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STATE OF MINNESOTA

SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL

A21-0243  
A21-0546

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Peter S. Wattson, Joseph Mansky,  
Nancy B. Greenwood, Mary E. Kupper,  
Douglas W. Backstrom, and  
James E. Hougas, III, individually  
and on behalf of all citizens and  
voting residents of Minnesota similarly  
situated, and League of Women Voters  
Minnesota,

Plaintiffs,

and

Paul Anderson, Ida Lano, Chuck Brusven,  
Karen Lane, Joel Hineman, Carol Wegner,  
and Daniel Schonhardt,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of  
Minnesota; and Kendra Olson, Carver  
County Elections and Licensing Manager,  
individually and on behalf of all  
Minnesota county chief election officers,

Defendants,

and

Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael  
Arulfo, Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin,  
Garrison O'Keith McMurtrey, Mara Lee Glubka,  
Jeffrey Strand, Danielle Main, and  
Wayne Grimmer,

Plaintiffs,

and

1 **Dr. Bruce Corrie, Shelly Diaz,**  
2 **Alberder Gillespie, Xiongpaoo Lee,**  
3 **Abdirazak Mahboub, Aida Simon,**  
4 **Beatriz Winters, Common Cause,**  
5 **OneMinnesota.org, and Voices for**  
6 **Racial Justice,**

7 **Plaintiff-Intervenors,**

8 **vs.**

9 **Steve Simon, Secretary of State of**  
10 **Minnesota,**

11 **Defendant.**

12 -----

13 On October 18, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., this matter  
14 was duly before the Special Redistricting Panel: Judge  
15 Louise Dovre Bjorkman, Judge Diane Bratvold, Judge Jay  
16 Carlson, Judge Juanita Freeman, and Judge Jodi  
17 Williamson, for hearing at the Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st  
18 Avenue North, Moorhead, Minnesota 56560.

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APPEARANCES and INDEX

**Murray Smart**..... 12  
**Paul Harris**..... 15  
**Lawrence Wohlrabe**..... 18  
**Calvin Benson**..... 21  
**Jeannine Hanson**..... 24  
**Daniel Goeden**..... 25

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1 (The following proceedings were held:)

2 - - -

3 THE CLERK: Please rise. This special  
4 session of the Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel  
5 will now come to order. Judge Bjorkman, Judge Bratvold,  
6 Judge Carlson, Judge Freeman, and Judge Williamson; the  
7 Honorable Louise Dovre Bjorkman presiding.

8 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Please be seated.

9 Good evening. Thank you for being here.

10 We are pleased to be in Moorhead this  
11 evening, and a special welcome and thanks to those who  
12 are observing this evening's hearing by Zoom. We are  
13 glad that the technology affords you the opportunity to  
14 participate with us this evening.

15 We recognize that you have taken time out of  
16 your busy lives to attend this hearing. The  
17 redistricting process occurs only once every ten years  
18 and is important to all Minnesotans, so we appreciate  
19 you being here.

20 My name is Louise Dovre Bjorkman. I'm a  
21 judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and am the  
22 presiding judge of this Special Redistricting Panel.

23 I will ask my colleagues, the other judges  
24 on the panel, to please introduce themselves.

25 JUDGE BRATVOLD: Good evening. My name is

1 Diane Bratvold. I am also a judge on the Minnesota  
2 Court of Appeals, and I sit in St. Paul.

3 JUDGE CARLSON: Jay Carlson. I'm a  
4 District Court Judge chambered in Becker County,  
5 Minnesota, and also a 1972 graduate of Moorhead High.

6 JUDGE WILLIAMSON: Jodi Williamson, Third  
7 Judicial District, chambered in southeastern Minnesota,  
8 in Dodge County.

9 JUDGE FREEMAN: Juanita Freeman, Tenth  
10 Judicial District, chambered in Washington County, in  
11 Stillwater.

12 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Well, before we go  
13 further, I should note that I am the second Spud on this  
14 panel. Who would think you would get two out of your  
15 five judges being Moorhead High graduates?

