

2011 ILLINOIS STATE SENATE
REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING I

PUBLIC HEARING

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011
10:00 A.M.
311 W. JOHN H. GWYNN
PEORIA, ILLINOIS

SULLIVAN REPORTING CO., by
Laurel A. Patkes, CSR
License No. 084-001340

1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

2 SENATOR KWAME RAOUL, Chairperson

3 SENATOR MICHAEL NOLAND, Vice Chairperson

4 SENATOR DAVID KOEHLER

5 SENATOR MATTIE HUNTER

6 SENATOR JOHN SULLIVAN

7 SENATOR DARIN M. LaHOOD

8 SENATOR TIM BIVINS

9 CLERK:

10 LEE LOBUE

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

I N D E X

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

COMMENTS BY:	PAGE
ROBERTA PARKS	9
JOHN R. SHALLENBERGER	17
DAVE CHAPMAN	19
SUSAN O'NEAL	23
BOBBY ZIMMERMAN	32
JAMES POLK	36
GENERAL PARKER	45
STEVE ADAMS	47
IRENE BROWN	54

1 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Good morning
2 one and all. I'm State Senator Michael Noland. I'm
3 actually the vice chair of the Senate Redistricting
4 Committee. Senator Kwame Raoul who is the chairman
5 is momentarily detained for reasons unknown, but
6 we're going to go ahead and get under way here, and
7 as soon as Senator Raoul comes in, he will take
8 over, but we're going to get started.

9 I'm going to turn the microphone over
10 to our, your I should say, Senator Koehler for some
11 opening remarks, and then we're going to start
12 taking care of business.

13 SENATOR KOEHLER: Well, first of all,
14 thank you for coming out on a Saturday morning. I
15 guess if it would have been sunshiny, maybe there
16 might have been some other temptations, but this is
17 important work and so I'm very proud to have this
18 meeting in Peoria and have all of you show up. It
19 makes me look good with all my colleagues here.

20 And I wanted to welcome all my
21 colleagues to my district. This is the 46th
22 District, and really, what this hearing is all about
23 is what we do every ten years, and that is
24 redistrict.

1 And I don't know if somebody is going
2 to share some of the information that we have to
3 deal with this year, but we have to, in my district,
4 in the 46th District, I have to expand by some
5 15,000 people. And so what you do is you take the
6 census information and you try to readjust, and so
7 this hearing is to get your input on things we ought
8 to consider like that.

9 But this is an important process in
10 government, and it means a lot that you have taken
11 the time out to be here to be part of it, so thank
12 you for coming and thank you to my colleagues.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Thank you,
14 Senator Koehler.

15 Well, the first thing we need to do
16 is to take roll. Some of these matters are rather
17 mundane, somewhat boring, but please bear with us as
18 we take care of some of the parliamentary procedures
19 that we need to go through and before we make any
20 motions and so on.

21 Okay. The clerk will call the roll.

22 THE CLERK: Senator Noland?

23 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Here.

24 THE CLERK: Senator Haine?

1 (No response)

2 THE CLERK: Senator Hunter?

3 SENATOR HUNTER: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Senator Koehler?

5 SENATOR KOEHLER: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Senator Sullivan?

7 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Senator LaHood?

9 SENATOR LaHOOD: Here.

10 THE CLERK: Senator Bivins?

11 SENATOR BIVINS: Here.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Okay. All

13 right. One order of business out of the way.

14 One other thing we need to do,

15 pursuant to Rule 3-2C, I hereby appoint Senator John

16 Sullivan to temporarily replace Senator Kimberly

17 Lightford as a member of the Senate Redistricting

18 Subcommittee on Redistricting I. This appointment

19 will automatically expire upon adjournment of the

20 Senate Redistricting Subcommittee on Redistricting

21 I. Signed Senate President John J. Cullerton.

22 Also too a housekeeping measure that

23 we usually take care of at the top of testimony here

24 is calling off some of the witness slips.

1 So today we have Roberta Parks.

2 That's Parks plural I believe with an "s"?

3 MS. PARKS: Yes.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Thank you.

5 Please forgive me if I don't quite
6 pronounce your name properly. It's a bad habit of
7 mine, but feel free to correct myself and the record
8 as we go along here.

9 So Roberta Parks, Peoria Area Chamber
10 of Commerce, providing oral testimony; written
11 statement filed.

12 Also have John R. Shallenberger from
13 UAW Local 974 of East Peoria; oral testimony.

14 Dave Chapman also from the UAW; oral
15 testimony.

16 Susan O'Neal, Attorney at Law, out of
17 Decatur actually; oral testimony.

18 We have Bobby Zimmerman from East
19 Peoria also offering oral testimony.

20 Now, just because we have called out
21 these witness slips doesn't mean that anybody else
22 is forbidden from testifying. We would like you to
23 fill out a witness slip, but if you've come in late
24 or something like that and you haven't filled out

1 one of these, feel free to do so. We're glad and
2 certainly encourage you to come and testify.

3 All right. With that, I believe we
4 have a motion or two.

5 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chairman.

7 I'd like to make a motion to allow
8 any media present to take still photos and
9 recording the proceeding.

10 Hearing no objection, that would be
11 granted.

12 Also, in keeping with precedent set
13 at the last committee hearings, I'd like to make a
14 motion to allow everyone in attendance today the
15 option to take photos as long as they don't
16 interrupt the proceedings.

17 And also, Mr. Chairman, I see again
18 that we have a court reporter present. I move that
19 this hearing be transcribed by the court reporter so
20 that the committee can have a full transcript of
21 this hearing which the committee can approve at a
22 further hearing once members and staff have had time
23 to review the transcript and make any needed
24 corrections.

1 So I'd like to make those three
2 motions.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Okay, in
4 somewhat of a collective sense here.

5 Is there a second to those motions?

6 SENATOR HUNTER: Second.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Seconded by
8 Senator Hunter.

9 Is there leave for adopting those
10 motions?

11 Seeing no objection, leave is
12 granted. The motions are adopted.

13 Thank you, Senator.

14 Okay. With that, we want to hear
15 from you, so first witness slip that we called was
16 Roberta Parks if she's here.

