

think, some solid ground to stand on and there's much to be discussed on this measure. And rather than get into it much further, I hope that Senator Conway and others will give I think more and better reasons for this change and not...and why they would suggest that we not support the committee's proposal as advanced by the committee. That plan, the Schimek plan, I think makes more sense in trying again to represent the community of interest that is best reflected under those lines and those district boundaries.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President, and members of the body, I would rise to ask you not to support the Conway amendment. This, of course, was one of the plans that we did look at in the Government Committee. I guess I would, first of all, like to refer you to the guidelines that were adopted by the Government Committee. And one of those guidelines says that inasmuch as possible we will try to keep county boundaries intact. Now with the advent of the Supreme Court decisions, the court decisions on redistricting, we have had to walk a finer and tighter line in congressional redistricting, and now, according to our guidelines, we have to come to a point 5 percent variance one way or the other. So this makes it a little bit difficult, quite difficult, impossible to stay strictly within county lines, admittedly. But that is one of the things that the committee said that they would like to do. It is possible to stay within county lines in the First Congressional District. That is one of the things that...both of the plans I submitted, and you don't have the second one on your desk, but both of them keep county lines intact. In addition, as I mentioned earlier this morning, if you look at the two maps, the Conway map and the committee map, the Schimek map, you will see that the boundary lines are much more symmetrical, much more understandable. They do not zig-zag and they make the district more explainable. In addition, the City of Lincoln is probably always going to be in the First Congressional District just because of the population base that it has. And the plan that the committee adopted really attempts to keep the core population around this central county. In addition, I might mention to you that Saline County, Jefferson County, Fillmore County, Gage County, all these counties depend on Lincoln for shopping, for medical reasons, for schooling, any number of things. We have a very, very strong community of interest. I know that you can make somewhat the same case for Madison