

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** Good morning. Welcome to the Redistricting Committee public hearing. My name is Lou Ann Linehan. I'm from Elkhorn and represent Legislative District 39. I serve as Chair of this committee. Today, we will hear all eight bills at the same time. That way, if you would like to testify on more than one map, you may do so when you're up here whether-- regardless if it's one or two or three maps. Our hearing today is for your public part--- your-- excuse me, our hearing today is your public part of the legislative process. This is your opportunity to express your position on the proposed legislation before us today. To better facilitate today's proceedings, I ask that you abide by the following procedures. Please turn off cell phones. The order-- I always have to make sure-- I do. The order of testimony introduced-- is the introducer, members of the public, and closing remarks. If you will be testifying, please complete the green form and hand it to-- do we have pages here today?-- hand it to the page. If you have written materials you would like to distribute to the committee, please hand them to staff to distribute. We need 12 copies for all committee members and staff. When you begin to testify, please state and spell your name for the record. Please be concise. It is my request that you limit your testimony to five-- excuse me, three minutes. If necessary, we will use-- well, we're going to use the light system, so you're going to have two minutes on green and then a minute on yellow and then obviously we need to make sure people stay within that because we want to make sure everybody that's here gets a chance. So to be fair, we're going to be tough on the light system. If your remarks were reflected in previous testimony or you would like your position to be known but do not wish to testify, please sign the white form. And where is it, gentlemen? Outside the door in the back. Please speak directly into the microphone so our transcribers are able to hear your testimony clearly. I would like to introduce committee staff and I would like them to stand as I read their names: Director of Legislative Research, Ben Thompson, who's standing in the back, his staff, LaMont Rainey and Tim Erickson and-- I'm not sure--

**JEFF FRYMAN:** Jeff, Jeff Fryman.

**LINEHAN:** --Jeff Fryman who is going-- who's in the National Guard, right? Good morning, Jeff-- and committee clerk Grant Latimer at the end of the table. I'm just going to take a couple of minutes here to kind of shout-- shout-out to the staff. This is the 17th day since the committee has actually had numbers to work on, but before we had the numbers, the staff in Legislative Research had to work on them for ten days. So if my math is right, they are in their 27th day of working every day and many of those days over 12 hours a day. They have also

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

done an excellent job of getting everything on the website as soon as it was available, including the resolutions and the maps. I just-- I really want people to understand how hard they have had to work the last almost four weeks. Now I would like Senator-- starting with Senator Blood, I believe, just introduce-- the senators to introduce themselves.

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

**BRIESE:** Tom Briese. I represent District 41.

**BREWER:** Tom Brewer. I represent District 43.

**LATHROP:** Steve Lathrop. I represent Legislative District 12, which is Ralston and parts of southwest Omaha.

**GEIST:** Suzanne Geist. I represent District 25, which is the east side of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**LOWE:** John Lowe, District 37.

**LINEHAN:** Please refrain from applause or other indications of support or opposition. I'd like to remind our committee members to speak directly into the microphones. For our audience, the microphones in the room-- this is not true-- they are for amplification here and recording purposes. Last, we are electronic-equipped committee. Information is provided electronically as well as in paper form. Therefore, you may see committee members reference information on electronic devices. Be assured that your presence here today and your testimony are important to us and critical to our state government. One last message here: for those who aren't here-- even those who are here-- you have till-- we have another hearing tomorrow in Lincoln at 11 a.m. That will be about the bills that were introduced after-- by other senators not on the committee or maybe-- no, not on the committee. That will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow. Any letters for the record for that hearing should be in-- submitted to the Legislature by noon today. And with that, we're going to have Senator Wayne introduce his bills first this morning, so Senator Wayne, would you like to--

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Good morning, Chairwoman Linehan and members of the Redistricting Committee. I am Justin Wayne. I serve as the Vice Chair of this committee. I represent Legislative District 13, which is north Omaha and north Douglas County, northeast Douglas County. Before I start, I just want to note that I am wearing a suit today, not because we are in Omaha, it is because when I leave here, I am going straight

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

to court after I get done testifying for my real job and then coming back here after my court hearing and I didn't have time to change in between. So no disrespect to CD 1 and CD 3 who saw me in a polo shirt in most of my testimony. Second, I just want to take a time-out because I know we're going to be here for a while, but I think it's important to note that today is Chairwoman's Linehan's birthday and I just want to thank her for her service, not just on this Legislature, but for the years of government, particularly serving as chief of staff for Senator Hagel and all the work that she's done when he was secretary of state too and then just being a mentor to me and a friend to me in the Legislature and it's been an honor working with you, Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** She still won't vote for my plan, so I'm going to, I'm going to introduce both LB2 and LB4 today and I'll, I'll spend a little time walking through kind of what we've done and then open up to any questions from the committee members. LB2 would adopt a proposed redistricting plan for three Congressional districts, districts that I put forward after input from this committee and many of our colleagues. Before getting into a whole lot of details, I just want to remind the public that the Legislature last session passed LR134 and what it basically says is our, is our guidelines for how we should try to come up with these maps. Some of the suggestions were follow county lines, which is actually part of our state constitution, make sure our districts are compact and contiguous, that they are easily identifiable, identifiable to voters, preserve community interests, and preserve the core of the prior districts. So that's the process we started with. The results of the 2020 Census revealed that Nebraska's population has continued to shift heavily from the west to the east, resulting in nearly a shift of 100,000 people between the three Congressional districts. CD 1 grew slightly with over 6,000 people to the ideal population. CD 2 grew significantly with over, significantly with over 47,000 people over the ideal district population, while CD 3 lost a significant with over 53,000 people under the ideal district population. Douglas County, the largest county by population in the state of Nebraska, has been wholly included in a single Congressional district for as long as the state has been-- as long as Nebraska has been a state. Again, Douglas County has wholly been included in a single Congressional district for as long as Nebraska has been a state. When Nebraska was admitted in a state, roughly 1867 until-- before Nebraska was admitted till 1892, the state had a single Congressional district for the entire state. Starting around 1882, reappointment gave Nebraska three Congressional districts. Douglas

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

County was placed entirely in the First Congressional District. Reappointment in 1892 gave Nebraska an additional district so they were renumbered. That is when Douglas County moved again entirely to CD 2. Nebraska lost a Congressional district in 1932, 1942, and again in 1962. Throughout that entire time, Douglas County remained in its entirety in the Second Congressional District. All of Douglas County has been in the Second Congressional District since 1892 and in a single Congressional district either at large in CD 1 or CD 2 for the entire time it has been a state. Obviously, under my proposal, it would not be logical or justifiable to split Douglas County, which the core has been Douglas County in CD 2 for over 130 years. In fact, the fundamental question for me was where to draw the Sarpy County line, which has been a part of the Congressional district for as long as I can remember. Looking back and making sure people understand, we followed the guidelines laid out in LR134 and looking at La Vista, the Gretna area, and Bellevue, we believe that Bellevue is more like the core of Douglas County than La Vista or other parts of Gretna. I want to remind people that until 2011, the Second Congressional District included eastern half of Sarpy County, encompassing all of the city of Bellevue, all of the city of La Vista, and roughly half of the city of Papillion. It was not until 2011 when this Legislature radically changed Congressional District 2 by moving Bellevue out of Congressional District 2 in Congressional District 1. Under my proposed plan, much of the city of Bellevue, Bellevue would be restored to the Second Congressional District from Fort Crook Road to Fontenelle Forest. And in the east, it will-- to, to Highway 30-- 370 to the south. The plan would also retain much of the city of La Vista in the Second Congressional District, east of 96th Street. As far as the other boundaries when it relates to Congressional Districts 1 and 3, my proposal would shift all of Platte and Polk counties into the Third [Congressional] District-- from, from the Third [Congressional] District to the First [Congressional] District, along with the-- most of Otoe County. The idea is we were trying to only split two counties to make sure that we are following the guidelines that were laid out by LR134. I believe that any map that splits Douglas County is a gross violation of what we are trying to do when preserving the core and the community of interest. I often don't agree with Governor Heineman, but Governor Heineman also opposes the plan that splits Douglas County into two. I'm certain there will be a number of individuals here who will testify about the core of [Congressional] District 2 and Douglas County and I look forward to them testifying. Now turning to LB4, which is the Legislature map that was proposed by me. We heard a lot about the gross or the significant loss and heavy shift from west to east in my first testimony. To put that in perspective, four western districts suffered the most population loss from the standard

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

deviation that we are trying to achieve. LD 47, Senator Erdman's district, is 15.5 percent under the deviation that we are try-- underneath the ideal district. LD 42, Groene's district, lost 13.4 or it's 13.4 [percent] under the ideal district population. LD 44, Senator Hughes, is 13.3 percent under the ideal, ideal deviation and LD 43, Brewer's district, lost 11.7 [percent]. Now I want to put that in perspective that in Douglas and Sarpy County, LD 39, which is Senator Linehan's district, gained about 48 percent, LD 49 gained 31 percent, and LD 10, Senator DeBoer, gained 30 percent. In light of these circumstances and looking at the state as a whole, we must move one legislative district from the areas with the most population loss to the growth-- where the growth is seen in western Douglas County and Sarpy County. Now, I want the public to understand that this isn't something Justin came up with or Senator Lathrop came up with. This is actually the procedures that we have used in this body for the last 50 years. We look at the districts who have lost the most population, we compare them to the districts that have gained the most population, and we move them over accordingly. In fact, that is how we have LD 39 and LD 31 in Douglas County. Just a few years ago in 2010, there was similar loss in western Nebraska. LD 43 lost 16.54 percent, LD 49 lost 14.94 percent, LD 47 lost 13.13 percent, and LD 44 lost 11.43 percent. The Legislature in 2011 did exactly what I am doing today when it moved LD 49 from western Nebraska to Sarpy County. LD 49 did not see the most population lost, but the incumbent senator, Senator Loudon, was term-limited the following year. So without disrupting the majority of the Legislature, they removed that district to western Sarpy County. That is the exact same reason I chose LD 44. Senator Hughes is term-limited after this year. Therefore, it makes logical sense. Under my plan, LD 44 would move into an area that is largely encompassed of two districts that saw the highest population growth, LD 39, western Douglas County, and LD 49, western Sarpy County. Other changes to my map include changing some of the split districts and divided communities that are throughout western Nebraska. The existing splits between Box Butte County, Alliance, and Otoe County, Nebraska City, are eliminated. That is again going back to the guidelines that were set forth of keeping communities of interest whole and preserving communities of interest. Dixon County would be split in order to necessarily achieve the population growth for LD 17, but Wakefield and Emerson, the key two population points, both straddle county lines and it would make them whole by having both of them in the same legislative district. The growth in Lancaster County was largely concentrated in LD 21, LD 25, and LD 30. Because LD 30 already need to lose population because it was-- it grew too much, LD 32 was already within the allowable limit. We had to move part of LD 24, Senator Kolterman's district, into western Lancaster County, which creates a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

community of interest because many of the residents in Seward and York already commute to Lincoln for work. I won't go through the rest of some of the smaller changes. I think it's important that we know the purpose of this was to preserve the cores in both maps. The purpose of this was to conserve-- to preserve the community interest. And lastly, we just did exactly what this body has always done when it came to making sure we had one person, one vote. Thank you and I'll answer any questions.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Wayne. Are there questions from the committee? Senator Briese.

**BRIESE:** Thank you, Chair Linehan. Thank you for your opening there, Senator Wayne. What if we had data suggesting the possibility or even the likelihood of a census undercount in rural Nebraska compared to the count in urban Nebraska?

**WAYNE:** So if there was data, one, I would like-- well, thank you for the question. If there was data, one, I would like to see that data to make sure it's viable and I, and I think it's a very-- I think it would be very-- it would be unproductive for us at this point to start challenging the data from the federal government. And the reason I say that is because let's take three counties in western Nebraska: Arthur, McPherson, and Logan. Their population is 434 in Arthur, McPherson is 399, and Logan is 716. If 50 percent of those people chose not to answer the census data, we're talking about 200 people. I can find 200 people who, who did not answer in Omaha down the street four blocks from now [SIC]. So if we start undermining the data, even if there is a rate of 70 percent in Douglas County of return, that's 30 percent who didn't return and the math actually would undercut your argument because it would help urban, not necessarily rural.

**BRIESE:** But would it be fair to say that if there is a systemic undercount detected in rural Nebraska, the equal protection clause would be implicated?

**WAYNE:** It would be implicated, but there would be that same undercount. Historically, particularly in east Omaha, there's always been an undercount. And so I would tell you that my district has an undercount and because my district is a partial county, I don't think the numbers work, work in the favor of rural Nebraska; 30 percent undercount in Douglas will still have a lot more people than 50 percent in most of the counties in western Nebraska.

**BRIESE:** OK, thank you.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Brieese. Other questions from the committee? Senator--

**BREWER:** Brewer.

**LATHROP:** --Brewer. Thank you.

**LATHROP:** We barely know each other.

**BREWER:** Senator Wayne, I'm, I'm torn because there's things about your maps I like and I think you, you put a lot of wisdom in some of the shaping of, of your districts. Again, I'm just going to address mine and, and part of this goes back to why we're kind of struggling with the reality of the sheer size that we're going to have to be forcing these districts to become. And, and for the sake of everyone here that hasn't heard some of the discussion from previous days, I need you to visualize for a second the size of my district. If we started right here and we drove all the way to North Platte, then we drove to the Kansas border, that chunk of Nebraska is my district. So to manage roads, bridges, schools, all the issues with livestock crops, just, just imagine how difficult that's going to be. And what we're going to do here is we're going to expand that and make it bigger yet, so your challenge is your counterparts who may have a few dozen blocks of either Lincoln or Omaha, the city of Omaha, the city of Lincoln are going to be the ones who take care of those needs. Your, your, your responsibilities are probably going to come down to a much smaller package. And I think we will reach a point where you can make a district so big it is unmanageable and the people of that district are no longer representative because it's physically impossible. Now, part of that would be staffing to be able to answer the phone, but it's also the ability to go to those distant, distant places, meet with people. When you have to leave on a Friday, you're going to go a 500-mile, one-way drive, meet with a few folks on Saturday, and then Sunday, start the 500-mile drive back. So as we look at this, just keep in mind that there will be a point we have to make some hard decisions about whether it's even realistic with the system we have right now to make these districts so massive. I guess my question is do you, do you kind of see where I'm coming from with this?

**WAYNE:** Thank you for the question.

**LINEHAN:** Please, if you're in the room, respect that there's a hearing going on.

**WAYNE:** So one, I do think it's important and I hope the public listens to this, that we-- every time there's an outburst, it delays people

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

and maybe not a person getting a chance to speak. We have to make sure we don't do that. Two, I've traveled this state a lot with Senator Brewer and I understand his challenges, so I would, one, suggest immediately next session, we look at staffing issues for those who are representing bigger areas to maybe you have additional staff to help be your surrogate in the community. Two, as you know, last year, I-- well, last session, I passed the inland port bill that was for western Nebraska. We helped fund rural workforce development in western Nebraska. We also helped fund or I, I cosponsored Spur line projects for western Nebraska. The key to western Nebraska is we have to develop growth. It's no secret that I believe from Ogallala to Fort Robinson to Ponca, there should be a huge investment by the state to grow that area. I think that is one of the best tourist areas we could have and tourists being our third-largest economy, we should invest. There is no reason that in the state of Nebraska, we do not have a national museum for Standing Bear. There is no reason. So as we grow Nebraska, we should make sure that in ten years, you do get a congressional-- or a legislative seat back. So I think we will make sure to do that. However, we are tasked today and we are tasked with this committee to follow the constitution of one vote by one person. And not following the constitution historically has not worked out for my community and your community, Senator Brewer, so I think we will make sure that we will follow the constitution and be cognitive of how do we create better staffing needs, even if it is putting a budget to allow senators to have offices outside of the off-- outside of our, our Capitol? We should look at all that to make sure we are more community involved, but I do think we have to follow the constitution. I do think we have to follow the numbers, but I also think because of this redistricting, because of traveling to western Nebraska, particularly with you, I am more cognitive of the fact that we have to invest in the Nebraska-- in western Nebraska to help it grow.

**BREWER:** Thank you. And I, I got to tell you, I wish we had more senators that would think out of their district and you are, you're the example that we should have more of because by doing that, it's easier to figure out solutions when people will think across lines and say hey, it's not their problem, it's our problem and we've got to figure out how to make it better next time around, so thank you.

**WAYNE:** I look forward to cosponsoring that bill this year.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Brewer. Are there other questions from the committee? I have one. How many people does your legislative Congressional-- excuse me-- legislative-- Congressional map slice off in Sarpy County and drag them into [Congressional District] 2?



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**WAYNE:** Roughly 60,000 people, but I am-- according to the article in the World-Herald today, it might be 59,000 minus two because I'm assuming--

**LINEHAN:** 69,000--

**WAYNE:** --I'm assuming Bacon is building a new house outside the district that I drew, so--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** --I had 60,000 even, but I'm a little short now.

**LINEHAN:** And what is the population of Douglas County?

**WAYNE:** Douglas County-- oh, Lord-- 584,000-- 584,526.

**LINEHAN:** So the people in Sarpy County that would be in [Congressional] District 2 would be what percentage of [Congressional] District 2's population?

**WAYNE:** Roughly 10 percent.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Other questions? I-- thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Colleagues, I will be back. I am going to run to the courthouse and I'll come right back.

**LINEHAN:** And I have asked Senator Lathrop to fill in when I introduce the other bills and other times when I'm gone when Senator Wayne is not here.

**LATHROP:** OK. We'll next hear the introduction of Senator Linehan's bills. She's got a number of maps that, that relate to the congressional, the legislative, Board of Regents, school board, and Public Service Commission. Oh, and the Supreme Court. Pretty sure that's not the reason for the crowd, though.

**LINEHAN:** I didn't realize-- can you guys come-- oh, are these for the testifiers? Is that the situation? OK, I'm sorry. I thought they were Senator Wayne's. Good morning, senators. My name is Lou Ann Linehan, L-o-u A-n-n L-i-n-e-h-a-n. I represent Legislative District 39, which is in the western part of Nebraska-- I mean-- Nebraska-- Douglas County. I am not only-- I'm getting older today. I hope it doesn't show up that much. First, I would like everyone to recognize this is a very difficult process. No one likes change. I don't care if you're five years old or if you're 65 years old, you do not like change, but

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

due to population shifts, changes are necessary. No map is going to approve-- win the approval of all, but today we welcome the public's input and I will try and be brief in describing the six bills that I am introducing today. LB1, which is the congressional map, ensures minority vote-- voices are protected. Both the black minority-majority and Hispanic minority-majority legislative districts remain in legislative-- in Congressional District 2. LB1 follows clearly recognizable boundaries. It takes the northern part of Douglas County outside of 680 and north of Dodge and places it in the First [Congressional] District. I don't know anybody who lives in Omaha who doesn't use those two main thoroughfares as directions to how to get to their home. It is necessary to split counties to ensure we keep the one person, one vote principle and keep the deviation at zero percent. I realize we're not to concern ourselves with partisanship, but since my office had received over 100 calls to save the blue dot, I'm going to address it this morning. LB1 proposal for the Second [Congressional] District does not eliminate a blue dot, nor does it guarantee it. The blue dot depends more on the presidential candidates than it does the congressional map. Congressman Bacon has proved that. LB1 does not, as it has been described, split Douglas County in half. Doing that, you would-- you could-- if we were going to do that and if it was partisan, I think most of the people on the committee and several in here to testify today know that split would be down somewhere between 90th Street and 132nd Street. What it does do is place Ponca Hills, Olde Towne Elkhorn, Valley, and Waterloo in the First [Congressional] District. It also keeps Sarpy County whole. Douglas County has 584,626 people; 441,014 remain in [Congressional] District 2, over 70-- slightly over 75 percent of the population in Douglas County. In contrast, LB2 picks up-- I believe it's 69,000, but I had a chance to check with staff this morning, so that's what I know-- 69,000 people out of Sarpy County somewhere and grab them so Douglas County can stay whole. I, I don't understand the reasoning of that. I don't understand why every other county in the state can be split because we have to, to keep the one vote, one principle-- one vote, one person principle, but yet somehow we can't split Douglas County in a very reasonable way and I know there are many people who are going to disagree with me here today. But again, change is always on the horizon and if we don't have some dramatic depression or recession, I can't really believe that Douglas County won't have-- be over one-third of the state's population by the next census. So this is going to come unless hopefully, maybe we have greater growth in western Nebraska. Now, when it comes to legislative map, which is LB3, I do not agree with Senator Wayne that we should continue to do what the Legislature has done in the past. I am absolutely opposed to it. We have some obligation, since we only have one house, to ensure that

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

whoever represents the western half of Nebraska geographically has some ability to actually know who's in his district and has some ability to help those people. You are talking in Senator Brewer's district in LB, LB3, he-- if this map passed, he would have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, 11, 12, 13, 14 counties. Am I correct?

**BREWER:** Oh, I think it's--

\_\_\_\_\_: [INAUDIBLE] not many people.

**LINEHAN:** Fourteen counties, fourteen counties in one district with-- I can't even guess how many school districts for one senator and we're supposed to, like, find a way to make that bigger? We have other options and that is the option LB rep-- LB3 represents. LB3 merges two districts and yes, then takes one of them and puts them in Sarpy County. We have to put a new legislative district in-- somewhere in Sarpy County, I believe. We have three Congressional [SIC] districts, mine included, I am 50 percent over the population for a legislative district. Senator DeBoer is 32 percent, I think, and Senator Day is 30 percent. Those numbers add up to 40,000 people, which is right about where we need for a new legislative district and that legislative district would go into Sarpy County. And the reason it goes into Sarpy County, because we talk about loss of population in the western part of the state continually, but we lack talking about the loss of population in legislative districts in Douglas County. District 31 is 2,000 people short. District 13 is 2.3 percent below. District 6 is 2.1 percent below. District 8 is 8.1 percent below the population it needs. So it's not the population moved to western in Douglas County. It-- that's-- so if your district did not grow by the state average of 7.5 percent, your boundary lines need to change. Thirty-three legislative districts are under the deviation rate. They are all not in-- they are not all west of Grand Island. Some of them are-- we might even be sitting in one of them. Yesterday, the ACLU reminded us that this is about the voters and the people, not about us. I agree. It is not about our legislative district. We don't own our legislative districts. We serve, if we are lucky enough to get elected, because people elected us. The districts belong to the people. The other maps that are presented today, LB5 is the Public Service Commission map, LB6 is the Supreme Court map, LB7 is the state school board, and LB8 is the University of Nebraska Board of Regents. There are concerns, I know, on the committee regarding the state school board and the Board of Regents. I would welcome any comments on that today because it does currently cut Douglas County up four different ways. So with that, I'd ask for any questions.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LATHROP:** Before we get to questions, I'm-- I'd like to make a quick announcement. First of all, thank you for your introduction, Senator. We are pleased that we have a good turnout today. That's good to see people engaged in this process and we're going to have an opportunity for input. Here's what we can't do today, though: heckling, clapping, you know, reacting to the testimony. That-- we, we don't want this to turn into that, OK, where one side screams and then the other side has to be louder and then it turns into, you know, a football game or something. This is a hearing. If you would, hold your reaction, your applause, your disappointment, whatever it might be. Let the testifiers testify because they're educating the committee. Finally, if you have a cell phone, make sure it's in the silent mode so that it's not ringing in the middle of someone's testimony. With that, Senator-- any questions for Senator Linehan from the panel? OK, I see none. Thank you, Senator.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**BREWER:** You did a nice job there.

**LINEHAN:** So we would welcome testifiers to come forward. The way-- because there's so many people, we've got two tables so we can have two people up here and then move toward the front. So once you testify, don't sit in the front row and people, others who want to testify, move forward. That will move this along.

**LATHROP:** Do you want to talk about a sign-in sheet, so if they don't get a chance to testify, they--

**LINEHAN:** I did, but I can do it again.

**BLOOD:** I would read again. There's a long [INAUDIBLE] who came in.

**LATHROP:** You might because I don't see how we ever get through everybody in--

**LINEHAN:** OK, the sign-in sheets, could we maybe have two tables with sign-in sheets? Where are the sign-in sheets?

\_\_\_\_\_: They're in--

\_\_\_\_\_: In the foyer.

**LINEHAN:** They're in the back.

\_\_\_\_\_: The table outside the doors.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** So there are-- if you want to-- again, if you want to sign in your position, there are sign-in sheets in the back. You can put your name down, state your position, and it will be-- and maybe I didn't make this clear enough, it will be part of the public record. So if you're here and one or two or five people have said what you're going to say, you can just sign in and it will, it will also go in the public record. Good morning.

