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Transcriber's Office

Redistricting Committee  
February 16, 2011

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[LB195 LB233]

The Committee on Redistricting met at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, in Room 1525 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on LB195 and LB233. Senators present: Chris Langemeier, Chairperson; Annette Dubas, Vice Chairperson; Bill Avery; Danielle Conrad; Deb Fischer; Scott Lautenbaugh; Heath Mello; John Nelson; and Ken Schilz. Senators absent: None. []

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Good afternoon and welcome the Redistricting Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. We'd like to welcome everybody that's here in the audience and those that are watching the proceedings on the Internet as well as closed-caption throughout the Capitol. My name is Chris Langemeier and I'd like to introduce the committee members that are with us at this time. Starting to my far left, my really far left, we have Senator Avery joining us from Lincoln. Then we have Senator Deb Fischer from Valentine; and then we have the Vice Chair of the committee, Senator Dubas, from Fullerton; and then we have Nancy Cyr who is the legal counsel for the Redistricting Committee. To my right we have Senator Conrad from north Lincoln, kind of central Lincoln; and then we have Senator Ken Schilz from Ogallala with us today. We have two pages that are going to be helping us. We have Christina Mayer from Lincoln who is a UNL student and then we will also have Katie DeLashmutt who is from Burwell and she's a senior at UNL, will be joining us shortly. At this time, we would ask that anyone that cares to testify in front of the committee pick up one of these green sheets that are located in the corner of the room and fill that out in its entirety. It helps us keep an accurate record of today's hearing. You'll also find in the corners of the room, if you want to be on the record as being here and having a position but you're not going to testify, there's also a spreadsheet form in the corners that you can sign in on and tell us your opinion and we'll take a record of that. With that said, we'd ask that everybody look at your cell phones and turn them off so we don't disrupt those that are testifying ahead of...currently at the table and giving them the focus of their time. If you'd like to hand something out, we ask that you give us 12 copies. And if you know right now you're short some copies, raise your hand and the page will help you make copies of something you may be short of. Also, if it's something you want us to see, a picture or something like that, if you give it to the committee, we're going to keep it for the record. So we ask if it's something you want to retain, please show it to us from the table and then allow the senators to come up and look at it after the hearing at their available. But again, if you give it to us we are going to keep it. We ask that you come in and as you start your testimony the first thing we'd like you to do is say and spell your name for the record. It helps us keep an accurate record of today's events. With that said, we will proceed to the first bill because Senator Sullivan is here, and we will open the hearing on LB195. And welcome. []

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you, Chairman Langemeier and members of the newly formed Redistricting Committee. I'm Senator Kate Sullivan, representing Legislative

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District 41, K-a-t-e S-u-l-l-i-v-a-n. LB195 creates the 50th Legislative District as allowed by the Nebraska Constitution, Article III, Section 6. The 1935 Bicameral Legislature set the number of legislative districts in the Unicameral at 43. It remained that way until 1965 when it was increased to 49. There have been several unsuccessful attempts to increase the number of senators since 1965. Senator Jim Jones introduced constitutional amendments in 1998 and 2002 that would have increased the number to 55 by adding two senators every ten years during the redistricting process. His legislation made it out of the committee both times, but it died on the legislative floor. There was an attempt in the sixties to include area as well as population in the redistricting process, but that idea was thrown out due to constitutional issues. Nebraska actually is the smallest legislature; 49 members, with approximately 35,000 constituents as the districts were drawn in 2001. Alaska has 60 members with 10,500 constituents each; Delaware has 62 members with 12,638 constituents each; Nevada has 63 members with 31,718 constituents each. It's interesting to note that senators in the first Unicameral represented approximately 32,000 constituents. With the addition of six seats in 1965, the number of constituents per district decreased to 29,000. According to my research, population shifts to the east have continuously exacerbated the problem of disparity in the geographical size of legislative districts since the 1930s. When the number of seats increased to 49, it was seen as a way to help equalize those population shifts and minimize the effect of even larger districts in rural parts of the state. Rural representation should not fall victim to shifting demographics. We can mitigate the effect of those shifts by adding a district and still complying with the one person, one vote rule. A 50th district would allow more flexibility in determining district boundaries while maintaining a reasonable constituency in each district. LB195 provides this committee with the additional tool when you begin redrawing legislative districts later this session. So I certainly thank you for your interest in this subject. And actually, I encourage you to advance LB195 to the legislative floor. Thank you. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. Questions? Senator Conrad. [LB195]

