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Testimony for Elgin Mayor David Kaptain for the
Senate Redistricting Committee Hearing
April 15, 2021 at 3 p.m.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Elgin is the eighth-largest city in Illinois and is a majority-minority community. All minority groups in Elgin – including African-Americans, Latinx and Asian Americans -- are especially affected by redistricting. Even our large number of senior citizens will feel an impact. Elgin has a growing population of Latinx and Asian residents and that adds to our diversity and our strength. I look forward to working with our lawmakers to reach out to all affected groups and populations during this redistricting process.

Elgin has been fortunate to have highly effective legislators on both sides of the aisle representing the City in Springfield and in Washington, D.C. We are particularly thankful for the leadership in Springfield of State Senator Cristina Castro and State Representative Anna Moeller. We are also represented by Senator Don DeWitte, and Representatives Suzanne Ness and Dan Ugaste.

However, for the City of Elgin, it is important to our residents and our City Council that minority communities in Elgin are not broken up or diluted into different districts to reduce their voting strength and political power. The City will be monitoring the issue of dilution as redistricting legislation is deliberated. We hope that Mayors and city officials have a seat at the table with the Legislature when final districts are carved up.

Sincerely,

David J. Kaptain
Mayor, City of Elgin