

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Beaufort, SC

April 4, 2011

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REP. HORNE: Good afternoon. Thank you for coming out for this evening for one of our redistricting public hearings. I'd like to begin by introducing the members of the committee. My name is Representative Jenny Horne, I'm from House District 94 in Dorchester and Charleston County. And to my right is Representative is Bakari Sellers, he serves on the redistricting subcommittee with me. And to my left is Representative Karl Allen, and to his left is Representative Tom Young. I'd also like to thank Representative Shannon Erickson here in House District 124 for hosting us this evening. We would also like to recognize that we have Representative Kenneth Hodges, Representative Curtis Brantley and I think -- if I've missed anyone -- I see Representative -- former Representative Richard Chalk in the back. Thank you, Richard, for being here.

These hearings are only the first step in a long and involved process that must be followed to complete a workable redistricting plan. We hope to start tonight, and at the

1 other hearings, by listening to extensive
2 public input and then using that input to form
3 the basis of how we proceed. From that input,
4 this subcommittee must create and submit to
5 the full House Judiciary Committee a plan for
6 how to draw lines for the South Carolina
7 House, all 124 districts in the United States
8 Congress, including the new Seventh District
9 that South Carolina received in the latest
10 reapportionment. The full subcommittee must
11 then submit a plan that may or may not be the
12 same as the subcommittee's plan to the House -
13 - to the full House for consideration.
14 Any plan that gains approval of the House, and
15 later the Senate, must be submitted to the
16 United States Justice Department pursuant to
17 the voting rights act for what is called pre-
18 clearance. If it is determined by the Justice
19 Department or the courts that the plan does
20 not comply with, first, the constitutional
21 mandates of one man/one vote and equal
22 protection. And second, with the statutory
23 requirements of the voting rights act more
24 work may still need to be done.

25 Tonight our goal is to listen to each and

1 every interested party explaining to us what
2 they would like to see accomplished in the
3 House's redrawing of district lines for both
4 the South Carolina House of Representatives
5 and the Unites States House of
6 Representatives. We are here tonight to
7 listen to your concerns and recommendations as
8 to what the subcommittee should consider in
9 this process. As the House undertakes the
10 process of redrawing district lines, public
11 input is indispensable in helping us shape a
12 House that best represents the people of South
13 Carolina. The House of Representatives is
14 often called the people's House, and in order
15 to continue to earn that distinction, we must
16 know how the people want that House to look
17 and how the people wish to be represented.
18 That is the sole purpose of these hearings, to
19 hear from the public and take their guidance
20 as we shape the House and congressional
21 districts for the coming decade.

22 We welcome any input which helps us
23 understand specific issues in your area in
24 which identifies neighborhoods, political
25 subdivisions or other areas which you believe

1 the subcommittee should take into
2 consideration when drawing the district lines.
3 Resulting from this series of hearings, this
4 subcommittee plans to adopt a set of criteria
5 drawn primarily from what we hear from the
6 public. These criteria will be the guiding
7 principles by which the House will redraw the
8 district line. As you all know, the plan that
9 is ultimately produced must, more than
10 anything else, assure the principle of one
11 man/one vote, meaning that we are required to
12 have as equal a population in each district as
13 possible. But beyond those requirements, this
14 subcommittee is particularly interested in
15 what political subdivisions or smaller
16 communities have in common, or do not, that
17 would suggest they should be placed into one
18 or multiple districts.

19 While this hearing is being
20 conducted here in beautiful Lady's Island to
21 allow residence of the immediate area an
22 opportunity for input, the subcommittee is
23 happy to hear testimony from anyone interested
24 in any part of this state or the state as a
25 whole. Because tonight's hearing will become

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

1 testimony to ten minutes, if necessary. I
2 would ask each person as they offer testimony
3 be considerate of others who are here to offer
4 their opinions as well. We look forward to
5 hearing from all who are here tonight, and we
6 will be also happy to accept any exhibits that
7 you would like to submit to the subcommittee.

8 With that being said, -- I failed to
9 mention that our chairman, Alan Clemmons, will
10 be here momentarily, and he will take over the
11 running of this meeting. But we'll get
12 started with the first person on the list.
13 Okay. Collin Moore. No comment right now?
14 Okay. Ms. Barbara Swift. Ms. Swift, could
15 you come to the podium for us? Thank you.
16 Thank you, Ms. Swift.

17 MS. SWIFT: You're welcome. I'm Barbara Swift
18 representing the League of Women Voters and
19 co-president of most of Beaufort County.
20 We represent Hilton Head and the Bluffton
21 area. And there's no other League of Women
22 Voters in Beaufort County. We just wanted to
23 say that we supported transparency and public
24 participation in the redistricting process at
25 all levels of government. We want the public

1 to have access to data. We also feel that
2 redrawing the boundaries of congressional and
3 legislative districts is never easy.
4 Redistricting Beaufort County in 2011 will be
5 particularly challenging. This area is one of
6 the reasons that South Carolina ranks among
7 the top ten states in population growth since
8 the last census. There's not only been great
9 growth here but also a major redistribution of
10 the population area. I'm not sure how
11 involved you are north of the Broad, south of
12 the Broad. That's going to be a balanced
13 change, but that's within the county. The
14 League urges you to create maps that are --
15 put the interest of voters first and that are
16 fair to both political parties. All districts
17 should have a population as nearly equal as
18 practicable. They should be like -- They
19 should be compact and contiguous, and natural
20 boundaries should be followed where possible.
21 Communities of like interest should remain in
22 tact, if doable. Changing district lines
23 should be kept to a minimum in order to
24 avoid confusion. Thank you. This is a major
25 job to be done here in South Carolina. Thank

1 you.

2 REP. HORNE: Thank you. I have next on the list
3 Karen Whetsell. Great. Mr. Moore. Would you
4 like to speak Mr. Goodwin? Okay. You're
5 first on the list, then. I had skipped over
6 you because it said you were not speaking, but
7 we would love to hear from you.

8 MR. GOODWIN: Good evening, and I want to thank you
9 for the opportunity to be here and to speak.
10 My main concern is our House District. We're
11 in House District 121, which is just way down
12 in the corner of Hampton County, but we are in
13 121 but we should be in 120 to make us intact
14 with Hampton County. We have no voting power
15 whatsoever the way we're stuck down there. We
16 probably, within our district that we're in
17 right now, we probably don't have but just, in
18 the Hampton County part, just a couple hundred
19 voters, and that doesn't cut it. So whenever
20 they do redraw, it would be much appreciated
21 if we got back in with the rest of Hampton
22 County. I don't think we should split
23 counties to where you take little small
24 sediments and just cut them off on their own.
25 Not that our present Representative -- we

1 don't have any problem with him, it's just
2 idea of the numbers. Thank you.

3 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Goodwin. Does any
4 member -- I'm sorry. Does any member of the
5 subcommittee have a question?

6 REP. YOUNG: I do.

7 REP. HORNE: Mr. Goodwin, would you mind answering a
8 question from Representative Tom Young?

9 REP. YOUNG: Do you live near Estill? Yemassee,
10 okay.

11 MR. GOODWIN: I think I might have misspoke our
12 district. If I can get all the way to the
13 back bottom. Okay. We're in 122 lower edge,
14 lower end, south end of Hampton County.

15 REP. YOUNG: And you think you should be in which
16 district?

17 MR. GOODWIN: I think we should be in 120 with Bill
18 Bowers, who has the rest of Hampton County,
19 with the exception of the small portion I
20 think over in the Estill area.

21 REP. HORNE: Yes. I'm sorry, Representative Allen,
22 you have a question?

23 REP. ALLEN: And 122 is who, what Representative?

24 MR. GOODWIN: It's Curtis Brantley.

25 REP. ALLEN: Curtis Brantley?

1 MR. GOODWIN: Yes.

2 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, sir.

