

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Columbia, SC

March 30, 2011

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REP. CLEMMONS: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'd like to thank you for being here to join us in attending this, the first, redistricting hearing of this decade to be held here in Columbia, South Carolina, here for the midlands. Thank you so much for being here. This is a meeting of the election laws subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the South Carolina House of Representatives. This meeting has been advertised in newspapers, both directly and by press release to the press association. It's been advertised to all of the major and third parties, state and county parties. We have sent notices of this meeting to all interested civic organizations that we are aware of, and additionally we have sent out a hundred to 150 mailings and emails to folks who have indicated an interest in this process. We have endeavored to take every step possible to let the public here in the midlands know about this meeting. So, as a result, we have you here with us this evening. Thank you so much for being in attendance.

1           These hearings are only the first step in  
2           a long and involved process that must be  
3           followed to complete a workable redistricting  
4           plan. We hope that we will start tonight and  
5           at the other hearings that we'll be holding  
6           over the next two weeks by listening to  
7           extensive public input and then using that  
8           input to form the basis of how we will  
9           proceed. From that input, this subcommittee  
10          must create and submit to the full House  
11          Judiciary Committee a plan for how to draw the  
12          lines for the South Carolina House of  
13          Representatives, all 124 districts, and the  
14          United States Congress, including the new  
15          seventh district that South Carolina received  
16          in the latest reapportionment. The full  
17          committee must then submit a plan that may or  
18          may not be the same as the subcommittee's  
19          plan. That must be submitted to the full  
20          House for consideration. Any plan that gains  
21          approval of the House of Representatives and  
22          later the Senate must be submitted to the  
23          United States Justice Department pursuant to  
24          the voting rights act for what is called pre  
25          clearance. If it's determined by the Justice

1 Department or the courts that the plan does  
2 not comply, first with the constitutional  
3 mandates of one man, one vote and equal  
4 protection, and second, with the statutory  
5 requirements of the voting rights act, more  
6 work may still need to be done.

7 Tonight, our goal is to listen to each  
8 and every interested party tell us what they  
9 would like to see accomplished in the House's  
10 redrawing of district lines for both the South  
11 Carolina House of Representatives and the  
12 United States House of Representatives. We  
13 are here tonight to listen to your concerns  
14 and your recommendations as to what the  
15 subcommittee should consider in this process.  
16 As the House undertakes the process of  
17 redrawing district lines, public input is  
18 indispensable. It helps us to shape a House  
19 that best represents the people of South  
20 Carolina. The House of Representatives is  
21 often called the people's House. It's called  
22 that in order to continue to earn, in order to  
23 continue to earn that distinction as the  
24 people's House, we must know how the people  
25 want their House to look, how the people wish

1 to be represented. That's the sole purpose of  
2 these hearings. To hear from those, the  
3 public, and take their guidance as we shape  
4 the House and Congressional districts for the  
5 coming decade. We welcome any input which  
6 helps us understand specific issues in your  
7 area in which identifies neighborhoods,  
8 political subdivisions, or other areas which  
9 you believe the subcommittee should take into  
10 consideration when drawing the district lines.  
11 Resulting from this series of hearings, this  
12 subcommittee plans to adopt a set of criteria  
13 drawn primarily from what we hear from the  
14 public. These criteria will be the guiding  
15 principals by which the House will redraw the  
16 district lines.

17 As you all know, the plan that is  
18 ultimately produced must, more than anything  
19 else, assure the principal of one man, one  
20 vote. Meaning that we are required to have as  
21 equal a population in each district as  
22 possible. But beyond those requirements, the  
23 subcommittee is particularly interested in  
24 what political subdivisions or smaller  
25 communities have in common or do not have in

1 common that would suggest that they should be  
2 placed into one or multiple districts. While  
3 this hearing is being conducted here in  
4 Columbia to allow residents of the immediate  
5 area an opportunity for input, the  
6 subcommittee is happy to hear testimony from  
7 anyone interested in any part of the state or  
8 the state as a whole.

