

Transcript of the Testimony of:

Meeting

October 14, 2021

SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE



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Meeting 10/14/2021

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021
12:00 P.M.

VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE

1 PRESENT via Zoom videoconference:
2 ILLINOIS REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE:
3
4 SENATOR ELGIE R. SIMS, JR., Vice-Chair
5 SENATOR OMAR AQUINO, Chair
6 SENATOR SCOTT M. BENNETT, Member
7 SENATOR CRISTINA CASTRO, Member
8 SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER, Member
9 SENATOR LAURA M. MURPHY, Member
10 SENATOR JASON BARICKMAN, Minority Spokesperson
11 SENATOR STEVE McCLURE, Member
12 SENATOR JASON PLUMMER, Member
13 SENATOR JIL TRACY
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SENATE STAFF:

MR. JOSHUA HORELED
MS. ERICA TREMBLE

ALSO PRESENT:

MR. BRIAN BURIAN
MR. MIKE HOFFMAN

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Good morning. This meeting
2 of the Senate Redistricting Committee is called
3 to order. We have letter from Republican Leader
4 McConchie appointing Senator Tracy to
5 temporarily replace Leader McConchie on the
6 Redistricting Committee for today's hearing.

7 Clerk will please take the roll.

8 MS. TREMBLE: Senator Plummer?

9 SENATOR PLUMMER: Present.

10 MS. TREMBLE: Senator Tracy?

11 SENATOR TRACY: Present.

12 MS. TREMBLE: Senator McClure?

13 SENATOR McCLURE: Present.

14 MS. TREMBLE: Spokesperson Barickman?

15 Senator Murphy?

16 SENATOR MURPHY: Here.

17 MS. TREMBLE: Senator Jones? Senator Hunter?

18 SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

19 MS. TREMBLE: Senator Cunningham? Senator

20 Castro?

21 SENATOR CASTRO: Here.

22 MS. TREMBLE: Senator Bennett? Senator Sims?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Present.

24 MS. TREMBLE: Senator Aquino.

1 SENATOR AQUINO: Present.

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: There being a quorum
3 present, the following entities are seeking
4 leave to photograph and videotape the
5 proceedings, BlueRoomStream.

6 Is there leave? Leave being granted.
7 Senator Castro for a motion.

8 SENATOR CASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
9 move that this hearing be transcribed by the
10 court reporter so that the Committee can have a
11 full transcript of this hearing.

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator Castro.
13 Senator Castro moves to allow a court reporter
14 to transcribe today's hearing. Is there leave?
15 Leave being granted. The court reporter will be
16 allow to transcribe the hearing.

17 The 2020 Census, the Redistricting of
18 Illinois Congressional Districts and the
19 potential creation of judicial sub-circuits in
20 counties with populations over 150,000 people is
21 the subject of today's hearing.

22 Staff has prepared a presentation on
23 census numbers in Illinois's current
24 Congressional districts. This presentation will

1 be posted on the Redistricting Committee's page
2 on the Illinois General Assembly's website,
3 which is www.ilga.gov.

4 I'll now turn it over to our able
5 staff, Erica, for the presentation. Erica,
6 please proceed.

7 SENATOR BARICKMAN: Mr. Chairman, if you
8 could add me to the roll. Thank you.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Clerk, please add Senator
10 Barickman to the roll.

11 MS. TREMBLE: I am going to share my screen.

12 First, to just recap on the statewide
13 census numbers, the 2020 population was
14 12,812,508 people. And this represents an
15 18,124-person decrease from 2010.

16 Here you can see the racial
17 demographics as well for the statewide numbers.
18 And as Senator Sims mentioned, this will be
19 posted on the ILGA website.

20 So now turning to census numbers for
21 Northern Illinois, this region saw all counties
22 except for Carroll County had a population loss.
23 And I'll leave it up on the screen for a little
24 bit if you want to take a look at it.

1 And then looking specifically at the
2 largest county in the region, Winnebago, we see
3 the 2020 population at 285,350, which represents
4 a 3.4 percent decrease.

5 And looking to the 2020 racial
6 demographics of the county, we see a
7 14.4 percent Hispanic or Latino population and a
8 13.7 percent black or African-American alone or
9 in combination population and a 2.8 percent
10 Asian alone or in combination population.

11 Then turning to the numbers for the
12 Illinois Western region, all counties in this
13 region had a population loss. And, again, I can
14 leave it up on the screen if people want to take
15 a look at the numbers.

16 And then looking specifically at Rock
17 Island County, the 2020 population was 144,672,
18 which represents a 1.9 percent decrease.

19 And then, again, the 2020 racial
20 demographics, we see 13.7 percent Hispanic or
21 Latino population, 13.9 percent black or
22 African-American alone or in combination,
23 3.4 percent Asian alone or in combination.

24 Looking at the census numbers for the

1 North Central Region, these counties all have
2 varying population loss. Again, I'll leave it
3 on this screen if people want to take a look at
4 the numbers.

5 Looking specifically at Peoria County,
6 the 2020 population is at 181,830, which
7 represents .8 percent decrease.

8 And looking to the 2020 racial
9 demographics, we see 5.5 percent Hispanic or
10 Latino population, a 21.3 percent black or
11 African-American alone or in combination, and a
12 5 percent Asian alone or in combination.

13 So looking at the numbers for the East
14 Central Illinois region, we had two counties
15 that had increases, McLean and Champaign
16 Counties, both had increases in population,
17 while the surrounding counties had a population
18 loss. And, again, I'll leave this up if you
19 want to look at the numbers briefly.

20 Looking specific at McLean County, we
21 had a 2020 population of 170,954, which
22 represents a .8 percent increase. This saw a
23 6.2 Hispanic or Latino population, a
24 10.8 percent black or African-American alone or

1 in combination, and a 5.6 percent Asian alone or
2 in combination.

3 Champaign County, the 2020 population
4 was 205,865, which represents a 2.4 percent
5 increase.

6 And the 2020 racial demographics for
7 Champaign County are 8 percent Hispanic or
8 Latino population, 16.3 percent black or
9 African-American alone or in combination, and
10 13.2 percent Asian alone or in combination.

11 Looking at Tazewell County, we have a
12 2020 population of 131,343, which represents a 3
13 percent decrease.

14 And the 2020 racial demographics for
15 this county are 2.4 Hispanic or Latino
16 population, 2.2 percent black or
17 African-American alone or in combination, and
18 1.2 percent Asian alone or in combination.

19 Turning to the Central and Southwestern
20 Region, we saw population loss in this region.
21 And, again, I'll leave it on your screen if you
22 want to take a look.

23 Looking specifically at Sangamon
24 County, we saw a 2020 population of 196,343,

1 which represents a .6 percent decrease.

2 The 2020 racial demographics for
3 Sangamon County are 2.7 percent Hispanic or
4 Latino population, 15.6 percent black or
5 African-American alone or in combination, and
6 2.8 percent Asian alone or in combination.

7 Macon County 2020 population was
8 103,998. That represents a population change of
9 6.1 percent decrease.

10 And the 2020 racial demographics of
11 Macon County were 2.6 percent Hispanic or
12 Latino, 21.1 percent black or African-American
13 alone or in combination, and 1.9 percent Asian
14 alone or in combination.

15 So turning to the South Central Region
16 of the state, with the exception of Effingham
17 County, all other counties saw a population
18 loss. Again, I'll leave it on the screen if you
19 want to take a look.

