



CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Randy C. Kelly, Mayor

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January 10, 2002

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

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

Dear Chief Judge Toussaint and Panel:


I oppose any congressional redistricting plan that packs Saint Paul into the same congressional district as Minneapolis. I have just learned that an interview I gave last month to Erik Eskola, of the "Almanac" television program, is being used out of context in support of such a plan, the Zachman Plan.

If 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. Packing Saint Paul into the same congressional district with Minneapolis will serve only partisan political purposes.

As I said in the interview, I look forward to working with Minneapolis on issues of common interest. But there are many areas where both cities' interests are not the same—enough interests that no single voice can speak effectively in the Congress for both cities at the same time. Saint Paul is a distinct community from Minneapolis, with its own character and interests, which will suffer if both cities are merged into a single congressional district.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Randy Kelly
Mayor

c: 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