



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.)

\* \* \* \* \*

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

I, JENNIFER NOTTLE, COURT REPORTER AND NOTARY PUBLIC  
IN AND FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AT LARGE, HEREBY  
CERTIFY THAT I TRANSCRIBED THE RECORDING OF THIS PROCEEDING  
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THAT THE FOREGOING 34 PAGES CONSTITUTE A TRUE AND CORRECT  
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I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER ATTORNEY NOR  
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9TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.



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