**WILLIAM FORSEE:** Good morning.

**LINEHAN:** And you all see the light system right here because I am going to be very tough on that today. You go--

**WILLIAM FORSEE:** Oh. OK.

**ALISHA SHELTON:** You or me, you or me.

**LINEHAN:** --please.

**WILLIAM FORSEE:** OK. William Forsee, W-i-l-l-i-a-m F-o-r-s-e-e, and I'm here to testify in favor of Senator Wayne's proposal. In 2-- in 2008, they moved Bellevue out of CD 2 into CD 1. What happened in that is they were hoping to, you know, preserve a winner take all as far as the elections. They were very upset that I was the one that gave the electoral vote to Obama and they didn't want to see that happen again, so what did they do? They moved my section of Bellevue out into CD 1 where I have Mr.-- or Congressman Fortenberry, OK? I don't have a lot in common with Lincoln. I have a lot in common with Omaha and that-- and the business community in Omaha. They thought they preserved the electoral vote for the Republican Party. Well, last year something happened. Biden won the electoral vote and they almost lost their mind again. So they were trying to figure a way to make sure that will never happen. Well, we're looking at-- I have a question for the Republicans on the committee. When have you turned anti--

**LINEHAN:** Sir, we don't-- unless it's rhetorical. You don't get to ask--

**WILLIAM FORSEE:** It's a rhetorical. Yeah, it's rhetorical, definitely.

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**WILLIAM FORSEE:** What we're looking at is when have they turned against business? How much money and millions of dollars are brought into CD 2 when this district is a competitive district. When it-- if it is no longer competitive and there's no chance of ever becoming a blue dot

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

again, do you think the national Republican Party will spend money here? Do you think the National Democratic Party would spend money in Omaha? No. There would be no reason to. So I'm curious is why would they want to give up a financial blessing-- I call it-- to Omaha and to the state of Nebraska, as far as new tax revenues coming in? So I'm confused as to why they're opposed to what I think would be a blessing for the Chamber of Commerce saying bring the money into Omaha. We want it. Bring the money into Nebraska. We want it. We don't want to just give it away because we want to, you know, make sure that the blue dot never happens again. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Good morning.

**ALISHA SHELTON:** Good morning. Am I-- feels far away. Can you hear me OK?

**LINEHAN:** Yes.

**ALISHA SHELTON:** OK. My name is Alisha Shelton, A-l-i-s-h-a S-h-e-l-t-o-n. I am here to speak as an opponent to LB1 and a proponent to LB2. I took a-- some time to review our state constitution and Article III, Section 5 that talks about redistricting and trying to understand what it means when it says county lines should be followed when practicable. So today in my testimony, I'm going to speak about how I feel that LB1 is not practicable. Earlier, Senator Linehan spoke about it being necessary to have LB1 and the-- necessary to divide Douglas County to have one person, one vote. Well, that means equal representation and I want to tell you why your map is not equal representation because it separates the culture of the county. What is the culture of a county? It's our shared experiences. Our core is our shared experiences. I grew up in Douglas County. I attended school in LD 1. I was-- lived in LD 1-- that's Senator McKinney's district [SIC]. I was bussed to LD 20, that's Senator-- like, Lindstrom, I think, and then-- or Senator McCollister and then I also was bussed to District 6, which is Senator Machaela Cavanaugh's district and so-- I also had the pleasure of driving to Thurston County for four years. I found four different routes to get all the way up there and I learned something. I learned that what makes people bond and what connects people is what happens in their county. So the shared experiences that we have are the school systems, the libraries, the postal service. It is the courthouse. It is the healthcare system, the hospital systems. It is the police departments. What you are doing in your bill, it separates that. I also heard you mention that the communities of color are still in your proposal, your map of LB1. Well, I'm not and if you look at the communities of color that have recently grown in the past ten years, specifically Irvington, they are

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

completely removed and put into LD 1. And so, for example, in my neighborhood, I have the "champ" Bud Crawford. He's in LD 1. What does that do? What shared experiences do we have with Saunders County? I'm proud to be in Douglas County and I'm coming to ask you to consider to keep it whole, as it has been for 130 years. And change is great. Change is always on the horizon, but it is-- you're more-- you have a moral obligation to listen to the will of the people and the will of the people-- you can hear that today, hopefully in this room--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**ALISHA SHELTON:** --and so I'm asking--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**ALISHA SHELTON:** --you to--

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

**ALISHA SHELTON:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Um-hum. Good morning, Honorable--

**HAL DAUB:** Good morning, Madam Chair. My name is Hal Daub, H-a-l D-a-u-b. I'm a resident of Douglas County and I'm pleased to be here to spend a few minutes with you on this decennial redistricting obligation, which the Legislature will shoulder, I'm sure, at the end of the day, quite well and I want to thank each and every one of you for all the time and effort you spent on this very complex issue and for these public hearings, which give the transparency that some have complained about. I appreciate that. Perry Mason was an interesting young lawyer a long time ago and I watched him as a kid and he used to tell his able assistant, Della Street, that there were three things that he liked about jury trials: that your position was not always right, but it was more right; that your position was not perfect, but near perfect; and that it was not totally fair, but fair. And that's the balancing that the committee will be going through at this point in time and it's really about the politics, let's be honest about it, and it's about two-party politics in Nebraska. Iowa doesn't have this problem, but we have a blue dot and this is about saving the blue dot from some point of view or by advantage or disadvantage from either side. Each wants to take advantage and work through a decision and it's a political consideration, just as it was in 1979 and 1980 when I had the chance to go through the same experience at that time before running for Congress in 1981. Your obligation is to shed about 47,000

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

noses. It's a population shift-- it's quite dramatic and quite abnormal-- to three counties, as you know, on the eastern end of the state. It's not evenly distributed, so it makes it difficult and courts are uniform across the country, local and federal courts, that they don't follow county boundaries and specifically previously dotted lines on maps. They look at the continuity of or the compactness of, of a district historically, but the, the regular lines we see and historically think about have never been so sacrosanct as they are not in either one of the proposals the committee is advancing to the Legislature. And I remind you of, of a case called Day v. Nelson and the constitutional provision that says that you have to be practicable or practical in your assessments, which I think you have been. So if the Linehan proposal, which I think is a good start in the right direction, is not workable, then I propose a solution and critics who have criticisms ought to propose a solution. My option would be to go back kind of to what the old Second [Congressional] District used to look like and configure it with Cass County, all of Sarpy, split Douglas, which has to happen under any circumstances, as it did ten years ago, and then Washington County. And you have contiguity, you have the river, you have communities of interest, you have compatibility, and all those things would be necessary to manage-- save the addition of Saunders County in, in the previous map. And I want to point out one last thing quickly. For legislative map redistricting, I call to the committee's attention a very simple matrix. In 1916 [SIC] Biden won seven of the legislative districts in the Omaha area and Trump won 13. If you look at the new boundaries that are being drawn in 1920 [SIC]--

**LINEHAN:** Senator--

**HAL DAUB:** --Biden would win 11 and Trump would win 9. That's pretty fair.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Thank you.

**HAL DAUB:** That's pretty fair.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. There may be questions from the committee, but I'm going to make this announcement. I think if we have people clapping or talking, we're going to remove you from the room. Are there any questions?

**LATHROP:** We also need to respect that light system. This is the worst job. I chair a committee. I, I did till 11 p.m. last night. Senator Linehan is chairing this committee. We have a lot of Chairs at this table. The worst job we have as legislators is enforcing the light. If



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

you see that thing come on, just stop, please, because what you're doing is robbing from the people that are waiting in line, that, that time, so thank you.

**LINEHAN:** I don't-- I can't think to what to put in front of your name.

**HAL DAUB:** Just good old, good old--

**LINEHAN:** Regent, Honorable, Congressman.

**HAL DAUB:** --Hal will do.

**LINEHAN:** Could you just repeat, repeat the lines again and what you-- because I know-- you and I both know, for over 30 or 40 years, as we've known each other, that those lines have changed every ten years, so-- and the-- it's always kind of grabbing something else to keep Douglas County whole. So what are you suggesting?

**HAL DAUB:** It's clear from both the major political party maps in front of the committee and the Legislature that county boundaries are no longer as sacrosanct as they used to be. And over the last 30 years, that's been true. And you look at the public service commissioner, regents maps, clearly crossing congressional boundaries, county boundaries, all sorts of of things, but what you can't accuse either one of these two proposals as gerrymandering or ignoring ethnicity and composition or contiguity and, and I think that that-- in both cases, the maps have struggled with the legislative LR134 mandate to try to achieve that goal and I think that that's, that's been done by and large. It's, it's, it's important, however, to understand that the, the moving of 30-- 47,000 noses is a very difficult problem. No one's going to be happy with where those lines fall, but they're going to have to fall across county boundaries. But I made the other point-- the legislative piece of this redistricting--

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**HAL DAUB:** --for Omaha is really quite fair. If you're looking at the blue dot, which I think might be-- if this doesn't go the right way, be more in peril than the proponents of the Wayne map think, need to look at how balanced the legislative Omaha-area districts have, have-- in your proposal, Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**HAL DAUB:** It's amazingly well balanced--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**HAL DAUB:** --and quite fair.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for being here.

**HAL DAUB:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Appreciate it. Good morning.

**REBECCA SCHNABEL:** Good morning. Rebecca Schnabel, S-c-h-n-a-b-e-l. The proposed maps have lines drawn that are favorable to Republicans or Democrats or particular candidates. As a nonpartisan voter, that speaks to me loudly. It says that the process, as it is playing out today, is not about the greater good for all Nebraskans voting or for the greater good of future Nebraska policymaking. In this important decision, do only Nebraskans matter who are in a red camp or a blue camp? If so, the process is discounting a growing number of Nebraskan voters. More than 270,000 voters in Nebraska are registered as nonpartisan. These voters are all three Congressional districts and they're all-- in all 39-- 49 legislative districts. If you are in support of one of the maps that is guided by red or blue, please consider the following statements and the resulting question. The total nonpartisan voter registration closely matches the population of Lincoln. Would it be OK to discount Lincoln in the redistricting process? On a broader view, the total nonpartisan voter registration closely matches the combined population of Bellevue, Grand Island, Kearney, Fremont, Hastings, Norfolk, Columbus, North Platte, and La Vista. Would anyone consider discounting all of these locations in the mapping process? No one should be discounted. That is why making it red and blue is so wrong. The word nonpartisan applies to a type of voter registration, but it also applies to the 49 state senators who are elected to nonpartisan seats in the Nebraska Unicameral. I ask you, as fellow elected-- and your fellow elected senators to take leadership in taking party politics out of redistricting, remembering your responsibility to serve as a nonpartisan body working for all citizens in Nebraska without a focus on political affiliation. Political gerrymandering is not acceptable in Nebraska. Do not discount any voter registration because it does not match your own. Put aside personal desire for political party gain. Let votes pick the winners of the candidates, not mapping. Voters want fair mapping based on census data, not on voter registration status. Thank you very much.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Perfect timing. Questions? Thank you. Good morning.

**PRESTON LOVE JR.:** Thank you. My name is Preston Love Jr., P-r-e-s-t-o-n L-o-v-e. I say greetings to you senators on this

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

committee. As an elder historian and adjunct professor of the Jim Crow Era, I know that gerrymandering was used to restrict black votes in response to the positive impact of the Fifteenth Amendment. As a veteran of the-- and participant of the civil rights movement, gerrymandering was also used to restrict black votes in response to the positive impact of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Currently, I am both an advocate and an activist for my community and other communities of color and poverty. Yesterday evening, over 15 nonpartisan organizations organized a town hall meeting to educate and dialogue with our communities about the process and details of the Nebraska redistricting. I report to you there was a resounding preference in that meeting and the groups that were represented for the Wayne legislative map, map redistricting in all due respect. I said I add to that preference my own wisdom. This redistricting process has the danger of rebirthing gerrymandering once again in Nebraska, attempting to restrict the vote of blacks and people of color, whether intentional or unintentional. Gerrymandering stands shoulder to shoulder with the other voter restrictions, such as poll tax, literacy tests, and voter ID. Splitting the lines between the black vote in north Omaha and the brown vote in south Omaha is gerrymandering. These unique and long-term, close-knit communities uniquely have nourished their culture, their community, their commerce, and voting commonality for generations. We have the right to request that this illustrious committee would focus on the technical aspects of mapping for equal representation, representation instead of the techniques for partisan agendas. That's not reasonable. May I add that any dilution of the historical voting continuity in the Second Congressional District that would change the ability to split the electoral vote is a veiled move to return to winner take all. My time is up, but I ultimately would hope that you would vote for democracy, not demagoguery.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Love. Any questions from the committee? Thank you. Good morning.

**CAROL BEATY:** Good morning. My name is Carol Beaty, C-a-r-o-l B-e-a-t-y. I am a lifelong Nebraskan, born and raised in Lincoln, residing in Omaha and Douglas County since 1991. I served children in the Omaha community as the school principal in the Millard Public Schools for 16 years before my retirement. I have chosen to live in a mixed race neighborhood in northeast Omaha for the past 20 years. Since I became eligible to vote, I have voted in every election: local, state, and national. I believe in the right to vote and the need for every Nebraskan to vote and for that vote to count. In Douglas County, I have found a community of interest. I live near

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

others who share cultural, social, economic, and geographic concerns. I know that my vote has counted and made a difference in a number of recent elections. I fear that the redistricting proposal by Senator Linehan will divide Douglas County and I may lose part of my community of interest. I oppose that map, as it divides Douglas County, which directly contradicts guidelines set up in LR134, referred to by many previous speakers regarding the splitting of municipalities and counties. This map also divides the black community in Omaha with the moving of the neighborhoods in the Irvington area to the First Congressional District. The maps presented by Senator Wayne do not divide Douglas County or Omaha. We need a map that keeps Douglas County whole. I question how these maps were created and by whom. I understand that the League of Women Voters have submitted maps based on the guidelines approved by-- in the spring by the Legislature. Were those maps even considered? I believe there has not been transparency in the creation of the maps and that the public was excluded. I believe that the congressional and legislative maps created by Linehan are gerrymandered, as they break up moderate Republican areas as well as Douglas County. As the Legislature considers this process, we must keep bias out and come up with fair maps. As a supporter of civil rights and a believer that Black Lives Matter, I am an advocate for racial justice and equity. I am concerned about fair representation for all racial minorities and disadvantaged groups and implore the committee and the Legislature to prevent any division of those groups in the redistricting plan for Congress and for legislative districts. I am proud to live and vote in a community that has elected a very effective African-American and Latinx state senators and other office holders in recent years. Let's make sure that the redistricting process is fair and equitable for all minorities and that talented people of color have opportunities to represent their communities. I'm also concerned that these hearings were all during the daytime--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**CAROL BEATY:** --which--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**CAROL BEATY:** --precludes working citizens from participating--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**CAROL BEATY:** --in person.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much. Oh, I'm sorry, Senator Blood.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**BLOOD:** I, I, I'm sorry. I don't actually have a question for you. Madam Chair, are all three lights working? Because I'm just seeing the red light come on over and over again.

**LINEHAN:** Yeah, they--

**LATHROP:** No, it does.

**CAROL BEATY:** I, I saw the yellow light.

**BLOOD:** Ok, I'm-- I think I'm in a weird angle. I just want to make sure that people are being given warnings. Thank you.

**CAROL BEATY:** OK and I didn't see the red one, so I apologize.

**LINEHAN:** But Senator Blood has brought something to my attention. If people-- people who were here early should go before people who are outside standing in line. So what we said early-- maybe weren't here-- that it-- if you-- you should get a seat in the front and then let people who were here early move up. I'm just trying to be fair. If they were here-- I don't know-- at 8:30 this morning, they should get to go first. Good morning.

**CARMEN BUNDE:** Good morning. My name is Carmen Bunde.

**LINEHAN:** Please, quiet. Sorry, go ahead.

**CARMEN BUNDE:** C-a-r-m-e-n B-u-n-d-e. Thank you to this committee for the opportunity for the public to speak on these maps. I'm here to support the Wayne map and oppose the Linehan map. I actually live in Senator Linehan's district. She stood on my front porch when she first ran and I actually voted for her because I am not a straight ticket voter. I vote according to individuals. I don't know if you'll get my vote again, but, you know--

**LINEHAN:** I'm not running again.

**CARMEN BUNDE:** --you did get it once.

**LINEHAN:** Never mind.

**CARMEN BUNDE:** So I am not very well versed. This is my first hearing. There's congressional-level maps and there's legislative-level maps. I will say that for my district, the Linehan map would move my vote into Saunders County, rural areas with fields. I am very familiar with Wahoo because my sister-in-law lived there, so I have driven to Wahoo. I've driven that 30 mile exactly-- minute, door to door from my house

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

to her house across the street from the high school in Wahoo. We do not have the same school district or legislative concerns and so it does not make sense for us to be lumped together. I am a proud Omahan. My address is Omaha. I live in west Omaha. Omaha metro area is where I live, play, worship, and work, both north and south of Dodge and I-680. Omahans have city and county interests that are aligned and should not be broke off and placed with Lincoln. On another level, I am familiar with many micro communities in the Omaha metro area because I'm a realtor and heavily focused on Douglas and Sarpy counties. The Wayne plan aligns with many areas that naturally fit within a legislative district because the general public buying and selling homes considers these areas similar, for example, the Benson boundaries, the Aksarben and midtown boundaries, Gretna, and Springfield. District 39 encapsulates most of Elkhorn Public Schools where my kids went to school. These boundaries make more natural and practical sense. On the senate-- on the Linehan plan, District 24 grabs Ceresco and Wahoo, jumps across the river and again across Highway 50 to try to grab all of Gretna, which is growing significantly, and parts of Millard and growing Papillion to try to bury some of those votes. It does not make natural sense. She does it where she splits a neighborhood. The country club is split, Shadow Ridge, so both a neighborhood and a commercial golf course are split in two. And the huge Hillsborough neighborhood, which would be split between [District] 10 and [District] 18, would be split. That makes no sense at all to have different legislative districts splitting neighborhoods, let alone boundaries. When you look at this, the Wayne plan, you can see that it very naturally follows main arteries and that is an important aspect to not dividing neighborhoods and to keeping micro communities together that have similar interests. Thank you.

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

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. Thank you for coming today. I do have a quick question for you since you said you were a realtor. As a realtor, how do you feel about the fact that one of the maps cuts through several SIDs?

**CARMEN BUNDE:** Honestly, I was looking at this late at night. I didn't notice that it cut between the, the SIDs.

**BLOOD:** But-- OK, so one of the maps cuts through SIDs, so, so the concern for me would be say a SID only has 500 people. Then they're going to have two different legislators that they must contact when

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

they have legislative issues and we all know SIDs are run by boards here in Nebraska--

**CARMEN BUNDE:** Yes.

**BLOOD:** --and they're also exclusively in Nebraska.

**CARMEN BUNDE:** Yes.

**BLOOD:** So as a realtor, could you-- would you think that might be problematic?

**CARMEN BUNDE:** Just as I feel it's problematic to divide a neighborhood and one particular, which is a country club-- I'm not a member. They-- it's near me, but to split up a private and I would argue a commercial aspect, who are they going to go to if their whole country club is divided? Same as an SID. I live in an SID. I've actually never lived in the city limits of Omaha. I've always lived in an SID and it is individuals from those areas serving on those boards. It, it creates great confusion to have to figure out which legislative district are we in? Across the street is a different one than mine. It really makes more sense to keep entire neighborhoods as much as possible intact. The Wayne plan, from what I was able to see, does more of that than the Linehan plan and I would ask you to rep-- to honor the historical course of these micro communities as well as the larger communities. I am an Omahan and I would like to stay within Congressional District 2.

**BLOOD:** Fair enough, thank you.

**CARMEN BUNDE:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Any other questions from the committee? Thank you very much. Good morning.

**BARB WAGNER:** Good morning, members of this Redistricting Committee and, and thanks for allowing the opportunity to speak to you this morning. As a former teacher--

**LINEHAN:** Did you-- your name and--

**BARB WAGNER:** Barb Wagner--

**LINEHAN:** --spell.

**BARB WAGNER:** --W-a-g-n-e-r. As a former teacher, I, I can certainly appreciate the hours that you have been putting in because many of my days were ten-hour days and, and it was day and night, so thanks for

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

doing all the work that you are doing. What I'm about to share I'm guessing you have heard many versions of, but I wanted to clearly state my belief that neither Democrats nor Republicans should carve out political districts based on election success for their respective parties. LR134, districts legislation-- districts under legislation are to be designed without favoring a political party and without diminishing the strength of any minority population. Prior to this opening reading, I called several of your offices to see if you had any early thoughts about redistricting maps. Senator Linehan, your office stated that as Chair of this committee, you were going to work hard to create maps without anything being gerrymandered. Two days after I talked to your map-- to your office, your map was released to the public and it cut Douglas County in half. Senator, did you really believe that was a fair and equitable map without being gerrymandered? How can you imagine-- how can you justify that Douglas County is a community of interest with Saunders County? It's not. And furthermore, how can you justify cutting across 16 counties when the Wayne map only cuts across eight and leaves Douglas County intact? Is your thinking the same as when you stated that there really was no benefit to allow the public input in the Legislature's early redistricting sessions of August 30 and September 7? And since that redistricting process is rushed this year for several reasons, I would think that you would value the thoughts of people who are going to be affected by this process. To both parties on this committee, it appears to the public that this is political gamesmanship, that there's gerrymandering being done without being said. This committee is to accomplish an important task of fair representation of one person, one vote. It is important that government work represents all the people of the state in a fair and just manner. If you can't accomplish that task as an individual, in my mind, it would be OK for you to step off this committee and have this--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, thank you.

**BARB WAGNER:** --the Chair appoint somebody else. Thank you.

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

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** Good morning. My name is Joel Wentworth, W-- J-o-e-l W-e-n-t-w-o-r-t-h. I am a native of Omahan, though I am the son of immigrants, both of my parents migrated to Omaha from Franklin County, Nebraska, in the middle of the century. And I can-- my own strong feeling is that we in Nebraska love our counties. You need look no further back than the massive change of our license plate pattern to learn that only the three metropolitan counties which were compelled



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

to adopt the ABC 123 pattern chose to do so. All the other 90 counties elected to keep their county-- their identifying county numbers, even if it was at the expense of their budgets. The guidelines adopted by this Legislature in May-- and I'm not certain if that's LB134 [SIC] that others have referred to, and I, I imagine some of you on this committee voted for those guidelines or had a hand in shaping them and they do say that we'll follow county lines wherever practical and just as important, when feasible, district boundary lines shall coincide with the boundaries of cities and villages. We have a necessity to adopt to change because the population is growing asymmetrically, far more heavily in Sarpy and Douglas counties and Lancaster as well, but we do not have to split counties any more than absolutely necessary for feasibility. I can see common ground between myself and former Congressman Daub and former regent and all those other titles that we could look elsewhere to achieve the balance between Congressional districts. It would cause me no qualm, probably less qualm than those I'm about to mention, to seek a northern solution that we didn't-- need not divide Douglas County or Sarpy County by composing a new Second [Congressional] District out of Douglas, Dodge, Washington, Burt, and as-- if necessary, Thurston Counties, bringing it right up to the roughly 650,000 required for a Congressional, Congressional district. This would put Sarpy in-- entirely with, with Lancaster and the surrounding southeastern counties and achieve a balance between the districts. We do have a strong sense of community that has to be preserved and I know that change is inevitable, but no one is proposing dividing Lincoln along O Street or Norfolk along Johnny Carson Boulevard or Albion or Gordon along the highways, like, Highway 10 runs right through Franklin. These aren't, aren't being considered and they would be, I'm certain, revolting. Well, multiply that revolt of the people of Gordon, Albion, and Lincoln by a huge factor and this would be the pain being offered by the Linehan plan to the citizens of Omaha and Douglas County.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you--

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** --very much. Good-- I'll ask-- questions? Sir, I'm sorry. Senator Geist has a question.

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** Go ahead.

**LINEHAN:** Senator Geist.

**GEIST:** Thank you and I understand your pushback. I just want to bring to your attention that currently Sarpy County is divided--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** Yes, ma'am.

**GEIST:** --and it-- so I, I guess my point would be is that if it's currently OK to divide Sarpy County, why would it not be OK to divide Douglas?

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** Because most of us learned in kindergarten, in elementary school, Senator, that two wrongs don't make a right. Though the--

**LINEHAN:** I will remove-- clapping-- I will have you removed.

**GEIST:** Thank you. That's enough.

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** The 2010 lines did commit a necessary-- a seemingly necessary evil to the people of Sarpy County and it's been much--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, thank you.

**JOEL WENTWORTH:** Thank you, Senator.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Good morning.

**NORA SANDINE:** Good morning. My name is Nora Sandine. I'm a former school teacher, so it's capital N-o-r-a S-a-n-d-i-n-e. I am here to encourage you to pass LB1 and LB3. My testimony will center on LB1, but first, I'd like to thank you all for all of your time and effort you've put into this endeavor. You've worked to come up with a fair and logical redistricting plan for 2021. You've spent many hours and I know you're getting overtime for this, probably a penny an hour. Anyway, I thank you all. Keeping Offutt Air Force Base and Bellevue within [Congressional] District 2 is a commonsense approach to the redistricting plan. Offutt and Bellevue are closely tied together and are a critical part of Sarpy County. They both contribute a great deal to the entire community aspect of our county. Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, Gretna, and Springfield all benefit from the Offutt Air Force Base economically and culturally. Our military personnel like these counties so much, they continue to live here when they retire and many of them return to Sarpy County in spite of the taxes. Bellevue and Offutt are closely tied to each other and they feel a part of this community and don't want to be separated from the rest of the county and the rest of the county doesn't want to be detached from Bellevue and Offutt. We are one county in spirit and one-- we want to be one county in our Congressional district. I urge you not to break up Sarpy County. We are a united county working together to make Nebraska as a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

whole a great place to live. Keep Sarpy together. We don't want to be the rest of it anymore. Thank you.

