

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Aiken, SC

April 11, 2011

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REP. CLEMMONS: Ladies and gentlemen, it's a pleasure to be with you today here in Aiken County in this beautiful facility. We appreciate all of you being here with us today. This is, we hope will be a very informative opportunity for us to learn and for you to share your thoughts regarding redistricting. We are convening this meeting of the election laws subcommittee of the South Carolina House Judiciary Committee here in Aiken County today. We want to thank you for attending. I'd like to begin by recognizing my fellow House members that are here with me. But first, I am Alan Clemmons, I'm the foreigner in this crowd. I'm from Myrtle Beach, Horry County. And I have the --

REP. TAYLOR: [Inaudible].

REP. CLEMMONS: Yeah. Well, Representative Taylor just pointed out I have no socks, that's a distinguishing characteristic of gentlemen from Horry County.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

REP. CLEMMONS: Absolutely. So I feel right at home. I am honored to be here in Aiken with

1           you today and to chair this subcommittee. I  
2           have with me your hometown son, Tom Young,  
3           Representative Young. [Applause]. And the  
4           other foreigner here today is Representative  
5           Karl Allen from Greenville who is also on the  
6           committee with us today. [Applause]. We also  
7           have in the audience Representative Bill  
8           Taylor, [applause] and Representative "Coach"  
9           Bill Clyburn. [Applause].

10          UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

11          REP. CLEMMONS: Yes. We do have two additional  
12               members of this panel that had unavoidable  
13               circumstances arise that have kept them from  
14               being with us tonight. That is from  
15               Summerville, Jenny Horne, Representative Jenny  
16               Horne. And from Denmark, Denmark?

17          UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Bamberg.

18          REP. CLEMMONS: Bamberg -- excuse me --  
19               Representative Bakari Sellers. They both  
20               asked me to send their regrets that they  
21               couldn't be with you. They both assured me  
22               that they will review the transcripts of  
23               tonight's hearing so they will be fully aware  
24               of your comments tonight. I have some  
25               prepared remarks to share with you which are

1 really not only introductory remarks, but also  
2 a primer on why it is that we're here tonight  
3 and what we hope to hear from you tonight. So  
4 I would ask that you listen closely. And  
5 there are folks that are still signing in at  
6 the back to speak. If you wish to speak and  
7 you have not signed in, we do ask that you  
8 sign in on the sign-in sheet and we will look  
9 forward to hearing from you with your remarks.

10 These hearings, ladies and gentlemen, are  
11 only the first step in a long and involved  
12 process that must be followed to complete a  
13 workable redistricting plan. We hope to start  
14 tonight and at the other hearings by listening  
15 to the extensive public input and then using  
16 that input to form the basis of how we  
17 proceed. From that input, this subcommittee  
18 must create and submit to the full House  
19 Judiciary Committee a plan for how to draw  
20 lines for the South Carolina House, all 124  
21 districts, and the United States Congress,  
22 including the new 7th District that South  
23 Carolina received in the latest  
24 reapportionment process. The full committee  
25 must then submit a plan that may or may not be

1 the same as this subcommittee's plan that will  
2 be submitted to the full House for  
3 consideration. Any plan that gains approval  
4 of the House and later the Senate must be  
5 submitted to the United States Justice  
6 Department, pursuant to the voting rights act  
7 for what is called pre clearance. If it is  
8 determined by the Justice Department or the  
9 courts that the plan does not comply with,  
10 first, the constitutional mandates of one man,  
11 one vote or one person, one vote and equal  
12 protection, and second, with the statutory  
13 requirements of the voting rights act, more  
14 work may still need to be done to the plan.

15 Tonight our goal is to listen to each and  
16 every interested party tell us what they would  
17 like to see accomplished in the House's  
18 redrawing of district lines for both the South  
19 Carolina House of Representatives and the  
20 United States House of Representatives. We  
21 are here tonight to listen to your concerns  
22 and to listen to your recommendations as to  
23 what the subcommittee should consider in this  
24 process. As the House undertakes the process  
25 of redrawing district lines, public input is

1           indispensable in helping us shape a House that  
2           best represents the people of South Carolina.  
3           The South Carolina House of Representatives is  
4           often called the People's House. It's called  
5           that for a reason. In order to continue to  
6           earn that distinction, we must know how the  
7           people want their House to look, how they wish  
8           to be represented. That is the sole purpose  
9           of these hearings tonight, to hear from those  
10          of you, the public, and take your guidance as  
11          we shape the House and Congressional districts  
12          for the coming decade. We welcome any input  
13          which helps us understand specific issues in  
14          your area and which identifies neighborhoods,  
15          political subdivisions, and other areas which  
16          you believe the subcommittee should take into  
17          consideration when drawing the district lines.

18                 Resulting from these hearings and other  
19                 hearings that we're holding across the state,  
20                 this subcommittee plans to adopt a set of  
21                 criteria drawn primarily from what we hear  
22                 from the public. These criteria will be the  
23                 guiding principals by which the House will  
24                 redraw district lines. As you all know, the  
25                 plan that is ultimately produced, must, more

1 than anything else, assure the principal of  
2 one man, one vote. Meaning that we are  
3 required to have as equal a population in each  
4 and every district as possible. But beyond  
5 those requirements this subcommittee is  
6 particularly interested in what political  
7 subdivisions or smaller communities have in  
8 common, or what they do not have in common  
9 with each other that may suggest that they  
10 should or should not be placed in one  
11 district. While this hearing may be conducted  
12 here in Aiken County tonight to allow  
13 residents of the immediate area an opportunity  
14 for input, the subcommittee is happy to hear  
15 any testimony from anyone with us tonight  
16 interested in any part of the state or the  
17 state as a whole. Because tonight's hearing  
18 will become part of the record in this matter,  
19 this proceeding is being recorded and it will  
20 be transcribed. To make sure that we have a  
21 clear record, I would ask that each witness  
22 come to the microphone, speak slowly, and  
23 clearly state your name, your address, and  
24 identify the district or districts you're  
25 interested in. If you are appearing tonight

1           on behalf of any groups such as a political  
2           party, a special interest group, a public  
3           interest group, or any other organization,  
4           please let us know that information as well.  
5           I, and the other members of this committee,  
6           may make comments or ask questions about  
7           particular areas which may not reflect the  
8           intentions or recommendations of the committee  
9           or the House. We will be glad to answer  
10          general questions about the process, if we  
11          can. However because this is the first part  
12          of a long and involved process of gathering  
13          information from around the state, we may not  
14          be able to answer specific questions at this  
15          time. I anticipate that this meeting will  
16          last approximately two hours and while we want  
17          to hear everything that anyone has to offer,  
18          we do reserve the right to limit individual  
19          testimony to ten minutes. I would ask each  
20          person as they offer testimony to be  
21          considerate of others who are here to offer  
22          their opinions as well. We do look forward to  
23          hearing from all of you tonight.

