

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Redistricting Committee September 15, 2021

LINEHAN: Welcome to the Redistricting public hearing. My name is Lou Ann Linehan. I'm from Elkhorn and I represent the 3rd Legis-- the 39th Legislative District. I serve as Chair of this committee. Today, we will hear all eight bills at the same time. That way, if you'd like to testify on more than one map, you may do so at the same time. Our hearing today is your public part of the legislative process. This is your opportunity to express your position on the proposed legislation before us today. To better facilitate today's proceedings, I ask that you abide by the following procedures. Please turn off cell phones. Order of testimony will be the introducers, members of the public, and closing remarks. You will be testify-- if you will be testifying, please complete the green form and hand it to the page when you come up to testify. If you have written materials that you would like to distribute to the committee, please hand them to the staff to distribute. We need 12 copies for all committee, committee members and staff. When you begin to testify, please state and spell your name for the record. Please be concise. It is my request that you limit your testimony to three minutes and we will use the light system, so you'll have two minutes on green, one minute on yellow, and when red light comes over, we need for you to wrap up. If there-- if your remarks were reflected in previous testimony or if you would like your position to be known, but do not want to testify, please sign the white form in the back of the room. It will be included in the official record. Please speak directly into the microphone so our transcribers are able to hear your testimony clearly. I would like to introduce committee staff. To my left is legis-- Director of Legislative Research Ben Thompson, his staff, LaMont Rainey-- can you stand up, LaMont, so people can see?-- LaMont Rainey and Tim Erickson. Is Tim here?

_____ : He'll be here shortly.

LINEHAN: OK and to our-- my far left is our committee clerk, Grant Latimer. And now I would like senators to introduce themselves starting with my far right.

BLOOD: Good morning. My name is Senator Carol Blood and I represent District 3, which is western Bellevue and southeastern Papillion, Nebraska.

BRIESE: Tom Briese, District 41.

BREWER: Tom Brewer, District 43.

GEIST: Suzanne Geist, District 25.

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LOWE: John Lowe, District 37.

LINEHAN: I'm assuming there's-- the rest will be with us shortly. I would like to remind our committee members to speak directly into the microphones. For one-- for our audience, the microphones in the room are not for amplification but for recording purposes only. Last, we are an electronics-equipped committee. Information is provided electronically as well as in paper form. Therefore, you may see committee members referencing information on their electronic devices. Be assured your presence here today and your testimony are important to us and critical to state government. I also want to mention that over the weekend, the Redistricting public letter email was down. We apologize. It was a technical issue. Public letters can be submitted now. It's working, right? It's working now? And we ask that when you submit letters for the record, they include a bill number. Letters can be submitted until noon today, right? OK. I am here-- so now I'm going to hand this over to my colleague, Vice Chairman Justin Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you and I do apologize for being late. I was telling my staff that I was going to take the morning off from redistricting and I'll be ready for the 1:30 p.m. hearing and they reminded me that it's starting in two minutes, so, so that's how my morning is going. But I was really ready. I was going to get prepared. I blocked out a whole hour at noon for the 1:30 p.m hearing, so-- all right, welcome to your committee.

LINEHAN: Good morning. I'm Lou Ann Linehan, L-o-u A-n-n L-n-- L-i-n-e-h-a-n. I represent Elkhorn, Waterloo, and Valley in Legislative District 39. I'm here to introduce LB1, LB3, LB5, LB6, LB7, and LB8. First, I would like everyone to recognize this is a difficult process. No one likes change, but due to population shifts, many changes are necessary. No map will win the approval of all, but today's public opport-- is-- but today is the public's opportunity to weigh in and we welcome your input. LB1, which is a congressional map, ensures minority voices, voices are protected. Both the black minority-majority and the Hispanic minority-majority legislative districts remain in District 2, Congressional District 2. LB1 follows clearly recognizable boundaries. It is necessary to split counties to ensure we keep the one person, one vote principle and keep the deviation at zero percent between the three Congressional districts. LB3 is a legislative redistricting map, which creates a new district in Sarpy County. We have three legislative districts that are heavily overpopulated. We have 33 legislative districts which are underpopulated. And clearly, since there aren't 33 legislative districts in the Third Congressional District, all the districts that

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are "unrepopulated" are not rural Nebraska, which I think too many people don't grasp. Legislative District 39, my own, Legislative District 10 represented by Senator DeBoer, and Legislative District 49 represented by Senator Day have a combined 40,000 voters, too many. That would make up a new district. We did not-- I know you could say we removed (District) 24, but what-- the effort was, committee, instead of replacing a complete rural district, is to merge two rural districts, so we merged (District) 23 and (District) 24, which would leave Seward, Nebraska, in a legislative district of which they would be the population center. The smallest changes are in Kearney and Grand Island because those cities both have enough population to create their own legislative districts. LB5 is the Public Service Commission map. LB6 is the Supreme Court map. LB7 is the state school board map. There are members on this committee who have issues with the way this map is drawn and we are here today to hear from the public on how to address these issues. LB8 is the Nebraska University Board of Regents map. I was pretty short with my intro yesterday. I'm going to address an editorial that was in the World-Herald this morning because it's very-- well, it has substantial errors. It says that Nebraskans may be surprised to learn that the map would redraw districts to undercut the reelection chances of two independent-minded Republicans who dared to support overriding a gubernatorial veto. It is-- neither map does that. Both maps try very hard to make sure that Senator Dorn and Senator Brandt still have districts and they're mostly rural. It also goes on that we would eliminate outright District 24. Strangely, though, it doesn't say that the other map would eliminate outright District 44. So again, we merge the district. Senator Wayne's map eliminates a rural-- completely rural district. It says in addition to targeting swing-vote Republicans-- which I don't know the definition of that, frankly-- it hobbles reelection for-- opportunities for several Democrat incumbents in western and north-central county-- north-central Douglas County. First of all, there are not several Democratic incumbents in western and north-central Douglas County. They're just-- they aren't several. We do have districts that meet between western Douglas County and eastern Douglas County that are competitive races now. And one-- two of those races-- and also there's another one in Sarpy County. In both of those races, the last time there were elections, both incumbents won by 100 or a few-- 200 votes. They're competitive now. I could go on, but maybe I'll save the rest of my frustration with the editorial for our closing. Thank you.

WAYNE: Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you.

LINEHAN: Good morning, Vice Chairman Wayne.

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WAYNE: Good morning, Chairwoman Linehan and members of the Revenue Committee-- that's why I usually testify in this room, I think, but we'll go with Redistricting Committee today. My name is Justin Wayne, J-u-s-t-i-n W-a-y-n-e, and I represent Legislative District 13, which is north Omaha and northeast Douglas County. I'm only opening on LB4 and LB2. I do want to note that LB7 and LB8 my office has and that is the state school board-- State Board of Education and Board of Regents. We have been getting a lot of feedback and so we are looking at alternatives. My staff has drawn a couple. We are trying to work with the public on addressing some of those concerns, but the reason I'm opening on these two in particular is because they have the most differences in how we will move the legislative map and the congressional map forward. LB2 adopts a redistricting plan for three Congressional districts I put forward after feedback from many of my colleagues. I won't spend a lot of time going through the LR134, which kind of are the guidelines and the guideposts in which we came up with-- we as a body and we as a Redistricting Committee of how we should establish them and how we should try to follow those guidelines, but I do want to point out a couple of things to the public. The results of the 2020 Census reveals that Nebraska's population has continued to shift heavily from the west to the east, resulting in a shift of nearly 100,000 people between the current Congressional districts. CD 1 grew slightly, just over 6,000 people of the ideal population, CD 2 grew significantly with more than 47,000 people over the ideal population, and CD 3 lost population of more than 53,000 under the ideal population. I'm going to give a brief history. I won't go quite like I digged into it yesterday, but tomorrow I will go a little more deeper into the C-- Douglas County because we will be in Douglas County for that, for the hearing. What should be noted that Douglas County, really since 1867 when we were admitted or started to toy with the idea of becoming a state, was kept whole. Since we became a state and starting in 1882, Douglas County was always intact as a whole district, first in CD 1, but then moving to CD 2 by 1962 and has remained, since 1962, CD 2's core. Obviously, my proposal would not split Douglas County because I believe there is no logical or justifiable reason to split the core of CD 2 that has been established for more than 130 years. In light of that, the fundamental question for me was where to draw the Sarpy County line, which has been a part of CD 2 in whole or in part as-- for as long as I can remember. Again, going through the criteria that was established in LR134, LR134, we began looking at the communities in Sarpy County and I believe the city of Bellevue has the most in common with the city of Omaha and Douglas County, followed closely by the city of La Vista, which Bellevue also borders, and La Vista also borders the city of Omaha. I want to remind this committee that up until 2011,

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Congressional district-- CD 2 included most, if not-- most of the eastern half of Sarpy County, encompassing all of the city of Bellevue and all the city of La Vista and roughly half of the city of Papillion. During the 2011 redistricting, the Legislature opted to radically alter CD 2 by moving Bellevue to Congressional District 1, the First Congressional District, while western Sarpy County shifted to Congressional District 2. Under my proposal, much of the city of Bellevue would be restored to CD 2, roughly from Fort Crook Road to Fontenelle Forest in the east to the Highway 370 on the south. The plan also retains much of the city of La Vista in the Second Congressional District, east of 96th Street. In order to, to create a compact and contiguous boundary and to ensure that we didn't draw the incumbent congressman into a different district, my plan also includes part of the city of Papillion in the second district, east of 84th Street and mostly north of Highway 370. I just want to note a little bit about the first and the third. Under my proposal, we will shift all of Platte and Polk Counties into (Congressional) District 3-- from (Congressional) District 3 to the CD-- the First (Congressional) District, along with most of Otoe County. My plan "exsplits"-- it splits exactly two counties, Otoe and Sarpy, in order to achieve the numerical equality that must exist between the-- all three districts. Congressional district boundaries adopted by the Legislature have achieved-- have to achieve almost absolute equality between the districts to pass constitutional muster. While I think that many of-- many different reasonable congressional plans could be drawn, I am certainly open to other potential ways to draw Congressional district boundaries. The simple fact is Douglas County has to remain wholly contained in its entirety in the same Congressional district since the state was admitted in the Union and I think that should not change. I quoted last time I don't often agree with former Governor Dave Heineman, but he also agreed that Douglas County should remain fully in the Second Congressional District. Turning to LB4-- and I will spend a little bit of time on LB4 because it deals with legislative maps and a lot of changes kind of in this area. In 2020-- sorry, let's go back to 2010. In 2010, this body, the Legislature and, and a committee formed just like this, was dealing with the same population loss in western Nebraska. LD 47, which is currently Senator Erdman's district, lost 15.5 percent. LD 42 lost 13.4 percent. LD 44 lost 13.3 percent. This is-- I'm sorry, this is current-- and LD 43, Brewer's district, lost 11.7 percent. Those are the four highest lost population. Meanwhile, three districts that Senator Linehan had pointed out in Douglas and Sarpy County gained the most. Senator Linehan's own district gained 48 percent. That's LD 39. Senator Day, LD 49, gained 31 percent and Senator DeBoer, LD 10, gained 30 percent. In light of these changes, in order to ensure that we follow LR134 and

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the constitution, we, we have to look at moving a legislative seat into the Douglas and Sarpy County area. My plan does just that. We move LD 44, southwest Nebraska, to western Douglas and Sarpy County. From a historical perspective, this is something the Legislature has always done. This is not Justin picking on Senator Hughes. This is not urban versus rural. This is the past precedent that we have followed in this body since we became a Unicameral. In 2010, the population loss in western Nebraska was almost identical to what we have in 2020. LD 43 lost 16.54 percent. LD 49 lost 14.94 percent. LD 47 lost 13.3-- 13 percent. LD 44 lost 11.43 (percent). What the Legislature did in 2011 is similar to what my plan does. It moved LD 49 from western Nebraska to Sarpy County. While LD 49 had not seen the most population loss of those districts, the incumbent senator, Senator Loudon, was term-limited the following year. That is the exact same reason that we chose (District) 44 because Senator Hughes is slated to be term-limited in 2022. It is important to note that once a senator is elected, they have a constitutional right to serve a four-year term and when you look around that district, Senator Brewer was just elected, Senator Erdman was just elected, so that's again where we went with the LD 44, moving it here. I do want to point out that there are a number of legislative changes that you see in rural area. Existing splits between Box Butte County, Alliance, and Otoe County, Nebraska City, are eliminated, making that county whole. Dixon County would, would be split over in order to provide necessary additional population to LD 17, Senator Albrecht, but the result that-- the result of that split actually results in unifying communities of Wakefield and Emerson. Both Wakefield and Emerson actually straddle the county line currently so moving them into-- the boundary into Dixon County places them wholly within LD 17. The only remaining split county that wasn't, wasn't already split would be Phelps County in south-central Nebraska. While it is numerically impossible to keep the county whole because the city of Holdrege would remain intact under the current legislative district, LE-- LD 38, which is Senator Murman. The census results reveal that there are significant growth in Lancaster County and I just want to point this out since we are in Lancaster County. But the reality is there is not enough numbers to add an entire district to Lancaster County, particularly, in fact, the two existing districts are already partially contained in southern Lancaster County. Growth in Lancaster County was largely concentrated in LD 21, which is Senator Hilgers, LD 25, which is Senator Geist, and LD 30, which is Senator Dorn. Because LD 30 already needed to lose population, LD 32 was already within the-- and LD 32, Senator Brandt, was already within the allowable deviation, it became necessary to move portions of an additional district into Lancaster County. My plan moves portions of LD 24, Senator Kolterman, into western Lancaster,

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which creates good communities of interest since many of the Seward and York residents already commute to Lincoln for work. The, the city of Waverly shifts from LD 25 to LD 21. With, with LD 25 effectively becoming a second south Lincoln district, LD 21 remains its core area in northwest and north-- northern Lancaster County. In order to make all of Lincoln area district fit within allowable deviation, the boundary of LD 32 shifts more to southern Lancaster County into the Hickman area. Drawing the Lancaster County districts in a way that prevents the need to split Gage County and other altering existing boundaries of (District) 30 and (District) 32 is what our plan tries to accomplish. Just last thing about Omaha-- nope, I'm going to skip that-- we'll talk about Omaha in Omaha. Taking a step back from our overall plan, the aim is to create legislative districts to follows county lines, have easy, identifiable boundaries, and maintain existing district cores and boundaries to the greatest extent possible. I am certain that there will be a number of individuals who will talk about both plans, but I do want people to understand this is a long process and I hope we get feedback, constructive feedback to help move this process along. And with that, I'll answer any questions, Madam Chairwoman.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Are there any questions from the committee? Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. Senator Wayne, I don't remember you saying this before. What-- did you just say that a large portion of the people in Seward commute to work in Lincoln?

WAYNE: I said as the trend seems to be where those from York and Seward are commuting to Lincoln, it creates a community of interest by moving part of Seward into the Lancaster County to keep that contiguous.

BLOOD: I, I was looking at-- unfortunately, I don't have anything from last year, but it looks like over 25 percent of the population does commute--

WAYNE: Correct.

BLOOD: --does that sound right?

WAYNE: Yes.

BLOOD: All right, thank you.

LINEHAN: Senator-- thank you, Senator Blood. Senator Lowe.

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LOWE: Thank you, Chairman. Thank you, Senator Wayne, for bringing these trees to us. You had brought up that term-limited senators are the ones we are looking at when we want to move a district. Has term limits made it easier to move districts out of western Nebraska to eastern Nebraska?

WAYNE: Yes and no. It made it easier, obviously, this round. If it were to move, that was my logic and last round with Senator Louden, but (District) 39, (District) 31 all were moved prior to, to term limits being established and those also moved from west to, to urban area. So I think moving forward, if we keep the same process, yes, but the same number of seats have moved prior to term limits. But if you want to help me get rid of term limits, I'm all for that.

LOWE: Thank you, Senator Lowe. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Thank you, Chairman Linehan, and Senator Wayne, I've heard for-- heard two days in a row here how Douglas County has been kept whole relative to congressional redistrict-- Congressional districts for 140 years or so, but based on the growth of Douglas County relative to the growth of the entire state, isn't it fair to conclude that the next redistricting, Douglas County may have to get split up and it's probably likely that it will have to get split up, at least by the following redistricting after that? And, and if, and if so, what's the, what's the plan?

WAYNE: Well, if we get rid of term limits, I'll be here maybe to help solve that, but no, but to the-- to your point, though, and-- yes, if the growth continues to happen in ten years, Douglas County would most likely have to be split, but what I would say to that argument is that is the same argument rural senators are using in LB4 by saying that-- it was the same argument that I could use in LB4. In ten years, another, another seat will probably have to be moved to Lancaster County so let's just move two now and your argument is going to be no, let's wait and see what the data is ten years from now. And so my reply back would be before we split Douglas County now, preemptively, let's wait and see what the data is ten years from now. So yes, probably, but that same logic would be another rural seat would probably have to be-- leave too, so if that's the logic for splitting Douglas County, then that should be the same logic for adding two congress-- two legislative seats to both Lancaster and Douglas County today.

LINEHAN: You mean one each?

WAYNE: One each.

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BRIESE: And you're reasonably confident that we could not redistrict legislatively without moving-- completely picking up a district and moving it?

WAYNE: This is a conversation that Senator Erdman and I have had for a week and a half now. By trying to do simple math-- so let's, let's just have a quick dialogue because I know people want to talk. If we do 40-- 42 percent-- or 42,000, rural would be able to retain one or would be able to shift more in Linehan's district map. If we do 38,000, which is both within deviation, rural would actually lose two seats, one to Lancaster and one to Douglas County and Sarpy County. Either way you do that, when you actually sit down and do the map, it doesn't work out. And what I mean by that is our maps have-- our districts have to be contiguous and the problem is, if you were to look at this first map, which has this population, no matter how you draw it, you have Custer County with 10,000, Dawson with 24,000, Buffalo with 50,000, and then way up in the north middle, you have Holt County with 10,000 and then on the northeast side, you have Dakota County with 21,000. To throw in an extra curveball, you have Scotts Bluff with 36,000 and Box Butte with 10,000. So if you try to keep counties whole the best you can, there's no way to simply divide the math or else you would have to split literally cities. And what we were trying to do is not split cities and counties the best we can, which is constitutionally required. So if it was a simple math equation that Senator Erdman has said over and over, I would agree, but when you look at the geographical location-- and I guess for those who are looking at home and those who are watching, from Holt County to Dakota County, there is no way to only have one district there. You've got to have two. So both of those are going to be negative in the sense of the deviation because they're not going to have enough population to go to 42,000, so they're going to be around 39,000 most of the time unless you add in Antelope, which would go into kind of your area, to balance it out. The problem is where some of the population is, the mathematics just doesn't-- it's not as clean as dry as I would like it to be.

BRIESE: Well, I, I would suggest in, in the name of preserving the core of the existing districts, it is possible to do quite a bit here by utilizing the allowable deviation. And so when you reference, you know, the need to-- or the possibility of moving-- being proactive and moving two legislative districts east, I think that doesn't make sense to me and I don't think-- technically-- in theory, we don't have to move even one.

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WAYNE: In theory, we have to move one. There's no way around. Because, because there is only one district in Douglas County that lost significant population, which is LD 8, Senator Hunt's district, the fact that the growth of LD 31-- I'm sorry, (District) 10, (District) 39, and (District) 49 was big enough to be a district, there is no way mathematically we can't-- we have to put a district somewhere between Sarpy County, Douglas County, in that, in that area because you can't, without maintaining all our constitutional principles, just shift everybody over.

BRIESE: OK. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Senator Blood. Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Blood and then Senator Brewer.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. Senator Wayne, I need you to clarify something for me. So yesterday we heard a lot of great testimony from rural Nebraska. I'm from rural Nebraska originally. It was nice to be able to hear from different parts of the state because we don't always have that benefit, but the concern that we kept hearing over and over again is don't, don't move this county because this county is important to my county, which is important to the next county. That creates our own type of-- be it political subdivision, be it community, be it-- please, please don't do that, but yet a lot of the same people that are supporting that are saying cut Douglas County in half. So can you, can you explain to me why-- what you're hearing as to why it's OK to, to cut a great urban area that's really important to Nebraska-- because there's a lot of tax base that comes from there in half-- but it's not OK to, to potentially move things around in the west? And I know that's a hard question, but I-- that's the, the one thing that I-- and I, I hear this from other senators too where they say hey, it's OK to do that, but don't do this, but yet you're both talking about the same thing. Sorry. I know it's a hard question, but I think it needs to go on record.

WAYNE: No, there's a, there's a hard political answer and then there is just, there's just reasons that are, are legitimate. And one can argue there's a hard political answer that they're trying-- that people are trying to split CD 2. I don't get into that. If you look at our maps, we didn't get into politics at all. At the end of the day, the blue dot would not have been deleted or changed under Senator Linehan's map. Let's just be transparent about that. But there is a real argument and I think-- there is a real argument about-- and it happens in this body all the time-- urban versus rural. The real-- it's a real argument about rural voices being heard and why I can relate to that is because there is a real argument of north Omaha

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voice being heard. So rather than get into the politics of it, I think the mayors who put an editorial together about Sarpy County and why splitting Sarpy County because a comment was said ten years ago by a Republican senator who happened to be urban, that it's just the rest of it. That's-- the rest of it are people. And so I think there is a real debate outside of the political noise about a growing population in Sarpy County that wants their Congressional district or their voice to be heard. I agree with that part. I don't believe in sacrificing the core of something that's been established for over 100 years to achieve that. And if you look at our legislative maps, we are trying to do the same. Although we are removing a western senator, we are trying to keep the core together and I think everybody here is trying to keep a core together. It's just which core are you trying to hear the best? And I believe Douglas County being whole must happen and must remain. Others may not, but I don't, I don't think it's truly a-- I don't get into the noise of the editorials, so I just don't truly think it's as political as people think it is. I think it's really people trying to make sure their districts are heard. And the reason I can relate to that is because my community has been left behind by so long that we're trying to figure out how to make sure Senator McKinney and I are heard on this floor.