3 REP. HORNE: Any other questions for Mr. Goodwin?

4 Thank you, Mr. Goodwin. The next individual
5 on the list is Joseph Flowers.

6 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Representative Horne. I
7 appreciate the opportunity to be here. I
8 want to thank all the members of the Committee
9 for their attention to this matter, as it is a
10 very marked importance to us in the
11 Lowcountry, and especially in Colleton County.
12 I've been on the Colleton County Council now
13 for over ten years. Have served -- recently
14 served as Council Chairman for about four
15 years. I've lived in Colleton County all my
16 life, and except for the time I was away in
17 school. I went to The Citadel, went to
18 Medical University. Was in the service for a
19 couple of years during the Vietnam era. I've
20 been back practicing in Walterboro since that
21 time. I'd like to address the issue of
22 Colleton County being carved up like a pig in
23 a parlor that's been to the albator. We, in
24 this county, have been carved up now for over
25 20 years. We have three representatives and

1 three senators. When everybody's in charge,
2 nobody's in charge. And Colleton County has a
3 population now of 38,800 in the new census.
4 We have enough in our county within the
5 boundaries of our county to have a
6 representative, and we should, somebody that
7 we can elect from Colleton County. We've been
8 unable to do this for the last number of
9 years, and we do need someone who's -- who we
10 can elect and who can speak for us and who is
11 accountable to us in our county. This issue
12 as the people in our county live across the
13 road from each other and it's split up and all
14 over. The City of Walterboro is split up into
15 three districts, senate and house. The people
16 in our county have become very disenchanting
17 with the process because they really don't
18 know who their representative is or who to
19 turn to, for the most part. It's time that we
20 were treated fairly in Colleton County. This
21 has been an injustice that's been permeated on
22 us for the last 20 year plus, and it's time
23 that we have our own representative in
24 Columbia. We have enough people in our county
25 to have it. The community of interest, of

1 course, in Colleton County, Walterboro is the
2 center of Colleton County and has the largest
3 population in the county. Most people come
4 into -- most people come into Walterboro to
5 shop. When they shop -- and because there's
6 no -- not much shopping in the other
7 communities of the county.

8 As far as the precincts are split, split
9 precincts are not good. This is another issue
10 that we have in our county. There's a
11 tremendous number of split precincts and this
12 makes it even more confusing for the electoral
13 process. And so I would ask you to please
14 give us a representative from Colleton County.
15 There's no reason that this can't be done as
16 far as the demographics are concerned and as
17 far as the population is concerned. This is a
18 fact that needs to be addressed, and it's a
19 fact of fairness to the people of our county.
20 And they've not been treated fairly in the
21 past. As far as the U.S. House District is
22 concerned, Colleton County historically was in
23 the first congressional district. When
24 Mendell Rivers and Mendell Davis and several
25 others represented us, we were in the first

1 congressional district. We've been carved out
2 of that, placed in the sixth district now for
3 several years. Before that we were carved up
4 into the second and the sixth district. And,
5 of course, that district goes toward Florence
6 and toward Columbia. Our community of
7 interest, as far as Colleton County is
8 concerned, is more towards the Charleston
9 area. When people go out of town to shop,
10 they go to Charleston. We get our paper --
11 our newspaper out of Charleston, our regional
12 newspaper. We have two newspapers locally, of
13 course. And, also, we have our TV out of
14 Charleston. So the community of interest is
15 toward the first congressional district, and
16 that's something that I hope will be taken
17 into consideration during this redistricting
18 process, also. Be glad to answer any
19 questions that you have.

20 REP. HORNE: Thank you, County Councilman Flowers.
21 Are there any other questions? Representative
22 Sellers has a question.

23 MR. SELLERS: Thank you, Councilman Flowers, for all
24 that you do on your county council. Just for
25 clarification, you're in the sixth district

1 now completely, correct?

2 MR. FLOWERS: Yes, sir.

3 MR. SELLERS: And you're saying that you would be
4 better served because of your media interest
5 and media outlets and just, you know,
6 convenience in the first district?

7 MR. FLOWERS: Yes, sir. And the way it's
8 constituted right now, of course, I realize
9 the districts would be redrawn. But that's
10 certainly what we --

11 MR. SELLERS: Well, you want to be with Charleston?

12 MR. FLOWERS: That's right.

13 MR. SELLERS: Charleston County?

14 MR. FLOWERS: That's right.

15 MR. SELLERS: No matter what the district's like,
16 Charleston County?

17 MR. FLOWERS: We would be well deserved that way, in
18 my opinion, yes, sir. Thank you very much.

19 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Flowers. And for those
20 of you who have just walked in, we're going to
21 get another sign up sheet. And our security
22 officer here will get those to you. So if
23 you're interested in signing up, please see
24 him. The next individual on our list is
25 Moultrie Plowden.

1 MR. PLOWDEN: Thank you. I'm Moultrie Plowden from
2 Colleton County. We're represented by 116,
3 120 and 121. I hope that I can express how
4 frustrating it is for those who live in
5 Colleton County and Walterboro to feel
6 unrepresented. There are three house members
7 and three senators, each representing a tiny
8 fraction of our population, with the majority
9 of their constituents living in other
10 counties. Therefore, none, understandably,
11 feel a sense of responsibility for our county
12 as a whole. Remarkably, a city of only 6500
13 is divided into six districts. We believe our
14 business is no one's business, and that
15 amounts to taxation without representation.
16 It is not that we believe any of these men are
17 anything but dedicated, hardworking public
18 servants, but their interests are necessarily
19 divided and not in concert with
20 the Colletonians whom they allegedly
21 represent. Colleton has 38,800 people, enough
22 for a House district and a resident
23 representative. There's a single school
24 system. There is racial parity. We have an
25 African-American Sheriff, a school

1 superintendent, two of six city councilmen,
2 two of five county councilmen, most of whom
3 are elected at large. The reason I say this
4 is to emphasize that this isn't about partisan
5 politics or race. Our point is that we have a
6 community of interest in Colleton County. We
7 do not have that same common interest with
8 those who represent us. We would ask that you
9 give special attention to this inequity as you
10 proceed with your difficult task that you've
11 been given. You have an opportunity to right
12 a tragic wrong. Thank you.

13 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Plowden. Any questions
14 for Mr. Plowden? Yes, Representative Allen.

15 MR. ALLEN: You mentioned one represented one
16 district 120 and 122. And was the other one
17 121?

18 MR. FLOWERS: 116, 120 and 121, I believe.

19 MR. ALLEN: All right. Would you give me the
20 representatives for those?

21 MR. FLOWERS: Hodges, Bill Bowers and Robert Brown.

22 MR. ALLEN: Thank you, sir.

23 REP. HORNE: Thank you. Oh, you have a question --

24 MR. ??: No, no, no. Just saying hey to him.

25 REP. HORNE: Thank you. And I see Representative

1 Seth Whipper just walked into the room.

2 Welcome. Thank you for joining us. We have
3 next on the list we have Ted Parker.

4 MR. PARKER: I have no comments at this time.

5 REP. HORNE: Thank you. If you should change your
6 mind, certainly we would be glad to hear from
7 you. The next on the list is Bill Young.
8 Sorry, Mayor Bill Young from the City of
9 Walterboro. Thank you, Mayor.

