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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

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7

PUBLIC SESSION

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Monday, June 20, 2011

12

13

5:15 p.m.

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15

Room 105, Gressette Building

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Columbia, South Carolina

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19 REPORTED BY:

Janni S. Jardine

Court Reporter

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2 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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4 SENATOR GLENN F. McCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

5 SENATOR ROBERT FORD

6 SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY, III

7 SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO

8 SENATOR GERALD MALLOY

9 SENATOR LARRY A. MARTIN

10 SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

11

12

STAFF PRESENT:

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14 CHARLES TERRENI, CHIEF COUNSEL

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2                   SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. I'm going  
3 to call this public hearing on congressional  
4 redistricting plans to order. I want to welcome everyone  
5 to this important hearing. And let me stop and say I  
6 apologize we don't have more space, but this is -- about  
7 is -- I think is our biggest room in the building. And  
8 we're going to -- until the fire marshal gives us some  
9 edict that we've got to move some folks to another room,  
10 we're going to try to accommodate you in here as best we  
11 can.

12                   I want to welcome every one of you,  
13 again. As I've stated with the Senate Redistricting  
14 Plan, what we do today and in the coming days will have a  
15 major impact on the citizens of our state for the next  
16 decade.

17                   For the first time since the 1920s, South  
18 Carolina has seven congressional districts, and as this  
19 subcommittee heard during the public hearings across the  
20 state, the location of the new congressional district is  
21 of great importance to many people.

22                   We are convened tonight to receive public  
23 comments about the proposed staff congressional plans and  
24 the other proposed congressional plans that were  
25 submitted to us for consideration. The two proposed

1 staff congressional plans were posted on our website on  
2 Friday, June the 17th, 2011.

3           In addition to today's hearing, the  
4 subcommittee will meet tomorrow, Tuesday, June the 21st,  
5 at 10 a.m. to deliberate on a congressional plan.

6           And is it going to be in this room?

7           MS. HAMMOND: Yes.

8           SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. It will be  
9 in this room.

10           The full Judiciary Committee is scheduled  
11 to meet later that same day, tomorrow, at 3 p.m. to  
12 consider the subcommittee's recommendations and possible  
13 amendments. The Judiciary Committee will, in turn, issue  
14 its report to the full Senate.

15           As I also mentioned during our hearings on  
16 Senate redistricting, this Redistricting Subcommittee has  
17 endeavored to have an open and participatory process for  
18 redistricting.

19           The subcommittee members traveled to ten  
20 public hearings all across the state to listen to the  
21 concerns of all interested parties, and we heard a great  
22 deal of testimony about congressional districts at each  
23 of these hearings.

24           I want to remind everyone that over 700  
25 people attended these hearings, and more than 150 people

1 spoke to us or sent in written comments. I think we all  
2 learned a lot through these public hearings and the  
3 written comments.

4           After the public hearings, this  
5 subcommittee met, and following careful consideration and  
6 discussions, adopted redistricting guidelines to follow  
7 in drafting and evaluating redistricting plans, which  
8 apply to both congressional and Senate redistricting  
9 plans.

10           In the matter of variances, I want to  
11 remind everyone here that congressional districts can  
12 only vary in size by one person, not 1 percent. Each  
13 district must be mathematically within plus or minus one  
14 person of the required 660,766 population.

15           We invited and received from interested  
16 parties several proposed congressional plans. All of  
17 these public submissions have been posted on the Senate  
18 redistricting website, including the two proposed staff  
19 plans for congressional redistricting.

20           I expect we will be hearing various  
21 comments from individuals here tonight on several of  
22 these plans. As we go through this process, we must be  
23 conscious of the needs and concerns of all of our  
24 citizens as we draw these new congressional districts.

25           A congressional plan must comply with the

1 redistricting guidelines, the U.S. Constitution, our  
2 state constitution, and the Voting Rights Act.

3           Because this is a public hearing, we want  
4 to hear from the public, so I'm asking the subcommittee  
5 members to keep any questions or comments brief unless  
6 there is an issue that needs immediate clarification, as  
7 you will have an opportunity tomorrow morning to engage  
8 in discussion.

9           Unless there are any questions or comments  
10 from the subcommittee at this time, I will call on the  
11 first person to speak. And I would ask, for the sake of  
12 all of these people that want to be heard, to try to keep  
13 your comments concise. And if somebody has stated what  
14 you would have stated, has already stated it, if you  
15 reaffirm that, then it will be the same as if we hear it,  
16 and it will give everybody an ample opportunity to  
17 hear -- to be heard on all of these plans.

18           So with that --

19           All right. Counsel informs me -- we try to  
20 ask people to keep their comments to three to five  
21 minutes for the purposes of getting through everybody.  
22 The other thing is, if it 's a particular plan that  
23 you're here to speak on, if you will tell us, hopefully  
24 we can put it on the screen here if that will assist in  
25 your presentation to the committee. And I think the

1 podium right here is all activated.

2                   So with that, we'll get started. And our  
3 first person is Ms. Mary Helen Yarborough.

4                   Ms. Yarborough?

5                   Okay. I'll move to the second one, Mr. Joe  
6 Dugan.

7                   MR. DUGAN: Good afternoon, Senator  
8 McConnell.

9                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Good afternoon, sir.

10                  MR. DUGAN: Members of the subcommittee on  
11 redistricting, good to see you all again. We were here  
12 to see you a week or so ago, maybe two weeks ago.

13                  Please take into account when you make your  
14 decision on the new congressional district --

15                  SENATOR MALLOY: Mr. Chairman?

16                  SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

17                  SENATOR MALLOY: We would ask -- I would  
18 like for each one of the people that will speak to let us  
19 know where they are from.

20                  SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. We got it  
21 for the record here, but you all didn't.

22                  But go ahead, if you would, sir.

23                  MR. DUGAN: Okay. My name is Joe Dugan,  
24 and I am chairman of the board of the Myrtle Beach Tea  
25 Party. And I am here to address this committee with a

1 number of issues that we would like to relate to you.

2 And I ask you to please take them into your -- into

3 account when you make your decisions on the new

4 congressional district for South Carolina.

5                   When attending the House Committee hearing  
6 in Myrtle Beach, I advocated placing Horry County in the  
7 new district for the following reasons: Horry County has  
8 had 37-percent population growth over the past ten years,  
9 from 2000 to 2010. That growth rate probably would have  
10 been greater than 75 percent had we not had the housing  
11 crisis that has peaked in 2005.

12                   So half of that decade was lost in our  
13 growth rate because, as you are well aware, everything  
14 shut down. The banks locked their doors, and nobody sold  
15 a house. You are well aware of the no-interest and the  
16 no-doc and sub-prime loans that were being issued in  
17 2005.

18                   When the housing bubble burst, those first  
19 affected were loans for second homes, which hit Horry  
20 County particularly bad. Everyone suffered, but vacation  
21 home -- homes bled the most.

22                   We will not get another chance for  
23 redistricting for another ten years. And if the housing  
24 market does recover, it is quite reasonable to assume  
25 that the baby boomers will -- once they sell their

1 mansions in the North, they will move to smaller homes  
2 and warmer climates near the ocean. That has been the  
3 pattern for generations upon generations, and it will  
4 bring us -- bring us huge population growth through 2020.  
5 But even though our population skyrockets, we will have  
6 no chance until 2020 to get another congressional seat.

7           In one area of Horry County, Carolina  
8 Forest, over the last decade, the population has grown by  
9 over 520 percent.

10           Also, Horry -- because of tourism, Horry  
11 County pays a huge amount to the state coffers and is in  
12 dire need of infrastructure such as evacuation routes.  
13 And we have all seen natural disasters in this country in  
14 recent years that costs have been astronomical. However,  
15 the biggest cost we might have to pay may be in human  
16 life, should our citizens and tourists get caught on the  
17 coast in a severe hurricane.

18           Horry County also happens to be the largest  
19 county geographically east of the Mississippi River, and  
20 yet it is also one of the poorest. The largest cash  
21 crop, tobacco, has followed the demise of the textile  
22 industry, and it now needs to be brought into the age of  
23 technology to grow and prosper. We have special needs,  
24 and with them require a congressman who can focus on  
25 bringing technology and jobs to this part of the state.

1                   Prior to 1990, Horry County and the Pee Dee  
2 were linked for a hundred years. The time has come for  
3 us to go back to that model of shared interests and  
4 communities. Because of the growth of the Pee Dee, we  
5 need a congressman to focus on the growth in this area.

6                   There are many other issues that I have not  
7 delineated here that you will hear from other people.  
8 But I honestly can say to you that we are now -- one of  
9 the -- one of your plans, your Plan 1, shows Myrtle Beach  
10 and North Myrtle Beach divided, where North Myrtle Beach  
11 would be in the new District 7, and Myrtle Beach, which  
12 shares all the common interests with North Myrtle Beach,  
13 would be kept in District 1. That just does not make any  
14 sense to me.

15                   I understand that you gentlemen have a  
16 problem with figuring out the numbers to meet the court's  
17 needs so that you can get a redistricting --  
18 redistricting plan accepted, but to divide an area of  
19 common tourism like this into two separate districts just  
20 doesn't make any sense to me.

21                   And the other thing is that I fully  
22 sympathize with Charleston's needs and them needing to  
23 get their harbor dredged. But we need some help with our  
24 infrastructure and an advocate in congress for it, for  
25 501. We drive from Conway or -- down to North Myrtle

1 Beach or to Myrtle Beach, and we can sit in traffic there  
2 for an hour and move three miles during the summertime.  
3 Traffic just comes to a dead halt. And so we have our  
4 own needs, and we're certainly paying our fair share, or  
5 more, to the state.

6                   And some of it -- I have a gentleman here  
7 with me today that is a small businessman. He owns a  
8 restaurant called Rotelli's in Conway, and he told me  
9 today that of the 10-and-half-percent sales tax that his  
10 customers pay when they go there to dine, 8 percent of  
11 it, fully 8 percent of it, goes to the state. And what  
12 comes back? That money goes to Charleston. It stays in  
13 Columbia. What about the -- you know, this tax is not  
14 just for tourists. There are people that live there all  
15 year round, and they have to pay these exorbitant tax  
16 rates that -- you know, I can understand you wanting to  
17 sock it to the tourists a little bit, but it should have  
18 been done sensibly with a motel rate tax, and not -- if I  
19 go into Myrtle Beach and have dinner with my wife, it's  
20 11-and-a-half percent on a meal.

