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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Florence-Darlington Technical College  
2715 West Lucas Street  
Florence, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: YVONNE R. BOHANNON  
Registered Merit Reporter,  
Certified Realtime Reporter

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 SENATOR GLENN F. McCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

3 SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY

4 SENATOR ROBERT FORD

5 SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO

6 SENATOR GERALD MALLOY

7 SENATOR LARRY A. MARTIN

8 SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

9

10 STAFF PRESENT:

11 BONNIE ANZELMO

12 DEBBIE HAMMOND

13 CHARLES TERRENI

14

15 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

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1                   SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. Good  
2 evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm Glenn  
3 McConnell, state senator from Charleston and  
4 chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I want  
5 to welcome you to one of our ten local public  
6 hearings the South Carolina Senate Judiciary's  
7 Redistricting Subcommittee is holding across the  
8 state.

9                   I'd like to begin by giving you a brief  
10 overview of the redistricting process so you can  
11 understand what we're trying to accomplish and how  
12 tonight's hearing fits into the process, but first  
13 let me introduce these members of the subcommittee.  
14 They're a bipartisan group of senators. They're  
15 from different regions of the state, and they bring  
16 a wealth of experience working on problems in the  
17 Senate and working together in creating innovative  
18 solutions.

19                   From the upstate, Senator Larry Martin  
20 comes to us from Pickens County. Excuse me.  
21 Senator Phillip Shoopman comes to us from  
22 Greenville County. From the Midlands we have  
23 Senator Brad Hutto of Orangeburg. From the low  
24 country, Senator Robert Ford and myself from  
25 Charleston. From the Pee Dee area we have Senator

1 Gerald Malloy. He's from Darlington. And from the  
2 Grand Strand, Horry County, Senator Ray Cleary.

3           As a redistricting subcommittee of your  
4 Senate, we're charged with one of the most  
5 important tasks before the General Assembly which  
6 is to initiate the process of redistricting. We  
7 must recommend legislation to the Senate Judiciary  
8 Committee which will redraw South Carolina's 46  
9 state Senate districts and the state's  
10 Congressional districts to include a new seventh  
11 seat. Likewise, there is a subcommittee of the  
12 House of Representatives in charge of drawing a  
13 plan for the 124 districts and that body of the  
14 legislature and crafting its own version of the  
15 Congressional plan.

16           While the House and the Senate have  
17 historically deferred to one another when it comes  
18 to the plans for their respective bodies, their  
19 Congressional plans may ultimately have to be  
20 reconciled in the legislative process through a  
21 conference committee. The conference committee is  
22 three senators and three House members and two  
23 votes on each side for the -- to reconcile the  
24 differences between the bills. If the two bodies  
25 agree on the redistricting plan, it must be

1 submitted to the governor for her signature in the  
2 same manner as any other bill that is passed by the  
3 General Assembly.

4           Finally, under section five of the  
5 Voting Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into  
6 law will have to be pre-cleared by the Justice  
7 Department or the Federal District Court in  
8 Washington, D.C., before it becomes a fact.

9           The reason we have to redistrict is to  
10 ensure that our state's legislative and  
11 Congressional districts represents substantially  
12 equal population thereby ensuring that each  
13 person's vote is given the same weight as another's  
14 in our system of representation. Ideally each of  
15 the state's Senate districts will have 100,552  
16 persons. Each of our state's Congressional  
17 districts will have 660,767 persons.

18           The census results that were released  
19 last Thursday tell us the extent to which the  
20 state's districts deviate from these ideal numbers.  
21 District lines will have to be redrawn so that some  
22 districts gain population, others lose population  
23 in order to restore the required equality of  
24 representation.

25           To begin the process of redrawing

1 districts, we're holding hearings in order to  
2 listen to your views on the redistricting process.  
3 Let me say at the outset that we are not here for  
4 the purpose of considering proposed redistricting  
5 plans. The subcommittee has yet to reach that  
6 stage of the process. When that time comes, we  
7 will have an opportunity for the public to submit  
8 specific plans for the subcommittee to consider.

9           Instead this evening we are to consider  
10 the building blocks of those future plans. We need  
11 to hear from you on the criteria you believe we  
12 should follow in the line drawing process. We also  
13 want to know about the communities of interest that  
14 we should be aware of when drawing new district  
15 boundaries.

16           Examples of redistricting criteria will  
17 be requirements that consideration should be given  
18 to communities of interest, the cores of existing  
19 districts, county, municipal or precinct lines,  
20 compactness, contiguity, as well as applicable laws  
21 and Constitutional standards. We would like you to  
22 let us know how important these criteria are to you  
23 and whether there are other criteria that you  
24 believe we should take into account when drawing  
25 new district lines.

1                   As for communities of interest, they  
2 may be neighborhoods, towns or other political  
3 subdivisions that have common interests that define  
4 them for purposes of political representation.  
5 They could also be areas defined by common economic  
6 interests or characteristics, cultural  
7 affiliations, recreational interests or other  
8 factors that cause people to identify with one  
9 another.

10                   We'd like to hear from you about  
11 communities of interest that you perceive exist in  
12 the area and how you believe they should be  
13 considered in the process of drawing district  
14 boundaries.

15                   As we begin this public hearing, we ask  
16 that those testifying to be clear. Redistricting  
17 is an exact process and clarity is a virtue. For  
18 example, when speaking about the criteria  
19 communities of interest, it's important that  
20 citizens distinguish between whether they're  
21 talking about a Congressional district or a Senate  
22 district, as a subcommittee must considering  
23 drawing both.

24                   Along the same lines, please explain  
25 why you believe an area is a community of interest

1 and where it's located. To assist you we have maps  
2 available for you to mark and identify particular  
3 areas that you consider to be communities of  
4 interest.

5           Second, we don't have rigid time limits  
6 for speaking at these public hearings. However, we  
7 would encourage you to have a goal of speaking no  
8 more than five minutes so that everyone may be  
9 heard.

10           Also if a citizen would like to submit  
11 an extended written statement, we will accept it  
12 for consideration. Written comments will receive  
13 the same consideration as spoken ones, and the  
14 handouts available provide you with the U.S. mail  
15 and the e-mail address to which the comments may be  
16 sent.

17           Finally, in order to facilitate  
18 communication with the subcommittee and give the  
19 public a way of keeping track of the process, I  
20 would encourage all persons here and let you know  
21 so that, you know, in redistricting -- if you're  
22 interested in redistricting, consult our website  
23 which is located at [http://](http://redistricting.scsenate.gov) -- it's  
24 [redistricting.scsenate.gov](http://redistricting.scsenate.gov). Knowing you got that  
25 real quick, we put it on -- the address of that

1 redistricting website on all of our handouts that  
2 we've given out today forward. But it is  
3 redistricting.scsenate.gov. At the website you'll  
4 find useful information such as the dates and  
5 locations of our public hearings and subcommittee  
6 meetings, redistricting data, reference materials  
7 and guidelines for future participation in the  
8 process.

9           We want to thank you for giving your  
10 time, being willing to come out and contribute to  
11 this process, and with that, I'll ask staff to  
12 provide me with some of the witnesses.

13           Mr. Bill Pickle. Mr. Pickle, if you'd  
14 come forward. We've got a microphone right here so  
15 that the court reporter can hear you and we can too  
16 and all these fine folks.

17           MR. PICKLE: I don't know if that's  
18 good or bad.

19           Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your having  
20 your committee here tonight. You're going to hear  
21 a lot of things tonight, and everybody has their  
22 opinion.

23           I will say up front that I am the  
24 chairman of the Florence County Republican party.  
25 However, I am here speaking as Bill Pickle, a

1 citizen of Florence, South Carolina. Some people  
2 find that hard to separate, but I am speaking for  
3 Bill Pickle tonight.

4           Florence is in a -- Florence County is  
5 in a unique situation being center east of a state.  
6 We are in a pocket pretty much all by ourselves.  
7 We don't have anything in common with some of the  
8 other larger areas such as Charleston. We don't  
9 have -- you know, we're not familiar -- or relative  
10 to Columbia and certainly not the upstate and  
11 Greenville. But what we do have, we have an area  
12 that is prime real estate.

13           We are at the junction of two major  
14 highways, 95 and 20. We have a regional airport.  
15 We have rail. We have all the amenities that  
16 industry and people that want to move into has. We  
17 are more in common with Horry County. As matter of  
18 fact -- and I don't mean to step on anybody's toes,  
19 but, you know, most of the people in Florence,  
20 instead of going out of state or out of the country  
21 for vacations, they go to work -- what we refer to  
22 as red neck riviera. We go down to Myrtle Beach.  
23 That's where we go on our vacations. And that's  
24 where we do a lot of our shopping.

25           People here will drive down to Myrtle

1 Beach to shop. My wife and I every once in a while  
2 we'll drive down to Myrtle Beach just to have  
3 dinner and a movie and we'll come home. We are  
4 part of that region, and we want to be a part of  
5 that region.

6           The land that we have here, we have so  
7 much land that is prime and ready for residential  
8 and commercial development. It just stands to  
9 reason that we should be part of that entire region  
10 because as things fill up at the beach, you know,  
11 they're going to progress this way, and here we are  
12 waiting on them.

13           We have medical facilities that  
14 would -- is second to none. We have award winning  
15 hospitals, McLeod. We have Carolina Hospital.  
16 McLeod is in the process, just notified yesterday  
17 in -- in the media, of working with the hospitals  
18 in Laurens to become one with each other.

19           The one thing that I am concerned about  
20 is that Florence County -- if you look at the map  
21 right now, it's a hodgepodge. We have several  
22 different sections of Florence County going to  
23 different Senate districts, and we need to be as  
24 much a total package as possible. We are one  
25 people.

