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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I would like to thank you for your time today and the efforts you are making towards the redistricting process. My name is Sam Serven and I am a farmer from Knox County where I serve on the Knox County Farm Bureau Board and serve as the Government and Policy Task Force Chairman. I am here today to represent the Knox County Farm Bureau and voice our concerns about the current legislative districts in Illinois.

Knox County is part of the 74<sup>th</sup> Representative district, 37<sup>th</sup> Senatorial district, 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional district and 18<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. For Knox County, our Illinois legislative districts are compact and contiguous and they work well. Our legislators are close to our communities and can easily stay current on the issues that affect our local communities. We are one of the fortunate counties when it comes to Illinois legislative districts. Most other counties in our state are split between different districts. We know how that affects those counties because our county is split between two Congressional districts.

Our Congressional districts are not so efficient by design. As a resident of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional district I feel like I have been placed in a district that was pieced together from leftovers of other Congressional districts. The 17<sup>th</sup> district encompasses 9 whole counties and 14 partial counties. There are parts of the 17<sup>th</sup> district that run through Sangamon county that one almost needs a magnifying glass to see on a map. The design of this district is not only unfair to the residents, but also to the politicians who have to try to represent this district. There are residents of this district that would have to drive through multiple Congressional districts just to get to a district office for our congressman. Our congressman in the 17<sup>th</sup> district has two district offices and could easily open more to effectively cover his district, but I'm sure it wouldn't be cost effective. With our current fiscal problems we need our government to be as efficient and effective as possible.

Redrawing district lines to make our districts compact, contiguous and efficient is what makes the most sense. Create these districts so that our communities are represented together and leave the political line adjustments out of the process. The purpose of our government is to represent the people, not the political parties. I would ask that you keep this thought in mind while redrawing the district lines.

Thank You

Samuel H. Serven