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**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 11/11/2011 4:32 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Testimony for redistricting and elections 11/01/11

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> Chairman Lund and committee members,

> I am here today to speak in favor of the National Popular Vote Bill that has passed several States. I said it this way because I want to make it clear to everyone that I am not here today to promote a U.S. Constitutional Amendment that would eliminate the electoral college. I believe the electoral college has and continues to serve us well. I believe the crafters of the Constitution got it right when they placed the election of a President solely in the hands of each States' Legislature. This is one states power that should not be lost.

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> As a State Representative that served on the elections committee for four years I realized the the Constitution not only gave this privilege to each State but with it came the duty as legislators to ask the question on a regular basis, "is the current way we are awarding our electors working for our State?" My conclusion was that the "winner take all" rules that are currently in statute are not working. As it has already been stated, any state that is decidedly red or blue becomes relegated to fly over status. Post conventions both parties focus the majority of their efforts and resources to a few swing states and not only ignore the rest of us they do something far worse, they take the donations collected in our state and spend them in Ohio or Florida. And again, if this was my only complaint I would not be sitting before you today.

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> My greater concern is that not only are these swing states pandered to during the election but once elected Presidents from both parties continue to pander to them at our states expense.

> Here are just a couple examples. From a Republican President, in his first term he pushed for steel tariffs, something that helped swing state PA, but greatly hurts a fly over state like MI that manufactures with steel. When oil was gushing into the Gulf of Mexico, little was heard from our current President when oil was reaching the shores of LA, MS, and AL. However, when it was reported that tar ball had come ashore on a beach in swing state Florida, within a day he was flying to the scene and declaring it a National crisis.

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> To put it simply I would like our State to use it's Constitutionally giving authority to become relevant not only in the Presidential election but in the Presidential policies they push once elected.

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> There are a number of ways states have and can award their electors. I have taken time to look at all of them and to date the one that I believe makes us most relevant is laid out in the National Popular Vote Bill. It protects the Electoral College and our states power to award those electors a different way in the future should we deem it necessary. It means more of the money raised in MI for the election will be spent in MI. It will mean a vote in MI will be just as important as a vote in our neighbor state just to the south of us. It will mean that our great lakes, our manufacturing, and our agriculture will be on a Presidents radar for the first time in years.

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> Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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> Sent from my iPad

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