20 So looking at these population losses
21 and the growth that other states have seen
22 resulted in one less Congressional district,
23 which is you can see kind of towards the bottom
24 left of the screen.

1 So looking at the individual districts.
2 Congressional District 1 has a total population
3 of 705,949.

4 Congressional District 2 has a total
5 population of 679,628.

6 Congressional District 3 has a total
7 population of 725,625.

8 Congressional District 4 has a total
9 population of 698,570.

10 Congressional District 5 has a total
11 population of 743,449.

12 Congressional District 6 has a total
13 population of 732,745.

14 Congressional District 7 has a total
15 population of 764,663.

16 Congressional District 8 has a total
17 population of 716,990.

18 Congressional District 9 has a total
19 population of 742,156.

20 Congressional District 10 has a total
21 population of 724,946.

22 Congressional District 11 has a total
23 population of 706,376.

24 Congressional District 12 has a total

1 population of 674,870.

2 Congressional District 13 has a total
3 population of 695,583.

4 Congressional District 14 has a total
5 population of 753,195.

6 Congressional District 15 has a total
7 population of 680,293.

8 Congressional District 16 has a total
9 population of 692,552.

10 Congressional District 17 has a total
11 population of 673,770.

12 Congressional District 18 has a total
13 population of 701,148.

14 And as a reminder, as was mentioned
15 before the presentation, this will be posted on
16 the ILGA website. And thank you for your time.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you so much, Erica.

18 Questions from members of the
19 Committee? Seeing none. I'm not -- we are
20 participating virtually and in person, so I'm
21 going to need some assistance for those who are
22 on the ground in Springfield in Room 409. Is
23 there anyone seeking to provide testimony? I
24 don't have any witness slips right now.

1 But is there anyone in person in
2 Room 409 seeking to testify?

3 SENATOR McCLURE: Mr. Chairman, there is no
4 one in person.

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator McClure,
6 I appreciate that.

7 We have received two pieces of written
8 testimony and suggestions; one from Mr. Isaac
9 Neal and one from Mr. Timothy Howard. Those
10 written testimony will be provided and accepted
11 into the record and written and provided to
12 members of the Committee for their information.

13 Seeing that there are no other
14 questions, as a reminder, if you want to view
15 the 2020 Census numbers, draw community of
16 interest or district, please go to our website
17 at ILSenateredistricting.com.

18 If you have drawn a map using another
19 mapping platform and would like to share that
20 with the Committee, please email it to
21 RedistrictingCommittee@Senatedem.ilga.gov.

22 If you want to submit additional
23 testimony or maps, please email them to
24 RedistrictingCommittee@Senatedem.ilga.gov.

1 Another reminder, the Senate
2 Redistricting Committee has scheduled the
3 following future hearings, Friday, October 15th
4 at 2:00 p.m. at Dunn-Richmond Economic Center,
5 Conference Room 241, Southern Illinois
6 University at Carbondale, 1740 Innovation Drive,
7 Carbondale. It will be a virtual hearing.
8 Participants may testify at the hearing location
9 or via Zoom.

10 The subject matter will be
11 Congressional boundaries and potential creation
12 of sub-circuits in counties with a population of
13 more than 150,000 people.

14 Will the clerk please add Senator
15 Bennett to the roll. And I do see Senator
16 Bennett with his hand raised.

17 Is there a question, Senator Bennett?

18 SENATOR BENNETT: No, Mr. Chairman, you've
19 answered my request. Thank you.

20 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Okay, thank you.

21 Senator McClure.

22 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23 So yesterday there was a bit of
24 discussion about an article that was written by

1 Greg Hinz, a well-respected reporter from
2 Crain's.

3 I think it's important just to repeat
4 for the record what the text is, which is he
5 reports that "What's known for sure is that
6 three-person panels comprised of aides to House
7 Speaker Welch, Senate President Harmon, and
8 Governor Pritzker have been meeting separately
9 in recent days with every democratic member of
10 the state's Congressional delegation to see what
11 they want out of the decennial reapportionment."

12 And there was a brief discussion with
13 Chairman Aquino about that yesterday. I guess
14 my question for you, Mr. Chairman, is has your
15 side of the aisle looked into that, what do we
16 know about these meetings, are any of these
17 folks going to be testifying in front of our
18 Committee so we can be more transparent in this
19 process? I guess, where are we at on these
20 secret meetings that are taking place?

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator McClure, thank you
22 for that. I am unaware of any meetings taking
23 place. I have not seen that article from
24 Mr. Hinz, so I can't comment on those meetings

1 or on that story.

2 What I can comment on is we are -- we
3 are having this process to hear from the public
4 what their perspective is about the proposed and
5 the soon-to-be proposed legislative maps in the
6 direction they would like to see us go. And I
7 think you see that from the written testimony
8 from one of our witnesses today; their desires
9 for what they would like to see on their
10 Congressional maps.

11 But I'm aware of that story or any of
12 those meetings.

13 SENATOR McCLURE: Are we going to have -- is
14 anyone going to be looking into that,
15 Mr. Chairman, and could we possibly get some
16 more information about those meetings once you
17 or Chairman Aquino has a chance to look into
18 this maybe tomorrow at the next hearing?

19 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I'm not aware of
20 those meetings and I'm not aware of any of those
21 discussions, so I can't comment on that.

22 SENATOR McCLURE: Okay. So you don't want to
23 look into it; you just would like to just stay
24 where that is?

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, again, I'm just
2 saying to you, I don't have -- I do not have any
3 information for you on that, so I can't provide
4 that to you.

5 SENATOR McCLURE: No, I understand that. But
6 I'm saying now -- we're going to have another
7 hearing tomorrow, I think it's 2:00 p.m.
8 tomorrow. And I didn't know if you or Chairman
9 Aquino were going to look into this.

10 I mean, if I was the chairman and the
11 vice-chair of this Committee, I would be very
12 upset that there are folks from the governor's
13 office, from the speaker's office, and
14 potentially in the president's office meeting
15 with people without my knowledge or without
16 updating me, particularly since, as you know,
17 Mr. Chairman, you were trying to collect
18 information, to collect data to see how to draw
19 these maps and to see what should be included,
20 what should not be included in certain
21 districts, I would be very upset. And as a
22 member of the Committee, I'm upset.

23 And are we going to get some answers as
24 to what's been going on here perhaps tomorrow?

1 Is someone going to look into that by 2:00 p.m.
2 tomorrow.

3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Well, I appreciate that,
4 Senator, and that perspective. But I certainly
5 don't need to be told how to feel.

6 Again, I don't have the information for
7 you and certainly I can't provide information I
8 don't have.

9 SENATOR McCLURE: Will we get that
10 information tomorrow by 2:00 p.m.?

11 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I can't provide
12 you information I don't have.

13 SENATOR McCLURE: Okay. Now, it's 12:25 on
14 my watch, so that means we've got over 24 hours
15 before the next hearing at 2:00 p.m. I
16 appreciate, Mr. Chairman, that you don't have
17 that information now. You certainly have more
18 than adequate time to make a few phone calls and
19 get that information.

20 Are we going -- are you going to -- is
21 someone going to do that? Is this not something
22 that concerns you at all? I don't want to tell
23 you how to feel at all, certainly. But I think
24 the public would like to know, as would other

1 members of this Committee, sort of what
2 involvement this Committee is going to have in
3 the process when there are these secret meetings
4 happening behind closed doors that none of us
5 are privy to and that even the Chair and the
6 Vice-Chair are not aware of. And are we going
7 to figure out what these meetings entail and how
8 much -- you know, how much involvement we're
9 going to even have in the process when
10 apparently there's these, I guess, secret
11 mapmakers meeting behind closed doors with folks
12 outside of the -- outside of these Committee
13 hearings, which are supposed to be really where
14 the meat of this is discussed?