SENATOR CONRAD: Thank you, Senator Sullivan. I actually have two questions related to the proposal, one is logistics related and the other is fiscal related. As I'm looking through my bill book here, I see that there is a fiscal note attached to this legislation for approximately \$195,000... [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: \$125,000. [LB195]

SENATOR CONRAD: ...\$125,000 per year. And to be clear, that would be an ongoing expense. And I was wondering if you had any ideas in terms of how the Legislative Council could absorb those additional budgetary increases because as you well know, we've taken great strides to cut our budget internally. And this would be a significant increase. [LB195]

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SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, certainly. And I can't deny that. And I fully expected that there would be a fiscal note even though that \$12,000 a year doesn't seem like much and I didn't anticipate wanting to even change that, we would have accompanying staff. So I knew that was going to be a hurdle. But I also know that the Legislative Council has looked at how they might cut the budget, fully realizing that there's the potential to maybe cut staff of the senators. That's the reality; I can't deny that. And so I would expect that it makes the job of the Legislative Council even more of a challenge because I can't...as I said, I can't deny that it would add the cost. And it makes the task more difficult. And I fully expect that the council, even without this, would be making some cuts in the legislative budget. [LB195]

SENATOR CONRAD: Okay, great. And then finally, in regards to a logistical query that popped into my mind when reviewing this legislation, now, of course, we have 49 senators. So we don't have tie breaks. If we had 50, how would we resolve potential tie breaks? Would that be part of the rules of the Legislature that would be later determined if this legislation was adopted? Or should we address that in this potential statute? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, the first thought is that the Lieutenant Governor probably would be called in to serve us more often than not in that event. And I really hadn't thought through a potential change in the rules, but I would guess that that maybe is something that the Rules Committee should consider. [LB195]

SENATOR CONRAD: Okay, thank you. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Are there any other questions? Senator Nelson. [LB195]

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Senator Sullivan. If you've drawn any prospective lines, you know, in looking at your proposal by adding a district or a senator, do you envision that that additional senator would, you know,...there would be a new district in the eastern part of the state but it would keep the western district lines from expanding, might even contract them a little bit? Have you done any tentative figures or anything like that? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, first of all, Senator Nelson, I have to admit I've not been one of those senators that have tried to reconfigure districts. And some would say, well, this is an attempt just to salvage my own district. No, I realize the reality is, as I said in my testimony, one person, one vote. And potentially we're looking at, yes, another senator for where the population is shifting. But the reality is that with a 50th senator it gives your committee more flexibility in determining where those lines are and potentially keeps the rural districts from getting even larger than they already are. [LB195]

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SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Dubas. [LB195]

SENATOR DUBAS: Thank you, Senator Langemeier. Thank you, Senator Sullivan, for bringing this bill. I think it's a good discussion for us to have. Going back to the question that Senator Conrad asked about costs, I mean, I know every single one of us in here, every bill we introduced that was at the top of the list--what is this going to cost, and if it is then we're probably not going to go forward with it. So I'm sure that was the same thought process you had with this one. But did you decide to follow through because you felt that the benefits outweighed those costs? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, you know, I think in any legislation that's introduced, whether we're in a fiscal crisis or dealing with problems or not, that needs to be one of the considerations. But it's not the only consideration. So certainly, when I was looking at...and you know from my testimony on the floor that I'm a strong proponent of the stability of rural Nebraska and the representation for rural Nebraska and the logistics of representing rural Nebraska. And so I really felt that that deserved every bit as much attention as the fiscal challenge. And as I indicated to Senator Conrad, that I'm confident that the Legislative Council, if they were faced with the proposition of doing a budget for 50 senators, would make some wise fiscal decisions that would help us manage that. [LB195]