24                    Just as a few other matters of  
25                    housekeeping, I'd like to share with you that

1           this meeting has been advertised extensively.  
2           We have advertised this by media release to  
3           the South Carolina Press Association as well  
4           as to your individual media outlets. We have  
5           sent out hundreds of emails to interested  
6           parties and to special interest groups such as  
7           the major political parties and third parties  
8           from around the state. We are hopeful to hear  
9           from many of you that are here tonight. We  
10          also expect that some of you may have written  
11          information that you'd like to share with this  
12          committee to make a permanent part of the  
13          record. We invite you to share that written  
14          information with us as well, but we would ask  
15          that you write your name and your mailing  
16          address on any documentation that you wish to  
17          submit to the committee. I have with me here  
18          at my side our capable attorney, Emma Dean who  
19          is here to help me out in any legal jam that I  
20          might find myself in and also to receive any  
21          information or written documentation that you  
22          may have for us tonight. Is there anything  
23          else I need to share? With that, I'll quit  
24          talking and I look forward to hearing from  
25          each of you tonight. We all look forward to

1 hearing from each of you tonight. And our  
2 early bird tonight who wins the prize for  
3 being the first one to sign up on our sign-in  
4 sheet is Katie O'Connor. Ms. O'Connor, we  
5 invite you to the microphone. I do note that  
6 Ms. O'Connor is with the ACLU Voting Rights  
7 Project. Ms. O'Connor.

8 MS. O'CONNOR: This microphone is set for somebody  
9 like me.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Set just for you, Ms. O'Connor.

11 MS. O'CONNOR: Okay. Thanks for the opportunity to  
12 speak. My name is Katie O'Connor and I'm here  
13 to testify on behalf of the American Civil  
14 Liberties Union Voting Rights Projects. I'd  
15 like to start by thanking you all for holding  
16 this public hearing and several other public  
17 hearings throughout the state. Because  
18 redistricting determines the composition of  
19 districts in which individuals elect their  
20 representatives, every voter has a vital stake  
21 in the redistricting process and every voter  
22 should feel welcome to participate in the  
23 process. This sort of collaboration between  
24 lawmakers, redistricting experts, individuals,  
25 and organizations to draw and analyze plans

1 and to promote transparency in the  
2 redistricting process is absolutely essential,  
3 so thank you. Fair and equal representation  
4 is the cornerstone of American democracy. The  
5 US Constitution requires states to apportion  
6 their congressional districts according to the  
7 one person, one vote principal. And the  
8 Supreme Court has interpreted the equal  
9 protection clause of the 14th Amendment as  
10 requiring state legislative seats to adhere to  
11 that principal as well. Improper  
12 redistricting can result in unequal  
13 representation in voting districts, dilution  
14 of minority votes, and fractured communities.  
15 In addition to the one person, one vote  
16 principal, a redistricting plan must be drawn  
17 utilizing traditional redistricting principals  
18 such as contiguity, compactness, preservation  
19 of county lines, and communities of interest,  
20 and competitiveness. A redistricting plan  
21 must also take into account the voting rights  
22 act which prohibits the use of redistricting  
23 plans that result in diluting minority votes.  
24 Communities of color, in particular, have  
25 faced numerous obstacles to meaningful

1 participation in the electoral process,  
2 including the redistricting process. The  
3 federal voting rights act includes protection  
4 provisions to ensure these communities  
5 effective involvement in the political  
6 process. Compliance with the voting rights  
7 act ensures that racial and language  
8 minorities have an equal opportunity to  
9 participate in the political process and to  
10 elect candidates of their choice. We look  
11 forward to collaborating with this community,  
12 with this committee, with individual voters,  
13 and with other interested parties over the  
14 next several months in drawing fair and equal  
15 districts for South Carolina State House of  
16 Representatives and for the seven  
17 congressional districts. Thank you.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. O'Connor, for your  
19 participation tonight.

20 MS. O'CONNOR: Any questions?

21 REP. CLEMMONS: No questions for now. Thank you,  
22 Ms. O'Connor. I'd like to recognize State  
23 Representative Seth Whipper from Charleston  
24 that just joined us. [Applause]. Welcome,  
25 Representative Whipper. Ms. O'Connor, I'm

1           sorry, could you come back to the microphone  
2           for just a moment, Representative Young has a  
3           question for you.

4   REP. YOUNG:   The only question I have is this is  
5           our sixth hearing, I think, the sixth hearing  
6           we've had so far and I don't think anybody  
7           from the ACLU has testified at any of the  
8           other hearings and I was just curious.

9   MS. O'CONNOR:   Why now?

10   REP. YOUNG:   Is there, is it geography?

11   MS. O'CONNOR:   It is geography.   I came from  
12           Atlanta, actually.

13   REP. YOUNG:   Okay.

14   MS. O'CONNOR:   We're juggling, I mean, the ACLU of  
15           South Carolina has been very involved.   I know  
16           they've been to some of the Senate  
17           subcommittee hearings.

18   REP. YOUNG:   Okay.

19   MS. O'CONNOR:   I think it's just a limited amount  
20           of time and driving around the state.   But we  
21           definitely wanted to get on the record and we  
22           want to be involved, so --

23   REP. YOUNG:   Okay.   Thank you very much.

24   MS. O'CONNOR:   -- that's why we're here tonight.  
25           You're welcome.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes. Ms. O'Connor, please  
2 entertain a question from Representative Karl  
3 Allen.

4 REP. ALLEN: Of those hearing, Ms. O'Connor, in one  
5 of the other venues there was a pamphlet that  
6 perhaps was put out by the ACLU that dealt  
7 with the issue of redistricting. Have you  
8 seen those pamphlets or are they available to  
9 the public to explain the redistricting  
10 process and these terms of communities of  
11 interest and compactness and so forth?

12 MS. O'CONNOR: Absolutely. I do have a bag full of  
13 them, so if anybody wants one let me know.  
14 It's also in PDF format on the ACLU website.  
15 So if I run out tonight, if anybody wants one,  
16 please let me know, but otherwise go to the  
17 ACLU website. It's a pretty good intro to  
18 redistricting.

19 REP. ALLEN: Okay. Thank you.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. O'Connor. Ms.  
21 Lawana McKenzie, I believe. Councilwoman, I'm  
22 sorry, excuse me, Aiken County Council.

23 MS. MCKENZIE: Thank you so much for being in Aiken  
24 County tonight. We appreciate all of you  
25 traveling to be a part of this. First of all,

1 I'm from an area that's called Horse Creek  
2 Valley. It's the mill villages that used to  
3 be in Aiken County. We are united in trying  
4 to redevelop and to make some use of the old  
5 mills and the land that they're positioned on  
6 at this time. They use the -- full  
7 representatives are 81 through 84 basically  
8 that border or either represent this area at  
9 this time and to us it's extremely important  
10 that we remain together. I think the common  
11 things that happen sometimes is you look at  
12 big cities and you start dividing them up  
13 because of the population, and then you draw  
14 in the outlying areas, and that means us,  
15 those outlying areas. And then we become  
16 divided which weakens our strength. We feel  
17 like we have commonalities there that we pull  
18 together, that we have ideas we're working on,  
19 we don't want to see those things disturbed.  
20 Tom is one of the representatives in our area  
21 and we certainly appreciate all that he does  
22 for us. But we also have the same concern  
23 when the Senate talks to us about our  
24 representation. The other thing I'd like to  
25 ask you to consider, and this is probably

1 across the state on those mill villages, it's  
2 not just us. Because as I work with those  
3 areas, I find across the state we have this  
4 issue of vacant huge buildings and brownvilles  
5 that we're having to deal with, so I hope that  
6 you'll consider that as you go across the  
7 state. And the other thing I'd like for you  
8 to do is to look at this in a very timely  
9 manner. The last time we had redistricting,  
10 everyone had an election except county  
11 council. And we had to have a special  
12 election, and by the time the general election  
13 was over, the interest had waned. It was very  
14 poor voter turnout, it was very difficult to  
15 get people to go back to the polls. And in my  
16 opinion, being on county council, it was not  
17 fair to us to have to be omitted from the  
18 general election. And so I'd ask you to also  
19 remember that that timeline is extremely  
20 important to all elected officials and not  
21 just state officials. Okay.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Ms. McKenzie.  
23 I will say that our duty, in the General  
24 Assembly, is to produce the lines and go  
25 through the process with regard to

1 Congressional, Senate, and House districts,  
2 so we are not involved in the redistricting  
3 process within your county. But we certainly  
4 look forward to being able to help in any way  
5 that we can to help urge that along.

