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2	STATE OF ILLINOIS
3	SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
4	COOK COUNTY
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6	
7	Tuesday, October 12, 2021
8	2:35 p.m.
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14	Via Zoom videoconference
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1	Page 2 PRESENT:
2	(Via Zoom videoconference)
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4	ILLINOIS REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE:
5	SENATOR ELGIE R. SIMS, JR., Vice-Chair SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, Member
6	SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, Member SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member SENATOR STEVE McCLURE, Member
7	SENATOR SIEVE MCCHORE, Member SENATOR JASON PLUMMER, Member SENATOR LAURA M. MURPHY, Member
8	SENATOR CRISTINA CASTRO, Member SENATOR EMIL JONES, III, Member
9	SENATOR SALLY TURNER, Member
10	WITNESSES:
11	CANNON LAMBERT (President of the Cook County Bar
12	Association) ABIGAIL NICHOLS (Illinois League of Women
13	Voters) FRANK CALABRESE
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16	ALSO PRESENT:
17	SENATE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
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1	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: This meeting of the
2	Senate Redistricting Committee is called to
3	order. We have a letter from Republican Leader
4	McConchie appointing Senator Sally Turner to
5	temporarily replace Leader McConchie on the
6	Redistricting Committee for today's hearing.
7	Clerk, please call the roll.
8	THE CLERK: Senator Sally Turner.
9	SENATOR TURNER: Here.
10	THE CLERK: Senator Plummer.
11	SENATOR PLUMMER: Here.
12	THE CLERK: Senator McClure.
13	SENATOR McCLURE: Present.
14	THE CLERK: Spokesperson Barickman.
15	Senator Murphy.
16	SENATOR MURPHY: Here.
17	THE CLERK: Senator Jones.
18	SENATOR JONES: Here.
19	THE CLERK: Senator Hunter.
20	SENATOR HUNTER: Here.
21	THE CLERK: Senator Cunningham.
22	Senator Castro.
23	SENATOR CASTRO: Here.
24	THE CLERK: Senator Bennett.

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1	SENATOR BENNETT: Present.
2	THE CLERK: Vice-Chair Sims.
3	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Present.
4	THE CLERK: And Senator Aquino.
5	Vice-Chair, we have a quorum.
6	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: There being a quorum
7	present, the following entities are seeking
8	leave to photograph or video today's
9	proceedings: BlueRoomStream, is there leave?
10	Leave being granted.
11	Senator Bennett for a motion.
12	SENATOR BENNETT: Sorry. I didn't have
13	the microphone. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would
14	move that the proceedings today be recorded and
15	transcribed by a court reporter for future
16	review.
17	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
18	Bennett. Senator Bennett moves to allow a court
19	reporter to transcribe today's hearing.
20	Is there leave?
21	Leave being granted, the court
22	reporter will be allowed to transcribe today's
23	hearing.
24	Today's hearing will focus on the

Page 5 2020 census, the redistricting of Illinois 1 2 congressional districts and the redistricting of 3 judicial subcircuits in Cook County, but before we start, let me welcome everyone here to the 4 5 17th district. 6 It is my honor to represent the 7 17th district and to welcome you here to Chicago 8 State University. I thank President Z Scott and the team here at Chicago State for their 10 hospitality in welcoming us here to one of the 11 finest public institutions here in the State of 12 Illinois. 13 Unfortunately, one of the technical difficulties we're having was staff 14 15 was -- prepared a presentation that we were 16 going to present, but we could not get the 17 presentation to work on census numbers relating 18 to the congressional districts and the Cook 19 County subcircuits, but that presentation will 20 be posted later today on the Redistricting 21 Committee's website, which is www.ilga.gov. 22 Again, that website is www.ilga.gov. 23 We will now move to the following 24 witnesses who are here present. We have Cannon

Page 6 1 Lambert, president of the Chicago Cook County 2 Bar Association, and Abigail Nichols on behalf 3 of the League of Women Voters. Mr. Cannon, please come forward 4 5 and provide your testimony to the committee. 6 Put the headphones in. Please proceed, 7 Mr. President. 8 MR. LAMBERT: Thank you so much for giving 9 me the opportunity to address you today. As the president of the oldest association of black 10 11 attorneys and judges in this country, I greet 12 you, and I rise in support of a fair, equitable 13 and inclusive subcircuit. On behalf of the Cook 14 County Bar Association, I thank you very much 15 for your audience. 16 Since 1914, the organization that 17 I represent has trained its energy on improving 18 the station of people subjected to structural 19 discrimination and those who have traditionally 20 been carved out of the political process. 21 That's why I'm addressing you today. 22 extremely excited about the prospect of a new 23 map being drawn and commend you for you taking

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up this responsibility.

Page 7 1 Currently, the 1st, 2nd and 5th 2 circuits are all drawn to appropriately ensure that the residents therein are able to interface 3 with a judiciary familiar with those 4 5 neighborhoods. Litigants are met by judges who 6 they can relate to, thereby increasing their 7 sense that they're getting a fair shake. 8 The judiciary and any judiciary 9 that mirrors the community that it judges is 10 vital to public confidence in the judicial 11 system as a whole, and that's why it's so 12 important that your redrawing efforts in the 7th 13 circuit with members of the near west suburbs of 14 Cook County. 15 Additionally, the growing African 16 American population of the southern suburbs of 17 Cook County warrants your considered attention. 18 Currently there are approximately 249 full 19 circuit judges in Cook County. Only 58 of them 20 are African American. The map that you redraw 21 needs to be sensitive in its understanding and 22 management of these numbers. 23 Considering the number of African 24 American litigants in Cook County, in all walks

