

rest of the state and so we ended up with a plan that is less than what we want and having two legislative districts move into the county. This proposal by Senator Dierks would have four legislative districts come in to take various parts of the 20,000-plus additional citizens in Lancaster County. This would dilute further the influence of those individuals and of the county and so, as a result, though I know it's well-intentioned, I, for one, would oppose this plan. We didn't particularly like the idea of two; we certainly don't like the idea of four in terms of its impact on Lancaster County, in my own view at least, so I would oppose the Dierks plan, though recognize it's a very sincere attempt to try and improve the plan that we have, but I don't think it does.

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

SENATOR LANDIS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I too look at the Dierks amendment and see those same incursions into the Lancaster County area in a way that fractionates the county's role in the election of state senators. I do, on the other hand, want to acknowledge that I'm glad to see that the discussion has begun to move away from personalities. Central in that change I think has been Senator Schrock's position. He's made it clear that he's risen above personalities and is now looking at what's best for the state and what's best for the maps, and I, for one, am grateful for that and wish to recognize that I think it's elevated the conversation on the floor considerably and is the action of a statesman. Lastly, I want to conclude that I've taken a look at the various plans and, while each of them have merits from different perspectives, I find in the plan reported out by the committee an overall structure that advances several principles that I like. First, it keeps the districts in their own area rather than moving them around the state, that is to say those which are currently occupied. Secondly, it keeps representation in the districts that are created. It keeps an active senator in the district representing those people rather than leaving people without a representative for two years or more until the next election. And, lastly, I find that there really is an attention to the community of interests in all parts of the state and, for that reason, I think that the system is structured on several principles which I do not see improvements upon on an across-the-board fashion in other various maps. Other maps have virtues, no doubt about it, but almost every virtue that is achieved is at the expense of one of the basic principles in the