6 MS. MCKENZIE: Well, being on county council I know  
7 where the power lies. I know my place. Thank  
8 you.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Very good. Thank you so much  
10 Councilwoman McKenzie. We appreciate your  
11 input. Were there any questions of  
12 Councilwoman McKenzie? Thank you. Our next  
13 speaker is Claude O'Donovan. Mr. O'Donovan.  
14 Here as a private citizen tonight, I note.

15 MR. O'DONOVAN: Yes, sir.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Welcome, Mr. O'Donovan.

17 MR. O'DONOVAN: Thank you. Am I transmitting well  
18 enough with it down this low?

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Can everybody hear in the back?

20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: No.

21 REP CLEMMONS: Could you raise it up, Mr.  
22 O'Donovan?

23 MR. O'DONOVAN: It's been hard to hear anybody.

24 All right. Is that better?

25 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.

1 MR. O'DONOVAN: Yes. My name's Claude Hill  
2 O'Donovan. I live at 159 Mallard Lake Drive  
3 in Aiken, South Carolina. I'm in the city.  
4 And I'm here as a private citizen. I'm not  
5 particularly concerned about the state  
6 legislature lines. We are so ably represented  
7 right now, I hope you don't change anything,  
8 frankly. But I am concerned about the  
9 congressional lines. My wife and I went up  
10 for the swearing in for the new Congress and  
11 the rumors were already flying about where  
12 this new congressional district was going to  
13 be and, you know, who was going to have what.  
14 And Aiken was heavy into that discussion, and  
15 I am concerned about that. And the reason --  
16 I want to read a statement here about that.  
17 My concern is that you may give weight to Joe  
18 Wilson's seniority and give him all of Aiken  
19 County. I like Joe, I really do, but Jeff  
20 Duncan consistently has shown concern for our  
21 region, even before he represented us. As a  
22 South Carolina state representative, he  
23 visited the Savannah River Site on numerous  
24 occasions and organized a tour of other South  
25 Carolina state reps. He currently sits on the

1 US Congress Natural Resources Committee, he  
2 recently organized a tour for all of the South  
3 Carolina US House members to go, that they  
4 would have a greater application of the SRA  
5 site and it's value to South Carolina. No  
6 other legislator has been so proactive with  
7 regard to SRA. Jeff also serves on the US  
8 Department of Interiors Outer Continental  
9 Shelf five year planning subcommittee for  
10 making recommendations on oil and natural gas  
11 leases on off-shore areas. In addition, he  
12 served as the state's natural gas off-shore  
13 study committee and was appointed to represent  
14 the state of South Carolina on the drilling  
15 southern states energy board. In other words,  
16 he's very energy oriented. And we are very  
17 energy oriented. And my point is that  
18 Congressman Duncan has shown, by his actions,  
19 that he is essential for us here in Aiken  
20 County and I believe it is critical that you  
21 keep him here representing us in the US  
22 Congress. Thank you for your service, thank  
23 you for your time. [Applause]

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. O'Donovan.

25 Questions? Thank you, Mr. O'Donovan. Ms. Ann

1 Wilbrand. How do you do, Ma'am?

2 MS. WILBRAND: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members  
3 of the panel. I'm presenting to you tonight  
4 essentially the same remarks that I made  
5 before the Senate panel a couple weeks ago.  
6 My name is Ann Wilbrand, I'm a 25 year  
7 resident of the city of Aiken. I live at 2057  
8 Dibble Road and I'm in the House District 81  
9 and Senate 24. I'm also the second vice-chair  
10 of the Aiken County democratic party and a  
11 member of the League Of Women Voters, which as  
12 you know is an organization that is always  
13 very concerned about one person, one vote  
14 issues. My concern about having a fair and  
15 equitable electoral process has brought me to  
16 speak before you this evening. Thank you for  
17 taking the time to hear us, the voters. While  
18 this hearing is one step to ensure  
19 transparency of the reapportionment process, I  
20 appreciate that it provides an opportunity for  
21 interested members of the public like me to  
22 participate. I support districts that are  
23 drawn substantially on population,  
24 compactness, a respect for existing  
25 boundaries, political competitiveness, and are

1           reflective of the socioeconomic, racial, and  
2           ethnic diversity of our communities. I want  
3           to see the redistricting process within Aiken  
4           County give all voters a greater voice in  
5           selecting our members of the General Assembly.  
6           In the last election, two new members of the  
7           General Assembly were elected from Aiken  
8           County, but their election was determined in  
9           the primary not the general election. These  
10          candidates had no opposition in the general  
11          election, as unfortunately is the case with  
12          about 60 percent of the members of the General  
13          Assembly. This process disenfranchised every  
14          voter in those districts who chose not to vote  
15          in that party's primary, whether they voted  
16          in the other primary or did not vote at all.  
17          In fact, none of the Aiken County House  
18          delegation had any opposition in November. It  
19          is likely they will have no opposition in the  
20          next election either, unless there are major  
21          changes to the way the district boundaries are  
22          drawn. When districts are designed so the  
23          majority party is favored over the minority by  
24          over two to one, there is little or no  
25          incentive for opponents to go through the

1 arduous process to run for office knowing that  
2 they are sure to loose. The general election  
3 then becomes little more than a coronation, it  
4 is certainly not democracy. I urge you to  
5 avoid the temptation to create such safe  
6 districts and wherever possible instead,  
7 create competitive districts so that we, the  
8 voters, have a much better chance of having a  
9 choice of candidates. Drawing districts that  
10 have nearly equal partisan split is much more  
11 likely to entice more candidates to run for  
12 election. It gives voters a choice and it  
13 does hold the incumbents accountable, which we  
14 cannot do right now when we have no choices  
15 other than their name on the ballot. I would  
16 also like to see major changes in the way the  
17 US Congressional Districts are drawn. Aiken  
18 County, I believe, suffers from two major  
19 issues with having the current 2nd and 3rd  
20 Districts cutting through Aiken County. These  
21 districts are too large, requiring a two to  
22 three hour drive from end to end, which makes  
23 no sense in a state as small as South  
24 Carolina. This does not serve candidates from  
25 any party or the elected officials well, since

1           they have less opportunity to connect with the  
2           voters spread over such a large area. The  
3           concept of representing community of interest  
4           has no relevance in such large districts.  
5           Aiken has little in common with Oconee or  
6           Anderson County in the 3rd District or  
7           Beaufort or Jasper Counties in the 2nd. I  
8           strongly suggest that both the 2nd and 3rd  
9           Districts be redrawn so that the 3rd District  
10          serves just the upstate. The 2nd District  
11          should be split so that the lower part is  
12          again merged with the 1st District and the  
13          upper part forms a new compact western mid-  
14          state 2nd District that includes Aiken,  
15          Lexington, and the other surrounding counties.  
16          The other issue I strongly urge you to address  
17          is that Aiken County is now split between the  
18          two congressional districts. I think it's far  
19          better if the county boundaries are respected  
20          when drawing these district lines. It is  
21          preferable for there to be a single  
22          congressional campaign within a county that  
23          can reach out to all the voters, and including  
24          the entire county in one congressional  
25          district makes it easier for the voters to

1 engage in the candidates in local issues and  
2 hopefully will promote more informed  
3 discussion of political candidates. Once  
4 elected, compact districts fully encompassing  
5 the county increases the chance that the  
6 representative is responsive to a more unified  
7 set of interests and issues that face that  
8 county. Furthermore, I don't support the  
9 argument that some will advance tonight that  
10 we need two representatives in Congress  
11 because of SRS. From what I've observed the  
12 congressmen whose base is in the upstate  
13 really don't pay that much attention to SRS,  
14 unless there's an urgent issue that prompts  
15 them to do so. I'm a regular voter, a poll  
16 worker, and very active in many aspects of  
17 local and state political process. I want the  
18 opportunity to vote for those that I consider  
19 to be the best candidates in districts better  
20 drawn fairly to represent all political  
21 viewpoints. After the election, I want my  
22 elected representatives to truly represent me  
23 and the issues that I'm concerned about,  
24 whether or not we have the same party  
25 affiliations. I want to see districts that

1 are constructed so that these officials have  
2 the opportunity to hear my concerns and views  
3 on a regular basis. Thank you.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Wilbrand. Any  
5 questions? Yes, sir, Mr. Allen. Could you  
6 step back.