Page 8 of the legal landscape, increasing the number of 1 2 African American judges in this county will 3 serve to buoy the community's faith in the 4 judicial system. 5 Though, it's pretty obvious, our 6 voices anyway, it is critically important that 7 the map to be redrawn protect the voices of 8 those that the subcircuits were designed to 9 safeguard in the first place. My bar 10 association is calling on you to ensure that you protect and, in fact, proliferate the diversity 11 12 of the court. The subcircuits have helped to 13 make space for women, Asians, Latin and Latinx, 14 15 African Americans and even Republican judicial 16 candidates, and when you redraw the subcircuit 17 map, you should understand that you have the 18 opportunity to address the historical deficits that have clearly made it necessary for repair. 19 20 Too many people have been locked out of the judiciary, and you have the chance to 21 22 eliminate some of the antiquated barriers that 23 have historically blocked quality African

American judicial candidates from taking the

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Page 9 1 bench. 2 The social and political and 3 moral atmosphere that we now reside in calls for 4 better, and you are in the position to deliver. 5 I look forward to you doing so, and I thank you 6 for your time today. 7 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, 8 Mr. President. I would remind members of the 9 committee to use the raise your hand function to 10 ask questions. 11 Senator McClure for a question. 12 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 13 I want to turn my camera on. I apologize for 14 the delay. 15 Thank you very much for your 16 important testimony, sir. So when these new 17 maps are released for these judicial districts, 18 would two weeks be enough time for you to be 19 able to review the map and then allow for you to 20 analyze it and then provide feedback? 21 MR. LAMBERT: I would ask for more time 22 because of the dynamics -- more time because of 23 the dynamics of what is at stake. It's 24 important that as many voices that can be be

Page 10 1 included in this process, and two weeks is a 2 difficult thing to see -- at least from my 3 perspective, to see how you could fully 4 accomplish that objective. 5 SENATOR McCLURE: How much -- in a perfect 6 world, how much time would you like to have to 7 review? 8 MR. LAMBERT: You know, it's one of those 9 things where I'm reluctant in some sense to 10 speak on behalf of other organizations. 11 my organization is critically interested in 12 this, and I would think 60 to 90 days is a 13 reasonable window. I don't think that's 14 SENATOR McCLURE: 15 unreasonable particularly as you talked about 16 how important this is, and you know, if it's not 17 done correctly, it could have terrible 18 ramifications that are going to last for many, 19 many, many years. 20 MR. LAMBERT: That's correct. And we know 21 how significant the subcircuits have been. 22 know that when they were initially created in 23 '89, '90, '91, we know where we stood relative 24 to women and Latin, Latinx and African American

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1	judicial candidates in the independent
2	judiciary. So we know that the subcircuits are
3	working to a degree. We just need to make sure
4	that they continue to work and that we take
5	advantage of the opportunity to bolster the
6	support of the community at large.
7	SENATOR McCLURE: Well, thank you very
8	much for your testimony, and I think that's a
9	very reasonable request, and I think that would
10	be appropriate. Thank you.
11	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator.
12	Other questions? I see none.
13	Thank you, Mr. President, for
14	your testimony.
15	MR. LAMBERT: Thank you so much.
16	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: We appreciate you being
17	here today and for your advocacy on behalf of
18	the Cook County Bar Association and the
19	communities you represent.
20	MR. LAMBERT: Thank you all.
21	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Next we have Abigail
22	Nichols on behalf of the League of Women Voters.
23	MS. NICHOLS: Do I just start talking?
24	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Yes.

Page 12 1 MS. NICHOLS: Good afternoon, Senator Sims 2 and members of the Senate Redistricting Committee. 3 Thank you for holding this hearing today. My name is Abigail Nichols. 4 I am a 5 member of the League of Women Voters of Chicago, 6 and as such, I'm also a member of the League of 7 Women Voters of Illinois. I am authorized by 8 state president, Allyson Haut, to speak today on 9 behalf of the League of Women Voters of 10 Illinois. 11 Founded in 1920, the League of 12 Women Voters of Illinois is a member-driven 13 organization with 42 chapters and more than 14 3,500 members all around Illinois. Since the 15 1990s, we have advocated reforms to the state 16 redistricting process. Our recent efforts have 17 focused on an amendment to the Illinois 18 Constitution to provide for more transparent map 19 drawing process and community input through the 20 use of independent state redistricting commissions. 21 22 The League of Women Voters of Illinois has closely monitored the process that 23 24 the Illinois legislature has been using for the

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Page 13 drawing of the state house and senate district maps this spring and summer. I'm afraid we find this process lacking. It fails to ensure equity and transparency. For example, final bills with actual data defining the maps were introduced less than 24 hours before the Illinois General Assembly took votes and approved maps. process did not allow an opportunity for the public to study the maps or weigh in after the final proposals were released, nor did this process provide any response to the public by the Illinois General Assembly such as explaining their decisions or making needed adjustments to the maps based on public input. No written evidence was provided to show that the final legislative maps provide equity by meeting the standards of the Federal Voting Rights Act and the Illinois Voting Rights Act, standards which require effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities. Now it appears that the process

for adopting maps for the U.S. congressional

	Page 14
1	district maps is following the same pattern.
2	There's no transparency and no assurance that
3	the public will be able to have meaningful input
4	prior to votes approving the congressional
5	district maps by the Illinois Assembly.
6	Illinois must adopt a
7	redistricting process that is more accessible,
8	equitable and transparent, accountable to the
9	people. Responsibility for redistricting should
10	be vested in an independent special commission.
11	The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports
12	redistricting processes and enforceable
13	standards that promote fair and effective
14	representation at all levels of government with
15	maximum opportunity for public participation.
16	Thank you for the opportunity for
17	the League of Women Voters of Illinois to
18	express its views on this process.
19	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Ms. Nichols.
20	Questions from members of the
21	committee?
22	Senator McClure.
23	SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
24	Ma'am, thank you very much for

