

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Denmark, SC

April 12, 2011

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REP. CLEMMONS: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to go ahead and convene this meeting. We are pleased to be here with you today, being hosted in Denmark, South Carolina, right here in Voorhees College. So thank you so much for allowing the electoral subcommittee of the South Carolina House Judiciary Committee to meet with you today as we continue across the state in a series of regional hearings preparatory to beginning the redistricting process in South Carolina.

I'd like first of all to introduce a few folks to you, first of all I am Alan Clemmons, I have the honor of chairing this subcommittee. I am from Myrtle Beach. We welcome all you folks down to the beach to come visit with us at anytime. We'll make you feel at home like you're making us feel at home today. I have with me here my good friend and no stranger to y'all in this room, Bakari Sellers. Between Representative Sellers and myself is our capable legal staff, our attorney, Mr. Patrick Dennis. I have Tom Young here to my right. Representative Young

1 is from Aiken. Representative Karl Allen, to
2 his right, is from Greenville. And to his
3 right is Representative Jenny Horne from
4 Summerville. We also have with us in the
5 room, Representative Lonnie Hosey,
6 Representative Hosey, right here in the back.
7 We also have Representative Ronnie Sabb,
8 Representative Sabb right here. And we have
9 former Representative Wilbur Cave with us.
10 Welcome. It's good to be here with you folks.

11 I have some introductory remarks I'd like
12 to share with you before we get into public
13 hearing. Now, at the podium at the door where
14 everyone entered, if you have a desire to
15 speak, we would ask that you sign up on that
16 sheet if you have not already done so.

17 We want to thank you for attending this
18 meeting of the electoral subcommittee today
19 here in Denmark. These meetings are only the
20 first step in a long and involved process that
21 must be followed to complete a workable
22 redistricting plan. We hope to start tonight
23 and at the other hearings by listening to
24 extensive public input and then using that
25 input to form the basis about how we will

1 proceed in this process. From that input this
2 subcommittee must create and submit to the
3 full House Judiciary Committee a plan of how
4 to draw district lines for the South Carolina
5 House of Representative, all 124 seats, and
6 the United States House of Representatives,
7 including the new 7th Congressional District
8 that we will receive based upon our population
9 in the most recent census and the
10 reapportionment process that resulted from
11 that. The full committee must then submit a
12 plan that may or may not be the same as this
13 subcommittee's plan to the full House of
14 Representatives for consideration. Any plan
15 that gains approval of the House and later the
16 Senate must be submitted to the United States
17 Justice Department pursuant to the Voting
18 Rights Act for what is called Preclearance.
19 If it is determined by the Justice Department
20 or the courts that the plan does not comply
21 with first the constitutional mandates of one
22 person, one vote and equal protection, and
23 second with the statutory requirements of the
24 Voting Rights Act, more work may still need to
25 be done.

1 Tonight our goal is to listen to each and
2 every interested party, tell us what they
3 think is important, what they would like to
4 see accomplished in the House's redrawing of
5 district lines for both the South Carolina
6 House of Representatives and the South
7 Carolina congressional districts in the state.
8 We are here tonight to listen to your concerns
9 and your recommendations as to what the
10 subcommittee should consider in this process.
11 As the House undertakes the process of drawing
12 district lines, public input is indispensable.
13 It helps us shape a House that best represents
14 the people of South Carolina. The House of
15 Representatives is often called the People's
16 House. In order to continue to earn that
17 distinction we must know how the people want
18 their House to look. How the people wish to
19 be represented. That is the sole purpose of
20 this hearing tonight. To hear from those of
21 the public and take the guidance from those of
22 the public that wish to speak tonight as we
23 shape the House and congressional districts
24 for the coming decade. We welcome any input
25 which helps us understand specific issues in

1 your area and which identifies neighborhoods
2 and political subdivisions or other areas
3 which you believe that this subcommittee
4 should take into consideration when drawing
5 the district lines.

6 Resulting from this series of hearings
7 this subcommittee plans to adopt a set of
8 criteria drawn primarily from what we hear
9 from the public. These criteria will be the
10 guiding principals by which the House will
11 draw district lines.

12 As you all know the plan that is
13 ultimately produced, more than anything else
14 must ensure the principal of one person, one
15 vote. Meaning that we are required to have
16 as equal a population in every district as
17 possible. But beyond those requirements this
18 subcommittee is particularly interested in
19 what political subdivisions or smaller
20 communities have in common or what they do not
21 have in common that would suggest that they be
22 placed in one or multiple districts. While
23 this hearing is being conducted in Denmark,
24 South Carolina to allow residents in the
25 immediate area an opportunity for input, the

1 subcommittee is happy to hear testimony from
2 anyone interested in any part of the state of
3 South Carolina.

4 Because tonight's hearing will become
5 part of the record in this matter, this
6 proceeding is being recorded and it will be
7 transcribed. You, in fact, see microphones in
8 front of us. These microphones are here for
9 recording purposes only. They unfortunately
10 do not amplify. Neither does the microphone
11 that the public will be using, does it
12 amplify. So we ask that you speak loudly and
13 clearly so everyone in the room can hear your
14 comments. Be assured that those comments are
15 being recorded. To make sure that we have a
16 clear record, I would ask that each witness
17 speak slowly and clearly and state your name
18 and your address and identify the district or
19 districts that you're interested in
20 addressing. If you're appearing tonight on
21 behalf of a group, such as a political party,
22 a public interest group or other organization,
23 please let us know that information as well.
24 I and the other members of the committee may
25 make comments and ask questions about

1 particular areas which may not reflect the
2 intentions or the recommendations of our
3 subcommittee or of the House. We will be glad
4 to answer general questions about the process
5 if we can. However, because this is the first
6 part of a long process of gathering
7 information from around that state we may not
8 be able to answer specific questions at this
9 time. I anticipate that this meeting will
10 last approximately two hours and while we want
11 to hear everything that anyone has to offer,
12 we do reserve the right to limit individual
13 testimony to ten minutes. I would ask each
14 person as they offer testimony to be
15 considerate of others who are here to offer
16 their opinions as well. We will be delighted
17 also in addition to receiving oral testimony
18 to receive any written documentation that you
19 would wish to submit to the committee. We
20 will be happy to receive that information and
21 make it part of the public record. We only
22 ask that you identify yourself as the
23 submitting person, write your name on the
24 document and your address before handing it up
25 to us. Any such documentation should be

1 handed over to our attorney here.