10 REP. YOUNG: Thank you. Madame Chairperson,
11 distinguished legislators, thank you for
12 allowing me to testify before the House
13 Subcommittee on redistricting. As you know,
14 Colleton County has been divided six ways with
15 three senatorial districts and three house
16 districts. City of Walterboro, with a
17 population of 5400 is also divided six ways
18 with each legislator taking a small fragment.
19 The result has been that we really have no
20 legislator who shares in a community of
21 interest with the majority of citizens in our
22 county and no legislator who is answerable to
23 our county. Traditional redistricting
24 principles say that districts should be
25 compact and contiguous; that they should

1 follow natural, man-made or political
2 geographic boundaries; that cores of districts
3 be maintained to allow for a continuation of
4 similar representation or communities of
5 interest be kept together in the same
6 district. The City of Walterboro and Colleton
7 County meet all of the above principles, and
8 yet, we are divided up six ways. The City of
9 Walterboro is certainly compact, contiguous,
10 follows natural and man-made geographic
11 political boundaries and could serve as the
12 core of a district if it were not so divided.
13 The mayor and council run at large with
14 each representing the entire city. We utilize
15 the same parks, belong to the same civic
16 clubs, attend the same churches and support
17 the same local charities and events. As a
18 city we are a true community of interest.
19 Colleton County also meets the above criteria
20 for redistricting, and we believe is almost
21 perfect in population and demographics to have
22 a representative in the state house.
23 Our county follows many natural boundaries, as
24 well as political geographic boundaries. As a
25 county, we're also a true community of

1 interest. We have one school system and
2 one high school. From across our county,
3 children come together to be educated,
4 participate in sports and the fine arts and to
5 socialize. We, as a county, have one
6 superintendent of education. We elect a
7 Sheriff and a clerk of court who represent the
8 entire county, as well as an at-large county
9 council member. We utilize the same
10 healthcare system, hospital and doctors. We
11 participate in the same recreation leagues and
12 arts council activities. We share in the
13 support of one institution of higher learning,
14 USC Salkehatchie, and we cherish the beauty
15 and bounty of the Ace Basin which is a result
16 of our stewardship and lies mostly within our
17 borders. We support each other in good times
18 and also in times of turmoil and tragedy. It
19 would seem that one would have to work very
20 hard to find reasons to justify dividing us up
21 when placing Colleton County in a single House
22 district would be so easy to support. With
23 the current districts, we as a county, are
24 disenfranchised. None of our legislators
25 represent a majority of Colleton County. The

1 political reality is that they all owe their
2 allegiance elsewhere. On close scrutiny, any
3 argument to the contrary can be disputed.

4 A few weeks ago, while in Columbia, I had
5 the pleasure of having dinner with the mayor
6 of Easley, South Carolina, some of his council
7 members and members of legislative delegation.
8 They all were from Easley and Pickens County.
9 And as I watched them interact, it was obvious
10 that they shared a commonality of interest in
11 unity of purpose that comes from being
12 residents, friends and neighbors of the same
13 community. We do not enjoy that kind of
14 relationship in Colleton County. Our
15 situation is equally as bad on the senate
16 side. We have two senators who represent five
17 counties, and one who represents four. The
18 way Colleton County is cut up is wrong, and
19 everyone knows it. When I look at your
20 committee, I see some people I know personally
21 and others I know by reputation. This gives
22 me great hope for a better outcome this time
23 because I know that you are people of honor
24 and integrity, and that you will do what is
25 right. You have a difficult task before you,

1 but I believe that if you have the will to
2 correct this past injustice that it can be
3 done. The population growth in Beaufort
4 County will give you some opportunities to
5 accomplish this. Please help us fight this
6 good fight for the people of Colleton County
7 so that our citizens can have a real voice in
8 Columbia. Thank you. I would like, with your
9 permission, to enter into the record copies of
10 two editorials from our two local papers.

11 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mayor Young. Are there any
12 questions of Mayor Young? Thank you. Next on
13 our list is Ann Ubellis.

14 MS. UBELLIS: I have no comment at this time.

15 REP. HORNE: Thank you. Please let us know if you
16 would like to comment. The next individual on
17 our list is Zadie Reeves.

18 MS. REEVES: I don't have any comments.

19 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Reeves. Jane Brown.

20 MS. BROWN: No comment.

21 REP. HORNE: Okay. Carol Hinson. Okay, thank you.
22 Janet Sawyer. Thank you, Ms. Sawyer.

23 MS. SAWYER: Thank you for holding the hearing.

24 Currently, I'm a resident of Colleton County
25 in the City of Walterboro. But prior to that

1 I was a long time resident of Walterboro
2 County, so I'm concerned with those counties.
3 Always have been. And I will not repeat any
4 of the statistics Mayor Young and Dr. Flowers
5 gave, and also Mr. Moultrie. I would like to
6 trace the source of the insanity of all the
7 congressional districts in South Carolina.
8 And it goes back to a very old political
9 practice of Gerrymandering. It's happened all
10 over the country, with disastrous results for
11 some places because they don't get any
12 representation. I am very glad that Reverend
13 Hodges is here tonight, but it's interesting
14 out of three only one came. I would like to
15 suggest, even though I know it's not going to
16 be possible, that South Carolina do what other
17 states have done. And that is to appoint an
18 independent commission to draw the lines
19 according to the commonality of interest,
20 which goes right back to the founding fathers.
21 They knew that people who lived in the
22 northern part of this state, non-coastal, had
23 no relation to coastal counties. Just look at
24 Beaufort's line. It's stupid. We have --
25 they have nothing in common with Lexington,

1 Columbia and so on and so forth. And I think
2 that's all I have to say, surprisingly. Thank
3 you.

4 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Sawyer. Next on the
5 list is Mr. Bobby Bonds.

6 MR. BONDS: Hi.

7 REP. HORNE: Hi, thank you.

8 MR. BONDS: I'm Bobby Bonds. I live in Walterboro,
9 work in Walterboro. Thanks for being here. I
10 know it's a sacrifice for y'all to serve. But
11 one thing I -- and I think the first thing
12 that I've got to bring to your attention is
13 this morning at seven o'clock I heard on a
14 local radio station on the South Carolina News
15 Network that the chairman who hadn't been able
16 to make it yet, one of the things that he was
17 concerned about is that there was apparently
18 was a meeting in Columbia area last week and
19 only five people spoke. And he was concerned
20 about that because, apparently, he's of the
21 opinion that public input is vitally
22 important, and, in fact, went on to state that
23 as a result of a lack of input ten years ago,
24 there may have been some mistakes that were
25 made. And so as my first exhibit, I want to

1 pass up and have admitted to my testimony, the
2 article from the South Carolina News Network
3 that quotes Representative Clemmons concerning
4 how important input is. And what I would ask
5 is I would love to have y'all come down to
6 Colleton County. I love Beaufort. I love
7 being in Beaufort. I probably will eat dinner
8 here tonight. But it's almost impossible for
9 folks in Colleton County to get off of work,
10 and when gas is almost \$4 a gallon to drive
11 for an hour to be here. You come to Colleton
12 County and you want to hear about community of
13 interest. I got four or five people right
14 here who made the trip. Come on over, please
15 come to our courthouse. Judge Butler would
16 love to have you see it. We got a brand new
17 renovated courthouse. We'd love to introduce
18 you and show you around. I am an attorney,
19 and so I'll personally give you a tour. But
20 what I want to say is we can put 200 people in
21 there who will be happy to tell you about
22 commonality of interest, of not only
23 Walterboro but Colleton County. And so if
24 that's important to you, and if we haven't
25 given you or aren't able to give you enough

1 input on that, please come to Walterboro.
2 Please come to a small, rural county where we
3 can pack 200 people in there and you can see
4 how interested folks are about this issue.
5 Our small town is chopped up into three
6 different districts. And as a separate
7 exhibit, what I want to do is, I want to show
8 you a map. It's a map put out by the Chamber
9 of Commerce. What I have on here, one side of
10 the City, you'll see a couple of dots,
11 and I've drawn some lines to the dots. But
12 what I want to do is -- and the point I'm
13 making is this is downtown Walterboro. One
14 house is the house of my law partner, Mr.
15 Scott Harbin --

