[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

SENATOR HEWITT: All right, members, if you would take your seats, please. I'd like to get started. This is February 3, 2022, Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. All right, madam secretary, if you would, please call the roll.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Senator Hewitt?

SENATOR HEWITT: Present.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. Senator Milligan?

SENATOR MILLIGAN: Present.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Senator Allain?

SENATOR ALLAIN: Here.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. Senator Foil?

SENATOR FOIL: Here.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. Senator Tarver?

SENATOR TARVER: Here.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. Senator Womack?

SENATOR WOMACK: Present.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. Senator Reese?

SENATOR REESE: Here.

Hearing Exhibit
PR-53
3:22-cv-00211-SDD-RLB

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. Senator Harris?

SENATOR HARRIS: Here.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. And Senator Price?

SENATOR PRICE: Here.

LAUR'EN MARINOVICH CIMINO: Present. That is nine on a call roll.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay. Super. All right, well welcome back everyone, I appreciate you all being here. We're going to kind of have two objectives today. We will be dealing with our Senate Maps again today as well as some of the Congressional Maps. I'm going to take these bills up in a little different order than the way they're presented on the agenda. We are going to begin today with Senator Luneau's Congressional Bill, which is Senate. Bill 16, senator whenever you're ready.

SENATOR LUNEAU: Thank you madam chair and members. First of all I appreciate you taking me out of turn of somehow troubled book myself today. So I certainly appreciate you doing that. Members, this plan is of course is a congressional districts plan. It is a plan that I wanted to present to you because with the changes in our population, it's pretty clear

that the census is showed about a third of the population is minority and this plan adds an additional majority-minority district. The information that that was used to compile this map came from various sources, our own numbers from our own demographer as well as other demographers. And there were several issues that I look at in this, one of the things that I like about it is for a whole lot of the parishes that have been divided before, it makes them whole, for example, in District 4 on this map, you'll look and I've represent parts of seven parishes in my senate district, and it makes all of those parishes whole for the first time in a long time and so that was something that was appealing to me. Now, of course, we know that we can't make all of the parishes whole throughout because of the way the population is situated, but it tended to do that as much as possible. Some other issues that I want to point out to you, there's been some discussion since this map was introduced during the roadshow to the committee. So it's not anything that's new. And there have been some discussions about this map not being compact. The fact that matter is that demographers, and they're going to be people that are going to testify today about this too but demographers have

demonstrated that this map is, is the most compact of all the maps that have been offered in two of the three criteria that are to be considered. Now, I'm not going into any detail about this because quite frankly, I'm not a demographer and I can't explain all that stuff to you, but you will have testimony later today that's going to talk about those particular ones. One of the things that I want to point out is that in the current minority-majority district that the current seat that's held by Congressman Troy Carter, this map would slightly decrease the minority population in that District, but not drastically. And I think that's important too, because we don't want to dilute the district that we currently have at the expense of creating a new one. I think that the map is pretty straightforward as you can see, it mimics a lot of the population hubs that we have throughout the state and the other members of the maps that we've looked at on those two, so madam chair with that, I would be happy to answer any questions anyone may have.

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you, senator. I'll start with one, I guess. Yeah, this is sort of the famous Z-Map that we had back in the day that, you know, gets used in a lot of classes, political science

classes as maybe not such a great example, but nevertheless I want to just try to talk to you a few minutes about it. It looks to me like a lot of metropolitan areas, you know. seems to get split up in this map. Not Alexandria so much, because it misses the Z, but the Z catches a lot of other things, you know, you've got Lafayette in a district with New Orleans.

[00:05:01]

You've got neighborhoods in Baton Rouge, would share a member of Congress with Shreveport and Lake Charles is joined with parts of Monroe, it divides up some of the Barksdale Community. I guess tell me your thoughts on that because, you know, one of our redistricting principles is trying to as you said, keep the parishes together, but also the communities of interest in some of those metropolitan areas, you know, seems to me, you would want to try to keep them together as best you could.

