



IL Redistricting Office &lt;ilredistricting@gmail.com&gt;

## Congressional Map 17th District Issue

1 message

**Sam Serven** <sserven@hotmail.com>

Fri, May 27, 2011 at 5:37 PM

To: ilredistricting@gmail.com, redistricting@senatedem.ilga.gov

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Samuel Serven and I reside in rural St. Augustine, IL. I currently reside within the 17th congressional district. I would first like to thank you for the transparency that has been provided in the redistricting process. I attended a Senate hearing in Macomb and voiced my concerns with the current district lines. The google maps you have provided of the proposed districts have been a great help in making the process more transparent to the public.

After reviewing the proposed Senate Bill 1178 congressional districts I feel that progress has been made on the 17th district, but not enough. The proposed 17th district splits two major metropolitan areas. Both Peoria and Rockford have been carved up like Jack-O-Lanterns. I really feel that splitting large cities like these is a disservice to the politicians and the residents. Why should residents of these communities have to once again guess who's district they are in when they need to contact their congressman? Why should multiple congressmen have to be aware of the same issues going on in the same cities? Why should any metropolitan area have multiple congressmen?

These districts are based on population with each congressman representing a certain amount of people. With that in mind I would think that a congressional district would work best with a population that is comprised of similar areas and regions. Splitting communities just does not make sense to me at all. I realize that the residents of these areas may like having multiple congressmen to hear their concerns, but why are their concerns any more important than my concerns? I will probably never have the advantage of having multiple congressmen to voice my local concerns to since I live in a rural area. We are to all be equally represented and by splitting up these large metropolitan areas I feel that I am not able to get the representation that the residents of the metropolitan areas are getting.

One way to fix this that I can see would be to have the 17th district encompass either Rockford or Peoria and their surrounding areas. Please choose one or the other, I do not care which. Then you could adjust the neighboring 16th and 18th districts to balance out the population needed for each district. If the 17th district encompassed Peoria and the surrounding area, the 16th could cover Rockford and the surrounding area, and the 18th could cover more of Bloomington.

The more I look at this proposed map the more times I see large metropolitan areas split up between districts. Please simplify these maps so that our government can work more efficiently and effectively. Thank you for your time on this matter.

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**Additional Submissions****150**