16 REP. HORNE: Mr. Bonds, could you use the microphone
17 so everyone can hear? Thank you.

18 MR. BONDS: Sure, I apologize. This is a map that's
19 put out by the Colleton County Chamber of
20 Commerce, and one side is Walterboro and on
21 the other side is Colleton County. And I've
22 got a couple dots drawn. And right in here,
23 quite frankly, this is downtown Walterboro.
24 This is what we call our historic district.
25 If you're not familiar with it, again, please

1 come on to Walterboro. I can show you first
2 hand, or the Mayor would be happy. He make a
3 better chaperone than myself where we're
4 talking about. Right here is Mr. Scott
5 Harbin's house. That's one of my law
6 partners. Right there, former Senator Peden
7 McLeod. That's his house. And right there,
8 the third, I've got the names to it, is his
9 son Reese McLeod who is a lawyer and a
10 magistrate in our county. Do you see how
11 close they are? Would you believe that Mr.
12 Harbin and Mr. Reese McLeod, they're in one
13 district and Mr. Peden McLeod is in another.
14 That's not commonality of interest. There's
15 something wacky about that. We've got a city
16 of 5800 people, plus or minus; we're cut up
17 three different way. And I want to let you
18 know as far as commonality of interest, you
19 look at all these businesses right here, these
20 are folks that I have commonality of interest
21 in. They're in three different house
22 districts. The folks in Walterboro, we share
23 the same schools, we share the same
24 businesses. Dr. Flowers, when they come to
25 town, a lot of them go see him. He's a doctor

1 there in town. I mean, people shop. We are
2 the center of our county. Same fire, same
3 police protection, within the City of
4 Walterboro, garbage. These are our neighbors.
5 And if you want to spread it out a little more
6 all you do is turn over here and that's
7 Colleton County, which is carved up into three
8 different house districts, none of whom -- And
9 I'm not saying any of these fellows,
10 Representative Bowers in 120, Representative
11 Brown in 116, Representative Hodges in 121,
12 I'm not saying they're not fine people; they
13 are. I know each one of them. Have met with
14 each of one them; have spoken with each one of
15 them. But what I tell you is this. What we
16 don't have in Colleton County is we don't have
17 a senator or a representative who looks to us.
18 Where do you look? You look to your district.
19 And where they find the majority of their
20 district is outside of Colleton County. No
21 one's looking to us. And I think it's very
22 clear we want to have somebody who's
23 accountable to Colleton County. And what Mr.
24 Plowden said, it is not a matter of whether
25 it's black, white, Republican, Democrat. We

1 want somebody looking out for us. And this is
2 my second exhibit right here. I think that's
3 all I've got to say.

4 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Bonds. Does anyone have
5 any questions? Thank you very much. The next
6 person on the list is Mr. Earl Bostic.

7 MR. BOSTIC: Good evening.

8 REP. HORNE: Good evening.

9 MR. BOSTIC: My name is Earl Bostic and I reside at
10 4942 Cotton Hill Road in Tillman, South
11 Carolina. I feel a little bit like the people
12 of Walterboro, however, I'm coming from a
13 little different angle. I'm in District 122.
14 We know you're in the process of redrawing the
15 lines. As far as we're concerned, we feel
16 like we are pretty well represented. We do
17 not want you to redraw the lines to dilute our
18 district. And I'm coming from a little
19 different standpoint, and I'm coming from the
20 standpoint of a minority. We need
21 representation in Columbia. Now, whether it
22 comes form Hampton, Jasper, these are the
23 areas that are mostly minority populated. I
24 know it's been some talk about extending the
25 lines into Sun City and to Beaufort County.

1 We feel that if we did this, it would dilute
2 our chances of having a minority represent us
3 in Columbia. So that's pretty much my
4 concern. I think we all have our own
5 individual interests, and I'm not speaking for
6 a group. I'm just speaking on behalf of
7 myself and a life-long resident of Jasper
8 County. I'm looking at the districts that are
9 represented here, and I'm reading in the paper
10 one of the main reasons for redrawing the line
11 is that the increase in population, am I
12 right? This census report?

13 REP. HORNE: Yes, sir. We're required every ten
14 years to do it, yes, sir.

15 MR. BOSTIC: Every ten years census report, and you
16 have to have no more than so many persons in a
17 --

18 MR. ??: 37,000 --

19 MR. BOSTIC: 37,000. And as I look at the young man
20 in District 118, it simply says to me let's
21 just divide his district in half and give them
22 another representation and just leave the
23 other -- leave my district alone. Let's leave
24 our lines as they are. That's the simplicity
25 of it. I know it's more complex than that.

1 But when you make your decision, please keep
2 in mind when you look around in Columbia,
3 consider the number of minorities that are
4 there in your presence as you look around this
5 room. You don't see that many. And the same
6 thing applies as the gentleman said from
7 Walterboro, we just can't get off of our jobs
8 to get over here to speak to you. So,
9 fortunately, I'm self-employed and I can make
10 the trip. So please consider this when you're
11 redrawing your lines to allow us to continue
12 to have minority representation in Columbia.
13 Thank you.

14 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Bostic. Before you
15 leave does anyone have any questions? Thank
16 you. The next person on the list is Blane
17 Lotts.

18 MR. LOTTS: Thank you, Madame Chair,
19 Representatives, members of the Committee.
20 I'm Blane Lotts. I'm the chairman of the
21 Beaufort County Democratic Party. First of
22 all, I would like to reiterate what most all
23 of the folks have said here tonight, and that
24 is that communities of interest are so very
25 important. But I think you've gotten that

1 message. I think not only from these -- this
2 session tonight, but other sessions that you
3 have participated in. Let me talk a little
4 bit, just for a minute or two, about the state
5 house seats, the senate seats and the
6 congressional district. We are pretty well
7 contained in Beaufort County. We do have
8 representatives Herbkersman, Patrick and
9 Erickson who have districts within Beaufort
10 County. We're pleased to have Representative
11 Brantley and Representative Hodges.
12 Representative Brantley has part of Beaufort
13 County, as well as Jasper County. And we're
14 pleased with that relationship because that,
15 basically, is a community of interest. The
16 same thing with Reverend Hodges.
17 Representative Hodges' district is in Colleton
18 County, but it's also in part of Beaufort
19 County. But again, we're delighted to have
20 him because that is part of the community of
21 interest. Hopefully, we will get another
22 state house seat. Most of the growth -- ten
23 percent of the growth has been in Hilton Head,
24 but the vast majority of it has been in the
25 Bluffton area, and hopefully, we will get a

1 new state house seat in the Bluffton area. So
2 far as the state senate goes, while Beaufort -
3 - it's important for Beaufort County to be
4 self contained, but as we will likely have an
5 additional -- and hopefully an additional
6 state senate seat, a natural dividing line in
7 Beaufort is the Broad River. And you've heard
8 mentioned here north of the Broad and south of
9 the Broad. There is more population now south
10 of the Broad, but we would hope that that
11 basic, general line could be adhered to you in
12 your senate district -- senate redistricting.
13 I would think that there might be some
14 communities such as Okatie and others that
15 technically are south of the Broad River that
16 might be included in the northern Beaufort
17 section to help even out the population.

18 Now, the congressional district, I have
19 some experience this because I ran for
20 Congress in the 2nd District in 2008. It's a
21 long way from Lexington to the southern end of
22 Hilton Head Island. I would think, again,
23 that if we're going to continue with
24 communities of interest that we would be
25 delighted to have these wonderful folks from

1 Colleton County who are here tonight as part
2 of a district that would include Colleton and
3 Beaufort, Jasper, Allendale, Hampton, for
4 examples, perhaps as far north as Barnwell.
5 And I'm not sure exactly how all those
6 population centers measure out. But the
7 communities of interest, and as I've
8 described, I think are very helpful and I
9 would like to see that. And those things
10 don't really relate to political parties or
11 black/white. They relate to these communities
12 of interest. And I think that's what you've
13 heard in a lot of your meetings so far. Thank
14 you very much. I'll be glad to answer any
15 questions you might have.