SENATOR LUNEAU: Well let's talk about one of these areas in particular when you talk about in Lafayette Parish. There's a small portion of Lafayette Parish. It is in the same district where there's a portion of Orleans as well. But because of the way of population centers go, you can't always

1 make that happen where the parishes whole, it's just
2 impossible, I don't think there's a single map that
3 offers where every single parish is wholly in one
4 district and that is just the fact that we can't get
5 around. As you very well know probably better than
6 any of us, this is a difficult process and you guys
7 have labored over this and I'm going to be the first
8 to admit to you. It's not perfect. I don't think
9 there is a perfect, quite frankly, but I can tell you
10 this, having lived in an area that's been divided for
11 a long time in various parishes that I represent
12 being divided, half of them, the one and another it
13 creates issues, it does. I'm not going to deny that,
14 but the fact of the matter is, sometimes it creates
15 opportunity for them as well. And what I wanted to do
16 is I wanted to make sure that we demonstrate and that
17 we adopt a plan that will represent the population as
18 we know it exists in Louisiana, and we know that
19 approximately a third of the population is minority
20 population and we only have one majority-minority
21 district. Now, I can tell you this, that doesn't
22 necessarily mean that a minority is going to be
23 elected. I'm kind of living proof of that. I've run
24 in a majority-minority district, and I'm a white male
25 and I've been elected two terms. So, but it gives the

minority population, the ability to elect the person that they choose to elect, and that's what is important.

SENATOR HEWITT: Yeah, and I can appreciate that. All right, let me move on to Senator Tarver.

SENATOR TARVER: Could you give me the breakdown of the two minority districts of the population of each one?

SENATOR LUNEAU: Unfortunately, I don't have that information. But like I said, we're doing this a little bit differently today because to accommodate me, so I can get in there, but they're going to be some folks that are come up here and testify, they can give you the exact numbers of what they are.

SENATOR TARVER: Do we recently had a court case in this country concerning minority-majority redistricting and to apply more minorities within certain areas like Alabama, where the court case in Alabama that said that, you have 27% minority, and you only have one minority representing the state and they told him to go back and draw the map again?

SENATOR LUNEAU: That is correct. That's exactly what they did. In the fact of the matters, we have a greater minority population in Louisiana. In fact, we're real close to that one third mark, you know

within the margins of error for the one third marks and we have six districts. So it's pretty clear that two of those districts should be districts where minorities can elect the person that they choose.

SENATOR TARVER: Okay.

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you, senator. Senator Luneau. I guess, I feel compelled to sort of make this point at this time and I probably will again later today as well. You know, we mentioned that the one third thing gets mentioned a lot and it gets mentioned -- it got mentioned a lot during the roadshow. When you go back and you look at the exact language of the Voting Rights Act and I'm going to quote it. It says this is in section B. "Provided that nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to the proportion in the population." So my interpretation of that is, you know, it does not guarantee that because you have a third of your population, that a third of your District should be represented by the minority. I mean, it specifically says that in the Act, would you interpret it the same way?

SENATOR LUNEAU: I don't. I interpret that to mean that the minority people are given the

opportunity to elect the person they wanted, it doesn't guarantee that a minority is going to be elected. It's never intended to do that. And what this map does is just that, it doesn't guarantee that they're going to elect a minority, it guarantees that the minority will have the opportunity to elect the people that they want to elect. It gives them the right to come in and vote in who they choose to. And like I said earlier. I'm a living example of that if they don't want to elect a minority, they don't have to but it gives that segment of the population and equal opportunity to come in and let people, you could dilute it.

[00:10:03]

You could dilute the minority population throughout the state where there would be no opportunity for them to do that, but that's not what's contemplated by the federal law that deals with this.

