

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Florence, SC

April 5, 2011

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REP. CLEMMONS: Ladies and gentleman, I'd like to welcome you to our -- this meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee of the South Carolina House of Representatives, otherwise known as the South Carolina Redistricting Hearing. I would invite you to come forward, if you have not already done so, to sign the ledger. If there's anybody else that would like to speak, please feel free to sign the ledger if you'd like to speak. We also have spreadsheets up front that reflect all of the districts in the South Carolina House of Representatives, the 2000 population numbers as well as the current 2010 population numbers, along with the population target for House districts and the corresponding amount of population that House districts are going to shed or gain in order to come within the required reapportioned numbers. I'd like -- before we get started here, I'd like to introduce some special folks with us here today who are members of the House of Representatives. I will introduce first those members of my subcommittee who are here

1 with me. To my far left is Bakari Sellers.  
2 Next to me is Jenny Horne. This is Karl  
3 Allen. And to my far right is Tom Young. We  
4 also have with us Mr. Patrick Dennis down  
5 front who is our counsel to advise as when we  
6 run into problems and need some whispered  
7 advice. I'd also like to introduce other  
8 members of the South Carolina House of  
9 Representatives that are with us. And as I  
10 call your name, if you'd stand so we can  
11 recognize you. We have Roberts Williams with  
12 us from Florence/Darlington County.

13 [Applause]

14 You didn't clap when I was  
15 introduced here, but that's okay. We have  
16 from Williamsburg County, Ronnie Sabb.

17 [Applause]

18 From Dillon County and a little bit of  
19 Horry County, Coach Jackie Hayes.

20 [Applause]

21 From Marlboro County, Elizabeth  
22 Munnerlyn.

23 [Applause]

24 From Darlington County, Denny Neilson and  
25 Dave Neilson, her husband.

1 [Applause]

2 And from Florence County, Terry  
3 Alexander.

4

5 [Applause]

6 Did I miss anybody? Great. Well, thank  
7 you. We almost have a quorum here. Ladies  
8 and gentlemen, these hearings are only a first  
9 step in a long and involved process that must  
10 be followed to complete a workable  
11 redistricting plan. We hope to start tonight  
12 in Florence, and at the other hearings  
13 throughout the state, by listening to  
14 extensive public input and then using your  
15 input to form the basis of how we proceed.  
16 From that input this subcommittee must create  
17 and submit to the full House Judiciary  
18 Committee a plan for how to draw lines for the  
19 South Carolina House, all 124 seats and also  
20 for the United States Congress, including the  
21 new 7th Congressional District that South  
22 Carolina received in the last reapportion  
23 process. The full committee must then submit  
24 a plan that may or may not be the same as the  
25 subcommittee's plan that must be submitted to

1 the full House for all of the members of the  
2 judiciary to consider. Any plan that gains  
3 approval of the House, and later the Senate,  
4 must be submitted to the United States Justice  
5 Department, pursuant to the Voting Rights Act.  
6 That's a process that's called pre-clearance.  
7 If it is determined by the Justice Department  
8 or the courts that the plan does not first  
9 comply with the constitutional mandates of one  
10 man/one vote and equal protection. And,  
11 second, with the statutory requirements of the  
12 Voting Rights Act more work may still need to  
13 be done on our plan.

14 Tonight's goal is to listen to each of  
15 you. Each and every interested party that  
16 tells us how they would like -- what they  
17 would like to see accomplished in the House's  
18 drawing of the new district lines for both the  
19 South Carolina House of Representatives and  
20 for Unites States Congress. We're here  
21 tonight to listen to your concerns and  
22 recommendations as to what the subcommittee  
23 should consider in the process. As the House  
24 undertakes the process of redrawing District  
25 lines, public input is indispensable. It

1 helps us to shape a House that best represents  
2 the people of South Carolina. The House of  
3 Representatives is often called the People's  
4 House. It's called that because it is your  
5 House. You are here to help us draw that  
6 House tonight. In order to continue to earn  
7 that distinction, we must know how the people  
8 want their House to look, how the people wish  
9 to be represented. That's the sole purpose of  
10 this hearing tonight: to hear from the public  
11 and take your guidance as we shape the House  
12 and congressional districts for the coming  
13 decade. We welcome any input which helps us  
14 understand specific issues in your area in  
15 which identifies neighborhoods, political  
16 subdivisions or other areas which you believe  
17 the subcommittee should take into  
18 consideration when drawing such lines.  
19 Resulting from this series of hearings, our  
20 subcommittee plans to adopt a set of criteria  
21 that will be drawn primarily from what we hear  
22 from the public. These criteria will be the  
23 guiding principles by which the House will  
24 redraw the district line. As you all know,  
25 the plan that is ultimately produced must,

1 more than anything else, assure the principle  
2 of one man/one vote, or one woman/one vote,  
3 meaning that we are required to have as equal  
4 a population in each district as possible.  
5 But beyond those requirements this  
6 subcommittee is particularly interested in  
7 what political subdivisions or what smaller  
8 communities have in common, or what those  
9 communities or political subdivisions do not  
10 have in common, that would suggest that they  
11 should be placed into one or multiple  
12 districts.

13 While this hearing is being conducted in  
14 Florence to allow residence of the immediate  
15 area an opportunity for input, the  
16 subcommittee is happy to hear testimony from  
17 anyone interested in any part of the state or  
18 the state as a whole.

19 Because tonight's hearing will become  
20 part of the record in this matter, this  
21 proceeding is also being recorded and will be  
22 transcribed. To make sure that we have a  
23 clear record, I would ask that each witness  
24 come to the microphone, speak slowly and  
25 clearly, state your name and your address and

1 identify the district or districts that you're  
2 interested in addressing. If you are  
3 appearing tonight on behalf of a group, such  
4 as a political party, a public interest group  
5 or other organization, please let us know that  
6 information as well. I, and other members of  
7 this committee, may make comments and ask  
8 questions about particular areas which may not  
9 reflect the intentions or recommendations of  
10 the committee or of the House of  
11 Representatives. We will also be glad to  
12 answer general questions about the process, if  
13 we can. However, because this is the first  
14 part of a long process of gathering  
15 information from around the state, we may not  
16 be able to answer specific questions at this  
17 time.

18 I anticipate that this meeting will last  
19 approximately two hours, and while we want to  
20 hear everything that anyone has to offer to  
21 us, we do reserve the right to limit  
22 individual testimony to ten minutes, if  
23 necessary. I would ask that each person as  
24 they offer testimony be considerate of others  
25 who are here to offer their opinions as well.



1 would you please rise to the microphone and  
2 address us, sharing with us your name and  
3 address and any political organization or  
4 other organization that you might be  
5 representing tonight.

6 MR. PHILLIPS: My name is Tommy Phillips. I live at  
7 1703-A Pineland Avenue in Florence. I'm a  
8 member of the Republican party, but I'm not  
9 here representing the Republican party. I  
10 want to tell you how much I appreciate y'all  
11 coming and listening to what we have to say.  
12 What I'm going to say, I guess, probably is  
13 more concerned with the hopes that we'll get  
14 the 7th district in this area. And I wanted  
15 to give you some information about this area  
16 to show you why the 7th district would be an  
17 advantage to the state. I've lived here in  
18 Florence since 1958. I've watched the Pee Dee  
19 grow and become a valuable part of South  
20 Carolina. The counties of the Pee Dee -  
21 Florence, Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion  
22 and Horry counties individually have their own  
23 leadership qualities, and combined would make  
24 an excellent 7th district. We have quite a  
25 bit to offer. It would be a decisive

1 advantage for the state to put the 7th  
2 district over here.

3 And some of the things that we have to  
4 offer to start off with, the interstates. We  
5 have I95 that comes straight through this  
6 area. We have I20, it either ends here or  
7 begins here, it depends on which way you're  
8 going. If you're going south, it begins here.  
9 And if you're coming back, it ends here. But  
10 the value is it ties together. Something that  
11 a lot of people don't realize is that the Pee  
12 Dee area and Florence/Dillon area is  
13 approximately 30 miles off of dead center  
14 between New York and Miami which makes us  
15 pretty well halfway between a lot of other  
16 places. So we have a lot of travel here. We  
17 have a lot of traffic that comes through it.  
18 People that come into this area appreciate the  
19 interstate capabilities and how they can get  
20 to where they want to from this area. When  
21 I73 is finished it will enhance this area  
22 quite a bit and will make it more valuable and  
23 more accessible to the entire United States.

24 As I mentioned, we have an excellent  
25 geographic area because we are halfway between

1 a lot of places and it makes us a stopping off  
2 area for everybody. We have excellent  
3 education and recreation. We have Coastal  
4 Carolina College; we have Coker College; we  
5 have Francis Marion; we have some of the best,  
6 if not the best, tech centers that are in the  
7 state. This one that you're sitting in right  
8 now is one of the best. We have land for  
9 industrial and business locations. What used  
10 to be a lot of farm land is now changed over  
11 and is available for industry. And that could  
12 be a big asset to a new congressional  
13 district. However, our greatest asset is our  
14 people. And don't look at our unemployment  
15 figures as a negative. I look at them as a  
16 source of employeeorables, people that need to  
17 be employed. And they're interest in  
18 relearning and being reeducated so they can  
19 help make the 7th district and the Pee Dee  
20 area grow. Other parts of the state are  
21 bogged down and way too congested. And the  
22 fact if they built too many more industry over  
23 in the Greenville/Spartanburg, that end of the  
24 state is going to sink below the mountains.