21                   So I would thank you for taking these  
22 points into consideration in your decision making. These  
23 are only a few arguments in favor of an Horry/Pee Dee  
24 district, but I hope you will give them some thought and  
25 consideration.

1 Thank you very much.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

3 Representative Alan Clemmons.

4 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: Thank you so  
5 much, gentlemen. Alan Clemmons, House of  
6 Representatives, District 107. I represent Myrtle Beach.

7 I promise not to read this book to you  
8 today, but I'm a student of history, like many of you are  
9 students of history. And this book is the Historical  
10 Atlas of United States Congressional Districts from 1789,  
11 and in this abstract, it reflects that the very first  
12 congressional districts drawn in South Carolina by  
13 founders of this nation, drawn and ratified in 1788, put  
14 at that time what was called the Cheraw/Georgetown  
15 District together.

16 Now, they called it the Cheraw/Georgetown  
17 District because that's all there was in the Pee Dee at  
18 that time, Cheraw and Georgetown. But if you look at the  
19 map, it's all of the Pee Dee region.

20 Now, the Pee Dee region constitutes a  
21 number of counties. Those counties are Horry,  
22 Georgetown, Florence, Darlington, Chesterfield, Dillon,  
23 Marlboro, Marion, Lee, and Williamsburg. Today, that's  
24 about 700,000 in population.

25 Okay. So they were put together by the

1 founders of this nation in one congressional district.  
2 Why is that? Because they were a community of interest.  
3 At that time, the Pee Dee River was the main mode of  
4 transportation and trade. The Pee Dee River -- everybody  
5 used the Pee Dee River. The counties that touched the  
6 Pee Dee River became brothers and sisters in a Pee Dee  
7 region -- in a Pee Dee family, if you will.

8                   That configuration continued for the First  
9 and Second Congresses, then, again, in the Third Congress  
10 through the Seventh Congress. In the Eighth through  
11 Twelfth Congress, Darlington, Georgetown, Horry, Marion,  
12 and Marlboro were together. This continued on  
13 throughout -- on until our times.

14                   In 1991 -- in 1991, that district was split  
15 apart by a congressional -- by a draw by the courts.  
16 Congressional district in the Pee Dee was split, and it  
17 was divided up amongst several different congressional  
18 districts. Horry was put with Charleston. We had never  
19 been with Charleston before. In fact, if you look back  
20 at Charleston's history as a congressional district, from  
21 the 48th Congress, about 1880 until 1991, Charleston was  
22 tied with Beaufort.

23                   Gentlemen of the subcommittee, it is my  
24 opinion and it is the opinion of the House of  
25 Representatives that it makes sense to bring the Pee Dee

1 back together in a congressional district represented by  
2 a Pee Dee congressman. It makes sense today just like it  
3 made sense 200 years ago.

4           One of the things that the House looked at  
5 while drawing its plan was an organization known as the  
6 Northeastern Strategic Alliance. Every one of the  
7 counties contained in the Northeastern Strategic Alliance  
8 are contained within the seventh congressional district  
9 that the House drew, every one of those counties.

10           The Northeastern Strategic Alliance is more  
11 than just a volunteer organization of counties. It is an  
12 organization of counties who pay to have membership in  
13 their organization. My county, Horry County, pays about  
14 20 percent of the operating budget of the Northeastern  
15 Strategic Alliance between private business, local  
16 government, and county government. Every one of the  
17 counties pay to be a part of NESAs. NESAs is Horry  
18 County --

19           SENATOR MALLOY: Mr. Chairman?

20           SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes.

21           SENATOR MALLOY: Question, is Williamsburg  
22 in the NESAs?

23           REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: It is not. As I  
24 said, there are ten counties in the Pee Dee, including  
25 Lee and Williamsburg. That's about 700,000 population.

1 That's too much for one congressional district.

2                   SENATOR MALLOY: But is Williamsburg in  
3 NESA?

4                   REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: But Williamsburg  
5 is not in NESA, no. Neither is Lee County. But every  
6 one of the NESA counties are contained within the seventh  
7 district, as drawn by the House.

8                   NESA is Horry County and Florence County  
9 and Darlington County, and every one of the counties  
10 within the region that the House drew as a seventh  
11 district is our economic development arm. It's who we  
12 depend upon to go out and attract business and industry  
13 to come into our area.

14                   Today, the NESA organization is working  
15 with 25 different prospects that are interested in  
16 locating into Horry County. That translates into about  
17 3,000 jobs. That's what's going on in Horry. The same  
18 story is going on throughout all the NESA counties. We  
19 are tied together by commerce.

20                   When our football teams go to play  
21 football, it's usually against a Pee Dee team. When we  
22 go to hospitals, our regional hospitals are contained in  
23 Florence and Horry Counties.

24                   Senator Hutto, you and I are very involved  
25 with the Boy Scout organization. When I was a Boy Scout,

1 I was a part of the Pee Dee Area Council. Later, I had  
2 the honor of serving in the Pee Dee Area Council as its  
3 president. But all of the Pee Dee counties are part of  
4 the Pee Dee Area Council, and it still is today.

5                   When I went to boys' camp, I went from  
6 Horry County to Chesterfield County, to Camp Coker. My  
7 little girls, when they were Girl Scouts, they were part  
8 of the Pee Dee Girl Scout organization. And when they  
9 went to summer camp, they went from Horry County to  
10 Marlboro County in a camp called Camp Pee Dee, located  
11 between Bennettsville and Cheraw.

12                   When we have a Federal Court matter in the  
13 Pee Dee, in Horry or in Marlboro County or in Dillon  
14 County, we go to the Federal Court in Florence.

15                   We've been advocating as a NESAs  
16 organization and as a region for I-73. We're tied  
17 together on so many fronts. It makes so much sense to  
18 bring our Pee Dee family back together again. Put us  
19 together so we can elect a Pee Dee congressman to  
20 represent Pee Dee interests in the United States  
21 Congress.

22                   I would like to add, with regard to the  
23 first congressional plan, the first staff plan that  
24 you've released, in looking at the Pee Dee region, the  
25 two major cities of the Pee Dee are Myrtle Beach and

1 Florence. Your first -- your Number 1 draw would split  
2 one of those two main cities of the Pee Dee out of the  
3 Pee Dee. I would request, respectfully but forcefully,  
4 that we keep Horry County whole. Horry County needs to  
5 stay whole. It needs to have a voice as a whole county.

6                   You've taken Georgetown County out of the  
7 mix. Georgetown County is an integral part of the Pee  
8 Dee. It has our port. It has our Pee Dee port in it.  
9 We have a lot of common ties with Georgetown. It's one  
10 of us. It's a part of our family.

11                   The one last note I would like to leave  
12 with you is media. The FCC has -- has designated the  
13 Florence, Darlington, Horry County market as a media  
14 market. An order had been issued. Hearings have been  
15 held. They have determined that our commonalities of  
16 interest, our community of interest, is the same.

17                   I see some television cameras here. Guess  
18 what? Every one of these stations represented here are  
19 Horry County stations, but people in Darlington, people  
20 in Hartsville, people in Florence, people in  
21 Bennettsville are going to see this newscast because we  
22 are one community of interest.

23                   Gentlemen, I would -- I would request that  
24 you take a hard look at the House plan for the seventh  
25 congressional district, and whatever plan you adopt, keep

1 us together as one voice. Don't split our communities  
2 up, and don't split the counties up insofar as possible  
3 to reach your deviations.

4           Those are my remarks, gentlemen. I would  
5 be happy to entertain any questions that you might have.

6           SENATOR FORD: Real quick?

7           SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir, Senator Ford.

8           SENATOR FORD: What's the racial breakdown  
9 in this district?

10          REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: I'm sorry?

11          SENATOR FORD: What's the racial breakdown  
12 under your plan?

13          REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: Under the House  
14 plan, in the seventh district, the black voting-age  
15 population is 27.6, if I recall correctly. And I'm  
16 getting a nod from staff that that is correct.

17          SENATOR McCONNELL: The NESA -- just to  
18 make the record straight, I'm looking at the map, and it  
19 appears that Williamsburg is in that.

20          REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: It may be. It  
21 may be, Senator. I did not recall that it was, but it  
22 very possibly is.

23          SENATOR MALLOY: Mr. Chair, the senator  
24 from Williamsburg is the chairman of NESA.

25          SENATOR McCONNELL: Oh, well, then I'm sure

1 it's in there.

2                   SENATOR MALLOY: Senator McGill.

3                   REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: Oh, absolutely.

4 That's correct. Senator McGill is the chairman, so it  
5 has to be in.

6                   SENATOR FORD: Why did you leave it out?

7                   REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: Population. One  
8 of the counties had to come out in order to have the  
9 appropriate deviation.

10                  SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. Thank you,  
11 sir. I appreciate it.

12                  REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: Thank you,  
13 Senators. Thank you.

14                  SENATOR McCONNELL: Ethan Rivera. Did I  
15 get that name correct?

16                  MR. RIVERA: Close enough.

17                  Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of this  
18 committee. My name is Ethan Rivera. I'm a  
19 most-of-my-life resident of Florence County, and I'm a  
20 student at Francis Marion University, and that is what  
21 the crux of my discussion with you here is today.

22                  As you know, FMU is a state school, and  
23 under the House plan that Mr. Clemmons was discussing  
24 earlier, it is almost the geographic center of that  
25 seventh district in Eastern -- in its location in Eastern

1 Florence County.

2                   FMU, though it's a state school and draws  
3 students from all the 50 states, most of their students  
4 are coming from Florence, Marion, Darlington, some from  
5 Horry County. Most of them are coming from that Pee Dee  
6 area, and it has many partnerships with Coastal Carolina  
7 for research, for shared resources, including, but  
8 certainly not limited to, cohosting the last  
9 gubernatorial debate. They collaborate on so much, and  
10 it makes good, logical sense to have these two schools  
11 and these two college communities in the same district.

12                   Before I transferred to FMU, I was a  
13 student at Florence-Darlington Technical College, and I  
14 was there with you all and with a lot of the people here  
15 at the hearing that was held there. And I made the point  
16 that we were standing in Florence-Darlington Technical  
17 College, in a college that draws the vast majority of its  
18 students from Florence or Darlington County, and yet,  
19 those two -- that group of students was split between two  
20 districts. And there were even some students who  
21 commuted all the way -- at least -- I know at least one  
22 faculty member that I had who commuted from Conway. And  
23 so you had a campus community split through not one, not  
24 two, but three precincts.