9 Because tonight's hearing will become  
10 part of the record in this matter, this  
11 proceeding is being recorded and will be  
12 transcribed. To make sure that we have a  
13 clear record, I would ask that each witness  
14 come to the microphone, speak slowly and  
15 clearly, and state your name and address, and  
16 identify the district or districts that you  
17 are interested in. If you are appearing  
18 tonight on behalf of a group, such as a  
19 political party, a public interest group, or  
20 other organization, please let us know that  
21 information as well. I, and other members of  
22 this committee, wish to make comments and ask  
23 questions about particular areas, excuse me,  
24 we may make comments and ask questions about  
25 particular areas, which may not reflect the

1 intentions or recommendations of the committee  
2 or of the House. We will also be glad to  
3 answer general questions about the process if  
4 we can. However, because this is the first  
5 part of a long process of gathering  
6 information from around the state, we may not  
7 be able to answer specific questions at this  
8 time. I anticipate that this meeting will  
9 last approximately two hours. And while we  
10 want to hear everything that anyone has to  
11 offer, we do reserve the right to limit  
12 individual testimony to ten minutes if  
13 necessary. I would ask that each person, as  
14 they offer testimony, be considerate of others  
15 who are here to offer their opinions as well.  
16 We look forward to hearing from all who are  
17 here tonight. Thank you so much for being  
18 here and we will begin with our public -- I  
19 suppose I should probably first introduce the  
20 members of the subcommittee. I apologize. We  
21 have to my far left, Karl Allen,  
22 Representative Karl Allen. Next to me is  
23 Representative Jenny Horne. To my right is  
24 our staff attorney Patrick Dennis. And to his  
25 right Representative Bakari Sellers, and

1 Representative Tom Young to his right. With  
2 that introduction, I'd like to first ask Mr.  
3 R. G. Strawbridge to come to the podium and  
4 introduce himself. Mr. Strawbridge. Again,  
5 if you'd please state your full name and your  
6 address and any group that you may be  
7 affiliated with.

8 MR. STRAWBRIDGE: [Inaudible].

9 REP. CLEMMONS: You are Sir, that's what you get  
10 for being the first here tonight. Could you  
11 push the button to turn your microphone on,  
12 Mr. Strawbridge.

13 MR. R. G. STRAWBRIDGE: My name is Jerry  
14 Strawbridge. I live in Saluda County, I'm the  
15 chair of the republican party in Saluda County  
16 and I'm here to observe what you ladies and  
17 gentlemen are doing because I think that it is  
18 important for us in Saluda County in that the  
19 district that I live in is 39, represented by  
20 Marion Frye. And it's somewhat unique that  
21 Marion Frye represents all of Saluda County  
22 and a portion of Lexington County, but then  
23 again on the Senate side, we have three State  
24 Senators that the county has chopped up pretty  
25 bad. Marion being the only resident

1 legislator that we have is very important to  
2 us. And because of that, I'm here to see what  
3 is going on and how I might get involved a  
4 little bit later. But other than that, Sir, I  
5 have no other comments.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. So I suppose what we're  
7 hearing is in your opinion it's important to  
8 keep Mr. Frye's district as a resident  
9 district in Saluda County.

10 MR. STRAWBRIDGE: To keep Saluda County itself as a  
11 whole. We're already chopped up on the Senate  
12 side, we certainly don't want to be chopped up  
13 on the House side.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. Mr.  
15 Strawbridge, if you'd bear with me one second  
16 in case there are any questions from members  
17 of the subcommittee. Hearing none. Thank you  
18 for your testimony tonight, Mr. Strawbridge.  
19 Next, we've got Joyce Hearn with us. Ms.  
20 Hearn.

21 MS. HEARN: [Inaudible].

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Very good. Thank you, Ms. Hearn.  
23 We appreciate your presence. We have next,  
24 Ms. Brenda Bedenbaugh. Ms. Bedenbaugh who I  
25 have heard from before and is never at a loss

1           for words. Thank you for being here Ms.  
2           Bedenbaugh.

3   MS. BEDENBAUGH: I too am from Saluda County. I  
4           have --

5   REP. CLEMMONS: Could you give us your address, Ms.  
6           Bedenbaugh.

7   MS. BEDENBAUGH: Yes. I live near the lake at 3021  
8           Prosperity Highway, Leesville.

9   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you.