25 Also, over there if you need a piece of

1 flat space you pretty much have to cut the top  
2 off of a mountain, then we won't have anymore  
3 mountains. We have room here to expand and we  
4 have the roadways to expanding it. We're  
5 working here in Florence to expand Highway 378  
6 and also Highway 51 into four lanes. When we  
7 do that we'll have an excellent corridor for  
8 entrance to and exit from the Myrtle  
9 Beach/Horry County area which, as everybody  
10 will agree, is an excellent recreation area.  
11 It draws tourists and draws quite a bit of  
12 income for the state for that area.

13 Something else that some of the realtors  
14 here might know about, and maybe you've never  
15 heard the remark made, we're part of what's  
16 called the golden real estate corridor. Back  
17 several years ago people who lived primarily  
18 in the north or lived primarily in the south  
19 got tired of either being excessively cold or  
20 excessively hot, so they started moving into a  
21 mean temperature area. There's a band about  
22 30 miles wide that runs from mid Virginia down  
23 into mid Georgia and crosses through us. That  
24 eastern border of that band is about 50 miles  
25 from the coast which puts us right through the

1 middle of Florence and this area. We're  
2 having a lot of people move into the area, not  
3 just retirees but also people looking to start  
4 their own businesses. I believe that the Pee  
5 Dee area, including those counties that I  
6 mentioned to you, can be a tremendous asset to  
7 the state of South Carolina as the 7th  
8 district. I thank you for listening.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you so much, Mr. Phillips.  
10 I would like to share that if -- if you are  
11 signed up to speak and someone previous to you  
12 shares the same content that you wish to  
13 share, you can just reference those remarks  
14 and say I agree with everything they said and  
15 it will be added in the record accordingly.  
16 So with that, thank you Mr. Phillips.

17 Next we have Ron Moore signed up to  
18 speak. Mr. Moore.

19 MR. MOORE: I'm Ron Moore from 833 St. George Drive  
20 in Florence. I'm not here on behalf of any  
21 organization or group, just citizens like me  
22 who want their vote to count. I want to speak  
23 to you, although I will make a brief reference  
24 to the new 7th congressional district, I  
25 really want to speak to you this evening about

1 the twin sisters of Gerrymandering and voter  
2 dilution. I've written my remarks and  
3 prepared them to keep my mind straight and  
4 keep me from getting confused as I speak. And  
5 I want to preface everything by saying just a  
6 couple of things.

7 One, thank you for coming. We really  
8 appreciate having you come into our area and  
9 to listen to our concerns. And, secondly, I  
10 don't want to sound presumptuous in the things  
11 that I am going to say here as knowing more  
12 than you do because I know that I don't.  
13 Y'all have wrestled with this periodically for  
14 a long time, and you'll be wrestling with it  
15 in great detail for a long time to come as you  
16 work your way through all of this. But I've  
17 tried to do my research and tried to wrap my  
18 head around what this redistricting is all  
19 about and to get the facts as I understand  
20 them. And I certainly welcome your comments  
21 at any time to correct me if I have any of  
22 these facts or assumptions that I have made  
23 incorrect. So let me just begin with some of  
24 these pre-written remarks. I understand that  
25 section two of the Voting Right Act protects

1 minority voters from practices and procedures  
2 that would deprive them of an effective vote.  
3 I also appreciate that any practice that would  
4 have the effect of depriving minority of an  
5 equal opportunity to elect a candidate of  
6 their choice constitutes minority vote  
7 dilution. I also recognize that the challenge  
8 facing legislators during any redistricting  
9 cycle is to ensure that they draw plans that  
10 do not dilute minority voting strength as that  
11 would otherwise bring liability under the Act.  
12 What I do not understand, however, why  
13 depriving majority voters an equal opportunity  
14 to elect the candidate of their choice doesn't  
15 also constitute vote dilution. Isn't that  
16 robbing them of their effective vote? For a  
17 legislature -- a legislation body to  
18 deliberately and arbitrarily dilute one  
19 citizen's vote in order to empower the vote of  
20 another, no matter how sincere the motive is  
21 on its face unfair, and I believe  
22 unconstitutional. But that is exactly what  
23 Gerrymandering of the 6th District has done.  
24 Vote dilution most commonly occurs when  
25 those who draw redistricting plans compress

1 minority communities into a small number of  
2 districts. That's called packing. Or spread  
3 them thinly into a large number of districts  
4 which is called cracking, fracturing or  
5 splitting. Now, I get that and I understand  
6 how these practices would dilute minority  
7 vote. They are wrong. But aren't these very  
8 practices used to dilute the majority vote  
9 when the 6th District was carved out? Even  
10 when motivated by good intentions, this kind  
11 of Gerrymandering is a blatant violation of  
12 the fundamental redistricting principles as I  
13 understand them.

14 I've written a couple here. Contiguous  
15 and compact territories. Now, some -- since  
16 contiguous means sharing a common border, in a  
17 strict sense the 6th District meets this  
18 criteria. But have you seen how the district  
19 is shaped? There is nothing compact about it,  
20 and it makes contiguity a farce. There is no  
21 question and not even an attempt to disguise  
22 the fact that this intentional Gerrymandering  
23 was done to make an otherwise minority voting  
24 block the majority in determining voice in an  
25 election. Since this kind of Gerrymandering

1 is deliberate majority vote dilution, why  
2 isn't it illegal?

3 Then there's the principle of preserving  
4 political subdivisions. As I understand this  
5 principle, it simply means that you cannot  
6 deliberately split up a predominantly  
7 Democratic or Republican region in such a way  
8 as to weaken the one and favor the other in an  
9 election. That's where the terms cracking,  
10 fracturing, and splitting come from. But  
11 don't forget the term packing. This occurs  
12 when district lines are drawn in such a way as  
13 to pack it with constituents of a particular  
14 political tendency. Although this kind of  
15 political Gerrymandering is illegal, it seems  
16 perfectly acceptable if it's goal is to  
17 augment a minority vote, and that's what was  
18 done in the 6th District.

19 Then, of course, there's preserving  
20 communities of interest. If one of the key  
21 principles in the redistricting process is to  
22 preserve communities of interest, then how do  
23 you justify splitting up communities like  
24 Florence, Sumter, and Columbia putting some of  
25 their citizens in one district while placing

1           their neighbors in another? Doesn't it make  
2           better since that the citizens of the Pee Dee  
3           have more common interest among themselves  
4           than they do with the citizens of the  
5           Lowcountry? Then why shouldn't those in the  
6           Pee Dee determine for themselves and with  
7           their neighbors who would best represent their  
8           interest in Congress. Gerrymandering dilutes  
9           their vote by denying the opportunity to  
10          combine their voices and resources to effect  
11          political change in their own communities.  
12          Nothing is as a greater affront to the  
13          Constitution than denying or diluting the vote  
14          of any citizen. And I believe for any reason  
15          Gerrymandering as a means to empower the  
16          minority vote via majority vote dilution  
17          violates virtually every basic principle of  
18          redistricting. The practice may have an  
19          admiral motive, but it is attempting to  
20          correct one wrong with another. And two  
21          wrongs have never made anything right.

22                 According to section five of the Act, any  
23                 redistricting plan in South Carolina must be  
24                 submitted to the Justice Department or to the  
25                 courts for review. They would review any

1 change in standard, practice or procedure with  
2 respect to voting to determine whether these  
3 changes have the purpose of -- or effect of  
4 denying or bridging the voting rights of  
5 protected minority groups. There's a very  
6 serious problem with this law. The  
7 Constitution isn't as much about protecting  
8 rights of groups as it is protecting the  
9 rights of individuals. Gerrymandering, by its  
10 very nature, grants an effective vote while  
11 diluting the vote of others. It's time to end  
12 that disenfranchising practice.

13 Now, I assume that the reason South  
14 Carolina is required to follow section five is  
15 because of past vote dilution practices. I  
16 learned over the weekend that back before  
17 these laws came into effect, South Carolina  
18 was predominantly a white, male, Democratic  
19 state. All the office holders, legislators,  
20 so on and so forth were all white, Democratic  
21 males. Now, things have changed a lot since  
22 then. I would offer the following as  
23 additional evidence that things are changing  
24 in South Carolina. Consider, for example,  
25 that in the solemnly Democratic 5th District

1 the citizens elected a conservative  
2 Republican. And the solemnly Republican 1st  
3 District the citizens elected a minority  
4 representative. In another historic events  
5 South Carolinians have elected its first  
6 minority female governor. And here in  
7 Florence for the first time a couple years ago  
8 Florence in an open seat in an open election  
9 elected its first female minority city council  
10 member. Most no longer vote on the sole basis  
11 of race, gender or party affiliation. It's  
12 time that our politicians do the same. Stop  
13 Gerrymandering now. Now, I'm not going to go  
14 over these court cases I have here because my  
15 time is well coming to an end. But the court  
16 cases that came after the 6th District was  
17 carved out were all settled. And the basis of  
18 that settlement was that the State had a  
19 compelling interest in drawing out that  
20 congressional district.

21 So I want to conclude my written remarks  
22 with this. Most citizens wouldn't have a  
23 problem with the State having some flexibility  
24 for what is called compelling government  
25 interest. That's fine. But let me ask a

1 simple question. What more compelling  
2 government interest can there be than  
3 guaranteeing to every citizen equal vote in  
4 the election process. Stop the  
5 Gerrymandering. Protect the vote, the sacred  
6 vote, of every individual.

