

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Greenville, SC

April 13, 2011

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REP. CLEMMONS: We are pleased to be here with you today. I am Alan Clemons. I have the honor of chairing the Election Law Subcommittee of the South Carolina House of Representatives, the Election Law Subcommittee. We are here today to hold a hearing with regard to redistricting, and it's an honor to be with you here in Greenville County today. This is a regional hearing. A hearing not just for Greenville County, but also for all the other counties within this region and anybody from South Carolina who would like to participate here today. So we welcome you all. I would like to introduce to you the members of my subcommittee. And I'll start to my extreme left. We have Jenny Horne. Representative Horne is from Summerville. Next to her, Bakari Sellers. Representative Sellers is from Denmark. Between Representative Sellers and myself we have Emma Dean, our capable attorney to keep us out of trouble. To my right is the ranking senior member of our subcommittee, someone who needs no introduction here, Karl Allen. And to his

1 right is Tom Young. Representative Young is
2 from Aiken. We are all pleased to be here
3 with you today. We're looking forward to
4 hearing from you with regard to your thoughts
5 and your comments regarding the redistricting
6 process that we are now finding ourselves in.
7 I'd like to share with you some prepared
8 introductory remarks to give you a feel for,
9 number one, the importance of your input in
10 this process; and, number two, to give you a
11 feel for how we intend to use your input that
12 we will receive from you today.

13 These hearings, ladies and gentlemen, are
14 only the first step in a long and involved
15 process that must be followed to complete a
16 workable redistricting plan for South
17 Carolina. We hope to start tonight, and at
18 the other hearings, by listening to extensive
19 public input and then using that input to form
20 the basis of how we will proceed in this
21 process. From that input, this subcommittee
22 must create and submit to the full South
23 Carolina House Judiciary Committee a plan of
24 how to draw the district lines for the South
25 Carolina House of Representatives, all 124

1 districts and the United States House of
2 Representatives for those congressional
3 districts falling in South Carolina, including
4 the new 7th District received in the latest
5 reapportionment process. The full committee
6 must then submit a plan that may or may not be
7 the same as the subcommittee's plan to the
8 full House for consideration. Any plan that
9 gains approval of the House, and later the
10 Senate, must be submitted to the United States
11 Justice Department for what is called pre-
12 clearance. If it is determined by the Justice
13 Department or the courts that the plan does
14 not comply first with the constitutional
15 mandates of one man/one vote and equal
16 protection and, second, with the statutory
17 requirements of the Voting Rights Act, more
18 work may still need to be done.

19 Tonight, our goal is to listen to each
20 and every one of you that has an interest in
21 this process. We want to hear from you what
22 you would like to see accomplished in the
23 House's redrawing of district lines for both
24 the South Carolina House of Representatives
25 and for the United States Congressional

1 Districts of South Carolina. We are here
2 tonight to listen to your concerns and your
3 recommendations as to what this subcommittee
4 should consider in the process. As the House
5 undertakes the process of redrawing District
6 lines, public input is indispensable as we go
7 about the work of shaping a House that best
8 represents the people of South Carolina. The
9 House of Representatives is often called the
10 People's House. And in order to continue to
11 earn that distinction, we must know how the
12 people want that House to look, how the people
13 wish to be represented. That, ladies and
14 gentlemen, is the sole purpose of our being
15 here with you tonight: to hear from the public
16 and take the public's guidance as we shape the
17 House and congressional districts for the
18 coming decade.

19 We welcome any input which helps us
20 understand specific issues in your area, in
21 your region, which identifies neighborhoods,
22 political subdivisions and other areas where
23 you believe the subcommittee should take into
24 consideration when drawing district lines.

25 Resulting from this series of hearings,

1 this subcommittee plans to adopt a set of
2 criteria drawn primarily from what we hear
3 from the public. These criteria will be the
4 guiding principles by which the House will
5 draw -- or, excuse me, redraw district lines.
6 As you all know, the plan that is ultimately
7 produced must, more than anything else, assure
8 the principle of one person/one vote, meaning
9 that we are required to have as equal a
10 population in each district as possible. But
11 beyond those requirements, this subcommittee
12 is particularly interested in what political
13 subdivisions or smaller communities have in
14 common or what they do not have in common that
15 would suggest whether they should be placed
16 into one or multiple districts. While this
17 hearing is being conducted tonight in
18 Greenville to allow residence of the immediate
19 area an opportunity for input, the
20 subcommittee is happy to hear testimony from
21 anyone interested in any part of the state or
22 the state as a whole.

23 Because tonight's hearing will be part of
24 the record in this matter, this proceeding is
25 also being recorded and it will be transcribed

1 and available to the public. To make sure
2 that we have a clear record, I would ask that
3 each participant come forward to the
4 microphone, speak slowly and clearly, state
5 your name and your address and identify the
6 district or districts that you're interested
7 in commenting on. If you are appearing
8 tonight on behalf of a group, such as a
9 political party, a public interest group or
10 other organization, please let us know that
11 information as well. I, and the other members
12 of this committee, may make comments or ask
13 questions about particular areas which may not
14 reflect the intentions or recommendations of
15 this subcommittee or of the House. We will
16 also be glad to answer general questions
17 about the process, that is if we can answer
18 those general questions. However, because
19 this is the first part of a long process of
20 gathering information from around the State,
21 we may not be able to answer specific
22 questions at this time. I anticipate that
23 this meeting will last approximately two
24 hours, and while we want to hear everything
25 that anyone has to offer us, we do reserve the

1 right to limit individual testimony to ten
2 minutes, if necessary. I would ask each
3 person as they offer testimony to be
4 considerate of others who are here to offer
5 their opinions as well. I'd also like to
6 share with you that we've gone to great
7 lengths to make all parties, all interested
8 people, aware of this meeting tonight. We
9 have advertised it through the press
10 association and through individual newspapers.
11 We have sent out hundreds of emails to
12 interested individuals who have registered
13 with us. We've made it available on our State
14 House website, the information of this public
15 meeting. We have gone to every extent that we
16 know to go through to encourage attendance
17 tonight, and I see that that has paid off
18 well. We have a good attendance here tonight.
19 We thank you for your attendance, for your
20 interest and for your participation.

21 Mr. Allen's pointed out to me that while
22 I've been speaking we've had several of the
23 House of Representatives join us. And that is
24 commendable. I would like to point out when
25 we left Columbia, the House was in session and

1 were in full debate on bills. So those that
2 have come have requested leave of the House to
3 be here with us. You will not see all of your
4 delegation members here tonight because many
5 have opted to stay to represent your interest
6 to the House of Representatives. But we do
7 have with us Tom Corbin. Representative
8 Corbin, where are you? Right in the back
9 here. We have Representative Gary Smith.
10 Representative Smith stepped out, but he is
11 with us tonight as well. Representative
12 Chandra Dillard. Representative Dillard,
13 welcome. And Representative Seth Whipper here
14 in the front. We may have other members step
15 in throughout the evening. If we do, in
16 between testimony, I will identify them to you
17 as they come in.

18 With that, ladies and gentlemen, the time
19 is now yours. And we looked forward to
20 hearing from your thoughts and comments
21 tonight. The first person to address us is
22 Mr. John M. Dugan, I believe. John M. Dogan
23 or Dugan? Okay. Is that you sir? Please
24 come forward and share with us your thoughts,
25 Mr. Dugan. If you would first give us your

1 address, please, sir and any group that you
2 may be representing tonight.

3 MR. DUGAN: Good afternoon to all of you present.

4 My name is John M. Dugan. I'm from District
5 25. My Representative is Karl Allen. My
6 question to this board here - When the
7 redistricting lines have been drawn, will it
8 be -- will it increase the representatives in
9 our area? That's my first question.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: We do not know yet where House
11 districts will be drawn yet, Mr. Dugan. It's
12 impossible for us to say whether or not there
13 will be a new House seat or new House seats in
14 Greenville. We are working through that
15 process. We're on the front end. No maps
16 have been drawn yet, and they won't be drawn,
17 as far as I'm concerned, until we have
18 completed the public hearing here.

19 MR. DUGAN: Okay. My second question, then I'll sit
20 down. How -- what long process will this
21 take? Will it be months, years, or what is
22 the process?

23 REP. CLEMMONS: It will be a process of months. We
24 as a General Assembly, both the House and the
25 Senate, must have our work completed by the

1 end of August in order to timely pass the work
2 on to the Justice Department for them to go
3 through their work of pre-clearance. So that
4 is our goal, sir.

5 MR. DUGAN: Thank you.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for being with us tonight.
7 I'd like to point out that Representative Anne
8 Parks joined us during those comments.
9 Representative Parks, where are you? Right
10 down here in the middle. It's always a
11 pleasure to have you with us, Representative
12 Parks. George Rimkey.

13 MR. RIMKEY: (inaudible) pass.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, sir. Reverend
15 Fleming Brockwood.

16 MR. BROCKWOOD: Good evening, and welcome to
17 Greenville.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you so much.

19 MR. BROCKWOOD: We are well aware that the federal
20 law mandates that there are public hearings
21 for input from the public as it relates to
22 redistricting. However, I want to remind you,
23 the legislators of South Carolina, that South
24 Carolina is one of the nine states under
25 Section Five of the 1965 Voting Rights Act

1 because of the history of discrimination
2 against minority voters. I point this out
3 because last week, overwhelmingly, that the
4 House voted an ID Bill, and, to me, this is
5 still a sign of discrimination against
6 minorities. And that says to me that
7 discrimination is still alive and well in 2011
8 in South Carolina. Passing laws that will
9 cause problems for the elderly and the poor
10 and disenfranchised does not seem fair to me.
11 Why would we go forward and create something,
12 create a law that will cause problems for us
13 after we've worked so hard to make it readily
14 available for folk who can vote to vote? And
15 now you want to add another -- you want to tax
16 the elderly and the poor, disenfranchised.
17 It's something wrong with that. I request
18 that House District 23 and 25 of Greenville
19 County includes the majority of communities,
20 majority of community of interest and lines be
21 drawn for majority, minority representation.
22 I also request that we provide fairness and
23 transparency to the citizens of South Carolina
24 by showing the summary of every hearing, the
25 maps and all the materials that's related to

1 redistricting, that it be placed up on the
2 State website in a timely manner, that we may
3 have input as we proceed with these hearings.

4 Thank you so very kindly.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Reverend Brockwood. --
6 Reverend Fleming, excuse me, sir. Mr.
7 Fleming, I'm sorry, but would you come back to
8 the microphone for just a moment and share
9 with us your address for the record.

10 MR. BROCKWOOD: J. M. Fleming, 398 Oscar Street,
11 Greenville, District 23.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Reverend Fleming. Were
13 there any questions of the panelists? Hearing
14 none. Thank you so much, sir. Daniel Gamble.

15 MR. GAMBLE: Good evening, and welcome to the
16 Greenville area. My name is Daniel Gamble of
17 150 Cedars Springs Place, Apartment 1,
18 Spartanburg, 29302, House District 34
19 represented by Mike Forrester. I've come here
20 today and to testify at this House
21 redistricting public hearing and what mandates
22 what lines being drawn on maps and on the
23 material. I've come here today in that -- in
24 my area, in Spartanburg, I live in currently
25 in House District 34, which is, once again,

1 Representative Mike Forrester and (inaudible),
2 represented by Lee Bryant. In my area, I live
3 in part of the Spartanburg right behind the
4 School for Deaf and Blind campus in the (?)
5 Springs area. I want the House district and
6 the Senate lines, I have to say, changed to
7 redraw not redraw and School for Deaf and
8 Blind has been in House 34 for years when they
9 draw the lines for the 1970 census. And I'm
10 looking at it for my precinct which is (?)
11 Todd Elementary precinct is 39,594 population
12 and for House District 34 is 37,327 in the
13 population. And for the Congressional
14 District in South Carolina 4, which is in
15 Spartanburg County, the district-wide
16 currently is almost 660,000 people,
17 approximately. And I'd like -- the scariest
18 thing to me, I like -- I hate to see
19 Greenville get split in half and half
20 Greenville and that half Greenville remain in
21 the 4th and the other half of Greenville
22 remain in the 3rd and the 4th District
23 Greenville/Spartanburg itself. I would like
24 to share this and that part of the area
25 squeeze up to Spartanburg where, like I said,

1 School for Deaf and Blind has been in that
2 House district for many, many years now. And
3 I want to change. And I would like to fight
4 for y'all for the support that y'all have in
5 being in Columbia.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, sir. Sir,
7 would you come back to the podium for just one
8 second. Representative Allen would like to
9 ask you a question.

10 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The School
11 for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg is in
12 what district, House district?

13 MR. GAMBLE: 34.

14 REP. ALLEN: All right. Thank you.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Gamble. Richard
16 Revis. Does Mr. Revis wish to speak? Hello,
17 sir.

18 MR. REVIS: I didn't think I was going to speak. I
19 just signed in.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay, sir.

21 MR. REVIS: This is a surprise.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: That's an honest mistake, but you're
23 welcome to speak if you'd like to.

24 MR. REVIS: Okay. I got to think of something.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: You can just tell us what a good job

1 we're doing.

2 MR. REVIS: (inaudible) Spartanburg here,
3 Greenville. I'm from Easley, South Carolina.

4 Can I say something?

5 REP. CLEMMONS: You may, absolutely, sir. Would you
6 share with us your address?

7 MR. REVIS: Richard J. Revis, 325 Sylvia Road,
8 Easley, South Carolina 29642.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. REVIS: I was here in the March 31st, the senate
11 hearing (inaudible). Okay. You talking about
12 splitting up stuff. Why not split Greenville
13 County from Spartanburg, let Greenville County
14 gets very large. That be one district and
15 Spartanburg and Union be as one instead of
16 cutting these little communities and dividing
17 people. Have something equal. I thought
18 (inaudible) was going to be here. I already
19 had a message for him. I was going to give
20 him three do you want the truth, the facts or
21 do you want me to take the Fifth? Okay.
22 That's just a thought. Greenville,
23 Spartanburg and create one.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Revis.