16 The Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme  
17 Court appointed this panel to adopt congressional and  
18 legislative redistricting plans only in the event that  
19 the Minnesota Legislature does not enact redistricting  
20 plans by the statutory deadline of February 15th, 2022.

21 We recognize that the legislature has been  
22 delayed in starting the work of redistricting because of  
23 delays in the release of the final 2020 census data, and  
24 so we find ourselves in the unusual situation of  
25 conducting parallel redistricting processes. We intend

1 to give the legislature every opportunity to complete  
2 redistricting, but we also must move forward with our  
3 work so that we will be prepared to act, if necessary,  
4 by February 15th.

5           The redrawing of Minnesota's congressional  
6 and legislative districts involves many considerations,  
7 not the least of which is the effects of redistricting  
8 on the people who have a stake in the process, and that  
9 is all the people of this state.

10           Public hearings like this one are central to  
11 the process. Our legislature, like legislatures across  
12 the country, has conducted hearings to receive  
13 information from the public, and prior redistricting  
14 panels have done the same. These hearings enable  
15 members of the public to directly voice their opinions  
16 and concerns and to share local perspectives that will  
17 enhance our understanding of communities across the  
18 state. This participation is truly democracy in action.

19           We are particularly grateful for this  
20 participation during this challenging time. We have  
21 taken various precautions to create safe opportunities  
22 for broad and diverse public engagement. For those  
23 attending public hearings in person, masks are required  
24 at all times, except when you're making an oral  
25 presentation.

1           And I notice there are some that are not  
2 wearing masks, and I know we have extra masks available,  
3 so I would please ask you to go get a mask and please  
4 put it on right now out of respect for each other.

5           This hearing and all other in-person  
6 hearings are being streamed live via Zoom so that  
7 interested members of the public can watch remotely.  
8 And the panel will receive and give full consideration  
9 to written statements from the public. Written  
10 statements must be submitted by October 29th of this  
11 year. For details on how to submit written statements,  
12 please see the panel's web page.

13           We welcome the comments of those who have  
14 registered to speak at this hearing. We will call  
15 speakers one at a time, in the order in which they  
16 appear on the list of confirmed speakers. I suspect we  
17 will have time remaining after those speakers have given  
18 their presentations, and if that is the case, we will  
19 invite others to speak.

20           Our marshal over here will display a clock  
21 to assist in staying within the five-minute time limit  
22 for each speaker.

23           My fellow judges and I will be listening  
24 carefully to each speaker. We may ask questions to  
25 clarify or better understand a speaker's comments, but

1 we are mostly here to listen.

2           When speakers describe particular  
3 communities, we encourage you to reference geographic  
4 markers, such as political subdivisions, landmarks,  
5 rivers, streets, so that we can understand where those  
6 communities are relative to district lines.

7           Our court reporter will take down each  
8 speaker's comments and a transcript will be available on  
9 our web site at a later time.

10           Please be mindful that this is a court  
11 proceeding. With many thanks to the city of Moorhead,  
12 this is our courtroom for the evening.

13           If you have not already done so, please turn  
14 off your cell phone. Cell phones and private recording  
15 devices must be turned off during the entire hearing.  
16 If you need to leave during the proceeding, please try  
17 to do so in between speakers. And please be respectful  
18 of the speakers and those listening by not talking,  
19 adding commentary, or applauding during or after  
20 presentation. And please respect and protect each other  
21 by wearing the mask over your mouth and nose throughout  
22 the session.

23           So I'm going to again ask everyone, please  
24 get a mask. If you don't have one, we have extras in  
25 the back of the room. If you're not willing to put on a



1 mask, you will have to leave the room. So please  
2 cooperate with that and be respectful of each other and  
3 the rest of the group.

4           Again, on behalf of the panel, thank you so  
5 much for your interest in this important matter.

6           And, again, I'm waiting for people to put  
7 masks on, and we're going to wait until you put the  
8 masks on before we have people begin speaking. So  
9 please be respectful of those who are here to speak and  
10 listen by putting your mask on or else please leave.

11           So I would ask that our security people  
12 escort people out if you're not willing to follow  
13 that...

14           (Pause in proceedings.)