1                   When we -- when you start talking about  
2 the Congressional district, most of us are in  
3 Congressional district six. Now, I'm lucky enough,  
4 I'm in Congressional district five. My little  
5 neighborhood -- we've got two neighbors that are in  
6 that little corner that we're in Mr. Mulvaney's  
7 district. The rest of Florence County, however, is  
8 in Congressional district six.

9                   Now, my concern is that we need to be  
10 in a Congressional district where we have good  
11 representation. Right now we do not have  
12 representation. I have lived in Florence for about  
13 12 years, and that's about how many times I have  
14 called our congressman in district -- in  
15 Congressional district six and left messages or --  
16 or tried to talk to someone, and I've never talked  
17 to a living soul, and I've never had a call  
18 returned.

19                   My wife and I just came back from  
20 Washington, D.C., a couple weeks ago, and, you  
21 know, the license plate tags up there say taxation  
22 without representation because D.C. does not  
23 have -- have representation. And that's the way  
24 that we feel here in Florence. We've got a  
25 congressman, but we don't have any representation.

1 So we want to have that new seventh Congressional  
2 district so we can have our own representation.

3           And I'm going to shut up right there  
4 because you got a lot of people that want to talk  
5 behind me, and if I talk too much, I'll say what  
6 they want to say. But thanks for listening, and I  
7 hope that you will take it to heart and make us  
8 part of the seventh district.

9           SENATOR McCONNELL: Mal Weatherly.

10           MR. WEATHERLY: I don't have any  
11 prepared message or anything, but just some  
12 thoughts that I wanted to voice.

13           I am a life-long resident of  
14 Timmonsville. If you don't know where that is, if  
15 you look in the far western corner of Florence  
16 County, you will see that purple area that is  
17 somewhat isolated from the rest of Florence County  
18 and yet it's tacked onto Clarendon -- Clarendon  
19 County. That's us.

20           I would like to, first of all, ask that  
21 in the redistricting process that you consider  
22 putting Timmonsville back in the rest of Florence  
23 County because frankly we -- I feel that our  
24 community is disenfranchised. We have no real  
25 connection with Clarendon County. Wonderful people

1 and all, but there's just no relationship there.

2                   We are essentially a bedroom community  
3 for Florence. We're like a suburb. Everybody  
4 pretty much that lives in Timmons ville works in  
5 Florence. We have a big Honda plant there now, and  
6 the employees -- most of the employees there are  
7 from Florence.

8                   We're interconnected, interwoven.  
9 There's just -- there's no way for us to be truly  
10 represented by someone who represents the whole of  
11 Clarendon County, and yet we are kind of -- not  
12 just in this district, but for other reasons  
13 historically Timmons ville has been somewhat  
14 isolated from the rest of the county. We're like,  
15 to use an old saying, a redheaded step-child, so to  
16 speak. The school district is separate, and that's  
17 an issue that we're working on, among others, but  
18 there are just different historical reasons that we  
19 have been left out on the short end of the stick,  
20 so to speak.

21                   So I feel like when you put us into  
22 some other county's district, you just further  
23 serve to isolate our community and we lose our  
24 voice. So I hope that you'll consider that and --  
25 and include us as a part of Florence because, in

1 fact, in reality we really are a part of the  
2 community of Florence.

3                   And that type of continuity and  
4 cultural historical region should be of the highest  
5 priority. Rather than just looking at sheer  
6 numbers and -- and doing all this political  
7 gerry -- gerrymandering to try to squeeze people  
8 into this precinct or this district just so that  
9 you can meet the numbers doesn't serve the people,  
10 does not serve the voter.

11                   If you look at the sixth Congressional  
12 district, it stretches not just from Florence over  
13 to Columbia -- into Columbia, it stretches down all  
14 the way into Charleston. And when you've got a  
15 representative who has to meet with constituents in  
16 Florence and then go down to Charleston to meet  
17 with constituents, go over to Columbia and meet  
18 with constituents, there's just no way that they're  
19 going to be able to really represent any of us  
20 well.

21                   Their intention is divided, you know,  
22 and -- and we've got representation that's out of  
23 Orangeburg that has no real connection to us  
24 either. So instead by -- by recognizing the  
25 natural regions that do exist within our state such

1 as the connections that we have between Florence  
2 and Myrtle Beach, it's a cor -- natural corridor  
3 there. Since the beginning of -- or the building  
4 of I-95 Florence has become the gateway to the  
5 beach. People from all up and down the eastern  
6 seaboard who are going to Myrtle Beach come via 95  
7 or via I-20 to Florence and from there they go into  
8 Myrtle Beach.

9           You look at the media representation  
10 that we have, the television stations here, they  
11 serve the Florence/Myrtle Beach area as one. The  
12 news comes out of here, our weather reports.  
13 Everything is tied together there. When we have  
14 representatives who have to appear in Columbia on  
15 WISTV, which we used to get years ago -- that was  
16 our station, but it -- things have changed. Now  
17 our NBC station comes out of Myrtle Beach. When  
18 they appear on the stations in Columbia and in  
19 Charleston, et cetera, we don't get it. We can't  
20 see it. We're just not served in that way.

21           So I hope that you'll recognize, like I  
22 said, these natural regions and try and keep us  
23 together as much as possible because any time that  
24 you carve out little nooks of people and try and  
25 attach them to some other district just for the --

1 the sake of getting your numbers right, understand  
2 that what you're not getting right is the  
3 representation of the voter.

4           That's pretty much it. Thank you.

5           SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Charles Causey.

6           MR. CAUSEY: Good evening, gentlemen.

7           By the way, hey, Brad, I haven't seen  
8 you in 30 years. How are you doing?

9           SENATOR HUTTO: I'm doing good.

10          MR. CAUSEY: I got a letter back from  
11 our senator who basically told me I was stupid and  
12 he could vote whichever way he wanted to. I like  
13 this -- the -- this story about representation.  
14 He's right we're not represented by anybody. You  
15 can't get a call. You can't get a reply, and when  
16 you do get a reply, it's from the secretary that  
17 doesn't know anything.

18          Please put these districts where we are  
19 represented so that we just don't forget to go to  
20 the pole, because right now I talk to people. They  
21 say, Why do I go to vote? It doesn't matter. Is  
22 that how this place is supposed to be where we go  
23 and say on election day, To heck with, it ain't  
24 worth it?

25          Anyway, I'm going to step down.

1 Please, please, please, please go and do something  
2 that makes sense so that we can help --

3                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Excuse me, if you  
4 could, just a little bit louder in the microphone.  
5 Some of them in the back said they can't hear you  
6 and they want to hear you.

7                   MR. CAUSEY: I'm sorry, I'm nervous  
8 being up here.

9                   What I wanted to say was I got a letter  
10 back one time from our representative if y'all  
11 didn't hear that, and he basically told me that I  
12 was stupid, he was going to vote however he was  
13 going to vote anyway. You know, why do we have a  
14 representative if he doesn't listen to us? I have  
15 people every day say, I'm not going to bother going  
16 to vote. It doesn't matter. You know, why are we  
17 voting for a representative if he doesn't care? At  
18 least I got a letter back, so I reckon he does care  
19 some.

20                   Please go and do something that makes  
21 sense. Okay? We live in a country where we're  
22 supposed to be heard, where we can call you guys  
23 up, you know. Is that where we live now? I don't  
24 think so. And -- and I'm sorry to say that because  
25 this is the greatest place on the face of the earth

1 and we're supposed to be able to do the greatest  
2 things in the world, and why can't we get a  
3 district set where we have commonality of interest  
4 and where our voices and our concerns and our  
5 people are taken care of? Okay?

6                   That's all I'd like to say. Thank you  
7 for allowing me up here.

8                   And, Representative -- Senator Hutto,  
9 good seeing you again. Thank you.

10                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Tommy Phillips.

11                   MR. PHILLIPS: Good afternoon,  
12 gentlemen, and thank you for coming and listening  
13 to us.

14                   My name is Tommy Phillips and I've been  
15 a resident of Florence since 1958. I've watched  
16 the Pee Dee grow and become a valuable part of  
17 South Carolina. The six counties of Florence,  
18 Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion and Horry  
19 counties have made up the Pee Dee regional area for  
20 as long as I can remember. We're tied together.  
21 We work together. We -- we share business and  
22 industry together.

23                   We also have -- as Mr. Pickle  
24 mentioned, we have a regional airport authority  
25 that draws a representative of each one of those

1 counties with the exception of Horry because they  
2 have their own airport. We have -- for Florence,  
3 Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon and Marion counties we  
4 have a representative that comes to that authority  
5 commission here at our airport.

6           I think it would be a decisive  
7 advantage for our state if the Pee Dee area was  
8 named the new seventh Congressional district. We  
9 have a tremendous amount to offer. One particular  
10 area is interstates. We have I-95 coming through  
11 this immediate area. We have I-20 that either ends  
12 here or starts here, depends on which direction  
13 you're going.

14           We also have in -- in place right now  
15 in Florence County, moneys are being collected to  
16 make four-way highways out of 378 and Highway 51  
17 which will make it easier for business and industry  
18 to get from the beach and from the other parts of  
19 the -- of the Pee Dee area out to I-95 and I-20.

20           We have an interesting geographic  
21 location. As I said before, I-20 ends here and  
22 begins here, but some people don't realize that --  
23 that Florence in and of itself and -- and between  
24 Florence and Dillon we're almost dead center  
25 between New York and Miami which makes us almost

1 dead center between a lot of other places. So we  
2 are a travelling spot.