25 MR. REVIS: Thank you very much.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: We appreciate your input, sir.

2 MR. REVIS: I had a bow tie on last time. I hate to
3 have this on and then come up here and speak.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Quite all right, sir. You look
5 great. Ruth M. Richburg. Good evening, Ms.
6 Richburg.

7 MS. RICHBURG: Good evening.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Could you share your address with us
9 first.

10 MS. RICHBURG: Yes.

11 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you.

12 MS. RICHBURG: I would like to say good evening to
13 the Honorable Allen Fleming, the Honorable
14 Karl Allen and all of the distinguished
15 panelists. My name is Ruth McAllister
16 Richburg, a resident of Greenville County,
17 that is 300 West Castle Drive, House District
18 25. Our Representative is Karl Allen. I'm
19 co-chairman of the Social Action Committee,
20 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated,
21 Greenville Chapter. I'd like to thank you for
22 giving me the opportunity to address this
23 panel. I acknowledge that we grouping people
24 and we're drawing district lines as necessary
25 after a census in order to adjust the

1 districts to make them approximately the same
2 size and population. However, our elected
3 officials, county, state and federal, have a
4 great impact on our very existence, our
5 education, income, safety, roads, housing, the
6 food we eat, air quality and even dying.
7 These same officials are elected by the people
8 in a particular district, and they, in turn,
9 push for legislation and the laws that benefit
10 their respective constituents. For example,
11 if the district is highly industrial, the
12 officials will fight for laws and pass
13 legislation to benefit those people. The way
14 the lines that protect the district are
15 redrawn to include or exclude kinds of people
16 will directly affect who can win in the next
17 election and who adopts the policies that
18 govern our lives. Therefore, the whole
19 redistricting process should be open and
20 transparent. The people in the district
21 should be allowed to participate in the
22 process from beginning to end. Consideration
23 should be given to the 2010 census (inaudible)
24 and demographic changes making the districts
25 compact, keeping communities together that

1 have similar interests and avoiding rights
2 acts protection of minority voters. I do have
3 a few questions that I would like to ask.

4 What will be the procedures and process
5 for redrawing the district lines and when will
6 this information be made available? And I
7 think you sort of eluded to that earlier. Who
8 are the people involved in analyzing the
9 census data to assist with redrawing the
10 lines?

11 REP. CLEMMONS: We have -- the process, of course,
12 as you know, is a very political process that
13 involves interaction of all of the members of
14 the General Assembly, both the Senate and the
15 House. We are aided in that process by our
16 staff, both in the Senate and the House, and
17 by outside counsel who are advising us as
18 well.

19 MS. RICHBURG: Thank you.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. RICHBURG: Okay. I think you answered this
22 earlier. What is the time line for moving
23 forward through the process and what is the
24 target date? And I think you said it would
25 take months and months.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: By the end of August, as I said, we
2 must have a workable plan. Our goal is to
3 have a workable plan to the Justice Department
4 by that date.

5 MS. RICHBURG: All right. How do you plan to
6 involve the people in the process other than
7 this forum?

8 REP. CLEMMONS: The hearings of the subcommittee
9 that we will hold periodically as we are
10 putting together maps will be open to the
11 public. And the public are encouraged to
12 participate by comment.

13 MS. RICHBURG: Thank you. And, finally, is it still
14 permissible to draw a majority/minority
15 districts?

16 REP. CLEMMONS: It not only is permissible, it is a
17 requirement by the law that we maintain
18 majority/minority districts, in so far as
19 possible not to allow retrogression of black
20 voter representation in those districts, yes,
21 ma'am.

22 MS. RICHBURG: Thank you.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for your participation
24 today. G. M. Fleming.

25 MR. (?): He's already (inaudible)

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Excuse me. Mr. Fleming, you've
2 already spoken. Fred Payne, Greenville County
3 Council. Thank you for sharing your
4 facilities today, Councilman Payne.

5 MR. PAYNE: Thank you, sir.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

7 MR. PAYNE: I'm like the earlier gentleman. I
8 thought I was signing up to just say that I
9 was here.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, you're not going to refuse an
11 opportunity --

12 MR. PAYNE: I'm not going to step back. My name is
13 Fred Payne. I live at 1907 Bethel Road,
14 Simpsonville, 29681. I want to echo some of
15 the comments that have been made. I think it
16 makes sense too if you can't keep Greenville
17 and Spartanburg together, they exceed the
18 minimum limit for a new congressional
19 district, I think we need to divide them and
20 keep the whole County of Greenville in one
21 district. And I know we have to add others,
22 probably Laurens or Pickens or Oconee, or
23 whatever, and I know that you all have people
24 who will do that. I do have one question that
25 I -- one of my fellow council members asked me

1 earlier, and I would ask you, is would it help
2 you for Greenville County Council to pass some
3 kind of resolution indicating our thoughts as
4 a body?

5 REP. CLEMMONS: We are going to encourage you to
6 share with us any input that you would like to
7 provide, yes, sir.

8 MR. PAYNE: Thank you, sir. We'll probably be doing
9 that.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: We'll look forward to receiving it.
11 Thank you, Councilman. Thank you for your
12 input. Martha W. Brock of Cherokee County.

13 MS. BROCK: My name is Martha W. Brock, but
14 everybody calls me Sissy and has from birth.
15 But that is my legal name, so I put that forth
16 tonight to you. I am from Cherokee County. I
17 live in Gaffney, South Carolina, 154 (?)
18 Drive. That's 29341. Tonight I have about 17
19 letters that I'm not going to even try to read
20 them all to you, okay. But what I will do is
21 read the one that I wrote and then add some of
22 the thoughts of the others.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Ms. Brock, before you go on, you
24 bring up a very important point that I
25 neglected to share with everybody earlier.

1 MS. BROCK: Okay.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: If you have any letters, maps,
3 written documentation of any sort that you
4 would like to share with this committee, we
5 will be happy to receive that written
6 information and it will be included as a part
7 of the permanent record of this public hearing
8 tonight. We would just ask that you
9 write your name and your address on any
10 documentation that you hand up to us and we
11 will be happy to receive it and make it a part
12 of the record. I'm sorry to interrupt your
13 remarks. Please continue.

14 MS. BROCK: That's perfectly all right. Board
15 members, as you are the Board from the State
16 House of Representatives, my name is Martha W.
17 Brock and I am a resident of Cherokee County
18 South Carolina. After a rewarding 30 year
19 teaching career in our County, I have chosen
20 to become a full-time (inaudible). It is my
21 hope that I can make a difference in my county
22 and state. I am chairman for the South
23 Carolina State Board of Foster Care Review and
24 I serve on our local Foster Care Review Board.
25 As Chairman of the Cherokee County Family YMCA

1 Board of Directors, I've chaired the capitol
2 campaign committee which funded a new four
3 plus million dollar facility, and y'all are
4 welcome to come at any time.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you.

6 MS. BROCK: I am chairman of the Cherokee County
7 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission Board of
8 Directors, and I have served on this board for
9 almost 40 years. I am a Rotarian and I have
10 served on various other boards and community
11 activities. I serve without compensation
12 because I feel that I need to give back to my
13 community and state. And by accepting
14 these positions, I have had the privilege of
15 working with our local delegation, especially
16 Representative Dennis Moss. He has always
17 been available to me and has supported me in
18 my endeavors to help the citizens of our
19 state. This session, our legislators not only
20 have the overwhelming task of prioritizing the
21 dwindling budget, but we also -- you also have
22 the task of redistricting our state. At
23 this time, Cherokee County has two resident
24 House members: Representative Dennis Moss who
25 lives in the City of Gaffney and

1 Representative Steve Moss that lives in the
2 Blacksburg area, which is nine miles away. I
3 realize that the lines for each district will
4 be drawn by using the population of somewhere
5 around 37,000 people. And this may require
6 some shifting of the lines from the presence
7 that you have right now. With the growth in
8 our bordering counties, they should give up
9 some, if not all, of their growth and area in
10 Cherokee County, possibly using where they
11 live, their residence, as a guideline for
12 this. At this time, Representative Dennis
13 Moss has constituents in Cherokee, York and
14 Blacksburg and Chester County -- excuse me,
15 Chester County. Our County is composed of one
16 city, which is Gaffney, one town, which is
17 Blacksburg, and many small communities. The
18 present line actually splits the City of
19 Gaffney which is our county seat into two
20 sections that have different representation.
21 One has Representative Dennis Moss on one side
22 of downtown Gaffney and has Representative
23 Steve Moss on the other side of this road. In
24 the middle we have the two that represent us
25 and then in an outer lying area, which would

1 be (?), Asbury Community and Macedonea
2 Community. They are represented by
3 Representative Eddie Tallon who is in District
4 33. If I'm not mistaken, he has somewhere
5 maybe around 5,000 that he represents out of
6 Cherokee County. These small communities have
7 far more in common with the City of Gaffney.
8 We share the same education system, government
9 officials, fire and law enforcement detection,
10 and share in our local tax base.

11 Representative Moss' time is not used in an
12 effective manner due to this area he covers.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: I'm sorry. Which Representative
14 Moss?

15 MS. BROCK: Dennis. Okay. I think Representative
16 Steve Moss has a part of Cherokee County and
17 then all of Blacksburg. I don't think he dips
18 into any other county, where Representative
19 Dennis Moss who lives in the place in our city
20 has that part, then Chester and some of York.
21 I would like to have him represent the Gaffney
22 area and divide the county population with the
23 majority staying in House 29. No other part
24 of our County borders the state of North
25 Carolina. And it moves east, southeast. It

1 borders York County. It would be more logical
2 solution to allow the City of Gaffney to be
3 one House district, because I've already said
4 about splitting it down the middle.

5 Representative Dennis Moss has seniority
6 amongst our House members. He is known as the
7 go-to guy in the whole area that he represents
8 and also in the ones that he doesn't
9 represent. It is not uncommon to hear, well,
10 just call Dennis. That's what we hear, and he
11 knows the needs of our county. He is active
12 in our community. He is involved in a lot of
13 civic things. Now, granted he doesn't - And I
14 don't have this in the letter. - but he
15 doesn't omit the other two counties. He
16 represents them well. But when you have three
17 areas calling you constantly, and, pretty
18 much, they all call Dennis if they want
19 something done. By changing the lines to be
20 inclusive of the City of Gaffney, our specific
21 -- he would be able to focus on our specific
22 concerns. We don't need for someone from
23 Spartanburg who we can't make or break his
24 election anyway to represent this little small
25 part. We don't want our County seat split in

1 half. We would like at least all of the
2 actual city limits and hopefully outer parts
3 to stay with one representative. I would
4 appreciate your consideration of this request,
5 which is about, of course, the redistricting.
6 Thank you for allowing me to present my
7 feelings and concerns. It is refreshing to
8 know that every citizen can have a say and
9 become a part of the process. I also said
10 that I had several letters or statements from
11 other people. They're from a variety of
12 people. I'm coming to you as a citizen. You
13 know, I've worked in our County school system.
14 I truly feel that it limits Representative
15 Moss and spreads him so thin that he -- it's
16 hard to focus. He does the best he can. And
17 we think that's important for you to know.
18 May of the people that we have letters in here
19 live in Macedonia, (inaudible) maybe Asbury.
20 These are the ones that are representation of
21 Spartanburg County. And let me make it clear.
22 I know Eddie Tallon. I like Eddie Tallon, but
23 he is also spread very thin. And with the
24 population of borders, then possibly when you
25 do these lines if you could not keep him

1 closer to where their main interest is a lot
2 of these people don't feel that they are truly
3 represented. There's a world of difference
4 between Spartanburg County and the smaller
5 communities and even the City of Gaffney. So,
6 like I said, some of them don't even feel like
7 they are represented. So we ask that you try
8 your best. We know the 37,000 population.
9 Everybody's not going to like where things go.
10 But I appreciate you listening to us. I will
11 get this for you.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Pass them up to Ms. Deas.

13 MS. BROCK: Okay. Let me put in those folders.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Ms. Brock. Ms.
15 Brock, if you could come back to the podium we
16 have a question or two for you.

17 MS. BROCK: Oh, okay.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: First by Representative Young.

19 REP. YOUNG: Thank you, Ms. Brock. What is the
20 population of Cherokee County?

21 MS. BROCK: It's approximately 55,000.

22 REP. YOUNG: And do you know where -- did you say
23 that all of the district that Representative
24 Steve Moss has is within the Cherokee County
25 lines?

1 MS. BROCK: Most of it is. I don't think -- he
2 doesn't go into York. He goes up into -- if
3 you go through the middle of town like down 29
4 in the middle of town and you cut up and go to
5 the northwestern part of Cherokee County,
6 which is Grassy Pond area, up in there, it's
7 community type place. And it's been -- that's
8 a really growth area for us. That is
9 Steve Moss'. Dennis takes the lower part and
10 his side of the middle, and he goes down
11 towards Chester and some into York County like
12 Smyrna and all those small communities there.
13 He doesn't go into York, per se, but the
14 outlying rural areas of York.

15 REP. YOUNG: So is it fair to say that your
16 testimony could be summarized by saying that,
17 number one, you would like to see all of the
18 Town of Gaffney in one House district?

