

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

STATE OF MINNESOTA

SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL

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, Xiongpaο 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 26, 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 remote hearing via Zoom.

18 - - -

19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1	<u>APPEARANCES and INDEX</u>	
2	Migdalia Rogers.....	9
3	(with ASL interpreter Patricia McCutcheon)	
4	Patrick Vellia.....	16
5	(with ASL interpreter Rebecca Lukkason and tactile	
6	interpreter Albert Walla)	
7	Brett Ortler.....	19
8	Catherine Kurdziel.....	23
9	Christopher Geisler.....	26
10	Lee Hacklander.....	31
11	Richard Jennis (No Appearance).....	--
12	Linda Sloan.....	34
13	Sarah Stahelin (No Appearance).....	--
14	Karen Saxe.....	38
15	Elizabeth Goodell.....	41
16	Alan Perish (No Appearance).....	--
17	Kathy Geary.....	44
18	Anjuli Cameron (No Appearance).....	--
19	Brenda Rosenhamer (No Appearance).....	--
20	Lisa Noah.....	48
21	May Yang.....	50
22	Anika Robbins.....	55
23	Lorraine Rovig.....	60
24	Kristina Doan.....	63
25	Brett Grant (No Appearance).....	--
	David Clynes.....	66

1 (The following proceedings were held:)

2 - - -

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

8 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Good evening. Thank you
9 for attending our tenth and final public hearing. We
10 recognize that you've taken time out of your busy lives
11 to attend this hearing. The redistricting process
12 occurs only once every ten years and is important to all
13 Minnesotans, so we appreciate your participation.

14 My name is Louise Dovre Bjorkman. I'm a
15 judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals and the
16 presiding judge of the Special Redistricting Panel.

17 I will ask my colleagues, the other judges
18 of the redistricting panel, to introduce themselves.

19 JUDGE BRATVOLD: Good evening. My name is
20 Diane Bratvold. I am a judge on the Minnesota Court of
21 Appeals, and I sit in St. Paul.

22 JUDGE CARLSON: Good evening. Judge Jay
23 Carlson, Seventh Judicial District, chambered in Becker
24 County, Minnesota, which is Detroit Lakes. Thank you.

25 JUDGE WILLIAMSON: Good evening. Jodi

1 Williamson, Third Judicial District in southeastern
2 Minnesota, chambered in Dodge County.

3 JUDGE FREEMAN: Good evening. Judge
4 Juanita Freeman, chambered in the Tenth Judicial
5 District, in Stillwater, Washington County. Good
6 evening, everyone.

7 JUDGE BJORKMAN: The Chief Justice of the
8 Minnesota Supreme Court appointed this panel to adopt
9 congressional and legislative redistricting plans only
10 in the event that the Minnesota Legislature does not do
11 so by the statutory deadline of February 15th, 2022.

12 We recognize that the legislature has been
13 delayed in starting the work of redistricting because of
14 delays in the release of the final 2020 census data, and
15 we find ourselves in the unusual situation of conducting
16 parallel redistricting processes. We do intend to give
17 the legislature every opportunity to complete
18 redistricting, but we must also move forward with our
19 work so that we will be prepared to act, if necessary,
20 by February 15th.

21 The redrawing of Minnesota's congressional
22 and legislative districts involves many considerations,
23 not the least of which is the effects of redistricting
24 on the people who have a stake in this process, and that
25 is the people of this state.

1 Public hearings like this one are central to
2 the redistricting process. Our legislature, like
3 legislatures across the country, has conducted hearings
4 to receive information from the public, and prior
5 redistricting panels such as this one have done the
6 same. These hearings enable members of the public to
7 directly voice their opinions and concerns and to share
8 local perspectives that will enhance our understanding
9 of communities across the state. This participation is
10 truly democracy in action.

11 We are particularly grateful for this
12 participation during this challenging time. We have
13 taken various precautions to create safe opportunities
14 for broad and diverse public engagement.

15 Tonight's hearing is taking place by Zoom.
16 We welcome the comments of those who have registered to
17 speak at this hearing. We will call speakers one at a
18 time, in the order in which they appear on the list of
19 confirmed speakers. They will be asked to start their
20 videos and unmute themselves when their name is called.
21 Our Zoom format allows only registered speakers to offer
22 comments. The Zoom video, audio, and chat features will
23 not be available for individuals who are not registered
24 to speak, but the panel will receive and give full
25 consideration to written statements from the public.

1 Written statements must be submitted by this Friday,
2 October 29th. For details on how to submit written
3 statements, please see the panel's web page.

4 During this hearing, as you can see, our
5 marshal will display a clock to assist us in staying
6 within the five-minute time limit for each speaker.

7 My fellow judges and I will be listening
8 carefully to each speaker. We may ask questions to
9 clarify or better understand a speaker's comments, but
10 we are mostly here to listen.

11 When speakers describe particular
12 communities, we encourage them to reference geographic
13 markers, such as political subdivisions, landmarks,
14 bodies of water or streets, so that we can understand
15 where those communities are relative to district lines.

16 We have a court reporter who is taking down
17 and will take down each speaker's comments. A
18 transcript will be available on our website at a later
19 time.

20 Please be mindful that this is a court
21 proceeding. Accordingly, cell phones and other private
22 recording devices must be turned off during the hearing.

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

25 We begin with Migdalia Rogers. And I

1 understand that there is an interpreter or interpreters
2 who will be assisting Migdalia Rogers. Is that true? I
3 would ask them to both state their name and indicate the
4 language that they will be interpreting.

5 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: Good evening, Your
6 Honors. The interpreters are Patricia McCutcheon,
7 M-c-C-u-t-c-h-e-o-n. I'm court certified in American
8 Sign Language.

9 Just to let you know, Your Honor, this
10 evening, at the beginning, there was no interpretation
11 to a certain point because there was no access. I was
12 not able to manage my own video or audio.

13 With that, I'll turn it over to the other
14 interpreter, who is here with me for ease of
15 communication between the two. And, unfortunately, I'll
16 have to unmute that person. Her name is -- her phone
17 number is 1-952-22- -- I believe she's being unmuted
18 now. And she's here with me.

19 JUDGE BJORKMAN: All right.

20 INTERPRETER LUKKASON: Hello, Your Honors.

21 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Hello.

22 INTERPRETER LUKKASON: This is Rebecca
23 Lukkason. Last name L-u-k-k-a-s-o-n. I'm a Minnesota
24 court-rostered interpreter in ASL.

25 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you.

1 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: One moment, Your
2 Honors. (Pause.) Your Honor, the interpreter Becky
3 Lukkason will be voicing for the second person on the
4 list; however, I believe he should be able to have
5 access to be able to see Migdalia's testimony. Is that
6 correct, Patrick Vellia? I just want to make sure
7 access is there.

8 JUDGE BJORKMAN: We will take a moment and
9 make sure that that is working. And you will note that
10 I have asked the marshal to put seven minutes on our
11 timer, understanding there may be some delay in
12 connection with the interpretation. So when we are
13 ready with the other interpreter, we will be ready for
14 Migdalia Rogers' comments.

15 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: (Pause.) The
16 interpreter's checking with Ms. Rogers. She can see me;
17 I can see her.

18 JUDGE BJORKMAN: You may proceed.

19 MIGDALIA ROGERS: Good evening, your
20 honorable members of the panel. My name is -- Excuse
21 me. I'm sorry.

22 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: We'll wait.

23 MIGDALIA ROGERS: (Pause.) Thank you.

24 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: Go ahead.

25 MIGDALIA ROGERS: My name is Migdalia

1 Rogers. I am a Deaf Hispanic woman who resides in the
2 metro area. I'm representing Deaf Equity, a nonprofit
3 organization that serves Deaf, DeafBlind, and the Hard
4 of Hearing communities. Thank you for taking the time
5 to hear me today.

6 I'm here because I want to be sure that our
7 community of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing are
8 not overlooked in the redistricting process. I ask that
9 you consider the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing
10 populations as a community of interest. We will also be
11 submitting maps that showcase these communities of
12 interest all across Minnesota, and we ask that our
13 communities and their interests be preserved when you
14 draw district lines.

15 Twenty percent of Minnesotans have some
16 degree of hearing loss. One percent of all Deaf people
17 sign. Minnesota is one of the top places for Deaf,
18 DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing people to live. Compared
19 to other states, we have better programs, job
20 opportunities, interpreting services and access to
21 these. We have a better chance of having a good quality
22 of life and we are a community of culture, with many of
23 us sharing the same language: American Sign Language.

24 We have a rich history here in Minnesota and
25 in a rich community of deaf schools, services, programs,

1 and many of our members who are part of the work force.
2 Minnesota interpreting programs and services are ahead
3 of many other states.

4 We are unique in the fact that while we may
5 not all live in one area, we use and share some of the
6 same services. You will see on our maps that many of us
7 who live in greater Minnesota will do so close to
8 services. The majority of our people live in the metro
9 area so that they have access to these services and
10 certified and qualified interpreters.

11 There are a few barriers. There are still
12 barriers in the Twin Cities and far greater barriers in
13 rural Minnesota.

