

John Hultquist - WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

From: Susan Lynx <lynxwyze@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 8:12 AM
Subject: WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION
Cc: <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>, <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>

Please make this email part of the record of citizen input regarding HF314. I understand that this bill does not allow for an INDEPENDENT redistricting commission. But we need such a commission to avoid either the DFL or the GOP being in charge of rewriting district lines. Thank you.

--

Sincerely,
Susan Lynx
612-940-0906
Minneapolis MN 55406

John Hultquist - no gerrymandering

From: Marcia Nichols <mdnichols210@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 9:45 AM
Subject: no gerrymandering
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Dear Mr. Hultquist,

Please include my email as testimony that Minnesotans do not want more gerrymandering. Gerrymandering is one of the biggest threats to our democracy today. Minnesotans, and all Americans, deserve fair representations, and when district lines are drawn into crazy inkblots in order to create safely red (or blue) districts, our democracy, our people suffer.

Rep. Anderson's proposed bill HF314 is a new attempt at gerrymandering Minnesota even further. HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission to minimize the risk for political gerrymandering. In fact, It says that district compactness can be undermined by keeping communities of "racial, ethnic, geographic, social, or cultural interests." This would seem to be code for political or ideological beliefs, as I can't imagine that the cultural interests would be based on things like favorite TV program or people who prefer theater to ballet.

It is possible to use computer algorithms to create truly compact districts of equitable populations. An independent redistricting commission could oversee such a process.

We, the people, need to be protected from politicians' self-interest. That is why we have created independent committees in the past to protect us from political self-interest in salaries. We need a similar measure for redistricting. It is imperative that all redistricting be done by independent commissions, preferably using the cold logic of computer algorithms.

Thank you,

Marcia Nichols
Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota Rochester

John Hultquist - HF314

From: <blindberg@aol.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 11:16 AM
Subject: HF314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Dear Mr. Hultquist

Please include my email as testimony for HF314.

The bill does not provide for an independent redistricting commission minimizing the risk for political gerrymandering in MN's redistricting process. Safeguard our process from the self-interest of political agendas. An independent committee was created to review the increase to proposed legislator's salaries because of conflicts of self-interest. How is safeguarding the process of your own district lines any different?

Sincerely,

Meg Lindberg
blindberg@aol.com
Minnesota

John Hultquist - HF 314

From: Kendra Weber <weber362@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 12:36 PM
Subject: HF 314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...

Dear Representatives of Minnesota:

We must protect our democracy and the ideal of representative government. District lines should not be based on political agendas, regardless of the party "in power" at any given point. Allowing this to take place is effectively disenfranchising a portion of the population and undermining the very fabric of our system.

Please safeguard our right to representative governance.

thank you,
Kendra Weber
Stewartville MN

From: Catherine Egenberger <cegenberg@charter.net>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
CC: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>
Date: 2/20/2017 2:02 PM
Subject: HF314

I am very concerned about gerrymandering

I am truly so ready for ethical politicians to step forward and help us make our country's voting system unbiased, or at least less biased, than it is now.

I am ready for bipartisan efforts by ethical politicians to help us resolve issues without resorting to unethical gimmicks such as gerrymandering.

I am tired of stalemates and feuds between parties, which do not help our country's citizens, do not serve in the best interest of anyone except politicians.

Please safeguard our voting process from the self-interest of political agendas.

Thank you

Catherine Egenberger

Byron MN

John Hultquist - Gerrymandering

From: Cecilia Dingley <ceceding56@gmail.com>
To: "john.hultquist@house.mn" <john.hultquist@house.mn>, "rep.jim.nash@house...
Date: 2/20/2017 2:21 PM
Subject: Gerrymandering

Please include this email as testimony. I'm in opposition to HF314. Rep. Anderson's HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission. The legislature should not draw district boundaries.

Cecilia Dingley
3443 Jasper Ct NE
Rochester, MN 55906
(507) 319-3724

John Hultquist - Redistricting in Minnesota

From: Maggie McColl <mccmag4@yahoo.com>
To: <John.Hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 3:07 PM
Subject: Redistricting in Minnesota
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Dear Mr. Hultquist,

I would like to express my concern regarding HF314. This bill does not provide for an independent redistricting commission. We need to minimize the risk for political gerrymandering in Minnesota's redistricting process.

I have great respect for my elected officials, but I believe the power to redistrict should not be controlled by legislators. There is a conflict of interest when legislators choose who will vote for them. To prevent gerrymandering, a non- or bipartisan commission should be in place, and district lines should honor "one person, one vote", so please work to create fair and competitive districts.

