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CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
OF WISCONSIN

November 20, 2020

Sheila Reiff
Clerk of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeals
110 East Main St
Suite 215
PO Box 1688
Madison, Wi 53701-1688

If it may please the court, I wish to submit the following in regard to the petition to have the redistricting proposal directly considered by the Supreme Court of Wisconsin. I have previously sent an email through your portal, so this is my written letter to document and to expand my comments.

I believe you should not accept the request. The proposal attempts to replace the political process with judicial legislating. I doubt that any justice accepts that. To do so would obviate the checks and balances intended by our state and federal constitution. The legislature legislates, the governor exercises his power to sign or to veto legislation, and if asked, the courts rule on questions of law. The effort to end run the process replaces that process with government "of some of the people, by some of the people, and for some of the people." This is not the America that Lincoln spoke of and that we all want.

Importantly, by denying the request, you will place pressure on both parties to develop a better method of drawing districts, such as a bipartisan commission that has been used in many states.

When we moved to Wisconsin in 1976, my wife and I found a place of collegiality. As newbies, we did not always know which party our politicians represented - but we found they all worked for Wisconsin. Differences of opinion were resolved. There were few dramas. Excepting perhaps when Governor Dreyfus overstepped by suggesting a law requiring a piece of cheese on top of every piece of apple pie sold in the state.

I am sure you do not believe your purpose is to restore a bygone social order. But I hope you find it just and appropriate that the legislative and the executive processes proceed as intended.

An unintended consequence may be to help us define a new politics that works equally for all and encourages our cooperation.

With respect and thanks,

William L Nelson
784 Sunshine Lane
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