19 MS. BROCK: I would.

20 REP. YOUNG: And, number two, you would like to see
21 the outlying rural areas -- I think you said
22 one is called Asbury --

23 MS. BROCK: Asbury, (?) and Macedonia.

24 REP. YOUNG: In a district that is represented by a
25 Cherokee County resident?

1 MS. BROCK: That's correct, because there's only
2 about 5,000 people there. They go to our
3 school. They share in our tax base. And we
4 even have a letter here that said (inaudible)
5 Representative Tallon they have at least
6 gotten a letter. And I know Representative
7 (?), and I like him very much. Always had a
8 great relationship with him. But they have
9 not talked to him, heard from him. I know
10 he's retired now and I know he's glad he's
11 retired now. But it really does -- it does
12 make you feel like if somebody doesn't have
13 enough people in their district that they even
14 warrant coming and trying to campaign in those
15 districts or be a part or listen, so you know
16 what they do, they call Dennis. Bottom line,
17 that's the way it is. And I just think maybe
18 that we could split -- we could take in
19 Eddie's part of Cherokee County because
20 Spartanburg has grown so much. Also, Steve
21 could probably take in more of the York County
22 because he lives pretty close to there and he
23 is not done -- he actually moved on Broad
24 River, which if you go down near his house.
25 Now, Steve and I grew up together as backdoor

1 neighbors. I have no qualms with the people.
2 I just think that we need good representation,
3 but we need it more in a unit to have it
4 unified as much as you possibly can. Just do
5 your best because it is an overwhelming job
6 that you have. Is there anything else?

7 REP. YOUNG: I don't have anything else. Thank you
8 very much.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Brock.

10 MS. BROCK: Thank you.

11 REP. CLEMMONS: Next we have C.L. Askew with
12 Greenville County. Mr. Askew.

13 MR. (?): (Inaudible.)

14 REP. CLEMMONS: To the extent that anyone here knows
15 how to operate them, yes.

16 MR. (?): (Inaudible.)

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay, Mr. Askew, while you're
18 setting up I'm going to go ahead with another
19 speaker, but feel free to set up. I would
20 remind you out of respect for everyone here
21 that has thoughts they want to share we do
22 reserve the right to limit the time
23 presentation to ten minutes. Can you do that?

24 MR ASKEW: (Inaudible.)

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, sir. Let us --

1 while Mr. Askew is setting up his
2 presentation, we will move on to Mike W. Bias
3 or Byers, maybe. Mr. Byers.

4 MR. Byers: May I approach the bench (inaudible)
5 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir. The lady behind you, you
6 can hand it to Ms. Dean.

7 MR. Byers: I am Mike Byers. My address is 117 (?)
8 Road. I'm not going to go through the top
9 paragraph. She's going to give it to you so
10 you can read it, but what I do is what I'm on.
11 But my thing with being here is I'm
12 representing me and my family. I've been
13 asked -- I got a pretty good family in the
14 Goucher, Macedonia area of our county. Most
15 of my family's expressed to me the desire for
16 Dennis to represent them. Dennis has already
17 done things for some of my family over the
18 past three or four years, and they want to
19 know why if he's doing things for them why
20 can't he be -- why can't he represent them.
21 (inaudible) includes it in our county.

22 Dennis's district goes around Macedonia, (?),
23 Asbury and Goucher community. It circles.
24 That little bit of area that's in Cherokee
25 County, we're asking that you consider putting

1 this in Dennis' area. Dennis' district goes
2 Cherokee, York, Chester counties. He's got
3 approximately 65 miles that he has to go.
4 This little county is between three to eight
5 miles of his house. He's closer to these
6 people. He knows these people. And I think
7 that he could better represent this community
8 because he'll be closer to people and
9 (inaudible) That's why I'm here is to ask for
10 representation from individuals that
11 live close to Dennis in his area. Most of
12 these people -- most of the people from -- I'm
13 a surveyor, and I know all the people in most
14 of the county. But most of my kin people that
15 does, they shop in Gaffney, they have
16 recreation in Gaffney, they go to church in
17 Gaffney, they go to school in Gaffney and they
18 want to know why can't they be represented by
19 somebody in Gaffney. This is concerns that
20 I'm bringing to y'all as one person instead of
21 bringing 20 people over here. And this is the
22 reason why we ask that Dennis Moss to
23 represent the communities of Goucher, (?),
24 Macedonia and to better serve the people of
25 the great state of South Carolina. And we

1 thank you in advance to do the right thing
2 and include (?), Macedonia, Asbury, (?)

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Byers. We have a
4 question, sir, by Representative Sellers.

5 REP. SELLERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Byers,
6 okay. Quick question. What Macedonia,
7 Goucher, (?), are they currently in Eddie
8 Tallon's district or they currently in --

9 MR. Byers: They are currently in Eddie Tallon's
10 district. What it is they would cross in the
11 Cherokee County line. They on the Gaffney
12 side of Cherokee County line is in Dennis'
13 district's lines. The County line is what
14 we'd ask to be the bottom line between
15 the districts.

16 REP. ALLEN: And I think I heard earlier that
17 someone said it's about 5,000 people.

18 MR. Byers: Yes, sir. There approximately 5,000
19 people. I don't know exactly.

20 REP. ALLEN: Thank you.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Any other questions?
22 Mr. Byers, thank you for your presentation.
23 We appreciate you being here, sir. Mr. Askew,
24 are we ready or should we take another
25 speaker. Okay, sir, time is yours.

1 MR. ASKEW: Good evening, Representatives, my name
2 is Curtis Askew. I live at 21 (?) Way in
3 Greer, 29650. I'm here today to kind of focus
4 the conversation a little bit more on the
5 topics that you addressed initially, which are
6 procedures. Specifically, when I look at the
7 House website versus the Senate website, I
8 note that your website is a little dirth in
9 terms of actual written procedures that most
10 of us came here today not really knowing
11 exactly why we were coming. Whereas, if we
12 look at the Senate website, the Senate website
13 was very documented in terms of what they were
14 -- what the purpose of the public hearings
15 were and, in fact, there were two specific
16 purposes mentioned. First was to outline the
17 specific procedures for public input and
18 participation and the second was to focus
19 particularly on identification of communities
20 in interest. With that in mind, I'd like to
21 ask you all off the bat how do you perceive
22 the notion as transparency? Is transparency
23 an important element for this particular
24 subcommittee?

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Askew, it's important. That's

1 why we are not only here, but we are in eight
2 other areas throughout the state holding
3 public hearings to bring the opportunity for
4 public input to the people and not requiring
5 them to come to the state capital. I think
6 that signifies the (inaudible).

7 MR. ASKEW: I wanted to simply establish off the bat
8 because at the end of the day it seems to me
9 that it is extremely important to allow the
10 public to have access to information that is
11 going to go into the creation of plan, in
12 particular, the specific rules for how plans
13 will be constructed and what are the elements
14 that will be constructed. What I have in
15 front of me are the specific guidelines for
16 the South Carolina Senate, which I won't
17 belabor the point. I put them up here for a
18 specific reason, which is there are some very
19 specific elements to the Senate plan which I
20 think are important to incorporate in anything
21 that the House decides it wants to proceed on.
22 But within the context of that there are
23 things that I believe that the -- both the
24 Senate and the House need to alter to ensure
25 that public participation and engagement is

1 maximum. Specifically what I'm saying is what
2 we need to do is on item C, for example -- And
3 I'm going to turn this around a little bit.
4 Item C specifically indicates that transcripts
5 of all public hearings in subcommittee
6 meetings relating to redistricting be
7 posted on the Senate redistricting website.
8 I've already spoken to that issue. However,
9 one of my concerns is the timeliness of that
10 process. If we were to prepare the House side
11 -- or the Senate side, for example, the Senate
12 has only one public transcript currently
13 posted, and that was the Orangeburg hearing
14 that was held on the 23rd. The link that is
15 on that site right now is broken, meaning the
16 information, even though it says that it's
17 there, is unavailable to the public. That
18 makes it very difficult for the public to
19 figure out what others have said and to act
20 accordingly. So this issue about turnaround
21 time becomes one that I would like to be
22 addressed fundamentally and lay out specific
23 guidelines for how to proceed.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Askew, I'm reminded by counsel
25 there are two microphones. The far microphone

1 does not amplify, but it is the recording
2 microphone that records this proceeding. I
3 ask you to speak into that microphone so that
4 we can hear. And I'd ask everybody else
5 that's participating to please do likewise.

6 MR. ASKEW: We also have some other issues that I
7 think are particularly relevant. In addition
8 to the idea of having transcripts that are
9 available, there's also the issue of if we
10 were to use the Senate guidelines as a basis,
11 which I would recommend highly, so that both
12 houses are doing the same thing and the public
13 doesn't get confused by the differences
14 between the procedures that are involved.

15 There are questions such as loose wording.
16 Here in line 41 through 44, terms like at the
17 appropriate time reasonable opportunity will
18 be afforded to individuals to present plans
19 for legislative redistricting to the
20 subcommittee. What does appropriate mean?
21 What does reasonable opportunity mean? This
22 loose language creates a particular morass
23 into which procedural materials can drop.
24 That does not bode well for the public which
25 wants to participate actively by keeping up

1 with the process. So I would highly recommend
2 that if you were to adopt the Senate's
3 procedures that you, in fact, move to a much
4 more aggressive stance in terms of how your
5 identifying language within the bill. We
6 can't have a situation where it is left
7 procedurally to the discretion of either the
8 subcommittee or the committee itself to decide
9 when material will be released or what these
10 terms actually mean. It's highly important to
11 me as a citizen that we actively be allowed to
12 participate, and the only way to do that is to
13 receive timely information. That brings me to
14 a point about the capacity of your current
15 website. Looking at both your existing
16 website and the Senate side website, your
17 website is pretty, shall we say, naked. The
18 nakedness of that site, as you can see here,
19 and I'll move this over just a little bit, is
20 limited to contact information, a little
21 census data and some archival material. If
22 the House side does not have the capacity on
23 its website to handle -- providing access to
24 information to the public, then that hinders
25 the public's ability to engage in the process.

1 So I guess one of the questions that I'd like
2 to ask at this point is what is the capacity
3 for your website to handle materials
4 particularly as they relate to plans and the
5 dissemination of all information related to
6 how plans are put together?

7 REP. CLEMMONS: I certainly do not know what the
8 capacity of our website is.

9 MR. ASKEW: Okay. Well, the reason that I ask is if
10 I look at your -- at the 2003, the 2000
11 website, the archived website, it is equally
12 bare. And that concerns me in terms of my
13 ability to participate or the ability of
14 individuals across the state to actively
15 engage in the process. And without belaboring
16 this point anymore, I will ask this question.
17 To what extent are the traditional
18 redistricting principles in play since there
19 are no written procedures for us for the
20 public to actually read as we can on the
21 Senate side? I don't know whether or not
22 traditional redistricting principles will be
23 followed. And, if so, how are those
24 traditional principles going to be defined?
25 For example, communities of interest is a very

1 broad term. It can be as small as a
2 neighborhood of four blocks, a street or as
3 large as an entire county. And we know that
4 there is a preference for counties. So the
5 question becomes for the committee how are
6 those things going to be determined, and will
7 they be determined on the back end of the
8 process or at the beginning of the process so
9 that folks understand very clearly when
10 they're looking at a plan how the term
11 community of interest was applied, not just
12 for their local community, but was that
13 standard applied equally across the state.

14 MR. (?): Mr. Chair, can I take it?

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Would you like to?

16 MR. (?): I'll take a shot. Thank you, Mr.
17 Chairman. I want to remind everyone, and not
18 only you, because you did bring up some very
19 good points, that fundamentally we're at the
20 beginning of the process. You're talking
21 about procedures and things that are defined
22 such as community of interest and different
23 terms and provisions that we will use as a
24 subcommittee and as a committee to put these
25 districts together. However, one thing that

1 we're very cautious about in the leadership
2 and extreme wisdom of our Chair of here is
3 making sure that we have input from across the
4 state. And so before I think that some things
5 that you're talking about very good for us to
6 hear as we move forward. But I would caution
7 you in understanding that we're not there yet.
8 We still have some more gathering to do. And
9 before we actually begin to put lines together
10 we do make these definitions known and
11 apparent. And what we'll do is instead of,
12 and I think all of us understand, instead of
13 just keeping these definitions to ourselves
14 under the veil of darkness, I think, and I'm
15 pretty sure, especially with our new governor,
16 that everything will be as transparent as
17 possible and we will make sure that everybody
18 knows what's going on in the process. This is
19 eight of nine public hearings that we've had.
20 And this committee has traveled the state over
21 the last ten days and not seen their family
22 and all of those type of things only so that
23 we can actually be here with you all and
24 listen to input. And the things that you're
25 telling us are very accurate, but I just

1 caution everyone to understand that we're not
2 there yet. In fact, if this was one to ten,
3 then we're probably at 1.25. And when we get
4 to three and four, hopefully we'll be able to
5 answer a lot more of your questions. But, I
6 mean, you're giving us good stuff that I think
7 and I'm pretty sure we will incorporate as we
8 move forward.

9 MR. ASKEW: I appreciate the response. And I would
10 like to recommend that since you are at the
11 1.25 point in the process that you not do what
12 the Senate did. And what the Senate did was
13 to present an undated set of procedures as a
14 part of their website which they then posted
15 for everybody to consume. And once they had
16 their public hearings, they back dated those
17 procedures to the same date when they had
18 posted the original documentation. This is
19 highly problematic because it suggests to me
20 that there was no public vetting of that
21 material. I do not want to read about a set
22 of procedures that have been put into place
23 that did not take into consideration any of
24 the commentary that was provided by the folks
25 who showed up here at the Senate hearing, for

1 example. That, to me, is not a very
2 transparent process. We need public
3 transparency. We need folks to be engaged in
4 the process. And the only way to become
5 engaged in the process is if that information
6 is put within the public domain in its
7 totality and not partially and certainly not
8 without some very clear cut turnaround times
9 in terms of guidance. That's all I have to
10 say.

11 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Allen?

12 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Askew,
13 let me assure you that I think this
14 subcommittee will take into account the points
15 that you do bring up. Being at an early stage
16 of this process, let me assure you that the
17 suggestions that you make and give to this
18 subcommittee will be received by the
19 subcommittee and any additional procedural
20 aspects that you wish to present to this
21 committee will also be considered. We do ask
22 that you take into account that this is one
23 set in the process. And so what you do
24 provide we will vet out. We'll use and
25 disseminate with our procedures as we

1 discussed and deliberate the matter. So feel
2 free to present those to this subcommittee, as
3 we all want to be transparent.