7 Now I want to make a comment about the  
8 7th congressional district that's going to be  
9 carved out. And I do understand that the  
10 upstate is probably wanting to split the  
11 Greenville and the Spartanburg. You probably  
12 are going to get a lot of elbows twisted,  
13 whatever, when you get up there to that part  
14 of the state. They already have a  
15 Representative. Their Representative  
16 represented well in Congress. But because of  
17 the Gerrymandering down here, there are many  
18 of us who for years have felt like we've not  
19 had a Representative who reflected our wishes  
20 and our votes. And before you carve out and  
21 give the upstate two, please give us one.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Moore. I'd also like

23 --

24 MR. CARRAWAY: I'd like to second what he said.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, sir.

1 MR. CARRAWAY: I have a (inaudible), so I'll  
2 scratch my name off.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Would you mind stepping to  
4 the microphone and giving us your name for the  
5 record, sir.

6 MR. CARRAWAY: My name is Jessie Carraway from Hicks  
7 Road, (inaudible) , South Carolina. And I'd  
8 like to recommend that this man what he said  
9 is the gospel and the state of South Carolina  
10 has been run over by politicians too long to  
11 put stuff in their own back pockets. Thank  
12 you.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Carraway.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: I'd like to remind you folks -- or,  
15 actually, I don't think I shared this with you  
16 originally. If you have any written materials  
17 you'd like to leave with us, if you'd please  
18 print your name and your address on those  
19 written materials and we will be happy to  
20 receive them and make them a part of this  
21 evening's record.

22 The next person we have signed up to  
23 speak is Bernice Johnson. Ms. Johnson, would  
24 you please step to the microphone? Welcome,  
25 Ms. Johnson. Share with us your name and

1 address, please.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you. My name is Bernice  
3 Johnson, and I'm from -- I live at 1306 West  
4 Main Street, Bennettsville, South Carolina.  
5 And I stand here to -- this afternoon to ask  
6 you all to please put in your records that we  
7 want to keep Marlboro County in District 54.  
8 I appreciate having Marlboro County in  
9 District 54 because it gives us a chance to  
10 communicate with our representatives. Our  
11 representative can go to the House and bring  
12 back to us what is going on with the  
13 government. And we, as citizens, we can give  
14 input to our representatives when they come  
15 together with us to meet. And it give us a  
16 voice as citizens to be part of decision  
17 making and helping solve problems and seek  
18 solutions to the problems for our county.  
19 Thank you. Again, I say please keep Marlboro  
20 County in District 54.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Johnson. Next we  
22 have Thomas J. Shealy -- Sheehy. I'll let you  
23 pronounce it for me.

24 MR. SHEEHY: Thank you. Thomas Sheehy. I live 2535  
25 West Edgefield Road in Florence. I'd like to

1 address two issues. First of all, the  
2 continuity of House District 63. Currently,  
3 it is a relatively compact contiguous area and  
4 it needs to remain that way. Looking at the  
5 spreadsheet, I see that there needs to be an  
6 adjustment of about 1,000 members in that  
7 district as you carve on it. And I request  
8 that you be very careful in carving that we do  
9 not lose what is a contiguous entity. Right  
10 now it -- the social economic fabric of that  
11 district is very consistent throughout the  
12 district and you should strive to retain that  
13 ensuring that that population has a  
14 representative who represents them totally.

15 Going on to probably the bigger issue in  
16 my mind is the formulation of the 7th  
17 Congressional District. Currently the area  
18 that I live in is in the 5th Congressional  
19 District. You would not know that by talking  
20 to most people in the 5th District because the  
21 5th District is viewed as something up around  
22 Charlotte, up in that general area of the  
23 state, and even here in Florence it was viewed  
24 as, oh, there's just a few houses in the 5th  
25 District. The people in Florence, 5th

1 District, lost their voice because they were  
2 overwhelmed by that that was from elsewhere in  
3 the state. And that happens any time you  
4 create a district that's spread over too great  
5 an area. The people on the fringes become  
6 lost. So when you create the 7th District it  
7 needs to be one that is contiguous, has a  
8 common economic and social interest throughout  
9 the district. My observations of the  
10 (inaudible) is that of the different options  
11 that I've heard bandied about a 7th district  
12 that ties Florence to Horry County and that  
13 general area of the state makes sense from an  
14 economic standpoint because they are engines  
15 that drive one another. Additionally, having  
16 a city and a county split between districts  
17 purely, as the gentleman said earlier, for  
18 Gerrymandering is wrong. It does no good for  
19 the citizens of that area of that city or that  
20 county. And both Florence and Sumter have  
21 been split that way. And they do not end up,  
22 as some would say, with the advantage of two  
23 voices in congress. Instead they end up with  
24 two that frequently are opposed to one another  
25 and they do not speak with a common voice. So

1 in redrawing, hopefully 7th district, you will  
2 get Florence County into one district. And if  
3 you can't get the whole county, at least the  
4 city into one district so that their voice is  
5 not diluted by Gerrymandering. Thank you.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Mr. Sheehy.

7 The next on our list is Lynn Robb. Ms. Robb,  
8 our drama major. One minute and a half she  
9 promised me.

10 MS. ROBB: Hi. My name is Lynn Robb. I live at  
11 3311 Dunhill Court in Florence. I live in  
12 District 5, one of only about 8,000 who do so  
13 in Florence. Even though I'm an officer in my  
14 Republican party precinct, I'm here  
15 representing strictly me. I believe in common  
16 sense, not politics, should be the predominant  
17 concept applied to redistricting. We can  
18 divide ourselves politically and racially  
19 seven ways from Sunday, but it doesn't change  
20 where we lay our head every night and that  
21 should be our main concern. Between '63 and  
22 '73, South Carolina had rational congressional  
23 districts. No counties were divided and they  
24 were grouped contiguously. Compare that plan  
25 to the one we have today which looks like it

1 was drawn by dipping a nightcrawler in ink and  
2 letting it loose on a map of the state. We  
3 are the Pee Dee. We are not the Upstate, the  
4 beach, the Lowcountry or the Midlands. Do you  
5 really think a representative from Myrtle  
6 Beach, Rock Hill, Columbia or Charleston is  
7 encyclopedic about our unique needs? When did  
8 Florence, Darlington, Marion, Marlboro, Lee  
9 and Williamsburg Counties wind up in different  
10 congressional districts if the overarching  
11 race was anything but pure politics. The  
12 reason we are so deeply politically divided  
13 today is because our representatives no longer  
14 have to compromise. Their districts are safe  
15 and they have become tenants in them for life.  
16 Because districts are drawn to engineer a  
17 preordained political result, a Godly minority  
18 of the voters in them feel permanently  
19 disenfranchised. As a conservative, I'm not  
20 afraid of taking my message to an open market.  
21 If the conservative message does not appeal to  
22 50 percent plus one of the voters in our  
23 district, it's time to retool the message, not  
24 to present it in a way -- it is time to retool  
25 the message not to present it in a way that

1 loads the dice and rigs the game. It is way  
2 past time we brought both common sense and  
3 common decency to the redistricting process.  
4 Thank you.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Ms. Robb. I  
6 next have a signature. It looks like maybe  
7 Sam Hayes, 117 Main Street, Darlington. Does  
8 that sound familiar?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What was the name again?

10 REP. CLEMMONS: First name looks like Sam. Last  
11 name is hard to read. It might be Hayes. But  
12 the address is 117 Main Street in Darlington.  
13 Is that anybody in the room? Okay. We'll  
14 move on.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (inaudible) Main Street in  
16 Darlington.

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Very good. All right. We'll move  
18 on to Murray Jordan. Mr. Jordan.

19 MS. (?): Mr. Chairman, may I say -- ask. But some  
20 people have wanted to stay but they had to go  
21 to work. And five kind of hit them at the  
22 time they leave work, so it could be that.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Neilson, for the  
24 clarification. That could be. Welcome to the  
25 microphone, Mr. Jordan.

1 MR. JORDAN: Thank you.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

3 MR. JORDAN: I'm Murray Jordan, a life resident of  
4 Florence, South Carolina. The address would  
5 be 1006 Greg Avenue. And I should be thanking  
6 you for the opportunity to speak to you, but  
7 truth of the matter is I'm here because it's  
8 my responsibility and you're here because it's  
9 your responsibility. So let's just recognize  
10 that we are both doing what we're supposed to  
11 do.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Well said.