Page 15 1 your important testimony today. How much time 2 would you need between when a map is actually 3 unveiled by the committee and when you need a 4 chance to review it -- how much time would you 5 need to review any map from this committee 6 before we actually vote on the map on the floor 7 of the senate? MS. NICHOLS: 8 I'm responding now 9 personally because I'm not directed on this 10 subject, but I've been following the Chicago Advisory Redistricting Commission and how 11 12 they've been operating, and they issued a map 13 for the wards of Chicago and had four weeks for 14 two different rounds of public input, so I like 15 that model personally. 16 SENATOR McCLURE: Yeah. I mean, that 17 certainly would be enough -- at least enough 18 time. The previous witness asked for 60 to 90 19 I think four weeks is reasonable. days. 20 think 60 to 90 days is reasonable as well 21 considering we've had this census data for quite 22 some time now. 23 So is there anything -- so you 24 were involved a little bit in the process of the

	Page 16
1	last two maps that were brought before the
2	Redistricting Committee. Do you have any sense
3	that things are going to be different this
4	go-round?
5	MS. NICHOLS: No. That was our testimony,
6	that we don't have a schedule or criteria. That
7	was I hope what I wanted to convey in my
8	testimony, Senator McClure.
9	SENATOR McCLURE: And do you are you
10	told because we have yet to be told as to who is
11	drawing these maps do you have any indication
12	as to who is drawing these maps and whether or
13	not any of these committee hearings are being
14	listened to by these mysterious people that are
15	drawing these maps?
16	MS. NICHOLS: I think, perhaps, that's a
17	rhetorical question, sir.
18	SENATOR McCLURE: I think it is. Thank
19	you very much for your important testimony
20	today.
21	MS. NICHOLS: Thank you.
22	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator
23	McClure.
24	Seeing no further hands,

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1	Ms. Nichols, thank you so much for your
2	testimony.
3	I'm sorry. I apologize. I see a
4	question from Senator Plummer.
5	SENATOR PLUMMER: No, I hit the wrong
6	button. Sorry about that, Senator Sims.
7	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay. No problem.
8	Thank you, Ms. Nichols, for your
9	important testimony. We really appreciate you
10	being here today.
11	MS. NICHOLS: Glad to be here.
12	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you.
13	I also see so other witnesses
14	seeking to testify, I see Frank Calabrese
15	seeking to testify. Frank, are you with us? Oh
16	there he is.
17	MR. CALABRESE: Yes. Thank you so much,
18	Senator Sims.
19	My boss, Chairman, Alderman
20	Villegas, is very interested in the 2nd
21	congressional district from Illinois, and I made
22	a small presentation on that if I may share my
23	screen.
24	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Do we have the ability

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1	for Mr. Calabrese to share a screen?
2	(Inaudible)
3	UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, he should be able
4	to share his screen.
5	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: All right. Go ahead,
6	Mr. Calabrese.
7	MR. CALABRESE: All right. That's great.
8	All right. So this is just a
9	brief overview on if the committee wanted to
10	create two congressional districts in Illinois
11	that would be considered Latino. There we go.
12	So brief overview, Illinois has a
13	greater Latino population than Arizona and is
14	only surpassed by the four largest states,
15	California, Texas, Florida and New York.
16	Illinois has over 2.3 million Latinos, which is
17	18 percent of the population, and Latinos are
18	the largest minority group in Illinois.
19	As you are probably all aware,
20	Illinois currently has one congressional
21	district, the 4th, which is the majority Latino,
22	and it is but it's 70 percent Latino
23	districting, and it encompasses the northwest
24	and southwest Latino populations of Chicago as

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1	well as some surrounding Latino suburbs like
2	Cicero. And that's been the governing
3	philosophy in Illinois for a few decades is that
4	there needs to be one overwhelmingly Latino
5	district.
6	New York has a different
7	philosophy. New York only has one Latino
8	majority district, but they have three plurality
9	Latino districts in or around New York City, and
10	they elect three Latino Congress people from
11	those three plurality districts as well.
12	This these are the census
13	tracts of northeast Illinois. I colored them
14	I colored Latinos orange, so you can see where
15	Latinos are. Latinos are on the southwest side
16	of Chicago, northwest side of Chicago, areas
17	like Aurora, Elgin and Waukegan.
18	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Mr. Calabrese, I
19	don't we can't see that on your presentation.
20	MR. CALABRESE: Oh, you can't? I'm sorry.
21	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: No, there you go. Thank
22	you.
23	MR. CALABRESE: You can see it now?
24	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Yes.

Page 20 1 MR. CALABRESE: Okav. I'll slow down. 2 Sometimes it takes awhile for the Zoom to catch 3 up. So this is a census tract. 4 These 5 are the census tracts of northeastern Illinois 6 colored by dominant demographics, and you can 7 see Latinos are in certain cities like Aurora 8 and Joliet, around O'Hare, on the northwest side 9 of Chicago and the southwest side of Chicago. Zooming in -- and I included 10 congressional boundaries -- you can see that 11 12 Latinos are not effectively used especially on 13 the southwest side of Chicago. On the southwest 14 side of Chicago, there are very large Latino 15 The majority Latino tracts are in the areas. 16 3rd congressional district. 17 The 3rd congressional district is 18 about a third Latino by population in areas 19 around Midway, and the southwest side of Chicago 20 are not in the Latino 4th congressional 21 district, but they're in the 3rd congressional 22 district, which is not a Latino district. 23 And on the northwest side, you