14 When doing our mapping sessions, we gathered
15 information and input from our community who also
16 identifies with BIPOC, LGBTQI+. We have gathered
17 important information at these sessions that we would
18 like to share. Here are some examples of what we've
19 shared:

20 Lack of access. For example, public safety
21 during the riots, protests, George Floyd, and COVID-19.

22 Lack of access to public transportation,
23 metro mobility, light rail and information when the
24 shutdown happened. Information where to go, what to do,
25 and where this information was communicated.

1 Lack of access with the pandemic. Hospital
2 interpreters, hospital care with COVID-19, shots, rules
3 of hospital prevented communication with others. Fear
4 surrounding mask wearing, not being able to communicate,
5 not being able to lip-read, not sure if we were going to
6 get in trouble.

7 All the maps have stories behind them and I
8 can't share them all. But I will share one important
9 point: University Avenue. Services, job opportunities,
10 accessible programs that serve our community and access
11 through interpreters all reside mostly in the metro
12 area. The light rail along University Avenue connects
13 more than ten services, programs, and others that serve
14 our community in our language of American Sign Language
15 or tactile communication or providing accommodations.

16 Our sessions implied that the light rail is
17 a lifeline for us. Why? Many of the community members
18 use public transportation. Many service programs and
19 our members have established their businesses or move
20 closer to this very long street because of access to
21 transportation, services, and programs.

22 This leads me to my next point: This
23 lifeline. Here's an example of the impact: When it was
24 shut down due to protests, riots, or COVID-19, many of
25 our members were left in the dark. Access to

1 information was missing. Many had no way to get home.
2 COVID hit, the bus routes were limited, and only a few
3 could get on. Some of our DeafBlind community members
4 would sit or stand outside waiting in line, waiting for
5 hours for access. So my colleague, Patrick, who you
6 will be hearing from next, will expand more on that.

7 This was difficult as many were without
8 access and getting supplies they needed to survive.
9 Many of us were not considered when creating a safety
10 plan. Many of us lacked the information we needed to be
11 safe or did not know where to find information that was
12 accessible to us in our language. We had to navigate
13 the challenges wearing masks, trying to communicate as
14 it added additional barriers and increased our fear and
15 our isolation.

16 When some of us got sick with COVID-19, not
17 knowing what was happening, we ended up in the hospitals
18 often without interpreters, not having access to our
19 first language, resulting in a lot of fear and isolation
20 in the home, afraid of what would happen if we went to
21 the doctor again.

22 These are just some examples. I wish I
23 could share more. But I want to bring attention to the
24 map again to show we have many community members that
25 live in other rural areas, such as Faribault, for

1 example, because of the School for the Deaf; or choose
2 to live in suburban areas because of affordable housing.
3 But services are mostly in the Twin Cities metro area.
4 Various fear and lack of transportation and limitations
5 of services, so needs are not met.

6 As you can see in the maps, we live
7 everywhere and we too have more options that we need
8 more public transportation and housing options and
9 services that are provided not only in the Twin Cities
10 but all areas that our community lives.

11 Please take time to view our maps and our
12 work with Unity Maps, which reflects our community,
13 similar to us experiencing the same challenges in the
14 same areas.

15 When considering your redistricting lines,
16 please remember our community, the programs, services
17 that make our community a great, unique part of the
18 state of Minnesota and help us to preserve our
19 historical building, such as the oldest Deaf club on
20 Marshall Avenue, our deaf schools; and we want to
21 continue to live our enriched lives here in the great
22 state of Minnesota.

23 Thank you.

24 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
25 are submitted.

1 We will next hear from Patrick Vellia, who I
2 understand also has an interpreter. So I would ask the
3 interpreter to please identify himself and indicate the
4 language you are interpreting.

5 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: One moment,
6 please. We'll be switching interpreters.

7 (Pause in the proceedings.)

8 INTERPRETER LUKKASON: Okay. Wonderful.
9 Thank you so much, Your Honor.

10 JUDGE BJORKMAN: All right. Then we again
11 have an interpreter for Patrick Vellia. If you could
12 please state your name and identify the language you are
13 interpreting.

14 INTERPRETER LUKKASON: Yes. This is
15 Rebecca Lukkason. I am a Minnesota court-rostered
16 interpreter in American Sign Language.

17 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. And who is the
18 interpreter with Patrick Vellia? We also need that
19 person's name as verification.

20 INTERPRETER LUKKASON: Yes. That person is
21 saying yes.

22 INTERPRETER WALLA: This is Albert; last
23 name Walla, W-a-l-l-a. I'm a certified Deaf interpreter
24 working within the court and I am court rostered as
25 well. Thank you, Your Honor.

1 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you.

2 Patrick Vellia, welcome. Good evening. And
3 you may proceed with your comments.

4 PATRICK VELLIA: Hello. And good evening,
5 everybody, Your Honors. My name is Patrick Vellia. I
6 am a DeafBlind community member.

7 I'm here this evening because I participated
8 in the mappings and the discussions with Deaf Equity,
9 and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to talk to
10 you all this evening and to give this testimony. My
11 testimony will focus on the DeafBlind community, which
12 is a fairly large community.

13 Really, here in Minnesota, it is one of the
14 top two to three places to live. Many people are moving
15 here because of the better services that Minnesota
16 provides compared to other states. Although we have a
17 lot of services, there is still a lot of work that needs
18 to be done.

19 As a DeafBlind person, when deciding to move
20 to Minnesota, I moved here because of the services. The
21 first thing I had to do was find an affordable place to
22 live which would be accessible to public transportation,
23 by bus or light rail.

24 When Migdalia was talking about the services
25 of the light rail, that's what I use as a DeafBlind

1 individual. However, on that light rail route, many of
2 the homes are not affordable, nor are they accessible.

3 When COVID-19 and the pandemic hit, there
4 was a lot of isolation. There was no access to services
5 due to the pandemic. So there was the communication
6 access for interpreters, as you can see here.

7 INTERPRETER LUKKASON: The interpreter is
8 just alerting him he has four minutes.

9 PATRICK VELLIA: When I use a bus system or
10 a light rail system, I need to have some sort of app to
11 be able to navigate if routes are open or closed or
12 delayed. And on the light rail track on University
13 Avenue, as Migdalia said, there are so many businesses
14 along that light rail line on University Avenue. It is
15 a great place to get on and off; it's easy to get on and
16 off. However, I have experienced a few problems and
17 things that I do feel need to be addressed.

18 The blue and green line both have the
19 painting lines. I can't see which they are. I can't
20 see what's written on there. I can't see the colors on
21 the bottom of the step, the blue line or the green line.
22 So currently I have a card that will help me ask people
23 for help.

24 But another area that needs some improvement
25 is the skyway. With COVID, the pandemic, and the

1 protests that were happening, with the light rail that
2 was temporarily closed or something -- you know, I work
3 at Target Center. And at seven o'clock at night I
4 typically take the skyway, but it's closed, which means
5 that I have to walk through the street -- in the dark,
6 on the street, walking home a couple blocks. So as you
7 can see, I wouldn't feel -- the skyway is more safe
8 feeling for me because it is inside and not outside,
9 especially during those specific times.

10 Housing is another piece that I would like
11 to address. I moved here specifically because of the
12 services and programs that are provided. The thing
13 that's very important is affordable housing. I live in
14 downtown Minneapolis, where housing is not always
15 affordable, so people utilize the light rail system to
16 get to and from work to the houses that they can afford.
17 And we need more affordable housing near the light rail
18 system, as well as houses need to become more
19 accessible; for example, fire alarms. We need the
20 flashing lights to alert a Deaf individual in the house
21 or a building. Not many of them have the visual fire
22 alarms.

23 So we as DeafBlind individuals must adapt to
24 the sighted architectural designs. The costs are more
25 expensive if you're looking at that. But what it comes

1 down to is services and access and the budgets. And we
2 need to keep people in our area.

3 And so when considering your redistricting
4 lines, please think about the people that live there,
5 their needs, and their barriers. We need to give
6 careful attention to focus on topics that are important
7 to us, like those of safety, transportation, and
8 housing. And we need to have a comprehensive list,
9 whether it's positive, pros and cons of all of the
10 access that we have in order to keep our community safe.

11 Thank you so much, all of Your Honors, for
12 listening to my testimony today.

13 Thank you.

14 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
15 are submitted.

16 Our next presenter is Brett Ortler. Good
17 evening. Welcome.

18 BRETT ORTLER: Hello. Thank you. Thank
19 you to the members of the panel for taking the time to
20 hear my testimony.

21 I'm a Coon Rapids resident and I grew up in
22 the district. With Anoka to the north and Fridley to
23 the south, the historic core of Coon Rapids essentially
24 spans the area from U.S. Highway 10 to the Mississippi
25 River. This boundary has its origins in regional

1 history and geography.

2 As the members of the panel may know, the
3 Red River ox cart trails once passed directly through
4 what would become Coon Rapids. In fact, if you've ever
5 been on East River Road or Coon Rapids Boulevard, you've
6 been on the old trails which were once used by fur
7 traders. The ox cart trails, like our modern roads,
8 parallel the eastern side of the Mississippi River. The
9 reason for that is simple: Even today, traveling across
10 the river; say, to reach Champlin, is difficult and
11 inconvenient.