SENATOR HEWITT: No, that's exactly right. So you have to have enough of them a minority population that are compact enough where you could draw a district that would give them an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. But again, the fact that one third of the population around the

state is a minority population does not guarantee that there should be two minority districts and I think that statement in Section B clearly says that it does not provided that nothing in this section establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected and numbers equal to their proportion in the population. So it doesn't mean that you have the default is because it's a third that you have to two minority districts. You still have to as we were saying and you've said this already, they have to be -- where they live matters. And so they have to be in an area with sufficient population and compact enough where they would have an opportunity to elect the candidate of their choice.

SENATOR LUNEAU: So where they live does matter and that's just one of many factors that have to be considered and I think that the thing that maybe you and I are disagreeing on here is, is found in what came I'm out in that Alabama opinion, that supports what I'm saying. There's not an exact opinion that says, you have to do it this way because there are too many factors to consider. But if you consider one factor over another, there are some priorities set in these and I think in this particular instance, when you have clear population growth of minorities up to

that one third point and you have six districts, I think you need to do everything you can to make sure there are two minority districts in there.

SENATOR HEWITT: As long as those two minority districts would function as a minority district, right? And so, we talked about that, so they would perform as a minority district and we talked about that some during the Senate Bill debate yesterday.

SENATOR LUNEAU: And I understand that concept too. But that's really a big moving target because how do you actually know that until after a vote is taken and the numbers were tabulated. So there's not a method by which you could use that as the as the controlling criteria.

SENATOR HEWITT: Well, I think you do have some data in terms of past elections, you know, that people that are way smarter than me used to model that to try to predict that --

SENATOR LUNEAU: And that is true and one of the things that we see is that when minorities are moved into a district where they can elect somebody, their numbers of that participation go up as well.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay. All right, Senator Foil. Thank you.

SENATOR FOIL: Thank you madam chair, Senator Luneau, just one or two questions on proposed District No. 5 that goes all the way down to East Baton Rouge, which is my area of course. Looks like the population of that district just doing a quick read would be more concentrated in the Northwestern part of the state. So probably, at least numbers wise, you're looking to the congressman from Shreveport or Bossier representing Baton Rouge and I understand what you're trying to do, you're trying to create some more opportunities for minorities to get elected. But as far as five is concerned, is there any other common factors or factors that you considered when you drew that district?

SENATOR LUNEAU: Well, there are many common factors and I'm going to tell you this, one thing is, there's always winners and losers in every district you pick because there's going to be a population base in one of these cities, and one parish is going to be greater than the others and they're going to have an advantage. That's just the nature of every single different we draw. Now, the compactness factors that like I told you there will be some folks talked about that earlier or one of the things you look at when you're trying to figure out, whether

that's fair to do this. And two of the three factors that are recognized this is the most compact map that's been offered. I'm not going to dispute that sometimes there are winners and losers like we talked about and look I've been the been the recipient for that of a long time so I can understand where you're coming from.

SENATOR FOIL: And I appreciate your efforts, it's just a concern of mine from my area of the state, but thank you madam chair.

SENATOR HEWITT: You're very welcome, senator. All right, the board is clear. So just for the purposes of the public. I don't know, if I said this already, you know, where the way I plan on managing the agenda today is slightly different than we did yesterday. So we're going to hear from Senator Luneau, as he has just presented his Bill. We are not going to take action on any of those bills at this point in time. We will jump to the Senate bills that we heard yesterday, the two senate bills, then we'll finish the other congressional bills that are on the agenda and then just, you know, to see what the interest of the committee is in terms of acting on congressional bill. So we'll cross that bridge when we get to it.

[00:15:06]

That will be at the end of the day, public testimony will also all happen at the end of the day so it would be after the -- to think about that, my original plan was to do it after all the congressional bills are passed. I guess if there are any cards on senate bills, I will hear those after both of the senate bills are considered. Okay.

SENATOR LUNEAU: Thank you so much, madam chair for taking me out of order. I really appreciate it.

SENATOR HEWITT: You're welcome senator. Sorry, we got off to a little bit of a slow start again this morning. Lots of technology challenges, but it's all in the spirit of making this a much more transparent process. Yes, so committee --

SENATOR PRICE: What are we doing now?