BLOOD: So I appreciate that, Senator Wayne, because I do think that some folks feel that certain maps might be more political than others and that is not necessarily the case and that many of us have worked together to try and keep this as nonpartisan as possible and, and that's what I hear you saying. And you did your best to follow the guidelines?

WAYNE: Correct.

BLOOD: And we tried to stay within the constitution?

WAYNE: Correct and--

BLOOD: Thank you.

WAYNE: --and we-- I believe Senator Linehan and I fundamentally disagree on where the cores should be in CD 2, not the people that are trying to vote--

BLOOD: Fair enough.

WAYNE: --if that makes sense.

BLOOD: Yep.

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LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Blood. Senator Brewer.

WAYNE: I walked a tight rope on that one because I wanted to say a lot more.

BREWER: Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. First off, Senator Wayne, I have seen the work you put into doing this and I commend you for it. It takes a lot of time to take and move those little blocks and make them all fit if the numbers come up the way they want and, and, you know, it's, it's part of what has to be done, but I'm just going to plant a seed here. We talked about it yesterday, but sometimes it's not fair to ambush some poor soul that comes into that chair who isn't part of the process on issues because they don't have the oversight that, that you have. So if we go with your plan-- and, and actually for my district, wherever it shakes out, you know, like I said yesterday, we're going to be on it. We're going to, we're going to go there, we're going to take care of people, we're going to do what we need to do, but I think that we are on a course, the way that we're shifting everything to the east, that we will find a point-- where that is, I don't know, but I think we're very close to it-- where it is physically impossible to represent a district because of its size. Now, if we go with, with your plan, my district would start at Wheeler and, and Garfield County, which essentially is on a southern vertical line from O'Neill, and I would go to the Wyoming border. So that's the equivalent of going from North Platte to the Iowa line. That's one district. Do you see-- at a point when your district gets so big that you're talking about dozens of towns, dozens of schools, thousands of miles of roads and bridges, that that one district would become unmanageable and then a district-- like we talked yesterday-- that may have a couple of dozen blocks in Lincoln or Omaha-- the city of Lincoln or Omaha would take care of most of those needs and, and yet your staff and your responsibilities for both of those giant pieces of turf-- and, and like we talked yesterday, this will be the size of, of Croatia, the country of Croatia that I'll have as a district. Now, I understand that, that we have to go through this process and, and, and part of it is figuring out what this magic looks like, but I think there's no way to deny the fact that say in ten years, (District) 47 and (District) 43 are combined and now literally half of the state of Nebraska is a district. You see where the concern is that if-- there is a point we could have a, a point of no return where you can't do justice to your district because it's more than is physically possible?

WAYNE: So first, there is no-- Senator, I would rather lead Croatia than you.

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BREWER: Thank you.

WAYNE: Second, after spending time with you out there, I deeply appreciate what you're saying. The issue is growth in population and I can't ignore our constitutional duty to make sure we have one person, one vote because it's going to drive too long. But what I can do and what I will do-- and I think you've seen me help-- when it comes to growing rural Nebraska, I will 100 percent support that. We did that last year with inland port. We did that last year with the Spurrell-- Spur, Spur line project. We did that two years ago and again last year with affordable housing, a rural workforce affordable housing. That is where-- what you are talking about is a fundamental issue, issue of growth and those are policy decisions that I have no problem working with you on to make sure in ten years, you do get a legislative seat back. I just can't ignore the constitution right now in order to do so.

BREWER: I think that's a great answer. Thank you.

LINEHAN: OK, Senator-- thank you, Senator Brewer. Senator Briese and then Senator Lowe.

BRIESE: Thank you, Chair Linehan.

WAYNE: Where were these questions yesterday so I could prepare for today?

_____ : Take your time to think.

_____ : Wait till tomorrow.

BRIESE: I've heard the constitution brought up several times yesterday and today, but just so we're clear here, the constitution doesn't require adherence to county lines in all situations, right? The constitution requires it wherever, quote unquote, practicable, correct?

WAYNE: Yes, wherever it is practical.

BRIESE: OK and the constitution also does not require mathematical certainty in the splitting of legislative districts relative to population, correct?

WAYNE: That-- I would disagree with you on that.

BRIESE: Deviations are allowed in furtherance of legitimate redistricting goals, correct?

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WAYNE: Reasonable deviations, anything over--

BRIESE: Sure.

WAYNE: --7 percent in other states have been thrown out. We are at 5 percent deviation, so we at least have guide, guidelines.

BRIESE: OK, very good. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Thank you, Chairwoman, and Senator Wayne, we, we brought up moving lines and, and keeping our counties whole and, and but don't we split up communities? I mean, Alliance was split up down the middle. Nebraska City was split up. There have been towns of 400 people that were split. So we, we do divide things and as our-- as Douglas County continues to grow, that's inevitable that that will also have to be done. And somebody one time said no better time than the present, but I'll just continue and, and as we move districts from either central-- east-central Nebraska or, or southwest Nebraska-- with, with term limits, it's become easier, but the people of the communities, the people of the counties run those counties. They do a good job. We are here just temporarily now, just eight years or-- unless you decide to come back. We, we get a reprieve and we get to come back. It's not so much the senators, that the districts run these communities and the counties. We're just a voice and it all depends on who you elect to be a good voice or a bad voice. You may not want that senator to represent you anymore. So moving counties, moving boundaries, it, it's, it's just paper. We will still represent the people. If, if I was moved out of my district, I would still represent the people of central Nebraska and the people of Nebraska.

WAYNE: So to-- in response to that, I'll give an example. Yesterday both Senator Linehan and myself were stopped in Grand Island and in my map, I cut off, like, four blocks of Grand Island that would make them drive to a town that's 20 minutes away. To your point, we are going to fix that and whether it's my map or Senator Linehan's map, we're going to fix that. We're going to make sure that Grand Island can have precincts that they can actually go to instead of having to drive a half hour down a county road in November. There could be snowstorms, etcetera, that would hurt their ability to vote. What we've tried to do on our map was one, make Alliance whole and we brought Nebraska City whole. So as long as I'm here, I'm going to be cognitive of the fact we are trying to keep communities together. If you recall, the first iteration of my map split Senator Linehan's neighborhood down the middle. We fixed that and that's part of the feedback today and

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the process we're going through because we wouldn't have known about Grand Island, but for us having that conversation. And so it's important that-- for the public who are watching and people who are behind me to understand this is a work in progress. We are starting with base maps. Of course, I like my base map better than Senator Linehan's base map, but there are going to be neighborhood tweaks to Senator Lowe's point because we don't live in Chadron. I don't, so Senator Lowe is going to give me feedback and that community is going to give me feedback of where it should-- where that boundary should be. The other thing I would say, Senator Lowe, is I hope Senator Hughes feels the same way when he represents Sarpy after we pass my map. That was a joke, jeez.

LATHROP: I get it.

LINEHAN: Thank you. I think maybe the people that came would like to--

WAYNE: Yeah. I'm, I'm, I-- you guys are asking me questions.

LINEHAN: Any other questions? I have some.

WAYNE: Oh, jeez. OK.

LINEHAN: You keep referring to historical perspective. Do you think the maps that were drawn in the '30s and '40s and before the 1965 Voters Act are maps that we should look to for guidance?

WAYNE: Yes. I say that understanding that although I was counted in 1900, I was not allowed to vote and if I was allowed to vote, I could have been beaten for that. I say that because it shows the progress that we are still making. I made a post last night that one of the greatest and significant political dynamics that will shape Nebraska are being led by a woman and a black man. That's significant. But I do understand that many of those districts that were drawn intentionally excluded us. Now, see, the political answer would be for me to tie in critical race theory right now and go down that path, but I won't because I know exactly why that question was asked and I think it's a legitimate question and it's because there are people who are claiming that a plan, Senator Linehan's plan, is diluting minority voices and it's not. Leave that argument alone. So I get that question and I actually appreciate that question because it reminded everybody here today about what I just said. Our biggest, most sacred right that we have, voting and how it turns out, is being led by a woman and a black man in Nebraska, so that's something we should be grateful for and that's something we should pause and think about. It's also something that I don't take lightly and I think Senator Linehan doesn't take

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lightly, but yes, we were counted. The numbers are the numbers and yes, we were excluded and I don't think any math is doing that intentionally.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Wayne. I think-- we need to check this for the record and it looks like we're going to be here for a while-- we can. I think-- former Governor Heineman, I don't think he said we couldn't split Douglas County. He just didn't want us to take Saunders County, I think, but we'll check.

WAYNE: Well, if I can disagree with him again, I like that position better.

LINEHAN: Yeah, well that-- I have no doubt in your lifetime you'll have plenty of opportunities to disagree with Governor Heineman. Your map does completely eliminate one of the most rural districts of the state, does it not?

WAYNE: Yes.

LINEHAN: And both the districts, whether it's your map or I-- Linehan map, are dealing with a term-limited, one-year-left senator.

WAYNE: Yes.

LINEHAN: Can you tell me, on your congressional map, why instead of keeping, you know, like, the core-- southeast Nebraska whole, you left off my hometown of Crab Orchard and jumped up and grabbed Norfolk?

WAYNE: On CD 2?

LINEHAN: Um-hum.

WAYNE: Or I mean CD 1? I'm sorry.

LINEHAN: Yeah. Madison County. I'm sorry, I should--

WAYNE: Actually, it was because Madison County had 35,000 and it was easier to keep that, that district-- I'm sorry, that area whole. To do so would create the, the zero percent.

LINEHAN: You're not seriously going to tell me you did it because it was easy.

WAYNE: Yeah because if I wanted to be political, I would have brought in Saline and I didn't. I mean, that, that's--

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LINEHAN: But you left out Platte.

WAYNE: Yeah, it, it was strictly numbers. I'm, I'm open because-- so people who are maybe 9 or 10, at the congressional level, we have to have close as we can to less than 1 percent deviation and zero is ideal. And so when looking at how to keep the county whole, I would still be short almost 1,000 people and I would have to go through-- pretty much the way Colfax County is, I'd have to go over and divide up Columbus to meet, meet that, so I--

LINEHAN: Or you could just go down to the southeast corner and pick up and leave Madison and Platte both in the first district--

WAYNE: I--

LINEHAN: --where they are now.

WAYNE: --I could, but I thought Nemaha, Johnson going down to the south, Otoe, all those counties, I thought they had more similar with the third, being a rural district, than so much Lancaster County being second. That was the thought process.

LINEHAN: OK.

WAYNE: Not saying I'm right, but I'm willing to move, but that's the reason we went Madison and not Saline because I'd have to pick up one, two, almost three counties and Gage County messes everything up having 21-- not Gage County. Dorn is being negative-- messed everything up, but--

LINEHAN: I think Senator, Senator Moser might have an idea or two for you.

WAYNE: OK. Well, I'm open to Senator Moser's ideas.

LINEHAN: OK. Are there any other questions from the committee? Thank you, Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: I'm gonna go get some coffee.

LINEHAN: Welcome, Senator Moser.

MOSER: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Good morning.

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MOSER: Good morning, Redistricting Committee. My name is Mike Moser. I represent District 22 in the Legislature. I live in Columbus and Platte County and my concerns with the redistricting plan so far center around the movement of Platte County into the Third (Congressional) District. Platte County has been in the Third (Congressional) District in the bygone days. The last ten years, we've been in Congressional District 1 and I think that Platte County has more in common with (Congressional) District 1 than (Congressional) District 3. True agriculture is still the number one business in Platte County, but we have more manufacturing per capita than any other county in the state. And I think our citizens look to the east for banking, for entertainment, for education-- east and south and so I think that they just align better with the Congressional District 1. As far as the movement of districts from western Nebraska to eastern Nebraska, I enjoyed listening to Senator Erdman yesterday. Some days I get the feeling that it's kind of Senator Erdman against the world, but he does come up with some interesting ideas and I think given the vast area in western Nebraska, that we should do everything we can to utilize the deviation allowable to keep those districts as far west as we can. When you look at one district that might have hundreds of square miles and then other districts in the more populated parts of the state, they might only have, you know, five square miles, ten square miles. You can just see the, the difficulty in covering those areas. We don't have the luxury of what the United States has where they have a Senate that's assigned by geographical area and a House that's done by population. Here, it's all done by population so we have no senate to temper what we do as the Unicameral. So every problem that comes up, we have a bill on it and more than-- more often than not, we pass it. And we've already got bills from 150 years of some of the smartest people that have ever lived in Nebraska and, and every year, we're adding another-- potentially a 1,000 bills to that. So I think that Erdman's idea of using the maximum deviation to accommodate more districts in western Nebraska is a great idea. We don't have the senate to temper what we do as, as a legislative body, which is what I would say we are. And then just to interject a little political note into this, Platte County is 62 percent Republican and (Congressional) District 1, which we are now, is 46 percent Republican. (Congressional) District 3 is 61 percent Republican, so moving Platte County into (Congressional) District--

LINEHAN: I don't think we're supposed to go there actually.

MOSER: You don't like the comparisons?

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LINEHAN: Everybody knows those numbers, I mean, but we're not supposed to-- we're not supposed, we're not supposed to base the maps on political registration.

MOSEER: I'm not--

LINEHAN: OK.

MOSEER: --but I say I think that's--

LINEHAN: Because you're not-- OK.

MOSEER: It's a motivation for why, why we got moved to the Third (Congressional) District.

LINEHAN: Yeah.

MOSEER: All right, I'll conclude there. Anybody have--

LINEHAN: I have--

MOSEER: --questions?

LINEHAN: I, I-- sure, I have a couple. Anybody else have questions for--

LATHROP: Can I make a comment or atleast--

LINEHAN: Sure.

LATHROP: --an observation? So I, I was at the hearing yesterday, listened to Senator Erdman. I've heard people talk about the comment you made today, which is using the deviation to sort of game out the maps to increase rural representation and here's the challenge with that or the problem with that. First, that deviation was provided so that we could work around towns to try to keep counties whole. It was not intended as a tool to game out more representation by rural, by urban, by anything else. I suspect that you are subjecting this process to a legal challenge if, for example, you said in western Nebraska, we'll use 95 percent of the population and in urban areas, we'll use 105 percent and that way we'll stretch the rural areas and end up with more rural senators. My point is I think as a strategy for increasing rural representation, you are necessarily involving yourself in something that's not lawful to the extent that plan is represented in a map where we deliberately use the deviation to increase rural representation and pack people in urban areas. I think that would subject us to a court challenge. When we started this

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process, we had a debate about what the deviation should be. It was not-- we didn't arrive at the deviation, 5 percent, by suggesting that we could use it as a tool to effect representation of minorities or rural areas or urban areas, but rather as a, as an allowance to help us as we draw maps because it's really hard to keep counties in if you don't provide for some deviation. I just want to make that statement. You can, you can respond to it if you want, Mike, but I just want to make that statement because I've heard it yesterday, I've heard it a couple of times already this morning, and that deviation is not a tool to increase or diminish any particular group's representation, but a tool to accommodate people in the map room. I've spent some time there, as have people on this panel. It isn't easy to, to make these districts without some deviation, keep cities whole, keep counties whole as much as we can and that's what the deviation is for and it's not a, it's not a tool to be employed to affect any one group's ability to increase or diminish another group's representation.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

MOSER: Well, I can see-- I, I agree with your point. We want to make sure this is done legally and-- but the deviation is an allowance to make exceptions to the absolute numeric equality to accommodate certain things and I just think that we need to make sure we make it-- take advantage of that to accomplish the goals that the, the original legislative resolution set forth and that the committee has. As far as minorities, my district has, you know, 20 percent Latino population. We have a large minority population, but-- and I don't have any objection to the boundaries of my district. I'm going to represent my district however it winds up. I just think my main reason for being here is to ask that you include Platte County in (Congressional) District 1 rather than (Congressional) District 3.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: I just want to make a comment that I don't think I disagree with anything there that Senator Lathrop said, but I do want to add that we can use the allowable deviation to further the legitimate goals of redistricting, which also includes preserving the cores of existing districts, preserving communities of interest however we define those.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Briese. I have a question.

MOSER: Sure.

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LINEHAN: Is it not frequently that Madison and Platte County work together, for instance, on a road plan?

MOSER: Yes, Madison County and Platte County have a lot of similar goals. Transportation is a big part of them.

LINEHAN: And--

MOSER: I, I'm looking forward to Highway 30 getting done because I think people are going to move from Omaha to Columbus because they'll be able to get there so much faster.

LINEHAN: Well, if, if Dodge Street Expressway is any sign, I would agree with that, so-- and it-- one of the reasons to leave you in the First (Congressional) District together is that, that includes a lot of interaction with the federal, our federal officials, right, Congress and the Senate?

MOSER: Yes--

LINEHAN: Because--

MOSER: --and, and we've had really good representation from the First (Congressional) District just because it's not as large as the third and so we've, we've seen-- we've had a lot of good interaction with our congressional staff and Congressman Fortenberry.

LINEHAN: And your senators?

MOSER: Yes and our senators too, but--

LINEHAN: Yes, thank you.

MOSER: --they have the whole state to cover, so--

LINEHAN: Yes. All right, any other questions? Thank you, Senator Moser, very much for being here.

MOSER: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Good morning.

SLAMA: Good morning, Chairwoman Linehan, members of the committee. I'm Julie Slama, J-u-l-i-e S-l-a-m-a, and I represent District 1, which is Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties in southeast Nebraska. Otoe County's proposed Congressional districts will be the focus of my testimony today. I'm here to testify in favor of LB1,

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Senator Linehan's congressional map, and in opposition to LB2, Senator Wayne's congressional map because Senator Linehan's map keeps Otoe County whole, while Senator Wayne's map divides Otoe County between two different Congressional districts. I reject the notion that Douglas County is a sacrosanct entity that can't be divided while rural counties have to pay the price and be divided. Since 1890, Otoe County has never been split between Congressional districts. This gives it just as much right as Douglas County to claim that it can't be split because of historical precedent. Unlike Douglas County, in addition to being a county, Otoe County is a distinct community of interest. It is primarily an agricultural community and it has agricultural interests that are unique from the rest of the state. From the highest number of vineyards and wineries per capita to apple orchards and sawmills, and with similar socioeconomic and educational backgrounds, Otoe County's unique cohesiveness means it should be in one Congressional district under the redistricting guidelines we passed earlier this year. This is in stark contrast to Douglas County. Douglas County has a large population with many distinct communities of interest within the county. Past legislatures have recognized this in their maps. In the current Public Service Commission maps, Douglas County is divided while Otoe and the five-county area-- so Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson, Pawnee, and Richardson County-- are not. The same is true for the current State Board of Education maps. These maps were passed without any controversy that I'm aware of. As for which Congressional district Otoe County should be in, the Third Congressional District in this cycle makes the most sense. The five counties in southeast Nebraska that I represent have similar unique agricultural interests, as well as a unique emphasis on the energy sector between Nebraska City's coal plant and Cooper Nuclear Station serving as the main employers for the region. Many people live in one of the five counties and work in another. Therefore, I believe all five counties should be in the same Congressional district. From a practical geographic perspective, the Third (Congressional) District is the best way to achieve that goal. If we want to draw a map that keeps communities of interest intact, it makes the most sense to split Douglas County, not cohesive rural counties that make up the whole communities of interest like Otoe County. That is why I'm testifying in support of Senator Linehan's proposed congressional maps and in opposition to Senator Wayne's proposed congressional maps. Thank you all very much for your work on this committee.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Slama. Are there questions from the committee?

SLAMA: Thank you.

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LINEHAN: Thank you. Senator Kolterman, are you going to testify? OK. I was afraid somebody was going to-- good morning.