13 MR. JORDAN: And I am a voting citizen. And as a  
14 voting citizen, I am one of the highest  
15 officers in the land. That's a voting  
16 citizen. Redistricting is a most important  
17 role that the government of South Carolina  
18 has. That is to redistricting itself so the  
19 districts protect the rights and interests of  
20 all the people. All other roles of government  
21 are secondary. Even the Constitution starts  
22 with "We the people." It doesn't start with  
23 "We the government." So this is very  
24 critical. I live in the 6th Congressional  
25 District. Due to Gerrymandering and

1 intentional voter dilution in the 6th  
2 District, I feel like my vote does not count.  
3 The 6th District does not even remotely  
4 resemble the makeup of the citizens of the  
5 general area and the state. The district is  
6 Gerrymandering to favor the incumbent with his  
7 ability to raise campaign contributions and  
8 dole out political favors and build bridges to  
9 nowhere. Now, this incumbent, Mr. Clyburn's  
10 phone number in Florence is 661-2121. And I  
11 have known that number since 1994. But when I  
12 call, he does not return my calls. So what I  
13 am telling you is for seventeen years I have  
14 had no representation. Gerrymandering, first  
15 practiced in 1812 in Massachusetts, it's  
16 simply unconstitutional, morally and ethically  
17 wrong. It is practiced here in South  
18 Carolina, though, all the way down from the  
19 congressional seats to county council, city  
20 councils and school boards. Here in the City  
21 of Florence we have two districts - And I'm --  
22 let me change my page. - that are deliberately  
23 illegal because they are Gerrymandered so as  
24 to guarantee minority councilmen. Even the  
25 percentages are askew, maybe as much as ten

1           percent. I don't remember off the top of my  
2           head, but the unwritten rule of protection of  
3           incumbent seats is pure billowing smoke.  
4           Clyburn does not own the 6th District seat;  
5           the people own the seat. I don't care if two  
6           incumbents end up in the same district, I want  
7           every district to meet the ideals and  
8           principles of redistricting. In South  
9           Carolina we have elected a female minority to  
10          the governorship. In the 1st Congressional  
11          District, a very conservative district, we  
12          have elected a black to the seat. In the City  
13          of Florence we have elected a black female to  
14          an at-large seat. Similar results are  
15          occurring all over the state, and I think  
16          South Carolina is doing a credible job of  
17          being fair and honest for all people within  
18          the limits of the districting. Any district,  
19          congressional, city, council, school board,  
20          must be contiguous, compact and composed of a  
21          similar population. A circle most achieves  
22          these goals. I know that we cannot  
23          redistrict the state with perfect circles.  
24          And a square is next. I don't see any of  
25          those shapes on this up here. It looks like a

1 kid just did splatter painting or something.  
2 But that thought is to be in mind is you  
3 create districts that take into account the  
4 similarity and population and natural barriers  
5 and population concentrations. What does  
6 Florence have in common with downtown  
7 Columbia? I'll answer that for you. Nothing.  
8 When it comes to redistricting, I want  
9 Florence and the surrounding area to be in the  
10 new 7th Congressional District that includes  
11 Horry County. I want my vote to count. I  
12 want to be represented in congress. And I am  
13 PO'd - That means properly outraged. - with  
14 the current situation. Give me and the  
15 citizens of this state the redistricting that  
16 we deserve, not Gerrymandered districts to  
17 empower political parties or to guarantee  
18 seats to incumbents like James Clyburn, a man  
19 who has publicly stated that we do things in  
20 Washington that are not in the Constitution.  
21 Give me my vote and my representation back.  
22 Remember this - The highest office holder in  
23 the land is the voting citizen and the secret  
24 ballot, the vote, is the greatest right, not a  
25 privilege, but a right of the people. You

1           have a difficult job to do, but is your  
2           responsibility to do it right. Thank you.

3   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Jordan. We  
4           appreciate you being here with us. Mr. Bill  
5           Pickle. And I note that you are the Chairman  
6           of the Florence County Republican Party.

7   MR. PICKLE: Well, that's true, but I'm here  
8           speaking for Bill Pickle.

9   REP. CLEMMONS: For Bill Pickle. Thank you, Mr.  
10          Pickle.

11   MR. PICKLE: Thank you for having me here.

12   REP. CLEMMONS: Share with us your address, if you  
13          would.

14   MR. PICKLE: Well, first of all, I went down my list  
15          and just started checking things off, as you  
16          suggested, and about half of it's gone. Tommy  
17          here covered a lot of it. Mr. Sheehy covered  
18          a lot of it. This gentleman back here covered  
19          a lot of it. But one thing that they did  
20          leave out is, yes, we are halfway between New  
21          York City and Miami and we have a lot of land  
22          to develop. But, you know, we have land to  
23          develop both residential and commercial. We  
24          have the highways. We have railroad. We have  
25          airport. We have everything we need to

1 subsidize and help the betterment in this  
2 area. One of the major things that we have  
3 that hasn't been mentioned is being where we  
4 are we are in wonderful shape and should be  
5 proud of the fact that we have three major  
6 medical facilities in this area. We have  
7 McLeod. We have Carolinas. And as of today,  
8 there's a partnership being worked out between  
9 McLeod and Loris down at the other end toward  
10 the coast. So we have the things that people  
11 want in this area. And what they need.

12 Again, Tommy mentioned the colleges and  
13 universities between the Pee Dee area. We  
14 have any type of education anyone needs. Now,  
15 one thing that wasn't mentioned -- well, let  
16 me back up. First of all, let me say I'm in  
17 District 63, House District 63. And I wish he  
18 was here, but I've got a wonderful state  
19 representative in Kris Crawford.

20 MR. (?): (inaudible) shrinking.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Maybe now would be a good time to  
22 recognize Representative Kris Crawford.

23 (Applause)

24 MR. PICKLE: Obviously he's sneaky, too, because he  
25 came in and I didn't see him. Okay. But, you

1 know, I'm also lucky in the fact that I am in  
2 congress district five, and I have a wonderful  
3 Congressman in Mr. Mick Mulvaney. Now, then.  
4 I'm very happy with where I'm at with those  
5 two. However, I am part of the Pee Dee and I  
6 am part of Florence County. The rest of the  
7 Pee Dee and the rest of Florence County is not  
8 that lucky. They are congressional district  
9 six. And you've already heard a lot about  
10 that district already. But I will tell you  
11 this. I've only been in Florence for twelve  
12 years. And that's about how many times I have  
13 called the particular congressman and yet have  
14 got a return call from anyone from his staff  
15 or himself. I have emailed and not got any  
16 information. So when people say that we are  
17 lost, that we don't have any representative,  
18 that is not an exaggeration. The only  
19 thing I've ever seen of our congressman is  
20 occasionally during election time there's a  
21 couple of big billboards put up. And that's  
22 the only time I've ever seen that man's face  
23 except maybe on TV. So we are not  
24 represented. We're kind of like Washington,  
25 D.C. You know, they're taxed without

1 representation. We're taxed without  
2 representation because we don't ever see our  
3 congressman.

4 (Applause)

5 We have -- someone leaned toward this  
6 just a minute ago, but I want to go further in  
7 depth. We have absolutely nothing in common  
8 with the other areas surrounding the Pee Dee  
9 area. We are South Carolina. We are  
10 independent. We like to do things our way.  
11 We live the way we want to. We -- you know,  
12 we're South Carolina. And we need to be  
13 treated like South Carolina and we'd like to  
14 stay with that part of South Carolina that  
15 still likes those everyday freedoms to do what  
16 we want to do, how we want to do it and  
17 independence. So when you start looking at  
18 that 7th District, please remember that we  
19 want to be represented. We need  
20 representation and we've gone too many years  
21 without it. Thank you.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Pickle. Ms.  
23 Wilhelmina Pegues.

24 MS. PEGUES: Pegues.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Pegues. Ms. Pegues, would you

1           please come to the microphone.

2   MS. PEGUES: Good evening. I can guarantee you I  
3           will not take as much time because I have  
4           heard most of everything and I agree with most  
5           of what I've heard tonight. But tonight I'm  
6           here mainly because I want to keep our  
7           representation and our House seat 54. And  
8           besides -- Let me go back. I'm Wilhemina  
9           Pegues, 116 Summer Street, Bennettsville,  
10          South Carolina, Marlboro County. And I am  
11          here asking in all the drawings of the lines  
12          that you keep our House seat whole and keep  
13          our representation at home. Thank you.

14   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Pegues. All right.  
15          Next we have Willy Gladdes.

16   MR. GLADDEN: Gladden.

17   REP. CLEMMONS: Gladden. Mr. Gladden.

18   MR. GLADDEN: This will be real short because I  
19          agree with what Ms. Pegues say. My name is  
20          Willie Gladden, 175 (?) Road, Marlboro County.  
21          I'm on Marlboro County County Council. And we  
22          need to keep our representative House 54 as a  
23          whole. We do not need to have anyone else  
24          come in to help divide our county up. And  
25          problems that we have, she's working on it,

1 she's doing a good job, and we need to keep  
2 her there and not separate our county. And  
3 that's all I have to say for the night.  
4 Everybody else done it.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Gladden.

6 MR. GLADDEN: Thank you.

7 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for sharing that with us.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: And next we have Brad Richardson.

9 MR. RICHARDSON: Good afternoon, panel. Ladies and  
10 gentlemen, my name is Brad Richardson. I do  
11 serve as third vice chairman of the Florence  
12 County Republican Party, but I'm coming to you  
13 today as just a simple, tax paying citizen of  
14 Florence County. Today we are here for a very  
15 important reason, a 7th Congressional  
16 District. What you will decide will not only  
17 impact us, it will impact generations to come.  
18 We need representation local. We need to keep  
19 everyone in line together. Horry County and  
20 Florence County, what I have seen, would be  
21 the ideal location for the 7th Congressional  
22 District. Florence County works as engine  
23 together. We need to all be united from all  
24 the way to Johnsonville where I stay to  
25 Timmons ville, Florence, and Lake City to bring

1 everyone together where we have the same  
2 representation and the same representative  
3 going to DC to work for us. Folks, we've  
4 talked about Gerrymandering, is it Democrat,  
5 is it Republican. It doesn't matter who we  
6 send to Washington. It doesn't matter if  
7 Clyburn stays two more years or 22 more years.  
8 What matters is the man or the woman we go to  
9 the polls and elect whether they have an R  
10 beside their name or a D beside their name  
11 is the person who can do the most for the  
12 people of our area. And that's who we need to  
13 elect and we need to have everybody together  
14 on the same page. And just to touch on when  
15 the 7th Congressional District is formed it's  
16 going to shift some of the House seats, some  
17 of the local Senate seats. That needs to  
18 happen. Before I can leave my house and get  
19 to my county seat it looks like a jigsaw  
20 puzzle. Half of the area Senator Leatherman  
21 represents. A portion of the area Senator  
22 Williams represents. The House seats are  
23 completely, completely divided. And everybody  
24 says I want my house member. That's well and  
25 good for this 7th Congressional District to

1 form. I will gladly give you my  
2 representative from District 61, Mr. Brown.  
3 Thank you.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay. Thank you very much, Mr.  
5 Richardson. Next we have Sheila Gallagher.