SENATOR DUBAS: Thank you. And you touched briefly on the last time the number of senators was increased. Do you have a little more history behind that decision? Do you have that, you know, why was that decision made to increase, bump those numbers up? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Well, having come from a rural senator, I would...I can't verify this. But I would suspect that maybe he had, Senator Jones had the same intentions that I have because he, as well as Senator Fischer, represented an extremely large district and realized the issues of dealing with that. [LB195]

SENATOR DUBAS: Thank you. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Fischer. [LB195]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Chairman Langemeier. Thank you, Senator Sullivan, for bringing this. I think it's an important discussion. You and I both know that representing large rural districts is a whole nother story of what happens down here in the Legislature. How big should a district be in geographic size? How big should we make them? You know, my district is the size of New Jersey. If your proposal doesn't go

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through, my district gets even larger. So how big should we be talking about here because you and I both know the time and the money it takes to represent those districts because we don't get reimbursed for travel in our legislative districts. [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: It's hard to say just how big (laugh) a district should or shouldn't be. But I think there needs to be some recognition and discussion of that. We both share the same challenges. In a six-month period just traveling in the district, I put over 20,000 miles on my vehicle. And rural Nebraskans, they are a very engaged citizenry. I know one of the urban senators said to me yesterday, well, I can walk into a restaurant and no one will know me. Well, I can't go anywhere in the district but what somebody doesn't know me and they have something they want to talk to me about. And I think they're entitled to that. So consequently, I spend a great deal of time traveling the district and a lot of that unfortunately is windshield time. And that doesn't do any good. It's just a little like, and I'm sorry to divert, but it's a little like bus time--kids don't learn anything on the bus. Constituents aren't served when I'm traveling from town to town. So in answer to your question, it's difficult. But perhaps again, I keep saying this in Legislative Planning, we have to recognize what's happening in this state and how the demographics are changing and how that influences decisions we make for our entire state. Perhaps in some respects Nebraska is unique. But we are Nebraska and we are one state that, call it if you will, geographically challenged (laugh) or demographically challenged. And we need to talk about that and we need to decide how to deal with it. [LB195]

SENATOR FISCHER: I thank you again for bringing this. Do you think perhaps we need more than 50 senators? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Perhaps, and I'd like to hear what the citizens of Nebraska would think about that. [LB195]

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay, thank you very much. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Mello. [LB195]

SENATOR MELLO: Thank you, Chairman Langemeier, and thank you, Senator Sullivan, for this bill. I just have more of an educational question. And if you don't have it, it's something I'm sure I can maybe follow up with the committee staff. Do you know, is there any Nebraska statutory language that clarifies geographic size or clarifies or sets guidelines in regards to geographic size when going through the redistricting process for the state? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: No. And I think perhaps, you know, the larger question there is we might run into some constitutional challenges if we try to pair geography along with the one person, one vote. So... [LB195]

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SENATOR MELLO: The U.S. Constitution or Nebraska Constitution? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: I can't...I think it's probably U.S. Constitution. [LB195]

SENATOR MELLO: Okay. That was just...that was my question. I'll follow up with committee counsel afterwards to verify. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony. [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you very much. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: You have now heard the opening on LB195. We'll move on to open testimony. Is there anyone here that would like to testify as a proponent or in support of LB195? Seeing none, is there anyone that would like to testify in opposition to LB195? Seeing none, is there anyone that would like to testify in a neutral capacity? Seeing none, Senator Sullivan, would you like to close? [LB195]

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank you. One thing that just occurred to me. If you need any further clarification or information on some of the questions that have been raised or if I can be of further assistance, I will be more than willing to do so. [LB195]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Very good. Thank you very much. You've heard the closing on LB195. With that, that concludes the hearing. And now we will open the hearing, Senator Krist is here, we'll open the hearing on LB233. Welcome. [LB195]