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

**NORA SANDINE:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning.

**SAMANTHA CHAVEZ:** Good morning. Can you hear me? Is this good?

**LINEHAN:** Yeah.

**SAMANTHA CHAVEZ:** OK. All right. Good morning, members of the Redistricting Committee. My name is Samantha Chavez, first name, S-a-m-a-n-t-h-a, last name, C-h-a-v-e-z. My pronouns are she/her/hers and I'm here speaking in a neutral capacity on behalf of Nonpartisan Nebraska as a board member. A little about me, I'm a constituent of Legislative District 12. I've always had a passion for advocacy and civic engagement. I'm the kind of person who was excited to turn 18 because that meant that I was able to register to vote and make my voice heard for the people and issues that I care about. After realizing that there was a lot for me to learn about state and local government, I made sure that I was-- that I would do as much research as possible on the issues and people that were on my ballot. As a former legislative staffer and observing constituent, I can say that some of the best policy occurs when senators work together. In the last year, I became involved with Nonpartisan Nebraska because I believe that the best form of government is one of genuine collaboration and strong nonpartisanship. A strong nonpartisan redistricting process can create equal and fair districts that benefit Nebraskans. The Nebraska Legislature should consider and value the diverse communities of voters in current districts. In a previous session, Senator Wayne commented on the diversity of his district. He commented on the urban and rural areas in his district, race, socioeconomic status, and other demographics. As for the district that I live in, Millard, southwest Omaha, and Ralston provide one example of an-- of a small city and part of a larger city being well represented by one senator. Public officials, public officials should represent the diverse voices of Nebraskans. The members of Nonpartisan Nebraska pride themselves on listening to everyone's input and working together. We do this because we believe in maintaining the nonpartisan process of the Nebraska Legislature. Nonpartisanship is something that Nebraska should strive for and be proud of. We're the only state in the entire country that has a committed structure to a nonpartisan

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Unicameral Legislature. Ten years matter. The effect of your decisions now will last longer than the term of any of the senators in this body. The purpose of redistricting should be to draw lines and update districts according to the population projected by the census, rather than political interests or party affiliation. A lack of equitable and nonpartisan redistricting can alienate voters. Whether they're registered as a Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, or nonpartisan, every voter must be represented by their government. Thank you for your time. And just one thing that I wanted to add is, as a former staffer, I am glad that you mentioned the Legislative Research Office. They do incredible work and I just wanted to thank them for all of their hard work. So thank you for your time.

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

**SAMANTHA CHAVEZ:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning.

**STEVE JORDAN:** Good morning. I'm Steve Jordan. I'm a retired journalist and a registered nonpartisan and a resident of Legislative District 8. Megan Hunt is my senator. I live within the boundaries of Congressional District 2 and proudly, my birthday is tomorrow, so-- and I, I would remain in [Congressional] District 2 with either of the two plans before the Legislature. But 2022 will be 50 years ago since my wife and I joined a group of other people and we formed a new church in northwest Omaha. Although we still live on 48th Street, this new church is west of Interstate 680 and north of Dodge Street and that's the area that would remove from [Congressional] District 2 under LB1. We have much in common with the other members of the church, as well as many other people who live in that part of Omaha. In fact, my piano teacher lives over there. In other words, we have common interests or a community of interest, including interest in our federal government. It makes sense that we'd be represented by the same people in Congress. I do not have many-- as many interests in common with people from Ceresco and Malmo and Wahoo and other communities in Saunders County that would become part of [Congressional] District 2. Members of our church who live nearby north of Dodge and west of 680, likewise have less in common with counties they would join under [Congressional] District 1 in the, in the proposed plan. It's important to me that my-- that the people in northwest Omaha who are my friends, my fellow churchgoers, and my piano teacher are represented by the same person in, in Congress. I also noticed as I was waiting that LB1 raises the possibility-- although it might be slight-- you know, Nebraska has always had a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

member of Congress from greater Nebraska and one from Omaha, one from Lincoln, roughly. LB1 would raise the possibility of having two from Omaha and I don't know if that's something that people worry about. Anyway, thanks very much.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much, Mr. Jordan. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you. Good morning.

**DAVE RICHARDSON:** My name is Dave Richardson, D-a-v-e R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n. I'm a lifetime resident of the city of Omaha, Douglas County. I'm a retired school teacher. I taught in two different public school districts in the city of Omaha. I can begin with a true confession. I have committed voter fraud. Before you have me removed from the premises here, I hasten to add I was eight years old and my accomplice was my beloved late Aunt Marge [PHONETIC]. On Election Day in November of 1952, I accompanied my aunt to the polling place. She lifted me up so I could see the little tray there in the ballot booth, the little metal shelf, and I marked an X next to Adlai Stevenson's name knowing full well that was my aunt's preference. I was ecstatic, partly because I had acted out a sacred duty. I was fortunate that my parents had instilled in me the idea that voting was a sacred duty. I still believe in that sacred duty. It is too important to be manipulated by partisan shenanigans. I urge the company to accept in principle the proposal presented by Senator Wayne. It is considerably fairer to the voters of CD 2. The arc of justice bends toward communities and their long-standing sense of shared values and shared responsibilities. These bonds have been developed and shared over a long time, as has been alluded to earlier. Do not de facto disenfranchise many of the residents of Douglas County by severing them from this district. Newer areas are often more amorphous and in kind of a gestational period of political identity. I am pretty sure I am the only eight-year-old who ever voted for Adlai Stevenson 70 years ago. I'm unrepentant because it left me with a lasting respect and pride in our system. I would hate to see it tainted by callous disregard for justice and fairness in our electoral system. That relatively harmless act is still a constant reminder to me the importance of a fair electoral system. I'm a proud citizen of CD 2.

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

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Good morning. My name is Kristie Pfabe, K-r-i-s-t-i-e P-f-a-b-e. I'm a math professor in Nebraska and I've been studying gerrymandering and redistricting for the last four years and I am here to make-- to use math to make three main points. My first point is

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

that Senator Linehan's legislative map unfairly favors rural districts. Number two, Wayne's maps are more compact than Linehan's. Finally, number three, Douglas County should not be split because of disparate population densities between Douglas County and Saunders County. As to my first point, when, when the shapefiles became available on the legislative web page, I decided to make interactive maps so that I could explore the maps and get comfortable with what I was seeing, so I made interactive maps. My website is, is there for you if you would like to look at it. I think it's very useful and I, I made it so that when you clicked on districts, you could pull up information about them. So, for example, with the legislative districts, you can say-- you can see what the district number is, the, the compactness score, and also the percent deviation from ideal population. So I started clicking on the, the districts and I noticed something interesting. When I was clicking on the rural districts for the Linehan legislative map, it seemed like a lot of the deviations were negative, meaning that you had populations below the ideal population. Rather, when I was clicking on the urban ones, I noticed that they were above, meaning over the ideal population. When I did the same thing for the Wayne map, I didn't see any pattern, so I decided to explore this more and I made new maps that color-coded the districts by if they were below the ideal population or above. Below is blue, above is red and this is what I saw. Again, this is on my website and I have a copy for Senator Linehan and one for Senator Lathrop. When you look at Senator Linehan's map, the rural counties are all blue. Most of them are blue, meaning they are below the ideal population. Rather, the urban populations are mostly red, which is above. And when I did this first, I thought it kind of looked like I was trying to make a partisan map, but accidentally switched the colors. So when I, when I looked at the Wayne map, I saw absolutely no pattern, so that gave me some evidence. What I did from there, I looked at-- I made this graph and that's in the testimony that I'm giving to each of you and I would ask you to look at this graph because it is the most compelling evidence that the Linehan legislative map favors rural districts. So this map, on the vertical axis, you'll see percent deviation from ideal population. On the horizontal axis--

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Yes, Senator Morfeld.

**MORFELD:** I'd like to know more about the horizontal axis.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Thank you. The horizontal axis, what it records is population density measured in persons per square mile. So if you take

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

a very urban district, people are living close together and your persons per square mile will be larger. So on this axis, the 6,000, that corresponds to a very urban district. On the other hand, on the left, that corresponds to rural districts. So what is significant about this map is that every dot is a district. The-- Linehan's districts are the pink-redish. I also have trend lines here and trend lines, what they do is they capture the general shape of the dots. What you see with the Linehan trend line is it's going up as you go left to right. Here's what that tells us. That tells us that urban districts are more likely to have deviations above the population-- the ideal and rural below, whereas the Wayne is flat, it's horizontal, and that means there, there's no, there's no relationship. What's significant about this, it might not seem like a big deal to have these deviations, but if you take a state that has 30 people in it, simple example, 30 people, and you're going to have two districts and you should have 15 in each, but rather you have 10 and 20, each person in that ten-member district has twice the voting power of each person in the 20 member. And so having populations below the ideal population, it gives those voters more voting power and that is in direct violation of LR134, which says you cannot preference a group.

**MORFELD:** OK, thank you for the additional context. I'll probably reach out to you after to make sure--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Sure.

**MORFELD:** --other people have time. Thank you.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Morfeld. Are there other questions from the committee? Senator Briese.

**BRIESE:** Thank you, Chair Linehan. Thanks for your testimony here today. Great stuff, but just so we're clear here, the deviations we're talking about are all within 5 percent plus, 5 percent minus, correct?

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Right--

**BRIESE:** OK.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** --but they should be used for the right reasons. They should be used to not break up a town. They shouldn't be used to preference a group.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**BRIESE:** And fair to say that deviations can also be used to protect-- preserve cores of existing districts?

**KRISTIE PFABE:** That, that's right.

**BRIESE:** OK, very good. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. I have a question.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Oh, yes.

**LINEHAN:** I think Senator Wayne's map is there on the table, right? Could--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Oh, yeah.

**LINEHAN:** LaMont, could you help her find that one? LaMont, help her find--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Oh, this is a current one.

**LINEHAN:** LB4.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Oh, dear.

**LINEHAN:** Yeah, LaMont, please-- I have trouble finding them, so--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** LB4, OK. All right, I see it.

**LINEHAN:** OK, so if you look at Deuel County, Garden County-- let's go way up to the-- almost to the Wyoming border.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Right.

**LINEHAN:** District 47. Senator Wayne's deviation on that map is-- can you see it?

**KRISTIE PFABE:** I do.

**LINEHAN:** What is it?

**KRISTIE PFABE:** A negative 4.12.

**LINEHAN:** And then if we go east--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Right.

**LINEHAN:** --it's still western Nebraska, but east of there--



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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Right.

**LINEHAN:** --District 42, it's a what?

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Negative 4.3.

**LINEHAN:** And then if you go to [District] 36, which is still in western Nebraska it is?

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Where is 36?

**LINEHAN:** Right next--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Oh, negative 2.92.

**LINEHAN:** And if you go to southeast corner of the state, where--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** I, I, I see the point you're trying to make. The problem is that, that you need to look at the overall picture, not--

**LINEHAN:** I, I just-- I'm making the point that--- I can go on here, as you know I can, I assume-- there are one, two, three, four, five other districts on Senator Wayne's map in the rural areas that are--

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Right--

**LINEHAN:** --under the deviation.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** --but I can make the point that the trend line gives the global--

**LINEHAN:** I know, but you've made that point. You've made that point.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Yes, it, it gives the global explanation--

**LINEHAN:** --but Senator Wayne has at least eight districts in rural Nebraska under the deviation. Thank you.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Right and what I, what I wasn't saying is that all of Senator Wayne's rural districts are above or below. That's not what I was saying.

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**KRISTIE PFABE:** I was saying it's a statistical analysis that tells a trend.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**KRISTIE PFABE:** Thank you for your time.

**LINEHAN:** Other questions from the committee? Thank you. Good morning.

**MARY JANE TRUEMPER:** Hey, good morning. This-- I'm Mary Jane Truemper, T-r-u-e-m-p-e-r and I own a home in Saunders County and it concerns me listening to a lot of the testimony talking about Douglas County residents don't have much in common with the rural districts and vice versa and that's just not true. As a resident of Saunders County, we're in the metropolitan service area of Douglas County, as are all of the surrounding counties. The surrounding counties, if you go looking in the morning during rush hour traffic or in the afternoons during rush hour traffic, there's a max-- a lot of input and output going into the surrounding counties, so we are all interrelated. So I would want to point that out. I think that Douglas County-- I know that Douglas County would only benefit from having two congressional representatives rather than one. In these bedroom communities or rural communities surrounding Douglas County, we are all integrated. It concerns me, too, that, you know, we do have a Unicameral and it makes it-- if we had a bicameral where we also had representatives based on geography, I'd be happy to talk about doing that. But if that was-- then we would have fair representation of the rural and the urban, but I think it's even more imperative that since we do have a Unicameral, that we have to be mindful of our rural residents and we cannot have Douglas County versus everybody else. That's not good for the state, it's not good for Douglas County, and it's certainly not good for the region. So I would like to put that in. And as far as Saunders County being part of CD 2, I'm all for that. If, if you-- if I walked east from my house, I'd be-- two miles, I'd be in Gretna and so we have a lot more in common, I think, than, than what we think, so I think that's pretty much everything I wanted to say.

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

**MARY JANE TRUEMPER:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Are there questions from the committee? Thank you. Good morning.

**PETER GADZINSKI:** Good morning. Thank you. Peter Gadzinski, G-a-d-z-i-n-s-k-i. It's the first time I've ever had to spell it that way, so-- you understand. I'm here today to speak strongly in favor of Senator Wayne's delineation of Congressional District 2.

**LINEHAN:** Shh. Sorry, we'll give you 30 extra seconds here.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**PETER GADZINSKI:** Yeah, to paraphrase Will Rogers, I'm, I'm not speaking on behalf of any organized political party. I'm a Democrat, OK? I feel a little bit like Charlie Brown in the Peanuts strip. Every time Charlie goes to kick the football, Lucy pulls it away, OK? Well, for Lucy, read Sarpy County voters. Only once in the past decade have I've been able to kick that ball, all right? And I have a prepared statement. Gerrymandering denies the will of Douglas County voters in congressional races. Douglas County voters chose the Democratic candidate over the Republican in every District 2 congressional race since 2012 following the gerrymandering, gerrymandering of district boundaries ten years ago. By an average of 3.4 percentage points, Douglas County voters chose Ewing over Terry in 2012, Ashford over Terry in 2014, Ashford over Bacon in 2016, and Eastman over Bacon in both 2018 and 2020. Despite this clear expressed preference on the part of Douglas County voters for Democratic congressional representation, only in 2014 was the Democratic candidate elected to Congress. In every election year since 2010, western Sarpy County voters swung the district as a whole into the Republican column by an average 2.6 percentage points, overturning a Democratic victory and replacing it with a Republican one. District 2 congressional election results do not reflect the will of the majority of voters in Douglas County, the most populous county in the state and one that accounts for almost one out of every three Nebraskans. One of these things is not like the other. It's time to remove western Sarpy County from District 2.

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

**PETER GADZINSKI:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning.

**ANGIE PHILIPS:** Good morning. My name is Angie Philips. It's A-n-g-i-e P-h-i-l-i-p-s. I'm the cofounder of the Nebraska Legislative Study Group. We're a grassroots organization with a quickly growing membership of over 1,000 residents across 70 Nebraskan towns and at least 23 legislative districts. I'm here today to represent our group in support of fair, nonpartisan legislation, which we believe is best represented by Senator Wayne's maps. Many of my fellow Omaha organizers are here today and we have seen several members show up to testify in support of Senator Wayne's maps as well as send in written testimony, but what I'd like to briefly discuss, one of the reasons we are seeing so much support for Senator Wayne's map within our membership that I don't believe has been discussed or at least not enough. A significant portion of our membership believes that Senator

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Linehan's maps are gerrymandering or working the lines to fit a Republican agenda. There are major concerns about Senator Jen Day's district, which she had just won by narrow margins, concerns about Douglas County being divided, and how redistricting will impact our public schools and our communities. Yesterday's interactions at the public hearings in Lincoln between senators was reassuring. It sounds as though the committee is ready to work together in a nonpartisan manner. However, with that being so, we still know that perceptions do matter, particularly in today's political atmosphere. One of the constant narratives of Nebraska my entire life has been this rural and urban divide. I would like to share with you what we hear from some of our rural membership. One of the most common things we hear is that our memberships in-- that our members' rural representatives do not care about their concerns because they are not the majority of-- because our membership is not the majority in their district or in this state. We hear stories about how they reach out to urban senators because they feel represented by them more than they do their own senators. We spend hours trying to convince people to contact their senators anyway. The truth is, sometimes the only representation some of our members have are senators outside of their district. I say this to point out that losing a rural senator doesn't inherently mean losing rural representation. Redistricting is about fair representation based on population while preserving communities. One person, one vote. Please move forward in a nonpartisan manner and ensure that every Nebraskan has fair representation. Keep Douglas County together and make this process as transparent as possible. Thank you.

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

**FRANCES MENDENHALL:** Good morning. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you hardworking public servants. I am Frances Mendenhall, Frances, F-r-a-n-c-e-s, Mendenhall, M-e-n-d-e-n-h-a-l-l, and I live at 3715 Hamilton. I appreciate everybody who is willing to keep their masks on while they're speaking, so I'm going to do the same, but if you want to know what I look like, there we go. I, I want to speak for the interest group that I would call urban people. Nebraska is increasingly becoming an urban state. I think we deserve one, a chance at one representative in the U.S. Congress who speaks for urban people. And so I would ask that you draw the, the boundary for CD 2 to be as compact in population as possible and I believe that Senator Wayne's map comes pretty close to that. I mean, I'm sure there's room for improvement, but it-- I like it. So anyway, thanks for your hard work and Go Big Red.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

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

**WILLIAM HAY:** Good morning. My name is William Hay, H-a-y. I'm a resident of Omaha. So as not to bore the committee, I won't repeat many of the points that have already been stated other than to say I do think it begs credulity after the-- I don't know-- the, the Sarpy County switch we had in the last redistricting to believe that this is not a partisan bill. I'm speaking to the number-- to LBI and, and that I'm concerned about breaking up the urban population and the minority groups and the different districts, I want to spend the rest of my time discussing how this hearing is being held. I am concerned, as the earlier speaker was, and I understand there are travel issues for some of the legislators, but having hearings in the middle of the workweek does count-- cut out a very sizable percentage of the population from being able to participate. I would also like to say as a, as a family physician and a clinical associate professor of medicine, that I'm concerned about the environment we have here. I'm surprised that the committee expressed amazement at the size of the crowd. I'm surprised it wasn't bigger. I think the choice of the venue is problematic in that there is no way we can have social distancing in this room. I also am concerned that despite having one of the nation's leading centers on COVID within two miles of this hearing, the state government continues to ignore their cries to try and prevent the spread of COVID. Props to the gentleman who cleans the table, but that's not the major way someone would catch this. It's, it's the-- it's air transmitted and there is no social distancing and the state continually does not require masking, which would be scientifically justified. Thank you.

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

**COLE CHRISTENSEN:** Morning.

**LINEHAN:** I'm going to-- we're going to break for lunch. Can we go to 12:30? At 12:30, we will break for 30 minutes for lunch and come back at 1 p.m.

**COLE CHRISTENSEN:** All right, so go ahead?

**LINEHAN:** Yes. I'm sorry--

**COLE CHRISTENSEN:** You're fine.

**LINEHAN:** --and that, that's not on his time.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**COLE CHRISTENSEN:** All right. My name is Cole Christensen.

**LINEHAN:** Please, quiet.

**COLE CHRISTENSEN:** My name is Cole Christensen. I am born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, and have spent the past week trying to learn as much as I can about redistricting, redistricting and gerrymandering and have found it to be very "concluding"-- confusing and opaque as far as the process is concerned and I assume that there is some intention in that to make it more challenging for people to be involved with the way these processes go, so I appreciate that there is a hearing and a chance for people to speak their mind on things. As Alisha Shelton, who spoke-- one of the first people to testify-- mentioned that Senator Linehan's proposal, LB1, would be separating the culture of the county. And from what I've researched, it is-- redistricting is not supposed to be drawn on political affiliation or race. I would argue that what is not political as an act is, is a question that could be drawn there. Everything has a political angle to it, but I have to agree that if we cannot base it on political affiliation or race, we need to look at something like political culture or climate or population density. I know that after the last national election that there were shirts, shirts being sold that stated I'm not from Nebraska, I'm from Congressional District 2. I know that because I own one of them. I think there is a distinct difference in the culture here in Douglas County specifically and I can't help but notice the intent behind, as Preston Love mentioned, splitting the black vote of north Omaha and the brown vote of largely Hispanic south Omaha and putting them in two different districts. This, this seems like a pretty brazen attempt to, as it's called, cracking, separate different voting groups and disempower them by diluting their voting base into different districts. And again, I'm not an expert. I'm somebody who's been trying to learn this, but you can smell it when there's some-- something off and Senator Linehan, there's something off with your proposal. That's, that's all I've got to say. I do also note that you did not ask Alisha Shelton for a follow-up question. You, you did begin asking Hal Daub and let him go on for a very long time. And during people who have spoken in opposition to your plan, you have either given a very condescending smirk or looked at your phone and I think that there is something to be stated about your willingness to hear out people who genuinely have concerns with your proposal. I know it's probably hard to take criticism, but that is what your job is in this position. So I would consider being more open and receptive to the voices of your constituents and I am in support of Justin Wayne's proposal and against yours. That's all I've got.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

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

**KRISTEN DUPREE:** Good morning. My name is Kristen Dupree. That's K-r-i-s-t-e-n D-u-p-r-e-e and I live in Omaha District 4. I am opposed to Linehan's congressional and legislative maps, but I will focus my time on the legislative proposal. And I will warn you, I am an actuary by training so I can't help myself from getting into the weeds. First of all, I am disappointed to see that the number of representatives for Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy County is still one to two less than what the census data supports. I am also extremely bothered by the suggestion from multiple senators to game the deviations in order to fulfill their strategy of retaining an outsized rural influence in the Legislature. Now I'll share two observations from Linehan-- Chairwoman Linehan's proposed legislative boundaries in Douglas County. So the first is regarding the boundary-- and what you're holding is regarding the second, so I'll skip-- I'll hurry and get through this one to get there. The first is regarding the boundary between LD 9 and LD 20. LD 9 currently comprises neighborhoods east of 72nd, all the way down to midtown. Linehan's proposal would move the boundary west up to a broken line in between 84th and 78th Street, splitting off blocks of neighborhoods from LD 20 into LD 9. Moving this line also conveniently moves a current elected official into a new district, District 9, which happens to not be up for election in 2020. Aside from this apparently politically driven motivation, I think the boundary between LD 20 and LD 9 should remain 72nd Street. So the second I wanted to point out was-- is illustrated by the printout that you have. So we're looking at a line between LD 4 and LD 18 and you'll probably notice the jagged edges that unnecessarily carve up a neighborhood right away, but I will point out something else very troubling to me. The residents of a recent city council candidate is moved out of LD 4 into LD 18. The line is drawn literally down their street. Let me repeat that, down their street. I do not think this was an accident nor a coincidence-- accident nor coincidence. So I-- so that's the micro issues that I see with, with these maps, but I also wanted to point out the political bias I see on a macro level. Using composite election results from 2016, 2020, the current makeup of the legislative districts is 32 lean Republican, 9 lean Democratic, and 8 are competitive. In Linehan's map, two of those competitive districts, one in Omaha and one in Lincoln, moves from competitive to leans Republican. The obvious political motivation behind moving district boundaries to exclude specific community leaders and shift the overall makeup of the electorate has undermined any faith I had in the committee members that put together or support Linehan's maps to live up to the nonpartisan requirement stated in LR134, as well as the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

nonpartisan tradition in our Unicameral. For this and the reasons I discussed, I would urge the committee to use Senator Wayne's maps and negotiate amendments from there.