KOLTERMAN: Good morning, Senator Linehan, members of the Redistricting Committee. My name is Mark Kolterman, M-a-r-k K-o-l-t-e-r-m-a-n. I represent Legislative District 24, which is Seward, Polk, and York Counties. Two things you need to understand as I walk, as I walk through my testimony is I've lived in Legislative District 24 for 70 years, my entire life, so I'm passionate about keeping it. I'm also a registered Republican because what I'm going to have to say isn't going to be pleasant to some Republicans in the room. I'm here to explain my concerns with LB3 that dissolves LD 24 as it is-- currently sits and it moves District-- it moves the district to Sarpy County. First of all, I believe moving my district to Sarpy County violates the redistricting guidelines we established as a Legislature in May. According to Section 4 of LR134, district boundaries shall preserve communities of interest and allow for the preservation of the cores of prior districts if possible. Based upon other proposals that have been developed, it is more than possible to preserve the core of Legislative District 24 within its current area with a few tweaks. As one of 12 rural districts within the state that actually grew in population, it would require only the addition of approximately 3,000 population to meet the 5 percent deviation. And at the same time, would retain the compactness of the district, preserve municipal boundaries, the communities of interest, and the core of the prior district. LR134 also emphasizes using county lines as boundaries when practice-- when practicable. Under LB3, which would relocate LD 24 to Sarpy County, Legislative District 34 would absorb Polk and York counties and meets this criteria. Unfortunately, LD 23, which would absorb Seward County, fails the test. LD 23 would consist of entire-- the entirety of Butler and Seward Counties, the northwestern slice of Saunders County, which is basically cut in half diagonally, and an offshoot of Colfax County, which allows LD 23 to absorb the city of Schuyler and neighboring areas. To me, this proposal of LD 23 is not compact and the division in Colfax County does not follow clearly recognizable borders. LB-- since the establishment of the Nebraska Unicameral, Legislative District 24 has a unique history of producing high-quality leadership for-- not only for my district, but for the state of Nebraska. In 1940, LD 24 first elected Senator Stanley Matzke, Sr. Senator Matzke was reelected in '42-- or '64 and '66. During his tenure, he served as Chairman of the Education Committee and the Legislative Council. After his first tenure ended in '44, then he went on to be director of the Nebraska Department of Insurance. In 1975, we elected Congressman Doug Bereuter, was then elected to Congress in 1978, where he served until 2005, 27 years. Harold Sieck

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was then elected to represent the district. He was an outspoken advocate and worked tirelessly for those who suffer from, from developmental disabilities. Following Senator Sieck, Scott Moore was elected. Scott Moore then went on to serve as Secretary of State for the state of Nebraska and then he was succeeded by Elaine Stuhr, who served as Vice Chair of the Natural Resources Committee and chaired the Nebraska Retirement Systems. Committee member Greg Adams-- committee member Greg Adams followed Senator Stuhr, when his last two years he served as Speaker. So I want to express to you all-- and I know you all have hard jobs. There is absolutely nothing easy about what you're doing and I appreciate the work you're putting into this, but I have some concerns. I'm disappointed in how the process has transpired to this point. I told you earlier, I've been a Republican my entire life. This year it will be 50 years, but when I took the oath of office to serve the-- I didn't take it to serve the Republican Party. I was elected by the residents of District 24 to serve the state of Nebraska. I appreciate what Senator Lowe said earlier. When it comes to any issue, any issue, when I'm contacted in my office by a resident of my district, I don't want to ask them whether they're a Republican, a Democrat, a Libertarian, or Independent or if they even vote. I listen to constituents in my district and I do what I think is best for the residents of my district and the state as a whole. I believe this principle should be the foundation of our redistricting process to seek what's best for the state and our constituents. Partisanship has no place in this process and we say that in LR134 through and through, which we all agreed to on the floor of the Legislature. Before the first hearing was held yesterday in Grand Island, I received an email from my party titled Redistricting Meetings. In this email, Executive Director Ryan Hamilton states Nebraska is a conservative state with conservative values and our electoral map-- our electoral map should reflect that. To me, this statement is in conflict with Section 5 of LR134 that states district boundaries shall not be established with the intention of favoring a political party or any other group or person. Now, I know I cannot control Mr. Hamilton and what he publishes, but his full-throated endorsement of one of the legislative proposals to reflect conservative values raises serious concerns that proposal is neither fair or even, even handed. Because we all know the Nebraska Legislature, we are the only nonpartisan legislative body in the United States. While redistricting will have some partisan attitudes, I get that, but it's important that we remain true to what makes Nebraska unique. So as such, I urge you to continue working through the rest of this Redistricting Committee to reevaluate LB3 and LB4. Ensure that these maps are being drawn fairly without any personal animus and without any undue partisan gain to either

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political party. That's what's required in LR134. I think that's all I have to say for now. I'm open to questions. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Are there questions from the committee? Senator Brewer.

BREWER: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I'm going to use a line from Senator Wayne because I think it's appropriate here. If not in your district, what district should we eliminate?

KOLTERMAN: Well, you know what? I, I think that what's gone on in the past has been fair, as he said. I, I don't want to see Senator Hughes eliminated. I don't like that map either. I don't like that idea. I don't want to see, I don't want to see Dorn and, and Brandt's districts cut in half, but I think we can get this done, Senator, by just expanding where we're at. I know that there's a couple of other senators that are looking at different proposals to just expand the current districts. At the same time, I do have a bill, LB12, in place that would add a 50th seat. That could take care of our problems, but it's yet to be told whether or not that's part of the call. I appreciate that. I've asked for an Attorney General's Opinion, as has the Speaker. We should hear that today, but that could be a solution to the problem, but I, I have no idea what we-- I don't-- I'm not an advocate of cutting any district whatsoever.

BREWER: Yesterday, we started with a string of folks that came and, and it was a attempt to, to save the District 36, which I didn't think it was on the chopping block, but I guess it was just a way to seal the deal. And many of the things that they brought to us was that if you break apart District 36-- and just so everyone's kind of on the same sheet of music, what that is, is that it's a district that sits essentially in central Nebraska by western Nebraska standards, Lexington, Gothenburg, Cozad, north all the way into Custer County. And one of the plans has Custer County being cut out of that district and they-- the comments were that it would negatively affect the hospitals, the banks, the schools and, and I, I threw the bull**** card. I said listen, these communities are going to drive on and they're going to make do with however we shape things. Now, I understand you don't want to change your district-- this is what I was telling Senator Williams-- but there will be a point that this committee doesn't do their job unless we figure out a solution. Again, I, I think that there were folks that took it too personally in how we-- or how they perceived that that district would change. Now, again, (District) 36 wasn't, wasn't a plan, so I'm not sure exactly why that was, but what came out of it was that there was a lot of people that just didn't want to see change. And unfortunately, this

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committee's mission in life is to figure out how to change things to move forward for the state. Now, I think you've made a lot of good points here, so, you know, this has to be discussed, but you can see how you get boxed into a corner where it's not my district. You can take any of the rest of them. Don't necessarily like the idea of taking the rest of them, but, you know, it, it kind of leaves you in a, in a fix to where there's no answer that's going to make very many people happy or at least certain people.

KOLTERMAN: Can, can I respond?

BREWER: You-- please.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you. I appreciate your comments. I really do and you're going to get a little of the same that you got yesterday because I got five or six people that are going to testify. They've been asked to keep it short. But I will, I will tell you this. I listened to that whole-- I listened all day yesterday. I, I, I'm on the record as saying I don't want to split up rural Nebraska. We need rural representation. That's why I came in with 50 votes [SIC]. That's why Senator Williams and Senator Stinner signed onto that bill with me. We talked about this. It's important that we have rural representation. I don't question that, but you're looking at a District 24 that's growing. We grew almost as much as the state average. Now, I'm willing to work with this committee. I don't want to lose Polk County, but I'm willing to let that go to the west, but Seward and York have a rich history of working together in businesses, in law enforcement, in healthcare. And the last two years, we've had economic developers-- we're growing-- that have been economic developers of the year from York and Polk Counties. And for somebody to tell me that we ought to take the 24th District and move it to Sarpy County because they're similar? They couldn't be farther apart. If you want to start looking at the demographics of Sarpy County and the Democrats-- the demographics of Seward, York, and Polk Counties, no comparison. And I don't want to get into that. I'm saving that for the floor debate when this all comes out. But the reality is we're miles apart on that issue. I'm willing to compromise, but don't tear my district apart. Don't take my district and send it east because it's growing. Isn't that our intent to grow our state?

BREWER: I understand where you're coming from.

KOLTERMAN: I'm passionate about what I'm talking about here.

BREWER: No and you are and you should be and I'm, I'm glad that you are, but, you know, that's why when Senator Wayne asked the question

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yesterday, it kind of froze me in my tracks for a moment and I go wow, if you asked me that question, that would be a hard answer because who, who would I then say it should be their district and, and--

KOLTERMAN: My district has three higher education facilities in it, three: York College, Concordia University, and Southeast Community College. How many districts do you know in the state have that many other than in the high metropolitan areas? We take a lot of pride in that. That needs to stay together. That's why I'm advocating for the Wayne map because at least it leaves Seward and York together.

BREWER: Thank you.

KOLTERMAN: Thanks for the-- thanks for the question. I appreciate it.

LINEHAN: So you do support the Wayne map?

KOLTERMAN: I support the idea of keeping Seward and York counties together.

LINEHAN: Those are not exactly the same statement. I just-- for the-- so you're clear on the record-- I'm not trying to be cute here.

KOLTERMAN: If I have to sort a-- if I had to support a map, it would be the Wayne map right now.

LINEHAN: OK.

KOLTERMAN: Correct.

LINEHAN: OK, all right. Other questions? OK, we got, we got a lot of people here, guys, so-- OK, let's keep kind of--

LOWE: All right, thank you and thank you, Senator Kolterman, for being here. I appreciate you standing up for your district. I appreciate Senator Dorn standing up for his district and, and Senator Williams yesterday standing up for their districts and I believe that's your job to do so and, and you're doing a great job of doing that. Kearney. I have not moved out of Kearney. We have been in several districts. Kearney has done this about-- has been a great community, but we have moved districts several times. What is the difference between Kearney and Seward and York?

KOLTERMAN: They're not, they're not trying to take your district away.

LOWE: But they have in the past.

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KOLTERMAN: I'm not here to talk about the past. I'm here to talk about what we're doing right now.

LOWE: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Lowe. Are there any other questions from the committee? Thank you, Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you.

LINEHAN: I think that's it for senators, am I right?

LATHROP: Can I make a suggestion? Can you see how many of these people want to testify? I have a noon--

LINEHAN: Meeting?

LATHROP: --confirmation hearing--

LINEHAN: OK, how many--

LATHROP: --and I'd just like to know if we're going to get through before noon.

LINEHAN: I have my doubts.

LATHROP: If we don't, then-- I don't know if we want to--

LINEHAN: How many people-- and this is not to discourage at all. We want to hear from all of you, but we're just trying to figure out if we're going to plan a lunch break, which I think we are, so how many are here to testify? OK. We're going to have a lunch.

WAYNE: Lunch it is.

LATHROP: This is a good thing.

LINEHAN: It is a good thing. It is a good thing and we do welcome you and so what should we do here? 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.? Is that too much time? 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.?

LATHROP: I, I have a noon confirmation hearing, so whatever you want to do.

MORFELD: That sounds good, Chair.

_____ : Half hour.

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LINEHAN: 11:45 a.m. to-- and then we'll reconvene at 1:15 p.m.
Welcome.

MIKE VANCE: Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mike Vance,
M-i-k-e V-a-n-c--

LINEHAN: Yeah, you're going to have to speak a little louder.

MIKE VANCE: Sorry--

LINEHAN: That's OK.

MIKE VANCE: --very monotone voice. My name is Mike Vance, M-i-k-e
V-a-n-c-e. I'm the sheriff of Seward County. My counterpart, Sheriff
Vrbka from York County, is also here with me in support of Senator
Kolterman. Senator Kolterman is a very accessible senator for our
district. I have his cell phone. He's available for both York and
Seward County. The reason I support what Senator Kolterman is
proposing with Seward and York County staying together in the district
is-- there's many reasons. Centennial School is located on the west
end of Seward County, half of the-- approximately half of the children
that go to Centennial School-- it's a K-12 school-- reside in York
County. There's also a school in western-- or correction, eastern part
of York County in Waco. York County Sheriff's Department and Seward
County Sheriff's Department have conducted many trainings, active
shooter trainings where we work together and respond to both schools
in case of an, an active shooting incident. We have spent hundreds of
thousands of dollars to go to a radio system where we can communicate
with each other. The first active shooter training we had in York
County or in Centennial, we were not able to communicate by radio with
agencies, so we have spent the money to work together and be able to
communicate. We're also part of a Department of Homeland Security
federal task force that it-- York and Seward County are both members
of from its inception. Our educational system, because of the--York
County and Seward County going to the same school in Centennial is
just one of the main ties that we have together. Our 911 system, we
have created a system where if our 911 center goes down because of a
tornado or, or whatever, that York County system will automatically
pick up where they can dispatch emergency services and vice versa if
York County's go down. We spend a lot of time and money to do this
where we can help each other and I see the red light came up, so--

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Are there questions from the committee?
Senator Brewer.

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BREWER: OK, I'm sure I'm about to get a note saying I can't ask anymore questions, but I got to, I got to throw this out here since, you know, my brother's a sheriff and I spent the weekend talking to him about emergency services in the west, communications between the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the tribal police, adjoining county of Scotts Bluff to Alliance, Ainsworth across the north. And the MOUs and the things they have in place, I don't see them changing if the number for that district changes. And, and if we draw some of these lines like we are, we will eliminate Chadron, but yet-- you know, we share jail responsibilities with Chadron. If we change the county in the map-- we'll say the, the version that Senator Linehan has, how will that change how you do operations or communicate internally within law enforcement?

MIKE VANCE: I'm not sure that it would change. My main concern is that we work so closely together and as you said, with the MOUs, we still, we still have the MOUs in place. We enjoy working with Senator Kolterman, both counties do because he's so accessible and if we need something, we call Senator Kolterman and he's been willing to meet with us many times on short notice.

BREWER: And, and that's commendable and it-- and that's the way it should be, but I guess the, the warning shot that I would give you, the same as I did yesterday, was Senator Williams won't be there in a little over a year. Senator Kolterman won't be there. You know, the trick is elect someone who is from the community, who, who loves the community and the people and will do whatever needs to be done because we change as senators. I mean, we can go get smoked by car tomorrow and be gone. Someone's going to have to represent that district and they need to have their heart in it and you're blessed to have someone who does, but when it becomes ownership to where you won't look at other options because that person is that person, we kind of miss, you know, the, the forest for the trees because that's where we need to be is, is good representation through the right process and it be about the, the district and the needs rather than one individual, but--

MIKE VANCE: Right, I, I agree with you there. The senators are going to change. With the way York and Seward County work together in many fields, not just law enforcement, all their services and communications are-- it's like it's one county--

BREWER: I understand.

MIKE VANCE: --instead of two separate counties.

BREWER: All right, good point. Thank you.

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LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Other questions from the committee? Seeing-- oh, I'm sorry. Senator Blood.

BLOOD: I have a very brief question.

LINEHAN: OK.

BLOOD: So I heard something different and I want to make sure that this is what I heard.

MIKE VANCE: Yes, ma'am.

BLOOD: So if I heard you correctly, what I heard is that in that part of the state, you have created a type of unofficial political subdivision where you work in tandem and the importance of keeping not just Senator Kolterman, but a senator that represents that entire area is important to you because you have one person that you're beholden to within that unofficial political subdivision. Does that sound accurate, that you've put together a community of multiple counties so you can utilize your resources in the best way possible? Senator Kolterman has been a good figurehead for you, but if the borders were to change, then you would have to answer to one or two senators possibly and that would make it more difficult to continue the strong economic growth that you've had only because what you have now is working. That's what I'm hearing.

MIKE VANCE: If I--

BLOOD: I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, but--

MIKE VANCE: No, I understand.

BLOOD: --I mean, that's what I heard.

MIKE VANCE: If I understand you correctly, that is correct. Because Senator Kolterman has worked with both of those counties on economic growth and everything else, it's not really a, a political thing. It's just that he's been there for both of those communities to bring them together so we can grow, which we have grown.

BLOOD: Right, absolutely. All right, thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Blood. Are there other questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much for being here.

MIKE VANCE: Thank you all.

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LINEHAN: Um-hum. I think he got up first.

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Ladies first, ladies first.

LISA HURLEY: Oh, sorry, go ahead. Thank you. Good morning, senators.

LINEHAN: OK, I'm going to-- welcome. I'm just going to lay out a-- kind of a ground rule that I think would help people so we don't have jump-- henceforth, if you're going to testify, get up close and sit in one of those two chairs where the gentleman in the green shirt and the gentleman in blue shirt and the red tie, so we can just kind of work in from the edges.

LISA HURLEY: Thank you. I'm going to continue on the York and Seward theme. I'm Lisa Hurley, L-i-s-a H-u-r-l-e-y. I serve as a executive director for York County Development Corporation and my partner in crime, Jonathan Jank, with Seward in the room as well and we've talked about this. Senator Kolterman and other representations from both counties have asked me to go on record opposing any maps that would split up York and Seward Counties. I'm going to be honest, I hate, I hate to see Polk County go, but I do know change is often a very good thing. The-- and I do think it's vital to keep Seward and York together. Under the two presented plans, Legislative (District) 24 is going to be changing. We know that. We're-- it's reality. The entire state is going to be changing. It is not my intention to support one or other of the current plans. I know the final one will probably look different. There-- or at least there's a chance of that, but I want to champion keeping York and Seward Counties together in the same legislative district and by doing so, that would help maintain our successful ongoing partnerships that are within our district for the next ten years. I am going to deviate a little bit from my script based on our sheriff's presentation. It, it's not purely Senator Kolterman. We have a long history. You know, both Jonathan worked, worked with Senator Kolterman when we have economic development projects, when we have talent projects, when we have housing projects, anything that relates to growth, but we also worked with Senator Adams, so it's-- our, our bankers work together, our hospitals work together, our school districts. You know, Centennial comes, I believe, within four miles of the city of York, so I mean, it's like and like. We are both growing our counties and we're going to continue to grow. I have absolutely no doubt. We both have the housing plans and the transportation plans and the strategic development plans in place. York and Seward County, in ten years, we're going to be a higher population than we are this year. And I know we are looking at this year, but we are going to continue to grow and it'd be a shame to divide it up where instead of us working with one senator who is

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seeing our common vision, we're working with multiple. That's my personal opinion on that. I'm not going to harp on all the shared relationships because there's other people here and I want to keep it short. I do want to say that an, an important driving factor behind our growth over the last ten years is because of the economic development factors.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Thank you. Your light--

LISA HURLEY: Am I done?

LINEHAN: Well, your light is on.

LISA HURLEY: Oh, OK.

LINEHAN: So yes, you are done.

LISA HURLEY: OK, thank you.

LINEHAN: OK, because it's-- we got to be fair. No, there's probably questions. Are there questions from the committee? I have one because what Senator Kolterman and you both said-- so are you saying that your Legislative District 24 has never been touched by redistricting before?

LISA HURLEY: I don't know if I-- I'm in my forties, so I don't--

LINEHAN: OK.

LISA HURLEY: --know all the history.

LINEHAN: So it hasn't been-- it wasn't touched last time?

LISA HURLEY: It wasn't touched the last couple of times that I'm aware of.

LINEHAN: So it's been-- it's remained out there without any scraps or scrapes from redistricting?

LISA HURLEY: No.

LINEHAN: It would be nice-- could you figure out, like-- or we can figure that out here, right, how long (District) 24 has been there without any--

LISA HURLEY: Yeah.

LINEHAN: --adjustments. Thank you.

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LISA HURLEY: All I can say for sure is we have a lot of partnerships in place and it's been very valuable being in the same district.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much.

LISA HURLEY: You're welcome.

LINEHAN: Next.

WAYNE: Welcome to your Redistricting Committee.

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Good morning, Vice Chair Wayne and members of Redistricting Committee. My name is Dawson Brunswick, D-a-w-s-o-n B-r-u-n-s-w-i-c-k, and I serve as the president of the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce and I'm here this morning-- I believe it's still-- on behalf of the organization of 770 members. A lot of what I'm going to say Senator Moser touched on, but I want to go a little bit more in depth--

WAYNE: Can you state and spell your name for the record or did I miss that? Can you spell your name?

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Yep. D-a-w-s-o-n B-r-u-n-s-w-i-c-k.

WAYNE: Thank you.

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Our legislative committee met and unanimously voiced their support of LB1 and opposition of LB2 based on the sole fact of the placement of Platte County. The chamber's committee was in support of remaining in Congressman Fortenberry's First Congressional District. As Senator Moser mentioned, two of those main reasons are our manufacturing economy and our alignment with the existing district. So Platte County and Columbus has over 500-- 741 people employed by manufacturing directly, another 4,528 indirectly. That equates out to \$2.9 billion in annual economic output just in manufacturing and when you include the associate industries, it totals out to \$3.6 billion. We're proud that global companies such as BD, Vishay, Cargill, and ADM all continue to choose to invest in Columbus and that Behlen Manufacturing and Duo Lift and others continue to call Columbus home. The reason I bring that up is because, as we all know, manufacturing is our second-largest industry in the state and it's very important to us. And over the last decade, Columbus and Platte County has built a strong working relationship with Congressman Fortenberry, his staff, and we believe that's partially because of our crucial role in manufacturing here in the state. You know, Congressional District 1 is home to many large manufacturers outside

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of Columbus: Nucor in Norfolk, Lincoln Premium Poultry in Fremont, Scoular in Seward that we've heard from the Seward folks today, Lincoln Industries and Kawasaki here in Lincoln, and there's just a lot of manufacturing that takes place in Congressional District 1 and that's why the, the chamber's legislative committee truly felt that we should remain in, in Congressional District 1. The other part is our tie-in with the communities. You know, as was mentioned earlier, we have strong partnerships with Fremont, strong partnerships with Norfolk, and truly just believe that we fit in well with that Congressional District 1. During the current recess, Congressman Fortenberry has visited Columbus several times, visiting businesses and manufacturers, attending community events. And with me being new to my role, he has even stopped by and met with me just showing that he's really invested in Columbus and Congressional District 1. And with that, I'm, I'm truly grateful for your guys' time today. You guys have a thankless job, so thank you for choosing to serve in this capacity. And with that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

WAYNE: Any questions from the committee? Just so I'm understanding you correctly, in my, in my map, I, I take you out and put you-- put Platte County in CD 3. You want to remain in CD 1?