4 MR. ASKEW: Thank you, Representative Allen
5 (inaudible) Thank you.

6 REP. ALLEN: Thank you.

7 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Mr. Askew. We
8 appreciate your input tonight. Cindy Byers.

9 MS. BYERS: (Inaudible.)

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Ms. Byers. For
11 the sake of clarity, let me also share with
12 you, if you plan to speak and somebody has
13 spoken before you and clearly conveyed the
14 message that you wish to convey, you don't
15 need -- you don't have to come forward and
16 repeat everything that has been said. If
17 you'd like to come forward, for the sake of
18 time, and endorse what has previously been
19 said, that would certainly be welcome input.

20 Cindy Byers. Oh, you passed, excuse me. J.
21 C. Caldwell, II.

22 MR. CALDWELL: J. C. Caldwell.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Excuse me, Mr. Caldwell. And while
24 you're coming forward, I'd like to recognize
25 Representatives Bruce Bannister and Dan

1 Hamilton who have joined us. It's good to
2 have you gentlemen with us.

3 MR. CALDWELL: Good evening to the panel and the
4 audience. My name is J. C. Caldwell, II. I
5 reside at 303 East Rusting Lees Lane. That's
6 in Roebuck, South Carolina right across the
7 street from Spartanburg, the town of
8 Spartanburg. First, I think it's very
9 important that each citizen in South Carolina
10 be very much aware of the South Carolina
11 Voters ID Bill. I think this is a bill that
12 should have never taken place. And the reason
13 I feel that way is because this bill is
14 something that Reverand Fleming stated
15 earlier, this bill discriminates totally
16 without question against our non-drivers in
17 the state, against our elderlies in the state
18 and against the ones that has no ID. So I
19 think that group -- those class of individuals
20 in South Carolina has a great voice. And this
21 bill takes away that voice. So I am totally
22 in agreement -- disagreement with that bill.
23 Question is, how will state legislators
24 consider our input when the new district lines
25 are drawn, okay. Once the new lines have been

1 drawn, how will the public get actually input
2 from our state legislators? Also, I'm
3 concerned -- I missed one of the senate
4 hearings in the -- here in Greenville, and
5 there's a possibility that that's going to be
6 a (inaudible) of those hearing as well as
7 these type hearings. That's a question.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Does anybody care to respond? Are
9 you asking for transcripts of the hearings?

10 MR. CALDWELL: No, I'm asking once the district
11 lines are drawn, okay, will there be an
12 additional hearing on the Senate and the House
13 side?

14 REP. CLEMMONS: There will be public hearing in
15 subcommittee on the subcommittee plan when it
16 comes up for consideration again by this
17 committee. And the public will be invited to
18 that subcommittee. You will be invited to
19 come.

20 MR. CALDWELL: Well, I think you're doing a great
21 job and I'm sure that South Carolinians really
22 appreciate the job that you're doing and God
23 Bless.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Caldwell. Thank you
25 for your comments tonight. Mr. Wayne McCall.

1 MR. MCCALL: Chairman Clemons and ladies and
2 gentlemen, thank you very much for coming to
3 see us here in Greenville. I am Wayne McCall.
4 I reside at 121 Williams Road in Travelers
5 Rest where I serve in the capacity of Mayor of
6 our great community. As a point of order,
7 you've already recognized Mr. Payne who has
8 already spoken. I would also like to bring to
9 everyone's attention that counselors Meadows,
10 Baldwin, Ms. Norris and Ms. Gibson from
11 Greenville County Council are here, as well as
12 my colleague Mayor Godbey from Mauldin and the
13 Mayor from Anderson back here. And also I
14 think I saw one of Congressman Gowdy's staff
15 walk in the door to be with us here tonight.
16 And to everyone I'd like just to say thanks
17 for coming out and being a part of this
18 process.

19 Upon speaking earlier this week with my
20 Representative Mr. Tom Corbin, who I am very
21 proud of, -- You can put that in the record, I
22 hope, for sure.

23 REP. CLEMONS: Yes, sir.

24 MR. MCCALL: My concern was to keep District 17, of
25 which we are a part, as one whole entire unit.

1 And upon speaking with Mr. Corbin and upon
2 looking up on our sheet here, I see we
3 almost hit the numbers dead on. I think we're
4 52 people over. So hopefully Tom won't have
5 to get up and scrap and fight too much to keep
6 our district in tact. The reason -- some of
7 the reasons -- some of the reasons that I
8 speak so clearly and so loudly for this is the
9 fact that our size. We're one of the largest
10 districts. I know that you guys are aware of
11 that. I'm not telling you something you don't
12 already know. But because of the location,
13 the northern part of the county, we are just a
14 network basically of small communities. We
15 have names like Locust Hill, Mush Creek, River
16 Falls and Travelers Rest, just to name a few
17 of the communities in the district. And that
18 should tell you a little bit about us. We're
19 sort of country folk. We're the folks --
20 we're not -- we're in Greenville County, but
21 yet, we're miles and miles away only eight
22 miles up the road. But our uniqueness goes
23 along with the fact that our district goes all
24 the way to the North Carolina state line.
25 And, in doing so, that area has a unique

1 Travelers Rest address. All the way up 25
2 when you go on the other side of the district
3 up towards Marietta you run into some
4 different areas up there. But I'd like to
5 also call into attention that the folks in
6 that area, they send all their kids to school
7 right in Travelers Rest there. It's one big
8 community of which Travelers Rest we like to
9 think is pretty much the center of commerce.
10 Most people come there to shop and to do their
11 business or the banking and this sort of thing
12 goes, the insurance agents and all this sort
13 of thing. The whole thing about it is, too,
14 is please don't think of us as just an area of
15 golf courses and state parks and the natural
16 beauty. You know, these areas -- like I said,
17 these small communities, we're the only
18 municipality in the area. Out of all the
19 square miles up there, we're the
20 only municipality in Travelers Rest. But
21 these small communities, they're very dear to
22 us. Like I said, we are -- we're the center
23 there. They all come to us and they depend on
24 us. They depend on me. Even though that
25 somebody two miles up the road might live

1 outside the city, they depend on me to have a
2 good relationship with Representative Corbin,
3 with people like Larry Martin, people like
4 (inaudible). They depend on us to do their
5 business for them as well. Not to say that
6 they can't, but because of these relationships
7 that we've built, it's a strong, strong area.
8 Again, because of the numbers, the numbers
9 speak for themselves, I hope you clearly can,
10 you know, look at this and see that. And we
11 like Tom. We want to keep him in office for a
12 while. We want to keep him around. He does a
13 great job up through there. And, again, thank
14 you for coming to town. Thank you for being
15 able to listen to us. And if anyone would
16 have a question about the area, I will be more
17 than happy to answer it at this time.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Are there any questions of Mayor
19 McCall? Hearing none. Mayor, thank you so
20 much --

21 MR. MCCALL: Thank you very much. Thanks, again.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Our pleasure. Ms. Dorothy Russell.

23 MS. RUSSELL: Good evening.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, Ms. Russell.

25 MS. RUSSELL: My name is Dorothy Russell. I live at

1 4A Odessa Street in Greenville. My zip code
2 is 29601. I am the president of the Sterling
3 Neighborhood Association. Can you hear me
4 well?

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. RUSSELL: Okay. Sterling goes from Pendleton
7 Street connecting to Anderson Street
8 connecting to Anderson Road into Ballentine
9 Street back to St. Andrews Street into Easley
10 Bridge Road back into Pendleton Street. And
11 I'm giving you those street names because,
12 one, I'm here to have it recorded on the
13 record of the Sterling Community and we want
14 the record to reflect the thoughts and the
15 passion of Sterling Community. Our community
16 is a community of common interest. We
17 disagree with packing and cracking procedures.
18 That will only separate the community. We
19 disagree with the Voter ID Bill that was
20 passed. We feel that when you have to change
21 or make -- we understand the need for change
22 and we embrace change. We celebrate change
23 with you. But we also understand that when
24 you make changes, especially when it comes to
25 voting and precincts and changing where we

1 vote that you give us a more advanced notice
2 and that you take our community into
3 passionate thought with that process and not
4 have some of our people voting in areas that
5 is hard for them to get to just for
6 transportation sake. Our community has an
7 excellent gym. That gym could be used for
8 voting precinct, if need be. We're asking for
9 transparency when we go through these
10 procedures of the redrawing of the lines. We
11 want to take an active part. We appreciate
12 this time. I know it's taking a lot. I've
13 heard comments about missing your family. I
14 appreciate that. My community appreciates you
15 taking this time to come to hear us, but we
16 don't want just this time with you. We want
17 to spend more time with you. We want to be
18 more involved in the process. We want to take
19 part in it. So when it's done it's no
20 misconception. We want to feel great about
21 what you do. We want to know that we had a
22 part to play in it other than just getting our
23 words on record. We do appreciate it. We
24 know that you've done a lot of work, and we
25 appreciate your hard work. Again, I will say,

1 I've said this before, that's why I said
2 again, but I haven't said it tonight, but
3 Districts 23 and 25 must remain -- it must
4 remain together. Do not split our districts.
5 We want to stay together. Right now we are
6 under the Honorable Chandra Dillard. She's
7 doing an excellent job. But we want to keep
8 our district together. We have community
9 interest there. We're a community. There are
10 a lot of things that we're doing in our
11 community. And we just want to thank you for
12 listening. But we want you to do more than
13 listen. We want you to actively hear what
14 we're saying. Thank you.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Russell. Jill
16 Littlejohn.

17 MS. LITTLEJOHN: Good evening. Jill Littlejohn,
18 Greenville City Council representing District
19 3. I'm also the social action chair for Delta
20 Sigma Theta Sorority Greenville Alumni
21 Chapter. I'd just like to thank you guys for
22 being here tonight. I know that it's a lot on
23 you to be away from your families. And so
24 taking the time and the opportunity to travel
25 across the state to get our input is very

1 important. And, as Representative Sellers
2 stated, I know they're at step 1.25. But
3 being at that initial step, there are a few
4 questions that I'd like to ask. And if you
5 don't have the answers to those questions
6 right now, I'd like for you to have them on
7 record so that we can get those answers a
8 little bit later. As we talk about the plans,
9 once those plans are actually submitted are
10 the authors going to be required to submit
11 those plans electronically?

12 REP. CLEMMONS: That is a part of the procedure that
13 has not yet been decided.

14 MS. LITTLEJOHN: Okay. Well, I ask as you look at
15 that procedure, given that we're in a
16 technology driven society, and I think that
17 you guys understand that and recognize that,
18 that I do ask that it is submitted
19 electronically so that the public will have an
20 opportunity to view that on the South Carolina
21 House website. As well as will the database
22 and files to back up the information, will
23 that be available for the public?

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Again, that's part of our procedures
25 yet to be established after these public

1 hearings.

2 MS. LITTLEJOHN: Great. And I think in terms of
3 District 23 and 25, which are very important
4 to me, and I think a number of people that
5 are here in the audience. We want to make
6 sure that they maintain minority
7 representation. And I know that we're at the
8 very early stages and a number of people have
9 talked about communities of interest. But I
10 think it's really important that you hear from
11 us what our definition is of communities of
12 interest so that you have that on record being
13 that a community of interest is a community of
14 like-minded voters, communities that share
15 geographic borders and those that share voting
16 interest. These may be communities that are
17 made of a majority/minority populations are
18 those that when combined make up a
19 coalition of community based on their voting
20 record. So I do ask that as you go through
21 this process that you keep that in mind and
22 keep District 23 and 25 in tact.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, ma'am. Any
24 questions? Hearing none. Thank you. Our
25 next speaker is Reverend Christopher Scott.

1 MR. SCOTT: Good evening, everyone. My name is
2 Reverend Christopher Scott. I currently live
3 at 208 Morning Tide Drive in Simpsonville,
4 South Carolina. But I'm currently also
5 representing the community of District 25,
6 Flat Rock Missionary Baptist Church on 205 --
7 excuse me, 250 North Flat Rock Road in
8 Piedmont, South Carolina. I believe that many
9 things in our community is broken and, yet, as
10 a community leader, it is my prayer that we do
11 not fracture our community but, yet, that we
12 keep our lines in tact. Do not fracture lines
13 that will dilute minority voters or lessen our
14 impact on the voting process. We want to make
15 a difference, but we just ask that the
16 elections and, yet, the process is fair.
17 Fairness is what justice really is. God bless
18 you.

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Reverend. Reverend
20 Thomas Sloan.

21 MR. SLOAN: Good evening.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, sir.

23 MR. SLOAN: Thomas Sloan. 135 Woodmont Circle,
24 Greenville, South Carolina. I represent the
25 Baptist Ministers Fellowship, a group

1 of ministers within the Greenville area and
2 vicinity, District 25 to be especially my
3 district, but all the other districts across
4 the Greenville area. We are interested in
5 offering our support to the redistricting
6 committee. Not only support, but we want to
7 be active and to give our input to drawing of
8 the lines. We stand ready and willing to
9 offer our community support also in personnel.
10 The concern I have is our request is to make
11 sure we have our input and suggestions before
12 the redistricting process have gone too far
13 that we have to fight to get our voice heard.
14 We want to make sure that it has not gone too
15 far that we'll be able to get real and viable
16 change and not go through a lot of rhetoric.
17 How and when will we be able to contact you to
18 have that information before it gets too far
19 and too complicated to adjust?
20 REP. CLEMMONS: Reverend Sloan, now is that time.
21 If you have information you'd like to share on
22 the communities of interest, we'd like to hear
23 from you. If you're not prepared for that
24 tonight, we certainly invite communication of
25 that information to us either by mail or

1 electronically through our website. And I
2 plan to give you the website address in
3 conclusion remarks tonight.