SENATOR KRIST: (Exhibit 1) Thank you. Before I go into my prepared testimony, please understand that the major difference between Senator Sullivan's proposal and mine is that mine makes you more powerful. (Laughter) All kidding aside, good afternoon, Senator Langemeier and members of the Redistricting Committee. For the record, my name is Bob Krist, that's K-r-i-s-t, and I represent the 10th Legislative District in northwest Omaha. I want to extend my thanks on the record to the Executive Board for supporting a rereferencing request last month so that LB233 and Senator Sullivan's bill could be heard here where I think it belongs, in Redistricting. I'm very serious about this legislation and I appreciate you allowing me the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you. I want to also thank Speaker Flood for his input and suggestions. I also want to sincerely thank our Legislative Research Division for the great assistance they provided in preparation for this hearing most of the summer. I appreciate Nancy Cyr sharing her experience, expertise and counsel with me, and especially the GIS specialist, Jack Dohrman, for painstakingly generating a few maps for me to give you an idea. And by the way, Senator Langemeier, we did this well before you drew a line in the sand so. (Laugh) [LB233]

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SENATOR LANGEMEIER: I'm aware of that. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Okay, thank you, sir. And thanks also to Bernie Scherr for information he obtained and gave to my staff. With housekeeping and thank-you's out of the way, I appear before you in introduction and support of LB233, a bill that introduces a reduction in the number of legislative districts now in existence from 49 to 45. The change would go into effect in 2013 and allow for redistricting based upon the 2010 census. To give you a conceptual view of what 45 versus 49 would look like on the map, Jack has helped me and our Legislative Research Division has helped me crunch the numbers for me last fall and during the summer and kindly prepared a couple versions of 45 districts and what they might look like. Please understand, when it comes to the actual drawing of district lines and their placement, those are decisions I obviously leave to you and to the body. I am not, not advocating for either of these specific proposals, merely introducing a visual concept and practical application of what LB233 would do. With redistricting occurring this session, we have a unique historic point in time for the state of Nebraska. The composition of the Legislature since term limits imposed on the members of the body will result in nine current senators being unable to run for reelection in 2013. Nebraska's changing state population, our citizens calling for less government, and the gloomy state budget picture provide an ideal opportunity for action in this committee, and hopefully the body will look thoughtfully at this proposal. For historic perspective and as all of you may be aware, our Unicameral Legislature had 43 when it came into existence in 1937. In 1971, or 40 years ago, it was increased to 49. Article III, Section 6 of our state's constitution allows the Legislature the ability to determine the membership between 30 and 50 members. Reducing the size of the Legislature as contemplated in LB233 is not a novel concept. We learned that in 1999, Senator Doug Kristensen of Minden, who was serving as the Speaker of the Legislature at the time, introduced LB154 to reduce the Legislature to 41 members. I mean no disrespect to my colleague when I say that this, particularly Senator Sullivan who represented the previous bill, that it is worth noting a rural senator who held the senior-most position in this body put this legislation forward. In reading the 1999 hearing transcript of LB154, Speaker Kristensen's rationale for his bill definitely applies today with LB233. The primary reason among others were to increase the diversity of the senators' district, to better balance the rural/urban divide, and to provide a significant cost savings to our state. Senator Kristensen, in his statement of intent, said, "Senators would represent a larger geographic and less homogenous area, thus creating a legislature with a broader statewide perspective. The result would be efficiency, diversity, and improved representation for the citizens of Nebraska." I agree with these conclusions. In Senator Kristensen's testimony before the Executive Board at the committee hearing LB154, he cited January 23, 1923, New York Times article, which you have, published in the Congressional Record, George Norris articulated his ideal, a model state legislature, our Unicameral, I am providing a copy of that, obviously, for you to see. The Legislature should be small in number, he said. One of the evils of our