15           JUDGE BJORKMAN: Please put the mask on so  
16 we can proceed; otherwise, you can leave. Those are  
17 your choices.

18           (Pause in proceedings.)

19           JUDGE BJORKMAN: All right. We're going to  
20 start with speaker Murray Smart. And I would ask again  
21 for the people who are unwilling to put your masks on to  
22 please leave the room.

23           MURRAY SMART: We good with volume?

24           JUDGE BJORKMAN: We can hear you. We're  
25 just waiting for the people to either come or go.

1                   Please put your masks on.

2                   (Pause in proceedings.)

3                   (Staff member is speaking to the couple who  
4 are refusing to wear masks.)

5                   JUDGE BJORKMAN:    I'll just remind the  
6 people that this is a court proceeding, and masks are  
7 required in all public spaces in court buildings by  
8 order of this panel, by order of the Chief Justice.

9                   So I would ask our law enforcement people to  
10 please remove these people from the room that are  
11 unwilling to put their mask on.

12                   UNIDENTIFIED MALE:    Do you want to hear us  
13 speak?

14                   JUDGE BJORKMAN:    Not without a mask.

15                   UNIDENTIFIED MALE:    You prefaced this  
16 hearing that we are stakeholders, and we are here to  
17 speak.  It wasn't an ultimatum that we have to wear a  
18 mask or leave.

19                   JUDGE BJORKMAN:    Sir, when we issued the  
20 order setting up these public hearings, we made it very  
21 clear that masks would be required just as they are in  
22 courtrooms throughout the state of Minnesota.  It is  
23 your choice to be here, and you need to wear a mask if  
24 you want to be here.  You are welcome to submit written  
25 comments.  We will give full consideration to written

1 comments. And the instructions for filing written  
2 comments are on our web page.

3 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Are you going to force  
4 us to leave?

5 JUDGE BJORKMAN: I'm going to ask you  
6 please to leave, yes --

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: We're not gonna wear  
8 masks.

9 JUDGE BJORKMAN: -- either that or put a  
10 mask on. Please, let's respect the process and the  
11 speakers who have registered to be here and wish to  
12 share their comments with this panel.

13 So please leave and don't make this a  
14 difficult --

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm asking you to  
16 respect us and our religious beliefs, as well as the  
17 position we take when it comes to this hearing and  
18 allowing our voices to be heard.

19 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Your voices can be heard  
20 as long as you have a mask on. When you come up and  
21 speak at the podium, you may take your mask off;  
22 otherwise, it needs to be on. Otherwise, you can leave.

23 (Pause in proceedings.)

24 JUDGE BJORKMAN: All right. I think it's  
25 time for the two of you to leave. And I'm sorry that

1 you choose not to participate tonight.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You're gonna force us  
3 to leave?

4 (Law enforcement escorted the couple out of  
5 the hearing room.)

6 JUDGE BJORKMAN: All right. Now we'll go  
7 forward with the comments of Murray Smart. Welcome.

8 MURRAY SMART: Should I leave this on?

9 JUDGE BJORKMAN: You can take it off, if  
10 you wish to, when you speak.

11 MURRAY SMART: Thank you.

12 Good evening, Your Honors. Thank you for  
13 allowing me to share some thoughts and insights as you  
14 consider the challenge of redistricting for Minnesota  
15 that is fair and equitable.

16 My name is Murray Smart. I'm a lifelong  
17 resident of Minnesota. I have lived in Beardsley, in  
18 Big Stone County, for the past 42 years. I'm a resident  
19 of CD-7, SD-12 and House District 12A.

20 As you know, Minnesota has a proud tradition  
21 of voting. We have led the nation in the past three  
22 election cycles with almost 80 percent of the vote.  
23 This is something we should be proud of and build on.

24 Recently, I heard a politician say, I  
25 represent blank number of people. But do they really?

1 Or do they only represent the certain number of people  
2 in their district? That's the challenge before that.  
3 And I'm directing my comments in general rather than  
4 specific here.