16 REP. HORNE: Representative Sellers has a question.

17 REP. SELLERS: Just real quickly, in your dream
18 congressional district that you just
19 mentioned, can you run off those counties
20 again that you --

21 MR. LOTTS: Yes. Colleton, Beaufort, Jasper,
22 Allendale, Hampton, and perhaps Barnwell,
23 depending on how the population works out.

24 REP. SELLERS: If you take Barnwell, I'm going to
25 have to give you Bamberg too.

1 MR. LOTT: We'd be delighted.

2 REP. HORNE: Any other questions? Thank you Mr.
3 Lotts.

4 MR. LOTT: Thank you, ma'am.

5 REP. HORNE: Ken George.

6 MR. GEORGE: Well, thank you folks for coming to
7 this part of the world listening to what we
8 have to say. I'm really disappointed that
9 Alan couldn't make it. I wore my cowboy boots
10 for no good reason. And they hurt.
11 Redistricting is very important for your job
12 and the House of Representatives in 2011. And
13 you're going to have some challenges in the
14 state. We know that. I offer a series of
15 four tables for your consideration that I
16 believe using the data from Bobby Bowers'
17 office as the precinct level justifies a
18 redrawing slightly of the three sitting house
19 members and the creation of a new house seat
20 in the Bluffton area.

21 I've discussed this with Patrick and
22 Erickson and Herbkersman. And I'm giving them
23 a copy of this proposal for you folks to
24 consider. They have seen it. They support
25 it. They're willing to talk with you whenever

1 it is convenient for you to review this idea.

2 Thanks, folks. Have a safe trip home.

3 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. George. Are there any

4 questions? Thank you. We will review the

5 exhibit. Thank you for bringing that to us.

6 Mr. Tony Angelo. Thank you, Mr. Angelo.

7 MR. ANGELO: Thank you, folks. Welcome to Beaufort.

8 I live in Ridgeland. I used to live in

9 Beaufort and I used to live in Colleton

10 County. The poor folks in Colleton County

11 should have had a revolution the last ten

12 years ago. If you wonder why people don't

13 participate in the political process, who has

14 time to write six letters or call six

15 different people to either laud or complain

16 about something. What I've given you up there

17 is a map. I was doodling around in January

18 when it was so cold, had nothing else to do,

19 so. While I didn't have the population

20 figures, I had the election results from the

21 last -- from the gubernatorial election and

22 made the assumption that the vote totals

23 probably were pretty parallel with the

24 population. And I drew up a couple of maps,

25 which you're looking at. And Representative

1 Sellers, if you do like, I have put over here,
2 we'll get Bamberg back in with Beaufort. The
3 last process of redistricting is really
4 ridiculous. With 46 counties in this state,
5 as you could see by the old map or the current
6 map, more than 25 percent of the counties have
7 been split. The new map that I drew only
8 splits two counties: Charleston County and
9 Richland County. The ridiculous thing about
10 the current redistricting, it's one thing to
11 try and comply with the voting rights act and
12 with the Supreme Court ruling, but to take two
13 little tiny counties like Calhoun County
14 and Lee County and split them in half, I don't
15 think anybody would agree with that. So, I
16 just wanted to present this map to you and
17 just tell you a story probably that you have
18 heard ten years ago. When people such as the
19 folks in Colleton County that have six
20 different people to have to communicate with -
21 - I think it was ten years ago when they were
22 redistricting, they said they took all the
23 districts in the country and they figured that
24 there was one district in Detroit that had
25 maybe 300, 350,000. And I believe back then

1 it was about 600,000 per congressional
2 district. One place in California had
3 something close to a million, 900, about 900
4 and something thousand people. And I would
5 just say to most of the folks out there that
6 are driving by on this highway, I think the
7 new congressional districts, if I'm
8 not mistaken, are somewhere around 711,
9 660,000, one or the other. But most of these
10 folks out here driving, they don't really care
11 if a congressman represents 552,000 or
12 582,000. They just don't want to be able to
13 look across the street and have a conversation
14 with their neighbors and then try and have the
15 confusion of, well, my congressman is
16 different than your congressman. That's when
17 people throw their hands up. Thank you. Any
18 questions?

19 REP. HORNE: I just wanted to make sure, for the
20 record, your last name is spelled A-n-g-e-l-o?

21 MR. ANGELO: Yes.

22 REP. HORNE: Okay. Any questions for Mr. Angelo?
23 Thank you.

24 MR. ANGELO: Thank you.

25 REP. HORNE: Ms. Ann Politzer.

1 MS. POLITZER: Good evening. Welcome to the low
2 country. I'm a fifth generation
3 Beaufortonian. I live on St. Helena Island,
4 and I like my Representative, but his district
5 extends way up into Colleton County and Green
6 Pond and it also includes St. Helena Island.
7 And I would like to speak tonight for the
8 people and for general redistricting of the
9 state. Let me tell you my opinion. I've
10 learned a lot listening. And I went to the
11 other meeting, too. And listening to the
12 people from Colleton County and I
13 kept thinking why did they do it like this?
14 Why did they split it up this way? I mean,
15 did they toss out the U.S. Constitution where
16 each state has two senators and then the
17 population is divided among representatives.
18 Why don't we do that in this state? We have
19 46 senators.

20 Now, as far as the representatives are
21 concerned, then we get into the population
22 thing. But what we've done in South Carolina
23 is we divided both houses according to
24 population, right? They have to have so many
25 voters, okay. This means that the small,

1 rural counties have no power. Very little.
2 And the great big cities have a lot of power.
3 Look at the way the pie is split up so that
4 the top of the triangle starts in Columbia.
5 And that's where most of the votes are, and so
6 we are represented by someone from Columbia is
7 what happens, for our U.S. Representative.
8 And this is -- it's really unfair. And it
9 happened, I think, 20 years ago, not ten years
10 ago. And I wondered what the purpose was and
11 I think that was it. Here we are in Beaufort
12 County desperately struggling for a Jasper
13 port. There are so many reasons why that is a
14 good idea. I mean, Charleston has to be
15 dredged, we don't. Charleston is already
16 extended about as far as it can go. We've got
17 room. The Jasper port is closer to the ocean.
18 It saves everyone money. The Jasper port
19 offers jobs in an area that desperately needs
20 jobs. But it has been a constant battle with
21 Charleston over this port. And, of course,
22 with the state of Georgia, too. But we're
23 splitting the pie with Georgia. So if you
24 wonder why the common man, which I include
25 myself as one, is confused and can't figure

1 out who they're voting for and why and why
2 it's divided like this and why they're
3 represented by somebody far away, that's the
4 problem. It's because it is illogical and it
5 doesn't follow the United States Constitution.
6 I wanted to say that to Mr. Angelo -
7 Congratulations, you're the only one who's
8 come into the room with a plan. And the
9 Democratic Party should have had a plan to put
10 up, and they haven't. So I want to
11 congratulate him for that. I think that's the
12 end of my talk. If there are any questions.

13 REP. HORNE: Mr. Young.

14 REP. YOUNG: What's your name, full name?

15 MS. POLITZER: Ann Christensen Politzer. I like the
16 Christensen part because my grandfather was a
17 state senator for 20 years in 1905 to 1925.

18 REP. YOUNG: Hollister?

19 MS. POLITZER: Politzer, with a P as in pretty.

20 REP. YOUNG: Do you have relatives in Aiken?

21 MS. POLITZER: Yes.

22 REP. YOUNG: Yeah, I think they live in my district.

23 MS. POLITZER: Fred Christensen is my cousin, right.

24 REP. YOUNG: She's raised an interesting point about
25 the senators being 46 of them, but they're not

1 like one per county. And I think the reason
2 that is is because of a US Supreme
3 Court decision from the 1960s. I may be
4 wrong, but I think -- I don't think it's a --
5 Does anybody here know?