12 The historic core of the city of Coon
13 Rapids, which is again that area between Anoka, Fridley,
14 the Mississippi River and Highway 10, is a
15 self-contained, contiguous area that is the home to all
16 of the institutions necessary for a community --
17 commercial establishments, such as Riverdale; great
18 parks and schools, including both Coon Rapids High
19 School and Anoka-Ramsey Community College; hospital
20 services at Mercy; and transportation hubs, whether it's
21 ready access to the park-and-rides, the wider metro bus
22 system or Highway 10. We can even see this on the ZIP
23 code map. The borders of the 55433 ZIP code, where I
24 am, perfectly match the borders described above.

25 Currently, however, the area described above

1 is divided between three state house districts and two
2 senate districts. In particular, my current house
3 district, 36A, covers territory in Coon Rapids, where I
4 live and spend the vast majority of my time, and
5 Champlin -- a place that few folks in Coon Rapids
6 regularly visit.

7 In fact, to show how geographically
8 disconnected my district is, I just pulled up directions
9 from Google Maps and I'd actually have to leave Coon
10 Rapids and, thusly, my state house district, pass
11 through Anoka and cross the Mississippi River to get to
12 the portion on the western side of the river. Having my
13 district splintered like this is a lot more important
14 than the issue of transportation.

15 Coon Rapids is an important city with nearly
16 63,000 people as of the last census, though currently we
17 don't have a dedicated representative for much of our
18 area. Instead, we have a number of representatives.
19 Then it makes it much harder for our community to have a
20 dedicated voice in the legislature.

21 For that reason, I'd recommend that the
22 panel draft a state house district that accurately
23 represents the civic life of Coon Rapids and the
24 on-the-ground realities of the city. Such a district
25 would reflect the tried-and-true geographical realities

1 of the area, encompass the entire geographical and
2 historical core of Coon Rapids, and enable Coon Rapids
3 residents to have a district that reflects our thriving
4 and growing community.

5 If the panel wishes to expand the district
6 beyond the historical core of Coon Rapids, I would
7 recommend following the old ox cart roads further to the
8 southeast into Fridley or Blaine. Here again, geography
9 is destiny, so to speak. The communities are similar
10 demographically and are much more alike than different.
11 In fact, portions of northern Fridley and eastern Blaine
12 are actually in the Coon Rapids High School attendance
13 area.

14 If a Mississippi River crossing is required
15 for a district, the best option, in my view, would be
16 for it to occur in Brooklyn Park, which is linked to
17 Coon Rapids via bridge instead of Champlin.
18 Geographically -- and, again, in terms of demographics
19 and income -- Anoka seems a much more natural pairing
20 for Champlin. As it happens, those two cities are
21 linked by a bridge and they even share a fire
22 department.

23 All right. Well, thank you for the
24 opportunity to testify before the panel and for the
25 important work that you are all doing.

1 Thank you.

2 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
3 are submitted.

4 We will next hear from Catherine Kurdziel.
5 I apologize if I mispronounced your last name. Welcome.
6 Good evening.

7 CATHERINE KURDZIEL: Honorable court
8 members, thank you for the opportunity to share my
9 comments regarding the city of Coon Rapids and the Third
10 Congressional District.

11 My name is Catherine Kurdziel, and I have
12 lived in Coon Rapids for 43 years. When we moved here,
13 all of Coon Rapids was represented in the Minnesota
14 house and senate with individuals who lived in the city
15 they represented, the city of Coon Rapids.

16 Since that time, redistricting has sliced
17 and diced our Coon Rapids community, dividing us into
18 four different Minnesota house districts and three
19 Minnesota senate districts. Currently, only one state
20 senator and one state house representative live in the
21 city of Coon Rapids.

22 During the same redistricting time, Coon
23 Rapids has been represented by three different
24 congressional districts: The Seventh Congressional
25 District, the Eighth Congressional District, and now

1 well represented by the Third Congressional District.

2 I am here today to ask that consideration be
3 given to put the city of Coon Rapids back together and
4 for Coon Rapids to remain in the Third Congressional
5 District. These are my reasons:

6 I live in a Minnesota house district where
7 only three precincts are located in Coon Rapids. The
8 majority of the precincts are located in Andover. The
9 city of Andover is in CD-6; the Coon Rapids precincts
10 are located and well-served in CD-3.

11 When we go about our daily life, we look to
12 the city of Coon Rapids. Our shopping hubs: Northdale,
13 Riverdale serve the Coon Rapids community. Our health
14 providers: dentists, health clinics, our hospital, all
15 located in Coon Rapids. Our schools: elementary,
16 middle, high school, our community college, located in
17 Coon Rapids. Our transportation hubs: the Foley Park
18 and Ride, the Northstar station, located in Coon Rapids.
19 Our recreation areas: Crooked Lake beach, Coon Rapids
20 Dam, Spring Lake Park Nature Center, hiking, biking
21 trails and many community parks, all located in Coon
22 Rapids. In our time of need for fire, rescue, police,
23 we look for assistance from the city of Coon Rapids.

24 Coon Rapids is a densely populated suburb.
25 They would benefit from a congressional district with

1 similar suburban neighborhoods, such as CD-3, ones that
2 reflect the racial, ethnic, income, age, occupation, and
3 educational diversity within the Coon Rapids community.

4 In other words, the Coon Rapids demographics
5 and their communities of interest are more closely
6 aligned with the suburbs to the south and the southwest,
7 such as Fridley and Brooklyn Park in CD-3, rather than
8 the rural, exurban areas to the north and northwest,
9 such as Andover and Ramsey in CD-6.

10 The Coon Rapids communities are well-served
11 in CD-3. Placing these diverse Coon Rapids communities
12 of interest within CD-6 may not only diminish but could
13 extinguish their voices.

14 As I stated, I am here today to ask that
15 consideration be given to put the city of Coon Rapids
16 back together and for Coon Rapids to remain in the Third
17 Congressional District. This will create a unified
18 Minnesota house and senate district that can speak as
19 one voice along with the Third Congressional District in
20 representing the needs specific to our diverse
21 population and communities of interest.

22 Thank you.

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

25 We will next hear from Christopher Geisler.

1 Good evening. Welcome.

2 CHRISTOPHER GEISLER: Good evening, Your
3 Honors.

4 My name is Christopher Geisler. I'm here in
5 my capacity as a resident of Coon Rapids. I wanted to
6 provide a little context in addition to my fellow
7 citizens' and neighbors' information here.

8 When comparing Coon Rapids to its peer
9 cities around the state, the next 15 larger cities in
10 Minnesota all have at least one representative whose
11 district is comprised of 80 percent or more of the
12 citizens from the city they represent. Coon Rapids'
13 largest share of a representative is only 55, or a
14 difference of 11,000 citizens. For a city of over
15 60,000 people, we have been disadvantaged compared to
16 our peer cities by lacking a singular voice for our city
17 in either chamber.

18 With the current districts, it wasn't until
19 2018 that we even had a representative living in the
20 city of Coon Rapids in both chambers of the legislature.
21 The changes made in 2010 shifted Coon Rapids away from a
22 consolidated voice and have divided up our city's and
23 citizens' ability to advocate for themselves in a
24 cohesive manner at the legislature.

25 But why is this so important to us? Simply

1 put, more and more projects around the city require some
2 level of legislative support to become a reality due to
3 rising project costs and maturing infrastructure.

4 I also happen to represent Coon Rapids and
5 many other cities of Anoka County as a citizen member of
6 the Transportation Advisory Board of the Metropolitan
7 Council, where I've been serving since 2017.

8 A common refrain I hear from every elected
9 member on that body, city and county alike, is how any
10 significant project in their district requires support
11 from the legislature. Even MnDOT is talking about their
12 financial needs for replacement and maintenance of
13 existing infrastructure.

14 With almost two-million vehicle miles a day
15 traveling within and through Coon Rapids, maintaining
16 this infrastructure requires a consolidated and focused
17 support within the legislature, and we are lacking that
18 singular voice.

19 As you heard before, Coon Rapids serves as a
20 significant economic hub with the Riverdale Shopping
21 Center drawing in shoppers from all of our surrounding
22 cities, and is home to some primary transportation
23 routes along the Mississippi corridor. Highway 10
24 bisects the city on a southeast/northwest alignment
25 along with Highway 610 connecting us to Brooklyn Park

1 across the river, and 125th Avenue/Main Street serving
2 as an east/west connector from Anoka through Coon Rapids
3 to Blaine.

4 But how should the city be represented when
5 it's larger than one house seat? From my experience
6 serving as a planning commissioner as well here in the
7 city of Coon Rapids, I can tell you that the overall
8 city design utilizes these very same transportation
9 corridors for urban planning and, as such, divides the
10 city in a similar way that a natural boundary would and
11 provides some clear guidance for this.