SENATOR HEWITT: We're going to defer, you know, temporarily, right? We are just going to defer all of these bills that we're hearing today. So would you like to make a motion to do that with Senate Bill 16?

SENATOR PRICE: To defer, we both vote, yes.

SENATOR HEWITT: Yeah, okay, Senator Price is going to defer Senate Bill 16, any objection to doing that? All right. We will defer that. Okay, next bill

1 up is Senate Bill 1, which is a senate map of by
2 President Cortez. Welcome back. Mr. President.
3 PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you, madam chair and
4 members of the committee. When we met yesterday. I
5 had a pre-filed bills, Senate Bill 1 that we --
6 excuse me, adopted a global amendment and I guess I
7 should just go back over the amendments, we adopted
8 yesterday.
9 SENATOR HEWITT: So just for clarity Mr.
10 President, these are -- which set are we looking at?
11 PRESIDENT CORTEZ: The set yesterday, I'm not
12 offering -- asking you to offer up a new set. I just
13 want to reiterate what we did yesterday from the
14 original Senate Bill 1. This committee adopted a
15 global amendment and I'm going to -- I walked
16 everybody through yesterday, I was going to re-walk
17 you through that so we could bring it back to where
18 we are today and then continue from there.
19 SENATOR HEWITT: All right. So staff is that Set
20 44? Okay, so Set 44 in your packet. All right. Thank
21 you.
22 PRESIDENT CORTEZ: We have the map up there?
23 [BACKGROUND NOISE]
24 PRESIDENT CORTEZ: That is one from yesterday. I
25 guess I don't have a particular order. So I'll just

tell you that I'm going to start with the ones that I have in in the stack the Thibodaux, Lafourche area, there was an amendment to take three precincts in the Lafourche Parish near Fourchon that were in Senate District 8 and return them to Senate District 20 where they originally were, that created an overage in Senate District 20. So in order to keep Senate District 20 under its plus or minus 5%, Senate District 21 picked up the precinct and it's a very small precinct, but it has Nicholls State University in it. And also picked up, which was a pickup from Senate District 20 and also picked up what we call a Lafourche Crossing, which was a pickup from Senate District 19 and moved into Senate District 21. So that allowed Senate District 19 to then go pick up a precinct in the Matthews area along the by that precinct right there moved back into Senate District 17. And let me see the 19 and the other thing about that was that it was originally in the baseline meaning, it had been for 10 years in that same district. So, we moved some things back into the districts again for the continuity of representation and also to fix some population issues so that was one part of that global amendment. The Lafourche, Thibodaux area. In the Catahoula, Richmond area.

[00:20:02]

We moved basically Catahoula into District 32 from 34. Again, that was simply to get Catahoula out of District 34. That created a short number in District 34 and so District 34 went and picked up in South Bastrop, a precinct that was in Senate District 33 and that was simply to make the numbers work. So that Senate District 34 would be above the minimum plus or minus. In the Lake Charles area, Senate District 27 again, had represented the Carla area. It's South Calcasieu Parish and South of Sulphur. It had been placed in the original bill, Senate Bill 1 in District 25, and that swap was to put that back in Senate District 27 where it had been for a decade and on the eastern part of Calcasieu Parish to move three precincts into District 27. It was a swap, the eastern part, as you recall. That's the District 25 excuse me, which is currently held by Senator Abraham that's the district that goes east. It goes into Jeff Davis Paris. So these were precincts along the Jeff Davis line. So it made more sense geographically for to be in that district. And so that was a population swap. In the Shreveport area, we had a what I'm going to call a three-way swap where Senator District 38 picked up two precincts in Caddo, precincts 136A and

