

1 STATE OF ILLINOIS  
2 COUNTY OF CHAMPAIGN

3

4 A PUBLIC HEARING  
5 BEFORE THE HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

6

7

8 Parkland College  
2400 West Bradley Avenue  
9 Champaign, Illinois  
April 16, 2011

10 1:00 p.m.

11

12 House Redistricting Committee  
13 Representative Karen Yarbrough, Chairman  
Representative Jason Barickman  
14 Representative Naomi Jakobsson  
Representative Chapin Rose  
15 Representative Jil Tracy

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1 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: My name is Karen  
2 Yarbrough. I'm a member of the Redistricting  
3 Committee. I will be chairing the meeting this  
4 morning, or is it afternoon?

5 I'd like to recognize first the members of  
6 the House Redistricting Committee who are present here  
7 today: Representative Tracy; Representative Rose;  
8 Representative Barickman, a brand new rep -- say hi to  
9 the people -- Representative Rosenthal, another brand  
10 new rep; and Representative Naomi Jakobsson, whose  
11 district we are in.

12 Would you like to greet the folks, Naomi?

13 REPRESENTATIVE JAKOBSSON: Good afternoon,  
14 everybody. I just want to thank the committee for  
15 having the hearing here or whoever made that decision,  
16 maybe because some of us urged that to happen.

17 And I want to thank everyone for turning out  
18 and welcome you all. If you are not from this  
19 district, welcome to my district. Really, thank you  
20 for coming out to this event today because I think  
21 it's very important. And a nice thank you to Parkland  
22 College for making this space available to us.

23 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: I would be remiss  
24 if I didn't recognize former State Representative Bill

1 Black, who is in the audience. And I understand he's  
2 run for another office; so he's got another title.  
3 We're happy to see you here, Bill. Will you give him  
4 a hand? This is public service at its best. We miss  
5 that guy.

6 So thank you all for being here today. This  
7 is a very important meeting. I'm just going to go  
8 over a few things here.

9 At the end of 2010, the United States Census  
10 Bureau, as it does every decade, released its 2010  
11 population totals for Illinois. The United States and  
12 Illinois Constitution requires that. In the year  
13 following the census, the General Assembly must redraw  
14 the boundary lines of the congressional, legislative  
15 and representative districts to account for the  
16 population shifts over the past ten years.

17 These hearings are a part of that process.  
18 The Redistricting Transparency and Public  
19 Participation Act requires us to hold at least four  
20 hearings throughout the state. Our intention is to  
21 hold far more than that minimum number. Our goal is  
22 to hear from as many people as possible and ensure  
23 that this process is open to all residents of our  
24 state.

1           We are holding hearings throughout the state  
2 -- currently 15 are scheduled -- to gain as much  
3 information as we possibly can as we undertake this  
4 important task.

5           We are guided in this endeavor by the U.S.  
6 Constitution, which requires that we respect the One  
7 Person One Vote principle and draw districts of  
8 substantially equal population.

9           We will also comply with the Federal Voting  
10 Rights Act, which requires us to provide minorities an  
11 equal opportunity to participate in the electoral  
12 process and elect candidates of their choice.

13           At the state level, the Illinois  
14 Constitution requires that the districts be  
15 substantially equal in population, compact and  
16 contiguous.

17           Finally, the Illinois Voting Rights Act  
18 further requires us to allow minorities a voice in the  
19 electoral process after compliance with the federal  
20 and constitutional requirements I have just described.

21           Now, in addition to those legal  
22 requirements, there are countless other factors that  
23 play a role in the redistricting process. We want to  
24 hear from you today in considering all of them without

1 limitation. We are interested in any relevant  
2 demographic information such as social, political,  
3 economic, religious, or other characteristics that are  
4 unique to your community or to your organization. We  
5 are interested in maps of your community or  
6 organizations as encompassed by relevant precincts or  
7 voter tabulation districts or however you want to  
8 represent them.

9 We want to hear your specific views on any  
10 social, political, economic, or religious interests  
11 commonly held in the community, any specific interest  
12 groups that exist, any concerns that you have  
13 regarding current redistricting boundaries and  
14 suggestions for redrawing the new boundaries.

15 In short, we want to hear any testimony that  
16 is relevant to the drawing of our new congressional,  
17 legislative, or representative districts.

18 If you have a proposed map, we will take it  
19 and consider it. If you want to draw your own map but  
20 lack the capacity to do so, we have created two public  
21 viewing stations where census and map-making resources  
22 will be made available to you.

23 One of them is in Springfield in room 401 of  
24 the Stratton Office Building, open Monday through

1 Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. The second workstation  
2 is a joint effort with the Senate Redistricting  
3 Committee. It's located on the seventh floor of the  
4 Bilandic Building located at 160 North LaSalle in  
5 Chicago.

6 You can schedule an appointment to access  
7 either public station by calling (217) 558-3036. You  
8 may also submit any comments, information, or proposed  
9 maps to us in person at those viewing stations.

10 Finally, you may submit any information or  
11 comments to us by e-mail at [ilredistricting@gmail.com](mailto:ilredistricting@gmail.com).  
12 That's [ilredistricting@gmail.com](mailto:ilredistricting@gmail.com).

13 We will transcribe the testimony at these  
14 hearings and post that testimony on our web site at  
15 [www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting).

16 Any documentary evidence we receive, be it  
17 written testimony, other data, or proposed maps, will  
18 also be uploaded on our web site. Our only caveat is  
19 that, due to security concerns, we will not accept a  
20 map on a disc or a flash drive. We ask for a hard  
21 copy of that map.

22 As for today, we will begin with a short  
23 slide show presentation. Following that brief  
24 presentation, we have a number of witnesses who have

1 indicated a desire in advance to testify. We will  
2 hear from them first.

3 Given the number of people who are  
4 interested, we ask that the witnesses limit their  
5 testimony to five minutes. We will bring witnesses  
6 forward in group panels. If you have written  
7 testimony prepared, we would ask that you submit that  
8 testimony to us and just briefly summarize in your  
9 oral presentation.

10 After the scheduled witnesses, anyone else  
11 wishing to speak may do so. Each witness needs to  
12 fill out a witness slip stating your intention to  
13 provide testimony for the record. If you have not  
14 done so, we ask that you return to the sign-in table  
15 where you first came in and make our staff aware of  
16 your wish.

17 Our intention is to allow everyone an  
18 opportunity to participate. Now, I'm going to ask the  
19 minorities spokesperson if he would like to make any  
20 statements?

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Good afternoon. This  
22 is a pleasure to be here today at the Noel Ag Center.  
23 It only took me eight minutes to get here. I  
24 appreciate my colleagues who have driven from much



1 further to be here today.

2 We applaud the efforts of the committee in  
3 putting together these informational hearings.  
4 Representative Yarbrough covered many of the key  
5 points of law. However, from our side of the aisle,  
6 we would add one additional criteria; and that is that  
7 these meetings are wonderful in the sense of gathering  
8 public input. But if we don't come back here with a  
9 map prior to it being voted on so that you all  
10 citizens have a comment period on it, then this really  
11 would be for naught.

12 From our side of the aisle, one of the  
13 things we're urging is that we do these hearings  
14 statewide to get information about how to go about the  
15 mapping process.

16 But just as important is that we come back  
17 here before a vote is taken with a map so you all can  
18 comment on that and see that at that time.

19 Further, any disclosure of a map should  
20 include all the supporting documentation and a list of  
21 the criteria considered so that the public can  
22 understand the rationale behind the map and how it was  
23 drawn. The public should also be informed of and has  
24 a right to know how the new mandates of the Illinois

1 Voting Rights Act will be implemented in any proposed  
2 map.

3 With that, just a short caveat from our side  
4 of the aisle, we look forward to hearing your witness  
5 testimony today, and we'll begin. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you. You  
7 suggested we do a roll call; but this is subject  
8 matter hearing, and I've introduced everyone who is  
9 here. So I think we're ready to get started. Let's  
10 do our slide show presentation.

11 MR. SHEA: My name is Travis Shea. I work  
12 for the Illinois House of Representatives. I'm here  
13 to give a brief overview of our state's redistricting  
14 procedure.

15 I'll briefly discuss the procedures and  
16 background of redistricting and information on the  
17 Voting Rights Act. I will also be going over new  
18 state redistricting guidelines recently signed into  
19 law. Finally, we will look at the results of the 2010  
20 census and what those results say about Champaign.

21 Redistricting is a process that ensures all  
22 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation  
23 in the State Legislative and Federal Congress as  
24 guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

1           The U.S. Supreme Court held, in a series of  
2    rulings in the 1960s, that congressional and state  
3    legislative districts in each state must be of equal  
4    population, establishing the principal of One Person,  
5    One Vote. As a result, states redraw congressional  
6    and state districts every ten years to reflect changes  
7    in population as shown by this census.

8           The timeline for redrawing the legislative  
9    map is based on the Illinois Constitution. On  
10   December 21, data collected by the 2010 census was  
11   delivered to the President. The full block-by-block  
12   census profile of Illinois which will be used in the  
13   redistricting process was released in February.

14           The Illinois State Legislative has the  
15   initial responsibility passing new congressional and  
16   state maps. Both the State House and State Senate  
17   must pass a plan with majority votes.

18           The plan must then be signed by the  
19   Governor. If a new map does not go into effect by the  
20   constitutional deadline of June 30, responsibility for  
21   creating a new map passes from the legislature and  
22   Governor to a Legislative Redistricting Commission.

23           The Commission shall consist of eight  
24   members with no more than four from the same political

1 party. A majority vote of five or more Commission  
2 members will constitution final approval of the map.  
3 However, if the Commission does not agree to a map by  
4 September 1, the Illinois Supreme Court will submit  
5 two names, one from each party, to the Illinois  
6 Secretary of State, who will choose one name at random  
7 to serve as the ninth member of the Commission. Five  
8 of the nine members of the Commission must agree to a  
9 plan no later than October 5.

10 In order to understand how the census data  
11 is used to draw new districts, we must note several  
12 legal guiding principles. First among these  
13 principles is equal population. State law mirrors the  
14 federal One Person, One Vote standard and mandates  
15 congressional and state districts to contain  
16 substantially equal population.

17 As a result of the 2010 census, the target  
18 population of each House district is 108,734  
19 residents. While ideal population for a Senate  
20 district is 217,468 residents.

21 Federal and state law also require all  
22 districts to be contiguous, which means that all parts  
23 of a district must be next to each other unless  
24 connected by water. Annexations in unincorporated

1 areas in municipalities and counties sometimes mean  
2 communities are discontinuous. However, congressional  
3 and state districts must be adjacent or connected at  
4 all points.

5 A more difficult requirement to define is it  
6 compactness. There are at least 30 different  
7 scientific ways to measure how compact a district is.  
8 But no statute or court precedent identifies standard  
9 criteria of compactness. In theory, compactness  
10 focuses on the shape of the district's boundaries, how  
11 spread out a district is from a central core, or the  
12 population center of gravity.

13 In practice, compactness is hindered by  
14 geography and on-the-ground realities; so often the  
15 interpretation of compactness involves more than a  
16 visual test.

17 Illinois is one of 14 states that nest two  
18 of its House districts, also called representative  
19 districts, inside one of its Senate districts, also  
20 called legislative districts.

21 Map makers will also look, where possible,  
22 to follow existing political and geographic boundaries  
23 in ways that maximize a community's opportunity to  
24 have its interests represented. As we know, however,

1 county, municipality, township, and natural geographic  
2 boundaries are not always compact and contiguous.

3 By studying census data and holding public  
4 hearing likes this to listen to the thoughts of  
5 residents across the state, law makers look to  
6 identify what are known as "communities of interest."

7 A community of interest is a group of people  
8 concentrated in a geographic area who are socially,  
9 culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously, or  
10 otherwise alike and can be joined in a district to  
11 most effectively have their voices heard. The factors  
12 contributing to any particular community of interest  
13 will vary throughout the state.

14 Federal law requires redistricting plans to  
15 respect minority representation. The principles of  
16 the Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent  
17 the reduction of opportunities for minority  
18 populations to participate equally in the electoral  
19 process. However, districts cannot be drawn solely on  
20 the basis of race.

21 Earlier this year, Governor Quinn signed  
22 legislation to protect the representation of racial  
23 and language minority groups. Senate Bill 3976 helps  
24 to prevent minority fracturing or dividing a

1 concentration of minorities among two or more  
2 districts by requiring map makers to consider creating  
3 crossover districts, coalition districts, or influence  
4 districts.

5           What are crossover districts, coalition  
6 districts, and influence districts? A crossover  
7 district is one in which a large minority group may  
8 elect a candidate of its choice with help from voters  
9 of the majority group.

10           A coalition district brings multiple racial  
11 or language minority groups together to elect a  
12 candidate of their choice.

13           An influence district allows a group to  
14 influence an election outcome without being the  
15 majority population in a district.

16           These new state law requirements come into  
17 play only after compliance with federal law and U.S.  
18 and state constitutional requirements on  
19 redistricting.

20           In addition, the law ensures transparency by  
21 requiring public hearings across the state, one of  
22 which we are having here right now. The hearings will  
23 provide a space for residents to share their thoughts  
24 on the redistricting process, a key component to

1 creating a map that best represents the people of  
2 Illinois.

3 At the end of the presentation, we will  
4 display an e-mail address on the screen where you can  
5 submit your ideas for consideration. The committee is  
6 also accepting written testimony and documentation  
7 today.

8 So now that we've covered the redistricting  
9 process, let's look at census data that will be used  
10 to draw new districts. All the maps that you are  
11 going to see are drawn by using census blocks, which  
12 is the smallest level of geography the Census Bureau  
13 uses to report population data.

14 As of the 2010 census, the total population  
15 of the state of Illinois is 12,830,632 as compared to  
16 the state's 2000 total population of 12,419,293, an  
17 increase of about 410,000. The counties with the  
18 largest population by percentage increase since 2000  
19 are Boone, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, and Will Counties.

20 Demographically speaking, Illinois has seen  
21 a lot of change over the past decade. The white  
22 population has risen statewide by 0.6 percent to  
23 8,167,753. Illinois's African American population has  
24 fallen statewide by 0.6 percent to 1,832,924.



1 Illinois Hispanic population though has risen  
2 statewide by 32.5 percent to a total of 2,027,578.  
3 Illinois's Asian population has also risen statewide  
4 by 38.6 percent to 580,586.

5 Now let's have a look at the  
6 Champaign-Urbana-Savoy area. In 2000, the area's  
7 population was 117,357, gaining 12,228 people over the  
8 last decade. In the last ten years, the area's  
9 population has increased to 129,585 people in the  
10 area.

11 The 2010 census reports that the African  
12 American population is 19,609, an increase of 3,006  
13 people from the 2000 census.

14 The Hispanic population in the  
15 Champaign-Urbana-Savoy area was 7,473 at the end of  
16 the 2000 census. That's an increase of 3,200 people  
17 from the 2000 census.

18 And the Asian population increased to  
19 16,730, an increase of 6,001 people.

20 Thank you very much for attending today's  
21 hearing and sharing your thoughts and opinions with  
22 us. If you have any comments, you can email us at  
23 [ilredistricting@gmail.com](mailto:ilredistricting@gmail.com) or visit our web site  
24 [www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting](http://www.ilhousedems.com/redistricting) for more

1 information. Thanks.