6 MR. RICHARDSON: (inaudible)

7 REP. CLEMMONS: That's right. Thank you, Mr.  
8 Richardson. Ms. Gallagher.

9 MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is  
10 Sheila C. Gallagher. 1717 Raven Drive,  
11 Florence 29505-3047. First, I appreciate you  
12 all being here and taking the time. I realize  
13 it is part of your job, but do appreciate you  
14 being here. I also very much appreciate our  
15 citizens being here. I had the opportunity  
16 this past year to run for office, and it was  
17 quite a learning experience. And, again, I do  
18 want to congratulate Mr. Crawford on his win  
19 in House District 63. But it was while I was  
20 out campaigning that I saw more than I had  
21 actually realized before just sitting in the  
22 comfort of my middle class home. I am a  
23 teacher, recently retired. And I am in a  
24 district that is very interesting in the  
25 variety of people that are out there. We go

1 from some really lovely kind of three-story  
2 homes to your might want to call it a regular  
3 middle class home and then there were other  
4 homes that I visited in the district that I  
5 was a little bit shaky about even walking on  
6 the porch. So when we are discussing the need  
7 for Gerrymandering, I think we might have to  
8 go all the way back to the War of Northern  
9 Aggression here to figure out why we got to  
10 Gerrymandering and the need to be sure that  
11 all people are represented and all of their  
12 issues are on the table and presented for  
13 them. One of the pieces that caused a problem  
14 for me was this split precincts. And we can  
15 talk about the towns, et cetera, but we  
16 actually had precincts. And during the voting  
17 process there were problems. So if you would  
18 start with the map of looking at one trying  
19 not to split precincts, that would be a nice  
20 thought. Again, it's been emphasized the need  
21 to be sure that we keep the towns together  
22 versus splitting them. Another example is  
23 that 5th and 6th District in Florence area  
24 where you just have that one tip that is part  
25 of Representative Mulvaney's, and then the

1 rest would be part of Congressman Clyburn's.  
2 That that does present a problem versus trying  
3 to draw the lines. And maybe instead of being  
4 so tight on the numbers that we make sure that  
5 these areas and representation within the  
6 towns and cities are representative of what we  
7 have. As far as the congressional seat is  
8 concerned, I think that we need to look at the  
9 issue of having at least two representatives  
10 within the Democratic party and then we would  
11 have the other five as representative of the  
12 Republican party as our state now exists. I  
13 think it's important that the areas are  
14 redrawn. I think when I look at the 2nd  
15 Congressional District that goes all the way  
16 through the Lexington, Barnwell, Allendale,  
17 Hampton, right down there at Jasper, Beaufort,  
18 that's an awful interesting district when you  
19 look at it, let alone our own six. And I  
20 understand the Gerrymandering there. But I  
21 think the issue needs to be looked at as to  
22 the representation for the people and what our  
23 issues are that are together, the Pee Dee  
24 versus, say, the upper part of the state. And  
25 we also believe that bringing that

1 congressional seat here might also help us  
2 with bringing that industry here. As we found  
3 out with the Governors Riley and Campbell,  
4 with their sixteen years in office, being from  
5 the upper part of the state, that's where all  
6 the business went. And we sure could use some  
7 of that down here. Again, I thank you very  
8 much.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Gallagher. Next  
10 we'll hear from Stephanie Rollingson.

11 MS. ROLLINGSON: Thank y'all for coming today. I am  
12 Stephanie Rollingson. I live at 1825  
13 Brigadeau Lane in Florence, South Carolina. I  
14 am a -- one of Dr. Crawford's constituents.  
15 But I own real estate all over Florence  
16 County. I'm a commercial real estate  
17 developer. I own farms in District 60. I own  
18 some stuff down in 61. And I am here today,  
19 one, because I'm the president of the Women's  
20 Republican Group here in Florence County. I'm  
21 also the first vice chairman of the Republican  
22 Party here in Florence. The four things that  
23 the Florence County Republicans want: One,  
24 Florence needs and wants to be in the 7th  
25 Congressional District. Florence County is 55

1           percent Republican, but yet, we are  
2           represented in Washington D.C. by a Democrat  
3           because we're part of a congressional district  
4           which is designed for a Democrat. The lines  
5           for District 5 and 6 are very complicated. I  
6           worked in these polls. I understand exactly  
7           what these ladies are saying about these  
8           precincts being divided. It is a nightmare in  
9           the polls when you have half of the people in  
10          one precinct voting for District 5 and one  
11          person voting in District 6. It causes mass  
12          confusion. If you could please hold these  
13          precincts within their congressional  
14          districts, and even within their House  
15          districts, it would be very, very helpful.  
16          The lines are confusing. We want all of  
17          Florence County in District 7. And we  
18          wouldn't mind being joined with Horry County.  
19          And the reason being is we function together.  
20          Our news comes out of Horry County. When you  
21          put us with Sumter County and with Columbia,  
22          we don't get their news down here in Florence  
23          County. We get Myrtle Beach news. All of our  
24          news comes out of Myrtle Beach. Therefore, we  
25          don't know what's happening within parts of

1 the 6th District. So, I'm asking you to  
2 please put all of us in there together. We  
3 want District 60 in Florence County and we  
4 want all of districts -- the House District 60  
5 in Florence County. With the growth in  
6 southern and western and lower Florence County  
7 we believe District 60 needs to be all within  
8 this county. Currently District 60 is shared  
9 with Sumter County, and this is just not a  
10 natural fit anymore. While at one time  
11 Florence and Sumter Counties were intertwined,  
12 today they are no longer bedroom communities  
13 of each other. Sumter now feeds out of  
14 Columbia. Their news comes out of Columbia.  
15 Florence feeds off of the beach. And our news  
16 comes out of the beach. The people in these  
17 areas have totally different needs from their  
18 representatives. It would be much simpler to  
19 represent people who have similar needs. It  
20 would be a much more natural fit to add  
21 Timmonsville, South Florence, Effingham, Elam,  
22 Evergreen, Olanta and even portions of lower  
23 Florence County into District 60 than to have  
24 Sumter County in with District 60.

25 MS. ROLLINGSON: The bottom line is that we want

1 more Republican representation in South  
2 Carolina House of Representatives. We want  
3 three out of the five South Carolina House  
4 seats in Florence County to be winnable by a  
5 Republican. Based on the current South  
6 Carolina House maps, Republican can only win  
7 two seats -- two seats out of the five in our  
8 County. Florence County is 55 percent  
9 Republican, yet we only have 45 percent  
10 representation by Republicans at the state  
11 level. We deserve our 55 percent  
12 representation. And I ask you to please give  
13 it to us. The only other thing I want to say  
14 is if you have any influence over our county  
15 council districts, currently Florence County  
16 has nine county council districts and only  
17 three of those are winnable by Republicans.  
18 We deserve our opportunity to have 55 percent  
19 representation on our county council as well.  
20 Thank you.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Rollingson. For the  
22 record, we are dealing with South Carolina  
23 House seats and U.S. Congressional seats and  
24 we have no jurisdiction over the county  
25 council seats. Next we have Mark Buyck. Mr.

1 Buyck. While you're coming forward, Mr.  
2 Buyck, let me introduce a couple of folks that  
3 -- additional members of the House that have  
4 shown up with us. We have Thad Viers from  
5 Horry County and we have Seth Whipper in the  
6 back from Charleston County.

7 Thank you. Mr. Buyck.

8 MR. BUYCK: Yeah, I too want to thank y'all for  
9 being here. My name is Mark Buyck, III. I'm  
10 a lawyer here in Florence. My address -- my  
11 work address is 248 West Evans Street here in  
12 Florence. I live at 414 Seminole Avenue. My  
13 home is a mile-and-a-half from my office.  
14 The two are in different congressional  
15 districts. I have -- I practice in a small  
16 firm. There are twelve of us, but we do have  
17 an office in Surfside. That's in the 1st  
18 District. Historically, -- And I'm saying  
19 this a little bit from a Republican  
20 perspective. The first campaign that I was  
21 ever involved in was in 19(?). Ray Harris  
22 from Darlington was the Republican nominee for  
23 the 6th Congressional District. At that time,  
24 that district comprised of Darlington,  
25 Marlboro County, Clarendon County,

1 Williamsburg, Horry. I believe Georgetown was  
2 in it at that time. And historically that was  
3 the 6th Congressional District. It centered  
4 in Florence and with a little smaller piece  
5 down in -- a little smaller spear of  
6 influence in Horry County. Now, the -- over  
7 the last 40 years, I think everybody here in  
8 Florence will recognize that the tables have  
9 turned a little bit and no longer is the news  
10 from Florence and Myrtle Beach, but now it's  
11 Myrtle Beach/Florence. We -- you know, we can  
12 look at these maps and we can tell that Horry  
13 County is growing and Florence, while it's not  
14 shrinking, it's not growing at the same rate.  
15 But the point I'm making is, historically,  
16 there has been a community of interest between  
17 Florence and Horry County. There are a number  
18 of people in Florence that have vacation homes  
19 in Horry County. There -- I had a great  
20 grandfather that practiced law in Georgetown  
21 with his cousin who practiced here in  
22 Florence. And they shared offices together.  
23 And, historically, there has been that  
24 connection. And it only happened with the  
25 redrawing of the 6th Congressional District I