7 REP. ALLEN: The comments you made about the  
8 district being Aiken and Lexington being drawn  
9 together, are you saying that Aiken has more  
10 in common with Lexington as --

11 MS. WILBRAND: I'm saying --

12 REP. ALLEN: -- opposed to some other 3rd or 2nd  
13 District?

14 MS. WILBRAND: I'm saying that it would make a much  
15 more compact district, which to me makes sense  
16 because then there's less distance for the  
17 both candidates and elected representatives to  
18 cover. But I also don't see that we really  
19 don't have any connection with Anderson or  
20 Oconee County in the 3rd District, and I don't  
21 think the members, the people that live in the  
22 2nd District in Aiken County have anything in  
23 common with Beaufort or Jasper. I mean, these  
24 are just very long, gerrymandered districts  
25 and I would much rather see, much smaller

1 compact districts so that there's a lot more  
2 communication between the representatives and  
3 the people.

4 REP. ALLEN: So your comments are driven primarily  
5 by compactness?

6 MS. WILBRAND: Yes.

7 REP. ALLEN: Okay. Thank you.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Wilbrand. Our next  
9 speaker is Dennis Saylor, chair of the Aiken  
10 County democrat, or excuse me, Aiken County  
11 Republican Party. Excuse me, excuse me.

12 MR. SAYLOR: [Inaudible].

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Absolutely.

14 MR. SAYLOR: I want to thank you all for the  
15 opportunity for me to speak. Although I am,  
16 you know, better known in the area as the  
17 chairman of the Aiken County Republican Party,  
18 I am speaking mainly as a public citizen this  
19 evening. I've given a lot of thought -- I do  
20 not have anything prepared, so I'm not going  
21 to have any eloquent speech. I'm going to  
22 keep this as brief as possible. My name is  
23 Dennis Saylor. I am a resident of Aiken  
24 County at 302 Plantation Drive and I reside in  
25 Representative Young's district. And I feel

1 we are served very well by our current House  
2 of Representatives, and like Mr. O'Donovan  
3 mentioned, I think we're very well  
4 represented, you know, within Aiken County at  
5 that level. I am more inclined to speak on  
6 the Congressional level redistricting. I've  
7 given a lot over the timeframe when I knew  
8 this was coming about, and originally had  
9 thought one or the other, much like the  
10 previous speaker had said, you know, either  
11 all of one, represented by one congressman.  
12 For the ease of the voters, you know, I  
13 thought that was a good possibility. But  
14 since then, I've given it more thought and  
15 have come full circle on this and feel that  
16 Aiken County is better represented by two  
17 representations as opposed to just one. And I  
18 would like for you to consider that when  
19 you're looking at the details and looking to  
20 redrawn the lines. I believe Aiken County,  
21 and not just because of SRS, Aiken County is a  
22 very diverse, there are a lot of industries,  
23 there's a lot of new interest in the horse  
24 industry in the Aiken County, so it's not just  
25 SRS in mind. We're well represented by both

1           Congressman Joe Wilson and Jeff Duncan and I'd  
2           like to see it stay that way as much as  
3           possible. No doubt the line will shift one  
4           way or the other in some direction, but I'd  
5           like to keep it with two representations.  
6           Thank you.

7   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Saylor. Any  
8           questions? Thank you, Sir. Next, Mr. Billy  
9           Boylston. Boylston, excuse me. Mr. Boylston  
10          is here on behalf of Representative Jeff  
11          Duncan. You might need to raise that just a  
12          tad.

13   MR. BOYLSTON: Can everybody hear me?

14   REP. CLEMMONS: Yes.

15   MR. BOYLSTON: First of all, thank you all for  
16          coming tonight and all the work you do in the  
17          state house. Good to see you again, Mr.  
18          Young. And tonight, unfortunately, Jeff can't  
19          be here, but I'm here to speak on behalf of  
20          him. So I'll just read you some prepared  
21          statements on behalf of the Congressman. On  
22          April 2, 2009 I announced my candidacy for the  
23          United States Congress. Over the course of the  
24          past few years, I have had the chance to get  
25          to know the people of the 3rd Congressional

1 District as potential voters, constituents,  
2 but most importantly as friends. The  
3 residents of Aiken, Edgefield, and McCormick  
4 Counties have invited me into their homes,  
5 shared their stories and prayed for my family  
6 and me. The people who reside in the southern  
7 half of the 3rd District are nothing short of  
8 some of the finest individuals this country  
9 has to offer and some of the greatest people I  
10 have ever met. They are entrepreneurs, small  
11 business owners, and farmers. They are former  
12 and current employees of the Savannah River  
13 Site who talents help keep our nation safe.  
14 And they are military veterans, policemen,  
15 firefighters, and teachers who sacrifice every  
16 day to give back to our communities.  
17 Representing these inspiring individuals in  
18 Congress is one of the highest honors and  
19 greatest responsibilities I could ever  
20 imagine. Which leads us to the bittersweet  
21 topic of this evening's meeting,  
22 redistricting. While I'm thrilled that South  
23 Carolina's increased population will result in  
24 a 7th Congressional District for the first  
25 time since World War Two, I would consider any

1           redistricting plan that changes who I have the  
2           pleasure of representing as a great loss. The  
3           ten counties that form the 3rd District create  
4           a unique balance in regards to demographics  
5           and needs. The district is anchored in the  
6           nuclear power on both ends, with Oconee  
7           Nuclear Station to the north and the Savannah  
8           River Site to the south. District wide, small  
9           businesses continue to be the driving force in  
10          the economy, especially agri businesses that  
11          can be found from Pumpkintown to Ridge Spring.  
12          With the release of the new census data the  
13          information makes clear that the 3rd District  
14          will be forced to shrink in population to make  
15          room for the new congressional seat. My wish  
16          is for the General Assembly to strongly take  
17          into consideration the wisdom of the current  
18          district boundaries and make as few changes as  
19          constitutionally possible. I appreciate you  
20          taking the time to listen to the public's  
21          concerns on this very important matter and I  
22          hope you will listen to the concerns above all  
23          others, above all others as you make your  
24          decision. Thank you.

25    REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Boylston. Any

1 questions?

2 MR. BOYLSTON: Any questions?

3 REP. CLEMMONS: I don't think we have any. Thank  
4 you, Mr. Boylston.

5 MR. BOYLSTON: Yes, sir. Thank y'all.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: And thank Congressman Duncan for  
7 his remarks as well. Jane Page Thompson. Ms.  
8 Thompson.