25                   It behooves the campus and it behooves this

1 committee to keep that seventh district that was up there  
2 earlier together, and it will benefit those campuses as  
3 well.

4           This is not a new concept that those of us  
5 who support this seventh district in the Pee Dee and the  
6 Grand Strand have come up. It was not developed in their  
7 proverbial smoky back room with a bunch of backslapping  
8 politicians. This is something that existed for over a  
9 century.

10           The previous seventh district, the seventh  
11 district had the Pee Dee and the Grand Strand.  
12 Obviously, its reincarnation would have to be smaller  
13 because it's one of seven and not one of six. But it  
14 existed for a very long time as a congressional district,  
15 and it elected -- it elected both Republicans and  
16 Democrats, and it elected politicians of all stripes  
17 because the people in that district knew what they wanted  
18 and were able to elect their own representative. And I  
19 believe that old sixth district should be, at the very  
20 least, the blueprint, the starting point for this new  
21 seventh district.

22           The conclusion of my comments is to ask  
23 that you consider the many young people in the Pee Dee  
24 and the Grand Strand area. The gentleman who came up  
25 first pointed out that Horry County is one of the fastest

1 growing districts. I don't know if he -- he may have  
2 just ran out of time, but one thing he forgot to mention,  
3 it's also one of the youngest -- youngest counties in  
4 South Carolina. It has a younger population. It also  
5 has an older population, but a lot of the people who have  
6 grown up there are younger, 20s and 30s.

7           My parents are not from this area, but they  
8 moved here. They chose to move here, and they have  
9 chosen to stay here. I and the rest of my classmates at  
10 Francis Marion would like to make -- be able to make the  
11 same decision, love to be able to stay in Florence County  
12 and in the Pee Dee area, and make their career here, and  
13 make their lives here.

14           And I ask that you consider them and take  
15 this historic opportunity, which, you know, getting a new  
16 district, it came once every 70 years for us. It might  
17 not come for another 70 years. I ask that you please  
18 keep them together and reunite the Grand Strand and the  
19 Pee Dee in the new seventh congressional district.

20           Thank you.

21           SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

22           Ms. Shery Smith.

23           MS. SMITH: Senator McConnell, I believe I  
24 saw you in Sumter before.

25           SENATOR McCONNELL: You did.

1                   MS. SMITH: Gentlemen of the subcommittee,  
2 I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak  
3 before you today.

4                   I'm Shery Smith. I'm the chairwoman of the  
5 Sumter Tea Party. I'm also secretary-treasurer of the  
6 Sumter County Republican Party. I'm speaking on behalf  
7 of both of these entities today and on behalf of the  
8 citizens of the fifth and sixth districts of Sumter  
9 County, a little different than what you've been hearing  
10 so far.

11                   Hundreds of us in both districts of  
12 these -- of Sumter County spent countless hours pounding  
13 the pavement, ringing doorbells, making phone calls, and  
14 raising money to get Mick Mulvaney elected as our  
15 congressman.

16                   Congressman Mulvaney is the only voice that  
17 many of us -- many of the citizens in the fifth and sixth  
18 districts have in Washington, and, yes, I did say the  
19 sixth district also.

20                   Congressman Clyburn has no regard  
21 whatsoever for the conservative population in his  
22 district, so we have no reasonable expectation that he  
23 would have any more concern for those of us who are  
24 currently in the fifth, where we could be swallowed up  
25 into the sixth district.

1                   Please don't hurt the real, reasonable,  
2 measurable growth of the Republican Party in our area by  
3 placing us in the sixth district where conservatives have  
4 no hope of help from Congressman Clyburn. We love Mick  
5 Mulvaney. But if you cannot leave us in the fifth  
6 district, then at least include us in the seventh  
7 district. Don't abandon us.

8                   Senators, the bottom line is the seventh  
9 district can be drawn fairly in the Pee Dee, leaving the  
10 Pee Dee intact as well as the fifth and sixth districts  
11 intact with minimal changes. And, actually, the plans  
12 that Congressmen Mulvaney and Clyburn originally agreed  
13 to pretty much left them intact as they are now.

14                   The Voting Rights Act of 1965 ensured that  
15 the current lines for the fifth and sixth districts were  
16 appropriate ten years ago. With minimal changes required  
17 because of the population shifts that are accommodated in  
18 your Plan 2, all the citizens would have equal and fair  
19 representation that they deserve. Plan 1 does not.

20                   The House plan, however, actually was what  
21 Congressmen Mulvaney and Clyburn -- is closer to what  
22 they had originally agreed to themselves.

23                   Please don't take our congressman, the  
24 congressman that we elected, away from us. Thank you.

25                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Johnnie Bellamy.

1 MS. BELLAMY: Good evening, Chairman  
2 McConnell and committee members. Thank you very much for  
3 your time today.

4 My name is Johnnie Bellamy. I was born in  
5 Horry County. My parents and grandparents were born in  
6 Horry County. I am the chairman of the Horry County  
7 Republican Party, president of the Myrtle Beach  
8 Republican Women, and secretary of the state Federation  
9 of Republican Women.

10 Horry County and the Pee Dee region exists  
11 as an entity with relationships based on 160 years of  
12 history, and I just wanted to reiterate some of the  
13 points that have been made before very quickly.

14 Horry County has a growth rate of 37  
15 percent in the last ten years, and Carolina Forest, in  
16 the middle of Myrtle Beach has had a growth of over 500  
17 percent in the last ten years.

18 The Grand Strand tourism sends increasing  
19 amounts of revenue and taxes to support South Carolina,  
20 and we require our own representation to build an  
21 infrastructure for the citizens of Horry County and the  
22 Pee Dee region, which includes I-73 and the southern  
23 evacuation route. We can just imagine what might happen  
24 if we had an emergency. Trying to get out of that region  
25 through 501 will be very, very difficult in a timely

1 fashion. So we need help with this. We need  
2 representation to help Horry County and the Pee Dee  
3 region.

4           Horry County must remain whole and  
5 affiliated with the Pee Dee, hopefully in the seventh  
6 congressional district, because our county and the Pee  
7 Dee region work effectively and efficiently through their  
8 shared people, process, and technologies, which have been  
9 shared with you previously.

10           The coalitions and relationships are joined  
11 through major arteries of commerce, roads through the  
12 NESAs region that has been discussed, and the FCC media  
13 market that Representative Clemmons referenced, also  
14 through these regional health and human services areas  
15 and education campuses.

16           All roads to Myrtle Beach and the Grand  
17 Strand go through the Pee Dee region. We are linked by  
18 railroads, businesses and entertainment, and major  
19 arteries of commerce and common economic interests. We  
20 share media outlets, as Representative Clemmons  
21 referenced, through the television, radio, newspapers,  
22 and we receive all of our information through this  
23 region.

24           We share regional cultural interests and  
25 entertainment facilities. These major shared interests

1 do not exist between Horry and Charleston Counties. I  
2 love South Carolina. I love Charleston, absolutely love  
3 Charleston, but our family is in the Pee Dee region. All  
4 of our economic development is around the Pee Dee region.

5           We need to make it official that Horry and  
6 the Pee Dee remain whole and part of the South Carolina  
7 plans for the seventh congressional district. It's  
8 practical and it's proven through those relationships and  
9 those bonds.

10           Separating Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle  
11 Beach is inappropriate. It's inappropriate to separate  
12 the economies of Horry and Horry and the Pee Dee region.

13           I would like to just close with a  
14 statement from James Madison, the father of the  
15 Constitution. I believe there are more instances of  
16 abridgment of freedom of the people by a gradual and  
17 silent encroachments by those in power than violent and  
18 sudden usurpations.

19           So we hope that you will consider Horry and  
20 the Pee Dee as the family that we are.

21           Thank you so much for your time.

22           SENATOR McCONNELL: Murray Jordan.

23           MR. JORDAN: Good evening. Thank you for  
24 this opportunity to speak on this item of importance. I  
25 am Murray Jordan, a lifelong resident of Florence, South

1 Carolina. I have known every congressman for the sixth  
2 district since and including John L. McMillan, Ed Young,  
3 John Jenrette, John Napier, Robin Tallon, and Jim  
4 Clyburn.

5                   I well remember when the sixth district was  
6 the Pee Dee and the Grand Strand of northeastern South  
7 Carolina. This was a district of similar people and  
8 interests. Tobacco and agriculture were king. We were  
9 all represented by congressmen that lived in the area,  
10 again, that lived in the area that I described, and we  
11 were all properly represented, no matter what the  
12 political party.

13                   Then came the census and the insane  
14 redistricting of 1992 with the gerrymandered sixth  
15 district that stretched from practically Georgia to North  
16 Carolina and from nearly Charleston to the governor's  
17 mansion, a district that looked like a Rorschach inkblot  
18 made by a drunken rat and made absolutely no sense except  
19 to create a district that favored an incumbent's  
20 reelection.

21                   I understand that it took 22 media buys,  
22 and only an incumbent with the campaign fund-raising  
23 ability of an incumbent could run effectively in the  
24 district. The net result is that we of northeastern  
25 portion of the current sixth district have had no

1 representation since 1993 and little in common with the  
2 rest of the current sixth district.

3           I know that Jim Clyburn purports to  
4 represent Florence, but it ain't so. You now have the  
5 opportunity to restore the sixth district similar to what  
6 it was before 1993 and rejoin we people of common  
7 interest. Now, this would be the seventh district now  
8 because of the extra seat and the population change.

9           We share the same media sources. The major  
10 highways run through the old sixth district. We share  
11 medical, railroad, business, entertainment, cultural,  
12 intellectual, education. It just goes on and on. You've  
13 heard that. We function now as for what our proposed  
14 seventh district would encompass, but we have no common  
15 congressional representation. We've even created the  
16 NESAs Alliance, the Northeastern Strategic Alliance, which  
17 has been mentioned. That is a powerful tool, and it  
18 really confirms that we are a family of the -- what we're  
19 proposing and what the House has proposed as the seventh  
20 district.

21           The new seventh district now passed by the  
22 House of Representatives will give us in Florence County  
23 and the surrounding counties represented --  
24 representation in Congress again after 20 years without  
25 representation, 20 years of voter dilution. We have

1 invested much effort in getting a map drawn that restores  
2 commonality of representation to the Pee Dee and Grand  
3 Strand of South Carolina.

4 I am encouraging the South Carolina Senate  
5 to adopt the seventh congressional district map created  
6 by the House of Representatives without alterations. We  
7 want our vote back, and we want representation.