5           So what do we do about that? The League of  
6 Women Voters have three suggestions: One is that every  
7 vote counts and every voice counts; that we should  
8 empower voters; and that cheaters shouldn't win. Things  
9 should be clear, fair, impartial, open, and honest.

10           So how do we measure fairness? I found some  
11 examples from Fair Districts PA. First one, population  
12 density. Does each district have the same number of  
13 people in it? One of the challenges.

14           No. 2, geographic compactness. Is the shape  
15 of each district as regular and simple as possible? Do  
16 we preserve the wholeness of the area.

17           No. 3, community integrity. Are counties,  
18 cities, towns, and other entities kept in a single  
19 district whenever possible? For example, where I live  
20 right now currently, we have a college in Morris,  
21 Minnesota. We need to keep that in one piece.

22           Partisan fairness is No. 4. Do districts  
23 represent voters from all political parties? In other  
24 words, no cracking or packing in the districts that they  
25 represent.

1           No. 5, minimal efficiency gap. Are the  
2 number of wasted votes proportional to the number of  
3 votes cast for each party? In other words, one party  
4 doesn't get too many or one party doesn't get too few.

5           And a 6th one is, is there ethnic and  
6 economic fairness? Does the map have a discriminatory  
7 effect on one group or one party or one group of  
8 citizens? In other words, is there fair representation  
9 of all the people that live in that district?

10           So as you approach this, I ask you to  
11 consider that. Please consider that.

12           So our ultimate goal should be that when a  
13 legislator says they represent blank number of people,  
14 that they truly do fairly and equitably represent all  
15 the voters in their district.

16           So that's something I know you're working  
17 on. I appreciate all your efforts on behalf of us in  
18 the state of Minnesota, and I encourage you to do that.

19           So thank you very much for the opportunity  
20 to speak before you. Any questions for me? (No  
21 response.)

22           JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments  
23 are submitted.

24           MURRAY SMART: Thank you.

25           JUDGE BJORKMAN: Next speaker on our

1 preregistration list is Paul Harris. Good evening and  
2 welcome.

3 PAUL HARRIS: Thank you, yes, for the  
4 opportunity to speak.

5 My name is Paul Harris. I've lived here in  
6 Moorhead for the past 35 years, since I was hired to  
7 teach history by what was then Moorhead State  
8 University.

9 So I want to talk about my city, Moorhead,  
10 which is part of, as you probably know, a fairly sizable  
11 metropolitan area combined with Fargo. In fact, if you  
12 looked down the parking lot when you pulled in here, you  
13 saw the skyline of Fargo. That's how close we are, just  
14 across the Red River. We're really one community in two  
15 different states.

16 As such, the Fargo-Moorhead area is, last I  
17 knew, the largest metropolitan area in the whole span  
18 between Minneapolis and Spokane, Washington. So this  
19 gives a very distinct character to our community as a  
20 larger -- as a matter of fact, Moorhead itself -- and  
21 this is probably not known by even most people that live  
22 in Moorhead -- Moorhead is itself the largest city in  
23 the whole western half of Minnesota.

24 So it's that urban character that I want to  
25 emphasize today and which has given shape to the way

1 that our senate district, Senate District 4, is  
2 configured.

3           You probably can't see this nice map that I  
4 printed out. But this is District 4A, this little piece  
5 here (indicating), but that's because the population  
6 concentration in Moorhead gives us almost enough people  
7 to have a house district of our own. And I'm here to  
8 urge you to keep it that way, that Moorhead should be  
9 kept together as a single house district, with the rest  
10 of our senate district comprising the more rural  
11 portions of our area.

12           This is because the city of Moorhead  
13 constitutes in itself a community of interest. Although  
14 economically we're very much interconnected with our  
15 rural hinterland, we have a very distinct economic  
16 function as providing services and other needs for the  
17 surrounding area.

18           Among those things that we provide is  
19 education. There are three different institutions of  
20 higher education in Moorhead -- well, Concordia College,  
21 in addition to the school that I work for, as well as a  
22 two-year campus of the Minnesota state system. And this  
23 has not only given a distinct economic function to the  
24 city of Moorhead as a provider of education, but also  
25 shapes our culture and gives us a unique identity in



1 that respect as well. Indeed, the educational  
2 institutions in Moorhead are easily the largest employer  
3 if you count the K-12 schools as well.

