Mr. President and Members, I rise today in opposition to SBs 148, 149 and 150. I do not oppose the substance of the maps generated by my colleagues and Senate Republican staff. The products of their work are excellent and meet the legal principals that govern redistricting: equality of population, sensitivity to minority interests and contiguity/compactness of legislative districts. Those efforts are to be commended.

Rather, I object to the process that was used. I do not believe that any one political party be it my party or the Democratic party should draw legislative districts. Rather, I believe that an independent commission should undertake this responsibility that commission's work should then be voted on by each of the Senate and the Assembly. It is that process, and only that process, that will allay fears that one party or another has unfairly influenced the process of legislative redistricting.

Thank you.