



1226 Pickens Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
info@garberreporting.com
Telephone: (803) 256-4500 | Fax (803) 256-1999

VIDEO TRANSCRIPTION

December 29, 2021

House Judiciary Committee

Redistricting Ad Hoc Subcommittee

REPORTER: Jennifer Nottle

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

* * * * *

DATE: Wednesday, December 29, 2021
IN RE: Public Comments on Redistricting Plan
REPORTED BY: JENNIFER NOTTLE, COURT REPORTER

BEFORE:
Representative Wallace H. "Jay" Jordan, Jr., Chairman
Representative Beth E. Bernstein
Representative Neal A. Collins
Representative Jason Elliott
Representative Patricia Moore "Pat" Henegan
Representative Wm. Weston J. Newton

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EXHIBITS:

(No exhibits were marked during the meeting.)

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Court Reporter's Legend:

- dashes [--] Intentional or purposeful interruption
- [ph] Denotes phonetically written
- [sic] Written as said

1 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: (Audio begins here) -- and of course
2 my self are here at present this morning.
3 Representative Bernstein is en route and should
4 be here any minute. Representative Newton is
5 participating with us virtually, thank you for
6 being here Representative Newton. And I believe
7 Representative Bamberg (sic) will join us
8 virtually as well in short order. Again I've had
9 the pleasure of introducing and working with
10 these folks over the last several months it has
11 been quite the process and I'm privileged to know
12 all of you and work with you and thank you again
13 for your service in this process. Also would not
14 be -- don't want to miss the opportunity to
15 recognize all the staff. Thank you Ms. Dean and
16 all her team that have worked so hard in this
17 process to get us where we need to be. The
18 purpose of today's hearing is to receive
19 testimony from the public on the draft
20 redistricting maps that have been released for
21 the South Carolina United States congressional
22 districts. I again want to sincerely thank all
23 of you for joining us and participating in this
24 important legislative process. The many hearings
25 that we have convened, such as this one, have

1 been a keystone underpinning the process of
2 redistricting in South Carolina. We continue to
3 take to heart your input in the process of
4 redrawing these district lines, including at this
5 juncture the federal congressional districts.
6 Which of course is necessary to account for the
7 shifts in population since we last undertook this
8 process in 2010. Because of your feedback and
9 important public input we have released multiple
10 options for these federal congressional
11 districts. There are now three draft maps posted
12 on the house redistricting website. On Monday
13 December 13th we posted the initial draft staff
14 plan for the seven congressional districts in
15 South Carolina. We also posted the Senate's
16 staff plan as a point of comparison and to
17 receive input on. On December 16th this
18 Committee held a hearing to receive feedback and
19 solicit written submissions regarding those
20 plans. In response to those plans we heard from
21 many members of the public concerned with the
22 inclusion of Beaufort County in the second
23 congressional district. As a result, last week
24 on December 22nd we posted an alternative draft
25 staff plan which attempts to address the concerns

1 that we heard from the public such as in
2 Beaufort. The alternative staff plan also
3 includes some positive features from the Senate's
4 draft plan as well. In addition to these two
5 staff plans the Committee has received four map
6 submissions from the public proposing revised
7 congressional districts. We welcome public
8 testimony on any of these proposed maps this
9 morning as well as on the Senate's draft plan, of
10 course as I said we have previously posted. As
11 I've said with the state House districts these
12 draft plans are starting points for
13 conversations. Following your testimony and
14 written submissions here today and submitted
15 through the House redistricting website or by
16 mail we will evaluate the draft plans and assess
17 any potential changes to the plans before this
18 Committee votes. As you have heard me say
19 previously, the task of redistricting of course
20 is an extremely difficult one but also a very
21 important one for our state. We realize that
22 it's been frustrating for many including our
23 membership given the time constraints that we
24 were working under from the Census Bureau's very
25 delayed release of the 2020 census data. We have