17 Ms. Parks, come on up.

18 MS. PARKS: Good morning, Mr. Vice
19 Chairman and my friends, Senators Koehler and
20 Senator LaHood. I'm Roberta Parks. I'm the
21 President of the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce.
22 Thank you for the opportunity to comment today on
23 redistricting in the State of Illinois, and I'd
24 particularly like to join Senator Koehler in

1 welcoming you to Peoria for those of you who are not
2 from our community. I am the President of the
3 Chamber of Commerce, so please stop and eat before
4 you leave, fill your car up with gas, and I don't
5 care if you live in Darin's district or Dave's
6 district, just do it in the city.

7 And I also want to thank you for
8 conducting these hearings.

9 The Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce
10 is one of the largest downstate business
11 associations in Illinois representing over 1,300
12 members who range from a Fortune 50 global leader to
13 sole proprietors in a variety of business sectors.

14 Like many business groups, we take
15 positions on public policy issues that fall along a
16 continuum of interest to our members. Some are so
17 specific that they could affect the bottom line
18 impact on members' operations, and others probably
19 fall under a category of good government.

20 It is for this latter reason that the
21 Chamber of Commerce was a significant proponent of
22 the Fair Map Amendment earlier this year; last year.

23 Excuse me.

24 We believe now as we did then that

1 the redistricting process should be open and
2 transparent with ample opportunity for public input.
3 We believe that the districts should actually be
4 compact and contiguous and, where it makes sense,
5 follow some natural or geographic boundary. At a
6 minimum, district lines shouldn't run down alleys or
7 divide neighborhoods. Public consideration should
8 prevail over political preservation.

9 While we recognize this philosophy
10 may not be embraced by everyone, we also believe
11 that drawing legislative maps should not be left in
12 the hands of those who stand to derive the most
13 benefit. We have supported the formation of an
14 outside group, individuals appointed by legislative
15 leaders but with no direct vested interest in the
16 outcome, to draw a new map. This would have allowed
17 more time, greater public input, and far less
18 political favoritism in the process. We believe it
19 would also help to restore confidence in the
20 redistricting process and in our elected leaders.

21 Our effort to get that measure on the
22 ballot fell short, but interest in a process that
23 follows these same principles remains. We encourage
24 the redistricting committee to give serious

1 consideration to all of the elements of the Fair Map
2 Coalition.

3 But there's really another reason to
4 take a different approach to drawing a new map. In
5 recent months, there's been no shortage of news
6 about Illinois' fiscal woes and sometimes our
7 ethical woes and, in particular for groups like
8 mine, no shortage of news about what we refer to as
9 the business climate. Despite the wealth of
10 resources our state possesses, Illinois has not been
11 well served by decisions made in recent years,
12 decisions that have lead our state to the edge of a
13 fiscal abyss.

14 As a result, the reputation of our
15 state has suffered both in the eyes of those of us
16 who live here and from those outside our borders.
17 The business community witnessed this firsthand as
18 numerous companies, including some of our Peoria
19 Chamber members, were approached about relocating to
20 other states.

21 We are beginning to see positive
22 signs that Illinois leaders today realize the path
23 we are on is not sustainable and that you want
24 change.

1 To put that era behind us, we need to
2 seize any and every opportunity that we can to send
3 a signal that it's a new day in the State of
4 Illinois, that leaders have turned the page on
5 practices of the past. How we deal with
6 redistricting could be a proof point that we are
7 changing the way we conduct the state's business.
8 That's particularly important for those who risk
9 their capital in starting or expanding their
10 businesses here. How we redraw the legislative map
11 can send a strong signal about how lawmakers want
12 our state to be perceived and begin to restore
13 confidence in government.

14 Allow me to highlight three simple
15 steps that we think would demonstrate a new way of
16 thinking in Illinois.

17 First, establish a series of meetings
18 around the state to present and review an analysis
19 of Illinois census data and its implications,
20 including our representation in Congress. Are there
21 population changes and demographic shifts that may
22 not bode well for our state? What trends are
23 emerging from the data? Where is Illinois a leader
24 and where are we falling behind?

1 Second, create a more open process
2 for drawing the new legislative map. This hearing
3 is a good step in gathering public input, but the
4 process shouldn't start and end with a handful of
5 hearings around the state. We need to have more
6 hearings across the state over a longer period of
7 time giving both urban and rural populations in
8 different areas a chance to express their views.

9 Third, show us the map, not the final
10 but a draft. Invite and encourage citizen input.
11 Listen to the voters. Only by previewing the map as
12 a draft using another round of planned hearings and
13 comments can we claim any transparency in a process
14 that is currently viewed with cynicism and, at
15 times, disdain.

16 We acknowledge that history and a
17 compressed timeframe make these very difficult
18 steps. However, technology should allow for
19 increased transparency, broader public involvement,
20 and faster turnaround on key points.

21 Only if we take the time and not fear
22 breaking from the past can we convince citizens in
23 our state, including the business community that is
24 oftentimes skeptical, that we are on a new path.

1 Thank you very much for being here
2 and thank you very much for listening. I appreciate
3 it.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: So this is the
5 part where we ask some of the committee members if
6 they have any questions for you.

7 Any questions of this witness?

8 Seeing none, okay.

9 I would like to just make one very
10 brief comment, and that is that much of this
11 information that we're compiling, that is really
12 public domain. There's all kinds of information out
13 there, demographic political information.

14 You know, we have this reform group
15 and that reform group. We have those who are
16 interested in fiscal matters, those who are
17 concerned about ethics and so on, which is all
18 great, and we need this. We need this kind of
19 pressure put on we members of the General Assembly
20 so that we are in touch with you, and, you know, the
21 decisions we make are reflective of the wants and
22 desires.

23 But I would urge you with respect to
24 redistricting to develop also stakeholders and

1 interest groups that compile this information on an
2 ongoing basis so that the next time we come, you
3 might actually be able to anticipate the nature and
4 the boundaries of these districts as opposed to
5 wondering what they're going to be as we're going
6 through this process.

7 MS. PARKS: And we understand that,
8 and we certainly will be working with some others to
9 see if we can't help with that process, but we felt
10 it was important to perhaps have you think about it
11 from a slightly different perspective, and that's
12 the image of the state.

13 We have had a reputation, as you
14 know, for having some significantly gerrymandered
15 districts, some that don't make logical sense at
16 all, certainly don't fall into the compact and
17 contiguous definition in any way, and again, we
18 believe it's important that the General Assembly
19 start sending every message they possibly can to say
20 we're going to do business differently, and we
21 realize we have an obligation to help with that, and
22 we certainly will.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: And let us
24 know what we can do to help facilitate that.