8 Thank you.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Brad Dean.

10 MR. DEAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm  
11 Brad Dean. I'm here today on behalf of the Myrtle Beach  
12 Area Chamber of Commerce, an organization representing  
13 more than 2800 businesses and organizations that employ  
14 nearing 50,000 people, most of those employed in Horry,  
15 Georgetown, Williamsburg, and Marion County.

16 I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the  
17 senators on this committee for the hearings you've held,  
18 including the hearing you held in the city of Myrtle  
19 Beach several weeks ago, as well for this opportunity  
20 today for us to come and comment on plans that have been  
21 submitted.

22 I won't repeat the comments being made  
23 earlier today, but let me just stress two key points that  
24 we think are very, very important for this committee to  
25 consider as you finalize your recommendations, first and

1 foremost, the long-term forecast for this area.

2           As has been mentioned several times, you  
3 all are well aware the Myrtle Beach area and the Horry  
4 County MSA is one of the fastest growing, not only in the  
5 Carolinas but in the nation. And this -- the fact that  
6 continues to get repeated by the media about a 37-percent  
7 population increase, that's nothing new. If you look at  
8 the 1990 census and 2000 census, we saw similar growth  
9 rates.

10           When you look at the abundance of  
11 affordable real estate, both developed and undeveloped,  
12 in one of the largest counties east of the Mississippi,  
13 any reasonable person would conclude that ten years from  
14 now, the next redistricting committee will be -- again be  
15 talking about a fast-growing population in and around the  
16 Horry County area. We should certainly recognize that  
17 this fast-growing area is going to continue to grow and  
18 develop.

19           Secondly, we think it's very, very  
20 important for this committee to consider the communities  
21 of interest, particularly from an economic standpoint.  
22 When you think about this area, many of the employees in  
23 the tourism industry come from Marion County,  
24 Williamsburg County. So right there you have a  
25 four-county economic community of interest when you think

1 about Horry, Georgetown, and those two outlying counties.

2           When you think about the importance of  
3 Interstate 73, perhaps the single most important  
4 infrastructure investment in our future in that region,  
5 one that is purported to create nearly 29,000 jobs -- and  
6 even if the economists that came up with those numbers  
7 are half right, that's still the single biggest job  
8 creation project in South Carolina's future -- that will  
9 only bind those economic ties in that community of  
10 interest even tighter.

11           When you think about recently the FAA was  
12 looking at the possibility of creating a regional  
13 airport -- probably not a likely alternative any time in  
14 the near future -- but that was a discussion about should  
15 there be an airport in the Pee Dee region, not  
16 necessarily between Horry and Charleston regions -- and,  
17 as well, when you think about the future of this area and  
18 the economic ties that already exist and will continue to  
19 develop and be enhanced, we think it's certainly very  
20 important as we look at this Pee Dee region that it be  
21 considered as such.

22           And, Mr. Chairman, specifically on the plan  
23 drafted by staff -- I believe it's Staff Plan Number 1,  
24 the one that -- that, essentially, allocates Horry County  
25 in two different districts -- I recognize that there are

1 46 counties and seven congressional seats, so some  
2 counties probably are going to be divided up amongst at  
3 least two seats.

4           That said, there's no county that generates  
5 the kinds of economic returns in the state, and yet, with  
6 the population growing, you could find that would be  
7 split amongst any two plans. We realize one county is  
8 probably going to have be to be split, if not more, but  
9 we would ask you to give serious consideration to keeping  
10 that one particular county together.

11           Only in the Bible with King Solomon did I  
12 ever see a solution where splitting a baby up like that  
13 would make sense, and even King Solomon, the wisest man  
14 in the world, according to the Bible, could not make  
15 sense out of that redistricting plan, I think, when we  
16 look at the future of this area.

17           So we would consider that to be a top  
18 priority. We know this is a challenging task made only  
19 more challenging by a very demanding legislative session,  
20 but we also know that you're up to the task, and we  
21 encourage you to give strong considerations to the  
22 community of interest economically that already exist and  
23 will only be enhancing further as this region grows and  
24 develops, not just for the next ten years, but far into  
25 the future.

1                   We thank you for the time you've invested  
2 so far. We thank you for your attention, and we  
3 encourage you to draft this plan accordingly for the best  
4 interest of all of South Carolina. We thank you.

5                   SENATOR McCONNELL: James Gunn. Mr. Gunn,  
6 James Gunn. Back behind the screen there. Come on up.

7                   MR. GUNN: Okay. Mr. Chairman,  
8 Subcommittee, thank you for having this hearing for us.  
9 I just wanted to make a few comments. I don't want to --  
10 I do want to reaffirm some comments that have already  
11 been said. Maybe I'll just start with the congressional  
12 Plan 1, the Senate Judiciary.

13                   Okay. As you can see up there, which  
14 doesn't quite make much sense to me, it looks like North  
15 Myrtle Beach is actually being ripped away from the Grand  
16 Strand. And, as we know, the Grand Strand is probably  
17 considered one of the number one family resorts in the  
18 country. So you take the North Myrtle Beach incorporated  
19 into the balance of Horry County for District 7, and you  
20 take the rest of it and keep it in District 1. That  
21 doesn't quite make much sense to me.

22                   But then -- then you take a look at Plan 2,  
23 and Plan 2 mandates that Horry County remain in District  
24 1 with Charleston. This plan will leave Horry County in  
25 a district which is already dominated by Charleston

1 County voters, and that Beaufort will be awarded the new  
2 seventh congressional seat. And I say -- well, at least  
3 one of the split-up versions of Beaufort will be awarded  
4 the new congressional seat.

5           The approved House plan correctly assigns  
6 the new seventh congressional district to Horry,  
7 Georgetown, and the other Pee Dee counties, with Horry  
8 County as the centerpiece.

9           As you all know, Horry County is the  
10 largest county in South Carolina. We've already heard  
11 about the tremendous growth in the past decade. Growth,  
12 tremendous growth in the retirement communities, in  
13 tourism, and, as most of you probably know, it is the  
14 golf mecca of our country. Yet these two Senate plans  
15 refuse to recognize the importance of Horry County, of  
16 its residents, and the favorable financial impact it  
17 provides to our state.

18           Thank you.

19           SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Cliff Clark.  
20 Mr. Clark, are you behind the screen, too? All right.

21           MR. CLARK: Thank you, gentlemen, for the  
22 opportunity to speak here. I can't say much that hasn't  
23 already been covered, so I'll keep it brief.

24           It seems like only a few -- I don't know --  
25 politicians with, I'm going to say, some ulterior motives

1 could come up with some of these plans. They just don't  
2 make a whole lot of sense.

3 My wife and my five sons are all native  
4 Horry Countians, and they're really proud to be Horry  
5 Countians, as I am for the last 32 years.

6 Congressman Clemmons' plan seems to have --  
7 what did I say?

8 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: Representative.

9 MR. CLARK: What did I call you,  
10 congressman? I didn't have my glasses on. Sorry about  
11 that.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMMONS: That's all right.

13 MR. CLARK: Representative Clemmons'  
14 plan -- soon to be congressman --- makes the most sense,  
15 by far. And I humbly appeal to your sense of fair play  
16 and judgment in making that right decision.

17 Thank you.

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

19 Maria Jean Hamby. Did I get that right, or  
20 is it Marla?

21 MS. HAMBY: It's Marla.

22 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. I'm sorry.

23 MS. HAMBY: Thank you, gentlemen, for  
24 holding this meeting. And I have changed my comments.  
25 I'm fairly new to politics, and I am paying a lot of

1 attention to what's going on.

2                   I would like for you to keep the Pee Dee  
3 District as recommended by the House of Representatives,  
4 and I further would like for you to just show the three  
5 plans to our governor, Nikki Haley, and let her pick the  
6 one that she likes. I do trust Nikki Haley. I think  
7 that she has the best interests of our state, and lest  
8 any of you are up for reelection forget that, women have  
9 a lot of power and a lot of scorn. If you scorn our  
10 governor, you scorn me and a lot of these ladies in the  
11 audience. So I just would like you to show her three  
12 plans and say, Pick one.

13                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Charlie Luquire.  
14 Mr. Luquire, did I get that correct?

15                   MR. LUQUIRE. Senator, thank you.  
16 Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, ladies and  
17 gentlemen, my name is Charlie Luquire. I live in  
18 Georgetown County. I live on the Waccamaw Neck part of  
19 Georgetown County. My comments concern proposed  
20 redistricting as it affects Georgetown County.

21                   In comments I made at the April 4th hearing  
22 in Myrtle Beach by the House of Representatives on  
23 redistricting, I placed into the record concerning  
24 redistricting of congressional districts a statement  
25 supporting a new District 7 to include Horry, Georgetown,

1 Williamsburg, Florence, Darlington, Marion, Marlboro,  
2 Chesterfield, and Dillon counties.

3           I stated in my -- I stated in my statement  
4 on April 4th that it was my opinion that Georgetown had  
5 close ties and much in common with Horry County. Some of  
6 the previous speakers have addressed those common ties  
7 that include history, economic development, education,  
8 transportation, media, tourism, and growth.

9           Both of the proposals that the Senate has  
10 presented, as of last Friday at least, do little to  
11 acknowledge the close ties that exist between Horry,  
12 Georgetown, and the other counties just listed.

13           In one proposed Horry -- in one proposed  
14 Horry County -- excuse me -- one proposal, Horry County  
15 and portions of Georgetown County remain in reconstituted  
16 District 1, a proposed narrow coastal district that  
17 extends from North Carolina almost to Beaufort.

18           In the other case, a small portion of Horry  
19 County is carved out and placed along with a portion of  
20 Georgetown County -- a portion of Georgetown County in a  
21 separate iteration of District 1 with the remainder of  
22 most of Horry County in proposed District 7 and most of  
23 Georgetown County in a proposed and reconstituted  
24 District 6.

25           I urge the Senate to reconsider the

1 proposals -- these proposals and place Georgetown County  
2 in a new district with Horry County and the other  
3 counties I mentioned, some of them at least, similar to  
4 that proposed by the South Carolina House of  
5 Representatives.

6                   Thank you. I have a copy of those  
7 comments.

8                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Chuck Ottwell. I  
9 got that?

10                  MR. OTTWELL: Yes, that's close enough.

11                  SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.

12                  MR. OTTWELL: Senator, Committee, I thank  
13 you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon. I'm --  
14 I am the president of the South Strand Republican Club in  
15 Horry County, although I could almost hit a golf ball  
16 from my backyard over into Georgetown County. We're that  
17 close.