1 been criticized both for taking too long and also
2 for moving too fast. But I again remind everyone
3 this is a monumental task and that we have been
4 diligent and careful to get this right.
5 Throughout this process all of the input offered
6 to us for consideration has been and continues to
7 be of value. Again we can sincerely appreciate
8 your time and contributions. As with the prior
9 proceedings to date this hearing is being
10 recorded, it will be transcribed and made
11 available to the public. Several people and
12 groups have signed up to speak today and we will
13 be accepting written testimony after the
14 conclusion of this meeting. I will tell you just
15 for planning purposes it is my intention that we
16 will hear public testimony today both in person
17 virtually. And then we will schedule one
18 additional ad hoc meeting in the near term in
19 conjunction or concert with a to-be-determined
20 full judiciary committee. We'll get those dates
21 released as soon as possible but again we want to
22 give every opportunity for members of the public
23 to address questions, concerns, issues with the
24 starting points that we have put on the table
25 here today. As I've been giving my introduction

1 I see Representative Bernstein is now with us.
2 Thank you Representative Bernstein for joining
3 us. And with that I know we have a few people
4 signed up to speak this morning. First up, right
5 here in the Blatt building is Ms. Lynn Teague of
6 the League of Women Voters.

7 MS. TEAGUE: Thank you very much and we meet again.
8 Okay so I have previously addressed your first
9 draft and I testified in the Senate hearing on
10 the Senate proposal and that testimony is up on
11 our website. I can send a copy to your
12 Committee. So today I'm mainly going to address
13 the alternative that was recently proposed. We
14 believe that is an obvious racial impartisan
15 (sic) gerrymander and should be rejected. In
16 most respects its very similar to the map that
17 was initially proposed in the Senate, although
18 the Senate subcommittee has so far wisely chosen
19 not to act on that map. This alternative scores
20 worse on competitiveness, proportionality,
21 compactness, and splitting than the first map
22 considered by this Committee and much worse than
23 the league proposal. The plan also scores badly
24 when considering efficiency gap at 20.61 percent
25 and rank votes declination at 25.87 percent --

1 degrees. The ideal figure in both cases is zero.
2 Further the total percentage of the population of
3 the state affected by county splits has
4 increased, not decreased, by alternative one.
5 Two more counties are split than in the previous
6 plan and four more counties are split than in the
7 league proposal. In the earlier hearing there
8 was comment on our map splitting a small county,
9 however the league map has county splits
10 affecting only 23 percent of the population,
11 while county splits in your new map affect more
12 than twice as many, about 46 percent of the
13 population. From 44 percent in your previous
14 proposal. As in the Senate plan the current map
15 has district two cutting through northern
16 Richland County, cracking substantial black
17 communities in a way that dilutes minority
18 influence. Black communities are also cracked
19 around Sumter. In addition, we believe it's a
20 violation of major communities of interest to
21 send district five dominated by the Charlotte
22 suburbs far in to the interior of the state.
23 However the most obvious racial gerrymander is
24 the low country. Dividing Charleston County and
25 even the city of Charleston as you have in this

1 proposal serves principally to ensure low
2 minority population in CD1 so that white
3 occupants of the lower Charleston peninsula,
4 Mount Pleasant, and Seabrook and Kiawah can
5 dominate that district. This plan reduces the
6 black voting age population in CD1 to 16 percent
7 from 21 percent in your initial plan. The league
8 plan which keeps Charleston County whole shows a
9 black voting age population of 23 percent. We
10 are aware of the public testimony focused on
11 keeping Beaufort County in CD1 and also over the
12 past several months of many members of the public
13 who testified about concern of the fragmentation
14 of the Charleston area. It isn't either or,
15 there are other options in how the map can be
16 drawn but if the question was whether it's more
17 important to keep North Charleston with
18 Charleston or Beaufort with Charleston, the
19 answer should be obvious. North Charleston and
20 Charleston share a much bigger number of economic
21 and social interests with one another than
22 Beaufort and Charleston do. I could add that
23 Charleston and Beaufort are sometimes in
24 competition with respect to imported economic
25 issues with federal implications. For example

1 Jasper port development. But this map puts the
2 Charleston shipyards in CD6, to be represented by
3 a congressman whose district is largely in inland
4 areas. Clearly keeping the coast zone whole has
5 not been a priority in drawing these maps. We
6 ask that you revisit the league proposal. It's
7 narrowly tailored to respond to minority needs as
8 required by the voting rights act without
9 cracking or packing minority communities. It is
10 faithful to legitimate communities of interest
11 and traditional redistricting criteria. Thank
12 you. I'd be happy to respond to any questions.