3 Myrtle Beach and Horry County offers  
4 the tourist industry that brings substantial  
5 amounts of money into the state of South Carolina.  
6 The other counties that are around us also offer  
7 industrial and business opportunities.

8 So as we work together as the sixth --  
9 seventh district we would be an advantage to the  
10 state of South Carolina. We have a tremendous and  
11 very good educational recreation areas. We have  
12 Francis Marion College. We have Coastal Carolina.  
13 We have Coker College of Hartsville. We have  
14 several facilities in our tech centers like the one  
15 you're in right now that is if not the best, one of  
16 the best in the state of South Carolina.

17 Other parts of the state are bogged  
18 down. They're way too congested. And in the  
19 western part of the state, if you want some flat  
20 land, you got to cut the top off of a mountain  
21 which is a little more expensive than just plowing  
22 up the land or paving a piece of flat land.

23 We -- we have the land and industry and  
24 business in the Pee Dee area, and we have the room  
25 to expand and the roadways to get us where we need

1 to be.

2                   One other thing that's very seldom ever  
3 brought up is something I learned about 20 years  
4 ago. We in this area are part of what's  
5 affectionately called the golden real estate  
6 corridor. For many years from about midway  
7 Virginia through North Carolina, South Carolina and  
8 Georgia people who lived primarily in the north and  
9 who live primarily in Florida to the south have  
10 been giving up their homes there to move into an  
11 area where they can be more comfortable and they  
12 have a mean temperature that they can enjoy, not  
13 abusively hot or abusively cold weather.

14                   We're getting those people coming into  
15 this Pee Dee area. That eastern border of that  
16 zone is about 50 miles from the coast, and the zone  
17 is about 50 miles wide. So we're -- we're right  
18 there where the people are coming to start living  
19 in South Carolina. We believe -- or I believe that  
20 the Pee Dee area with the way that its current  
21 county setup has been working together for years  
22 and years and years we can continue to work  
23 together and make the new seventh district one of  
24 the best districts in the United States, not just  
25 in South Carolina.

1 Thank you.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Betsy DeVault.

3 MS. DeVAULT: Good evening. I just  
4 want y'all to look at the face of an a new memory.  
5 I worked very hard on the census ten years ago. I  
6 worked very hard on the census this past time. I  
7 left no stone unturned.

8 I'm a crew leader. I sent my crew to  
9 Williamsburg County. To Marion County and to  
10 Dillon County. We wanted to make sure that  
11 everybody in South Carolina at this time got  
12 counted so we can get an additional district so we  
13 could get more funding for our schools Florence  
14 schools lack many times. There are some districts  
15 that are worse than others. We needed the funding,  
16 but without the correct representation we don't get  
17 the funding that we need.

18 We need Florence County in the seventh  
19 district. We also need to make sure that our  
20 Senate district is one district. You keep  
21 splitting it up. Funds go everywhere. Nobody  
22 knows who is responsible for what, and everybody  
23 wants to play the blame game. We need to get this  
24 area in the seventh district.

25 Thank you.

1                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Ethan Rivera.

2                   MR. RIVERA: Thank you, Senators.

3                   I was born in April of 1990. I am not  
4 old enough to remember the last time Florence  
5 County had a competitive Congressional race. In a  
6 nation that builds the best economy of the world  
7 and is under the premise of competition, that seems  
8 to me like it's the opposite of the way it should  
9 be.

10                  We live in a -- where our -- we live in  
11 a county where our incumbent congressman has gotten  
12 over 65 percent -- well, since he's been in office.  
13 It seems to suggest to me like it was drawn that  
14 way. If you look at a map of the sixth district,  
15 you'll see that 95 percent of Florence County is in  
16 this district, and it's in the same district as  
17 Bamberg, Colleton, most of Dorchester and most of  
18 Orangeburg.

19                  Now, if any of you can convince me that  
20 Florence has something in common with Bamberg,  
21 well, you're much a smarter man than I am because I  
22 don't see where we have anything in common.  
23 Whereas if you look at Florence and Darlington  
24 County, we know that these two counties have  
25 something in common because we're not sitting in

1 Florence-Bamberg-Darlington Tech. We're sitting in  
2 Florence-Darlington Tech.

3           The wise men who started this college  
4 knew that these two counties would have a joint  
5 destiny and that if one failed, it would drag the  
6 other one down with it. And so they put it here  
7 where if you go five minutes in the other direction  
8 as you leave tonight, you will end up in Darlington  
9 County right here at the county line.

10           So we have something in common with  
11 Darlington County. We obviously have something in  
12 common with Horry County because as we've shown  
13 we're -- we're the gateway to Horry County. Every  
14 time I travel out of South Carolina and tell people  
15 I'm from Florence, oftentimes they don't know where  
16 that is, but I ask them, Have you been to Myrtle  
17 Beach? More often than not they'll say yes. I  
18 said, Well, then at some point you went through  
19 Florence if only for two minutes.

20           We obviously have something in common  
21 with Horry County, Georgetown County and yet as you  
22 can tell by looking at this map, us, Darlington and  
23 Horry are split off between three congressmen.  
24 That seems to me like almost a too many cooks in  
25 the kitchen situation. If we united this district

1 under one congressman, Democrat or Republican --  
2 Republican, if we united it under one congressman,  
3 the interest of the district will be much better  
4 served than if we have this massively sprawling  
5 district from the Pee Dee way down to the low  
6 country, that -- Colleton and Bamberg and have this  
7 other sprawling district with Darlington and  
8 Newberry which are about an hour and a half, two  
9 hours apart existing in the same district. It  
10 would be in the best interest if we just all put it  
11 in the same district.

12 Thank you.

13 SENATOR McCONNELL: Tricia York.

14 MS. YORK: Thank you for hearing me.

15 I'm a resident of Florence County and have been  
16 since 1978.

17 I think it's very important that  
18 Congressional districts should be contiguous as  
19 well as contain counties with similar needs as  
20 those that have come before me have already talked  
21 about, that we have much more in common with Horry  
22 than we do with Colleton and the other counties  
23 that currently comprise our sixth district.

24 I would like to see the new seventh  
25 district -- Congressional district come to our area

1 and also to include Florence, Marion, Horry and  
2 Georgetown counties. Thank you.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

4 Stephanie Rawlinson.

5 MS. RAWLINSON: Good evening, Senators.

6 I'm Stephanie Rawlinson. I'm the president of  
7 Florence County Republican Women's Club here in  
8 Florence. I'm also the first vice chairman of the  
9 Republican party for Florence, and tonight I am  
10 speaking on behalf of the women's group.

11 There are a couple of things both women  
12 and Republicans in Florence want. Florence County  
13 wants and needs the seventh Congressional district.  
14 Florence County is 55 percent -- we vote 55 percent  
15 Republican, but yet we are represented in  
16 Washington, D.C., by a Democrat because we are part  
17 of Congressional district six which is designed for  
18 a democrat.

19 Lines for Congressional district five  
20 and six are complicated. They are -- they cut  
21 Florence in half, precincts in half, people who  
22 live on one side of a neighborhood are in district  
23 five while people on the other side of a  
24 neighborhood are in district six. I actually ran  
25 the GAP headquarters this last election cycle and I

1 had people coming into the office, and I think the  
2 gentleman might be in the room, but he said, I live  
3 in district five and the people across the street  
4 from me live in district six.

5           That's just not -- that isn't how you  
6 do this. I mean, in a neighborhood, I'm talking  
7 about a subdivision this happened. If you want to  
8 cut up places, make these lines so that whole  
9 neighborhoods are at least in the same  
10 Congressional district.

11           It's very confusing, not just to these  
12 voters, but it's confusing at the poles. I also  
13 worked in the poles this last time, and these pole  
14 workers when you -- when they come in, they have  
15 all these books and they're trying to figure out,  
16 Are you in district five? Are you in district six?  
17 It cuts precincts in half. I'm asking you to  
18 please be careful about that. It is major  
19 confusion on election day.

20           We want and we need district seven in  
21 Florence County. Florence County needs to be part  
22 of a district with Horry County. The reason we  
23 need that is because our media comes out of Horry  
24 County. It -- it doesn't make sense for us to  
25 divide it up.

1 I'm asking you -- I'm also asking you  
2 to look at district 31 which is Senator  
3 Leatherman's district. That district is so cut up.  
4 If we're going to add things to it, we need to keep  
5 it within inside Florence County, and we need to  
6 keep it inside Florence County for the same reasons  
7 that Ms. DeVault talked about.

8 We -- we've got to have someone that  
9 can look at these things and put these maps  
10 together so that we are represented by someone who  
11 actually has the interest of Florence County in --  
12 at heart.

13 I appreciate your time, gentlemen.  
14 Thank you.

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

16 Ms. Wilhemina Johnson.

17 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Wilhemina Johnson  
18 from Darlington County.

19 Senator Gerald Malloy and Senator  
20 Cleary.

21 And I'm just listening here, because  
22 you all are representing almost five million  
23 people. And as I listen as we say what we're going  
24 to do with them all, I'm looking -- I'm trying to  
25 see whether or not you have accountability, and

1 your accountability -- or your accountability is  
2 for everybody, and unless we do that why are we  
3 here?

4 I don't care if we get ten more  
5 districts if you keep on doing the same thing that  
6 you've been doing and you know where you are now  
7 and what are we going to do to -- to the community,  
8 what's the reason?

9 I'm looking at whatever number of  
10 senatorial districts we have there should be  
11 equalization for all people. Do you know anything  
12 about equalization and equity for all people? No,  
13 you don't. Just look at rural South Carolina and  
14 you know what it's like. I'm sorry.