2 I'd also like to let everyone rest
3 assured that we have extensively advertised
4 this public hearing. We have done so through
5 public media, through press releases, through
6 the South Carolina Press Association. We have
7 sent out hundreds of emails to folks that have
8 indicated interest in knowing about the
9 proceedings of redistricting. We have
10 identified this meeting today on our House
11 website for public information and through
12 other means. We are pleased to have you here
13 today. We are hopeful that our attempts have
14 received wide coverage so that we have a wide
15 spectrum of attendance here today. With that,
16 we look forward to hearing from all of you
17 tonight. We thank you for your hospitality
18 for allowing us to be with you. And I now
19 turn the time over to you. The first person
20 to sign up to speak to us today is Ben Kinlaw.
21 Mr. Kinlaw, please come forward and address
22 the committee, first, as I request all give us
23 your name and address.

24 MR. KINLAW: Thank you so much. Ben Kinlaw, 93
25 Phillips Street, Barnwell. First let me

1 commend the committee for your taking the time
2 for public input. Also, for the way of
3 communicating. I am chairman of the Barnwell
4 County Republican Party. I received a letter
5 from the committee. As I commented to the
6 Senate hearing, I did not receive that and
7 suggested that they may want to learn from the
8 House, and of course, you know how well that
9 was received. But anyway I want to commend
10 you for that, we did receive the letter and do
11 appreciate the opportunity.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Kinlaw, thank you for that and I
13 will also add for the record that we sent such
14 notice to all the major political parties and
15 the third parties of which we had information
16 to send it to them. So thank you for those
17 comments.

18 MR. KINLAW: You're quite welcome. I want to speak
19 to District 90 and District 91. Barnwell
20 County is comprised of District 90 and 91.
21 The feelings are and the thoughts are the
22 Friendship District, the Hilda District and
23 Barnwell Precinct 3, which is part of District
24 91 are more like Barnwell County than they are
25 Denmark or in the county, in Bamberg County.

1 So I would ask that you would look at that as
2 well, in that. You know that Barnwell,
3 Allendale, Bamberg we're referred to as the
4 forgotten corner of the state. And as you see
5 the numbers, we've got lost population, we've
6 got lost industry and we continue so we want
7 to look at what we can possible do to receive
8 the recognition or whatever and try to move
9 forward improving that area. The economy as
10 we know has been in a down mode but we have
11 huge challenges in that area. So would ask
12 that you would look at that and as we did as
13 we spoke in the Senate. Along the areas of
14 the congressional district we are pleased to
15 be in District 2, Congressman Wilson. We have
16 on many occasions have gone to him and asked
17 for his help and his office has performed
18 admirably. So we're very pleased and would
19 like to stay in the Congressional District 2.
20 That's my comments. Thank you.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Kimlaw. Mr. Kimlaw,
22 if you'd pause just a moment. Are there any
23 questions? Hearing none. Mr. Kimlaw, thank
24 you for your testimony.

25 MR. KIMLAW: Thank you again.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Terry Wright. Mr. Wright I see
2 you're with -- the mayor of the town of
3 Brunson, Mayor Wright.

4 MAYOR WRIGHT: Yes.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Pleasure to be with you, sir.

6 MAYOR WRIGHT: Good evening.

7 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening.

8 MAYOR WRIGHT: I really thought there was a sign up
9 sheet but I do have some comments.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: I'm grateful for the error.

11 MAYOR WRIGHT: First of all I'm in House of District
12 120, Hampton County and as you know Hampton
13 County is comprised of two House Districts,
14 122 and 120. And the future for Hampton
15 County does look great. The next five years
16 or so we foresee Hampton County as growing.
17 And we -- a small county with just over 22,000
18 people and we got two districts and I know
19 it's the numbers -- the ideal number is 37,000
20 now?

21 REP. CLEMMONS: 37,301 is the ideal number.

22 MAYOR WRIGHT: My reason for coming up is why can't
23 we just have one representative? I know we'll
24 have to share him because we only have 22,000
25 or so people in the county, but just one

1 representative representing our whole county
2 because we are regionalizing in different
3 things. Our water right now we're trying to
4 regionalize and I feel like we just need to be
5 represented by one person that we can possibly
6 talk to and not give different signals. Thank
7 you.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mayor. Any questions for
9 the Mayor? Representative Allen.

10 REP. ALLEN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mayor,
11 identify for me 120 who --

12 MAYOR WRIGHT: 120 is Bill Bowers and 122 is Curtis
13 Brantley.

14 REP. ALLEN: And you're in?

15 MAYOR WRIGHT: I'm in 120.

16 REP. ALLEN: 120.

17 MAYOR WRIGHT: Yes.

18 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mayor. Alonzo L.
20 Frazier. Good afternoon, Mr. Frazier.

21 MR. FRAZIER: Good afternoon. Thank you for the
22 opportunity to speak. My comments are going
23 to be short. I'm from Allendale County.
24 First of all my name is Alonzo L. Frazier and
25 my address 3562 Concord Church Road,

1 Allendale, South Carolina. Allendale is a
2 small county and we ask that it stay whole.
3 Secondly we have made much progress under the
4 leadership of Representative Lonnie Hosey.
5 The concerns that I have is economic
6 development and education because education is
7 a very important part of economic development.
8 In terms of the US House, I would much like to
9 see Congress Clyburn as our representative.
10 So if there's any way possible, let it be. If
11 there's any questions or comments to me, I'll
12 take it now.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Any questions for Mr. Frazier?
14 Thank you so much Mr. Frazier, appreciate
15 those comments. Mr. Eric Johnson. Mr.
16 Johnson declines to speak right now. And we
17 will move on to Steve E. Morrison.

18 MR. MORRISON: I'm going to decline at this time.

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, sir.

20 MR. MORRISON: (Inaudible)

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Morrison. Ms. Rose
22 D. Elliott.

23 MS. ELLIOTT: Chair, but I apologize I thought that
24 was to sign in.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Quite all right, Ms. Elliott.

1 MS. ELLIOTT: I followed the Mayor's lead in.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: That's an easy mistake to make.

3 John E. Bonaparte. I knew if we kept going,
4 we'd find somebody that could talk to us.

5 Good afternoon, Mr. Bonaparte.

6 MR. BONAPARTE: John E. Bonaparte is my name. My
7 address is 105 Oriole Circle, St. Matthews,
8 District 93 under Harry Ott. My concern is in
9 Calhoun County, would Calhoun County be coming
10 under this redistricting plan?

