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STATE OF MINNESOTA

December 1, 2021

SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL

**OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS**

A21-0243
A21-0546

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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|----|------------------------------|----|
| 1 | <u>APPEARANCES and INDEX</u> | |
| 2 | Murray Smart..... | 12 |
| 3 | Paul Harris..... | 15 |
| 4 | Lawrence Wohlrabe..... | 18 |
| 5 | Calvin Benson..... | 21 |
| 6 | Jeannine Hanson..... | 24 |
| 7 | Daniel Goeden..... | 25 |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | - - - | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
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1 (The following proceedings were held:)

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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.

25 - - -

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**)
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2 **COUNTY OF DODGE**)

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4 **CERTIFICATE**

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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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