15 I am an elected official 23 years in  
16 Darlington County. Rural Lee -- from the rural  
17 county, Lee County. And of all things to say I'm  
18 looking at -- I'm looking at what's going on now  
19 and what I'm hearing in 2011, what you're saying  
20 about the people you -- you are serving, we are  
21 serving, and it's a shame, y'all.

22 We have to learn how to share the  
23 wealth. I don't care where it comes from. You  
24 look at Florence and Darlington now. Florence is  
25 way up -- up. Darlington is trying to make it and

1 we're going to make it. So you're not there to  
2 build up one area. You -- wherever you are, you're  
3 there to build up the state, the county and local  
4 government as a whole.

5           Think about it as you sit around, and  
6 the only thing that I'm hearing now, We need this.  
7 We need that for this hearing. We need it for  
8 everywhere. And it's good for you, it's good for  
9 me and it's good for the next person.

10           We got a job to do together y'all. Are  
11 we going to do it for all people? I think we can  
12 do it. Y'all know we can do it. Stop passing the  
13 buck. Let's make it nice for everybody,  
14 Republican, Democrats, whatever, you name it.  
15 Together we shall. Not for all people. Don't say  
16 I want my district big and fat and mine poor. I'm  
17 not going to have that and sit down and say  
18 nothing.

19           And I know y'all. Have a good one.

20           SENATOR McCONNELL: Connie Hudson.  
21 Connie Hudson.

22           MS. HUDSON: Thank you for coming to  
23 us. My name is Connie Hudson.

24           SENATOR McCONNELL: Come a little bit  
25 closer to that mic so they can hear you back there

1 too.

2 MS. HUDSON: My name is Connie Hudson,  
3 and I would like to please add statements from  
4 Tommy Phillips and Stephanie Rawlins [sic] to my  
5 statements so I don't have to repeat.

6 I would like for you to include  
7 Effingham to the new seventh district because I'm  
8 Florence County, and my letters to Congressman Jim  
9 Clyburn have gone unnoticed for years, and I think  
10 that the Pee Dee and that Horry County should be  
11 included together as a seventh district.

12 There were several things that were not  
13 mentioned last night that should have been  
14 mentioned for the seventh -- the new seventh  
15 district and that the Pee Dee and -- and Horry  
16 County I feel that we have in common got. When --  
17 when these people that come to beach to play golf,  
18 they come off of I-95 or I-20. You know, they're  
19 in Florence to go to the beach. They stop and they  
20 come and play golf here because it's less expensive  
21 of course and we have nice golf courses.

22 I know this, my -- my daughter teaches  
23 golf at the Florence Country Club, and when they  
24 have tournaments, obviously this area and the Horry  
25 County share in that. So we have the golf in

1 common.

2                   And also my thoughts were -- I have two  
3 daughters and their families. One, like I just  
4 said, played golf, so she's in here in Florence --  
5 Florence Country Club teaching golf. She did not  
6 have to go out of state to get a job. The -- USC,  
7 Clemson, you know, our kids go there and they  
8 graduate, and they have to go -- my daughter had to  
9 go and her husband's family had to go to Charlotte  
10 to get a job.

11                   So I'm thinking that Pee Dee -- the Pee  
12 Dee and Horry County is a wonderful place to have a  
13 senator that can add real jobs so that those  
14 that -- you know, we spend our moneys to get the  
15 kids educated and then we have to travel to go see  
16 them, and so I feel like that this is a great area  
17 with Horry County and the Pee Dee to be a great,  
18 great part and an engine for jobs in the future  
19 with the right senator.

20                   And I have not been to Columbia to shop  
21 in probably 20 years now. We go to the beach. And  
22 many people in Florence have houses at the beach.  
23 You know, it's close. It's good. We have so much  
24 in common with them.

25                   Most of us in this room have been told

1 that Congressman Clyburn and another fellow -- or a  
2 gentleman will go in a room and he will draw the  
3 lines. I just hope that today now and here that  
4 our Constitution will be followed.

5                   And I thank you so -- I thank you so  
6 much.

7                   SENATOR HUTTO: Mr. Chairman.

8                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

9                   SENATOR HUTTO: Can we ask her to point  
10 out where Effingham is.

11                  MS. HUDSON: Pardon?

12                  SENATOR HUTTO: Can you point out on  
13 the map where Effingham is.

14                  MS. HUDSON: All roads lead there,  
15 but --

16                  SENATOR HUTTO: How about on this map  
17 right here closer to --

18                  MS. HUDSON: Okay. I actually live  
19 right on the -- the edge. Evergreen -- Evergreen  
20 Baptist Church. Effingham is right there.

21                  SENATOR FORD: Is that close to the  
22 interstate? Is that close to the interstate?

23                  MS. HUDSON: It's -- Effingham is going  
24 to Lake City. It's between -- it takes me 15  
25 minutes to get to the Y in Florence, so it's --

1                   SENATOR FORD: Between 52?

2                   MS. HUDSON: Uh-huh. Actually between  
3 52 and 50 -- 51. Either way.

4                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Cathy Cantey.

5                   MS. CANTEY: Thank you for being here.

6                   I'm Cathy Cantey. I live in Florence  
7 and I have for most of my life, and I agree with  
8 Stephanie Rawlinson and Bill Pickle and some of the  
9 other ones that spoke about the redistricting that  
10 we need it really in Florence because I also have  
11 worked the poles and there was a mixup, and we had  
12 a really large district precinct where I live. And  
13 almost right across the street is another precinct,  
14 and so you have people coming in there and they're  
15 mixed up. And then you call -- get on the phone  
16 trying to call people and it's just a big mess.

17                   And we just need it to be more equal.  
18 And we work very hard to get our candidates elected  
19 and our -- our votes don't count, and I think if we  
20 get the seventh district, you know, they would.  
21 And I agree with Ms. DeVault about the funding of  
22 the schools, and I just think it would be more  
23 equal with that for the school funding, and, you  
24 know, it would make just such a big difference, you  
25 know, to Florence County.

1                   And like they said, you know, we have  
2 everything in common, you know, with the beach and  
3 like people do have vacation homes and, you know, I  
4 think it would be, you know, really a great thing  
5 if we could get the seventh district here and get  
6 better representation because, you know, I don't  
7 think we get good representation at all from --  
8 right now in the sixth district, and I think that's  
9 a huge problem, you know, for -- especially for our  
10 good candidates that -- that run and, you know, we  
11 can't, you know, get a voice -- or we can't get our  
12 voices heard, and so we just hope and pray that  
13 y'all do that.

14                   Thank you.

15                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Ed Robinson.

16                   MR. ROBINSON: Good afternoon. I just  
17 need to ask a question. The -- you said that  
18 the -- that they would be considering the district  
19 lines that the community draw for us -- for a  
20 subcommittee. Could that -- will I -- if I would  
21 draw a district, would that be considered?

22                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir. If  
23 you -- our -- our website is set up to facilitate  
24 public input and sent to us by posts or whatever  
25 electronically, but, yes, sir --

1 MR. ROBINSON: I mean --

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: -- we will consider  
3 submissions.

4 MR. ROBINSON: Of a district drawing by  
5 me or a community?

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

7 MR. ROBINSON: Okay. The other thing  
8 that always bothered me is the fact that South  
9 Carolina is under the auspices of the Justice  
10 Department, and I -- I'm hoping that when -- when  
11 you do your drawing or have -- put your input is  
12 that you take into consideration why is it that we  
13 have to be under the auspices of the Justice  
14 Department.

15 We have to ask this big ruler up here  
16 is this okay, and we know that the reason you have  
17 the Justice Department is because all races, all  
18 ethnic groups have not been equitably represented.  
19 Those who are in the majority have always taken  
20 advantage of the fair representation of those who  
21 are a minority. And these things -- you know, it's  
22 an insult.

23 It's an embarrassment for the state,  
24 and it should be an embarrassment for anybody that  
25 draws lines. If we could allow this to continue to

1 happen, this -- I mean, this -- I mean, this  
2 happened way back in 1963, and here it is 50 years  
3 later and it's still going on. Nothing has  
4 changed.

5                   And we need to have a stake -- or -- or  
6 a community where we can have fair and equitable  
7 representation without having to be oversighted by  
8 the federal government. We should be able to run  
9 our own city fair and equitably to everybody.

10                   And I -- and I want -- one thing I got  
11 to say is that I do appreciate and love my  
12 congressman, Mr. Jim Clyburn. I do think that we  
13 do have good, fair and equitable representation.

14                   I'm a city council person. I know what  
15 it is to be a minority trying to pass laws, trying  
16 to pass laws that's going to be fair and equitable  
17 to everybody. I know what that is, and I can feel  
18 the frustrations that Jim Clyburn feels when he's  
19 trying to pass laws as well as some of the  
20 minorities on this group here when you're trying to  
21 pass laws that's fair and equitable for minorities  
22 when you are a minority and your will is not  
23 considered when you have this big majority. So  
24 please keep that in mind.

25                   Thank you.

1                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

2                   SENATOR FORD: You will agree -- you  
3 will agree that this committee is fair and  
4 equitable, right?

5                   MR. ROBINSON: I certainly hope so, and  
6 I got all the faith and confidence that you're  
7 going to do right and you're going to start the  
8 road to fairness and equality so that we won't be  
9 under the auspices of the Justice Department.

10                  SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. John Douglas.

11                  MR. DOUGLAS: Thank you, Senators, for  
12 the opportunity to speak this evening. I'm  
13 speaking on behalf of keeping Senate district 27 as  
14 much intact as possible and specifically how it  
15 relates to Chesterfield County.