18                  I'm here supporting the House plan for the  
19 seventh district uniting the Pee Dee counties back  
20 together again. I have here one of the volumes that  
21 Senator Cleary has put together and received over the  
22 last couple of years. The same thing, supporting --  
23 there's four volumes. He has three. I have one. I will  
24 not bore you with -- one of my letters is in here. I  
25 will not bore you, just like Alan said, with regard to

1 reading such, but we just would like for your committee  
2 to please, please take into consideration the House plan  
3 reuniting the Pee Dee counties together again.

4           Thank you very much. And no matter what  
5 your decision is, as a concerned South Carolinian and a  
6 voter, I will support it. But we would like these four  
7 volumes put into the record.

8           Thank you very much.

9           SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Jonathan Cowan.

10          MR. COWAN: Good evening, Senator, members  
11 of the subcommittee. Could you put up Map Number 2,  
12 Senate Plan Number 2? There it is.

13           Now, I can't speak on family and heritage  
14 because I'm not originally from Florence, South Carolina.  
15 I spent the -- the better part of the decade active duty  
16 military, traveled from Georgia, New York, Iraq and  
17 Afghanistan both. And through that time, my only voting  
18 was through absentee ballots, and everyone knows absentee  
19 ballots, most of the time, the election is already done  
20 by the time that those get voted in or looked at.

21           But I was rather excited when I came to  
22 Florence, South Carolina thinking I was going to get to  
23 vote, and my vote was going to count. Unfortunately,  
24 right now, it doesn't, and the two plans that you have up  
25 there right now don't, and it's all based primarily on --



1 Stephanie Rawlinson.

2 MS. RAWLINSON: Mr. Chairman and members of  
3 the committee, thank you so much for having us today. We  
4 appreciate your willingness to listen to the people of  
5 the -- of the areas that are affected by these maps.

6 First, I want to talk -- I've been reading  
7 a little bit about the guidelines for redistricting. One  
8 is district compactness. In determining the relative  
9 compactness of a district, consideration should be given  
10 to geography, demography, demographics, communities of  
11 interest, and the extent to which parts of the district  
12 are joined by roads, media outlets, or other means for  
13 constituents to communicate -- communicate effectively  
14 with each other and their representative.

15 I believe if you look at the -- I think  
16 it's Senate Plan 1. There you go. I don't grasp the  
17 concept of compactness in this. If you look at this  
18 strip going up the beach here, it's completely separated  
19 from Berkeley County by part of the sixth that juts down  
20 into it.

21 I am -- I forgot to tell you that I am the  
22 president of the Women's Republican Group in Florence. I  
23 am also the first vice-chairman of the GOP in Florence,  
24 County.

25 This is just not compact. That doesn't

1 make any sense. Why would you divide a community like  
2 the Grand Strand into North Myrtle Beach and South Myrtle  
3 Beach?

4           Furthermore, I did a little more research,  
5 and I want to concur with everything that Representative  
6 Clemmons said and everything that Ethan Rivera said.

7           In Florence County, we shop in Myrtle  
8 Beach. Myrtle Beach comes to Florence to do business. I  
9 sell real estate. I don't sell real estate in Charleston  
10 County. I sell it in Florence County and in Horry  
11 County. We've got to realize that these -- these  
12 communities are tied together. Darlington is tied  
13 into -- tied into us together. Our roads go through  
14 there. And if you're going to go to the beach, you go  
15 through Florence. I mean, it doesn't make any sense to  
16 me why you would divide those communities.

17           As you look back in history, in 1882, when  
18 there were four congressional seats, you'll notice up in  
19 the corner here, you got the Pee Dee. The Pee Dee  
20 consists of seven counties, which are Chesterfield,  
21 Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion,  
22 Marlboro, and Williamsburg. If you look at the original  
23 map, there it is.

24           In 1882 to 1886, you still look, and the  
25 Pee Dee is still together in one map. You look again in

1 1932, and we're still together in one little corner  
2 there, together.

3           You look at 1972, and we're still together  
4 in one little corner there.

5           You get to 1982, and we're still together  
6 in the blue right up here, but then you come here. How  
7 do we go from that to this? It doesn't make any sense,  
8 gentlemen, and I just ask that you please reconsider  
9 these maps, and look at the House map, and please just  
10 accept the House map as your map.

11           Thank you very much.

12           SENATOR McCONNELL: Bill Pickle. Bill  
13 Pickle.

14           MR. PICKLE: Good morning -- or afternoon.  
15 I'm Bill Pickle. I am the chairman of the Florence  
16 County Republican Party, but more importantly, I am Bill  
17 Pickle, a citizen of the Pee Dee and of Florence.

18           When I was first asked or suggested that I  
19 speak at this event by our party, I said, Sure, as long  
20 as you will also remember I am speaking as Bill Pickle.

21           And their response was, Since when have you  
22 not said what you wanted to say? So I am going to say  
23 it.

24           I am in support of the House plan for the  
25 Pee Dee being part of the seventh congressional district.

1 And I want to give you a little bit of history on some  
2 things that happened this last week that got my blood  
3 boiling and also make some comments about what some of  
4 the other people have said.

5           First of all, with everything that has been  
6 said, half of my talk is gone, so you all are lucky.  
7 You've heard about all the similarities we have with the  
8 other counties and the Pee Dee. None of that is  
9 exaggerated. All of it's true.

10           But something that is wrong is Thursday,  
11 this last Thursday, I was reading our local paper, and  
12 there was an article in there from the Associated Press  
13 quoting Dick Harpootlian of the Democratic Party, and the  
14 article was titled, Dems Blast Latest Maps.

15           Well, first of all, let me tell you this.  
16 That doesn't surprise me at all. No matter what map is  
17 used, somebody is going to blast it. Whether it's the  
18 House, the Senate, whichever plan you come up with,  
19 somebody is going to blast it, and I think all of us know  
20 it's probably going to end up in court.

21           But what I would like to do is make sure  
22 the map that we have that goes in is a good one to start  
23 with, and that's why I'm supporting the House plan for  
24 the seventh district.

25           In Mr. Harpootlian's article, he referred

1 to the fact that the plan was using -- to be used to  
2 bleach out voters in the Pee Dee area. Well, first of  
3 all, I want to tell you I take offense to anybody that  
4 says that this redistricting is totally about race. It's  
5 not. It is not about GOP versus Democratic. It's not  
6 Libertarian. It's not Tea Party. It is about using  
7 common sense.

8           And when you use common sense looking at  
9 these maps, you see that Plan District 1 is the one that  
10 makes common sense. And as far as threats of lawsuits or  
11 court battles, it's going to happen. That's just the  
12 nature of the game.

13           But what I want you all to do is not use  
14 these fears and threats of court and racist remarks in  
15 making your decisions. Use common sense. I would ask  
16 that you really take a look back and see -- look at  
17 everything seriously.

18           You know, it doesn't take a rocket  
19 scientist to see that everything that previous speakers  
20 have talked about is so easily understood, and with  
21 little common sense, you can see that. And, you know,  
22 whether it's African-American, Italian-American,  
23 Jewish-American, Latin American, or whatever, that does  
24 not matter to me. And I don't think it really matters  
25 that much to other people. Truth be known, I've got

1 enough Native American, I guess I could be called Native  
2 American.

3                   But I take great pride in being called a  
4 South Carolinian and just a plain, old, simple American.  
5 And I think that's what we want when we're talking about  
6 this redistricting. Give us our pride back. Give us our  
7 region. Keep us together. Keep our family together,  
8 because we've got families all scattered through there.  
9 We work together. And you will find no other region in  
10 this state that has closer ties or care more about each  
11 other and do things together than the Pee Dee.

12                   I ask each of you use that common sense I  
13 keep referring to. Forget the backroom politics and  
14 bargains, because we all know that takes place. Try to  
15 forget that, and forget all of the other things that  
16 you're going to be hearing about. Just remember common  
17 sense, plain and simple, and keep the seventh district  
18 together as presented in the House plan, and the Pee Dee  
19 does want to be in the seventh district.

20                   Thank you.

21                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Debbie Harwell.

22                   MS. HARWELL: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,  
23 Senators. Thank you for having us today. I am one of  
24 those that's been in Horry County. I'm Debbie Harwell  
25 from Horry County, and I've been in Horry County for

1 about 31 years, and we do have a close tie to Florence,  
2 and we're one of the ones that can say we have family in  
3 Florence, and we have family in Horry County, and we have  
4 ties throughout the Pee Dee. So we do have all of that.

5           Everybody has expressed -- we told  
6 everybody that we listen to the Pee Dee news, but we even  
7 listen -- like today, when it was 90 degrees, they're  
8 giving the Pee Dee weather. We even listen to the  
9 weather of what's going on each day.

10           And those -- a lot of the people in  
11 Florence are actually the developers of the beach  
12 properties and some of the businesses that we have there,  
13 so we do have close ties.

14           But what I want to emphasize today is I  
15 wanted to remind everybody that the unemployment rates  
16 over in the Pee Dee area are just absolutely awful. I  
17 looked up Chesterfield, 13-percent unemployment;  
18 Darlington, 12.1; Dillon, 14.7; Horry, 10.4; Georgetown,  
19 10.7; Marion County, 19-percent unemployment in the Pee  
20 Dee; Marlboro County, 17.3 percent; Florence, 11 percent.

21           For the first time since I've been there,  
22 in 31 years, I am beginning to see people working  
23 together. We have all type of entities that are working  
24 together to find out how we can actually get to the  
25 interstate, how we can put an infrastructure, and how we,

1 who are a little bit more blessed in Horry County, can  
2 help those out in places like Marion County. We just --  
3 just as citizens and just as neighbors and just as  
4 friends and having family, we can't turn our backs on  
5 those people. If you think -- if there is 150 people in  
6 this room right now, that means that 30 people in this  
7 room would be on unemployment, unemployment benefits that  
8 this state has to pay.

9           If we -- if you would let us and put the  
10 Pee Dee district back together and let us keep on working  
11 the way we're working together now, we're going to be  
12 able to figure out exactly how we can help those people  
13 pull out of some of these unemployment numbers.

14           We're looking at freight and rail lines  
15 coming in from 95, how we can have those connected  
16 throughout the whole state. And I kept wondering, you  
17 know, why is Charleston not actually looking at some of  
18 those numbers, too? And I looked it up. Charleston's  
19 only got an 8.7 unemployment rate. I mean, even  
20 Beaufort, 8.5; Berkeley, 9.5. They're just not pulling  
21 the unemployment numbers that we're pulling in the Pee  
22 Dee.