11 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir. All counties in South
12 Carolina.

13 MR. BONAPARTE: Okay. Well, in Calhoun County the
14 area that I live in -- the upper part of
15 Calhoun County is growing, industrial wise,
16 school wise and home development. I live in
17 the city limits of St. Matthews. In the area
18 that I live in we have about ten to twelve
19 rail freight coming through every day.
20 There's only one industrial site in that area
21 where they make a stop or let cars off and
22 pick up. We only have one grocery store in
23 the whole town of St. Matthews. There is
24 something that needs to be done. If we going
25 to be redistricted we need to find something

1 feasible for the area that I live in off
2 Highway 601, St. Matthews, right in the city
3 limits of St. Matthews and that's my comment.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. And your recommendation,
5 Mr. Bonaparte?

6 MR. BONAPARTE: Is getting some more employment
7 there, build the area from that side of the
8 town and the county. Because all the
9 industrial is in the upper part of Calhoun
10 County, up around Carolina Eastman going
11 towards Columbia. There's no growth in my
12 area heading towards Fort Motte and Sumter
13 side.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

15 MR. BONAPARTE: Okay.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much Mr. Bonaparte.
17 Are there any questions? No questions of the
18 panel, sir. Thank you so much.

19 REP. YOUNG: I've got one.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Bonaparte, step back to the
21 microphone for just a moment, Mr. Young has a
22 question.

23 REP. YOUNG: I just want to clarify my understanding
24 in what you're say -- are you happy with the
25 current House district, the way it's drawn in

1 Calhoun County?

2 MR. BONAPARTE: Not really because seem like it's
3 more activity, more movement going on in the
4 upper part of the county headed toward
5 Columbia. The area that I live in, right in
6 town, on the outer edge, but I'm in the city
7 limit.

8 REP. YOUNG: Uh-huh.

9 MR. BONAPARTE: I'm headed toward Fort Motte,
10 Eastover and Sumter side, there's no growth
11 there. They only have one industrial there,
12 which is a big plant. We have ten to twelve
13 railroad trains, freight coming through every
14 day pulling cargo going back and forth to
15 Charleston. And there's no growth there but
16 the freight is coming through bringing cargo.

17 REP. ALLEN: Is all of Calhoun County in one House
18 district?

19 MR. BONAPARTE: Yeah, District 93 under Harry Ott.

20 REP. ALLEN: That's all my questions. Thank you.

21 MR. BONAPARTE: All right.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Bonaparte. Ms. Ann
23 Rice.

24 MS. RICE: Good evening.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, Ms. Rice.

1 MS. RICE: I'm Ann Rice and I'm from Allendale
2 County. I work at USC Salkehatchie and I am
3 here to speak on behalf of District 91,
4 Representative Hosey and I ask that our
5 district be kept like it is and enlarged so
6 that he can still be our representative. He
7 has served us well and he has -- we even think
8 he's from Allendale as much as he serves
9 Allendale, so we are very pleased to have him
10 there.

11 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you so much Ms. Rice. Are
12 there any questions?

13 REP. SELLERS: I have one. I have one.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Could you step back to the
15 microphone for just a moment, please, Ms.
16 Rice.

17 MS. RICE: Yes.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Rep. Sellers.

19 REP. SELLERS: Thank you very much for everything
20 that you do at USC Salkehatchie. What -- and
21 this is more of a Salkehatchie question than
22 it is a House issue. And I have one question.

23

24 MS. RICE: And I was speaking for myself not
25 Salkehatchie.

1 REP. SELLERS: That's fair. I'm just going to ask
2 you --

3 MS. RICE: I'm not speaking for Dr. Charmichael.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Duly noted, on the record.

5 REP. SELLERS: What counties are in the service area
6 for Salkehatchie?

7 MS. RICE: Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Hampton and
8 Colleton Counties.

9 REP. SELLERS: And Colleton?

10 MS. RICE: Yes, sir.

11 REP. SELLERS: And I know Colleton has three
12 representatives, it's split up pretty good.

13 MS. RICE: That's correct.

14 REP. SELLERS: And Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale have
15 a few.

16 MS. RICE: (Inaudible) has two -- three -- two.
17 Yeah.

18 REP. SELLERS: Two.

19 MS. RICE: Yeah.

20 REP. SELLERS: The university's comfortable with
21 having those representatives, that many? Is
22 there anything that can better be done or is
23 that a Dr. Charmichael --

24 MS. RICE: That's a Dr. Charmichael question.

25 REP. SELLERS: Can you tell Dr. Charmichael to get

1 in touch with me?

2 MS. RICE: I will.

3 REP. SELLERS: I want to make sure, for the record,
4 that we do everything we can to make sure that
5 we are insuring the services being done for
6 our universities and colleges when at all
7 possible, such as USC Salkehatchie, Lancaster
8 and the such.

9 MS. RICE: Well, USC Salkehatchie is an economic
10 engine for Allendale and you know Allendale
11 needs all the economic engine it can get. And
12 the leadership institute does work with the
13 community, economic development creating jobs
14 so we do appreciate Representative Sellers and
15 Representative Hosey and everybody that's
16 helped keep us there.

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Ms. Rice, I will just follow those
18 comments up with the thought. If Dr.
19 Charmichael would like to submit any response
20 to the question that was just raised in
21 writing, we'll be happy to make it part of the
22 permeant record.

23 MS. RICE: I'll be glad to. She was ill today.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Understood. Give her our best.

25 MS. RICE: Okay. Thank you.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you so much. Ms. Nanny
2 Mengedoht?

3 MS. MENGEDOHT: (inaudible)

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay. Thank you, ma'am. Vivian
5 Halliard?

6 MS. HALLIARD: Yes, I too though it was a sign in
7 sheet.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Halliard. Marie
9 Davis, likewise or did you wish to speak to us
10 Ms. Davis?