136B and from District 39 and District 39 picked up one precinct, 122 from 38. So that was just a swap there. In the Shreveport area, we had a case where Senate District 31 picked up four precincts. Precinct 72, 102, 113 and 108 from 38. I believe that's it. That was that portion. That was the Northwest Region. And then we had in the Baton Rouge area, the capital region. There was a two precincts that were previously in Senate District 16 that had been in the original bill, put in Senate District 6, they were returned to the district that had had those for the last 10 years. There was also Senate District 6 picked up three precincts North in the Zachary area that were in Senate District 17 in the map. They were more in line with the Central Area Zachary in Central and in order to fix the population shift for 17, there was one small precinct in West Baton Rouge Parish that was in Senate District 2 that was then moved into Senate District 17. I believe that's the essence of those global amendments from yesterday. So Senate Bill 1 made those changes. We allowed it to lie over to allow everybody to digest those changes in the meantime, yesterday. I also alluded to the fact that many of you had come with some other changes but had gotten to staff after the five

o'clock hour day before. And so today, I believe we're going to have some amendments that are going to be brought in. So what I'd like to do madam chair is if we can offer those up once again, I think I'd like to explain them if it's the pleasure the committee to adopt them, then I'd like to again allow the bill to lie over once again, but I have spoken to you all the members and the staff and this is the last set of committee amendments that we're going to allow to lie over because once we engross the bill then it will come up for debate later on the senate floor and I think the maps will be then sufficiently changed so that the public can see exactly what the committee did and then we'll allow it to lie over and take it up at a later date in the chamber.

[00:25:04]

So we don't want to rush through the process. We want to make sure it's very transparent, but I want to make sure that I explain these and get take any questions you all have to make sure that we understand the reasons why. So with that if there's any questions on what we did yesterday, I'll address those. If not, we can move to the next amendment.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay. All right. I don't see any questions on the board. So at this time, I'll ask staff to distribute the new set of amendments.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Madam chair, I believe we have the map that we can put up on the screen, but I'll walk through the different areas. The first area --

SENATOR HEWITT: Excuse me, one second. This is Set 33 -- sorry 53 for the public, this is Amendment Set 53.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: The first group of amendments that swaps is in Avoyelles Parish area, and this is simply a one precinct change. It takes precinct 6-2A, which after during the filing of Senate Bill 1 was placed in to Senate District 32. That now has been moved into Senate District 28. It's a simple change and Senate District 28 as you can see is predominantly Avoyelles Parish. So this just adds to the Avoyelles Parish. Just North of Simmesport and East of Bordelonville. So it's just one precinct being moved. The set is back to the Caddo area and it's actually a part of those ones that were adopted yesterday. I believe we actually put them all back in to this one. So I'm going to try to add only -- speak only of the new ones, the new precincts, the addition

1 to the Northwest in Shreveport area there or four
2 precincts, precinct 9, 16, 48 and 101 and 129. That's
3 five precincts. They move from 36 and they are placed
4 into 38. One, there are three precincts that are
5 moved from 38. That's 72, 113. And 108 and placed in
6 31 and then precinct 115 moves from 31 into 38 and
7 some of those may be duplicative from yesterday, but
8 I have them on the map so I want to make sure that I
9 talked them back through. I mentioned already the
10 ones 136 and 130A and B up in Caddo, those were part
11 of the amendment yesterday, but they're included in
12 here as well as sort of a global amendment for the
13 Northwest Region. Okay, any questions on that
14 particular one? In that same area, if you go to
15 Desoto Parish. There were five precincts that were in
16 Senate District 31 that are now going to be moved
17 into Senate District 38. That's 31, 32, 34, 46, and
18 49. And again, those were for the last 10 years,
19 currently, in Senate District 31. So they're
20 basically returning to the district that had always
21 had them. That's the Gentilly. Okay, the next area is
22 going to be the most complicated. I think, what I'll
23 do is go to the last amendment, which is the Webster
24 area, Webster Parish. There is a precinct 31 up in
25 Webster Parish that was in 33 that's now going to be

moved into 36 and there are three other precincts 24, 25 and 18 that were in 31 that will be placed into 36.