13 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Seeing none, thank you very much for
14 your testimony. Next we're going to go virtual
15 for just a minute. I believe we have Sam Grant
16 on standby. Mr. Grant we can see you, believe
17 you're muted. Mr. Grant can you hear and see us?

18 MR. GRANT: Yes, I can.

19 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: All right. There we go. Now we're
20 ready, we're ready to hear from you.

21 MR. GRANT: Greetings Mr. Chairman (audio cuts out at
22 this time). Today we'll hear from concerned
23 citizens all across the state speaking as to why
24 this bill is not what's best for residents of the
25 Lowcountry in both congressional districts. I

1 was raised and have lived in Columbia all of my
2 life and just recently I started attending school
3 at Charleston Southern University in North
4 Charleston. So I like to consider myself a part-
5 time resident of both cities. And although I
6 have only lived in the low country for a few
7 months I can tell that the proposed map in
8 question that would put North Charleston,
9 Daniel's Island and parts of Charleston and West
10 Ashley in Columbia based district six would be
11 catastrophic and frankly not worth the paper that
12 it's printed on. Columbia and Charleston are
13 vastly different areas geographically,
14 economically and culturally and putting these
15 parts of Charleston I have mentioned in district
16 six would not serve these areas well at all. So
17 I'd like to expand specifically on how these two
18 communities have very different needs and after
19 my short time in North Charleston they have
20 become very evident to me. A prime example is
21 the roads. Driving in Columbia the only things I
22 have had to worry about was 5:00 o'clock traffic
23 and the occasional pothole here and there.
24 However in the Charleston area I have these
25 problems on top of dealing with critical

1 infrastructure issues combined with rising sea
2 levels that have gone unaddressed that cause
3 streets to flood almost every single time it
4 rains. Another example, just a brief walk in
5 downtown Columbia will reveal a problem with
6 homelessness the city. And certain factors
7 causing it are unique to this area. Just like in
8 the city of North Charleston we are currently
9 experiencing unprecedented high rates of eviction
10 unique to this city and unparalleled almost
11 anywhere else in the state. So again we see two
12 communities with drastically different needs that
13 deserve representation centered around them
14 specifically and not another city 100 miles away.
15 And we can make up excuses and try to justify
16 this all we want but the bottom line is it
17 doesn't make logical sense to put North
18 Charleston, Daniels Island and parts of the city
19 of Charleston and West Ashley in district six.
20 And the thing is, this shouldn't even need to be
21 stated. We already know that these areas are
22 different and their needs are different as well.
23 And the only explanation for this map even being
24 in existence is that it serves a larger political
25 purpose. And in this case, that purpose is to

1 gut the first district to insure an inherent
2 advantage for one party in the congressional
3 election. So this is not right, downright
4 unethical and it is not in the best interest of
5 the Charleston area or Columbia for that matter.
6 We send you our state officials to Columbia to
7 represent our best interests, not play politics
8 with our lives and the lives of our neighbors and
9 that is exactly what this map is going to be
10 doing. And allowing this bill to advance would
11 be a disservice to both the Lowcountry and the
12 midlands. And the last thing I have to say is
13 that when I go to the polls to vote for the first
14 time in November I will be voting for the leaders
15 who I feel will best represent the interest and
16 needs of my community, not those who seek to use
17 myself and my neighbors as pawns on a political
18 chessboard. Thank you for your time and
19 consideration and I yield back.

20 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you so much for your
21 appearance today. Next we have Ms. Brenda Murphy
22 I believe present with us this morning.