12 If you live along the Coon Rapids Boulevard
13 alignment, you will typically use that road as your
14 primary transportation channel and those businesses,
15 likewise for the Highway 10 transportation corridor.
16 The layout of the city provides a very clear north/south
17 split along these corridors.

18 But another point I would raise here, you'll
19 notice that nowhere in this conversation have I talked
20 about our connections to the city of Champlin, which is
21 part of the legislative district where I reside, and
22 that is for a simple reason: You can't get there.

23 I live about as close to Champlin as you can
24 get while living in the city of Coon Rapids. The
25 nearest home is only 990 feet away from me. It is,

1 however, across the Mississippi River, which is
2 obviously a significant barrier to transportation.

3 To get to that same house I can see from my
4 backyard, it is a 15-minute, nine-mile trip through
5 either the cities of Anoka or Brooklyn Park. In that
6 same distance, I could also make my way through Blaine
7 and into Circle Pines or I could travel through Anoka
8 and reach Ramsey.

9 It is a simple, practical matter that
10 Champlin is in no way a destination for someone living
11 in Coon Rapids. Champlin is not a neighboring city in
12 this respect since you can't get there unless you want
13 to hop on a boat or go for a swim.

14 When it comes to transportation and commerce
15 interests, Coon Rapids shares much more in common with
16 its southerly and easterly neighbors of Fridley and
17 Spring Lake Park and Blaine than it does with Champlin.
18 Realistically, the only shared interest we have with
19 Champlin is that of the Anoka-Hennepin School District.

20 Speaking of school districts, many families
21 that I know take into special account the boundaries of
22 the school district when considering where they want to
23 live and where they want to raise their family. As a
24 matter of fact, that's why I live in the district in
25 where I do.

1 When it comes to defining legislative
2 boundaries, it would make some logical sense to follow
3 these local district boundaries of school districts
4 since citizens are already in tune with them when
5 considering where they want to live and where they want
6 to be.

7 I ask Your Honors to consider a
8 representation when looking at redistricting. I hope
9 that when you can more closely align a representation
10 with our population, transportation, and commercial
11 needs and with the current house districts that span
12 county lines and the major barrier, the Mississippi, is
13 exceedingly difficult for the citizens of Coon Rapids to
14 participate with our representatives from across the
15 river.

16 Thank you for your time.

17 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
18 are submitted.

19 Our next speaker is Lee Hacklander.

20 Yes. The interpreter has a question?

21 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: Your Honors, the
22 interpreters have identified that all three individuals
23 that have requested interpreting services has logged
24 off. With your permission, we will go ahead and leave
25 the meeting, unless you would like us to continue.

1 JUDGE BJORKMAN: No, that would be fine.

2 Thank you for your service.

3 INTERPRETER McCUTCHEON: Thank you. Good
4 evening.

5 JUDGE BJORKMAN: We are ready for your
6 comments, Mr. Hacklander. Good evening. You will need
7 to unmute yourself.

8 LEE HACKLANDER: There we go; now it works.
9 Okay. Thank you.

10 Good evening, Madam Chair, Your Honors. My
11 name is Lee Hacklander. My wife, Mary France, and I
12 live in Prior Lake, Minnesota. We're residents of Scott
13 County. I'm a family law attorney practicing in Savage.

14 We're asking today that Scott County be
15 recognized as a community of interest with western
16 Carver County given their distinct geographical and
17 demographic roots.

18 I believe western Carver County and Scott
19 County should be drawn together in the Sixth
20 Congressional District. Scott County is one of
21 Minnesota's fastest growing counties. Valley Fair or
22 Canterbury Downs may be what come to mind when people
23 think of Scott County, but for us it's the natural
24 beauty that gives the county its distinct
25 characteristic.

1 This is one of the most important things
2 here that ties it to Carver County: Scott and Carver
3 County share a partial claim to one of the most
4 essential parts of the Minnesota Valley National
5 Wildlife Refuge, a federally maintained public land.
6 These lakes and ponds are surrounded by increased rare
7 flood plain forest and is one of only 14 urban wildlife
8 refuges in the entire United States. With this beauty
9 comes a great responsibility to maintain and protect the
10 area from further pollution and urban sprawl. In that
11 mission, I see western Carver and Scott County deeply
12 linked to protecting the area, making them part of the
13 community of interest.

14 While lumber, fur trading, and farming
15 brought settlers to the banks of the Minnesota River in
16 the 1700s, today it's the growing tech sector that
17 drives people to our area. Businesses like Amazon,
18 Shutterfly and Cyber Power Systems are just down a road
19 from where I live. Amazon, the SMSC, Mystic Lake
20 Casino, Valley Fair and Canterbury Downs are all very
21 large employers in our area and draw workers from all
22 over Scott and Carver Counties.

23 It's the growth of Minneapolis and St. Paul
24 that drives people to our counties. Our fast suburban
25 growth is typically attributed to professionals working

1 in the Twin Cities and commuting to our communities in
2 search of the comforts of smaller communities that both
3 of our counties provide.

4 It's easy to see how similar Scott County is
5 to western Carver County. Scott County's significant
6 growth and the change that's come with it show how
7 separate it is from the more rural, agricultural parts
8 of the southern core of our state that Scott County has
9 typically shared federal representation with, at least
10 up until now.

11 Put another way, the differing congressional
12 districts cutting and weaving throughout the south metro
13 have given people a lot of confusion over the years.
14 It's in the interest of alleviating some of that
15 confusion that I ask that Scott County be considered as
16 part of an essential community of interest with the
17 Sixth Congressional District with our neighbors in
18 western Carver County, who already have that
19 designation, so that they may be linked in the way that
20 the residents of these areas already know them to be.
21 It makes much more sense to include Scott County with
22 western Carver County moving forward.

23 Thank you for your consideration of these
24 matters. Good evening.

25 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments

1 are submitted.

2 We will next hear from Richard Jennis.

3 (Pause.) Do we have Richard Jennis? (No response.)

4 The next registered speaker is Linda Sloan.

5 Good evening and welcome.

6 LINDA SLOAN: Good evening. Good evening.

7 Good evening, Your Honors.

8 For the record, my name is Linda Sloan, and
9 I'm the Executive Director of the Council for
10 Minnesotans of African Heritage, normally called CMAH.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today
12 about African Heritage communities and the redistricting
13 process in Minnesota.

14 CMAH believes that our state's district maps
15 should not dilute the collective power and voice of
16 African Heritage people in Minnesota. Our council asks
17 that districts are drawn in a way that allows African
18 Heritage people and other communities of interest to
19 have equal representation in our political system.

20 The African Heritage community is considered
21 to be anyone of African descent. It consists of
22 African-Americans and African immigrants. Currently,
23 there are approximately 363,000 individuals that make up
24 the African Heritage population.

25 The African Heritage economy of Minnesota is

1 estimated at \$14 billion, which includes income and then
2 also residential real estate. We pay \$80 million in
3 monthly rental payments and contribute at least \$800
4 million in state and local taxes. There are over 20,000
5 Black-owned businesses, with an annual payroll of a half
6 a billion dollars. And we provide 21,000 jobs to the
7 community. We are an economic engine helping to drive
8 the labor force and growth in the Minnesota economy.

9 African Heritage communities are heavily
10 concentrated in the Twin Cities metro area, but there
11 are African Heritage communities throughout greater
12 Minnesota. The presence and vibrancy of people of
13 African Heritage in rural Minnesota should also not be
14 discounted or underestimated. There are greater
15 Minnesota communities that actually self-identify as
16 having significant African Heritage populations as in
17 St. Louis and Rice Counties.

18 The different segments of the African
19 Heritage communities in Minnesota have been heavily and
20 uniquely shaped by the impact of racial discrimination
21 and social marginalization of our people both inside and
22 outside the state.

23 African-American communities settled in
24 Minnesota as they fled slavery and Jim Crow violence
25 throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. These

1 communities continue to struggle against employment and
2 housing discrimination and racial violence here in
3 Minnesota.

4 New African immigrant communities have found
5 refuge in Minnesota as they have fled civil war and also
6 social marginalization in their countries of origin.
7 Unfortunately, these immigrant communities face the same
8 structural disadvantage as others in the African
9 Heritage community.

10 Our council urges you to ensure that
11 district maps amplify the voices of our African Heritage
12 communities and empower equal participation and
13 representation in our state's electoral and political
14 processes. All individuals must be equally represented
15 in the redistricting process, regardless of race,
16 ethnicity, age, or how they vote. This isn't an
17 idealistic concept; this is actually a right.

18 It is no secret that leadership
19 representation in the political process leads to
20 community empowerment, individuals who feel a part of
21 the democracy, who know that their voice will be heard
22 in various discussions regarding jobs, quality health
23 care, and equitable education -- everything that matters
24 and affects their quality of life.

25 Why is this important? The Minnesota labor

1 force is projected to slow further over the next ten
2 years. The minority population will be a major
3 contributor to the economic health of the state of
4 Minnesota. Black, Indigenous, Minnesotans of color,
5 BIPOC communities are the fastest growing population,
6 representing 21.4 percent of the state. And of that,
7 over eight percent of the state population is of African
8 Heritage. This growth trend is expected to continue
9 over the next decade.