6 REP. SELLERS: That is actually correct. It's one
7 man/one vote. So it goes back to that
8 decision which interpreted that
9 the populations have to be equal. It's not
10 something we decide in Columbia.

11 MS. POLITZER: Well, I thought --

12 REP. SELLERS: We do have a legal mind here.

13 MS. POLITZER: I thought maybe the state had just --
14 states are just permitted to throw their hands
15 up and do it any old way they want to. And
16 that means --

17 REP. SELLERS: No.

18 MS. POLITZER: -- of course, that the political
19 party in power is going to carve it up so they
20 stay in power. So we know where that's going
21 in our state. Okay. Thank you very much.

22 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Politzer. We now have
23 Mr. John Hetrick.

24 MR. HETRICK: Thank you, Madame Chairperson and
25 members of this Committee. I'm Beau John

1 Hetrick. My mama calls me John, at least, and
2 I go by Beau primarily, and I'm from Colleton
3 County and have practiced law there for about
4 30 years. I'll keep it very simple. I want
5 to address the collective conscience, the
6 sense of fair play, fundamental fairness of
7 this committee which will make recommendations
8 in the legislative assembly. And I just
9 basically have a couple questions. Is there
10 any county in South Carolina that is
11 Gerrymandered as much or more than Colleton
12 County and what is the justification when you
13 go back and make the recommendations that
14 you'll make in the legislative -- the
15 legislature as a whole votes on this. What is
16 the justification for it? And those are the
17 questions I pose on behalf of the citizens for
18 Colleton County. Thank you.

19 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Hetrick.

20 MR. HETRICK: I assume there are no questions.

21 REP. HORNE: And that was rhetorical question,
22 right? We are -- according to our records,
23 there is no one else listed to sign -- Yes,
24 ma'am.

25 MS. GIBSON: I would like to speak.

1 REP. HORNE: And your name?

2 MS. GIBSON: I'm Terry Gibson. I live here on
3 Lady's Island, and thank you for coming here
4 to listen to us tonight. I would like to
5 speak to redistricting of congressional seats,
6 United States congressional seats. And I
7 won't repeat some of the things that people
8 have said before me speaking about how
9 ridiculous the boundaries are that were drawn
10 ten years ago. You can look at the map and
11 see that some of the, at least in my opinion,
12 some of the reasons for fairness, for equal
13 distribution of political parties, minorities,
14 is not present. With the additional seat that
15 we get in Congress I think it's a great
16 opportunity for this state to have more
17 representation in Washington. And this is an
18 opportunity I think for the redistricting to
19 reflect that this state has moved beyond where
20 we were ten years ago. I'm hoping that we've
21 moved beyond that. And I'm hoping we can give
22 less attention to making seats permanent for
23 the occupants, I would hope, and give the
24 citizens like me more of a choice so that we
25 would have a chance to maybe evaluate

1 candidates and not just have the person that
2 the district was drawn for forever.

3 I want to mention, also, that computer
4 technology has probably advanced considerably
5 in ten years when these districts were drawn
6 before. And I would think now with the
7 capabilities that we have, you as a committee
8 and a subcommittee, should be able to pinpoint
9 a whole lot more precisely the characteristics
10 that these people were asking for in their
11 districts, locally and also statewide. So it
12 seems to me like now you have a chance to fix
13 some of the things that weren't fixed
14 correctly as we've heard from some of the
15 previous speakers.

16 So I see this as an opportunity and I
17 thank you for listening, and I hope that we'll
18 see some really positive changes in our
19 redistricting process. Thank you.

20 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Gibson. Yes, ma'am?

21 MS. RODGERS: May I speak?

22 REP. HORNE: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. RODGERS: I'm Edie Rodgers, and I formerly
24 served in the legislature.

25 REP. HORNE: I'm sorry, Representative -- former

1 Representative Edie Rodgers, for not
2 recognizing you. But from there, I don't have
3 my glasses on.

4 MS. RODGERS: Well, I do, so I see you all --

5 REP. HORNE: It's great to see you.

6 MS. RODGERS: First thing I want to say is thank you
7 so much to everyone of you for being here.
8 I happen to know there's a civic organization
9 back in your community that would really
10 have preferred to have you there speaking to
11 them tonight. But most people, and I'm sorry
12 this is such a small group, but most people
13 have no clue as to the demands on your time.
14 I happen to. And I really, truly appreciate
15 all this extra time I know that you're putting
16 into this.

17 First thing I want to say is we didn't
18 make the rules. We the South Carolina General
19 Assembly doesn't make the rules. We just have
20 to try our darndest to abide by them because
21 we are very much under the thumb of the
22 Department of Justice, which is a thorn in
23 the sides of lots of us. We all would love to
24 have our communities whole. We would adore
25 it. But it's just not going to be able to

1 happen in some cases. And perhaps people
2 don't know that the representatives and the
3 senators do have an opportunity to go into the
4 room with Mr. Bowers and the experts who
5 certainly do know the technology, unlike
6 people like me, and sit down and look at any
7 proposal, make their own proposal. And I just
8 feel compelled to tell you an interesting
9 story which speaks to the idea of keeping us
10 together as a community.

11 When I went into that room and I guess it
12 was -- I don't remember now. 2001. I left in
13 '02. - Nobody had told me I should bring a
14 lawyer. It never occurred to me. You know I
15 thought we were one nice group and that we
16 were going to work this out and do the best we
17 could to keep our communities together. I
18 walked into that room. My friend and
19 colleague Representative Walter Lloyd from
20 District 121 was already there with his
21 personal attorney and an attorney from the
22 ACLU. Well, by the time I got my mouth shut
23 again because I was so dumbfounded by this, I
24 had no idea that this is the kind of thing
25 that goes on. We started looking at their

1 proposal, they had brought a proposal. My
2 friends in this room will be astounded to
3 learn that they had in their proposal the
4 County offices, the entire county complex of
5 offices, and the Beaufort City Hall to be in
6 the district of the representative from
7 Colleton County. And I'm sort of a person of
8 not a whole lot of words. I took one look at
9 it and I said we're not doing this. And we
10 didn't do that.

11 But I must say that all these people in
12 the northern part of the county -- northern
13 western part of the county who ended up in the
14 district with Representative Lloyd from
15 Colleton -- well, let's be honest, a lot of
16 them don't even know who their representative
17 is because they don't pay attention to what's
18 happening until you step on their toes. But
19 many a call I got, and maybe you get the same
20 thing because you all probably have some of
21 this same thing, they would say I voted for
22 you Ms. Rodgers and I would just immediately -
23 - because I knew by their telephone number I
24 was not on their ballot. And I would say, oh,
25 my gosh, I should not have been on your

1 ballot, maybe we need to look at that next
2 time. But I never once said call your
3 representative in Colleton County. I took
4 their problem because the reality is
5 constituent service is the majority of what
6 you're going to accomplish when you're a
7 junior representative. I helped those people
8 because I thought it should be done, and I'm
9 sure you all are probably familiar with that
10 same kind of action. But I -- my heart goes
11 out to Colleton County and the way they're
12 split up. But it's all the numbers game. And
13 we, Beaufort County, have had huge increases.
14 I'm not one of those who believes that we
15 should pull up the bridge just because we've
16 all found our little bit of paradise, but we
17 have plenty of friends who do espouse that.
18 But we've had the growth. The numbers for
19 these other people have to come from
20 somewhere.

21 So I guess what I'm trying to say is
22 please bear with you, the Committee and the
23 legislature, as you try to do what is directed
24 from above. And that means Washington.

