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VIA EMAIL AND MESSENGER

Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel
c/o Clerk of Appellate Courts
305 Minnesota Judicial Center
23 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155-6012

**Re: *Hippert et al. v. Ritchie et al.*
Court File No. A11-152**

Dear Panel:

I have now had an opportunity to review the definition of “metropolitan area” in Minn. Stat. § 200.02, subd. 24. The Hippert Plaintiffs agree that the 11-county definition of “metropolitan area” in Minn. Stat. § 200.02, subd. 24, supports Plaintiffs’ proposal that the redistricting criteria adopted by the Panel should account for the 11-county Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Under Minn. Stat. § 200.02, subd. 24, the 11-county metropolitan area is a determinative factor for the ways in which elections in Minnesota are administered. *See, e.g.*, Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 2. (governing election precincts); Minn. Stat. § 204B.16, subd. 1 (governing polling places); Minn. Stat. § 204C.05, subd. 1a (governing voting hours); Minn. Stat. § 205.175, subd. 2 (governing voting hours). Notably, the legislature adopted the 11-county definition of the metropolitan area in 2005 to replace the outdated definition used to define the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council. *See* Minnesota Session Laws, 2005, Ch. 156 - H.F. No. 1481, art. 6, sec. 13. The legislature’s relatively recent recognition of the 11-county metropolitan area reinforces the importance of defining the metropolitan area for voting matters, as well as the conclusions of the federal OMB and the State Demographer concerning the changing demographics of the state.

Sincerely,



Eric J. Magnuson

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EJM

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