4 In addition to that, the cultural and  
5 economic communities of interest that are formed here,  
6 we also have some social communities of interest.  
7 There's a growing population of New Americans. And  
8 while they're still a fairly small minority in our  
9 community, they are beginning to find their political  
10 voice in Moorhead politics. And in that sense, to split  
11 them up in any way would be very detrimental to their  
12 interest as an emerging group in our community.

13 So, overall, what I'm asking is simply to be  
14 conservative, to as nearly as possible preserve the  
15 existing configuration of our house and senate districts  
16 in this area. They work very well for us.

17 And speaking for a moment as a historian, I  
18 would note that for the last 20 years this has been  
19 basically the configuration that we've had. People have  
20 come to identify with it; we feel connected to our  
21 neighbors and to our elected representatives in the  
22 districts as they are currently constituted, and I would  
23 urge you to preserve those as much as possible.

24 I know that we are amongst the only areas in  
25 this part of the state that are growing in population.

1 We may need to shrink some. But please shrink in a way  
2 that is consistent with the overall objective of  
3 maintaining the status quo and maintaining compactness.  
4 (Timer sounded.)

5 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Perfect timing. Thank  
6 you. Your comments are submitted.

7 Our next speaker is Lawrence Wohlrabe. Good  
8 evening and welcome.

9 LAWRENCE WOHLRABE: Thank you.

10 My name is Lawrence Wohlrabe, and I reside  
11 here in Moorhead with my wife. We have lived here 18  
12 years. She is a retired social worker; I am a retired  
13 Lutheran pastor, having served almost all of my ministry  
14 in western Minnesota, in the territory that is also  
15 covered by our Seventh Congressional District. My last  
16 position in the ELCA was that I was a regional bishop  
17 for the Lutherans who reside in the 21 counties of  
18 northwestern Minnesota.

19 I'm very glad for this chance to offer  
20 testimony to assist you all in the arduous work of  
21 redistricting. In my comments, please know that I will  
22 simply focus primarily on Minnesota's Fourth Senate  
23 District, senate district, as a community of interest.

24 This district currently encompasses Clay and  
25 Norman Counties, along with four townships, plus the

1 city of Detroit Lakes in Becker County. It is one of  
2 the few senate districts in outstate Minnesota which is  
3 growing in population primarily because of the  
4 population growth that's been happening here in Moorhead  
5 and in Detroit Lakes. Norman County, on the other hand,  
6 is declining in population.

7           As Mr. Harris has noted, education is highly  
8 prized within the Fourth District, which includes  
9 Concordia College, Minnesota State-Moorhead, and both  
10 the Moorhead and Detroit Lakes campuses of M-State, the  
11 Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

12           This Fourth Senate District is bisected by  
13 two U.S. highways: U.S. 75, a two-lane going  
14 north/south through Clay and Norman Counties, and U.S.  
15 Highway 10, a four-lane highway that runs east and west  
16 through Moorhead and Detroit Lakes.

17           It is especially worthy of note that U.S.  
18 Highway 10 has become a major economic corridor  
19 connecting Detroit Lakes and Moorhead -- a linkage that  
20 has only grown more significant since the 2000 census,  
21 after which Becker County to our east and Clay County,  
22 where we are now, were first put together in what is  
23 called Senate District 4.

24           Residents of District 4 have many  
25 opportunities for meaningful, rewarding employment,

1 along with a high quality of life afforded by proximity  
2 to major agricultural, medical, manufacturing, and  
3 shopping centers.

4           The fabric of communal life in District 4 is  
5 nurtured by a high level of engagement, with civic and  
6 service organizations, nonprofit groups, collegiate and  
7 professional sports teams, and numerous religious  
8 organizations, with 90 percent of religious adherence  
9 who identify such in this area being Catholic or  
10 Lutheran.