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Correct.

WAYNE: So if we move Colfax to CD 3, you're still a no? Because you brought up that area.

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: So I know-- our, our stance was that Columbus and Platte County remain in CD 1.

WAYNE: OK, no problem. I'm just clarifying because your-- these are all up for conversation, so--

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Nope, I, I completely understand it.

WAYNE: All right.

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: And that's where-- it was nothing aside from that that we were-- we want to stay in CD 1. You know, as I mentioned earlier, Senator Slama felt that her area was better suited in (Congressional District) 3 and I know that's kind of two of the main areas that move on the maps.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you for being here today.

DAWSON BRUNSWICK: Thank you very much.

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WAYNE: Welcome to your Redistricting Committee. Please state your name and spell your name for the record just so we have it correct.

ALAN MEYER: My name is Alan Meyer, A-l-a-n M-e-y-e-r.

WAYNE: Thank you.

ALAN MEYER: I live in Saunders County so I'm here largely just in opposition of LB1 because Saunders County has very little in common with south, south Omaha or Omaha in general. Yes, Wahoo is a bedroom community largely for Omaha, but that doesn't mean it's the same. It's-- you know, we have a lot more in common with LD 1 [SIC], which has more rural counties. Just to kind of slap Saunders County in there too, it seems-- for the purpose of splitting up Dodge County [SIC] just seems counterintuitive to, to me. I think you would find it very difficult to find very many people in Saunders County that would want it to be moved in with Omaha and Sarpy County. That's largely what I have to say, but I do have a side note. My wife happens to be a director on one of the NRDs and that is not divided up by county, it's divided up by watersheds and she finds it very difficult to tell somebody if they are a constituent. If you split up counties like you do in, in some of these legislative maps-- I'm in support of neither one of them or in opposition of neither one, but I just want to emphasize that. It makes it very difficult for her since she doesn't have the county boundaries to identify if somebody is in her district, if she represents somebody. So that's pretty much it. Do you have any questions?

WAYNE: Any questions from the committee? Thank you for your testimony today.

ALAN MEYER: OK, thank you.

WAYNE: We've been, we've been kind of going on the right side, so let's shift a little bit to the left and then we're kind of-- from here on out, if we can interchange one person from the left, one person from the right, so we can-- and I don't mean political sides either. Welcome to your Redistricting Committee.

AL DAVIS: Good morning, Senator Linehan, members of the Redistricting Committee. My name is Al Davis, A-l D-a-v-i-s, and I am here today as the chair of Nonpartisan Nebraska, which is a nonprofit organization formed last year by a diverse group of individuals to-- we're strong believers in the vision of Senator George Norris and the Nebraska legislative model. You have a challenging job ahead of you, which I don't envy you for. I know it's going to be a lot of work. There was a

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tremendous shift in population during the past ten years and that will dramatically alter the maps of legislative and congressional districts. Unfortunately, rural parts of the state continue to lose population. That's the bad news, but the good news is that urban areas did grow and there's a strong and sustainable growth. Only a few of you will be here in eight years. Well, none of you probably will be here in eight, eight years from now unless someone's reelected. So all of you will be gone and the actions you take here in constructing a fair and equitable legislative body will live on. Partisanship in the redistricting process can cause long-lasting damage to the Legislature, which will linger through the following ten years and Nebraskans are disgusted and offended by negatively partisan political maneuvers. Many of you may still hear about the 2010 election from fellow senators. So what should guide your work? First, each legislative district should have about the same number of residents without considering other factors. Over the next ten years, each of the legislative districts you construct will continue to evolve and we can expect that the trend lines of the past century will continue, which means declining numbers in rural Nebraska. Your goal must be to construct balanced districts based on the 2020 Census without overloading urban districts and underfilling rural ones simply to preserve a district. I realize this is a painful decision to make, but it is the ethical and correct thing to do. Doing anything else will disenfranchise large numbers of people and that doesn't fit well with Americans' belief that all voters should be treated equally. In addition, underfilling and overfilling without considering the trend lines will result in significant distortions in just a year or two as people move, die, or, or people are born. Secondly, I believe it's important to establish boundaries which are easily understood by the voters and follow natural division points like county lines and state highways. Trade areas in rural parts of Nebraska are key division points or the boundaries of NRDs, which are molded on drainage patterns in the state. Carve-outs should be avoided at all costs because they isolate a community and are offensive to residents. I can speak to that personally as Alliance was split off from Box Butte County in 2010 and I heard more complaints about the perceived unfairness of that from Alliance residents than I did about almost every other issue. The voters won't forget what you did. Lastly, remember the integrity of the work. The key is ensuring that every voter is represented equally. It is not a place for grandstanding, power politics, or arm wrestling. I have always felt the best legislation was bills in which no one had got exactly what they wanted, but all got something which benefited their constituents. That's your duty. Thank you.

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LINEHAN: Thank you. Oh, sorry. OK. Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much for being here.

AL DAVIS: Thank you.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Good morning. My name is Kathleen Rutledge, K-a-t-h-l-e-e-n R-u-t-l-e-d-g-e, and I'm a longtime resident of Seward County, though I certainly have Lincoln ties and I'm here-- I'm part of the Seward-York contingent. I'll hope not to have Senator Brewer think I'm throwing the bull**** card here, but I want to speak just as a, a regular constituent. I don't represent any organizations. I'm just, just a person living in the district and I just ask you to think about what things would look like if our district stretched from Seward and York, sort of up and around all the way to Colon and Cedar Bluffs. This is kind of a, a, a provincial example that I go to church in Seward. We've had people come from York, we've had people come from Benedict, other areas. The lines tend to go east and west. We've never had anybody at my church from Cedar Bluffs or Colon so that's kind of a silly example of just the idea of helping to form districts where people feel a connection with their representative and I do like Senator Kolterman even though I disagree with him on a lot of things. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Oh.

WAYNE: I have a question.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Oh, questions. Sorry.

WAYNE: I just want to make sure I understand this right. The-- because I didn't get to-- I should have asked this earlier. You are just-- you want to make sure that Seward and Polk County just stay in the same district?

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Seward and York.

WAYNE: Seward and York--

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Seward and York.

WAYNE: --sorry, stay in the same district and maybe not include Gretna, but, but your goal is to keep York and Seward in the same district.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: That is correct. I also like keeping Douglas County whole.

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WAYNE: I appreciate that, but my, my next question is-- and this is, and this is important because you said you're just a-- you're not representing a group. You're just--

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Nope.

WAYNE: Does the number matter? Does, does the Senate number matter? So if you were represented by somebody else who you also had Seward and pork-- I mean Seward and York-- in their, in their area-- I said pork-- Seward and York in their area. As long as that's intact, that's your main, main concern.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: For the most part, yes. That's why I'm here today.

WAYNE: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Brewer.

BREWER: I'm, I'm using one of my chits and I don't have any more left hardly, so I just wanted to apologize. That language-- there's sometimes too much old soldier in me and I don't clean it up like I should so forgive me.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: You don't need to apologize to me and I do have Cherry County roots, so--

BREWER: Good.

LINEHAN: Oh, wait, wait, wait.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Oh, sorry.

LINEHAN: You're so different [INAUDIBLE]. Any other-- I have one.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: Yes.

LINEHAN: Because I asked this before, but they said they were only 40 and I'm thinking you and I might--

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: I'm, I'm older than--

LINEHAN: Yeah.

KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: --40, yes.

LINEHAN: Yeah, so has Seward and York been together for how long?

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KATHLEEN RUTLEDGE: I'm sorry. I do not know. I used to live in Lincoln.

LINEHAN: You haven't lived there, you haven't lived there. OK. OK. All right. All right, thank you very much.

LATHROP: That was the Chair, Senator-- I--

GEIST: Know, I know.

LINEHAN: We know. It's the chair.

LATHROP: --just to be clear. I should know better after, like, 11 years and I plopped myself down in the chair.

GEIST: I've done it before so I get it.

LATHROP: Yeah, yeah.

LINEHAN: Good morning.

LATHROP: I just want to be clear before you start scooting away or putting a mask on.

LINEHAN: OK, good morning.

CYNTHIA HARTLEY: Hi. My name is Cynthia Hartley, C-y-n-t-h-i-a H-a-r-t-l-e-y, and good morning to everyone in front and behind me. I support Senator Wayne's map in redistricting, in redistricting. Please do not split Douglas County or lump rural counties into Omaha. Also, you must add or subtract districts where the numbers are. The citizens of Nebraska have an absolute right to representation based on population, not based on increasing or decreasing senators of either particular party. That's my statement today. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much for being here. Good morning.

BLOOD: Yes, we're really picking up speed.

BRAD BEST: Good morning, senators, distinguished members of the Redistricting Committee. My name is Brad Best, B-r-a-d B-e-s-t, and I'm the current superintendent of Heartland Community Schools in Henderson-Bradshaw area in York County. I'm here representing all of the school districts in York and Seward County, as you'll see by the handout, the names listed there, in addition to ESU 6, Educational Service Unit 6, out in Milford, who are submitting this joint letter

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on behalf of the schools of York and Seward County and the ESU 6, headquartered in Seward County as well. Legislative District 24, as we've mentioned, Seward, York, and Polk Counties. We as a group are advocating for the retention of District 24 boundaries as currently defined and wish to point out the relative stability of the population base of District 24, which showed a modest increase in population of 1,127 residents from the 2010 to '20 Census. It's not an outlier in any respect and it's not one of the highest population Unicameral districts, nor is it one of the lowest population legislative Unicameral districts. This is all based on data and reporting from the UNO Center of Public Affairs Research. We further note that the relative homogeneity of the size and population of the school districts within District 24, as well as the historic and demographic stability of the 24th District and that District 24 has a longstanding historical precedent in providing excellent representation for the citizens of Seward, York, and Polk Counties and we as a group believe that the configuration as it exists best serves the interests of public school districts in this area. I would just reemphasize the homogeneity of those districts and that whether or not it is intentional, there is an urban versus rural tone to some of the debate, especially when it comes to things with schools and school funding. And so that likeness, I think, is a very important piece where one representative is able to represent the rural perspective and so that's one of the reasons that we are here in support of leaving those whole.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there questions in the committee? So you-- Seward-- unless I'm confused, maybe I am-- Seward, York, and Polk aren't enough to make up a district, right? They're at 36,000-- am I wrong on this-- 36,948?

WAYNE: Correct, correct.

LINEHAN: So it, it may have grown, but it's not-- it's way-- it's below the deviation, so we have to change some lines.

BRAD BEST: And as preferenced earlier, I would strongly lean towards, again, leaving Seward and York Counties together for sure, as the majority of our school districts are, are within District 24 or reside in those two counties--

LINEHAN: So--

BRAD BEST: --and rather than go east.

LINEHAN: And then-- rather than go east?

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BRAD BEST: Yes.

LINEHAN: OK and then I think-- I'm not quite so sure, but in those two counties, you've got York. Do you have any schools that get significant state aid? Highly equalized schools.

BRAD BEST: Highly equalized? No--

LINEHAN: Equalized--

BRAD BEST: --not that I'm aware of. We do have quite a bit of movement within optioning funding.

LINEHAN: Right, OK.

BRAD BEST: Yeah.

LINEHAN: That's a different kind--

BRAD BEST: Yep.

LINEHAN: --of school funding, but as far as equalization aid, you're not, you're--

BRAD BEST: There's--

LINEHAN: Are there-- that's the easier way. Are any of your schools in GNSA, Greater Nebraska Schools Association?

BRAD BEST: In York County, I don't believe-- or in Seward County, I don't believe so.

LINEHAN: They're mostly in STANCE or NRCSA, right?

BRAD BEST: Pardon me?

LINEHAN: STANCE or NRCSA school.

BRAD BEST: Correct, yes.

LINEHAN: OK and you're, you're NRCSA, STANCE?

BRAD BEST: NRCSA school.

LINEHAN: You're NRCSA.

BRAD BEST: Yeah.

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LINEHAN: OK. Other questions from the committee? Yes, Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: So in, in a hypothetical, so Seward, York stays together, is Hamilton more like Seward and York versus Lancaster County?

BRAD BEST: Aside from Hastings, I think that that would be a-- probably a different discussion again.

WAYNE: OK.

BRAD BEST: I know that we-- my particular school district of Heartland resides right on the border of Hamilton County and a different legislative district, but we have a longstanding relationship with ESU 6 out of Milford and those school districts. Many of the school districts, not only do we meet and discuss and work together, but we also-- a lot of them are in the same conference as well and so we have very tight connections there.

WAYNE: But I'm just-- I'm not hedging one way or another--

BRAD BEST: Right.

WAYNE: --I'm-- I just want to get a feel because I don't live in the area. Kind of-- I'd rather--

BRAD BEST: Right.

WAYNE: --not put it on a map and you come back and say you hate it--

BRAD BEST: Aside-- yeah. Aside from York, there really isn't a large city per se--

WAYNE: OK.

BRAD BEST: --that would compare to Hastings, for example, in Hamilton County.

WAYNE: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Are there any school districts in, in Butler or Saunders County that are in the ESU?

BRAD BEST: Yes, I-- David City, I believe, would be one.

LINEHAN: OK. All right, thank you. Other questions? Thank you very much for being here.

BRAD BEST: Thank you for your time.

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LINEHAN: Good morning.

JANE KINSEY: Jane Kinsey, K-i-n-s-e-y, with Watchdogs of Lincoln Government. I am support-- supportive and my group is of Senator Linehan's proposal for redistricting. There are people in this state who would like to turn it into a West Coast state with all of its liberal attitudes. This is a safe, beautiful place to live. I feel very safe. I think many people ver-- feel very safe here. Thank you for that. We need to keep it that way. The basic values of this country need to be protected and I'm very concerned about the future of the country, the state, our cities, and our rural areas. Please keep this in mind as you vote and give the basic values the support that they need. This is what our country is founded on and we should not destroy it. There are people who would like to do that and I'm very concerned about it.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much for being here. Senator Blood has a question, I think.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairman-- Chairwoman Linehan, and I'm sorry, I didn't get your name. What was your name again?

JANE KINSEY: Jane Kinsey.

BLOOD: Jane Kinsey.

JANE KINSEY: K-i-n-s-e-y.

BLOOD: Thank you, Jane. Hey Jane, I just need clarification and I appreciate all of your concerns that you expressed and, and the world has definitely changed. I'm 60. It's not the same Nebraska I grew up in, but with that said, what I don't understand is exactly what you like or do not like about the maps. Can you be more specific? You did say that you liked one or the other, but I'm not sure, geographically or the way the map is written, why you like one over the other. Can you be more specific for me, please?

JANE KINSEY: Well, I believe that the, the number one is going to be important for a fight for the-- over these values and I support--

BLOOD: Can you express why?

JANE KINSEY: --what looks like--

BLOOD: I, I, I hear you talk and I'm-- I don't mean to interrupt, but you, you've already expressed that to me--

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JANE KINSEY: Yeah, OK.

BLOOD: --that you're concerned about values, your values in particular. I hear that, but I don't hear how that map represents better than the other map or the other map is going to prevent this from happening. Can you say, for instance, this district being moved here or this congressional line be moved here-- can you just give me a specific-- I just want to make sure I understand what you're telling me today.

JANE KINSEY: Well, I'm not sure exactly what you're saying. This is the way it's drawn out. What is it that you're interested in?

BLOOD: How is the way that it's drawn out protect your values?

JANE KINSEY: Well, I believe it's going to be an area in which there will be a test of this based on the voting.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

BLOOD: I'm sorry, I'm still confused, but I appreciate you trying to answer that.

JANE KINSEY: OK. It's a highly educated, interested group of people in Nebraska and I think that they will be leaders in the voting and that's why I support it.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Thank you. Are there any other questions from the committee? Thank you very much for being here.

JANE KINSEY: OK.

LINEHAN: Appreciate your input. We do.

JANE KINSEY: Sorry if I didn't answer your question.

BLOOD: No, no worries.

LINEHAN: Don't forget your bag now. Thank you. Good morning.

KENDALL BARTLING: Good morning, Chairwoman Linehan and members of the committee. My name is Kendall Bartling, K-e-n-d-a-l-l B-a-r-t-l-i-n-g. I'm speaking today on LB1 in opposition. I just wanted to kind of go into that. So I am a deputy registrar in the county of Hall here in Nebraska. Clarification on that position-- and I'm not representing that in any way-- we register voters and it's-- deputy registrars are the people who are empowered to register voters in the state of

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Nebraska. And one of the things that I've really prided myself on is I focused on the youth in my community of Hall county and I've been able to engage them in our community in conversations and get them engaged in voting. And a big portion of that is being able to connect with your peers and being able to see that, yes, we're voting together in this election and we're voting together on this specific issue or this specific race or district to vote for this one thing. And the issue that I have with LB1 is youth in Omaha may not be able to say that they're voting for the same congressperson or there might not be able to say that their vote for president is counting towards the same congressional district and that's something that has the potential to disengage voters and has the potential to confuse a subset of voters that might not completely understand the process and feel that the person across the street's vote might have more power than my vote. And the district, as it's drawn in LB1, does divide that community and I just have extreme concerns with how that might impact youth engagement and how, you know, a set of voters that is just getting started might not understand how that difference and how across that street, that's just a congressional district line. That's really my main concern and I'd be happy to field any questions that you may have for me.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Are there questions from the committee? Did you say you're from Hall County?

KENDALL BARTLING: That's correct. I'm a UNL student at present, but I'm a resident of Hall County.

LINEHAN: So you have those same concerns about Sarpy County?

KENDALL BARTLING: I'm sorry, so the concerns about Sarpy County, you said?

LINEHAN: Um-hum.

KENDALL BARTLING: I guess there would be concerns about that as well. You know, looking across this, it's pretty much wherever that's present, but I would argue-- I would say that it's a bigger issue in Douglas with that specific community of youth voters just because-- and I haven't had the time or the ability to look at the specific map that shows the road line and that hasn't been defined yet, I don't think at the very specific level. It said that the committee will release more dis-- like, detailed maps as that goes on. There's the potential for that to happen in Sarpy County, but at present, I think the divide is more drastic in LB1 with, with north and south Omaha.

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LINEHAN: OK, all right.

GEIST: Actually, that was my question. I had the same question, so--

LINEHAN: OK, thank you. I'm sorry.

GEIST: No, it's fine.

LINEHAN: Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Did you say Bartlet or Bartling? I was trying to work in a West Wing joke.

KENDALL BARTLING: No, it's all good. It's Bartling, B-a-r-t-l-i-n-g.

WAYNE: I was trying to work in a West Wing joke, but never mind.

KENDALL BARTLING: Yeah, I wish I was Jed Bartlet, but we can't all have what we want, so--

_____ : Don't we all.

LINEHAN: No you don't. You want to be young. Any other questions? Thank you very much.

KENDALL BARTLING: Thank you for your time.

WAYNE: Thank you for coming.

LINEHAN: Good morning.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Good morning, Senator Linehan and senators on the committee. My name is Chuck Chevalier and that is C-h-u-c-k and then last name, C-h-e-v-a-l-i-e-r, and I live in Springfield, Nebraska, which is kind of right in the middle of some of the discussion points that-- in both the congressional districting-- redistricting and the legislative redistricting. I do thank you for your work on redistricting, but I want to provide a couple of perspectives on the maps. First, I support Douglas County, Douglas and Sarpy County's map for Congressional District 2 in LB2. From my perspective, western Sarpy County and the eastern Douglas and Sarpy Counties are currently not communities of similar interest. As someone who lives in Springfield and worked until recently on North 30th Street, daily life, opportunities, and economic differences unfortunately create different community needs, interests, and outlooks. Urban is different from suburban is different from rural. Most of the land around Springfield is agricultural, but developing by technology center,

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business, and housing additions. My area is ag, ag-- my area is agriculture quickly turning to suburban. The three-mile drive to my local Platteview High School is all corn and bean fields. By the way, the corn is doing well. However, Facebook, Google, Amazon, and other businesses have put billions of dollars less than six miles from my house. The urban environment in eastern Douglas and Sarpy Counties is just different. Eastern Douglas and Sarpy Counties have such a different setting than Springfield. It is important to me that you preserve the voters of east Douglas and east Sarpy Counties in one Congressional district. Their voice needs to be strongly represented in Congress. Second, I support legislative map for the Omaha area in LB4, especially for my community. Everyone agrees that at least one additional legislative district should be moved or added to the Douglas-Sarpy Counties area. I agree. I don't have any data to know where that should come from, but LB4 makes better sense than adding Saunders County to west Sarpy County. Again, my reasoning is about communities of interest. As areas of interest, west Douglas and west Sarpy are both agricultural turning to suburban. In ten years, Saunders County may be fully in that changeover, but it is premature now. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you and I appreciate your attentiveness.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? So you're from Sarpy County?

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Yes, ma'am.

LINEHAN: And you're for splitting Sarpy County and you're for the new district being partially in Douglas County?