16                  Most of the county is in district 27.  
17 A portion is in district 29 and we're pleased to  
18 have Senator Malloy representing district 29 and  
19 Senator Sheheen representing district 27.

20                  While Chesterfield County is  
21 geographically divided with the large state forest  
22 in the heart of our county, our county's population  
23 is fairly evenly spread throughout the county.  
24 Chesterfield County is one community of interest.  
25 From having one school district to our economic

1 development efforts, we all share many, many of the  
2 same concerns, interests and initiatives.

3           Having one senator serving most all of  
4 the county greatly aids our efforts to move  
5 Chesterfield County forward. I respectfully  
6 request that Senate district 27 be kept intact as  
7 much as feasibly possible.

8           Thank you.

9           SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

10          Mr. Ron Moore.

11          MR. MOORE: I have some written remarks  
12 that I'm going to submit, so I'm not going to read  
13 all of these like I did last night in that meeting.  
14 I just want to make a couple of comments and then  
15 I'll be seated.

16                I listened with interest to the remarks  
17 of the chairman of this committee. He mentioned  
18 two of the objectives that you have in the drawing  
19 of these district lines was equal population and  
20 that each vote would have an equal weight. And I  
21 want to apologize right up front by telling you  
22 when I say you, I don't mean necessarily you unless  
23 you were sitting here ten years ago and drew these  
24 lines. But -- so don't take that personally.

25                I think you have done a good job on the

1 equal population part of this. But I'm not so sure  
2 that the equal vote with equal weight has been  
3 considered carefully enough. As you have already  
4 heard and I'm not going to repeat, quite a few of  
5 us in the sixth Congressional district, we do not  
6 feel that we have an equal weight when our vote is  
7 cast.

8           The gerrymandering of that district is  
9 in our opinion extremely abusive, and any time you  
10 do gerrymandering, for whatever good reason it may  
11 be, you are empowering one block of voters and you  
12 are diluting the vote of another block of voters,  
13 and, folks, two rights -- two wrongs have never  
14 made anything right. I encourage you to stop the  
15 gerrymandering.

16           Others here tonight have spoken about  
17 the problems of the sixth district. The one thing  
18 that we did get right was it is contiguous. We  
19 have to say that. But when it comes to being  
20 compact, you can stand in the northern eastern  
21 section and you can almost throw a stone from the  
22 North Carolina line. You can stand way down in the  
23 southeastern section. You can almost throw a stone  
24 to the Georgia border. Not quite, but there's  
25 anything but compactness to that.

1                   The other thing is that deserving  
2 communities of interest. Folks have already  
3 mentioned that, so I'm not going to repeat that.  
4 There are counties and areas that just don't have  
5 anything in common with us, and we're not being  
6 well served by that kind of a division.

7                   One thing that was not mentioned that I  
8 do want to mention, I'm going to preface that by a  
9 comment that was made by one of the legislators  
10 last night who sat where you sit tonight. He made  
11 a remark and asked the question of the chair, Well,  
12 do we even take into consideration political  
13 opinions and political concerns when we draw these  
14 lines? And I thought to myself, That's laughable.  
15 That's what you're doing.

16                   You're drawing political lines for  
17 voters to vote and political precincts and so on  
18 and so forth. That's what it's all about, and what  
19 we are concerned about is that when you draw those  
20 political lines, that you don't dilute our voice --  
21 voices, that you don't dilute our votes by  
22 empowering those of other people.

23                   There are other things that have been  
24 said, and I'm not going to go there with it. I  
25 understand that after redistricting -- the last

1 time around there were several lawsuits that were  
2 filed. They were settled. And I think the  
3 settling statement was something like this, that  
4 the state has a compelling interest in drawing a  
5 minority -- of a black majority Congressional  
6 district.

7           And the whole phrase there was it was  
8 settled on the state has a compelling interest. We  
9 understand that. We know the state has to have  
10 some latitude for compelling interest, but I want  
11 to ask you this question. What greater compelling  
12 interest can the state have than preserving and  
13 protecting the equal vote of all the citizens? And  
14 that's all we're asking for. Give us equal vote,  
15 equal representation.

16           Now, with due respect to the senators  
17 who are here from the upstate, we have been hearing  
18 some rumors about y'all would like to see  
19 Spartanburg and Greenville split out somehow and  
20 that y'all get the new seventh Congressional  
21 district. My question there is, Why do you deserve  
22 two representatives from up there before we can get  
23 one from here in the Florence area that actually  
24 represents us?

25           Others have been talking about maybe

1 ways of dividing up this -- or formulating this  
2 Congressional district here. I really like the  
3 idea -- no matter what else you do to it to have to  
4 get it done, I really like the idea of Horry  
5 County, Florence and Darlington. I think those  
6 three whatever you do should be in that new seventh  
7 Congressional district.

8 Thank you.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Tom Grimes.

10 MR. GRIMES: Senators, thank you for  
11 allowing me to speak tonight.

12 Senator Hutto, good to see you again.  
13 Senator McConnell, Senator Ford.

14 And those of you who do not recognize  
15 me, my name is Tom Grimes and I am the chairman of  
16 the sixth district Republican party. For 16 years  
17 I have been the Republican counterweight to Jim  
18 Clyburn. 16 years I have travelled through this  
19 district, gone to the 15 counties that make up this  
20 district.

21 Gentlemen, I can promise you that  
22 nobody in Colleton County could find Florence on a  
23 map much less tell you what's going on here. I can  
24 also assure you that there are very few people in  
25 Columbia who have any common interest with the

1 folks in Charleston.

2                   Prior to my being elected chairman I  
3 had the privilege of serving with John Napier when  
4 he was our congressman on his staff.

5                   If you look at a map of the old sixth  
6 district that existed prior to 1992, you will see a  
7 con -- contiguous body of nine counties. They have  
8 one common interest, and it's what made up the Pee  
9 Dee and the Grand Strand. You cannot get to Myrtle  
10 Beach, you cannot get to Darlington city, you  
11 cannot get to Georgetown at that time without going  
12 through here. We have always been and will always  
13 be joined at the hip, if you will, by mutual common  
14 interests of our location.

15                   As we sit here tonight I'm looking at a  
16 map over here of Marion County. Can any one of you  
17 senators tell me what the unemployment rate is in  
18 Marion?

19                   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 23 percent. It  
20 is 23 percent.

21                   SENATOR CLEARY: (Inaudible) 25  
22 percent.

23                   MR. GRIMES: Exactly, Senator. I was  
24 going to take 15 and -- that's in the ballpark.

25                   Marion County is a perfect example of

1 what I'm about to allude to. It is the dead center  
2 of the old sixth district. I know Marion very well  
3 because when I was a child growing up, my father  
4 owned tobacco companies -- owned a tobacco company.  
5 We had warehouses in Marion and Mullins.

6           If you were to ride through Marion and  
7 Mullins in the '70s, you saw business, you saw  
8 economic development and growth. They used to call  
9 the highway through Marion and Mullins Tobacco Road  
10 at that time. If you ride through Marion now,  
11 there is no economic development.

12           Part of the reason I believe we find  
13 that is the sixth district that existed in 1990 was  
14 cut into three Congressional districts. Horry and  
15 Georgetown County went into the first. Marion,  
16 Florence, Williamsburg which was part of the old  
17 sixth went into the new sixth. Darlington, Dillon,  
18 Marlboro and Chesterfield went into the fifth.

19           At that point this entire area was  
20 ruined. There's no way we're going to get  
21 representation. We had Congressional districts  
22 where congressmen couldn't find their way around  
23 this part of the state without a Garmin and Google  
24 Earth. So how are we going to get representation  
25 in Washington?

1                   Reunite and reconstruct this new  
2 Congressional district -- and it doesn't matter  
3 whether it's the first district or the seventh  
4 district or whatever number you decide to stick on  
5 it. Then and only then you start to see a change  
6 in this area.

7                   The perfect example, going back to  
8 Marion County, I-73 will cut right through the  
9 heart of Marion County. That 14 and a half percent  
10 unemployment rate that you mentioned, Senator  
11 Cleary, will virtually disappear overnight. You  
12 don't build an interstate in a year. It will take  
13 years to build. You will put hundreds, if not a  
14 couple thousand people back together, and that  
15 ripple effect will roll through a county like  
16 Marion, like Marlboro, like Dillon. Remember, this  
17 county enters through Chesterfield which at that  
18 point is the northern tip of the old sixth  
19 district.

20                   Historically Myrtle Beach, Grand  
21 Strand, Florence and Darlington have always been  
22 connected. We have a lot more in common in this  
23 area, always have and always will, than we will  
24 with Columbia, with Charleston and especially with  
25 Colleton and Bamberg counties.

1                   Gentlemen, I can promise you after 16  
2 years of running the roads around here it doesn't  
3 matter whether it's Democrat or Republican. It can  
4 be an independent for all I personally care, but  
5 unless you construct us a Congressional district so  
6 that we can have a congressman from this area that  
7 is for this area, the Pee Dee and the Grand Strand,  
8 that corridor exchange that starts in Dillon and  
9 passes through this side of the state will continue  
10 to exist until the General Assembly as a whole  
11 realizes. The only way we're going to start  
12 eliminating that corridor is cutting off the top  
13 and building this district so that the people of  
14 this state can finally in part of the state can  
15 start seeing a light at the end of the tunnel.