10 Our council believes that district maps that
11 protect the community cohesion of African Heritage
12 people are critically important for the economic and
13 political well-being of our state.

14 Again, thank you for the opportunity to
15 speak with you today. It has been my pleasure. Have a
16 good evening.

17 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
18 are submitted.

19 Our next presenter is Sarah Stahelin. Sarah
20 Stahelin? (No response.) We will come back to that
21 name later.

22 It appears that Richard Jennis, who I called
23 on a bit ago, has joined us. And if you are ready to
24 proceed, you should turn on your camera and unmute
25 yourself. Good evening. You may proceed with your

1 comments. (Pause.) We seem to have lost him again.
2 There he is. Okay. Think you need to unmute yourself.
3 (Pause.) All right. You're still muted. (Pause.)
4 Perhaps you should leave the meeting and reconnect and
5 maybe you could join us in a bit.

6 I think we will go on to the next speaker.
7 And, again, hopefully Mr. Jennis will be able to join
8 us.

9 The next person on our list is Karen Saxe.
10 Good evening. Welcome.

11 KAREN SAXE: Good evening, Your Honors.
12 You can hear me, I trust.

13 I'm a registered voter in Minnesota and
14 taught math for about 30 years at Macalester College.
15 Currently, I'm Associate Executive Director of the
16 American Mathematical Society. I've taught courses,
17 given talks at colleges and universities across the
18 country, written scholarly papers and media pieces on
19 redistricting.

20 Tonight I'm going to focus my comments on
21 the role of compactness in redistricting.

22 The term "compactness" sounds intuitive, but
23 it's rather complicated. This complexity is evidenced
24 by the fact that scholars have developed almost a
25 hundred different measures. Scholars, as well as state

1 line drawers and courts, have been unable to settle on a
2 gold standard measure. In fact, there can be no best
3 measure. Different compactness measures produce varied
4 and often conflicting results.

5 In 2011, the Minnesota Special Redistricting
6 Panel looked to eight measures to assess compactness.
7 Two used were the Polsby-Popper and the Schwartzberg
8 measures. These both reward circles and only circles
9 with a perfect score, and this is a problem because you
10 can't cover an entire state with 8 or 67 or 134
11 non-overlapping circles. Also, there's never a reason
12 to use both of these.

13 If you rank a hundred districts from most
14 compact to least compact using Polsby-Popper and then
15 rank the same hundred districts from most compact to
16 least compact using Schwartzberg, the two lists will be
17 identical every time. Using both measures effectively
18 doubles the impact of each measure while adding no new
19 information.

20 I do agree it's best to use more than one
21 compactness measure. But when choosing among different
22 measures, it's important to understand what each
23 actually evaluates and how each favors an artificial
24 shape or size.

25 Compactness measures can be played. For

1 example, the eastern borders of Minnesota's First and
2 Second Congressional Districts are the Mississippi River
3 shoreline. These shoreline boundaries could be replaced
4 by straight lines running down the middle of the river,
5 and following these straight lines would shorten the
6 district's perimeters and thus generate what would be
7 considered better compactness scores without actually
8 changing anything meaningful about the districts.

9 The upshot is that when redistricters use
10 natural boundaries, like rivers, mountain ranges or
11 state borders, districts' compactness scores are
12 affected. When evaluating compactness, it's important
13 to understand how, when, and why compactness may need to
14 yield to other important considerations.

15 As a final example and to illustrate another
16 reason it's important to use compactness measures
17 carefully, consider Massachusetts Congressional District
18 Nine. This district is the one that includes Cape Cod
19 and sticks out into the Atlantic. It's shaped roughly
20 like the letter "C."

21 If this district were placed in the middle
22 of Minnesota, it would look and really would be not
23 compact; it would appear to have been gerrymandered for
24 some purpose. However, in its correct setting in
25 Massachusetts, the state's geography easily justifies

1 the low compactness scores.

2 In conclusion, compactness is extremely
3 interesting to academics like myself but very difficult
4 to apply appropriately in the real world. It's
5 important to use compactness as maps are drawn for use
6 in Minnesota, but it's more important that the panel
7 understand what compactness measures are truly measuring
8 and whether what is being measured is actually important
9 in the redistricting process.

10 As a result, in my view, the panel should be
11 cautious in using compactness measures and should
12 neither fetishize any one measure of compactness nor
13 prioritize compactness over other redistricting
14 criteria.

15 I am grateful for the opportunity to present
16 tonight. Thank you for your attention.

17 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
18 are submitted.

19 We will next hear from Elizabeth Goodell.
20 Good evening and welcome.

21 ELIZABETH GOODELL: Good evening, Your
22 Honors. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before
23 your committee, and thank you for taking on this very
24 important responsibility. And I want to add that it's
25 been a pleasure to hear from other other citizens of

1 Minnesota tonight. It's really quite educational, and I
2 thank them as well as you.

3 My name is Elizabeth Goodell. I am speaking
4 tonight in favor of the city of Northfield remaining
5 wholly within District 2.

6 Northfield has a population just under
7 21,000 and is part of Rice County, but is also very
8 connected to Dakota County to the north and is very
9 different from the rest of Rice County, which is more
10 rural.

11 The city of Northfield is in the far
12 northern part of Rice County. The city boundaries
13 themselves extend into Dakota County. Ideally, we would
14 want to keep Northfield in the same district as Dakota
15 County, even if that meant that the rest of Rice County
16 were to remain in another district as it is now.

17 There are important ties between Northfield
18 and Dakota County, in the southern suburbs of the Twin
19 Cities, that should be recognized.

20 I work in Minneapolis. Many of my friends
21 and acquaintances make that commute to or from
22 Minneapolis for work. Northfield Hospital is actually
23 located in Dakota County rather than in Rice and has
24 clinics located in Lakeville and Farmington, further
25 north in Dakota County. Dakota Prairie Adult Basic

1 Education is an adult education program that is shared
2 between the cities of Northfield and Farmington, with
3 classes held here at the Northfield Community Education
4 Center.

5 Northfield is also the home of Carlton
6 College and St. Olaf College, and the colleges look to
7 the Twin Cities for jobs and internship opportunities
8 for their students, with many staff and faculty also
9 making that commute from the Twin Cities.

10 Additionally, our beloved Malt-O-Meal plant,
11 which is an economic hub in town and makes the whole
12 city of Northfield smell like cookies, was bought by
13 Post Consumer Brands, which are headquartered in
14 Lakeville, in 2015.

15 So the city is very connected to Dakota
16 County and the Twin Cities suburbs to the north. I-35
17 and Highway 3 provide a relatively quick commute into
18 the Twin Cities and other communities in Dakota County.

19 Over the years, Northfield has historically
20 been kept together in one district and that district has
21 been the second. After the 2000 redistricting, the
22 entire county was in the second district; after the 2010
23 redistricting, the county was split, but the northern
24 part, including Northfield, remained in the second
25 district, with the rest of the county in the first

1 district.

2 In general, our community is very connected
3 to the suburbs and to Dakota County to the north and is
4 a better fit for the suburban second district as opposed
5 to a more rural first district.

6 Thank you for your time and for considering
7 my testimony.

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

10 Our next speaker is Alan Perish. (Pause.)
11 Does not look like we have Alan Perish.

12 The next person then would be Kathy Geary.
13 Kathy Geary? Good evening. Welcome.

14 KATHY GEARY: Okay. Do you have me now?

15 JUDGE BJORKMAN: We have you. Good
16 evening.

17 KATHY GEARY: Thank you. Good evening, and
18 thank you so much. Good evening, Your Honors.

19 My name is Kathy Geary. I'm from Becker,
20 Minnesota -- that's not Becker County -- that's in
21 Sherburne County. I have a little map here that shows a
22 reference of where it is here.

23 And I'm here tonight to talk about the
24 problems that we have in House Districts 15A; and mine,
25 Benton-Sherburne-Wright 15B. Together, they make up

1 Senate District 15, which itself is in two congressional
2 districts, District 6 and District 8 -- a cause for much
3 confusion and concern over the past years.

4 Over the last decade, there's been a decline
5 in involvement in the districts. Why? Well, the last
6 redistricting dramatically altered the makeup of the
7 districts. The sense of comradery and community were
8 lost with unfamiliarity of people and fragmented borders
9 that made little sense to us.

10 The diverse economic and cultural situations
11 caused a lack of commonality of purpose. Counties,
12 cities, and even neighborhoods were divided into
13 different districts, so residents have been continually
14 confused about where they belong.

15 Priorities and goals change with the new
16 configurations. People disengage out of confusion and
17 frustration and, frankly, out of anger at being divided
18 in such an arbitrary manner.

19 Likewise, there have been geographic
20 challenges with the current configuration, and these are
21 very frustrating. And I have a large map here. I don't
22 know if you can see it or not, but we'll try.

23 House District 15A includes portions of
24 Sherburne and Kanabec Counties and all of Mille Lacs
25 County and also the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe up here at

1 Lake Mille Lacs. There is not one cohesive 15A unit;
2 rather, each county in 15A meets as its own group -- a
3 cause for problems just in itself.