1 MS. PARKS: And again, thank you for
2 being in Peoria. Shop before you leave.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Stayed here
4 last night as a matter of fact.

5 All right. With that, we now have
6 Mr. Shallenberger, John R. Shallenberger. I hope
7 I'm pronouncing it properly.

8 MR. SHALLENBERGER: Yes.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Very good.

10 MR. SHALLENBERGER: Good morning.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Good morning,
12 sir. Take your time.

13 MR. SHALLENBERGER: I'd like to thank
14 each one of you for coming today.

15 Like I say, my name is John
16 Shallenberger, and I'm from UAW Local 974. I'm the
17 financial secretary-treasurer there.

18 The system that we have in place
19 today.

20 SENATOR SULLIVAN: John, pull that
21 microphone just a little bit closer to you if you
22 would, please.

23 MR. SHALLENBERGER: The system that
24 we have in place today with the two state reps and

1 two senators, that works well because generally
2 it's, like I say, bipartisan. The two parties work
3 well together. Whatever this district seems to need
4 to get done they get done, and I'd prefer to keep it
5 that way. If you need to get ahold of one of them,
6 you pretty well got access to, you know, every one
7 of them, and, like I say, it's always worked well
8 for us. I'd like to keep it that way.

9 Nothing really has changed as far as
10 the population I don't think. They talk about
11 Senator Koehler getting a bigger district. We would
12 like to see that map some day though, but that's
13 basically all I have to say.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Well, thank
15 you for sharing.

16 MR. SHALLENBERGER: Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Members of the
18 committee, any questions?

19 All right. Thank you, sir, very
20 much.

21 MR. SHALLENBERGER: Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: All right. We
23 have a little bit of time. Feel free to, you know,
24 elaborate if you'd like. That's what we're here

1 for.

2 We have a Mr. Chapman, Dave Chapman.

3 If you would state your name.

4 MR. CHAPMAN: I, like Rob and Johnny,
5 want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to
6 address you on this redistricting issue. Senator
7 Koehler, Senator LaHood, thank you.

8 I'm Dave Chapman. I'm president of
9 UAW Local 974. We represent people all the way from
10 the Henry, Toulon, Lacon area all the way to Macomb.
11 We represent seven or eight different corporations.
12 Of course, the biggest one is Caterpillar Tractor
13 Company.

14 I've been president of the local
15 since 1999. Over the years, the one thing that I'm
16 very pleased with is the way I've been able to deal
17 with our representatives in Springfield. They've
18 been very open, very honest. It's very important
19 for me to have communication at the State Capitol.
20 I represent 14,000 retired workers and families and
21 7,000 or 5,000 active workers and families at
22 Caterpillar Tractor Company.

23 I'm very gratified to tell you I can
24 pick up the phone and call any of my representatives

1 at any time regardless of what side of the fence
2 they're on and always have gotten very quick
3 response and rapid response from them, on the state
4 level that is. I'm glad we're not going into the
5 federal level.

6 But I would think that if we could
7 keep -- you know, I'm like John and Rob, you know,
8 we all would like to look at the map before it's
9 finalized. However, in my own world, I like it
10 pretty much the way it is because everybody lives in
11 their own small world, and it's made my job quite a
12 bit easier as the president of a large local to be
13 able to communicate with my representatives in my
14 area.

15 Any questions?

16 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: That's my job.

17 SENATOR KOEHLER: Just a comment.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Senator
19 Koehler.

20 SENATOR KOEHLER: One thing. You
21 know that we do have to redistrict for the
22 congressional map as well, and that will be a part
23 of this process.

24 What makes that interesting is we're

1 going down from 19 districts to 18 districts this
2 year because they have to grow in population. We've
3 lost population in Illinois, and I think that
4 everybody has mentioned that we want to see the
5 maps, and I know that Senator Raoul has already made
6 that commitment that we will have hearings once the
7 draft is done.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Which is a
9 good point, but that requires a certain level of
10 heads up.

11 As soon as you know the maps are
12 drawn, try to acquire them so that you can look at
13 them closely and comment, and send us those
14 comments, okay? The Internet is a powerful tool,
15 something we really didn't have ten years ago as
16 readily as we have it now, so use it and let us know
17 how you feel about it.

18 Any other questions?

19 Mr. Sullivan.

20 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Just to kind of
21 follow up on Senator Koehler's comments there and to
22 clarify I guess, State of Illinois has actually seen
23 an increase in population. The overall growth of
24 the state actually grew by a little over 3 percent,

1 I think 3.3 percent, and at the congressional level,
2 yes, we are losing a congressional seat, but other
3 states have grown faster. There's only so many
4 seats in Congress. That number doesn't change, so
5 that's the reason the state is losing a
6 congressional seat; not because we lost population
7 but because we didn't grow as fast as some others.

8 At the state level for the
9 legislative districts, those numbers do not change.
10 There's been a shift in population, and that's
11 represented by, as Senator Koehler indicated in his
12 district, losing population. My district is to the
13 west of here. We lost population as well.

14 So it's been more of a shift in
15 population at the state level. I just wanted to
16 clarify that, Mr. Chairman.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Okay. Thank
18 you very much.

19 All right. Any other questions?

20 MR. CHAPMAN: Actually, Senator
21 Sullivan, we have members in your district too. We
22 expand that far.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: All right.

24 MR. CHAPMAN: Thank you.

1 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you for
2 being here.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: All right.
4 With that, next we have Susan O'Neal, Attorney at
5 Law.

6 Please state your name for the record
7 and proceed.

8 MS. O'NEAL: My name is Susan O'Neal,
9 and I am an attorney, and I live and have a business
10 in Decatur, Illinois, and when I left my driveway
11 this morning, I was in the 18th Congressional
12 District, and after driving for over an hour, I'm
13 still in the 18th Congressional District.

14 I'm here because in Decatur,
15 Illinois, we are divided into three federal
16 congressional districts -- the 15th, the 17th and
17 the 18th. Those maps, especially the 17th and 18th
18 Congressional Districts, you can show them to a
19 fifth grader and they would make no sense. Why the
20 17th Congressional District includes both Decatur
21 and Rock Island and the 18th includes both Decatur
22 and Peoria is really beyond me.

23 On the state level in Decatur,
24 Illinois, we are in two senate districts or

1 legislative districts, the 44th and the 51st, and we
2 are in two different representative districts, the
3 101st and the 87th.

