

1 SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE
2 ON REDISTRICTING I
3
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5 WHEREUPON the following transcript
6 comprises all proceedings and comments made at the
7 public hearing held at the University Union,
8 Lincoln Room, Western Illinois University, 1
9 University Circle, Macomb, Illinois, on Thursday,
10 April 28, 2011, with regard to the boundaries of
11 Illinois' Congressional, Legislative and
12 Representative Districts.
13

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23 D's Deposition Services
24 Dolores L. Conner Doubet, CSR, RPR
11423 W. Farmington Rd.
Hanna City, IL 61536
(309) 224-0032

1 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Good morning, good
2 afternoon. I'm State Senator Michael Noland
3 from the Elgin area, Elgin/Schaumburg area.
4 I am stepping in for our chairman Kwame
5 Raoul. Can everybody hear me all right?

6 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Pull it up a
7 little closer.

8 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Can you hear me?
9 Oh, I'm sorry. It's great to be here at
10 Western Illinois University. What a
11 beautiful town Macomb is.

12 It's the first time I have been here,
13 and what a wonderful campus -- a lot of
14 spirit here. I see the signs that say, "Go
15 West," and so Go West.

16 And so we're going to get under way
17 here. This is a subject matter hearing, so
18 it's not necessary that we have a quorum. We
19 just need to have, need to have members of
20 the committee present, and we need to have
21 you speak to us.

22 And we're going to take care of some
23 housekeeping matters here in just a moment,
24 but let's get things under way, and we will

1 have the, whoever is stepping in for the
2 Clerk call the roll. Okay.

3 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
4 RECORD.)

5 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay, all right.
6 Before we call the roll -- okay, all right.
7 Let me advise that I need to do, get a little
8 bit more housekeeping before we actually call
9 the roll. Please bear with me.

10 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
11 RECORD.)

12 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. So today
13 we have Senator John Sullivan, temporarily
14 replacing Senator Kimberly Lightford as a
15 member of the Senate Redistricting Committee
16 I. That is us.

17 And we also have Senator Kwame Raoul,
18 who is temporarily being replaced by or
19 replaced Senator Don Harmon, who is not here.

20 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
21 RECORD.)

22 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay, thank you.
23 That's why we have staff. They keep us on
24 track and on task. So thank you. So --

1 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
2 RECORD.)

3 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay. We will go
4 ahead and take the roll.

5 BY MR. RANDAZZO: Senator Bivins.

6 BY SENATOR BIVINS: Here.

7 BY MR. RANDAZZO: Senator Sullivan.

8 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Present.

9 BY MR. RANDAZZO: Senator Koehler.

10 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Present.

11 BY MR. RANDAZZO: Senator Haine.

12 (NO RESPONSE.)

13 BY MR. RANDAZZO: Senator Noland.

14 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Here. Okay, all
15 right. All right. With that I would just
16 like to make sure that everyone here has a
17 full opportunity to be heard.

18 We have witness slips and we're going to
19 call out folks who have filled those out, but
20 know this: At the end of our, our lineup
21 here with the witness slips, we still want to
22 extend the opportunity for folks who maybe,
23 through the testimony, didn't hear what they
24 wanted to hear, have some questions or wanted

1 to offer some insights.

2 Now, also I want to emphasize this is a
3 transparent process. This is an opportunity
4 for, for you to examine what information
5 there is and available to the public, and
6 everything is available to the public.

7 We, our first hearing was in Chicago, in
8 the City of Chicago, and we had a very good
9 crowd, very good response there. Some of the
10 other locations that we have traveled to
11 haven't had nearly as many people. You have
12 got a good crowd here.

13 Yorkville, just a couple of days ago,
14 was a, was a surprise to us. Not so many
15 people showed up there as maybe you have read
16 in the paper. So we really do want to extend
17 an opportunity for everyone to come and be
18 heard.

19 We have traveled to a number of places
20 -- like I say, in the City of Chicago, we
21 have been in Springfield, we have in Peoria,
22 we have also been in Kankakee, Cicero,
23 Elmhurst, and, like I say, Yorkville. We
24 have traveled to Carbondale and Southern

1 Illinois University there.

2 So we have been around the state and
3 will be, will be visiting a number of other
4 venues and, and municipalities and areas of
5 the state that might be surprised that we are
6 venturing there.

7 So, but in the coming days we're going
8 to be in Streamwood, which is my district.
9 We're going to be there at 10:00 on Saturday
10 morning.

11 So we're trying to extend the
12 opportunity for people who might not be able
13 to attend during normal business hours, like
14 you are here today, other opportunities, such
15 as Saturday and other weekend, weekend and
16 evening opportunities.

17 We are traveling to Alton, again in
18 Southern Illinois, Chicago's west side, and
19 I'm not sure. Do we have a location for the
20 west side?

21 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
22 RECORD.)

23 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Malcolm X College
24 there, and I'm just saying this so that you

1 know that there are yet other meetings and
2 other hearings that you can, you, personally,
3 can travel to; maybe your organizations or
4 folks that you know in those areas can
5 perhaps attend these hearings.

6 It's very important for us to receive
7 input. This is the period for us to receive
8 information from you. Okay?

9 I would like to also remind you that we
10 have set up a number of, couple of work
11 stations -- one in Chicago and one in
12 Springfield -- a telephone number -- if I may
13 offer this to you -- a telephone number and a
14 web site for you to obtain further
15 information and also offer input as well.

16 So this is an ongoing process. It just
17 doesn't begin and end here for you here today
18 at Western Illinois. There are other
19 opportunities for you to provide some
20 information and to also ask questions.

21 The telephone number where you can get
22 in touch with staff that can, that can
23 assist you is area code (217)558-3036. I
24 will repeat that. That's area code

1 (217) 558-3036.

2 Now, the web site that you can contact
3 the committee through is
4 www.ilredistrictingcommittee.com. That's all one
5 word, and I will even spell that for you.
6 It's www.ilredistrictingcommittee.com.
7 That's I-L-R-E-D-I-S-T-R-I-C-T-I-N-G
8 C-O-M-M-I-T-T-E-E.com. Everybody get that?
9 I am glad to repeat it if you want me to.

10 All right, and with that also, too,
11 there are a couple of other locations in
12 Central Illinois that I want to point out
13 that we're going to be traveling to as well.

14 Or I should say today, in addition to
15 being in Macomb, we're also at University
16 Park, which is south side of Chicago. Is
17 that right? South side of Chicago, near
18 south suburbs.

19 Notice of hearings is always posted. It
20 is posted on our web site at the General
21 Assembly, Illinois General Assembly's web
22 site, and, of course, on Redistricting
23 Committee's web site as well. So you can
24 always have advance notice of where we're

1 traveling as well.

2 So with that I just want to thank you
3 for your attendance. Thank you all for being
4 here. This is a very important process. You
5 know, from a political standpoint it can
6 affect all the campaigns. That's a separate
7 matter. It's not legislative; it's
8 political.

9 But this is the time where people have
10 an opportunity -- citizens and, and everyone
11 in our state and our nation, really -- to, to
12 affect the electoral process for the next ten
13 years.

14 So it is very important that we hear
15 from you and we gather as much information as
16 possible prior to setting these, these new
17 maps.

18 So with that I think we have some
19 witness slips. Is there any -- Senator
20 Sullivan, Senator Koehler, like to make some
21 opening remarks?

22 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yes. Mr. Chairman,
23 I move that the Committee allow any media
24 present to take still photos and record the

1 proceedings.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Very good. Motion
3 by Senator Koehler. Is there a second?
4 Second by Senator Bivins. Is there leave for
5 attendance roll on that? So no objection,
6 motion will pass and be made part of the
7 record.

8 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Mr. Chairman,
9 keeping with our past practice, I move that
10 the Committee allow members of the public to
11 take photos of the proceedings as long as
12 they do not interrupt the proceedings.

13 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Motion by Senator
14 Koehler, second again by Senator Bivins in
15 the spirit of bipartisanship, and is there
16 leave for attendance roll call? Seeing no
17 objection, leave is granted and the motion
18 passes.

19 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Mr. Chairman, I
20 move that this hearing be transcribed by the
21 court reporter so that the Committee can have
22 a full transcript of this hearing which the
23 Committee can approve at future hearings once
24 members and staff have had time to review the

1 transcript and make any needed changes.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay. Motion by
3 Senator Koehler. Second at this time by
4 Senator Sullivan. We will have him weigh in
5 on this process as well. Is there leave for
6 attendance roll call? Seeing no objection,
7 leave is granted and motion passes. All
8 right.

9 BY SENATOR BIVINS: Mr. Chairman, I
10 might make just a quick comment.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Absolutely.

12 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: First of all, I
13 just want to welcome everybody here to this
14 redistricting hearing, and certainly would
15 like to welcome my colleagues from across the
16 state.

17 Senator Koehler is from the Peoria area.
18 Senator Noland, as he indicated, from up in
19 the Elgin area, and Senator Bivins, is it
20 Geneseo?

21 BY SENATOR BIVINS: Dixon.

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Dixon, Dixon,
23 Illinois, up north. So I would like to
24 welcome them and, of course, our staffs that

1 are here as well. Thank you each and every
2 one of you for being here today. So I think
3 we're ready to go.

4 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Very good. Senator
5 Bivins?

6 BY SENATOR BIVINS: Thank you, and it's
7 a pleasure to be here, also. It's my first
8 time at Western, and my past life I was in
9 law enforcement and a sheriff. So I had a
10 lot of contact with the criminal justice
11 program down here, and a lot of students come
12 out of here our way.

13 Certainly I represent the minority party
14 in the General Assembly, Senate Republicans,
15 and we are also interested in hearing
16 comments from the public and allowing the
17 public greater input into the redistricting
18 process.

19 And also, in an effort to bring
20 transparency to the process, Minority Leader
21 Tom Cross in the House and Minority Leader
22 Christine Radogno in the Senate are allowing
23 the public to and open up the map process and
24 the map drawing room at the James R. Thompson

1 Center to the public Monday through Friday
2 from 8:30 a.m. until noon or by appointment.
3 You can call those offices at (312)814-2053,
4 (312)814-2053. It's a pleasure to be here.
5 Thank you.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right, very
7 good. With that, the way we have been
8 conducting the hearings oftentimes -- and
9 this is true of most, most hearings that we
10 have in the General Assemblies -- we
11 oftentimes hear from organizations; and then
12 at the end, at the very end individuals.

