

Dear:

It's time to end the political gerrymandering of Illinois. The Illinois Reform Commission, appointed by Governor Pat Quinn, had harsh words for Illinois' system of drawing legislative districts, declaring that it "deprives Illinois voters of fair representation" and "regardless of which party wins, the people of Illinois are the losers."

I agree. Currently before the legislature are two Constitutional Amendments which incorporate reforms developed by a broad coalition of good government advocates in Illinois. Unfortunately, the amendments may never come to a vote because legislative leaders fear losing their power and some individual legislators are more concerned about their own political future than about the well-being of Illinois.

I would like to believe that you are not one of those. The best way to show that is to demand a vote on SJR-CA 104 and HJR-CA 56, the measures developed by the League of Women Voters of Illinois and others.

Any alternative that keeps the drawing of legislative district boundaries in the hands of politicians is not real reform. Claiming that Illinois is "different" from other states is a phony rationale to keep the status quo. Being "different" has led to one governor in prison and another about to go on trial.

Having the right to choose our own lawmakers is the very essence of democracy. The current system of government isn't working in Illinois. It's time to try democracy.

Sincerely,