4 For the constituents, no one knows
5 who their representative is. Recently a friend of
6 mine that lives less than two minutes from my house
7 wanted to contact her state senator, and she asked
8 me, Susan, who is my state senator, and that should
9 have been easy answer -- well, the same one as mine.
10 But I happen to know that her street, part of it is
11 in the same one that I'm in in the 87th and the 44th
12 and the other part of her street is in the other
13 one, and so that was not an easy answer. It should
14 have been an easy answer.

15 People don't know who to contact. I
16 represent disabled people. My clients are all
17 disadvantaged, disenfranchised people that need
18 help. They don't know who to call because they
19 don't know what legislative district they reside in.

20 And, yes, someone mentioned we live
21 in the world of the Internet. My people don't have
22 the Internet. They might be able to get to the
23 library if they had a bus pass, but it is difficult
24 for them to even go to the Internet, and why should

1 they have to go to the Internet to find out who is
2 their state representative or who is their
3 representative in Congress or who is their state
4 senator.

5 Ms. Parks mentioned the compact and
6 contiguous definition. I like that. I had not
7 heard that before, but I think that we should keep
8 things like that in mind.

9 Dividing an entire community into
10 three different ways on a federal level and two
11 different ways on the state level, I don't think
12 that people get good representation and I don't
13 think they know who to turn to, and from the
14 representative side, whether it's a senator or a
15 representative from the state or the federal
16 government, I don't know how anyone can represent
17 someone very effectively if they don't know much
18 about the community that the people reside in and
19 they don't ever come there.

20 I will be honest, I have not seen my
21 congressional representative in our city in four
22 years. I have never seen him there. I have never
23 read in the paper that he was coming to our town and
24 that there would be an open meeting, but that's just

1 mine. We have two other ones. The other two did a
2 little better job, but I think that people need to
3 know who their representative is, and I think they
4 have to have contact with that person, and I don't
5 think it should be difficult for them to find out
6 who that person is.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Ms. O'Neal,
8 very good. I'm just going to take care of a
9 parliamentary procedure here, and that is to turn
10 the gavel back over to our chair.

11 First of all, I need to ask the clerk
12 to add Chairman Raoul to the roll, and with that,
13 I'm going to turn things over to him, and I'm sure
14 that maybe some of the members would like to have
15 some questions or comments for you. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: First, let me
17 apologize. I was, believe it or not, actually here
18 an hour early and decided to go visit a cousin and
19 got lost coming back.

20 And there was some mention of
21 technology here. My navigator in my car kept on
22 driving me around in circles, so I do apologize.

23 Do any of the committee members have
24 any questions for this witness?

1 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Just one comment I
2 guess or question if I could.

3 You said you're an advocate for some
4 constituents. When they reach or when you contact
5 a, and I'm going to use the term representative,
6 whether that's at the state or federal level, when
7 they contact their offices, even if they're not the
8 right office, has it been difficult or has there
9 been a problem in that office then not directing
10 that individual to the right location or to the
11 right representative? Has that been an issue?

12 MS. O'NEAL: No. When they are savvy
13 enough to find the number for a representative, if
14 it's the wrong representative, they will tell them,
15 you live in this other person's district. This is
16 the phone number for that district. They have done
17 that. But sometimes people, if it's too hard to
18 find the information, they don't even make the call.
19 That's the sad thing.

20 You're right though. If they've
21 gotten the number for someone and they were bold
22 enough to call that person even though they weren't
23 sure it was their representative, yes, they have
24 been always redirected to the correct one to the

1 best of my knowledge.

2 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Okay. Good.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Bivins?

5 SENATOR BIVINS: Thank you,

6 Mr. Chairman.

7 Thanks for your testimony. I really
8 appreciate you bringing up this point because this
9 is I think a bone of contention with people no
10 matter what political party they are, and over the
11 years, I think both political parties have drawn
12 maps as you're describing.

13 My district is up in the northwest.
14 Sterling, Illinois is in that district, and the same
15 situation depending on where you're at in the
16 Sterling-Rock Falls area, and I asked a group one
17 day about this size, who is your congressman, and
18 one guy said, "how the heck should I know" was his
19 response, and I said, that's my point, you know, as
20 we draw these maps. Three different areas or three
21 different congressmen represent Sterling, Illinois
22 depending where you're at in Sterling Illinois.

23 I have a couple towns, at least one
24 town, Erie, where the line goes right down the

1 middle of the street, so if you're on the west half,
2 you're in Senator Jacobs' district. If you're on
3 the east half, you're in my district, so I think
4 this is a huge bone of contention.

5 I think going forward, and, as I say,
6 both political parties have done it over the years,
7 drawing in circles and picking up different groups
8 to suit their own interests as far as their party
9 goes, but I think going forward from what people
10 have said and as you were pointing out, we want a
11 people map. We don't want a political map
12 necessarily. We want to be represented properly,
13 and I think that's the admonition to this body is to
14 draw a map that represents the people, not just the
15 political party, so we can find out who our
16 representatives are and that we can be properly
17 represented.

18 So thank you for your testimony. I
19 appreciate it.

20 MS. O'NEAL: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Any questions?

22 Let me just comment on this question
23 generally. I reside in the City of Chicago, and
24 many of the members here may not know that I ran in

1 1996 for state senate unsuccessfully, very
2 unsuccessfully. At the time, I resided in the 12th
3 District. I now represent the 13th District. I
4 haven't moved. The 13th District was across the
5 street from me to the east, and the Third District
6 which Senator Hunter represents was across the
7 street from me to the north, so I could literally
8 walk across the street one direction and I'd be in
9 another district and walk in another direction and
10 be in yet another district, yet I didn't feel at the
11 time that there was -- well, I did feel at the time
12 there was something funny about it, but somebody
13 today lives at a similar location. There's got to
14 be a corner or a curve or somewhere that splits up
15 the community. You know, I live in the Hyde Park
16 community in the City of Chicago, and so we were
17 split into three districts at that very point, but
18 the line had to be drawn somewhere.

19 I understand the interest of keeping
20 municipalities, communities of interest together.
21 What we learned from our first two hearings is that
22 that sometimes conflicts because you have these
23 different communities of interest describing
24 themselves in different ways, and all of these

1 interests have to be balanced, and we have to do our
2 best to be so informed, and that's part of the
3 reason why we're going around, because I have no
4 idea, you know, quite frankly how the lines are
5 currently drawn in Peoria and what the different
6 communities of interest are, and that's the purpose
7 of these hearings, so we can be so informed, and I
8 appreciate your testimony.