2 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Okay. We're  
3 ready to begin, and we're going to start with Laurel  
4 Prussing, Mayor, City of Urbana, oral testimony.

5 Why don't you come up and sit at the  
6 witness table. You can begin. They want everybody to  
7 have equal time. You can go ahead.

8 MS. PRUSSING: Thank you for having this  
9 hearing. I appreciate your video presentation. I  
10 think that was excellent.

11 Redistricting is something that's really  
12 changed my life. I started out on the Champaign  
13 County Board in 1972, just after county boards were  
14 reorganized according to what was then called One Man,  
15 One Vote. Up until that time, no woman had ever  
16 served on the Champaign County Board and no African  
17 Americans and no Asians and no Hispanics.

18 It all changed in 1972. I was one of the  
19 first three women elected. Three of us got elected  
20 that year. I think the County Board has been much  
21 more representative as a result of this historic  
22 decision by the Supreme Court and then the  
23 implementation in the Illinois Constitution.

24 As for the current redistricting issue,

1 historically, Urbana and Champaign have been in the  
2 same district. But when I ran for State  
3 Representative in 1992, there had been a new  
4 redistricting, which kind of split up the cities.

5 I ran in a district that had a lot of rural  
6 areas. I had a lot of Ford County as well as part of  
7 Urbana and a little bit of Champaign. I won that  
8 election by, I think it was 34 votes. It was drawn to  
9 be won by a Republican, but I won it.

10 By 1994, in the great disaster for  
11 Democrats, the great victory of the Republicans, I  
12 lost that seat.

13 Then on the next redistricting, it was again  
14 drawn to include Champaign and Urbana. I think that  
15 when you're talking about a community of interest,  
16 that is a very logical way to draw the map; so I would  
17 urge you to keep that. I know you've got to make it a  
18 little bit smaller.

19 I also think the Senate District is very  
20 good with Danville and Urbana and Champaign. I know  
21 that's going to have to be reduced too for population.

22 When it comes to the congressional district,  
23 at one point, we did have Decatur in this district.  
24 Right now, it's a gigantic district that goes way down

1 to southern Illinois. I hope you will also consider a  
2 community of interest there and maybe keep the urban  
3 areas together. Thank you very much.

4 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you. Do we  
5 have any questions of this witness?

6 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you, Mayor, for  
7 coming today. For those of us around here who live  
8 here, we understand Champaign-Urbana being a community  
9 of interest, when you say that.

10 For the community members who aren't from  
11 here, could you describe sort of the joint  
12 philosophical goals or concerns you see in your  
13 community, some of the things you look to that maybe,  
14 for example, communities just to the north or the  
15 south may have a difference of opinion on. Could you  
16 get into a little more detail in your testimony about  
17 why it is so important to keep Champaign and Urbana  
18 together.

19 MS. PRUSSING: Urbana and Champaign  
20 historically have worked together -- in this county  
21 actually, we have a high degree of intergovernmental  
22 cooperation among the jurisdictions within Champaign  
23 County. I think sometimes the public doesn't realize  
24 that.

1           If you want an example of the cooperation  
2 between the two cities, it was in 1867 when the Mayor  
3 of Urbana led the effort to get the University of  
4 Illinois located here. And the two cities, the  
5 citizens of this area worked together to bring the  
6 university here; so certainly one of the unifying  
7 factors is our great interest in higher education:  
8 University of Illinois and Parkland College. I think  
9 you're not going to find any area that is more  
10 interested in higher education than this area.

11           And we worked together on road projects. We  
12 have joint meetings and we -- everybody works together  
13 so that we're not competing with each other. We set  
14 priorities, and everybody gets their fair share rather  
15 than going after each other. It's worked very well.

16           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Is it safe to say that  
17 for Champaign-Urbana, higher education is the goose  
18 that laid the golden egg?

19           MS. PRUSSING: I think people here have  
20 always been very progressive. Clark Robinson  
21 Griggs, who was Urbana Mayor and then a legislator who  
22 organized that whole effort, went around and talked to  
23 all his fellow legislators. Different people had  
24 different goals for their community. His goal was

1 higher education. I think people saw that that was  
2 very important.

3 It was Abraham Lincoln that signed the  
4 legislation that created land grant universities. So  
5 it's very fitting that we have a land grant university  
6 where he used to practice law.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: As regards your  
8 community of interest, this community deserves strong  
9 representation as regards higher education. That's  
10 basically your --

11 MS. PRUSSING: Right. We appreciate that  
12 our representatives, including you -- you're from  
13 Mahomet, but you help out too. I think that  
14 throughout Champaign County we've had a very good  
15 working relationship with our representatives. I know  
16 Bill Black was a great promoter of the University of  
17 Illinois. The whole community has been very  
18 forward-looking, always. That's why we have the  
19 university here.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Other questions  
22 from committee members? Seeing none, thank you so  
23 much for your testimony.

24 Next up: William Black for oral testimony,

1 a man who needs no introduction. Please spell your  
2 name for the record.

3 MR. BLACK: W-i-l-l-i-a-m B-l-a-c-k.

4 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: You may proceed.

5 MR. BLACK: Thank you for your kindness.

6 It's good to be with all of you. I miss working with  
7 you.

8 I had a good time in Springfield yesterday  
9 going to the Governor Edgar Symposium where we spent  
10 an hour and 20 minutes last night in the basement of  
11 the Abraham Lincoln Library because of the tornado  
12 that was supposedly somewhere in Springfield.

13 Most people, unfortunately, in Illinois and  
14 perhaps many of you in the audience don't really grasp  
15 the importance of the task of redrawing legislative  
16 districts. I've criticized this process for a number  
17 of years. And in the interest of fairness, both  
18 parties will be given an opportunity to maximize their  
19 possibilities of controlling one or both chambers by  
20 manipulating the map.

21 It's not that one party has a monopoly on  
22 trying to do that. I've served under three maps. My  
23 home county of Vermilion, which I think is a county  
24 that would -- anybody, if you know the history -- and

1 by the way, the locating of the University of Illinois  
2 in Champaign-Urbana is one of the most interesting  
3 political chapters in American history. It was not  
4 located here out of the goodness of somebody's heart,  
5 nor was it a unified effort that everybody applauded.  
6 It was a highly politicized effort that located the  
7 University of Illinois here.

8           And for years, when the University would  
9 fight or the community of Champaign-Urbana would fight  
10 with the University, I had a standing offer. They  
11 could move it to Danville any time, and we would  
12 gladly welcome the university. But that would be  
13 impossible today.

14           My home county of Vermilion for 30 years has  
15 been split in half. It is an agrarian county. At one  
16 time, it probably had 20,000 coal miners living and  
17 working in Vermilion County.

18           When I first went into office in the '80s,  
19 it was under a Democrat map that had split Vermilion  
20 in half, Danville south through Edgar County, which I  
21 didn't think at the time was a real -- while it was  
22 contiguous, I don't think there was a lot of community  
23 interest in that map.

24           It was drawn because it was considered that



1 if you took southern Vermilion County, which was at  
2 one time where most of the coal miners, the United  
3 Mine Workers, lived, it would tend to trend more  
4 democratic; and going down into Edgar County into  
5 Paris would tend to trend more democratic.

6 If you included the northern part of  
7 Vermilion County, where at one time Grant Township was  
8 an overwhelming Republican township, that could skew  
9 the map the other way.

10 Under the Democrat map, I went south down to  
11 Paris, Illinois. And under the Republican map in the  
12 '90s, I went north, Danville north. But southern  
13 Vermilion County was cut off again and put into a  
14 southern district. It went north into Watseka and  
15 parts of Iroquois County, which was obviously a much  
16 more favorable Republican map.

17 The map I currently serve under again  
18 divides Vermilion County in half, comes into western  
19 Champaign County.

20 Nobody can really see this; but if you can  
21 get a copy, you need to look at these maps very, very  
22 carefully. By the stroke of a pin, you can turn a  
23 district that you might consider to be a competitive  
24 district into a noncompetitive district, very easily,

1 very easily.

2 That's why I would urge the Committee -- and  
3 echoing what Representative Rose said -- in the  
4 interests of transparency, I would hope that you have  
5 hearings after you deliberate and come up with a map,  
6 that you come back and let people take a look at it.

7 It's awfully hard sometimes to understand  
8 just where those lines are. I had 148 residential  
9 properties in the Village of Onarga. It took me a  
10 year to figure out where those 148 parcels were  
11 because they were not contiguous. You would go down a  
12 block and then skip two blocks, and then you would  
13 have another block. I had an apartment complex that  
14 was literally divided in half. And that was under a  
15 Republican map.

16 So I guess my question would be: Do you  
17 have any intention of having hearings after you create  
18 a map so that people can actually look at it and make  
19 last-minute comments if they think it's fair or not  
20 fair or suggestions for change?

21 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Let me say that  
22 it's probably impossible for us to figure out what  
23 we'll need to do down the road. But we certainly are  
24 open to -- we're here. This is my first redistricting

1 hearing. We want to hear from everybody that comes.  
2 I appreciate your comments. We will do whatever is  
3 expedient for this process.

4 MR. BLACK: And I appreciate that. For the  
5 audience's benefit, Illinois, I think, remains the  
6 only state in the country who does redistricting in a  
7 certain way. Now, it doesn't have to be done this  
8 year because the Democrats control the House, the  
9 Senate, and the gubernatorial office.

10 Had there been a Republican Governor elected  
11 in the previous election, then what you would probably  
12 see in Illinois is: The House and Senate would agree  
13 on a map. The Republicans would not. The Governor  
14 would veto the map.

15 I think we're the only state left that does  
16 this. And I've been through two of these. You meet  
17 in the House chamber or somewhere. One year we met at  
18 the old State Capitol. And you draw something out of  
19 a hat. You draw a die, or you a draw a card that says  
20 "Democrat" or "Republican."

21 Whoever wins that draw -- the Secretary of  
22 State makes the draw. Once it was out of a crystal  
23 bowl. Once it was out of a top hat that allegedly  
24 belonged to Abraham Lincoln. But I noticed it said

1 "Made in China" when I looked at it later; so I don't  
2 think that was true. But whoever wins that draw, then  
3 that party draws the map. And, again, I've been very  
4 critical of that.

5 It never got out of the Rules Committee, but  
6 I've introduced legislation for years to do a  
7 different process like the state of Iowa uses, where  
8 legislature has a very limited input into it.

9 You plug the Census data into a computer  
10 that is very sophisticated. It draws a map. You get  
11 a little bit of time to look at it and tweak it, but  
12 that's the map. That's the map. That bill never got  
13 out of committee.

14 Let me ask you another question: How much  
15 political data do you think will go into creating the  
16 map? Does anybody have an idea? I can tell you that  
17 in the past, there's been a lot of political data that  
18 ended up in a map.

19 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Again, former  
20 representative, we're at the beginning stages of  
21 collecting data. I mean, we have to define 118  
22 districts. This is at the beginning of the process.  
23 It is our intent to have as much input from people all  
24 across the state as possible so that we can take that

1 into consideration.

2 MR. BLACK: I hope you give that great  
3 consideration. And if you follow the outline -- and I  
4 join the Mayor in thanking you for that presentation.

5 One of the situations in Illinois that makes  
6 it so easy to use political data is that we maintain a  
7 closed primary. You must declare your party to vote  
8 in a primary.

9 I've been very critical of that, and I have  
10 filed legislation for -- I don't know -- eight or ten  
11 years to go to a modified open primary where you do  
12 not have to declare your party.

13 You are given two ballots or three ballots.  
14 And I know the speaker and I talked about this years  
15 ago. There's always been a concern on behalf of the  
16 two major parties that you could raid. If you were  
17 given one ballot with everybody on it, one party could  
18 raid the weakest candidates on the other. They bring  
19 up the Larouche incident back in the late '80s, I  
20 think. But that was under a closed primary, not an  
21 open primary.

22 My amendment would have simply said you can  
23 be given all of the ballots, and you mark the ballot  
24 you want. The other two ballots go into a different

1 slot than the marked ballot goes in. But there's no  
2 record of how you vote.

3 While some people say, "That would be a good  
4 idea," it never gets a chance to be voted on for  
5 rather obvious reasons. But I think with the Rutan  
6 decision, with recent lawsuits, we don't need to do  
7 that anymore.

8 The patronage system is supposed to be  
9 illegal. I'm not convinced totally that it is. But  
10 again, it's a criticism of the map making process that  
11 I've made, that I've tried to introduce legislation  
12 that I think would fix it.

13 And I know you have a very difficult job  
14 ahead of you. I hope that you maintain, as best  
15 possible, communities of interest.

16 An agrarian county does not fit into  
17 Champaign-Urbana very easily. I remember a hearing  
18 many years ago where somebody in the audience said:  
19 Well, I think Champaign-Urbana and Danville are  
20 definitely a community of interest. Former  
21 representative, now Congressman, Tim Johnson literally  
22 fell out of his chair and said, "I don't agree."

23 If you look at demographic data -- and I  
24 assume that you will -- Vermilion County is quite a

1 bit different than Champaign County. It is faced with  
2 more challenges. Thirty five years ago, when we had  
3 heavy industry in Vermilion County, we were in good  
4 shape. We had thousands of jobs. Those jobs have  
5 disappeared all over the country in the rust belt.

6 Champaign-Urbana, because of the university  
7 and because of high tech, is doing very well. They  
8 probably have more home building permits in Champaign  
9 County in a month than Vermilion County has had in the  
10 last 18 months.

11 So you have a difficult task. Having run  
12 under three different maps, I know how difficult it  
13 can be. But I have seen maps drawn where the  
14 incumbent's house was taken out of that district and  
15 moved into another district. Now, some people have  
16 actually moved to do that. I don't know that I would  
17 have been interested in doing that.

18 The current Senate district, I think, is a  
19 fairly competitive Senate District. Our current  
20 Senator tries very hard to represent Champaign-Urbana  
21 and Danville. If he were here, he would say: That's  
22 not always the easiest task that I have.

23 So I hope you use the least political data  
24 that you can and the best demographic data that you

1 can. And as a downstater, the One Man, One Vote  
2 provision is here. It's the law. We will live with  
3 it.

4 But many of us are now concerned with the  
5 population shift. Depending on how those maps are  
6 drawn up north, north of I-80 could control both  
7 houses. And all of the representatives and senators  
8 south of I-80, Democrat or Republican or Independent  
9 or Green, they could all get together south of I-80  
10 and, depending on how this map is drawn, would not be  
11 able to prevail on any given issue because the  
12 population has certainly migrated towards the north.

13 I don't envy your job. I can tell you that  
14 people want it to be a fair map. I know experts have  
15 looked at one of our Congressional Districts -- I  
16 think it's the 17th -- and said it's probably the most  
17 gerrymandered congressional districts in the United  
18 States. Both parties have had a history of  
19 gerrymandering.

20 I can tell you, when you are out going door  
21 to door, across the street can be one district; and on  
22 your side of the street is another district. And then  
23 you go down to the drug store for a cup of coffee and  
24 find out that the drug store is yet in a third



1 district.

2           When I represented a portion of Iroquois  
3 County, they were in three Senate districts and  
4 literally three and a half Representative districts;  
5 and that was a county of 35,000 people. It made it  
6 difficult, I think, for those people to know who they  
7 were to deal with.