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

**DREW PAULY:** Hello. My name is Drew Pauly, D-r-e-w P-a-u-l-y. I'm a constituent, obviously, or else I wouldn't be here and I am concerned that Senator Linehan's map is intentionally designed to split the black vote. I think the GOP-- and obviously Nebraska is a red state. You did not like the fact that in the last election, we flipped that script and we were able to get Biden in. I think that this is intentional, is intentional voter suppression. I think you know that. I just don't think you care. I'm just going to talk about, like, how I feel about this, the ethics, the morality, and not the logistics because I'm not a politician. I'm not that guy and I think some of the other people really laid it out plain and simple earlier. We know that this is supposed to be a democracy. We know that's Greek, demos and k-r-a-t-i-a, so therefore, the people and the power. It's supposed to be in the power of the people. You're not-- you are not supposed to take away the power of the people that elected you to the position, to the chair that you're sitting in, for the overtime that you are making right now in this very moment. I'm, I'm, I'm frustrated that this is even a conversation on your behalf. I'm in full support of Justin Wayne on this. Honestly, I'd written out a really long thing. I'm coming off of a 12-hour overnight shift and I did not get a chance to rest because I wanted to be here. I'm an openly gay black man living in [Congressional] District 2 and the idea that my vote, at the end of the day, is going to be split and it's not going to really matter bothers me. It bothers me because independent of my political views, as an elected official, you should care about everybody's voice being heard and that being heard equitably. I agree 100 percent with what Alisha Shelton said, 100 percent with what Preston Love said, and those that come before me. Whatever-- I'm going to skip around-- whatever the outcome of-- in-- of this committee and the map and everything, it should be focused on equity, representation, and justice should be first. When I say equity in, in the terms of something being equitable, I don't mean equal, I mean equitable, the idea of making something, bringing something to where it should be. So if I started out two steps ahead and my friend started out one step behind, it's not about both of us getting an extra step. It's about that person getting an extra step to be where, where we're at. That's equity. That's when you start to see that real power of the people come into play. I think too often we get stuck in this idea of, of



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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

politics being this back and forth part. Let's work together to make it so that it's not a political thing to do all this stuff back and forth. Anyways, I also-- before the light turns red, just want to say, first of all, Senator Morfeld, I really think you should run for president and Governor. You are my favorite. I'm just saying. Also, I really think that a part of this is also designed to empower Ricketts, who I think is a detriment to all Nebraskans. He doesn't report the COVID stats, he's harming LGBTQIA youth by opposing the comprehensive sex ed, he opposes the truth about the racist foundations of this country--

**WAYNE:** Can you wrap up for us, please?

**DREW PAULY:** What?

**LINEHAN:** We're being a little stricter. It's been light, stop.

**WAYNE:** Oh, OK. I just got here, so I was trying--

**DREW PAULY:** Can I finish the last two? OK, well, critical race theory, so--

**WAYNE:** Thank you, sir.

**GEIST:** I do have a question.

**LINEHAN:** I'm sorry. Oh, there's a question.

**WAYNE:** There's a question, though.

**GEIST:** All right.

**DREW PAULY:** Yes, ma'am.

**GEIST:** First, Senator Linehan is not the only person who drew this map.

**DREW PAULY:** OK.

**GEIST:** So for all of you, I would like to defend--

**LINEHAN:** That's fine.

**GEIST:** --my Chair and say all of the assumptions about what you think she's done, it's been a group effort, OK? So it's not--

**LINEHAN:** It's OK.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**GEIST:** The other is that--

**LINEHAN:** Question, we need to question.

**GEIST:** Yes. Do you know that the blue dot would still be a blue dot the way that Senator Linehan's congressional map is drawn?

**DREW PAULY:** From, from my understanding, based off of the information that I've been able to read in my research leading up to today and in conjunction with the information that was shared by other people today, while that may be said on paper, we all know that that's not the reality. So no, I do not believe that your statement is accurate or true.

**GEIST:** All right.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**DREW PAULY:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** I'm--

**GEIST:** Sorry, Lou Ann.

**LINEHAN:** No, it's fine. Good morning.

**WAYNE:** [INAUDIBLE]

**LINEHAN:** Good morning. Are we still morning? Yes.

\_\_\_\_\_: Yes.

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** Yes, officially. Good morning, everyone.

**LINEHAN:** This will be-- what did I say, 12:30?

\_\_\_\_\_: 12:30

**LATHROP:** 12:30.

**LINEHAN:** OK, I'm sorry. OK, go ahead. I'm sorry.

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** OK, I just-- my name is Roberta Adams, R-o-b-e-r-t-a A-d-a-m-s. I live in Papillion. I support LB1, Senator Linehan's map, because I live in Sarpy County and I don't want our county to be split since we are a community of interest. Her map of [Congressional]

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

District 2 is predominantly suburban and rural communities who share common interests and lifestyles of fierce loyalty to our smaller communities. We make it a point to shop local and yet enjoy the opportunities of the greater metro area. As a resident of Papillion, I have much more in common with people in Bellevue, La Vista, Ralston, and Gretna than I do with Omahans since these communities are similar to mine and have the same concerns. I oppose LB2, Senators Wayne map-- Wayne's map because it splits my community in two along Highway 370, which is five minutes from my home. Most of my shopping is done on both sides of Highway 370 and I hire local vendors from both sides of the highway. I consider the entire area my neighborhood. I share concerns with all of Sarpy County and want to keep the same congressional representation with the rest of my county, which strengthens what I have to say to my representative. I also do not want to be separated from Bellevue and Offutt Air Force Base, since my Papillion neighborhood has always been home to a great number of Air Force officers and enlisted soldiers. My support for the military at the base comes down to support for my very own neighbors and their concerns. I know redistricting is complicated and hard work, but Senator Wayne's map chose the most Democrat precincts in Sarpy County and increases Democrat representation by 4 to 5 percentage points. Senator Linehan's map is fairer, even though its shape is more irregular, because it only increases Republican representation by one-half of 1 percent-- percentage point. I don't think that Nebraska needs to use Senator Wayne's map that is more gerrymandered than Senator Linehan's map is. Thank you.

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

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan, and Mrs. Adams, thank you for coming today. So I have a couple of questions since I'm the only person on here from Sarpy County and my staff is watching and taking notes. So can you tell me about the current congressional map and why you're unhappy with that, the one from 2011 that we're trying to replace?

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** I don't like the cut-off with other people from Sarpy County.

**BLOOD:** OK, so, so you feel that--

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** And I definitely am against--

**BLOOD:** --you've gotten poor representation under CD-- are you in CD 1 or CD 2?

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** I'm in CD 2.

**BLOOD:** Because it was gerrymandered quite well last time. So-- OK, so right now, you're in CD 2 and you're saying that you don't like the new map because it's divided, correct? Am I hearing you correctly?

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** I don't want Sarpy County divided.

**BLOOD:** OK. Can you tell me what Papillion has in common demographically with Bellevue? And again, I'm trying to get stuff on the record. I'm not trying to put you in, in an awkward position, but you did say that you share so much in common. I'm curious what that is.

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** I happen to worship in, in Bellevue and so that's one of the things that I do in Bellevue and I also am involved in a lot of civic activities in Bellevue even though I'm in Papillion. I see us as sister communities.

**BLOOD:** OK. So you don't participate in worship or any civic involvement in Douglas County at all?

**ROBERTA ADAMS:** I'm, I'm a Sarpy County resident, but I am involved in civic things in Douglas also.

**BLOOD:** OK. Thank you for that clarification.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Blood. Are there other questions from the committee? Seeing none, good morning--

**STEVE WATSON:** Good morning, Senators.

**LINEHAN:** --or afternoon-- close--

**STEVE WATSON:** Good--

**LINEHAN:** --good noon time.

**STEVE WATSON:** My name is Steve Watson. I, I live 1605 South 189th Street in Senator Linehan's district. I am here to speak as neutral. I have reviewed the legislative rule 12-- LR134, which states that the Congressional districts shall be drawn as nearly equal as practical, no less than one-half of 1 percent. LB1 and LB2 have drawn the maps so accurately that there's only two or one people-- person difference between LB1 and LB2. Where are the maps that draw the state legislative districts as equal as possible? The L-- your legislative resolution said that the legislative districts shall be drawn as

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

nearly equal in population as may be, not as, as practical, but as may be. So I compared LB3 and LB4 in a similar fashion that the mathematician did and the districts that are between a negative 2 percent under and 2 percent over are 18 in LB3. In LB4, there are 19. So what that means, that only 37 percent of the state legislative districts are within 2 percent of the ideal population. In LB3, there are 31 districts that are anywhere between 2 and 5 percent out of alignment, so they're either 2 percent low or up to 5 percent high. That is 63 percent in LB3 and only 61 percent in LB4. I understand how difficult it is to draw these maps because there's preexisting political interests and other ideas of protecting rural interests or urban interests and so forth, but for the benefit of the people of the state of Nebraska, we should adopt an idea to make the legislative districts as equal as possible, even have-- you have to cross over county lines because that's the only way that the people are going to have more trust in the system.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**STEVE WATSON:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much for being here. Senator, Senator Morfeld.

**MORFELD:** Thank, thank you for being here. Can you-- I know that you sent us some data before a lot of the process started. Can you send us some of your analysis, the committee, email it?

**STEVE WATSON:** Yes, what I-- yeah, I will do that. I just went through the maps drawn by caliber and I just took the deviation off and my suggestion would be publish the maps by caliber that show what the 49 districts would look like if they were all within 1 percent equal.

**MORFELD:** OK.

**STEVE WATSON:** And then that would give a starting point for the rest of the community and then we would get away from gerrymandering and we would have more trust in government because it's more equal.

**MORFELD:** Thank you and if you could follow up with a summary of what you just stated to the committee, that would be great. Thank you.

**STEVE JORDAN:** OK, thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Morfeld. Are there other questions from the committee? Seeing none, good morning.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**CAROL GOTTSCH:** Good morning. My name is Carol Gottsch, C-a-r-o-l G-o-t-t-s-c-h. I've communicated with everyone on this committee at one time and now today, I'm face to face with you. I appreciate that. I'm here in opposition of the Linehan proposed maps. I live in the Field Club area here in Omaha. We are in the central part of Omaha, Douglas County, and not so much Nebraska, I'll give you that, but the redrawing of the proposed maps by Chairwoman Linehan will take me from District 9 to District 5. I believe in one person, one vote. I voted for John Cavanaugh in District 9. I did not vote for District 5, Mike McDonnell. I'm losing my voice and I plead to you that that kind of thing doesn't happen. The other thing I'd like to talk about, I'm a small-town country girl born on a farm near Storm Lake, Iowa. My family is from Mount Pleasant, Iowa. I live in Omaha and I believe my Mount Pleasant ancestors think I live in western Nebraska. In Field Club, we help one another. We value one another. We plant trees together. We take care of our veterans. We had farm produce, leftover food. We, we have five families in Field Club schools that we donate-- we take that food to them. Somebody told me you live in Field Club? That's a country club. Look at me. I don't wear high heels. I don't wear a top hat. I value the same thing that you value in the rural district. I-- that's my roots. I was born on a farm. We value the same things. One of those is one person, one vote. I plead-- I've heard Unicameral. Republican, Democrat, we got to stop talking like that. We value the same things. Put the maps in place according to that. I know I'm passionate. We, we have to stick to this. Thank you.

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

**CAROL GOTTSCH:** Thank you, appreciate it.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning.

**TIM ROUSE:** Good morning. My name is Tim Rouse, T-i-m R-o-u-s-e. If you go back in history far enough, I was twice elected to the Omaha Board of Education and once to the Omaha City Council and I was president of the city council and I'd like to approach this topic a little differently than some of the other people. I think you've gotten some wonderful information from a number of those that have done statistical analyses. Both the Omaha Board of Education and Omaha City Council's jurisdictions pass across 680 and Dodge Street. So in essence, the Linehan proposal would require those two government bodies to deal with two different congressmen on similar issues. I think that's inconvenient. Correspondingly, if you divide the way the Linehan proposal-- or LB, LB1 since it's not just her-- results in the congressman who now represents the second-largest city, Lincoln, is

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

now going to be required to represent Lincoln and Omaha both, which dilutes Lincoln's influence in the legislative process. Now, if, if it's important not to split Sarpy County, which, you know, has been split since forever and, you know, I believe the natural affinity with old Bellevue in Omaha is a strong one, but if it's important for Sarpy County to be whole, then let [Congressional] District 2 go north rather than south. Now, what about Congressman Bacon living far, far away? Well, we know the law allows him to live far, far away and still represent District 2. And in fact, Congressman Bacon or any congressman for District 2 is spending most of their time living in Washington, D.C. and that's where they should be living and so I don't think we need to make that a stop to making Sarpy County pure and separate from District 2. But I, I just end by just saying think about what the governmental units have to do to work with one another and this split of the Omaha or the-- Douglas County is going to make it much more difficult both for the congressman for District 2 and the congressman from District 1. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Let me see if there-- it-- does anybody have questions? I'm just-- just for the record-- not to-- but you said Sarpy County was split forever. That's--

**TIM ROUSE:** Well, it--

**LINEHAN:** It's my birthday today, so forever is a long time.

**TIM ROUSE:** Happy birthday.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. It's only been 20 years, right?

**TIM ROUSE:** You know, Sarpy County has grown, so it's, its taken on it's own life--

**LINEHAN:** But not--

**TIM ROUSE:** --and maybe it needs to be contiguous. I don't-- you know, I don't fight that idea. I think that's not a bad idea.

**LINEHAN:** All right. Thank you very much.

**TIM ROUSE:** You're welcome.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning or good afternoon.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** Good morning. My name is Margie Mosier, M-a-r-g-i-e M-o-s-i-e-r, and I'm here in support of LB1. I-- first of all, I want to thank you very much, Senator Linehan and Senator Wayne and your

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

committee members, that you guys have done a remarkable job. It's a formidable task and I think all of you have done a great job. You don't have any ulterior motives except to keep Nebraska citizens in their legislative districts. I am a Bellevue resident and I can answer your question because that's basically my first point. I live in very east Bellevue. Remember, for the river, right, all of our addresses, I'm at 303 and so when I found out I was-- that Fortenberry was my congressman, I was like, what, what? How did this happen? I have lived with that split county thing and we don't-- I don't like it. Bellevue is sort of landlocked and as we have grown, we've moved west. We haven't moved north. That, that's already settled. That's already there. That's-- our kids, our families have all gone west and so our churches, our shopping-- the corridor on 370, Giles Road and Cornhusker Road, that's our community and that's where we have-- we do our shopping, we do our-- everything and Bible studies. I mean, I would never have said this 40 years ago, but Papillion and Bellevue have kind of grown into one community with-- La Vista has been added recently too. And I think that when you talk about not separating something, I think it makes more sense to separate Douglas County when you're splitting 600,000 people and not separating Sarpy County when you're taking 60,000 or 70,000 out of 190,000 and putting them in a different district. I think that's-- and I, and I-- yeah, that's my point.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Are there questions from the committee? Senator Blood.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Chairwoman. Just, just real briefly, I, I think no community wants to ever be split. So the question that I would have is why is it OK to split Omaha or Douglas County and not Sarpy? And it's not a trick question. I just truly--

**MARGIE MOSIER:** No, it's not--

**BLOOD:** --yeah.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** I don't think it's a trick question because I've asked myself that same thing and I think Senator Geist alluded to that earlier. Like, why split one over the other? I think that Omaha is a much more diverse-- Douglas County is much more diverse than Sarpy County. We--



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**BLOOD:** In what way, in what-- when you say diversity, what is your definition of diversity?

**MARGIE MOSIER:** In terms of urban/rural, probably. There's, there's-- yeah, in terms of urban/rural. And I guess one of my questions as I listen to everybody here say Omaha shouldn't be split, but wait, why should we be split and not Omaha? I mean, it's not fair either way.

**BLOOD:** Right.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** It's not good for either one.

**BLOOD:** No matter what we do, there's going to be somebody unhappy.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** And I think mine goes down to simple math. The simple math is you're splitting 600,000 people. It doesn't seem like it would be as disruptive when you take-- which is like kind of your area of the-- of Sarpy County. When you take that and put it into Omaha, that is more disruptive to the Bellevue continuous-- like I said, 370, Giles Road, Cornhusker Road corridor. You're taking part of that out and putting it into Omaha and that we have common interests, common recreational areas. The things that we might go to a congressman for, I think are more similar there in Sarpy County.

**BLOOD:** So, so you feel that the way that it was gerrymandered with the 2011 map, that it has been disruptive?

**MARGIE MOSIER:** It-- yes, I feel like it has been. I-- as, as-- yeah, I felt like it has been disruptive and I--

**BLOOD:** Because you've not gotten good representation from your--

**MARGIE MOSIER:** I love Congressman Fortenberry.

**BLOOD:** Oh, OK.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** He's been great. It just, it just seems as though-- and, and he's been attentive and whatever. That's not, that's not a problem with our congressmen, any of our congressmen in Nebraska. It's just that as we combine together as a group, as a unit, you guys keep talking about community, this is our community, Sarpy County. It's not as-- like, like some people were talking about well, I live in northeast Omaha or I live in southeast Omaha or I live in this part of Omaha. Sarpy County doesn't feel like that anymore.

**BLOOD:** Fair enough.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**MARGIE MOSIER:** A few years ago. Bellevue was Bellevue, Papillion was Papillion. [INAUDIBLE].

**LINEHAN:** Thank--

**BLOOD:** Thanks, Mrs. Mosier.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much.

**MARGIE MOSIER:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Senator Blood. Good afternoon.

**KAREN BOEHM:** Good afternoon. My name is Karen Boehm, K-a-r-e-n B-o-e-h-m, and I'm here today to speak because apparently yelling at my TV and my newspaper is not doing any good, so-- and I, and I have some questions. I'd like to ask why there was no public, no public input while these maps were being drawn up. This is a nonpartisan Legislature. Why are the only maps we're seeing pretty much Republican and Democrat instead of nonpartisan and why are there only two? I do understand that the League of Women Voters had someone who drew a very nonpartisan and even map and I haven't heard one single thing about that, so I do have some questions about that. I kind of understand where the people are talking about splitting Sarpy County, although traditionally Bellevue was, was established. And when we moved here 26 years ago, there was very little in Papillion and La Vista and Springfield and that was a lot of farmland. So they were kind of different and it didn't, it, it didn't make as much of a difference at the time that Sarpy was split because they are-- you know, because they were very different. However, I do think Senator Wayne's proposal is very, very fair. We should not split Douglas County. I live west of 680 and a mile north of Dodge and I have nothing in common with most of the western part-- most of the other counties, Saunders and Wahoo. I don't even have that much in common with Lincoln. We're Omaha and [Congressional] District 2 should not be split. I have friends around the country who, who last fall, they were right and going go Omaha. Yay, blue dot. They were very, very proud of us and, and I think that it-- Douglas County should absolutely not be split and I think that-- that LB1 was very, very partisan. For the law LR134 that says you should not split counties then suddenly have 16 counties split? And especially not Omaha-- I realize that one district out in northwest Nebraska is huge. Maybe you've got a few people who own airplanes who could help you fly to other areas of the-- of your district so you could get there sooner than driving, but, you know, we're not talking geography. We're talking people and the people should pick their

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

representatives. The representatives should not pick the people. Thank you very much.

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

**WAYNE:** I, I just wanna make a quick statement. The League of Women Voters was drawn-- we did have conversations with multiple colleagues and if you look at my Congressional [District] 2 map, it almost identical to the League of Women--

**KAREN BOEHM:** OK.

**WAYNE:** We go east. They go, they go west into La Vista a little farther.

**KAREN BOEHM:** OK.

**WAYNE:** And then the district one, Congressional District 1 was simply about how the League of Women Voters had theirs going straight to the south--

**KAREN BOEHM:** OK.

**WAYNE:** --and there was communities of interest that have historically been in Congressional District 1. So the committee did take it into account--

**KAREN BOEHM:** OK.

**WAYNE:** --and we talked about it, so just for everybody who-- knows, knows that.

**KAREN BOEHM:** Thank you. There was not a lot of public--

**WAYNE:** No.

**KAREN BOEHM:** --hearing on that, but-- and I, and I do appreciate that you looked at the League of Women Voters. I have not seen it. I only knew that it was out there and that it was fair and yours very much seemed to follow what they had proposed, so thank you all very much.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much. Good afternoon.

**FRED ROBERTSON:** Hi. My name is Fred Robertson. I've resided in many different districts in Nebraska in my lifetime, rural and urban, and I now reside in District 12. Senator Lathrop is my representative and

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

one of the things I want to return to is something from Senator Wayne's initial presentation, which is that Douglas County has been a core of a Congressional district since the beginning of the state of Nebraska. I think no one's really talked about that very much, but I think that is a pretty important piece of information. In, in addition to the fact that it always has been one part, part of a district, that whole county, Douglas County is growing. Why would you say let's split a county that is growing? I mean, that seems really counterintuitive to me. In fact, Senator Linehan, in your testimony, you stated in ten years, Douglas County may very well have the population in order to be a Congressional district by itself if trends continue. I heard that. That means that your proposal now is to temporarily split Douglas County and then ten years later, when it reaches, because of trends, that one-third population, now we have to redo the district and put it back together. That doesn't seem very logical to me. It seems to me that we're better with looking at a map that is a bit more consistent with how that county has been a core for a long period of time, in fact, since the state's inception. I also think some of the information presented on the deviations is pretty important. I did a little bit of work on that this morning. At 5:30, I got up and I started to check those different maps, Senator Wayne's map, Senator Linehan's map, going back and forth. I didn't have a very good program. I just had my head and a pen and writing things down, but I saw that in the rural districts, the minus deviation was pretty consistent in Senator, Senator Linehan's map, minus meaning that people would be overrepresented, one person, one vote. In Senator Wayne's map, it was not that consistent. In other words, there were some that were over, there were some that were under, so it was actually fairly, fairly distributed. That's important information. I really appreciated the previous speaker-- I can't recall her name-- that brought up that piece of analysis. So I think when we're looking at this, we're going to probably-- I think you all know this, probably. You all work hard. I respect everybody on this committee. I mean, I know people work hard.

**LINEHAN:** I'm sorry--

**FRED ROBERTSON:** You're going to have to compromise. Wayne's is a better starting point.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much for being here, appreciate it. OK. We'll have time for-- unless we have a lot of questions, we'll have time for three more testifiers and I'm not-- you're doing a very good job, it seems, of, like, organizing yourselves to take turns. So can-- after

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

lunch-- we're only going to break for 30 minutes-- would you all come back to exactly the same place you are now? OK.

**WAYNE:** We better [INAUDIBLE] on a notepad.

**LINEHAN:** Yeah. All right.

**ALLYSON WAGNER:** Good afternoon. My name is Allyson Wagner, A-l-l-y-s-o-n W-a-g-n-e-r. Happy birthday, Senator Linehan. I am here today to speak in opposition of your congressional district map. I speak today on my own behalf and not on behalf of my employer or any organization. However, I am a director at a large nonprofit community theater in Omaha, Nebraska, and I wanted to give some perspective from the art sector, which I think would be a little bit unique. Omaha prides itself on having a really vibrant theater and arts community and splitting Omaha into two separate congressional districts would be detrimental to our arts sector. COVID-19 forced nearly all theater and arts organizations in Omaha to close their doors for months, some for over a year. Many of these organizations are nonprofits with modest operating budgets that exist only to serve the Omaha community. These closures would have put them out of business, but during the pandemic, Omaha's local theaters and venues and arts organizations banded together for months via campaigns, via letter writing, campaigns like Save Our Stages and the day of action and the red light project to advocate for our congressional representative to pass legislation that would provide relief for our local arts economy. And because of our united efforts, legislation like the CARES Act and the Shuttered Venues Operating grants were passed in Congress. This legislation is the reason that some organizations in Omaha pulled through. Omaha doesn't have a central geographic arts hub in our city. We don't have a Broadway or a theater and arts district that we can point to as our hub. Omaha itself is our hub. From El Museo Latino to the south to the Union for Contemporary Art to the brand new Benson Theatre, Omaha is our hub. We exist in one city as a local industry with a common shared interest and to divide our city's arts sector and further dilute our voice by combining us with rural populations outside of our city would be detrimental to our industry's ability to advocate for ourselves to our elected leaders. The populations that make up a congressional district should have similar interests. Omaha should remain whole and undivided as one Congressional district. Senator Wayne's map is logical and fair. It's a good starting point. Its boundaries uphold a fair democratic process for the people of Nebraska. I encourage the Redistricting Committee and all state senators to work across the aisles to advocate, to advocate for boundaries like Senator Wayne's that uphold a fair democratic process for the people of our state.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**ALLYSON WAGNER:** Thank you.

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

**ALLYSON WAGNER:** Thank you for your time.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning--

**KRISTA BARTHOLOMEW:** Hi.

**LINEHAN:** --afternoon. I'm sorry.

**KRISTA BARTHOLOMEW:** Hi. My name is Krista Bartholemew, K-r-i-s-t-a B-a-r-t-h-o-l-o-m-e-w. This is Amira [PHONETIC]. I grew up in Council Bluffs, but I've lived here in Omaha for about ten years. I'm here to voice my support for Senator Wayne's map. One major goal of democracy should be to create an environment that encourages participation and reduces structural barriers to voting. We must create districts that ensure all voters in Nebraska are given an equal voice. Dividing Douglas County into two congressional districts creates an arbitrary boundary that divides communities and frankly, is a blatant attempt to dilute the voices of black voters in the state. I hear a lot in the news and in the Legislature about brain drain in Nebraska. I hope that you can see how proposals like this Linehan map contribute to young people leaving the state. This map sends a message that members of this Legislature care more about carving out power for themselves than they do about representing all Nebraskans. A strong and healthy democracy is one in which voters feel there is someone representing them and the interests of their communities. Dividing Omaha into two congressional districts undermines this effort. Senator Wayne's map illustrates a fair picture of the urban, rural and racial makeup of this state and would ensure all Nebraskans have the representation we deserve. Thank you for your time.