11 MS. DAVIS: Likewise, but I would still like to
12 speak with you.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: We would love to hear from you,
14 please come join us. While you're coming to
15 the microphone, let me recognize
16 Representative Seth Whipper who just walked
17 in. Good to have you with us Representative.
18 Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. DAVIS: My name is Marie Davis. I live at 1225
20 Davis Ridge Road, Williston. I'm the
21 secretary of the Barnwell County Democrat
22 Party. My concern is the drawing -- well,
23 before I go any further. Our representative
24 is Lonnie Hosey and he's done a wonderful job.
25 He's always around, assessable that we can

1 reach and also Mr. Sellers. My concern is in
2 drawing up the districts our county has very
3 little, I would say, sort of housing that
4 would bring in people in our area so we don't
5 grow as fast as some of the other districts.
6 And I'm concerned as to how will my district
7 be drawn if it's going according to
8 population? I'm also concerned about the
9 schools. You know we're financing according
10 to the population, and our school district
11 don't have as many people or students as
12 Greenville or Columbia or Richland County or
13 so forth and I'm also concerned about the
14 funding of the school districts in my area.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. Are there any
16 questions of Ms. Davis. No questions of the
17 panel. Thank you for your comments, Ms.
18 Davis. Evert Comer.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: New county councilman down
20 here, Evert Comer.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Congratulations on your election,
22 sir.

23 MR. COMER: Chair and the rest of the members of
24 this committee and counsel. I though it was a
25 sign in sheet but . . .

1 REP. CLEMMONS: But you'll take this opportunity.

2 MR. COMER: Well, my South Carolina House

3 Representative is none other than Mr. Sellers

4 and I'm pretty sure he --

5 REP. CLEMMONS: You're well represented, sir.

6 MR. COMER: -- being on this committee he is going

7 protect that particular House district seat

8 and if anything strengthen it. Also Congress

9 Clyburn is my U.S. Congressman and we

10 definitely want to keep his strength intact

11 because we would like to see him continue in

12 that seat. And I don't know how politics play

13 in this -- I know politics play some kind of

14 role and I know who's sort of in the driver's

15 seat right now but we want to protect

16 Congressman Clyburn's congressional district.

17 If anything, strengthen it, if it can be

18 strengthen. And also definitely want to keep

19 intact or strengthen Representative Sellers'

20 seat for if the numbers and the minority

21 numbers --

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Minority representation of the

23 district?

24 MR. COMER: Minority representation. And that's all

25 I would have to say. Thank you. Evert Comer

1 from Denmark and I'm in Mr. Sellers' district
2 and resident of Clyburn district.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Councilman Comer. Are
4 there any questions for the Councilman? Thank
5 you for your remarks, sir. Terri Boone. Ms.
6 Boone.

7 MS. BOONE: Hi. I'm Terri Boone from Allendale
8 County and I'm with USC Salkehatchie but I'm
9 not going to speak for the Dean either. I'm a
10 small business owner and I work for USC
11 Salkehatchie now and I just wanted to come
12 here in support for Lonnie Hosey because both
13 in my tenure at USC Salkehatchie and as a
14 small business owner he's always been
15 accessible and really helped us with the
16 issues that we have in the area. Being a
17 rural area it's so important to have somebody
18 that understands the dynamics of the economics
19 in that area. And the responsibility is so
20 deep and wide physically and just covers so
21 much of the infrastructure that I think it's
22 really important that we stay together under
23 his leadership.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much.

25 MS. BOONE: No questions?

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Are there any questions?

2 MS. BOONE: Thank you very much.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for your input today.

4 Former Representative Wilbur Cave.

5 MR. CAVE: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I
6 am here today to support -- well, first of all
7 let me -- Wilbur Cave and I'm executive
8 director of Allendale County Alive, which is a
9 community development corporation in
10 Allendale, South Carolina. I'm here to
11 support keeping Allendale whole in the
12 redistricting. And we're very supportive, as
13 other have said, of Representative Hosey. As
14 you know he succeeded me in House District 91
15 and has exceeded anything that I was able to
16 do there and we're real happy about him. And
17 I'll tell you - and I don't think he's ever
18 heard me say this - but one of your
19 colleagues, Gilda Cobb Hunter told me in 1995
20 when I got to the House, she said remember
21 that nobody up here can vote for you. And I
22 passed that advice on to Representative Hosey
23 and, you know, a lot of times when you pass
24 advice along, folks don't follow it. But he
25 has really followed that advice because he's

1 remembered that the priority of those people
2 back here in his district who can support him.
3 And so he is someone we want to support and
4 see him stay there for a long time to come.
5 Thank you.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Representative. Are
7 there any questions? Thank you, Mr. Cave. We
8 have a few more comments here. Representative
9 Lonnie Hosey. I was beginning to think this
10 was a eulogy we were hearing about
11 Representative Hosey and I'm real proud to see
12 him still here with us.

13 REP. HOSEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you
14 members of the committee. Thank you all. And
15 I'm just here, I didn't think it was just a
16 sign in sheet but I didn't really want to
17 speak other than to say to my constituents, I
18 appreciate them so much for coming out tonight
19 and to voice their opinion about their
20 district. It is very important to keep
21 communities together and that is very
22 important in this redistricting
23 reapportionment sector. And to let you know
24 that you have fairminded people here on the
25 committee that will do just what you're asking

1 them to do as a whole. I enjoy working with
2 the people of my district and we have molded
3 something together over the years and that is
4 a good relationship. I went to Allendale and
5 we talked about things that we needed at the
6 time and I called it a diamond in the rough in
7 1999 and I'm seeing that diamond clean itself
8 up, knocking off the rough edges and becoming
9 a shining star. And that's going to happen
10 with people like yourselves who help us down
11 in Allendale and Barnwell County. When we go
12 before your committees and whatnot and ask for
13 something, we really appreciate that. And we
14 want the Justice Department to know that
15 you've been doing your job and continue to do
16 your job for our people. And we just thank
17 you so much for coming and doing this. I've
18 learned quite a bit that people don't say to
19 each other as we go day-by-day, but when we
20 come to a hearing like this it does help quite
21 a bit to form our direction for the future. I
22 thank you so much. Thank you so much. Thank
23 you so much. And I'm not dead.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Representative Hosey. Are
25 there any questions for the Representative?

1 Thank you. Terri Jowers, I believe.

2 MS. JOWERS: Hello, I'm Terri Jowers from Williston
3 and I am very ably represented by
4 Representative Lonnie Hosey, District 91. I'm
5 a little concerned though now when we get back
6 to Barnwell, his head's gonna be all blown up.
7 You know it's really -- and I tell him this
8 all the time, so I'm not telling you anything
9 I haven't said to him and that is how much we
10 do appreciate the fact that he listens to us
11 and that he -- he's -- maybe not always
12 disagrees but we know that he listens to what
13 we say and he works hard for us and that's,
14 you know, we just appreciate it so much. I
15 certainly also want to thank Representative
16 Bakari Sellers who represents part of Barnwell
17 County as well and is always there to hear us
18 and to represent us and we greatly appreciate
19 it. And thank you all for giving up your time
20 to be here.