9 MS. O'NEAL: May I respond?

10 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Yes.

11 MS. O'NEAL: I just wanted to say,
12 you know, in a city like Chicago with millions of
13 people, you do have to draw the line somewhere. You
14 know, there's so many people, and there can only be
15 so many people in each district, but Decatur,
16 Illinois or Sterling-Rock Falls are much smaller
17 towns. Decatur, Illinois has fewer than 90,000
18 people, so why that's a problem to have it all in
19 one district whether it's on the federal or state
20 level, I'm not seeing it, I'm sorry.

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate that.

22 MS. O'NEAL: Thanks.

23 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you for your
24 testimony.

1 Bobby Zimmerman?

2 MR. ZIMMERMAN: Good morning. First
3 of all, I echo what they talked about before. Thank
4 you all for coming, having us here and allowing the
5 public to give their point of view or their thoughts
6 on this process.

7 My name is Bobby Zimmerman. I'm an
8 East Peoria resident. I'm also president of the
9 Firefighters Union over in East Peoria, and I want
10 to talk a little bit about what's going on with our
11 two senators and our two representatives.

12 I think the current system is
13 working, and they do work in a bipartisan effort,
14 and it's evident if you look across the river,
15 there's a lot of development that's going on and the
16 times are tough and it seems like the city is
17 prospering over there, and that has been help to the
18 local leaders but also to the state, and I think
19 that's the direction that the state continues and
20 wants to see us head is in a positive direction, and
21 I think there's proof, for lack of better terms,
22 proof in the pudding right there that things are
23 working the way they are in place.

24 And there is a thought that they do

1 need to keep the communities together that have the
2 likes and the same interests of all their citizens.

3 I don't want to echo everything that
4 was said before me, but I do appreciate your guys
5 work in this, and I hope it is transparent, which it
6 appears to be. That's why we're here today, and I
7 hope that's all thought and we can keep the same
8 thing we have going and continue to head in a
9 positive direction.

10 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Any questions for
11 this witness?

12 I appreciate your testimony. Of
13 course, because I was late, I don't know what
14 announcements we've made with regards to our public
15 workstations.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: We made
17 motions to allow people to take pictures and stuff
18 like that but not about that.

19 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: One of the things
20 that -- you mentioned transparency and public
21 involvement. One of the things that we set out to
22 do when we passed an act in January to try to make
23 the redistricting process more transparent than it
24 has been in the past, one was the requisite four

1 hearings in four distinct areas of the state.

2 We're going well beyond four
3 hearings. In fact, we're probably having somewhere
4 in the area of, as a state senate committee, we'll
5 probably have somewhere in the area of 13 hearings
6 before it's all said and done, some before and some
7 after an initial map is completed.

8 The other thing that came out in our
9 very first hearing was a desire for there to be
10 somewhere for people to be able to have access to
11 technology, and so we've set up and are working
12 together with the House of Representatives two
13 public workstations, one in Springfield and one in
14 the City of Chicago, where people will have access
15 to the technology so they can come in and draw maps
16 themselves, whether it's of a certain region or the
17 entire map to be submitted to inform the
18 legislators.

19 SENATOR SULLIVAN: It will have
20 population numbers on it right, Kwame?

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Right, exactly. It
22 will have the requisite data, and so that is all to
23 helping inform us when we try to put together a map.

24 And, you know, we've had

1 organizations such as the Illinois Campaign for
2 Political Reform, the Paul Simon Public Policy
3 Institute, Brad McMillin over here at Bradley has
4 asked us to have hearings both before and after a
5 map is submitted.

6 It's my intention as chairman of the
7 senate committee to do so, and to try to make
8 this -- it's always going to be imperfect but to try
9 to give as much access to the public as possible.

10 MR. ZIMMERMAN: I do believe that
11 it's very transparent, and the way that it's being
12 conducted now is the right way to do it, and people
13 have the opportunity to come up here and express
14 their concerns, and I don't really know what else
15 the people would want than to be able to do this so
16 I do appreciate that.

17 SENATOR RAOUL: Thank you.

18 SENATOR KOEHLER: May I comment?

19 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Koehler.

20 SENATOR KOEHLER: Again, I talked
21 with Brad McMillin yesterday. He was not able to be
22 here today. He's out of town, but he's going to
23 follow this process very much, and it really is a
24 resource for us here locally in Peoria.

1 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Noland.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Just real
3 quick, and I understand that we have a digital
4 divide here not only in the State of Illinois but in
5 the nation so we can get some of this information to
6 some other folks in the end, but the website, just
7 so you know, is ilsenateredistricting.com. That's
8 ilsenateredistricting -- all one word -- .com, lots
9 of information there.

10 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Now, we've come to
11 the end of people who have filled out witness slips.
12 Are there --

13 Please bring your witness slips
14 forward.

15 James Polk, Democratic Committeeman
16 for District 18.

17 Welcome, Mr. Polk.

18 MR. POLK: I want to thank you for
19 being here today to reach out to the community and
20 to give us an opportunity for the input. It's
21 something that I think is paramount for democracy
22 and a fundamental fairness in elections and how you
23 vote.

24 I think that there has been talk like

1 some other states where you just put a computer and
2 you just put those numbers together and that's the
3 way it turned out.

4 Well, I think there's a human element
5 to it, an element of fairness, an element of
6 everyone having the opportunity to participate in
7 the political system, an opportunity for fairness,
8 and I think that by and large, as I have followed
9 this thus far, that it's been a fair open way of
10 doing it.

11 I feel that the representatives are
12 honest enough to put something together that will
13 touch everyone better than a computer decision.
14 Now, I know that you have to look at the
15 demographics, the population and all of that, but I
16 just want to say that there's a broader thing, and
17 that's a fundamental fairness to allow people the
18 opportunity to participate, because you can draw
19 maps in a way that you just don't have a voice, you
20 know, and, of course, people would say that there is
21 a way to do it where there's no human contact so you
22 just do it through computers and just divide it up
23 by the numbers, and I don't think that's fundamental
24 fairness for what we're trying to achieve in

1 America.

2 So I'm just proud that you're here.
3 I think that there needs to be more hearings, and
4 also, if we can have time to see the map and have
5 another opportunity to look at it, I would
6 appreciate that.