10   MS. BEDENBAUGH: I am the committee woman for the  
11           Saluda County republican party. I have served  
12           in many capacities as chairman in the past and  
13           I've been on the state executive committee for  
14           many, many years. I'm one of the longest  
15           serving continual representatives on your  
16           state executive committee at this time. I've  
17           been through a couple of these in the past and  
18           as Jerry said, Saluda County is a small, rural  
19           county and it's very important to us that we  
20           have at least one resident representative,  
21           since we are so divided. Representative,  
22           Senator Shane Massey serves part of our  
23           county, Senator Nikki Setzler serves part of  
24           us, and Senator Ronnie Cromer serves part of  
25           us. And they all do a fine job, but still,

1 the citizens of Saluda County feel that they  
2 need someone locally that understands all the  
3 issues more clearly than someone that  
4 represents several different areas of the  
5 state. And this is very important to us  
6 because we are a small county, we are a rural  
7 county, and we have some issues that are not  
8 necessarily the same issues as other areas of  
9 the state. And we feel very strongly that it  
10 is to our benefit, the citizens of the county,  
11 to retain our own representative for the House  
12 of Representatives. And I hope that this will  
13 be taken into serious consideration when  
14 you're drawing your lines. And we would  
15 appreciate anything that you can do to help us  
16 in that respect. If you have any questions,  
17 I'll answer them.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you, Ms. Bedenbaugh. Any  
19 questions? Hearing none.

20 MS. BEDENBAUGH: Thank you.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you so much for being here,  
22 Ms. Bedenbaugh. Next, we have Mr. Brett  
23 Bursey here with us. Mr. Bursey, welcome.

24 MR. BURSEY: I'm Brett Bursey and I'm the director  
25 of the South Carolina Progressive Network

1           which is a 16 year old statewide coalition,  
2           multi issue, multi racial group that concerns  
3           itself with matters of democracy in South  
4           Carolina. Our concerns as you go into this  
5           process are that we're not doing a good job  
6           practicing democracy. And that if you look at  
7           the participation at elections around the  
8           world, we're not number one, we're not in the  
9           top ten, we didn't even make the top 100.  
10          United States is number 139 below Armenia and  
11          slightly above Nigeria. There are places in  
12          the world people stand in line for days and  
13          get shot at that turn out more voters than we  
14          do. And the peoples participation in your, in  
15          our government, in your people's House it's  
16          critical and it's suffering. In a four-year  
17          cycle half the voting age population isn't  
18          participating. And the numbers are going down  
19          as the people get younger. We had a missing  
20          voter project to find the missing voters in  
21          Fairfield County in '08 and only 131 people  
22          under 21 had voted in the previous election.  
23          It was seven percent of the youth population,  
24          their parents voting around 40 percent of  
25          them. We have a real problem that young

1 people aren't participating. Now, you can't  
2 answer all those problems with your  
3 redistricting, but you can help not make them  
4 worse. In 2000 the plan resulted in too many  
5 what we call safe districts. I don't know if  
6 you're aware of the fact, but South Carolina  
7 has the fewest number of contested elections  
8 in the general elections of any state in the  
9 nation. Most of your seats in the House are  
10 won in the primary and what that does is it  
11 exacerbates political ideology, it makes it  
12 harder to find compromise, because you can run  
13 and you can win in your safe district by  
14 playing to a very small base of a certain  
15 party's faithful. And it doesn't yield good  
16 results in the end, it doesn't yield the art  
17 of compromise. And so our -- we would  
18 encourage you to look at the fact that we have  
19 so few contested elections and to figure out  
20 ways that we can have more competitive  
21 districts that would encourage more people to  
22 turn out and vote in November so we would end  
23 up with representatives that are representing  
24 a more diverse interest of the people as  
25 opposed to smaller and smaller constituencies.

1           And another issue that we hope that we'll see  
2           you deal with fairly and adequately is that  
3           the Seventh Congressional District in South  
4           Carolina, according to the math that I've been  
5           able to do, should be a black district. We  
6           believe that that is a prima facie conclusion  
7           as well one that is historically relevant.  
8           And I thank you for your time and wish you the  
9           best in this. And the South Carolina  
10          Progressive Network is standing by to serve  
11          you in any way we can. Thank you.

12       REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much, Mr. Bursey.  
13          Questions? Mr. Sellers.

14       REP. SELLERS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Bursey,  
15          with your, I guess, research or conclusion  
16          that the Seventh District be a African  
17          American district or have a large population  
18          of African Americans, can you tell us kind of  
19          how you came to that thought process, some of  
20          the numbers maybe that you looked at, or why  
21          you think that should be the case?