23 MS. MURPHY: Good morning.

24 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Good morning.

25 MS. MURPHY: Chairman Jordan and committee members.

1 My name is Brenda Murphy I am the president of
2 the South Carolina State Conference NAACP. Which
3 I refer to as South Carolina NAACP during this
4 presentation. We are an organization that is
5 comprised of 77 branches and approximately 13,000
6 members that are throughout the state of South
7 Carolina. Indeed our members and the
8 constituents that the South Carolina NAACP serves
9 live and are registered voters in each of South
10 Carolina's seven congressional districts.
11 Therefore, equal access to representatives to the
12 -- of their choice and their ability to elect
13 their preferred candidates is, to us, a very
14 important concern. Thank you for the opportunity
15 to testify about this Committee's proposed
16 Congressional redistricting maps. Once again I'm
17 providing these brief remarks on behalf of the
18 association that I lead and a coalition that
19 includes South Carolina NAACP, the NAACP Legal
20 Defense fund known as LDF and the ACLU, and the
21 ACLU of South Carolina. More detailed comments
22 have been submitted in writing and what I am
23 doing is giving a brief overview this morning of
24 that detailed report. It was sent to the
25 committee by email this morning. Unfortunately

1 this Committee's proposed congressional maps are
2 flawed in several material ways. The recently
3 proposed House alternative map is especially
4 concerning, it dilutes the black voting strength
5 across the state. It harms all voters in at
6 least two ways. First, it consolidates the
7 political power of non-black voters everywhere
8 except South Carolina's lone majority district.
9 And the only Congressional district with a black
10 representative. Which is we know CD6. Second it
11 all but ensures that CD1 is uncompetitive
12 politically and in so doing harms black voters.
13 To understand these grave problems I briefly -- I
14 will briefly discuss two other maps under
15 consideration by a South Carolina legislature and
16 explain why this alternative map is unacceptably
17 more of the same. The Senate's initial
18 Congressional redistricting proposal. The Senate
19 was the first body to propose a Congressional map
20 during this cycle. Is it important to recall
21 that the Senate's map was widely condemned,
22 including by the South Carolina NAACP, for
23 several reasons that are relevant to the
24 alternative map, House map. First, the Senate
25 map ended Congressional district one status as a

1 competitive district where all voters would have
2 a meaningful opportunity to have a say in who
3 wins the general election for what seat. Second,
4 and relatedly, the Senate's map cracks black
5 voters in several key areas. For example it
6 cracks black communities in Charleston and North
7 Charleston. Where black voters in these
8 important parts of our state are a cohesive
9 community of interest because of a shared economy
10 and job market, shared media and other factors.
11 It also splits black communities in Sumter and it
12 makes Fort Jackson part of CD2, breaking apart
13 black communities in the Northwest Richland
14 County from neighboring communities of black
15 voters to do so. Third, the Senate's proposed
16 map impairs black voters ability to elect
17 candidates of their choice or meaningfully
18 influence elections in every district outside of
19 Congressional district six. As you know our
20 coalition proposed maps on the October the 8th,
21 nearly three months ago, as did other groups,
22 showing that minimizing black political power
23 outside of CD6 was not only unnecessary but it is
24 harmful. As we are nearly 30 percent of the
25 voters in our state we expect to have our voices

1 heard in more than just one district out of our
2 seven. Fourth, no district in this Senate
3 proposal has a majority black voting age
4 population. Even though our coalition and others
5 proposed maps showing how to add more voters to
6 CD6, a severely underpopulated district, by only
7 retaining CD6 as a hard-won majority black
8 district respecting communities of interest and
9 following other criteria. Because of these
10 issues and others, the Senate promised to
11 incorporate feedback and make improvements.
12 Second, the house initial congressional
13 redistricting proposal. The house proposal
14 proposed this initial map which made improvements
15 over the Senate's in some ways. It restored CD6
16 as a majority black district, it increased the
17 black population of CD1 so CD1 incredibly no
18 longer have the lowest black voting population of
19 our 07 Congressional district and it corrected
20 the split of black voters in Sumter. Still that
21 initial House map fell short in several ways.
22 First it too made sure that CD1 would not be
23 politically competitive. Second, it continued to
24 split black communities seemingly for partisan
25 advantages and it protected incumbents. For