8           You don't have an easy task. I trust that  
9 you'll do the job that needs to be done. I hope  
10 you'll be as transparent as possible. With the  
11 technology you have, I don't think we need to get into  
12 as much political data as we used to. At least we  
13 don't have to draw something out of a hat this year.  
14 Depending on how the map comes, that may be good or  
15 may not be so good.

16           I appreciate the opportunity to be with you  
17 today. I look forward to seeing the map, and I look  
18 forward to it being fair and impartial.

19           Competitive districts will make for better  
20 government. When you don't have to run in a  
21 competitive district, you can get just a little bit --  
22 lazy isn't the right word. Maybe you don't take your  
23 constituents' concerns as seriously if you're in a  
24 district that just isn't competitive.

1 I never will forget going up with Jesse  
2 White and having lunch with Jesse years ago. My  
3 district was hundreds of square miles, and Jesse could  
4 walk his district in about two and a half hours. The  
5 difference was population density.

6 I wish you the best. Thank you for the  
7 opportunity.

8 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: I know I miss  
9 your voice in the House. Just to hear it again here  
10 today is nostalgic for us. It's just too bad you  
11 didn't stick around for one more map.

12 MR. BLACK: I would have enjoyed that, as I  
13 look back on it. I have heard from a couple of people  
14 who don't miss my voice. I miss all of you, and I  
15 miss the process. I know how difficult this process  
16 can be.

17 I just urge you to be as -- if there was  
18 ever a time in Illinois history where we need a fair  
19 statesman-like map, it's this next ten years. The map  
20 you draw will basically determine who will represent  
21 this state, for the most part, in the next ten years.

22 And things are changing dramatically. I  
23 don't know how the Tea Party may think they'll be  
24 accommodated in this map. I was in the capitol

1 yesterday, and they had quite a demonstration. So  
2 there are many different groups than there were back  
3 in the '80s, many different people that you have to  
4 try and satisfy, a tremendous population shift, which  
5 will have to be accommodated.

6 I still think contiguous and community of  
7 interest is one of the most important things you can  
8 deal with. And I wish you the wisdom of Solomon  
9 because it's going to be very difficult when you do  
10 that.

11 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: We're going to do  
12 our very best.

13 MR. BLACK: I certainly hope so. Thank you  
14 very much.

15 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Questions from  
16 Committee members?

17 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: Thanks for being  
18 here, Representative Black. My entire life, I've  
19 known you as Representative Black; so we probably  
20 can't take that away from you, and I certainly don't  
21 want to. Thanks for your comments.

22 I want to explore with you maybe a concept  
23 that you've brought up that I truly believe in. It's  
24 one that, as I watched the slide show, I didn't see

1 anything on. As I look at the notes that we were  
2 given, I notice I don't see this term that you've used  
3 quite often, which is competitive districts.

4 How long were you in the House?

5 MR. BLACK: 25 years.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: 25 years. I  
7 presume, in your day, you've seen a number of  
8 different political scenarios, the outcomes, et  
9 cetera, in your time in serving.

10 Can you describe for us what you're  
11 referring to by competitive districts?

12 MR. BLACK: I always had a district that, on  
13 paper, was about a 50-50, 50-49 district.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: You're referring  
15 to --

16 MR. BLACK: Democrat-Republican. That's  
17 easy data to get because of our closed primary system.  
18 I knew, going into any election, that I had to work  
19 pretty darn hard and knocked on a lot of doors. If  
20 you do your constituent service the way it should be  
21 done, then you have an opportunity to win.

22 Let's just take a good friend of mine, Shane  
23 Cultra. While he was in the House, I think his  
24 Republican numbers were 82 percent.

1           REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: The district that  
2 I now represent.

3           MR. BLACK: Yeah, an overwhelmingly  
4 Republican district. That doesn't mean Shane was lazy  
5 and didn't mean he didn't do constituent work. But if  
6 the Democrats felt that they weren't being represented  
7 fairly, most regular Democratic organization members  
8 would look at that map and say: We could spend a  
9 million dollars in that district and not win.

10           REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: Do you know if  
11 they ever --

12           MR. BLACK: I don't think they ever made a  
13 serious effort under that district.

14           REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: I don't know that  
15 they ever run a candidate in the district that I now  
16 represent.

17           MR. BLACK: I know that there are districts  
18 in Chicago -- and I've been in many of those. I've  
19 spent time with Art Turner during a campaign season.  
20 Art didn't worry about a Republican as much as he did  
21 about a Democratic primary.

22           REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: I'm a new guy in  
23 Springfield. What's the result in Springfield of all  
24 these legislators who are serving districts for which

1 they've had little or no competition from an  
2 opposition political party?

3 MR. BLACK: Under campaign finance reform,  
4 we still haven't limited the ability of the four  
5 leaders to raise and spend money. Many of those  
6 representatives who are in noncompetitive districts  
7 and get very comfortable don't necessarily have to  
8 have four, five, six fund raisers, don't necessarily  
9 have to knock on 15,000 doors.

10 The four leaders can come around and say:  
11 You've done a good job. I'm going to give you \$40,000  
12 for your campaign. Your campaign fund at the last  
13 reporting period has \$100,000 in it.

14 The chance of you getting a serious opponent  
15 from another party is diminished to the point where  
16 the parties would look at it and say it's not a  
17 competitive district. So why go to all the time,  
18 effort, expense, and energy to knock out somebody who  
19 is in a district that is overwhelmingly Democrat or  
20 overwhelmingly Republican.

21 You can keep the House and the Senate  
22 looking very similar for a ten-year period. And I'm  
23 not sure that that serves the public interest as well  
24 as somebody who, every two years in the House or

1 whatever the schedule is in the Senate, who realizes  
2 that they have to go out and really work to get  
3 reelected.

4 They also begin to realize that you just  
5 can't vote the way your leader tells you to and go  
6 home and be reelected, because maybe the people you're  
7 representing don't agree with this particular  
8 position.

9 But when you're in a very comfortable  
10 district and the leader says, "Don't worry about it,  
11 I'm going to take care of your financial needs" -- I  
12 used to say, on any given day, the leadership has such  
13 power that you could probably introduce a bill to  
14 repeal the law of gravity; and it could get 65 votes.

15 There are people who are so comfortable that  
16 they wouldn't ask a question: Why do we want to  
17 repeal the Law of Gravity or what is the law of  
18 gravity? It would just be relayed to staff: This is  
19 our position. We want to repeal the law of the  
20 gravity. Then your press people will bring you a  
21 piece of paper explaining why you wanted to repeal the  
22 Law of Gravity.

23 It does not make for a truly debatable  
24 General Assembly where you're trying to get the best

1 answer and the best policy.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: It seems the very  
3 parties who drew those maps are the ones whose  
4 interests are most protected by the results.

5 MR. BLACK: There's no question about that.  
6 And both parties are guilty. I hope that maybe the  
7 next time we do this, the General Assembly will pass a  
8 Constitutional Amendment and change, because many  
9 states now have removed the political influence to an  
10 appreciable extent.

11 I've had people tell me: "You can't adopt  
12 the Iowa system en toto." I understand that. Iowa is  
13 a different demographic state than Illinois. But  
14 there are states that are plugging in  
15 majority-minority districts, plugging in some census  
16 data. The computer draws the map, and both parties  
17 hate it. I figure that must be a pretty good map.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: To close my  
19 questions/comments to you, the overwhelming comment I  
20 am hearing from you is that we need to have  
21 competitive districts. That's something I hope this  
22 committee takes back.

23 I agree with you that there's a bit of  
24 window dressing here when we're having these public



1 hearings with no maps to consider. But when I hear  
2 things like communities of interest and I look at  
3 Champaign-Urbana, maybe Savoy, as a potential  
4 community of interest and look at the map we have  
5 today, Naomi's district contains most of  
6 Champaign-Urbana.

7 But, quite honestly, look at the west and  
8 southwest side of Champaign, and what do we have? We  
9 have a lopped-off piece of town, this community of  
10 interest, that I think many of the people in this room  
11 think we need to make sure has a voice in Springfield.

12 All that we've done with the map that's in  
13 place today is lopped off a bunch of Republican votes,  
14 packed them into a district that runs from here to  
15 Watseka and Pontiac, and said: Let's leave all of  
16 those Republicans there so that we can have a less  
17 competitive district here. And to me, that's just  
18 wrong.

19 MR. BLACK: I hope that eventually will  
20 change. Everybody says Champaign-Urbana is a  
21 community of interest. Now that I'm 70, I've been  
22 coming over here for 45, 50 years with my dad or now  
23 on my own to see Illinois football and basketball  
24 games.

1 I dearly love my alma mater, but I can  
2 remember times when Champaign-Urbana couldn't agree on  
3 anything. They have not always been a community of  
4 interest.

5 I'm very young, but I think the last vote  
6 for them to combine into one city resulted in letters  
7 to the editor and things -- good grief, you'd think  
8 they hated each other. But they are similar. And I  
9 think much of that is due to the University of  
10 Illinois.

11 It's been a tremendous benefit to the  
12 communities of Champaign-Urbana and the medical  
13 facilities that you have here. Depending on what the  
14 government does with Health Alliance, I may come to  
15 Champaign-Urbana for medical care or may have to drive  
16 to Springfield. We'll see how that works too.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: Thank you.

18 MR. BLACK: Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Representative  
20 Rose.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you,  
22 Representative Black, for your testimony. I want to  
23 just follow up on a couple of things.

24 Inherent in that competitive district

1 concept is a notion -- and I think you hit the nail on  
2 the head when you mentioned Representative Turner.  
3 The incentive then is to run to the right or to the  
4 left rather than to the middle and compromise. That's  
5 what you get when you have a heavily weighted system.  
6 Is that a fair analysis?

7 MR. BLACK: I think anybody who has really  
8 followed Illinois politics -- and I don't particularly  
9 think that's a pejorative term -- if you prefer,  
10 Illinois government -- in the last 15 years,  
11 compromise has become a four-letter word.

12 Debate is what I was asked to do, and I love  
13 to debate. In the last few years, I've noticed some  
14 of the debate becomes personal. The animosities  
15 become stronger.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: You would attribute  
17 that to this noncompetitive system?

18 MR. BLACK: I think you can trace a great  
19 deal of that back. When you have people who feel very  
20 safe in their next election because of either  
21 financial support from the leader or that the district  
22 is so solid, they don't have to worry about  
23 compromise; they don't have to worry about seeking the  
24 best solution. I think it's harmed the state. I

1 really do.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: And to go back to your  
3 original statements. By the way, I concur with you.  
4 But to go back to your original opening statement, you  
5 talked about how Vermilion County was cut into two.  
6 That notion can be taken down to a precinct level as  
7 well.

8 MR. BLACK: Absolutely.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: One of the problems is  
10 you are getting into split precincts. Have you ever  
11 had any split precincts in any of the times that  
12 you've run?

13 MR. BLACK: Oh, a number of them. When you  
14 start dividing counties and start dividing small  
15 communities, there's very little way around that; and  
16 I don't always understand that.

17 To most people, this is a political  
18 exercise. We're going to do whatever we want to do,  
19 and nobody is going to listen to them anyway. They  
20 don't care.

21 They don't care until they call Chapin Rose  
22 for a stop sign or a speed limit or Jason Barickman or  
23 Karen Yarbrough for an idea that they have and have to  
24 be told: "Well, I no longer represent your area."

1 "What do you mean you no longer represent my  
2 area?"

3 "Well, I go from Mahomet to Macomb now."

4 "Oh, when did that happen, and how did that  
5 happen?"

6 I would get ten calls a week from Hoopeston,  
7 and I hadn't been in the Hoopeston area in ten years.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Let me pick up on  
9 something else you said about the agricultural  
10 community of interest.

11 You've been around here your whole life,  
12 basically. I appreciate what you said about sometimes  
13 Champaign-Urbana, you know, doesn't necessarily agree  
14 and sometimes they do and everything else.

15 Really when you look at CU,  
16 Champaign-Urbana, kind of being united by the  
17 University of Illinois higher education, that is kind  
18 of a leading jobs sector, community of interest. From  
19 an economic jobs perspective, it's what charges the  
20 economy.

21 Everything else around it is kind of  
22 agricultural, whether it's counties, whole counties,  
23 or even within Champaign County but just outside of  
24 Champaign-Urbana. You used to represent part of

1 Champaign County. You really end up with a different  
2 community of interest there, don't you?

3 MR. BLACK: There's no question about that.  
4 Let me just use one example. When Governor  
5 Blagojevich -- and what a delightful period of time  
6 that was, if you'll allow me an observation.

7 Shortly after he was elected, they got the  
8 idea that they would put sales tax on implements of  
9 husbandry, tractors and combines. I remember many of  
10 us downstate asked for a meeting. The Governor wasn't  
11 there, but his key policy people were.

12 I said, "No agrarian state charges sales tax  
13 on tractors and combines and implements of husbandry."  
14 And thank goodness we had the UAW helping us because  
15 of John Deere in the Quad Cities.

16 I won't say his name, but he said: "Well,  
17 it's ridiculous. These things cost \$250,000,  
18 \$400,000. That's a tremendous amount of sales tax  
19 money that we're losing."

20 And I said: "Well, you can do that; but  
21 farmers in my district will go to Indiana, go to Iowa,  
22 or they will order it and have it delivered. They  
23 won't pay the sales tax. So all you hurt are your  
24 implement dealers in Illinois and will have some

1 impact on John Deere in the Quad Cities."

2 This man looked at me like: You poor dumb  
3 downstate innocent. "Well, Bill when they bring them  
4 back to the state and title and license it, we got  
5 them."

6 We don't title and license implements of  
7 husbandry, and no agricultural state would even  
8 consider it. But this gentleman lived all his life in  
9 Chicago.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I went through the  
11 same experience; but the calls I got from those  
12 constituents, those agriculture communities of  
13 interest, were not from Champaign-Urbana folks. They  
14 were from the outlying areas.

15 MR. BLACK: When I visited people in Chicago  
16 and we get out in the district, I asked Art once: Can  
17 I ask somebody where they get milk, where they get  
18 bacon? So I did that.

19 They said: What's wrong with you? You go  
20 to Dominick's. They didn't connect that those of us  
21 in farm areas produce and develop and create a lot of  
22 things that they use.

23 And even though the agrarian society has  
24 changed, agriculture is still a key component of the

1 economy of the state of Illinois. It's something  
2 that, as we become more urbanized and two and three  
3 generations removed from the farm, we tend to forget.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Representative  
6 Jakobsson.

7 REPRESENTATIVE JAKOBSSON: This is a  
8 comment. We talked a lot about communities of  
9 interest and keeping them together or not. And then  
10 there was a fairly lengthy discussion on  
11 Champaign-Urbana and that it's not all the same  
12 district.

13 We have to remember that we do need to stay  
14 by the guidelines of the population district.

15 MR. BLACK: Oh, I understand that.

16 REPRESENTATIVE JAKOBSSON: Even for the  
17 audience, districts have to be similar in population;  
18 so it isn't always possible to put two cities together  
19 in the same district. And sometimes there does have  
20 to be a decision made that part of one city is not  
21 going to be in the same district as another. I just  
22 wanted to clarify that.

23 MR. BLACK: With your population growth, it  
24 will now be impossible. And with the tremendous



1 growth in Asian Americans or Pacific Rim people, this  
2 could create a real problem in your map. Twenty years  
3 ago, it was literally not even on the register; and  
4 today it's a significant part of the population.

