



## SENATOR JANET BEWLEY

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### WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

February 2, 2017

Senator Scott Fitzgerald  
Room 211-South  
State Capitol  
HAND-DELIVERED

Dear Senator Fitzgerald,

As a new member of the Senate Organization Committee, I was surprised to be asked to vote on a proposal authorizing potentially unlimited resources to be paid to both named and unnamed law firms for unspecified work relating to the unconstitutional district maps enacted in 2011.

I have serious concerns about approving this kind of expense that includes no mechanisms for public notification or review. I cannot justify this expense to the people of Northern and rural Wisconsin.

I have several items I would like the Committee to consider before approving new legal expenses related to redistricting.

First, any contract with any outside firm must prohibit any requirement that lawmakers, or staff, sign secrecy oaths designed to prevent public access to information concerning public actions that working taxpayers may be forced to fund.

Second, any legal expense should be capped at \$50,000 at most as my colleagues sought in 2011. Since that motion was defeated, taxpayers have been tapped for far more than is reasonable in the efforts to draw and defend the 2011 maps.

Third, the full Legislature and the people we represent must have access to information on the activities and expenses related to this new contract.

Finally, as my colleagues pointed out six years ago - before these continued outside legal expenses began - the Senate and Legislature have access to highly capable, bi-partisan, discreet and respected legal minds at the Legislative Council. I would suggest that as much as possible we put our trust for legal advice where it belongs - with the Legislative Council.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Bewley".

Janet Bewley  
State Senator  
25th District



**25th Senate District**

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