9 MS. THOMPSON: I'm Jane Page Thompson of 240 Knox  
10 Avenue here in Aiken. Thank you all for  
11 coming to Aiken, for giving us this  
12 opportunity to talk to you about redistricting  
13 at both the House and federal levels. Aiken  
14 County's legislative delegation represents  
15 Aiken County very well. We are happy to be  
16 represented by Roland Smith, Bill Clyburn,  
17 Bill Taylor, Tom Young, and Bill Hixon. We do  
18 have another member of the House that  
19 represents a small portion of Aiken,  
20 unfortunately, Mr. Spires never seems to come  
21 to our Aiken delegation meetings. And one  
22 thing that the voters in Aiken want and  
23 deserve is an active Aiken legislative  
24 delegation that is supportive of the issues  
25 that are going on locally. Mr. Spires

1 continually misses meetings, he's never  
2 present for the local issues, the town hall  
3 meetings, the educational seminars that our  
4 legislators have. And this, I think, is a  
5 disservice to the citizens and voters of Aiken  
6 County. So I would encourage you to take the  
7 small portion that Mr. Spires' district has  
8 and push it north, and take the small bit of  
9 the district to the south and push it east,  
10 therefore eliminating District 96 from the  
11 Aiken County legislative delegation. So  
12 therefore I believe in your criteria for  
13 determining what House districts should look  
14 like, commitment, attendance, activity, and  
15 responsiveness of the member of the  
16 legislative delegation should be a primary  
17 criteria. One that, I think, if you  
18 interviewed the fellow legislative delegation  
19 members of the Aiken delegation, you'd find  
20 out that Mr. Spires, because of the small  
21 number of voters he represents, tends not to  
22 participate. The size and portion of a  
23 district and county could also be a criteria.  
24 We also have in our Senate district, Nikki  
25 Setzler who has a very small portion of Aiken

1 County, and again, we have the same problem  
2 with Senator Setzler's inattendance. However,  
3 we have great representation from all of the  
4 other House members and Senators that we do  
5 have. So I would encourage you to keep those  
6 active and responsive elected officials in  
7 place. On the Federal level, the immense  
8 legislative demand that the Savannah River  
9 Site represents for our local and federal  
10 representatives, means that Aiken should  
11 remain split between two congressional  
12 districts. A consolidated, smaller district  
13 makes no sense. The workload that the  
14 Savannah River Site requires of current staff  
15 of both Representative Wilson and  
16 Representative Duncan is immense. This is not  
17 a small facility. District 3, Congressional  
18 District 3 has Oconee to the north and SRS to  
19 the south. We have SRS at the north of  
20 Representative Wilson's district and the  
21 facilities in Charleston. So therefore I  
22 believe that the split is logical. A criteria  
23 for the federal delegation redistricting  
24 should be where the economic affinity centers  
25 exist. Large economic drivers or government

1 facilities in a single congressional district  
2 can add an undue burden to congressional  
3 staff, therefore eliminating other time for  
4 constituents who aren't huge economic engines.  
5 I think that's an important criteria for you  
6 to consider. Another consideration that I  
7 would like to bring forward is that it makes  
8 sense since the largest portion of economic  
9 and population growth occurred in South  
10 Carolina around the Rock Hill area and the  
11 Horry County area, it makes sense that that  
12 7th Congressional District should be somewhere  
13 in the northeastern part of the state. I also  
14 want to remind you of a really great US House  
15 member that we have. Tim Scott won a  
16 congressional seat against what I would  
17 consider South Carolina political royalty like  
18 Thurmond and Campbell. For us to assume that  
19 the South Carolina voter is no longer  
20 intelligent, or is not intelligent enough to  
21 determine what the best representative for  
22 them would be, I think, is a misgiving, if  
23 we're only going to base this on race. So I  
24 believe we need to progress past that concept  
25 and let's look at what issues matter to South

1 Carolina. Job creation, economic affinity  
2 centers are key to the growth of our state.  
3 As an Aiken voter, I am honored and proud to  
4 have people like Representative Young, Taylor,  
5 Clyburn, Hixon, and Smith representing me at  
6 the state house in Columbia. I am also  
7 honored to have been a campaign volunteer for  
8 both Representative Jeff Duncan and  
9 Representative Joe Wilson, because I know how  
10 important having two congressional districts  
11 representing the Savannah River Site is, not  
12 only for the economic engine that it is, but  
13 for me as a small voter, small businessperson  
14 in Aiken, also getting my equal time with  
15 their staff. Thank you for your time and  
16 thank you for being here.

17 MR. CLEMMONS: Thank you so much. Any question?  
18 Yes. Mr. Allen?

19 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The area  
20 that you make reference to, the small portion  
21 that you referred to a couple of times, you  
22 said that was a portion in Setzler's district  
23 as well as Spires. Is that the same portion,  
24 and can we refer to it, or can you in your  
25 comments refer to it by geography?

1 MS. THOMPSON: Can I get the map?

2 REP. ALLEN: Yes.

3 MS. THOMPSON: You don't have the Senate district  
4 maps here. The senate district map is almost  
5 a similar portion, this is the House, so this  
6 is the portion that Representative Spires has  
7 in Aiken County, this small corner. It's  
8 basically Perry and Salley --

9 REP ALLEN: Perry --

10 MS. THOMPSON: -- South Carolina. Senator  
11 Setzler's district skips along a little bit  
12 differently, it shaves off a larger portion of  
13 the western, northwestern corner as well, but  
14 as far as the House goes -- And you can see  
15 here where it would make sense to push this  
16 into this district, which would appease  
17 Councilwoman McKenzie, Councilwoman McKenzie's  
18 point of keeping her area whole and then  
19 pushing that population to here. The  
20 population density is generally the same. I'm  
21 a realtor so I'm pretty familiar with both of  
22 these areas.

23 REP. ALLEN: All right. Thank you.

24 MS. THOMPSON: Thank you. Any more questions?

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Teresa

1 Harper.

2 MS. HARPER: Good evening Chairman Clemmons and  
3 representatives.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening.

5 MS. HARPER: My name is Teresa Harper, I'm the  
6 first vice-chair of the Aiken County  
7 Democratic Party. A few weeks ago I attended  
8 the Senate redistricting hearing and would  
9 like to address a statement made concerning  
10 the importance of Congressional Districts 2  
11 and 3 remaining intact because it's valuable  
12 to have the Savannah River Site supported by  
13 two members of congress, we've also heard that  
14 this evening. I would like to point out that  
15 if we were drawing congressional district  
16 lines in order to have the greatest support  
17 for the Savannah River Site then we should  
18 really be drawn into this Congressional  
19 District 6. The former and current members of  
20 congress from the 2nd and 3rd Congressional  
21 Districts have not always supported Savannah  
22 River Site. For instance, Representative  
23 Clyburn was instrumental in securing 1.6  
24 billion for the Savannah River Site from the  
25 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

1 while Representative Wilson and Barrett voted  
2 no on the bill. The redistricting process  
3 absolutely should not be about personal or  
4 political preferences. In actuality what we  
5 are looking for in the process is our compact  
6 districts. In addition, the redistricting  
7 should reflect the racial and ethnic diversity  
8 of our community so that all viewpoints could  
9 be represented. It would then be up to us,  
10 the voters, to determine if our elected  
11 officials are truly representing us, not  
12 special interests or the biggest campaign  
13 donors. Thank you.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Any questions? Thank  
15 you so much for your input tonight, Ms.  
16 Harper. Sharon Holloway. Ms. Holloway, good  
17 evening.

