

Platte in terms of their community of interest. And I think, at this point, we could utterly disregard the First Congressional District north of the Platte should we lose that population center. Other considerations I think you will find is that Madison County and Pierce County, for that matter, are both hilly, row cropping, corn type farmer people out of the rural areas and as soon as we move to the west of Madison what you're going to find is hay country, and moving a little farther west you're going to get out into the Sandhills and you're going to start blending in. I think you're going to find a much better community of interest in terms of our agricultural communities and our cropping patterns, our growing seasons and things of that nature as we look through the sweep to the south and use Fillmore, Saline, Jefferson and those counties where you do find a lot of wheat, you do find a lot of milo, you do find a lot of sorghum, and you do find a lot of other cropping patterns that are familiar with the tiers all the way across the bottom of the state. But I think, you know, we can use those arguments back and forth and they sell about as good in one category as they do in another. But I think for the strongest plea that I have for you is to allow the First Congressional District to have some population density above the Platte River to keep some kind of a balance within that First Congressional District. So, with that, I offer you the Conway amendment to LB 615.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. I will now recognize the senators in the following order. Senator Wesely, Schimek and Coordsen. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Madam President and members, I would rise in opposition to the Conway congressional district plan and in support of the Schimek plan. And I will be brief at this point. Senator Schimek, I think, should have first opportunity to go over her reasons. But it seems to me that there are any number of important points that would, hopefully, have you oppose the Conway plan as well. As he spoke, it became quite apparent that the primary focus of his proposal, and there are several focuses that may be primary in at least the public statements, is one of an anti-Lincoln, anti-southeast Nebraska focus to this plan in an attempt to try and erode away the community of interest that exists in southeast Nebraska, with Lincoln as the trade center. Obviously, there is that strong sense of community that exists in this area of the state and there has been a dominance by Lincoln in the First Congressional District and will be under any plan. Any time you have 200,000 people in a 500,000