7 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate your
8 testimony, and you raise a point that we heard a lot
9 about last year as we had hearings throughout the
10 state, and one of the editorial board members of a
11 newspaper in Chicago suggested that we follow Iowa,
12 and he gave us the name of somebody in Iowa that was
13 responsible for the system in Iowa which was
14 purportedly highly reliant on a computer.

15 And so we called the gentleman in
16 Iowa and we asked him how do you comply with the
17 federal, how do you deal with the Federal Voting
18 Rights Act, and he says, well, we don't have that
19 problem in Iowa.

20 And we asked, well, what if you did,
21 would your system work? He said no.

22 And that's part of the reality of the
23 difference between the State of Illinois and the
24 State of Iowa.

1 Additionally, with regards to the
2 State of Iowa, there was a congressional map that
3 was spit out by the computer that had two
4 congressional incumbents of the same party that the
5 Speaker of the House was in put into the same
6 district. The Speaker of the House said, well, we
7 can't have that map because the legislature rejected
8 what the computer spit out, and the computer
9 miraculously spit out a second map that did not have
10 those two incumbents in it.

11 So for all of those that say we
12 should follow Iowa, be careful what you suggest or
13 ask for.

14 What I was alluding to with regards
15 to the federal Voting Rights Act is the protection
16 of minority populations, and we have a great
17 diversity in the state and a great diversity we
18 ought to be proud of. We have that diversity in the
19 City of Peoria. We have diversity throughout the
20 state.

21 We actually also passed just this
22 year the Illinois Voting Rights Act that, you know,
23 protects groups that may not make up a majority of a
24 district but, you know, that may have their voices

1 fractured.

2 A great example that we used
3 throughout was the Chinatown community in the City
4 of Chicago that was split up into I think four or
5 five representative districts and maybe two or
6 three...

7 SENATOR HUNTER: Three.

8 CHAIRMAN RAOUL:...three legislative
9 districts, and they were unable to hold anybody
10 accountable to their community, and that's, you
11 know, fundamentally unfair, and we're responsible
12 because, you know, we drew the map that rendered
13 them, you know, politically mute.

14 And so as a result of the Voting
15 Rights Act that we passed on a bipartisan basis, we
16 will be able to fix those types of situations.

17 MR. POLK: Yeah, and because of that,
18 people say, you know, that everything should be
19 colorblind, but there's traditions, there's
20 cultures, there's a way of life. All of those
21 things is what America should be about, and so if
22 you take away the fundamental rights of a democracy,
23 people's ability to vote, I mean, that is very, very
24 important, and I've been on governments and on, you

1 know, city councils and boards long enough to know
2 that everyone is not fair. So you have to put it in
3 the system as a law, and that changes outcomes and
4 that changes how people behave and not just a
5 voluntary thing because some people say the Civil
6 Rights Law should be thrown out now, but most of you
7 up there know that that's not true because it's
8 still those pockets, there's still people's minds,
9 there's still, you know, misunderstanding or
10 feelings that it's not fair, so we can make sure
11 that one of the primary importances of our country
12 is the opportunity to vote and have a fair
13 redistricting.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Appreciate your
15 testimony.

16 SENATOR LaHOOD: I have one question.

17 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator LaHood.

18 SENATOR LaHOOD: Mr. Polk, you
19 mentioned your desire at a future date when the map
20 is released to have another hearing here, and I
21 guess this may be a question for Chairman Raoul.

22 Can you give us a timeline or a
23 schedule when the map will be released and whether
24 we will have another opportunity here in Peoria to

1 have a hearing regarding that map and to view that?

2 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Well, the map is
3 legislation, and, you know, each and every one of us
4 at this table is carrying legislation, and not a
5 single one of us can say when a particular bill is
6 going to be passed.

7 I have no idea. We're going to be
8 getting information from -- we're not just in
9 Peoria. We're also in Kankakee today. We'll be in
10 Cicero on Tuesday.

11 What is the rest of our schedule?
12 Carbondale on Thursday and Elmhurst and Yorkville on
13 the 26th. We're in the south suburbs of Chicago on
14 the 28th as well as in Macomb. We're in the
15 northwestern suburbs on the 30th, Chicago's west
16 side on the 30th. We're in Alton on May 2nd and so,
17 you know, we haven't heard from most of the state
18 yet so I have no idea.

19 SENATOR LaHOOD: Do you anticipate
20 that we may have another hearing in Peoria in May?

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I don't know. As
22 you may know, you know, you're familiar with the
23 General Assembly, but the month of May is a heavy
24 month where we're in Springfield just about every

1 day of the month of May including weekends. It's
2 going to be challenging.

3 You know, I'll be honest. We're not
4 going to be -- I mean, because if we come to Peoria,
5 then what do we say to Carbondale and Alton and
6 Macomb and the northwestern suburbs and the quad
7 cities, and how do we handle passing a budget,
8 passing all of the bills that all of us are picking
9 up from the House of Representatives. I'd say it's
10 highly unlikely.

11 My goal is to have, you know, perhaps
12 a hearing downstate and one, you know, in the
13 metropolitan Chicago area, but it's going to be
14 impractical for us to go to all the places that
15 we're going to beforehand. We'd be shirking our
16 duty to the budget and everything else that is our
17 responsibility as a legislature.

18 SENATOR LaHOOD: Can we at least put
19 in a request if you do do one downstate we'll do it
20 in Peoria?

21 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: You can put in a
22 request same as Carbondale can and Macomb can.

23 MR. POLK: Is there a possibility to
24 have surrogates of staff people or someone, I mean,

1 other than -- I know the involvement of the
2 legislators because of their busy time as you said
3 in May, but I think with the technology, you know,
4 the opportunity for information to get back to you,
5 it would make the community feel a lot better. Some
6 people would feel a lot better. Some people would
7 want to challenge it, but the opportunity needs to
8 be there.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Certainly. I mean,
10 you know, what we'll do, Senator Noland announced
11 the website that we have put up. You know, I paid
12 out of my personal pocket to have that website put
13 up. It wasn't state-financed or campaign-financed.
14 It was Kwame Raoul financed because I realize that,
15 you know, I've got a reputation at stake and so I
16 want to try to do as much as I can within my control
17 to create transparency.

18 Additionally, you have to find
19 representatives here and I'm sure we'll be able to.
20 I respect both of these gentlemen. I've known them
21 for a while, and I think, you know, City of Peoria
22 is fortunate, quite frankly, and I'm sure that they
23 will help.