5 REPRESENTATIVE JAKOBSSON: I just wanted to  
6 make that comment.

7 MR. BLACK: I'm glad you did. I just wish  
8 Danville was 120,000 and we had that problem. But now  
9 that I'm on the City Council, I can assure you that  
10 we'll be 120,000 in just a matter of time.

11 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you so  
12 much.

13 MR. BLACK: We're going to annex everybody  
14 that we can.

15 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thanks so much  
16 for your testimony.

17 Next up, we're going to have folks from the  
18 Champaign County Board: Michael Richards, Alan Nudo  
19 and Steve Moser.

20 Okay. State your name for the record.

21 MR. RICHARDS: I'm Michael Richards. I'm  
22 Deputy Board Chair for Champaign County.

23 MR. MOSER: I'm Steve Moser. I live east of  
24 Urbana in a rural district. I'm the last Republican

1 chairman in this county, and I've been on the Board  
2 for 18 1/2 years.

3 MR. NUDO: I'm Alan Nudo, Champaign County  
4 Board District 3 in southwest Champaign.

5 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Do all of you  
6 have testimony? Why don't you start, and spell your  
7 name for the record, please.

8 MR. RICHARDS: Michael Richards,  
9 M-i-c-h-a-e-l R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s.

10 I will be under five minutes, just so  
11 everybody doesn't think it's going to be like the last  
12 testimony. I'll just keep it fairly brief.

13 I think that, the most we can, we should  
14 keep communities together. There's been, in the past,  
15 maps where Champaign and Urbana -- and I represent the  
16 City of Champaign on the board -- Champaign and Urbana  
17 have been put with outlying areas, stretching into  
18 extra counties. I think there's competing communities  
19 of interest.

20 To the best it's possible, I think  
21 Champaign-Urbana and Savoy should be kept together in  
22 a House seat. It's not completely possible, just like  
23 it's not possible for that to be one Senate district.

24 I agree with Representative Barickman. I

1 think, to the best possible, Champaign-Urbana, Savoy,  
2 and, as much as possible, the rest of Champaign  
3 County, including the southwestern and western city of  
4 Champaign and unincorporated Champaign areas that are  
5 in his district, which is Livingston and Iroquois  
6 County base, should be together with the rest of  
7 Champaign-Urbana in that Senate district.

8 Now, unfortunately, Champaign-Urbana cannot  
9 be its own congressional district. With the current  
10 map, Champaign-Urbana and Danville are in with rural  
11 areas going for at least 100 miles north and at least  
12 50 miles south. Even though we have geographic  
13 proximity, there's not necessarily communities of  
14 interest there.

15 Champaign-Urbana and Danville share much  
16 more in common with surrounding communities of  
17 interest such as Decatur, Springfield, Bloomington,  
18 Peoria, Kankakee, or Joliet in ethnic composition and,  
19 basically, in economic base. Many of those areas are  
20 based in higher education or white collar jobs, like  
21 service. Many of those areas still have industrial  
22 bases. Champaign-Urbana has a very large Kraft plant  
23 in my district that I'm very proud of.

24 As we've heard, that's just not necessarily

1 similar, and maybe it's expecting too much to have  
2 some of those areas in with some rural areas, which  
3 could possibly be ignored.

4 Rural areas have their own concerns with an  
5 agricultural economy, figuring out their school  
6 boards. They have different issues. We don't want  
7 anybody to particularly get a short shrift on that.  
8 That's my testimony on that.

9 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you. Next.  
10 Please spell your first and last name.

11 MR. MOSER: Steve, S-t-e-v-e, Moser,  
12 M-o-s-e-r.

13 I want to echo what Bill Black said about  
14 concerns of the agricultural community in this county  
15 and probably all over the state of Illinois.

16 The difficulty that I've had representing a  
17 rural district for 18 1/2 years has not been getting  
18 reelected. I was one of those people that, if I lost  
19 a primary, I was gone. If I didn't have a primary, I  
20 was pretty much guaranteed I'm going to be there again  
21 the next time. And I don't think that's the way a map  
22 should be drawn.

23 I ran in 1992 under a Republican-drawn map  
24 for Champaign County. In 2000, the Democrats took the

1 board because of population changes and a lot of other  
2 things that entered into it.

3 They drew a map in 2002 that was just as  
4 gerrymandered as the Republican map was in '92. They  
5 went to the front door of one of the Republican  
6 representatives that would have been in a Democrat  
7 district and made it competitive, and they threw her  
8 into one where there was no problem for her to get  
9 reelected.

10 This is stifling the kind of people that you  
11 want to get on a county board or a state legislator or  
12 a state senator.

13 I haven't lost my desire for politics, but  
14 I'm just plain tired of the bickering that's gone on  
15 in the 18 1/2 years I've been there. It's on both  
16 sides as to who can one-up the other one. It's  
17 disgusting in this county and this state.

18 I own property in Florida, and I've been  
19 spending time down there the last six winters. And  
20 ever since the Blagojevich episode started, somebody  
21 can come to my door; and I say, "Illinois is up to it  
22 again." And it's all over CNN and Fox and MSNBC about  
23 the corruption in this state.

24 I'm telling you that with a population north

1 of Route 80, we know we're going to have more  
2 representation up there from suburban people that are  
3 going to have to understand the importance of  
4 agriculture in this state.

5 I look at this map; and you have got Wabash,  
6 Lawrence, Crawford, and Clark all in one district.  
7 And I know that's going to get worse because the  
8 population in southern Illinois is dropping. It's not  
9 going up fast enough north of Route 80 to keep up with  
10 all the collar counties and the Yorkville area where  
11 you've had tremendous growth.

12 I would hope you'd consider agriculture as a  
13 community of interest when you draw this map. We  
14 heard it again this year about sales tax on farm  
15 equipment.

16 Taxes in Illinois going up like they are are  
17 going to drive people out of here, whether it's a  
18 business or an individual, just because of what it  
19 costs to run a business here. I farmed here for 40  
20 years. It used to be fun, but it isn't anymore.

21 I can quite frankly tell you that I think  
22 agriculture is under assault from the EPA in  
23 Washington and Springfield and everywhere else. The  
24 regulation is breaking our backs. We need

1 representation in Springfield with representatives  
2 that understand that.

3 I own some land east of Urbana. Naomi's  
4 always got one side of the road, and Chad Hays has got  
5 the other one. It was three miles out in the country.  
6 I don't know why they drew the line where they did,  
7 but I am not going to call Naomi because she doesn't  
8 respond to what I need and Chad Hays does.

9 So I just hope you consider this: There is  
10 so much of Illinois that is south of Route 80. We're  
11 just not getting the representation we need. If it  
12 wasn't for the Illinois Farm Bureau, I'm not sure how  
13 we'd be represented in Springfield as well as we are.

14 MR. NUDO: Alan, A-l-a-n, Nudo, N-u-d-o.

15 Thank you Representative Yarbrough for  
16 allowing us to speak today.

17 My testimony speaks to planting the seed to  
18 this group and to legislators in the state body to  
19 consider in the next census to do what Champaign  
20 County did this year.

21 We passed in 2010 -- Steve Beckett, a  
22 Democrat, and myself cosponsored a Redistricting  
23 Committee Resolution, which is now in the process of  
24 drawing a map. It's consists of seven citizens

1 selected by the Chair, County Board Chair, two  
2 Republicans and two Democrats. The Regional Planning  
3 Office is drawing the map with software with the help  
4 of the Commission.

5 The Commission will present up to three maps  
6 to the County Board for its approval. If a map is  
7 rejected, a second map would be requested. And if  
8 it's rejected again, a third map would be requested.

9 What I feel is important in this: The  
10 profile that we used for the resolution is the use of  
11 compact, contiguous state and federal guidelines. We  
12 also put in there, as the Iowa resolution or statute  
13 requires, that you cannot look at voting patterns.

14 My interpretation of competitive districts  
15 is different. My interpretation of a competitive map  
16 is that, based on the census, the interests, the  
17 special interests, are represented to the tune or to  
18 the percentage of what it represents in the map.  
19 Therefore, when a map is drawn, you need to represent  
20 minority, rural, and other special interest groups as  
21 close as you can to what the census said that  
22 particular time frame was.

23 If you can draw districts that allows for a  
24 competitive election to occur where representation



1 from that group is possible, that's all you can ask  
2 for.

3 Many of you know Aaron Shock. Aaron Shock  
4 -- it boils down to: When you're drawing a map for  
5 ten years, you cannot guarantee that -- you shouldn't  
6 guarantee that the incumbent is going to win.

7 In an election where maybe there's a strong  
8 presidential candidate with coattails, he may bring  
9 more Democrats or Republicans on board. You can't  
10 draw a map based on those kinds of conditions.

11 All you can do is draw a competitive map  
12 that represents the census. The only way you do that  
13 is to take out the political part of it as Iowa did.

14 So I would urge you, this group, to take a  
15 look at what Iowa, the state of Washington, and the  
16 state of Arizona did for future censuses. This is a  
17 profile in courage because you have to buck the party.  
18 You have to buck the incumbents, and you have to do  
19 what's right for the citizens. That's what we're here  
20 for.

21 One addition: You might want to go to term  
22 limits too, because I think that would definitely  
23 ensure that you get fair maps drawn. That's my  
24 testimony. Thank you very much.

1                   REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you,  
2 gentlemen, for your testimony here. Do we have  
3 questions or comments?

4                   REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: It's actually not so  
5 much a question as it is an observation. The three of  
6 you at this table really present kind of the different  
7 communities of interest that Champaign County  
8 represents.

9                   County Board member Richards is from the  
10 central part of the city, a more urban, younger  
11 community of interest that's going to be thinking  
12 about things from one point of view.

13                   How far do you live from Urbana, Steve?

14                   MR. MOSER: Three miles.

15                   REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: But clearly a  
16 different community of interest, a different thought  
17 process, a different way of looking at things.

18                   And then County Board member Nudo, you are  
19 from the southwest Champaign business community.

20                   It's interesting. This is why these have to  
21 be done correctly, because you could end up really  
22 disenfranchising a lot of different communities of  
23 interest if it's not done right.

24                   I thought it was interesting that the three

1 of you came together on this panel pointing out, just  
2 within one county, all the different things you can  
3 look at with respect to this criteria. Thank you.

4 It was more of an observation.

5 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Other comments?

6 Thank you, gentlemen.

7 Next up we're going to hear from the  
8 Champaign County branch of the NAACP, Reverend Troy A.  
9 Burks and Patricia Avery. I would like to have the  
10 two of you come up.

11 First spell your first and last name.

12 MS. AVERY: Patricia Avery, P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a  
13 A-v-e-r-y.

14 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: You may proceed  
15 with your testimony.

16 MS. AVERY: Well, listening to the previous  
17 speakers, I have to say that I don't have as much  
18 experience as Representative Black or Mr. Moser.  
19 Those three gentlemen that just left here have been  
20 colleagues of mine. I served on the County Board  
21 during the 2000 Redistricting; so I really had some  
22 knowledge about what they spoke about in terms of how,  
23 on both sides, there has been some gerrymandering done  
24 of the maps.

1           We are here today to speak to the Commission  
2    about being very fair and impartial in terms of  
3    redistricting our state maps.

4           I have a personal story, because I've heard  
5    a lot of those personal stories about how these things  
6    happen. In 2000, in terms of what Mr. Moser said,  
7    there's a map drawn where you go right up to someone's  
8    door and actually pull that individual out into some  
9    district where their interests won't be represented.  
10   People won't be calling.

11           I, for one, was one of those persons where a  
12   map actually went up to my door and actually put me  
13   into an area in which I'm sure I wouldn't be getting  
14   any of those calls either. So it really is important.  
15   My prospects of winning was diminished quite a bit.

16           Those are remarks that I have to say that  
17   are off my written remarks, and I probably should go  
18   to them. I want to go back to those because my  
19   president is sitting here.

20           I am the first vice president of the NAACP.  
21   I'm here with my president, Reverend Troy A. Burks.

22           REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Do you have  
23   written testimony to hand in to us?

24           MS. AVERY: I can hand it in, but I only

1 have my copy; and I'd like to read from those, if you  
2 don't mind.

3 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: That's fine.

4 MS. AVERY: I'm also the Executive Director  
5 of an organization called Champaign-Urbana Area  
6 Project. That organization serves at-risk youth and  
7 families. On an average, we serve about 150 African  
8 American families.

9 Ten years ago, as I said, I served on the  
10 County Board and had the opportunity to be involved in  
11 the redistricting. I learned the importance then of  
12 having a map that's compact and contiguous and one  
13 that is representative of various interest groups.

14 As I stated earlier, I also learned that  
15 gerrymandering tactics appear in maps that attempt to  
16 dilute the minority vote, where lines are drawn to  
17 make it difficult, if not impossible, for candidates  
18 to win. It was truly a learning experience for me as  
19 it relates to the democratic process.

20 The NAACP and CUAP serve the same  
21 constituency. I'm here to ask that during this  
22 redistricting procedure, that this commission will  
23 keep it fair and balanced and that the lines are drawn  
24 to increase diversity, not to reduce it.

1 I've done a preliminary search from some  
2 pretty reliable sources to see if there has ever been  
3 an African American to represent the 103rd, 104th, or  
4 the 52nd Districts. So far, I've come up with none.

5 In January, the Illinois Voting Act of 2000  
6 was passed specifically to create special districts to  
7 achieve better minority representation. The Act calls  
8 for crossover districts where minority groups are  
9 large enough coupled with the majority voters to  
10 attempt to elect minority representation or at least  
11 to influence who represents us.

12 My experiences are that current district  
13 lines allow for some influence to occur. Therefore,  
14 in my estimation, not a lot has to be done to the  
15 current map.

16 I've heard about competitive redistricting  
17 and communities of interest a lot in testimony before.  
18 If that's what it takes to make sure that our  
19 districts are competitive, that they serve us well,  
20 that we have influence over people who are  
21 representing us, then I think that should be  
22 considered.

23 Currently, I think our state representatives  
24 are accessible to the people in the African American

1 community. They seem to know them.

2 When the new lines are drawn, because of  
3 Champaign County's population growth, our districts  
4 will be smaller. The lines are most likely to shift.

5 I think my colleague, Teresa Haley,  
6 President of the Springfield Branch of the NAACP,  
7 could not have said it more clearly. The NAACP wants  
8 to be sure there is no packing, stacking, and cracking  
9 going on in Illinois because, one, the law doesn't  
10 allow it and, two, we know that this commission will  
11 be fair and impartial.

12 The NAACP does not want to see any desperate  
13 gerrymandering. We want to increase our opportunity  
14 to truly have a representative democratic process, not  
15 less. And if you keep the law that was enacted in  
16 March central to the process, we should be just fine.  
17 Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you.

19 MR. BURKS: My name is Reverend Troy Burks.  
20 I'm the President of the Champaign County Branch of  
21 the NAACP.

22 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Would you spell  
23 your name for us, please?

24 MR. BURKS: T-r-o-y B-u-r-k-s.

1 I just wanted to say that I asked our first  
2 vice president to give testimony today for the  
3 Commission in regards to the redistricting map being  
4 drawn.