HR246 allows for fair redistricting and public hearings. I urge the committee to support this bill instead.

Please include my email as testimony for HF314.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Most sincerely,
Margaret Maibauer

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sharon Shinomiya <mn.sls8@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 3:55 PM
Subject: HF314

Dear Mr. Hultquist,

Will you please include my email statement below in the hearing's record for HF314. Thank you.

Dear Government Finance Committee Representatives,

Please vote NO on HF314. This bill will allow harmful and costly gerrymandering to continue. It makes no sense to spend tax dollars on litigation due to unfair gerrymandering, when we could have a less partial, less political commission draw the lines instead of legislators. We are wasting too much money that could be better spent.

Please vote NO and keep politics out of redistricting.

Thank you,
Sharon Shinomiya
1382 Albert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55108

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Stand Up Minnesota South Central <sumsouthcentral@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 4:23 PM
Subject: HF314

Dear Mr. Hultquist:

I am writing to follow up on phone calls I have made to each of the members of the Government Finance Committee urging them to vote NO on HF 314. Please enter this email message into the record.

To vote yes on this bill is to vote for unnecessary, exorbitant costs to legitimize and perpetuate gerrymandering. Furthermore, this bill does NOT address the core reasons why Minnesota's redistricting has had to go through the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Cynthia L. Olson
6114 Shamrock Drive
Madison Lake, MN 56063
507.382.1260

John Hultquist - Vote NO on HF314!

From: Nanci Yermakoff <nyermakoff@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.mark.uglem@hous...>
Date: 2/20/2017 4:28 PM
Subject: Vote NO on HF314!

A fair voting system is the basis of our democracy. As a Minnesotan, I believe that redistricting should be transparent and open. I ask you to strengthen Minnesota's redistricting process and save taxpayers money, by protecting it from the harms of gerrymandering . Vote no on HF314. Thank you.

John Hultquist - Please include this email as testimony for HF 314

From: "Deb Duffy-Smet" <duffysmet@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 4:30 PM
Subject: Please include this email as testimony for HF 314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Please include this email as testimony for HF 314.

I am against HF 314. Political parties have no business drawing our legislative and congressional district lines. I don't care which political party is in the majority at the time the lines are redrawn: Our elected officials should not be allowed to impact the process. This bill allows politicians to draw district lines which will ultimately serve themselves and not the Minnesota electorate, and it is just plain wrong. I don't understand how anyone who cares about our values as a Democracy and voter rights can support this bill.

There is no valid reason why our districts are not always drawn by an impartial group. This bill can be used to minimize the votes of certain groups of people, towns, and cities. This is America, and my elected officials should not be trying to minimize my voice in government.

Respectfully,
Deb Duffy-Smet
1410 City View Ct NE
Rochester, MN 55906
507-288-8253

John Hultquist - Please add to the record: Concerned citizen OPPOSED to HF 314

From: Laurie Parker <lparker100@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 4:46 PM
Subject: Please add to the record: Concerned citizen OPPOSED to HF 314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>

Hello,

Please make my email part of the record. Please place me on the list of testifiers and use this email as my testimony in opposition to HF 314.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Rep. Anderson's redistricting bill HF 314. HF 314 does not allow for an independent redistricting commission minimizing the risk of political gerrymandering. We require you to safeguard our process from the self-interest of political agendas.

An independent committee was created to review the increase to proposed legislator's salaries because of inherent conflicts of self-interest. How is safeguarding the process of their own district lines any different? This is basic fairness and equality, and HF 314 is not sufficient to provide the protections we citizens need to ensure our representation will be equitable.

Please remember that you work for us, and the citizens of Minnesota require you to fairly represent us.

Sincerely,

Laurie Parker
St. Anthony Village, MN 55418
773-474-6227

John Hultquist - Testimony on HF314

From: Timothy O'Neill <examindlife@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 8:08 PM
Subject: Testimony on HF314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Mr. Hultquist,
Rep. Anderson's HF314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission minimizing the risk for political gerrymandering in MN's redistricting process. It should be opposed to protect our electoral process.

Please include this email as testimony for HF314.

Regards,
Tim O'Neill
Rochester

Sent from my iPhone

John Hultquist - HF 314

From: Pernell Meier <pernellrm@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 9:06 PM
Subject: HF 314

Please include this email as testimony. I'm in opposition to HF314.

Rep. Anderson's HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission, which is an inherent conflict of interest. Just as lawmakers don't set their own pay, they should not be drawing their own districts. This is common sense.