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

**KRISTA BARTHOLOMEW:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Good morning-- good afternoon.

**SARA LEE:** Good morning. My name is Sara Lee, S-a-r-a L-e-e. I would like to speak to two points. I'm a resident of Sarpy County. I was upset about Sarpy County being divided. I used to be-- I used some of

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

the redistricting software and very quickly realized that we cannot have both Douglas County and Sarpy County remain intact. The numbers just don't make it feasible. However, as much as I would love to see Sarpy County be able to be whole, I understand that it is more important to keep Douglas County together. I moved here from another state and while I have since found many things to love about Nebraska, at the time, the only thing I was excited about was living in a purple state where I would have the opportunity to contribute to an electoral vote no matter how I voted. As exciting as that is for me as an individual, I think that we need to be cognizant of the fact that Nebraska does-- that what Nebraska does with Douglas County is actually of natural-- national interest and I have a hard time believing that national voices will not try to be part of this conversation. Dividing Douglas County in any way is an obvious gerrymander. We would have to cut multiple counties in order to accomplish it. It divides the most populous city in the state down the center where the numbers do not demand it and the variance is not as well done as it was in the LB2 map and it is more similar to what we had before the 2011 redistricting. Also, the variance of the zero percent listed today is different than how it was posted last Wednesday as negative .77 for [Congressional] District 1 and positive .67 for [Congressional] District 2. This is according-- my best map is a difference of about 9,000 people. Earlier this year, FiveThirtyEight produced some sample maps that showed what gerrymandering would look like for Nebraska and one of them is the map in question that divides Omaha. At its core, gerrymandering Omaha is-- as a purple state means taking an, an electoral vote away from the people of our state. The second point I would like to discuss is the issue of rural versus urban Unicameral districts. To my knowledge, there has not been a rural issue that our urban centers have not supported or rural ones on. However, on the issues of numbers, we need to be honest with ourselves. The majority of incarcerated individuals come from cities and are housed in prison areas found in rural areas. While they are unable to vote, the presence of their bodies counts towards the population numbers for those rural districts, which are already overfilled in rural districts and overfilled in urban districts. So in essence, we remove one vote from the urban areas and move its power to the rural areas without them being members of those communities. This is a population of roughly 5,500 people, which is larger, larger than 36 of our 49 districts. While clearly the details of this discussion are outside the scope of this hearing, I bring it up simply to reinforce that rural voting districts are not underrepresented and not having their voices heard in the Unicameral. That's not happening. They are actually erring on the side of being overrepresented and our senators do care about what they need. I just ask that the fear of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

underrepresented our rural population be eased so that we can give proper attention to our goal of one person, one vote. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much.

**SARA LEE:** And also, while I'm here, I'd like to just thank Senator Blood. Her office checked on us several times during the early months of the pandemic and that meant a lot to us. Thank you.

**BLOOD:** You're welcome.

**LINEHAN:** Are there questions from the committee? OK. We're going to break for lunch. I'm sorry, but you'll be first in 30 minutes, OK?

**TERESA CLAUDE:** It would be short and sweet.

**LINEHAN:** But we might have questions. I'm sorry, 30 minute--

[BREAK]

**LINEHAN:** Good afternoon. Are we all back in our places? Looks like, thank you very much.

**TERESA CLAUDE:** We're raring to go.

**LINEHAN:** OK. All right. We're, we're [INAUDIBLE]-- OK.

**WAYNE:** It's transcribers--

\_\_\_\_\_: [INAUDIBLE]

**WAYNE:** Can everybody please keep it quiet? I'm having a-- I just-- when people talk, I want to make sure I hear. This is being transcribed, so we're going to go ahead and start this.

**LINEHAN:** Go ahead. Thank you.

**TERESA CLAUDE:** Hi. My name is Teresa Claude, T-e-r-e-s-a, last name, C-l-a-u-d-e. As a registered Republican, I strongly object to the dividing of Douglas County and I realize that a lot of Republicans in 2020 were embarrassed because of the blue dot, but after four years of Trump, there was no way I and I'm guessing a lot of other Republicans could stomach voting for him for another four years. We wanted somebody normal. Sorry. Anyway, please don't break up Douglas County. Thank you.



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** Thank you very much. Wait a minute. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much for being here. Good afternoon.

**CASSANDRA GRIFFIN:** Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Cassandra Griffin, C-a-s-s-a-n-d-r-a G-r-i-f-f-i-n. I grew up in Nebraska. My dad was in the Air Force and I was born at Offutt Air Force Base after he was stationed here. I went to school in Bellevue, college at UNO, and I fell in love here and we chose to build our lives and buy a home in Gifford Park. This legislative map from Senator Linehan would rip my neighborhood in two. My house on 31st Avenue would have its votes tied with votes on 84th and F rather than my neighbors just down the street. The congressional map from Senator Linehan would also split my city in two and split Omaha in two. The redistricting process is meant to reflect communities of interest and keep neighborhoods and cities together, not split them apart. This process is meant to reflect population changes from the 2020 Census and these maps, as I've described them to you, don't do that. Please don't break up my communities and the place that I built home in and please don't let these maps become our political reality. Thank you so much.

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

**CASSANDRA GRIFFIN:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Good afternoon.

**STEVE KNIGHT:** Hi. My name is Steve Knight, K-n-i-g-h-t, and I'm a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, and first, I'd like to acknowledge the difficulty that goes into the drawing up of these maps and, and I appreciate your effort in doing that. But I'm here for basically one reason and that's because of that blue dot and some people's inability to accept that blue dot being there. I know that there's been some discussion about splitting up counties and I, I understand that on a, a-- densely populated areas, that's a necessity sometimes. However, splitting a metropolis, a, a metro area in two, actually ripping a city apart, is unacceptable. The reason that's done is-- well, Senator Geist had indicated that it was a group effort and I believe that and I think I know who that group is. I got to tell you, I grew up learning that you had to honor your opponent. If you were in a fair fight, you don't throw sawdust in his face and kick him. You actually take his best shot and you give him your best shot and when the, when the contest is done, you extend your hand and you congratulate your opponent. You-- actually, these kind of-- that kind of value is actually part of being a Nebraskan. Those words are even etched into

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Memorial Stadium and I believe those values. I'm sorry. I get a little emotional about this because this really means something to me. Elected officials are charged with representing all Nebraskans, all their constituents, not just the ones that they agree with. By suppressing a voice of people in Omaha, you're doing a great disservice, so I really encourage this committee to think about what it means to be a Nebraskan, what it means to represent all Nebraskans when you vote on these maps. Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate it.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here and thank you for your testimony.

**STEVE KNIGHT:** Yeah.

**KARINA HERNANDEZ:** Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Karina Hernandez. First name, K-a-r-i-n-a, and last name, H-e-r-n-a-n-d-e-z. I'm with the Nebraska Civic Engagement Table and I live and work in Omaha. Nebraska Civic Engagement Table is a statewide nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that works with other nonprofit organizations to increase voting and to build and engage Nebraska. With our members, we work to increase the year-round civic participation of underrepresented and historically marginalized communities. I'm here today because the redistricting process affects every Nebraskan. The districts we draw this year will shape our lives, our neighborhoods, and how our communities are represented for the next decade. We urge the Redistricting Committee and legislators to do the right thing by keeping communities together and not splitting counties unless absolutely necessary and using census data to inform those decisions. We also urge the committee to listen to communities who know their own neighborhoods best and are the best resources for input on where district lines are drawn. That's because this process is about people, not politicians. When our communities draw and decide the maps, we determine if we have free and fair elections and if we have a government accountable to the people. When our communities draw and decide the maps, we choose what hospitals, schools, and resources are funded in our neighborhood. When our communities draw and decide the maps, we ensure that voters choose our representatives and not the other way around. No matter what we look like or where we come from, when it comes to having a say over who represents us, most of us want similar things. We ask the committee and members of the Legislature to draw fair maps based on community representation, where communities remain whole, and where voters have an equal voice. Thank you, committee members, for the opportunity to provide comments today.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**KARINA HERNANDEZ:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Welcome.

**SARA NELSON:** Hi. Good afternoon. My name is Sara Nelson. I am a resident of Dundee. Just a little bit about me, I'm a nurse on sabbatical, I am a small business owner, I'm a mother of a disabled person, and I am a co-president of a neighborhood association. I'm here today to support Senator Wayne's proposal and oppose Senator Linehan's proposal.

**LATHROP:** Can you speak up just a little bit?

**SARA NELSON:** Oh, absolutely. Thank you for--

**LATHROP:** Yeah, maybe get a little closer to the mic?

**SARA NELSON:** OK, got it. Thank you. As you all know, the goals of redistricting are to divide districts into equal groups that are as compact as possible. On a practical note, every Tuesday, I drive my children 5.3 miles to 117th and Blondo to go to swim lessons every Tuesday. I have never drove my children, nor would I try to find a swim lesson in Morse Bluff, which is 53 miles away. This makes no sense obviously. My second point is that the goals of redistricting are to find common interests. Senator Linehan, your proposal cuts a school district in half, Omaha Public School district. As you can see with the board's mask mandate of OPS, Omaha Public Schools has very strong opinions on how we would like to handle the pandemic that other school districts do not. Every day, I walk my children to school. Every day, I pick them up. I'm, I'm surrounded by a group of concerned parents that are also masking up to be good examples to their children, whereas I'm hearing concerns from parents who are social workers, critical care medicine doctors who go to other school districts who come home and they say mom, why are only the brown people at my school wearing masks? Heartbreaking. My third point is I-- that I'd like to make is redistricting should not weaken the vote of minorities. And I'm sorry, Senator Linehan, your proposal does exactly that. Thank you.

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

**SARA NELSON:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** --for being here today. Welcome.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**CORNELIUS WILLIAMS:** Welcome. My name is Cornelius Fitzgerald Williams. I am currently a resident of Omaha, Nebraska, and LD 11. I am also a part of CD 2 and I definitely want Douglas County to remain whole for many, many reasons-- if nothing else, because I plan on running for Congress. So here's the deal: everybody is talking about keeping Sarpy County together. Go ahead, keep them together. Keep Douglas County together. Give us the north part. We'll take Washington, we'll take Saunders, we'll take some other stuff too, but the important aspect of this is if you're looking towards the future, you have to remember Douglas County is growing faster than everybody else, which means in ten years from now, it's going to be bigger. So if you were going to even-- when you're talking about the curve of-- percentage above or below the expected number, I would put Douglas County-- give them the leeway of being a little bit below right now just because they're going to grow into it. It's like a child. You don't buy clothes that fit your child. You buy clothes that are going to take your child to the next level till they become adults. And then, you know, we have to worry about how much weight we put on. But the bottom line is that's-- that even goes for the L-- the LDs too because a lot of the LDs that they're talking about in the west, if you're giving them negative numbers, then they're always going to be negative compared to the west-- I mean the east. That's just the way it is, mathematically speaking, because the growth of a center of a people-- you know, the-- if you look at growth pattern, even since I was in high school and elementary school, looking at growth patterns of things, it always shows the larger the number, if they're the same percentage, they're going to get a larger number in the the end, a larger growth. That's just math. I didn't tell you I have a Ph.D. in physics too. So when we're looking at this, I'm not-- and, you know, they talk about keeping the blue dot. The truth of the matter is they didn't want Trump anyway because when you look at the numbers, Biden got more numbers than-- he had more votes and the second person was Bacon, third was Kara, and then Trump overall in CD 2. They just didn't want him. They, they, they just didn't want him, so blaming that on the growth of Douglas County is ridiculous. So when I look at these map-- like I said, when I look at the maps and I look at the numbers, Douglas County should stay whole. You can keep Sarpy county as a whole. Find a way if they want to stay whole too. But just simple math and simple logic says Douglas County should remain whole for the future and even ten years from now, if we're lucky enough to still have three Congressional districts, you're going to have to split Douglas. We not going to have to split Douglas County, but you can definitely split them away from each other.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Red light. Is there any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**CORNELIUS WILLIAMS:** All right. You guys have a good day.

**WAYNE:** You too. Welcome.

**CORBIN DELGADO:** Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Corbin Delgado, C-o-r-b-i-n D-e-l-g-a-d-o. I grew up in Sarpy County. I love Sarpy County. I grew up in Papillion, Nebraska, off of North Monroe Street. After I went to college in Illinois, I moved all over the country to different places and when I got done, I kidnapped my wild oats as it would. I came back to Sarpy County. I work as a community organizer in Sarpy County for the Heartland Workers, though that's not the position that I come to you today as. I come to you as a concerned citizen, somebody who's heard stories from different members from Sarpy County and when I've shown people these-- both of these maps that have come across-- and thank you, Senator Morfeld, for sharing those on Twitter that way I was able to get them out to people. But folks who aren't as engaged politically, those are the folks that I work with and they look at these maps and I tell them that-- seeing Senator Wayne's map and they see people who are west of 84th Street saying wait, why am I being cut out? Or you see people who are south or south of 68005 zip code in Bellevue asking why they're being taken out. But you also see people saying-- when they look at Senator Linehan's proposal, saying why is the rest of rural Sarpy County included? Now, there's been talk about whether or not all of Sarpy County should remain whole. Like I've said, I love Sarpy County. I moved back to Sarpy County from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I love Nebraska, but there are differences. I wholeheartedly believe that we should keep Papillion, La Vista, and Bellevue together. We view ourselves as the metro area. We view ourselves as one part. I've worked with people for the past two years in Sarpy specifically on that, viewing ourselves as one little area. But that's different than areas like Gretna, that's different than areas like Springfield, which don't share the same issues that we do, and it's disrespectful to them to try and lump them in with more urban issues and it's disrespectful to the metro area in Sarpy to try and remove them from the metro that many of us work in. And talking specifically about the area west of 84th Street, that is the area that is growing in population, specifically with immigrants and specifically with lower-income folk. And so if we're talking about how cutting up areas in [Congressional] District 2 is affecting the poor and is affecting those minority groups, we shouldn't just look at Douglas County and how it's affecting, but also how we're cutting up Sarpy County affects that as

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

well. I want to thank you all so much for letting me come and talk about this, but this is an issue I care so dearly about.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**CORBIN DELGADO:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** Thank you, Councilwoman Linehan and committee members for having this hearing today. My name is Angie Lauritsen, A-n-g-i-e L-a-u-r-i-t-s-e-n. At a great detriment to myself, I'm going to go off script. I've supplied a letter with lots of numbers and information. I'm a former city council member for the city of Gretna and former president of that council. I also sit on many committees and boards within the Gretna community and I also handle all of the social media when it pertains to the school bonds for the last three school bonds for the Gretna Public Schools. So when I was an elected official, I made a point to go to all the League of Municipalities meetings to make sure that we were represented there. One of the hardest things that I had to endure as an elected official was trying to talk to other members, other elected officials across the state about the growth challenges that we have. The unfortunate piece of it was that no one wants to talk about growth challenges of Sarpy County. No one wants to participate in that conversation. I would get disregarded and flat-out ignored by the other attendees during those meetings and the facilitators of those meetings. The-- and I don't want to diminish any of the challenges that there is in western Nebraska and, and more rural counties, but we do have challenges. There are growth challenges. Sarpy County and our district in particular, we're one of the problem children and why we are potentially adding another district to western Sarpy County. We-- the growth there is substantial. I am in support of LB4 mostly because of the northern trajectory taking Gretna up to the north. On one of the maps I provided to you is a map of the Gretna Public Schools, the school district boundary map. What a lot of people don't understand is that it's 47 square miles. It actually goes north of Q Street into Douglas County, up to actually F Street. So when I look at the two different-- LB3 and LB4, the, the LB4 map for our district mirrors what our-- Gretna Public Schools district and what that-- the layout of our district is. It mirrors that and it, it creates a community of interest to make sure that we keep us whole. When I was out doing work-- I'm going to run out of time. I have so much good stuff. So on the back of this letter, really quick, you'll see that there's over-- when I was on council last year, we had 2,700 open, platted

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

residential lots. As of yesterday, we have 4,898 residential lots that are currently platted. We have more developers that are coming to our community. We will be growing. And I realize that your job here today is to look at the current census numbers, but you're also planning for the next ten years ahead for our community.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** And we-- sorry.

**WAYNE:** We've been kind of strict, so thank you. I appreciate it. Thank you for the written testimony. As always, anybody who runs out of time, you can email us and share your thoughts. Thank you. Is there any questions from the-- Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you, Chair Wayne. So this map, did you give us this map? I'm sorry.

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** Yes, that's the Gretna community-- and I also submitted a map of our current city limits that also increased on August 10 during redistricting--

**LINEHAN:** This isn't your city limits.

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** No, that's our school limits. Those are our school-- that's our school district.

**LINEHAN:** OK, so you go into Douglas County?

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** Correct.

**LINEHAN:** OK and what are these?

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** Those are where all of our schools are currently located.

**LINEHAN:** OK. All right. Because Millard has a school right here, don't they?

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** Correct.

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** So there's a long history of why our school district looks the way that it does and it looks all jagged when it gets up into Douglas County and over towards Millard.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**ANGIE LAURITSEN:** Um-hum.

**WAYNE:** Any quest-- any other questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Welcome.

**ANGELA MOLINI:** Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Angela Molini, A-n-g-e-l-a M-o-l-i-n-i. Thank you for, you know, giving us the opportunity this, this morning and this afternoon. So I have lived in Omaha almost my entire life and I am here in support of Senator Wayne's proposed district maps. Senator Linehan's maps violate LR134 in that they do not follow county lines where practical and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which clearly prohibits the drawing of district lines that dilute the voting strengths of communities of color. Senator Linehan's proposal-- and I know, Senator Geist, you had mentioned that, you know, this is a, a group effort, so, I, I mean this group effort's proposal errs on the side of gerrymandering and frankly, racism. The--

**WAYNE:** Please hold your applause.

**ANGELA MOLINI:** --the, the, the the day-to-day life and interests of the average person living in north Omaha is vastly different from those of the average person in rural Madison County, as an example, and I ask you to please consider what are the differences in the day-to-day lives and interests of someone living on 156th and West Maple Road versus someone living on 156th and Pacific Street? On a personal note, I live about 15 minutes away from my childhood home. You know, with Senator Linehan's plan, I would be in a completely different district than where I grew up, a neighborhood and community I still relate to and consider my own. Overall, I ask that redistricting is open, fair, free of party influence, and not rushed. The future of our communities is at stake and is in your hands and I just, again, thank you so much for the consideration.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee?

**ANGELA MOLINI:** Thank you very much.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Welcome. Go ahead.

**BOB TWISS:** Good afternoon. My name is Bob Twiss, that's B-o-b T-w-i-s-s. I probably-- a little bit unique, may be the only person in the room today prior to lunch and Senator Linehan, you really know how to clear a room as well and happy birthday as well. But I've lived in



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Sarpy County for 43 years and if anybody wants to know anything about Sarpy County, Madison County, northeast Nebraska, where I also lived in Congressional District 4. I was born there, Congressional District 4, and I lived in all the others, [Congressional District] 1, [Congressional District] 2, and [Congressional District] 3 since then. I have testified on redistricting after the 1990, the 2000, the 2010, and now the 2020 censuses on fair representation. Hal Daub made reference to a lawsuit and that is Day v.-- and I've got the old file with me if anybody's interested-- Day v. Nelson, 1991, after the 1990 census, and the important aspect of that is the respect of county lines and there's a real distinction-- two real distinctions. It does not relate at all to Congressional districts. It relates to legislative districts because of counties such as Dodge-- excuse me, Dodge, Lincoln, Madison, and Scotts Bluff that are nearly perfect-- close, very close, to one state senator, one legislative district in those counties. Another aspect of our state constitution is that in those counties and in those counties where there is more, more than one legislative district, those districts shall be compact and contiguous. Sarpy County was the one that just allowed things to happen and we were badly treated 1990, worse in 2000 with three full legislative districts, four pieces of legislative districts that didn't even touch each other. How do you call that compact and contiguous? Very difficult. I think the courts decide those things. So I am here once again to help and we finally got there in 2010 in Sarpy County where we need to be and that is currently four full legislative districts and only one piece that goes into Cass County--

**WAYNE:** Thank you, sir.

**BOB TWISS:** --and touch of Otoe County as well.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**BOB TWISS:** Sorry, I didn't get everything said. I wanted to go after the World-Herald in their editorial. Corleone--

**WAYNE:** I need you to stop.

**BOB TWISS:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** OK. Any other-- any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**BOB TWISS:** Thank you very much.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**CHRIS MOLINI:** Hi. My name is Christopher Molini. You just heard from my wife and I've lived in Omaha for over 20 years.

**WAYNE:** Can you spell your name?

**CHRIS MOLINI:** C-h-r-i-s and then Molini, M-o-l-i-n-i.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**CHRIS MOLINI:** I support Senator Wayne's maps. Senator Linehan's maps are an unreasonable reshuffling of our counties, splitting up many existing communities and they are an obvious attempt to gerrymander Nebraska and it will result in fewer Nebraskans having their voices heard. Further, it's been said that there was a lot of attendance today, but honestly, there should have been a lot more. Like, do you not realize how all this looks? All three of the hearings were during the middle of the day when, like, most people can't take off work.

\_\_\_\_\_: Yep.

**CHRIS MOLINI:** And from what I understand, the Legislature is supposed to start debate on these maps tomorrow. Given the level of pushback that we've heard today, it seems reckless at the very least. It feels like party line support is thought enough to ram these gerrymandered districts through. The goal of redistricting shouldn't be a partisan victory, but use the maps and update them fairly for the people of the state. Consider what actual Nebraskans want. Keep districting fair and open. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Thank you. Thank you for being here today. Welcome to your Redistricting Committee.

**JAY OXTON:** My name is Jay Oxtan, J-a-y O-x-t-o-n. I'm here to talk about Congressional districts and I've always, I've always said to my kids there's good and bad to everything in life, it just depends on your perspective and I think that speaks to gerrymandering. One person's gerrymander is another person's fair and equitable solution and I think we all need to know that it's just pure math that Sarpy and Douglas counties cannot be in the same district without gerrymandering. That's a fact. So I, I believe that the fastest-growing county in the state of Nebraska deserves to be held together in one piece. No one's asking Lancaster to break into two. No one should be asking to break Douglas into two. I, I think that I'm going to start with the map that-- Mr. Wayne's-- Senator Wayne has proposed and I'm going to remove Thurston County and add more of Otoe County. That's-- in terms of the boundaries that I'm going to suggest,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

that's it. You put all of Douglas, all of Washington, all of Dodge County, and then 11,027 people from Saunders County and make that [Congressional] District 2. You take all of the other counties and add 11,251 people from Saunders County, almost right down the middle, and add that to [Congressional] District 1 so Sarpy and Lancaster are in the same district and then-- and you take 10,000 out of 15,000 people in Otoe and put them into what I'm going to call metropolitan Congressional districts. The remainder would go into [Congressional] District 3. So you take two counties-- not one of the two or three biggest counties, you take two counties and, and yeah, you have to gerrymander, but that's in Saunders and Otoe Counties, not Douglas, not Sarpy. So I, I really think that it's imperative that we have as few counties as possible broken up. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Thank you for being here.

**JAY OXTON:** Yep.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**MIKE EVANS:** Yeah, welcome. So my name is Mike Evans. I'm the mayor of the city of Gretna. Full disclosure, I have lived in both counties, so I, I really appreciate and welcome the opportunity to talk. Thank you. So my concern once again is this talk of splitting one county up and keeping the other whole, specifically why we need to keep Douglas County intact and cutting up Sarpy, especially as it contributes a lot to the, I think, the metro area. You know, when I first moved to Omaha as a-- kind of a young child, we lived in the outskirts of Omaha. You know, my dad worked in Layne Western, kind of down by the airport. We would go to Joe Tess', Peony Park. I played baseball at Keystone Little League, so, you know, I just-- I was still the same guy I am now, but then you-- we'd move-- central Nebraska-- Mr. Brieser may appreciate the community-- and then I'd go to Nebraska to school and eventually move back to the outskirts of the metro area. You know, there, after working for a big company for a while, I thought, gosh, I should start on my own and start a business. So I started a moving and shipping company, which in hindsight probably wasn't the best idea, but I learned a lot and I worked-- I hired people from all across the metro area. I physically moved people from, you know, the Florence area to Bellevue to western suburbs and know-- I realized that people aren't in the silos that I think we put each other in sometimes and the, and the-- really, the community of the metropolitan area is the metropolitan area and, you know, the county lines don't divide us. I drive daily from one of my properties to another and I don't see that change. So as I would go along, I'd also get involved with real

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

estate, now own properties in Bellevue and Omaha, pay taxes in all those and including Gretna, and, you know, it's really one community. And as Mary-- you know, our citizens, we drive daily to Omaha. Our-- we work for businesses in Omaha. We own companies in Omaha. We spend a lot of time in the metro area and, you know, I believe our residents contribute a lot to the community and the metropolitan area of Omaha. Whether it's, you know, running a business or going in town to eat, working for an employer or just attending the events, you know, we support this whole area. We don't-- we're not in silos. We're part of the community, the greater part of Omaha. You know, I think it's a little disingenuous to kind of keep cutting Sarpy in pieces to adjust to the, the Douglas County area just because we have an identity and we have very similar beliefs, a lot of people in the community. You know, as-- excluding us, it feels like you want our, our resources, our talents, our financial economy, you want us to invest in Omaha, but you don't want our opinions. So we really feel, you know, we are part of the metro area. You know, with that said, you know, I'm not the only mayor that feels this way. A lot of the mayors, we submitted an editorial letter supporting Sarpy County staying intact and being part of the metro area. I think we contribute a lot to the area and thank you very much.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Questions? Senator Blood.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Vice Chair Wayne. How are you today, Mayor?