16                   I thank you for your time.

17                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Before I do the  
18 next presenter, I did want to announce that Senator  
19 Williams was going to be with us, but the  
20 subcommittee meetings came up, Labor, Commerce and  
21 Industry Committee, and he had to stay and do his  
22 job which is to be there and represent you for the  
23 committee rather than being counted. And I told  
24 him I would make sure and announce that he wanted  
25 to be here with us. But I don't blame him. I

1 wouldn't miss a committee meeting.

2                   With that, I'll call Mr. Willie  
3 Gladden.

4                   MR. GLADDEN: Good afternoon. I'm from  
5 Marlboro County, and I'm here for the purpose of  
6 wanting to keep our senators in Marlboro County.

7                   Senator Elliott, Gerald Malloy, Ken  
8 Williams, we know all by the first names. Hey,  
9 Gerald. Hey, Ken. Hey, Dick. How are you doing?  
10 They've worked with us. We're one of the poorest  
11 counties in the state, but they're there. They're  
12 in the county all the time trying to get things  
13 done. We built a new library thanks to our  
14 senators. Justice Department, thanks to our  
15 senators.

16                   If we lose one of them, you all will  
17 hurt Marlboro County, and I'm asking you, please  
18 keep our three senators. Let us have them. We  
19 need them. That's all we got. We are poor. Our  
20 numbers are low, but we need our senators. That's  
21 all I have to say tonight. Please do this.

22                   Thank you.

23                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Sheila Gallagher.

24                   MS. GALLAGHER: Good evening,  
25 gentlemen. First I'd like you thank you for taking

1 on this job. I do not begrudge you at all. I've  
2 had the opportunity to take a few workshops on  
3 redistricting and I found it more than I wanted,  
4 and so I wish you well. I'll be sure to leave some  
5 holy water with someone.

6           A couple of issues. One has been  
7 addressing items also addressed in The State  
8 newspaper concerning precincts. Please, please  
9 don't cut and break up precincts. I understand how  
10 cities and towns -- and as much as we don't like  
11 that -- but it is so much work on -- on the people  
12 that have to work in these elections that a  
13 precinct really needs to be one. It gets very  
14 confusing.

15           In a race I'm very familiar with, we  
16 have folks that voted absentee that got to vote in  
17 a particular House district, but those that voted  
18 the day of the election at the precinct couldn't  
19 vote because they were told they weren't part of  
20 it. So truly anything and everything you can do,  
21 please make sure that the precincts stay intact as  
22 best you can.

23           The other point would be with our  
24 Congressional seats. And I do want to recognize  
25 Senator Elliott and Senator Leatherman who are here

1 because I appreciate their efforts. But in our  
2 Congressional seat -- and Senator McConnell and  
3 Senator Ford, you're from down there in the low  
4 country and the holy city, but somehow those folks  
5 down there -- y'all need to have that kind of draw  
6 down there.

7           And they can take Florence and maybe  
8 not so much Horry County necessarily, but if you  
9 look at Marion and Lee, you go up through  
10 Darlington and Chesterfield and such, that's the  
11 one example, but we definitely need to look at the  
12 politics, and since we're going to have seven,  
13 maybe work on five Republican seats and two  
14 Democratic seats.

15           And, again, I thank you very much.

16           SENATOR McCONNELL: Betty Dowling.

17           MS. DOWLING: Thank you so much,  
18 gentlemen, for the opportunity, and also let me  
19 thank you for your -- for your service to our great  
20 state.

21           I spent three years on the school board  
22 which you all know is the sand lug of politics.  
23 You do know what a sand lug is, don't you? That's  
24 the bottom of the tobacco plant -- old tobacco  
25 plant.

1                   First of all, let me tell you I was  
2 born in Florence County, and I'm not going to tell  
3 you how long ago that was because it was a long  
4 time. And -- but in '67 I married and moved to the  
5 outskirts of Timmons ville. At the time we built a  
6 lovely home over there, and I was sure 44 years  
7 later it would be West Florence by now.

8                   But somehow it got stuck over there  
9 with Mr. -- Mr. Laney, and I've heard it said -- I  
10 take that back. Basically in what I call Florence  
11 four school district, there are nine elected  
12 officials we are responsible for electing. That's  
13 seven school board members and one county  
14 councilman. And everybody else doesn't have to  
15 step foot anywhere near us for us to get elected,  
16 for them to stay in office, not one of them.

17                   Now, we have a nickname of the  
18 redheaded step-child, Orangeburg-Florence County.  
19 Some people even call us Drugville. None of which  
20 is true. But we have nobody that will protect us.  
21 If there's a fire at the Timmons ville schoolhouse,  
22 the news media will come running and put us on the  
23 front page, but there can be 19 people arrested in  
24 south Florence and it will never hit the newspaper.  
25 Wonder why?

1                   The truth is Phillip Lowe,  
2 Mr. Williams, John Land, I don't know, maybe --  
3 maybe Mr. Leatherman has a few of our people in  
4 district four, but we're standing out here with no  
5 representation, and we're -- and we actually have  
6 the first school in this state that is going to be  
7 on the verge of filing bankruptcy while everybody  
8 talks bad about us.

9                   The truth is we're not all pregnant and  
10 we're not all white and not all black and we're not  
11 all on drugs.

12                   We have 75 square miles of undeveloped  
13 property. Like I said, I moved there 44 years ago.  
14 I expected it to be West Florence now just like  
15 West Columbia.

16                   Mr. Clyburn doesn't have to come see us  
17 to get elected either. I understand -- I have a  
18 list here.

19                   I want you to add my name to Mal  
20 Weatherly who spoke the truth and Bill Pickle and  
21 Stephanie Rawlinson and Ethan Rivera and Tom  
22 Grimes.

23                   And I do need to tell you that I am of  
24 course vice president of the Florence County  
25 Republican Women's Club that only newly formed in

1 2009, and I'm also the second vice chairman of our  
2 Florence County Republican party in charge of  
3 membership.

4           I need to also tell you that I have  
5 never found myself on the same side of any argument  
6 with Councilmen Robinson until recently, and  
7 Council Robinson decided to take the Republican  
8 stand on the smoking ban, and that's why. And also  
9 which means that -- that means that Councilman  
10 Robinson can actually represent me and I'm white.  
11 Wow. How about that?

12           And you know -- and you know what else?  
13 Down in district one -- down in the Congressional  
14 district one we have elected ourself a conservative  
15 black congressman. So I am now going to tell you  
16 I'm a little bit tired of the black and white  
17 stuff. And it might be because I live in  
18 Timmonsville, but I'm tired of people -- there are  
19 bad white people, there are bad black people, and  
20 you all know that. There are people that no matter  
21 what color they are I don't want them living next  
22 door to me.

23           But when it comes to this  
24 redistricting -- I'm getting way off the subject  
25 here for y'all, but we are 900 million dollars in

1 the hole for the state; is that right? Our  
2 biggest -- our biggest debt is to educate the  
3 children and do Medicaid. The time has come for  
4 countywide consolidation of school districts. You  
5 cannot have the mecca of Florence with \$333,000  
6 value per mill while on the outskirts little country  
7 districts have a piddly little amount to give our  
8 children. And we all get in our car and drive to  
9 the rich places, work, spend our money before we  
10 come home and sleep in our bedroom communities.

11           You can save a lot of money right now  
12 by going back to Columbia and thinking about  
13 countywide consolidation. And don't you dare let  
14 anybody tell you that the local school boards need  
15 to -- you need to have local school boards. I was  
16 one. If you really think that school boards are  
17 running the schools, y'all all need to go back and  
18 look at the Code 59 laws because you made them.  
19 And they're not running the schools. You all are  
20 running the schools.

21           You wouldn't even stop a step pay  
22 increase which would have saved our own county a  
23 million dollars, but when you did do it, you let  
24 the school board members do it so the school board  
25 could be the one to take paychecks away instead of

1 you.

2                   I think it's time to kind of grow a  
3 backbone which you can see why I couldn't get  
4 elected to nothing.

5                   But -- but the truth is I don't think  
6 my vote counts, but I still go to vote and I still  
7 work to try to elect good candidates. But with the  
8 gerrymandering for all of it, Timmonsville has been  
9 cut into tiny pieces so that we can get all the  
10 black people we need into every place we need black  
11 people. Well, my white people and my white --  
12 black people in Timmonsville have not been fairly  
13 represented for a long time.

14                   Now -- now, you blacks may still see  
15 color, but, Mr. Robinson, I stopped seeing it a  
16 long time ago.

17                   MR. ROBINSON: And I still see it.

18                   MS. DOWLING: I know you still see it.  
19 I know you still see it because you told me that  
20 you have been suffering for 200 years for slavery,  
21 and if you remember what I told you, I said, You  
22 ain't a slave and I ain't a slave owner. Let's  
23 move on.

24                   All right. My point is please do what  
25 these people have asked you to do and consider

1 giving us the seventh district. We'll make you  
2 glad you did.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: Madie Robinson.

4 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
5 members of the redistricting committee.

6 My name is Madie Robinson. I am  
7 president of the Florence branch of NAACP and a  
8 citizen of Florence County.

9 The South Carolina Senate Redistricting  
10 Committee should proceed with the important process  
11 of redistricting by articulating the redistricting  
12 principles it intends to follow. Those principles  
13 should include transparency, fairness, compliance  
14 with the Voting Rights Act, and with equal  
15 protection. You should ensure one person, one  
16 vote.

17 You should redistrict in a way that  
18 avoids minority vote dilution. You should be  
19 careful to avoid packing which is drawing district  
20 lines so that the minority population is  
21 overconcentrated or packed into election districts.  
22 You should also be careful to avoid cracking or  
23 fracturing which is drawing district lines so that  
24 an area of concentrated minority population which  
25 is large enough for separate representation in that

1 it could constitute one or more majority --  
2 minority or majority black districts is divided and  
3 spread among several districts that are  
4 predominantly white.