4 There are all or parts of eight different
5 school districts, plus the Ojibwe's own K-12 school.
6 There are 37 precincts in two different congressional
7 districts. The cultural differences and economic
8 disparities make relevant representation very difficult.
9 Maximally, it's about 45 miles long from north to south
10 and about 25 miles wide at its widest, and that is about
11 700 square miles -- a lot of territory to cover.

12 The four precincts at the southern tip here
13 are in 15B and CD-6, but they're considered 15A for
14 election purposes, which is in CD-8. This continues to
15 be confusing and frustrating and a mystery to us after
16 ten years, and we still aren't sure that we've got it
17 right.

18 BSW-15B -- in the green here -- has portions
19 of Benton, Sherburne, a sliver of Wright County and,
20 mysteriously, two precincts of Morrison County up here,
21 which is in CD-8 also. The rest of BSW-15 is in CD-6.
22 It's about 35 miles long at its maximum and about 25
23 miles wide, also about 700 square miles. There are 30
24 precincts, but the two from Morrison County that I
25 showed you meet with the Morrison County group and we

1 have never even met any of them. So there's a lack of
2 cohesion there.

3 There are parts of nine school districts in
4 our district. Unfortunately, both the cities of
5 Royalton and Princeton are in two different house
6 districts. Princeton is even in two different CDs,
7 making for much confusion and frustration.

8 Together, 15A and B cover about 1,400 square
9 miles in seven counties, two congressional districts and
10 a Native-American reservation. Various populations and
11 needs. Hard to represent.

12 It would make more sense for us to see the
13 southern portions of 15B and 15A combined. They have
14 more in common with each other and also with the western
15 suburbs and the Highway 10 corridor. The northern
16 portions are more rural in nature.

17 As it is, cultural and economic differences
18 make representation very difficult. So --

19 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Ms. Geary, if you could
20 sum up. Your time has now expired.

21 KATHY GEARY: Okay. Yep. I just am going
22 to say I respectfully request that you consider drawing
23 lines that reflect more commonality, make good sense,
24 and are workable and cohesive.

25 Thank you so much for letting me speak

1 tonight.

2 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
3 are submitted.

4 KATHY GEARY: Thanks.

5 JUDGE BJORKMAN: We will next hear from
6 Anjuli Cameron. Anjuli Cameron? (No response.)

7 We will go next to Brenda Rosenhamer. Do we
8 have Brenda Rosenhamer? (No response.)

9 All right. The next speaker on our list is
10 Lisa Noah. Good evening and welcome.

11 LISA NOAH: Okay. Thank you. Good
12 evening, Your Honors. Thank you for having me.

13 My name is Lisa Noah, and it is an honor to
14 speak to you tonight.

15 I have lived in Eagan, Minnesota, for 35
16 years. My husband and I have a small software business
17 also located in Eagan, and we raised our two children
18 here.

19 My biggest motivator in speaking to you
20 tonight is that I want the districts in Minnesota to be
21 drawn fairly. And as I think about what fair means when
22 drawing congressional districts, I think it means that
23 the districts are drawn so that the people living there
24 are able to elect representatives that reflect
25 themselves and their neighbors.

1 As I think about CD-2, where I live, it is a
2 district that goes from Belle Plain to Wabasha and from
3 South St. Paul to Zumbrota. It is a mixture of small
4 towns, farm country, and suburbs. While we are all part
5 of the great state of Minnesota, we are a community of
6 divergent interests. It is difficult to elect someone
7 who can represent both Eagan and Dundas, both Burnsville
8 and Kenyon.

9 As an Eagan resident, I would like to see
10 the new Second Congressional District be a south
11 suburban district. The suburbs south of Minneapolis and
12 St. Paul are very similar economically, with very
13 similar median incomes and education levels, and with
14 shared jobs, shops, and restaurants.

15 I hope this panel will draw Bloomington into
16 the new Second Congressional District. The south
17 suburbs are a community of mutual interests and deserve
18 fair representation.

19 More locally, I would like to see Senate
20 District 51 stay intact as a combination of Eagan and
21 Burnsville. These two cities have worked well together
22 these past ten years and have a shared feeling of
23 community and common interests. We have worked hard in
24 SD-51 to achieve high voter turnout and have developed a
25 network of neighbors with shared values.

1 We meet regularly to work in our local food
2 shelf and homeless shelter, we've adopted several
3 streets for a twice-a-year cleanup. We have a book
4 club, a movie club, and gather to hear speakers on
5 topics of interest each month.

6 In addition, the local paper, the local
7 newspaper, *Sun This Week*, covers Eagan and Burnsville
8 together, which solidifies us as a community.

9 It would be a shame to break up this
10 neighborhood community that has shared interests and
11 values. SD-51 is within .4 percent of the ideal senate
12 district size, so my hope would be that it could remain
13 unchanged.

14 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
15 testify before you, and thank you for the work you are
16 doing on the redistricting panel.

17 Good night.

18 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
19 are submitted.

20 We will next hear from May Yang. Good
21 evening and welcome.

22 MAY YANG: Hi. Before I go into my
23 testimony, I just wanted to say that Richard Jennis had
24 to leave, but he did submit his testimony via written
25 statement.

1 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you.

2 MAY YANG: Thank you.

3 Good evening, Your Honors.

4 My name is May Yang, and I am testifying in
5 my capacity as the Our Maps MN campaign manager. I want
6 to emphasize the need for a people-centered
7 redistricting process that is transparent, accessible,
8 and inclusive. To accomplish this, I urge that you
9 prioritize the principle of communities of interest and
10 utilize community-developed maps created by Minnesotans
11 to inform how you draw district lines.

12 Our Maps MN is a nonpartisan, grass roots
13 campaign that is committed to a community-focused,
14 accessible, and transparent redistricting process. One
15 of the goals for the campaign is to engage Black,
16 Indigenous, and People of Color communities and other
17 historically underrepresented communities in the
18 redistricting process to achieve honest, responsible,
19 and fair legislative and congressional district maps and
20 legislative maps that reflect community input.

21 Our Maps MN builds on the work of the
22 Minnesota Census Mobilization Partnership, which created
23 a strong infrastructure for civic engagement and
24 partnership between communities, nonprofits, community
25 organizations, and grant makers.

1 These collective efforts helped lead
2 Minnesota to the No. 1 spot in self-response for the
3 2020 census and reached over 1.3 million people. We
4 believe this directly contributed to Minnesota retaining
5 its eighth congressional seat.

6 After an unprecedented effort to ensure that
7 historically undercounted communities were counted, our
8 focus is now ensuring that these communities are fairly
9 represented and reflected in how the lines are drawn.

10 In efforts to ensure fair representation and
11 uplift the interests of historically underrepresented
12 communities in the redistricting process, the Minnesota
13 Council on Foundations partnered with 12 BIPOC-led and
14 serving organizations to develop community of interest
15 maps across the state of Minnesota as part of the Our
16 Maps MN campaign.

17 These organizations are: African Career
18 Education & Resource, Incorporated; the Anika
19 Foundation; Asian-American Organizing Project; CAPI USA;
20 Communities Organizing Latinx Power and Action; Deaf
21 Equity; Hispanic Advocacy and Community Empowerment
22 through Research; Islamic Civic Society of America;
23 Native-American Community Development Institute; Hope
24 through United Communities; Council on American-Islamic
25 Relations; and Voices for Racial Justice. Many of these

1 organizations were involved in the census efforts and
2 have testified as part of the redistricting processes.

3 Together, these leading organizations have
4 participated in and led over 100 hours of training,
5 redistricting education and awareness, community
6 outreach and engagement, listening sessions, and map
7 drawing.

8 These organizations worked with BIPOC
9 communities across Minnesota to produce over 40
10 community of interest maps, accompanied by community
11 stories. Over 400 community members participated in map
12 drawing, more than ten racial and ethnic groups were
13 engaged, and sessions were conducted in over five
14 languages. This not only shows that the community wants
15 to and can be engaged in the redistricting process, but
16 that they can also lead in this process.

17 Additionally, these efforts show that the
18 community fully understands the impact that district
19 lines have for the immediate future and for decades to
20 come. As such, it is critical that these community maps
21 be used to inform how district lines are drawn.

22 All of these maps are viewable online at the
23 Our Maps MN District website. I will include the link
24 and detailed information as part of my original
25 statements.

1 Utilizing these community maps as a basis,
2 the community organizations came together to create a
3 congressional and legislative Unity Map, with the goal
4 of advancing state maps that center community maps and
5 input. The Unity Map reflects the shared interests of
6 multiple communities and demonstrates how these various
7 communities and interests can be simultaneously
8 respected.

9 The group met biweekly throughout the fall
10 to discuss shared interests and values. The members
11 also reviewed multiple geographical areas where their
12 communities of interest overlapped and worked together
13 to identify shared boundaries. The group participated
14 in map-drawing meetings with a GIS professional to
15 produce maps that reflect community interest and meet
16 redistricting principles.