21 George Bernard Shaw said, "I am of the
22 opinion that my life belongs to the entire
23 community and as long as I live it is my
24 privilege to do for it what I can. I want to
25 be throughly used up when I die. For the

1 harder I work, the more I live." And that's
2 about a life of service and I'm sure that
3 that's why all of you are here now. You're
4 not here to get your name in the paper.
5 You're certainly not here to spend, you know,
6 having a good time out giving up your evenings
7 going around the state to do what's right.
8 But I'm asking you to really dig deep and
9 think about what's right in redistricting.
10 When my -- my family has been in Barnwell
11 County since the 1790 census. We're just hard
12 working people who have been committed to our
13 community and who care about each other. In
14 1934 my father was five-years-old and on Main
15 Street in downtown Williston he witnessed an
16 elderly black man being shot five times just
17 because the policeman didn't like him. That
18 had such a profound impact on my father that
19 he has spent his entire life looking out for
20 people who might not otherwise have a voice.
21 And what he has done for us, his children and
22 grandchildren is instill in us that same
23 commitment, to live a life of service and to
24 do what's right even when it's hard. So I
25 know when you start drawing lines that the

1 easy thing to do is to look out for yourselves
2 or to look out for your parties. And I'm
3 asking you to think beyond that. The first
4 thing would be to look at communities of
5 interest and to keep precincts together when
6 at all possible. A couple of hundred years
7 ago I worked in the voter registration office
8 and I saw so much confusion because you have
9 precincts split over and over again and you
10 especially see it in House districts. So
11 whenever possible keep those districts
12 together. Keep precincts together if at all
13 possible. Keep communities of interest
14 together. And I especially want to impress
15 that upon you when you're looking at drawing
16 up congressional districts. Barnwell County
17 has absolutely nothing in common with Beaufort
18 County. Allendale County has nothing in
19 common with Beaufort County. And we are not
20 represented well by a district that is that
21 large and that big. And I would ask you to
22 keep those things in mind. I also ask you to
23 be brave and to do what's right. The
24 population in South Carolina, I apologize I
25 don't know the latest figures, but let's say

1 that the minority population in South Carolina
2 is 35 percent, then I challenge you that when
3 you draw districts, draw 35 percent of them to
4 mirror that population. That is the right
5 thing to do. And I especially challenge you
6 to do that when drawing congressional
7 districts. Congressional districts ought to
8 mirror the population of this state. I know
9 that each of you are here because you want to
10 do what's right and you've committed to a life
11 of service. So I just challenge you to be
12 brave, to keep communities together but to
13 also do what's right. Thank you for your
14 time.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Are there any questions?
16 Thank you for your dedication to service and
17 your remarks. And we'll next hear from Sara
18 Noel.

19 MS. NOEL: If Terry were not my friend, I would not
20 come down here after her.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: That is a hard job to follow.

22 MS. NOEL: I'm Sarah Noel, I live in Denmark.
23 Bakari Sellers is my representative and I'm
24 very, very proud to have him. My comment
25 tonight really involves politics on a very,

1 very local basis. My brother is in politics
2 locally as is Mr. Evert Comer. When you
3 redistrict congressional lines, you sort of
4 redistrict local politicians also because they
5 have to follow what their congressional and
6 senate people are doing. We have a very, very
7 strong feeling in Bamberg County that we're
8 going to grow. So what we don't want to do is
9 mess up anything that we have going now. We
10 don't want to get smaller, although our
11 population is getting smaller. Our desire to
12 achieve, move forward and have our
13 congressional and senate representatives pay
14 attention to what we're saying, which they are
15 now. That's important to us so we need to
16 move along with that. We're looking at hard,
17 hard things to do in a very small county.
18 Trying to consolidate things that we all need
19 to have: water, sewer, maybe school,
20 hospitals, all of those things. It takes good
21 leadership, it takes important leadership and
22 it take commitment from a panel of people just
23 like you to listen to what people like we have
24 to say and we do appreciate it. Thank you,
25 Bakari.

1 REP. SELLERS: Thank you.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much ma'am. Are
3 there any questions? Thank you for sharing
4 with us today. And next we have Martha H.
5 Guess to address us. Ms. Guess.

6 MS. GUESS: (Inaudible)

7 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, it's a pleasure to have you
8 with us, Ms. Guess. Mr. Thomas Williams.

9 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, sir.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Thomas Williams and I'm
12 from Barnwell, South Carolina. I am the
13 former chairman of Barnwell County Counsel and
14 the treasure for Barnwell Democratic Party.
15 I've been the treasure for almost 20 years.
16 So I think I speak for a few people. I'll
17 even speak for Dr. Charmichael if you want me
18 too. But unlike some of the comments that
19 have been made, we are very fortunate in
20 Barnwell County I think and in Allendale
21 County to have the representatives that we
22 have. We are fairly pleased or pleased with
23 our district, District 91. We are pleased
24 with our representatives. Our congressional
25 district we feel like, we feel like certainly

1 could stand some improving. We don't feel
2 like we have gotten the kind of representation
3 that we need from our congressional
4 representative. So we would like to see some
5 changes in that area. I'm not going to be
6 bold enough to say we want to be in Congress
7 Clyburn's district but we certainly would like
8 to be in a district where we can receive the
9 kind of representation that we need. Like Ms.
10 Jowers had said we don't feel like we have
11 anything in common with Beaufort County. We
12 don't feel like we have anything in common
13 with Lexington County. So we would like to
14 see some changes in that area. On behalf of
15 the people that I've talked to this is our
16 request. Any questions?

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Yes. Mr. Young.

18 REP. YOUNG: I just want to be clear for the record.
19 Is it -- you say that you don't -- you're not
20 pleased with the representation that you're
21 getting from your congressman. Does that have
22 something to do with constituent service or
23 does it have -- is it constituent service
24 related or you just don't agree with him
25 politically?

1 MR. WILLIAMS: It's both. Yeah, we don't agree on
2 political -- politically and also the
3 attention, I guess, this area from our
4 congressman is not to our satisfaction.

5 REP. YOUNG: Okay. All right. Thank you.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, sir. Ms. Willa
7 Jennings.