22       MR. BURSEY: Well, they're just -- on it's face,  
23          the Sixth Districts and there's one that has  
24          been considered the black district and that's  
25          percentagewise that's 16.6 percent of the

1 congressional delegation and the black  
2 population in this state is right around 29  
3 percent and the growing Hispanic population,  
4 the population of color is about a third. And  
5 so just on that simple matter, on that  
6 mathematics it would indicate that also that  
7 the growth is in those communities and that  
8 it's only democratic, small "D" democratic  
9 that the additional seat ensure that the  
10 voices of people of color in South Carolina  
11 are adequately and proportionately  
12 represented.

13 REP. SELLERS: Thank you.

14 MR. BURSEY: Thank you, Mr. Sellers. Thank you Mr.  
15 Clemmons.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Next we have Nikki  
17 Trawick. Ms. Trawick, thank you for being  
18 here tonight. Please introduce yourself to us  
19 and give us your address, please.

20 MS. TRAWICK: Yes, sir. My name is Nikki Trawick  
21 and my address is 103 Water Hickory Way.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you.

23 MS. TRAWICK: In Columbia. I'm in District 79, I  
24 live out in Lake Carolina.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Are you here representing a group

1 or yourself?

2 MS. TRAWICK: I'm not necessarily here representing  
3 a group. I am active in the republican party  
4 in several different ways. But what I wanted  
5 to just briefly talk about, if I could, for  
6 just a moment -- And first of all before I do,  
7 thank you for doing this. I know you all tend  
8 to always get more criticism than kudos, but  
9 thank you for opening things up to the public  
10 and showing that sunshine is in fact the best  
11 disinfectant in progressing the transparency,  
12 so we do appreciate that of you all.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you.

14 MS. TRAWICK: I wanted just to talk a moment about  
15 District 79. I know that District 79 is now  
16 one of the largest State House districts in  
17 South Carolina. We out in the northeast  
18 Richland County have experienced phenomenal  
19 growth in the last several years. I've only  
20 lived here five years and even in that time  
21 we've grown by leaps and bounds. And the  
22 thing that I keep hearing when I read about  
23 the redistricting is the word natural  
24 community. District 79 the way it is drawn  
25 right now is not a natural community. So I

1           hope that when you go about doing that, about,  
2           you know, doing the redistricting and drawing  
3           the lines, you will look at that. You have  
4           people who live in places like The Summit and  
5           Lake Carolina in the same district as people  
6           who live in Lugoff which is in Kershaw County  
7           40 minutes away. And while in rural counties  
8           a 40 minute drive might not be that long, for  
9           those of us who live in more of the suburban  
10          area, that's quite a distance. So we would  
11          appreciate it if you would look at that.

12                 I also was looking at, you know, a  
13          potential of ways to redraw our district. It  
14          looks to me that the people of Blythewood,  
15          going back to the concept of natural  
16          community, upper northeast Richland County and  
17          the people of Blythewood are a natural  
18          community. And I know a lot of people that  
19          live in that area that are very concerned  
20          about the fact that they're in a district with  
21          people all the way down in Dentsville and even  
22          further down. So I pulled up a few maps and I  
23          did a little drawing. I don't know if I can  
24          leave that with somebody or not.

25   REP. CLEMMONS: You absolutely can. And I - just

1 to let everybody else know - if you have any  
2 written documentation you want to leave with  
3 us, we will make that a part of the record.

4 MS. TRAWICK: Okay, great. I appreciate that. I  
5 just ask that you look at things when you go  
6 to redo that district, because I know it's a  
7 very diverse district and if you could think  
8 about maybe keeping Kershaw County more into  
9 that section, if you would, and then even  
10 looking at doing upper northeast Richland and  
11 into Blythewood because we are a natural  
12 community, we go to church together, our kids  
13 play on ball teams together. And I know that  
14 might sound a little colloquial but it is the  
15 truth. We are a natural community, so if you  
16 could keep that in mind when you redraw we'd  
17 appreciate it.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. That's information we  
19 need to hear.

20 MS. TRAWICK: Thank you.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: And if you would just step -- or  
22 hand the documentation over. If we could ask  
23 you to print your name and address on that  
24 documentation to leave with us.

25 MS. TRAWICK: Yes, sir. I will.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much.

2 MS. TRAWICK: Thank you very much.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, that's everybody that has  
4 signed up to speak at the hearing. Is there  
5 anybody else that would like to speak?  
6 Representative Whipper just stepped in the  
7 room. Representative Whipper, good to have  
8 you with us. Please come forward. Would you  
9 like to speak, Representative Whipper?