1 guess after the 1990 census. But Florence,  
2 the community of interest, is with the coast.  
3 It's not with Rock Hill. It's not with York.  
4 It's not with the bedroom communities of  
5 Charlotte. Our community of interest is with  
6 Horry County. Both industrially -- the real  
7 estate markets are somewhat similar. The  
8 farming communities between Florence and  
9 Myrtle Beach are historically the tobacco  
10 growing parts of South Carolina. Their  
11 interests are very similar. And that's where  
12 the district needs to be, the new 7th  
13 district. You know, nostalgic if you want to  
14 call it, the 6th District and name another one  
15 the 7th, that'd be fine with me. But if we  
16 got to settle for the 7th, as long as we got  
17 Florence and Horry County together, I'd be  
18 satisfied. But do keep that -- keep that in  
19 mind. The community of interest in Florence  
20 is not in the 5th District and it's not in the  
21 6th District as it's currently drawn with  
22 parts of North Columbia and North Charleston  
23 and all the way into Beaufort County. Those  
24 are not areas that we have a whole lot in  
25 common with, other than the fact that we're

1 South Carolinians. Now, on the House  
2 districts -- the state House districts, I want  
3 to second what Ms. Rollingson said. I'm not  
4 currently an elected officer of the Florence  
5 County Republican Party, but I have been. I'm  
6 a past County Chairman. And the District 63  
7 is -- it is contiguous and it's a Florence  
8 district. And I -- I'm certainly not  
9 advocating carving House District 63, but  
10 District 60, on the other hand, is 70 percent  
11 of the population of District 60 is already in  
12 Florence County. It has to crawl all the way  
13 over to Sumter to get that extra 30 percent.  
14 I think it makes more sense if rather than  
15 crawling over to Sumter it would head more  
16 into Florence County and stay in Florence  
17 County heading south rather than going  
18 southwest into Sumter. Again, we have the  
19 population to support five house districts, 55  
20 percent of the vote in Florence is Republican.  
21 And I believe that there ought to be three  
22 house seats in Florence County that are able  
23 to elect a Republican. And, also, I second  
24 every speaker that's come up here and  
25 mentioned the practice of splitting these

1           precincts between homeowner districts, both on  
2           the state level and the federal level. I've  
3           been involved in a lot of elections, and it  
4           causes nothing but problems. I've been in  
5           front of several county election commissions  
6           arguing cases. Inevitably, the confusion that  
7           comes up from the splitting of these precincts  
8           is the root of a lot of distrust and a lot of  
9           confusion on election day that just doesn't  
10          need to be there. Thank you very much.

11        REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Buyck. Yes, sir, Mr.  
12           Sellers.

13        REP. SELLERS: For the record, Mr. Chairman, maybe  
14           we need some clarification from Patrick or  
15           anyone else here. But political party and  
16           socioeconomic level of the voter are two  
17           factors that are not taken into account when  
18           we do this process, correct?

19        REP. CLEMMONS: I'll defer to counsel. There are a  
20           myriad of factors that we take into  
21           consideration. Exactly what factors we will  
22           exclude and include is yet to be determined as  
23           we put together our plans for this process.

24        REP. SELLERS: Thank you.

25        REP. CLEMMONS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Buyck. Moving

1 on we'll now hear from Beverly Serma.

2 MS. SERMA: I am Ms. Beverly Serma, 394 Saholly  
3 Lane, Florence, South Carolina. I've only  
4 been here ten years. I'm in 63, and I'm  
5 represented and, of course, seat six for the  
6 congressional. I was a little confused about  
7 the hearing today. I thought maybe you guys  
8 would tell us a little information then we'd  
9 stand up here. So, basically, what I was told  
10 about six, you know, for years I'm thinking  
11 what's going on with this, and I looked at the  
12 map about a year ago and, you know, agree with  
13 everybody here that it's really Gerrymandered.  
14 And, to me, it seems almost criminal. But, I  
15 guess, it -- I really have a question on  
16 somebody said it's a federal lawsuit based off  
17 the civil war and we can't do anything about  
18 six? I mean, is that true or is six going to  
19 stay the same if you're going to give us seven  
20 or . . .

21 REP. CLEMMONS: We are here to receive input as to  
22 how you would like to see the districts  
23 crafted. This is the first part of the  
24 process. It's too early to say what districts  
25 are going to go where.

1 MS. SERMA: I thought -- I mean, I thought -- well,  
2 talking to people I thought your hands were  
3 tied because of a federal lawsuit that we  
4 can't change from the civil war that we have  
5 to have a minority in the federal government  
6 in seat six? No? Am I totally wrong?

7 REP. CLEMMONS: We are required to meet certain  
8 requirements required by law. In the -- the  
9 current 6th District contains a  
10 minority/majority population within that  
11 district --

12 MS. SERMA: So you still have to have one --

13 REP. CLEMMONS: We are required by law to maintain -  
14 -

15 MS. SERMA: You're going to have --

16 REP. CLEMMONS: -- no less than that  
17 minority/majority if possible.

18 MS. SERMA: Is that ever going to be challenged?

19 REP. SELLERS: Currently there are 16 states that  
20 fall under the Voting Rights Act of 1964, '65.  
21 South Carolina is one of those 16 southern  
22 states to fall under the Voting Rights Act.  
23 Currently there has not been -- there have  
24 been some challenges, but none of have been  
25 successful. And, thus, we're here.

1 MS. SERMA: Because I agree with everybody else.  
2 I'm totally, you know, disenfranchised with my  
3 vote. It's almost like why go to the poll. I  
4 mean, it just seems -- to me, it seems really  
5 unfair and discrimination is just as bad as  
6 reverse discrimination in my book. And, to  
7 me, it's reverse discrimination. I mean, I  
8 don't -- I know we don't have the money,  
9 certainly now in the recession, to fight that.  
10 But, I mean, so I guess -- well, I guess, my  
11 only other choice is, yes, get seven. I'd  
12 like to be in seven, then. And I'd like to be  
13 with Horry County because -- and I agree with  
14 what they said about seat 60. Sixty-three --  
15 I vote in 63. I'm fine with that. But 60  
16 goes to Sumter County and I agree with  
17 Stephanie that that needs to be addressed.  
18 But if you could ever do anything about the  
19 federal lawsuit with six because I just think  
20 that the people in six aren't represented by  
21 Clyburn. I've also called him. I don't know  
22 his phone number by heart, but I've called and  
23 emailed and never got any response back  
24 either.  
25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Ms. Serma.

1 Thank you for sharing your remarks. Next  
2 we'll here from Matthew Blewitt. Welcome, Mr.  
3 Blewitt.

4 MR. BLEWITT: Thank you very much.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Is the mic not tall enough for you?

6 MR. BLEWITT: It's not. I'm Matthew Blewitt. My  
7 address is 3333 Ashland Stokes Bridge Road,  
8 Hartsville, South Carolina. I would like  
9 to address two different things, if I may.  
10 First thing I'd like to address is the South  
11 Carolina Congressional seat number seven. The  
12 Pee Dee has been divided for way too long  
13 between three different congressional  
14 districts. And I believe that Darlington  
15 County would be a better fit for the 7th  
16 Congressional District tying into Horry  
17 because when people travel from Darlington  
18 County we travel to Myrtle Beach, not  
19 Charlotte or York or Lancaster. And when we  
20 travel short distances to do something  
21 recreational, seeing as how we have one very,  
22 very, very, very small movie theater, we have  
23 practically no mall, we go to Florence because  
24 that's where everything is. And Florence does  
25 tie in with Myrtle Beach a lot better than

1 we do. And so with us tying into Florence we  
2 should also tie into Horry. Also, when I  
3 looked at the numbers from what each  
4 congressional district, as far as population  
5 is going to really need, I also realized that  
6 the 7th Congressional District, assuming that  
7 it ties in what I've heard so far is being  
8 thought of as Horry, Georgetown, Marion,  
9 Marlboro, Dillon, Florence it still comes up  
10 about 100,000 shy of what a congressional  
11 district is supposed to have. And Darlington  
12 County would just take that -- would just take  
13 an extra step in heading that district in the  
14 right direction, as far as population goes.  
15 So, first off, I'd like to say that I think  
16 all of Darlington County needs to be in the  
17 7th Congressional District. I am happy with  
18 our current Congressman, as a few people  
19 before me have said, which is Mulvaney. But I  
20 think it is also very clear that we're not  
21 going to be in his district anymore. And so I  
22 would like to be in the 7th Congressional  
23 District. I'd also like to address South  
24 Carolina House District 65. We had never had  
25 an elected Republican in northeast South

1 Carolina until House District 65 elected  
2 Representative Jay Lucas about 15, 16 years  
3 ago, I believe. And we are a 50/50 county.  
4 We have voted pretty much directly down the  
5 middle. We voted for Mark Sanford in 2006.  
6 We voted for John McCain in 2008. And then  
7 this last election cycle we were literally  
8 less than 200 votes difference between  
9 Mulvaney and Spratt. And we are -- we have  
10 also been represented by three  
11 representatives, two Democrats and  
12 one Republican, even though we're a 50/50  
13 county. And I do believe we deserve at least  
14 the one Republican representative in House  
15 District 65. Thank you very much.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mr. Blewitt. That  
17 exhausts the list of folks that signed up to  
18 speak. Now, I did see some folks come into  
19 the room after we picked up our list and I  
20 will invite you to come forward if you would  
21 like to address the group. Yes, sir. Please  
22 share your name and address and any group  
23 affiliation that you might be representing  
24 here today.