15 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I can't deal in
16 rumor or I can't deal in the stories because,
17 again, I haven't even seen the story, so I can't
18 speak to that.

19 What I can speak to is the process we
20 have before us. And just as any other piece of
21 legislation, we will take that up in due course
22 throughout the legislative process.

23 That bill will come before this
24 Committee. It will come before the Illinois

1 Senate to be taken up, as any other piece of
2 legislation is.

3 Again, I can't speak to nor can I give
4 you information I don't have.

5 SENATOR McCLURE: So the normal legislative
6 process involves the bill's sponsor, even for
7 subject-matter-only hearings coming before us
8 and answering questions.

9 The chairman, Chairman Aquino,
10 yesterday said he is not going to be the sponsor
11 of this legislation. I assume it's going to be
12 the president. I think that's typically -- and
13 correct me if I'm wrong, Mr. Chairman -- what
14 happens.

15 Are we going to have the sponsor of the
16 bill perhaps come before the Committee tomorrow
17 or sometime soon so that our constituents, your
18 constituents, all of our constituents who want
19 to testify and get answers to their questions
20 can get answers from the person who is actually
21 going to be presenting this bill on the floor of
22 the Senate?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Again, I would imagine that
24 at the appropriate time the sponsor would come,

1 talk to -- talk about the contents of the bill.

2 But, again, as you mentioned, this is a
3 bill in the regular course of the legislative
4 process. And as we move through that process,
5 we will follow the regular legislative rules
6 that have been outlined for these processes.

7 Again, as you mentioned, in terms of a
8 subject-matter hearing, it is not uncommon for
9 us to have subject-matter hearings and to gain
10 information so that we can dig deeper into the
11 specifics of a piece of legislation, which is
12 what we are doing. And that's why this process
13 is not just centered in the Capitol under the
14 dome, but we've moved it around throughout the
15 state. We've had meetings in central Illinois.
16 We had meeting in southern Illinois. We had
17 meetings in northern Illinois, around the state
18 so we can hear the perspective of constituents
19 from around the state. And that's what we will
20 continue to do.

21 We have another hearing scheduled, so I
22 would ask and suggest and implore, not just my
23 friends on the other side of the aisle, but
24 anyone who is interested in having a say in this

1 process to use our mapmaking portal to do that.
2 I would encourage everyone do to that because
3 that's what this process is for.

4 SENATOR McCLURE: And, Mr. Chairman, I would
5 implore you to take your own advice and submit
6 your map, particularly since you don't know who
7 is going to be drawing the map, you don't know
8 who is going to sponsor this bill, you don't
9 know whether these mysterious map people are
10 checking the website or not. So I think it's
11 important, Mr. Chairman, for you to get your map
12 out there so that these mysterious people can
13 have the information that you needed provide
14 them to draw a map as well.

15 So, you know, I would encourage you to
16 do that since all of us apparently are in the
17 same mystery right now, wrapped inside a riddle
18 as to who is in charge here, because none of us
19 apparently know.

20 And so, Mr. Chairman, please submit
21 that map as soon as possible to help us figure
22 out where you stand on these issues because I
23 think all of us are very curious considering you
24 are the majority party, you are very important

1 on this Committee, you are the vice-chair.

2 And I think all of us need to be aware
3 of what your thoughts are on these maps. And I
4 would be -- with enough time for all of us to
5 review them, I think we've had anywhere from 90
6 days was what one person suggested to yesterday
7 45 to two weeks.

8 But as you know, Mr. Vice-Chair, you
9 are very powerful and you are in the super
10 majority on this on the Senate floor and in this
11 Capitol in both houses. So where your team
12 wants to take us is going to be very important.

13 So I would be happy to offer
14 suggestions and critiques, et cetera. But we
15 need to be able to see the map and the public
16 needs to be able to see the map to do that.

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Go, finish your thoughts.

18 SENATOR McCLURE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 Now, another point, too, was discussed
20 a bit yesterday was that the governor is
21 apparently involved in these
22 behind-the-scenes talks. Obviously,
23 Mr. Chairman, I'm not suggesting that you are
24 aware of these because you said you are not.

1 But it's a very troubling report to read that
2 this is happening behind the scenes.

3 Yesterday we did have a little bit of a
4 discussion as to whether or not perhaps someone
5 from the Governor's office could come in to
6 testify or the Governor himself, if he wishes,
7 to come testify. Is there any movement there?
8 Do you expect before we vote on these maps that
9 the Governor's office is going to come in and
10 say publically what they're apparently saying
11 behind the scenes as far as what they want to
12 accomplish with this map, what their suggestions
13 are?

14 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Let me start with the last
15 one, with the last one first, Senator. The maps
16 and the final product, they are a legislative
17 process, and we will take that up in the course
18 of the legislative process via a bill. So that
19 process will play itself out as we continue to
20 have this Committee hearing and the other
21 Committee hearings where we take this bill up
22 and then send it to the Governor for his
23 ratification or his suggested changes, be it his
24 constitutional authority as our chief executive.

1 We will follow that through that process.

2 I'm unaware of any efforts of the
3 Governor to come before this Committee. I have
4 not heard about that either.

5 But let me also say this, Senator.
6 Again, I appreciate the active request to have
7 our side of the aisle produce a map. And we are
8 certainly working towards that after having
9 input from all stakeholders across the state of
10 Illinois.

11 We have certainly asked for input from
12 our friends on the side of the aisle to
13 participate in this process. But every time we
14 have asked for that participation, we have not
15 received cooperation or participation that we've
16 asked for. Please help us. Please participate.
17 Join in this process. We have all known that
18 the veto session was coming since the end of the
19 spring legislative session, so please
20 participate in that process with us. And we
21 welcome your comments.

22 But as any other piece of legislation,
23 because you are in the super minority doesn't
24 mean you don't introduce bills because I've seen

1 bills be introduced by members on the other side
2 of the aisle throughout the summer and as late
3 as -- as recently as last week. So any piece of
4 legislation that our friends on the other side
5 of the aisle wish to introduce, they can do that
6 at any time.

7 SENATOR McCLURE: Well, I appreciate that,
8 Mr. Chairman. But I think in all fairness, for
9 us to be able to have a real dialog and, more
10 importantly than us, quite frankly, the public
11 to have a real dialog, they need to see the map
12 and they need to have it with enough time to
13 give their critique and analyze it. And I think
14 that's only fair.

15 And, you know, if given enough time, I
16 think the public can have an effective
17 communication with the members of this
18 Committee.

19 So I guess in that vein as far as
20 participation and openness and trying to get a
21 conversation here going between the Democrats
22 and Republicans and our constituents across the
23 state and the members of this Committee, when
24 are we going to see the map for the folks that

1 have been asking for one with enough time to
2 analyze it?

3 Do we have any -- I know we've asked
4 this at every Committee hearing. But we have
5 yet to get an answer as to when we're going to
6 actually see the map in the Committee. I
7 understand that we're going to vote on the map,
8 we suspect, during veto session.