10 REP. WHIPPER: [Inaudible].

11 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, please take the podium.

12 REP: WHIPPER: All right. May it please the court.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: It may.

14 REP. WHIPPER: Thank you so much for this  
15 opportunity to be heard and I know that, you  
16 know, we are fortunate at this time to be  
17 doing redistricting because of the coming  
18 together of so many resources and  
19 possibilities. I think when we did this back  
20 in 2002/2003 we still were doing a lot of  
21 stuff with elbow grease. Now, we are in a  
22 position to, after GIS, GPS, and the other  
23 kinds of resources that we have, it's a  
24 different deal. And we've come a long way in  
25 that regard. What I'm concerned about, of

1 course, is that you recognize that despite all  
2 of these improvements in this last decade,  
3 it's really just four decades since we had a  
4 lot of problems with participation in our  
5 voting process. And I think back about, just  
6 for instance say when schools desegregated  
7 some of the graduates at that time in school  
8 are probably just 37 years old, 47, 47 years  
9 old. And so we still have a young state when  
10 you talk about the sophistication of our  
11 voting processes and the way we decide our  
12 people participate in elections and  
13 participate in government. And that's  
14 important. I think the idea of redistricting  
15 not only is concerned about reapportionment,  
16 which is having a certain amount of  
17 appropriate numbers in a given district no  
18 matter how it's set up, but what's also  
19 important is how we decide where these lines  
20 go and why we decide where these lines go.

21 And I'm a little late because of the vote  
22 on the floor that's just taking place and  
23 hasn't taken place yet as a matter of fact.  
24 So I'm still, I'm going to have to miss that  
25 vote. But I really wanted to be here because

1           it was an awful history that we have come  
2           through. And we are just, at the most recent,  
3           47 years out of it, just 47 years out of it.  
4           And so we still have people who are expected  
5           to participate, who have an opportunity to  
6           participate, who can, in fact, really remember  
7           what it's like to not be heard, to actually  
8           have a vote and have it knocked out. And so  
9           now we've come to this point where we have  
10          that history and we have that understanding,  
11          and we know about that history and we should  
12          be real concerned that that doesn't happen  
13          again, that people have a vote and the vote  
14          doesn't count.

15                 Now, sure, you know, no matter where you  
16          draw a line it's always sort of funny. You  
17          draw a line and maybe two family members end  
18          up on the opposite side of that line, well,  
19          sometimes that will happen. But we do have  
20          some criteria, and we have some values that  
21          we're expected to employ in terms of drawing  
22          these lines. Now, I don't -- I'm a little  
23          late here Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, and you may  
24          have announced some of those values, some of  
25          those criteria, and if you did I'm kind of

1 familiar with some of them generally. And I  
2 would say to you that it's important that we  
3 do whatever we can to make sure that, for the  
4 most part, if a person has a vote, that vote  
5 will have some effect. Now, you can't be  
6 perfect, I mean, every vote will not always do  
7 what somebody wants it to do, but certainly if  
8 we look at - in drawing these lines - if we  
9 look at these communities of interest, I think  
10 that's the overall touchstone. Because at  
11 some point we're going to get to where we may  
12 have more than two political parties that are  
13 functional and influential. And the reason  
14 we'll get there is because the issues that  
15 confront us as citizens in there most  
16 essential descriptions in character are not  
17 just a two party thing. I mean, I think all  
18 the time about how in Greenville when the  
19 speaker decided to become the ambassador and  
20 the election took place and by golly in the  
21 speaker's district there was a democratic  
22 candidate for his seat. Now, what was it that  
23 concerned these people in the speaker's  
24 district that a democrat thought that there  
25 was some issues around which they could run.

1 Well, whatever they were, they were real  
2 because that vote was really not that far  
3 apart in the end result. That means that  
4 there are issues that people are concerned  
5 about that will decide how they want to vote.  
6 And so if you look at issues then you have to  
7 be concerned about who the constituencies are,  
8 why they are, where they live, why they live  
9 where they live, what got them involved with  
10 those issues. And that's all a part of  
11 determining sometimes these communities of  
12 interest. And it also means that we must be  
13 sensitive to how these communities came about.  
14 And you can't avoid that, and like I said, I  
15 mean, we're just 40 years into this thing.  
16 And it wasn't just education, it was housing,  
17 it was jobs, it was the location of businesses  
18 and industries that often time determined  
19 where people lived. And so that means  
20 something, and it may mean how people react to  
21 what they're confronted by as citizens.