[00:30:12]

Those are fairly a simple again, point out that Webster Parish was represented by District 36 for the last 10 years, this just moves them back into that district. Okay. So now the major change is down in the Jefferson Parish and Orleans area. So, in the Senate Bill 1, District 7 had been a Westbank Orleans Jefferson District it's the green one up there. In the bill, the original bill, it had needed to pick up population and it picked up population in the central business district on the Eastbank of Orleans, right there. And so it picked up the port of New Orleans, the convention center and all of those precincts right there. There was some concern about that and so this amendment -- and that required, the Senate District 5 to come over to the Westbank and you can see it on the map right there, but it had been an additional area. The other green area that it come down and those were both now part of Senate District 5, this amendment would put that back on the hinted Senate District 7, which is the Westbank District of Orleans and Jefferson and puts only that other area

in District 5 and it replaces the central business district back into that District 5. There are a couple of precincts, small changes, a couple of changes that go from District 7 in the Gretna area back to District 8, right in there they're very small precincts, but they do have population in them. And again, it coincides with the current Westbank Jefferson District 8. In order for District 5 to accept to get these back, District 5 had to give up some population and so Senate District 9 which is the East Jefferson District had to come into Uptown Orleans and pick up five-four precincts I think, four-five precincts right there. There's a little offshoot right there. And so it picked up those precincts. In order for its population to balance, Senate District 9 had to give up some Jefferson Parish precincts to Senate District 10. So, for your purposes, Senate District 9 is currently held by Senator Henry. Senate District 10 is currently held by Senator Talbot. Senator Talbot took these, I believe it's four-five precincts off of Senator Henry's current District. In order for Senator Talbot's District 10 to pick up those, he had to relieve some population to the west and so, there are a couple of precincts that you can see in western

1 part of District 10 that went to District 19 that
2 would be the district held currently by Senator
3 Smith, Senator Gary Smith. He already represented
4 that part of Jefferson Parish near the airport. So
5 these are contiguous to that. So it's right outside
6 of that area that he already represented. There is
7 one precinct in Senate District 8 that Senate
8 District 8 gave up to District 19 and that's precinct
9 150, that's a big precinct geographically over by the
10 Waggaman area. If you go to the east in New Orleans,
11 you will see that there were a couple of precincts
12 that were currently in Senate District 1 that get
13 switched and moved into Senate District 3 and some in
14 Senate District 3 that get moved into Senate District
15 1. That's a just a swap of three precincts from one
16 into three and one precinct or two precincts into
17 three.
18 [00:35:10]
19 I do believe we have one Senate District 4, is
20 that one of the chain as well, no. Okay, so we
21 maintained -- there are a couple of swaps from four
22 to three, I know Senator Harris, I don't know the
23 exact area, but I'm going to say it's in the Gentilly
24 area that were in three that go to four and some that
25 were in four that go to three, that would be near --

1 looks like it near the -- I don't know what is wrong
2 with these. So in essence those are just some swaps
3 to make numbers work out, literally all the way to
4 the Westbank and then you have on the Westbank Senate
5 District 7, picks up a large portion of Plaquemines
6 Parish that was currently in Senate District 8.
7 That's a lot of moving parts and I'm happy to go back
8 over that, all of that with you. There's one piece
9 that I haven't mentioned and that's Senator Price in
10 order for Senator Gary Smith's district to pick up
11 the population, he had to lose some population and
12 so, there is a precinct in St. John that goes from
13 Senator Gary Smith's district into Senator Price's
14 current district, Senate District 2. So that's just
15 one small precinct over there, 4-14. Many of these
16 moves were to accommodate population overages or
17 unders to allow for them to take it. The initial move
18 was the lack of compactness in Senate District 5
19 caused this. As you recall in the initial bill,
20 Senate District 5 came across to the Westbank and had
21 always been traditionally a centric Eastbank, New
22 Orleans District. I mentioned yesterday through the
23 gentrification, there's been a lot of people moved
24 back to New Orleans, but a largest percentage of
25 those are white people. And so, in order for the