see the 4th congressional district includes the

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	Page 21
1	city parks of Humboldt Park and Belmont Cragin,
2	but it does not include the western Latino
3	suburbs around O'Hare, such as Franklin Park,
4	Des Plaines and Bensenville.
5	And this is zooming in on the
6	southwest side of Chicago. You can see that the
7	Latino areas effectively split. The white line
8	is the congressional line, and that the 4th
9	congressional district could pick up many more
10	Latinos in the Midway area.
11	And zooming in to the northwest
12	side of Chicago, you can see that the 4th
13	congressional district is only
14	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Mr. Calabrese, could you
15	hold on one second?
16	MR. CALABRESE: Oh, sure.
17	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: It's not yeah, it's
18	not zooming for me. There it is.
19	MR. CALABRESE: Okay. Sorry about that.
20	And I emailed this presentation as well.
21	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: As long as you have sent
22	this, we'll make sure that it's part of the
23	record, and it will be posted on our on the
24	website for us, so it is part of the record.

Page 22 1 MR. CALABRESE: Thank you so much, 2 Senator. Thank you. 3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: 4 MR. CALABRESE: And you see on the 5 northwest side of Chicago, the 4th congressional 6 district, which, again, the white lines are the 7 district lines -- the 4th congressional district 8 includes some Chicago neighborhoods, but it does not include Latino areas that are around O'Hare and also Addison Township, which is a Latino 10 11 township in DuPage County, which is the township 12 of DuPage which borders O'Hare Airport. So you 13 can see that there is some room to create a 14 Latino district exclusively on the north side, 15 on the south side. 16 And this is just a concept map. 17 I assume this will take a second to appear on 18 your screen, but I am moving to a concept map 19 which includes zero deviation of both districts, 20 of a north side Latino district and a south side 21 Latino district. 22 The south side Latino district 23 would be 67 percent Latino, which is essentially 24 the same percentage of the current 4th

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1	congressional district, and the north side
2	Latino district would be 50 percent Latino.
3	Now, there is some criticism when
4	people when I talk to people about this,
5	well, 50 percent Latino, that is not enough.
6	Well, other states, as I mentioned New York, New
7	York has three congressional districts that are
8	represented by Latinos with Latino plurality.
9	And I will I can go to that in a second.
10	New York has New York 12, 13 and
11	14, which are represented by Latinos which are
12	below 50 percent. 12 is 38 percent Latino, 13
13	is 49 percent Latino, and 14 is 47 percent
14	Latino. So you do not have to have a 60 or 65
15	percent Latino district to have a Latino
16	district, especially on the north side of
17	Chicago, in my opinion.
18	And by splitting these two
19	districts apart, the south end still maintains a
20	67 percent Latino percentage which is on par
21	with what it is currently now with the 4th
22	district.
23	So this is just a brief overview
24	of what the committee could do if you wanted to

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make a second Latino congressional district.
Latino population of the State of Illinois is 18
percent, and making an extra Latino district
would be on would be more on par with
proportionality of what Latinos represent for
the State of Illinois.
And so that's it for my brief
presentation. If anyone has any questions, I
would gladly answer them.
VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Mr.
Calabrese, for your presentation.
Questions from members. Seeing
none, I appreciate you for being here. I thank
you for providing your presentation for the
official record.
MR. CALABRESE: Thank you so much.
VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you,
Mr. Calabrese.
Other participants seeking to
testify, public participants seeking to testify?
Seeing none, questions from members.
Senator Plummer.
SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Senator Sims.
I guess a follow-up from some of the questions

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1	that we had at the last hearing. Chairman
2	Aquino obviously was not able to make it today.
3	I know you're filling in for him, so I guess
4	I'll direct the questions to you.
5	Has a congressional redistricting
6	map already been drawn?
7	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, there
8	is not a congressional map that has been done.
9	As you know, this process is to I'd have to
10	find concerns and questions from the public so
11	that we can have a we can draw a map that
12	reflects the fairness and equity of our state.
13	SENATOR PLUMMER: So when you say we can
14	draw a map that represents the fairness and
15	equity of the state, who is the we in that?
16	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: The we is the general
17	assembly, Senator.
18	SENATOR PLUMMER: So do you know when a
19	vote will take place on the map?
20	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I do not, Senator.
21	SENATOR PLUMMER: Do you know when a map
22	will be available for the public to view?
23	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I will say
24	this: I do not, but I would say that our

Page 26 friends on the other side of the aisle can 1 2 present and draw a map on the portal which is 3 available to the public and make that available 4 for the general public as well. 5 SENATOR PLUMMER: Right. Thank you for 6 I think it's good for the public to hear that. 7 that. 8 I guess my question was more, 9 whatever map that we anticipate voting on at 10 some point to be determined in the future, when 11 will that final map be available for the public 12 to review? Do you know that? VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Again, Senator Plummer, 13 I will -- again, I don't know when that will be, 14 15 but I would encourage my friends on the other 16 side of the aisle, if they want to participate 17 in this process, to go onto our portal, which is 18 available, which has been available and 19 participate -- and draw a map that the public 20 can see for their input in this process. 21 SENATOR PLUMMER: I appreciate that, but, you know, as one of the last witnesses said 22 23 earlier today -- I thought this comment was very

generous to the committee, but they said that

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1 | they find the process lacking.

Obviously, we kind of have been through the dog and pony show here for a few months, and I think it's a unanimous feeling of the witnesses that have been testifying that their input is generally disregarded. And that's a shame because this should be a very public process, so I appreciate that, but, you know, I think that there's a lot of people that have disengaged from the process because they don't feel like their voice is being heard.

Can you share with us, Senator Sims, who will be drawing the map that we will see at some point in the future? When will we see that map? Who is drawing that map?