1 example Charleston county was out -- was cut into
2 pieces to put more black voters in CD6, which has
3 already been mentioned, but we had told the South
4 Carolina legislators as did other groups that
5 cohesive black communities in Charleston and
6 North Charleston do not need to be split to
7 comply with the one person one vote principal or
8 the voting rights act. And they certainly should
9 not be cracked apart to minimize black voting
10 strength. The initial House map also breaks part
11 of Richland County into CD5 even though no
12 meaningful community of interest exists between
13 CD5 and Richland County. If this body respects
14 communities of interest there are more reasons to
15 pair northern Richland and Lexington than
16 Charlotte suburbs which anchor CD5.
17 Additionally, the House initial proposed
18 Congressional map split Burkley County between
19 CD1 and CD6, carving out historically black areas
20 on the east side of Berkley County to place them
21 needlessly in CD6. The House alternative
22 Congressional redistricting map. This brings us
23 to the last week, December 22nd, before Christmas
24 eve. That's when the House released this
25 alternative congressional map. Unfortunately,

1 this map repeats many of the same problems as the
2 Senates proposals. For one it reduces the B-vap
3 in CD6 to below a majority. Adopting it would
4 make none of South Carolina congressional
5 district have a black majority. Even though
6 black voters are 29 percent of the voting age
7 population. And like the Senate and the initial
8 house proposals, the alternative maps continue to
9 split black communities and prevent competitive
10 elections, harming all voters. To dilute black
11 voting strength in CD1 and other districts it
12 makes largely the same cuts through black
13 communities in Richland County and the same cuts
14 through Sumter as the flawed Senate proposal. It
15 also continues to separate much of Charleston and
16 North Charleston and it appears to follow racial
17 lines in its splits of Dorchester and Berkley
18 County. In short, both the initial and
19 alternative House proposals fail to reflect the
20 voting strength of black South Carolinians,
21 particularly outside of CD6. And both House maps
22 erase what could be and what has been shown to be
23 a politically competitive Congressional district
24 in South Carolina, cracking black communities to
25 achieve that end. In closing, we urge you to

1 amend these maps and to seriously consider the
2 two congressional plans our coalition submitted
3 in October. Both of our plans correct for
4 population imbalances between CD1 and CD6 and
5 other districts without denying black South
6 Carolinians an equal vote in the state's
7 Congressional elections. I appreciate the
8 opportunity to provide this testimony today and I
9 look forward to working with you for all of the
10 people of South Carolina. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you Ms. Murphy for your
12 testimony. I believe we have next, virtually,
13 Zachary Kronsberg.

14 MS. DEAN: Mr. Kronsberg, if you could mute the
15 scstatehouse.gov feed, that's where you're
16 getting -- okay.

17 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: And also for those that wish to
18 participate virtually, please sign on to the
19 Teams program that you should have received via
20 email. All right. Mr. Kronsberg, we're ready to
21 hear from you when you're ready to go, sir.

22 MR. KRONSBERG: All right. So I just -- I'm going to
23 be brief in my comments. I am a resident of
24 Charleston County I live on James Island and I
25 have lived in the first Congressional district my

1 whole life. I'm currently a senior at the
2 College of Charleston and I'm writing a senior
3 thesis, a bachelor's essay, on Congressional
4 redistricting and so I wrote a letter to the
5 editor to the Post and Courier that was
6 ironically published on December 23rd, the day
7 after the alternative map was published, largely
8 praising the first House map but the Post and
9 Courier published my letter to the editor on the
10 23rd making it -- and though it was clear that I
11 was talking about the first map. But what I want
12 to say is that I want to echo the sentiments of
13 the previous speakers about the issues in this
14 map and that it -- the alternative map and it
15 returns to many of the problems of the Senate map
16 in that Charleston we saw with the first house
17 map that most of Charleston County can be put
18 into the same congressional district. Which is
19 what Charleston residents have been calling for
20 this whole process. Yes there are issues --
21 there were issues with the first plan and part of
22 Charleston County was not in the first
23 Congressional district. And I think that those
24 issues can be remedied, however going from that
25 first map to this alternative plan is clearly --