13 But I think we're going to reverse
14 things, as long as folks feel comfortable. I
15 would like to call first Johnny Anderson, if,
16 if that individual would like to come up.
17 There he is. Well, he is up front and ready.

18 BY MR. ANDERSON: Thanks a lot.

19 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. If you
20 feel comfortable. Do you want to listen to
21 the other testimony first?

22 BY MR. ANDERSON: Well, I just got a few
23 comments to make, and we will try to do what
24 we can.

1 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay. Mr. Anderson,
2 state your name for the record.

3 BY MR. ANDERSON: Johnny Anderson. I
4 live at Loraine, Illinois; office in Quincy
5 Illinois. Been a self employed businessman
6 for thirty years in the insurance business,
7 and I belong to several different groups, but
8 I represent myself on these comments.

9 So just observations I would like to see
10 take place. I have known Senator Sullivan
11 for years, and he is a common sense-type
12 person, and that's what I would like to see
13 happen in the redistricting.

14 In the past the political affiliations
15 rule, shall we say, and we have had
16 unrealistic districts drawn from splitting
17 Quincy in two and going from one side of the
18 state to the other just to keep politicians
19 in office; and I hope that's past and not
20 continued of what we're seeing here and
21 present.

22 I hope we can have, hear from the
23 citizens as you are doing here. I commend
24 you for doing the hearings and getting

1 viewpoints of the people of Illinois, because
2 I think it's very important that we all have
3 input.

4 You know, this country started out as
5 we, the people, and it should continue to be
6 we, the people, not I, the politicians,
7 ruling, and that's what I would like to see
8 happen in this redistricting process.

9 We need to have a common-sense approach,
10 put the political aside, have realistic
11 boundary lines based on population, not on
12 political fiction, and that's what should
13 happen, I feel, from my point of view.

14 You know, that's the way it was
15 designed. That's the way it was supposed to
16 be done, but in the past we have got away
17 from that.

18 So I hope at this point in time we can
19 get together and put some common sense back
20 into this process and be realistic on what
21 we're doing, rather than being totally
22 unrealistic, as we have seen in the past.

23 You know, especially the one district
24 going from one side of the state to the other

1 is, is, is ludicrous. I mean, that, that's
2 crazy.

3 You know, our representatives should
4 listen to the people and try to represent us
5 the best they can, and that's what we feel we
6 have now.

7 I would like to see certain people --
8 you know, we have good representation in our
9 area, and I would like to see it be that way.
10 It may not be possible for it to be that way
11 with the redistricting, but at the same time
12 I want to see our representatives, which I
13 feel we have good representation in our West
14 Central Illinois area, and I hope it
15 continues.

16 But the redistricting process should be
17 based on population and not politics, and
18 that's my point of view. So I thank you for
19 the opportunity to speak with you.

20 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Good job.

21 (MR. ANDERSON STANDS UP.)

22 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Um, Mr. Anderson,
23 hold on a second.

24 BY MR. ANDERSON: Okay. Sorry about

1 that.

2 (MR. ANDERSON RESUMES HIS
3 SEAT.)

4 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Sometimes the
5 committee members have questions, and Senator
6 Sullivan, I think he probably got the sense
7 you were all finished and didn't have any
8 questions, himself.

9 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: No. Johnny, I
10 appreciate your comments, obviously, and I
11 think the 17th Congressional District is one
12 of those districts that is sprawling, to say
13 the least.

14 And so it's good to hear comments from
15 you, and I'm sure we're going to hear other
16 comments, as we have at other hearings, to,
17 to try to keep those districts as compact as
18 possible. So we appreciate your thoughts on
19 that.

20 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And I'm sure that
21 the Leader's sentiments are echoed throughout
22 our caucus and the Chamber itself -- not to
23 speak for my fellow Senators -- and I can
24 appreciate that.

1 And I was thinking as you were
2 testifying, and as Senator Sullivan just
3 mentioned as well, regarding the districts
4 and how they tend to sprawl a little bit.

5 Can you give me an example -- I am going
6 to ask you a question. First of all, who is
7 your Congressperson here?

8 BY MR. ANDERSON: My Congressman?

9 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Uh-huh.

10 BY MR. ANDERSON: Well, actually in, as
11 far as U.S. Congressman --

12 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Yes.

13 BY MR. ANDERSON: -- is Aaron Schock --

14 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Aaron Schock.

15 BY MR. ANDERSON: -- based on Loraine,
16 which is right on the dividing line, which
17 also goes to Bobby Schilling on the, on the
18 opposite one of the 17th.

19 So we are kind of, in Loraine, we're
20 kind of on the dividing line, and some of the
21 split that comes down through Quincy, which
22 hugs the river, as you all know, and goes
23 clear south and back over through Springfield
24 to Decatur.

1 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And that's kind of
2 a, a trek. It's kind of a traveling distance
3 all the way to Decatur from Macomb.

4 BY MR. ANDERSON: Yes.

5 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Which makes you --
6 but the, the district that had come to my
7 mind, when you talked about leading from one
8 state, one side of the state to the next,
9 would be the one that I reside in, which is
10 the 14th Congressional District.

11 And that's Bill Foster's -- former Bill
12 Foster, now Randy Hultgren's -- district, and
13 that traveled all the way from West Chicago
14 all the way, basically, to the Mississippi
15 River.

16 BY MR. ANDERSON: Right.

17 BY SENATOR NOLAND: So, and there are
18 examples, you know, tangible examples that we
19 can all look to right now that sub, that
20 substantiate what you're saying. So know
21 that we're aware of this and we, we share
22 your concern.

23 BY MR. ANDERSON: I just feel like we
24 need to be more compact and not scattered all

1 over.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Very good, and I
3 will say this to you, and I don't expect you
4 to necessarily have one, but I will ask
5 everybody that's up here if they have a map
6 they would like to show us and share with us.

7 And if you do have it, we would like to
8 have it, some rendering of it here today; and
9 if you don't, but you have access to it, by
10 all means pass it on to us either through the
11 web site or, you know, through other means of
12 contacting us.

13 We're, we're anxious to hear from the,
14 from the public regarding those suggestions
15 you have that would satisfy your requirements
16 for compactness of the districts. Okay, all
17 right. Anything else?

18 (NO RESPONSE.)

19 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay very good.

20 BY MR. ANDERSON: Okay.

21 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you so much --

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thanks, Johnny.

23 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- for being with
24 us. Appreciate that. All right. Next we

1 will call Mr. William Butcher from the Macomb
2 Chamber of Commerce.

3 Mr. Butcher, thank you so much for
4 coming here today. Will you state your name
5 for the record? You may proceed.

6 BY MR. BUTCHER: My name is Bill
7 Butcher. I reside at 136 James Drive in
8 Macomb, Illinois. Mr. Chairman and members
9 of the committee:

10 I have stated my name, and I am a member
11 of the Government Affairs Committee of the
12 Macomb Chamber of Commerce and Downtown
13 Development Corporation.

14 I would like to thank the committee for
15 coming to Macomb in West Central Illinois for
16 the purpose of obtaining public input on the
17 redistricting process. This is a good first
18 step.

19 In the last thirty years the
20 redistricting process has happened three
21 times -- each time in secrecy behind closed
22 doors; the politicians seemingly choosing
23 their own voters rather than the other way
24 around.

1 The result of this process has been some
2 of the most gerrymandered legislative
3 districts in the country with 98 percent of
4 the incumbents being reelected.

5 Some of these districts were connected
6 by a strip of land no wider than an alley in
7 some counties, and even communities were
8 divided into several different districts.

9 A few months ago a coalition of people
10 and organizations, including the Illinois
11 League of Women Voters, members of the
12 Illinois Reform Commission, Illinois Campaign
13 for Political Reform, Better Government
14 Association, Common Cause, Illinois, Illinois
15 Farm Bureau, and the Illinois State chamber
16 of Commerce and others circulated petitions
17 in an effort to put a fair map amendment on
18 the ballot last November, this last November.

19 I participated in this effort, and the
20 only reason that I think it failed is because
21 the process was started late and we just did
22 not have enough time to collect the required
23 number of signatures.

24 However, I found it interesting as I

1 passed the petitions for people to sign. A
2 lot of them were unaware of the process, and
3 once it was explained to them, the most
4 frequent comment I received was, "That sounds
5 like Illinois."

6 Could it be that perhaps the people of
7 Illinois have become so cynical that we do
8 not expect any better? I hope not. This
9 ballot effort may have failed, but I can
10 assure you the issue will not go away.

11 Gentlemen, you have lots of
12 opportunities here. During your recent
13 public hearings in other parts of the state
14 you have been approached by many different
15 groups -- ethnic groups, minority groups,
16 religious groups, political groups, special
17 interest groups -- but most of all just
18 everyday citizens of Illinois.

19 These people have made comments,
20 expressed concerns, asked questions and made
21 suggestions. Will this information be
22 considered and incorporated into a new map or
23 will it be disregarded? This is your
24 opportunity.

1 You have been asked to stop the Russian
2 roulette redistricting process, or democracy
3 by lottery, or the winner-take-all philosophy
4 and instead place the best interests of
5 Illinoisans ahead of political self interest.

6 More competitive elections will lead to
7 more responsive government. This, again, is
8 your opportunity.

9 You have been asked to involve the
10 public in the redistricting process and to go
11 to Springfield and advocate to your
12 colleagues that you, the General Assembly,
13 conduct this process in a most transparent
14 manner. This is your opportunity.

15 You have been asked to provide drafts of
16 the maps, along with the rationale, and make
17 them available to the public before any kind
18 of vote is taken. These drafts should be
19 provided in many forms -- newspapers, online,
20 and at more public forums so that all can
21 access.

22 Again, time should be provided for more
23 public comment, questions and suggestions.
24 This is your opportunity.

1 You have access to the most
2 sophisticated technology tools available
3 today to help you in the mapping process.
4 You can map voting trends, demographic
5 trends, geographic trends, political trends
6 right down to a single residential lot on a
7 single street to capture one single voter.

8 We ask that you use this technology to
9 draw maps that are honest, transparent and
10 non-partisan; maps that create compact,
11 contiguous and competitive districts that
12 have nothing at stake other than good
13 government; maps that the public has had
14 ample opportunity to study and provide input.
15 Again, this is your opportunity.