Pernell Meier
Kasson, MN

507-272-1957

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Stephanie Snow <s.snow321@gmail.com>
To: <John.Hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 9:32 PM
Subject: HF314

Mr John Hultquist,

I am opposed to HF314. Rep. Anderson's HF 314 allows for the party in control of our legislature to pick and choose redistricting according to their party needs. This should be an independent bipartisan council, which does not consist of elected officials.

Please submit my email testimony against Rep. Anderson's HF 314.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie Snow
828 7th Ave SE
Rochester, MN 55904

507-281-1924

s.snow321@gmail.com

John Hultquist - HF 314

From: Kami Blackwell Kinney <blackwell.kinney@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 10:00 PM
Subject: HF 314
Cc: <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sheldon.joh...>

Dear State Government Finance Committee Members:

Please include my email as testimony in opposition of HF 314. This bill is nothing more than political gerrymandering.

Last fall the people of Minnesota voted in favor of establishing an independent commission to determine legislative salaries, in order to avoid conflicts of self-interest. I think those same principles and objective approach need to be applied here. Redistricting in Minnesota needs to be done by an independent commission to ensure that every citizen's rights to representative democracy are safe-guarded.

Please vote NO on HF 314.

Respectfully,
Kami Blackwell Kinney
2017 Goodrich Ave
St. Paul, MN 55105

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Kathy Teegarden <kteegarden@yahoo.com>
To: "john.hultquist@house.mn" <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 10:08 PM
Subject: HF314
Cc: "rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn" <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>, "rep.tim.od..."

Please make this email part of the record of citizen input re: HF314. I understand that this bill allows politicians to participate in the redistricting process. We have seen politicians in other states use this to political advantage and a judge in WI has determined it to be biased and illegal. We do not want to repeat this mistake in MN. WE NEED AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION that cannot benefit from redistricting to perform this task so the we, the citizens of MN, are assured that all of us have the possibility of being represented fairly in our government. Thank you.

Kathy Teegarden

John Hultquist - Re: HF 314

From: JC Weimholt <weimh002@umn.edu>
Date: 2/20/2017 10:10 PM
Subject: Re: HF 314
Cc: <john.hultquist@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@...

Dear State Government Finance Committee Members:

Please include my email as testimony in opposition of HF 314. This bill is nothing more than political gerrymandering.

Last fall the people of Minnesota voted in favor of establishing an independent commission to determine legislative salaries, in order to avoid conflicts of self-interest. I think those same principles and objective approach need to be applied here. Redistricting in Minnesota needs to be done by an independent commission to ensure that every citizen's rights to representative democracy are safe-guarded.

Please vote NO on HF 314.

Respectfully,
Chris Weimholt
1799 Portland Ave
St Paul MN 55104

John Hultquist - Say no to HF314

From: Kathleen Spehar <hans0333@umn.edu>
To: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>
Date: 2/20/2017 10:21 PM
Subject: Say no to HF314
Cc: <john.hultquist@house.mn>

Dear Representatives Anderson and O'Driscoll- I'm reaching out to oppose bill HF314. The bill prevents the use of an outside commission for redistricting making political gerrymandering much easier for the majority party. Neither party should be responsible for drawing districts- an outside commission is necessary to prevent gerrymandering.

Please safeguard our processes, and instead, support HF 246, to support an outside commission to handle any matters regarding redistricting.

Thank you- Kathleen Hansen
MN resident, citizen and taxpayer

John Hultquist - VOTE NO on HF314

From: Jennifer Dolney <jennifer.dolney@gmail.com>
To: <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.kelly.fenton@house.mn>, <rep.mark.uglem@ho...>
Date: 2/21/2017 1:02 AM
Subject: VOTE NO on HF314
Cc: <rep.jamie.becker-finn@house.mn>, Unknown <rep.jason.isaacson@house.mn>,...

PLEASE INCLUDE THE BELOW STATEMENT IN THE HEARING RECORD.

Dear Representatives of the Government Finance Committee,

Please vote No on HF314.

This bill is a prime example of the government trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist and furthermore attempting to eliminate an option to mitigate potential conflicts in the future. Please stop while you're ahead.

Of particular issue are lines 1.11 through 1.13, stating: "The legislature may not delegate its duty to draw districts to any commission, council, panel, or other entity that is not comprised solely of members of the legislature."

Just so I'm clear about my understanding of this line in particular: you want to draw the lines for the districts you represent and specifically outlaw potentially letting any external non-partisan group participate. Really? I heard the logic for this was so that individuals could vote out their representative if they don't like how the districts are drawn. Is this seriously true? This is like, the first step in "how to gerrymander your district". (Even if "that's not the intent", it smells VERY bad.)