8 MS. JENNINGS: I thought it was a signing in but
9 I'll (inaudible).

10 REP. CLEMMONS: We'd love to hear from you, Ms.
11 Jennings.

12 MS. JENNINGS: Good evening.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening.

14 MS. JENNINGS: My name is Willa Jennings. I am from
15 Allendale County. I'm also here in support of
16 Representative Lonnie Hosey. I am the newly
17 elected Chairperson of the Democratic Party in
18 Allendale County. I serve on the Allendale
19 County Hospital Board. I serve on the
20 Allendale County Library Board. I'm also the
21 Deputy Coroner in Allendale County. But I'm
22 here -- my concern for Allendale is our
23 schools. As you know Allendale County schools
24 was the first in the state to be taken over by
25 the state. Allendale County schools are also

1 one of the original eight plaintiff's in the
2 Corridor of Shame. I attended the schools in
3 Allendale. I am a retired teacher after 40
4 years of teaching so you know the condition of
5 our schools. And it appears that it's not
6 anybody's concern. No one cares about our
7 schools in Allendale County. Allendale County
8 has one of the highest unemployment in the
9 state and probably in the nation. We're the
10 baby county of the state and right now we're
11 being treated like the baby, you know,
12 everybody's ignoring us. So I would like for
13 this committee to just look at Allendale
14 County to see what is it that the State of
15 South Carolina can do to help us. Right now,
16 you know, with all of this going on in
17 Allendale County we don't want to be separated
18 now. We don't want something else to happen
19 to us. You know, everything is already bad
20 there, the unemployment, our schools. So we
21 would like to keep our representative. We
22 would like for our county to remain whole. We
23 don't want to separate it. We don't want to
24 separate our people any more. And we are
25 trying to help ourselves in Allendale. We are

1 helping ourselves, we are doing everything we
2 can to do better but we need help. And so we
3 are asking the committee to please consider
4 Allendale County in making your decisions in
5 drawing the lines. Thank you.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Jennings. Are there
7 any questions? Thank you so much for speaking
8 to us today. Charlie Cave. Good evening, Mr.
9 Cave.

10 MR. CAVE: Good evening.

11 REP. CLEMMONS: What a great voice.

12 MR. CAVE: I certainly want to thank this committee,
13 thank all that are present here because we
14 didn't come on our own. Our good Father
15 overall brought us here. We're here to learn
16 of the things that can help God's people.
17 First of all I'd like to back up because I'd
18 like to tell you a little bit about myself.
19 I'm Charlie Cave, live in Allendale town. I'm
20 a birth of Allendale/Barnwell County. I'm
21 thankful that God has allowed me through y'all
22 to sever 43 years as a representative for
23 Allendale County School District. I would
24 like to say, I didn't do it. God himself has
25 blessed me to do so. I appreciate being here

1 tonight because I've gathered some real
2 valuable statements that have been made by the
3 one's that had the opportunity to share. I
4 would like to say to this committee and all of
5 you understand that leadership is the most
6 important of any future that we have. Knowing
7 that if y'all had not been leaders, you
8 wouldn't be seated where you are now. Our
9 present God will continue to allow y'all. And
10 the blessings are going to come through y'all
11 because God gave it to y'all. I want to thank
12 all the other ones that has stood here. I
13 want to say to all that He told us in His
14 word, if we ask in His name, He would grant
15 unto us. I want to say to each of you let's
16 keep faith and say what the song has said, let
17 us never doubt our journey. Thank you all for
18 this opportunity and I hope that we can grow
19 stronger.

20 I just want to say one word that was
21 mentioned about Allendale County. I'd like to
22 say to this committee, we need you. We need
23 you. And the reason we can say that without a
24 doubt is because you will be able to help
25 God's people and that's what and where we're

1 going to get our crown. I pray that you will
2 consider giving whatever strength that you may
3 have towards Allendale County. Thank you
4 again.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for your inspiring
6 remarks, Mr. Cave. Are there any questions?
7 Hearing none. Thank you, Mr. Cave. Ms. Mary
8 Bowmen.

9 MS. BOWMEN: I was signing in.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: We're pleased to have you here, Ms.
11 Bowmen. The last person we have signed in to
12 speak is Jim Omer. Mr. Omer, would you come
13 forward and share your remarks.

14 MR. OMER: How are y'all doing this evening?

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Very well, thank you.

16 MR. OMER: Thank you very much for coming to Denmark
17 to have this hearing. I apologize for being
18 the last one here. My little six-month-old
19 Labrador Retriever took off toward -- took out
20 the door and headed toward the highway. So I
21 had to chase him around before he wore out and
22 I can catch him. I switched him too because I
23 love him. I didn't want him to get on 321
24 Highway. I remember when I was probably four
25 or five-years-old in the hayfield, I was with

1 my daddy, and I took off running. I said I'm
2 the little gingerbread man, you can catch me
3 if you can or whatever and he ran me down and
4 tore my behind up, but that was because he
5 loved me and I am here because I love the
6 people of South Carolina.

7 We need representation in our South
8 Carolina legislature that is fair to our
9 citizens. One man, one vote and taxation
10 without representation ring very true in South
11 Carolina. There are counties in our state
12 where our fellow citizens do not have a
13 senator nor a representative who reside in
14 their county. There are counties in our state
15 that have numerous senators from the same
16 county. But districts strong and are
17 basically arbitrary gerrymander manner is
18 based upon population, race and political
19 motivation, no one is served justice. And the
20 population centers gain the most
21 representation in the House and Senate and
22 therefore the most power and influence and
23 economic benefits. Schools and economic
24 development are direct indicators of the level
25 of representation communities have in

1 Columbia. Allendale County has no one who
2 resided there, living in the -- resides there
3 serving in the legislature. They have the
4 worst schools in the state.