**MIKE EVANS:** Good.

**BLOOD:** So I have a, a question and, and I, I don't mean this to sound flippant in any way--

**MIKE EVANS:** Sure.

**BLOOD:** --but I keep hearing everybody from Sarpy saying that we all have so much in common and, you know, I've lived in Sarpy a long time.

**MIKE EVANS:** Sure.

**BLOOD:** And, and I, and I'm not agreeing with cutting Sarpy necessarily or anything like this, but the question that keeps coming to my head is that if we're all one community, why do we have five, six different mayors?

**MIKE EVANS:** Well, because we have five or six different communities.

**BLOOD:** So we're not all one community.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**MIKE EVANS:** Well, just because it-- I mean, there was Elkhorn in Omaha until it was annexed, I guess. You know, there was different mayors in Douglas County as well as Valley and other counties--

**BLOOD:** Right and now they were annexed and then they became--

**MIKE EVANS:** Right.

**BLOOD:** --part of that community--

**MIKE EVANS:** So--

**BLOOD:** --right?

**MIKE EVANS:** Right.

**BLOOD:** So I mean, that's, that's the only thing-- the only issue that I have with this argument is that we keep talking about how we're all one community. And I love Sarpy County and I am not dissing Sarpy County in any way, but yet we do have multiple mayors. And I know I've heard one mayor say that they're purposely going to try and grow to, to outpace Bellevue, which--

**MIKE EVANS:** Yeah.

**BLOOD:** --they should go for it. Good for them. And, you know, I, I do see differences in our communities and I know you do too.

**MIKE EVANS:** Right and I have property in Bellevue and I pay taxes there as well and, and while that--

**BLOOD:** And thank you for those taxes.

**MIKE EVANS:** --the political organizations may have different entities, I think the values of the people are very similar.

**BLOOD:** So maybe we should have one mayor for all the communities?

**MIKE EVANS:** We have different entities and I think those different mayors represent those entities.

**BLOOD:** But you just said we're all the same-- we all share the same values.

**MIKE EVANS:** Our values, I think our values are alike. Yeah, you know.

**BLOOD:** All right. See, do you see my confusion, though? Like, I'm hearing this, but it-- I'm not seeing this in Sarpy County, so-- and,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

and I love that we're very diverse because of Offutt Air Force Base  
and I love my--

**MIKE EVANS:** Right.

**BLOOD:** --community. I'm just trying to make sense of this testimony  
and I'm having a hard time with it, so I appreciate your frankness and  
your honesty.

**MIKE EVANS:** Yeah, thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any other questions from the committee? Seeing none,  
thank you for being here. Welcome.

**LORI WOOSLEY:** Hi. Thank you. My name is Lori Woosley. That's L-o-r-i  
W-o-o-s-l-e-y and I'm from Omaha. I've lived here my whole life,  
graduated from Benson and UNO and just as of a couple of years ago, I  
moved out to Platte County-- hi, Carol-- and I think that might give  
me a little bit of a different perspective. I love Douglas County, but  
now I'm in Platte County and I'm a lifelong Nebraskan and I love it  
here. I'm concerned about the political climate in our nation and  
state and the more I learn about these redistricting maps and the  
senators behind them, I see a political statement and the best  
interest of all Nebraskans is not top of mind. LB4 is staying in the  
deviation of the 5 percent, but most of the districts out west with  
large land masses are in the overage of that 5 percent and they should  
be in the underage of the 5 percent because of the large area for the  
representative to cover. Also, why do most of the urban districts have  
fewer people than they are supposed to and yet these representatives  
have a much smaller land mass to cover? In addition, many of the maps  
in the urban areas show an overage on the Sarpy line and an underage  
on the Douglas side with a few exceptions. Overall, these need to be  
balanced out better in order to give everyone fair representation of  
their voice and not marginalize any Nebraskan. We shouldn't have to  
lose a rural district because of these maneuvers or should I say  
politics. The maps are not labeled very well and they are hard to read  
and understand. Some do not indicate the town represented and it's  
difficult to link them up with the current district members because  
the numbers have changed. As an example, why does Senator Geist have  
an overage while Senator Williams has the underage? Why are you  
opposed to splitting up Douglas County? What makes Douglas County so  
special and the other 92 counties not special? Lastly, it is wrong to  
expand the overages to the districts in western Nebraska and lessen  
their voices. I love my city, but I love my state and this is unfair.  
So the question is why are you not keeping this fair? Please keep it  
fair to ensure every Nebraskan has an equal vote and representation

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

regardless if they live in an urban or a rural area. That is the crux of redistricting or that's what the crux of redistricting is about. I respectfully request you to draw fair maps that represent every Nebraska citizen. You swore an oath to uphold the Nebraska Constitution. I expect that oath should mean something to all of you to do your duty to serve Nebraska without injecting politics. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you. Good afternoon.

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** Good afternoon. I want to thank the committee for choosing this venue. I think it's a good one for a discussion like this, although you could have announced that there is a cafeteria just right here that we could have got lunch. I want to start by saying that I understand the difficulty that you guys have.

**LINEHAN:** I'm sorry--

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** Oh.

**LINEHAN:** --we need your name-- your name and just spell out-- and speak up just a little bit.

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** Oh, my name and spell it out? Yes. Luis Jimenez, L-u-i-s J-i-m-e-n-e-z from Omaha.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** I understand the difficulty that you have drawing Congressional-- three Congressional districts when there is more than 100-- 1.5 million and less than, than 2 million people in Nebraska. So somebody said that you're going to have some counties getting split up and so that's, that's what both maps represent. However, I'm here to support Senator Wayne's map of the Congressional districts because it maintains what has happened there. Particularly the political culture in the last ten years, there's been a lot of relationships that have been formed, a lot of various groups that have been-- that sprung up and I'm afraid that if you split Douglas County, those opportunities will be lost or become more complicated than they need to be. I know that there's been more civic engagement in Douglas County by all kinds of people, but particularly younger people. There's been some experimentation in that, like with arts coming to the floor with civic engagement, so that's exciting and I, I support this map because it helps maintain that. The, the, the-- there's other ways that the-- this map maintains what's going on. I would say that it doesn't split

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

families. A lot that happens is that people-- kids from the east side move westward and I think that the other map represents a splitting of generations, like, parents and, and their children, and so then you'll have families with two different, you know, representatives and that would be unfortunate. I think people-- minority groups need to have the opportunity to come together and be unified. Also, I just want to add that there's talk about the blue dot--

**WAYNE:** Thank you for your--

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** Oh.

**WAYNE:** --testimony. We're trying to keep it straight. If you have any other, please make sure you send it to the committee.

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** OK, thank you.

**WAYNE:** Do you have any questions from-- any committee have-- any committee member have any questions? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**LUIS JIMENEZ:** Yeah.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**CHRISTY KNORR:** Hi. My name is Christy Knorr, C-h-r-i-s-t-y K-n-o-r-r, like the soup. As you can tell, I'm not originally from here, but I've been here for a long time. I left, moved to North Carolina, and came back because my granddaughter lives here. I remember-- I keep hearing you all talk about the Unicameral. I just want to bring up the DOMA. Do you remember DOMA? The Unicameral didn't give a \*\*\*\* about me. As a gay woman, the Unicameral didn't care about me, but I expect you to care about me now. Justin Wayne's map is the most fair. It keeps the core of our districts together. It's clearly nonpartisan. CD 2 remains intact. Senator Wayne's map only splits eight counties, Linehan's splits 16. The way that Senator Linehan's maps are drawn, we can forget having any kind of filibuster in our Unicameral, so I want you all to think about that. Urban and suburban should be together and rural areas should be in the rural district. As someone who consulted and has traveled this state-- so if you need help figuring out how to get your 14 counties covered, I can tell you how to do it. I promise you. I've traveled this state for ten years, every county once a month, so I can help you with that. This is the thing. Y'all are wanting to dilute and silence black and brown people, period, and we're not going to allow you to do it. You're not going to dilute their voices. You represent people, not land. So I keep hearing that a



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

lot. You represent people, not land, OK? So y'all know North Carolina was in the news for their gerrymandering, correct? And those lines were struck down, correct? We've been in national news a lot lately. Let's not be in the national news anymore.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**CHRISTY KNORR:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**NINA HEAD:** Hi. I'm Nina Head, N-i-n-a H-e-a-d, and I am in Senator Linehan's district. I used to be in-- I can't remember-- anyway-- I've been here so long my brain's gone. So I would sure like to see these published maps. I printed maps that were, like, this big. Even with my magnifying glass, I couldn't see them. So then I got some today and I can't hardly read those either, so I called all over to try to get maps that I could read and see, did I-- you know, whatever. So I-- my shirt says pick the right map, but it really should say why didn't you approach us sooner? Because that's how I felt. I thought I missed some meetings. I grew-- I'm not wild about either map, but I support Senator Linehan's map, LB1 and LB3. I grew up in Iowa where districts were divided [INAUDIBLE] down alleyways. For those of you older, like me, you remember alleys. They were behind our yard. So I have-- I do not mind that maps go like this because that's the way I grew up. And Senator Wayne's proposals, LB2 and LB4, I view as gerrymandering because of the way it picks out the Democrat vote, but that's just the way I view things. We all view things differently. I looked up what gerrymandering meant from the dictionary and I have the definition here-- it's not pretty-- just so I knew exactly what people were saying when they-- I came here. I think that his view pulls out all of Douglas County and the Democrat parts of Sarpy and I think we should have Douglas and Sarpy all as one. The man before me in line, the young man, said we can't do that because of the population. He tried to explain that to me. I said I'm too old. I just want them all together and I view it as all together. I've lived here for 30-plus years and, and I view-- I like all of this community and want it all together. So I liked the man that was a two or three ahead of me who said--- I thought he thought outside the box-- divide some of those other counties and I really liked his idea, Hal Daub's idea, and had I been able to think outside the box a little earlier than this week, I probably could have thought of something like that too. So that's just my views on LB1, LB2, LB3, LB4, but I also wanted to talk about LB7, the Board of Education, which really irritates me. I do not think that they want to hear from we the people. I've been to a number of their

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

meetings, so I would really like to see their thing divided up this way. Chop the state up this way and so that we don't have so many people from Omaha on here so they're not all represented by city people. And if people from the outer western area do not want to have a representative, like, divided up of one or two or three people in each district, if they don't want to have a representative, we have a smaller board, Nebraska Board of Education. I don't care. I don't think we should care. If they don't like what's going on, they'll come up with a representative and we'll have a bigger board.

**WAYNE:** Thank you, ma'am.

**NINA HEAD:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**NINA HEAD:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**GABRIELLE RIMA:** Good afternoon, senators. My name is Gabrielle Rima, G-a-b-r-i-e-l-l-e R-i-m-a. I have lived in Omaha for all of my 23 years and I am here representing the organization Strongly Worded Letters. I strongly oppose any map that would split up Douglas County. Splitting Omaha's [SIC] largest city into two different districts just doesn't make any sense to me and I would argue is an example of partisan gerrymandering. Senator Linehan has been quoted saying I'm not worried about getting the 33 votes. There are 32 Republicans. When you admit that creating a map, something that should be based on data, is a partisan issue, you are essentially admitting to partisan gerrymandering. A common gerrymandering tactic is called cracking and that's what this feels like. It's when you split a district to diminish someone's voting power. Another thing I want to address is the lack of accessibility in this process. Telling us our time to make our voices heard is on a Thursday morning during the work week on a Jewish holiday is not acceptable to me. We say that the watchfulness of the citizen is the salvation of the state. It's inscribed on our State Legislature building. And how can we as citizens be watchful when there isn't accessible times for us to make our voices heard other than having to take off of work to do it? Holding it during the workday tells me whose opinions you value and whose opinions you don't and it feels like you do not value the average working resident of Nebraska. I urge you to consider what voices you are not hearing today and seek out those opinions as well. In summary, I'm asking for fair maps, I am asking for Douglas County to remain intact, and I'm asking

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

you to create greater accessibility and transparency in this process.  
Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Welcome.

**ERNIE BOYKIN:** Hi. Ernie Boykin, E-r-n-i-e, last name, Boykin, B-o-y-k-i-n. Good afternoon. I want to thank you for your time, but I wish we could have had more time to consider what you're going to ram through that will affect individuals who are not represented here for the next ten years. We are watching and we hope that you will expedite legislation like you have this activity this afternoon. You understand. We can go through this and we can change the boundaries, but when it's something that impacts our lives, we have to put it through committee. So those that are impacted by the actions you will be taking are not here represented. I am in favor of Justin Wayne's proposal. It is based on the constitution and I got chills when someone said that they wanted to split this up according to 680. Those of you who live in Nebraska know what 680 did to communities. It destroyed them. So we hope that the actions you take are based on the constitution and not a highway. I also would like to, to say that the action that you're going to be taking will have profound effect on the younger generation. Think about what you're doing. How many of you have ever gone out of your district to speak to people in other districts? It's not done, is it? You sir, your district would be expanded. That's more districts, but how many people are in those districts? And Mr. Wayne has given you a solution to that problem that you see. You can slice and dice and rationalize all you want. Gerrymandering is wrong. I don't care how you dress it up, it's wrong. We are supposed to have one vote for one voice. I couldn't vote until I was 26 years old. When the, when the law was finally signed, I could vote. I don't want that for other people. They're going to vote--

**WAYNE:** Ma'am, I'm sorry.

**ERNIE BOYKIN:** --if you split this up--

**WAYNE:** Ma'am, I'm sorry. We're trying to keep this strict. Is there any-- let's see if the question-- any questions from the committee. Senator Blood.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Vice Chair Wayne. Thank you for coming today. I have a quick question that I just want to get on record. I'm from the Omaha area and my folks live around 39th and Iowa, so I'm familiar with the 680 issue, but we have a lot of people that that means nothing to.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Could you just give a very brief description of what happened to those neighborhoods when that, that part of the interstate went through?

**ERNIE BOYKIN:** Well, I was born and raised in Sioux City, but when I moved here from Chicago and looked for a location, I was told that north Omaha was thriving and they decided to put a highway through north Omaha, which divided, of course, the community. So those on that side of the highway, development was thwarted, housing was not maintained and services were not maintained. So the highway that ran through north Omaha destroyed the community. That's why when you say let's do it according to 680, it brings chills to some peoples.

**WAYNE:** Any other questions from the committee? Thank you.

**ERNIE BOYKIN:** Thank you for your time.

**WAYNE:** Yeah. Welcome.

**WESTIN MILLER:** Thank you. Members of the committee, my name is Westin Miller, W-e-s-t-i-n M-i-l-l-e-r. I'm the director of public policy for Civic Nebraska. I'm also a resident of Douglas County and Senator Wayne's District. I usually testify before the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, so I'm hoping that Senator Brewer will vouch for me that I have no interest in getting involved in partisan buzzwords. I really don't care what political trains are moving in what direction. My job is to show up and tell the truth and be as straightforward as I can about obviously some pretty complex issues. One of Civic Nebraska's driving concerns in all elections, all voting rights issues, is the public's trust in our process. I think it's been pretty clear that that's sort of what's at stake today. All of you-- a lot of us in this room spend a lot of time dealing with the little details and the nuances that make legislation what it is, but I think today's been very clear that most Nebraskans' opinion of government, of legislation, and their trust in that process is based on first impression, smell tests. Does this feel wrong? Does this feel right? And that's why I want to specifically address LB1, the congressional map that does divide Douglas County. Now, I do not believe for a second that legislation has to be simple to be good. It doesn't have to be easy to understand. Sometimes you have to explain. Sometimes you have to educate. I think a great example of that is the legislative district maps where both Senator Wayne and Senator Brewer have asked a really important question of a lot of previous testifiers. OK, great. We're not moving your district. What district do we move? Because something has to happen. That's a great example of an issue that, with all due respect to Senator Erdman, is not simple and does require a lot of education and a lot of detail, but I really don't think that's

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

the case with our congressional maps. I think the same question here-- if not splitting Douglas County, then what?-- is actually really easy to answer and the answer is just don't do it. I think the answer to Senator Geist's very important question of why Sarpy instead of Douglas, very important question, very easy to answer because if the goal is keeping counties together as much as we can, then keeping Douglas County whole displaces about 59,000 people, keeping Sarpy County whole displaces about 146,000 people and that just seems like a really straightforward, easy way to answer that question. I also think that something that's made everything a little bit extra tense today is that none of us have been given an explanation yet for why the split is happening in the first place. If there is a public policy rationale for LB1, it would be really helpful for me and for all of us to just know what it is in the first place. And if there is not, I hope you'd consider leaving Douglas County whole in the congressional maps. Quick thanks to all of you who've been using your offices and your platforms to be transparent about this issue. It is incredibly helpful and I hope you'll all do everything you can to keep your constituents informed and not just about what is happening, but why it's happening. Thanks for your time.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here. Welcome.

**HEATHER ENGDAHL:** Hello. Thank you. My name is Heather Engdahl, H-e-a-t-h-e-r. My last name is E-n-g-d-a-h-l. I'm from north Omaha and I'm a voting rights advocate. First, I want to thank you for working on this. It's imperative that the districts are drawn fairly and that you all use nonpartisan logic and reason. For this reason, I strongly oppose LB1, which was Senator Linehan's proposed congressional map, because it splits Omaha unnecessarily. It's not logical, but the addition of the Sarpy and Saunders Counties in their entirety is really what's unacceptable for me. So you split the power and then also dilute our political power. And basically what I'm saying is that it's watered down by being mixed with dissimilar counties. So whether that was intentional or not, I hope that you can accept that that is gerrymandering and that we won't stand for it. Really quickly, I'd also like to address why Omaha wouldn't enjoy having two congressmen. I think that statement was ill informed, but again, it comes back to diluting our power and again, this is my personal opinion and, and what I felt after reviewing all of these things. So I don't believe that it's a coincidence that after our historic flip in 2020 that we're now trying to be split and frankly quiet us down and again, whether it was intentional or not, your statement was not appropriate and I urge you to do better. So it's disappointing that we the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

people-- we're supposed to be the second house, but these hearings, as you've heard multiple times, are limited during work hours on a holiday and they're not easily accessible on a week's notice as well. We're all doing the best we can to study these maps. As I know, you all have done the hard work to do so as well. So the other thing I wanted to note was just the last two hearings, senators taking up a lot of space on the mike at the start, which I always want everybody to share what they feel, but I think there will be plenty of time on the floor for those things. So again, please keep Omaha whole-- the municipal boundaries of the city is really important for our political power-- refrain from political and racial gerrymandering, and thank you for listening and for having this opportunity for us all to speak.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**HEATHER ENGDAHL:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**KIM MOSS-ALLEN:** Hi. My name is Kim Moss-Allen. I'm in-- I'm from Bellevue. My name is spelled K-i-m M-o-s-s-A-l-l-e-n. I want to just make a couple of really quick points. Bellevue flows without interruption into Omaha visually and those of us who are in Bellevue are often working in Omaha like I do. I live in Bellevue, work in Omaha. We feel like we are part of that community. I support Senator Wayne's maps. I think they represent the state better. I've heard several people talk about gerrymandering, gerrymandering and as I wonder what that is, I say gerrymandering is cheating. Sometimes it benefits you, sometimes it doesn't. Gerrymandering is cheating. What you are doing-- and thank you for your effort-- is redistricting. Totally different. I find it a little bit embarrassing as a Nebraskan that we don't have a, an independent, nonpartisan Redistricting Committee, somebody to do this job without the influence of partisan politics. I want to bring you a quick anecdote as a poll worker. As I, as I work the polls, the election sites during elections, I can tell you over and over again I've had people say wait a minute, there's something wrong with my ballot. I can't find the person I'm voting for. I have to point out to them on the map on the wall, you're CD 2 and not CD 1 and vice versa. The lines go right through a neighborhood, including my neighborhood, and so adding confusion to any process doesn't serve the voters well. Let's see. That's it. Let me know if you have any questions.

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Welcome.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**PRECIOUS McKESSON:** Good afternoon. My name is Precious McKesson, P-r-e-c-i-o-u-s M-c-K-e-s-s-o-n. First, thank you for this opportunity, Chair Linehan and the committee, to be able to speak in front of you. I had an honor last year to be able to cast the blue-dot vote for the community, but I just want to let everybody know that was not a vote for Precious. That was a-- work for hardworking people in CD 2 and I was able to represent the voters no matter what their race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, anything. I was there to represent them and it was an honor to do that and so I figured it will be an honor for me to speak today in regards to that blue dot. So first of all, I'm going to keep it simple. My daughter said something to me the other day and she's, like, your hard work is finally paying off. And I kind of took offense to it and I was, like, what do you mean? And then she said, oh, next year, I get to vote and I'm, like, oh, yes, you do. So next year, she will be a voter in the primary and I'm very excited for her to be able to continue using her voice in this political process. The first thing-- three bullet points. Omaha should remain as the Second Congressional District. I mean, there's a large African-American, Black population in Omaha, which is currently whole within the Second Congressional District and should remain whole in the district to avoid diluting any of our void-- our voters' voices. We continue to increase voter turnout in the African-American community. We have a lot more work to do, but I am very confident that we are seeing that and we saw that last year with the voter turnout. Suburban Bellevue should be reunited, be reunited with Congressional District 2. Prior to 2010, the redistricting cycle, the suburban areas of Sarpy County were a part of the Second Congressional District. By, by reuniting Bellevue, the suburban Bellevue, with the Second Congressional, it would allow Second District to return to almost entirely urban and a suburban seat. And rural Sarpy County, west of Richfield, is currently in the Second Congressional District, but should be moved to the First Congressional District, which is already a rural seat. This would be a better fit for rural communities currently in the Congressional district. These, again, are the thoughts that we have as a whole, but again, at the end of the day, Douglas County, Omaha should remain as one and that is in the Congressional District 2 and that's all I have.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the community, community-- committee? Thank you.

**PRECIOUS McKESSON:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**REBECCA GASPER:** Hello. My name is Rebecca Gasper, that's R-e-b-e-c-c-a G-a-s-p-e-r. I'm coming to you as a mathematician and a community member. I live in Omaha. First, as a mathematician, I want to thank Dr.-- I thanked Dr. Pfabe for her testimony earlier. She is an expert. I thought it was really well done from a nonpartisan point of view and I'm looking forward also to her compactness measures. I haven't seen those reports yet, but I want to thank her for doing the legwork on that. So I live right at the Douglas-Sarpy County border, so, like, if I walk two blocks, I'm in Sarpy County and the way I-- where I am right now is at 102nd Street, I would cross. So that's unincorporated Sarpy County and that right now could be [Congressional] District 1 or [Congressional] District 2. I'm going to speak to the congressional maps today. I see the Sarpy-Douglas line as a really solid geopolitical line. So as I walk two blocks, I don't mind that that's a different congressional district. I think that Senator Wayne's maps in LB2 are pretty solid, so I, I am a proponent of those maps. As I looked at LB1, on the other hand, I do have an issue and that's because I'm a mathematician, but for five years of the last decade, I taught mathematics at Creighton University. So yes, the cracking, packing, the statistics and the geometry of districts and the statistics and geometry of the people matter and so I taught students some ways to use math in this way. When I tell students, you know, your civic responsibility is to vote if you're eighteen. You can vote here at Creighton, which is [Congressional] District 2, or you can vote absentee at your home district. They look at [Congressional] District 2 and they go, oh, we are in [Congressional] District 2, but what's that? So let's pretend it's a Zoom year last year and they would go slant face, what's that? And I would say, well, that's where Bellevue is. It's not part of our district. They would go weird flex, right? So that's the current map. We're going away from that and I think that's a positive, but as we look at the new map, they're going to look at that northwest Omaha, that 680, that Dodge, and they're going to go, what is that? Weird flex. So please keep Omaha together. There's-- I haven't seen any compelling reason to cut it out. I have seen compelling reasons to keep Omaha and keep Douglas County together. So if you go forward with LB1, just please, when you post it to the congressional-- to the Unicameral page with the maps, just include a little GIF that I can put in my curricular package that goes, eh, that's what it is. So thank you. It's-- thank you for hearing me.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Welcome, sir.



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**CURTIS BRYANT:** Hello, senators. My name is Curtis Bryant, C-u-r-t-i-s B-r-y-a-n-t. I have lived in Omaha since 2004. I moved here from Kansas and when I came here, I didn't know that Nebraska was the only state with a Unicameral Legislature and with nonpartisan elections and I was surprised and delighted to hear that. And I-- as I watched the Legislature work, I got to know a little bit about the senators and watch them work. I was astonished at their collegiality and how, you know, they were so-- it was so easy to reach across partisan lines and make good policy and that made me very happy and proud to live in this state. And what I'm seeing in the last few years, especially during the Ricketts administration-- and I'm surprised that this is the first time his name has been mentioned in this hearing-- our nonpartisanship principle has been under attack even though it's in the constitution. He said that he wanted to elect platform Republicans and he has been working hard to do that. He's been trying to stack the, the Unicameral with people who would be loyal to him. And I want to point out that the editors of the World-Herald pointed out that the maps supported in LB1 and related maps are not only gerrymanders in support of one party, making the elections less district-- less competitive, but also that they seem designed to punish Republicans that have been dis-- insufficiently loyal and also to disadvantage independents and Democrats. They called it-- they see it as so thorough in this task that they called it the Michael Corleone plan. I want you and the Legislature to have the courage to uphold Nebraska's constitutional value of nonpartisanship. That means endorsing LB2 and its companion maps because those maps do uphold competitive elections for both parties. They uphold the two-party system that's the foundation of American democracy. That is what I want you to do.