24 Senator Koehler.

1 SENATOR KOEHLER: Yeah. Thank you
2 for that, Senator Raoul.

3 One thing, and I'm sure that Senator
4 LaHood will join me, once the maps are released and
5 that, please feel free to contact my office, contact
6 me and we can talk about it. I'd like to have that
7 input directly from you, and I will carry that
8 message back to the committee.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: It should be
10 noted -- Senator Sullivan cued me on this -- that
11 the map is legislation, and there's also a state
12 website that you all can go to not only on the map
13 but on everything else that we do, www.ilga.gov, to
14 find out what we're doing.

15 And as you look at the map, I
16 encourage you to look at everything else to
17 understand why we cannot go on a full statewide
18 tour.

19 Thank you for your testimony.

20 General Parker.

21 MR. PARKER: Thank you Chairman. I
22 appreciate this opportunity. I apologize for you
23 getting lost in our city today, but after all the
24 time I've gotten mixed up in downtown Chicago, I

1 kind of look at it as payback.

2 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I took a nice tour.

3 MR. PARKER: I want to welcome all
4 the senators, Senator Hunter, Senator Koehler,
5 Senatorial Noland, Senator LaHood, Senator Bivins, I
6 pretty much know all of you, and it's nice to have
7 you on my territory this time.

8 I really want to just echo some of
9 the sentiments of Committeemen Polk and that is a
10 concern of mine because we have a shift in our
11 demographics here in Peoria, and we've had a lot of
12 people move northwards. We've got a couple of
13 public housing projects that were torn down. People
14 have moved. We have a public school district here
15 that's about 65 percent African American, but that's
16 not reflective on our school board. We have a
17 population of about 30 percent African American here
18 in the City of Peoria, but that's not reflective on
19 our city council. We have a growing Hispanic
20 population, and I just want to make sure that you
21 guys took these things into consideration when
22 you're drawing your maps so that people can be
23 fairly represented.

24 Whether it's city, state or their

1 representative or state senators, we need people who
2 will share and advocate for us and be sensitive to
3 the needs of each ethnicity, so I just want to make
4 sure that you guys take that into consideration.

5 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Appreciate it.

6 Any questions?

7 All right. Thank you for your
8 testimony.

9 Is there anybody who wishes to
10 testify who has not had the opportunity to testify
11 yet?

12 MR. ADAMS: I haven't filled out a
13 slip yet but I'll be willing to do so.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Okay. You can go
15 ahead and sit down and identify yourself, and before
16 you leave please fill out a slip.

17 MR. ADAMS: My name is Steve Adams,
18 and I'm a retiree from Local 974, and I want to echo
19 the fact that, yes, we do have good state senators
20 in this area.

21 My question or my statement is this.
22 I hope that we have more meetings after the first
23 preliminary map is made out than what we do
24 necessarily before, and I agree with what you're

1 saying. I don't care who gives these meetings as
2 long as they're informed and we know what the facts
3 are, but I think it behooves us to know more
4 information after that preliminary map is drawn than
5 before. I don't want to see a lot of meetings
6 before and then a map drawn and then that be done
7 business because I think, after we see what's going
8 on, then I think we're going to have more questions
9 than what we had before.

10 That's really my only statement.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate that,
12 and let me suggest to you why some have said that,
13 you know, you shouldn't have hearings before a map
14 is drawn, but let me suggest to you, and I missed
15 the testimony of several witnesses before I entered
16 the room today, but at our Chicago hearing and in
17 our Springfield hearing, what we actually had is we
18 had people coming in with data from their particular
19 areas, with maps in some cases with information
20 about their particular communities and how
21 communities are currently divided, and with
22 specifics about, I think was it in Chicago or at the
23 Springfield hearing, there was testimony about a
24 building, that part of the building was in one

1 district and part of the building was in another
2 district, and I didn't know anything about that
3 prior to that hearing.

4 And so, you know, part of the reason
5 why we're heavy on hearings and try to get
6 everywhere prior to drawing a map is so that we can
7 have that information and be so informed.

8 I understand the desire to, you know,
9 everybody wants to chime in on what the end product
10 is.

11 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, I agree. You need
12 to have as many names ahead of time so you can get
13 all your facts and everything like that, but I think
14 at the same time, once we know, then that's what an
15 informed public needs to have is what I'm saying.

16 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate what
17 you're saying. Thank you for your testimony.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: There's
19 questions.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Bivins?

21 SENATOR BIVINS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman.

23 Probably this is more a comment or
24 maybe a question for the chair, but as a matter of

1 process -- and this is my first time through this
2 process.

3 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: As it is mine.

4 SENATOR BIVINS: As is yours, as is
5 most of us.

6 SENATOR HUNTER: All of us.

7 SENATOR BIVINS: Yeah, all of us.

8 This will have to be voted on next
9 month, is that correct, before we adjourn?

10 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: That is the hope.

11 SENATOR BIVINS: Okay. So we adjourn
12 at the end of May, and the point that I'm hearing
13 from a lot of folks here, they really want to see
14 the map, and I guess the point that needs to be
15 stressed is there won't be a lot of time, so if
16 they...

17 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I think I tried to
18 stress that.

19 SENATOR BIVINS: As soon as this
20 thing comes out and once it's out there, if the
21 public has comments, they're going to have to make
22 them very quickly because this thing could be voted
23 on at any time once it's released.

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: And that's what I

1 tried to be forthright about in response to Senator
2 LaHood's question earlier.

3 MR. ADAMS: Is there any way that we
4 could kind of have a timeline made public in any
5 sort of way that, you know, we could be prepared for
6 when that happens or needs to happen?

7 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I would love to.

8 MR. ADAMS: I mean, I understand what
9 I'm saying, but at the same time, you know, I think
10 it behooves all of us to have a chance to respond.

11 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: No, you know, I
12 agree, and I wish the --

13 MR. ADAMS: I hope it's level, you
14 know what I'm saying, before and after.

15 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate your
16 sentiment more than you understand that I appreciate
17 your sentiment, not just with regards to a map but
18 with regards to legislation in general.

19 MR. ADAMS: Exactly.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I do appreciate your
21 sentiment, and, you know, let it be known that I'm
22 going to do my best as chairman to give the public
23 as much opportunity to respond to a map as possible,
24 and I can't get any more specific than that because,

1 you know, I don't want anybody to say, well, you
2 promised this in Peoria.