18 MS. HOLLOWAY: [Inaudible].

19 REP. CLEMMONS: I'm sorry.

20 MS. HOLLOWAY: Chairman Clemmons and to the rest of  
21 you from US House, from the House of  
22 Representatives, I do thank you for giving me  
23 the opportunity to come before you this  
24 afternoon. I represent Saluda County  
25 democratic party. My name is Sharon Holloway,

1 I live at 1451 Bonham Road, Saluda, South  
2 Carolina. I'm here to represent Saluda County  
3 as a whole. In redrawing the lines, I would  
4 hope that you all would look at Saluda County,  
5 at the preservation of the county lines.  
6 Right now, we have three in our House  
7 delegation. If you look on the website,  
8 nobody's from Saluda. We have one from  
9 Lexington -- two from Lexington and one -- No.  
10 One -- Our Senate district is, one's from  
11 Newberry, one's from Edgefield, one's from  
12 Lexington. Our House district, we have one  
13 from Lexington. The prepared statement that  
14 our US Congressman sent tonight, Jeffrey  
15 Duncan, his representative forgot Saluda  
16 County was part of that district. And I just  
17 want to let you all know that Saluda County is  
18 part of that US Congressional District, which  
19 is the 3rd Congressional District. You called  
20 the House the People's House, we in Saluda  
21 have felt that we were infused into Lexington  
22 County. We would like to be infused into a  
23 county much more like us, rather than infused  
24 in Lexington County. So in redrawing the  
25 lines, we ask that you take that into

1 consideration, to preserve us as a county,  
2 that maybe we can have our own local  
3 representative to represent us and the people  
4 of Saluda County.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Holloway. Are there  
6 any questions of Ms. Holloway? Mr. Allen.

7 REP. ALLEN: One quick question. If you're not  
8 infused with Lexington, did you have a  
9 community of interest or a community that  
10 where you're telling us to try to infuse you?

11 MS. HOLLOWAY: We're more similar to Newberry than  
12 we are Lexington.

13 REP. ALLEN: Newberry. Thank you.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Can you hear me?

15 MS. HOLLOWAY: Yes.

16 REP CLEMMONS: Does Marion Frye, does he not live  
17 in Saluda County?

18 MS. HOLLOWAY: If you look on the website it would  
19 say that he's Lexington, so . . . He lives  
20 right on the county line, so . . .

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay. Do you think Saluda County  
22 has stuff in common with the rural part of  
23 Lexington County, outside of  
24 Batesburg/Leesville?

25 MS. HOLLOWAY: Outside of Batesburg/Leesville I

1 think have more in commonness to Lexington,  
2 because of their growth. We have, we've lived  
3 to see and the representatives, they focus  
4 more toward the Batesburg/Leesville area,  
5 toward Lexington versus towards Saluda. We  
6 have, right now, in Saluda County too, in the  
7 school districts, we have three school  
8 districts that Saluda County students go to,  
9 one is in Aiken County, Aiken school district,  
10 Lexington school district, and we have one  
11 school district in Saluda, so . . .

12 REP. CLEMMONS: How many people live in Saluda  
13 County, do you know?

14 MS. HOLLOWAY: I think it's about 25,000.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Holloway.  
16 Indulge us with our PA system difficulties  
17 here. Mr. Tony DiStefano.

18 MR. DISTEFANO: DiStefano.

19 REP. CLEMMONS: DiStefano, excuse me.

20 REP. YOUNG: Can I ask that last lady one more  
21 question.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. DiStefano, could you step aside  
23 for one second. Ms. Holloway, could you come  
24 back forward for just one moment. I'm sorry  
25 to bother you again. I know your back's

1           bothering you.

2   REP. YOUNG:   She can stay right there.

3   REP. CLEMMONS:   Okay.   You can stay right there at  
4           Mr. Young's desk.

5   REP. YOUNG:   I just want to ask you, do you think  
6           that Saluda, portions of Saluda County have  
7           things in common with portions of Edgefield  
8           County?

9   MS. HOLLOWAY:   I do think we have things that's in  
10           common with portions of Edgefield.   Matter of  
11           fact, I reside on the western part, in the  
12           western part of Saluda County.   At one time we  
13           were represented, more of that area was  
14           represented by House District, I think it was  
15           82, Bill Clyburn represented us at that time.  
16           We felt more representation at that time than  
17           we do now as having one house of  
18           representatives.

19   REP. YOUNG:   Okay.   Thank you very much.

20   REP. CLEMMONS:   Thank you again, Ms. Holloway.   Mr.  
21           DiStefano.

22   MR. DISTEFANO:   Yes.   Mr. Chairman and members of  
23           the subcommittee, I want to thank you for  
24           holding this hearing.

25   REP. CLEMMONS:   Thank you.

1 MR. DISTEFANO: I'm speaking this evening as a  
2 concerned citizen of South Carolina. And I  
3 want to talk, very briefly, about the  
4 relationship between this redistricting  
5 exercise and the theory of democracy. One of  
6 the main tests of democracy is show me the  
7 opposition party's candidate. A democratic  
8 system of government requires that at least  
9 two candidates compete for each office.  
10 Elections should be contested on a level  
11 playing field and the rules should be fair for  
12 everyone. After each ten year census in  
13 America, legislative districts are redrawn.  
14 But how are these districts redrawn? The goal  
15 should not be let's draw these districts so my  
16 political party has the maximum advantage or  
17 to make sure that members of the legislature  
18 have safe seats. The goal should be do these  
19 district's lines make sense and will they  
20 foster elections that give voters a real  
21 choice. Currently, some legislative districts  
22 are gerrymandered, that is they are designed  
23 to benefit one party or the other. A county,  
24 city, or town may be divided among two or even  
25 more legislative districts, some districts may

1 be about 150 miles long and only about 20  
2 miles wide. These districts confuse voters so  
3 that they don't know which district they are  
4 in or who represents them. Even worse,  
5 candidates for some offices often run opposed.  
6 They have no opponent in a general election  
7 because their districts are so skewed in favor  
8 of their political party. A candidate may  
9 have opposition in the primary election but  
10 the differences between the candidates in a  
11 primary election tend to be based on trivia  
12 and personalities rather than on real  
13 substantive issues. A lot of uncontested  
14 seats in a general election is not a healthy  
15 democracy. Either we believe in equality and  
16 democracy or we do not. If we do, as we say  
17 we do, then all legislative districts should  
18 be drawn so that they are compact, do not  
19 divide up counties, cities, and towns, and do  
20 not favor one political party or the other.  
21 In conclusion, I urge you to put partisan and  
22 personal interest aside and draw new  
23 legislative districts that are both fair and  
24 competitive. Thank you for your attention.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. DiStefano. Any

1           questions? Hearing none. Thank you, Sir.  
2           Next we have, we have a tag team sign up here  
3           of Randy and Terri Sullivan. They will pass  
4           on speaking tonight. I think they were just  
5           signing in at the time. Thank you. Mr. Joe  
6           Norman. Mr. Joe Norman, would you like to  
7           speak tonight?

8   MR. NORMAN: Yes, I would.

9   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Sir. Please come  
10          forward.

11   MR. NORMAN: [Inaudible].

12   REP. CLEMMONS: Very well, Sir.

13   MR. NORMAN: When you consider the fact that I'm 72  
14          years old, I'm sure [Inaudible].

15   REP. CLEMMONS: A very young 72 years old, I might  
16          add.

17   MR. NORMAN: [Inaudible].

18   REP. CLEMMONS: You're welcome, Sir.

19   MR. NORMAN: First of all, let me just briefly say  
20          thank you all for being here. I'm going to  
21          dispense with all of the other formalities.  
22          It is a privilege for me to be here to talk to  
23          you all very important people.

