By: Tom Wolff, Freedom Weekly Senior Editor - March 7, 2012

A court document submitted in the current federal court case on “redistricting” revealed some startling information about Democratic strategy. The court record is a copy of an email sent by Rich Judge, chief of staff for Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca (D) to his boss. In it, he lists off the “Talking Points” for Assembly Democrats regarding the redistricting legislation being debated at the time. He also lists off the Democrats to be contacted, and who is responsible to explain the talking points.

A couple of points need to be addressed regarding this document (shown here with privacy redactions):

1. The talking points make clear that ”WE WILL NOT BE PASSING A MAP”, even before the Republican legislative map had been presented. This is damning proof that the Democrats had no interest in working with Republicans, never attempted to draw their own version for negotiations, and would only position themselves to oppose anything that was brought forth.

2. The Democratic strategy all along was to accuse Republicans of “an abuse of power, calling the maps unconstitutional, and securing a political advantage,” again before the maps were ever presented.

3. The obvious call for confidentiality in their strategy strikes at the heart of their argument against the Republicans, and shows a hypocrisy that shows no end. “Please make sure there is no discussion of what Democrats might do with anyone – especially the press”. This is exactly the accusation Democrats leveled against the Majority party, again to score political advantage.

4. The glaring fact of the use of personal emails between legislative staff and their boss is particularly damning evidence for caucus strategy, and suggests that some Democrats will cloak their legislative business to avoid open records requests.

As the federal case was being tried, the three judge panel demanded that legislators produce emails and records showing any discussion of the redistricting process. These documents have been splashed all over by the press, to damage the credibility of Republicans. I wonder what the media will have to say about this Barca email, and whether it will be as newsworthy.

Redistricting Act 43 and Act 44 are currently under judicial review, and a verdict should be announced within the next week. Considering that the basic requirement for a “redistricted” map is “relative equality in population, giving each voter in each district equal voting power (one person, one vote),” the new legislative maps should pass constitutional muster.

Attorney for the plaintiffs Peter Earle was quoted during the trial saying ”It was initiated in secret, hidden from the public”, as he referred to the Republican led redistricting effort. What is the difference between the Republicans actions and the Democrats?

And finally, Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, D-Kenosha, said during the trial that the emails were revealing, and that: "It undermines the credibility of their testimony.” I wonder what the Minority Leader has to say now, when the shoe is on the other foot. Hopefully, an “Open Records Request” for those personal emails that has been submitted will tell us more.