If you know that there is an area that you are not particularly strong with in your district, what stops you from nudging the lines a little bit to adjust for that? Please don't tell me Subdivision 9 about Incumbents covers it. It does make it against the rules, but to prove the rule was broken someone has to then be taken to court, and that's not free (claimant OR defendant). It is a barrier of protection that basically makes Subdivision 9 worthless in practice. Subdivision 4 regarding Contiguity and Compactness is subjective at best when looking at potential gerrymandering.

Additionally, I am disappointed that, in a bill about redistricting written within the last three months, there is nothing about setting a standard based on The Efficiency Gap. (I have included links below for your reference.) We as a state have not needed to incorporate such a measure into our system, as we have maintained reasonable levels of district equality - but maybe that's because we never let the legislature do it in the first place.

Finally, my greatest concern is bias for one party over another. If you're the team in charge that may not seem like a big deal, but it is. It's as much about making sure we are always arguing over the middle as it is about making sure that we're not arguing over whose extreme is better. If we do start to see districts that unevenly favor one party over another, the politicians within those districts

will have to start fighting further and further to the extreme of the party to win a seat. We've seen the destruction this has had a national level. I want to continue to believe that we are too rational of a state to enter into behavior that would lead us down that same path.

The MN Supreme Court has done a fine job for our state as evidenced by our low party bias. We've got a good thing going, let's not mess that up.

Vote No. Thank you.

[How the Efficiency Gap Works - Brennan Center For Justice](#)

[WI Gerrymander Struck Down - WA Post](#)

[Partisan Gerrymandering and the Efficiency Gap - Univ. Chicago Law Review](#)

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Kind Regards,

Jennifer Dolney

PLEASE INCLUDE THE ABOVE STATEMENT IN THE HEARING RECORD

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Sue <gartenmum@hotmail.com>
To: "john.hultquist@house.mn" <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 4:13 AM
Subject: HF314
Cc: "rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn" <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, "rep.jim.nash..."

We are unable to attend the hearing in person but respectfully request that you include this email as testimony.

We are opposed to HF314 because it doesn't provide for an independent redistricting commission. The legislature should not draw district boundaries.

Thank you.

Randy & Suzanne Lantz
73500 250 Ave.
Hayfield, MN 55940
(507) 365-8076

John Hultquist - Opposition to HF314

From: Keith Anderson <skeith.anderson@att.net>
To: "john.hultquist@house.mn" <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 6:18 AM
Subject: Opposition to HF314

Hi Mr Hultquist,

Please include this email as testimony. I'm in opposition to HF314. Rep. Anderson's HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission. The legislature should not draw district boundaries.

Thanks,

Keith Anderson
Rochester, MN

John Hultquist - PLEASE INCLUDE THE BELOW STATEMENT IN THE HEARING RECORD.

From: Allison Ertel <ertel.allison@gmail.com>
To: <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.kelly.fenton@house.mn>, <rep.mark.uglem@ho...>
Date: 2/21/2017 6:53 AM
Subject: PLEASE INCLUDE THE BELOW STATEMENT IN THE HEARING RECORD.

Dear Representatives of the Government Finance Committee,

Please vote No on HF314.

This bill is a prime example of the government trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist and furthermore attempting to eliminate an option to mitigate potential conflicts in the future. Please stop while you're ahead.

Of particular issue are lines 1.11 through 1.13, stating: "The legislature may not delegate its duty to draw districts to any commission, council, panel, or other entity that is not comprised solely of members of the legislature."

Just so I'm clear about my understanding of this line in particular: you want to draw the lines for the districts you represent and specifically outlaw potentially letting any external non-partisan group participate. Really? I heard the logic for this was so that individuals could vote out their representative if they don't like how the districts are drawn. Is this seriously true? This is like, the first step in "how to gerrymander your district". (Even if "that's not the intent", it smells VERY bad.)

If you know that there is an area that you are not particularly strong with in your district, what stops you from nudging the lines a little bit to adjust for that? Please don't tell me Subdivision 9 about Incumbents covers it. It does make it against the rules, but to prove the rule was broken someone has to then be taken to court, and that's not free (claimant OR defendant). It is a barrier of protection that basically makes Subdivision 9 worthless in practice. Subdivision 4 regarding Contiguity and Compactness is subjective at best when looking at potential gerrymandering.