CHUCK CHEVALIER: I prefer map-- the map four on the legislative districts and map two on LB2 for Congressional districts.

LINEHAN: OK, why on the legislative districts? That--

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Well, there has to be a new-- you know, I feel like there has to be a new legislative district in Sarpy County. I agree with that, so to me if you--

LINEHAN: That's map three. I just want to make sure we're not confused.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: West Sarpy County, I thought, was map four in LB4. West Sarpy connected to west Douglas, so you had Waterloo in map four connected to west Sarpy, which would include Springfield.

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LINEHAN: I think there is just some confusion. It's fine.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: OK.

LINEHAN: That's fine. It's hard. The maps in the paper are hard to--

CHUCK CHEVALIER: I, I definitely agree that the communities of, of interest in that Waterloo-- that's an area of agriculture turning to suburban at some point, very similar to Springfield and west Sarpy County.

LINEHAN: But you can't get there and keep them contiguous. You, you got to keep the districts contiguous--

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Right, right.

LINEHAN: --so but I agree. I live in western Douglas County.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Yep, you--

LINEHAN: I know exactly what you're saying--

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Yeah.

LINEHAN: --but it's-- they, they've got to be--

CHUCK CHEVALIER: We're very similar.

LINEHAN: Yeah.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: If you kind of ramp up through Gretna, I thought that's what one of the maps did.

LINEHAN: There's too many people.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: Yeah, OK.

LINEHAN: OK, thank you.

CHUCK CHEVALIER: I read the wrong map.

LINEHAN: Yeah, no, I know. It's hard, it's very hard. Thank you very much for being here.

MARGARET BRINK: Well, good late morning to all of you.

LINEHAN: Good morning.

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MARGARET BRINK: At the end of my time, I'm going to tell you how long York and, and Seward have been together.

LINEHAN: OK.

MARGARET BRINK: My name is Margaret Brink, M-a-r-g-a-r-e-t, last name, Brink, B-r-i-n-k, and I live in York, Nebraska. First of all, thank you for accepting the challenge and the work of shifting and shaping the new legislative map. Mind boggling, but my concern is District 24. The composition of the 24th District has been very productive in community healthcare, as demonstrated by the work of the Four Corners Health Department. For over 21 years, Four, Four Corners Health Department has benefited from the appointed leadership of Butler, Polk, Seward, and York counties. These four counties are represented on the governing board of health for the health district, but the two counties that we're discussing today in the 24th Legislative District are York County and Seward County. Seward has been a strong leader in the rural and public health community and will remain so. Keeping Seward County in the 24th Legislative District continues to give that rural voice to health issues. York and Seward have been good partners in rural health. Both have critical access hospital status and if Seward is moved to a more urban district, the move may complement the rural designation of the Seward Hospital and healthcare centers. Designated as rural may need further justification from Seward County. The counties in the 24th District are cooperating in many ways that are indicative of that rural community living. The culture and focus of rural are evident in the public health work because of the similarities of needs. We have population challenges across our state. Nebraska is still a rural state and even a little frontier. We must recognize our differences, but foster and protect our similarities. York and Seward are very similar, small city entities with economic development challenges typical of rural communities. They both have critical access hospitals, small private colleges, and a community college. York and Seward collaborate on many levels of healthcare. In virtually moving Seward County into what we refer to as an urban district, we keep, keep shifting the population numbers to the east. It is vital that we continue the relationship we have established to meet the needs of the community. We move a rural voice into an urban voice if we move Seward County. Both are important-- both voices are important, but they do have their own challenges, so I would ask that you please reconsider the plans to change the 24th Legislative District. I would prefer that it is kept as it stands today and that voice for continuing the work of the health system. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you, thank you. Are there questions from the committee?

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MARGARET BRINK: We've live-- we've lived in York County-- well, we've been married 50 years--

LINEHAN: OK.

MARGARET BRINK: --and we both came as teachers before that, so we've lived in York County. In all that time, I'm sure that it was always Seward and York in the same 24th District. And if it's true that it was established in 1944, then I, I was only two years off being born, born, so--

LINEHAN: Thank you very much.

MARGARET BRINK: You're welcome.

LINEHAN: So questions from the committee? You don't want to go into an urban area. Is that what you said?

MARGARET BRINK: Correct. We would like to have Seward stay and the, the comparison then is with York County.

LINEHAN: OK.

MARGARET BRINK: We York-- we like York County except for football.

LINEHAN: And the community college is in York or Seward?

MARGARET BRINK: Well, it's based in Milford in Seward County, but we have a satellite office in York.

WAYNE: I have a question.

LINEHAN: Yes, Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: So we have to grow somewhere. The "onlywhere" to the right on, on the map is Lancaster and to the left is Hamilton. What do you think is more community-- same community of interest?

MARGARET BRINK: For many years, we have been looking at Aurora as maybe a comparison when we developed a city and not so much to Seward because Seward was probably closer to Lincoln--

WAYNE: OK.

MARGARET BRINK: --and I don't know whether it was just because that's-- the administrator was-- didn't like--

WAYNE: Right.

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MARGARET BRINK: --so that, that probably would eventually be OK, but the, the problem with moving Seward into Lancaster County-- and from a public health perspective, then that public health department adds another senator onto all of their responsibilities. Now they would get some really good help because our board members from Seward are very good--

WAYNE: Right.

MARGARET BRINK: --but it still would be-- it just, it just fits better.

WAYNE: I appreciate it. Thank you.

MARGARET BRINK: Yeah.

LINEHAN: Any other questions? Thank you very much for being here and for explaining that.

MARGARET BRINK: You're welcome. I hope you've all been vaccinated and wear masks.

LINEHAN: We've all been vaccinated, haven't we? Hilgers drove that [INAUDIBLE]--

LATHROP: I have.

LINEHAN: Yes, I think we've all been vaccinated.

WAYNE: Brewer has like 14 times.

BREWER: I have scheduling next week to do another one.

BLOOD: I know. We should break for lunch.

_____ : It's a big district. We've got to have you healthy.

LINEHAN: Hello. OK, we're getting a little punchy here. OK.

JUDY KING: Judy King and--

LINEHAN: I'm sorry.

JUDY KING: Judy King.

LINEHAN: Thank you and you need to spell it.

JUDY KING: K-i-n-g, Judy, J-u-d-y.

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LINEHAN: Thank you, Judy.

JUDY KING: I'm-- I think I want to go with Senator Wayne's maps this time and partly because of all the things that have been going on with the Republican Party and I'm sure you're not going to be a part of what I'm going to say here, but I'm going to say it about the Republican Party. I always start out with the-- saying Trump lost the presidential election and Biden is our president. Apparently-- and see?

LINEHAN: OK, we're not supposed to have any reactions from the audience. I'm sorry. Of course, we're-- not supposed to be a partisan discussion either, but go ahead.

JUDY KING: Right. I'm just telling you, as the Moser-- I-- Senator Moser did, how, how come I feel this way.

LINEHAN: OK.

JUDY KING: Anyway, Biden is our new president. Apparently, there's still an argument about this with the "T-rumpers." Right now, we are barricading up the U.S. Capitol again for the protection against "T-rumpers," Proud Boys, white supremacists, wannabe insurrectionists, and the QAnon gang and last but not least, the "no-maskers." One from Lincoln that went around coughing on people in the stores, on small children and a mother, and the child was unable to get vaccinated. I-- all these "T-rumpers" have been showing up at city council meetings, school board meetings, and legislative hearings threatening everyone. I know because I've been there. Just wondering if we should put barricades up for these lovely people at this Capitol on September 18. First on the agenda for the Nebraska "T-Republicans" were the gun laws because there will be a supposedly-- there is supposed to be a civil war soon and they should have all the guns with no restrictions. And then they take away women's rights with no consequences for men on the abortion issue because they want to be like Texas then voter suppression laws because Dems might win a race and because we want to be like Texas. Where did I hear this sentence? Republicans would never be elected again if it was easier to vote. This is why, this is why I am against-- well, I am for Senator Wayne's. He has a D on his name and that's-- I, I trust him to do the right thing. And Senator Linehan, I know how smart you are and I just don't like the people that have been helping you with the maps, so I'm sorry.

LINEHAN: She doesn't mean that, Grant.

JUDY KING: Well--

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LINEHAN: She doesn't even know you, but thank you very much for being here. Are there questions?

JUDY KING: Doubt, doubt it.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much.

JUDY KING: Yeah.

LINEHAN: Oh, did you have--

WAYNE: No, Madam Chair. I was going to offer a suggestion. Maybe we break at 11:30 a.m. and come back a little earlier instead of 11:45 a.m.

BLOOD: Why don't we just work straight through?

GEIST: We have a hearing.

LATHROP: Judiciary Committee hearing--

BLOOD: OK.

LATHROP: --that includes three of us has a Parole Board confirmation to do.

JUDY KING: I do appreciate all the--

WAYNE: OK, 11:45 a.m., never mind. I withdraw my suggestion.

LINEHAN: I know it's getting--

JUDY KING: I do appreciate your work--

WAYNE: Thank you.

JUDY KING: --and I know how hard this map is, so I do appreciate it.

BLOOD: What do you think about the Business and Labor hearing this afternoon?

_____: I'm not on that committee.

LINEHAN: Good almost morning, still morning.

SANDRA BLACK: It's still, it's still morning. I was checking--

LINEHAN: Yes.

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SANDRA BLACK: Good morning--

LINEHAN: Good morning.

SANDRA BLACK: --Chairman and committee members. I was, I was looking into these maps. I have to tell you, I got a great deal of appreciation for the work that you're doing and how difficult it is to do this and I really want to say thank you and then I want to offer some of my thoughts.

WAYNE: Can you state your name and spell--

LINEHAN: I'm sorry.

SANDRA BLACK: I'm sorry, Sandra Black, S-a-n-d-r-a, Black, B-l-a-c-k.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

WAYNE: Thank you.

SANDRA BLACK: Sorry about that. My primary concern here today is that we are following the traditions of our country, one vote, one person, and redistricting is that means that we try to, every ten years, get it back into sync. Now, when I do the math, it looks to me like really there should be two new districts in either Lincoln-- Lancaster County or Douglas County, Sarpy County. I don't see either of the maps where that happens. It looks like you've added one district and I could be wrong because, like I said, I did some-- really looking, so-- and I also looked at LR134 and the guidelines there, keeping county boundary-- county lines as the boundaries for the districts, keeping communities together, keeping groupings together as much as possible, recognizing that you can't always do that, and also going for a, you know, the zero deviation where possible. Those should have-- those should be the goals of what you're doing here today. So when I looked at things, the first thing I looked at is where we're cutting counties in half. I don't think we need to cut Douglas County in half. I really don't. I'm-- and for that reason, I tend to support LB2 over LB1. When you go into legislative districts, we have similar issues. LB3 actually divides something like 14 counties in half-- or 16 counties in half. LB4 divides eight. Currently, seven are divided. I am concerned about that and the-- keeping things together. If I had to choose between LB4 or LB3, today I would lean towards LB4. However, I would like to ask that this committee look again at what has happened with Lancaster County. I-- I'm sure a lot of this has been changing back and forth. I currently reside-- I live in Lancaster County. I reside in District 30. With your redistricting, I would be moved to LD

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32, which is a much more rural area than where I live. I live between Hickman and Lincoln in an area where we have continued development. Oops, I'm sorry--

LINEHAN: That's OK--

SANDRA BLACK: --development--

LINEHAN: That's OK.

SANDRA BLACK: I'm looking at people not lights. Anyway, please look at that. Concern about keeping the city of Lincoln intact, that's one area on your map-- and I can talk to you later-- South Pointe is not a rural area and should not be hooked into--

WAYNE: Thank you.

SANDRA BLACK: --so anyway--

LINEHAN: Thank you, thank you. Are there questions from the committee?

WAYNE: I'll just make a statement. Yeah, I'm-- just send me a note and I'll look into that. We are trying to-- I think both maps are trying to do that, so send it to both myself and Senator Linehan. Thank you.

SANDRA BLACK: OK, thank you.

NICOLE STRANSKY: Hello, senators. My name is Nicole Stransky, that's N-i-c-o-l-e S-t-r-a-n-s-k-y, and I want to thank you for your hard work and I hope my perspective will help you further. I'm just a commonplace resident of Sarpy County and I know my friends and my neighbors and we have a unique identity, a unique culture. We're suburban, we're military fading into acreages and countryside. We're completely different from Douglas County. In fact, we live in Sarpy County because we don't want to live in Douglas County. I mean, it seems like a lot of us don't want to have much to do with Omaha, but I, I came here today just to-- because it's important for us Sarpians to stay together so that our voices can be heard because of what we have in common. We have these common interests and I want to see them fairly represented. So I'm in favor of LB1 because it keeps Sarpy County united and I resent that LB2 steals a portion of Sarpy County and it creates this minority of Sarpians in Douglas and I just fear that by making a minority, their voices will no longer be heard. Their interests will be overlooked. They will be squashed under the heel of the big city of Omaha. So I just respectfully ask you to do what's

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right for the people of my county. We all deserve fair representation and please keep Sarpy County united. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Are there questions from the committee? Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Were you aware of how the map was previously drawn in 2011, how a piece of Sarpy County was drawn out at that time as well?

NICOLE STRANSKY: No, I've only been a Nebraskan for five and a half years. I'm a very proud Nebraskan by choice.

BLOOD: Well, welcome to Nebraska. Where do you live in Sarpy County, please?

NICOLE STRANSKY: I live Harrison and 156th--

BLOOD: OK.

NICOLE STRANSKY: --so just south of Harrison, barely in Sarpy County.

BLOOD: Can you tell me a little bit about the part of Sarpy County and that demographic since you've expressed concerns about it potentially being part of Douglas?

NICOLE STRANSKY: Well, I saw this a lot during the pandemic. You know, I have to go use the library in Millard and over there, it's, like-- with the-- I mean, you guys had a mask mandate in Douglas County and--

BLOOD: No, no, there's no you guys. I represent Sarpy, so you're talking about, you're talking about Old Towne Bellevue, which-- actually the part that they've drawn into there is Fontenelle Hills, which has a lot of-- resident wise, issues that it does share with Douglas County. So I'm just trying to get on record exactly what that concern-- because you brought that up, that one part of Sarpy County-- and again, I love Sarpy County. Everything you said about Sarpy County-- we're awesome. We're the fastest-growing county in Nebraska. I agree with you on those issues. All I'm asking is for that one clarification because you were-- said you were concerned about that one part of Sarpy County that was drawn into now Douglas County, which we were drawn differently in the-- ten years ago too, as well, by the way-- why you think they don't have anything in common with Douglas County, that one part?

NICOLE STRANSKY: I'm just speaking from my heart, just knowing friends and neighbors spread across. I have some friends in Bellevue. I have

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some military friends and it just-- just the feel I get is that we Sarpians, we're more conservative, we're more family oriented. We like our guns. I mean, we don't like big-city stuff. We, we enjoy being suburban.

BLOOD: Well, you know, the people in Douglas County also have guns. People in Douglas County also have family values.

NICOLE STRANSKY: Of course.

BLOOD: So I just want to be-- because you are new to Nebraska and so I just-- sometime you and I should have coffee and--

NICOLE STRANSKY: That would be fun.

BLOOD: --we'll walk through demographics and just Google Carol Blood. You'll find me and we'll, we'll get together, I promise, OK? Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Thank you. I'm sorry, we're getting a little punchy up here. Maybe you-- thank you very much for being here and I like Sarpy County too, but I am from Douglas County. I'm going to follow-- I just-- OK, we'll do one more and then I'm going to just-- we need a break here. I can tell and we'll still come back at 1:15 p.m. We need a break.

LATHROP: I'll be back [INAUDIBLE]--

LINEHAN: OK.

LUKE SCHROER: Hello, my name is Luke Schroer, L-u-k-e S-c-h-r-o-e-r, and I'm glad I followed up on that one because I'm also Sarpy County and I live in Bellevue, right by Everett Park, so I get to hear the national anthem every day from Offutt. And if I sound nervous, it's because this is my first time being at one of these. So I do encourage you to ask me questions. I'm a lifelong Nebraskan, grew up in Nuckolls County, Hereford cattle ranch. I support LB2 and LB4 just because I did live in downtown Omaha when I moved first into that area. And then I, I hated that I had to move, but life happened and I moved down to Bellevue and I love Bellevue. I've got my front yard that I get to take care of, but everywhere I go is up into Douglas County and I just went to a picnic a little over a week ago in north, north Douglas County. Skate Fest we just had up there. I have never accidentally found myself in Saunders County, so I don't know why that's looped in with us. My whole corridor is kind of up and then I get a little bit over into Papillion area. That's-- I worked in Papillion when I first

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got there. But I'm going to keep going because I'm going to ramble otherwise. But yes, when I lived in Nuckolls County, I did like that the smaller chunks-- let's see, this will be LB4. They had Clay County, Nuckolls, and Webster together. That was kind of like-- that's where I grew up. I showed cattle in Webster County for 4-H. I worked up at the Meat Animal Research in Clay Center. That makes sense to me to put those together and good, intelligent daily life design should be forgettable. If you're stuck in traffic, that's memorable and that's bad design. When I look at this one, there-- LB3 has so many deviations. It's not simple, it's not intelligent and good design. It looks like it's trying hard and, like, I, I don't know if that-- you can ask me questions on what I mean by that if you want. I see I'm running out of time, but, like, good design should be forgettable in daily life, I mean. Like, sometimes you want design to make a statement, but daily life-- if I'm swiping on an app, I should be able to find what I'm looking for easy. If I'm driving down the road, I should get somewhere easy. It shouldn't be hard and that's good design and that's why I think LB2 and LB4 make more sense to me. They're simple, they're compact, just like we're supposed to be. I don't know. If you guys have questions, I'm done rambling.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Schroer. Are there questions?
Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Just a quick one, where in Bellevue do you live, please?

LUKE SCHROER: I live right by Everett Park, so, like, right to the east of it. I--

BLOOD: Thank you.

LUKE SCHROER: --yeah, I live-- so I would be-- yeah, so on LB2, I would be put back into that district that I would have been had I lived in downtown and I love that. It was a mess trying to-- I moved right in between primaries and the general, so I had to relearn all my people that I was voting for, but that's part of the-- that comes with the territory of moving, so--

LINEHAN: Thank you very much.

LUKE SCHROER: I appreciate it.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there other questions from the committee?
Thank you for being here.

LUKE SCHROER: All right, thank you.

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LINEHAN: OK, we're going to break until--

BLOOD: Until when?

WAYNE: Just to clarify--

LINEHAN: No, wait a minute.

WAYNE: No, no, just-- Grant, can you get the two on this side and two on this side, so at least they were already moving up, nobody hops the line? And then--

LINEHAN: Thank you. That's very nice.

BLOOD: When are we coming back?

LINEHAN: Can we come back at 1 p.m. or do you want to-- you think--

LATHROP: 1 p.m. should work.

WAYNE: 1 p.m.?

LINEHAN: Let's-- 1 p.m. We're coming back at 1 p.m.

WAYNE: Sounds good.

LINEHAN: Press, are you hearing that so I don't have--

[BREAK]

LINEHAN: Good afternoon. So who was first when we left? Who was up next?

_____ : Our side [INAUDIBLE].

LINEHAN: OK, we'll let him go, maybe-- let's-- whomever.

_____ : Is it on?

LINEHAN: Are we on? I think we're on. Are we on, Grant? Where's Grant? Well, that's a problem.

BREWER: That's a problem.

MORFELD: It looks like we're on, but I don't know.

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LINEHAN: Do we have a-- we have a page. No, we don't. OK, can you both stand up and introduce yourselves because we're not as organized as we should be.

THOMAS LUKASZEWICZ: My name is Thomas Lukaszewicz and I'm a junior at UNL.

LINEHAN: OK.

NATALIE REYNOLDS: And I'm Natalie Reynolds. I'm a sophomore at Nebraska Wesleyan.

LINEHAN: OK, so you guys are going to be here this afternoon. OK. So you have a green sheet.

ZAC BURNS: Yeah. I think they just took it.

LINEHAN: All right, so go ahead.

ZAC BURNS: OK. My name is Zac Burns, Z-a-c, and then last name is like the first degree.

LINEHAN: I'm sorry.

ZAC BURNS: Like the first degree, B-u-r-n-s.

LINEHAN: OK, thank you.

ZAC BURNS: I am here before the Redistricting Committee today because I want to talk about my affirmation of LB2 and my negation of LB1. In regards to LB1, well, I know this committee is set up to be nonpartisan specifically and our Legislature is set up to be nonpartisan. One of the things that I fear that the committee may miss in a nonpartisan approach is that partisan results can still occur. There's this phenomenon called structural racism in which you can create racist structures without intentionally being racist. And I firmly believe that LB2, or sorry, the LB1 map will partake in structural racism with what it's attempting to do. The ACLU in a Channel 6 article online also is against-- the ACLU is also against LB1. I believe our own Senator Morfeld on Twitter on September 8 referred to the LB1 map as an act of gerrymandering. So it's very clear that even within your own committee that you have people who would look at this and probably assume that this is structural racism or possible that this is structural racism. And you should make an active attempt to avoid that type of situation in Nebraska. Yield back the rest of my time.

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LINEHAN: That's fine. Thank you very much for being here. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much.

