

redistricting lines in the face of a sketchy constitutional decision by the court leaves us, not with the prime rib but with the Brussels sprouts. We've got to finish it up. We've got to do our job. I would ask us...I would join in the notion that says this is our task to do as unpleasant as it may be. If this is the best that we can do and it's at Final Reading and has 30 votes, we should not stop and say, wait a second, we can't do the legislative function, we can't do the lawmaking function, we'll teach the courts a lesson, we'll just let them draw the lines. It's not their job. This is our job and we need to do it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Withem, followed by Senators Kristensen and Conway. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, I have not spoken on this issue since the other day. I've not spoken today. To be honest, I came down here this morning fully intending to vote for LB 7. As I listened to the debate, the two factors that were weighing in my mind, the disruption of an ongoing legisla...election versus our need to do the redistricting continue to come into conflict. I came down on the side of we should not disrupt the election process. I'm going to stick with that position. The reason I turned my light on was a little concern about the direction of the debate. The direction of the debate, suddenly we have come to the conclusion that we have to do this at this moment or the courts will do it for us. Granted, that's a possibility. In some states, courts have taken over the process. But I would point out to people that we did receive, after the Supreme Court gave its ruling, indicating that portions of 614 were unconstitutional, the court then entered another order back to the district court. The district court has entered an order indicating that there are only two districts that have a problem. They are even-numbered districts and the interpretation of our Attorney General, as a matter of fact he was rather angry, when after he received this opinion from the district court that the Governor went ahead and called...put this on the call for the special session anyway because it was clear to our Attorney General whose responsibility it is to offer advice to us, some of us may not always like the advice we get, but it was his advice that this indicated it did not have to be done this session. Suddenly now, today, if we do not act and those of us who...who really don't feel that LB 7 is the best choice at this particular moment, if we don't acquiesce to that decision and cave in that