25 And thank you again for coming because my

1 heart goes out to you. Thank you.

2 REP. HORNE: Thanks, Edie. We are down to the
3 bottom of the list. And, again, if anyone who
4 did not sign the list or who decided that they
5 did not want to speak would like to speak,
6 please come forward at this time. Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. UBELLIS: Well, like my friend, Edie Rodgers, I
8 have no notes. I didn't know what was going
9 to happen tonight or what to say. My name is
10 Ann Ubellis. I'm co-founder and webmaster for
11 the Beaufort Tea Party, and I also host the
12 conservator show Southern Sense. I have to
13 applaud each and every one of you in the House
14 that are working on this very, very difficult
15 thing. I came to South Carolina because I
16 loved the flavor of the Lowcountry. And one
17 of the problems we do have with our U.S.
18 Congressional District is that the Lowcountry
19 is not united. We have a lot of area that is
20 upcountry, Columbia and so and so forth. So
21 I'd like to ask you to take that
22 into consideration when you look at the
23 congressional districts. But then again, I
24 also ask you if there is some way or manner
25 that you can put up on the internet for people

1 to look at, that they can see what their
2 current district is and what the proposed
3 districts or even offer suggestions that they
4 can hit the internet with so that we can get a
5 clear transparent idea of what is going on and
6 maybe offer another avenue for people who
7 cannot make these meetings to give input. I
8 really want to thank you for taking the time
9 to come visit us. And you've got a fantastic
10 job ahead of you, and I don't envy it. Thank
11 you so much.

12 REP. HORNE: And, Ms. Ubellis, thank you. I want to
13 let you know that we do have a House
14 redistricting website that has all the
15 current districts. And because we're at the
16 beginning of the process, there are no drafts
17 or anything like that. But if you go to
18 redistricting.schouse.gov, and we can give you
19 this information after the meeting --

20 MS. UBELLIS: I'd appreciate that because I'll put
21 it up on the website so voters can see it. Is
22 there an area in there that they can give
23 input on it? That's my question.

24 REP. HORNE: There is an email address that will be
25 sent to council for the House redistricting

1 committee. So, yes. The answer is yes. And
2 we encourage your input and certainly
3 encourage your listeners to do the same.

4 MS. UBELLIS: Fantastic. Thank you.

5 REP. HORNE: Thank you. Yes, ma'am?

6 MS. POLITZER: (Inaudible)

7 REP. HORNE: This is a big auditorium, though.

8 MS. POLITZER: I want to be clear. You are telling
9 us that by law South Carolina is not allowed
10 to apportion one senator per each county? We
11 cannot do it?

12 REP. SELLERS: We cannot.

13 MS. POLITZER: How ridiculous is that? I mean, it
14 helps to balance the power. Don't they
15 remember how that goes?

16 REP. HORNE: Yes, sir.

17 MR. PINCKNEY: Good evening. My name is Herbert
18 Pinckney. I'm a member of the Jasper County
19 Political Activist Group. And I stand to say
20 that hopefully when this redistricting is done
21 that Jasper County remains as it is right now.
22 And my other -- and my question is, will there
23 be a meeting of this group in Jasper County?

24 REP. SELLERS: The closest that we'll actually come
25 to Jasper, and I was going to mention this

1 later, and Colleton, as well. We will be in
2 Denmark April 12th at 5:30. And I know that
3 things like USC Salkahatchie we have a great
4 deal in common with with Colleton County. And
5 we will be in Dorchester April 14th, which may
6 suit some of you all's communities as well.
7 So Bamberg and Dorchester are the closest.
8 Oh, Summerville, I'm sorry. Denmark and
9 Summerville would probably be the two
10 closest that we come to both Colleton. I was
11 going to mention that later. As well as
12 Jasper.

13 MR. PINCKNEY: Okay. Thank you very much.

14 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Mr. Pinckney. Does anyone
15 else here -- would anyone else like to give
16 public input? Representative Young?

17 REP. YOUNG: Can I say something?

18 REP. HORNE: Absolutely.

19 REP. YOUNG: We've heard a lot tonight about
20 communities of interest with respect to the
21 House districts and the Senate districts.
22 We've heard some about the congressional
23 districts. One of the questions that I have
24 that I think some other people on the panel
25 have, and we would like to get any input from

1 the audience if you would like to provide it
2 tonight or to email it to us or mail it to us,
3 is, is there a, with respect to Beaufort
4 County, is there a community of interest
5 between -- for example, if Beaufort County and
6 Charleston County were in the same
7 congressional district would that be -- what
8 are the thoughts here of the people tonight
9 about that?

10 REP. HORNE: Edie?

11 MS. RODGERS: We go along assuming things. I assume
12 that everybody knows we used to be in the 1st
13 District, which went right up --

14 MR. ??: Madame Chair, just for the record, let's go
15 ahead and have them, even though we know who
16 they are, since it's transcribed to go ahead
17 and repeat the name.

18 MS. RODGERS: I'm sorry. Do you need my address
19 too?

20 REP. HORNE: No, ma'am.

21 MS. RODGERS: Edie Rodgers. R-o-d-g-e-r-s, please.
22 We were, indeed, in the 1st District, which
23 went right up the coast. We do, indeed, have
24 a communal interest with coastal communities.
25 And at one time we had a coastal commission, I

1 want to say. Ann? Where did Ann go? I think
2 the proper name was the Coastal Commission.
3 And we had one heck of a time trying to keep
4 that group together to deal with coastal
5 environmental problems and things of common
6 interest that coastal communities have. We
7 do, indeed, have that. And a lot of us were
8 not happy when we were removed from that
9 district. A lot of us in this room are very
10 happy with our present representative. Some
11 in the room are not happy with our present
12 representative. So, you know, we are not the
13 most troublesome group you will ever find. I
14 think you will find people in Beaufort County
15 will be happy in district one or district two.
16 I just don't know that's there any huge hue or
17 cry to get us back in district one. I don't
18 think we'd be mad about it. I don't think
19 anybody would be upset about it. We do,
20 indeed, have coastal interests, particularly
21 environmental interests.

22 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Rodgers. Yes, sir?

23 MR. BRANTLEY: Good evening. I'm Freddie Brantley
24 from Jasper County. Maybe I'm a little
25 ignorant to the fact of what's going on. What

1 I'd like to know -- I understand if it's not
2 broken, you don't fix it. I'm from district
3 122. We have no problem with our
4 representation. What causes -- what prompted
5 this decide of redistricting? What -- is that
6 because of the recent census was taken or what
7 it based on that would inspire such a task of
8 redistricting the districts?

9 REP. HORNE: Mr. Brantley, we are required to
10 because of the new census numbers every ten
11 years. Again, I think Representative --
12 former Representative Rodgers said that the
13 Feds require us to do it, so -- and they also
14 require us to be here and we want to get input
15 as we -- as we do what we're required by law
16 to do.

17 MR. BRANTLEY: Okay. So that's what I was saying.
18 So apparently you're saying this was required
19 because of the last census was taken that the
20 figures have changed and caused you to have to
21 -- okay. So but we are satisfied. Let me
22 express that fact, that we are satisfied with
23 our representation in Jasper County. And
24 Hampton County, because I get around -- I
25 happen to be the treasurer of the Democratic

1 party of Jasper County and I get -- we
2 associate with the other -- even with Beaufort
3 Democratic party, so we communicate one
4 another. We understand. So we are pleased
5 with our representation as it is. But, like
6 as I say, if it's necessary to do what we
7 do need to because everybody need to be
8 represented, we understand that. And I don't
9 know how you're going to do that fairly, but
10 Godspeed, I hope you make the right decision.
11 Thank you.

12 REP. HORNE: And, Representative Brantley, just for
13 the record, who is your Representative that
14 you are so pleased with in House District 122?