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Legislature is that they're entirely too large. Having in mind a state about like Nebraska, I should say the membership should not exceed 20 or 30. Those were his words, not mine. I do not address...I do want to address and emphasize the fiscal note and the cost savings LB233 generates. Given the present state of our economy as well as the \$900 million-plus budget deficit, the \$500,000 of savings every biennium, and the millions of dollars long-term is significant. Efforts such as these should be part of our decision if we are going to replenish our rainy day fund long term. In addition to promoting efficiencies, implementing LB233 would free up space within the Capitol environs and possibly allow for better utilization of legislative office space. According to the 2010 census, Nebraska's population is 1,826,341, which means each senator, after redistricting, should be representing 37,272 people. With a margin of plus or minus 5 percent under LB233, that number would be 40,584 people, or 3,313 people...additional people. According to 2009 state population estimates, that would be the rough equivalent of the number of people who now live in O'Neill or West Point or Auburn. Keep in mind some senators have effectively proven that they can represent more than 50,000 constituents. I would note that some estimates have Beau McCoy, Senator Beau McCoy representing 70,000. Yes, that's far too many, I'm not going to argue, but it's proof that a small increase would not be overly burdensome. With a slightly increased and more diverse constituency, we in turn can develop a broader view, resulting in broader vision for what is best for our state. Lastly, in the additional handouts you'll see different notes from the state, National Conference of State Legislatures, noting fewer legislators does mean less responsive legislators...fewer legislators does not mean less responsive legislators. Using modern communication mechanisms, a legislator can easily reach out and be reached. As my staff and I can...my staff can attest to, this bill is something that I've been working on seriously during the interim. It's very important to me and I appreciate your indulgence in allowing me to offer my rationale in bringing it to you. I want to thank the committee for its consideration and support of LB233, and I recommend sending it to the floor for debate. I'd be happy to answer any questions, Chairman Langemeier.  
[LB233]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Very good. Are there any questions? Senator Dubas.  
[LB233]

SENATOR DUBAS: Thank you, Senator Langemeier. Thank you very much, Senator Krist. This is a good discussion for us to have. I don't believe the question...I don't believe the problem is the number of constituents we represent. I believe the problem, especially in rural Nebraska, is the amount of distance we have to travel to reach those constituents. And looking at some of these maps, we're adding some...an extreme amount of additional mileage for these more rural senators. And we are a one house legislature, we are the voice for the people in that district. So I just would be interested in your response to adding this amount of additional distance for this one single senator to reach his or her constituency, also recognizing that our rural constituency does have a definite expectation of seeing our face. And it's something that I believe all senators

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take that very seriously. But I know in rural Nebraska it is definitely an expectation from our constituents. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Sure. I'd love to comment on it. Federal law and state law constitutionally, it has nothing to do with geography, it has to do with the number of people that we represent. This is a problem. And the reality of the situation is that as our population decreases across the state in certain areas, and increases in other parts, districts are going to get smaller and districts are going to get larger. If you look at the 49 presentation, we're getting bigger in 49. And my comment would be, potentially this would allow us to actually pay for some travel so that senators can actually be reimbursed to get out there and do what they really need to do. And I think that's important. I can walk my entire district in 2.5 weeks, door-to-door, knocking on every door. I'm sure it would take you months to travel Cherry County alone. So I would say that our hands are tied in one area but we can make strides in another area. [LB233]

SENATOR DUBAS: And I do understand, you know, how we are set up to represent our constituency. But the challenges with being able to really understand what our constituency is wanting or needing by the geographic challenge makes that one particular senator's work so much more difficult. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Absolutely. And I would note just one other thing. I have a lot of empathy for the fact that our outstate senators have such a large distance to travel. And I'd be glad to fly you any place you need to go. [LB233]

SENATOR DUBAS: Oh, I'm going to remember that. (Laughter) [LB233]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Well noted. Senator Schilz. [LB233]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I'm in. Thank you, Senator Krist. Could you, not to take away from this discussion, but could you just tell me how you would logistically how do you get to 45? [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Sure. It would be my input to this body that you would take a look at those nine people that can't run again and not make their addresses a requirement when you redistrict. That's essentially what we did. And then we looked at geographically how do we keep the size of the districts as small as possible, taking into consideration contiguity of precincts, of counties, and best placement. I don't know that we have the best drawing of the map, but those are two attempts at trying to find the best attempt of smaller districts. [LB233]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Okay. And then one other question that came up as you were talking about, you know, the distances and reimbursement and stuff like that. I'm guessing you might have a little bit of trouble with other folks that might want to run,

