me as I believe the outcomes of electoral boundaries can have major implications on the daily lives of constituents. I strongly believe that district lines should be drawn by an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, not the Legislature or the Secretary of State because that clearly presents a huge conflict of interest. I do not believe the current boundaries are fair but in fact harm groups that have been historically marginalized. I believe that Oregon's redistricting process should be delayed until federal Census data arrives because it is extremely evident that Oregon's population and demographics have much changed over the last decade and it is crucial that when new districts are drawn that they accurately and fairly reflect the current state of our communities. If an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission was put into place, I feel that would be an important step in strengthening our communities and promoting the health of our democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly,
Amanda Smith