Written testimony of House Bill 1397

Chairman Dockter and Political Subdivisions Committee Members

My name is Kevin Herrmann from Beulah, ND. I am a lifelong citizen of North Dakota. I am representing myself.

I am oppose to House Bill 1397. House Bill 1397 is a partisan, non-independent redistricting committee. This bill will have the makeup of the redistricting committee of all legislators. The legislators will continue to lie to the public of how the legislative districts lines are based on getting as close to equal population for each district. This bill will also exempt drafts of redistricting plans from open records requirements from the public like myself, which this proves of gerrymandering will be happening.

In 2001, there was gerrymandering with District 33. Prior to the change of District 33 in 2001, District 33 was Oliver County, Mercer County, small part of Dunn County and part of Fort Berthold Reservation. Because the Senator at that time was not getting the votes from part of Dunn County and part of Fort Berthold Reservation, the Senator made sure those areas would not be part of District 33. I do have the map prior to 2002 when the new legislative district took effect.

The fact is there needs to be independent citizens from North Dakota on the legislative redistricting committee in order to keep the legislators from gerrymandering.

There was Senate Bill 2228 which was close to being a more independent legislative redistricting committee but of course the Republicans voted the bill down. I testified in favor of Senate Bill 2228.

Again, I oppose House Bill 1397 even though I know the supermajority of the legislators are not going to listen to the citizens of North Dakota.

I challenge any of the legislators to amend the bill to put independent citizens of North Dakota on the redistricting committee.

Kevin Herrmann
300 Fair St. SW
Beulah, ND 58523
701-873-4163