5 House Majority Leader Kenny Bingham
6 graduated from Brookland/Cayce High School and
7 USC, opened an engineering firm in Cayce right
8 next to BC. Lives in Moss Creek between the
9 post office, bulk mail distribution center you
10 see from I-77 and the Cayce water treatment
11 plant right there on 321. He's a deacon at
12 the Trinity Baptist Church. He served on that
13 school board for that area and now represents
14 that district in the State House along with a
15 bunch of other representatives and senators in
16 the Lexington County delegation. Kenny is a
17 fine man and personal friend, but I don't know
18 if he gets out of the 25 square mile area
19 cocoon where he grew up and lives much more
20 often than to attend fundraisers and his
21 daughter's soccer games. I don't think he
22 sees the troubles we do in education in
23 Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, and
24 Orangeburg Counties. He is certainly not
25 alone in that. The Corridor of Shame would

1 not exist if there was adequate fair
2 representation. Economic development is
3 similar. BMW and Boeing followed a variety of
4 attractive things to Spartanburg and
5 Charleston to set up shop. However, many of
6 these attractions were enhanced by the upstate
7 and the Charleston area having so many
8 senators and House members. Taxes from the
9 cash registers in the less represented
10 counties and the pockets of the residents of
11 those counties go to Columbia for the
12 legislature to spend. Without a doubt the
13 good citizens of those areas are less know and
14 understood, and their concerns are therefore
15 less know and understood by the members of the
16 legislature than they would be if their
17 representative and senator lived in that
18 county. That's only human nature.

19 Having two bodies in our general assembly
20 whose makeup is strictly based upon population
21 is simply not fair. Back in the 1700s the
22 Constitutional Convention was debating the
23 makeup of the legislative branch of the
24 proposed federal government. There was so
25 much division on this issue that the

1 Constitution almost did not ratify it. The
2 most populace colonies, like Virginia, New
3 York and Massachuset only one body with
4 representation based on population, or
5 financial contributions to the government's
6 coffers. You would thought they would gain an
7 upper hand over the less populated colonies.
8 Smaller colonies population wise like New
9 Jersey held out for the idea that each state
10 should have the same number of representatives
11 in one legislative body. The bigger colonies
12 didn't like this. This deadlock went on for
13 months until the Great Comprise was proposed
14 by Roger Sherman of Connecticut. This plan
15 which became know as the Connecticut
16 Compromise gave each state two senators who
17 represent their state regardless of size of
18 population in the Senate. And gave each state
19 at least one member of the House of
20 Representatives regardless of the population
21 of each state for the balance of the members
22 of the House apportion to the states according
23 to population. This gave the states power on
24 an equal footing in one half of the
25 legislative branch and gave the individual

1 citizens in the states equal representation as
2 well. The two senators each represent the
3 whole state and the representatives represent
4 the citizens from their respective districts
5 in that state. Why pray tell can't each of
6 the 46 counties have one senator in Columbia?
7 I know that's not your (inaudible). And each
8 county have at least one member of the House
9 of Representatives in Columbia from that
10 county. With the 78 remaining representatives
11 of the 124 total being apportioned according
12 to population. And the representatives from
13 counties having population entitling them to
14 more than one member of the House, have them
15 assigned to equally sized population wise
16 single member districts within the county.
17 This will be fair to everyone regardless of
18 population, race and political persuasion.
19 The population centers around Beaufort,
20 Charleston, Myrtle Beach, Columbia, and
21 Lexington, Greenville, Spartanburg and
22 Anderson might not like it but we haven't
23 liked the status quo for a long time. Also
24 districts should be drawn along county lines
25 and natural boundaries and major highways in

1 order to bring some sanity to the process. It
2 would also be wonderful if congressional
3 districts could be drawn in such a manner to
4 have areas that share common interest together
5 and have groupings of whole counties make up
6 the districts. This would also bring sanity
7 to the entire political process.

8 Of all your brilliant minds and savvy
9 strategic skills if you the members of the
10 legislature truly wanted to do the will of the
11 people, you can find a way to do this to
12 satisfy and alleviate any eagle -- any legal
13 challenges -- legal eagle as well, from the
14 Justice Department. I know you fine public
15 servants do want to do that.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Any questions for Mr.
17 Omer?

18 REP. SELLERS: A lot I think. What would you
19 suggest that we do? And if you had go give me
20 a Cliff Notes version

21 MR. OMER: Cliff Notes version --

22 REP. SELLERS: -- of how to draw . . .

23 MR. OMER: House districts?

24 REP. SELLERS: Yes.

25 MR. OMER: Okay. I would -- There are 124 of y'all

1 in the House of Representatives, correct?

2 REP. SELLERS: Correct.

3 MR. OMER: There's 46 counties. I'd put one
4 representative in each county. Then I'd
5 apportion the remaining 78 -- 124 minus 46, I
6 think is 78. I'd divvy those up according to
7 the population of the other areas. Like Horry
8 County would have a lot more people now or has
9 a lot more people so you would have more
10 representation than say Orangeburg which
11 probably has three or four. I mean, we didn't
12 change much so we'd stay about the same.
13 Allendale would have -- each county would have
14 one senator and each county would have at
15 least one representative from that county.
16 And that would help. I know a lot of the
17 small counties have trouble getting attention
18 in Columbia and --

19 REP. SELLERS: Thank you for that answer. I mean
20 just for clarification for the record. I mean
21 there are constitutional constraints of one
22 man, one vote and there are constraints of the
23 Voting Rights Act which Section 2 and Section
24 5 prevent us from doing -- well prevent or
25 protect depending on which side of the coin

1 you are on from doing certain things so. I
2 mean I think that's an awesome -- you're very
3 thoughtful, very, very thoughtful suggestion
4 I'm just not so certain how we implement it.

5 MR. OMER: Now, how can it work for congress but yet
6 not work for the states?

7 REP. CLEMMONS: We are --

8 REP. SELLERS: One -- I mean one as you know, one is
9 ingrained in our Constitution and the other is
10 not. I mean South Carolina is one of 16
11 states that falls under the Voting Rights Act.

12

13

14 MR. OMER: Right.

15 REP. SELLERS: We are subject to that law, that
16 protection as I want to refer to it as and
17 which means that you have to have things such
18 as majority/minority districts and the such.

19 MR. OMER: Right. But you see what I'm talking
20 would also help get more representations from
21 minorities in those areas because you -- by
22 human nature you tend to play it to the
23 majority of folks in your district.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Young?

25 REP. YOUNG: I was just going to say that, as you

1 probably know, there's 46 state senators.

2 MR. OMER: Right.

3 REP. YOUNG: There's 46 counties.

4 MR. OMER: Right.

5 REP. YOUNG: And before the Baker versus Carr, one
6 man, one vote U.S. Supreme Court decision in
7 the early 1960s, there was one state senator
8 to one county -- or to each county in the
9 state.