11           District 4 also offers residents and  
12 visitors an array of vacation and outdoor recreational  
13 opportunities. In the summer months, it's common to see  
14 bumper-to-bumper traffic on U.S. Highway 10 every Friday  
15 evening and every Sunday evening as thousands of North  
16 Dakotans and Minnesotans travel to northern Minnesota's  
17 lovely lake country for fishing, boating, and cabining.

18           Finally, I understand that the redistricting  
19 process may result in moving Norman County into Senate  
20 District 1 north of us to address District 1's  
21 population decline since the 2010 consensus. If that  
22 should happen, I hope that the redistricting process  
23 will add Lake Park and Audubon Townships, including the  
24 towns of Lake Park and Audubon, in Becker County to the  
25 territory of a revised Senate District 4.

1           Doing so would reflect and affirm the  
2 crucial role that the U.S. Highway 10 corridor plays in  
3 linking Clay and Becker Counties as a vibrant community  
4 of interest that is at the heart of Senate District 4.

5           Thank you for this opportunity to share my  
6 thoughts.

7           JUDGE BJORKMAN:    Thank you.  Your comments  
8 are submitted.

9           We've had a couple of speakers who are  
10 unable to be with us tonight, so if there's anyone else  
11 in the audience who has not yet had an opportunity to  
12 make a presentation, you are invited to do so.  Please  
13 come forward.  We will continue to observe the  
14 five-minute time limit.  And please state your name when  
15 you make your comments.

16           CALVIN BENSON:    Hello.  My name is Calvin.  
17 I live right down the road here.

18           JUDGE BJORKMAN:    What is your last name,  
19 Calvin?

20           CALVIN BENSON:    Benson.  I am a lifelong  
21 resident of the state of Minnesota.  I grew up in the  
22 Twin Cities, moved up to NDSU for college.  And after  
23 college, I moved into the middle of the 12th district  
24 along Lake Minnewaska.  Couple years ago I moved back up  
25 here to Moorhead, I've purchased a home, and this has

1 become my home community.

2           In my time and in my work, I have traveled  
3 to basically every small town, township, and community  
4 you will find in northern and western Minnesota. And as  
5 many speakers have pointed out, Moorhead is unique. It  
6 is very different than the rest, as is Detroit Lakes and  
7 Bemidji and many of our other cities.

8           But it's not just geopolitical boundaries  
9 that have made so much of western and northern Minnesota  
10 so unique; it's that our congressional split between the  
11 Seventh and Eighth is also unique. If you look at the  
12 economic split, the Seventh District is an agricultural  
13 community. Whether you're all the way south by  
14 Pipestone or all the way up by Lake of the Woods and  
15 Baudette, you can't go more than a few miles without  
16 finding a working field and a farm and a local community  
17 that thrives off the agriculture within.

18           I ask that when you are drawing the lines  
19 and these borders, that you consider not only the  
20 geopolitical issues in place, but also the economic and  
21 the labor factors that affect each of us here in greater  
22 Minnesota every day.

23           On top of that, I would ask you to consider  
24 doing the least changes possible. Something that our  
25 previous speaker brought up was the idea of wasted

1 votes. And Minnesota's in a unique position where we  
2 are the only house and senate split in the entire  
3 country. And we are also one of only of a couple states  
4 that have perfectly split representation from  
5 congressional districts, four on four. And because of  
6 this, Minnesota is among the most accurately represented  
7 states in both Congress and in the state House and  
8 Senate, where Minnesota is a state along close political  
9 boundaries in left and right terms and both sides have  
10 significant representation at all levels.

11           There have been proposals in the past that  
12 would weaken and eliminate this system. But to deny  
13 these unique and condensed communities that we find  
14 throughout the state the representation that they so  
15 rightfully deserve would be a travesty of this process.

16           Many people have written, calling for  
17 political or policy goals to be made through the  
18 redistricting process. All we need to do is go look at  
19 Maryland or Illinois and the lawsuits coming out of  
20 those cases.

21           What we have in Minnesota is a system that  
22 for the past 10 years, 20 years even, has worked and  
23 it's worked well at representing the vast majority of  
24 people in this state.