9 But when are we going to see the map in
10 this Committee and how much time are members of
11 the public going to have to look at these maps
12 before we vote and, more importantly, with
13 enough time to do Committee hearings so they can
14 comment, they can present their rebuttal to the
15 map or whatever critiques they want to -- or
16 maybe some of them are going to see the map,
17 Mr. Chairman, and say these are wonderful maps
18 and -- but where are they going to have the
19 chance to do that, Mr. Chairman?

20 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Excuse me, Senator, again,
21 I would say to you and all of my friends on the
22 other side of the aisle, you or anyone can
23 produce a map and the portal is still open and
24 we -- the veto session has been scheduled since

1 May. We've got just about two weeks before the
2 end of the veto session.

3 So if you want to produce a map that
4 individuals can have time to look at and
5 evaluate, we welcome that. We've also said we
6 would accept maps in any platform that anyone
7 wants to produce them in and submit them.

8 So, please, if you have a proposal, we
9 are willing to see it. That's what this process
10 is all about, us taking input, collecting data
11 so that we can produce maps and produce a
12 product that the state of Illinois -- that the
13 residents across the state of Illinois have been
14 calling for. So that's what we're trying to do,
15 and we're asking for your assistance and
16 participation as we do that.

17 SENATOR McCLURE: Mr. Chairman, so we can
18 produce a map. But at the previous hearings,
19 the testimony from -- I shouldn't say testimony.
20 The statements from you and Chairman Aquino are
21 that you don't know who is going to produce this
22 map.

23 So when you say "we," who are you
24 referring to?

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: The "we" I'm referring to,
2 Senator, is the General Assembly. I happen to
3 think about us as a -- as a collective. I don't
4 think about us as Democrats and Republicans. I
5 think about us as a collective. So as a Senate,
6 we will produce a map. The General Assembly
7 will pass a map. So I'm including all of us in
8 that "we."

9 SENATOR McCLURE: So when a person submits
10 the map since -- so, I mean, are you saying that
11 the Senators are going to get into a room
12 together and it's just the Senators and we're
13 going to draw a map together? Is that what
14 you're suggesting?

15 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: What I'm suggesting is that
16 if there are maps that our friends on the other
17 side of the aisle or anyone or suggestions that
18 anyone has in this process, please submit them
19 so that they can be taken into consideration so
20 that when the bill comes before the General
21 Assembly in the normal course, that all of those
22 ideas and perspectives can be considered.

23 SENATOR McCLURE: I will say, Mr. Chairman,
24 number one, I also consider us a "we" as far as

1 the General Assembly.

2 So I guess when is our first meeting to
3 go into that room together to draw the map
4 together?

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, when you -- when
6 my friends on the other side of the aisle step
7 up and produce a map that's not just for
8 litigation purposes, but it is for the policy
9 developments we're trying to make, that's when
10 we will start being that "we."

11 But we continue to ask for a
12 participation from my friends on the side of the
13 aisle, but we have not gotten that. Please
14 participate. We would love to have those -- we
15 would love to have your input, we would love to
16 have your perspective, but to date we've not
17 received it.

18 SENATOR McCLURE: And, unfortunately, the
19 same is true from your side of the aisle,
20 Mr. Chairman, we have yet to see any maps that
21 you have produced.

22 And so -- and I know you're capable of
23 producing these maps very quickly. We saw that
24 after the census data was released. In

1 lightening speed time, we saw the maps that you
2 guys -- someone produced, I'm not sure who, I
3 can't say you, because as the testimony was
4 previously from Chairman Aquino, he wasn't even
5 sure who drew those maps.

6 So we've already been through this
7 process and you guys, Mr. Chairman, your side of
8 the aisle does not want to produce any map for
9 the public to view and for us to have a
10 reasonable discussion about.

11 And, listen, I guess here is another
12 question for you as well, Mr. Chairman, because
13 there is discussion in the media about our --
14 the members of our federal delegation coming
15 before some folks to talk about what they want
16 to see out of the map. Are we going to have any
17 testimony from any of our members of the -- of
18 Congress that represent our state that are going
19 to come before this Committee and publicly say
20 what they would like for the maps? And have any
21 of them submitted a map through the portal up to
22 this point?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator McClure, I'm
24 unaware of any of those discussions. I have not

1 seen any map from the members of the
2 Congressional delegations either. All I have
3 seen is response from some of the Republican
4 members of the delegation, which, again, if we
5 are going to have a discussion about what the
6 input -- what the maps look like for its
7 entirety, we can't do this as Democrats or
8 Republicans, we have to do this as Illinoisans.

9 So that's why I'm asking and we've
10 continued to ask for our friends on the other
11 side of the aisle to participate in this
12 process.

13 SENATOR McCLURE: And, Mr. Chairman, number
14 one, I agree. We are one state, we are one
15 Senate, we are one House, you know, we need to
16 work together.

17 But I think the issues here, the
18 behind-the-scenes dealings and the fact that no
19 witness has shown up to testify based upon,
20 let's face it, Committee hearings where they
21 hear that we don't know who the sponsor of the
22 bill is going to be, that the sponsor is not
23 going to be here to testify, we're not going to
24 see a map with a reasonable amount of time for

1 them to review it.

2 Many of them were around this last
3 go-around and felt that they were totally
4 ignored, which they were, during the process. I
5 think this highlights the fact, Mr. Chairman,
6 that we, we, as in all of us that are in public
7 office, should not be the ones drawing this map.
8 This map should not be drawn by politicians.
9 And these communities that need to be
10 represented need to have a voice and need to
11 have a reasonable time to review the map from
12 your side of the aisle.

13 Because, let's face it, we can play
14 these games and pretend like there's -- you
15 know, you guys are going to draw the map. We
16 know it, you know it, everybody knows it. Every
17 person that's testifying that is watching this
18 Zoom right now, every meeting member, every
19 member of the public, every member, you yourself
20 included, we all know you're going to draw the
21 maps. Our side is not going to have any say in
22 that whatsoever.

23 Let's just cut the games. We shouldn't
24 be drawing these maps. Politicians should not

1 be drawing these maps.

2 I hope, I really truly hope that we can
3 have the sponsor of the bill come before the
4 Committee, we can have a map with at least two
5 weeks, these -- I shouldn't say map because
6 there are multiple maps, with the judicial
7 districts. We can have these maps with at least
8 two weeks of time for these people that have
9 worked so hard to prepare for these hearings to
10 review and to testify. And we can work together
11 to get this done in a bipartisan fashion.

12 And then after that, I hope we can all
13 pass a bill that bans politicians from drawing
14 these maps and allows for an independent
15 commission to do this so that they can do it
16 right and not disenfranchise people that need to
17 be represented fairly in the state.

18 So, Mr. Chairman, I would just --
19 please, I'm asking for you to be on side of the
20 public, be on the side of good government and
21 show us these maps with enough time for our
22 constituents to review them and be willing to
23 sincerely work with us to craft a map that would
24 be good for our entire state and would show the

1 concerns that have been demonstrated thus far
2 with these people that have testified in these
3 hearings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator. And,
5 Senator, I appreciate that.

6 But I've never stopped being on the
7 side of the public. I've always been in favor
8 of my constituents and working on their behalf
9 and not just the people that I have the honor of
10 representing through the 17th District, but all
11 the more than 12 million people in the state of
12 Illinois.

13 But in order for us to have that
14 cooperative bipartisanship that you called for,
15 it requires for you to participate in the
16 process. And I would hope that my friends on
17 the other side of the aisle would take our
18 sincere asks that you participate and provide
19 your input to us so that we can have that true
20 bipartisan participation which we have not yet
21 received. Thank you, Senator.