4 MR. SLOAN: To that answer is it's a two-way
5 approach. You have to give us, along with us
6 giving you. So we want to make sure that it's
7 a two-way report before it goes too far, even
8 if we do not have -- you have all of our
9 input in. You have a deadline.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: We do have a deadline. And we
11 intend to stick to our deadline. As I
12 announced previously, there will -- once these
13 public hearings are complete, we establish our
14 criterion resulting from these public hearings
15 across the state, we then will be drawing
16 plans. There will be plans presented to us in
17 a public subcommittee hearing in Columbia to
18 which all public will be invited to
19 participate.

20 MR. SLOAN: Okay.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: At that point in time, you will see,
22 along with the rest of this subcommittee, the
23 proposals that will be in front of us.

24 MR. SLOAN: Okay. Time frame. Time frame.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: And you will be welcome to

1 participate.

2 MR. SLOAN: Time frames. You've got August, right?

3 REP. CLEMMONS: We have not yet set that
4 subcommittee hearing.

5 MR. SLOAN: Okay. All right. And that will be on
6 your website?

7 REP. CLEMMONS: It will be. Absolutely, yes, sir.

8 MR. SLOAN: I would suggest that the list of names
9 that have signed up that we -- you get our
10 email address so it will be directly so it
11 won't be any mistakes. That's my suggestion
12 tonight.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Very good. Thank you so much,
14 Reverend.

15 MR. SLOAN: Did you hear what I said?

16 REP. CLEMMONS: You have recommended, I believe,
17 sir, that those that were here that have
18 signed up that they be given advance notice of
19 the hearing.

20 MR. SLOAN: Close, but not exact. That we get --

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, please give it to me exactly,
22 sir.

23 MR. SLOAN: We'll make sure that you get our email
24 address that we'll be able to (inaudible) It
25 is electronic world now. So we'll give you

1 those emails, too.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. Thank you for
3 your input, Reverend. Major Andy Burley or
4 Burlet. Major Burley, please come forward,
5 sir.

6 MR. BURLEY: My name is Andy Burley. I live at 205
7 North Miller Street, Greer. And that's
8 District 18, Tommy Stringer. Most of what I
9 have to say just reiterates what most people
10 here have already stated in that we don't want
11 communities split if at all possible. If at
12 all possible, follow county lines. If you
13 can't do that, follow geographical lines
14 because they make the most sense. And, also
15 underwriting that, consider the efficiency of
16 districts when at all possible because, as we
17 all well know, things cost a lot of money
18 today. The more efficiently you can draw
19 those the better off we are. If you
20 Gerrymander so when somebody has a district a
21 half-a-mile wide and ten miles long, that's
22 not very efficient. And I've seen districts
23 that are drawn exactly like that.
24 Fortunately, we don't have that big of a
25 problem today. Now, being I live in Greer, I

1 am in Greenville County, but I can throw a
2 rock and hit Spartanburg County. And I feel
3 like probably that's going to end up getting
4 split and it's going to make a lot of people
5 uncomfortable. But if you've got to split it,
6 split it so that's logical. Spartanburg
7 county's in one and Greenville county's in
8 another, to me, is a logical way to go about
9 doing it. You have separate representation in
10 Spartanburg County for the County and separate
11 representation in Greenville County for the
12 County. And then you're starting to get to
13 where people can better understand what's
14 going on. We have a problem in a lot of
15 districts with voter participation if they --
16 if it's -- subscribe to the (?) principle when
17 you can. Keep it simple. And if it's a
18 simpler system people tend to participate
19 more. And we need more participation. I was
20 looking at the list that you had out on the
21 table and we all appreciate that. We
22 appreciate all of you staying away from home
23 and all. But I see areas where there is
24 shamefully low participation, and you wonder
25 why. I know there are a lot of different

1 reasons. Some of it's just sheer awareness.
2 If you could keep them contiguous to present
3 boundaries, that's going to be very helpful.
4 And once you have established what you are
5 going to submit to the Department of Justice,
6 how long do they have before they have to say
7 yea or nay? I know it takes forever and a day
8 in Washington D.C. to get decisions. But do
9 they have a deadline?

10 REP. CLEMMONS: I wish that they would communicate
11 to us what their time frame would be, quite
12 honestly. However, we don't have that
13 information. They will not give us a
14 deadline.

15 MR. BURLEY: Because they don't have to. That's all
16 I have. Anybody have any questions for me?

17 REP. CLEMMONS: We do have a question by
18 Representative Young, Major.

19 MR. BURLEY: Yes, sir.

20 REP. YOUNG: Major Burley, thank you very much for
21 your testimony. My question to you is, and I
22 want to make sure that I understand it for the
23 record and the other panelists do, are you
24 saying that you do not think that any -- or
25 you would prefer that no one on the Greenville

1 County House delegation have a district that
2 includes any portion of Spartanburg and vice
3 versa?

4 MR. BURLEY: If you're going to have to split it,
5 split it down the county line, or certainly
6 consider that, splitting it down the county
7 line because I know all change is going to be
8 uncomfortable. People are not going to like
9 it. But if you have to split it on a boundary
10 that already exists, people can better
11 understand that. And certainly that's going
12 to affect me because I can see Spartanburg
13 County from my house. And it will split
14 Greer. But for Greer -- it's more important
15 for Greer to have the larger representation
16 down a county line - Of course, this is my
17 personal opinion. - down a county line than it
18 would be to Gerrymander and have a piece of
19 Spartanburg County and a piece of Greenville
20 County because there you're starting to get
21 into a more confused situation from a voter's
22 standpoint and from a representative
23 standpoint. The simpler you could keep these
24 districts, since you're -- and I know the
25 Voting Rights Act complicates that procedure.

1 But as simple as you can keep these boundaries
2 so when people will know where they are. It's
3 like when someone asks you what's the name of
4 your voting precinct, everybody gets the deer
5 in the headlights look because they've
6 never called it by that. I don't know; I vote
7 over on such-and-such a street until they pull
8 it out and come to find out it actually has a
9 name. But nobody uses it until you go to the
10 county organizing meetings and they say what's
11 the name of your district or your precinct.
12 That's what I'd like to see as one of your
13 guidelines that you use in your thought
14 process when you start trying to determine
15 where the lines go. And sometimes the lines
16 are going to determine themselves because of
17 proceeding requirements be that population or
18 complying with the Voting Rights Act. But
19 when you can do that, if you can keep it down
20 lines that currently exist. And I'm talking
21 about major lines, state lines, county lines.
22 When you can't do that if you've got a river
23 separating something or if you've got a major
24 highway separating something, then people can
25 understand this side of the highway is this,

1 that side of the highway is that. Or rivers,
2 or lakes, geographical things. Because if you
3 have it down this side of a geographical area
4 and then it jumps over and it goes down that
5 side of the geographical area, you might have
6 a next door neighbor that's in a different
7 district. And that wasn't necessary. It
8 might be necessary with the county line
9 division. Any other questions?

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Does that answer your question, Mr.
11 Young?

12 REP. YOUNG: It does.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Any other questions? Hearing none.
14 Thank you, Major Burley. Our next speaker is
15 Andrea Crockett.

16 MS. CROCKETT: Good evening.

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, Ms. Crockett.

18 MS. CROCKETT: Yes, I'm Andrea Crockett. I'm a
19 resident and homeowner in the Sterling
20 Community, which is District 23 where the
21 Honorable Chandra Dillard is our
22 representative, and she does a very wonderful
23 job there. And I don't really have a whole
24 lot to say because so much has been said that
25 I agreed with. But the main thing that

1 my main concern tonight is just to ask that
2 you consider keeping District 23 and 25 lines
3 intact because we've worked very hard and made
4 a lot of progress in our districts and we'd
5 like to keep progressing. So, if you would,
6 consider whatever if you have to make a
7 change, do the best you can to leave District
8 23 and 25 intact.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Crockett. Turnel
10 Roberts. Oh, I'm sorry. Terrance Roberts.
11 Excuse me. Mayor Roberts. Excuse me for
12 slaughtering your name.

13 MR. ROBERTS: That's okay. That's probably my
14 handwriting. Appreciate it. Thank you for
15 being here and thank you for doing what you do
16 in this redistricting process. And I don't
17 want to belabor some of the things that were
18 said. I think some of the comments that were
19 said were right on point. I would like to
20 talk a little bit about the dilution of
21 minority voting. I'm the mayor in Anderson
22 County, the biggest city in our county. And
23 in our city we have 30 percent minority black
24 voters in our area, population wise in our
25 city. Our county has 18 percent. Now, what I

1 would ask is that the committee consider is
2 the significant impact on dilution of voting
3 in some of the district and the House seats,
4 okay. And I don't necessarily understand that
5 we create a majority/minority district, but I
6 would like to see the thought process of
7 creating more of a (?), so to speak, where we
8 can have a significant impact on the voting
9 process. And those are my comments.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Are there any questions?

11 Representative Sellers has a question for you,
12 sir.

13 REP. SELLERS: Who is the -- Who are -- excuse me --
14 who are the representatives for the City of
15 Anderson?

16 MR. ROBERTS: We have (?) White. That would be six
17 --

18 REP. SELLERS: Six and nine?

19 MR. ROBERTS: Six and nine.

20 REP. SELLERS: Yeah, you know, I just want to point
21 out to the committee, and I'm glad you brought
22 that to our attention. We serve with them
23 everyday and I didn't -- I learned a new word
24 today, too, from my Chairman, retrogression.

25 And I think that's something that as a

1 committee we do need to look at, especially in
2 Anderson County. And I'm glad you brought
3 that to us because it looks as if the African-
4 American vote in Anderson County has been --
5 the BVAP, the black voting age population, has
6 been significantly sliced up and kind of
7 divvied around, thereby diluting or having
8 that type of retrogression that we were
9 talking about earlier. And I hope that -- I'm
10 glad you brought that to our attention because
11 I wasn't even aware that there was a 30
12 percent minority population -- African-
13 American population in the city, so I think
14 that's something that --

15 MR. ROBERTS: I think that Representative Thayer, I
16 think she has 22 percent.

17 REP. SELLERS: Yeah, she has 22 and Brian has --

18 MR. ROBERTS: Eighteen.

19 REP. SELLERS: Nineteen. So, I mean, that's, you
20 know, not enough to --

21 MR. ROBERTS: Not enough to make an impact.

22 REP. SELLERS: Not enough to make an impact, but I
23 think if put together I think then you can
24 have those communities of interest kind of
25 having like-minded representation. Thank you,

1 Mayor.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Allen?

3 REP. ALLEN: Thank you. My question is not directly
4 directed to the mayor but to my colleague Mr.
5 Sellers. To make sure that I understand the
6 dynamics of Anderson where the mayor is from,
7 the population of African-Americans is 30
8 percent, is that correct, Mr. Mayor?

9 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

10 REP. ALLEN: The population of the blacks in
11 Anderson, Mr. Sellers, is in each of those
12 districts is less than 30 percent, is that
13 correct?

14 REP. SELLERS: Mr. Allen, if you actually look at
15 the numbers, in fact, what it appears -- and
16 it's not as if anybody did anything
17 intentionally, but currently it's split in
18 half. Half in one district and half in the
19 other, instead of putting those two groups
20 together.

21 REP. ALLEN: But if you took that 22 percent and
22 that 19 percent you would have a number that
23 would equal that -- over that 30 percent
24 population which is in Anderson.

25 REP. SELLERS: Some of that probably is outside the

1 city limits, but, in theory, yes.

2 REP. ALLEN: Theory. Thank you.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Are there any other
4 questions of the Mayor? Yes, Mr. Young.

5 REP. YOUNG: You're the mayor of Anderson, as I
6 understand it.

7 MR. ROBERTS: I am.

8 REP. YOUNG: What's the population of the City of
9 Anderson?

10 MR. ROBERTS: 27,000, according to the latest
11 census.

12 REP. YOUNG: And what did you say the minority
13 population is of Anderson, the area of
14 Anderson outside the city limits?

15 MR. ROBERTS: Eighteen percent.

16 REP. YOUNG: That's all my questions.

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Any further? Mayor,
18 thank you so much for your comments.

19 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Michael Brown.

21 MR. BROWN: Good evening. Michael Brown, 145 North
22 Church Street, Spartanburg, South Carolina. I
23 serve as the representative for District 1 in
24 the Spartanburg County Council and I'm also
25 the first vice president of the Spartanburg

1 NAACP. Most of my comments have already been
2 addressed, and particularly the mayor who just
3 left the podium addressed a great concern that
4 I bring from both of those constituencies
5 directly. And I would also want to point to
6 the committee to consider for a way of
7 definition to be included the communities of
8 interest let that also be reflected that the
9 communities of interest also have a common
10 socioeconomic background irrespective of them
11 being majority/minority which oftentimes is
12 synonymous. A direct question that I would
13 place to the committee is that during this
14 process, and I understand that it has been a
15 lengthy one and it's not complete, if you
16 could, please, at some point in this process
17 publish a direct statement of the contiguous
18 nature of majority/minority districts because
19 that must be taken in consideration as we have
20 pointed out dilution of these districts, and
21 in particular with the stats that you provide
22 here today. The greatest numbers that you can
23 see that are reflected in terms of each one of
24 the House districts being diluted have the
25 greatest numbers that center on the

1 majority/minority districts. So if this
2 committee could take a direct look at that and
3 make that information known in terms of your
4 plan to address that as we understand there is
5 a contiguous qualification for the various
6 House districts. And with that I just want to
7 say the Voting Rights Act adds integrity to
8 the process and, of course, affords a system
9 of checks and balances. And understanding
10 that you must have a contiguous situation in
11 terms of drawing our districts, not only for
12 the House purposes buy in particular as we
13 look for our congressional seat. Let me say
14 the 7th Congressional District if the
15 committee could recognize the overall
16 population of the state of South Carolina in
17 relation to its sister states and what the
18 sister states have done in terms of their
19 representatives. Consider, again, the
20 majority/minority perspective in looking at
21 that 7th Congressional District. And, of
22 course, if the committee has any questions, I
23 will be happy to answer them.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: I will ask you, sir, just so I
25 understand. I know what contiguity means, it

1 means being adjacent to each other, next to
2 each other. But contiguity of
3 minority/majority districts, I -- explain to
4 me what --

5 MR. BROWN: Well, the contiguous nature of if
6 there's dilution our numbers have dissipated.
7 Those numbers may not find themselves in the
8 same geographical region. You may have a
9 portion of people that are being displaced in
10 various areas throughout the county, for
11 instance. What is going to be a plan to
12 address the dwindling numbers that we do have
13 in recognizing that there still are
14 minority/majority districts that are needed to
15 have adequate representation? What's the
16 direct plan that the committee will have in
17 place to address that nature? And in saying
18 that, understanding that we know there's an
19 overall number that is attempted to be
20 obtained by this committee. Understanding
21 also the juxtaposition, if I can use that as a
22 term, of competing interest. Because, again,
23 we say communities of interest. Oftentimes I
24 know you may have one perspective defines
25 itself geographically located against another.