16 By the same token, we, your
17 constituents, have access to the same
18 sophisticated technology tools, and because
19 of this -- through electronic messaging,
20 social networks, media coverage and community
21 and organizational engagement -- this 2011
22 redistricting cycle will be subject to the
23 most unprecedented scrutiny of any process to
24 date. This is our opportunity.

1 Gentlemen of the committee, we know that
2 you cannot draw a map that will please
3 everyone. We know that certain laws have to
4 be followed.

5 However, the voters are not ignorant,
6 nor are they blind. They can see and
7 understand when maps are not created to serve
8 them. They can see and understand when
9 politicians are more interested in getting
10 reelected rather than serving their
11 constituents. They can see and understand
12 when it is impossible to get meaningful
13 representation.

14 We live in a state embarrassed by
15 scandals and plagued by an enormous debt, and
16 yet it seems the very people who can correct
17 the problems have a more vested interest in
18 protecting the present system and depriving
19 Illinois voters of fair representation.

20 Our state in the last thirty years has
21 spent hundreds of millions of dollars -- some
22 say perhaps in the billions -- prosecuting
23 corrupted officials. It has become known in
24 Illinois as the corruption tax.

1 Some say the people of Illinois are numb
2 to it by now, and again, I would say perhaps
3 we have become so cynical we don't expect
4 anything different.

5 Paul Simon once said that he would
6 rather lose with principles than win by
7 standing for nothing. Paul Simon was a
8 politician, but more so he was a statesman.

9 I would hope you would agree that
10 statesmanship, not parti-, partisanship, is
11 needed now more than ever.

12 We will look forward to looking with, to
13 working with you, Mr. Chairman, and the
14 Committee and the General Assembly to ensure
15 that all Illinoisans are given a purposeful
16 role in this important redistricting process.
17 Thank you.

18 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you, Mr.
19 Butcher. Well done.

20 BY MR. BUTCHER: And I have lots of
21 maps.

22 (LAUGHTER.)

23 BY SENATOR NOLAND: We ask that you
24 leave them with us --

1 BY MR. BUTCHER: Okay.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- so we can have a
3 copy. Senator Koehler will be heard.

4 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Thank you,
5 Mr. Butcher. We heard in Carbondale some
6 testimony from folks from the Paul Simon
7 Institute, and one of the things they
8 advocated was we look at coming back in 2013
9 and trying to set up the process that we're
10 going to use ten years hence.

11 BY MR. BUTCHER: Excellent.

12 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: And I'm assuming
13 that you would agree with that?

14 BY MR. BUTCHER: I would.

15 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: You have a fair
16 map. We had our own legislative proposal
17 that did not make it. So there has been
18 certainly interest from the legislature and
19 the public in changing this process.

20 But I just wanted to pass that on, that
21 that was a suggestion made that I think we
22 need to, to heed.

23 BY MR. BUTCHER: Yes, sir, and thank
24 you. I think it would be good to start on it

1 early.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Other questions?

3 Senator Sullivan, please, sir.

4 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Bill, it was kind
5 of ironic. I was over in Peoria with Senator
6 Koehler a week from Saturday for the
7 redistricting hearing over there, and one of
8 the comments that you made was about your
9 desire not to divide communities, and we
10 actually had mixed testimony over there.

11 We had some gentlemen that testified
12 that said that they liked the fact that
13 their -- and they were referencing Peoria in
14 that example -- they liked the fact that
15 they, that the city had different
16 representatives and even different
17 representatives from different parties.

18 They liked the fact that they had
19 multiple people that they could go to, that
20 they could contact to represent them.

21 We also had testimony from somebody from
22 Decatur, as I recall, that said that she
23 didn't like the fact that she, that that
24 community had -- and she was talking about a

1 Congressional representation there -- that
2 she didn't like that, and she didn't know who
3 her Congressperson was and didn't care for
4 that confusion, for that confusion.

5 So it's kind of ironic that, you know, a
6 different attitude there. I know,
7 personally, in my Senate district -- for
8 example, I represent part of Pike County and
9 not, not the entire county, but I certainly
10 know that the folks from Pike County, and
11 there are some here, that I only represent a
12 small portion of it. But I really, they know
13 they have somebody else they can come to in
14 addition to the other senator that represents
15 that part of the, of the district.

16 So it's kind of a, I guess it can cut
17 both ways, so to speak. I mean, there is,
18 there is advantages, probably, and
19 disadvantages.

20 But I will say, Bill, that the one thing
21 we have heard throughout this whole process
22 is, is the desire to have compact districts,
23 you know, compact districts, and we, we have
24 heard that message sound loud and clear.

1 The other thing I just wanted to comment
2 was your comment about transparency, and
3 that's why we're here today. I mean, we have
4 worked very hard, and I don't know,
5 Mr. Chairman, how many total hearings the
6 Senate is going to have, but I think it's
7 going to be close to twenty. I know the
8 House also had a number of hearings as well.

9 We really tried to open this process up,
10 and I really appreciate you taking the time,
11 and whether it was you or the Chamber working
12 on some map proposals, because we're very
13 interested in seeing that. So thanks for
14 your testimony.

15 BY MR. BUTCHER: Thank you very much.

16 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
17 RECORD.)

18 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Not done yet.
19 Senator Bivins.

20 BY SENATOR BIVINS: Thank you for your
21 testimony and well said. I couldn't agree
22 with you more in what you said.

23 I believe, as you do, that it should be
24 an independent commission and independent

1 process -- use computers, as other states
2 have done.

3 I represent the 45th District that goes
4 from the north side of Geneseo up to East
5 Dubuque up to Merdian Road just outside of
6 Rockford, and we have several areas there
7 that are gerrymandered.

8 And you're correct. In the last thirty
9 years both sides have participated, both
10 political parties have participated in doing
11 that, and it's wrong. I, I totally agree
12 with you.

13 We have Erie, which is in my district,
14 and if you go down Main Street, on the west
15 side is Senator Jacobs. If you go down and
16 you get on the east side, that would be my
17 district.

18 Sterling, Illinois, speaking to a group
19 there. I asked, "Who is your Congressman,"
20 much as you were asked, and one guy says,
21 "How the heck should I know?" They have
22 three Congressmen in Sterling in that area,
23 so it just depends where you are at, as you
24 have pointed out.

1 So that is something I think in my area,
2 in my district there is more of a desire to
3 have a community be represented by one, one
4 Congressman, one individual as opposed to
5 splitting up the community and causing so
6 much confusion and satisfying the politicians
7 as opposed to giving the power back to the
8 people. So I thank you very much for your
9 comments.

10 BY MR. BUTCHER: Thank you.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you, Senator
12 Bivins. I, I just have a couple of comments
13 regarding your testimony. And I want to say
14 how well spoken you are, and to the great
15 extent we share all of those sentiments you
16 have expressed.

17 I would like to just point out that I
18 can only talk about differences that we may
19 have and concern that we would be drawing
20 these boundaries by party, party line.

21 One of the things that I have found,
22 since I have been a member of the General
23 Assembly over the last four, four to five
24 years, is that the positions that we take on

1 a whole host of issues -- mind you, we agree
2 in the General Assembly. Our, our votes that
3 are taken, if you look at all the bills that
4 are passed, we agree on 95, 96, 97 percent of
5 these bills. Those just simply fly out of
6 the General Assembly.

7 So the distinctions that we have are not
8 so much along party lines. They are along
9 geography, okay? And I think that what you
10 can expect is that there are going to be
11 these boundaries and these concerns advanced
12 in our chamber based on that.

13 So it doesn't matter whether or not
14 you're (inaudible). In other words, it kind
15 of depends on where you're from as to the
16 approach we're going to be taking.

17 And another thing I wanted to mention as
18 well is that you're right. This information
19 is available not only to us but to you as
20 well.

21 And I would just simply say in this age
22 where the Internet is so prevalent, the use
23 of computers and electronic messaging, as you
24 mention, is so readily occurring, that this

1 is, there will be no transparency -- excuse
2 me -- there will be nothing but transparency.

3 (LAUGHTER.)

4 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Excuse me. Again,
5 there will be nothing but transparency
6 because, and I want to also mention, too,
7 because I know a number of other folks that
8 are going to come and testify today who will
9 say this: We would like to see a map.

10 Well, we would like to see a map, too,
11 okay? We would like to put something
12 together that's at least tentative for us to
13 discuss, but this is the process for us to
14 gather the information from you and to
15 receive these maps.

16 But I will close with this: I want to,
17 with regard to your testimony -- aside from
18 perhaps presenting a map that you can look at
19 and we can discuss before we take a vote --
20 what else can we do to make this the most
21 transparent process with respect to governing
22 that you have been able to observe?

23 Okay, you're right. You know, these
24 scandals and the debt are things that, you

1 know, have, should probably strike
2 astonishment in the hearts of angels, but
3 know this:

4 We are doing everything that we possibly
5 can to turn this ship around and to, and to
6 right this ship of state, and we are doing
7 that. We are balancing the budget. We are
8 making all the decisions that we need to to
9 get us out of debt and to show that we are
10 exemplary leaders or statesmen here in the
11 State of Illinois.

12 But your points are well taken, but we
13 want you to know, you know, that transparency
14 and inclusion is the order of the day and we
15 get it. Okay? All right.

16 BY MR. BUTCHER: Thank you very much.

17 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thanks, Bill.

18 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. With
19 that -- Mr. Butcher, again, you wanted to
20 leave us with maps?

21 BY MR. BUTCHER: These are maps as they
22 are right now. Is that what --

23 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Okay. Current,
24 you mean?

1 BY MR. BUTCHER: Current.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. With
3 that next we have Mary Kubasak. Did I
4 pronounce that properly?

5 BY MS. KUBASAK: My husband's family
6 says Kubasak, so that's what I --

7 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Kubasak, okay. Very
8 good. From the League of Women Voters of
9 McDonough County. All right. Thank you very
10 much.

11 BY MS. KUBASAK: Good afternoon. My
12 name is Mary Kubasak, and I am co-president
13 of the League of Women Voters of McDonough
14 County, which is one of 44 local Leagues
15 comprising the Illinois League, the state
16 League.

17 Um, I appreciate this opportunity to
18 share some thoughts with you about the League
19 and redistricting process.

20 The League of Women Voters is a
21 non-partisan political organization that
22 encourages informed and active participation
23 in government, works to increase
24 understanding of major public policy issues

1 and influences public policy through
2 education and advocacy. We neither support
3 nor oppose any political party or candidate
4 for public office.