17 The Unity Map will be submitted to the
18 Special Redistricting Panel in the upcoming weeks. This
19 is truly a map created by the people for the people,
20 every day Minnesotans who will be directly impacted by
21 how district lines are drawn.

22 This map was drawn with consideration of the
23 needs of community in mind and especially those that
24 have been historically excluded and left out of the
25 redistricting process. To do right by Minnesotans, we

1 ask that the court panel fully utilize this map during
2 the redistricting process.

3 In summary, I ask that you prioritize
4 preservation and consideration of communities of
5 interest. More specifically, I ask that you reference
6 the maps created by these trusted community leaders and
7 adopt our collective Unity Map when you are drawing the
8 lines.

9 If we want to achieve fair district maps
10 that truly reflect all of Minnesota's communities, it is
11 essential that communities of interest be respected and
12 kept intact, and that the community maps that they've
13 created be prioritized when drawing lines.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify
15 today.

16 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
17 are submitted.

18 Our next speaker is Anika Robbins. Do we
19 have Anika Robbins? There you are. Good evening.
20 Welcome.

21 ANIKA ROBBINS: Good evening, Your Honor.
22 Thank you. Good evening to all of the justices and my
23 fellow comrades. And I will jump right in.

24 My name is Anika Robbins. I'm the President
25 and CEO of the Anika Foundation. We're a nonprofit

1 organization based in north Minneapolis, with a
2 statewide footprint. Our core impact lever center on
3 health equity, civic engagement and economic
4 development.

5 We began this work around redistricting
6 roughly about two and a half years ago as part of the
7 census mobilization project that's previously been
8 mentioned. We engaged in intense relational organizing
9 effort across the state. We partnered with several
10 entities, including Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, city
11 of Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Minneapolis Civil
12 Rights Commission, of which I was the former chair,
13 Minneapolis Parks and Recreation, and the NAACP and
14 Minneapolis Urban League. We engaged extensively,
15 several constituents in Mankato, St. Cloud, Duluth, and
16 Rochester.

17 We reconvened this year with the Our Maps
18 coalition to now look at the data and have conversations
19 in our communities to explore what the mapping and
20 redistricting process might look like for our
21 communities and the potential impacts.

22 Our findings in the three sessions we hosted
23 in north and south Minneapolis and in St. Paul, there
24 were recurring themes, which is place, history, and
25 connections.

1 We also found that in the historic,
2 U.S.-born African-American community, we learned from
3 our elders the signature places, neighborhoods, and
4 people that matter to them: the churches, the schools,
5 the local businesses, popular intersections, media
6 outlets.

7 Representation. We heard how the
8 construction of Interstate 94 destructed the heart of
9 the Black community in south Minneapolis and the
10 historic Rondo neighborhood. And yet despite those
11 disruptions, elements of the communities remain intact
12 to this day.

13 People maintain attachments. They don't see
14 lines. They think in terms of safe, stable places to
15 raise families, quality education, home ownership,
16 promote cultural districts and connections, and access
17 to jobs.

18 We also found the intersectionality of our
19 cultural communities. There are several overlaps
20 throughout the process.

21 So even as the African-American community
22 has grown in areas traditionally African-American, there
23 has been considerable growth of the API and Latinx
24 communities also in these areas. It also suggests
25 shared affinity, interests, and similar cultural values.

1 It also speaks to affordability and access. And,
2 lastly, suggests opportunities for shared growth,
3 development and, again, representation.

4 We have a presentation, a slide show, if you
5 will, that will be submitted to the email provided that
6 includes some of our maps from the mapping sessions
7 through the Our Maps cohort.

8 But some of our recommendations for St. Paul
9 include, in order to avoid retrogression and ensure
10 legacy Black communities can select candidates that best
11 represents their interest, but would also create an
12 opportunity district for the Asian community in
13 northeast St. Paul, you might consider that there is one
14 state house seat where African-Americans are plurality;
15 that is, the Rondo and Frogtown seat. There is 35.5
16 percent African-American community versus 65.5 percent
17 non-White. Population growth matched the state, meaning
18 that it doesn't need to add territory; it can trade it
19 with other seats to enhance the opportunity for API
20 populations to also serve as a plurality in a district.

21 By removing the precincts in the northwest
22 Ward 4, precinct 14 and 15, and the far north Ward 5,
23 precinct 6, they're replacing them with the Capitol
24 region and Payne-Phalen area, it increases the
25 African-American population to 38 percent, while seating

1 plurality White and API districts to -- excuse me --
2 precincts to districts in which they would have the
3 plurality.

4 Our rationale in north Minneapolis.
5 Population growth in north Minneapolis exceeded the
6 state, thus both seats, the current 59A and the northern
7 half and 59B, which contains much of downtown, need to
8 shed population. Due to heavy growth in downtown, the B
9 side has a smaller African-American population and so
10 on.

11 In the interest of time, I'm going to just
12 kind of close out with our final recommendations, and
13 that's simply to keep communities of interest centered
14 in your decision-making. And remember that while
15 district lines may mean something to you, it doesn't to
16 the general population at large. What matters is
17 people, place, and connections. End prison
18 gerrymandering and count prison inmates at their
19 last-known address. This is especially crucial for
20 Hennepin County, which houses over 70 percent of Black
21 men. Comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.

22 And consider also that as our communities
23 evolve, business development is a key aspiration of our
24 collective communities, and consider how new lines can
25 foster growth, eliminate disparities, and increase

1 greater representation for underrepresented communities.

2 I want to thank all of you for listening, my
3 comrades, NAACP Minneapolis, Todd Stump, and the Our
4 Maps coalition.

5 Thank you.

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

8 I don't know if you can see, but I have lost
9 the lighting in the courtroom where I am seated. So I
10 am wondering if Judge Bratvold could call the name of
11 the next listed speaker, if you have that available.

12 JUDGE BRATVOLD: I do have that available.

13 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you.

14 JUDGE BRATVOLD: Let me make sure I do this
15 right. Yes. Our next speaker, I believe, is Lorraine
16 Rovig. Ms. Rovig, it looks like you're ready for us.

17 LORRAINE ROVIG: I am. Thank you, Your
18 Honors.

19 JUDGE BRATVOLD: Welcome.

20 LORRAINE ROVIG: Yes, my name is Lorraine
21 Rovig. I live in the city of Northfield, CD-2, in Rice
22 and Dakota Counties.

23 I believe Northfield should remain in the
24 Second Congressional District. Northfield is a unique
25 community of interest among Minnesota citizens given its

1 location in the state and its foundation around two
2 four-year colleges.

3 There are many pieces of our community that
4 make it different from cities of similar population.
5 Carlton and St. Olaf bring in a wide variety, a wide
6 range of national and international students and faculty
7 to our city. This has always meant a deep connection to
8 the southern suburban area via Interstate 35, which is
9 only seven miles west of us. There is a steady flow of
10 students and professors between us and the Twin Cities.

11 People in our community often travel to the
12 south metro for cultural events, jobs, and other
13 activities that less diverse areas in southern Minnesota
14 do not offer. My personal favorite recreational
15 activities are located in southern Minneapolis, public
16 parks and homes and the suburbs. We have more than
17 Lutheran and Catholic churches. We have places for
18 Buddhists, Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, the Society of
19 Friends, several unaffiliated Christian groups, UCC, and
20 Baptists, and some I don't recall the name of at the
21 moment. We have a variety of food choices beyond bars,
22 pizza, and supper clubs. We have Japanese, Chinese,
23 mixed Asian, organic, several Hispanic and several
24 Italian restaurants and fast-food places and coffee
25 shops.

1 Additionally, nearly ten percent of people
2 in Northfield are Latinx, and many of these people live
3 in mixed-status households.

4 I see us as an important transitional area
5 between the Twin Cities and greater southern Minnesota.

6 Travel. Northfield is connected to the
7 south metro area by the Northfield Lines Bus Company
8 that operates at low cost to connect the people in
9 Northfield to the metro blue line and metro green line
10 as well as the airport and Mall of America. Not only is
11 this an environmentally better alternative to car
12 travel, but it keeps our community connected to the many
13 of our CD-2 neighbors.

14 I believe that cutting Northfield out of the
15 second district would be a mistake. This is not backed
16 by the data. Statistics show that Northfield is much
17 younger than cities in CD-1 like Rochester, and more
18 diverse than other southern Minnesota cities like
19 Mankato and Winona. I believe that logically Northfield
20 fits much better with a district centered on south
21 suburban cities like Eagan and Burnsville.

22 I hope and I recommend that this committee
23 chooses to keep Northfield in the second district, where
24 it has been an essential piece for decades. Thank you.

25 And as an earlier Northfieldian said, we are

1 more urban and we are surrounded by farms and rural
2 interests.

3 Thank you.

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

6 Our next speaker is Kristina Doan. Good
7 evening and welcome.

8 KRISTINA DOAN: Good evening, Your Honors.
9 My name is Kristina Doan, and I'm the Director of Public
10 Policy at CAPI USA. I'm a resident of St. Louis Park
11 and work in Brooklyn Center.

