

whether it's yours or mine, that is compact and continuous (sic) that you could have worked around and which is being done now with figures coming up that can be done to not change but only lose one rural senator. So I don't think that holds water, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I think you, when you've got a district that is compact and continuous (sic) you stay with it. The '91 redistricting guidelines state that district boundary lines shall follow county lines whenever practical and shall define districts that are compact and continuous (sic) with few exceptions. Further, the district boundary lines shall define districts that are easily "identifful" and understandable to voters and that reflect unity and character of economic interests. Finally, district boundaries shall not be established with the intention of protecting or defeating an incumbent or with the intention of discriminating against any political party, nor shall a plan have, as a consequence of the voting impact of any minority population. The goal of redistricting process shall be the creation of districts that are substantially equal in population, and District 21 fits that perfectly. My district is almost perfect. We're working on figures that can be (inaudible) and hopefully we'll have that done. As has been stated before, District 21, the Democrats and Republicans have stated in congressional and also in the 21st Legislative District do not want to be split because of this reason. It's transportation, bus and air, ranches, farms, meat packaging plants, shopping facilities, manufacturing plants, and a numerous amount of federal and state offices. It's important to northeast Nebraska and to split it up three ways is mind-boggling to me and...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR PETERSON: ..and yet people on this floor make no effort whatsoever to take this in consideration and I think it's uncalled for. I will not be voting for advancement of this and hopefully that, through some of us that are working on maps, that we can come up that with a map that fits this better in rural Nebraska. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair and members of the body, I was not...I put my light on to call the question, frankly, but I think there's a couple of things that need to be responded to here in defense of the plan that the committee has put forward.