5           You should be careful to avoid stacking  
6 which is drawing district lines so that a large  
7 minority population concentration is included with  
8 the larger white population with the purpose or  
9 effect of depriving minority voters of a voting  
10 majority. Stacking most classically happens in  
11 creation or redistricting of both our member  
12 districts although it can occur in the  
13 redistricting of single member districts.

14           We also respectfully request that you  
15 avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights  
16 relative to the status quo, that is, that you avoid  
17 creating retrogressive redistricting plans.

18           We ask that as a part of the  
19 transparency and increased community access to the  
20 process that the committee provide interested  
21 community members with access to the Senate's  
22 redistricting software or online system and of  
23 course training for members to use that mapping  
24 system. We request that you indicate the terminals  
25 that will be available to the community and when

1 they will be available. We also request a schedule  
2 of the remainder of the redistricting process.

3           Finally, to the extent that it is the  
4 practice to count prison inmates as residents of  
5 the localities in which they are imprisoned and  
6 because blacks and Latinos constitute a  
7 disproportionately high share of the state and  
8 federal prison population in South Carolina, we  
9 believe this process is harmful to minority  
10 interest in the redistricting process. We  
11 therefore ask that to help ensure fair  
12 redistricting that you count inmates as residents  
13 of the locality from which they have come.

14           And as citizen Madie Robinson, I stand  
15 to say that I am and many of the people that I work  
16 appreciate the representation that Congressman  
17 James E. Clyburn has provided to this district  
18 since 1992. His efforts have been stellar in  
19 working with persons of all socioeconomic status --  
20 status and with all colors.

21           And so we would ask as we continue the  
22 process that the comments that I've made be taken  
23 into consideration, and we thank you for this  
24 opportunity.

25           SENATOR McCONNELL: Andy Ingram.

1 MR. INGRAM: My comments have already  
2 been expressed.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. Thank  
4 you, sir.

5 Pat Gibson-Hye. Did I pronounce that  
6 correctly or --

7 MS. GIBSON-HYE: Pat Gibson-Hye.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.

9 MS. GIBSON-HYE: Good evening. Just  
10 for the record, I am a Democrat, and I'm very proud  
11 of it.

12 The poor, the tired, the weak and  
13 disenfranchised, when we mention those words, poor,  
14 tired, weak and disfranchised, everybody gets bored  
15 because they think that I'm talking about African  
16 Americans. But, no, we have many people of all  
17 races that are poor, tired and weak.

18 Everyone wants to have sprawling lawns,  
19 golf courses and country clubs, but that's not  
20 going to happen. In real life we know that's not  
21 going to happen. But what can happen is fairness,  
22 being fair and equitable across the board.

23 We all in South Carolina should be  
24 embarrassed. We should be embarrassed that we are  
25 still under section five of the 1965 Voting Act.

1 We should be embarrassed that we have to go to the  
2 Justice Department to get permission to do anything  
3 that we do. It's 2011. Why can't we just be fair  
4 for all people, all people, all races, rich or  
5 poor, weak or strong.

6                   People have one voice and one vote.  
7 Many people don't vote because they feel their  
8 votes don't count.

9                   Congressman Clyburn of the sixth  
10 Congressional district, he reaches across the  
11 lines. He tries to do things fairly and equitably,  
12 and because of that, we're getting comments of  
13 people saying that he's not representing them, but  
14 he is representing them. The problem with that is  
15 he's representing everyone, not just some.

16                   So when you think of -- when you think  
17 of redistricting, think about these rural areas.  
18 Think about Pamplico. Think about Olanta. Think  
19 about Lake City. Think about the people that don't  
20 speak up for themselves. We have to speak for  
21 them. Everyone -- you're there to speak for them.  
22 I'm on the process of going to the school board to  
23 help speak for education.

24                   We just recently got today -- we  
25 just -- we had to go before the Justice Department

1 because of the 2010 election. It wasn't done  
2 fairly. The plan that the Justice Department  
3 approved was not implemented in the 2010, nor 2008,  
4 nor 2010 election. Well, guess what, the Justice  
5 Department told us today that's the way its going  
6 to be.

7                   Well, we had -- in South Carolina we  
8 just have to start being fair with each other,  
9 letting everyone have a piece of the pie. No one  
10 deserves everything, but everyone deserves  
11 something.

12                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thomas Sheheen.

13                   MR. SHEELY: Excuse me. What did you  
14 say?

15                   SENATOR McCONNELL: I'll try -- Thomas  
16 Sheheen or Thomas Sheely. It's one of the two.

17                   MR. SHEELY: Thank you.

18                   My name is Tom Sheely. I've only lived  
19 in Florence County for a short time period, moving  
20 here from out of state and glad that I did.

21                   But when I look at the Congressional  
22 district, and I look at the Senate districts, I'm  
23 appalled. I'm appalled because I look at the  
24 Senate -- at the -- the Congressional district and  
25 see a little sliver here of one county tied off to

1 another district.

2                   I look at the Senate -- at the state  
3 Senate district, and a couple of people have spoken  
4 concerning Timmonsville, and you put them in a  
5 little pocket there by themselves. I say you. Not  
6 you personally.

7                   And then I read a piece of paper that  
8 you handed out talking about how traditional  
9 district principles are being followed, and if you  
10 look at these maps and you read those words, they  
11 don't go together. You've failed.

12                   You need to follow the guidelines that  
13 you have here and you can have equal  
14 representation, but you can't have equal  
15 representation in the eyes of the people when you  
16 gerrymander it like this. And you can use any term  
17 you want about calling it equality and trying to  
18 make sure that everybody's represented, but you're  
19 gerrymandering. And if you sign off on that, you  
20 should be ashamed of yourself, because it should  
21 not happen.

22                   We talk about one vote, one person --  
23 one person, one vote. Excuse me. That has nothing  
24 to do with your ethnic background. It has nothing  
25 to do with your politics. All you have to do is

1 follow these guidelines and you won't have a  
2 problem and everybody will have one person, one  
3 vote.

4           The other thing that I've heard  
5 repeatedly both last night and tonight is the  
6 concern about precincts. Draw the Congressional  
7 boundaries. Draw the Senate boundaries, and let  
8 the local authorities make the precincts line up.  
9 Don't twist it the other way. That's backwards,  
10 and you won't get it right.

11           So I urge you follow what you have on  
12 your piece of paper. And when you look in the  
13 mirror in the morning, make sure you like what you  
14 see because if you don't follow these rigidly,  
15 you're not going to like what's looking back at  
16 you.

17           Thank you.

18           SENATOR McCONNELL: E. J. McIver.

19           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please -- please  
20 repeat the name.

21           SENATOR McCONNELL: McIver. Mr. E. J.  
22 McIver.

23           Did I say your name right?

24           MR. McIVER: You absolutely did. Thank  
25 you very much.

1                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

2                   MR. McIVER: First of all, I'd like to  
3 thank you for allowing me to come up here and say a  
4 few words.

5                   Madie just got through talking and I  
6 concur -- I didn't know she was going to be here,  
7 but I concur on what she said.

8                   And I'm taking this thing back a little  
9 bit. I used to be chairman of the apportionment  
10 committee for Florence. I was one of the first  
11 black city councilmen in Florence way back yonder.  
12 I think it was Gilbert and I -- he was a senator,  
13 and we were working to do redistricting many years  
14 ago.

15                   The first thing, you know, as I reflect  
16 back to 1977, I remember when I was still in the  
17 boys club here how people said we were so divided  
18 in this area, and what I found was -- well, we had  
19 some of the guys who were in power at the time, and  
20 we all came together and worked together on one  
21 chord. And Florence then became an all American  
22 city.

23                   What I'm hoping for today is that South  
24 Carolina -- you know, I was born and raised here at  
25 McLeod Hospital, and I'm proud of South Carolina.

1 And in order to be proud of the state, we must be  
2 proud of our heritage as well. You can't get away  
3 from our heritage. We can build on that, and South  
4 Carolina can really be a shining example for our  
5 children that we are raising now.

6                   And I'm on the school board now. So  
7 I'm trying to show the kids exactly what our  
8 legislator -- legislature is trying to do.

9                   Again, you're going to have some people  
10 who are going to take different views on different  
11 things, and one of the things -- I went to school  
12 with Clyburn. We were down in South Carolina State  
13 together. And of course he didn't do everything  
14 right then, but he has tried to correct -- and here  
15 this Clyburn bashing that's been going on, I think  
16 it's a shame because what hurts me the most is  
17 tonight when we wait out for election results to  
18 come in and this board -- this young man has  
19 brought a lot of money into this particular county.  
20 And he gets absolutely no credit. I don't think he  
21 ever was wrong.

22                   Now, I don't know what -- that's a  
23 testimony to us. Maybe we're not doing the right  
24 thing by getting the vote out. I hope and pray  
25 that as you do the lines -- I remember when I was

1 at Duke, we were looking at the lines that they  
2 were drawing, and we said, Well, we need some  
3 Republican lines. We need some Republican  
4 districts. Okay?

5                   But the problem was some of those  
6 redistricting was done to get some blacks in, you  
7 know, into the -- into the process. As a result of  
8 course we got a lot of Republicans in. Now, I'm  
9 hoping and praying that we don't have no  
10 Republicans like we have in Washington because,  
11 boy, that's a shame.