**WAYNE:** Thank you, sir.

**CURTIS BRYANT:** Thanks.

**WAYNE:** Hold on. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today.

**CURTIS BRYANT:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**MICHAEL OSBORN:** Hello. Can you hear me all right?

**WAYNE:** I believe so, yes.

**MICHAEL OSBORN:** OK. My name is Michael Osborn, M-i-c-h-a-e-l O-s-b-o-r-n, and I live in La Vista. My preference-- I'm, I'm going to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Speak strictly about the congressional redistricting maps, not so much the legislative maps because I haven't had a chance to really look at those. The congressional maps, of the two that are proposed, I like Senator Wayne's the best because it does keep Douglas County in one unit. I also like the suggestion from others that have testified before me of keeping Sarpy County in one unit and moving the maps north-- the Douglas County maps north and the Sarpy County maps south. There seem to be several proposals that do equalize the populations. Now, I do want to thank you all for the work that you've had to do over a very tight deadline and I wish that the deadlines were not so intense. But if we do go more with Senator Wayne's maps rather than the north-south division, I would ask you to-- when you're following maps in Sarpy County, to divide up along town lines rather than the middle of 84th Street because that divides La Vista, that divides Papillion, and makes a really weird thing down around the Shadow Lake townhome or at the, the mall down there. So that part doesn't really make a lot of sense. The rest of the map is, is, is good because it keeps Douglas County together and I think a lot of the people that have testified before me have proposed really powerful arguments for keeping it together, but the, the Sarpy County piece, if you're going to divide Sarpy County, divide it along town lines, not breaking up towns through, through the middle of town basically.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Thank you for being here today. Welcome.

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** Thank you. Very nervous. My name is Patricia Rohan, P-a-t-r-i-c-i-a R-o-h-a-n. I wish somebody else could read this for me.

**WAYNE:** No, you're fine.

\_\_\_\_\_: Take your time.

**WAYNE:** Take your time.

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** I'm an LD18 resident speaking against LB1 and LB3 in favor of LB2 and LB4.

**LINEHAN:** Do you want to take five minutes and come back?

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** I just need to push through and I think I'll--

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** --calm down. Sorry.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LOWE:** Take a deep breath.

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** I'm a lifelong Omahan minus a few years away for college. Since preschool, I've lived entirely in 68134 and 68164 zip codes along the Maple Street corridor near 680. My first jobs were Peony Park and the brand new Baker's supermarket in Eagle Run, the Romeo's, and West telemarketing. How Omaha can you get? This is my pocket of Omaha. With this perspective, I offer the following comments. On the congressional districts, I'm going to skip. That's pretty-- been covered. The majority, I think, of opinion supports keeping Douglas County intact with the greater Omaha metro and I agree with those viewpoints. On the LB3 and LB4 maps, I generally favor the Wayne maps. The shapes are more simple and they align better with current boundaries. It's a challenge to provide input on two sets of maps that are so different, but I'll do my best, focusing on the-- my stomping grounds of LD 18, LD 10, and LD 6. Among these district, better boundaries could be drawn with lower deviations that don't domino much into the adjacent LDs. On [District] 18, the Linehan [District] 18 boundary is almost unrecognizable. My once rectangular district has taken on the shape of an old steam engine with an eye-popping 4.9 percent positive deviation, the maximum threshold. If I could stand on my front porch and wave at Senator Lindstrom on his front porch, I would be looking through the new Bennington LD 10. I strongly prefer the Wayne LD 18 shape at-- it makes more sense, though maybe extends a little too far west into the new land of the Flanagan Lake area. Please get the LD 18 deviation closer to zero. On LD 10, Bennington, both maps seem to have Bennington as anchors, but reach toward the Omaha core. It makes more sense to keep its wider shape up along Highway 36 into Washington County. Military and Ida would be more logical southern boundaries. I don't like that this district certainly extends so far into the Omaha proper with its current corners at 83rd and Blondo and 72nd and Pratt. The Wayne LD 10 boundary pulls that up somewhat to 90th and Maple and 72nd and Military, but the deviation is still too packed with 3.2-- 3.42 deviation. Why not move the southern neighborhoods down to LD 6? Finally-- or also, the L-- Linehan LD 10 boundary is drastically different than what it is today with this other reach down to Maple Street. Why a negative 3 percent deviation when the neighboring district is maxed at plus 5 [percent]? Please keep the LD 10 boundaries tighter to Bennington and that Wayne LD 6 map I think is near perfect. I love the northern border of Maple Street. It moves other family members of mine out of the Bennington District and in with Omaha district. Linehan LD 6 is terrible with its 3 percent division and very meandering border resembling a cordless drill-- the shape of a cordless drill. Parting thoughts, I just remind the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

committee to draft fair and representative districts and minimize deviations from the target numbers in the spirit of one person and one vote. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Thank you for testifying today. Any questions from the committee? I will let you know that we're actually having conversations about what you just said, so--

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** I didn't realize we could provide graphics.

**WAYNE:** No.

**PATRICIA ROHAN:** Much easier to do in graphical from.

**WAYNE:** I really appreciate the detail. Thank you. Any questions? Thank you for being here. Welcome, sir.

**JON NEBEL:** Thank you. Good afternoon, Senators. Thank you for having us here today. My name is Jon Nebel, J-o-n N-e-b-e-l. I live in CD 2 and LD 49. What I would like the Legislature to consider when drawing up these maps is how are we going to best position ourselves to send the strongest Nebraskans to our capitals over the next ten years? Simply put, I want my representatives to understand my concerns and my community because they live in my community. Douglas County has a population of 1,547 people per square mile. Saunders County has a population of 27 people per square mile. Saunders County is concerned with road graders and center pivots. Douglas County is concerned with expressways and sewer separations. Not the same. I want my representative for Omaha to fight for public transportation and affordable housing downtown. These are not the concerns of Saunders County or western Sarpy County and they will not be for the next ten years. To answer the question of the day from Senator Geist is why would we keep Douglas County whole and split up Sarpy County, Omaha only gets to expand to the north and that's north of 680 and that's all the way up to Bennington and whatnot. You-- if you look at the affordable housing building built in Omaha, it's not in western Sarpy County. It's in north, north and northwestern Douglas County. As far as why we could split up Sarpy County, you don't have to look any further than the soil of an empty lot. I've turned over soil in Omaha, Bellevue, and western Sarpy County. If you turn it over in an empty lot in Bellevue where it's redistricted, you're going to find old, old bricks from the roads from past artifacts. I've always found artifacts in those, in those lots, find the same thing in Omaha. When I turn over the soil in Sarpy County, it still smells like the manure from the farmland that it once was not ten years ago. That's why I'd say it would be OK to divvy that up. It's two separate areas. As for

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

legislative districts, if I had to say, I'd look-- I'll speak to the districts that I know and I'm part of. I-- once again, I'm part of LD 49. Where Senator Wayne has drawn his border on the western end, it's, it's a lot like he drove it before he drew it. You can tell where the development changes. It's actually where the pavement ends. It turns to gravel on that side of the district. If I could speak to Linehan, to Senator Linehan's drawing, she would exclude Papillion and have it combined with places like Ithaca and Mead. I don't know what a person from Saunders County thinks, but I know that I don't want my state senator to be living in Ithaca and making decisions for me when I live in Papillion or near a Costco. The same could be said for that person. If you look over the next ten years, the development that's happening is in your district up by Elkhorn and south-- southwestern Sarpy County, it's the same.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. If you have any additional comments, please send them to us via email. We are trying to make sure we get through everybody today. Thank you for being here.

**JON NEBEL:** Um-hum.

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

**JON NEBEL:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**MARY GITTINGS:** Hi, I'm Mary Gittings, a proud Benson resident, and I'm here to speak--

**WAYNE:** Can you spell your name, please?

**MARY GITTINGS:** Oh, I do apologize. G-i-t-t-i-n-g-s. I'm here to speak in favor of Mr. Wayne's-- Senator Wayne's proposal. First, like, we should not be splitting Douglas County. And I realize it must be very frustrating for people in rural counties to seem like [INAUDIBLE] with power, but one of the reasons they might be losing power is because they have less people. It's not really fair to say, well, we can split Douglas County. The reason you shouldn't split us is because we have more people, so you can't say oh, I'm going to split you because you have too many people. That doesn't really make sense to split-- it just doesn't make-- and it's not very fair. It is gerrymandering. There's-- I've been a poli-sci student forever and there was a funny cartoon that I, that I will always remember when I hear about gerrymandering. There's this [INAUDIBLE] guy thumbing his nose and he goes I can't believe people think I-- gerrymandering. Seems like Ms.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Linehan's thing is literally thumbing your nose at Douglas County and other rural counties. We-- I don't like that we-- it seems blatantly unfair that Democrats bust our tuchuses to get people to the polls and getting the vote because they always says oh, if you want even more power, you need more votes. So we do it. We give our power, we get more votes, we get them to the polls, and then we do that, they get mad and they take power away from us. That doesn't make sense. If you work hard to do something right, you should have more power, at least not diminished. And to split Douglas County and especially hurt my beloved north Omaha makes no sense. It's a great community and it's-- and I go to church with nice people, but they seem to be scared of, you know, north Omaha and I don't see why. If you just go to north Omaha, it's nice. They have this-- I don't think people would-- not want to go to this cute little thing on 24th Street is so adorable. It is so cute and we do such good work to keep our community strong and healthy and safe in north Omaha and we just are going get-- keep getting the shaft and that's what's going to happen with this new bill. Thank you so much.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Welcome.

**STEPHANIE FRITSON:** Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Fritson, S-t-e-p-h-a-n-i-e and Fritson is F-r-i-t-s-o-n and I want to thank you for all of the time and effort all of you have put into the work that you've been doing. In a former role, I was an operations analyst where I had the responsibilities of creating and rebalancing sales territories for all of North America for my company. So what I learned very, very quickly in that position was that you're never going to make everyone happy and that truly creating perfectly-- territories that are full of perfect equality is not really possible. We try to get as close as we can, realizing that somebody is probably always going to be a, a little left out. That being said, I am here today to testify in opposition to LB1 and LB3 and in support of LB2 and LB4. The reason being is that I believe that LB1 and LB3 really violate two of the key tenets of redistricting, a fair redistricting, and those are compact and contiguous districts, along with keeping like communities together. So I really see-- when I look at that map of lines, especially for the, the statehouse, it is kind of here and there and everywhere. Examples are District 6 with District 6 and [District] 18, [District] 24 and [District] 49. Some of those really don't make a lot of sense. Even my own District 39 has this weird jut-out right by my house from Blondo to Dodge and 180th to 192nd, which puts Methodist Women's Hospital in District 4 now along with Lakeside Hospital. Just some really odd things that when you take a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

really close look at the map, don't make a lot of sense for those of us living in those communities. And in addition, I have lived in Howard County, Antelope County, Buffalo County, Sarpy County, Washington County, and Douglas County, so I've been all over the state. I know people from all over the state and I don't believe that people in northwestern Douglas County or northwestern Omaha have the same needs and interests as those people in Osceola. It's just a very different type of life and when we think about electing representatives who can speak to our needs and truly represent our interests in terms of Congress, we want people who can familiarize themselves with the interests affecting their district and by having them include rural communities, urban communities, suburban communities, we're really splitting off their ability to understand how those issues impact every facet of their district.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. You're out of time.

**STEPHANIE FRITSON:** Dang, sorry.

**WAYNE:** No, you're OK. If you have any other written testimony, please send it to us.

**STEPHANIE FRITSON:** I will. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Any, any questions from the committee? Thank you. Welcome.

**SUZAN DeCAMP:** Good afternoon, Chair Linehan and the rest of you on the committee. My name is Suzan DeCamp, S-u-z-a-n D-e-C-a-m-p, and I'm here today to testify in opposition to base plans LB1 and LB3 and in support of base plans LB2 and LB4. As many people before me have said, Nebraska is a unique state, the only state in the nation that has a Unicameral Legislature, which makes our Legislature officially nonpartisan. And other people have also spoken to the criteria set forth in LR134 as far as redistricting is concerned, which is we're not supposed to consider political affiliation of registered voters or demographic information other than population figures or the results of previous elections and they should not be established with the intention of favoring a political party. And like many before me today have said, plan LB1 does appear to be a partisan plan designed to dilute the voting power of the Democratic Party in Congressional District 2, which is the only competitive district in the state. And for, for all the reasons mentioned before, LB1 splits like communities, people that have the same culture, the same political interests, so I'm not going to talk too much more on the Congressional districts. I really wanted to talk about the legislative districts. I am from Legislative District 49, Senator Day's District, which is in

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Sarpy County, and last year, you know, we were really happy when Jen got elected. She unseated a Republican and, and, and I'm afraid maybe the maps in LB3 are-- they appear to be designed to maybe dilute the influence of the voters in that district as well. They're taking communities like Gretna, which is-- by the way, some people consider Gretna to be a rural community, but it's actually a suburban community. I just live a few miles north and west of Gretna and my address is Omaha and, and Gretna, as someone else alluded to earlier, is a very fast-growing suburban community. They, they keep building new schools. They're, they're one of the fastest-growing communities in the state and so they don't have much in common with District 24, which is now they're going to be put into more rural district. This map also merges neighborhoods like Papillion and La Vista into more rural areas and so this is not a-- to me, it doesn't seem like it's preserving the core of District 49 and it is definitely not keeping communities of interest intact. Senator Justin Wayne's plans, LB2 and LB4, were drawn according to census data first and then modified to try and keep communities of interest together and to preserve the core of each district. The districts in these maps are more compact and do--

**WAYNE:** Thank you, ma'am. I know you're getting to the best part of my-- supporting my map, but--

**SUZAN DeCAMP:** Oh, I, I-- OK, I just wanted to say that I-- and--

**WAYNE:** But I wouldn't be-- unfair for me to allow you--

**SUZAN DeCAMP:** Like my daughter before me who just testified, Stephanie Fritson, I wanted to thank you all for all of your hard work. I know it's hard work and that you cannot please everyone. I just urge you to please try and be as nonpartisan as possible and consider a plan that protects the voting rights of Nebraskans and keeps our communities as close to whole as possible.

**WAYNE:** Thank you, ma'am.

**SUZAN DeCAMP:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** And you can send me that testimony so I can share it with the rest of the committee because you're getting really good-- into the-- welcome.

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Hi. My name is Katherine Lovett, K-a-t-h-e-r-i-n-e L-o-v-e-t-t. I live in midtown and I want to speak in support of LB4 and LB2. I do not agree with any attempt to split Omaha Public Schools



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

down the middle. I think that is a terrible thing for parents, for students, for the school. It's the biggest school district in the state, the most diverse school district in the state, and I think that the-- its political interests are diluted completely by splitting up the school district it splits up. The Congressional district splits school boundaries. It splits the school district even down to the elementary school level. And I also would like to say, as a resident of the Field Club neighborhood, that we've built relationships-- this is to the LB4-- we've built relationships with the communities in that redistricting map that I want us to stay intact and that the movement of it, of the Field Club neighborhood to LD 5 in the proposal number in L-- in LB4 is not-- they're not the community that our neighborhood has built communities and relationships with and I want us to stay in LD 9. That's all I have.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the community-- committee?  
Senator-- yeah, I--

**LINEHAN:** Linehan.

**WAYNE:** No, I was just going to say yes, Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** Field Club, where is it? Is it close to a line now?

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Yeah. I mean, it's in the corner of LD 9.

**LINEHAN:** Yeah, so, OK--

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** I don't know how to navigate these large maps.

**LINEHAN:** Do you have the-- do you have the-- you should have the-- yeah, help--

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** OK.

**LINEHAN:** We have the current maps here.

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Currently, I'm in [LD] 9. This is why I'm not doing this. Oh, they're all stapled together. OK. OK, LB6-- OK. So is this-- LB4-- OK.

**LINEHAN:** Have you-- I'm sorry. LaMont, do you have this-- do you need this map? The old map, LaMont, what-- because my question is where is it now?

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Where is what?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**WAYNE:** [INAUDIBLE]

**LINEHAN:** But how-- where is--

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Currently LD 9.

**LATHROP:** --Cavanaugh's and--

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Yes.

**LATHROP:** --she's talking about getting up into McDonnell's.

**LINEHAN:** It's right on the edge, so-- and it's where people live.

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** So currently-- thank you. Thank you so much. Is this the current-- OK, so I-- it's actually not exactly-- well, it is on the border. It's on the-- currently on the east border of LD, of LD 9.

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** It's just-- yep, on the east side--

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** --between Center and Pacific, but up to Leavenworth. This-- the current district, the Morton Meadows neighborhood, the Aksarben neighborhood, the Leavenworth neighborhood is where we shop, it's where we receive medical care, it's where we travel, and we formed relationships with these communities and I want to let you know that we want to maintain that.

**LINEHAN:** OK.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**KATHERINE LOVETT:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**MADELINE BAUGOUS:** Good afternoon. My name is Madeleine Baugous, M-a-d-e-l-i-n-e. Baugous is B-a-u-g-o-u-s. I currently reside in Omaha, Nebraska, and today I'm here to oppose LR1 [SIC]. I grew up in Lincoln, went to college at Nebraska Wesleyan in Lincoln, and I'm a lifelong Nebraskan. I got my master's in the Chicago area and after

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

graduation, I returned to Nebraska and I'm currently working here because this is my home and it's important to me. I think it's important that our policies reflect the practice of the good life of ensuring that all people are cared for and treated equally. Under this current proposal of LR1, [SIC] this would mean that my parents who live in Lincoln, Nebraska, and I could be in the same district, the same Congressional district. I do not want to influence my own policies because of that by Omaha and the differences that I see even between Omaha and Lincoln and grew-- living in both of the two. I think it's important that we ensure that the district boundaries are determined not by our political stances, but rather on what is dividing against our-- along the divisions of communities, not on what will benefit one group over another. I think that we need to keep this in mind, especially for future generations, to ensure that people's voices are heard in the voting policies. I just want to make sure that our-- that our districts are, are cared for with fairness and that we make sure that there is collaboration and bipartisanship rather than having a benefit for one party. And so I urge you to ensure that you keep [Congressional] District 2 intact and not separate it, which would be done after the current-- the proposed LR1 [SIC]. Thank you.

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

**MADELINE BAUGOUS:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome, Ms. Crawford.

**TERRI CRAWFORD:** Hey. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Terri Crawford. First name, T-e-r-r-i, last name, Crawford like the boxer, no relation, C-r-a-w-f-o-r-d. I intentionally waited until the end of the day for my testimony today because I wanted to see if anyone would have the same perspective that I have and if so, I would be willing to just kind of pass. I don't believe anyone has and here's why. I am here for four little girls whose names are Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Robertson [SIC], Carole Robertson, and Carol Denise McNair. Many of you may remember that these are the four little girls that died in a church, 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963. Two years later is when the Voting Rights Act was passed. They lost their lives as a result of that turmoil that was occurring in our country at that time, political turmoil. We now find ourselves in a very similar situation, in my opinion. Those four little girls, I'm here today on their behalf. But not only am I here on their behalf, I am an Omahan, been here all of my life. I'm five generations in, raised in north Omaha, went to Omaha Public Schools, went to College of Saint Mary's for my undergrad, went to University of Nebraska for

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

my master's degree, and I went to Creighton Law School for my law degree. So I am home grown, particularly in north Omaha. The latest statistics that were released by this census shows that Nebraska's Hispanic and Latinx population grew by 40.2 percent-- and I hope these figures are right-- from 9.2 percent to 12 percent, and the Black population grew from 4.5 percent to 4.9 percent. The reason why this is significant is because if we go with the proposal-- and Ms. Linehan, again, I realize this is not only your proposal, but if we go with that proposal on LB1, that's going to split both of those populations that have grown substantially. Now, if you think about exactly what that does, it splits the vote and it also dilutes the vote of both of those populations. Now, if the proposal dilutes the Black vote, if it promotes one-party control, and I would argue that it does, if it allows representative to choose their voters, and I would argue that it does, and if it allows those who are running for office to predetermine the election and the outcome, and I would argue that it does because once you split those voters, then you can kind of gauge exactly what will happen with those votes based on prior voting records and some of the other information that's available through the statistical data that has been presented today. If all of those occur, then all of those are the textbook definition of what gerrymandering is. With that being said, I would support LB4 because that is the map that--

**WAYNE:** Dr. Crawford, time.

**TERRI CRAWFORD:** Is my time up?

**WAYNE:** Yeah.

**TERRI CRAWFORD:** OK, thank you very much.

**WAYNE:** Please send that to me, though.

**TERRI CRAWFORD:** I will.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**TERRI CRAWFORD:** Thank you very much.

**WAYNE:** Everybody is being cut off at the good part when they're talking about my, my maps. That's OK.

**TERRI CRAWFORD:** [INAUDIBLE]. Thank you so much for your time.

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Thank you.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**KIM KALKOWSKI:** Can I give her my time?

**WAYNE:** No, ma'am.

**KIM KALKOWSKI:** OK, well--

**WAYNE:** Thank-- welcome.

**KIM KALKOWSKI:** My name is Kim, K-i-m, last name, Kalkowski, K-a-l-k-o-w-s-k-i. I have nothing as important as what she was talking about to say, but I want to thank you all for your time and effort being here today and all the work that you've done because I can't imagine it's been easy. It will not continue to be easy, but I thank you for your service. I have voted in every election since 1972. I have voted Democrat, Republican, and independent. I don't have a lot to offer, but I do know that I'm thinking of changing my affiliation to independent because even though I voted three different groupings in my voting past, representing all your constituents may be more of an aspiration than an actual reality because I have never gotten one response from Senator Fischer's Office, never one from Sasse's, and one from Senator-- or from Representative Bacon because I am a registered Democrat and it just-- I, I really am here because I really want to have the idea that we all are Nebraskans and that we all are representative-- represented by our representatives or senators no matter how we voted. They're here-- they're supposed to be here for us, but don't know about that. Anyhow, I appreciate that we have a Unicameral in this state, that we are unique and that you all are working together for the better interest of all of us here. And that being said, I just really urge you all not to split up Douglas County. Amen. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Thank you for coming. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you. Welcome, sir.

**JOHN SIELER:** My name is John Sieler, spelled John, J-o-h-n, Sieler, S-i-e-l-e-r. Thank you for all your hard work. I'll only be about a minute. I know it's been a long day. I'm about a 30-year plus resident of State Board of Education District 8. That's where I live now and I would encourage you to rework the State Board of Education districts. I think that that needs some work and I will send each of you some additional details by email and to your staff. Thank you very much for your time.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Oh.

**LATHROP:** I do have a question, if I may?

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**WAYNE:** Any questions?

**LATHROP:** Yes. So if we rework it, should we keep incumbents in their districts or would you have us, as we rework the Board of Education, not pay attention to incumbency?

**JOHN SIELER:** Well--

**LATHROP:** And if, and if your answer is go ahead and cut somebody out, who do you want to cut out?

**JOHN SIELER:** I, I'm not an incumbent, so I don't--

**LATHROP:** This is a serious question because we were--

**JOHN SIELER:** It is a serious question.

**LATHROP:** --mindful of that when we did the maps.

**JOHN SIELER:** Traditionally, Regents and State Board of Education members have been protected in the redistricting and I don't have anything against that. I think there's a good argument to do that and there's also a good argument not to. And I'm, I'm not an incumbent, so it doesn't really affect me personally this time around. In ten years--

**LATHROP:** Well, you serve on the board now, though, don't you?

**JOHN SIELER:** No, but I did.

**LATHROP:** Oh, OK. Forgive me.

**JOHN SIELER:** I served from 2011 to 2014--

**LATHROP:** OK.

**JOHN SIELER:** --and then I did not run for reelection--

**LATHROP:** All right.

**JOHN SIELER:** --so-- but that's a good question.

**LATHROP:** Well, I've been thinking you've been doing that work all this time.

**JOHN SIELER:** Well, yes.

**LATHROP:** I got you. Thanks, John.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**JOHN SIELER:** Sure. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you. Welcome.