22 So as we go forward, and I would ask that  
23 this subcommittee delve into these reasons why  
24 people end up where they are and recognize  
25 that we need to be concerned about those

1 interests being represented on the House  
2 floor. And those interests being represented  
3 in the Congress as well as the Senate. But  
4 those interests need not be marginalized and  
5 they need to be recognized. Now, when we have  
6 a public hearing and you hear, I'm sure, the  
7 cry for having a particular district to be all  
8 in one county, all in one city and, you know,  
9 it's sort of, that's really neat and sometimes  
10 real neat and maybe it's an approach that's  
11 expeditious but it's not always accurate.  
12 Because again, look at what went on before we  
13 got there. What was it that made folks live  
14 where they live in certain parts of Anderson  
15 County or certain parts of Dorchester County,  
16 certain parts of Charleston? What was it and  
17 what were they concerned about? And should we  
18 expect them to be uprooted?

19 When we talk about certain kinds of  
20 rules, regulations, policies, ordinances,  
21 state laws, I often think about the  
22 development of Mount Pleasant in Charleston  
23 County. As people found and discovered Mount  
24 Pleasant, and they had some ideas about what  
25 they thought it should look like, one of those

1 ideas had to do with, well, perhaps these  
2 people who are on the side of the road selling  
3 these sweet-grass baskets, that they might  
4 need to be removed. There were sweet-grass  
5 baskets that had been there for hundreds of  
6 years. And there was a serious reaction to  
7 that. And as a result, people recognized the  
8 value of that practice, the culture of it,  
9 what all went on around it, language, diet,  
10 appearance, and now we see these sweet-grass  
11 baskets are still there, those vendors are  
12 still there on Highway 17. They are a part of  
13 the fabric of Mount Pleasant. And that's what  
14 can happen when we legislate and be conscious  
15 to all of these facets of community life. And  
16 I hope that, again, the committee will  
17 remember such instances of those kinds of  
18 occurrences. How important is it? Look how  
19 vibrant our State House is, for instance,  
20 because we have talented people like Jenny  
21 Horne, Lloyd Funderburk, we have the young  
22 Bakari Sellers, young Tom Young. We've got --  
23 it makes a difference being able to have  
24 people with all kinds of backgrounds who are  
25 committed to this state, to come to the

1           general assembly and be able to present their  
2           positions in an effective way, to establish  
3           relationships, come to understanding of what  
4           government is and what it should be and how it  
5           should function, to share ideas on how to  
6           solve problems, it makes it so much more  
7           vibrant, it makes it so much more rewarding,  
8           the possibilities are greater and it makes us  
9           feel like we are at home. I'm one of the  
10          first people to acknowledge that despite the  
11          fact that I might be a lot different in my  
12          viewpoint than say the young Mr. Ryan from  
13          Horry County.

14   REP. CLEMMONS: Georgetown.

15   REP. WHIPPER: Georgetown, from Georgetown. But he  
16   is a part of the State House family, he is  
17   somebody that has spent time with me already  
18   in the trenches, sweating it out, beating on  
19   one another, and it's just like, almost like  
20   being on a wrestling team or something. And  
21   you establish relationships, I mean, if I saw  
22   George Ryan someplace I still would say hello,  
23   I'd be glad to see him. So this is a valuable  
24   aspect, that we have a diversion viewpoints  
25   and backgrounds and the people are able to

1 weigh in on the topics of the day. And so I'm  
2 saying that generally because I don't live in  
3 Richland County, but I know that, I think the  
4 rules will allow me to talk about the  
5 different places that are affected by what we  
6 do here today and I'll probably see you again  
7 on the 14th of April. But I wanted to say  
8 these -- I wanted to make these points,  
9 because these communities of interest are so  
10 important and we'll find that the lines will  
11 often make more sense when we can recognize  
12 these particular communities and provide for  
13 ability for people to be heard.

14 Now, you know, I know that we have to be  
15 concerned about the idea of having -- and  
16 maybe Mr. Chair, you can help me with the  
17 word, but we don't want to do what is  
18 essentially packing in any particular  
19 district, or a set district to the extent  
20 that it represents only one point of view, or  
21 it has only one racial component. And yet, we  
22 recognize that, you know, what should be also  
23 touched on is that we want people to be heard,  
24 want them to have an opportunity to have a  
25 vote count, opportunity to be represented.