23           And I would like to express my concern and  
24 say that I would like for you to keep the district more a  
25 Pee Dee district so it would have more things in common.

1 Thank you so much.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Tommy Phillips.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Good afternoon, Senators.

4 How are you? First of all, I would like to thank you for  
5 giving the citizens of Florence and the counties of the  
6 Pee Dee the opportunity to speak to you about the  
7 formation and the location of the new seventh  
8 congressional district.

9 I've been a resident of Florence since  
10 1958. I've lived in Florence through and during some of  
11 the time between the years of 1935 and 1992, in which  
12 Florence County was part of the old sixth district.  
13 These counties were and are known as the Pee Dee area of  
14 South Carolina.

15 The configuration of counties was very  
16 similar to the new seventh district group of counties  
17 submitted by the House, and that's what we see over here  
18 now.

19 Gentlemen, I am not a wheelwright, but I  
20 know that you don't build a strong wheel without a strong  
21 hub. I'm not a baker, but I know that you don't bake a  
22 pie or a cake without a center. And for many years,  
23 Florence has been and continues to be the hub and the  
24 center of the Pee Dee.

25 A little information about Florence and Pee

1 Dee counties. Before Horry County became a haven for the  
2 beach tourists, Dillon, Florence, and Darlington counties  
3 were and are the gateway to South Carolina via I-95.  
4 Currently, with over 5,000 motel rooms in Florence,  
5 continues to generate a substantial amount of tax  
6 revenue, tourist tax revenue, from these travelers going  
7 north or south on I-95 and those that stay in the Pee Dee  
8 for the Southern 500 and other sporting, cultural, and  
9 entertainment events that are sponsored there.

10 I-20 either ends or begins in Florence, and  
11 it just depends on which way you're going. And it's the  
12 eastern gateway to the other Pee Dee counties and to  
13 Myrtle Beach. Florence County, additionally, has  
14 scheduled the four-laning of Highway 51 and Highway 378  
15 in order to offer greater access to business and industry  
16 through Florence County to the interstates and from the  
17 interstates to the coast.

18 Florence is an educational and cultural  
19 center with Francis Marion University and the  
20 Florence-Darlington Technical Center. Both are respected  
21 statewide and draw students from South Carolina and the  
22 East Coast.

23 Florence is a medical center with McLeod  
24 and Carolinas Hospital known for their excellent medical  
25 staffs and high quality of medical services. We also

1 have a regional airport with board members from the  
2 neighboring counties right around Florence.

3           The new sixth district needs Florence  
4 County to be a part of it. Florence has a lot to offer  
5 to continue to strengthen the new seventh district and  
6 the Pee Dee.

7           Approximately 45 percent of the workforce  
8 of Florence and Florence County travel outside of  
9 Florence to work in our neighboring counties, thus that  
10 45 percent of open jobs are filled by workers from those  
11 neighboring counties. Florence is doing what it can to  
12 help stabilize the economy of the Pee Dee.

13           Lastly, but absolutely not least, Florence  
14 County, as a whole and by the sum of its parts have  
15 helped bring to the State House such representatives, as  
16 Senator Hugh Leatherman, House members is Kris Crawford,  
17 Phillip Lowe, Jerry Alexander, Senator Gerald Malloy,  
18 Senator Kent Williams, and House member Robert Williams,  
19 and most recently, our new lieutenant governor, Ken Ard.

20           We of Florence County pledge to help the  
21 new Pee Dee area seventh congressional district become  
22 the best district in the state and to send the best  
23 possible seventh district congressman to Washington.

24           Thank you again for your time and your  
25 attention.

1                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Tom Grimes.

2                   MR. GRIMES: Senators, good evening. It's  
3 good to see you again. It seems as though you all keep  
4 holding these, and I keep showing up at them.

5                   A lot of the arguments that you've heard  
6 tonight, you've heard before. By way of reintroduction,  
7 for those who may have forgot, I am Tom Grimes, and I am  
8 the chairman of the sixth district Republican Party. The  
9 Republican counterweight to Clyburn, so probably most  
10 people gathered here are familiar with this hodgepodge  
11 you call the sixth district.

12                   I'm going to skip the argument I made  
13 earlier about Colleton County and what it had in common  
14 with places like Marion and Florence. And I see that  
15 somebody has already stole my thunder on Marion County's  
16 19 percent.

17                   Instead, I would like to address a little  
18 something that you may all have missed, and it's not just  
19 the economic interests of these areas, but what a seventh  
20 district Pee Dee/Grand Stand could mean for folks in this  
21 area.

22                   I-73 is going to require congressmen to  
23 shepherd it through Washington. In doing so, you will  
24 create jobs in Marion County with that 19 percent, in  
25 Marlboro County with that 17th percent, Dillon with 14th

1 percent, Chesterfield at 13. Imagine putting how many  
2 hundreds -- how many thousands of people back to work in  
3 those areas.

4                   I worked for John Napier when he was our  
5 congressman. I can promise you that if I-73 had come up  
6 then, we wouldn't be having a conversation about its  
7 future. It would be built. If John Jenrette or Robin  
8 Tallon, Ed Young, or even John L. McMillan were in  
9 Congress today representing this hearing and it was one  
10 contiguous congressional district, we wouldn't be talking  
11 about is 73 going to be built and where are we going to  
12 get the money from. It would be built.

13                   Keep something in mind, gentlemen. You  
14 heard something said earlier tonight. Carolina Forest  
15 has grown at a rate of 500 percent in the last decade.  
16 When John Napier was in Congress, Carolina Forest didn't  
17 even exist. That's how fast Horry County has grown. We  
18 need a congressman to get 73 through Washington and get  
19 it built for us.

20                   You really have an interested part about  
21 what is best for the people and the Grand Strand. This  
22 isn't a Democrat and Republican issue. This isn't a  
23 black, white, red, or brown issue. If you want to put a  
24 color on it, I would suggest that it is the color of what  
25 we have in our checkbooks, and it is green.

1                   If you want to do something that would  
2 really carry a benefit for the people of this state and  
3 this area of the Pee Dee and the Grand Stand, you will go  
4 with some contiguation (sic) of what the House has passed  
5 last week with the seventh congressional district.  
6 Failure to do so all but destines that the people of this  
7 area will go another decade wondering when are jobs  
8 coming back to this area. And I don't think we want to  
9 look at our children tonight and tell them we would  
10 rather you wait another ten years.

11                   Thank you for your time.

12                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Christopher Kenney.

13                   MR. KENNEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the  
14 committee, my name is Christopher Kenney. I'm here on  
15 behalf of the South Carolina Democratic Party, and I  
16 wanted to ask the subcommittee if you all would be  
17 willing to consider an amendment in the form of a plan  
18 that we would like to submit to you here today.

19                   SENATOR McCONNELL: We're wide open to  
20 submissions, so if you -- yes, sir, if you've got a  
21 suggestion, we're happy to see it.

22                   MR. KENNEY: Okay. Mr. Chairman, I'm  
23 offering this for the record. As you know, our state has  
24 a tragic history of not respecting the rights of all of  
25 our citizens, and because of that, Congress has passed

1 the Voting Rights Act, which insures that minority voters  
2 are protected in the political process and have an  
3 opportunity to participate.

4           It's our belief that over the past twenty  
5 years, South Carolina has, essentially, turned the Voting  
6 Rights Act on its head, pursuing a policy of packing  
7 districts, maximizing black voters in districts in an  
8 effort to, essentially, create a system of voting  
9 apartheid that bleaches out the rest of the districts.

10           We believe that this policy is unnecessary  
11 and inconsistent with the purpose of the Voting Rights  
12 Act and offer this plan in an effort to begin to change  
13 that -- that trend.

14           Now, just a couple of words about the plan  
15 before I speak about the districts themselves. In  
16 drawing this plan, we attempted to -- following a number  
17 of principles, of course, the principle of one person,  
18 one vote, we attempted to create districts that are  
19 compact. We attempted to respect county lines and other  
20 geographical or natural boundaries, and we also attempted  
21 to keep communities of interest together.

22           Now, our plan would, essentially, unpack  
23 the sixth congressional district by bringing it down to  
24 45 percent black voting age population. In doing this,  
25 it allows South Carolina to create one additional

1 coalition or influence district in the seventh  
2 congressional where Horry based -- anchored in Horry  
3 County, and two other potential influence or coalition  
4 districts in District 2 and District 5.

5           Our view, essentially, is that by doing  
6 this and by creating these coalition districts, minority  
7 voters have a greater opportunity to participate in the  
8 political process. It ensures that white candidates have  
9 to talk to black voters and black candidates have to talk  
10 to white voters, and we believe, in addition to the other  
11 principles that I mentioned, that's good for South  
12 Carolina. It's good for us in the U.S. Congress.

13           SENATOR McCONNELL: Do you have a  
14 statistical summary that you could submit to us?

15           MR. KENNEY: Yes, sir.

16           SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. We would  
17 appreciate that so we can evaluate it.

18           MR. KENNEY: And, Senator, I also -- the  
19 text file is on the CD, and so all data points -- if you  
20 need something in addition to that, I would be happy to  
21 provide it. You have --

22           SENATOR McCONNELL: I understand. That's  
23 good.

24           MR. KENNEY: Thank you, sir.

25           SENATOR HUTTO: Senator?

1                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

2                   SENATOR HUTTO: How many counties are  
3 split? Do you know?

4                   MR. KENNEY: Off the top of my head, I do  
5 not, but, Senator, if I could, I can e-mail the  
6 committee.

7                   Any other questions?

8                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

9                   Mr. Le Flowers.

10                  MR. FLOWERS: I am Le Flowers, an elected  
11 official from Darlington County. I am also the chairman  
12 at the Darlington County Republican Party.

13                  What I would like to say is that we support  
14 the House plan, and I would like to thank all of those  
15 from Horry, Florence who have spoken so passionately and  
16 have done such extensive research in presenting why the  
17 seventh district should be a Pee Dee district.

18                  So I won't take any more of your time. But  
19 thank you, all of you, for what you've done.

20                  Thank you, sir.

21                  SENATOR McCONNELL: Jane Page Thompson.

22                  MS. THOMPSON: I am Jane Page Thompson.

23 And I'm from Aiken, to give you a break from the Pee Dee.

24                  Unlike the Pee Dee, Aiken doesn't mind  
25 being split, and so my respected senators, I am here to

1 ask you to consider splitting or maintaining the split  
2 that Aiken County has had.