5 The League of Women Voters of Illinois
6 has for many years promoted a set of
7 redistricting principles as well as a process
8 that is timely and orderly and includes the
9 following elements:

10 A formal announced timetable, the
11 availability of information and related data
12 to all who wish to participate in the
13 process, ample opportunities for expert
14 testimony, public reaction and input into the
15 proposed maps -- which we are certainly doing
16 here -- compromise among partisan
17 representatives, avoidance of a partisan
18 stalemate, and a process that produces maps,
19 offering voters a chance, a choice of
20 candidates and elections.

21 The public should be allowed to see and
22 comment on any new maps that are drawn by the
23 Illinois General Assembly at least two weeks
24 before they are voted on by the Senate and

1 House during this session of the General
2 Assembly.

3 Additionally, the General Assembly
4 should give as much rationale as possible
5 when describing the decisions that resulted
6 in the final districts drawn.

7 Maps should not intentionally or
8 unnecessarily split communities of interest.
9 All too frequently voters do not have a clear
10 sense of who represents them in the General
11 Assembly. Communities frequently are split
12 unnecessarily into multiple legislative
13 representative districts.

14 If the map of a district is drawn
15 rationally, keeping communities and
16 municipalities together, elected officials
17 and their constituents can build accountable,
18 productive working relationships.

19 The League of Women Voters believes that
20 a fair and open redistricting process is one
21 that ensures citizen participation and
22 results in the best public policy for the
23 residents of Illinois.

24 Citizen participation is key in

1 maintaining and strengthening democracy in
2 our state. Thank you for this chance to talk
3 with you.

4 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Senator Koehler?

5 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yes. Thank you for
6 your testimony. And let me ask you that in
7 terms of your checklist, is, is there
8 anything you see that we're not doing on that
9 list, or what, what comments do you have so
10 far in terms of how we're doing?

11 BY MS. KUBASAK: I, I'm pleased to see
12 that there is a timetable they seem to be
13 following, and certainly these, these, I'm
14 guessing there must be at least forty
15 hearings, and that is certainly something
16 that we have supported.

17 And, and it's a pleasure to see that it
18 does seem a lot different from the last three
19 times we have participated in this where it
20 does end up in a, in a secret back room.

21 So yes, we are pleased that, that the
22 process does seem to be far more open so far.

23 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Let me just comment
24 on your second to last paragraph -- and

1 Senator Sullivan touched on this -- that the
2 testimony we had at Peoria, and I'm from the
3 Peoria area, was such that people supported
4 the fact that we had multiple legislators
5 from both parties representing the city.

6 In fact, Peoria has the distinction of
7 having four representatives of the
8 legislature from four different caucuses,
9 which I don't think any other community in
10 the state has.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: You're not bragging,
12 are you?

13 (LAUGHTER.)

14 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yes, I am, and I
15 tell you why that works so well -- because we
16 meet together. We work on community issues
17 together and we are good friends. We see
18 each other as allies across the aisles and
19 across the bodies of both the House and the
20 Senate.

21 And so there is another perspective, and
22 I want, and I, I do understand the community
23 of interest might be a little bit different
24 than, say, a geographic community.

1 BY MS. KUBASAK: Right.

2 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: But this has been
3 this way for, gosh, going back 20, 30 years,
4 40 years in Peoria, and it has worked. It
5 has actually, I think, made it more clear as
6 to who your legislative representative is,
7 because that's just historically how we have
8 done things. So I just want to add that
9 perspective.

10 BY MS. KUBASAK: And I think in larger
11 population areas clearly this is going to
12 happen. I mean --

13 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Right.

14 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- we're not, clearly
15 it's based on population --

16 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Sure.

17 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- so we understand
18 that. But the kind of thing we're talking
19 about where right down the middle of a
20 street --

21 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Like in a small
22 town.

23 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- somebody is on one,
24 you know.

1 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Right. I
2 understand that, sure.

3 BY MS. KUBASAK: Things like that are
4 the things that I think people are looking
5 at, saying this needs to make sense.

6 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yeah.

7 BY MS. KUBASAK: But it doesn't mean
8 that every city is going to get to be a one,
9 one district by itself, because
10 population-wise --

11 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Right.

12 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- that's just clearly
13 not possible.

14 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Okay. Well, I
15 think, I think we understand each other on
16 that; and I just was, I mean, and I think
17 you're right. We need to be careful of those
18 boundaries so we don't take smaller
19 communities and just arbitrarily divide them.
20 But we do need to understand that someone is
21 going to live on the edge of a boundary --

22 BY MS. KUBASAK: Sure.

23 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: -- somewhere, and
24 --

1 BY MS. KUBASAK: But in, in general it
2 doesn't have to be right down --

3 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Or we need to --

4 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- down someone's alley
5 or, I mean, it probably could be done --

6 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yeah. I think the
7 first thing Johnny mentioned, it needs to be
8 common sense, and that's what we all strive
9 for, yeah.

10 BY MS. KUBASAK: Yes, absolutely.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Excellent question.
12 Others? Senator Sullivan?

13 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: No.

14 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Senator Bivins?

15 BY SENATOR BIVINS: One thing I wanted
16 to point out, I was at the hearing in Peoria
17 and Senator Raoul was chairing that day; and
18 he made a commitment -- I believe you also
19 reiterated that -- that after the map comes
20 out, that there be at least three hearings
21 and allow time for the public to look at the
22 maps.

23 So I am very appreciative of the fact
24 that he, he has, he has offered that. I

1 haven't heard the same offer in the House --
2 I think just the opposite -- but on the
3 Senate side Chairman Raoul did, did make that
4 commitment and we're very pleased with that.

5 BY MS. KUBASAK: Okay. It would be
6 excellent to be able to see what --

7 BY SENATOR NOLAND: It's just so --

8 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- and have time --

9 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- just so --

10 BY MS. KUBASAK: -- to make comments.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Go ahead. I'm
12 sorry.

13 BY MS. KUBASAK: No, just the time, you
14 know. Just if there were a couple of weeks
15 when you could say that looks good, that
16 looks bad, for the person who is interested
17 to have, for the citizen to have some amount
18 of time where they can actually respond to
19 what has been proposed. It's the area --

20 BY SENATOR NOLAND: The point is well
21 taken, and I, however, feel obligated, just
22 for the purposes of making the record so
23 that we all understand, that aside from what
24 you may have interpreted as a commitment, we

1 all are committed to the idea that this
2 happened.

3 I certainly am. You have my commitment
4 that I will state as much to leadership and
5 to work with Chairman Raoul to make this
6 happen.

7 My understanding the word intent has
8 been used. It is our intent to make this
9 happen, okay? Not that it will happen, but
10 that we agree that it should happen, okay?

11 But again, I'm the Vice Chair here, just
12 so you're aware. That means I am second
13 banana, not first banana, okay?

14 And aside from that, even Chairman Raoul
15 is chairman of this committee. He is not the
16 leader of the Senate, and so we have to work
17 our leadership and work with others in
18 Chamber to, to reach this common, I think,
19 objective that we have.

20 So with that, I just felt it was
21 necessary for, to make, make everyone here
22 understand, you know, make it clear that we
23 share that, that desire, but have not as much
24 control over this as, as others might, okay?

1 So with that, again, your point is well
2 taken. Likewise, Senator -- any other
3 comments?

4 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: I have.

5 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Senator Sullivan.

6 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: If I just follow
7 up on that, and maybe to kind of further
8 clarify that, that the redistricting process
9 is, is going to be a bill form. It's going
10 to be a piece of legislation that has to pass
11 the House and the Senate at that time and go
12 to the Governor to be signed into law and
13 become the final product.

14 And we don't control what the other
15 Chamber does sometimes, so we will do
16 whatever we can. We want to make sure that
17 this process is open, is transparent, that
18 people have time to look at those maps, to
19 have some hearings on it.

20 But we only control half of that
21 process. So we just have to, that's why we
22 have to kind of say that with a caveat.
23 We're going to do everything that we can.

24 And I think that the Senate has really

1 done, with the Vice Chairman Noland and, and
2 certainly Chairman Raoul, we have really, I
3 think, tried to address the concerns that are
4 out there; and we will continue to do that
5 with the final product. So, yes.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: If there is any
7 indication about the direction you would like
8 to see, we have called this number of
9 hearings.

10 And, you know, so we, the things that
11 are in our control we certainly are, are, I
12 think, meeting the objective of transparency
13 and these other, fairness and openness.

14 That's it, and also, too, I have built
15 on comments from Senator Sullivan. Also,
16 don't forget that since this is a bill, it's
17 a piece of legislation, the Governor can
18 amendatorily veto it, and it may change.

19 And we may have to come back, and so we
20 may not have an awful lot of time to discuss
21 this and have an open and public and vigorous
22 debate on this, should they decide to do
23 that.

24 So there is some technicalities here

1 that, you know, are just imponderables for us
2 at this point. But once again, well taken,
3 and thank you very much for your comments.
4 And Miss Kubasak, would you please, perhaps,
5 spell your name for the record?

6 BY MS. KUBASAK: Sure. It's
7 K-U-B-A-S-A-K.

8 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Excellent. Thank
9 you very much. Appreciate that.

10 BY MS. KUBASAK: Uh-huh.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. All
12 right. Next we have Roberta Lynn Ruben from
13 the Macomb area AARP. Thank you very much
14 for coming here today.

15 BY MS. RUBEN: Can you hear? My name is
16 Lynn Ruben. Officially Roberta Ruben is my
17 legal name. So everybody calls me Lynn, so
18 we will just go with Lynn.

19 I represent the Macomb area AARP, which
20 is a chapter of Illinois AARP,
21 Illinois/National AARP. State of Illinois is
22 a hundred, 1.8 million members of AARP.

23 We have a chapter of only a hundred, but
24 we are the only chapter between Moline and

1 throughout Quincy. There is no chapter then
2 in Quincy, so I kind of feel I am speaking
3 for the whole western Illinois just like when
4 John does when he is speaking.

5 And I'm just going to talk off the top
6 of my head, because everybody else has pretty
7 much expressed everything except for one
8 thing that I would like to say, which is to
9 keep our county and McDonough County together
10 as one district, because we are decreasing in
11 size, the whole area that we live in, and the
12 number of people who are aged is also
13 increasing.