22 Next up I see Senator Tracy with her
23 hand up. Senator Tracy.

24 SENATOR TRACY: Thank you, Chairman Sims.

1 You know, first of all, based on your last
2 comment, I just wanted to say we have given much
3 input from the Republicans in both the House and
4 the Senate because we favor fair and
5 independently drawn maps. And that is very much
6 the input from the public and us. As Senator
7 McClure stated, we do not favor politicians
8 drawing the maps.

9 And it troubled me greatly when we were
10 drawing the state legislative maps, it was known
11 by all that in the Stratton building, the
12 Democratic members of the house, were looking at
13 the district maps before they were drawn, I
14 mean, as they were -- before they were voted on.
15 And we were not given an opportunity before we
16 voted on the second map in August to have a
17 Committee hearing on these maps.

18 And so I would ask that once the maps
19 are drawn by whoever draws them, that we have a
20 public Committee hearing before the map is voted
21 on by the legislature.

22 Now, going back to the other question
23 that was brought forth about the Crain's article
24 by Greg Hinz and you not having any knowledge of

1 it, would you be able to request of your staff
2 or other members as to whether or not that is
3 true and give us that information before our
4 next Committee hearing?

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, again, I'm going
6 to give you same answer that I gave to the
7 former speaker. I have not read the article. I
8 know Mr. Hinz to be a very capable reporter, but
9 I have not read the article so I can't comment.

10 What I can say to you is I have not
11 been in any of those discussion, so I'm unaware
12 that any of them have happened.

13 Let me also say that, again, I don't
14 want to revisit nor relitigate the spring
15 legislative maps because we're here talking
16 about the Congressional and sub-circuit maps.

17 The comments about what happened in the
18 House, I'm not a member of the House. Even
19 though I have previously served in the House,
20 I'm not a member of the House, nor can I speak
21 to their processes. I can speak to our
22 processes.

23 And our processes have been to have
24 multiple hearings in multiple locations to

1 provide -- to allow for input from multiple
2 groups and organizations receiving maps from
3 different platforms, having a portal that has
4 been available from the very beginning
5 throughout this process.

6 We have asked for input. We have asked
7 for perspectives. We've asked for participation
8 in that. But we have not yet received that from
9 our friends on the other side of the aisle. We
10 continue to ask for that participation and
11 assistance. And that's what we want and that's
12 what we need to complete this process. But if
13 you're not, then just say you're not going to
14 participate.

15 But the other statement is this is the
16 process we have. The process is our
17 constitutional responsibility is clearly
18 delineated in our state's constitution. That's
19 the process we have.

20 Now, we can continue to have that
21 discussion and I'm willing to have that
22 discussion with you. But we are following
23 through as the authority that we have been
24 granted through the Illinois Constitution, the

1 responsibilities that we are required through
2 the Illinois Constitution to meet those
3 responsibilities. That's what we're doing and
4 that's what we're trying to ask our friends on
5 the other side of the aisle to participate in.

6 Senator Plummer -- Senator Tracy, I'm
7 sorry, I apologize.

8 SENATOR TRACY: I was going to say once a map
9 is presented and shown to be voted on, will we
10 have a public Committee hearing on that map
11 prior to the legislative votes?

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, as I mentioned
13 again to Senator McClure, it's a legislative --
14 a piece of legislation in the due course in any
15 other legislative -- similar to any other
16 legislative measure and we will follow that
17 process.

18 So yes. So my short answer is, yes,
19 there will be a Committee hearing to have those
20 discussions.

21 SENATOR TRACY: Thank you.

22 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer?

23 SENATOR PLUMMER: Thank you, Chairman Sims.

24 So I think I just heard you commit to

1 another Committee hearing after the map is
2 unveiled. Did I hear you correctly?

3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I believe that there will
4 be another Committee hearing following the
5 presentation of the map to take that up.

6 SENATOR PLUMMER: And I only ask that because
7 the statement was made earlier that -- I believe
8 that Senator McClure asked about the sponsor of
9 the map, no one seems to know who the sponsor of
10 the map is going to be so on and so forth. And
11 I think the response is, well, the opportunity
12 will present itself when there is a Committee
13 hearing.

14 But in August there was no final
15 Committee hearing after that map was unveiled.
16 So there really wasn't an opportunity for the
17 state legislative map sponsor to appear before
18 the Committee. So I'm glad to hear that there
19 will be a Committee hearing after the maps are
20 unveiled.

21 Taking a step further to meeting the
22 demands of the people of the state of Illinois,
23 how much time can you guaranty us between that
24 Committee hearing and a final vote in the

1 General Assembly on the map?

2 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I would say to you
3 that we know the fall veto session schedule when
4 the fall veto session is scheduled to adjourn.
5 The maps will be taken up during that time.

6 What I would suggest is that my friends
7 on the other side of the aisle participate in
8 that process and ask that you do that in a
9 timely fashion. The portal is open. And not
10 just my friends on the other side of the aisle,
11 but anyone who is seeking to participate and
12 draw a map that they would do so and we will
13 accept the map in any platform that's available.
14 So participate and submit those -- submit that
15 to us so that we can have your input.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: So is there a
17 requirement -- Chairman Sims, is there a
18 requirement that the vote takes place on veto
19 session or could we have a session after veto
20 session to ensure that the public -- the
21 public's demand for at least two weeks' notice
22 be met?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I would say this
24 to you. We have a schedule that has been

1 outlined, that's been out there since May. We
2 have a -- we have petitions that are going to
3 start to be circulated in January. So we have
4 to complete this process so that we -- so that
5 individuals understand and know what --
6 individuals when they are signing petitions or
7 when they are participating in that process,
8 that they know who their -- where they live.

9 So that's why we have this -- we have a
10 schedule that's been clearly -- that's been
11 established since May. That's the plan to do
12 that.

13 Again, if you are -- if you submit or
14 anyone were to submit a map before -- by
15 tomorrow, then we've got just about 14 days to
16 see that perspective. So if you have a map,
17 please produce it and participate.

18 SENATOR PLUMMER: Nobody is asking for 14
19 days to comment after they see random
20 submissions through a portal. They're wanting
21 at least 14 days on the final map that's going
22 to be on voted on in the General Assembly.

23 For the sake of time, I'm going to
24 assume you're going to not answer that question

1 because it's been asked of you and Chairman
2 Aquino numerous times. So we can move on beyond
3 that.

4 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, I've said
5 this to you before. You might not like my
6 answer, but I answered it.

7 SENATOR PLUMMER: I'm going to follow up.
8 No, you talked, but you didn't answer it.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: You might not like it and
10 that's okay.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: But I'll go ahead and ask a
12 different question. I'll ask a different
13 question.

14 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: That's fine. Please do
15 that.

16 SENATOR PLUMMER: You seem very concerned
17 about this time frame where people need to know
18 where they're living so they can pass petitions
19 and all this and that is very important. We
20 want everyone that wants to be engaged in the
21 political process, we want everyone that maybe
22 wants to run for office or whatever to have an
23 equal opportunity there.

24 And it's very curious to a lot of

1 people in the state of Illinois that there are
2 Democrat candidates that have announced
3 campaigns for Congressional seats, they're
4 raising money for races for specific
5 Congressional seats but, yet, there supposedly
6 isn't a map out there. So I want to highlight
7 that, that situation, because it's a little bit
8 unique here.