Additionally, I am disappointed that, in a bill about redistricting written within the last three months, there is nothing about setting a standard based on The Efficiency Gap. (I have included links below for your reference.) We as a state have not needed to incorporate such a measure into our system, as we have maintained reasonable levels of district equality - but maybe that's because we never let the legislature do it in the first place.

Finally, my greatest concern is bias for one party over another. If you're the team in charge that may not seem like a big deal, but it is. It's as much about making sure we are always arguing over the middle as it is about making sure that we're not arguing over whose extreme is better. If we do start to see districts that unevenly favor one party over another, the politicians within those districts will have to start fighting further and further to the extreme of the party to win a seat. We've seen the destruction this has had a national level. I want to continue to believe that we are too rational of a state to enter into behavior that would lead us down that same path.

The MN Supreme Court has done a fine job for our state (drawing district lines) as evidenced by our low party bias. We've got a good thing going, let's not mess that up.

Vote No. Thank you.

How the Efficiency Gap Works - Brennan Center For Justice

WI Gerrymander Struck Down - WA Post

Partisan Gerrymandering and the Efficiency Gap - Univ. Chicago Law Review

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Kind Regards,

Allison Ertel

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Jennifer Pettinger <jrpettinger@gmail.com>
To: <John.Hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 8:07 AM
Subject: HF314

Please include this email as testimony. I'm in opposition to HF314. Rep. Anderson's HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission. The legislature should not draw district boundaries.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Pettinger
Rochester 55902

From: Peg McMartin <pemcmartin@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
CC: <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>, <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 8:28 AM
Subject: HF314

Please reject HF314.

Please make this email part of the record.

We need more transparency in our system so that people can begin to build back trust in our election results.

Without that trust we have very little chance to see you, our elected officials, do your jobs. It's standoff after standoff about everything but what people need addressed. I'm not looking for one party to dominate everything. I'm looking for a chance for compromise. I'm looking for trust in the actions you take even if I disagree with them.

Again, reject HF314.

Peg McMartin
Minneapolis

Sent from my iPad

From: Valerie Fitzgerald <valeriefitzgerald1@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
CC: <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sheldon.joh...>
Date: 2/21/2017 8:29 AM
Subject: Amend HF314 to prevent politicians from drawing political districts

To the members of the State Government Finance Committee:

Today you are holding a hearing on HF314 for redistricting.

I have been following the progress of HF314. I am alarmed that our future redistricting will be overseen by the very politicians who stand to profit from districts that are drawn to suit their needs, rather than the needs of constituents. In a democracy, the voters are supposed to choose their representatives, not the other way around.

To have fair district boundaries, we need a redistricting commission as described in HF246/SF370. This nonpartisan commission would consist of retired judges who do not have a stake in setting boundaries.

Our state and our voters deserve a voice in government. If we do not have a voice and fair representation, this is no longer a democracy.

Sincerely,

Valerie Fitzgerald
Minneapolis MN 55406

John Hultquist

From: <inamahto@aol.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 8:41 AM
Cc: <tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <jim.nash@house.mn>, <sarah.anderson@house.mn>

Dear Representative Hultquist,

I ask that you include my email as testimony on HF314.

I urge the committee members to oppose this bill. Requiring that redistricting be put in the hands of the legislature will only lead to gerrymandering, I fear. An independent commission with no political agenda is the only fair and reasonable method to determine districts. Fair redistricting puts the power of elections in the hands of the voters instead of self-motivated elected officials.

Thank you.

Kathleen Graham
Afton, MN

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Stacey DeRoche <staceyamd@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 9:32 AM
Subject: HF314

Dear Mr. Hultquist,

I am e-mailing to strongly protest the adoption of Rep. Anderson's HF314. This bill does not protect Minnesotans from political gerrymandering nor provide for an independent redistricting commission to minimize the risk of gerrymandering.

We are Minnesota! We should not be going down the path of other states who have effectively disenfranchised their citizens by disallowing true representation of their beliefs and values through the manipulation of congressional districts. Minnesota is better than this.

Thank you,
Stacey DeRoche
Duluth, MN

From: Karen <kvanvliet@aol.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
CC: <rep.laurie.halverson@house.leg.state.mn.us>
Date: 2/21/2017 9:37 AM
Subject: Oppose HF 314

Mr Hultquist,

I am a Minnesota voter and request you include this email as testimony in today's hearing on HF314 by the State Government Finance Committee.

Today you are holding a hearing on HF314 for redistricting.

I have been following the progress of HF314. I am alarmed that our future redistricting will be overseen by the very politicians who stand to profit from districts that are drawn to suit their needs, rather than the needs of constituents. In a democracy, the voters are supposed to choose their representatives, not the other way around.