3           Aiken County currently is split between  
4 Congressman Jeff Dunkin and Congressman Joe Wilson. We  
5 like that split. The reason we like that split is  
6 because Congressman Jeff Dunkin affords South Carolina  
7 the opportunity to do something it hasn't done since the  
8 1950s, and that is have a congressman on the very  
9 influential Energy and Commerce Commission at the federal  
10 level.

11           By representing the nuclear facility at  
12 Oconee and representing the Savannah River Site county,  
13 he would offer that very coveted organization up there in  
14 Washington a unique voice for South Carolina's central  
15 Savannah River area.

16           I urge you to adopt the House plan with the  
17 Hixon Amendment Number 4. Mr. Hixon recommended to the  
18 House, and it passed by one vote and then got  
19 reconsidered in a political move and then tabled -- he  
20 suggested that Mr. Dunkin's third congressional district  
21 sketch along his House district, which would allow, I  
22 believe, a 12,000 voter representation into Aiken County.

23           That may seem like a toehold into the ocean  
24 for somebody in Horry, but for somebody like me in Aiken  
25 County, having a toehold on the Energy and Commerce

1 Commission in Washington is very important for Aiken  
2 County's future as it develops not only its nuclear  
3 energy resources and technology, but also as it seeks to  
4 broaden other businesses in our county.

5           I have spoken to you all about this concern  
6 before, and in the last seven weeks, as this process has  
7 dwindled down into drawing that line on maps, I have been  
8 disappointed into the political machinations that have  
9 occurred. It seems that protecting the incumbent's right  
10 to get reelected has taken a more important role than  
11 maintaining one man, one vote. And I say this to you  
12 because, as I look at redistricting and reapportionment,  
13 my city councilman changes, my county councilman changes,  
14 my House and my Senate representative change. Now my  
15 congressman changes.

16           At what point does my vote matter? I may  
17 not be an ethical -- a minority. I may not be an ethnic  
18 minority. I may not be a racial minority. But in your  
19 body, I am, by sex, a minority.

20           I encourage you to allow the House plan  
21 with the Hixon Amendment to pass, because for a  
22 historical moment, Aiken County may present to you a  
23 female candidate for Senate. I encourage you to  
24 represent all people in this state by allowing a woman to  
25 have a shot at running for Senate in South Carolina. I

1 encourage you to allow us to have a toehold into the  
2 third congressional district where we may elect a female  
3 to congress.

4                   Thank you for your time. Thank you for  
5 your consideration.

6                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Claude O'Donovan.

7                   MR. O'DONOVAN: My name is Claude  
8 O'Donovan. I am also from Aiken County. I, like Jane  
9 Page, have testified before you when you came to our --  
10 our area. I also testified before the House, and then I  
11 testified before the House or the subcommittee here in  
12 South Carolina.

13                   All those times, I supported Jane Page's  
14 position within relation to Jeff Dunkin, but have --  
15 being pragmatic and seeing that, in fact, that doesn't  
16 appear to be -- going to happen, the House plan is --  
17 seems to be the dominant plan. And at this point -- I've  
18 talked to leaders from Edgefield. I talked to both  
19 elected and unelected, and we -- I'm representing pretty  
20 much a cross section of that, and I want to present what  
21 I want to say about that. Basically I'm talking about  
22 the House District 2 and 3.

23                   But I want to thank you for this  
24 opportunity because we share concerns with it because of  
25 Aiken/Edgefield regarding the new lines drawn for the

1 second district. This will be a very short -- I think  
2 short -- but meaningful impact. I hope it has impact.

3           The reason I include both counties in my  
4 remarks is that we share a community of interest on  
5 several levels, economically, geographically,  
6 politically, and demographically.

7           The same economic engine that drives Aiken  
8 County drives Edgefield County. And there are many  
9 similarities in our markets making us partners in  
10 economic development.

11           We have several state-level political  
12 legislative districts, both Democrat and Republican,  
13 Senate and House, that overlap both counties, namely  
14 House member Bill Clyburn and Bill Hixon and Senator  
15 Shane Massey. Our borders are contiguous and both areas  
16 are easy to reach within 30 minutes, and we share the  
17 same media outlets.

18           Demographically, we are very similar, and  
19 there is a great amount of cross-cultural exchanged  
20 between the two areas. An additional plus for this plan  
21 is that South Carolina's District 2 Congressman, Joe  
22 Wilson, sits on the Military Appropriations Committee  
23 that allocates the funds for the all-important  
24 350-square-mile SRS with its 9,000 employees, and it is  
25 obviously one of South Carolina's largest employers.

1 This is a key coup for us to have a man on that committee  
2 that will be handling the allocations for that.

3 I think it's a natural marriage that you  
4 take that House plan and bring Edgefield County next --  
5 in with House District 2.

6 Thank you very much for the opportunity to  
7 talk. Thank you.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: Reverend Ennis Fant.

9 REVEREND FANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
10 members of the committee. I'm Ennis Fant. I am pastor  
11 of the African-American Pastors Leadership Conference in  
12 Greenville. So I'm glad to see somebody down other than  
13 the Pee Dee so we can change it up a little bit.

14 Good to be here. And I come on behalf of  
15 our group in Greenville. As you know, when this  
16 committee -- we thank you. When you came to Greenville,  
17 we had an outstanding exchange. I think we had some 250  
18 people who came to County Square that evening. And  
19 overwhelmingly, as you recall, the consensus with  
20 everyone in the room, all the citizens of Greenville  
21 County wanted Greenville County to remain in one  
22 congressional district.

23 Three points I want to make briefly  
24 tonight. One is everybody was recognizing that  
25 Greenville is one of the primary economic engines in the

1 state, and as we move forward in attracting new industry  
2 and jobs to bring up to Greenville County, logically, it  
3 would be easier to have one congressional person involved  
4 in the process as needed.

5           It is in no one's best interest to try to  
6 get three congressional representatives on the same page  
7 when the urban areas of Greenville and Spartanburg come  
8 together to try to build a significant -- bring about a  
9 significant capital investment in the area.

10           Unemployment in South Carolina, as you've  
11 heard tonight, remains high, and we would urge and  
12 encourage that we hold to a minimum the barriers and  
13 hindrances and restrictions that bring about restricting  
14 job growth when it comes to capital investments.

15           Secondly, a point that I want to make is  
16 that Greenville County has a unified school district, not  
17 multiple school districts like a lot of counties have,  
18 and, additionally, like every other county, we have our  
19 share of Title 1 schools, particularly running along the  
20 White Horse Road corridor, stretching from Travelers Rest  
21 down Highway 25 to Pelzer.

22           To split Greenville County would require  
23 the district and parents to have to deal with two  
24 different congresspersons regarding federal issues as it  
25 relates to our schools. We would like to minimize this

1 issue, if at all possible.

2           If possible, I would like to put up, for my  
3 third point, the House plan that was approved. And I  
4 think the third point is the most important point I would  
5 like to make tonight, Senators. And the third issue that  
6 I want to talk about is an issue that nobody talks about,  
7 and I believe that most people are unaware of.

8           The Upstate of South Carolina has a very,  
9 very, very small minority population, so we kind of have  
10 to huddle together to survive. 61 percent of the  
11 African-American population in Greenville County live in  
12 Senator Anderson's district, which is District 7. 61  
13 percent live in District 7. Every proposal that splits  
14 Greenville County splits the heart of Greenville County's  
15 African-American community because District 7 runs along  
16 the western corridor.

17           We've seen multiple splits. There are  
18 splits at 85. There are splits at 185. There are splits  
19 down at the Ware Place. Either you're going to cut  
20 through House District 25, which is Representative  
21 Allen's district and Senate Seat 7, or I think  
22 Representative Allen moved it down some with regards to  
23 House district 25, but it still cuts through District 7,  
24 where Senator Anderson is.

25           We would argue that splitting -- we would

1 argue against splitting the already very small  
2 African-American community into two congressional  
3 districts, further diluting a very small African-American  
4 population already.

5           We would also argue that the 61-percent  
6 African-American population in that district would split  
7 what we would definitely consider a community of  
8 interest. This would amount to immediate family members,  
9 not extended families. This would be immediate family  
10 members living as close as one mile apart having  
11 different congresspersons and making the task of dealing  
12 with the VA, Medicare, and Social Security issues even  
13 more challenging for that segment of the community.

14           Senators, based on the aforementioned  
15 reasons -- and I am sure that there are others, but I  
16 would ask that the Senate strongly consider, in hearing  
17 the wishes of the citizens of this state, its largest and  
18 most populous county with regards as to what we would  
19 suggest. As we've looked at several maps, if you look  
20 at -- keep Greenville County whole. And, basically, we  
21 looked at just -- if you take off the top third of  
22 Spartanburg, which is more rural, up toward Inman and --  
23 Inman and -- there's another one up toward that way.  
24 What's the other little -- Lyman -- no, no. No, it's one  
25 up at the top.

1                   SENATOR SHOOPMAN: Landrum.

2                   REVEREND FANT: Landrum. There you go.  
3 You cut up Inman and Landrum. Those are rural areas  
4 which would have a lot in common with the people in  
5 Cherokee County as you just slide straight across. It  
6 does keep the urban centers of Greenville and Spartanburg  
7 together, nor does it split 61 percent of Greenville  
8 County's African-American population, which we consider a  
9 community of interest, in half. And I think that's some  
10 common ground. And, plus, for everybody that wanted to  
11 keep that seven in Horry County, like the House, we have  
12 no objection to that either.

13                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Curtis Askew.

14                   MR. ASKEW: It's already been said.

15                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

16                   Michael -- is it Lupe -- Luppe?  
17 Hartsville.

18                   MR. LUPPE: Good to see you, Senator  
19 Malloy.

20                   My name is Michael Luppe. I'm a resident  
21 of South Carolina in Darlington County. Thank you,  
22 members of the committee, for having me here today.

23                   I'm here to speak on behalf of Mayor Mel  
24 Pennington from Hartsville, South Carolina. The mayor  
25 did deeply regret that he could not attend, but he

1 graciously asked me if I would speak on his behalf. He  
2 asked me at 11:00 last night.

3 I just want to make a couple of key, small  
4 points and analogies for the committee to consider.

5 Diversity is a very wise attitude to  
6 maintain when it comes to investing. Similarly so, this  
7 same attitude also holds water when we consider  
8 development for cities, regions, and even countries.