12 I'm here today to make sure my community and
13 communities of color are represented in the
14 redistricting process. I ask that you consider the
15 communities of interest that are nonprofit organization
16 and the Our Maps MN Campaign has identified as you
17 determine the redistricting principles you will utilize
18 to draw our new district lines.

19 For nearly 40 years, CAPI has served
20 thousands of immigrants, refugees, and communities of
21 color through our two multi-service centers in Brooklyn
22 Center and in Minneapolis. Over 60 percent of the
23 people that we serve identify as Hmong and/or southeast
24 Asian, and most of them utilize our food shelf and
25 belong to our senior and caregiver groups.

1 Our organization worked tirelessly to engage
2 historically undercounted Black, Indigenous, and People
3 of Color in the 2020 census, and we naturally see
4 redistricting as an important next step to make sure
5 that our communities are fairly represented and
6 reflected in how the new lines are drawn.

7 We are active community leaders in the Our
8 Maps MN Campaign and are committed to a community focus
9 and accessible redistricting process in our state.

10 To that end, we engaged Minnesota's Asian
11 communities from July to September 2021 to host five
12 community of interest mapping sessions in the Twin
13 Cities. We worked with the Hmong community in north
14 Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park; the Lao
15 community in Brooklyn Park; the Vietnamese, Karen, and
16 Bhutanese community in St. Paul; and the south Asian
17 community in the north, south, and east metro areas.

18 Our specific maps and geographic points have
19 been shared with the court via written submission.

20 For many community members, this is the
21 first time they engaged in redistricting. And
22 overwhelmingly we heard they wanted to be part of this
23 process and wanted to keep their communities together.
24 We were able to bridge language barriers and engage
25 folks in their first languages, including Hmong,

1 Vietnamese, Bhutanese, and Karen, which really made this
2 a truly inclusive process.

3 We produced nine community of interest maps,
4 and these maps were included in the nearly 40 maps that
5 the Our Maps MN Campaign utilized to create a Unity Map.
6 The Unity Map truly represents the shared and
7 overlapping interests of multiple BIPOC communities
8 across the state.

9 For example, our communities of interest
10 maps for the Asian community in the Brooklyn Park and
11 Brooklyn Center geographic regions overlapped with the
12 maps produced by our partners at the African Career &
13 Education Resources to map the African community and the
14 area. Together, we shared our vision to keep our
15 communities together, which is reflected in the Unity
16 Map.

17 We ask that you preserve our communities of
18 interest and prioritize the use of community driven and
19 supported maps. Our communities need fair and
20 transparent district lines that will help close the
21 racial equity gaps in the state.

22 I kindly ask this panel to strongly consider
23 the Unity Map as part of redistricting as it reflects
24 our BIPOC communities.

25 On behalf of CAPI, thank you for the

1 opportunity to engage with you tonight.

2 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you. Your comments
3 are submitted.

4 Our next speaker is Brett Grant. And do we
5 have Brett Grant? (No response.)

6 All right. Then we'll move to David Clynes.
7 David Clynes? Good evening. I'm sorry if I
8 mispronounced your name.

9 DAVID CLYNES: No, that's quite all right.
10 This is amazing.

11 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Well, welcome.

12 DAVID CLYNES: I feel like -- I guess I am
13 it. I feel like the guy with the wheelbarrow and the
14 shovel at the end of the parade. No.

15 Thank you. All of you are being so
16 wonderful listening to our -- our testimonies. It's
17 been a long road for all of you. We're very -- please
18 know the gratitude of Minnesota.

19 My name is David Clynes. I'm a registered
20 professional engineer and a homeowner in the city of
21 Edina. Civil engineer. My family's lived in Edina for
22 50 years. I'm very active in my community, and the key
23 community really matters.

24 I was very impressed with the lady from
25 Becker, with all the confusion that's generated up

1 there. And I know your job is not easy with what you
2 guys have before you. But I wanted to thank you and
3 your judges and your associated support teams for all of
4 your time and patience listening to their testimonies
5 and reviewing the public input of these last couple
6 weeks. Please know your community is grateful.

7 The theme of my presentation is community --
8 I'm looking for the clock there -- are stronger if all
9 residents of that community are from the same geographic
10 district at each level of government. Very similar to
11 what the lady from Becker was discussing and the lady
12 from Eagan and the people from Coon Rapids. Less
13 confusion, less frustration, more participation in the
14 election process.

15 As has been explained in several previous
16 presenters tonight, what has happened in our area is
17 that my fellow Edina residents, some of us are
18 represented in CD-5 and some of us are represented in
19 CD-3. I would suggest that it's better if we were all
20 in one CD, hopefully all in CD-3.

21 Another good example within the same theme
22 would be that in House District 49B includes portions of
23 four different cities: Bloomington, Eden Prairie,
24 Edina, and Minnetonka. I personally am involved heavily
25 with the political process and in trying to encourage

1 candidates to get to participate and to run and then to
2 get constituents to support them.

3 And when the districts cross all these
4 cities, it generates so much confusion that people don't
5 even know what house district they're in, let alone who
6 their city council members are or what a caucus is. And
7 that's a whole nother kettle of fish.

8 But our task -- or your task is to build
9 congressional state, senate, and house districts with
10 equal number of voters. Therefore, as in the case of
11 Edina, in 2010, it's not going to be possible for all
12 our communities to be together. But I would ask that
13 you please keep this the significant guiding principle
14 or goal wherever possible.

15 This is kind of key, I think. There is
16 certainly enough factors in our modern world pulling
17 members of communities apart over which we have little
18 control. Therefore, I feel it's very important that in
19 the areas where we have control, like redistricting
20 effort, that we need to take measures, every measure
21 possible that will not dilute governments but build up
22 communities.

23 I urge you to keep districts compact --
24 interesting what the professor from Macalester
25 mentioned, definitions -- including cities. Minimal

1 adjustments. Please make -- align house districts,
2 senate districts, with city wards. That's another one
3 of concern. And try to reduce the amount of towns and
4 cities that are sliced and diced.

5 A key item that I don't think has been
6 mentioned is that it's difficult to identify and support
7 candidates at different legislative levels when
8 boundaries change as one goes up the ladder, as I say
9 with 49B, for example.

10 We want to encourage participation, reduce
11 confusion that generates apathy -- overwhelmed apathy.
12 And the issues of interest -- the issues of urban
13 Minneapolis, exurban and rural areas of the state are
14 separate and distinct from issues in the interest of the
15 first-ring suburbs. That's the general idea of keeping
16 we all in CD-3 are suburban. Edina and similar suburbs
17 will face unique challenges over the next ten years. We
18 need representation tailored to those needs.
19 Mis-matching in federal -- without that, mis-matching in
20 federal and state funding can occur.

21 How much time do I have left?

22 JUDGE BJORKMAN: You're about out of time.
23 If you have a statement to summarize, you can do that.

24 DAVID CLYNES: Okay. Minnesota is the only
25 state -- the only state with a split state legislature

1 and split congressional delegation for a reason: We
2 allow communities of interest to send people who
3 represent the best. Please continue the tradition of
4 trying and trying hard to keep communities together.

5 Thank you so much for your time. And we are
6 so lucky to have such incredible people like yourselves
7 sitting on the benches and representing us.

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

10 DAVID CLYNES: Okay. Thank you. Do I send
11 this -- do I email you this text? Am I supposed to do
12 that?

13 JUDGE BJORKMAN: You don't have to do
14 anything like that. If you wish to submit a comment in
15 writing, you may do so, but you need to do it by the end
16 of this week, by Friday. Thank you.

17 DAVID CLYNES: You don't have to mention
18 the wheelbarrow. It's just...

19 JUDGE BJORKMAN: Thank you.

20 DAVID CLYNES: Thank you very much for all
21 of your listening.

22 JUDGE BJORKMAN: So I am going to read the
23 names of people that had registered to speak who did not
24 respond earlier just to make sure they did not join the
25 Zoom hearing late.

1 The first person is Sarah Stahelin. (No
2 response.)

3 Then Alan Perish. Is there an Alan Perish
4 who wishes to speak? (No response.)

5 Anjuli Cameron. (No response.)

6 Brenda Rosenhamer. (No response.)

7 Brett Grant. (No response.)

8 All right. It appears that we have heard
9 from all of our registered presenters who are in
10 attendance tonight. So this will conclude our hearing.

11 On behalf of the panel, I want to thank all
12 of you for those who are observing, for those who
13 participated, and for those particularly who provided
14 information and ideas about your community. Your
15 contributions will aid us in the work that we do in this
16 redistricting process.

17 We've been heartened by the civic engagement
18 we've witnessed this evening and during our other nine
19 public hearings that we've conducted across this great
20 state. We greatly appreciate the taking of your time
21 out of your busy schedules and under these unusual
22 circumstances to participate in this important work.

23 With that, I wish everyone a good evening.
24 And we are adjourned.

25

- - -

1 (At 8:04 p.m., the Special Redistricting Panel of
2 judges ended the Zoom hearing and this special session
3 of the court stood adjourned.)

4

- - -

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 STATE OF MINNESOTA)
)
2 COUNTY OF DODGE)

3

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.

14

15

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

Dated: November 30, 2021.

19

20

21

22

23

24

25