To have fair district boundaries, we need a redistricting commission as described in HF246/SF370. This nonpartisan commission would consist of retired judges who do not have a stake in setting boundaries.

Our state and our voters deserve a voice in government. If we do not have a voice and fair representation, this is no longer a democracy.

I strongly oppose HF314 as a threat to democracy.

Karen van Vliet
Eagan, Minnesota

John Hultquist - opposition to HF314

From: "allamericanTT7 ." <trimkt7@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 10:20 AM
Subject: opposition to HF314

Honorable sir,

Please include this email as testimony. I'm in opposition to HF314. Rep. Anderson's HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission.

I would also add that in light of all of the dark money stories and lack of oversight in regards to groups such as ALEC and AFP. I would find it necessary for a need of bi-partisan committees to investigate unmitigated influence to strip away rights away from citizens of this great state by outside groups.

Thank you,
KT Trimble
Rochester, MN

John Hultquist - HF 314 Redistricting Testimony

From: "Mary E. Jones" <maryejones04@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 10:23 AM
Subject: HF 314 Redistricting Testimony

Please include this email as testimony:

I'm in opposition to HF314. HF 314 is biased in favor of whichever party is in majority at the time of redistricting. The legislature should not draw district boundaries.

This provision in HF314 is of the greatest concern to me: HF 314 requires that the legislature draw new districts and *prohibits delegation of that authority to any entity that is not comprised solely of members of the legislature*

Please reject HF314 and support HF 246 which provides for an independent redistricting commission.

Sincerely,
Mary E. Jones
1946 Old Valley Rd SW
Rochester, MN 55902
House District 26B

John Hultquist - OPPOSE HF314 - please include in record for today's hearing

From: Christy Dolph <dolph.christine@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 10:33 AM
Subject: OPPOSE HF314 - please include in record for today's hearing
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anderson@house.mn>

Dear Mr. Hultquist,

Please include this email in the record, for today's State Government Finance Committee hearing of HF 314 on February 21, 2017.

As a citizen of the state of Minnesota, I am writing to OPPOSE HF314.

Rep. Anderson's HF314 does not allow for an independent redistricting commission to minimize the risk of political gerrymandering. This means our electoral process can readily be hijacked by the political agenda of one political party.

Neither party should be responsible for drawing districts -- We need an independent, outside commission to draw voting districts and prevent Gerrymandering.

Please safeguard our cherished voting process from the self-interest of political agendas by opposing HF 314, and supporting HF246, which creates an independent commission to review voting districts.

Sincerely,

Christine Dolph
3323 Benjamin St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418
612-868-1565
dolph.christine@gmail.com

John Hultquist - OPPOSE HF 314 and SF86

From: Karen <karen@motherearthgarden.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 10:53 AM
Subject: OPPOSE HF 314 and SF86

Please include my email in the record that I oppose HF 314 and SF86. We need an independent body to make decisions that ultimately decide all of our political fates. These bills remove the spirit of independent, partisan free districts. There is no place for this in our democracy. The polarization that is present today was partially created by the ill-advised political gamesmanship of gerrymandering. Take a longer view and support HF246.

Karen O'Connor
4023 40th Ave S
Mpls, MN 55406
612-986-5535

John Hultquist - Please vote NO on HF314.

From: Samara Bilyeu-Anderson <shanderson@comcast.net>
To: <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.kelly.fenton@house.mn>, <rep.mark.uglem@ho...>
Date: 2/21/2017 10:56 AM
Subject: Please vote NO on HF314.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE BELOW STATEMENT IN THE HEARING RECORD.

Dear Representatives of the Government Finance Committee,

Please vote NO on HF314.

This bill is a prime example of the government trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist and furthermore attempting to eliminate an option to mitigate potential conflicts in the future. Please stop while you're ahead.

Of particular issue are lines 1.11 through 1.13, stating: "The legislature may not delegate its duty to draw districts to any commission, council, panel, or other entity that is not comprised solely of members of the legislature."

Just so I'm clear about my understanding of this line in particular: you want to draw the lines for the districts you represent and specifically outlaw potentially letting any external non-partisan group participate. Really? I heard the logic for this was so that individuals could vote out their representative if they don't like how the districts are drawn. Is this seriously true? This is like, the first step in "how to gerrymander your district". (Even if "that's not the intent", it smells VERY bad.)

