

**Written Testimony Before the Redistricting Committee  
In Macomb, Illinois April 28, 2011**

Submitted By Roberta Lynne Ruben,

Thank you for inviting me to speak before the committee. As you may know, AARP Illinois has no official position on redistricting except that they support the creation of diverse, balanced and equally shaped districts. Given the demographics of our current district, you know that the number of people in Western Illinois is decreasing and aging. The Macomb Area AARP currently has approximately 100 paid members and thousands of unpaid members. There are 1.8 million AARP members in Illinois and the Macomb chapter is the only one covering a geographic area from Moline through Quincy. No other community of 20,000 or more people in Western Illinois currently has active chapters. So I feel I am speaking for all of the Seniors in approximately a 25-mile radius of Macomb.

Our members want to see a district that does not split McDonough County apart in order to reach some arbitrary counting system. Currently, all of the Senior Services we receive are funded or partly-funded through the Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging housed in Moline. It is made up of 10 counties and McDonough is the Southern most County. These services include the following:

- Alternatives for the Older Adult
- Home Delivered Meals Program
- Senior Transportation through "Go West McDonough County Transportation"
- Congregate meal sites in 5 towns Blandensville, Bushnell, Colchester, Industry and Macomb.
- Adult Day Care Services

Most of the Seniors 55 and older living in the 25-mile radius of Macomb see McDonough County as their Hub. McDonough County is the only county in our area that does not have more citizens over 55 living in it than young to middle aged citizens. In conclusion, we are requesting that all of McDonough County remain in the same legislative district: A district in which monies for services such as transportation and highways can be shared between Senior and young people.

A district having a diverse demographic make up.

Thanks you.