

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND REDISTRICTING

April 06, 2001 Hearing Room COOS BAY
2:00 PM Tapes 54 - 55

MEMBER PRESENT: **Sen. Steve Harper, Chair**

MEMBERS EXCUSED: **Sen. Peter Courtney, Vice-Chair**
 Sen. Jason Atkinson
 Sen. Lee Beyer
 Sen. Kate Brown
 Sen. Randy Miller
 Sen. John Minnis

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT: **Sen. Ken Messerle**
 Rep. Richard Devlin
 Rep. Wayne Krieger
 Rep. Joanne Verger
 Rep. Cheryl Walker

STAFF PRESENT: **Cara Filsinger, Committee Administrator**
 Annetta Mullins, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD: **Redistricting**

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 54, A		
	Joe Benetti	Mayor, Coos Bay. Welcomes committee and presents a piece of the New Carissa to each member.
005	Chair Harper	Opens meeting at 2:01 p.m. Staff distributes meeting materials (EXHIBIT A).
	Chair Harper	Explains the redistricting process.
031	Members	Introduce themselves.
067	Chair Harper	Comments on population statistics.
076	Bernice Malthu	Comments that she does not believe Coos Bay and North Bend should be divided. Comments on school district being in both cities.
090	Janet Willis	Resident of Glasgow and employed in North Bend. Comments that residents around Coos Bay share the same social and economic concern. They are all considered part of the same bay area, share the same hospital, the same airport, the same port, shipping channel, rail branch, ESD, and college and should be represented by the same state representative. They have particular concerns that are different than those of other areas. They have questioned why Glasgow is a part of District 48 and states she has always felt the representative residing in the Coos Bay area should be the representative that represents their

- interests. Sees redistricting as an opportunity to include those areas around Coos Bay in District 47 so that the person sent to Salem will be representing a contiguous area with common interests.
- 120 Pat Brandt Coos Bay. Supports redistricting so the boundaries cover the same school district, water district, and same city government **(EXHIBIT B)**.
- 130 Roger McCorkle Florence resident. Comments that in a general sense he is in favor of maintaining coastal districts. Thinks that as one goes up the coast it makes sense that District 48, District 47, and District 4 should all be a part of coastal districts. The House district for Newport goes over the mountains. Thinks natural lines follow the coast range going up the coast. If the districts must be expanded toward the valley, it would make more sense to expand at Astoria and then follow the Columbia River going inland somewhat. There should be at least four House districts and two Senate districts going up the coast. If the line were expanded into Winston-Dillard there will be reverse feelings; people on the coast feel put out because they get tied with areas in the valley and there will be Umpqua Valley people who are going to ask what they have to do with the coast.
- There is some significance for protecting coastal interest by having districts centered on the coast. Suggest starting with District 48 and going up the coast until there is enough population. In the 70s and 80s, Florence was in Senate District 2 and House District 4. Florence was moved down ten years ago. The three House districts that include three Senate districts meet just northeast of Florence. The problem will be how to split District 47 and District 48.
- Thinks preserving at least some coastal districts without having to go over the coast range into the Umpqua and Willamette Valleys is going to a real value for people on the coast.
- 211 Dave Tilton Resident in House District 48 and Senate District 24. Comments he agrees in principle with Ms. Willis and Mr. McCorkle regarding the community of interest. Believes the Charleston-Coos Bay-Eastside area of Coos Bay needs to be put in District 47. If that does not include enough population, suggests that the line be moved inland perhaps as far as Mapleton.
- Suggests moving the line for District 48 east on Highway 42. Believes there would be enough population by going into Camas Valley, Tenmile, Dillard, and perhaps into Winston. Believes the majority of the population of District 48 will be along the Highway 42 corridor and down Highway 101. One of the criteria is to be connected by transportation links; the only transportation links in southern Coos and Curry counties are Highway 101 and Highway 42.
- Believes adding the communities along the Highway 42 corridor to District 48 would make up for the southern part of Coos Bay that would be put into District 47.
- Adds that District 46 is also short of population. Suggests the population could be extended down into Butte Falls, just north of Eagle Point.
- Believes it would be wise to put all of Coos Bay in District 47.

270	Teri Turi	County Clerk, Coos County. Agrees with what has been stated. That is, to consider moving the portion around the bay, the Eastside-Cooston-Kentuck-Glasgow areas into House District 47. Explains that during the general election her office received phone calls from persons who had expected to have District 47 candidates on their ballot. Believes it makes sense to move those areas that are considered to be part of the Coos Bay area into District 47.
318	Verena Mattheews	Resident of Eastside of Coos Bay. Comments she would like to have the Eastside of Coos Bay changed back to District 47.
353	Linda Doman	Coos Bay resident in House District 47. Comments that she thinks that Eastside, Coos Bay, Charleston, Glasgow and Kentuck should be in one district. States that in the last election it was difficult to explain to voters why they could not vote for the person they wanted to vote for.
380	John Griffith	Coos County Commissioner. Comments that he would prefer that the areas of Coos Bay, Eastside, and Charleston stay the same district and go east to pick up the population from Winston and Dillard. Winston and Dillard are a lot more like the coast than those areas further up Highway 38.
414		States he likes Senate District 48 the way it is and would like to have it left alone except he knows more people must be added to it. The most essential thing is to keep four coastal representative districts.
442	Nikki Whitty	Coos County Commissioner. Supports keeping coastal districts as close to the coast as possible. If it means they have to absorb the central Oregon coast district and have two senators and four house districts, that is the way it should go.
TAPE 55, A 018	Alan Rumbaugh	Citizen of unincorporated North Bend, District 47 and a commissioner for Port of Coos Bay. States he understands the importance of having one person represent the Coos Bay-North Bend area. However, it is nice to go to the legislature knowing there are two representatives focused on the Coos Bay-North Bend area. Comments on populations in Portland and the coastal areas and states he would not like to see a loss of a coastal district.
043	Rep. Krieger	Comments his district cannot go south. If Glasgow and Eastside were moved, his district would have 10,000. If his district were to go to I-5 and include all of Winston, the ripple effect in the other counties would be significant. The line would have to go almost to Eugene before it could be straightened out and it might cause problems going south into Rep. Morgan's area (District 46).
061	Rep. Verger	Comments that at the present time there are five coastal representatives. Her district lacks 6,800 and Rep. Kreiger's district lacks 6,000. It is difficult to find the needed population without going east or very far north. Concerned about losing community interests; the more we spread the more disconnected people feel. In the northern part with increasing populations, the lines are easier to move.
081	Sen. Messerle	Advises the audience that staff in the Capitol Building are trying to work this out. Adds that one quickly runs into a situation

where District 48 would have to take in Winston, which is part of the Roseburg community. That would be an even bigger split. According to computer models it doesn't make sense to go farther east than Mapleton and that leaves going down to Yachats and Waldport to make up the population for District 47. States that the coast must get their economy back on line so the area can grow with the rest of the state.

Adds that there have been discussions that the coast should drop a district. Believes the intention here is to try to keep the coastal districts because there are different issues on the coast.

106 Chair Harper

Thanks Coos Bay for their hospitality and the input by the audience. Explains the handout (**EXHIBIT A**) and asks that everyone send comments to the legislators.

139 Chair Harper

Adjourns meeting at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Annetta Mullins,
Committee Assistant

Cara Filsinger,
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – Redistricting, meeting handout, staff, 4pp

B – Redistricting, prepared statement, Pat Brandt, 1 p