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✓ French highlights lawmaker's point

During House floor debate last week, state Rep. Jack Montoucet, D-Crowley, delivered in French his objections to yet another bill that would split up Acadiana in order to build the necessary population for a congressional district based in another part of Louisiana.



Montoucet

An alligator farmer when not in Baton Rouge, Montoucet later said, also in French, that despite the

"we are one" arguments promoted by sponsors of the several bills that carve up Acadiana, the people living in southwest Louisiana share a history and culture unique to the rest of the country.

State Rep. Truck Gisclair, D-Larose, and Page Cortez, R-Lafayette, then added their opposition, also in French.

In his slow north Louisiana drawl, Democratic state Rep. Jim Fannin, of Jonesboro, asked, "Is he (Montoucet) against the amendment?"

Montoucet replied in French, making a thumbs-down motion to ensure that the English-only representatives understood clearly.