24   REP. CLEMMONS: The privilege is ours, I'll say,  
25          Mr. Norman.

1 MR. NORMAN: I'm glad you turned that around,  
2 because that's the way it's supposed to be.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, it is.

4 MR. NORMAN: Thank you. You see where I'm coming  
5 from.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

7 MR. NORMAN: Okay. I'm not that articulate as some  
8 of the previous speakers were. I do want to  
9 say that I will ask that you all repeat for me  
10 what Tony said, what Teresa said and what Ann  
11 said, they pretty much gave my points of view.  
12 I do just want to add one thing. I live in  
13 Joe Wilson's district, I go to church in Joe  
14 Wilson's district in Salley, Perry area. That  
15 area is predominately African American. Joe  
16 Wilson do not represent us, not by a long  
17 shot. Hitler represented us better than Joe  
18 Wilson. Now, I talk to peoples in my church,  
19 in my community, in my organization, on a  
20 continuing basis. I ran for county council a  
21 few years ago. One of the things that held me  
22 back was money. Joe Wilson don't have no  
23 problem with his money. All he got to do is  
24 call the first African American president a  
25 liar and he get all the money that he need.

1 He had the opportunity to call Bush a liar.  
2 We all know Bush lied and people died, but he  
3 didn't. Where is democracy in that type of  
4 shenanigan. I don't see it. If you see it,  
5 please explain it to me. How did Joe Wilson  
6 get beau coups of money, simply by calling the  
7 first African American president a liar. And  
8 Bush lied and people died, and he haven't yet  
9 called Bush a liar. I wonder how much money  
10 he would make if he did? He'd probably get  
11 kicked out of the club, if he did that. You  
12 know, we in America, have done a lot of great  
13 things, we have produced a lot of great  
14 individuals. Dr. King, I consider one of  
15 those, Abraham Lincoln another one. Dr. King  
16 said before he died, if America did not  
17 change, one day we will wake up sort of like  
18 Rip Van Winkle and find out we on the wrong  
19 side of a world revolution. America, I think  
20 it's time to wake up, because the revolution  
21 have already started. And I'm trying to  
22 figure out which side we on. Are we on the  
23 side of the people that need representation,  
24 are we on the side of the people that are in  
25 power, in control, and doing everything they

1 can to make sure they stay in power and stay  
2 in control? That's what the revolution,  
3 according to my interpretation of what Dr.  
4 King meant, that's what the revolution is  
5 about. And what I see, when I see a situation  
6 like the way the districts are drawn,  
7 disenfranchisement. Now, I'm not a very smart  
8 man but I can see that. I can see the  
9 wrongness in what's going on. If you want a  
10 democracy, you need to set it up so that you  
11 have a political system where you got  
12 individuals from at least two different  
13 parties. To me, that's what democracy is  
14 about. But if you got a system where the same  
15 party get elected and re-elected, and re-  
16 elected again, and they get the chance every  
17 ten years to draw the district again and set  
18 it up so that they win again, and draw your  
19 district next ten years and win again, then  
20 all of the sacrifice that great men put forth  
21 like Abraham Lincoln, Dr. Martin Luther King  
22 and others, all the sacrifice that they put  
23 forth is just going down the drain. I can see  
24 it, I think anyone that will wake up and look  
25 around and really seriously feel that we want

1 to continue this democracy in the world today  
2 can see it. You don't have to be a genius but  
3 you do have to be honest. One of the worse  
4 things, and I got this from - not only Dr.  
5 King - I got this from another religious  
6 leader by the name of -- Excuse me, I need to  
7 take my breath. Okay. I need to settle down  
8 because I am getting a little hyper. But  
9 Billy Graham said this before he died. His  
10 book is out, I'm going to read it, but I heard  
11 him say this, one of the biggest problems  
12 America have today is racism. It is thriving  
13 and doing well here in South Carolina. Thank  
14 you.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Are there any  
16 questions? Thank you, Mr. Norman.

17 MR. NORMAN: You're welcome.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Robert F. Conway, I think. Mr.  
19 Conway.

20 MR. CONWAY: Yes. I don't care to speak.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Conway. Jason  
22 James. Thank you, Mr. James. Mr. James  
23 passes. Ms. Conway, Xanthia Conway.

24 MS. CONWAY: [Inaudible].

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. That exhausts

1 the speakers for tonight, however if there are  
2 any in the audience that would like to speak  
3 that have not signed up, I'm going to offer  
4 you an opportunity to speak as well. And we  
5 have a hand here. Yes, ma'am. Please come  
6 forward and state your name and your address,  
7 please.

8 MS. ADDISON: Good afternoon, my name is Toshia  
9 Addison. I am from Lexington, South Carolina.  
10 Excuse me. I apologize for being late,  
11 fighting five o'clock traffic, trying to get  
12 here for Miss Betty.

13 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: [Inaudible].

14 MS. ADDISON: And she's not here, those who are  
15 familiar with Kathy Hensley who's over the  
16 democratic party within Lexington County, I  
17 work with her, I'm a delegate in Lexington  
18 County. I want to address a few issues as I  
19 have sat and listened attentively. First, is  
20 the law. I do understand that we have  
21 addressed different counties and cities and  
22 things like that, and in knowing or trying to  
23 put over 600,000 people in a district, I do  
24 understand that it would be hard to separate  
25 counties and cities when you have to, by law,

1           have a certain number of people in that actual  
2           area, as well as a certain percentage, I think  
3           it's 45 percent if you can, of African  
4           Americans or of another race in those areas as  
5           well. So you have that conflict in looking at  
6           the whole area. So it's kind of unfortunate  
7           if you have a smaller county such as say,  
8           Saluda County, since that was brought up, that  
9           has a small pocket. It's not the point that  
10          anyone is left out, it's the point of how the  
11          lines actually have to be drawn. I live in  
12          Joe Wilson's district as well, and do attend  
13          an African American church, and I do own a  
14          business. I do not support what he said with  
15          the President, however, if you call his  
16          office, you can get support whether you're  
17          black or white, so you can get that. That may  
18          be a unpopular statement, but it's actually  
19          true. As far as when we draw our lines and  
20          how our representation comes about, it also  
21          has to come about through actual voting, so as  
22          we get more pockets out of people voting. So  
23          when you're paying attention to our lines, one  
24          of the things that - I'll use Medicare for an  
25          example - Medicare has what's called an MSA or

1 a CBA. You may be familiar with this or not,  
2 it's called a competitive bidding area where  
3 they're doing competitive bidding within  
4 Medicare and how they're actually drawing the  
5 lines. They start their line drawing from  
6 Charlotte and go all the way down to right on  
7 the lower side of Fairfield County for that  
8 particular line that they're doing for CBA and  
9 its competitive bidding area based off of  
10 their MSA. When they get ready to draw the  
11 line and the line for - and this is something  
12 that came out of the Deficit Reduction Act of  
13 2003, if you're looking for it, so it's not  
14 something that came out of the plan of what  
15 they're doing right now - when we get ready to  
16 draw the lines for South Carolina for round  
17 two of competitive bidding, they're looking at  
18 the areas of, for South Carolina, for the  
19 first area that includes our Lexington and  
20 Richland County, it also includes  
21 Batesburg/Leesville, it goes to Saluda, and it  
22 goes to Greenwood as including Fairfield, York  
23 - excuse me - Fairfield, Winnsboro and that  
24 area. And it curves it's way around, but it  
25 doesn't include Orangeburg, even though

