



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Sam Adams, Mayor
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Randy Leonard, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner

May 9, 2011

Metro Council President Tom Hughes
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

RE: Metro Council Redistricting

Dear President Hughes,

As the City of Portland's representatives to the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), we wanted to take the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting options that the Metro Council is considering. As a general comment, we encourage the Metro Council to be mindful of equity as a consideration in whatever option is selected. The City of Portland and its residents are currently developing the Portland Plan—a long-range plan to position Portland as a thriving city, which features equity as a foundation for the Plan. As you undertake redrawing boundaries, as a result of population shifts, an understanding of the various communities of interest that are represented within each district is critical in ensuring that future Metro Council decisions equitably involve district residents and address any disparities that may exist for residents that live within these respective districts.

We also want to offer a specific comment on the three options being proposed by Metro. Our review of these three options leads us to believe that Option #3 will provide a good basis for regional representation. In our opinion, we believe that using 122nd Avenue as the western boundary between District 1 and Districts 5 and 6 provides more clarity for the residents of these districts.

We suggest one small revision to the boundary between District 2 and 6 in the Sellwood neighborhood of southeast Portland. This boundary should follow the county line, as it currently does, and not slide north to Tacoma Street, which it does in the proposed Option #3. The effect of keeping the existing boundary in Option #3 is that it splits up the neighborhood. Using the county line as the boundary would bring both districts closer to the average district population target.

Thank you for your hard work and deliberation of this matter and for providing us with the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,

Mayor Sam Adams

Commissioner Amanda Fritz

cc: Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick, District 1
Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette, District 2
Metro Councilor Carl Hosticka, District 3
Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Metro Councilor Rex Burkholder, District 5
Metro Councilor Barbara Roberts, District 6
Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish
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