14 Many of these people use services that
15 come from Western Illinois area Agency on
16 Aging, which is up in Moline; and if we cut
17 our, I feel like if we make some radical
18 changes to everything about our district, we
19 will also be making changes to what happens
20 with the Western Illinois area Agency on
21 Aging, because we are the last most southern
22 county of Western Illinois area Agency on
23 Aging.

24 So we would like to know, you know, kind

1 of have a feeling that our community of
2 Macomb area is within one whole district
3 because of the way that services for seniors
4 are laid out by counties, that the county map
5 is split in half.

6 And we now have five meal sites in
7 McDonough County which are made up of very
8 small towns. All of them get served by
9 Macomb.

10 These towns are Colchester, Bushnell --
11 and these are towns with less than a thousand
12 people, some of them -- Industry and
13 Colchester, Macomb, Industry, Bushnell,
14 Blandinsville.

15 All of them are served through Macomb.
16 Many of the services the seniors get, which I
17 have listed on my account here -- the
18 alternatives for older adults, the home
19 delivered meals, the transportation for
20 seniors, the congregate meals and adult day
21 care -- all happen in Macomb.

22 Even though this is a very big county,
23 everybody comes to Macomb and is served by
24 Macomb, and I would hate to see that Macomb

1 would be split in half and not be the same
2 part of the county that it serves.

3 I don't -- 25-mile radius in Macomb is
4 dependent on Macomb, and it's not like
5 Peoria. It's a totally different situation
6 in which Macomb is the center of the
7 community; and if you split it, so will you
8 split the representation of the people in
9 this area.

10 And this is my feeling about it, and we
11 would like to see, as AARP -- I am not only
12 representing AARP. I am also representing
13 Macomb seniors that meet at the Macomb
14 YMCA -- we would like to see a district in
15 which all seniors and our community stay
16 together and interact together as one and are
17 represented by one Representative, one
18 Senator, and we can speak to that person and
19 he or she will respond to our needs.

20 At this point we have had very good luck
21 with that, and we have had really good
22 relationships with Senator Sullivan and
23 Maureen Hammond and Rich Myers; and we would
24 be, we feel that we might get into trouble

1 with the services not being met if we have to
2 speak to too many people.

3 First of all, also, we don't have a lot
4 of people that have computers, that are
5 computer literate; and the majority of our
6 population is very rural, and the seniors are
7 out there in the wilderness, it seems like.
8 They don't really participate together except
9 in the senior services. So I would like to
10 speak in their behalf. Thank you.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you. Very
12 good. Thank you very much. Hold on just a
13 moment. Senator Sullivan, any questions?

14 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: I think we heard
15 you loud and clear, Lynn, so thank you.

16 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Mr. Bivins?

17 BY SENATOR BIVINS: I'm just, I'm just a
18 little bit perplexed. I read your testimony
19 and I discovered I'm a senior. So --

20 (LAUGHTER.)

21 BY MS. RUBEN: AARP defines seniors as
22 50 and older, and I said 55. So --

23 BY SENATOR BIVINS: I still, I still
24 qualify.

1 BY MS. RUBEN: -- so I have, it says 60,
2 so I'm over 60, so I --

3 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Time isn't
4 boundaries.

5 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Spend more time
6 here, Tim, you learn more.

7 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right.

8 BY MS. RUBEN: Any other questions?

9 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you very much.

10 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you very
11 much, Lynn.

12 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. Moving
13 right along, we have David, is it Lay?

14 BY MR. GAY: Gay.

15 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Gay, Pike County
16 Farm Bureau president. Please state your
17 name for the record.

18 BY MR. GAY: Good afternoon. I am David
19 Gay from New Canton, Illinois, along the
20 Mississippi River in Pike County. I am
21 president of the Pike County Farm Bureau, and
22 I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to
23 speak before your committee today.

24 We also appreciate that, that the Senate

1 and the House committees have made a special
2 effort to seek public input on the
3 redistricting process.

4 Let me give you some background on Pike
5 County. Pike County is one of the largest
6 counties in Illinois. It has a population of
7 only about 17,000 people.

8 Agriculture and outdoor-based tourism
9 are leading industries for us. County is
10 bordered by the Mississippi River on the west
11 and the Illinois River on the east.

12 As further background, portions of Pike
13 County are in the 47th and 49th Senate
14 Districts, the 93th and 97th House Districts,
15 and the 17th and 18th Congressional
16 Districts.

17 This has provided us with a unique
18 opportunity to access six legislators, often
19 from both parties, on issues that are
20 important to agriculture and rural life.

21 And my observation from my experiences
22 in Pike County, that's, that's been a good
23 thing for us, and I think for two, two
24 reasons:

1 One, that, that, broadly speaking, Pike
2 County's priorities are largely similar to
3 the counties that surround us; and also, I
4 think it's a credit to who, who our
5 legislators have been that they have, they
6 have made the effort to represent the
7 entirety of their districts and are not just
8 after voters.

9 Unlike the state legislative districts
10 which are, which are compact and contiguous,
11 the 17th Congressional District in which I
12 live meanders in Pike County, seemingly only
13 to connect it with points further south and
14 to the east in Illinois.

15 And we sincerely hope that the
16 redistricting process or the proposal that
17 comes forth would eliminate this, this type
18 of gerrymandering.

19 Agriculture is very important to the
20 State of Illinois. It is our state's largest
21 industry. It employs one out of eight jobs
22 in the state, and 94 percent of Illinois
23 farms are family owned. Illinois has one of
24 the top state economies depending, dependent

1 on agriculture in the nation.

2 In addition to farming, Illinois is the
3 leading state in agricultural-related
4 industries, such as soybean processing,
5 machinery manufacturing and foreign exports.

6 However, despite agriculture being the
7 state's leading industry, the number of us
8 actually residing in rural areas or having a
9 direct connection to a family farm continues
10 to decline.

11 We want to make sure that family farmers
12 are not adversely affected by new maps that
13 dilute agricultural interests and
14 disenfranchise rural voters.

15 The new maps should be drawn to include
16 agricultural districts that represent the
17 majority of farmers in that area and would
18 allow rural residents to have a say in future
19 elections. Illinois farmers want the chance
20 to elect legislators who have an
21 understanding of agriculture and a connection
22 to rural areas.

23 And finally, and to answer previous
24 questions, Senator Noland, we request that

1 proposed district maps be available for
2 public review prior to their approval by the
3 Illinois General Assembly.

4 Hearings should be held in all parts of
5 the state, including downstate Illinois.
6 Thank you very much for this opportunity.

7 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you very much,
8 Mr. President. Senator Sullivan?

9 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: David, first of
10 all, thanks for coming up. You guys probably
11 have driven the farthest of anybody in the
12 audience, so we appreciate you coming up from
13 Pike County.

14 This, this agricultural representation,
15 give me an idea -- I'm trying to in my mind
16 grasp how, how we, how we make, because of
17 how rural agriculture is and, and the
18 sprawling area that would cover, how do we,
19 how do we draw, you know, make sure that we
20 have representation or draw a district that,
21 that represents agriculture?

22 Do you have any, what do you have in
23 mind there?

24 BY MR. GAY: I guess what I'm imagining

1 is a scenario where a district is drawn that
2 includes an urban area, and in order to get
3 the number of the population work out exactly
4 right, they might grab some area out in the
5 rural areas which might encompass several
6 counties.

7 You mentioned Congressman Hultgren's
8 district. It encompasses several counties,
9 but as a percentage of the total population
10 of that district, those rural areas would be
11 a significant minority.

12 And I think that's, that's what we try
13 to avoid, where those agricultural or rural
14 interests might be, might be overshadowed by
15 the urban area.

16 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: And have we, have
17 we seen instances of where that has actually
18 worked to the detriment of agriculture?
19 Because, obviously, there are districts like
20 that; and, you know, Senator Noland, I guess
21 you probably don't.

22 But if you get into, like, Will County
23 for example, there is, Senator Hutchinson's
24 district runs from southern Cook through Will

1 and even down into Kankakee County.

2 So what I'm saying there is that there
3 is, and I know for the fact that she has,
4 Senator Hutchinson has rural districts. She
5 has developed a relationship with the farm
6 community, agricultural community, that she
7 may not have had before, and I think it's
8 actually opened up some doors.

9 Do you have any thoughts or comments on
10 that as to how this, you know, actually,
11 actually work in such a manner that it would
12 be beneficial to agriculture?

13 We know the numbers of individuals
14 involved in agriculture is declining, but,
15 but the territory is certainly growing. So,
16 I mean, to draw, you know, an agricultural
17 district is going to be very, very difficult
18 to do.

19 It's why my Senate district is the
20 largest Senate district in the State of
21 Illinois, because, you know, it's a, it's a,
22 it's a lack of population, obviously. So do
23 you have any thoughts on that, David?

24 BY MR. GAY: I think, I think the

1 opportunity to build a relationship between
2 agricultural interests and urban interests
3 with legislators is very important; and at
4 the Farm Bureau we have done that through our
5 Adopt a Legislator Program --

6 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Very successfully.

7 BY MR. GAY: -- where those urban
8 legislators, bring them out to the farm and
9 explain to them what they do so they can be,
10 make informed decisions when those bills come
11 forward.

12 So definitely that, that, building those
13 relationships is very important, and we try
14 to do that where we can.

15 But I certainly think there will be
16 cases, perhaps closer to Chicago, as you
17 mentioned those, those collar areas where
18 agriculture rural areas and the urban areas
19 rarely come together on a large scale, that
20 there probably would be some issues that
21 arise which, which could be very divisive in
22 the district that was constructed that way.

23 We don't see that as much, you know, in
24 this part of the state.

1 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: All right, thanks.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Senator Koehler?

3 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: No.

4 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Senator Bivins?

5 BY SENATOR BIVINS: No.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: I would just like to
7 add to the, some of the comments that
8 Mr. Sullivan made.

9 My, my district is a largely suburban
10 area. I do have some rural areas that are
11 outlined into some aspect of my district.

12 But I think if you look at the
13 Redistricting Committee, and I urge you to do
14 this, and perhaps report back to me. I am
15 online. We are all online, and you can
16 Google me and you will find me. If you can,
17 send me an email and tell me what you find
18 with respect to the Redistricting Committee.

19 I think you will find there are a
20 significant number of members who are from
21 rural areas of our state. And so that having
22 been said, let it be known we're aware that
23 it is not simply the representation that
24 exists on the committee, but the end product

1 we're going to come up with that speaks to
2 you.