CARINA McCORMICK: Hi, my name is Carina McCormick, Ph.D. My first name is C-a-r--

LINEHAN: I'm sorry, we're--

CARINA McCORMICK: Oh, just my name is spelled C-a-r-i-n-a. My last name is spelled McCormick, M-c-C-o-r-m-i-c-k. I'm glad he went ahead of me. I don't know him. I didn't know what he was going to say when I said he could go ahead of me, but it forms a really nice background for what I was going to say. Now, to be frank, I don't agree that there wasn't partis-- I don't believe that there wasn't partisan decisions that went into play in making this. I think it's very disingenuous to pretend that it wasn't intentional to get more Republican seats. But let's just pretend that it was accident, OK? So let's look into that. So there was an idea, especially what I heard with Senator Erdman, that the rural districts were just too geographically big now. That I agree is unfortunate, but constitutionally we have to make it on the people, not the square miles. There's nothing in the state constitution about a maximum square miles for the district. And we all were aware of a lot of the troubles of western Nebraska, for example, Senator Erdman with Sidney after Cabela leaving. We've all been aware that there's rural areas that are losing population and we should have expected that to be reflected in the maps. It's unfortunate. And the real-- if we wanted to make sure we had plenty of representation out west, we would have needed to do a better job in the last ten years of passing legislation to protect those communities to stop those people from moving. As it is, the maps need to represent the populations as they are. Now when I was waiting here, I did some calculations. So I have a Ph.D. in quantitative data analysis, usually in the education setting. But I typed in the, the percent deviation, the percent of the new district that was black and the percent of the new district that was white. By the way, I'm testifying in opposition to LB3 specifically. So I saw systematic and consistent patterns of deviations where the-- so negative deviation means there's less people in the district. The negative deviations tended to be the higher percent white and of the seven lowest deviations, six of them are about 90 percent or more or five of them are about 90 percent or more white. That means that for each person they get a bigger part of a senator when they're in those low deviation districts. Now the-- on the opposite, the highest deviation districts, meaning for each person they get a smaller percent of a senator, those are much more likely to be less percent

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white and higher percent black. And just I'll wrap up real fast, but there is a systematic pattern where a black resident in Nebraska is more likely to be in a positive deviation district where a white resident is more likely to be in a negative deviation district. And I can provide backup data. Thanks.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Are there questions from the committee? Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. Real quickly, you said you can provide that data to us.

CARINA McCORMICK: Yeah, I had to manually type it in from the PDF, but I can show you the correlation. Hopefully I can get it based on-- if I can get the real Excel data exported, then I can do it in a much more systematically.

BLOOD: I'd be appreciative even if it's just like a screenshot [INAUDIBLE].

CARINA McCORMICK: Yeah.

BLOOD: If you could send that to my office, I would really like to view that.

CARINA McCORMICK: Yeah, sure, thanks.

LINEHAN: Other questions from the committee? Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: So I'm working with you to get the data. There's two or more race. How do you want that data? So, so--

CARINA McCORMICK: The legislative district can use their or the Research Office can use their discretion, I guess.

WAYNE: I know.

CARINA McCORMICK: And I was just doing it on percent white. And I guess--

WAYNE: No, I just want to make sure I get you-- what you-- because I was-- the reason I was late, I was just asked by LRO what-- do you want two or more race, and I was like, I'll ask her when I get to the-- and you were here already testifying.

CARINA McCORMICK: Can they report it as two or more? That would be good.

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WAYNE: OK. I'll get you that.

CARINA McCORMICK: Because then you have a little flexibility with how--

WAYNE: All right. Yeah, I'll get you that.

CARINA McCORMICK: --to use it so. Yeah, anything else?

LINEHAN: Which legislative districts-- OK, you're talking about legislative, LB3.

CARINA McCORMICK: Yeah. So the-- so the ones that are a strong negative deviation and a high percent white are 43, 48, 34, 16. I'm sorry. Not, not 48. Strike 48; 16, 47, and 40. And the ones that are-- and this is just like I ranked-- I sorted the, each district by the percent deviation. And so I just read to you the, the most negative numbers and the ones that are issues with the highest. The positive deviation being lower percent white are 6, 8, 27, 18, 9, and 5. Five is especially bad if the number on that is correct. And 5 didn't move that much, but it looks like they got a lot more population squeezed into the same spot. Five used to be a negative .41 deviation and now it's reported as a positive 5 percent deviation, but that district is only 58 percent white.

LINEHAN: You're talking about LB3?

CARINA McCORMICK: Yeah.

LINEHAN: OK. All right, thank you very much.

CARINA McCORMICK: No problem.

LINEHAN: Any other questions? Thank you.

MARY SPURGEON: Good afternoon. My name is Mary, M-a-r-y, Spurgeon, S-p- as in Peter and Paul-u-r-g-e-o-n, and I'm a citizen of Bellevue, Nebraska, in the Olde Towne area. Today, I am here to urge you to adopt the congressional district map proposed by Vice Chair Wayne. That map keeps whole the state's largest metropolitan area, Douglas County, and includes the suburban areas of Bellevue and Sarpy County. The effect in adopting this map is to restore the connection between two communities with similar interests and concerns. Southeast Omaha and Bellevue have been historically connected by Omaha's 13th Street corridor. And that continues to be true today as it turns into Fort Crook Road at the Bellevue city limits. Although one city, one school district may be the ideal arrangement, that is not true for the city

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of Bellevue, which finds several Omaha Public School buildings within its city boundaries. The portion of Sarpy County, which Vice Chair Wayne has included with Douglas County, quite nicely mirrors the demographics found in Douglas County, in other words, the older, smaller, generally speaking, more modest homes in the eastern areas and larger, newer homes in the western areas. While the CD 2 map cannot follow county lines entirely, it keeps together urban and suburban communities, preserving community interests and thereby abides by the guidelines of LR134. The CD 1 map retains, as far as I can read it, the same [INAUDIBLE] and the Olde Towne area of Bellevue, which fits nicely with similar small towns and other more rural CD 1 counties. Along with the state's capital city, Lincoln, the CD 1 congressperson retains representation of Offutt Air Force Base too, as befits the CD 1 representative. The Wayne map also appears to have been drawn more accurately so I urge its adoption. And I just want to thank you all for, for your work on this. It's been valuable to me to attend this hearing, hear the comments by senators who testified on their own behalf and with their own concerns and to hear your questions and responses. So thank you very much for your good work.

LINEHAN: Thank you for being here, Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. Hi, Mary. How are you?

MARY SPURGEON: I'm well, thank you.

BLOOD: I haven't seen you since farmers market [INAUDIBLE]. So you've been here all morning?

MARY SPURGEON: Oh, well, I didn't get here at 9:00.

BLOOD: OK.

MARY SPURGEON: I came in late.

BLOOD: So you heard the previous person who is from Sarpy.

MARY SPURGEON: Yes, I did.

BLOOD: So, so I just want to make sure that that part of Sarpy is on record as-- because that part of Bellevue is how it's truly represented. I'm trying to find a polite way to say this.

MARY SPURGEON: Well, may I suggest-- I struck a little line from my testimony that said you would not know you were going from Douglas into Sarpy County or Sarpy into Douglas County if you didn't know the dividing street [INAUDIBLE]

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BLOOD: Right, especially around like the Fontenelle Hills area, the-- right?

MARY SPURGEON: Yes.

BLOOD: Because it's-- in fact, there's people that, that move there that think they live in Omaha. We go through that a lot unfortunately--

MARY SPURGEON: Um-hum, we do.

BLOOD: --when we're trying to define it. So, so the people that come from western Sarpy that are talking about that part of Sarpy, would you can say that the way it was defined is maybe a little different than how it actually is by a previous testifier--

MARY SPURGEON: Yeah.

BLOOD: --not because they were necessarily wrong about how they felt personally about Sarpy.

MARY SPURGEON: Yeah. But it's more nuanced.

BLOOD: But that section, yeah.

MARY SPURGEON: It's more nuanced than people [INAUDIBLE] it. Yes.

BLOOD: It's-- and you know Bellevue is bigger than Council Bluffs now in the last census.

MARY SPURGEON: It's-- we're the third largest city in the state, are we not?

BLOOD: We have been for a while, but now we're bigger than Council Bluffs so got that going for us. So thank you.

LINEHAN: Other questions? Thank you, Senator Blood. Are there other questions from the committee? Thank you very much for being here.

MARY SPURGEON: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Don't be shy.

SHERRY DORMAN: For me? For me?

_____: Yeah, you're up.

SHERRY DORMAN: I waited so long.

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NATALIE REYNOLDS: Can I take your green sheet?

SHERRY DORMAN: Oh. OK, OK. Well, I've been listening all morning to all this conversation from a variety of people, and--

LINEHAN: We need your name and--

SHERRY DORMAN: Oh--

LINEHAN: It's OK. It's [INAUDIBLE].

SHERRY DORMAN: --sorry. My name is Sherry Dorman, S-h-e-r-r-y D-o-r-m-a-n. And so I've heard that this should not be political, but I'm a retired educator. I've taught all the way from kindergarten through college, people, professional going on to be teachers. So I disagree. I think all life is political and that's my comment that is not on my script. So my name is Sherry Dorman. I grew up on a farm in Dixon County where my father was a farmer and owner/operator of an agribusiness in Concord and Dixon. I graduated from Laurel-Concord High School in 1971, leaving the state for college, only returning to the area in 2007 to help care for my aging parents. My husband John and I have lived in four states during our nearly 50-year marriage: Alaska, California, Colorado, and now Nebraska. So we've seen a variety of redistricting issues in our, in our time, in our moves. Upon my return, I was surprised and a bit saddened by how little had changed in my 30-year absence, much of that good to be sure, except what had changed for the worse, in my opinion: attitudes and opinions about groups of people who I'm going to label "others." When we attended church there, there were discussions about them Mexicans, them gays, them Muslims, them city people, them, them, them. I didn't hear a lot of us. I soon found out we were them as well, outsider them, outsiders with big ideas, you know, like protecting the planet for the future, making sure that all people get their voices heard, those kinds of big ideas, you know. In the time we have been back and we have voted in every election, I felt that my vote has not counted on many important issues statewide as well as nationally. I get it. Nebraska has not shown to be a very progressive state. And the red we worship on Saturdays in the form of Husker flags is not the only red we proudly boast across the nation. I was told by Senator Joni Albrecht, who I'm in regular and frequent conversation with, in a reply to an email I sent her requesting that she vote in the redistricting process for fair maps, free of partisan influence or racial gerrymandering, that it was up to us, the second house, to make our positions known. She also ensured me that she would be operating under those shared values. That is, until I emailed back and thanked

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her for not accepting a gerrymandered map that splits up Omaha, where we know a large population of black indigenous people of color live.

LINEHAN: Ma'am.

SHERRY DORMAN: I'm done.

LINEHAN: Well, I'm sorry. I just, to be fair.

SHERRY DORMAN: I just realized. I'm sorry.

LINEHAN: That's OK. I wasn't-- fine. Questions from the committee? None. Thank you very much for being here.

SHERRY DORMAN: I just would like to say I'm in support of the Senator Wayne map. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Next.

LYNDA KING: If it's all right on behalf of the staff and committee, I'd like to--

LINEHAN: I'm sorry.

LYNDA KING: I'd like to talk to all of you on something that's really important. My name's Lynda King.

LINEHAN: OK.

LYNDA KING: I represent Lancaster County, Nebraska.

LINEHAN: OK, Lynda, you have to spell your name.

LYNDA KING: L-y-n-d-a King, K-i-n-g, and I am a true king.

LINEHAN: OK.

LYNDA KING: I am the king.

LINEHAN: OK.

LYNDA KING: I'll never change my name.

LINEHAN: OK.

LYNDA KING: I've been here for almost 20 years. First of all, I've never seen such a heartfelt, loving, giving state as the state of Nebraska. On behalf of all the medical teams at CHI, St. Elizabeth's,

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and Nebraska Heart Institute, they saved my life last September 29, 2020. I almost died. Third of all, I had to write my voting ballot, did not end up at my address. So when I was released from the hospital, I called the Election Commissioner here out of Lincoln, Nebraska, and he sent me my ballot to make sure that I got my vote in. My point is I'm on the behalf of the Women League of Voters. And that one vote, they accounted for it and I am Independent. I don't think it matters whether we vote for Democrat or Republican or Independent. As long as we vote, it doesn't matter who we think is good as Democrats or Republicans or Independents should be voted in. And we have a good school system here. We have good farming, agriculture and good colleges at UNL and Southeast Community College. They're very good. And I just wanted to let you know that I'm for LB4.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

LYNDA KING: And I'm representing Lancaster County.

LINEHAN: You're from Lancaster County.

LYNDA KING: Yes.

LINEHAN: You're not speaking for--

LYNDA KING: Right.

LINEHAN: --big group. OK, thank you.

LYNDA KING: I'm representing myself as a voter.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

LYNDA KING: And I thank you all for your time. And I think what you've done with these maps are commendable.

WAYNE: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you for being here.

LYNDA KING: You're welcome.

LINEHAN: Light system, Grant.

GRANT LATIMER: [INAUDIBLE] I needed a green sheet.

LINEHAN: Grant's hair is getting gray. [LAUGHTER]

_____ : It's just been two weeks.

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LINEHAN: It's been 16 days since we got the numbers.

WAYNE: 16 days.

LINEHAN: Yes, ma'am. Go ahead. I'm sorry.

KAREN GRANBERG: Hi, my name is Karen Granberg, K-a-r-e-n, Granberg, G-r-a-n-b-e-r-g. I live in Wayne, Nebraska. I feel fairly sure that I'm a Nebraskan, if not by birth, certainly by definition and investment. We've been here for 40 years. My concern at this time of redistricting across our state and nation is a strong temptation of those in power to lock in their power, to silence the voices that speak their own strongly held values, to promote extreme partisanship, to pit communities against each other. Today, I'm speaking to the guiding principles that will be upheld as the committee makes their decision about redistricting in Nebraska. I'm curious, in the winner-takes-all philosophy, what is the intended outcome for those against whom the deck is stacked? For as long as the state of Nebraska accepts the investment that each and every Nebraskan makes in the well-being of their own state, the state has a legal and moral obligation to bring all their voices to the table. I'm sure you all know that. An effective lawmaker in a democracy is brave enough to hear all the voices and weigh all the perspectives before making a decision. I'd like to see the committee avoid the winner-take-all strategy and resist stacking the deck. Everybody deserves a seat at the table. This is what redistricting is all about. The only thing that kills the fair and appropriate process of redistricting is manipulating the process to silence the voices of those who have views other than the views of the powerful. It's my belief that LB2 redistricting map will bring more divergent Nebraskan views to the table. And I thank you. This has been an enlightening process and very nice to be here. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Good afternoon.

WESLEY CRABB, JR.: Good afternoon, Senators. I'm Wesley. My name is Wesley Crabb, Jr. W-e-s-l-e-y C-r-a-b-b, and I want to talk about like a different, a different, different system we can use for redistricting, like instead of. Sorry.

LINEHAN: That's OK. Take a deep breath.

WESLEY CRABB, JR.: Instead of, like, using the, like the one for, like, single out districts like you see on LB3, LB4, I was thinking more like combining, combining them and having multiple seats with a

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few exceptions like keep it, keep it to county, county boundaries and city limits if there's like up to seven seats in an area like, say, Omaha and Douglas County. Yeah. And there's-- I also-- I think this process will limit gerrymandering as well as-- yeah. Now for the Electoral College, it would just be some-- we use a threshold method if we were to use my system.

LINEHAN: OK.

WESLEY CRABB, JR.: For the House of Representatives, we should just like do a statewide district with three seats. And that's all I have to say.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Thank you for being here. Are there any questions from the committee? Thank you very much.

WAYNE: If you feel like you might have forgot something, just email us. We'll, we'll listen to it and we'll make sure we take it in. I know it's with the lights and everything on you gets a little nervous, but trust me, I have written testimony and I still miss the things that I had to say. So if you feel like you need to email us, please email us and we'll take it into consideration.

WESLEY CRABB, JR.: OK.

WAYNE: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

LIZ DAVIDS: I was about to say good morning, but it's not morning anymore. Hi, my name is Liz Davids, L-i-z D-a-v-i-d-s. I am just an average, hardworking, responsible constituent. I live in north Lincoln. Adam Morfeld is my senator. It's nice to see you face, almost to face, but it's nice to see-- there we go. I just wanted to be here to represent many, many friends of mine that I'm trying to bring into more civic engagement. My heart is to empower the people of Nebraska to be more involved in our political process. And so I'm a little concerned that it's been less than a week when these maps were announced, that it's been less than a week since the public was made aware. It's been less than a week that groups were able to make their members aware of the need to begin learning about these issues. I'm not a professional politician. I'm just a stay-at-home mom with a handful of kids I'm trying to raise. And so learning about the maps and learning about what is going on with redistricting is not in most of our wheelhouse, the average decent, hardworking constituents of Nebraska. So I am concerned that it was Friday at 5:00 p.m. that we

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learned that we needed to have our written testimony sent to an email address. We had until Monday at noon and then that email address wasn't working. So then we had to make sure we could get our emails out to other people. And then the statewide government Internet network went down yesterday for part of the day. It's just, it's been an interesting week, I'm sure, for you as well. So it was just yesterday at 3:21 p.m. that I received a response to my email from Senator Brewer's office. And even though I was very specific in my email, I told what I was referring to, which maps I was referring to, I was requested to resend my message with the specific LB numbers, which I'm not sure were even labeled at the time that we knew what the maps were saying. So I'm just really concerned that all of this is taking place within less than a week and that these are decisions that are going to affect the next ten years of our state. I am speaking against the redistricting maps for LB7 and LB8. I'm very concerned that District 5 will include parts of Sarpy County. I think that's the district-- that that seat doesn't consider the community of interest. That there's a lot of rural area that will then be combined with Sarpy County, which is very urban. And I'm concerned that one district member cannot possibly represent accurately and fairly probably very different views from the rural and urban community that they would be representing. So I'm also in favor of LB1 and LB3 so that's all I have to say.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Ms. Davids. Are there questions from the committee? None of us are happy with this compressed [INAUDIBLE] We did--

LIZ DAVIDS: I understand.

LINEHAN: I just explained to the committee the first time any of us saw the numbers was 16 days ago because of the late census data. So you are correct that it is not a perfect process, but--

LIZ DAVIDS: Absolutely. And it has long-term implications.

LINEHAN: Right.

LIZ DAVIDS: So I appreciate that you've invited us to public comment. And I think maybe increasing the time frame for that would be-- the public would feel good about that so.

LINEHAN: Well, I think we're going to have another hearing Friday, are we not?

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WAYNE: Yeah, we have, we have two. We have a couple of shell bills, though.

LINEHAN: So there will be another hearing Friday-- don't kill me, Grant-- which letters for the record will be accepted until--

WAYNE: Thursday.

LINEHAN: Thursday at noon.

LIZ DAVIDS: OK, good to know. Thank you so much.

LINEHAN: Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Yeah, I just have a quick question.

LIZ DAVIDS: Oh, sorry.

BLOOD: Sorry. Did you say I-- and you went really fast. So LB5 you were worried about you said?

LIZ DAVIDS: LB7 and LB8.

BLOOD: OK, and you can-- OK, District 5 on LB7.

LIZ DAVIDS: Yes.

BLOOD: And your concern is that Sarpy was included because-- what was the concern? I'm sorry.

LIZ DAVIDS: Sure. So as it stands, Sarpy County is not part of District 5. And as I understand it, as I read the maps, that the proposal is that now District 5 goes up into part of Sarpy County.

BLOOD: And that concern because of why?

LIZ DAVIDS: Because as of right now, District 5 has mostly a rural community of interest. And so part of the statute, as I understand it, is that communities of interest are supposed to be taken into consideration when planning the districts.

LINEHAN: I think there's confusion here. District 5 is not mostly rural. So there's some numbers switch up somewhere.

WAYNE: We're talking, we're talking. I think we're all getting--

LIZ DAVIDS: State Board of Ed.

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LINEHAN: State Board of Ed.

LIZ DAVIDS: Yeah.

LINEHAN: I'm sorry. OK, there.

LIZ DAVIDS: She went really fast. I think I'm the only one who's spoken about the State Board of Ed thus far, so I thought I'd shake things up a little bit.

LINEHAN: No, I appreciate that. I just [INAUDIBLE]

LIZ DAVIDS: Brain break.

_____ : [INAUDIBLE]

LIZ DAVIDS: LB7 and LB8. Sorry I spoke too fast.

LINEHAN: No, no, no, that's fine.

LIZ DAVIDS: The nerves.

LINEHAN: We were-- we're slow listeners. Yeah, OK. That makes sense now. Does that help clarify?

BLOOD: Kind of, yeah. Thanks.

LINEHAN: Yeah, [INAUDIBLE] I know.

