

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL TRADES & LABOR ASSEMBLY

AFL-CIO Central Labor Council - McLean, Livingston, Logan & DeWitt Counties, Illinois

Senate Redistricting Committee, March 22, 5 p.m., Peoria Civic Center

Support Redistricting

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Dear Honorable Senators,

Bloomington and Normal are two of the fastest growing and economically stable communities in central Illinois. Yet the community is split into two Senate and two different House districts, both of which encompass large rural areas.

For the low income and working class west and central Bloomington area, the current State Representative lives 30 miles away. If asked to name their state representative, the majority of voters in those neighborhoods could not name this individual, or they would falsely name the person in an adjoining district. An urban neighborhood does not need absentee representation from an elected official 30 miles of cornfield away.

West and central Bloomington are traditionally working class and diverse neighborhoods. There is a mixed population of single family home owners and renters. The area would benefit from a representative who was concerned about job training opportunities, diversity issues, older neighborhood rehabilitation and infrastructure. Being joined to a predominately agricultural district does not serve this population. Agricultural and small town communities deserve representation that reflects their interest. An older, urban area will have different needs. Currently those needs are ignored.

The Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor Assembly (AFL-CIO) is the over 130 year old organization of 31 local unions representing McLean, Livingston, DeWitt and Logan counties. Our membership is diverse in that it covers the construction trades, industrial workers, service employees and public employees. Our unions are also diverse in their membership.

Our request is that Bloomington and Normal be combined into a single House, Senate and Congressional District, instead of the current bifurcated system that creates confusion among voters and leads to representation that is not responsive to the community's needs.

On behalf of Bloomington-Normal Trades and Labor Assembly, IL AFL-CIO



Adam Heenan

Vice President