3 And after that, let me say that I'm open
4 for adoption. If you want to adopt me --

5 (LAUGHTER AND
6 CONVERSATION OFF THE
7 RECORD.)

8 BY SENATOR NOLAND: I grew up on a farm
9 downstate, but I still, you know, certainly
10 like to build my ties with rural Illinois.
11 So you --

12 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: You can expect a
13 phone call.

14 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. Very
15 good.

16 BY MR. GAY: Probably even ride in a
17 tractor.

18 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Be careful what you
19 ask for. Thank you so much for your
20 testimony; appreciate that.

21 Okay, next we will have Samuel or Sam
22 Server. Mr. Server, is that correct?

23 BY MR. SERVER: Yes, Server.

24 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Very good. Knox

1 County Farm Bureau. Sir, if you would just
2 state your name for the record.

3 BY MR. SERVER: Sam Server from St.
4 Augustine, Illinois. I will stick to my
5 statement here so I don't ramble too much.

6 Mr. Chairman and members of the
7 committee, I would like to thank you for your
8 time today and the efforts you're making
9 towards the redistricting process.

10 My name is Sam Server and I am a farmer
11 from Knox County where I serve on the Knox
12 County Farm Bureau Board and also serve as
13 the government and policy task force chairman
14 of the board.

15 I am here today to represent the Knox
16 County Farm Bureau and voice our concerns
17 about the current legislative districts in
18 Illinois.

19 Knox County is part of the 74th
20 Representative District, 37th Senatorial
21 District, 17th and 18th Congressional
22 Districts.

23 For Knox County our Illinois legislative
24 districts are contiguous and they work well.

1 Our legislators are close to our communities
2 and can easily stay current on the issues
3 that affect our local community.

4 We are one of the fortunate counties in
5 the state when it comes to Illinois
6 legislative districts. Most other counties
7 in the state, however, are split between
8 different districts.

9 We know how that affects those counties,
10 because our county is split between two
11 Congressional Districts.

12 Our Congressional Districts, not being
13 so efficient by design, and as a resident of
14 the 17th Congressional District, I feel like
15 I have been placed in a district that's
16 pieced from leftovers of the other
17 Congressional Districts.

18 The 17th District encompasses 9 whole
19 counties and 14 partial counties. There are
20 parts of the 17th District that run through
21 Sangamon County that you just about need a
22 magnifying glass to see on a map.

23 The design of this district is not only
24 unfair to the residents, but it's also unfair

1 to the politicians who have to try to
2 represent this district.

3 There are residents in this district
4 that would have to drive through multiple
5 Congressional Districts just to get to an
6 office for a Congressman.

7 Our Congressman in the 17th district has
8 two offices, but he could easily open more to
9 effectively care for his district, but I'm
10 sure that wouldn't be cost effective.

11 With our current fiscal problems, we
12 need our government to be as efficient and
13 effective as possible, and by redrawing
14 district lines to make our districts compact,
15 contiguous and efficient is what makes the
16 most sense.

17 Create these districts so that our
18 communities are represented together and
19 leave the political line adjustments out of
20 the process.

21 The purpose of our government is to
22 represent the people, not the political
23 parties. I would ask that you keep this
24 thought in mind while redrawing the

1 districts. Thank you.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Very good. Thank
3 you. Question Senator Koehler?

4 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: I just, I just want
5 to say thank goodness for the 17th District,
6 because that shows us how not to draw these.

7 (LAUGHTER.)

8 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: There will never
9 been another district like that, thank
10 goodness.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Very good.

12 (LAUGHTER.)

13 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Well, that just kind
14 of highlights how much we agree on. Thank
15 you very much, Mr. Server. Thank you very
16 much. Sir, I saw some maps. Did you have
17 maps that you wanted to show us?

18 BY MR. SERVER: I have the, just current
19 maps. I will note that when I was on the
20 Senate Redistricting web site, I wanted to
21 find a map like these that just showed the
22 state as a whole, but I had to search by
23 district and it would only show district
24 maps.

1 These actually came off a smokers' right
2 web site that came up first when I Googled
3 it. So when you do come out with a new map,
4 if you could put them on those current web
5 sites, just a link right on the front page
6 would be, be very convenient.

7 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you. That's
8 very helpful. Thanks very much. Thank you.

9 And on that, on that subject, let me
10 correct the record. Earlier I had provided
11 you with a web site for the redistricting
12 committee in error, so let me just please
13 correct the record here.

14 It is www.ilsenateredistricting.com. So
15 that's [ww.I-L-S-E-N-A-T-E-R-E-D-I-S-T-R-I-](http://www.I-L-S-E-N-A-T-E-R-E-D-I-S-T-R-I-C-T-I-N-G.com)
16 C-T-I-N-G.com. All right. Did we get it
17 right? You got it up there? Okay. You're
18 confirming, you're confirming. We're all
19 set.

20 Okay, all right. Mistake is not a
21 mistake until it fails to be corrected; all
22 right? But we have corrected. Okay, okay.

23 Just, again for the record, Blake
24 Roderick, Pike and Scott County Farm Bureaus,

1 just record of appearance only, just to say
2 that you were here. Thank you very much.
3 Okay, very good, Mr. Roderick.

4 All right. Any other witnesses? All
5 right. This is the time where we have, we
6 want to make every opportunity available to
7 members of the public here who have not had a
8 chance to speak.

9 I see someone raising their hand over
10 there. Please, by all means, come forward.
11 All we ask is that afterwards you do fill out
12 a witness slip. Would you be willing to do
13 that?

14 BY MS. DAVIS: Sure.

15 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. With
16 that --

17 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: And Mr. Chairman,
18 if I may, there are a couple of people I know
19 that came in a little late -- Randy and
20 Kim -- and if you folks would, before you
21 leave, just fill out the registration slip
22 showing that you were here, if you would,
23 please. And, of course, if you want to
24 testify or anybody else wants to testify,

1 you're welcome to do it. Go right ahead.

2 BY MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon. My name
3 is Christie Davis. I'm the chairman of the
4 McDonough County Democratic Coalition, and I
5 have three things I would like to talk about.

6 First, I think, is just an
7 administrative matter. For your forthcoming
8 meetings, I think it would be much better if
9 you could provide maps for all of us to look
10 at so we know we're talking from the same
11 page and we know what we're looking at.

12 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Current maps?

13 BY MS. DAVIS: Current maps, yes,
14 because we don't all have, we don't all have
15 the state memorized like you guys do, and
16 that would be helpful.

17 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: That would be a
18 good suggestion.

19 BY MS. DAVIS: The other thing I would
20 like to bring up that hasn't been talked
21 about here is the difficulties of some of the
22 odd shapes of the districts is the
23 difficulties we have in the past election in
24 actually running for office.

1 Um, the difficulties that voters have in
2 what candidate do I have to go listen to? Is
3 this person in my, in my county, or are they
4 in my, in my -- I have, I ran, supported a
5 candidate, and he only had three precincts
6 within one county; and the voters are
7 confused which signs go on which side of the
8 street.

9 The second thing, besides voter
10 confusion, is that it adds increased cost for
11 the candidates running for election. And
12 those are the, so that's one reason that more
13 logic to the map will help in that area,
14 also.

15 The third thing addressing your
16 question, Senator Noland, about transparency,
17 I have a concern about the transparency of
18 lobbying in Springfield.

19 When I found out through my
20 representative that during the concealed
21 carry testifying, that the NRA was busy at
22 every single moment in committee hearings and
23 testifying; and it was never, ever printed in
24 the newspaper.

1 I, as a voter, want to know that, and
2 I'm concerned that we don't have enough
3 transparency into the lobbying meetings that
4 you guys have in Springfield.

5 Now, Obama, when he went into office,
6 it's right out in the White House -- these
7 are the lobbying meetings I'm having in the
8 White House in the Oval Office.

9 And then Bainter says, okay. These are
10 the lobbying meetings we're having in the
11 House. So it's public knowledge which
12 lobbyists you guys are having meetings with
13 and which lobbyists are testifying at
14 committee hearings; and I think that that
15 would aid in a lot of transparency in
16 Springfield.

17 Okay, and that's the end of my, that's
18 the end of my comments.

19 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay, fair enough.
20 Stand fast. We may have a couple questions.
21 Senator Sullivan?

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yes. We kind of
23 got off the subject here a little bit as far
24 as redistricting, but if I could just comment

1 as far as the, if there is any testimony that
2 takes place at a committee hearing,
3 obviously, whether it's a lobbyist or an
4 individual or whatever, they have to fill out
5 the very same witness slip we're talking
6 about, and that goes into the public records.
7 So --

8 BY MS. DAVIS: Right, right; but it
9 isn't covered by the press, and that's how we
10 don't hear about it.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: That's kind of a
12 separate, that's, that's beyond our --
13 Senator, did you want to speak to that?

14 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: No thanks.

15 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay, fine. And we,
16 we share some of your frustration. There is
17 much that happens in committees that doesn't
18 make, really, the other public record, which
19 is the press.

20 BY MS. DAVIS: Right.

21 BY SENATOR NOLAND: That's why they call
22 them the Fourth Estate.

23 BY MS. DAVIS: Right.

24 BY SENATOR NOLAND: They have this, you

1 know, we have the Executive, the Judicial,
2 judiciary, and the Legislative Branch are all
3 branches of government, but, you know, the
4 press really is kind of a --

5 BY MS. DAVIS: Your watch dog.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- a fourth branch
7 in a sense. You got to call them. You got
8 to hold their feet to the fire on that one,
9 okay? Yes.

10 BY MS. DAVIS: For example, let me give
11 you an example. In Dick Durbin's new web
12 site he lists the Senate activities and
13 meetings for the entire month.

14 Why is it not possible on all of your
15 web sites to list what meetings you have had
16 with lobbyists? Why is that not possible?

17 What I'm looking for in response to your
18 question about how can we make our government
19 more transparent, trying to get away from,
20 oh, well, that's just Illinois.

21 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Yeah.

22 BY MS. DAVIS: Is this a step in the
23 right direction? And I think it is.

24 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And it's well taken.

1 Again, we have to remain on task with respect
2 to redistricting here, but, and not to give
3 your comments short shift.

4 I have made note of this and my
5 colleagues have made note of this, and we
6 will certainly take this up and discuss this
7 amongst ourselves and see what we can do with
8 regard to what we will do in the future.