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I will stipulate that -- once again, I don't know who is drawing the map, but I will stipulate that the general assembly will take up a map that reflects the fairness -- reflects the equity and transparency, that reflects the transparent process, but I would also encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle, if they want to participate in this process, to show a map that

Page 28 reflects their priorities, but up until this 1 point, we have yet to see a map from our friends 2 on the other side of the aisle. 3 4 We have seen press conferences. 5 We have seen statements of discontent, but we 6 have not seen participation in the process. 7 can -- you can continue to sit on the sidelines 8 and criticize, or you can participate in the 9 process and help us govern, which my friends on the other side of the aisle to date have not 10 11 seemed willing to do. 12 SENATOR PLUMMER: I find it interesting 13 that you find reasonable questions seeking transparency to be criticisms. They're not 14 15 criticisms. I'm just trying to better 16 understand what's going on, perhaps provide some 17 sunlight on the process. 18 As far as press conferences and 19 all these things, I think you're not referring 20 to us Republicans. I think you're referring to 21 a lot of the non --22 No, I'm absolutely VICE-CHAIR SIMS: 23 referring to the Republicans, to our Republican

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colleagues.

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SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, obviously, a lot of nonpartisan groups have been involved, but you said there, in response to my question about who would be drawing the map, you said that the general assembly will be taking up a map, and I'm not sure exactly what taking up a map means because my question is specifically who is drawing the map.

assembly is. Well, I'm a member of the general assembly, and I assure you I'm not involved in drawing a map. So could you please -- I mean, as the vice chairman of the committee, could you please inform the public and inform the media who is drawing the map?

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Well, thank you,
Senator. I appreciate you confirming that our
Republican colleagues are not participating in
the process. We are asking -- we've asked you
from the very beginning to participate in the
process. I have yet to see a map be submitted
by the Republicans. I've yet to see on our
public portal a map submitted by anyone on the
other side of the aisle talking about their

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1 priorities.

We have received one map submission for congressional maps, and that was from Mr. Calabrese today, but we have not yet seen any participation on -- from the other side of the aisle. But I appreciate the questions, Senator, but, again, if you are going to talk about the process, participate in it.

SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I'm glad you appreciate the questions. I just wish you would start answering the questions.

So you said that --

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I've answered them. You just don't like my answer.

SENATOR PLUMMER: I'd like to finish.

You said that you're looking for our priorities, and I think that that shows a real disconnect maybe between the mindset of some people -- and let's say it's my mindset. I won't pretend to know what other Republicans are thinking.

My priorities are transparency.

My priorities are fairness. My priorities are
making sure that the public has a say in this

Page 31 1 My priorities are making sure the public gets to review a map before a vote. 2 3 priorities are making sure that the public knows who is drawing the map. 4 5 My priorities aren't partisan. 6 My priorities aren't jamming what I want down 7 anyone else's throat. My priorities are making 8 this fair and open, and that's kind of where 9 there's a disconnect. 10 But moving on from who is drawing 11 this map that we're talking about, could you 12 share with us specifically, because I'm 13 operating on the assumption there might be some 14 overlap here -- can you share with us who drew 15 the state legislative maps that we voted on 16 previously and those other redistricting maps 17 that we reviewed earlier this year? 18 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, let me 19 say a couple of things. One, your statement 20 falls a little hollow since we have not seen a 21 map from the other side of the aisle. If you 22 are -- if your goal was really transparency, put

a map out there. We have yet to see one from

the other side of the aisle. So that criticism

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Page 32 1 rings hollow to me. 2 The -- what -- we are not here to 3 talk about the legislative maps which I would --I would remind the senator that those maps are 4 5 law, so we are not here to talk about those 6 maps. We're here to talk about the 7 congressional maps and the subcircuit maps. 8 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I find it a bit ironic being that we're the super minority. We 10 don't hold -- Republicans when I say we. don't hold any statewide offices. We're the 11 12 super minority in the house. We're the super 13 minority in the senate. 14 Your party can do whatever you 15 In fact, you did do whatever you want. 16 And yet, you haven't shown us a map. You didn't 17 show us a map until right before the vote on the state legislative maps, and yet, somehow you 18 19 feel that the voiceless out there, whether 20 that's the Republicans or that's all these 21 nonpartisan groups, we have to show you our map, 22 but the map that we all know we're going to vote 23 on you don't have to provide us.

But the -- I guess you're the

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Page 33 vice chairman of the committee. 1 Your answers 2 are oddly similar to the chairman's answers last 3 week in terms of the process, in terms of not 4 knowing who is drawing the map. I mean, if I 5 were you, I personally would be insulted being 6 the vice chairman of the committee, and you know 7 so little about the process. 8 But I guess my question is, we 9 have all of these groups appearing and providing 10 testimony. We have all these interesting 11 presentations with well-thought-out data with a lot of obviously well-researched work. 12 13 sitting here commenting. A lot of people are 14 commenting, but it's just here within the 15 committee, and the committee doesn't seem to 16 know who is drawing the map. 17 So is this just a dog and pony show, or how can you ensure the public, Senator 18 19 Sims, that all of the content of these committee 20 hearings and all of the positive comments, 21 negative comments, all of the data, how does 22 that go into the map if you don't even know who 23 is drawing the map? 24 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, again, I will

Page 34 1 say that it is ironic that you would challenge 2 the fact that we have not shown you a map when 3 my friends on the other side of the aisle, you 4 acknowledge that you're in the super minority, 5 but that does not stop you from being a 6 legislator. That does not stop you from 7 legislating. 8 And showing a map is no different 9 than introducing a bill, and members of the other side -- on the other side of the aisle 10 continue to introduce legislation, but why have 11 12 you not -- if your goal is to participate in 13 this process, if your goal is to stand up for 14 transparency, if your goal is to show what the 15 map should look like that is fair and equitable, 16 why not present one? 17 Why not participate in the process by putting a map, which is in our -- on 18 19 our public portal, which has been available, 20 which has been out there from day one since this 21 process has begun, why not introduce a map, put 22 a map out there so that the public can see how 23 you would do it differently? If -- again,

legislating is about participating, not just

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Page 35

1 | criticizing.