If you know that there is an area that you are not particularly strong with in your district, what stops you from nudging the lines a little bit to adjust for that? Please don't tell me Subdivision 9 about Incumbents covers it. It does make it against the rules, but to prove the rule was broken someone has to then be taken to court, and that's not free (claimant OR defendant). It is a barrier of protection that basically makes Subdivision 9 worthless in practice. Subdivision 4 regarding Contiguity and Compactness is subjective at best when looking at potential gerrymandering.

Additionally, I am disappointed that, in a bill about redistricting written within the last three months, there is nothing about setting a standard based on The Efficiency Gap. (I have included links below for your reference.) We as a state have not needed to incorporate such a measure into our system, as we have maintained reasonable levels of district equality - but maybe that's because we never let the legislature do it in the first place.

Finally, my greatest concern is bias for one party over another. If you're the team in charge that may not seem like a big deal, but it is. It's as much about making sure we are always arguing over the middle as it is about making sure that we're not arguing over whose extreme is better. If we do start to see districts that unevenly favor one party over another, the politicians within those districts will have to start fighting further and further to the extreme of the party to win a seat. We've seen the destruction this has had a national level. I want to continue to believe that we are too rational of a state to enter into behavior that would lead us down that same path.

The MN Supreme Court has done a fine job for our state (drawing district lines) as evidenced by our low party bias. We've got a good thing going; let's not mess that up.

Vote No. Thank you.

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How the Efficiency Gap Works - Brennan Center For Justice
WI Gerrymander Struck Down - WA Post
Partisan Gerrymandering and the Efficiency Gap - Univ. Chicago Law Review

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Kind Regards,

Samara Bilyeu-Anderson
5027 4th St NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

John Hultquist - Gerrymandering; safeguard our process from the self-interest of political agendas

From: Co-burn Porter <cobport@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 11:18 AM
Subject: Gerrymandering; safeguard our process from the self-interest of political agendas
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Rep. Anderson's HF314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission minimizing the risk for political gerrymandering in MN's redistricting process.

Please include this email as testimony. I'm in opposition to HF314. Rep. Anderson's HF 314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission. The legislature should not draw district boundaries.

Legislators have an inherent conflict of interest in setting legislative boundaries. By setting district boundaries, Legislators are essentially picking their own constituents.

"In safe districts, elected representatives have little incentive to compromise — their constituents encourage partisanship — while representatives of swing districts have more incentive to compromise, lest they be ousted the next election by someone less ideological."

I support H.F. 246: establish a non-legislative commissions to help with redistricting (similar legislation in CA and AZ has been upheld in U.S. Supreme Court approving Arizona commission).

--

Co-burn Porter, MD
[507.281.0604](tel:507.281.0604)
cobport@gmail.com

"No one can claim the name of Christian and be comfortable in the face of hunger, homelessness, insecurity, and injustice found in this country and the world." 1986 U.S. Catholic Bishops

From: Brad Benn <BWBenn@comcast.net>
To: John Hultquist <john.hultquist@house.mn>
CC: "rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn" <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, "rep.jim.nash...
Date: 2/21/2017 11:28 AM
Subject: Hf314/sf86

It is time to stop gerrymandering by either political party. Please table this and take the bill that provides for an independent commission to define districts.

Please include my email as testimony

Bradley Benn, Edina
952-913-1187

Sent from my iPhone

John Hultquist - Fwd: HF314: please include my email in testimony today

From: Gladys Jones <gjones70@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 11:47 AM
Subject: Fwd: HF314: please include my email in testimony today

I apologize! I entered your email address incorrectly. Please see below.

Gladys Jones

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gladys Jones <gjones70@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 21, 2017 at 11:24 AM
Subject: HF314: please include my email in testimony today
To: ohn.hultquist@house.mn
Cc: ep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn, jim.nash@house.mn, sarah.anderson@house.mn, Leon Lillie <rep.leon.lillie@house.mn>

Dear Rep, Hultquist,

I am writing in opposition to HF314 as it is currently written. Please include my email as testimony today in opposition to this bill. We have a history of fair redistricting, but unfortunately this fairness has dissolved. I do support redistricting principles such as equal population, contiguity and compactness. However, this bill HF314 and its companion bill SF86 state that the legislature may not delegate its duty to draw districts to any commission not comprised solely of legislators. I oppose this provision and strongly urge that this responsibility be delegated to a nonpartisan commission, which would minimize the risk for political gerrymandering in Minnesota's redistricting process.

Please safeguard our process from the self-interest of political agendas.

An independent committee was created to review the increase to proposed legislator's salaries because of inherent conflicts of self-interest. How is safeguarding the process of drawing Minnesota's district lines any different?