9 But what you said was that you're going
10 to take all this data and we're going to work
11 towards a map and get a map done and we want the
12 Republicans and the Democrats to be one in the
13 same and that's all good. But the fact of the
14 matter is, as Senator Tracy just mentioned, the
15 Republicans have just introduced legislation for
16 an independent nonpartisan commission to draw
17 the map. Republicans don't think politicians
18 should be drawing the maps.

19 So when this "we" gets together in this
20 room to draw the map, there won't be any
21 Republicans there. It will be just Democrats.

22 Can you tell us which members -- you
23 said members of the Senate. So which members of
24 your party in the Senate will be involved in

1 drawing the map because there won't be any
2 Republicans?

3 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Well, the perspective of
4 the Republicans isn't presented because the
5 Republicans haven't participated.

6 And let me say this to you, Senator.
7 You know, you may not like my answers, but my
8 answers are my answers. You continue to ask the
9 same questions over and over again, knowing --
10 even though you know that the -- what my answers
11 are going to be and what Chairman Aquino's
12 answers are going to be.

13 Again, I don't understand or know what
14 the -- what your ultimate game plan is, but I
15 can tell you what our perspective is. Our game
16 plan and our perspective is, we have been very
17 clear about what we are trying to accomplish.
18 We are trying to accomplish a map that reflects
19 the diversity of this state. We are trying to
20 have a process that is transparent, which we
21 have had. We've had hearings in multiple
22 locations at various times to accomplish the
23 goal of having input from everyone.

24 We've had a portal that has been

1 available from the very beginning. We've had --
2 and when asked for the submission of maps from
3 the very beginning via whatever mapping platform
4 someone wishes to submit them on.

5 Again, if you want to have a say, you
6 can't stand on the sidelines, scream that I'm
7 not participating, and not participate and then
8 blame our side of the aisle for not allowing you
9 to participate when you haven't and won't
10 participate.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Chairman Sims, we need to
12 dig a little deeper here. So I have be at
13 literally every Committee hearing. I have asked
14 dozens of questions. I've been in dozens of
15 Committee hearings since the spring throughout
16 the entirety of this process. The same is true
17 for numerous other members of my party.

18 So if we're engaged in the process, if
19 we're asking questions of the witnesses if we're
20 asking questions of you, if we're at every
21 Committee hearing, how is it precisely that
22 we're not participating?

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Where is your proposal on
24 what the map should look like? And I know what

1 your response is going to be, you don't think we
2 should be drawing the maps. Okay. But there
3 are times where our -- my friends on the other
4 side of the aisle have drawn maps. So let's not
5 play this game that you don't want to nor wish
6 to draw maps or wish to participate by drawing
7 maps because you shouldn't draw maps because
8 there certainly are times where my friends on
9 the other side of the aisle have drawn maps.

10 So let's not play the game. Let's be
11 open and honest with the public. If there is
12 another strategy, lay that out there. But what
13 I'm saying to you, that's not our strategy.

14 Our strategy is to pass a map that
15 reflects the diversity of our state which comes
16 after discussions with numerous groups across
17 the state of Illinois in various locations to
18 allow for input from the public.

19 Yes, you have been at these meetings
20 and you've participated and you've mentioned in
21 the previous meetings you've taken copious notes
22 about these meetings, about the perspective of
23 individuals who have testified. Where is
24 that -- where is that data being shown? Where

1 is that data reflected? How does the map that
2 we are going to propose for debate in the
3 Illinois Senate, how does that reflect the notes
4 that you have? Because you haven't shared that
5 with us. And that's all I'm asking for.

6 All I am asking for, all Chair Aquino
7 has asked for meeting after meeting after
8 meeting -- that's why he goes through the list
9 of the websites that are available, that's why
10 we go through and tell the email address that's
11 available, so that individuals, not just on your
12 side of the aisle, but anyone can have the
13 information that would allow them to know how
14 they can participate in this process.

15 If you take the information and hold
16 onto it and don't share it with us, you might as
17 well have not taken the note in the first place.

18 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I appreciate you
19 acknowledging the Republicans don't think
20 politicians should be drawing the map. And I
21 also appreciate you trying to put words in my
22 mouth, but that wasn't going to be my response.

23 My response to your answer would have
24 been if our participation doesn't exist

1 according to you because we haven't submitted
2 the map, even though we've been engaged in all
3 of these hearings, are you also then saying that
4 now that the NAACP, the League of Women Voters,
5 Common Cause and all of the other litany of
6 organizations that have testified also haven't
7 participated if they have not submitted a map
8 through the portal?

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Absolutely not. I'm saying
10 that --

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: So how have we not
12 participated.

13 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Can I finish my statement?

14 You are saying that your perspective
15 has not been shown. We are saying that the map
16 is like any other piece of legislation. So you
17 can submit an amendment at any time, just like
18 any other piece of legislation, but you have not
19 chosen to do that.

20 SENATOR PLUMMER: What am I submitting an
21 amendment to?

22 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: If you will let me finish.
23 If you submit a piece -- if you submit a bill
24 to -- at any other time, you can submit an

1 amendment, you can submit -- you can submit
2 change, you can submit recommendations.

3 But if you don't, then you can't say,
4 well, my perspective wasn't taken into
5 consideration.

6 Submit the map as you would like to see
7 it. Submit the map as you think is --
8 adequately reflects what the state boundaries
9 should look like. But you have not yet done
10 that, even though despite our repeated requests
11 that you do so.

12 SENATOR PLUMMER: We're participating in the
13 process that you designed. You had every
14 opportunity to go down the path. You elected --
15 your party elected not to go down the bipartisan
16 path of a nonpartisan independent commission to
17 draw the maps. And so you reject the bipartisan
18 solution. You come up with your solution, which
19 is a partisan, nontransparent solution. And
20 then you're telling me to submit and we'll call
21 it an amendment to the legislation but we don't
22 even know what the legislation is. We don't
23 even know who the sponsor of the legislation is.

24 You're asking us to comment on

1 something that doesn't exist. Just like you're
2 asking all these witnesses to share their
3 thoughts and comments on something that doesn't
4 exist. And all everyone is saying is, Chairman,
5 please, once this piece of legislation exists,
6 and it's submitted for a vote to the General
7 Assembly so we can all see it, that's the proper
8 time for people to submit amendments. That's
9 the proper time for people to share their
10 comment. And everyone has said I would like two
11 weeks, I'd like two weeks, I would like four
12 weeks, I would like 45 days, I would like 60 to
13 90 days.

14 You won't give everyone a time frame
15 for when the legislation that you're drawing
16 through your process will be submitted. And
17 you're not promising a time frame for the public
18 comment on it.

19 So we can keep having this circular
20 conversation. But the fact of the matter is
21 this is a rigged system of your design and
22 trying to somehow say that we're not engaged or
23 the League of Women Voters isn't engaged or the
24 NAACP isn't engaged or MALDEF isn't engaged or

1 Common Cause isn't engaged is ludicrous. It's
2 offensive. I can't believe that's the line of
3 reasoning that you're going to throw out there.
4 Moving on --

5 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator Plummer, I cannot
6 let you -- I cannot allow to you put words in my
7 mouth either.

8 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay.

9 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: I certainly did not say
10 that any of those groups were not participating,
11 so please don't put words in my mouth.

12 What I did say was that my friends on
13 the other side of the aisle have the opportunity
14 to participate and show the perspective that
15 they have by participating and sending the map.
16 That's number one.