SENATOR PLUMMER: It's not a criticism.

It was a question, so let's just go back to the question, and no need to filibuster here.

If nobody knows who is drawing the map, if you as the vice chairman of the committee doesn't know who is drawing the map, how is the content of these committees, how is this information, the comments, the witness testimony, the data, how is that getting -- how is that information being part of the process with the map drawing if we don't know who is drawing the map?

I don't care who is submitting maps, who is not submitting maps. My question is, how does the important testimony from the witnesses get into the process if you don't know who is drawing the map?

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Again, I find it ironic that my friend is telling me how to feel.

That's ironic to me. But here is the point.

The point is this, Senator, we have yet to see a map from the other side of the aisle. We have yet to see any meaningful participation from the

Page 36

other side of the aisle. Maybe it is you
setting up for a litigation strategy. I don't
know.

But what we will do is continue to listen to groups. We will continue to take input. We will continue to have the map that reflects the great diversity of our state in a fair and equitable process. If you wish to participate with us, we welcome you.

SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. So when you take that testimony and you take that information that you just talked about you're going to continue to do that, when you take it, how do we know what you do with it? How does it get into the map conversation?

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, the process that we are going to engage in -- and I will walk through the upcoming numerous hearings that we will have throughout the state, both in person and virtually, that members of the public can participate, and I would hope that my friends on the other side of the aisle would not just attend, but would meaningfully participate in.

Page 37 1 SENATOR PLUMMER: Great. So at the end of 2 all of this, how does all this information get 3 imprinted into a map if you don't know who is 4 drawing the map? All this information is 5 That's great. You say that we're not coming. 6 engaged. I'm on every one of these things, even 7 when they start (inaudible). I'm in every one. 8 I sit here. I listen. I take notes. 9 My question is -- you know, I 10 don't think we anticipate every single person to 11 testify is going to submit a map. They're 12 welcome to, I suppose, if the portal actually 13 works. My question is, how does that 14 information go from the committee to the map if 15 the committee chairman and vice-chairman doesn't 16 know who is drawing the map? 17 Senator, I would ask --VICE-CHAIR SIMS: 18 you just mentioned that you take these copious 19 notes. What happens with your notes? Where do 20 they go when you get done taking the notes that 21 you hear because we have not seen a map from the 22 other side of the aisle. If you are taking 23 these notes, what happens with those notes

because they certainly aren't going into a map

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1 | that we've seen.

SENATOR PLUMMER: Yeah, I save all the notes. I take all the commentary, and then, when a map is presented, I compare the map to the notes I've taken from all the witnesses to make sure that what the public desires is in the map.

And now, we all know that didn't happen in the state legislative process and some of these other processes because those maps don't represent what the witnesses want, and that's what I'm concerned about. So now we're on the congressional map; right? So I'm going to make sure according to my notes that the map that is dropped on our lap represents what the public wants.

You know or someone knows -someone has to know who is drawing the map;
right? So my question is, how does this
information get into the map?

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, we will certainly look forward to you submitting those notes into a map to this committee because if -- that is part of the legislative process.

Page 39 1 Legislating requires that both -- that you 2 participate in the process. We will accept your 3 map submissions from any platforms in any way, shape or form, but until now, we have not --4 5 Senator, may I finish, please? 6 SENATOR PLUMMER: Yeah, sure. 7 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: But up until now, we 8 have yet to see anything from the other side of 9 the aisle, and again, I don't know if this is a 10 litigation strategy. I don't know what the plan 11 is. All I know is that right now we have a duty 12 to respond based on our responsibility. We have 13 a legal duty to draw maps based on the decennial census, which we are doing. 14 15 And again, I keep saying to my 16 friends on the other side of the aisle, submit a 17 map. Submit your map to the committee for 18 discussion and inclusion in the process. 19 SENATOR PLUMMER: So I just heard you say 20 that you'll accept maps in any format and 21 through the portal and everything else, so just 22 for clarification for the witnesses, because a

lot of the witnesses in these hearings have been

similar or the same witnesses from the hearings

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Page 40 we had in the spring on the state legislative 1 2 maps, so is the portal process different now? 3 Does the portal actually work 4 this time unlike in the spring, so that, if 5 everyone takes time to do these maps, will they 6 actually be submitted because I believe that 7 there weren't any maps submitted through the 8 portal in the spring. So I just want to make 9 sure the portal works now. Is that correct? 10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I'm glad you 11 asked that question because, if someone wants to 12 submit testimony or map, they can email them to 13 us at redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov. 14 Let me say that a second time. You can submit 15 testimony or maps. It can be emailed to 16 redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov. 17 SENATOR PLUMMER: So -- that's great. 18 I have two questions left I think. One of them should be pretty brief, but just so we're all on 19 20 the same page here, Senator Sims, you do not 21 know if a map has been drawn yet, and you do not 22 know who is drawing the map that will be 23 submitted for the general assembly to vote; is

24

that correct?