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saying that the incumbents are getting a special benefit from the state if we're reimbursed for traveling around in the district. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: I think there's already a disparity in terms of what people are reimbursed, you know, in terms of travel or staying down here, inside of 50 miles, outside of 50 miles. I think it's reasonable to assume that if we had a few extra dollars we would reimburse for mileage traveled, up to a certain amount. I think this body would be able to come to a reasonable conclusion, I really do. [LB233]

SENATOR SCHILZ: Okay. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: I'd be willing to. I don't need any reimbursement. [LB233]

SENATOR SCHILZ: All right, thank you. [LB233]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Conrad. [LB233]

SENATOR CONRAD: Thank you, Senator Krist, always interesting to hear your ideas. And thank you for putting together this very informative packet for our consideration. I wanted to just get your thoughts on a topic related to the geographical challenges that we've talked about already and in particular as you bring forward the kind of historical record in terms of our composition from early and presently to guide our discussion about what it might look like in the future. Of course, we know technology has changed the way that we communicate with our constituents as well. I know many senators have fairly active Facebook pages, e-mail accounts, Twitter accounts, other things like that that allows them to engage with their citizenry in a very direct way in a very cost-efficient manner. And I was wondering if you thought about any of those issues when you brought this idea forward? [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: I did. In fact, I had a couple of conversations with senators who actually have "Lifetime Radio" and have a regular session, the call-ins that some of our congressional races have seen with the actual call-in on a particular day. I mean, there's so much technology there that wasn't there ten years ago. And I think it's a point to be made. Do we offer some kind of help for those senators to make sure that they are technically up to speed? Possibly. I mean that could always go into a budget. But there are already a lot of senators, I think, that are taking advantage of...I've never seen Senator Schilz without his Facebook so. [LB233]

SENATOR CONRAD: Okay, thanks. [LB233]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Senator Avery. [LB233]

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What impact would this plan, either Plan 1 or

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Plan 2, have on the total number of rural senators? Senator Sullivan made quite a point about that. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Yes, sir. I think what you'll see in terms of the line, if you stayed at 49 the line will move from west to east in terms of the districts will get bigger, and the districts will get smaller on the eastern side of the state. If you go to 45, you'll see some of those spread. And in my estimation, although I'll say this, I have a working farm right in my district. So I think that the exposure to the rural/urban mix is going to be good for everyone. And I think you'll see more urban senators that have a little bit more of a rural mix within their districts. [LB233]

SENATOR AVERY: But you don't see the total number of rural senators shrinking? It seems to me that just a rough count suggested that it would be somewhere under 20. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: I think that's going to happen with 49. So I think that if we maintain the balance a bit...we looked at, when we drew these maps, we looked at trying to make sure...we went to 41 and it was skewed the other direction. We stayed at 49 and there was a reduction in the rural representation. When we went to 45, we saw that that mix had some urban senators getting more rural area, which again goes back to Senator Kristensen's and my viewpoint in the diversity of what you would represent. [LB233]

SENATOR AVERY: But you still have a majority of senate seats that would be core urban, wouldn't you? [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: I don't think there's any way to avoid that. And I think you'll...when you study the issue in committee, you're going to see that it's...if you stay with 49 that's going to happen. [LB233]

SENATOR AVERY: Thank you. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you for your question. [LB233]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much for your opening. [LB233]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you. [LB233]

SENATOR LANGEMEIER: You have now heard the opening on LB233. We'll move on to testifiers. Is there anyone here that would like to testify in support of LB233? Seeing none, is there anyone that would like to testify in a neutral capacity or, excuse me, opponents? Seeing none, anyone want to testify in a neutral capacity? Seeing none, Senator Krist, would you like to close? Senator Krist waives closing. That concludes the

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hearing for LB233 for the day. We'd like to thank everybody that participated and we encourage your continued participation, and have a great day. [LB233]