12                   Thinking about what we're going to do  
13 with what we have going on right now, the  
14 government may shut down. Why? Because some  
15 ideologue. I'm hoping that you gentlemen -- I --  
16 I've read about most of you who actually lived in  
17 Charleston one time or, you know, part time.  
18 Senator McConnell, he does a lot of good work down  
19 there. I always see Senator Ford at the -- at the  
20 Post Office usually. Senator Malloy, he's my  
21 representative here.

22                   I'm hoping that you guys can put your  
23 heads together and come up with an equitable plan  
24 like we did in '77, come together and say you want  
25 the best for South Carolina. Let South Carolina be

1 a shining example for the -- for the -- for the  
2 country, and that would really shock the living  
3 daylights out of them. But I hope you can,  
4 gentlemen.

5 Thank you. Good luck to you.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Murray Jordan.

7 MR. JORDAN: Senator McConnell, the  
8 first thing is we can't hear when you speak while  
9 applause is going on, but I may be the last one, so  
10 it may be dead information.

11 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

12 MR. JORDAN: I'm Murray Jordan, a  
13 resident of Florence and a voting citizen, and I  
14 know that we've got quite a cross-section of the  
15 Senate here. Including Senator Leatherman, we may  
16 have, what, 20 percent of the Senate here. We've  
17 got a lot of Senate here. I appreciate you  
18 gentlemen being here.

19 And you're here because you have a  
20 responsibility and I'm here because I have a mutual  
21 responsibility, and that is to deal with this issue  
22 of redistricting. Redistricting is the most  
23 important role that the government of South  
24 Carolina has. That is to redistrict itself so that  
25 the districts protect the rights and interests of

1 all of the people. All of the roads of government  
2 are secondary to this.

3           In this morning's edition of the  
4 Florence Morning News, an unsigned editorial was  
5 published addressing the ultimate political art of  
6 gerrymandering. I would like to write so well.  
7 And because I don't write that well, I'm going to  
8 read excerpts from that editorial with a couple  
9 small changes to achieve clarity.

10           Ever since Eldridge Gerry -- or Gerry,  
11 if you want to use it that way, the government of  
12 Massachusetts in 1812 figured out that manipulating  
13 who voted in elections was an excellent way of  
14 determining who won them. The act of redistricting  
15 has held a sacred place in the hallow back room  
16 halls where serious politicking is done.

17           Governor Gerry was well-known politico  
18 in the late 18th and early 19th century. He was  
19 James Madison's vice president and later the  
20 governor of Massachusetts. While in the latter  
21 post, he and his minions designed a state electoral  
22 map that put all of Gerry's opponents into a  
23 weirdly shaped district freeing up the rest of the  
24 state to elect members of Gerry's party.

25           The shape of the weird district was

1 compared to a salamander which some clever 19th  
2 century newspaperman then called a gerrymander and,  
3 well, the rest is history. Sadly gerrymandering is  
4 still a word today and redistricting is still the  
5 ultimate political act. No other offers so perfect  
6 a view of the partisanship that is an essential  
7 part of our democracy.

8           I guess that means we have to have  
9 political parties. I'm not quite sure I like that,  
10 but I don't know how we'd operate without them.

11           Early handicapping has focused on  
12 geography, but the new Congressional seat won't be  
13 about place. It will be about party or even about  
14 that old South Carolina favorite race. We -- and  
15 I'm still quoting from the editorial by the  
16 Florence Morning News editorial staff.

17           We dislike gerrymandering in general  
18 and are so loathed to recommend any plan based on  
19 the premises that that's all right.

20           In other words, it's okay to take away  
21 some of my rights and give them to somebody else  
22 and therefore disenfranchise me -- disenfranchise me.  
23 That was my comment added.

24           Now, I'm through with the Morning News.

25           I live in the sixth Congressional

1 district. Due to gerrymandering and intentional  
2 voter dilution in the sixth district, my vote does  
3 not count. I have no representation. The sixth  
4 district does not even remotely resemble the makeup  
5 of the citizens of the general area and the state.

6           The sixth district is gerrymandered to  
7 favor the incumbent with an ability to raise  
8 campaign contributions and throw our political  
9 favors and build bridges to nowhere, and I am  
10 charging that the district is racially  
11 gerrymandering.

12           I knew John L. McMillan, congressman.  
13 I know Ed Young. I know Robin Powell. I know John  
14 Napier. And I have called -- and I know James  
15 Clyburn. And he is not returned a phone call from  
16 me since 1994. I know his telephone number,  
17 661-2121, and I didn't look it up today or  
18 yesterday. I've known that number for 17 years.

19           And I remember when Robin Powell went  
20 to pay the filing fee in 1992. He actually went  
21 and sat -- I don't know whether he went in or sat  
22 outside, but he told me that he realized he stood  
23 no chance of being competitive in that race with  
24 the new gerrymander district. He -- he elected not  
25 to run for Congress.

1                   Gerrymandering first practiced in 1812  
2 in Massachusetts is unconstitutional and morally  
3 and ethically wrong. It is practiced here in South  
4 Carolina all the way down from the Congressional  
5 seats to county councils, city councils and school  
6 boards. You know why it's not done for the state  
7 Congressional's offices and the governor's office?  
8 Because there's no district to gerrymander. You  
9 can't gerrymander those. That's the whole state.

10                   Here in the city of Florence we have  
11 two districts that are deliberately illegal because  
12 they're gerrymandered so it's a guaranteed minority  
13 councilmen, such as Mr. Robinson, a seat. Even the  
14 percentages are drastically skewed.

15                   The unwritten rule of protection of  
16 incumbents is pure billowing smoke. Clyburn does  
17 not own the sixth district seat. The people own  
18 the seat. I don't care if ten incumbents end up in  
19 the same district. I want every district to meet  
20 the ideals and principles of law and Constitutional  
21 redistricting.

22                   In South Carolina we have elected a  
23 female minority to the governorship. In the first  
24 Congressional district, a very conservative  
25 district, we have elected a black male to the city.

1 In the city of Florence we have elected a black  
2 female to an at-large seat. Similar results are  
3 occurring all across the state.

4           You must stand up to the Justice  
5 Department and stand against gerrymandering,  
6 whether it be political or racial. Any district,  
7 Congressional, city, county, school board, must be  
8 contiguous, compact and be composed of similar  
9 population. A circle most efficiently achieves  
10 these goals. I know we cannot redesignate the  
11 state with perfect circles, but a square is the  
12 next most efficient shape, but I don't see any of  
13 them on these maps up here.

14           But that thought must be in mind as you  
15 create districts that take into account the  
16 similarity and population and natural barriers and  
17 population concentrations.

18           What does Florence have in common with  
19 downtown Columbia? When it comes to redistricting,  
20 nothing. I want Florence and the surrounding area  
21 to be in the new seventh Congressional district  
22 that includes Horry County. I want my vote to  
23 count and I want to be represented in Congress, and  
24 if I need a constituent service, I want a  
25 congressman that will return my phone call.

1 I am PO'd -- that means properly  
2 outraged -- with the current situation. Give me  
3 all the citizens of this -- give me and all the  
4 citizens of this state the redistricting that we  
5 deserve, not gerrymandered districts to empower  
6 political parties or to guarantee seats to  
7 incumbents like James Clyburn, a man who has  
8 publicly stated that we do things in Washington  
9 that are not in the Constitution.

10 Give me my vote and representation  
11 back. To gerrymander my vote away in the name of  
12 fairness is totally unfair to me.

13 As far as the state Senate -- state  
14 Senate seats are concerned, give each county as  
15 much as possible senators that are dedicated to  
16 each county. Florence County currently has four  
17 senators. I believe you can do better than that  
18 when you redistrict the Senate.

19 We were talking earlier about how  
20 Timmons ville just has a little piece that I think  
21 John Land has. And remember this. The highest  
22 office held in the land is the voting citizen, and  
23 the secret ballot of the vote is greatest right.  
24 It's not a privilege but a right of the people.

25 You have a difficult job to do, but

1 you've been elected and it is your responsibility  
2 to do it right. You asked for it. Thank you.  
3 Please do it.

4                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Senator Dick  
5 Elliott. Senator Elliott, did you have anything  
6 you wanted to say to this group?

7                   SENATOR ELLIOTT: I'm fine. Thank you.

8                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Senator Hugh  
9 Leatherman, I see you out there. I'm going to ask  
10 you if you have anything -- words you wish to  
11 embark to us.

12                   SENATOR LEATHERMAN: No.

13                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you for  
14 coming down here -- coming with us.

15                   Well, that concludes the testimony in  
16 this hearing. We will be convening -- this panel  
17 will be convening tomorrow night in Charleston,  
18 South Carolina -- in Charleston if any of you have  
19 an interest in coming back to see us.

20                   Again, I would reaffirm your written  
21 comments will be received with the same weight as  
22 your testimony here. Please feel free to send  
23 those to us if you so like.

24                   With that, y'all have a good evening.

25 (The public hearing was concluded at 8:15 p.m.)

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 I, Yvonne R. Bohannon, Registered Merit  
3 Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary  
4 Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do  
5 hereby certify:

6 That the foregoing transcript was taken  
7 before me on the date and at the time and location  
8 stated on page 1 of this transcript; that all  
9 statements made on the record at the time of the  
10 proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and  
11 were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing  
12 proceeding as typed is a true, accurate and  
13 complete record of the proceeding to the best of my  
14 ability.

15 I further certify that I am neither  
16 related to nor counsel for any party to the cause  
17 pending or interested in the events thereof.

18 Witness my hand, I have hereunto  
19 affixed my official seal this 14th day of April, at  
20 Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



21 *Yvonne R. Bohannon*

22 Yvonne R. Bohannon  
23 Registered Merit  
24 Reporter, CRR  
25 My Commission expires  
April 11, 2015

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