

April 9, 2021

Co-Chairs Taylor and Salinas, Vice-Chairs, Knopp, and Boshart-Davis, and members of the redistricting committees:

For the record my name is Larry Kleinman and my pronouns are he/him/his. I have worked in Woodburn since 1978 and lived in Woodburn since then, except for three years in the early 1990s.

I support maintaining the current contours of House District 22 as a district centered in the Woodburn-Gervais-NE Salem area.

I had the privilege of testifying at Woodburn City Hall in August 2001 to the Redistricting Committee. 2000 Census data established, for the first time, that Woodburn had a majority-minority population, making Woodburn by far Oregon's largest city with that distinction. The 2001 hearing focused on the situation of Woodburn as part of HD22, substantially the same formulation we have today. Prior to 2001, Woodburn was part of a district which included much of Yamhill County. As a Woodburn resident and as a co-founder and Secretary-Treasurer of PCUN, I expressed enthusiastic support for the 2001 redistricting of HD 22. Today, I am even more supportive.

There are cultural, family and community bonds that unite Woodburn, Gervais and Northeast Salem that have existed for decades and only grown over time. There are probably more farm workers who reside year-round in HD22 than in any other district. Many schools in the district have overwhelming majorities of Latinx students. In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, Woodburn was *the* cultural and services hub of the Latinx community in Oregon. Today, many other communities have a critical mass of community that share those cultural identifications, practices, commercial enterprises, civic or social organizations and student populations. Woodburn and the communities in HD 22 have consistently been a pace setter for them.

Amid Oregon's changing demographics, the entire state is well-served by having HD22 as a space where cultural minorities form the majority. This value is rooted in seeing themselves and being seen as fuller participants in the state's civic life.

During the pandemic, we've become more aware than ever of the indispensable role of "essential" workers. Of course, these workers have always been—and will remain—essential. We simply understand—and hopefully appreciate—more fully their contributions. In that same spirit, I'd describe HD22 as essential.

I appreciate this opportunity to share my perspective and I appreciate the time and work you are devoting to the complicated task of redistricting.