17 Number two, what I also said was we are
18 following the Constitution -- you talk about a
19 rigged system and I have mentioned in
20 previous -- my previous comments, this is the
21 system that we have as outlined by our state's
22 Constitution. So if you don't -- if you do not
23 have a copy of it, Senator, I will certainly
24 make sure you get one.

1 But the policy -- what we are following
2 and what we are going through is the power as
3 outlined and delineated in our state's -- as our
4 state's Constitution. So the system is what --
5 it's what we have. It's the responsibilities
6 that we have as a legislature to follow.

7 So, no, those are not the words that I
8 said and I don't appreciate you trying to make
9 it out to have me have said something that I did
10 not say.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, you said a hundred
12 times that the Republicans haven't participated
13 because we haven't submitted a map. And I just
14 wanted to highlight that numerous witnesses have
15 not submitted a map; therefore, I figured what's
16 good for one is good for the other. So if
17 you're now acknowledging that we have done our
18 best to be engaged in the process, I appreciate
19 it.

20 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: No, that's not what I'm
21 saying either.

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, okay. But our point
23 is, our message is politicians shouldn't draw
24 the map. Our message is the witnesses should

1 have time to review the maps before the vote.
2 Our message is this needs to be an open and
3 transparent process. Those all seem to be
4 problematic.

5 But since we're following this very
6 strict process that is apparently outlined and
7 delineated by the Constitution of the state of
8 Illinois, where in the Constitution of the state
9 of Illinois does it say that we have to vote on
10 these Congressional maps during a fall veto
11 session?

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: The process is as outlined
13 in the Constitution. The authority to adopt
14 these maps is as outlined in the powers of the
15 legislature.

16 Senator, the schedule for the fall veto
17 session has been available since the end of the
18 spring legislative session. It's not like this
19 is a surprise. It's not like anyone didn't know
20 that the fall veto session was going to happen
21 in these next two weeks of October. So it is
22 not a surprise, Senator.

23 SENATOR PLUMMER: Okay. So pivoting back to
24 this Crain's article that has come up in a lot

1 of different media outlets, it's been mentioned
2 now in Committee numerous times. I can just say
3 if I was the chairman or vice-chairman of a
4 committee and a long-time reporter wrote a very
5 important piece on the work we were doing and it
6 had been brought up several times, I probably
7 would have taken the time to go read the
8 article. I hear you say that you have not read
9 the article, that you guys are not aware of this
10 article.

11 So I'll take the time here real quick
12 to read that article so that we can all be on
13 the same page and then I have a couple
14 questions.

15 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, wait. Let me do
16 this. Let me stipulate to you that I can read
17 the article for myself and I think the other
18 members of the Committee can read the article
19 for themselves. I don't think you need to read
20 the article to members of the Committee. We are
21 learned individuals. We can certainly read.

22 So the article is out there. I told
23 you, I've stipulated that I have not seen the
24 article. But I can certainly read it for

1 myself. I don't need you to -- if there are
2 specific highlights that you would like to make,
3 please do them. But we don't need you to read
4 the entirety of the article to us.

5 Senator, there were a lot of rumors
6 that have gone on including there was a rumor
7 back in the spring that there was a
8 Congressional map that ended up being drafted
9 and drawn by Dave Wasserman. So there are
10 rumors all the time.

11 So I'm not going to deal in the rumors
12 because, again, I was not in the room. I'm
13 telling you, I was not in the room. Chair
14 Aquino told you he was not in the room.

15 So you've made your point. You have
16 made it. The previous speaker has made it. So
17 unless you have something specific or something
18 new, I would suggest we just move on.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Well, I do have some
20 specific things. But, you know, I just want to
21 highlight, rumors are rumors and they're rampant
22 in our business. I understand that. This isn't
23 a rumor. This is an article written by a
24 long-time, well-regarded journalist who

1 obviously takes a lot of personal, professional
2 risks by publishing something like this.

3 So I think it's safe to say that we can
4 all assume this well-regarded journalist feels
5 that this is a well-sourced article. But I
6 appreciate you committing to reading the article
7 maybe before tomorrow.

8 My question would be, since this
9 article is very specific in saying that, "What's
10 known for sure is that three-person panels
11 comprised of aides to House Speaker Emanuel
12 Chris Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, and
13 Governor J.B. Pritzker have been meeting
14 separately in recent days with every Democratic
15 member."

16 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, if I might, that
17 same language was outlined by Senator McClure,
18 so that language is already in the record.

19 So, again, if you want to make a
20 specific point related to that language, please
21 do so. But we don't need you to re-read the
22 language. It's already in the record.

23 SENATOR PLUMMER: Sure. So will you commit
24 to the members of this Committee as Chairman of

1 the Committee and to the public and to the
2 witnesses that you will communicate before our
3 hearing tomorrow with Senate President Don
4 Harmon, with Speaker Welch, and with Governor
5 Pritzker and/or their respective staffs and get
6 an on-the-record response to this article either
7 confirming that these meetings are taking place
8 or correct the record that they have not taken
9 place?

10 Can you do that before the hearing
11 tomorrow?

12 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: What I will commit to is
13 this, Senator. I will commit to continuing to
14 participate in an open process that follows the
15 process that we've laid out, which is asked for
16 participation from members of the public,
17 members of the community, communities of
18 interests, and my friends on the other side of
19 the aisle. I commit to that.

20 Now, that has been my goal, that has
21 been our goal on our side of the aisle since the
22 very beginning of this process.

23 Again, I'm not going to get into
24 rumors. I'm not going to take the time of this

1 Committee or the public for -- to engage in a
2 discussion of that article. If that -- if
3 members wants to engage in that and read that
4 article, they can do that on their own time.

5 But what I would suggest is that we
6 take and spend our time, a more useful use of
7 our time to hear from -- hear from communities
8 of interest and hear from our friends on the
9 other side of the aisle.

10 So I would ask a question back to you,
11 Senator. If a draft map is released, will we
12 then see a Republicans response to that map?

13 SENATOR PLUMMER: Are you asking me
14 questions?

15 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Yes, I'm asking you that
16 question. Would you commit to that?

17 SENATOR PLUMMER: When you release your draft
18 map, I assure you we will be commenting on it.

19 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Not just commenting, will
20 you release a draft map that reflects how you
21 would have drawn those lines?

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: I would not have drawn the
23 lines because I do not believe politicians
24 should be drawing the lines.

1 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: That was not the question I
2 asked, Senator. I asked you, when a draft is
3 map put out there, will your side of the aisle
4 then be putting a map together that reflects
5 your perspective on that -- on that map? Will
6 you be submitting your own map?

7 SENATOR PLUMMER: I will be providing my -- I
8 will be providing my comments on that map. I
9 will not be providing a map because I am a
10 politician and I don't believe politicians
11 should be drawing a map.

12 However, I appreciate you acknowledging
13 that I am taking very copious notes throughout
14 all these hearings and I will be making sure
15 that the map that is drafted and presented
16 matches the needs and desires and wants of the
17 witnesses that have testified before this
18 Committee, of course.

19 And I think that that's what we should
20 all should be doing, is we should be making sure
21 that any map that is presented meets the needs
22 and wants of the witnesses and the people of the
23 state of Illinois.

24 My concern is, Chairman, much like

1 happened in the spring is that a map will be
2 presented, there will be no time for the public
3 to review it, there will be no time for the
4 public to comment on it, and the map will be
5 jammed through the General Assembly at 3:00 in
6 the morning. And that's what everyone wants to
7 make sure doesn't happen, Chairman.