minority candidate and the minority district to have an opportunity like the candidate of their choice, we needed to create a higher VAP voter at age population in the minority group. To do that, we had to relieve some of the population in the Uptown which this reflects and had to go across to the Westbank to pick up some population. Now, that's kind of where it's at, if you want to know does the delegation and everybody affected agree with this, I'm going to say that not everybody agrees that this is a perfect deal but what we did was we tried to effectively give everybody as much of their current district as possible for the continuity of representation so that those people who elected him, could re-elect them or un-elect them without making major shifts, that's what the attempt was. It's challenging. It's challenging because many of these are majority-minority districts and they have to be taken care of with certain populations. So that's been the challenge. We work through it. Senate District 5 is currently held by Senator Peterson, Senate District 7 is currently held by Senator Gary Smith. I mean, excuse me, Gary Carter and Senate District 8 is currently held by Senator Pat Connick. Those are the Westbank areas that had to be dealt with and they

affected most of the Eastbank moves. That movement of precincts basically have the ripple effect all the way to St. John Parish. With that, I think that's the global amendment starting from Northwest Louisiana, and Avoyelles and coming all the way down into Orleans.

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you Mr. President. That was a great run through and I know everyone was, you know, tracking that and following the amendment and the maps and everything. So thank you for all that. And it's quite a task again to balance all of those issues, the redistricting principles you're trying to juggle and so, you know, we appreciate your efforts on that.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Again, I'll just reiterate most of the changes that made in all of these global amendments were to put precincts back in their original district for that continuity of representation, along with creating more compactness. That's what the attempt was and we hope that you know, we've met those goals again, there are people still asking for amendments to change precincts here and there but I think at this point madam chair, I think the committee has sufficiently seen these changes and I'm happy to answer any questions.

[00:40:20]

But at this point we could change it into oblivion, you know, if you just keep changing, changing. So I'd like it to lie over, defer it again today, let everybody digest these and then maybe come back and take action on the Senate Map at some point the next day or so and then let it lie over again and then go to the floor action, obviously floor amendments would be allowed and we could discuss the map again with the whole Senate.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay. Alright, let's -- we do have one question from Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Yes. Thank you, madam chair. Mr. President, same as yesterday, these amendments, you had an opportunity to speak to the various senators to see how they felt and they try to work with everyone, is that correct?

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: I did and it seems like every time we would get five or four to be satisfied, one was unsatisfied and you never could quite get at least in the Orleans Jefferson area, a complete 100% agreement, unlike with the other areas of the state where we generally got you know, 200% agreement on the changes in the other areas, again following those tenants and those principles that we've laid out,

that if you had it before, the continuity of representation you ought to be able to get it and this is what drove this one as you recall that whole Eastbank and the port in the CPD and the convention center and all of that was in a district, it was taken out of that district and part of this principle was look, it was in that district, it ought to stay in that district. And so that was what drove the ripple effect of all of these changes.

SENATOR HARRIS: And I also want to put on a record, I mean you did mention something in reference with the population increase in Orleans Parish for everyone on the committee, Orleans Parish picked up some 40,000 people, give or take a hundred and something over that 40,000. As the president mentioned 30,000 of those individuals were white. So we had to move some things around to accommodate the majority-minority districts that we had in the city. I can tell you, it wasn't easy, my map or my VAP went from 58.5 down to 56 something based upon what I just mentioned. But what I can say for this committee is that, as you all know, I've been running up and down this highway for the past two years, trying to figure out how to fix that particular issue. I think we've come very close to fixing that, I wanted to publicly

tell you, thank you for taking the time and working with us on that. But for purposes of this conversation, I just wanted to let everyone know that of the 40,000, 30,000 were white. So all of these shifts that you see around the city are things that we had to do to accommodate the four majority-minority districts that we have in Orleans Parish. Again, it wasn't an easy task however, it's something that needed to be done, and I just wanted to tell you publicly, thank you for taking the time to work with us on that.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Thank you.