	Page 41
1	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I have said again,
2	Senator Plummer, I have you have asked that
3	question multiple times. I have answered that
4	question multiple times. You asked the question
5	last week of Chair Aquino. He answered the
6	question, so let's move on to your next one.
7	SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. So real quickly,
8	so what was the answer then?
9	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Let's move on to your
10	next question, Senator.
11	SENATOR PLUMMER: I haven't heard an
12	answer, so I just want to be clear. What is the
13	answer then if it's been answered so many times?
14	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I've answered
15	it previously in this meeting. We are going
16	around and around in circles. Please ask your
17	next question, Senator.
18	SENATOR PLUMMER: So, yeah, we'll just
19	continue to go around in circles if the
20	questions aren't going to be answered.
21	So I guess my next question would
22	then be a witness earlier testified that they
23	thought four weeks was a reasonable amount of
24	time to review a map between submittal and vote

Page 42 1 by the general assembly. Someone else I think 2 said six to nine weeks or something like that --3 or, 60 to 90 days. I'm sorry. I have heard regularly in other hearings from witnesses 4 5 across the spectrum that they thought at least 6 two weeks was reasonable. 7 Can we get a commitment from you, 8 Mr. Vice-Chairman, or a commitment from our 9 supermajority party that the public will have a 10 period of time of at least two weeks between 11 when a map is dropped on the general assembly 12 and when the general assembly votes on it so that there is time for public input, for public 13 14 review and for the public to share their 15 thoughts with everyone in the general assembly? 16 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, I would 17 welcome you or anyone on your side of the aisle 18 to submit a map to the committee that will give 19 individuals, including the public and the 20 members of the general assembly, the opportunity 21 to review them and give them time to clearly 22 evaluate them. 23 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. The map I asked

about is the map that's going to be voted on.

Page 43 1 When that map -- for the final vote, when that 2 map is submitted, right, after all of this 3 information is supposedly taken and printed in 4 this map, when that map that we're going to vote 5 on is submitted, will there be at least a 6 two-week period of time, as everyone has asked 7 for, for public review, public input and for 8 transparency's sake between the submittal and 9 the vote? 10 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, I would 11 welcome you or anyone on your side of the aisle 12 to submit a map that would give the public and 13 the general assembly time to review it and to 14 evaluate it. 15 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. Can you answer my 16 question now, please? 17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I've answered 18 your question. 19 So how long between SENATOR PLUMMER: 20 submittal of the final map and the vote will 21 there be? 22 Senator, I have answered VICE-CHAIR SIMS: 23 your question. You are welcome to submit a map 24 and to give us ample time to evaluate it.

	Page 44
1	SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I appreciate I
2	appreciate it, Senator Sims. Thanks for your
3	time. I'm taking your nonanswer as a big no,
4	but we'll have to wait and see I suppose.
5	I think that I would just like to
6	say to the witnesses in all of this and the
7	witnesses that have taken time in the past I
8	apologize to them for the complete disdain that
9	the majority party holds them in. It is
10	absolutely shameful, the lack of transparency,
11	the refusal to answer basic questions, the
12	ignoring the input of witnesses.
13	This is shocking. It's I
14	would frankly be embarrassed to be sitting in
15	your shoes right now, Senator Sims, and refusing
16	to provide transparency to the people of
17	Illinois.
18	Thank you.
19	VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you for your
20	hollow last words. Thank you.
21	Senator McClure.
22	SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23	Okay. So we don't know excuse
24	me. We don't know when we're going to get the

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Mr. Chairman.

Page 45 map, but I quess -- you know, I think it would be reasonable to set some sort of a timeline for whomever is drafting this to give the public two weeks at least. We don't have a commitment for that today. I understand that. I guess my question is, why is there no deadline for the final map to be put into committee the same way there is, for example, when we're going to vote on a map on the floor in veto session because to me I think that, you know, no matter what a person's position is on the map, I do think it's fair to give these groups at least two weeks to be able to review the map. And you know, whether there's two weeks or not or whether you decide to comment as to why this was drawn there or whatever is kind of irrelevant. I feel that the public is not -does not feel like they are able to participate unless they can comment on the actual map, and I don't feel that a few hours or a day before is going to give them enough time. So this is a legitimate question,

I mean, why do we not give at

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least two weeks' notice for these people to be able to testify? And if you want to respond to things back and forth, you can or not. It doesn't really matter. I just feel like they're not going to have their say unless we listen to them with at least two weeks' notice.

VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator McClure, the veto session calendar was presented to all members of the general assembly and the public on May 31. So the dates for the general -- the general assembly's fall veto session have been public for months. We are scheduled to be in Springfield for those scheduled days, and that is when we will plan to -- we will plan to take this map up.

SENATOR McCLURE: Okay. No, I get that, but I just don't understand why you wouldn't show a map at least two weeks out so that people can comment on it. Now, you may take the comments. You may not take the comments, but just allowing the public to comment when people have taken so much time to just participate and take time out of their workday or whatever.

I don't think it's unreasonable

Page 47 1 to ask for two weeks for them to get the chance 2 to review the maps and then have a final say, 3 and then we'll go on the floor. And we all know 4 you have a supermajority. You guys are going to 5 vote, and the maps are going to be whatever you 6 guys want them to be anyway. 7 But I don't see what you're 8 losing here by just allowing for more public 9 discussion. And you know something, 10 Mr. Chairman, maybe someone will make a comment 11 that might just make you say, you know something, that's a valid point, and we're going 12 13 to make a few changes. 14 But it's just not helpful to 15 anybody, us included, when we don't have a map 16 to kind of work with to see where your heads are 17 at and what you're thinking and to give 18 legitimate criticisms and feedback and 19 everything else. I don't see why it's an issue 20 to give the maps two weeks' notice. I really 21 don't. 22 And I just -- my question is, why 23 can we not have a promise that or a goal of 24 having the maps done two weeks -- with at least