25           As a lifelong resident and as somebody who

1 hopes to live here the rest of his life, someone who  
2 loves the state he grew up in and who wants to make a  
3 life here long term, I ask that you keep our history in  
4 mind, make as few changes as necessary. As populations  
5 have changed, so have many of the issues we face. But I  
6 ask you, keep the redistricting process to an issue of  
7 philosophy and representation rather than policy or  
8 politics.

9 Thank you.

10 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments  
11 are submitted.

12 Is there anyone else who wishes to make a  
13 presentation who has not already done so?

14 Please come forward. Welcome.

15 JEANNINE HANSON: Thank you for this  
16 opportunity. My name is Jeannine Hanson. I live right  
17 here in Moorhead. I just have a real short  
18 presentation.

19 During the last redistricting, the court did  
20 a fairly good job of using a strong process that applied  
21 neutral principles and it resulted in fair maps. The  
22 court should should take the same approach this time.

23 It's important to adhere to neutral and  
24 non-partisan principles, maintaining political  
25 subdivisions and compact districts and communities of



1 interest, such as agriculture, mining, lumber, and those  
2 kinds of things. For instance, I believe we need to  
3 group rural communities with other rural communities,  
4 and the same for urban.

5 And that's really all I have. Thank you.

6 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments  
7 are submitted.

8 Is there anyone else who has not already  
9 spoken who wishes to make a presentation? Hearing  
10 none -- Oh, there is someone? Did not see you. Please  
11 come forward. Welcome.

12 DANIEL GOEDEN: Yes. Danny Goeden from  
13 Perham, Minnesota, about an hour and a half drive.

14 COURT REPORTER: Can you spell your last  
15 name for me, please?

16 DANIEL GOEDEN: Yeah. Goeden is spelled  
17 G-o-e-d-e-n.

18 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

19 DANIEL GOEDEN: And I am speaking on  
20 behalf -- or I should say I'm speaking against the idea  
21 of independent redistricting commissions because they --  
22 their idea was to originally -- they were supposed to be  
23 nonpartisan. But what's really, if you look in other  
24 states and usually what's become of them, they're not so  
25 nonpartisan; in fact, they're very partisan. And

1 there's a lot of things that aren't so good about  
2 so-called independent commissions. So I'm basically  
3 speaking out against independent commissions.

4 Thank you.

5 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments  
6 are submitted.

7 Anyone else wish to make a presentation?

8 (No response.) I can't see everybody, but I'm not  
9 getting a sign from the other side of the room.

10 So I think this will conclude our hearing  
11 this evening in Moorhead, Minnesota.

12 On behalf of the panel, I want to thank you  
13 all for coming, for participating, and for providing  
14 information and ideas about your community. Your  
15 contributions will aid us in the work we do in this  
16 redistricting process.

17 We are heartened by the civic engagement we  
18 have witnessed this evening and during our prior public  
19 hearings. We greatly appreciate you taking time out of  
20 your schedule and under these unusual circumstances to  
21 participate in this important work.

22 So with that, I wish you all a good evening.  
23 And we are adjourned.

24 THE CLERK: All rise.

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1           (At 7:06 p.m., the Special Redistricting Panel of  
2 judges left the courtroom and this special session of  
3 the court stood adjourned.)

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1    **STATE OF MINNESOTA**            )  
  )  
2    **COUNTY OF DODGE**             )

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4                                    **CERTIFICATE**

5

6    I, Lane T. Knutson, Registered Professional Reporter  
7    and Official Court Reporter in and for the State of  
8    Minnesota, County of Dodge, Third Judicial District, do  
9    hereby certify that I reported and transcribed the  
10   proceedings herein; and that the transcript contained  
11   on the foregoing pages is a true and correct  
12   transcription of my shorthand notes as reported by me  
13   at the said time and place herein noted.

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16    /s/Lane T. Knutson  
17    Lane T. Knutson, RPR  
18    Official Court Reporter  
19    Dodge County Courthouse  
20    Mantorville, Minnesota 55955  
21    (507) 624-7007

Dated: November 30, 2021.

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