

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President, members, I rise to support the Dierks amendment. Like everybody says, I've got a selfish interest in this. I find it very hard to believe that anybody would take a district, whether it's mine or whose, that is excellent in population and that and tear it to pieces. I am pleased that with the amendment that was passed a little bit ago that it's only split two ways now, but, you know, it was always my thinking in regards to redistricting that you take a district like mine and Senator Bernard-Stevens' rural districts and you work around that, you don't split it up. And so, with Senator Dierks'...what he has done is I think a pretty good, workable plan and I know whatever way you move here you've got somebody that's protecting their district and I guess that's what we all are trying to do, but I would hope you would consider Senator Dierks' amendment. It looks pretty good to a lot of us and hopefully it will look good to enough of you that we can get this adopted and keep an extra rural senator out there. I know there's thoughts of Douglas and Lancaster County loving to have two of these seats, but I think we in rural Nebraska deserve to have, especially a district that is like mine, stay intact and not be split up, that has grown and probably will continue to grow and really tears a district up that's been so compact over the years, so I would ask for the adoption of the Dierks amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Peterson. Senator Withem. There's no one else wishing to speak to the issue. I will recognize Senator Dierks for closing.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I appreciate the words we've heard today. I think that we've talked this over fairly well. I've heard some people who have somewhat bitter opposition to it and I've heard some people who seem to think it's not too bad a plan. I think that the thing that I want to try to impress on you in closing is that everything that I've done with this plan has been done with fairness in mind. I have tried to do this with the idea that we are going to provide the type of representation across Nebraska that we are bound to do. We have stayed within the guidelines of the census report. We have kept the map somewhat in the same form that it had been. We have kept the two districts viable that wanted to be kept viable, 21 and 39, and we've disbanded 43 which doesn't seem to cause any particular problems. Senator Landis has said that he liked the committee map because the districts stay in the area that they are now in. There's a kind