5 I just wanted to add that I believe that you  
6 will hear throughout the state of Illinois that the  
7 NAACP will be consistent in how they're speaking to  
8 this idea of redistricting: for fairness, openness,  
9 and inclusiveness.

10 I'm thankful to this committee for having  
11 this public hearing in regards to the redistricting  
12 and look forward to seeing a fair process throughout  
13 the making of this map.

14 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you.  
15 Questions or comments from Committee members?

16 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Welcome. Thanks for  
17 testifying. I believe, Ms. Avery, that you sold  
18 yourself short there. You were actually Chairwoman of  
19 the County Board at the time, weren't you?

20 MS. AVERY: Yes, I was.

21 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I don't want to put  
22 words in your mouth, but I think what I just heard you  
23 say was that the current district lines allow for  
24 influence. What you said was that, with very little



1 tweaking, basically to adjust for population, you  
2 think that's a good model; is that accurate?

3 MS. AVERY: That's my take on what it is. I  
4 don't have -- which you all have admitted to -- we  
5 really don't have any map to look at.

6 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: That's what I want to  
7 ask you next. I would assume your organization would  
8 support us coming back here with a map prior to a vote  
9 so you can look at it.

10 MS. AVERY: I would hope that that would  
11 happen because all I have now is the current map.

12 As I've said, we do have some influence. We  
13 do know our representatives. I can even call you. I  
14 know Shane Cultra. I, like Mr. Moser, would probably  
15 call Naomi.

16 So, yeah, I think the current map serves our  
17 interests, but I would definitely like to see what it  
18 looks like. I know we're not going to have the exact  
19 same map, but as long as it's close.

20 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Other questions  
21 or comments from Committee members?

22 (No response.)

23 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Seeing none, I  
24 have one question. Does the NAACP plan to present

1 their own map?

2 MR. BURKS: To answer that question, I  
3 haven't heard anything on the state level in regards  
4 to that, that we were going to create a map. It is my  
5 belief that if we were asked to be included in that  
6 process, that that's something that we would  
7 definitely take up.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I think it would be  
9 very helpful if we could have something from your  
10 state-wide organization. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you and  
12 thank you for your testimony.

13 Next up, we have Alan Kurtz from the  
14 Champaign County Board.

15 Can we take a five, ten minute break?

16 (Recess in proceedings.)

17 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Stephanie  
18 Holderfield, Jim Goss, Alan Kurtz.

19 Stephanie Holderfield, You may begin. Start  
20 with your name, spelling your first and last name, and  
21 then you can start with your testimony.

22 MS. HOLDERFIELD: Thank you. My name is  
23 Stephanie Holderfield, S-t-e-p-h-a-n-i-e  
24 H-o-l-d-e-r-f-i-e-l-d.

1 Thank you very much for being here today.

2 It is my pleasure that you are here listening to the  
3 requests of the people in downstate Illinois. I can't  
4 tell you how important it is that you are all taking  
5 the time to listen to the concerns of the people in  
6 Champaign County and downstate Illinois.

7 Chicago has far too long, as far as I'm  
8 concerned, decided our politics in Central Illinois;  
9 and that has to stop.

10 The Fair Map Partners where this first began  
11 were: The League of Women Voters; Better Government  
12 Association; Patrick Collins, Brad McMillan, Sheila  
13 Simon, David Hoffman and Duane Noland, who were former  
14 members of the Illinois Reform Commission; Illinois  
15 Campaign for Political Reform; Common Cause; Illinois  
16 Chamber of Commerce; Americans for Prosperity; the  
17 Illinois Alliance for Growth; Illinois Farm Bureau;  
18 Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct  
19 Organization; Protestants for the Common Good; United  
20 Power for Action and Justice; DuPage County United;  
21 and Lake County United.

22 The request for a fair map, as you all know,  
23 went to a petition. There were many, many people that  
24 requested to have transparency, a fair map that's

1 contiguous, that's representative of the people of the  
2 state of Illinois. For far too long, that has been  
3 taken for granted. It's been inappropriately drawn,  
4 and unfair to we the voters.

5 I am, of course, on the Champaign County  
6 Board. I run in District 1. Part of my district was  
7 cut out, and another portion of it was put in. Many  
8 people had come up to me and said they wanted to vote  
9 for me but they were cut out of my district. I was  
10 also told: Well, you are in District 1, and you are a  
11 slam dunk because you have primarily a Republican  
12 district.

13 Still, I'm a very competitive person, and I  
14 did not sit on my laurels. I also had a portion of  
15 Champaign in my district, and I campaigned very, very  
16 hard to win in Champaign. I did have a Democrat  
17 opponent. I did take every single precinct in my  
18 district even though I had a Democrat opponent in  
19 areas that were heavily Democrat.

20 Do I believe the way the current map is  
21 drawn is competitive and that it is fair? No, I do  
22 not.

23 I think that we have to understand,  
24 regardless of what each party may want for themselves,

1 that it's up to the voters to have the opportunity to  
2 vote for someone that is a quality candidate, that's  
3 competent, that's engaged in the process, and that  
4 wants to run and is not afraid to step up to the plate  
5 and run as a candidate.

6 Far too often, we hear: I'm not going to  
7 run because this district, the way it's drawn, I don't  
8 have a chance. I think that's inappropriate, and I  
9 think it's unfair. If we have people that understand  
10 the process, that are willing to run, everyone should  
11 be given a fair opportunity.

12 So I'm asking you to please, please, once  
13 you have the maps drawn, to present them to all of the  
14 areas that you're holding these hearings in, listen to  
15 the opinions, and please take it into consideration.  
16 Thank you very much, and I appreciate the opportunity.

17 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you for  
18 your testimony.

19 MR. KURTZ: My name is Alan Kurtz, A-l-a-n  
20 K-u-r-t-z. I am a member of the Champaign County  
21 Board, District 7. I am Chair of the Democratic  
22 Caucus. I sit on the Farm Bureau Legislative and Land  
23 Use Committees. I am Chair of the Environment and  
24 Land Use Committee for Champaign County. I also sit

1 on the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce  
2 AgriBusiness Committee and have become well versed in  
3 agriculture.

4 As you can tell from my accent, I was not  
5 born in Illinois. I come from the east coast: all  
6 concrete, all big buildings, no corn, no soybeans,  
7 only a few weeds coming up from between the bricks.  
8 I'm from Brooklyn, New York.

9 I spent 31 years here, and I can tell you  
10 I've learned an awful lot about agriculture. I  
11 respect highly the farmers and landowners in this  
12 community. And I do agree with Mr. Moser how  
13 important it is for agriculture to be represented well  
14 in Illinois and in the state legislature.

15 I was also voted on as one of the  
16 commissioners on our new nonpartisan -- supposed --  
17 redistricting committee. I was one of the Democrats  
18 voted on. I'd like to read this statement.

19 I need to refute Mr. Nudo's suggestion that  
20 the State take up this type of a commission. The  
21 Champaign County Redistricting Commission was made up  
22 of 11 commissioners, two Democrats and two Republicans  
23 from the County Board placed on the Commission to  
24 protect the interests of their respective party, and

1 seven independent and supposedly nonpartisan  
2 commissioners from the public.

3 I was extremely disappointed by the results.  
4 I was one of the few Democrats to vote for this  
5 commission. I had high hopes that this experiment,  
6 the first of its kind on a county level in Illinois  
7 and perhaps in the country, would result in a fair,  
8 nonbiased, competitive map with full public input.  
9 That simply did not occur.

10 I know about competitive districts. My  
11 competitive district, District 7, was considered one  
12 of the most and probably the most competitive district  
13 in Champaign County.

14 Well, I worked hard. I won by 62 percent.  
15 Swept every single Democrat and Republican precinct in  
16 my district. See, working hard doesn't necessarily  
17 mean a map has to be unfair. It has to be how hard  
18 you work and that people agree with your policies and  
19 principles.

20 Now, this map was produced by the Regional  
21 Planning Commission. In fact, 22 maps were brought to  
22 this commission. Not one of them were a competitive  
23 map. Every single map of those 22 were biased on one  
24 side, one party.

1           Revisions had to be made. This map split 25  
2   precincts, nine townships, five municipalities, and  
3   packed almost the entire African American community  
4   into one district, thus diluting their representation.  
5   It was a convoluted map so noncontiguous and compact  
6   that it looked like a jigsaw puzzle and was in favor  
7   heavily upon one party. It was not competitive.

8           I'm absolutely happy to have a competitive  
9   district. The importance of this commission was to  
10  bring out a competitive, nonbiased, not based on  
11  politics, but based on mean deviation, based on  
12  minority/majority, based on statistics that would make  
13  this map competitive.

14           In my estimation, this map that will go to  
15  the County Board is not. And this commission didn't  
16  really adhere to those principles. I feel, from the  
17  other side of the aisle, that this map and this  
18  commission is not something the State wants to take  
19  up. What you're doing here, this type of public  
20  input, was not what our commission had.

21           Our commission had stayed in one location,  
22  in Brookens, for the entire time that we studied these  
23  maps. We never came out into the cities, either city,  
24  or into the county. I recommended that we try and



1 have public hearings outside of Brookens. In essence,  
2 in about five weeks, we had ten people speak to us on  
3 what's the most important map change in the last ten  
4 years.

5 My goal here is to explain to you that the  
6 Redistricting Commission that was at first to be based  
7 on fair and balanced and competitive districts just  
8 didn't work.

9 MR. GOSS: My name is Jim Goss, J-i-m  
10 G-o-s-s.

11 Good afternoon. I'm a board member of the  
12 Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. We represent  
13 over 60,000 employees with almost 1,200 member  
14 businesses here. Today I'm here to speak on behalf of  
15 the Chamber.

16 As the State begins this redistricting  
17 process to rebalance the population equally, we wish  
18 to remind our elected officials that it is important  
19 to change the partisan political culture that has  
20 haunted Illinois for the last three decades. Illinois  
21 legislators have created their own safe districts that  
22 were not competitive and not fair.

23 We don't get proper representation at the  
24 business community at all. We need a map that

1 promotes fair, competitive elections and does not  
2 discourage potential candidates.

3           We think there are a lot of potential  
4 candidates out there that simply will not run because  
5 they know that -- number one, it costs a fortune to  
6 run for office, as you all know. They're not going to  
7 spend their own money and their own time when they  
8 know they have absolutely no shot at winning an  
9 election.

10           While both of our political parties have  
11 benefited over the years from the hat-drawn method or  
12 the winner-take-all approach, it has not served  
13 Illinois voters well at all.

14           We urge the General Assembly to create a  
15 system that is transparent to the public, that  
16 requires public hearings and public displays of all  
17 these maps.

18           We understand that probably right now, as we  
19 speak, the Speaker of the House has a map already  
20 drawn that we will never see. It will never be  
21 transparent. It will go to a vote, and it will pass.  
22 This does not reward the citizens of Illinois. It  
23 does not reward the business community.

24           We want district boundaries that comply to

1 all federal laws, that are contiguous and compact,  
2 that are substantially equal in population and  
3 diversity, and that follow visible geographic and  
4 municipal boundaries whenever possible.

5           It is time for our state to do the right  
6 thing. What we do now directly shapes the next ten  
7 years. And I go on record as saying they are probably  
8 the most important ten years in anyone in this room's  
9 life. We cannot think about how the maps impact us  
10 now. We have to think about our future. We need to  
11 get this right.

12           The Champaign Chamber of Commerce urges the  
13 State of Illinois to do the right thing and do it  
14 fairly for the people of Illinois, not for their  
15 political careers. Thank you for your time.

16           REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Okay. And thank  
17 you for yours. Chapin, you have a question?

18           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Ms. Holderfield  
19 brought up the Fair Map Proposal. I was the lead  
20 House sponsor of the Fair Map Proposal. That did not  
21 get anywhere in the legislature.

22           This history of the Fair Map was that the  
23 State Farm Bureau, State Chamber of Commerce, the  
24 League of Women Voters, Change Illinois, and a number

1 of different groups came together to do a petition  
2 drive to put it on the ballot separately.

3 One of the most draconian aspects of the  
4 State Constitution, which quite frankly I think has  
5 troubles with the United States Constitution with  
6 respect to this, is that it takes several hundred  
7 thousand valid signatures to get on the ballot.

8 The combined efforts of those groups got  
9 well over 100,000 signatures, but not to the draconian  
10 level required by the State Constitution. I have  
11 doubts about whether that's even lawful with respect  
12 to the United States Constitution.

13 Nonetheless, one of the main principles of  
14 that Fair Map Amendment was that you would not be  
15 using incumbent addresses when you're drawing maps; so  
16 you wouldn't know who to draw in or who to draw out.  
17 It would also only use political data to the extent  
18 necessary to comply with the U.S. Civil Rights Act and  
19 applicable Supreme Court case law.

20 I've heard two of our panelists discuss  
21 that, one directly and one sort of indirectly. I  
22 understand Mr. Kurtz' comment that he doesn't like the  
23 way the Champaign County issue is going. But you're  
24 saying we should do it differently.

1           And I guess my question to you, Mr. Kurtz,  
2 is: Should we use incumbent addresses at the state  
3 level?

4           MR. KURTZ: All I can say is that what I've  
5 experienced on this commission was hopefully a process  
6 that would allow us to see a fair and competitive map.

7           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: We're here to talk  
8 about the state map, not the congressional map.

9           MR. KURTZ: I don't understand your  
10 question. Could you expand on that, please?

11           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: The question is just:  
12 Should this map take into account incumbent addresses  
13 when it's being drawn?

14           MR. KURTZ: No.

15           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I didn't expect you  
16 would think so.

17           MR. KURTZ: What I think it should take in  
18 is equal population, contiguous and compact, and  
19 adhering to the minority/majority district without  
20 diluting that vote.

21           And, no, I'm not one for saying we should  
22 draw a map around someone's street. I'll take on any  
23 comer. Nobody scares me in my district. I will  
24 happily take on anyone that you put in. And if you

1 want to draw a map around someone else, that's okay  
2 with me. I'll be happy to go out and fight that  
3 fight.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: It's the opinion of  
5 this panel that incumbent addresses should not be  
6 used; is that accurate to each of you?

7 Let the record reflect they all indicated  
8 yes.

9 Does the same go for the use of political  
10 voting data except to the extent we have to do it?

11 MR. KURTZ: I think it's important that  
12 political data is used.

13 You have to understand that I now, most  
14 likely, will not be in my own district. I stopped at  
15 every single door in my district over that election  
16 time, and they got to know me. They knew that I cared  
17 about their feelings. I cared about their goals,  
18 their families. I cared about their children and  
19 their grandchildren, their education, and the highways  
20 and all of that in my district.

21 Now I'm going to have 11 districts in  
22 Champaign County. I'm not going to see most of those  
23 people again. I'm sorry for that. I started to build  
24 a relationship with my people.

1           Now, that doesn't mean that in my next  
2 election, the Republican can't beat me. The problem  
3 is that now I'm going to have to start all over again  
4 and introduce myself. I think it short-shifts some of  
5 our constituents.

6           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: To that point,  
7 Mr. Kurtz, one of the legislators has suggested that  
8 constituency relationship is something that should be  
9 looked at. So if you're familiar with your -- in your  
10 case, a board member but, in our case, a  
11 representative, that that's something that should be  
12 considered.

13           MR. KURTZ: Think about your district.  
14 You've built a relationship with your constituents.  
15 You've been helpful to them on a one-on-one basis. I  
16 feel the same way about my district. I don't want to  
17 lose my district, honestly.