1 Again, I would employ the committee to take a
2 look at those competing interest at times in
3 terms of drawing those lines.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Councilman. Are there
5 any questions? Thank you so much for your
6 comments, sir. Mr. Darren Cross or Goss.
7 Excuse me, Goss.

8 MR. GOSS: Good evening.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, sir.

10 MR. GOSS: My name is Darren Goss. I reside at 307
11 East Rustling Leaves Lane. That's in Roebuck,
12 South Carolina. I also pastor (?) Ministries,
13 which is located at 146 South Porch Street,
14 and that's in Spartanburg, South Carolina. My
15 comments -- and I won't add anything in terms
16 of procedures that has already been mentioned.
17 My comments really speak more to the spirit of
18 what Representative Sellers commented on
19 earlier, as well as really highlights what I
20 think is an important part in this process for
21 us as citizens of South Carolina, in
22 particular citizens of the upstate. And that
23 is the leadership of this subcommittee, the
24 leadership of the House of Representatives and
25 ultimately your representation of the citizens

1 of South Carolina. Let me just start by
2 saying that in your process of understanding
3 your procedures going forward 1.25, as you've
4 mentioned, that a part of what I would ask you
5 to do is consider the historical context in
6 which we live now and the important process
7 that you are undertaking, not just for the
8 next election in a year, but for the next ten
9 years and how that will affect our state and
10 our political districts over the next ten
11 years. Let me just say very frankly what I'm
12 saying, what I'm trying to get to. There's a
13 reason for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
14 There's absolutely a reason for Section Two
15 and there's a reason for Section Five. That
16 reason many have already addressed, and that's
17 the dissolution of minority vote; it is the
18 disenfranchisement in a marginalization of
19 under represented populations. And one of the
20 things that I want you to take on as you
21 consider the lines that you draw is that
22 principle of representation and how important
23 that principle is to the political dialogue so
24 that when we're represented in Congress, when
25 we're represented down in the General

1 Assembly, every voice, regardless of
2 socioeconomic status, regardless of gender or
3 race or origin has an absolute opportunity to
4 be heard as you deliberate, as you debate
5 funding, as you debate health care, as you
6 debate the issues that are very important to
7 people in the communities I represent and the
8 people in the neighborhoods in which I live.
9 I'll say also that as it relates to our state
10 and as it relates to this process, I think
11 you're leadership is very important in
12 designing a congressional footprint for South
13 Carolina that's representative of what
14 Councilman Brown just said that a sincere
15 intent to provide minority representation in
16 Congress. And when I say minority
17 representation, I'm not just talking race and
18 ethnic, I'm talking about political
19 perspective. I'm talking about the
20 perspective that adds flavor to the dialogue,
21 that adds spice to the debate and that gives
22 every one of us an opportunity to be heard.
23 Our proceeds of the last ten years and for the
24 foreseeable future, if you don't ensure that
25 kind of representation, puts us where we are a

1 state now. If you look at our state compared
2 to our neighbors in North Carolina and Georgia
3 and the way we do politics in South Carolina
4 and the way voices that are desperate voices
5 are misrepresented, then we fall far short in
6 the areas that matter the most to people who I
7 pastor, in the areas that matter the most to
8 people I live with, education, access to
9 healthcare, we are grossly misrepresented by
10 those who are your colleagues in the General
11 Assembly and absolutely those who represent
12 our state in the federal legislation --
13 legislature. I'll say this, and I'll close my
14 comments. That any process that you put in
15 place going forward that does not preserve the
16 safeguards of justice and equality as it
17 relates to the Voting Rights Act should be
18 dismissed and disqualified. I'll say this.
19 That any attempt to draw lines that promote
20 explicitly or implicitly retrogression by any
21 member of the House should not be considered
22 as a viable option worthy of your
23 consideration. I'll say this. That any House
24 district maps drawn that does not attempt with
25 the sincerest efforts to provide opportunity

1 for communities of interest as we've already
2 defined them to be developed that
3 are inclusive but not limited to communities
4 that constitute majority/minority, voting
5 districts, coalition districts of like-minded
6 voters, regardless of race and ethnicity,
7 those kinds of attempts must be put down. I
8 would also say that equal and fair
9 representation again is good for debate in the
10 General Assembly. It's good for political
11 discourse. It's ultimately good for our
12 state. So any attempt to marginalize voters
13 and, therefore, cause the voices of the under
14 represented to be silenced does more to
15 undermine our future prosperity than any tax
16 can ever do. In regard to the congressional
17 seat, I'll just submit this. It is my hope
18 that the South Carolina House will regard that
19 decision as one that provides you the
20 opportunity to provide real leadership not
21 only for the interest of the coast or the
22 Lowcountry, but for the entire state of South
23 Carolina. That the 7th Congressional
24 District, in my opinion, should be either
25 anchored in Spartanburg or York County and

1 include Union, Cherokee or -- and each other.
2 And finally I have to say that we've talked
3 about time and we've talked about this
4 process. But I think that you see by the
5 folks who are here tonight that the
6 engagement of so many folks in this room that
7 I think your time and the time for this
8 process to be done thoroughly and thoughtfully
9 and with consent and advice from the
10 constituents you represent are not only a part
11 of what we expect from you but a part of what
12 we think you owe us as our representatives.

13 Thank you very much. If you have any
14 questions, I'll be happy to answer.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Goss. We do have
16 some questions. If you would entertain the
17 question from Representative Sellers.

18 REP. SELLERS: Thank you, Reverend Goss. Did I get
19 that?

20 MR. GOSS: Yes.

21 REP. SELLERS: Thank you. I know you worked hard
22 for that title, so I wanted to make sure I was
23 appropriate. You said something that piqued
24 my interest and we've been talking about it
25 amongst this committee. And I don't think

1 that anyone has seated a new congressional
2 district to any part of the state. And I
3 can't speak for everybody, but at least I have
4 not.

5 MR. GOSS: Good.

6 REP. SELLERS: And you also talked about that
7 district being reflective of the state. And
8 then you said Spartanburg and York. Can you
9 tell me how that district -- what else would
10 be included in that district or how you
11 envision Spartanburg and York being reflective
12 of the state because I -- just so you can
13 understand what I'm looking at when I look at
14 this from a 50,000 foot view, I think that
15 there is a -- I think that there is the
16 ability for us to have another maybe not
17 majority/minority but a district in which
18 minorities can compete and possibly win a
19 congressional seat in South Carolina. And I'm
20 trying to figure out how that framework, if
21 we're talking about the same thing, fits into
22 your Spartanburg and York analysis.

23 MR. GOSS: Certainly. When I took a look at the
24 numbers in York and Spartanburg County I saw -
25 - and I don't know the exact numbers in other

1 areas. I know Horry County is one of the ones
2 that as an anchor is one of the areas that
3 folks are looking at anchoring that 7th
4 Congressional District. The amount of
5 minority growth in both York County and
6 Spartanburg County exceed, now Cherokee and
7 Union loses population. But York County
8 specifically has a 20 percent, I think, or
9 higher growth in minority population. I think
10 that gives us an opportunity. And,
11 Representative Sellers, I'm not sure about
12 Horry because I don't have those numbers right
13 in front of me, or other parts of the state.
14 But I'm on the same page as you. I think
15 what's important is that we actually have that
16 debate and that dialogue to figure out what's
17 the best place to put that as it represents
18 the growth in that minority population for the
19 state of South Carolina so that we can have
20 that voice. And I don't necessarily mean just
21 ethnic minority as well. I think that there's
22 an ideological debate to be considered there,
23 too, if we use the same process in regard to
24 section two and five that these communities of
25 interest and we definitely have to look at

1 York as a bedroom community of Charlotte. But
2 to really look at how voting has taken place,
3 and I think we may do that. But I literally
4 want to be a part of that debate and that
5 dialogue as those lines get drawn, as you
6 consider where that congressional seat will
7 go.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Any other questions? I have a
9 question, Reverend Goss. You spoke to
10 retrogression a few moments ago, and just
11 speaking for myself, I am certainly, as you
12 heard before, committed to not allowing where
13 possible retrogression in current
14 minority/majority districts in South Carolina.
15 I say as far as possible because I can foresee
16 a scenario where there is an island of
17 population of minority voters where those --
18 the percentage of those voters have diminished
19 over the last ten years and there's no ability
20 to pick up additional minority voters within
21 that district. I can see that situation
22 occurring. A situation that -- another
23 situation we see, we see it right here in
24 Greenville County, are where you have
25 diminishment of the percentage of black vote

1 into adjacent majority/minority districts
2 surrounded by non-minorities.

3 MR. GOSS: Right.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: How would you recommend dealing with
5 the situation like that? How would you --
6 would it be borrowing from each other for
7 equalization, or the bolstering of
8 one district in majority/minority population
9 over the other? What would your
10 recommendation be?

11 MR. GOSS: My recommendation, quite honestly, and we
12 have this situation with my good friend Harold
13 Mitchell in House District 31 where he's lost
14 a significant amount of minority population in
15 his particular district. And while we have
16 not thoroughly analyzed the numbers, we
17 certainly are looking at House District 34 and
18 35 that may represent some opportunity to
19 create a coalition district or create a
20 district that's maybe not represented based on
21 ethnicity alone but actually voting habits. I
22 would say, Chairman, that I think you have to
23 look up, down, left and right. I think you
24 have to consider as I know folks want to
25 preserve their House seats. But I think you

1 almost have to consider those other districts
2 that surround, for example, 23 and 25, and
3 where they might -- where someone else may
4 have to give up something to ensure the
5 representation of those two representatives in
6 that particular -- in those particular areas.
7 So I'm not here to concede that for the
8 purposes of ensuring majority/minority that we
9 only consider House seats right now that are
10 majority/minority, but that we look outside of
11 those seats where the population probably has
12 moved to and figure out if there is a way to
13 draw lines that represent that voting block as
14 well.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: And back to my question if you do
16 look -- if you do look and you can't bring in,
17 the population is not there to bring a level
18 of minority representation up to the level it
19 was in the last census, the last redistricting
20 process, well, do you have a recommendation on
21 how to handle --

22 MR. GOSS: Then my recommendation would be, as
23 you've heard here so many times before, before
24 a decision is made -- I know you've committed
25 to doing this. - Let us see the lines and let

1 us absorb that. Let us become comfortable
2 with that and let us advise on maybe some ways
3 that you hadn't thought about or really work
4 as grass roots folks that really understand
5 what's in our best interest to really advise
6 that process. So, I'm sure that there are
7 going to be situations like that that happen.
8 My thing is, and I think you've heard it here,
9 is we want to be a part of that debate and
10 that dialogue so that when whatever happens
11 happens we've been informed, we've been a part
12 of that decision making process.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: I have heard that loud and clear.
14 What I have not heard is an answer to how if
15 it's impossible -- if retrogression is the
16 only possibility I don't want to go down that
17 road and I'd like to hear from the community
18 how you think we should proceed --

19 MR. GOSS: And I think what --

20 REP. CLEMMONS: -- (inaudible)

21 MR. GOSS: I think what you're hearing me say is
22 that if there's no other alternative at least
23 we've been a part of that dialogue.

24 REP. CLEMMONS: I'm hearing that. Thank you very
25 much, Reverend Goss. Are there any other

1 questions? Thanks for your time, sir.

2 MR. GOSS: Thank you.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Charles Jennings, County Council
4 Chairman.

5 MR. JENNINGS: Good evening.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, sir.

7 MR. JENNINGS: Mr. Chairman and to the panel,
8 representatives of the House, thank you for
9 giving me this opportunity. I was supposed to
10 have met with you on Monday, but we -- my
11 county council members, we all were meeting
12 with the Senator Massey. When I got to Aiken
13 Tech you had closed out. I did -- got a
14 chance to see my good friend Representative
15 Whipper.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: We're sorry we missed you there,
17 sir.

18 MR. JENNINGS: I want to thank you today for giving
19 me the opportunity to be able to speak up here
20 in Greenville. First I want to thank y'all
21 for the job that you do. Thank you for the
22 job that you're taking these hearings
23 throughout the state of South Carolina,
24 getting some input. I like to say that I'm
25 Charles Jennings from 223 Pine Grove Church

1 Road, Plum Branch, South Carolina, 29845.

2 Been living in Plum Branch all my life.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: What county are you in?

4 MR. JENNINGS: There in McCormick County.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much.

6 MR. JENNINGS: I don't have to tell you, but that's
7 one of the smallest counties in this state of
8 South Carolina. What we are here tonight to
9 ask you to don't divide us. Keep McCormick
10 County whole. We don't have much voice, less
11 than 5,000 voters and just a little over
12 10,000 population. But we feel like we'll
13 have a stronger voice if we can continue to
14 stay whole. Representative Anne Parks
15 represent us; doing a good job for us. But
16 I'm here to say please if anyway possible, and
17 I'm talking on behalf of all the county
18 council members, if y'all try to keep
19 McCormick County whole we feel like this would
20 be a part of the process by doing so. Thank
21 you, sir.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Chairman Jennings, we
23 appreciate your input tonight. Thank you for
24 traveling so far. Mr. Evert Headly or Evert
25 Headly. Not doing too well with names

1 tonight. I apologize if I didn't get it
2 right.

