



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

January 8, 2002

Office of the Mayor

R. T. Rybak
Mayor

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Special Redistricting Panel
c/o Edward Toussaint Jr.,
Chief Judge
Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Constitution Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55155-6102

Re: Zachman v. Kiffmeyer, No. C0-01-160 (Minn. Special Redistricting Panel)

Dear Chief Judge Toussaint and Panel:

I have learned that an interview I gave last month to the "Almanac" television program, on which I appeared with then-Mayor-Elect Randy Kelly of St. Paul, is being used out of context in support of a congressional redistricting plan—the Zachman Plan—that packs Minneapolis and St. Paul into a single congressional district. I oppose such a plan.

Minneapolis and St. Paul are distinct communities with different characters and interests. While I look forward to working with Mayor Kelly on issues of common interest, there are many areas where both cities' interests are not the same, and no single voice can speak effectively in the Congress for both cities at the same time.

Furthermore, I understand that the Zachman Plan cracks Minneapolis between two congressional districts, and Hennepin County among three districts. No neighborhood in Minneapolis has more in common with a city outside Minneapolis than it does with other neighborhoods within Minneapolis, and no neighborhood in Minneapolis belongs in a different congressional district than any other neighborhood in Minneapolis. The neighborhoods in southwestern Minneapolis that the Zachman Plan carves out are being forced into an unnatural district purely for partisan political reasons.

Finally, to the extent that there are "urban" interests in the Twin Cities that are distinct from those of their suburbs, I would rather let two representatives with two votes advocate those interests than one representative with only one vote. That arrangement has prevailed for more than a century, and has served the Twin Cities well. There is no valid reason for packing Minneapolis and St. Paul into a single congressional district in drawing the new congressional districts.

Thank you very much. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R.T. Rybak", written in a cursive style.

R.T. Rybak
Mayor

cc: Brian J. Asleson
John D. French/Brian Melendez
Alan I. Gilbert/Mark B. Levinger
Timothy D. Kelly
Marianne D. Short/Michael Jurgens
Alan W. Weinblatt