18           I didn't vote for the 11 districts and the  
19 22 members. I cared about 27 members in our County  
20 Board because I felt we represented more minority  
21 groups who were able to represent more communities,  
22 more agriculture.

23           Now we're going down to 22. We're going to  
24 lose some representation. We're going to lose

1 representation in the minority community.

2 We're going to lose, quite possibly representation in  
3 the agriculture.

4 (Unintelligible due to overlapping voices.)

5 I would like to keep the district I have and  
6 work with those constituents.

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I do appreciate your  
8 comments about the importance of the agricultural  
9 community being its own community of interest. Thank  
10 you, Mr. Kurtz.

11 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Representative  
12 Tracy for a question.

13 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you.  
14 Mr. Kurtz, you brought up a scenario where you thought  
15 one district was drawn where the African American  
16 population would be solely contained within that limit  
17 and perhaps its representation.

18 It brought to mind a question I had as to  
19 what percentage of a particular minority you thought  
20 might be needed to elect a candidate of choice. And  
21 perhaps the NAACP might be a better one to answer  
22 that.

23 MR. KURTZ: I would defer to them. When you  
24 look at this map that is coming out of the Commission,



1 just by looking at the map itself, you can see that  
2 where there is a high concentration of African  
3 Americans, that has become one single district.  
4 Prior, we had it split up into two where they were  
5 able to have at least other representation.

6 But to me, when you pack into one district  
7 all the minority that you have on one side of our  
8 community, I don't think that's proper.

9 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: I'm just trying to  
10 think of what percentage you do think. In the  
11 existing districts, what would be the --

12 MR. KURTZ: 55 percent. And in our  
13 majority, we figured out there was, like, over 7,200  
14 registered voters in that one area.

15 The key for me is that we need to have as  
16 much representation, equal representation, from the  
17 minority community as there is in the other  
18 communities.

19 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: I'm just trying to  
20 get an idea of what percentage of a minority  
21 population you need to get a candidate --

22 MR. KURTZ: In fact, we had another map that  
23 was presented to this commission through the RPC and  
24 revised by one of the other commissioners, who is also

1 on the County Board.

2 His map had what I would call a much more  
3 contiguous mean deviation that was even more One Man,  
4 One Vote, and it gave the minority district the  
5 opportunity to have more representation. And I think  
6 that was rejected by the Commission and should  
7 absolutely be looked at, in my opinion.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Just to clarify for  
9 the record, the commission you're referring to is the  
10 Champaign County -- what is it, Mr. Kurtz?

11 MR. KURTZ: This is Champaign County.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: What is the name of  
13 the commission?

14 MR. KURTZ: The Champaign County  
15 Redistricting Commission.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: That's a local county  
17 board map . . .

18 (Unintelligible due to overlapping voices.)

19 MR. KURTZ: We're talking on two different  
20 levels. I'm speaking towards my map, but I appreciate  
21 your questions and I --

22 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: We have a court  
23 reporter. This is all going to be -- for somebody  
24 looking at this a year from now, I want to make sure

1 we are clean in our references.

2 MR. KURTZ: Okay. I'm sorry.

3 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Any other  
4 questions for these witnesses?

5 (No response.)

6 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Seeing none,  
7 thank you all for your testimony.

8 Mark Degler from the Illinois Corn Growers  
9 Coles County for oral testimony.

10 MR. DEGLER: Greetings. My name is Mark  
11 Degler, M-a-r-k D-e-g-l-e-r. My home is in Mattoon,  
12 Illinois, in Coles County. I am a farmer. My family  
13 has been producing food and fuel for the great state  
14 of Illinois and our country since 1892 in that county.  
15 We always have appreciated the work we've had to  
16 produce this food and fuel.

17 I am a member of the Coles County Farm  
18 Bureau, the Coles County Board, and I'm also a  
19 director on the Illinois Corn Growers Association.

20 I would like to mention to the Committee  
21 that, unfortunately, the confidence of the people of  
22 Illinois in the legislative process is at an all-time  
23 low. And with this fair and competitive map that I  
24 hope the Commission will draw, it is your opportunity

1 to rebuild this confidence from the ground up.

2 So even though the Fair Map Amendment  
3 sponsored by Chapin Rose did not prevail, it is my  
4 understanding that the provisions of that fair map can  
5 still be implemented by the legislature.

6 It would provide for the drawing of the  
7 General Assembly districts by a bipartisan commission.  
8 Furthermore, the maps will be drawn in a manner that  
9 prior voting data and incumbency shall not be  
10 considered, and maps shall not be drawn in favor of or  
11 discriminate against any political party or group.

12 If these provisions are implemented and a  
13 fair and competitive map drawn, your opportunity to  
14 rebuild the confidence of the people of Illinois in  
15 your process will be enhanced. Thank you to the  
16 Committee.

17 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you, sir.  
18 Are there questions for this witness?

19 (No response.)

20 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Seeing none,  
21 thank you. I understand you have a long drive home.

22 On the next panel, we have Trisha Crowley  
23 from the League of Women Voters, Lin Warfel, Karen  
24 Foster, and Shanae Dowell.

1 (Discussion held off the record.)

2 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Okay, we have  
3 Scott. How do you say your last name?

4 MR. KAIR: Kair.

5 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: And you are from  
6 the Vermilion County Democratic Party.

7 Shanae Dowell, are you also from that  
8 organization? Karen Foster, you are from the City of  
9 Champaign Council?

10 She's not here? She left. Okay.

11 Len Warfel. And you're from?

12 MR. WARFEL: Just myself.

13 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: You are just from  
14 yourself. That works. And Trisha Crowley, League of  
15 Women Voters.

16 Let's start on this end. State your name  
17 for the record and spell it.

18 MS. CROWLEY: My name is Trisha Crowley,  
19 T-r-i-s-h-a C-r-o-w-l-e-y. I'm here this morning on  
20 behalf of the Champaign County League of Women Voters.  
21 Thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts  
22 from the League of Women Voters about the 2011  
23 redistricting process.

24 Redistricting is an important and vital

1 democratic process, and it cannot be taken lightly.

2 The League is a nonpartisan political organization  
3 that encourages informed and active participation in  
4 government.

5 We work to increase understanding of policy  
6 issues and influence public policy through education  
7 and advocacy but neither support nor oppose any  
8 political party or any partisan candidate for public  
9 office.

10 The League, for many years, has promoted a  
11 set of redistricting principles as well as a process  
12 that is timely and orderly and has the following  
13 elements: a formal announced timetable; the  
14 availability of information and related data to all  
15 who wish to participate in the process; ample  
16 opportunities for expert testimony, public reaction  
17 and input into the process; and compromise among  
18 partisan representatives, which avoids partisan  
19 stalemates and which produces a map which offers  
20 voters a choice of candidates and elections.

21 The public should be allowed to see and  
22 comment on any new map that is drawn by the General  
23 Assembly at least two weeks before they are voted on  
24 by the House and the Senate in this session of the

1 General Assembly. Additionally, the General Assembly  
2 should give as much rationale as possible when  
3 describing the decisions that resulted in those maps  
4 that were drawn and presented.

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

11 If a map of a district is rationally drawn  
12 and keeps the communities and municipalities together,  
13 elected officials and their constituents can build  
14 accountable, productive working relationships.

15 The League believes that a fair and open  
16 redistricting process is one that ensures citizen  
17 participation and results in best public policy.  
18 Citizen participation is a key to maintaining and  
19 strengthening democracy in our state. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Next.

21 MS. DOWELL: Shanae Dowell, S-h-a-n-a-e  
22 D-o-w-e-l-l. I represent Women to Women for  
23 Organizing America. I'm also a local minister in  
24 Danville, Illinois. I'm here representing the

1 minority vote. I'll be just very brief.

2 I would just like to say that the minority  
3 commitments are the same as Champaign County. The  
4 population is similar to Champaign County, unlike  
5 Ford, Douglas, Edgar, and Iroquois Counties. Our  
6 social views are the same. Our religious views are  
7 the same.

8 Our desire is to go forward and not  
9 backwards. We want to be represented in the state and  
10 not forgotten about. And sometimes I think the  
11 minorities in Danville are forgotten about. So we  
12 want to be represented with a fair process on the map.  
13 Economically, we want to be represented; and we want a  
14 voice in Springfield as well.

15 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Okay. Thank you  
16 for your testimony. Next.

17 MR. KAIR: Thank you. My name is Scott Kair  
18 S-c-o-t-t K-a-i-r. I have a copy of my remarks and  
19 some supporting documentation.

20 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you. Would  
21 you hand that in to our staff? And anyone else who  
22 has written testimony, please hand it in to our staff  
23 so we can make it a part of our record.

24 MR. KAIR: My name is Scott Kair. I live at



1 1203 Sherman Street in the city of Danville, Vermilion  
2 County. It's currently in the 104th Illinois State  
3 House District. I'm a retired member of the Laborer's  
4 International Union Public Sector and a former member  
5 of the Vermilion County Board of Supervisors.

6 In the interests of disclosure, I'm also a  
7 member of the Vermilion County Democratic Party; and  
8 in 2008, it was my privilege to represent my party as  
9 an Illinois 15th Congressional District delegate to  
10 the national convention.

11 I was raised in Danville and have lived  
12 there through out my working life. The last 30 years  
13 have not been kind to us. Most of our industrial base  
14 closed or moved away. Businesses have come and gone,  
15 and those of us who remain have watched our brothers  
16 and sisters and now our sons and daughters move away.

17 As much as we would like to be what we once  
18 were, we no longer have the population within the  
19 borders of Vermilion County to be allotted a dedicated  
20 member of the House of Representatives. For several  
21 decades now, we have had to share a representative  
22 with parts of surrounding counties.

23 Ten years ago, your predecessors took notice  
24 of the economic and demographic trends in our area and

1 coupled the urbanized southern two-thirds of Vermilion  
2 County with the eastern end of Champaign County,  
3 including the city of Rantoul, to form the 104th  
4 Legislative District.

5 They also associated our new district with  
6 the 103rd, which encompasses the cities of Champaign  
7 and Urbana, in order to form the 52nd State Senate  
8 District.

9 I hope you will retain that association for  
10 the next decade and continue to associate for purposes  
11 of House and Senate representation our federally  
12 designated urbanized area of Danville with that of  
13 Champaign and Urbana. The economies of the only  
14 urbanized areas in east central Illinois have become  
15 even more interdependent and intertwined in the last  
16 decade.

17 The 2000 census was the last long form and  
18 revealed many interesting data points. Among them  
19 were tables which showed by county where people  
20 commuted to work from and to where they commuted.

21 The data confirmed what was readily  
22 observable any workday along I-74. Edgar County  
23 borders us to the south, and 122 people commuted from  
24 Vermilion County to Edgar. Iroquois County to our

1 north saw 197 people commute to jobs there from  
2 Vermilion County, and another 79 traveled northwest to  
3 jobs in Ford County. Those are predominantly rural  
4 counties. Those numbers are dwarfed, however, by  
5 3,135 people commuting daily to the Champaign area.

6 In the ensuing decade, those numbers have  
7 only grown. The numbers grew to the point that our  
8 federally designated Metropolitan Planning  
9 Organization sought and received funding to initiate  
10 and continue a regular Danville mass transit bus route  
11 between Danville and Champaign-Urbana.

12 Even more surprising was the reciprocal.  
13 People from Champaign County commute to Illinois  
14 counties near and far, to 21 states, to Puerto Rico,  
15 Canada, and even Switzerland. But the largest single  
16 numbers of commuters was to Vermilion County.

17 For better or worse, the Danville urbanized  
18 area along Vermilion County's Route 1 corridor and the  
19 Champaign-Urbana metropolitan area are economically  
20 bonded. We share employment. Many of our retailers  
21 are within the same corporate districts. We share a  
22 newspaper. We share Provena Hospital Systems. We  
23 share Carle and Christie Health Clinics.

24 Our representation in the State House of

1 Representatives is commingled. And it should follow,  
2 and it stands to reason, and it only makes sense that  
3 the Vermilion County urbanized area of Danville and  
4 the urbanized areas of Champaign County should  
5 continue to be associated in our bicameral  
6 legislature. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you.

8 MR. WARFEL: Good afternoon. My name is  
9 Linden Warfel, L-i-n-d-e n W-a-r-f-e-l. Our family  
10 farm was established in Champaign County in 1882. My  
11 grandfather and great grandfather and myself farmed  
12 that same land since then.

13 I want to speak to you for a few minutes  
14 from the perspective of geography and of history. We  
15 have five kids. And in raising those children, we  
16 encouraged them to really focus on things and to study  
17 hard but then also to take a couple of steps back and  
18 reflect and think about where we are and where we are  
19 going.

20 Actually, I got the idea of that from a  
21 speech that Abraham Lincoln gave here in Illinois in  
22 1858. It's one of his famous speeches called the  
23 "House Divided Speech." In his opening comments, in  
24 modern language, he said: If we knew where we are and

1 where we wanted to go, we could better figure out how  
2 to get there.

3 I've used that principle in my business and  
4 in my various civic activities. Define where you are  
5 and where you want to go, and that will much better  
6 help you figure out how to get there.

7 In the geopolitical realm, I've had the  
8 privilege of traveling a great deal, from the Arctic  
9 to the Antarctic, going east as far as Turkey and the  
10 Persian Gulf and going west as far as Japan. I've  
11 looked at their governments. I've read about their  
12 people.

13 One of the really neat things about being a  
14 corn and soybean farmer is that, in the wintertime, I  
15 have a lot of time to read; and I very much enjoy  
16 that. So over the years, I've not only physically  
17 traveled, but I've traveled through the writings of  
18 many different people. I think I've read about 40  
19 books this past winter about people in different parts  
20 of the world.

21 There are things that people all over the  
22 world have in common with us here in Illinois. All  
23 these people, all these different places with  
24 different histories have this in common: a need for

1 fairness, justice, and respect for their places of  
2 interest or communities of interest, as we've heard  
3 spoken here today. All these things come together in  
4 a redistricting process.

5 Abraham Lincoln was also famous for many  
6 other speeches; but in his inaugural speech, he  
7 commented in a way that I think is particularly  
8 pertinent to where we are in Illinois, indeed in  
9 America today.

10 He made this comment in his speech, talking  
11 about the Civil War that was looming at that time.  
12 And I'll quote from Abraham Lincoln here. "We are not  
13 enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. The  
14 mystic cords of memory stretching from every  
15 battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart  
16 and hearthstone all over this broad land will yet  
17 again swell the course of the union when again  
18 touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels  
19 of our nature."

20 I've worked with several different groups of  
21 people over the years, working on school funding  
22 issues and the Fair Map and other things. One of the  
23 things that I've learned from those experiences is  
24 that we can work together.

1           Thirty years ago, I worked with Illinois  
2 Farm Bureau on K-12 school funding. We had over 300  
3 different groups that came together to work on better  
4 funding for K-12 schools. We won some and we lost  
5 some in that process. Actually, you all are still  
6 working on that process, and I wish you well in that  
7 work. Our history is that we can work together, and  
8 we should.

9           The political rhetoric, the level of  
10 emotions on both sides of the aisle in today's world  
11 and here in Illinois has reached a level of concern  
12 for all of us who have worked in Illinois government.  
13 So I would appeal for you all to work towards the  
14 "better angels of our nature."

