

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. Morrision.

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](http://www.scstatehouse.gov),  
12 [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://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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