

the numbers all are within the tolerances. I would suggest that you would look well to your votes on this issue. The southwest Nebraska area in the current plan has Holdrege in with the cities of Grant, Imperial and Benkelman along the Colorado border. The area of Phelps and Dawson and Gosper Counties are very drastically different geographically and in interest than the western areas of Chase, Dundee and Perkins Counties. Red Willow County would be split with McCook at the very far end of the tail and Superior would be within the same district. The interests of McCook and the interests of Superior are vastly different. In the plan I have drawn, McCook would be the center of the district and represents the trade area of McCook. District 47, Senator Baack's district, the main population center there is Sidney, is centrally located and you can progress through the rest of the map in the same manner. And, Senator Withem, I too shared the concern of Tilden and joined them in a single legislative district. I would invite your scrutiny, your consideration and your response to keeping traditional districts with their traditional constituent base as much intact as possible, and I'd ask for your support in adopting AM2155 to LB 614.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. The speaking order now is Senator Withem, Schrock, Nelson, Bernard-Stevens and Scheilpeper. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, I wasn't going to rise to speak but it appeared as though when I did push, punch my light there weren't...well, obviously, there wasn't anybody else going to speak at that time. I think we need some policy discussion about this. Senator Elmer, as I know I was kind of joking a few moments ago with Senator Hefner's reference to how hard I had worked on that other plan saying I hadn't, I know Senator Elmer has spent a lot of time working on this map and has...a lot of his energy has gone into it. I have some concerns that are policy concerns that I think need at least to be in the record. Any and everybody in here can look at the map, see how it impacts on the areas that they represent and make a determination as to whether it is good or bad for their constituents, so I won't get into too much of that. I do have a concern though with the policy of what we're doing with the 38th Legislative District. I will grant, number one, it takes an act of courage to place yourself in a district other than the one from which you are elected, I will grant that. And I will grant probably the constitutionality of it.