**DEBORAH NEARY:** Thank you. Greetings, senators, and thank you for your hard work to ensure that Nebraska has a successful redistricting process and happy birthday, Senator Linehan. My name is Deborah Neary and I live in Douglas County. I am an elected member of the Nebraska State Board of Education-- just lost my notes-- actually the same district-- I represent the district now that Mr. Sieler represented before. As an elected official myself, I think a lot about representation and ways that I can ensure that every registered voter in my district feels like they are heard and that they are making a difference. Also in my policymaking role, I also think a lot about how we can create a bright future for our youth in Nebraska, a future that will inspire them to want to stay here for their college and careers. In the context of today's discussion, what that means to me is that I believe that we need to make sure that when our youth become of age to vote, we need to make sure that they feel represented, they feel that they have a voice, and they feel that their vote matters. That is why it is imperative that we get the redistricting process right and to me, what I mean by getting this redistricting process right means three things. There are some basic best practices that you all are aware of and I personally believe that Senator Wayne's maps, as represented in LB2 and LB4, that they lead in respecting those best practices. Number one for me, getting it right means that when possible, we will have districts that allow for competitive legislative races. I believe our country has been damaged by those districts when they don't-- that have been-- where we have representatives from gerrymandered districts, when they don't have to work for their elections anymore. I hope that balanced districts can be a goal and that we will respect the mathematicians that have pointed out the data trends. My second point, getting it right also means to me that we will have districts that unite neighbors instead of divide them and that district boundaries will be easily understood by voters and that they will follow natural division points like state highways, county lines, and main roadways. In my particular legislative district, these best practices are established with the Senator Wayne's maps, LB4 for the legislative district. I live in LD 20, which is Senator McCollister's district. My husband and I have lived in this neighborhood for almost 20 years. I live three blocks from the current district line and now the LB3 map has me drawn out of the district because they move the line from a main roadway through our city to now, it is proposed to be right down the middle of a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

neighborhood. Additionally, the LD 3 [SIC] map divides our neighborhood association dividing the kids--

**WAYNE:** Ms. Neary--

**DEBORAH NEARY:** --that go to the same-- time?

**WAYNE:** Yeah--

**DEBORAH NEARY:** No way.

**WAYNE:** --I've been having strict time. But if you can email, you can email us the rest of the--

**DEBORAH NEARY:** I will. OK.

**WAYNE:** --testimony, I would greatly appreciate it.

**DEBORAH NEARY:** All right.

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

**DEBORAH NEARY:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**RACHEL M. GIBSON:** Hi there. You ready for me?

**WAYNE:** Yes, I was-- it had nothing to do with you. I was thinking--

**RACHEL M. GIBSON:** No, that's OK. I know it's, it's getting that time. It's, like, snack time in the afternoon.

**WAYNE:** I just have to text to make sure my daughter gets picked up from school, that's all. It's probably--

**RACHEL M. GIBSON:** I know that feeling.

**WAYNE:** --a big thing so I'll step out.

**RACHEL M. GIBSON:** Well, hello, Senators. Thank you so very much for having this public hearing, having the chance for the public to come speak. Happy birthday, Senator Linehan. My name is Rachel M. Gibson, R-a-c-h-e-l M, Gibson, G-i-b-s-o-n, and I am here kind of in three capacities, the first of which is as a member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, the second is as someone-- League of Women Voters of Nebraska, specifically our redistricting committee, and then very proudly as a Omaha resident too. So I am delighted to, to be here



Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

today. There's a couple of things that we just want to highlight. I know we've been in communication with the committee quite a bit, so we want to reiterate a couple of points. And I would like to start by saying thank you. We really do appreciate-- we understand the time constraints you're under, we understand that you have lots of different things that you're managing through, and we appreciate that work. We also want to thank all the testifiers, the public-- the past few days have been wonderful to listen to and, and as the second house, we're, we're just so happy to see people engaged that way. With that said, I would like to just reiterate that from the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, we ask that Omaha be kept the Omaha metro, the city. It is-- we are the, the League of Women Voters of Greater Omaha, but on the side of the League of Women Voters of Nebraska and part of the fair maps committee, I want to reiterate that we have one goal. We're a nonpartisan organization and our one goal is meaningful representation for every single Nebraskan. And so when we looked at our maps, when we framed things, we started from a blank slate and, and had that benefit to be able to build a map and draw things that we're really just thinking about communities and, and not thinking as much in terms of where lines are, are currently and that type of thing. So we started with that, with, with the context of our maps being the one that we shared with you and then another that we drafted, our congressional and our legislative, as one option, as one option of many and that was that-- the idea is that that would be taken into consideration and that hopefully others would do the same. From there, we did some analysis and what we looked for was patterns in both maps. And so we've already highlighted in, in many of the things we've shared some concerns, the biggest of which is the discrepancies in the deviation and then the split up of certain counties and municipalities. But again, I just wanted to reiterate that our goal really is for every single Nebraskan's voice to be heard in a very meaningful way. So with that, I'm going to finish before the red light. Any questions that I can answer? I'll do my best.

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

**RACHEL M. GIBSON:** OK, thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Good afternoon.

**DEBRA MCKNIGHT:** Hello. My name is Debra McKnight, D-e-b-r-a M-c-K-n-i-g-h-t. I'm here to speak in support of LB2, the maps presented by Senator Wayne. We have heard numerous folks today give substantial evidence and reasoning as to why we should keep the core of Omaha together. I feel that as a United Methodist pastor, my

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

congregation stretches through [Congressional] District 2 and into other counties as well, but the heart of it is in downtown Omaha. And so I don't want to speak and reiterate what mathematicians can share because I'm a United Methodist pastor with a master's in theology, but I do want to speak to the emotional energy and lifting that folks are involved in in this time. And while the Unicameral's hope and mission is-- and dream may be-- and an expectation to be nonpartisan, we live in a clearly partisan climate and world. I feel, in my recent 12 years in Omaha, that climate grow ever more rich, more full, more loud, more a little bit frightening at times. And while we can be very clear that Republicans have clear power in the larger state of Nebraska, power exercised well should be exercised with restraint and fair-mindedness. To not exercise power with restraint is abusive and bullying. I would urge you in this time to pause in this process to think deeply about the voices who cannot be here because of the timing of this hearing and to listen well. I, I support Senators Wayne's maps as a starting place. Perhaps if there had been a wildly Democratic gerrymandered map to present on a extreme other end, we could come to a middle place from a, a place of every side feeling tension. I would urge us all and all of you on the committee to keep this work and this heart for fair-mindedness in your minds. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Are there questions from the committee? Seeing none--

**DEBRA MCKNIGHT:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** --thank you for being here. Go ahead.

**JULIET CLARK:** Hello. My name is Juliet Clark, J-u-l-i-e-t C-l-a-r-k. I am here as a proponent of the LB2 and LB4 and I'm not going to waste anyone's time pretending I know politics. I'm going to just tell you I know people. And if you absorb the people of smaller towns-- well, not towns, cities--- of Papillion and La Vista into a larger county like Douglas, which is more city-like, I would say, they're going to be very angry with you. They're going to spend the rest of the time that they are in that district until the time you do another redistricting hating you. They will complain about you everywhere they go. They will remember your names so that they could complain about you to other people so that they will complain about you. This is just a fact of the matter. I mean, I don't support it myself, but it is what is going to happen if you do this. So that's another thing to keep in mind. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Are there any questions from the committee? Thank you for being here, appreciate it very much. Good afternoon.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**STEVEN DAWES:** Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'll try to be brief. My name is Steven, S-t-e-v-e-n, Dawes, D-a-w-e-s. I'm a lifelong resident of greater Omaha. My wife and I reside in Bellevue and we're proud to be there and we'll be there until after you carry this out. Rita, I'm in your district, by the way. Anyway, I would like to expand on what a gentleman said earlier today. In fact, he was one of the first people to speak when he talked about when we have this district that invites presidential candidates to come here every four years, I think there's nothing better than having a little attention paid to the Omaha area and I believe that the-- Senator Wayne's maps would actually help continue that and I'm speaking in behalf of his two maps. Any questions?

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Are there any questions from the committee? Thank you for being here, appreciate it. Good afternoon.

**LOU ANN NENEMAN:** Hello. My name is Lou Ann Neneman, L-o-u A-n-n, and then last name, Neneman, N-e-n-e-m-a-n. I grew up in Thurston County, in Pender, not on the reservation, but in Pender, and I graduated in 1974 and moved to Omaha. And I've always lived close to Northwest High School, which is-- it used to be northwest Omaha. It's now north central, but I don't know that you guys realize it's not just a black/brown issue. There is a huge difference between Pender and Omaha, huge culturally. When I go back home-- once I went to buy groceries for my grandma and they weren't going to take my check because I was from Omaha. It's widely known if you're driving through smaller towns, you can be following the traffic of the people that live in those districts and you're going the same speed as them and they all go through and you get pulled off and you get a ticket. A third-- hunting, hunting. In, in Thurston County, anybody that wants to hunt just goes to hunt, but my husband, who now has a one-county plate, you try to find somebody that's going to say you can come on my land. But when I am back home around my relatives, they will say-- or to people-- that she's from Omaha. She's from Omaha. This is a lot bigger than a black/brown issue. This is a rural/city issue and respectfully, Senator Linehan, your, your, your maps are going to cause-- if, if we have discontent in politics now, multiply it by a thousand because people in Pender and people in Omaha don't have any of the same views. That's all I have.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you. Yeah, go ahead.

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Welcome. Go ahead.

**CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK:** Oh, it's my turn?

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**WAYNE:** Yes.

**CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK:** I'm sorry. I say good morning on here, but it's afternoon. Chairperson Linehan, happy Birthday. And to the members of the Redistricting Committee, we do want to say thank you. The-- my name is Cindy Maxwell-Ostdiek and it's spelled C-i-n-d-y M-a-x-w-e-l-l-O-s-t-d-i-e-k. I live in Legislative District 4 here in Omaha and I've long been registered as a nonpartisan. I strongly believe in the ideals of George Norris' Unicameral Legislature and we are looking to you as the Redistricting Committee to please implement fair and representative maps. I've been watching the redistricting process closely and actually the Franklin Covey comment comes to mind: begin with the end in mind and this means to start with a clear understanding of your destination. It's my hope that the members of this committee and the senators of the full Legislature will work towards the true destination of fair and equal representation for each Nebraskan. Our population has shifted. Boundaries must be redrawn to reflect that fact and while Speaker Scheer's bill a few years ago to increase the number of legislators was not taken up, it could be addressed in the future and it might solve some of these issues. For now, we must draw the boundaries for our 49 districts fairly. Please set political divisions aside. Please make sure to consider there are 25 percent of us here in Nebraska that don't subscribe to a particular political party. I hope the final maps and all of them from congressional to Legislature, including the school board maps, will be closer to zero deviation. We also ask that you conduct the remaining Redistricting Committee work in as transparent manner as possible. The process has been confusing and we're asking for more complete and comprehensive communication. The second house wants and should be involved. You need only read the letters to the editor, attend a school board meeting, watch the news, or read comments on social media to see that we're facing increased division and for these reasons, it's all the more disappointing that the congressional and legislative maps were not proposed by the Redistricting Committee as a whole. The competing bills are a symptom of the division and could be cause for more and this makes the prospects harder for the destination we're all aiming for, which is fair and equal representation. There's much discussion about red and blue, rural and urban, but we ask you to please rise above that. We are not as divided as we appear. There are marriages like mine where I'm an independent voter and my husband is a Republican. Many of us live in Omaha, but we were raised on a farm or we have family in small towns. Nebraskans in the western part of the state send their children--

**WAYNE:** Ma'am.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK:** --to school at Lincoln.

**WAYNE:** Ma'am, time.

**CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK:** Thank you. I just want to say these are our maps. They represent us and we want you to represent us.

**WAYNE:** Thank you, ma'am, appreciate it. Any questions from the committee?

**CINDY MAXWELL-OSTDIEK:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you for being here today. Welcome, sir.

**WILL LANGAN:** Hello. My name is Will Langan, W-i-l-l L-a-n-g-a-n, Langan. Grew up right down the street here. You guys, when you're going home, you'll probably pass by my house. I live on 50th and Leavenworth Street. I grew up right down the street from there and I didn't come with any prepared remarks, but I saw the map the other day, the proposed congressional map, and I became a little worried because this is my community that I grew up in. I went to Central High School. I still live in the neighborhood, right down the street, and to see Douglas County split up? I'm-- I don't know the LB, whatever. I don't know the-- what we're even talking about right now. I just saw the map and I was perturbed. I was worried. I was, like, holy \*\*\*\*, this is Douglas County getting split in half. This is my community. These are people who I grew up with. My family is from north Omaha and they would be cut out from my community. It's blatant gerrymandering. It's absurd. It's worrisome. And I would never show up to something like this, I would never do this, but it was clear seeing that that I should say something and that's why I'm here, to say something because this is my community, a community I care about. To have that community halved is worrisome.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**WILL LANGAN:** That's it, yeah.

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you for being here today. Thank you.

**WILL LANGAN:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**TYLER HENNINGSEN:** My name is Tyler Henningsen, T-y-l-e-r H-e-n-n-i-n-g-s-e-n. I am here to support Senator Linehan's congressional map. I'd also like to wish you a happy birthday and say thank you for heading up this committee and thank you to Senator Brewer as well for continuing to-- just an awesome fighter and a warrior for, for all of us, so I appreciate it. As a Sarpy County resident, I am opposed to a third redistricting plan in the last 20 years that would dissect my county. After the 2000 Census, it was eastern Sarpy that was included in Nebraska's Second [Congressional] District, after the 2010 Census, it was western Sarpy included in CD 2, and now Democrats have proposed a small section of central Sarpy be included in Douglas County. I have heard dozens of folks from Douglas today talking about how they don't want their, their community split up, how they don't want their county split, but residents of Sarpy have been dealing with that for over 20 years. And when we think about the fact that Offutt Air Force Base is one of the largest economic developers in the state based in Sarpy County and we're cutting it off to portions with more rural communities in CD 1, it doesn't make sense. The vast majority of those who live and work on or around base are in Sarpy County. They're not just in Bellevue, they're in Papillion and I think it's very disingenuous to, to offer what I, I view as a consolation prize. Oh, we're going to take all of Douglas, but here, take this central portion of Sarpy and a little nook out for Congressman Bacon's house so it doesn't seem like we're being unfair. But if, if we look at the numbers based off each of these two maps and past election results, it would alter the election results of Senator Fischer's election in 2018. It would change the results of the 2016 presidential election in favor of Democrats. If you did the same modeling with the proposed Republican map, they work out to about the same. So I, I think it's only fair that Sarpy has a full voice and that all the voters of CD 2 are able to continue to have the representation that they clearly want, given that this is an R plus one district and Don Bacon just won it by five points. So your blue dot is not in jeopardy. The results under the Republican map are the same as they would have been in 2020, in 2018, in 2016. I think that's as fair as it can get and that the Democrat proposal is just a sneaky trick by the, the D-Triple-C since they failed to win the seat against Don Bacon the last three times to, to just change the rules of the game and win by gerrymandering. So I'd appreciate it if you include Sarpy in CD 2.

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Thank you.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**WAYNE:** Any questions from the committee? Senator Blood.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Vice Chair Wayne. Thank you for your testimony. Can you tell me where you live in Sarpy County, please?

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** I am in Lakewood Villages, which is in--

**BLOOD:** I know where Lakewood Villages--

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** --LD 3, yes.

**BLOOD:** --are. Thank you very much.

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** Sure.

**BLOOD:** So I, I listened very closely to your testimony and, and I heard a very strong partisan bias. Would you say that's accurate?

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** I'd say that's semi accurate.

**BLOOD:** All right. So I want you to know that I don't know anything about the D-Triple-C or whatever it was that you said, but I do know that we work together on our maps and and there were no outside partisan organizations that participated in the map that you accused that of happening on and I just want you to feel confident in that, that. That, that may have very well happened on-- since we're talking about sides supposably-- on your side, but that did not happen on the other side. All I saw was a lot of hardworking people working together, trying to find good, clean--

**LINEHAN:** [INAUDIBLE]

**BLOOD:** --bipartisan maps. So the question that I would have for you-- thank you, Senator Linehan. The question that I would have for you is that why are you led to believe that somebody is up to something?

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** Because this is politics and someone's always up to something. The D-Triple-C over the last six years spent--

**BLOOD:** That's fair enough.

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** --tens of millions of dollars in this district and has mentioned on multiple occasions that redistricting will be their fight and I, I, I understand that there may not have been a blank proposal. That was just an example, but outside groups do infiltrate in redistricting all across the country, much like on the conservative side--

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**BLOOD:** Well, not all of us are influenced by outside groups. Some of us are here for the people and the policy and not the politics.

**WAYNE:** OK.

**TYLER HENNINGSSEN:** Frankly, I just think you're here for the governorship, but--

**WAYNE:** Thank you.

**BLOOD:** Shame on you.

**WAYNE:** OK. That's enough of that. Is there any other questions? Thank you. Thank you for being here. I do want to just take a moment to say thank you, Senator. Normally, senators do not testify on other people's bills. In the last two hearings, the first hour were senators and I really appreciate the fact that you sat and made sure that the public went first and I think everybody in this room should recognize that. Thank you.

**SANDERS:** Thank you. All right. Good afternoon, Chairman Linehan, Vice Chair Wayne, and the Redistricting Committee. Additionally, I'd like to wish happy birthday to Senator Linehan and also Senator Lowe. Happy birthday and thank you for being here.

\_\_\_\_\_: What? Oh, it's Lowe?

**SANDERS:** Yes, it is.

\_\_\_\_\_: It's your birthday?

**LINEHAN:** All right.

**LOWE:** I'm hoping everybody forgets about me.

**SANDERS:** So a real gentleman let Senator Linehan have the limelight, so-- my name is Rita Sanders, R-i-t-a S-a-n-d-e-r-s, and I represent District 45, which includes much of the Bellevue-Offutt community in eastern Sarpy County. First, I want to recognize your incredible work thus far. I can only imagine how complicated and challenging this process is and the committee has done well. Today, I'm here to support LB1 and LB3 in opposition of LB2 and LB4. My testimony will focus on congressional maps. You have heard from mayor of Gretna today and I want to share his sentiment that Sarpy County has been "disfranchised" over the last two decades. As former mayor of the city of Bellevue, I have seen the effects firsthand. I can testify to the difficulty it causes to develop our infrastructure. As our Sarpy delegation knows,



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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

Bellevue has an outdated, aging sewer system, but also all of Sarpy County has soon to work on the new wastewater system and a very costly system. We face unique challenges bringing reliable water and sewer infrastructure to the southern portion of my district and county. Our county also relies on our shared roads, as many of our community of interest travel through the-- pass Sarpy County to their place of employment. Managing a funding push, push between two congress-- congressmen or congresswomen would add unnecessary confusion and difficulty to assess federal assistance. I mention these things because dividing our community yet again will be costly. LB2 would make it very difficult for, for a split of Bellevue or Papillion to apply for federal grants, make public-private partnerships, manage capital payments and connection fees for new development in fast-growing county, or to properly benefit from customer rate revenues. This point of growth is wrong time for split Sarpy County and Bellevue. In the past couple rounds of redistricting, Sarpy County has been sliced and divided with no regards towards community of interests or municipality boundaries. Sarpy County and parts of Douglas County are brought together by entertainment, business, and infrastructure. Offutt Air Force Base is one example. It brings \$2.7 billion impact to Nebraska and the service members who work there and their families live in, go to school in, and find entertainment not only in Bellevue, but Papillion, La Vista, Springfield, as well as Gretna, Ralston, Millard, and Omaha. Even the university here in Omaha and in Lincoln has forged several ties with the military community in Bellevue. This is a community of interest that cannot, under any reasonable circumstances, be divided. Finally, LB2 splits my city in half. Old Towne Bellevue is left in [Congressional] District 1 and other parts of the-- west of Bellevue Boulevard and Lincoln Road are in [Congressional] District 2. This must be fixed. Bellevue has already sacrificed too much in the past redistricting cycles. Cutting the state's oldest city in half is the wrong approach. And in the spirit of the World-Herald editorial article yesterday, I'm going to quote The Godfather and say I'll give you an offer you can't refuse. Separating out the parts of Sarpy County to different Congressional districts would greatly impact our ability to accommodate our incredible growth with needed infrastructure. It would also pay no regard to community interest that is bound together in Sarpy County. Finally, it does not respect our state's oldest municipal boundaries. I would ask the committee to give the-- Sarpy the treatment that it deserves and keep Sarpy County intact in congressional maps. Thank you for your time.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any questions from the committee? Again, I do appreciate you waiting to go at the end. That's-- that says a lot.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**SANDERS:** You're welcome.

**LATHROP:** May I ask a question?

**WAYNE:** Yes--

**LATHROP:** So--

**WAYNE:** --Senator Lathrop.

**LATHROP:** --would you be OK if Douglas was in CD 2 and Sarpy was in CD 1 entirely? If we did a map that had Sarpy whole and went into Lancaster and some surrounding counties and CD 2 was Douglas and part of Washington County, for example?

**WAYNE:** No, it's not part. It goes all the way. You got to get 60,000 people.

**LATHROP:** OK.

**WAYNE:** Sorry, I'll ask a question. I'm sorry.

**SANDERS:** My goal is to keep Sarpy County whole.

**LATHROP:** OK, so shall we consider where Don Bacon lives in developing a map for CD 2?

**SANDERS:** Well, I'm not sure exactly where Don Bacon lives. According to the article this morning--

**LATHROP:** We're not really sure either. It sound-- but it sounds like he doesn't mind moving.

**SANDERS:** We, we have benefited both from Congressman Bacon and from Congressman Fortenberry, so whether we're in District 1 or District 2, as long as we remain whole.

**LATHROP:** OK.

**WAYNE:** Any other questions from the committee? And I'm sorry, Senator Lathrop. I apologize. I-- sorry.

**LINEHAN:** Can I--

**WAYNE:** Go ahead. Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** I want to thank you too for sitting here and waiting and letting so many people go in front of you. It was--

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**SANDERS:** It was important to listen. Thank you.

**LINEHAN:** Well, it shows your commitment to public service. Thank you very much.

**SANDERS:** Thank you.

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

**SANDERS:** Happy birthday.

**WAYNE:** Welcome.

**MATT WAYNE:** All right. Thank you, senators. My name is Matt Wayne, M-a-t-t W-a-y-n-e.

**WAYNE:** Any relation?

**MATT WAYNE:** Not that I know of.

**WAYNE:** OK, just wanted--

**MATT WAYNE:** I am from Omaha. I was born and raised just down on the block. I had the ability to start a business on 25th and Leavenworth when I was 27 years old. I was able to sell it when I was 48 years old on 50th and Dodge, so I have a long history of Omaha and the community. There have been a lot of great testimonies today. It's been a fascinating afternoon. I've learned a lot of-- about what's happening and how these maps affect other people's lives. Democracy is an organization of a situation in which everyone is treated equally and has equal rights. Dividing Douglas County in half is not treating everyone equally because it divides the community in half which has similar interests, an urban community that has very little to do with a, a rural area. Never in the history of Nebraska has Douglas County been split in half. This split will cause a lot of confusion during voting. People will get tripped up on voting day. It will cause a lot of distrust with voters and that is a big concern of mine because they will not know where their polling place is. They will be just confused and I guarantee it will happen because people are very busy with their lives; 40 hours a week, kids. They're just not going to get it together and get those votes where they need to be. The schools have different needs too. The rural schools and city schools just have different needs, plain and simple. And I just don't want this confusion to happen because it does erode trust in government and government is very important. You guys do a great job with what you do

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and we want to keep that going in the future. So I'm in support of Senator Wayne's maps. Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. You're-- OK, my maps, Senator Wayne. Yeah. Yeah, I'm tired. Any questions from the committee? Senator Linehan.

**LINEHAN:** Why is it that people in Douglas County would be confused, but people in Sarpy County wouldn't be?

**MATT WAYNE:** With what?

**LINEHAN:** With where they're going to vote.

**MATT WAYNE:** Because it's going to change this year.

**LINEHAN:** Well, it's, it's going to change in Sarpy County too.

**MATT WAYNE:** Well, it, it affects everybody. It affects people to Sarpy County too.

**LINEHAN:** Well, we do have to make changes. I mean--

**MATT WAYNE:** Yeah, but when you split a county in half, that causes more confusion.

**LINEHAN:** Then splitting them in thirds?

**MATT WAYNE:** Like there's just more, there's more people separated. There's, like, a larger amount of people separated, which is going to cause a larger amount of people to be confused. I mean, even when you redistrict the state legislatures, which mine's getting moved a little bit, it causes confusion because I've worked in polling places. In fact, I've gone to polling places where I'm just, like, I don't vote here this time? They said no, but at least they have a, a thing where they can get you to the right polling place.

**LINEHAN:** Right. That's happened to me too. Thank you very much for being here.

**MATT WAYNE:** Thank you.

**WAYNE:** Thank you. Any other questions from the committee? Seeing none, thank you. Is there any other testifier? I'm going to say it three times quick so people can't drive down. Is there any other testifier? Any other testifier? I do want to thank the public. Let me turn it back over Senator Linehan.

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Redistricting Committee September 16, 2021

**LINEHAN:** It's OK.

**WAYNE:** OK, I do want to thank the public for being here today. It was a, a good turnout. All of them have been great turnouts. There will be a-- hearings tomorrow on what will be considered some shell bills. They're still redistricting bills, so your voice can still be heard. If you want to make an email, should have been to-- today by noon, but I would tell you, the committee is still reading all the emails. So if you have feedback, please, even down to the neighborhood, page number, is really, really helpful. What you saw up here today was not just everybody listening, but you saw Senator Linehan and I talking about points and things like that. We have already been talking about particularly in Grand Island, there was some things pointed out about polling places. So this committee will-- is looking at almost neighborhood by neighborhood. So please give us feedback if you have any additional feedback and thank you all for being here and that will conclude the public hearing.

**LINEHAN:** The committee needs to meet though. We just got to meet.

**LATHROP:** Are we going to have floor debate? What time does that start tomorrow?

**LINEHAN:** I suppose 9:00.

**LATHROP:** OK. I just wondered if we were going to do--