25 MR. WEATHERLY: Hi, my name is Mel Weatherly. My

1 address is 722 West Smith Street in  
2 Timmonsville. I'm not here representing any  
3 particular group. I am a teacher with  
4 Florence School District One. I don't want to  
5 make a case regarding race or specific numbers  
6 or specific representatives, but what I do  
7 want to point out, and it's been brought out  
8 already, but I want to stress this point that  
9 as a region, Florence and Myrtle Beach, we  
10 share a corridor there. We are essentially  
11 the gateway to Myrtle Beach since I95 was  
12 built in the '60s. We really became a gateway  
13 from other states to the Myrtle Beach area.  
14 As was pointed out earlier, our news and all  
15 is tied together with these communities. When  
16 you look at these TV stations like WBTW, WPDE,  
17 they spend a lot of money, these media groups,  
18 lot of money doing research on marketing  
19 demographics, et cetera. They know based on  
20 their research that this is essentially one  
21 region. That's why they invest the way they  
22 do. That's why they market themselves the way  
23 they do because Florence or Myrtle Beach is  
24 essentially one region. We've had a lot of  
25 connections in the past, but they are looking

1 at trends in the future. They know that as  
2 the years go on we will be increasingly tied  
3 together. The Pee Dee area is one area. And  
4 to be split apart as we are from so many other  
5 areas, but then tied into part of Columbia to  
6 Orangeburg to North Charleston there is no  
7 valid reason to do that other than  
8 Gerrymandering, other than trying to rig the  
9 game. That's the only reason to do that. But  
10 if you look at natural regions that belong  
11 together, regardless of how the numbers fall,  
12 regardless of which party gains or loses or  
13 whatever, because I'm not making a case that  
14 we've got to demand so much representation for  
15 one party or another. I'm just saying that  
16 when you draw a district you need to look at  
17 the commonalities, the interests that we have  
18 together, the cultural ties that we have and  
19 where we're going to be in the future. And  
20 it's become obvious that the trend in this  
21 region of the Pee Dee and Horry County is that  
22 we are joining together more and more as one.  
23 Twenty years from now, 50 years from now, we  
24 really will be inseparable. So let -- I'd  
25 just like to encourage you to keep that in

1 mind. Don't isolate parts of Florence County  
2 into other regions, other districts where  
3 they're going to lose representation. Don't  
4 make it so hard for those who do run for  
5 office from both parties because this  
6 negatively affects candidates for both  
7 parties. When they have to try to make it  
8 into Florence to meet with their constituents  
9 and then they've got to race down to  
10 Charleston to meet with the constituents and  
11 they've got to race up to Columbia to meet  
12 with constituents, they really can't represent  
13 any of us well. So please try and keep in  
14 mind how the citizens of Florence County and  
15 surrounding counties, the surrounding areas,  
16 the Pee Dee that all are part really of the  
17 Florence region because it's essentially  
18 the hub of the whole Pee Dee. Keep in mind  
19 how are the citizens of this area going to  
20 best be represented regardless of other  
21 issues. How are you best going to be  
22 represented. We want one vote for one person.  
23 Not half a vote for some people and two votes  
24 for another. One person/one vote. Thank you.  
25 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, sir. And I saw

1 another hand in the back here. Yes, sir, if  
2 you'd come forward.

3 MR. LUPPE: My name is Michael Luppe. I'm 1009  
4 Snyder Lane in the bustling metropolis of  
5 Hartsville, South Carolina. I come to only  
6 really representing myself. I have some  
7 economic reasons really why I think Hartsville  
8 and Darlington County as a whole should be  
9 part of district seven. One of the reasons is  
10 very simply if you look around the I20, I95  
11 interchange you see a lot of business there.  
12 And there's a reason for it. It's because  
13 it's a very good roadway system that allows  
14 businesses to flourish and move the raw  
15 materials and finish goods. Well, a little  
16 farther outside that radius you see a lot of  
17 other businesses as well that are very  
18 connected to that roadway. And I think that  
19 by having Darlington County and Florence  
20 County part of district seven it would get  
21 the representation they need to be able to  
22 maintain that and to progress it forward. So  
23 there's economic complimentary reasons that I  
24 see. For instance, there's a reason why this  
25 institution of education is called Florence-

1           Darlington Tech and not just Florence Tech.  
2           To look at it on a larger scale, if you look  
3           at the Carolina Panthers, they're called the  
4           Carolina Panthers and not just the North  
5           Carolina Panthers. So, you know, in this  
6           state of a major recession that we've all felt  
7           I think in one shape or form or another,  
8           consider the job opportunities that can be  
9           expounded upon by keeping a little bit of a  
10          unified front in making Darlington County, as  
11          well as the whole of Florence County, part of  
12          district seven. Thank you.

13       REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Luppe. Yes, ma'am?

14       MS. GRAVES: A little nervous. I'm new at this. My  
15          name is Toni Graves, and I'm 424 Tupelo Drive  
16          in Dillon. And there's two things I wanted to  
17          point out. In Dillon for the House seat, I  
18          just want to see that it is kept into one.  
19          That's the main focus. And the other thing  
20          is, like I said, this is all new to me. And  
21          I'm here because I wanted to be able to come  
22          and get some history lessons and to hear from  
23          different people from different parts of South  
24          Carolina to see what their ideas, what their  
25          perspective or what's going on with our state.

1           And from what I'm hearing, I'm a bit confused,  
2           a bit disappointed into what we have arrived  
3           to this present day. And what I'm saying is I  
4           heard a lot of talk about Gerrymandering and  
5           how it is reverse discrimination. But when I  
6           look at the world news, I turn to Fox, CNN,  
7           MSNBC and when I look at all the  
8           Representatives in the congressional district  
9           what I see is I don't see a lot of people that  
10          look like me. So when I hear people talk  
11          about Gerrymandering is so unfair or it's  
12          reverse discrimination, I'm trying to  
13          understand exactly what it is that is fair.  
14          What is fair? It's my understanding that  
15          these states that you made mention to is kind  
16          of like protected for certain reasons. And we  
17          all know that South Carolina started the Civil  
18          War. And what I'm saying is I wish we all  
19          could -- you know, there are different things  
20          that divide us. There are socioeconomic  
21          status. There are different things that keep  
22          us divided. And that's what I've been hearing  
23          here, division, division, division. But I  
24          think everyone will like representation,  
25          representation, representation. I may not

1 always agree with my representatives on a  
2 state level or on the, you know, federal  
3 level. But the thing about it is they were  
4 voted in by the majority, okay. Especially  
5 when you have a congressional district that  
6 voted in 90 percent. And when you say the  
7 opposite of I don't have any representation,  
8 are you saying that the 90 percent should not  
9 have representation? I'm just -- I'm new at  
10 this. I'm trying to understand, and I did get  
11 a lot of information from everyone that spoke  
12 and I highly respect everyone's position,  
13 opinion, statements, observation and  
14 experience. And I don't have a lot of  
15 experience in this, and I haven't been around  
16 to various states, you know, counties in South  
17 Carolina. But what I can tell you is that as  
18 an African-American female, that it is very,  
19 very important that we have a voice on the  
20 local, state and federal level, and that if  
21 certain things are not protected within South  
22 Carolina I think when I do turn on the news  
23 that it will take us a step backwards. And I  
24 think we've just come too far to talk about,  
25 you know, we say that Gerrymandering is

1           unconstitutional. Then I hear things such as  
2           we deserve five Republicans or we deserve this  
3           or we deserve that. So I'm just confused and  
4           I just wanted to say whatever, you know, we  
5           do, let's just do what's best for everyone. I  
6           don't think that any particular person can say  
7           that I'm 100 hundred percent satisfied with  
8           everything that's going on with the  
9           redistricting or their representative. I  
10          don't think anyone can say that. But I do  
11          just wanted to make sure that we, as an  
12          African-American, that we do have a voice,  
13          that it is continued to be protected. And I  
14          think it's going to be protected. It was for  
15          45 years, and I think it's going to continue  
16          for the next 25 years, if I understand the  
17          literature that I was reading. But I think  
18          that that is just so important that everyone  
19          has a voice; not one segment of the community;  
20          not one, you know, political affiliation;  
21          not one upper class or whatever. I just think  
22          that whenever the lines are drawn that they do  
23          take those type of things in consideration.  
24          So even though we send someone from South  
25          Carolina that one individual has to agree with

1 all the other Representatives that the people  
2 send there so we still have a voice. We still  
3 have a voice because there's not one  
4 Representative, one Senator or whatever that  
5 can get the job done by themselves. But I  
6 think it's just more of a benefit to the  
7 people to have someone that can represent them  
8 in a, you know, on all levels rather than  
9 whatever political affiliation, whatever  
10 social economic status. I just think that  
11 everyone needs to have representation. Thank  
12 you.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, ma'am, for your  
14 remarks. Is there anyone else? Yes, sir, in  
15 the back here.

