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October 23, 2001

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Re: Susan M. Zachman, et al. v. Mary Kiffmeyer, et al.
 Special Redistricting Panel, File No. C0-01-160

Dear Counsel:

Attached is a revised copy of page 4 of Plaintiff-Intervenor Ventura's Statement of Unresolved Issues and Argument in Support of Timetable. This page incorporates the following change in the sentence beginning at the top of page 4:

legislative or other body”) (quoting Chapman, 420 U.S. at 27, 95 S.Ct. at 766). Given this fact, Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 1a (2000) provides an extended timetable for adopting a redistricting plan and states that redistricting plans must be enacted twenty-five (25) weeks before the state’s primary election. In the current redistricting cycle, the statutory deadline under Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 1a is March 19, 2002.

Recognizing the importance of allowing the Legislature the maximum time available to fulfill their responsibility of adopting the state’s redistricting plans, the Special Districting Panel appropriately set the final release of its order and redistricting plan for March 19, 2002.

Although the Zachman Plaintiffs argue that this deadline is not sufficient to “allow enough time for election officials to accomplish the tasks that follow the adoption of new legislative and congressional plans,” this deadline follows a tight schedule for moving forward with the Panel’s redistricting efforts, while allowing the Legislature the maximum opportunity to fulfill its redistricting duties. [Motion to Lift Stay and Appoint Panel, June 8, 2001]. This timetable also permits the Panel to adhere to the primary concern reiterated by Chief Justice Blatz in her July 12, 2001 Order:

While the need to have state legislative and congressional district lines drawn in time for the 2002 election cycle imposes undeniable time constraints on this process, it is important that the primacy of the legislative role in the redistricting process be honored and that the judiciary not be drawn prematurely into that process.

Order of Chief Justice, No. CO-01-160 (Mar. 2, 2001). Under these circumstances, Plaintiff-Intervenor Ventura supports the Panel’s current timetable and requests oral argument on this issue.

III. Adoption of Redistricting Criteria.

As noted, the primary concern in this case is balancing the primacy of the Legislature with the statutory requirement that a redistricting plan shall be in place no later than March 19, 2001. [Order, Minnesota Special Redistricting Panel, October 9, 2001]. Given this concern, the

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