1 was clearly the wrong direction, in my opinion.
2 As Ms. Teague said, if you have to prioritize
3 putting -- if you have to choose between putting
4 North Charleston or Beaufort with Charleston in a
5 Congressional district I think the choice is
6 clear because North Charleston shares a lot more
7 economically, culturally, geographically with
8 Charleston than it shares with Columbia so it
9 certainly should not continue being in the sixth
10 congressional district and it shares more with
11 Charleston than Beaufort shares with Charleston.
12 I just think that it's important to create
13 Congressional districts that reflect the needs
14 and geography of our state and when I saw the
15 first map that the House put it out it seems like
16 the closest that -- as a realist that I thought
17 was possible to getting to a first Congressional
18 district that looked like it represented the
19 needs of the people that have -- in this part of
20 the state. Again, it was not perfect but I think
21 it was certainly superior to the first
22 congressional district drawn -- well it was the
23 whole map was superior to either the Senate map
24 or the alternative map. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: All right. Thank you, sir, for your

1 comments as a College of Charleston graduate I
2 congratulate you on seeking a superior education.
3 I'm getting feedback from the room. But at any
4 rate, thank you sir for appearing before us
5 today. Next up virtually as well I believe we
6 have Gloria --

7 MS. DEAN: Ms. Aslaaidis, if you will just mute the
8 scstatehouse.gov feed that will get rid of the
9 echo that you're hearing.

10 MS. ASLAAIDIS: I'm doing it right now.

11 MS. DEAN: Great, thank you.

12 MS. ASLAAIDIS: Okay. Can you hear me?

13 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: We can hear you and see you. Look
14 forward to your testimony, yes, ma'am.

15 MS. ASLAAIDIS: I'm here as a resident of Charleston
16 County the city of Charleston and West Ashley and
17 Charleston County, part of the city. I am coming
18 to you to ask you to keep my community together.
19 I have lived in Charleston for over 38 years in
20 the first congressional district, now I'm in the
21 sixth. It's -- I can't think of any reason for
22 doing so. I haven't -- my interests, my
23 community's interests have nothing really in
24 common with Lexington or Columbia area other than
25 we're in the same state. As a whole, I get that

1 representation for my two US Senators for the
2 federal government I don't need an overall
3 statewide representation for my Congressional
4 district as well. I heard that part of it was
5 done to keep coastal areas together however not
6 the entire coast was in one congressional
7 district. Charleston County should be kept as a
8 whole in the first congressional district. I
9 can't think of any reason why we should be split
10 up. And so I just ask you to respect my county,
11 keep my community together. And that's all I
12 have to say, thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for your testimony today.
14 All right. That takes us to the conclusion of
15 the virtual testimonies is there anyone else that
16 wishes to speak today here today in the Blatt
17 building that did not sign up? Seeing none --
18 representative Bernstein?

19 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Yeah. I was hoping that we
20 could -- I could ask some questions that -- I
21 didn't need to ask any questions of anybody who
22 testified but I think it's important as the
23 Committee just to get some questions answered if
24 possible because the last time we met as a public
25 -- in this public forum, we had a map that we

1 took feedback from, public testimony and some
2 feedback from, and then last week as I was out of
3 town a new map was drafted, unbeknownst to me.
4 I'm not sure about the other members of the
5 Committee. And so I guess I think it is
6 pertinent and prudent to make -- to ask certain
7 questions of why an alternative map was drawn and
8 I guess we'll start with that.