LIZ DAVIDS: You can imagine how we feel now. Any education you want to give to the public between now and Friday, we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

JIM BUNCH: What I was exposed to in the Navy, this compares to it, nothing. Good afternoon. Jim Bunch, B-u-n-c-h. Thank you for all your work. I don't take a position for or against the, the bills as they are, but I have some comments. With LB1 or LB2, I think that there's no need to piecemeal separate Sarpy County. There's-- there were people this morning that talked about communities, governments, local governments, and counties working together. And I live in Lancaster. I work in Sarpy, and I see the governments in Sarpy County and the, the intergovernment workings in cooperation. And if Omaha Police Department can, can patrol I-80 all the way to the Platte River through Sarpy County, then there you go. I have a couple of comments regarding the districting, either LB3 or LB4. I, I would like you to

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explore the possibility of making the northern boundary of LD 30 the Gage-Lancaster line. The-- much of the growth in Lincoln has been south to Saltillo Road and beyond. And, and now the southeast part of Lancaster County has a more urban feel. And so it doesn't necessarily mesh with the more rural fabric of Gage County there, LD 30. And I feel for Senator Brewer, LD 43, and making it even larger in LB4 would be outrageous. I've always thought it was large looking at the map. Well, we do the Nebraska travel passport every summer. And the last election cycle driving through LD 43, and it seems like we were seeing Senator Brewer campaign signs for days because we were, which segues into my concerns over LB7 and LB8. I'm glad that Liz spoke about it because I'm not going to piggy-- I'm going to piggyback on what she said. But I share a few of her concerns.

LINEHAN: Which map are you talk-- which?

JIM BUNCH: LB7 and LB8.

LINEHAN: OK.

JIM BUNCH: Both of them. OK.

LINEHAN: Thank you. OK.

JIM BUNCH: LB7 and LB8, the Board of Regents and the Board of Education. I was-- my first question is why there was only one map proposed for both. And-- but you look at this and-- and as far as representation, Douglas County gets a very large representation statewide. Omaha's population, I think, is about 490,000. And Nebraska, we're sitting at about 2,000,000 statewide. So you have, you have half the board under those maps, half the board-- a quarter of the population would rep-- would have, would have half of the boards. OK, so that's it. If anyone has any questions, otherwise thanks.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. Bunch. Is there any questions from the committee? Thank you. I realize what's going on, I'm hearing LD when they're saying LB.

BLOOD: Right. Me too.

LINEHAN: Good afternoon.

AMBER STEPHENS: Hello. My name is Amber Stephens, A-m-b-e-r S-t-e-p-h-e-n-s, and I currently live in District 21. I am a also a rural voter and would like to speak from that perspective on LB7. I have lived rurally almost my entire adult life. We manage a small

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dairy farm selling raw milk and other items to the local community. Living a rural life is a different experience and the people that live out there have very different needs. We value different things. We see the world through a different lens and we would-- we want very different things for our children in terms of education. Raising children this way in a rural community with animals as close friends where we have haying parties in the summer and winter mornings are not negotiable because the animals are still hungry, it creates in them a very different set of values. And since I have been a mom for 27 years and have six children, I have had the privilege to see the entire childhood lifespan and the benefits and impacts of growing up this way. In fact, when Lincoln is stressing about closing schools for negative 50 degree weather because kids can't stand at the bus stop or walk to school in those conditions, which I don't fault them for that decision, but my kids still have to do the equivalent chores. We just have to find decent gloves and clothes and they tromp out there and break ice over the water and fill up the hay. This causes a shift in children that creates in them a rugged hardiness that just doesn't go away when they go to school. Children who are raised rurally waking up with the animals and going to sleep with hay stuck in their hair have vastly different needs. They don't have time to think about math or spelling or if someone is a sexual aggressor when they're in second grade, which is currently in the LPS curriculum. They are more worried about their goat who went into labor before school than they are about attending to their schoolwork for the day. I can guarantee they aren't worried about current injustices of our day more than they're worried about their cow who wasn't feeling well last night. Children who live rurally, even in small towns not on farms, just aren't thinking about these issues and topics. And parents who are raising children in this lifestyle are also not concerned. We work together, we live together, and we judge people more on their work ethic and how far they can throw a hay bale than their skin color, on the content of their character more than their sexual orientation. If you can hold a goat still so I can clip its hooves, I don't care how you identify. We can be friends. We have different things to worry about, like hail ruining our entire income for the year or cattle-- our cattle can be processed or if that new barn we just built can handle the negative 50 degree weather. When I lay awake at night worrying about things, especially if it's storming or blizzarding, I worry. I'm worrying about the animals. So I want to remind you today that Nebraska is made up of mostly people like me. I'm here to remind you about us, about our families. We have very different needs from our schools and different expectations in life. We need people who can represent us on NDE Board. It is vital in these days, probably more than ever before. Rural Nebraska deserves more than one voice representing them,

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especially District 7. Please keep our voice in mind when you are considering LB7. We need more voices on the NDE Board that represent the rural, the rural voter. I also just want to say a quick comment about what we talked about earlier, if I can, about politics and how I really appreciate how you guys are trying to work together and not be political. However, politics aren't necessarily a bad thing. And the way you guys--

LINEHAN: You got to wrap up real quick. I'm sorry.

AMBER STEPHENS: --vote does impact our, our personal lives. And so it's not bad to be political. I think that sometimes gets a bad rap.

LINEHAN: It's just--

AMBER STEPHENS: But I just want you to know--

LINEHAN: --that we can't bend the rule.

AMBER STEPHENS: --that we don't so.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much for being here.

AMBER STEPHENS: Yes, you're welcome.

LINEHAN: Are there questions from the committee? You did a good job. Thank you very much.

AMBER STEPHENS: Thank you.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: My name is Joey Litwinowicz, J-o-e-y L-i-t-w-i-n-o-w-i-c-z. And thank you, Madam Chair Linehan and Senators. I really--

LATHROP: Can you speak up just a little bit so we can hear you?

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: If that was closer. I have a drawing of how you could lift the table top and you couldn't see it anyway.

LATHROP: OK.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: All right, I'll try.

LATHROP: I just want to make sure I hear everything you have to say.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: I'm. Oh, sorry.

LATHROP: You can't amplify your voice.

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JOEY LITWINOWICZ: OK, how's this? I just want to say how very upset I am at the time that we were given to look at this. You can't get educated. There's no way. And for someone like me who is interested in the Board of Education distribution, I mean, I'm not good. I have cognitive-- I don't come up with words, but-- and, you know, regarding just as a slight aside. You know, there's a lot of things I don't agree with in health, like certain things specifically. But I tell you, there's, there's certain things that kids need to know about because they need to know about me. I was 51 years before I, I was nice to myself. And so be mad about the time, man, I'm furious. And so that's why I actually came up here at the last minute. And I probably don't have anything else to say except just in good faith, please create a map that is a-- that-- that's suitable. Thanks.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much for being here.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: Any questions?

LINEHAN: Are there questions from the committee?

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: There never are.

LINEHAN: Yes. No, there are. Actually, Senator Lowe has a question for you.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: OK, well.

LOWE: I would just like to say that we are all mad about this timing. We did not get the numbers until late. We would normally have a 90-day session to do this. And so we are trying to get this out as soon as we possibly can because we need to, because our counties and our cities and our schools can't function without us doing this.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: I agree. I just, you know, as a peer, I just don't understand how you guys let it happen. You know, really, that's how frustrated I am. You delay it, you do whatever. I mean, bibbity-bobbity-boo, right? And so, anyway. All right. Anything else?

LINEHAN: I don't think so.

JOEY LITWINOWICZ: Thank you.

LINEHAN: All right. Thank you very much for being here, appreciate it.

JAMES FREDERICK: My name is Jim Frederick. Let's see, do I need to spell that?

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LINEHAN: Yes, everyone has to spell their name, even if it's Jim. It's the rule.

JAMES FREDERICK: James, J-a-m-e-s, and Frederick, F-r-e-d-e-r-i-c-k. I grew up in Nebraska and went out east, found out there was politics that I didn't necessarily agree with but, and I came back and came back to Eastmont. I live in Lincoln now, Eastmont. And the thing I'm really kind of very pleased about is that Nebraska is bi-- has bipartisan and tries to be bipartisan. And while I'm a conservative and GOP, I don't like what the GOP is doing. So I haven't voted for them recently. And I'm looking at gerrymandering and just from when I was out east I got a Ph.D. so I kind of try to analyze. I didn't expect to be here today, definitely didn't expect to be sitting up here speaking. But I think of it, look at the maps and I look at the gerrymandering is not something that we should do. It's partisan. If you look at the maps that are there, I have to say that Senator Wayne's and LB2 and LB4 to me indicate that there is more-- there's less gerrymandering, because when you start to draw curvy lines and so on, is that indicates that there's a reason why you're doing that. And the only reason I can think that you draw a curvy line is if it was for political advantage. So from that perspective, which is because I didn't really expect to be here and I hadn't really thought about it, and I'm planning on taking this back to other people at Eastmont who do care and they may be writing comments. So I, I think that LB2 and LB4 are probably the best maps, not that everything is perfect. And we need to try to keep partisan and not allow people in power to draw things that keep them in power, that they need to win and get our votes by what they do and how they serve the people.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there any questions from the committee? What curvy lines are you talking about?

JAMES FREDERICK: Well, it's not curvy, but they're not straight, you know.

LINEHAN: Are you talking about Interstate 680?

JAMES FREDERICK: Yeah, the drawing. It looks like--

LINEHAN: So the curvy line is Interstate 680?

JAMES FREDERICK: Well, no, I understand the curvy lines, but it looks like when you're separating Omaha.

LINEHAN: OK.

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JAMES FREDERICK: That is--

LINEHAN: That's what you think is gerrymandering. OK.

JAMES FREDERICK: Yeah, that's the most obvious thing.

LINEHAN: OK.

JAMES FREDERICK: And the fact that in one map where you come out and you're including a lot of Saunders County.

LINEHAN: All of Saunders County, another curvy line.

JAMES FREDERICK: Yeah.

LINEHAN: Yeah.

JAMES FREDERICK: So those, those are maps that are-- could easily be conceived as and I always thought if you're going to be bipartisan, you ought to require that there have to be straight lines or only curved lines on boundaries.

LINEHAN: Well, we have a lot of curvy lines with counties and rivers in Nebraska.

JAMES FREDERICK: Yeah. But when you have lines that go like that, which are in streets and communities, there's still obviously gerrymandering.

LINEHAN: All right. Thank you very much for being here.

GINA FRANK: Hi, my name is Gina Frank, G-i-n-a F-r-a-n-k, and I am going to be talking about LB3 and LB4. I noticed that in LB3, District 32 is no longer in the city of Lincoln. And I find that interesting because the city of Lincoln had population growth since the last census and we should be getting more senators, not fewer senators. LB4 with the metro Lincoln map does have District 32 in the map, which I think is good because population growth will not stop in Lincoln. We don't see it declining. And so in ten years when we're reorganizing this map again, we will likely see LD 32 grow and become a bigger part of Lincoln. So taking it out right now doesn't make any sense to me. And having fewer representatives representing Lincoln doesn't make any sense to me either. I did want to note that on the handouts that you had for the room here, which doesn't-- isn't a big deal, the Omaha metro maps for LB3 and LB4 are the same. So, so people who are in this room trying to look at the Omaha metro maps probably were very confused because the maps are not the same online and they're not the

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same-- but they are the same on these papers. I do have a comment about-- oh, I have a minute-- about LB7 and LB8, the school board and Regents maps. It's-- it's such a partisan ploy to see people come in and demand more representation, unequal representation for rural areas on the school board. I have been attending the school board meetings and the State Board of Education meetings and the very, very, very, very loud, very misinformed testimony about the standards from people who, who don't actually-- they're not in classrooms. They don't teach. They don't have an education degree. They, they, they're, they're yelling about things that aren't actually true. And they want more representation on the board so that they can continue to have things happen that are not true so.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there any questions from the committee?
Senator Geist.

GEIST: I would just not really have a question, but maybe a comment. I think a lot of those individuals are parents, which might be the reason that they feel passionately about speaking towards the school board.

GINA FRANK: Yes. I will say that I grew up in a home that was extremely conservative, extremely sheltered and that contributed to abuse--

GEIST: And, and--

GINA FRANK: --which is not true in all conservative and sheltered homes.

GEIST: --and I respect your experience, I just wanted to make that comment that they're not just citizens, that they actually have a right to speak because they're the taxpayers and the parents of those students.

GINA FRANK: It's true. It's true.

GEIST: Thank you.

GINA FRANK: But they're not speaking from a position of knowledge--

GEIST: Thank you.

GINA FRANK: --because a lot of them hadn't read the standards.

LINEHAN: Thank-- I want to thank you for-- because you're right. Senator, Senator Wayne's map is in my stack here.

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WAYNE: If I can get you to vote for [INAUDIBLE] [LAUGHTER].

LINEHAN: I'm sure that's a computer glitch.

LATHROP: So everybody that said they like yours--.

LINEHAN: No, I don't think-- I think I looked before they came. All right. Are there any other questions? Seeing none--

GINA FRANK: So the Omaha map that I was looking at was Wayne's map?

LINEHAN: Yes.

GINA FRANK: OK. I couldn't figure it out. I scrolled back and forth and trying to look at it on my phone and it's too small.

WAYNE: We will have that corrected by tomorrow.

LINEHAN: No, I want to say this in defense of the staff. All these papers, all these map drawings, all the papers that we're trying-- and I fully understand the frustration from your-- from the public at the short time here. But we are on a short timeline and the LOR [SIC] staff and the Clerk have been work-- I don't-- they have not had a day off and not worked less than 12 hours a day for the last 16 days. So getting the wrong map in is understandable.

LATHROP: And, and we'd all second that.

LINEHAN: Yeah, thank you.

LATHROP: I think everybody here gets it. These guys are working really, really hard.

_____ : When you're over there.

LINEHAN: All right. Sorry. Thank you for being here.

WESLEY DODGE: Thank you for having me. My name is Wesley Dodge. I'm from Omaha, Nebraska. My name is spelled W-e-s-l-e-y, Dodge like the car, D-o-d-g-e. I have associations with Represent Us Omaha, Rank the Vote Nebraska, and Common Cause and I've got some written notes here, but I'm going to deviate from them a little bit. But beginning here, I want to express a little bit of frustration because we've had legislation in the past that would allow an independent commission for us to do the job you guys are doing right now. And if that would have ever passed, you wouldn't have all the stress you have right now. You know, you'd have nine other people that were independently chosen that

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would be doing this job and then it would dissolve and they would go, go away and we'd have the maps they have. So I just wanted to make that point. And I hope somewhere down the line somebody does something to, to deal with those issues. As far as gerrymandering-- gerrymandering, I've got a quote here from Reagan who said, All we're asking for is an end to the anti-democratic and American practice of gerrymandering. And the Supreme Court has given us a lot of guidance on what we need to do when we draw our maps. And a lot of it's been mentioned here. So I don't want to be redundant with it. But we're talking about the neighborhoods, the communities of interest. They should be compact, practicable, have common interests, and voters living in similar areas. When I first saw the Douglas County map where it was cut in two, I felt like, you know, a bucket of cold water was splashed in my face. Like this is pretty obviously something that's trying to change something that's existed for 100 years. And so Douglas County is, is obviously being cut in two. We're having the, the urban/rural argument here. But the Supreme Court has said that you shouldn't divide cities when practicable and you should allow county lines as much as possible. So in that instance, I think we need to keep Douglas County intact. If we didn't, I think there's going to be some litigation that will probably change that. When you create a map, it should be made to create a partisan effect or should not be made to create a partisan effect. Is a district designed to act as an impediment on the effectiveness of anyone's votes? If it does, other grounds must be shown for those boundaries or that map cannot be justified. So when I look at Douglas County and I look at these maps, I'm thinking, why did we do this? Why was this presented in this way? What was the purpose? And I haven't heard anybody say any other purpose. So I think there's a burden there that somebody is going to have to overcome to explain how we're going to deal with that. I have a bit of a creative thought in here, which probably won't go anywhere. But when I was talking to people about this, I thought it would be kind of interesting for our three congressional districts if maybe we split the state in two and had the 9,000 in one dist-- or 900,000 in one district, 900,000 in another district, have Sarpy, Douglas and Lancaster together and then have an at-large third congressional seat. Then we don't have to fight about these things like we are right now. And you can win two congressional seats if you win the at-large one. I see I'm already out of time, so-- and I had a brilliant quote from Madison that I was going to share, but--

LINEHAN: Are there questions from the committee? Senator Wayne.

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WAYNE: Are you-- you said-- are you-- sorry I didn't catch it because I was telling them they have to go outside to keep talking, but were they-- were you-- are you with a group?

WESLEY DODGE: Yeah, I'm with-- I'm with Common Cause. I'm on the board with Common Cause. I'm with Represent Us and then Rank the Vote Nebraska.

WAYNE: So how do you get around the constitutional requirement that the Legislature has to create and appoint the maps versus an independent commission? How do you constitutionally do an independent commission?

WESLEY DODGE: Well, you know what? I'd have to study that more in depth. I know they're doing it in 16 other states.

WAYNE: Right.

WESLEY DODGE: So it must have been some constitutional challenges there. I would assume, and I could look into it more directly. And when that comes up again, I may be testifying again, you know, in support of that.

WAYNE: Well, the issues in the states that they have those 16 commissions, including across the river in Iowa, it's not in the constitution.

WESLEY DODGE: Yeah.

WAYNE: We have a whole lot in our constitution in Nebraska, a lot. And, for example, this time crunch we keep talking about, right, the reason there's a time crunch is because in our constitution, whereas most states have it in their statute, you have to live in your district for a year prior to the election. So these have to be done by November if somebody wants to run for, for Legislature. We have in our constitution that only one legislative seat can be in a precinct. So local government can't get their primary elections done unless we get our maps done first. So, so, so that's what I'm trying to-- people bring up the independent commission. I keep saying I thought that was tried and our court ruled it unconstitutional. But if they didn't, how do you get around the unauthorized delegation of power that we would give up our right?

WESLEY DODGE: I'd be happy to look into it and get you some information.

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WAYNE: OK.

WESLEY DODGE: I'll figure out what those other 16 states are doing to do that.

WAYNE: I'm all in favor of it. I mean, we have TIF in our constitution. I mean, we have everything in our constitution.

LATHROP: Trapping fish.

WAYNE: Trapping fish in our constitution so.

WESLEY DODGE: But as far as getting information to draw maps, I think that information, even though you didn't have the solid information in, you had an idea of what was coming. People were drawing maps even before the census data was all in. So it's not like, whoo, this is a big surprise. I'm sure there was some deviation and that kind of thing. But the information was there. I've gone to some, some seminars where we talked to people who do computer work and they just love it. They can draw a map in, in five seconds by hitting a button. They can do it with their Amazon purchasing experience. They can do it with what kind of vehicle you drive.

WAYNE: That's not our software. [LAUGHTER].

LINEHAN: Yeah, that's not--

WESLEY DODGE: Yeah, but the bottom line is, I don't think it's a huge surprise.

WAYNE: No, no, I don't think--

WESLEY DODGE: It's like, you know, you know what the people out here are like. You know what your, the different constituencies are like.

WAYNE: No, I appreciate it. I just keep hearing when people bring up the independent commission, unlike any other state, we have a constitutional obligation. That's all I'm saying so.

WESLEY DODGE: I'll look into it.

LINEHAN: OK.

WESLEY DODGE: I'd like to work with you on that if we could do that.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Wait, wait. Thank you, Senator Wayne. You said a couple of times, cut Douglas County in two.

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WESLEY DODGE: Well, I'm just looking at the way-- I haven't seen the maps for that long either. I looked at it and I don't know, what, what street does it cut north and south on? I don't--

LINEHAN: 680 and Dodge Street.

_____ : That's east and west though.

WESLEY DODGE: Oh, I'm sorry. Yeah. Yeah.

LINEHAN: So cut in two, are you talking about land mass. You talking about population? What are you talking about?

WESLEY DODGE: I just looked at the picture of the map and it appeared to be about 50 percent above the line and 50 percent below the line so.

LINEHAN: OK.

WESLEY DODGE: I would guess--

LINEHAN: Geographically or geography, but not people.

WESLEY DODGE: Yeah, except I live in Douglas County. You can drive-- there's not many places you can drive in Douglas County and not be running into people. You know, I live in western Douglas County, out close to Gretna. I live in close to your neighborhood. And there's people all over there, so--

LINEHAN: There's going to be more. OK, thank you for being here.

WESLEY DODGE: Yeah. Future subdivisions, too, that are cornfields now.

LINEHAN: I, I drive it every day. Next.

GAVIN GEIS: Chairwoman Linehan, sorry, not--

LINEHAN: Linehan.

GAVIN GEIS: Linehan, sorry, you're new.