1           And as these populations begin to shift, you  
2           know, we've got now growth in our Hispanic  
3           community as well as our Asian community,  
4           we've got more people from the continents of  
5           India, I mean, it's -- so we are seeing, at  
6           least in Charleston County. So we've seen  
7           substantial change in what a neighborhood  
8           looks like and this makes a difference. And  
9           so I'm saying to you that we have the ability  
10          now to look at this and to take all of these  
11          factors into consideration and we ought too.  
12          Now, you're faced with some of the -- these  
13          decisions in light of reapportionment, you're  
14          also faced with concerns about well,  
15          reapportionment means that we've got a certain  
16          number of citizens of every district. I'm  
17          saying to this committee that we shouldn't be  
18          so rigid about that particular requirement.  
19          We've got some very interesting things that  
20          have occurred in this state with the way  
21          populations have grown, and I hope that we  
22          would not be so rigid in that regard that we  
23          can't, we can only draw districts that look  
24          like boxes or look like circles, or look like  
25          triangles. And I ask that you take that into

1 consideration. I won't take up anymore of  
2 your time. If there are any questions, I'll  
3 be happy to answer.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much for your  
5 admonition and viewpoint. We appreciate your  
6 time being here Representative Whipper. Are  
7 there any questions of the Representative?  
8 Thank you so much.

9 REP. WHIPPER: All right. Thank you too.

10 REP. CLEMMONS: Perhaps you can still catch the  
11 vote.

12 REP. WHIPPER: [Inaudible].

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Perhaps you can still catch the  
14 vote.

15 REP. WHIPPER: [Inaudible].

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Is there anybody else in the  
17 audience that would like to share their  
18 viewpoint on redistricting while we're  
19 gathered together? Hearing none. I would  
20 like to make it clear that we have, we have --  
21 this subcommittee has received leave from the  
22 Speaker of the House to hold this hearing  
23 during the session of the House of  
24 Representatives which is allowed pursuant to  
25 the rules of the House. Is there any further

1 business to come before the subcommittee at  
2 this time by the members of the subcommittee?  
3 Hearing nothing. And I'll ask again if  
4 there's any further viewpoint that the public  
5 would like to leave us with? Hearing nothing.  
6 We will stand -- Yes, sir. Mr. Allen?

7 REP. ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure  
8 that I'm clear and that I understand that if,  
9 in fact, a member of the public in this  
10 jurisdiction wishes to offer additional  
11 testimony or evidence, that they are free to  
12 do so in any of the other public hearings in  
13 the other jurisdictions that we'll be  
14 traveling around the state in. And that, I  
15 heard you say and I just want to be clear,  
16 that if, in fact, they want to introduce  
17 written or prepared testimony, that we will  
18 accept that prepared testimony as well in  
19 another jurisdiction.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Allen, thank you for the  
21 questions. You are correct on both counts.  
22 We will be holding another eight hearings  
23 across the state. This is the first of our  
24 nine hearings. We welcome input from any  
25 party from wherever they might live at any or

1 all of those hearings. We are asking for and  
2 will certainly accept any documentation,  
3 letters, proposed maps drawn on the back of  
4 napkins or drawn by an official GPS  
5 cartographer. We will accept any information  
6 that you share, that you wish to share with us  
7 that we can use as a basis from which to begin  
8 our deliberations on drawing, on redistricting  
9 the House and Congressional Districts in South  
10 Carolina. Thank you for making that point.

11 I would direct folks to the website of  
12 the House of Representatives, [www.schouse.gov](http://www.schouse.gov).  
13 On the website you will find our physical  
14 address to which you can mail documentation,  
15 you can also find a direct email link to voice  
16 your comments concerning redistricting by  
17 email. And we encourage everybody, as you've  
18 heard tonight, from Representative Whipper and  
19 from my opening remarks. We want to be open,  
20 we want to receive all of the information that  
21 the public has to share with us. So please  
22 take advantage of this opportunity early on in  
23 this process and let your voice be heard.  
24 Thank you. Are there any other comments by  
25 members? Hearing none. This meeting of the

subcommittee of the, I want to say  
redistricting subcommittee but that's not what  
we are, we are the election subcommittee,  
stands adjourned.

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