15           So here is the imprimatur to look at our  
16 legislative districts and adjust them according to  
17 population, being contiguous, compact, recognizing  
18 minorities and communities of interest.

19           I urge you to give recognition to Champaign  
20 County and no longer split Champaign County the way it  
21 is right now.

22           Our community of interest is really changed  
23 by the dynamics of having legislative districts that  
24 put me eight miles south of this location in a

1 district with folks from Mattoon.

2 It's a wonderful area, but nobody from my  
3 area goes to Mattoon to shop. We don't go to the  
4 community college down there. They have great places  
5 to shop. They have a good community college in the  
6 area. They have a great university. But it's not  
7 ours. Ours is here.

8 Legislatively, we are supposed to be with  
9 Mattoon. It does not work well, and it should be  
10 amended. I thank you all for your interest and  
11 appreciate your coming today.

12 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you.  
13 Questions from committee members?

14 REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you. I wanted  
15 to ask Trisha Crowley if you had any thoughts what  
16 would be an appropriate time -- I'm assuming your  
17 position, with your stance on the League of Women  
18 Voters, would be that you want the public to have an  
19 opportunity to review the map before it's voted on by  
20 the House of Representatives?

21 MS. CROWLEY: We recognize there are  
22 statutory time frames in this and that it has to be a  
23 fast process. But at least two weeks before the vote,  
24 the map should be disclosed to the public.



1           In addition to the map, what the public  
2 needs to know is: Why was the map drawn? What were  
3 the considerations? What were the factors that went  
4 into drawing a particular map? Without information  
5 like that, it becomes very, very hard to look at, just  
6 plain and open.

7           We recognize that in this kind of fast pace,  
8 two weeks may be as much as we can get; but we would  
9 really appreciate that kind of time.

10           REPRESENTATIVE TRACY: Thank you.

11           REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Representative  
12 Rose?

13           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: For those of you from  
14 out of town who do not know Lin Warfel, we all love  
15 Lin Warfel; now you know why. He can quote Lincoln  
16 verbatim.

17           Lin has similarly sold himself short today.  
18 He also happens to be a Parkland Board Trustee.  
19 Although he's not here on behalf of the college today,  
20 We should thank him as a host for having us. So thank  
21 you, Lin.

22           Ms. Crowley, I just wanted to follow up from  
23 my colleague, Representative Tracy, briefly. And I  
24 appreciate that very much. As I said in my opening

1 comments, we need to come back here with a map so that  
2 people can see it.

3 You mentioned the need for supporting  
4 documentation and a list of how they achieved it and  
5 came to the conclusion in the ultimate map.

6 I would assume that would include a detailed  
7 assessment of how the new Illinois Voting Rights Act  
8 provisions were implemented within that map. Is that  
9 accurate?

10 MS. CROWLEY: That would be helpful, yes.

11 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I would also note,  
12 since you're here on behalf of the League, that the  
13 League was, in fact, a supporter of the Fair Map.

14 I would assume that you would concur with  
15 your colleagues from the Chamber and the Farm Bureau  
16 that there would be nothing stopping the General  
17 Assembly from using the parameters of the Fair Map  
18 Amendment to guide us in this map-making process,  
19 specifically: no incumbent addresses and diminished  
20 use of political voting data except as required.  
21 Should be done with respect to the Voting Rights Act,  
22 Civil Rights Act, things of that nature.

23 MS. CROWLEY: Right. Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: That's it. Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Any other?

2 (No response.)

3 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Seeing none,  
4 thank you very much, all of you, for your testimony.

5 Next up, we have Nolan Drea from the  
6 University of Illinois College Democrats and Chris  
7 Hausman from the Farm Bureau. You're from the Farm  
8 Bureau and you're a farmer.

9 Chris, why don't you start?

10 MR. HAUSMAN: Good afternoon, everyone. My  
11 name is Chris Hausman, C-h-r-i-s H-a-u-s-m-a-n. I am  
12 a fourth generation farmer here in Champaign County.  
13 I've lived here my entire life. We raise corn and  
14 soybeans down in the Pesotum area.

15 I am here representing myself as a citizen  
16 of the state and as a farmer. I will disclaim that I  
17 am on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors  
18 representing four counties: Champaign, Douglas,  
19 Vermilion, and Edgar County.

20 I think regarding everything that has been  
21 said today, I am not in any disagreement. After  
22 Representative Black spoke, I think we could have all  
23 went home after that. I think he said just about  
24 everything. But I would like to just comment briefly

1 on a couple of things that have been touched on  
2 already.

3 The Illinois Fair Map Amendment, I did carry  
4 a petition on that a year ago. As Representative Rose  
5 pointed out, it was a daunting task to get 290,000  
6 signatures.

7 Yes, we were disappointed that the  
8 legislature would not see fit to pass that; but I  
9 would stand here or sit here today and say that I am  
10 in all support of the principles behind the Fair Map  
11 Amendment. I would hope that that would be considered  
12 in the future.

13 I would state that any past voting record  
14 should never ever be used in the map-drawing process.  
15 To me, I look at that as no different than a person  
16 that's dealing cards that can stack the deck in their  
17 favor. You lose credibility with the citizens of the  
18 state of Illinois when that's allowed to happen.

19 The Fair Map Amendment that a lot of  
20 organizations got behind was a step in the right  
21 direction. I would again encourage you as  
22 representatives to reconsider that, and hopefully that  
23 could be part of this proposal.

24 The other thing that I was going to comment

1 on that was touched on earlier is what happened here  
2 locally with the Champaign County Redistricting  
3 Commission.

4 What Mr. Nudo and what Mr. Beckett did from  
5 both sides of the aisle, I have to applaud them. I  
6 thought that was a great process. I was honored to be  
7 able to witness that take place in this county.

8 There was a comment earlier by a member that  
9 was not maybe as happy with the outcome; but I would  
10 sit here and say that I was very pleased with the  
11 process that took place, that it was a nonpartisan  
12 effort that took place. And I would hope that this  
13 process could learn a lot from what happened. I would  
14 say that that was a great learning effort, and I think  
15 that process did achieve its goals.

16 When the Illinois Constitutional Convention  
17 took place back in 1970, I think our past leadership  
18 did not have the thought at that time of what  
19 technology would be today with computer programming  
20 and such. And I don't think they envisioned what  
21 could have taken place. With today's technology, it's  
22 very easy to be able to draw maps based on a lot of  
23 different factors.

24 Again, as Representative Rose has stated, I

1 don't think incumbent addresses should ever be used in  
2 that process; and past voting records should never be  
3 used in that process.

4 I think what the citizens of this state  
5 deserve is a fair process. If you can take the  
6 politics out of it, which is a tough job at hand, and  
7 do it on a nonpartisan basis, that is by far the way  
8 that the citizens deserve. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: And thank you.

10 MR. DREA: My name is Nolan Drea, N-o-l-a-n  
11 D-r-e-a.

12 I'd just like to state that I'm here on  
13 behalf of the Illinois students, not the College  
14 Democrats as was said earlier.

15 I've been involved with the Illinois Student  
16 Senate for the last two years. In the last year, I  
17 had the pleasure of being elected Vice President  
18 (Internal) of the Student Senate. Through that  
19 opportunity, I've had the delight of working with a  
20 lot of different groups on campus, from Democrats to  
21 Republicans, from international students to people  
22 that grew up in Champaign their entire lives. At the  
23 end of the day, we always do what is best for the  
24 campus. That is why I'm here today.

1           At the University of Illinois, we have been  
2 lucky to have world-renowned programs in business and  
3 engineering and several other very successful programs  
4 all across our campus. We've really become a real  
5 economic driver for the entire state, not just the  
6 Champaign-Urbana area.

7           It's been estimated that for every dollar of  
8 state money we get, we're able to give back another 17  
9 to this date, which I think in this crucial time is  
10 really important.

11           Because of this, I think it's very important  
12 that the campus is not split up, that we are  
13 represented by a single representative. I think that  
14 if we were to be split up in several different  
15 districts, that it could be a real detriment to not  
16 only the University, but also the Champaign-Urbana  
17 area and, really, the state as a whole.

18           REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: That's it?  
19 That's all?

20           MR. DREA: That's all.

21           REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you for  
22 your testimony. Questions from Committee members?

23           REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I thought of something  
24 that I would like to ask Lin, if I could. If it's not

1 possible, that's fine.

2 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Anybody else have  
3 questions here?

4 (No response.)

5 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Seeing none, all  
6 right, Chapin?

7 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I was thinking a  
8 little bit after Lin Warfel stepped down. The problem  
9 with downstate Illinois in general is that, to get the  
10 population density, you're talking about miles upon  
11 miles upon miles, counties upon counties, in some  
12 cases, 8, 9, 10, 11 counties to get over 100,000  
13 people.

14 Lin, you would agree with me that -- and I  
15 get your point about the geography and the distance.  
16 In fact, that is 67 miles by about 73 miles or so.

17 But you did keep two important communities  
18 of interest together in that, which was higher  
19 education and agriculture, with the finest farm ground  
20 in the world. The number one employer was higher  
21 education, whether it's Eastern, Lakeland in the  
22 southern part, or Parkland and the U of I in the  
23 northern part.

24 You would agree with that statement?



1 MR. WARFEL: Yes.

2 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Seeing no  
3 questions for these witnesses, thank you so much.

4 Alvin Klein filled out a witness slip, but I  
5 was told he's not here. Oh, you are? Come on.

6 What about J. Steven Beckett?

7 MR. BECKETT: I'm here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Let's have these  
9 two. Is there anyone else that would like to give  
10 testimony? We have a few more minutes. We do need  
11 you to fill out a witness slip if you have not.

12 Who is David Foster?

13 MR. FOSTER: I am.

14 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Okay. You come  
15 to the witness table as well.

16 So we have three people, and we have 15  
17 minutes. You know the drill. We have David Foster.  
18 His title is he's a taxpayer.

19 And, Alvin Klein, you are from the -- you  
20 are a Democrat, Champaign County.

21 J. Steven Beckett, you are from?

22 MR. BECKETT: I'm just here as a citizen.

23 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: You're a citizen.

24 Taxpayer too. He's a taxpayer and a citizen.

1           Why don't we start here. State your name  
2 for the record, and spell your first and last name.

3           MR. KLEIN: I am Alvin Klein, A-l-v-i-n  
4 K-l-e-i-n. I am also a taxpayer and a citizen.

5           Thank you for starting your work here. It's  
6 nice to be first on the list. I'm glad to be here.  
7 And I want to thank you also for doing the job I think  
8 that the legislature needs to do. Redistricting is a  
9 legislative process, and I think it should be done  
10 directly by the legislators. I believe that is the  
11 best way to do it.

12           This is a philosophical difference I've had  
13 with Mr. Beckett and with others, but I think you  
14 cannot abdicate that responsibility by using a  
15 commission or another organization when it really, in  
16 the end, is a legislative act.

17           A lot of well-meaning people have put time  
18 and effort into the notions of fair maps, commissions.  
19 They have paradoxical components in them, and the  
20 definitions of "fair" and "competitive" are very hard  
21 to define and impossible to measure unless you use  
22 information that supposedly you are not using. So the  
23 results are not usually what are expected.

24           Our current example of the Commission is

1 going to be more contentious, I think, than people  
2 thought it was going to be; but we'll see. There's a  
3 reason why this hasn't succeeded elsewhere first. But  
4 this is beside the point of the Commission here today.

5           Mainly, I wanted to talk about  
6 recommendations for the districting. I support Mayor  
7 Prussing. I think the notion of an east/west  
8 Congressional District is a sound idea. North/south  
9 around here is a lot further than east/west. I think  
10 there's a lot more community of interest between the  
11 Indiana border and, oh, Bloomington or Decatur than  
12 there is going south. I think the new congressional  
13 district might be better built along those lines.

14           That's consistent with the notion that when  
15 we get to the next largest group, the Legislative or  
16 Senate District, that too, I think, could well go  
17 east/west. The relationship between Danville and  
18 Champaign-Urbana is longstanding, back to the old  
19 Interurban Railroad and others; and that stretch of 74  
20 is well used, as someone mentioned.

21           I think that as far as is possible, that  
22 should essentially constitute a district, much as it  
23 is today, with the changes you will have to make  
24 because of population.

1 Third, the state representative district  
2 component -- I believe in nesting. I don't think  
3 anybody is seriously considering not nesting the  
4 districts anymore.

5 The companion districts presumably will look  
6 something like they are now, and I absolutely believe  
7 -- I was just looking at the numbers. I'm not quite  
8 sure I got them right. It looks like Champaign-Urbana  
9 and the size of a representative district are just  
10 about right, depending on where that boundary is.

11 I suggest you start on the west side with  
12 taking Champaign-Urbana and then either putting a  
13 little more over into the Senate district or adding a  
14 little to the south or west to pick up if it comes a  
15 little short.

16 But build a state rep district that unifies  
17 Champaign-Urbana as much as possible and a state  
18 senate district that uses Danville as the other center  
19 of population to make it work.

20 Beyond that, of course, none of us know  
21 exactly how this is going to go. And I'll save your  
22 time. Oh, and also I guess I would say that I think  
23 four rep districts is plenty for Champaign County and  
24 preferably maybe only two Senate Districts, but que

1 sera, sera.

2 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you. Next.

3 MR. BECKETT: I'm Steve Beckett, S-t-e-v-e  
4 B-e-c-k-e-t-t. I live at 1794 Aero Place, Urbana.  
5 That's two miles outside of Urbana.

6 I wish I had a Bill Black five minutes, but  
7 I don't.

8 I completely reject everything Al Klein says  
9 about the Redistricting Commission.

10 The point behind a redistricting commission  
11 and the point behind that process is public  
12 confidence. That's what you get when you have a  
13 nonpartisan commission is public confidence.

14 Unfortunately, you've had a sad exhibition  
15 today of exactly why there can't be public confidence  
16 when you have members of a commission who don't accept  
17 the goal of the commission and use their own  
18 incumbency to criticize the map that is being drawn by  
19 the commission while it's in progress. It hasn't even  
20 gone to the county board yet. And you saw that happen  
21 today.

22 But there is a beauty behind these  
23 nonpartisan commissions because the public feels that  
24 someone else is looking at this besides the

1 politicians. Incumbency just cannot be part of the  
2 measure to draw a map and expect to have public  
3 confidence. It's just never ever, ever going to work.

4 I was on the County Board for ten years. I  
5 guess I should say that for the record. I'm actually  
6 the author of the Redistricting Resolution, which I  
7 gave to Representative Rose. If you would make that  
8 part of the record, I would appreciate it.

9 I can't emphasize enough how open and  
10 transparent this process has been, what an excellent  
11 job former Representative Winkle has done steering a  
12 nonpartisan path, and how all of the criticism that  
13 this commission has had has been from, in my  
14 judgement, the bias of the existing majority in  
15 Champaign County.

16 The skeptic in me knows that the map has  
17 been drawn someplace. It exists already. People are  
18 looking at it, just as happened in 2000 when Al Klein  
19 drew the map. It was brought to me, and I was told:  
20 This is the map that you will vote for because it  
21 gives us five districts.

22 That's wrong. I mean, I'm a sinner, and I'm  
23 now trying to redeem myself by telling all the public  
24 it was wrong. It was wrong to district out

1 incumbents. It was just wrong.

