

**SENATE REDISTRICTING WORK GROUP**

Wednesday, October 10, 2001  
Hibbing, MN  
7:00 p.m.

Members present:

Senator Pogemiller  
Senator Belanger  
Dean Barkley, Director MN Planning  
Representative Anderson  
Representative Sertich

Members Absent:

Senator Orfield  
Senator Hottinger  
Senator Scheid

Staff Present:

Peter Wattson, Senate Counsel  
Vic Thorstenson, Senate Redistricting  
Michael Brodkorb, Republican Redistricting Staff

Senator Pogemiller called the meeting to order 7:04 p.m.

Senator Pogemiller introduced members.

Senator Pogemiller went over the maps.

The following people offered testimony:

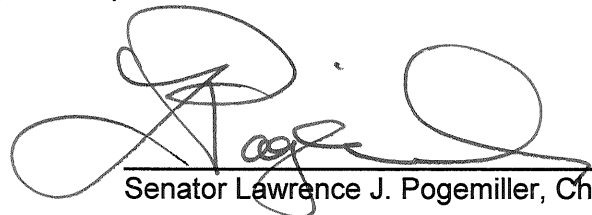
Jake Benson, Proctor City Council  
Joe Moren, resident  
Tony Sertich, Representative District 5B

Members asked questions and held discussion.

Senator Pogemiller adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
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Todd Olson, Legislative Assistant

  
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Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Chair

# REDISTRICTING WORK GROUP

Wednesday October 10, 2001

7:00 p.m.

Hibbing High School  
800 East 21<sup>st</sup> St, Hibbing

## A g e n d a

Introductions

Questions on plans

Public Testimony

Committee Discussion

Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller  
Chair

Todd Olson  
Legislative Assistant

Councilor Jake Benson  
215 Fifth Street  
Proctor, Minnesota 55810

Redistricting Working Group  
235 State Capital Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 10, 2001

re: Redistricting Testimony

Senator, committee members, good evening. I'm Jake Benson. I'm a councilor and serve as deputy mayor for the City of Proctor. I'm also the immediate past president of the Proctor Chamber of Commerce - I have been authorized by both groups to speak on their behalf.

Sen. Pogemiller you might remember when you visited Proctor about four years ago as chair of the education committee.

Proctor is located outside of Duluth on Highway's 2 and I-35. We share a common border with Duluth about 75 miles from here. We are part of Senate District 8 and House District 8A with Sen. Beckey Lourey and Rep. Mary Murphy. The only to female legislators in North Eastern Minnesota

The proposed redistricting plans will have a terrible effect on the citizens of Proctor.

The idea of placing Proctor with Duluth appears to be against the important principles and basic standards of redistricting.

Our Senator and Representative fall victim to another important standard which seems to be ignored. Their districts are not compact and contiguous. They are tortured configurations that snail around and bisect other districts. It's almost as if it was done to achieve political advantage. It leaves them outside the bulk of their current districts and constituents.

- more -

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As an example, 8A needs just 1,900 new residents to meet the 36,000 mark. Eight A went from needing one of the fewest number of new residents to now needing one of the most. From a compact district to one nearly 100 miles long. It will leave the elected official outside the bulk of the current district. District 8 proposed new area skips over cities.

If these plans become reality Proctor will be separated from it's sister communities in its school district. We belong with other first and second ring towns and cities. As a collar community we have little in common with Duluth. On most issue we are at odds.

Proctor, a community of 3,000, will be competing for the ear of a legislator who's home area will number about 33,000 Duluthians. Proctor has already been told by Duluth elected officials that "numbers count, why should we listen to Proctor?"

We will lose two of the finest legislators in our 104 year history. Our citizens want to keep Sen. Lourey and Rep. Murphy as their voices in St. Paul. They have been tireless workers on behalf of Proctor. Will the same be said of Duluth's elected officials? Duluth has tried to annex Proctor. It owns 80 acres of the some of most valuable land in Proctor and refuses to pay a payment-in-lieu of taxes for the business that it runs on it. It has also pirated prospective businesses away on numerous occasions.

The redistricting plans are not cohesive. We will be separated from the communities that have similar interest and will lose two dynamic individuals that understand and have successfully championed our causes. If the proposed redistricting occurs Proctor's voice will unlikely be heard over the din of Duluth.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