9 BY MS. DAVIS: Thank you very much.

10 BY SENATOR NOLAND: We thank you.

11 BY MS. DAVIS: And thank you for coming
12 today.

13 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you. Okay,
14 another hand. Come on up, sir. And thank
15 you for taking this opportunity.

16 BY MR. HUNT: I am David Hunt, and I'm a
17 farmer from Blandinsville, Illinois; and I
18 kind of come here pretty unprepared.

19 But as doing that, that I really have
20 got a little more questions than what I have,
21 you know, than what I have got answers on
22 here. And I guess I have got, would like to
23 ask you three or four questions, if that
24 would be all right.

1 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Yes.

2 BY MR. HUNT: The first comment that I
3 would like to make is that I'm glad that you
4 guys are here and doing this, and I think
5 it's worthwhile. That's why I showed up.

6 And I appreciate you, that someone
7 contacted our local Farm Bureau and they kind
8 of sent out an e-mail and give us the
9 opportunity to at least come if we feel we
10 needed to.

11 So the questions that I have is as far
12 as the makeup of the committee is
13 politically, is that Democrats, Republicans
14 --

15 BY SENATOR NOLAND: That's right. We
16 have both Democrats --

17 BY MR. HUNT: Right.

18 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- and Republicans
19 on the committee. Not to be flip here, but
20 I'm not, you're asking how many --

21 BY MR. HUNT: Right.

22 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- is the question?

23 BY MR. HUNT: That's, that's, that's
24 kind of what I was looking at, yeah.

1 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay. Bearing in
2 mind that we have a majority of Democrats --

3 BY MR. HUNT: Sure. I understand that.

4 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- there is always a
5 majority of Democrats. I can't give you the
6 exact number, but I think there is about 16
7 members of the committee. I think there is,
8 like, nine/six or ten/six.

9 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
10 RECORD.)

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: You just have six
12 members you are aware of? Ten/six?

13 BY SENATOR BIVINS: Eleven/six.

14 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Eleven/six,
15 eleven/six.

16 BY MR. HUNT: And as far as the
17 districts that we're talking about here --
18 and this is just kind of some background
19 information, what I was interested in --
20 what's the current, I guess, amount of
21 legislators? We're cutting back one; is that
22 correct?

23 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Yes, Congressional.

24 BY MR. HUNT: Cutting back one

1 Congressional District?

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Yeah, and the often
3 confused reason for that is the State of
4 Illinois has not grown as fast in population
5 relative to some southern states. It's not
6 that we have shrunk in population; just
7 haven't grown as fast.

8 BY MR. HUNT: Okay. So, so we're
9 basically cutting out one Congressional
10 District.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: One Congressional
12 District. We still maintain 59 Legislative
13 Districts and 118 State Rep. Districts.

14 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: And just to follow
15 up on that, so there is 435 or 6
16 Congressional --

17 BY SENATOR NOLAND: 435.

18 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: 435 Congressional
19 Districts across the country.

20 BY MR. HUNT: Uh-huh.

21 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: That number never
22 changes. It just moves with the shift in
23 population. Illinois's population actually
24 grew about three and a half, 3.3 percent, but

1 other states grew more; and so that's why
2 we're actually losing a Congressional seat.

3 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Not to, not to pull
4 the cork out of the bottle, the genie out of
5 the bottle, but the Congress has not
6 increased numbers since 1902, just so you're
7 aware.

8 I'm not sure anybody here is asking us
9 to increase the numbers of members of
10 Congress, but just to let you know, that's
11 why, you know, we're losing a seat.

12 BY MR. HUNT: Okay.

13 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Senator Noland, I
14 think --

15 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yeah. I just
16 wanted to make a comment, too. One of the
17 things that we're looking at, because of the
18 increased population, is that all the 59
19 districts have to be readjusted.

20 I think that our new number is now
21 217,000 --

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Population in any
23 Senate District.

24 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: So some districts

1 have to, have to shrink and some districts
2 have to grow. Yours has to grow. My
3 district has to grow by some 15,000
4 population. So that's the adjustment that
5 we're making in this period.

6 BY MR. HUNT: So this, does this
7 redistricting affect more than just the
8 national Congressional seats then if --

9 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yes, it does.

10 BY MR. HUNT: It's also the Senate
11 seats.

12 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: That is correct.
13 So it's the Congressional seats as well as
14 all the Legislative. So the 59 Senate seats,
15 state Senate seats and the 118 House of
16 Representative seats.

17 BY MR. HUNT: And I guess the last
18 question that I have would be what would, as
19 a, as an individual citizen, what would be
20 the most effective, the best use of our time,
21 your time as far as our input to you?

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: That's a great
23 question.

24 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Fantastic. Do you

1 want to address that?

2 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Yeah, I would like
3 to, and actually I appreciate the question.
4 And first of all, the fact that you're here
5 today is one of those important steps that
6 you can do.

7 The second thing is that if you have
8 thoughts -- and, of course, this has already
9 been discussed here today -- but if you
10 have thoughts or comments or suggestions,
11 please go to the, to the, to the web site or
12 send, you can send it to me or send it to any
13 of your elected officials with your
14 suggestions.

15 Here is what we would like to see in a
16 map. Here is what we don't want to see in a
17 map. What's important to us, what's not
18 important to us, and we just need that input.

19 That's, that's exactly, I mean, that's
20 why we're here in Macomb today and why we've,
21 why there has been a total of 40-some
22 hearings throughout the state; is that we
23 want input so that as we are, as we are going
24 through this process we can represent or we

1 can have that input be represented in, in
2 the, in those legislative maps.

3 You know, that's a greet question.

4 Thanks.

5 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And only adding to
6 that, we have a work station, we have two
7 work stations -- one in Springfield and one
8 in Chicago, okay?

9 We are here, but this is labor
10 intensive. We have to maintain staff. We
11 have to have resources available and
12 programming available to you.

13 The work station is in the Stratton
14 Building, fourth floor of the Stratton
15 Building in Springfield.

16 So you can, of course, go visit there,
17 too.

18 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: The Stratton
19 Building is right west of the capital; sits
20 within walking distance.

21 BY MR. HUNT: Thank you.

22 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you very much.
23 Oh, sir, if you would -- I'm sorry -- just
24 fill that out.

1 BY MR. HUNT: Okay.

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay. Another hand.
3 Thank you very much for stepping forward.
4 That would be Linda Zellmer?

5 BY MS. ZELLMER: Yes.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: From Macomb?

7 BY MS. ZELLMER: Yes.

8 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. Miss
9 Zellmer, please state your name.

10 BY MS. ZELLMER: I work, I am government
11 information and data services librarian here
12 at Western Illinois University.

13 I am not here as a representative of
14 WIU. I am here on my lunch hour. I got in
15 at seven this morning so I wouldn't be
16 cheating the state out of any time.

17 (LAUGHTER.)

18 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: For the record.

19 BY MS. ZELLMER: For the record. As a
20 librarian and as a government information
21 librarian I am very glad that I am able to
22 participate in this, but I would like to
23 encourage you to take advantage of all
24 possible technology to get the information

1 out.

2 Having a computer in Springfield and
3 having a computer in Chicago does not help
4 people in the rest of the state. My
5 suggestion is: Here at Western we have, the
6 IRA has a mapping system that you can go in
7 and map all kinds of different information.

8 When you have some proposed districts,
9 get that information out by just
10 disseminating the boundary data. I am a
11 G.I.S. literate librarian, and I could be
12 able to, I would be able to map that data and
13 provide access to it.

14 Put out some P.D.F maps so that people
15 can just log in and download a small P.D.F
16 and look at oh, well, this is what my
17 district is going to look like. Gee, I don't
18 like that district because it's going to
19 split my county into three or four areas.

20 You know, take advantage of the
21 technology that is there rather than having
22 computers just in two cities here in the
23 state. Disseminate the data.

24 Please provide access to the data

1 through Google maps or any other type of
2 mapping system that you know of, you know.
3 I, I can use our G.I.S. so I could map it
4 here in this area for the people in this
5 area. I know there is a G.I.S. literate
6 librarian down at SIU so they could do the
7 same.

8 Disseminate the data as much as
9 possible, and I'm sure that people could find
10 a way to get the information mapped and then
11 interact with the data.

12 So please take advantage of the
13 technology, because I think this is an
14 important process that everybody should have
15 a voice in, not just people that can get to
16 Springfield or to Chicago.

17 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And we're going to
18 have to clarify something here if we -- I get
19 the sense that Senator Sullivan has some
20 comments.

21 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: No.

22 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Okay. The stations
23 we're speaking of is not the only technology
24 that's available to the public. The public

1 can use -- you know the Internet is an
2 incredible tool, something that we have not
3 had or didn't have during previous
4 redistricting process.

5 You can go online. You can put the word
6 redistricting in the search engine Google,
7 and there will be a number of programs that
8 will come up to allow you to use G.I.S.
9 systems, plural -- not just one -- a number
10 of different systems to create your own maps,
11 and that's what we're asking for.

12 We're asking you to do this and to
13 inform us and, and not just simply rely on a
14 work station. We are making a work station
15 physically available to people who don't have
16 their own computers.

17 But you have a library here. Libraries,
18 you know, aren't just merely a physical --

19 BY MS. ZELLMER: Uh-huh.

20 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- you know,
21 location for people to use a world of
22 information.

23 And you're especially equipped to enable
24 people to use that information, Miss Zellmer.

1 So I, you know, we take your admonishment to
2 heart, but at the same time I feel compelled
3 to say we're doing that. We are doing that,
4 okay? We're doing just that, and that's what
5 this process is all about.

6 And now, and I would say that in the
7 future, the next redistricting process, this
8 information, and because of the keen
9 awareness of people like yourself as to what
10 kind of data will become part of creating the
11 maps, you're going to have the power of
12 moving forward to anticipate where the maps
13 should be during the next redistricting
14 process.

15 So if you think we're having
16 transparency now -- and again, we're having
17 nothing but transparency, okay -- you're
18 going to have it for the next ten years.

19 You know, you are, your, your, you will,
20 the public, I believe, over the next ten
21 years will be driving this process, and
22 that's a good thing. Senator Koehler.

23 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: Yes. Let me just
24 add to that. I met with a constituent just

1 this week who -- and I'm not as computer
2 literate as, as some of you all might be --
3 but he pulled up a web site and was doing his
4 own maps and showing me, you know, all the
5 manipulations of it and using census
6 information.