15 MR. BRANTLEY: Curtis Brantley.

16 REP. HORNE: Okay, thank you.

17 MR. SELLERS: And how much did he pay you? That's
18 what I want to know.

19 REP. HORNE: Yes, ma'am?

20 MS. SAWYER: (Inaudible) female politicians in the
21 House and you're in trouble. I want to know
22 what the magic population number is.

23 REP. HORNE: Could you repeat your name, just for
24 the record.

25 MS. SAWYER: Oh, I'm sorry.

1 REP. HORNE: Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. SAWYER: Janet Sawyer.

3 REP. HORNE: Ms. Sawyer.

4 MR. SELLERS: 37,301, to be exact, plus or minus one
5 or two percent. But we try to get it nailed.
6 We try to hit the nail on the head to allow
7 our -- to allow our plan to be -- look more
8 favorably in the eyes of the Department
9 of Justice.

10 MS. SAWYER: Okay. I know that --

11 MR. SELLERS: So 37,301 for a united -- I'm sorry, a
12 South Carolina House of Representative seat.

13 MS. SAWYER: Okay. I'm sure that you said this, but
14 at my advanced age I have three memory cells
15 left. I have to it down. The other thing, I
16 forgot to mention that I don't know which
17 states they are but there is more than one
18 state that now has an independent commission
19 to do what you poor things have. The reason
20 being is that legislators want to keep their
21 jobs. Thus, gerrymandering. And I'm
22 sure population is taken to account, but that
23 has a great deal to do with it. And so I'm
24 going to look up to see what states do have
25 the independent commissions. Thank you.

1 REP. HORNE: Thank you very much. Yes,
2 Representative Allen, you have a question?

3 REP. ALLEN: Yes.

4 REP. HORNE: Ms. Sawyer, would you entertain a
5 question by Representative Allen? Thank you.

6 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, ma'am. You've mentioned
7 twice the independent commission that other
8 states have to draw the lines. Is this a
9 commission that is from the area within the
10 state that knows the communities of interest
11 and knows the natural boundaries that must be
12 followed and things of that nature? And is
13 that the reason that you feel that it is
14 fairer fundamentally as opposed to legislators
15 being able to keep their jobs, as you say it?
16 Could you expound upon that just a little bit
17 more.

18 MS. SAWYER: I don't really know all those details.
19 I'm sure that they are from the state that
20 they're establishing the commission for. I
21 don't know who the authorizing, overriding,
22 you know, authority is. I'm sure that the
23 legislators would have to approve an
24 independent commission. I really don't know
25 that whole process, but now that you're

1 asking me all these questions Representative -
2 - I can't see without my glasses.

3 REP. ALLEN: Representative Karl, K-a-r-l, Allen.
4 A-l-l-en. But is that the reason that you
5 feel that they -- the commission would be more
6 equitable because they are not elected?

7 MS. SAWYER: Oh, absolutely.

8 REP. ALLEN: Is that -- Okay.

9 MS. SAWYER: Sure. There's no self interest
10 involved. They're operating simply on logic
11 and what's doable.

12 REP. ALLEN: I understand. Thank you.

13 MS. SAWYER: Okay. Thank you. I'll get back to
14 you.

15 REP. HORNE: I have a hand back here. Ma'am, I
16 don't think you've had a chance to speak yet
17 or -- Okay. Please come back up to the
18 podium. Ms. Swift, okay.

19 MS. SWIFT: To speak to that point from the point of
20 League of Women Voters, the National League of
21 Women Voters is very strongly in favor of an
22 independent commission which would be -- not
23 be established by a legislator, but would be
24 established by a separate group. And I don't
25 have the facts and figures right in front of

1 me, but I believe there are ten states that
2 have that to answer Representative Allen's
3 question. I wouldn't want to put a lot of
4 money on my memory of ten states, but that's
5 what I understand.

6 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Swift. Ms. Ubellis?

7 MS. UBELLIS: Yes, Ann Ubellis. A question was
8 asked earlier by Mr. Young whether or not
9 those of us here in this district would mind
10 going to the 1st District. And I can say we
11 have absolutely no problem with it. It was
12 one of the reasons why I said that when we
13 moved here, my husband and I, we enjoyed the
14 flavor of the Lowcountry. And when you go up
15 higher in the District it has absolutely
16 nothing in common with the coastal lifestyle,
17 commerce, and other items. So we're more in
18 common with what's in the 1st District, so we
19 really will not have that much of a problem.
20 Thank you.

21 REP. HORNE: Thank you, Ms. Ubellis. Yes, ma'am?

22 MS. DAVIDO: My name is Allison Davido. I'm a
23 resident of Lady's Island right here. And I
24 speak to you for two reasons. One, I am a
25 native South Carolinian whose father was a

1 textile engineer and, therefore, would have no
2 job now, would he? Secondly, I am a former
3 federal employee. I am one of those people
4 who is characterized as oppressive, as
5 dictatorial and as judgmental. And I believe
6 that none of that is true or should be true in
7 this fine state of South Carolina. I think
8 that you people have a wonderful opportunity
9 to look beyond party, to look beyond race and
10 to listen to one another's stories. The
11 stories that have come out of Colleton County
12 are moving and are inspirational. I think
13 that you could and should use them as a guide
14 for what you are doing. You have a clear set
15 of criteria and I do not believe that you are
16 being oppressed by the feds. I believe that
17 the justice department could be a partner with
18 you in making this state a model for what you
19 could do in watching out for what its citizens
20 clearly want and need. You -- we are all
21 together -- we folks are under the voting
22 rights act for a very good reason. We don't
23 seem to be able to remember that. But we can
24 remember what happened 150 years ago. How is
25 that possible? Let's get all together and

1 step forward as this state that has the
2 potential to be the best in the south and one
3 of 50 outstanding states in this nation.

4 Thank you.

5 REP. HORNE: Thank you. Ms. Davido, could you sign
6 the register so that we have a record of your
7 speaking? Thank you. Okay. Is there anyone
8 else here who would like to provide testimony
9 for the subcommittee? I feel like an
10 auctioneer. Going once.

11 Well, I would like to say Representative
12 Chairman Alan Clemmons could not be here. It
13 was his intent to be here and I was only
14 supposed to run this meeting for a very short
15 time. But it appears that I've run the
16 meeting for the entire time, and I would like
17 to say on behalf of the Chairman and the other
18 members of this Committee we appreciate your
19 traveling here to be with us and giving us
20 this very wonderful and valuable information
21 as we begin the redistricting process. And I
22 would like to thank you for your
23 participation.

24 I would also like to ask the other
25 members of the Committee if they would like to

1 close with some closing remarks?

2 Representative Allen.

3 REP. ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to make
4 sure that the people understand that this
5 hearing is not the only hearing where
6 testimony and evidence, written, expressed or
7 otherwise, will be received. If you are from
8 Jasper County, or any other county in the
9 state of South Carolina, we are more than
10 happy to put you on the agenda at any of our
11 hearings and receive any evidence that you
12 want to present. You're not just limited to
13 this. And then, lastly, we recognized other
14 legislators and former legislators, Madame
15 Chair, and probably two legislators I see that
16 have been through probably more redistrictings
17 than we have are seated in the back, and I
18 want to recognize those distinguished
19 gentlemen, former Senator McKinley Washington
20 and Herbert Fielding. And just ask that they
21 hold their hands up and show the people that
22 they are here in this audience. Thank you,
23 Madame Chair.

24 REP. SELLERS: I just make a motion that this
25 meeting adjourn.

REP. HORNE: Can I have a second?

REP. YOUNG: Second.

REP. HORNE: All in favor say aye.

MEMBERS: Aye.

REP. HORNE: Meeting adjourned. Thank you very
much.

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