2 I wanted to speak to something that  
3 Representative Barickman said. It's obvious that  
4 Champaign-Urbana as a community and the university are  
5 a core. That's a legislative district well  
6 represented by Representative Jakobsson.

7 It's impossible to have Champaign-Urbana and  
8 Savoy in the same district. It's just impossible.  
9 And from my perspective on the County Board, quite  
10 frankly, the communities of interest don't often  
11 overlap. The example I will use is urban  
12 transportation.

13 We have a far different point of view in  
14 Savoy and southwest Champaign than we have in urban  
15 Champaign-Urbana about the importance of urban  
16 transportation. I don't know if that's a single issue  
17 that illustrates the difference between the various  
18 core areas of Champaign-Urbana. But I just don't  
19 think you can possibly draw a legislative district  
20 without taking into account the different viewpoint of  
21 Savoy and southwest Champaign. Thank you.

22 MR. FOSTER: My name is David Foster,  
23 D-a-v-i-d F-o-s-t-e-r. I'm here to talk about the  
24 money.

1           There has been a very large trickle-down  
2 cost of the last three districting maps to the local  
3 residents and the local counties. Each precinct that  
4 is cut has a ballot combination cost in each election  
5 between 750 and \$1,500 per election.

6           If you will look at the great American fish  
7 hook over by Decatur, there are over 100 splits in  
8 that district.

9           If you will look at my district, the 15th,  
10 that goes from Danville to Eldorado -- I don't know if  
11 that's in Illinois or Mexico, but it's a long way down  
12 there -- there was another 100 splits.

13           This redistricting map will affect 20  
14 elections. If we could keep the redistricting at the  
15 state level for the U.S. House districts and the  
16 representative and senate districts split at a  
17 precinct level and no smaller, we could save there is  
18 no telling how much money in the next ten years.

19           I would like to know how much money we spent  
20 in the last ten years on programming cost for this  
21 ridiculous map that we have now for the U.S. House.  
22 There is one precinct in Eldorado. Each county has a  
23 split.

24           Bill Black spoke earlier. I've known Bill



1 Black since I was 6 years old. In the map that moved  
2 him from Paris to Watseka, he had, in Georgetown four,  
3 two voters. That was a split to our local economy of  
4 \$700 a precinct.

5 Well, the County Board and the county clerk  
6 at that time were smart enough that they just moved  
7 them two people into the other precinct and saved us  
8 \$15,000 in ten years.

9 So if we could keep this redistricting map  
10 cut no smaller than a precinct, I think that we could  
11 save thousands, maybe millions of dollars over the  
12 next ten years. I'd like to know -- and I have no way  
13 of telling -- what it cost in the last ten years for  
14 our district.

15 This gentleman just talked about Champaign  
16 County. We just presented a map in Danville,  
17 Vermilion County. We moved three precincts. We had a  
18 Democratic County Board Chairman present it to the  
19 Committee. A Republican made the motion to put it on  
20 display, and a Republican made a motion to second  
21 that. And it's on display now.

22 So this can be done. And there are no  
23 splits in Vermilion County that will cost us 700 or  
24 \$800 an election.

1 I was appalled when I heard there were 26  
2 precinct splits on that map, if that's what he said.  
3 I couldn't believe that. That's going to be a cost of  
4 half a million dollars to the citizens of Champaign  
5 County over the next ten years.

6 I think that's about all I'd like to ask is  
7 that you consider my money. That's why I put down  
8 "taxpayer." Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you.  
10 Questions or comments from Committee members?

11 Representative Rose?

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I would just like to  
13 echo what you said. I've heard that comment from our  
14 county clerks for the past election. In our case,  
15 they moved some lines just for that purpose; and,  
16 because of that, they had special elections or special  
17 ballots, I would say.

18 I think that that's important because we're  
19 looking at the finances across the state. So I thank  
20 you very much for your input.

21 MR. FOSTER: About hearing from county  
22 clerks, I'm not here on my own. I hear from her every  
23 day in Vermilion County. I'm married to her. I can  
24 tell you how much she spends on this precinct stuff

1 and just how mad it makes her.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BARICKMAN: I want to comment  
3 on Mr. Beckett's comments. First, to clarify my  
4 point, Steve, when I talk about what was carved out of  
5 southwest Champaign -- I mean, I understand the  
6 community of Champaign-Urbana. I call Savoy part of  
7 that, too. They are pretty well contiguous  
8 communities.

9 I certainly understand that, as the  
10 population has grown there, those communities have  
11 grown large enough to warrant and justify more than  
12 one representative.

13 My point is: The reason southwest Champaign  
14 is carved out of that rather than east Urbana or some  
15 other part of that district was simply for political  
16 reasons. There's a ton of Republican votes in  
17 southwest Champaign, and they don't fit well in the  
18 103rd. The 103rd is designed to be a Democratic  
19 District. It's not Naomi's fault. It's the people  
20 who drew the map who wanted to have a Democratic  
21 district there, and therein lies the problem.

22 The people of southwest Champaign are -- we  
23 talk about communities of interest. And the people of  
24 southwest Champaign are starkly different than the

1 people in Newtown Township in northern Livingston  
2 County, which is part of that same legislative  
3 district and happens to be farmland.

4 They don't know people in southwest  
5 Champaign. Thankfully maybe, or luckily, they've got  
6 a guy in there today who grew up on one end and lives  
7 in the other, no different than Chapin's district in  
8 Charleston and Mahomet.

9 What I commend you on is the efforts that  
10 you've done with others here in Champaign County. I  
11 was part of the conversation with Alan and with you  
12 guys when you were talking about this redistricting  
13 commission. I think we'd all sit back and say the end  
14 result maybe wasn't perfect, but we knew that going  
15 into it.

16 What those of you have done by leading and  
17 putting forward an idea and implementing a process --  
18 you're absolutely right -- is you've helped restore  
19 some confidence in government here locally in  
20 Champaign County. The media has picked it up.  
21 They've written about it.

22 And as I talk to voters, they say: "You  
23 know, it's kind of neat what's happened here in  
24 Champaign County." Some people are angry with it.

1 But, generally, the process seemed like it was a fair  
2 one that removed some of this highly partisan activity  
3 in the drawing of districts.

4 If nothing else, my hope is that this  
5 committee hears what they've done and takes that  
6 message to a statewide level.

7 I encourage all of you that were very  
8 involved in the Champaign County Redistricting Process  
9 to reflect when you're through and maybe provide to us  
10 your feedback on what worked and what didn't work and  
11 let us run with that as a state.

12 Some of us truly believe what you believe,  
13 which is that the process as it exists today statewide  
14 is flawed. And whether we can come forward with the  
15 perfect process as the result of our efforts -- I  
16 don't think that ought to be the goal.

17 The goal ought to be to put something  
18 forward that we have reason to believe we should have  
19 confidence in, that will help restore the public's  
20 faith in our state government, that's fair, that's  
21 competitive, that is all the trigger words that we  
22 talk about and certainly something different than  
23 we've got today. So thank you.

24 MR. BECKETT: Thank you. I would like to

1 respond.

2           Somebody earlier today expressed a concern  
3 that your hearings not be considered as window  
4 dressing. It's funny because it's a word I had used  
5 when I was talking about appearing here today. I was  
6 concerned that, in fact, the map has already been  
7 drawn, that it exists somewhere, that representatives  
8 are being asked to come into somebody's office and  
9 look at the map that exists already, because this is  
10 the map that you're going to vote on.

11           But none of us have seen it. None of us  
12 have seen this theoretical map that already exists  
13 somewhere. And the public -- unfortunately, the  
14 public believes that.

15           I think, by having a nonpartisan commission  
16 process like this, you create a map, as many of the  
17 speakers have said, a map that exists. People see the  
18 map. They come in and talk about it. They can be  
19 critical of it. Certainly they can be critical of it,  
20 but they can see it.

21           Instead, we're have a hearing today, having  
22 not seen a map, talking in generalities about Savoy  
23 and southwest Champaign, et cetera, without really  
24 being able to give you any solid input. Then when the

1 map finally hits the public, there is no time.

2 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: We're past our  
3 time.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I know we are.

5 To Mr. Foster's point -- I'm going to  
6 remember the great American fish hook for a long time.  
7 I'll keep that in the lexicon for use later.

8 But there is something that's even more  
9 egregious than the cost. As you said that, I got to  
10 thinking about this. A very fundamental principle of  
11 American democracy is the secrecy of the ballot.

12 If you draw down to what you said a minute  
13 ago to where you literally have two homes on a block  
14 in a precinct.

15 MR. FOSTER: Not two homes, one home. Two  
16 people.

17 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: So you've got one  
18 home, two people in a precinct. One of them votes,  
19 and one of them doesn't. I now know exactly how they  
20 voted, don't I? I mean, it's published.

21 MR. FOSTER: Sure. You can exactly tell by  
22 that vote. So we actually moved -- the clerk moved,  
23 with the approval of the County Board, that one house  
24 out of that precinct into the next precinct, which was

1 all in the district. So they did get their vote to be  
2 secret.

3 In the first election that Bill had in that  
4 district when it was drawn, that house did not vote.  
5 So we actually took away those people's right to vote.  
6 The only thing they could have possibly done was go in  
7 and one of them vote for one candidate and the other  
8 vote for the other.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: You wouldn't know  
10 which one did which.

11 MR. FOSTER: But why would you want to pay  
12 \$1,500 for 20 precincts for those two votes?

13 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I understand that, and  
14 you made the point very clear. But there's something  
15 beyond that, which is democracy itself.

16 Thank you, Mr. Foster, I need to move on  
17 because we're out of time here.

18 Mr. Beckett, you are the third party now to  
19 sell yourself short today. Democratic County Board  
20 member and distinguished Professor of Law at the  
21 University of Illinois, I might add; is that correct?

22 MR. BECKETT: Yeah.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Did you have  
24 Mr. Barickman in class?



1 MR. BECKETT: I did.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I had you too. You  
3 were a good professor.

4 I wanted to touch on something you said,  
5 Mr. Beckett, which struck a cord with me. I think  
6 you're spot on.

7 In this community, there is a very  
8 fundamental difference between a Savoy and southwest  
9 Champaign, say, and Urbana. You said it, and I don't  
10 think you realized you said it. You hit on the MTD  
11 issue.

12 For those of you who aren't from here, that  
13 MTD issue literally ripped this town in two. There  
14 were people who wanted to extend public transit bus  
15 services to a part of town that didn't want it; and we  
16 have been arguing about it for better part of 5, 6, 7  
17 years now. I have bills in Springfield on it. Naomi  
18 opposed my bills in Springfield on it.

19 There is a different community of interest  
20 there that needs to be watched out for. And I assume  
21 that's what you were speaking to; is that correct?

22 MR. BECKETT: That's correct.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Thank you. Mr. Klein,  
24 I wanted to just briefly -- I heard you say this, and

1 I don't think that's what you meant. That's why I'm  
2 going to ask the question.

3 You said that there isn't a better way of  
4 doing this other than the political process way. And  
5 that would be to presume that, say, the state of Iowa  
6 hasn't found a better way to do it. That's not what  
7 you were insinuating, is it?

8 MR. KLEIN: I don't think I said there is no  
9 better way of doing this. I don't know if there is.  
10 I'm not convinced that what Iowa has done or what this  
11 commission has done is a better way.

12 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Let me ask you this.  
13 If we removed incumbent addresses from whatever data  
14 set we use, is that better or not?

15 MR. KLEIN: I don't use them.

16 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: You don't use  
17 them. So the state of Illinois should not use them  
18 either?

19 MR. KLEIN: I'm not going to impose my will  
20 on anyone else. I don't believe in protecting  
21 incumbents that much. You want to protect the  
22 majority.

23 This is, by most standards, since 2000 a  
24 Democratic county on the federal scale during

1 elections. When everyone turns out to vote, this is a  
2 Democratic county. Therefore, I think there is an  
3 inherent democratic majority.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: But that would violate  
5 One Man, One Vote, which is the whole reason why, back  
6 in the '70s, you had to convert from County Board  
7 "commissioners" to County Board "members."

8 You can't base legislative districts on  
9 counties. That was Mr. Warfel's point a moment ago,  
10 sir. If you did that, downstate Illinois would have  
11 far greater representation than they do today because  
12 there aren't enough people.

13 You would agree that the first thing we are  
14 guided to do under the United States Supreme Court is  
15 create equal population density districts.

16 MR. KLEIN: Absolutely. And that's one of  
17 the greatest things that's wrong with the map that  
18 this commission's turned out. It's not One Man, One  
19 Vote.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE. I'm not talking about  
21 that. I'm talking about the State of Illinois.

22 MR. KLEIN: Same thing.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: You just urged us to  
24 draw maps based on counties, not population densities.

1 MR. KLEIN: I did not.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Okay. Very good.

3 MR. KLEIN: I would say that it is a mistake  
4 to draw maps based on precincts. That's the cart  
5 before the horse.

6 I think the county clerks and county boards  
7 have been very lackadaisical about keeping precinct  
8 boundaries in line with the districts they are  
9 drawing.

10 Precincts are the only unit of government  
11 not subject to One Person, One Vote. So you exploit  
12 that fact after the redistricting process to chop off  
13 the little edges and things that were necessary  
14 because the maps are being drawn by census blocks, as  
15 we were told at the beginning, and not by precincts.

16 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: But we still should be  
17 controlled by a uniform population.

18 MR. KLEIN: That has nothing to do with  
19 precincts.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: I understand that.  
21 But I'm saying our first charge is that we have to  
22 keep them equal in terms of population.

23 Let me ask you one other thing. Would it be  
24 your opinion that we should come back here with a map

1 to show the public, as Mr. Beckett pointed out so  
2 rightly, that --

3 MR. KLEIN: That's transparency.

4 REPRESENTATIVE ROSE: Very good.

5 MR. KLEIN: Another feature missing from the  
6 Commission.

7 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Okay.

8 MR. BECKETT: That's absolutely not true.

9 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: You've got one  
10 minute to wrap up.

11 MR. BECKETT: The Commission map in  
12 Champaign County is available, and the maps have been  
13 available. People have been talking about the maps.  
14 People have been commenting.

15 How would this member of the Commission come  
16 and criticize the map that currently exists if the map  
17 isn't out there, even before it's gone to the County  
18 Board for a vote.

19 REPRESENTATIVE YARBROUGH: Thank you,  
20 gentlemen, for your testimony. That does conclude our  
21 hearing. The hearing will stand in recess.

22 I want to thank everybody for your  
23 participation. This is the first of the House  
24 hearings. Join us at another committee hearing in a

1 place near you. I don't know where that is.

2 We're on vacation next week except that  
3 we're not on vacation because we are conducting these  
4 hearings. Thank you all.

5

6 (Hearing concluded at 4:05 p.m.)

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

3  
4 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

5  
6 I, BRENDA L. ZEITLER, CSR-RPR, License  
7 #084-004062, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
8 transcript, consisting of pages 1 through 126, both  
9 inclusive, constitutes a true and accurate transcript  
10 of the original stenographic notes recorded by me of  
11 the foregoing public hearing held before the House  
12 Redistricting Committee held on the 16th day of April,  
13 2011.

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19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 Brenda L. Zeitler, CSR-RPR  
21 Illinois License #084-004062

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