LINEHAN: [INAUDIBLE]

GAVIN GEIS: I'm used to talking to this guy over here more. Members of the committee, my name is Gavin Geis. That's spelled G-a-v-i-n G-e-i-s, and I am the executive director for Common Cause Nebraska, here to talk a little bit about the principles here. We are not today formally commenting or taking a position on any of the maps. There's

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good ideas, bad ideas to go around. And as you've all said, there's a lot of work left to do. But one thing I have noticed, especially sitting here today and hearing all of the discussion before this, is that we in this process risk losing the thread of what redistricting is for. The Supreme Court has given us pretty clear guidelines for the purpose of redistricting, and that is to equalize the voting power and the representation of the people in the state. That is its only purpose. Now, in saying that, I do not in any way mean to discount the worries of rural Nebraskans, of senators like Senator Brewer who have gigantic districts that they have to somehow cover and represent all of. But those, from our perspective and from the perspective of the courts, those are two separate discussions. Discussions of land mass, the number of representatives, sure, that can be a discussion for another day. But when we're redistricting, the courts tell us, look at population, get it as close as possible, and do not take into account, for the most part, other factors. Over the break, thanks for the break, by the way. Over the break, it gave me a chance to look at the Supreme Court law [INAUDIBLE]-- the Supreme Court decision behind this, which is Reynolds v. Sims. That was decided in 1963. It was a court case against the state of Alabama who did some really horrific gerrymandering, nothing Nebraska has ever seen, where some of their districts had 40 times the population as other comparative districts. And the court said that's clearly unconstitutional. That's clearly in violation of the one person, one vote principle. But in reading through this decision, I pulled out some key, some key phrases that I feel like really do apply to what we've been talking about. So first of all, in that decision, it was held that legislators represent people, not areas. So the Supreme Court has told us you represent the people, not the area. Next here, weighing votes differently according to where citizens happen to reside is discriminatory. This is from, like I said, Reynolds v. Sims. Finally, considerations of history, economic or other group interests or area alone do not justify deviations from the equal population principle. All of that to say we risk doing redistricting wrong, not actually carrying the process out as it's intended to be if we worry too much about land mass, about making sure that districts as they are, are kept. We should be following the data. We should be making sure that every Nebraskan's vote has equal power. I will stop there. There's plenty more to go.

LINEHAN: Are there questions? Thank you.

GAVIN GEIS: Thank you.

LINEHAN: Hi.

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SHERI ST. CLAIR: Good afternoon. I am Sheri St. Clair, S-h-e-r-i S-t C-l-a-i-r, and I just have a few comments on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Nebraska. We agree the timeline is challenging, to say the least. The League has actually had several educational sessions in which we encourage people that came to identify their communities of interest and talk about what issues are important to them in their neighborhoods, the areas, their districts. It's kind of tough to put those into these maps because they're not detailed enough to get that level of input. So we have, you know, told people that we've talked to this is important work. We're living with these results for the next ten years. Send an email to your senator. Let them know what's important to you. So hopefully, you know, some of the senators have gotten a lot of email lately or will be getting a lot of email lately, soon about, about this issue. I'm not going to get into a lot of details about the specific plans. I think you've heard a lot of comments on, you know, issues with LB1 and Sarpy County, Douglas County, yada, yada that sort of thing. Compactness is being addressed by mathematicians that know more about how to work numbers than I do. Contiguousness, compactness, as I said, also in LB3 and LB4 will be defined. Population deviations do appear to favor rural areas when compared to urban, that it looks like there's more overpopulation in the urban areas than the rural areas and in fact, more overpopulation in areas that tend to lean more Democratic than Republican. But that's an issue for another day. The numbers from the census data that UNO put out last month, they had a nice presentation, would seem to indicate that there should be 27 urban area districts and we're not coming up with 27 when we look at the proposed maps, either, any of the versions. So that's something I think people are paying attention to. And we understand that our goal in all of this is to represent people, not land masses, as Gavin just pointed out. I appreciate that there are a lot of issues with geography. If nothing else, we have learned during the pandemic that electronic communications can really be our friends. You know, Zoom meetings can be annoying, but it's a fast way to get a hold of people. And if nothing else, this speaks to the need for better broadband in the state.

LINEHAN: Thank you. I have a couple questions. Do you have a question?
[INAUDIBLE]

WAYNE: So I just, I just want to clarify. There are these numbers of 27 and neither map has it. Those are rounding.

SHERI ST. CLAIR: Right.

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WAYNE: And so that is the kind of the debate of when you listen to Senator Briese and I kind of go back and forth earlier about deviations that that is where the rounding is.

SHERI ST. CLAIR: Thank you.

WAYNE: So I just-- if people are listening, I want to make sure people understand that.

LINEHAN: Yeah. I'm going to even clarify a little more because this keeps coming up. So I talked to the people that presented those numbers or the person that said two districts need to change. What-- actually there's one district needs to change from rural to suburban or urban. The other is a rounding, as Justin said, of a half. So the way we could justify and meet that is taking a district that's now partly in Lancaster County and putting it all in Lancaster County and leaving somebody out of their district and I-- neither map does that.

SHERI ST. CLAIR: I think it's--

LINEHAN: And one more thing you said about deviations. One map, map deviates a lot and the other does not, if we've got the right maps here. I think we do.

SHERI ST. CLAIR: Yep.

LINEHAN: LB4 I think jumps over 4 percent far more frequently than LB3 does.

SHERI ST. CLAIR: One other point I was going to make is I think it's unfortunate we keep using the term about eliminating districts because we're not really eliminating districts. You know, we're shifting, realigning according to population base, but eliminating sounds like something's going to be, you know, erased completely.

LINEHAN: I have somebody for you to talk to you after the hearing. Any other questions?

WAYNE: Senator Linehan has been saying that for a week now. She's not been eliminated, she's been shifted.

LATHROP: Exactly, you're merging.

LINEHAN: Well, I am more merging than just picking up way over here and going way over there.

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SHERI ST. CLAIR: She didn't, she didn't set me up for that. I appreciate you all still haven't lost your sense of humor.

LINEHAN: Not yet.

_____ : Not quite.

LINEHAN: We actually go beyond sense of humor to just goofy. Thank you for being here.

SHERI ST. CLAIR: Thank you.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Danielle Conrad. It's D-a-n-i-e-l-l-e, Conrad, C-o-n-r-a-d. I'm here today on behalf of the ACLU of Nebraska. I just want to kind of reset the table here and be very clear that the ACLU is a fiercely nonpartisan organization, has no interest in a blue dot or a red sweep. And we're not taking a specific position on these maps, which we understand are drafts and part of a continuing process, at this time. However, I do want to provide some information for the committee and for the record about what some of the concerns we have with process and with the maps that have been presented thus far. So let's take a step back and remember what redistricting is actually really about. It's about people. It's not about incumbents. It's not about candidates. It's about voters. And that's what has to be at the center of every single decision that you make in this historic and important process. I think that redistricting, sometimes we do a disservice to our fellow Nebraskans when we make it highly technical and full of a lot of political or partisan jargon. What redistricting is really about is about protecting voting rights. It's about ensuring fair elections. It's about ensuring a fair allocation of resources for our roads and our schools and our communities. That's really what's at the heart of these decisions and behind these lines that people will be wrangling over for the next couple of weeks. I will reiterate the fact that we do have significant concerns about the process and we would urge this committee and the Speaker's office to consistently reevaluate the schedule that's been put before you. That forces such a condensed process with so much work happening outside of the public eye in a nontransparent nor participatory way. There is still an opportunity to do it in a more deliberate way. Additionally, I just want to point out that we do see red flags with the proposals that have been brought forth thus far, especially with Senator Linehan's proposals. You're going to see red flags any time you deviate from your redistricting resolution and the constitutional and legal principles which govern this process. I also want to just clarify for the record that the deviation is not a redistricting criteria. It is a tool to achieve

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other redistricting criteria. And I think that's been misunderstood in the dialog thus far. So the solution is actually quite straightforward. And our polling shows this from Nebraska. How do you get it right? You have a transparent process; 94 percent of Nebraska voters want that. You have a data-driven process; 93 percent of Nebraska voters want that. You have a participatory process; 85 percent of Nebraska voters want that with more Zoom meetings. And you have a nonpartisan process that honors the will of the people and our proud, nonpartisan political traditions. You also have to respect voting rights. So gerrymander at your own risk from a partisan or a racial perspective. Thank you. Happy to answer any questions.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: What do you propose we do about the timeline?

DANIELLE CONRAD: About the timeline? I think that you should proceed very, very carefully, because I think that you have a historic opportunity to get this right or wrong and it shouldn't be condensed. Other states are taking a more deliberate process in terms of how they're conducting this. Everyone on this committee has expressed frustration thus far as have many of our fellow Nebraskans about how quickly this information has been analyzed because of the census delays, which does cause a lot of headache and heartache for us all. But we need more time to digest that in a thoughtful and deliberate way. We need more time to have meaningful public participation. Draft maps came out less than a week ago and were really challenging to read in-- from a technical perspective in the forms that were available to you. And so, you know, typically in a legislative session, we have at least seven days from bill introductions until public hearings. I appreciate that the special session rule allows for that to be condensed because of the nature of the special session. But the Speaker maintains absolute discretion to set the legislative calendar and agenda and has reserved the right to change that at any time. I think it behooves this committee and the Speaker to revisit that from a leadership perspective to ensure adequate time and participation.

WAYNE: But you would agree that we have to have it done by November.

DANIELLE CONRAD: I don't.

WAYNE: You don't. So you think constitutionally we can, we can-- OK. If we don't have it done by November and somebody is drawn out of a district, how do they run for that district?

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DANIELLE CONRAD: Yeah, thank you, Senator Wayne. I think that this is one of those issues that, you know, seems kind of--

WAYNE: And I want to preface it--

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yes.

WAYNE: --we have Supreme Court that mandated the courts stay open the entire time during COVID.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yes, I understand and appreciate that as well. So let me impact that. And it goes back really to my, my, my initial comments. So redistricting is about voters. It's not about candidates and it's not about incumbents. And if you look specifically, for example, at the Day case from Nebraska jurisprudence, it really details that. So, of course, our hearts go out to public service-minded Nebraskans who want to run for the Legislature and, and for other offices that they need some clarity about what district they're running in. But their rights don't supersede the voters' right to be equally and fairly represented.

WAYNE: I don't disagree with that. My question is, though, you can't get into case law unless the plain language is there's ambiguity. There's no ambiguity that you have to live in your district 365 days.

DANIELLE CONRAD: That's exact-- I--

WAYNE: There's no ambiguity, that there has to be one legislative district--

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yes.

WAYNE: --per precinct. So then you, you would ask us to move all the primary elections too?

DANIELLE CONRAD: No, Senator. I think that we're actually on the same page here. What the constitution says is that there is a one-year residence requirement for candidates for the Legislature, for example. But that doesn't guarantee any candidate to run in any specific district. And that is what the Day case talks about in addition.

WAYNE: Agree with you. So then what about the practical effect of primaries? That's all statute. We can move that.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yes.

WAYNE: You would move all primary elections?

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DANIELLE CONRAD: And other states are. I, I don't know if we're necessarily at that point in time now, but I do know that other states have looked at different options to accommodate a more deliberative process.

WAYNE: So since we want to talk about transparency and I think, I think all of our meetings since the first-- first two have been open to the public. We haven't gone--

_____: Everything.

WAYNE: Everything's been open to the public.

LINEHAN: Everything's been open.

WAYNE: Here is my fear of delaying. My fear of delaying is once we get closer to session, there's a lot more on the table.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Sure.

WAYNE: There are bills. There are ARPA funds. There are a lot of things that are on the table that can move people to vote different ways. In a special session, we are dealing with just one topic.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yes.

WAYNE: There is no trade a bill. There is no opportunity to--

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yes.

WAYNE: --support this bill. So would you favor extending special session or continuing this into regular session?

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yeah. And so, Senator Wayne, as you well know, I'm familiar with the cadence of special sessions--

WAYNE: That's why I asked.

DANIELLE CONRAD: --been through quite a few of those during my term of service and regular session. And I do think that perhaps there is a silver lining with the delay in the census information. That this special session does in some way put a real spotlight on redistricting that allows focus on such a critically important topic, that keeps complications and distractions from the other important issues before the body regulated to regular sessions so that you can really focus in on redistricting. So I, I don't think that there would need to be any sort of delay into the 2022 legislative session. I'm saying you should

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afford yourself additional time and the people of Nebraska additional time to analyze this information and to participate in a meaningful way. For example, if there are significant changes from the draft map, which it sounds like are in the works and which is part of the process, it will be next to impossible for the second house to really weigh in again and have a robust dialog about what those changes mean for their communities of interest. Of course, there's letters. Of course, people can call their senators and absolutely should. But I can tell you, when I served on the Redistricting Committee in 2011, and that was such an awesome power and responsibility and real honor to be elevated to that position by my peers that you all enjoy today. We actually had more hearings than you're having right now. And we utilized technology in a more robust way. That was 11 years ago. I didn't even really carry a cell phone then. So I do think that it would be important that this committee and the body as a whole utilize more opportunities for public participation and don't cut yourself short from a timeline perspective. If you need more time, you take more time. But I don't think it needs to bleed into '22.

WAYNE: I got one last question.

LINEHAN: OK.

WAYNE: Any senator can make a sine die motion, correct?

DANIELLE CONRAD: That's true.

WAYNE: And it takes 25 and that's nondebatable.

DANIELLE CONRAD: That's true.

WAYNE: I'm in favor of extending the special session. My fear is going into the--

DANIELLE CONRAD: Yeah.

WAYNE: --regular session. So that's the timeline I'm up against [INAUDIBLE] for me.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Absolutely. And, Senator, I think that, for example, there's probably a lot of scheduling and process options kind of in between that, including building in some additional recess days so that you can consult with your constituents back home, especially folks that are farther away from the Capitol, have some more town halls, read through those emails that are coming in. There is a way to provide additional participation and deliberation between a sine die

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motion and pushing to 2022 and the, the, the calendar as it's been set today. No doubt many of you have received a lot of concern about the Omaha hearing being set tomorrow on a very holy day for Nebraska's Jewish community, in Nebraska's largest Jewish community and how that really hinders participation. So I do think that it's important that the committee be deliberate and thoughtful about scheduling to ensure equitable participation.

WAYNE: Thank you.

LINEHAN: You realize that Omaha is not that far from here and we're here today and Friday we'll be here again if somebody can't come tomorrow.

DANIELLE CONRAD: I do understand that.

LINEHAN: OK.

DANIELLE CONRAD: And I think that people do have other ways to participate. But I think the reason that you have hearings in each congressional district is to go to the people.

LINEHAN: I'm sorry. Did you have prepared remarks?

DANIELLE CONRAD: Not really.

LINEHAN: What did you say about--

DANIELLE CONRAD: I have some chicken scratches, but--

LINEHAN: I'm just-- I understand when some people come and say we're not transparent.

DANIELLE CONRAD: Uh-huh.

LINEHAN: In what way don't you think this committee has been transparent?

DANIELLE CONRAD: Well, I do think that the record is very clear that there was a series of Executive Session meetings a week or so ago instead of being subject to traditional public hearings. So I think that definitely raised some red flags and concerns. I do think that--

LINEHAN: OK. I think we can--

DANIELLE CONRAD: OK, that's just one example.

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LINEHAN: We never went into Executive Session.

DANIELLE CONRAD: What's that?

LINEHAN: We have never gone into Executive Session.

DANIELLE CONRAD: I think the record is clear. Thank you, Senator.

LINEHAN: The record is clear. We've never gone into Executive Session.

DANIELLE CONRAD: OK.

LINEHAN: OK, thank you very much. Any other questions? Thank you.

DANIELLE CONRAD: OK, thanks for your time. And of course, we pledge to be of assistance in any way that's helpful to this committee in this process.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

CREIGHTON HOEFER: My name is Creighton Hoefer, that is C-r-e-i-g-h-t-o-n, just like the college, H-o-e-f-e-r. I'm on-- here on behalf partially with executive director Gavin Geis with Common Cause Nebraska. I'm the field organizer for Common Cause Nebraska, and I'm going to represent part of our organization's perspective from the standpoint of the work I've been doing on redistricting for the better part of this year, and then voice some concern about the process that some of the last couple of testifiers have addressed as well. So basically, for the better part of this year, I've been doing public advocacy and education on redistricting, using online mapping software to outline communities of interest. So basically what we-- what I've been doing is contacting either like local neighborhood associations or some of our metro nonprofit service providers to hold virtual events where we actually sit down, talk through what redistricting is about, and then actually map out people who are living in communities and define it on a map in real time. And this was an incredibly illuminating experience for me, because it showed me that Nebraskans do care about this process and they don't want to be-- have it put in either partisan frame or I guess basically make it political just period. They are concerned about their communities on like a tangible level. And so I guess it's disappointing to sit here as somebody that's been working to gain some of that input and feel that there is little to no dialogue happening with the public with this committee prior to the data, which was very much available. I don't necessarily feel that there was a need to wait until the August 12th data was available for this committee to start providing a timeline or engaging

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the public. And I guess lastly, I would like to say and and just reiterate what some of the other speakers today have said, which is this is about people, not elected officials. And this committee should commit to maps that represent one person, one vote. So I guess that's all.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here.

RICK EBERHARDT: Good afternoon. My name's Rick Eberhardt, E-b-e-r-h-a-r-d-t. Tell you a little bit about myself. My mother and I immigrated to this country from a country where their borders were drawn by war. My mom turned eight years old in a camp in the [INAUDIBLE] Just do your history. I'm what your average Nebraskan looks like. And I'm not talking out here, I'm talking in here. We're good, hardworking, honest people that try to take care of our families and try to make this a better place. As I drove south today from home, I traveled through seven different counties to get here. During my trip, the geography, names of towns, and people's last names changed, but one thing didn't. We're all Nebraskans and we sent you here to do the people's business. Now, I've spent some time studying these maps and to say the least, they're confusing, my atlas of Nebraska and everything. Though I have no proof, I suspect that back in the 1800s when the county lines were being drawn prior to placing quill in hand, some of these artists had partaken of the spirits. I don't believe that is the case here today, but two weeks from now, at the end of this session, who knows? [LAUGHTER] My hopes are that all, that all senators involved will set aside their political ideology as well as their own future political aspirations and those of family members and do what's right for Nebraska. Please remember, we are a conservative state where people are accepting and work together. Let's don't turn this into a-- to a deal that it doesn't have to be. And, and now I know since Senator Wayne isn't here, yesterday he was all asking, so where would we cut? And I don't have an answer to that, but I said, I wish I had the perfect answer, but I trust my senator, Senator Briese, to make the right choice for my county, my district, and the state of Nebraska. Thank you all for this opportunity today.

LINEHAN: Thank you very much. Is there any questions from the committee? Senator Briese's grateful.

LATHROP: I would like to say something.

LINEHAN: OK.

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LATHROP: I appreciate the fact that you came all the way down here from Senator Briese's district. I didn't catch your hometown.

RICK EBERHARDT: Pierce.

LATHROP: Pierce. OK, and, and that you have waited until 2:30 through a break to tell us what you, what you believe. I think the committee is better informed and, and appreciates what you had to say.

RICK EBERHARDT: Thank you.

BLOOD: That's all I was going to say too, so thank you.

JOSHUA MUELLER: Good afternoon, Senators and Chairwoman Linehand-- Linehan, my bad. My name is Joshua Mueller, J-o-s-h-u-a M-u-e-l-l-e-r, and I'm currently a resident of Senator Geist's District 25. Today I'll be mainly talking about the legislative maps. So many Nebraskans are proud of their state for several of its unique characteristics when it comes to governance. One of our best characteristics was the creation of a nonpartisan Unicameral. I believe that this has allowed us to elect representatives that are concerned about the people that elected them and can work together instead of being focused on the political parties that they might be a part of. However, I feel like, unfortunately, the focus on individuals that elect their representatives has been lost in the proposal in LB3. I've taken a stab at drafting my own versions of some of these maps just out of curiosity of my own. So I understand the difficulties that you guys all have been "entasked" with, with all of the recommendations that you have to balance, such as compactness, conserving core communities of interest, and balancing populations. However, when I look at the state map for LB3, it becomes apparent that some of these goals weren't necessarily weighted equally. It's very apparent that if you look west of Columbus, there is not a single district that is underpopulated with-- all of the districts are underpopulated, with the sole exception of the district that encompasses the city of Grand Island. And for every one of those districts that are underpopulated west of Columbus, that means that there must be another district that is overpopulated. To me, this indicates that you aren't equating all Nebraskans equally. There has been a heavy focus on maintaining rural voices. But I, I believe that our state motto is equality before the law, which indicates that we should have a heavy emphasis on equality of all individuals, no merit-- no matter where they live. I've seen proposals from the League of Women Voters that have managed to keep variations below 2 percent, I believe, so it tells me that it is not impossible to do something like that. And I ask that you would all do your best to ensure that that happens. On another note, one of the

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things that I believe should be prioritized is keeping together districts that represent the city of Lincoln itself. If you look at the population solely, Lincoln has enough people living within its boundaries that you could create seven entire legislative districts. However, when you look at any of the maps that have been proposed, both LB3 and LB4, what you end up seeing is four districts that encompass Lincoln and then something like four or five that take parts of Lincoln and then have you voting with people throughout the city, throughout the county or other counties. I had personally voted in District 30 and so at that point, I lived in Lincoln but was voting with people in Beatrice and Wymore. And even in Senator Wayne's proposal, LB4, there would be people that lived in Lincoln in District 32 that ended up voting with people in Fairbury, if I'm not mistaken. And so it would be my preference that you try and maintain districts that encompass the areas of Lincoln without diluting our voices in the counties surrounding us. Thank you.

LINEHAN: Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much.

LATHROP: We may be at the end.

LINEHAN: Oh, I'm sorry. I spilled Coke. Anybody else?

LATHROP: You didn't even need the Coke.

LINEHAN: I didn't need the Coke. Thank you all for being here. Appreciate it very much. We will reconvene tomorrow morning in Omaha, 10:00 at [INAUDIBLE] There's parking. Has everybody been to the-- where we're going?

_____: Yes, yes.

LATHROP: Yeah.

LINEHAN: So there's parking right across the street.