SENATOR HEWITT: All right, thank you Senator. All right, I don't see any other questions from the committee. I think what we need to do now, the way this amendment said is drafted 53, it basically would replace the set that we drafted that we have adopted yesterday because it's easier for us to read and not deal with multiple sets of amendments. So right now I would like to move that we reconsider the vote by which we adopted Amendments Set 44 yesterday. So any objection to that? Okay. So seeing no objection, we will reconsider that. Now, I'll move that we adopt Set 53 as the president has just described that we adopt that on Senate Bill 1. Any objection to that?

Okay, so that amendments that is adopted now and so members, you know, to be clear that set that we just discussed replaces the set from yesterday and when you read that, the amendment with the original bill, you will have a clear vision of what we're doing.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: And madam chair, if I could another you know, I mentioned earlier -- not to say that there won't be more committee amendments offered, I just would object to him adding more committee amendments.

[00:45:11]

But the reason I suggested that we defer this bill is in fairness to Senator Price. He has a bill to and I don't, you know, I think it would be only appropriate for him to be able to share his Senate Map. Let you all get that opportunity to ask him questions and then whether you do it at the end of today, if you want take action on these bills later today that's the will of the committee, I just didn't want action on my bill to affect his ability to present his bill.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay, fair enough. All right, so, you know what we have -- sure, question from Senator Price.

SENATOR PRICE: And I appreciate that, I was talking to Senator Harris because now my bill put a New Orleans area, you mirrored your bill and you just made those changes and they're going to want to do the same thing in my bill with those changes. Madam chairman, I don't know what amendment was that, or which one was it but that that's something --

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: It was 53.

SENATOR PRICE: Okay, 53 but the New Orleans area one was part of --

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: We did it as an in global --

SENATOR PRICE: In global.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Yeah. But it is broken out in the amendment. There is an area that's just Jefferson, Orleans, St. John, St. Bernard, I believe.

SENATOR PRICE: Okay. That's what I'd like to do. My bill mirrored his New Orleans area and they've made changes to it so, I like to put that into my bill, those changes, it's going to have to be an amendment to my bill, but we have to work that out.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay, so what you're saying basically we're not ready to take action on your bill yet today or to consider the amendments because we need to make a revision to that?

SENATOR PRICE: Correct.

SENATOR HEWITT: Okay. Point well taken. We are on Senate Bill 1 right now. Staff has reminded me that yesterday, we also did adopt Set 42, Amendment Set 42, was that right? And so we need to similarly move to reconsider the vote by which we adopted Amendment Set 42 because I believe this language is also included in Set 53.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: That was simply technical.

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

SENATOR HEWITT: That was the technical amendment? All right, so is this right, we need to -- all right, so I'm going to move to reconsider the vote by which we adopted Amendment Set 42 yesterday, any objection to that? That was the technical amendment, it's included in the new set. All right, seeing none, we will reconsider that vote. All right, so would you like to take a motion in that we defer as the president has suggested? Senator Milligan moves that we defer Senate Bill 1 to get the public and the members an opportunity to digest and understand the new set of amendment Set 53.

PRESIDENT CORTEZ: Okay, thank you madam chair, thank you members.

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you Mr. President. Lots of paper.

[BACKGROUND NOISE]

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION]

SENATOR HEWITT: Apparently this is a good time for a break. Everyone knows as we are getting ready -- either that or they're all bailing out before I get a chance to present my bill, I'm not sure which. Oh goodness. All right, we're kind of resetting here, the next bill that we will take up will be my congressional bill, Senate Bill 5, Senator Milligan will cheer that effort. So give us just a minute here, we'll take -- we're going to be at ease for about five minutes.

[00:50:35]

TRANSPERFECT

I, Anders Nelson, hereby certify that the document "F884466-louisiana-redistricting" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate transcription from English to English.

Anders Nelson
Project Manager

April 27, 2022