9 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: So -- and I apologize I should have
10 back and cleared some of this up in my intro I
11 gave a lot of this information.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay. I'm sorry.

13 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: So essentially what we had on the
14 drawing board for the first public input period
15 was a staff proposal, all right. We took input
16 back in December the 16th, I believe it was, and
17 much like today we heard from various members of
18 the State of South Carolina staff took that input
19 and compiled an alternative staff plan. Again,
20 that was then pushed out and it sits on the same
21 footing as the prior staff proposal, as does the
22 -- we also included on the website the Senate
23 proposed plan which of course has not been voted
24 on either by the Senate sits out there as a
25 proposed Congressional plan. All those maps sit

1 out there as merely that, proposals. We of
2 course then take testimony today. My intention
3 was to hear the testimony through the public yet
4 again and then not take any action today but
5 reconvene as an ad hoc committee once we've had
6 the chance to digest that public input, see if we
7 have the need for an additional staff stab at it
8 so to speak, also allow the opportunity for
9 anyone that wishes to submit alternative plans
10 for us to consider as of course we've already
11 received, but leave that comment and proposal
12 period open until we meet again as the ad hoc
13 committee. And then sort of flesh out what are
14 the pros and cons and what do we want to send
15 forward to the full judiciary for consideration
16 at that time.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay. Thank you for that
18 clarification, I apologize I missed that because
19 I was late.

20 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: No, I should have gone back and
21 cleared that up at the end of the public input
22 period.

23 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: I guess my question is, I'm
24 not sure why we did the alternative map and was
25 it the Senate and house staff map or this is

1 strictly just the house staff map? This
2 alternative map.

3 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: So this alternative map is strictly
4 a House staff proposal.

5 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay.

6 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: It mirrors in stature, I guess, I'd
7 say the original staff proposal. They sit out
8 there right now as equals. I can tell you and
9 you might remember today we've heard a lot from
10 Charleston. The previous public input we heard a
11 tremendous amount from the folks at Beaufort with
12 I guess I would consider alternative testimony to
13 these two different plans. Seems to me both
14 Beaufort and pieces of Charleston want the same -
15 - or want two different things. I would tell you
16 that this alternative plan is largely after
17 consideration of the comments we received, staff
18 received, from the original public hearing back
19 on December, I believe it was, the 13th or 16th.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Well let me ask this
21 question as it was asked I believe in the Senate
22 hearings for its map, were any national partisan
23 groups involved in preparation, discussion, with
24 this alternative House plan?

25 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: I would tell you that as staff drew

1 both plans they had the benefit of lots of
2 different testimony during the course of our road
3 show back in the fall, as well as multiple
4 proposals from individuals and national groups of
5 their own proposals and had the benefit of the
6 Senate plan going out first and it receiving
7 input by way of individuals as well as national
8 groups. So I would say I guess the answer is the
9 staff had the benefit of those different elements
10 in drafting both our versions.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: So would that be yes, some
12 national partisan groups were consulted or
13 involved in drafting of the second alternative
14 map?

15 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: I don't know if I'd say they were
16 consulted. I would say their plans and inputs
17 were received and as a result were available for
18 consideration, does that make sense?

19 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: It does, it does. What
20 about did any incumbent congressmen -- because we
21 don't have any women so I can say congressmen,
22 have any input on these maps before they were
23 released to the public and to the committee?

24 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: I have -- you're talking about --
25 well we do have one female member.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Oh yeah, we do. Nancy
2 Mays, I'm sorry. I mis-spoke, yes, you're right.
3 I apologize, Nancy.

4 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: I don't know if they presented plans
5 or not I'm sure.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Is that something staff can
7 answer?

8 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Staff can probably get us to the
9 bottom of that at an appropriate time.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay. So at this junction
11 we don't know if any members of congress,
12 existing members of congress who represent the
13 South Carolina delegation, had any input on these
14 maps prior to our seeing them as a committee or
15 its public release, because I believe that's the
16 first time I saw it was after it was released to
17 the public.

18 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: You talking about the first map or
19 the second map?