3 MR. ADAMS: Well, let me say I'm just
4 glad you're listening.

5 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Senator Noland?

6 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: Yes.

7 What we're talking about here is
8 essentially this whole concept of notice and
9 hearing. You're asking for more hearings, and
10 that's fine. Hearings are important. But I think
11 more importantly, at least for our purposes here
12 today and moving forward, is this notion of notice.
13 We want to make sure that once a map is in place or
14 there is a prospective map in place that you're able
15 to review it in a sufficient amount of time so that
16 when you come to the hearing you're able to comment
17 as thoroughly as an individual or your organizations
18 would like to comment and then have a sufficient
19 number of hearings.

20 I think, if I'm not mistaken,
21 Mr. Chairman, you've committed to having two
22 hearings, is that correct, after the map is drawn?
23 I just want to make sure that I'm correct here.

24 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Yes, I'm going to do

1 my best to have two hearings.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN NOLAND: And
3 prospectively, one downstate, one upstate, something
4 like that, but that leading up to those hearings
5 that there is adequate notice so that you can
6 gather. It's going to be very difficult getting
7 everybody together in one place. Scheduling these
8 hearings, a significant number of them, all over the
9 state is a challenge finding venue, making sure that
10 people can be there.

11 It was very difficult finding this
12 place here today for example for a number of folks
13 including myself. I last night made sure that I
14 understood that it was here, and I had to travel
15 around outside just to make sure that I was going to
16 be here in the morning.

17 So, you know, I mean, this is a
18 challenge, but notice I think is the key so as to
19 provide you the opportunity to comment.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I found it the first
21 time.

22 Senator Koehler.

23 SENATOR KOEHLER: Steve, thanks for
24 your comments.

1 One of the things that I'll do with
2 my office, and Kyle Dooley is my staff person in the
3 back of the room, as we would with any piece of
4 legislation, contact my office. You know, I will
5 try to call you. I don't know whether I can get
6 back each night because we've got a tough schedule
7 in May, but I will call you. I'll talk to you, or
8 please send an e-mail; whatever we have to do to
9 communicate about this because I do want to have
10 that conversation.

11 MR. ADAMS: Good. Thank you.

12 Like I say, I don't have any problem
13 with my state senators.

14 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Don't blame it on
15 them. Blame it on me.

16 MR. ADAMS: Done.

17 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Is there anybody
18 else who has not had the opportunity -- if you'd
19 step up and state your name and make sure you fill
20 out a witness slip.

21 MS. BROWN: Good morning to you all.
22 My name is Irene Brown. I'm the president of the
23 Peoria Area Black Chamber of Commerce.

24 My question is since all of you guys

1 are new at this redistricting, I'm new at this too,
2 never been part of such public hearings, that
3 perhaps we can see something visually. I am from
4 the Chicago area. However, I've been residing in
5 Peoria for the last ten years, and I know I don't
6 look at the State of Illinois map every day, and
7 I've heard mention of Sterling and all these other
8 places that are denoted on the map. Perhaps that
9 would be a very good conduit for you guys going
10 forward that people could actually see where your
11 representation is and that we can actually visualize
12 where some of these zip codes are.

13 I understand in Peoria, Illinois that
14 a large part of the minority population is in 61604
15 and 61605. Well, if this is done every ten years,
16 perhaps looking at the history of why this is
17 happening and also visually seeing where we can move
18 forward because it's always hard to understand what
19 we're trying to accomplish when we really can't see
20 it.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I appreciate that.

23 Perhaps what we need to do for some
24 future hearings is carry a big map of the district,

1 but also, I should add that the website that we
2 mentioned before, ilsenateredistricting.com, has a
3 full map of the state districts, and it also has...

4 SENATOR SULLIVAN: Current.

5 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: ...current emphasis
6 and also has census data, a link to the census data
7 on there as well.

8 MS. BROWN: Okay. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Thank you. And
10 please be sure to fill out a witness slip.

11 MS. BROWN: I will.

12 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Have we left anybody
13 out? Is there anybody else who wishes to testify?

14 Senator LaHood.

15 SENATOR LaHOOD: I would just say,
16 Chairman Raoul, if for some reason you get lost
17 getting out of town, we have a couple hotels,
18 restaurants and a few malls for you to engage in, so
19 keep that in mind.

20 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: Well, fortunately, I
21 was able to do a brief visit with a cousin who I
22 haven't seen in a few years and just moved here,
23 moved to Peoria from Wisconsin and her 5-year-old
24 son, and I was kind of caught up with the 5-year-old

1 and so I'll probably stay there, but I'll spend
2 money here though.

3 Senator Koehler.

4 SENATOR KOEHLER: I just wanted to
5 thank the American Red Cross Chapter. Ann Fox is
6 the CEO of the Red Cross here. They're always very
7 gracious in making this facility available to the
8 public, and so I just wanted to publicly thank them.

9 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: I echo that. Thank
10 you.

11 Senator Sullivan.

12 SENATOR SULLIVAN: I just want to
13 reiterate kind of the process and the transparency.

14 Whenever there is an initial map, and
15 it will be in bill form, this is going to be a
16 legislative process, so that information will be on
17 the state's website, as Senator Raoul indicated,
18 ilga.gov, and because of the importance of this
19 issue, there is no doubt in my mind that the public
20 will know that there's an initial map online where
21 you can go and see it.

22 And then, obviously, I would suggest
23 your next step would be, you know, to follow when
24 the committee hearings will be on that map, the

1 discussion where they will be, but also, as Senator
2 Koehler indicated just a few minutes ago, then it
3 would be incumbent upon you to get ahold of your
4 representatives at the local level and give them
5 your input, give them your comments, give them your
6 questions, and, of course, if you're able to and you
7 know where these committee hearings are going to be,
8 if you're able to show up at those and make
9 comments, certainly we would suggest that as well.

10 CHAIRMAN RAOUL: With that, I want to
11 thank everybody who came out today for your
12 testimony and for your sacrificing your Saturday
13 morning. It's important that we hear your voices
14 both today and in the future, and I want to again
15 thank the Red Cross, and I want to thank both
16 Senator LaHood and Senator Koehler both for being
17 good representatives of this area and for helping
18 host us today.

19 With that, the Committee on
20 Redistricting is hereby adjourned.

21 (Adjournment at 11:20 a.m.)

22

23

24