3 MR. HEADLY: The second one was correct. Evert
4 Headly. I reside at 111 Midwood Road,
5 Travelers Rest, South Carolina, 29690. I
6 actually live in the City of Travelers Rest.
7 I live in the Travelers Rest 1 Precinct which
8 was originally split that into two precincts.
9 I wanted to speak to a couple different items.
10 One on the House level. Wanted to encourage,
11 and I know it was mentioned before, that
12 Travelers Rest stay within the House 17
13 District, that is -- it's the largest
14 municipality in the district and I think it
15 was the only municipality in the district.
16 But we are the largest really area where
17 people have gotten together in kind of a hub.
18 We'd like to stay in the 17th House District,
19 which is Tom Corbin's district. So, one, I'd
20 like to make that statement. Two, in
21 reference to when you're going to be
22 presenting maps and lines, and I know that's
23 down the road a little bit, I'm assuming,
24 maybe I need to ask the question, but I'm
25 assuming that y'all are going to present those

1 maps basically right before there's going to
2 be a vote. I'm assuming you're not going to
3 have a preliminary map or maybe a couple
4 different maps because I'm sure that you want
5 to get it narrowed down to one map. And I
6 guess I'm trying to get clarification, are
7 y'all just going to just post one map or y'all
8 going to have maybe a couple different sets?

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Those procedures have not yet been
10 established.

11 MR. HEADLY: Okay. All right. And I know you've
12 got a tough job with y'all got to make a lot
13 of people happy and there's going to be a lot
14 of people unhappy with the job that y'all do,
15 but y'all are going to try to do the best you
16 can, and I understand. In the
17 minority/minority -- the majority/minority
18 districts I know it's specifically here in
19 Greenville County they've lost a lot of
20 population. I know that's something y'all are
21 trying to fix. And that's going to be
22 difficult because what has happened is I lived
23 in some of the southern parts of the county.
24 They're moving into the suburbs, moving in the
25 outside and they're not staying in one place

1 anymore. And that's creating a problem for
2 some of the demographic issues, so I
3 understand that. So we'd like to keep the
4 communities of interest together. And that's
5 throughout our county, throughout the rest of
6 the counties. If you can, and I'm speaking
7 more of at a State House level, try to keep
8 the precincts together, meaning don't split
9 precincts in half. Try to keep the precinct -
10 -- look at the precinct lines, at least in
11 Greenville County and Spartanburg County in
12 the upstate. I know in other areas, you know,
13 you're looking at whole counties because it's
14 just not enough people in an entire county to
15 really make a district. But at least in the -
16 -- some of the bigger counties if you'll look
17 at the precinct lines that are already
18 currently there or at least work with the
19 local officials to maybe tweak some of those
20 lines so that way you have a precinct, you
21 don't have split precincts. I know that's
22 really getting nitpicky, but, if you can, do
23 that. Most of the voters would appreciate
24 that because it helps so they know what
25 district they happen to be voting in. On the

1 Congressional side, I know y'all got -- we got
2 a new congressional district that we're going
3 to be getting. And Greenville and Spartanburg
4 have traditionally been in the same
5 congressional district for a long time.
6 Looking at the numbers, my understanding is
7 we're at least 75,000 people above what that
8 congressional district number should be, just
9 with Greenville and Spartanburg. So
10 something's going to have to happen. Y'all
11 are going to have to split something. And I
12 know there's a lot of people in the Greenville
13 community, I know also as well in the
14 Spartanburg community that we'd like to keep
15 the counties whole, if we can. We are a
16 community of interest and we have those lines
17 between the counties. Even the cities that
18 sort of straddle those two lines, they're in
19 the middle of two lines, they understand
20 they've got two county governments that they
21 deal with. And they're already dealing with
22 that. So we'd like to keep Greenville and
23 Spartanburg whole counties rather than cutting
24 pieces of them and sending them off to
25 different congressional districts because

1 Greenville County is the number one county
2 for population in the entire state.
3 Spartanburg is the fourth largest county in
4 the entire state. If you keep both of them
5 together and cut smaller portions off and send
6 them on to other counties you've got the first
7 and the fourth and they're in one district.
8 And almost every other larger county in the
9 top six would have their own congressional
10 district, yet Greenville and Spartanburg is
11 put in the same one. Lexington and Richland
12 counties are also in the top six, yet they
13 have their own congressional districts, not
14 wholly, but in large part. So that's -- there
15 is a precedent for that. I know that makes
16 your job much more difficult just because of
17 the dynamics of some of the people who are
18 elected. This is a ten year process, and
19 going to change a couple years if, you know,
20 people don't like it. And I know y'all know
21 that. But I'm just reiterating. So
22 Greenville/Spartanburg have two very distinct
23 communities. And there are some distinct
24 differences between those two communities.
25 And, you know, maybe it's time for

1 Greenville/Spartanburg to lead separately so
2 that they can go to bigger and brighter
3 things. Eventually we're going to have to do
4 that at some point in time in the future.
5 Those two counties are going to get big enough
6 that's going -- they're going to have that
7 population. And then lastly, in reference to
8 I know y'all are going to have a lot of
9 dominos y'all are going to move around, and we
10 just ask that you would keep the website
11 updated, and especially for those that have
12 taken the time and effort to come to these
13 public hearings. If you would send us emails
14 when you have new information that's been
15 posted. And I'm assuming y'all are not going
16 to travel around like this again with the
17 maps, but it's probably going to be down in
18 Columbia, but allow for public input. And I'm
19 assuming that you'll allow for people to send
20 things to the website or email if they have
21 some recommendations (inaudible).

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir. Any questions? Since you
23 mentioned it, I'll go ahead and give the
24 website address.

25 <http://redistricting.schouse.gov>. It can also

1 be reached through going to the main home page
2 of the South Carolina House, which is
3 www.schouse.gov. Thank you very much, Mr.
4 Headly. We appreciate your input tonight.
5 I'm going to mess this one up. Xanthane
6 Norris. I got it right, I hear. Xanthane
7 Norris, please come forward. While you're
8 coming forward, we're changing the tape, so if
9 you hold just one moment to begin your
10 comments.

11 [Recording Paused]

12 MS. NORRIS: District 23.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for being here with us
14 tonight.

15 MS. NORRIS: Thank you so much for --

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Hold on for just one second. Okay.
17 Now we can go.

18 MS. NORRIS: Thank you so much for all of you coming
19 here and we're happy to have you here in our
20 chambers.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. They're beautiful.
22 We're honored to be with you.

23 MS. NORRIS: Thank you. I've heard a lot that I
24 would like to just say some of the same
25 things, but it's not necessary. But I do want

1 just to say one or two things to you.
2 Basically we are aware of the problems and
3 challenges that you have. But we are also
4 interested in trying to maintain as many of
5 the seats we have in spite of the color
6 population deficits. The population deficient
7 means certain things for certain areas, but
8 most of these people have not disappeared from
9 the face of the earth. They are still here
10 with us here in the Greenville community and
11 we know that some of them have moved. My
12 greatest thing that I would like to stress
13 that in spite of the population deficits and
14 the matter that we would like to have
15 minority-majority populations in our
16 districts, but black representation is the
17 most important thing. Take for instance, I'll
18 use District 23 and I heard a lot of people to
19 talk of District 23. My places that I go to,
20 my communities are not continuous. And if you
21 ever look -- have a time that you look at a
22 map I represent group (inaudible). And these
23 places are not close to each other and when
24 they set up this single district for us in
25 Greenville County, they pulled out pockets of

1 populations to make districts. I hope you
2 understand what I'm saying. So if you would
3 look, and those of us, those of you that know
4 a little bit about Greenville, I have
5 Sterling, I have Judson, I have Worley Road,
6 it's off of 291. I have Boomtown, I have Poe
7 Mill, I have New Washington Heights and none
8 of these people live close to each other, but
9 the black representative is the important
10 thing. So in order for these people to be
11 representative I represent and what I have now
12 is District 23. Now District 25 for Ms.
13 Gibson is a little bit different, she doesn't
14 have to travel as much as I do. But I don't
15 mind that because I'm committed to making sure
16 that my members and the people I represent
17 that they will have the same type of attention
18 that I give to others. So what I'm saying to
19 you today is in spite of the black population
20 deficits that we have and the problems we have
21 in 23. In 23 not as much as in 25 that it can
22 be done if we consider alternative types of
23 mapping. And what we are doing here in
24 Greenville County hopefully we'll be able to
25 have a dialogue among many of us. And if you

1 can't come up with a -- something that you
2 feel that will meet our needs, we will have
3 alternative maps that you can look at. We're
4 working at that so we don't want you to know -
5 - think that you were doing this alone and if
6 we can work collaboratively that these things
7 can be done. Our people are still in
8 Greenville County, yes a lot of them have
9 moved to the -- some of them have moved from
10 Nicholtown to some other area. But we still
11 have some of the same people so what's
12 important is black representation and making
13 sure that they are able to vote -- and I'm not
14 going to talk about the voter ID, you know how
15 I feel about that. It's a waste of our time
16 to even think that we want to disenfranchise
17 all of these people who need to vote and make
18 all of these problems for them in order for
19 them to vote. So these are some of my
20 concerns. And we'll be happy to
21 collaboratively work with you and come down,
22 come to Columbia and talk with you about this.
23 We can have a dialogue. Thank you.
24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Norris. Any
25 questions? Thank you for being with us

1 tonight, Councilwoman Norris. Daniel
2 Cunningham. Okay. John Simmons.

3 MR. SIMMONS: John Simmons, 714 Spaulding Farm Road
4 in Greenville. First of all thanks to you
5 guys for being here and for House members
6 here, thank you guys for showing up and being
7 part of this. You guys got a tough job. I
8 was sitting in the back of the room thinking
9 and I was executive vice president of Bi-Lo
10 for quite a while and one of the things I had
11 to do, which is pretty similar to what you
12 guys are doing, is I had to continue to redraw
13 districts and regions and I did that across
14 seven states. That's tough. But I just want
15 to say, I was thinking about some of the
16 things I kept in mind when I was doing it and
17 I thought may be appropriate for this also.
18 And it's really -- I just wrote down three
19 short things. Number one, demographics.
20 It's, in my mind, extremely important for a
21 representative to represent the viewpoints of
22 a certain demographic. I think it's very
23 important. That goes without saying. Number
24 two, financial, financial concerns. And I
25 think in keeping financial concerns together

1 and to me that means, I think pretty simply,
2 trying to keep your county lines as they
3 should be drawn, separated. Trying your best
4 to keep counties together if at all possible.
5 I mean obviously you've got to combine
6 counties but not splitting counties. And
7 then, number three and I have not heard this
8 tonight at all, and that is anticipate where
9 the growth's going to be in the next ten
10 years. And maybe -- you guys are smarter than
11 me, I'm sure, and you probably already thought
12 of that. But I think anticipation of where
13 the growth's going to be, would help us not
14 get into the deficiencies that we've got in
15 some of these districts right now. We don't
16 know. We don't have a crystal ball to say,
17 hey, this side of the county is going to grow
18 faster than the other, you know, in 2018. We
19 don't know that. But I do think that there's
20 some history that tells us which way the
21 population is moving. And so along with that
22 I'd like to talk about the congressional seat
23 real quickly. In my mind this state has two
24 large growth areas, one's at the beach and
25 one's up here in the Upstate. And, you know,

1 you guys have got to figure out a way to say
2 which one's going to get the extra seat, I
3 know. And obviously, selfishly we would love
4 to see something up here, but I don't know.
5 Horry County's growing extremely rapidly. I
6 understand that. But I would and just a
7 suggestion for us, and this is kind of a
8 selfish suggestion from a Greenville County
9 resident, it makes a lot of sense to me to
10 have Greenville and Oconee County together,
11 just me personally, seeing, you know, like
12 demographics, like growth patterns, those kind
13 of things. And then, secondly, I want to get
14 a little more specific of where I am. I am in
15 District 21 and of course that's a very, very
16 large district. One of the largest districts
17 in the entire state. And as you can see it's
18 about a third heavier than ideal right now.
19 And District 21 is an extremely fast growing
20 district in Greenville County. I would like
21 to say, please take into consideration that
22 district and the other parts of this county
23 that are growing so rapidly. I.E.
24 Simpsonville/Mauldin area and look at maybe
25 putting an additional, you know, House member,

1 you know, in that area. I do think it's
2 important for that area to be represented, the
3 Golden Strip kind of area and so forth,
4 because that's where the growth of this county
5 is -- I mean a lot of it. So I would
6 certainly make that recommendation. I could
7 talk a lot more but it's getting late and I'll
8 just ask you guys if you have any questions
9 for me.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Any questions? Mr. Simmons. Thank
11 you for your input.

12 MR. SIMMONS: Okay. Thank you.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Lottie Gibson.

14 MS. GIBSON: Am I the last speaker?

15 REP. CLEMMONS: No, ma'am. We have two others
16 signed up after you, Ms. Gibson.

17 MS. GIBSON: (Inaudible)

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Be happy for you to ma'am. Please
19 have a seat. Ms. Sarah Pickney. Ms. Sarah
20 Pickney must have left us.

21 MR. (?): No, she was just signed in.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Oh, it was a sign in. Okay.

23 MS. PICKNEY: (Inaudible)

24 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, ma'am. Leola
25 Robinson-Simpson.