8 So while I appreciate your concerns for
9 the super minority, we have been very clear we
10 don't think the politicians should be drawing
11 the map.

12 Can the Republicans and Democrats just
13 unite here and say that, regardless of who draws
14 the map, that the map that's going to be voted
15 on in the General Assembly, Republicans and
16 Democrats agree will be given at least two
17 weeks' public notice and two weeks' time for the
18 public to comment and review before we vote? It
19 should be the public's map. It shouldn't be the
20 politicians' map.

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: And I appreciate you
22 acknowledging that your response and your
23 participation will be -- will just be comments;
24 it won't be active participation. It won't

1 be -- it won't be actually participating and
2 showing how you would have done it differently.
3 That's --

4 SENATOR PLUMMER: You don't think this is
5 active participation?

6 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: No, I don't. If you
7 want -- if I don't have specifics on what
8 your -- what -- how you would have done a
9 proposal differently, no. A back-and-forth
10 debate about bringing in rumors from a story and
11 bringing in things that happened at another
12 time, no.

13 We are dealing with where we are right
14 now. We are dealing with and trying to get to a
15 proposal that can be taken up by the Illinois
16 Senate, by the Illinois House, which is
17 consistent with our constitutional
18 responsibility in this area, then sent to the
19 governor for his action.

20 SENATOR PLUMMER: I want to --

21 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, let me finish.

22 SENATOR PLUMMER: Sure, go ahead.

23 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: To me, in order to say you
24 -- to say you are not going to -- you won't

1 participate in the process is -- you know, how
2 can you make comments on a map if you don't
3 think we should draw them in the first place?
4 To me that is circular logic. So you're saying
5 I don't think we should be drawing a map but I
6 also shouldn't be commenting on a map, but I've
7 participated in all of the hearings. Make the
8 participation be meaningful. That's the goal,
9 Senator. And that's what we continue to ask for
10 on the other side of the aisle.

11 SENATOR PLUMMER: Again, there you go again.
12 If I'm not drawing a map, my participation isn't
13 meaningful, according to you. And, therefore,
14 is it safe to say that any witness that hasn't
15 drawn a map, their participation isn't
16 meaningful or is that just a Republican?

17 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Senator, I'm asking for
18 participation from your side of the aisle. We
19 can continue to do this dance all day. But,
20 frankly, I think that, again, a better use of
21 this Committee's time is to have responses to a
22 proposal and have proposals submitted that can
23 then be -- that can be taken up as part of this
24 process. We've not seen that from you.

1 But I'm willing -- I will state again.
2 We are willing to see them. We would love to
3 see them. You or any other member of the public
4 or your side of the aisle or any member of the
5 public can participate in this process by
6 submitting a map via the portal or any other
7 mapping -- any other mapping software available,
8 submit that via email, however, you would like
9 to do that, Senator. We are simply asking for
10 your participation.

11 Now, again, I can't speak to your
12 motivation and I can't speak to any motivation.
13 I don't want to get into that. But what I will
14 get into is let's produce a product that
15 reflects the diversity of our state, that's been
16 done in a transparent way. We've had these
17 hearings. All we ask is that you participate in
18 them.

19 SENATOR PLUMMER: Considering the only people
20 that have commented or asked questions during
21 this hearing is Senator Tracy and Senator
22 McClure and myself, no Democrat senators have
23 said anything other than you in response, no
24 witnesses have presented, literally the only

1 group of people that have participated in this
2 hearing are three Republican members of the
3 Illinois state Senate.

4 So I think the Republicans are more
5 than engaged in this process. There is a
6 philosophical difference between who should be
7 drawing the map. And we believe that an
8 independent nonpartisan commission made up of
9 Illinoisans should draw a map. We don't think
10 that a handful of elected officials and their
11 staff behind closed doors should be drawing a
12 map.

13 That's just a philosophical difference.
14 We think that there should be time for comment
15 and review of a map after final introduction
16 before a vote. These are all just differences.

17 So I don't think we're going to agree
18 here on many things, Chairman Sims.

19 So I'm just going to end my time here
20 circling back to the complete lack of curiosity
21 that you and Chairman Aquino have displayed
22 regarding this multi-source article on the
23 Governor, the Senate President, the Speaker of
24 the House, their respective staff meeting to get

1 input to draw a map. You call it rumor. I'd
2 call it news. It doesn't matter. It's been
3 published. It's being talked about in a lot of
4 circles in the state. I would think as chairman
5 of the Committee, you would be curious to know
6 if this Committee's authority and the process
7 this Committee is trying to follow is being
8 usurped by these potential renegade groups out
9 there.

10 So my request to you -- I'm not even
11 asking for an answer. My request to you is
12 before our hearing tomorrow, engage the Senate
13 President Don Harmon and/or his staff, engage
14 with Speaker of the House Welch and/or his
15 staff, and engage with Governor Pritzker and/or
16 his staff to confirm that these meetings have,
17 in fact, taken place or to have them correct the
18 record and let us know that, no, to their
19 knowledge, these meetings have not taken place.
20 I would just like to know that as a member of
21 the Committee. Thank you, Chairman Sims.

22 VICE-CHAIR SIMS: Thank you, Senator. And
23 let me respond to a couple of things.

24 One, the difference of perspective, we

1 have engaged in a more transparent process than
2 has ever happened in the state. We've gone
3 throughout the state, held hearings at multiple
4 times in multiple locations. We've held
5 numerous hearings. We made the portal available
6 since the very beginning of this process. We've
7 had the email available since the beginning of
8 this process.

9 So to say that we do not support
10 transparency is a falsehood. The fact is that
11 we have committed to a transparent process and
12 we have committed and demonstrated by the
13 enacted maps, we're committed to pass the maps
14 that reflect the great diversity of our state
15 that was done in a transparent manner. And it
16 is to make sure that we reflect the work and the
17 perspective of communities around the state.

18 Now, again, while I appreciate the
19 perspective of my friends on the other side of
20 the aisle not -- I'm old enough to be told not
21 to know how to feel, so I don't need to be told
22 how to feel.

23 So while I appreciate the concern, it
24 is not one that's necessarily warranted or

1 needed to tell us how to feel. We are -- we
2 have told our friends on the other side of the
3 aisle, neither I or Chairman Aquino have
4 knowledge of the report. And that's the answer
5 that we have. Again, you may not like my
6 answer, but it is the answer. And it is an
7 honest one. So it is what it is. I appreciate
8 that.

9 Seeing no further hands and seeing no
10 further business to come before this Committee
11 of the Senate Redistricting Committee, the
12 Committee stands adjourned. Thank you,
13 everyone.

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(The proceedings adjourned at
1:17 p.m.)

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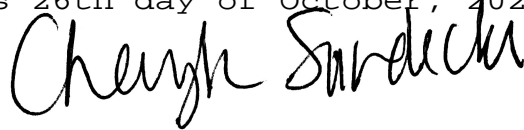
REPORTER CERTIFICATE

I, CHERYL L. SANDECKI, a Certified Shorthand Reporter within and for the State of Illinois, do hereby certify that heretofore, to-wit, on October 14, 2021, that the testimony given in the proceedings before THE ILLINOIS SENATE REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE, was recorded stenographically by me and transcribed by me.

I further certify that the forgoing transcript of said proceedings is a true, correct, and complete transcript of the proceedings held at the time and place.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested directly or indirectly in this action.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF: I certify to the above facts this 26th day of October, 2021.



CHERYL L. SANDECKI, CSR, RPR
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