20 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Both. I'm really concerned
21 about the second map, honestly. Because while
22 the first map needed, you know -- I had some
23 trepidation and concern about some of the aspects
24 of the first map the second alternative map I'm
25 calling it second or slash alternative map really

1 replicates more of the Senate map which received
2 numerous complaints and vocalized concerns over
3 it. And I just don't know why we are even
4 entertaining this alternative map, unbeknownst to
5 me as a committee member.

6 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Well I don't know that we're
7 entertaining it right this minute.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay. We're submitting it
9 as a committee map.

10 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Well it's a staff proposal.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Staff-proposed map.

12 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Just like the prior map and it sits
13 as I've said many times it's an opportunity for a
14 starting point. It's an opportunity to initiate
15 conversation just like we've had. We've have
16 folks from Beaufort come and say we don't like
17 the original plan. We've heard from folks in
18 Charleston say we don't like parts of this plan.
19 You know. So it's a -- I would say it's a
20 starting point for the conversation for the
21 committee to consider the pros and cons of the
22 different concepts of where these district lines
23 need to be drawn. And my plan and opinion on
24 this has been the same from the beginning. We
25 need to take -- we need to push out a starting

1 point, give everyone an opportunity to weigh in
2 on their opinion on the different versions, we
3 need to digest all that and then once we re-
4 gather, you know, I'm sure we'll go through the
5 process just like we do on a regular piece of
6 legislation. Someone will make a motion for this
7 version, the other version, or a different
8 version that we received between now and our next
9 meeting and then from there we'll send it to the
10 full judiciary to continue on its journey.

11 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay. And I don't want to
12 belabor this point I just need to put out there
13 that I want to vocalize that if the starting
14 point was for a map, the first initial map, there
15 was probably no reason to have an alternative
16 map. I think the alternative map really does not
17 have any competitive district drawn at all and I
18 don't think that is the purpose of our committee
19 to draw districts like we have on the alternative
20 map. And I wanted to make sure that I've
21 vocalized and voiced those concerns and I
22 appreciate you giving me the time to do this.

23 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Of course.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: And we will continue this
25 discussion. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Certainly.

2 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Representative Henegan.

4 MS. HENEGAN: Thank you. Thank you very much. When
5 do you plan to meet again? Could you give me an
6 idea, because I -- I just want to be able to
7 change my calender.

8 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Certainly. Give me until the end of
9 the day to figure that out. Obviously with new
10 years coming it won't be this week. It will
11 either be the end of next week or the very
12 beginning of the following week. Trying to work
13 with everybody's schedules of course we have
14 session looming and we have obviously a
15 timeliness issue with moving this process forward
16 as quickly as we can. So my intention would be
17 to call us back together sooner than later.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HENEGAN: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Representative Bernstein.

20 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: As a follow up to that, the
21 next meeting would we be voting on a map?

22 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: I would say most likely that is the
23 case.

24 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay.

25 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Given the timeliness of the issue we

1 have the full House coming back into session on
2 the 11th so for planning purposes obviously
3 things could change but I would plan on us
4 attempting to have a meeting in which we could
5 vote on a proposal.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BERNSTEIN: Okay. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN JORDAN: And that also goes back to -- I
8 don't know what number we're on now as an ad hoc
9 committee of meetings but it's in the -- well
10 into the double digits at this point. So all
11 right again I'll finish where I start. Thank you
12 very much for the members of the committee for
13 making time I know it's a busy time of the year.
14 Thank you Representative Newton also good to see
15 you, sir. Thank you for tuning in with us today.
16 And thank you to the members of the public that
17 took time out of their schedule both in person
18 and virtually to tell us to give us feedback and
19 give us things to consider as we move forward in
20 this ever important process and with that I wish
21 you a happy new year. Coming up it's hard to
22 believe 2022 is days away but I wish you all the
23 best as you celebrate with your families and
24 friends and I look forward to seeing everybody
25 back very, very soon. With that this meeting is

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adjourned.
(There being nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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