16 MR. ROBINSON: Good afternoon. My name is Ed  
17 Robinson. I'm a member of Florence City  
18 Council for the past 22 years. And I want to  
19 applaud you because you basically said  
20 everything I wanted to say. And thank God for  
21 the Justice Department. I mean, as you heard  
22 here today, that's why Florence, South  
23 Carolina falls under the offices of the  
24 Justice Department because everybody wants all  
25 this Republican stuff. And Republicans are

1 not in the best interest when it comes down to  
2 South Carolina of black folk. And we have  
3 suffered that for all these years. And if you  
4 don't believe it, look at where I live and  
5 where the Republicans live. I mean, it's just  
6 ridiculous. They have it all. When you look  
7 at all the state elected officials, what do  
8 you got? Republicans. We've got all of that  
9 and we want more. You got my heart, now you  
10 want my soul. I can't give that up. I got to  
11 fight for that. And what you said is it's not  
12 a matter of Republicans or Democrats. It's a  
13 matter of fairness. Everywhere I go, out of  
14 state, every time they always says South  
15 Carolina is the laughing stock of the nation.  
16 And it's sad that we don't have more  
17 Democrats here fighting for our rights. Jim  
18 Clyburn, the only black Democrat -- only black  
19 Congressman this state has ever had until  
20 November. But yet, he was torn down like he  
21 was nothing. I mean, why weren't you doing --  
22 attacking up all the white congressmen were  
23 fine. So it's a thing where if we could do  
24 away with all these black folk and let's bring  
25 in white folk. We have to maintain black

1 representation within the city. I'm a city  
2 council person. I'm frustrated right now with  
3 the City of Florence because we don't have any  
4 blacks. The representation with black  
5 officers is down. And we are being treated  
6 poorly as a result of it because black folk  
7 can see the need of black folk more so than  
8 white folk. And we need that equitable mix  
9 there in order for us to have fair and  
10 equitable representation. I think it should -  
11 - you should see why it's just shameful that  
12 so many people come up here and say we've got  
13 to have Republicans, we've got to have  
14 Republicans. That's not in the best interest  
15 of all the folk that live in South Carolina.  
16 We've got black folk here too. And  
17 Republicans, as you can see over the news,  
18 have not been for the best interest of black  
19 folk because this recession is going to -- the  
20 cure for this recession is going to be born on  
21 the backs of overwhelmingly black folk. And  
22 the Republicans are the ones who are trying to  
23 inflict this pain upon me. So we need -- I  
24 hope you keep in mind that we have to have a  
25 good mixture when it comes down to

1 representation, especially in the state of  
2 South Carolina. Thank you.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. Let's see.  
4 Sir, I think you had your hand up first. Come  
5 on and --

6 REP. SELLERS: And then you got that guy right  
7 there.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: I do. We'll get to you, Sir.

9 MR. Munnerlyn: That's a tough act to follow.  
10 Councilman Robinson, I wish you had been after  
11 me, before me. My name is Ron Munnerlyn. I  
12 live at 611 East Main Street in Bennettsville.  
13 I'm the Chairman of Marlboro County Council.  
14 On behalf of Marlboro County Council I wanted  
15 to come tonight and just ask that you do your  
16 best to maintain Marlboro County as one state  
17 House district. We are, perhaps, the poorest  
18 county in the state. We have challenges with  
19 education -- challenges with economic  
20 development, education, you know, just a whole  
21 range of issues. And we feel very strongly  
22 that having a unified voice in the House will  
23 help us overcome some of those challenges.  
24 Our county is -- as you all are looking at  
25 redistricting our county council seats and

1 recently had a presentation from Bobby Bowers  
2 of Budget Control. And he explained the  
3 process and talked a lot about maintaining  
4 majority/minority districts, which I believe  
5 we are in the House, and also grouping people  
6 of like interest when you could. Because of  
7 Marlboro County's low population and  
8 geographic location, I believe it's pretty  
9 easy to do that and maintain one House  
10 district. And, again, we would ask that you  
11 all consider that. We feel that that's in the  
12 benefit of Marlboro County. Thank you.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. I must ask are  
14 you any relation to Representative Munnerlyn?

15 MR. MUNNERLYN: Yes, but it has nothing to do with  
16 why I'm here.

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Why don't you go sit with her?

18 MR. MUNNERLYN: (inaudible)

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay. Thank you so much for those  
20 remarks. Yes, sir, right up front here.

21 MR. PAGE: My name is (inaudible) Page from  
22 Darlington, South Carolina. 144 Spring  
23 Street. First off I'd like to say God bless  
24 Tim Scott. I would very much like Darlington  
25 County to stay together and to be a part of

1 the new 7th Congressional District. Just a  
2 little fact that Horry County grew this past  
3 census more than the entire population of my  
4 county. I believe almost twice. Maybe more  
5 than that. I think they grew 130,000, I  
6 believe. Y'all know that information --

7 REP. CLEMMONS: That's about right.

8 MR. PAGE: -- better than do.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Yeah.

10 MR. PAGE: I would like Darlington County to be  
11 associated with a demographic that is growing  
12 immensely. Thank you and all the  
13 Representatives, about five or six of them who  
14 are here today. Thank you very much.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Mr. Page. Is  
16 there anybody else that would like to address  
17 the assembled group? Representative Crawford?

18 REP. CRAWFORD: I don't have anything substantitive  
19 to add. I think you all have heard and you've  
20 probably given the representation of the Pee  
21 Dee. Some of us who are here in the room, you  
22 understand why we behave the way we behave  
23 when we're on the floor at the House, and  
24 welcome to Florence and the Pee Dee. I just  
25 wanted to say I think on behalf of actually

1           everybody here, we apprecaite -- I know it's  
2           your duty to come and tour state, but I think  
3           everybody appreciates the fact that you guys  
4           will hold committee meetings all over the  
5           state. And there is no way we would have  
6           gotten all these fine people over to Columbia  
7           to testify before you. And I just wanted to  
8           say I know it's trouble to, you know, a) to  
9           hold a job, but b) to hold a job all over the  
10          state, so thanks for coming, each and every  
11          one of you, and thanks for giving everybody  
12          the time. Thank you.

13        REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Representative Crawford,  
14        we apprecaite it. It's certainly a good  
15        friend of ours that this dias once said in  
16        debating a bill, "ask yourself is the juice  
17        worth the squeeze." Well, the juice is worth  
18        the squeeze to be here in Florence. I saw a  
19        hand raised. Yes, ma'am, would you like to  
20        address us?

21        MS. POWE: My name is Lenora Powe. I live at 6730  
22        Highway 1, Patrick, South Carolina.

23        REP. CLEMMONS: I'm sorry, your last name again?

24        MS. POWE: P-o-w-e.

25        REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Powe. Go ahead,

1           please.

2       MS. POWE: I live in Chesterfield County and, of  
3           course, I've been listening to everybody.  
4           Nobody seemed to say anything about  
5           Chesterfield County. We do have -- we have a  
6           unique situation in our County. We are  
7           represented now by four House members, three  
8           of whom are here tonight. And as -- we like  
9           them all. We have Representative Neilson,  
10          Representative Munnerlyn and Representative  
11          Jay Lucas, who's the only Republican in our  
12          county. But we like him and we'd like to keep  
13          him also. So I just -- and I'm a Democrat and  
14          I'm on the County Council in Chesterfield  
15          County, which has nothing to do with this.  
16          Also when we were looking at the House  
17          districts -- the congressional districts,  
18          we're kind of in the middle of nowhere because  
19          right now we are represented by the 6th  
20          Congressional District. And we are kind of  
21          hoping maybe we could get somewhere else, but  
22          the way it looks now I guess we'll have to  
23          keep what we got because I guess we're more of  
24          a bedroom community of the Charlotte area than  
25          we are right now of the Florence. But we all

1 (inaudible) Pee Dee (inaudible), so that's  
2 going to make -- that's going to do a little  
3 dancing when we look at when we start  
4 splitting these up. But I just wanted to say  
5 that Chesterfield County is still a part of  
6 the state. And don't forget us in when you're  
7 looking at your redistricting. Thank you very  
8 much.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Councilwoman Powe. And  
10 Chesterfield County is a beautiful part of  
11 this state. Yes, ma'am, here. I believe you  
12 had your hand raised.

13 MS. IRVING: Good afternoon. My name is Teresa  
14 Myers Irving, and I'm also a member of the  
15 Florence City Council. And I simply want to  
16 stand to agree with the young lady from  
17 Dillon. As I listened tonight, I was hoping  
18 to hear more positive things about what we can  
19 do. My main concern is that we do look at  
20 what has happened in the history of South  
21 Carolina and be prepared to draw lines that  
22 will maintain representation that will  
23 continue to give diversity to the  
24 representation from the State of South  
25 Carolina. We do not need to be (inaudible)

1 just particular where any particular race or  
2 any particular party. We need to be divided  
3 in such a manner that people can actually  
4 network together and be able to have  
5 representatives who can see beyond color, race  
6 and just individual incomes. So I would like  
7 to encourage you as a panel look at our  
8 history. Remember our history. But look at  
9 our future as well because our history do have  
10 a very heavy impact. I always tell my  
11 children always remember there's always one  
12 generation left to teach the next generation.  
13 There are things that will not be taken out of  
14 our presence until a lot of the old mind sets  
15 are phased out. But all the old mind sets are  
16 not phased out yet. So while you're making  
17 our future decision, look at our past. But  
18 look at our future and help us get there with  
19 a better representation of diversity. Thank  
20 you.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Irving. Is there  
22 anyone else that would like to be heard?  
23 Hearing none. It's been a pleasure to be with  
24 you here tonight in beautiful Florence. We  
25 appreciate the energetic involvement tonight

of the community. We are refreshed to see that. We've not seen such level of involvement in some of our other hearings. We're pleased to see that here. It might have a lot to do with the excellent representation you have by your local members of the House of Representatives, whom I thank for being here tonight. And, with that, we will adjourn this meeting of the election law subcommittee.

[Applause]