1 MS. ROBINSON-SIMPSON: Good evening.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening, ma'am.

3 MS. ROBINSON-SIMPSON: I am Leola Robinson-Simpson,
4 19 Prince Avenue, Greenville, South Carolina
5 29605. I am the school board trustee for the
6 Greenville County School District in District
7 25 and I'm also the founder and director of a
8 non-profit organization called the Center for
9 Educational Equity which provides a success
10 center for students and parents who are
11 committed to maintaining educational equity in
12 Greenville County. I am here this evening to
13 implore each of you to pay special attention
14 to an area that has not been discussed tonight
15 and that area is the maintaining of school
16 district lines for communities of interest as
17 well. Now, as you all know that when school
18 district lines are drawn, those lines are not
19 drawn in the same way as our county council
20 lines. In fact, some of our school district
21 lines extend into neighboring counties. This
22 is important to us especially because we found
23 after the Census was taken in the year 2000,
24 the lines were redrawn for District 25. We
25 had huge communities of interest along White

1 Horse Road and the Staunton Bridge Road area
2 going all the way down toward Piedmont, South
3 Carolina covering the Canterbury Community
4 that were literally carved out of District 25.
5 Why is this important you might ask. It's
6 important because when issues, hotbed issues
7 are discussed at the school district level
8 minority representation is terribly important.
9 Some of these issues may be school
10 assignments. Some of these issues may involve
11 busing and if minority representation is not
12 there, then the parents and the children and
13 the schools effected. Some of those schools
14 include, Carolina High School was carved out
15 of District 25. Tanglewood Middle School was
16 carved out of District 25. Going down Augusta
17 Road toward the Piedmont Community, Woodmont
18 High School, Woodmont Middle School were
19 carved out. So while you pay attention to all
20 of these other issues, if you would, please
21 pay attention as well to maintaining black
22 voter strength when you carve out the school
23 district lines, we would be very appreciative.
24 Thank you very much.
25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, ma'am. Ms.

1 Lottie Gibson.

2 MR. INGLES: I apologize, Mr. Chairman. My name is
3 Clarence Ingles, I'm president of the Legal
4 (inaudible) --

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Please come forward Mr. Ingles.

6 MR. INGLES: I live at 111 West Queen Ann Road in
7 Greenville, Representative Hamilton's
8 district. I just want to say we appreciate
9 what you're doing. I wanted to just speak
10 about the voter ID bill and we're talking
11 about redistricting and all the possibility of
12 that would mean minority representation and
13 voting. But I'm curious about the passion
14 that the House, republican leadership in
15 particular, has about the voter ID. We've
16 seen information in the paper saying that it's
17 going to cost a million dollars to get this
18 thing off the ground, a quarter of a million
19 dollars yearly after that to maintain the
20 voter ID registration. Yet we're having our
21 leaders saying that we're in a budget crisis,
22 we need to cut spending and so forth. Why is
23 there such a passion to pass a voter ID bill
24 that you know will disenfranchise 150 to
25 200,000 voters in a period of budget

1 constraints? Yet, we have leadership who are
2 saying we want to cut and we want to be
3 transparent. So what is the passion for doing
4 that? This is a solution without a problem.
5 Why is there such a passion to pass the voter
6 ID bill?

7 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Ingles --

8 MR. INGLES: Number two is --

9 REP. CLEMMONS: This forum is (inaudible)--

10 MR. INGLES: I understand it. But it has an impact
11 on the district.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: We appreciate (inaudible) your
13 comments to the redesigning process.

14 MR. INGLES: I understand it, it has an impact on
15 the district. If ten percent of the voters
16 get disenfranchised, all the redistricting in
17 the world is not going to help minority.

18 Okay. If we can't vote, what difference does
19 it make where we live. Okay. Please, you
20 know, maybe the House or maybe the Senate will
21 knock it down. But the question I have is
22 will the Justice Department have anything to
23 do with that bill if it passes in the state?

24 MR. (?): Yes.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Absolutely all voting issues in

1 South Carolina go through the preclearance
2 process.

3 MR. INGLES: That's what I was wondering.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: However we will not get further into
5 the voter ID issue today.

6 MR. INGLES: Thank you. I just wanted to hear . . .

7 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Ms. Gibson, before you
8 come forward you wanted to be the last
9 speaker. Let me ask if there's anybody else
10 in the room that would like to speak that have
11 not signed up. Ms. Gibson, would you like to
12 yield to the hands that are raised or would
13 you like to go ahead and speak?

14 MR. GIBSON: I'll yield.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. In the front, ma'am,
16 lady in the red.

17 MS. HENDERSON : Thank you. I'm sorry I'm late.
18 I'm in my 50th year of teaching college and I
19 hate to miss class so I stayed for an
20 afternoon assignment. I'm Alice Henderson,
21 211 Brian Court, Spartanburg 29307, House
22 District 32. And I wanted to say that in my
23 50 years of teaching college history at
24 Spartanburg Methodist and USC Upstate. I'm
25 often teaching about the Tea Party, about

1 revolt against Britain and I always say that
2 the big issue that the British House of
3 Commons didn't look to the colonists like the
4 colonists. They didn't feel adequately
5 represented. And so I feel very strongly that
6 the South Carolina House and Senate needs to
7 look like South Carolina, and the fact there
8 aren't very many women is just our own fault.
9 We haven't run very much. But I do think it's
10 very important that skin color matches the
11 percentage. So we have a situation in the
12 state whereabout 27 percent roughly of the
13 voting age population has a darker skin color.
14 I think we need to be very careful to see that
15 about 27 percent of the seats in the
16 legislature are, if possible, majority African
17 American. Now this means drawing all kinds of
18 crazy little barbells and snakes all across
19 the state. This has been done in American
20 history for years. My brother is chair of the
21 math department at Cornell University in New
22 York. I asked him can a mathematician, if we
23 give him a map showing where these are, can
24 somebody computer program it and make it come
25 out, even though it looks crazy, and he said,

1 you know, a mathematician can do it better
2 than a politician could as far as making the
3 numbers come out.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: I assure you.

5 MS. HENDERSON: Now, I realize all of this is tough
6 politically but I just feel very strongly that
7 the legislature should look like us. Thank
8 you.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Henderson for your
10 input. A hand? Who would like to speak?
11 Ma'am, in the green. Is that Anne Parks down
12 there? Hi, Ms. Parks, come on forward,
13 please. Ms. Parks, I guess I need more than
14 these little glasses on the end of my nose to
15 be able to see that far.

16 MS. PARKS: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm Anne Parks I
17 represent District 12 which has McCormick
18 County and Greenwood Counties in it. As you
19 heard my chair state earlier it is a design
20 that McCormick County stay whole as one -- as
21 whole and not be split up. It makes a
22 difference when you split small counties up
23 and McCormick County is one of the smallest
24 counties in the state. To split it up would
25 just divide their community. It's a very

1 close knit community and it does not need to
2 be divided. However, I feel like it needs to
3 stay in the district with Greenwood County
4 because the communities of interest are the
5 same. For as long as I can remember McCormick
6 County has been tied to Greenwood County in
7 many different aspect such as employment,
8 social communities, the same economic
9 interests and would ask that those counties
10 stay together. Also, speaking -- I've heard a
11 lot of people speak about minority-majority
12 districts, which I'm not fortunate to have
13 one. But I've represented District 12 for the
14 past 13 years. I don't think my that my
15 (inaudible) percentage has ever gone -- it's
16 about as high as it has ever been now and it's
17 49.83 percent. I think that when you have
18 representatives that have to represent more
19 than two counties and they -- you split up the
20 smaller counties around it, it's a great
21 demand on a representative not to be able to
22 represent all of their constituents as they
23 need to be represented because you have, at
24 least, too many delegations that you have to
25 be a part of. Your area is vast. Right now I

1 have a lot of rural area but not a lot of
2 people. At one point in my district I could
3 travel 50 miles one way, but I don't have a
4 lot of people. It's particularly when you get
5 to McCormick County. That population is on
6 10,333 people and that's including the prison
7 population. So I would ask that the panel
8 please take this in consideration as we redraw
9 these plans and look at your smaller counties,
10 not just McCormick County, but your smaller
11 surrounding counties and try to keep them as
12 whole as much as possible.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Parks, appreciate
14 your input. Joseph Oppermann.

15 MR. OPPERMANN: Thank you Mr. Chairman, and I'll try
16 to keep my comments as brief as possible. My
17 name is Joseph Oppermann I live in Anderson
18 County. I live in the Centerville Precinct
19 which is in House District 8 and I want to
20 speak to two different points. First of all I
21 want to echo Mayor Roberts' comments from
22 earlier. Currently the composition of the
23 House districts in Anderson County have
24 served, over the last several decades, to
25 divide and conquer or dilute minority vote.

1 We believe that's unacceptable and it's unfair
2 to our neighbors in Anderson County. There
3 should be a stronger concentration of African
4 American vote whether that's in a
5 majority/minority district or in one or two
6 districts with a level of minority population
7 that's higher than we see currently.
8 Historically, Anderson has been willing to
9 elect African American candidates or
10 candidates friendly to African American
11 interest, but at the level of representation
12 you have in these districts it does seem
13 impossible. I'll cite the example of Mayor
14 Roberts and the City of Anderson, which is 70
15 percent white, was elected as an African
16 American candidate. So it's not impossible to
17 elect an African American candidate or a
18 candidate friendly to the interest of the
19 black community without a majority/minority
20 district but in the City of Anderson you do
21 have a 30 percent African American population.
22 So in the interest of those communities having
23 appropriate representation we hope that the
24 committee will take that into consideration in
25 looking at the lines in Anderson County.

1 Secondly, with regard to the House district I
2 reside in, this speaks to the communities of
3 interest issue that was brought up earlier. I
4 think when House District 8 the lines were
5 drawn, they haven't changed significantly in
6 the last 30 years. I think originally when
7 they were drawn, they constituted a community
8 of interests. It was a district that was
9 predominantly rural with some working class
10 textile communities. But that's changed
11 dramatically over the last 30 years.

12 Currently we have a growing lake population.
13 We still have our rural population. We have a
14 growing suburban population. We have our old
15 textile community populations. And we have
16 some folks who are in Oconee County. I would
17 suggest that it may be appropriate for the
18 Oconee County portion of House District 8,
19 which includes the community of Fair Play, go
20 into Oconee County. I think that would be
21 beneficial to both Anderson and Oconee for the
22 reason that I believe Mr. Bill Whitmire's
23 district is in need of growing to some extent.
24 So with some reshuffling between him and Mr.
25 Sandifer, Oconee County can be represented

1 fully by two representatives rather than
2 having somebody who predominantly represents
3 Anderson. Secondly, I would hope that
4 District 8 as it's redrawn could be drawn in a
5 somewhat more compact fashion that consist of
6 one to two or three communities of interest
7 rather than sort of the five or six we have
8 now that's happened as a result of
9 changing population patterns. Finally, I
10 noticed a lot of folks speak to the desire to
11 have -- for smaller rural counties, have those
12 counties kept together. One way that may be
13 helpful to y'all as you're thinking about this
14 problem conceptually I was looking at the
15 numbers and if you think of Greenville,
16 Pickens, Oconee, Anderson and Abbeville as
17 sort of one population unit, I believe the
18 allocation of House seats is almost precisely
19 23 House seats within that range. Now that
20 can be helpful to you guys as you look at
21 Greenwood, McCormick, Laurens, Newberry,
22 Saluda, Edgefield those rural counties who
23 have lost population. One way to keep those
24 folks together without having to spider all
25 over a million different counties is to keep

1 in mind that this cluster of upstate counties,
2 it's sort of self contained with 23
3 representatives. And it may help in
4 protecting the interest of McCormick and
5 Greenwood and Edgefield and Newberry and
6 Saluda and those upstate rural counties to
7 think of Greenville, Pickens, Oconee, Anderson
8 and Abbeville as sort of a single unit
9 conceptually as you're developing that. Thank
10 you so much for the good work that you are
11 doing. We really appreciate it.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Oppermann. Any
13 questions? We appreciate your time tonight?

14 MR. OPPERMANN: Thank you, sir.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Is there anyone else in
16 the audience that hasn't been heard that would
17 like to be heard tonight? Hearing none, Ms.
18 Gibson, we'd be pleased to hear from you.

19 MS. GIBSON: Certainly, I want to say on behalf of
20 the Greenville County Council we were pleased
21 that you chose our chambers to hold your
22 public hearing in. It's been a pleasure to
23 have you. We've certainly had a history -- a
24 lesson in history tonight. But I want to
25 thank you again from all members of the

1 council, and several of us were here. So, if
2 I'm in order, I move we dismiss.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Gibson. We do have a
4 few comments before we adjourn. Thank you so
5 much for your hospitality. It has been a true
6 pleasure in being with you tonight and to hear
7 from each and every one of you that have
8 participated in this public forum. It's been
9 a pleasure to be with you. I thank you for
10 your respectableness for each other and for us
11 and for the hospitality you have shown. With
12 that, Mr. Allen has a few comments that he
13 would like to share.

14 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
15 on behalf of the people in Greenville and the
16 Upstate, McCormick and Greenwood and
17 Spartanburg Counties we want to thank the
18 committee itself for coming to let this part
19 of the state, the great State of South
20 Carolina, be a part of the debate, a part of
21 the process and listen intently to those that
22 have talked about openness and transparencies,
23 fundamental fairness and etcetera. We do want
24 to remind those that perhaps wanted to speak
25 and were brief because of time and the number

of speakers that we will be in Summerville at the Dorchester County Council Chambers tomorrow starting at 5 p.m. and your comments would be welcome there as well. You're not just limited to this geographical area. Also want to remind you that you can submit written documentation to this committee as indicated in the beginning so there will be additional testimony that you could and can put on the record regarding your viewpoints. And it has been a long evening but, again, to my colleagues welcome to Greenville and we look forward to running you out of Greenville back to Columbia very, very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Any other comments of the subcommittee?

MR. (?): I want to say I want to second Ms. Gibson's motion.

REP. CLEMMONS: Well, I was going to say on motion of Councilwoman Gibson we stand adjourned. Thank you very much Greenville.

(Applause)