Page 48 two weeks' notice for the folks that are on 1 2 this -- in this hearing to review? I just don't 3 think it's unreasonable. I suspect you don't 4 think it's unreasonable either, but my question 5 is why. Why are we not going to see these maps 6 at least two weeks out? 7 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I appreciate 8 the comment which is why throughout this hearing and previously we have encouraged our friends on 10 the other side of the aisle to submit maps so 11 that we have the opportunity to understand what the suggestions are and what the recommendations 12 13 are. Yet, we have yet to see that map. 14 We have yet to see any proposals 15 coming from the other side of the aisle that 16 would demonstrate to us that they are 17 participating in the process or have meaningful 18 recommendations for the process. 19 We still have three hearings left 20 of this committee. We are looking for input 21 from maps similar to what Mr. Calabrese 22 If our friends on the other side of provided. 23 the aisle wish to meaningfully participate,

please do so. We continue to ask for

Page 49 1 participation from our friends on the other side 2 of the aisle, but we are -- we have yet to 3 receive that participation. SENATOR McCLURE: Well, I don't want to go 4 5 back and forth with you, Mr. Chairman. I think 6 you and Senator Plummer had a good discussion 7 over this, but I just -- I'm disappointed. 8 You know as well as I do, 9 Mr. Chairman, you guys have supermajorities in 10 both houses. And I think you know as well we 11 are willing to work with you where we can have 12 bipartisan agreement. 13 I was just at a groundbreaking just a couple hours ago with the governor and 14 15 with members of the Democratic caucus on the 16 Rebuilding Illinois projects that we're excited 17 to be a part of, but the fact that in this 18 process you have totally shut us down and then 19 have this sort of phony, oh, my goodness, please, we just can't wait to see your maps so 20 21 we can throw them right in the dumpsters behind 22 the Capitol. 23 You want to talk about hollow. 24 That's hollow. And we want to work with you,

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Mr. Chairman. As you pointed out, there's three more hearings, but I think the public deserves to get to take a look at these maps. Now, you may not think that we deserve to because we're not Democrats, we're Republicans, but the public deserves to see these maps at least two weeks before we vote on them.

And the fact that they can't and that you will not guarantee that, despite the fact that it would not hurt you politically at all, you can still pass whatever maps that you guys want to. It does not change the majorities of both houses. The fact that you guys just won't do that for the public, for these people that have taken the time to listen and be here and present information, it makes me sad for them because they deserve better out of the their government, and it's just -- it's a real shame.

And I'm very disappointed,
Mr. Chairman. I hope that in the next committee
we will see a map from you all, and I hope that
you really would like to have us a part of the
process because we would like to be a part of

Page 51 1 the process, but unfortunately, we have been 2 shut out just like our constituents and your 3 constituents and all these people that have testified here in these hearings. 4 5 And it's just -- it's a real 6 It's bad for government, and I hope that shame. we can do better at the next hearing, and I hope 7 8 that we can do better for the citizens of this 9 state. 10 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator. 12 And I will say this: We can't 13 shut you down when you don't participate. 14 can't shut you down if you have not spoken up. 15 We've been asking for participation. 16 yet to get it. We've been asking for 17 partnership. We have yet to get it. 18 We will continue. This process 19 will continue. We will continue to ask, and we 20 will be anxiously waiting with bated breath for 21 a map from the Republican side of the aisle. I 22 don't believe we'll see it, but we'll continue 23 to wait for it. But to say that you've 24 participated or attempted to participate when

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1	you have not even done something as basic as
2	submit a map so that we could have a discussion
3	about, that's not participation.
4	So as a reminder, if you want to
5	view the 2020 census numbers, draw a community
6	of interest or district, please go to our
7	website at ilsenateredistricting.com.
8	If you have drawn a map using
9	another mapping platform and would like to share
10	it with the committee, please email it to
11	redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov. If
12	you want to submit it and I'll remind
13	individuals again, if you want to submit
14	additional testimony or maps, please email them
15	to redistrictingcommittee@senatedem.ilga.gov.
16	Another reminder, the Senate
17	Redistricting Committee has scheduled the
18	following future hearings:
19	On Wednesday, October 13 at 4:00
20	p.m. at Elgin Community College, the Seigle
21	Auditorium at Building E, 1700 Spartan Drive in
22	Elgin. It will be a virtual hearing, so
23	participants may testify at the hearing location
24	or participate via Zoom.

	Page 53
1	The subject matter will be
2	congressional boundaries, current subcircuits in
3	Will and Kane Counties and a potential creation
4	of subcircuits in counties with a population of
5	more than 150,000 people.
6	On Thursday, October 14th at
7	12:00 p.m. at the Illinois State Capitol, Room
8	409, Springfield, there will be a virtual
9	hearing. Participants may testify at the
10	hearing location or participate via Zoom.
11	
12	Again, the subject matter will be
13	congressional boundaries and the potential
14	creation of subcircuits in counties with a
15	population of more than 150,000 people.
16	Then, on Friday, October 15th at
17	Dunn-Richmond Economic Center, Conference Room
18	241, at Southern Illinois University at
19	Carbondale, 1740 Innovation Drive in Carbondale,
20	there will be a virtual hearing, so participants
21	may testify at the hearing or participate via
22	Zoom.
23	The subject matter will be
24	congressional boundaries and the potential

	Page 54
1	creation of subcircuits in counties with
2	populations of more than 150,000 people.
3	Seeing no further business to
4	come before the committee, this committee of the
5	Senate Redistricting Committee stands adjourned.
6	Thanks everyone.
7	(Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.)
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Page 55 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE I, Shari L. Szerbat, a Registered Professional Reporter doing business in the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the proceedings of said hearing as appears from my stenographic notes so taken and transcribed under my direction. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of October 2021. Shari L. Szerbat No. 24037 

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