Thank you for considering this communication as testimony in the upcoming hearing. Please work to make the necessary changes to this bill before gerrymandering just becomes a mirror of other states who should look up to Minnesota for its fair process, as they often have before.

Sincerely,
 Gladys Jones
 North St Paul MN

John Hultquist - Re: Bill HF314 - Redistricting

From: Dan Woychick <dan@woychickdesign.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 11:56 AM
Subject: Re: Bill HF314 - Redistricting
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

With political polarization at an all time high, I believe that the drawing or redrawing of voting districts in Minnesota should be determined by an independent body or commission.

Minnesota voters spoke loud and clear on a similar issue last November when they voted to appoint an independent committee to determine state legislators' salaries. To avoid conflicts of interest and the potential for gerrymandering, the same must be done to determine our state's voting districts going forward.

Please include my email in the record as you debate this measure.

Thank you!

Dan Woychick
3717 Colfax Ave S
Minneapolis MN 55409

John Hultquist - I oppose HF314/SF 86

From: Dawn Carlson <dawn.carlson1@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 12:02 PM
Subject: I oppose HF314/SF 86
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <sarah.anderson@h...>

Mr. Hultquist,

I believe gerrymandering has no place in our redistricting process.
Please include this email as testimony in opposition to HF314/SF 86.

Our state needs an INDEPENDENT redistricting commission to to minimize the risk for political gerrymandering in our redistricting process.

Thank you,
Dawn Carlson
55410

John Hultquist - Independent Redistricting Commission

From: Lydia Morgan <lydia290@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 12:06 PM
Subject: Independent Redistricting Commission
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Please include my email as testimony in regards to HF314.

Rep. Anderson's HF314 does not provide for an independent redistricting commission minimizing the risk for political gerrymandering in MN's redistricting process. Gerrymandering is essentially "taxation without representation" because it disenfranchises many voters by grouping like-minded voters into districts together. It hampers our representatives ability to work together and compromise.

Will you safegaurd our process from the self-interest of political agendas? Like the independent committee that was created to review the increase to proposed legislator's salaries because of inherent conflicts of self-interest, we can safeguard the process of drawing district lines from politics.

Sincerely,

Lydia Morgan
612-382-2925

John Hultquist - Written testimony for HF314

From: Jen Holmstadt <jenholmstadt@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 12:34 PM
Subject: Written testimony for HF314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <rep.sarah.anders...>

Good Afternoon,

I am a Minnesota voter, and I am writing in full opposition to HF314, because it is a naked attempt to codify partisan politics into our redistricting process. It is in all Minnesotan's best interests for an independent redistricting commission, like that proposed in HF246, to take charge of drawing political boundaries in our state. I ask our legislators, who all claim to be public servants first and foremost, to safeguard our redistricting process from the self-interest of political agendas.

Thank you,
Jennifer Holmstadt

From: Manny Munson-Regala <manny_mr@yahoo.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
CC: Erin Murphy <rep.erin.murphy@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 1:02 PM
Subject: HF314

Mr. Hultquist:

Please include my email message in the committee record. I would ask the legislature to vote "no" on HF314. Turning over the task of redistricting to legislators creates the potential for significant conflicts of interest, as well as potentially erodes MN's national leading process of electoral participation.

In addition, legislation of this type will like lead to costly and needless litigation. Thank you in advance for consideration of my opinion.

Sincerely,

Manny Munson-Regala
St. Paul, MN

John Hultquist - HF314

From: Mary Currie <mtbcurrie@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 1:05 PM
Subject: HF314

Dear John Hultquist,

I am writing to you regarding HF314. This proposed bill does not allow for an independent redistricting commission which would minimize the risk of political gerrymandering. Please, safeguard our process from the self-interest of political agendas. We need to end gerrymandering now.

Your sincerely,

Mary Currie

John Hultquist - HF314

From: "Casey G." <caseygarske@gmail.com>
To: <john.hultquist@house.mn>
Date: 2/21/2017 1:58 PM
Subject: HF314
Cc: <rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn>, <rep.jim.nash@house.mn>, <sarah.anderson@h...

Hello, permission is given to use this email as testimony for HF314.

In this citizen's opinion, there is no larger threat to our democracy than gerrymandering. In order to make sure that we have a true representation of our population it is absolutely imperative that an independent commission be employed in any attempt to redistrict our state. If you let the majority party redistrict, whether Democrats or Republicans, bias will slip in, leading to less freedom. This article provides an excellent example:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/03/01/this-is-the-best-explanation-of-gerrymandering-you-will-ever-see/?utm_term=.813038f035d8

Thank you,

Casey Garske