

far, far more superior, and I know Senator Beutler has offered a constitutional amendment that I think is critical for this Legislature to deal with. Because as long as the reference to county lines is in the Constitution, as it is now, as somewhat superior to any other rationale, we are going to have problems. But a way to get around, if we disagree with the Supreme Court decision, which I do, I think this Legislature did an excellent job of redistricting, and I am kind of tired of hearing all the bashing of what we did, but if you disagree with the court's rationale, the way to change that is by changing the Constitution, and it is not to pass legislation that tends to ignore that decision, and that decision said county lines need to be followed, and that was the law that they laid down. The effect of that law was to give Madison County its own district, but I would urge you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Withem. I do have a number of speakers and I will check to see if you want to speak to this amendment. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I will be supporting, first of all, the amendment offered by Senator Withem, and I would expect that after the process would go, if this amendment passes and if the amendment offered by Senator Hefner then passes, that there would then be an amendment by Senator Hefner or someone that would switch the numbers back to 19 and 18. And the advantage of that, number one, what Senator Withem has done with this particular motion is that we are going to get hopefully discussion of which number should be Madison County, put that aside temporarily, and a discussion will basically follow of is this a better map than what we currently have? And I think the body needs to do that. We cannot, at this particular point, decide on a map based upon whether we want an even or odd number in Madison County. What we have to do is a two-part problem today, we need to ask the question, number one, what is the best map that will follow the Supreme Court's mandate at this particular point, if we are going to do something this year; and then once we have decided what that map should be, then we will have the question, all right, now do we want an even or odd number in Madison County, and that is the way the decision process should go. Let's discuss that first. So Senator Withem's amendment basically says, we are going to put it in the form, Senator Hefner's amendment in a form of what already LB 7 is, and just discuss the map. And after that discussion, if we agree with that map,