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Redistricting News Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Monday, April 20, 2015

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MAIN STREET DEMOCRATS APPLAUD SUPREME COURT REDISTRICTING REVIEW

“New Maps Should Be Drawn for the 2016 Campaign Cycle”

RALEIGH, NC – State Representative Ken Goodman and State Senator Joel Ford today applauded the U.S. Supreme Court ruling ordering the State Supreme Court to review the North Carolina congressional and legislative boundaries based on racial gerrymandering.

“The Supreme Court’s decision adds merit to the calls of leaders from across the state to form a non-partisan, independent, redistricting commission,” said State Representative Ken Goodman. “Our citizens should elect their politicians. We should not tolerate the politicians choosing their voters.”

Senator Ford said the State Supreme Court should schedule a hearing on the redistricting review as quickly as possible.

“The North Carolina Supreme Court should work on an expedited schedule. Clearly, there should be some issues addressed and that means the lines will have to be corrected. The work needs to start immediately so the Legislature and the U.S. Supreme Court will have time to review so that the voters can participate in new district elections for the 2016 election cycle,” Senator Ford added.

Senator Ford said Democrats worked with Superior Court Judge Knox Jenkins in Johnston County in 2003 when a redistricting map drawn by Democrats was sent back to the State Supreme Court. “The maps were corrected in a timely fashion in 2003 so the voters could participate in the 2004 election cycle with congressional and legislative districts approved by the State Legislature and appropriate courts. There is no reason for the Republicans to drag their feet on getting this corrected,” stated Ford.

“There is growing bi-partisan support across the state to embrace redistricting with an independent commission to draw congressional and legislative maps,” said Rep. Goodman. “We could avoid a great deal of legal expense if the politicians would remove themselves from this process,” said Rep. Goodman.