1 Orangeburg may be a little bit closer than the  
2 back side of Saluda. So they're looking at  
3 the actual pocket and the actual market. So  
4 when you're drawing our lines and we are in  
5 the redistricting of, in the early parts of  
6 the other hearing, they were looking at the  
7 market on the top side when they were creating  
8 a new district over toward Marion County, is  
9 more where they were more looking toward  
10 drawing the lines for there. When we're  
11 looking at choosing a new representative, one  
12 of the things that I don't think people hear,  
13 even in listening to people speak, I don't  
14 think that you guys are just trying to create  
15 something based on race or based on politics,  
16 but there is an actual law that says that an  
17 incumbent in the law has to be protected. So  
18 in other ways to actually help with that,  
19 would be if that law changed. But if that law  
20 doesn't change, it's not fair to ask you to  
21 supersede the law. Because if we ask you to  
22 not consider the incumbent, then we're  
23 actually asking you to supersede the law. So  
24 at one point we want you to follow the law,  
25 then we want you to supersede the law. Which

1           one is it? If you follow the law, then you  
2           have the law. I didn't say what you like or  
3           dislike, I said the law. If you follow the  
4           law, you have to give incumbents  
5           consideration, that's the law. Am I correct?  
6           Okay. Now, if you don't do that, then you  
7           broke it. So whether it's fair or not, it's  
8           still the law. So that's why, you know, as  
9           you're doing your redistricting or creating  
10          even another district, when -- in trying to  
11          look at making everybody happy and putting  
12          different counties here and this county there,  
13          and taking it out of Lexington County,  
14          sometimes when you have - even in a small  
15          community - and you have the counties that's  
16          in there, you actually can get some of the  
17          expertise that you may not have that's coming  
18          from a smaller community when they're joined  
19          with a larger community. So you have to think  
20          also in reference to schools, how they can  
21          benefit as well. To what industries - that's  
22          like if you look at Allendale, Hampton, Jasper  
23          and you look going down toward that particular  
24          area, Jim Clyburn comes all the way up, even  
25          though he may go to the back side of Marion

1 County. Well, those people benefit from the  
2 relationships that are had in both areas. So  
3 we have to look at the relationships and the  
4 benefits that comes about as well. Thank you.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Addison. Are there  
6 any questions? Ms. Addison, will you stay for  
7 just one second for Mr. Young's question.

8 REP. YOUNG: What was your full name?

9 MS. ADDISON: My first name is Toshia, my last name  
10 is Addison.

11 REP. YOUNG: How do you spell it?

12 MS. ADDISON: T-o-s-h-I-a.

13 REP. YOUNG: What is the business that you own?

14 MS. ADDISON: Medfirst.

15 REP. YOUNG: Is that in Lexington County?

16 MS. ADDISON: Yes, it is.

17 REP. YOUNG: I appreciate your comments.

18 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Addison. Are there  
20 any other comments from the public tonight.  
21 Ladies an gentlemen, hearing none. Thank you  
22 so much for allowing us to be here in your  
23 community tonight to establish a public record  
24 from the public voice of Aiken County. As I  
25 explained before, this is an integral part of

1 the redistricting process. We thank you so  
2 much for being involved. And this -- Yes.  
3 Mr. Allen?

4 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
5 Chairman, I -- you so ably said in the  
6 beginning and I'd like to remind the people of  
7 Aiken and in this area that this subcommittee  
8 will take additional testimony from people  
9 from Aiken and this geographical location,  
10 they are free to appear at any of the  
11 remaining hearings and present evidence  
12 whether it be oral or written evidence  
13 regarding your area at the future hearings  
14 that this subcommittee will be having. We  
15 would like to remind the people that they're  
16 not just limited to the testimony that was  
17 given tonight at this hearing. If you want to  
18 talk about Aiken for example in Greenville, or  
19 if you want to talk about the congressional  
20 district in Greenville or Denmark then feel  
21 free to do so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Is there not a website that we  
23 can also respond to?

24 REP. CLEMMONS: There is a website to which you can  
25 make comments and you can also follow the

1 process. The website address is  
2 <http://redistricting.schouse.gov/>. Thank you  
3 so much. Ladies and gentlemen, I would like  
4 to point out just in light of the comments of  
5 Ms. Addison and others before her, we, this  
6 committee and the House of Representatives and  
7 the Senate are all under --the process that we  
8 will be following is a process that is not one  
9 that we are creating, it's one that has been  
10 established by set precedence and law. And I  
11 want to assure everybody that we will be  
12 following the law, which includes the voting  
13 rights act which South Carolina falls under,  
14 one of 16 states that must abide by the  
15 mandates of the voting rights act, which in  
16 part requires that any plan that we produce  
17 receive pre clearance through the US Justice  
18 Department or the federal courts as the case  
19 may be. So I want to assure everyone that we  
20 will be following the law of this country as  
21 we proceed down this road. Other than the law  
22 and precedence, we have the liberty to set the  
23 criteria by which we will be creating these  
24 maps. And you, tonight, have helped us to set  
25 that criteria by your public comments and

1           input. We encourage you to continue to stay  
2           involved, provide us your input. I just gave  
3           you a website to which you can address that  
4           input, you can also write us, you can also  
5           hand deliver documentation to your  
6           representatives who in turn will pass it to  
7           the committee to be established as a permanent  
8           part of the public record by which we will be  
9           establishing our criteria as I described.  
10          With that, I believe Representative Young has  
11          a couple of comments before we close.

12        REP. YOUNG: I just wanted to take this opportunity  
13          and thank everybody for coming out. Most of  
14          the people, or majority of the people here  
15          live either in my House district or right  
16          close to my House district and I appreciate  
17          your comments. This is a very educational  
18          process. This is the sixth hearing that we've  
19          had so far. Tomorrow night we will be in  
20          Denmark, Wednesday night we'll be in  
21          Greenville, and we will be in Summerville  
22          Thursday night. Last week we were in  
23          Beaufort, and then Florence, and then Rock  
24          Hill and Myrtle Beach. And the week before we  
25          were in Columbia. So if you know anyone in

1 the community, whether it's in Aiken County or  
2 any of the surrounding counties who did not  
3 get to come tonight, they don't have to come  
4 to the meeting that is in the place where,  
5 like close to Aiken tonight. They could come  
6 tomorrow night, they could come to Greenville.  
7 We've had people testify, for example, in Rock  
8 Hill who came all the way from Winnsboro in  
9 Newberry County, to testify at the Rock Hill  
10 hearing. Just, that was the best one for them  
11 to attend. So I encourage you to tell your  
12 neighbors if anyone would like to provide  
13 input. And as always, if anybody would like  
14 to just simply send an email or letter, if you  
15 provide it to me then I'll make sure the  
16 committee gets it for the record. Thank you  
17 very much.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Representative Young.

19 We have a question?

20 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: When will the subcommittee  
21 hearing take place and will public comment be  
22 allowed when the subcommittee submits your  
23 findings to state overall judiciary committee?

24 REP. CLEMMONS: I'm just reminded, we need to  
25 preserve for the record the question. As I

believe the question was stated, when will the public, when will the subcommittee hearing be that will begin this process of drawing maps and the second part of the question was?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Will there be public comment for that meeting.

REP. CLEMMONS: Will there be public comment for that meeting. One moment. The date has not yet been established. We will be getting public notice of the date as soon as it is set. At subcommittee hearings, public comment is always welcome. We hope to see some of you there, or all of you. Thank you so much, folks. With that, this meeting stands adjourned. [Applause]

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