10 MR. OMER: Right.

11 REP. YOUNG: And after that decision, it's my
12 understanding that this state had to
13 reapportion the senate districts when it was
14 no longer one per -- so I mean I don't think
15 we legally can do what you're --

16 MR. OMER: Well, what I'm after kind of is if I had
17 enough money or to go to law school myself at
18 this time, my goal would be to bring a lawsuit
19 to fix that because counties like Bamberg
20 don't have the umph in Columbia that Lexington
21 County has because Lexington County has three
22 or four senators there that are pushing that
23 agenda. I mean we've got senators who have
24 smaller districts or bunch them up in a
25 certain area. I hope you understand what I'm

1 talking about.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Omer, I for one appreciate your
3 input. You've put a lot of thought into it.
4 I would suggest that your last comments are
5 exactly the way to address the concerns you
6 have about representation.

7 MR. OMER: Yes, sir.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Representative Sellers and Young are
9 exactly right. We are under constitutional
10 and statutory constraint and mandate which we
11 will follow. That is a part of our recipe for
12 making this cake.

13 MR. OMER: Uh-huh.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: And we will follow that recipe until
15 the chefs, the Supreme Court, dictate
16 otherwise. But we do appreciate your thoughts
17 and sharing them with us and they will be a
18 part of this permeant record today.

19 MR. OMER: All right.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: We thank you so much, Mr. Omer, it's
21 a pleasure. Ladies and gentleman, that -- Mr.
22 Omer was our last person to sign up as being
23 present or to speak tonight. But I do not
24 want us to close this meeting without
25 affording anyone who has failed to sign up to

1 have the opportunity to speak if they have
2 been so moved. So at this time I just ask if
3 you'd like to speak, if you could just raise
4 your hand, we've be delighted to hear from
5 you. The gentleman in the back, yes, sir.
6 Come back and speak to us again if you will.
7 Mr. Bonaparte.

8 MR. BONAPARTE: I might be a little bit out of
9 order, but I remember back in 1965 when the
10 Voting Rights Act was changed. The last
11 statement that the gentleman just made, I
12 think Senator L. Marion Gressette from Calhoun
13 County was a top honcho at that particular
14 time.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: He was. Yes, sir.

16 MR. BONAPARTE: And I was in school and I remember
17 some changes being made during that time. And
18 when the gentleman brought the statement up
19 just a few minutes ago, it kind of enlightened
20 me to some things that was changed. But when
21 you get away from these things and don't
22 follow them up, you get lost. So maybe
23 Representative Sellers might be able to bring
24 me a little bit up to date with some things
25 that occur along that line.

1 REP. SELLERS: As long as you don't put me in the
2 Senate, we can talk about anything.

3 MR. BONAPARTE: Okay. That's it.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. Mr. Bonaparte,
5 thank you for your comments. Did you want to
6 follow that up, Mr. Sellers?

7 REP. SELLERS: I just want to comment if we're done.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: All right. Well, let me see, is
9 there anyone else that would like to comment
10 before we have our final comments. Hearing
11 none. Thank you so much, and Mr. Sellers has
12 a comment.

13 REP. SELLERS: I just want to thank you all for
14 coming out today. It's a pleasure to have
15 this meeting in my backyard. We've -- last
16 Monday we started out in Beaufort. We did
17 Florence, Rock Hill, Myrtle Beach. Yesterday
18 we were in Aiken. Tomorrow we're in
19 Greenville and Thursday we're in Dorchester.
20 And I think that when you look at those names
21 and you see the town of Denmark in there, it
22 kind of sticks out a little bit. But we are
23 not forgotten down here in this area and we
24 want to make sure that -- sometimes Columbia
25 has to come to us. And I want to -- I always

1 like to say that I'm a product of the proverb
2 that it takes a village to raise a child and
3 chairman, this is my village. So I want to
4 thank -- and that cool guy that was standing
5 in the back, I have to say a special thank you
6 to my dad for allowing us to use the
7 facilities here. He's outside running around,
8 and Mr. Jefferson in the back. Welcome to
9 Voorhees College. Thank y'all for coming and
10 getting a little bit of a taste of the South
11 Carolina House of Representatives.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mr. Sellers. Any other
13 comments from the panelists? Sir, you had a
14 comment?

15 MR. COMER: Evert Comer again.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, Mr. Comer?

17 MR. COMER: I know y'all coming from the House. I'm
18 assuming the Senate will be -- Senate
19 subcommittee their kind of part will be having
20 these hearings also? I'm just raising the
21 question.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: The Senate is holding hearings as we
23 are across the state. I am not --

24 REP. SELLERS: They've already -- they did it in
25 Orangeburg at OC Tech. That was actually the

1 first one. That was three weeks ago, but you
2 can -- the process is still ongoing and you
3 can still be a part of it.

4 MR. COMER: Let me ask you this, how do county
5 counsel seats being handled for as the
6 redistricting?

7 REP. CLEMMONS: County counsel seats local district
8 lines are being handled by the local areas.
9 So your county counsel is responsible for your
10 county counsel districts.

11 MR. COMER: All right. Do you sometime have
12 accompanying you a demographer to help explain
13 things?

14 REP. SELLERS: Mr. Chairman, if you don't mind -- I
15 think one thing that may be beneficial is
16 anyone in the public is allowed in our map
17 room, is that correct?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

19 REP. SELLERS: No, they can't? We can -- I think I
20 can help share with you some of the resources
21 that I have at my disposal and by being on
22 this subcommittee that those are vast to help
23 in that task of drawings.

24 MR. COMER: Okay.

25 REP. SELLERS: And I offer myself to all the

1 counties and Lonnie does that same.

2 MR. COMER: Thank you.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Sellers makes a very good point
4 when he says that this process remains open.
5 If any of you have been moved or are moved
6 after today to add to the comments that we've
7 heard today, then I would encourage you to
8 share those comments with us in writing. We
9 have a website through which you can do it
10 electronically -- can you give me the website
11 address? www.scstatehouse.gov,
12 www.scstatehouse.gov. I encourage you to
13 share your comments that way or you can share
14 them with us in writing by mailing them to the
15 South Carolina House, attention to myself,
16 Alan Clemmons and we'll be happy to add those
17 comments to the public record. Of course, I'd
18 ask that they will have their most impact at
19 the front end of the process, so the earlier
20 we can receive those comments, the better it
21 will be.

22 I thank -- we thank you so much for your
23 hospitality today. We've enjoyed our visit
24 with you, we appreciate so much your input, it
25 is indispensable to this redistricting

process. Thank you so much. This meeting
stands adjourned.

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