7 So I don't know what that web site is,
8 but that, they're available out there, and we
9 should maybe try to see if we can publicize
10 that a little more.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Senator Sullivan.

12 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: If I may. Linda,
13 are you, are you wanting, is your request
14 that the, that the final map be an
15 interactive map?

16 BY MS. ZELLMER: Yes.

17 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Is that what
18 you're asking for?

19 BY MR. HUNT: Yes, uh-huh, so that
20 people can zoom down into their neighborhood
21 and make sure that you don't have a district
22 running up an alley.

23 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Okay. So not, not
24 that you want to go in and be able to change

1 it, but you just want to understand where it
2 is?

3 BY MS. ZELLMER: Yes.

4 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Okay. We going to
5 have the technology on the ILGA web site to
6 do that? Do we know that?

7 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
8 RECORD.)

9 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Okay. We will
10 work on that. It's a point well taken, and
11 we will have to make sure what technology we
12 have available on the state's web site as
13 well.

14 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: But the, the point
15 is that there are other web sites that are
16 available nationally that, that you can,
17 that, that already has the census information
18 in it, that you can use what we produce and
19 manipulate it, yeah, however else you want
20 to. So there are ways of doing this.

21 BY SENATOR NOLAND: It will be the
22 ultimate in the fair map process, absolutely,
23 and we're with you on that.

24 BY MS. ZELLMER: I was hoping to see

1 some maps here today, but --

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Well, and, and
3 noted. Okay. Well, do you mean prospective
4 maps --

5 BY MS. ZELLMER: Uh-huh.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- in addition to
7 current maps?

8 BY MS. ZELLMER: Well, I know the
9 current maps are on the web site, on a single
10 web site right now; but I would like to see,
11 you know, what's being proposed.

12 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And there, as of
13 yet, nothing has been proposed.

14 BY MS. ZELLMER: Okay.

15 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And that's the
16 truth. You know, and I wish I, you know, I'm
17 happy to take a lie detector test, you know.
18 This is something people are asking, and I
19 don't think any of us have been exposed to
20 any particular rendering of a map. Anybody
21 here?

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, just, that
23 would be a bit premature. I mean, this is
24 why we're having the hearing, to try to find

1 out what it is that our constituents are
2 wanting.

3 So once, once we have gathered that
4 information, once we have all that
5 information and population is when we're
6 going to be able to sit down and actually
7 construct that map.

8 BY MS. ZELLMER: Okay.

9 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you.

10 BY MS. ZELLMER: Thank you.

11 BY SENATOR NOLAND: And bear in mind,
12 too, we just received the census data several
13 weeks ago, and this is a very complex
14 process, as you know. So it's a work in
15 progress.

16 Very good, okay. It's been going pretty
17 well so far. We have one more hand. There
18 you go.

19 We don't have to take one more. We have
20 set out noon to, to about 2:00 or so. We
21 don't have to have a set deadline. We will
22 go as long as you folks would like to. Sir,
23 please state your name.

24 BY MR. INMAN: Good afternoon. My name

1 is Michael Inman. I am a retired state
2 employee and the mayor-elect for the City of
3 Macomb.

4 First of all, thank you for having these
5 hearings here. Don't know who was
6 responsible for setting the schedule, but
7 we're appreciative to bring this hearing to
8 Macomb, and we value the opportunity to come
9 before you and present testimony.

10 I would be hard pressed to be more
11 eloquent than Mr. Butcher or Mr. Gay on the
12 issues. I think they laid, they laid them
13 out pretty well.

14 What I would remind you is that, for
15 example, Macomb is a non-partisan community.
16 I was elected not using a Republican or
17 Democratic moniker.

18 We pride ourselves in Macomb of being
19 non-partisan. We are fortunate that we have
20 representatives from, representatives from
21 the legislature on both parties. We are well
22 represented by Senator Sullivan and
23 Representative Hammond. We're grateful for
24 that.

1 Senator Sullivan did speak to the fact
2 that he has the largest Senate district in
3 the state. I can only imagine the kind of
4 time commitment that takes for him.

5 We, we are lucky here in Macomb. We
6 have an excellent relationship with Senator
7 Sullivan. We see him frequently. I know he
8 has family, and I know he likes to spend time
9 with them.

10 I just, from a political standpoint,
11 that's a lot of windshield time, and that has
12 to play a factor in decisions that are going
13 to be made forward from here.

14 To that end we also spoke about the 17th
15 Congressional District, and Senator Koehler
16 did a nice job of noting how huge it is. And
17 as you start to work on this compact and
18 contiguous, that has to be one of your
19 primary focuses; and we, we hope you remember
20 us when, when you're taking this information
21 back.

22 Having said all that, I guess I would be
23 remiss as the mayor-elect to not, I need to
24 remind Senator Bivins that he and I have a

1 connection in Dixon, and we can expand upon
2 that if he would like. My wife is from
3 Dixon.

4 I would remind you that as you depart
5 here, please fill up your cars with
6 gasoline.

7 (LAUGHTER.)

8 BY MR. INMAN: Our business district is
9 alive and well.

10 BY SENATOR NOLAND: You know how many
11 times we have heard that?

12 (LAUGHTER.)

13 BY MR. INMAN: We can use the sales tax
14 income, and I can, I'm most appreciative of
15 you being here today.

16 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you.
17 Congratulations on --

18 BY MR. INMAN: Thank you.

19 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- your achievement
20 and the task that you have ahead of you.
21 Senator Sullivan.

22 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Just my thanks.
23 We appreciate it. We look forward to working
24 with you as the new mayor. He gets sworn in

1 tomorrow evening. Congratulations.

2 BY MR. INMAN: Thank you.

3 BY SENATOR NOLAND: All right. Oh, yes.

4 Mayor --

5 BY MR. INMAN: Yes.

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: -- if you would,
7 please, take a witness slip.

8 BY MR. INMAN: I can do that.

9 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Thank you very much.
10 Okay. I have done this before and I will do
11 it again. Seems to work to at least a
12 limited extent. Anyone else? Going once,
13 going --

14 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: That's my job.

15 (LAUGHTER.)

16 BY SENATOR NOLAND: That's right.

17 Please -- would you care to make the final
18 comments?

19 (LAUGHTER.)

20 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: No.

21 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Seeing no one
22 else's -- oh, yes, please.

23 BY MS. WARD: I, I just have a question.
24 I don't want to, I don't want to --

1 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Well, unfortunately,
2 we have to make the record. So if you would,
3 please, state your name. Come on, even, no
4 matter how quick.

5 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: You're not going
6 to get off easy.

7 BY MS. WARD: I know.

8 BY SENATOR KOEHLER: This is all for
9 transparency.

10 BY MS. WARD: Okay. My name is Linda
11 Ward. I am the Schuyler County clerk, but
12 I'm not representing Schuyler County other
13 than to the point you keep telling me you
14 have this data. It is out there.

15 I am not computer illiterate. I am also
16 not computer geeky, but just somewhere in
17 between; and I am having a hard time getting
18 the census data off of the census web site.

19 BY MS. ZELLMER: I can help you with
20 that. When all, when all else fails, talk to
21 a librarian. I can help you.

22 (LAUGHTER.)

23 BY MS. WARD: I almost mentioned it to
24 you because I thought, okay, she can do all

1 this --

2 BY SENATOR NOLAND: She's sitting right
3 next to you.

4 BY MS. WARD: -- and she is sitting
5 right next to me. I mean, I am trying to
6 find my little city's population. I am
7 trying to find the counties, the
8 subdistricts, all this stuff, because I have
9 to help figure it out.

10 BY SENATOR NOLAND: By all means.

11 BY MS. WARD: And I just do not think
12 it's user friendly --

13 BY MS. ZELLMER: No. Fact finder 2 is,
14 is terrible.

15 BY SENATOR NOLAND: Fact finder 2, you
16 say?

17 BY MS. WARD: Fact finder 2 is what they
18 send us to and --

19 BY MS. ZELLMER: And it's not user
20 friendly, but I, I can help you.

21 BY MS. WARD: Thank you. Never mind.
22 It will be off the record.

23 BY SENATOR NOLAND: This is the beauty
24 of the town hall. More information is better

1 than less.

2 With that, seeing no further business
3 coming before the -- I'm sorry?

4 (CONVERSATION OFF THE
5 RECORD.)

6 BY SENATOR NOLAND: The number again.
7 Okay, we will do that. Bear with me folks.
8 We want to give you that telephone number
9 once again.

10 And the point is well taken again that
11 not everybody is connected to the Internet.
12 You folks have to rely on good old telephones
13 to receive information.

14 So with that, the telephone number in
15 Springfield to receive information on the
16 redistricting process is area code
17 (217)558-3036. One more time -- that's
18 (217)558-3036.

19 And the web site one more time is
20 www.ilsenateredistricting.com. I won't
21 burden you with the literal transcription
22 here and the spelling of that, but that's our
23 web site. That's our telephone number.

24 Seeing no other questions and no other

1 comments from either the audience or the
2 panel here and no other business coming
3 before the Senate Redistricting committee,
4 the committee's work here today is hereby
5 adjourned.

6 BY SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you very
7 much.

8 (WHEREUPON THAT CONCLUDES
9 THE COMMENTS AND
10 PROCEEDINGS HAD IN THE
11 ABOVE ENTITLED CAUSE THIS
12 DATE AT 1:45 P.M.)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
2 COUNTY OF PEORIA)

3 I, Dolores L. Conner Doubet,
4 CSR, RPR and Notary Public in and for the County
5 of Peoria, State of Illinois, and a Certified
6 Shorthand Reporter for the State of Illinois, do
7 hereby certify that heretofore, to-wit, on
Thursday, April 28, 2011, a public hearing
regarding Senate Redistricting occurred before me
at Western Illinois University, 1 University
Circle, Macomb, Illinois.

8 I further certify that the
9 comments made by participants in said hearing were
10 reported stenographically by me in the presence of
11 said participants and afterwards reduced to
typewriting; and the foregoing is a true and
correct transcript of the comments so made by said
participants as aforesaid.

12 In testimony whereof, I
13 hereunto set my hand on this day, April 30, 2011.

14
15 -----
Dolores L. Conner Doubet
16 Notary Public
Certified Shorthand Reporter
17 State of Illinois CSR License #084-002061

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