9 Hartsville, South Carolina does this well  
10 and has a serious industrial base with the likes of  
11 Sunoco, Hilex Poly, and other businesses in its  
12 community. In addition to that, there is a very strong  
13 and widely recognized academic arena there as well, and  
14 that would be Coker College.

15 Moreover, Hartsville has elements for  
16 tourism, too, with Kalmia Gardens and a couple of museums  
17 in the downtown area. If you put all of these variables  
18 together into one equation, you've got yourself what I  
19 like to call an economic mutual fund.

20 In my opinion, that same mutual fund can be  
21 clearly recognized when you look at the Pee Dee as a  
22 whole. These very same elements are all throughout the  
23 Pee Dee area: Industry in and around the I-95/I-20  
24 corridor, tourism at the beach, of course, and all over  
25 the Pee Dee, we have excellent academic facilities, such

1 as Francis Marion University, Coker College in  
2 Hartsville, Coastal Carolina, et cetera. The Pee Dee has  
3 the framework of an economic mutual fund, and it deserves  
4 to be congressionally represented as such.

5           A few months ago, I was able to speak at  
6 one of the town hall meetings on the congressional  
7 redistricting lines. In Florence -- and I used this  
8 analogy there. Florence-Darlington Tech is not called  
9 Florence Tech. It's called -- and it's not called that  
10 for a reason. There is a complementary relationship by  
11 having Florence and Darlington utilizing that facility  
12 together, one of which is based on economics, right?

13           Similarly, again, the Carolina Panthers are  
14 not called the North Carolina Panthers, and they're not  
15 called that for a reason. There is a complementary  
16 relationship there, and one strong one is based on  
17 economic marketing.

18           To fine-tune our microscope again, if you  
19 look at the I-95 and I-20 corridor, you will notice that  
20 you have a lot of industry and business that have planted  
21 themselves very closely to that interchange. There is a  
22 complementary relationship there. Those businesses want  
23 to be in close proximity to the arteries of traffic, and  
24 that aids their business, the inflows and the outflows of  
25 raw materials and finished goods.

1                   As a side note -- I think it was said  
2 earlier, and I understand that we have been entertaining  
3 the idea of the I-73 Highway into the beach for years.  
4 Well, it would be a good one to entertain. It would not  
5 only help beach tourism, but it would also aid in the  
6 whole Pee Dee.

7                   Members of the committee, my arguments for  
8 making Darlington County and Florence County part of the  
9 new congressional district are simply based on economical  
10 logic. The sum of the parts is and always will be  
11 greater than if there were singularities.

12                  So considering these somewhat uncharted  
13 economic times, I implore you to please take into  
14 consideration what I and many others are saying here  
15 today. Please look at the future of the Pee Dee with an  
16 economic lens. Having the Pee Dee broken apart for  
17 congressional gerrymandering will not help the people of  
18 Pee Dee find jobs, nor sustain them. In my opinion, in  
19 fact, it will make it harder to find gainful employment,  
20 essentially taxing in families and, quite possibly,  
21 setting up a domino effect for themselves economically in  
22 the future.

23                  It is my recommendation, on behalf of the  
24 mayor of Hartsville, South Carolina, that we keep the Pee  
25 Dee the Pee Dee. Please represent all of Darlington

1 County, all of Florence County, and all the others that  
2 were mentioned in the Pee Dee in the new congressional  
3 district, and keep these lines of economic complement  
4 drawn the way they need to be, together.

5 Thank you.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Matthew Blewitt.

7 MR. BLEWITT: Thank you, members of the  
8 Senate. My name is Matthew Blewitt. I am from  
9 Darlington County. I am actually a student at Coker  
10 College.

11 Before I get too far into this, there is  
12 one thing I would like to say. In reference to drawing  
13 the lines based on race, I understand that this state  
14 does have a history that goes far back of being a racist  
15 state, but I believe that we can dismiss that today, when  
16 an African-American man gets elected to Congress in an  
17 almost 80-percent white congressional district, and when  
18 a minority woman gets elected governor of this state.

19 I stand before you today because I am  
20 asking for a Pee Dee congressional district as the  
21 seventh congressional district. The Pee Dee is a  
22 historically established region, which has been mentioned  
23 many times tonight. I would also like to reaffirm what  
24 Alan Clemmons, Tom Grimes, and Stephanie Rawlinson have  
25 said before me.

1                   The Pee Dee is almost the perfect  
2 population size for a congressional district, as was  
3 represented in the House plan. If you could put the  
4 House plan up. The House plan is the entire Pee Dee,  
5 united, with the exception of a small part of Florence  
6 for population purposes, and it works.

7                   There's a natural tie between all the  
8 counties in the Pee Dee, which has been mentioned many  
9 times tonight.

10                  One thing that I have not heard mentioned  
11 is that, currently, there are no congressmen living in  
12 the Pee Dee, and this is important for two reasons.  
13 Right now, the Pee Dee does not get just representation  
14 in Congress because we do not have a congressman from the  
15 Pee Dee. Also, by making the seventh congressional  
16 district in the Pee Dee, you will not be displacing any  
17 congressmen from their districts.

18                  Right now, the Pee Dee is currently divided  
19 into three congressional districts: South Carolina Number  
20 5, which is Darlington, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Dillon,  
21 and part of Florence; South Carolina Number 6, which is  
22 the rest of Florence, Marion, and Georgetown; and South  
23 Carolina Number 1, which contains the rest of Georgetown  
24 and Horry.

25                  Senate Staff Plan Number 1 continues to

1 divide the Pee Dee into three congressional districts, as  
2 one-third of Georgetown and a -- and the Myrtle Beach  
3 portion of Horry in the first congressional district.  
4 This does not make sense to divide Myrtle Beach from  
5 Florence County any longer.

6           Many times tonight it has been mentioned  
7 why these are such good complementing counties. It also  
8 puts most of Georgetown in the sixth congressional  
9 district, and then it has the rest of the congressional  
10 district in the Pee Dee for South Carolina Number 7.

11           And when you look at that particular plan,  
12 it takes a sitting congressman's home county and cuts  
13 most of that county out and puts it in the new  
14 congressional district, and that would be Lancaster,  
15 which is Mick Mulvaney's home county.

16           And if it's not bad enough that the Pee Dee  
17 is already divided between three congressional districts,  
18 in Staff Plan Number 2, you further divide the Pee Dee  
19 into four congressional districts, with South Carolina  
20 Number 1 having Horry and half of Georgetown; South  
21 Carolina Number 5 having Chesterfield and one-third of  
22 Darlington; and South Carolina Number 6 having the rest  
23 of Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, and Florence;  
24 and South Carolina Number 7 having half of Georgetown.

25           Senators, these plans are unacceptable.

1 The Pee Dee area is only asking for the opportunity to be  
2 fairly treated and fairly represented. Please unite the  
3 Pee Dee under one congressional district. This includes  
4 Chesterfield, Darlington, Marlboro, Florence, Dillon,  
5 Marion, Horry, and Georgetown. Please unite the Pee Dee  
6 in one congressional district.

7 Thank you very much for your time and your  
8 consideration.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Susan Scouten. Did I  
10 come close to getting that right?

11 MS. SCOUTEN: Actually, Senator, Susan  
12 Scouten.

13 SENATOR McCONNELL: Scouten. We were  
14 trying to figure it out up here.

15 MS. SCOUTEN: You did your best.

16 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

17 MS. SCOUTEN: Thank you, and thank you  
18 Committee Members.

19 I am from Sumter. I am from Mick  
20 Mulvaney's fifth congressional district, and I would like  
21 to tell you that the House plan suits us better in Sumter  
22 County. There are scores, if not hundreds, of people in  
23 the fifth district in Sumter County that worked  
24 tirelessly, time and finances, so we could retire  
25 Representative Spratt. As he got a closer embrace to

1 Representative Pilosi, it became more distasteful that we  
2 were represented by him. And we now have a fiscal  
3 conservative, constitutional representative, and we would  
4 like to keep it that way.

5           We worked very hard, and we feel as though  
6 if we were put in the Senate plan, which puts us into the  
7 sixth district, we had our wishes ignored, and we don't  
8 feel as though we would be adequately represented,  
9 because we don't think that the rest of Sumter County  
10 that's represented by district 6 is represented right  
11 now. We would be sort of a stepchild in that district.

12           And I would ask you to please accept the  
13 House version that pretty much keeps the lines intact the  
14 way they are right now.

15           Thank you.

16           SENATOR McCONNELL: Johnny Fryer.

17           MR. FRYER: Good evening, Senators. My  
18 name is Johnny Fryer. I am from Surfside. My father's  
19 from Lake City. My wife is from Darlington, whom I met  
20 while out on business in Darlington. I've currently  
21 moved back to Myrtle Beach.

22           The research that I've compiled comes from  
23 the Richmond Fed, the U.S. Bureau of Statistics, and the  
24 Myrtle Beach and Charleston Chamber of Commerces.

25           The Myrtle Beach Metropolitan statistical

1 area is amongst the leaders in the state for GDP per  
2 capita without any major infrastructure. The new  
3 district should include all of the I-73 corridor counties  
4 because of the shared infrastructure, shared benefit.

5 Charleston has two interstates, a bypass  
6 for that interstate, four U.S. highways, five state  
7 highways, while Myrtle Beach has two U.S. highways and a  
8 state bypass.

9 My question to the panel is, what would  
10 Charleston be without two interstates? What would Myrtle  
11 Beach be with one? What would Charleston be without a  
12 port? What could Georgetown be with some funding for  
13 their port? Charleston has two trains, while Myrtle  
14 Beach doesn't have any.

15 There are two choices, but only one choice.  
16 Who gets the resources? Where is the infrastructure for  
17 the north coast? Give us a vote. Let us in the fight.

18 The House version of District 7 would give  
19 Myrtle Beach and Georgetown an independent voice from  
20 Charleston and would combine all of the counties in the  
21 I-73 corridor.

22 We are currently one of the strongest  
23 producers of this state's GDP without an interstate, a  
24 major port, trains, or military bases. Do we want  
25 economic growth for this state? Let's give the resources

1 where they'll yield the best results. Let us in the  
2 fight.

3                   This is not about race. It's not about  
4 politics. It's about our economy. It's about growing  
5 our economy. Horry County and the Grand Strand provides  
6 a lot of money for this state and can provide much, much  
7 more. I-73 would combine some of the poorest counties in  
8 this state with some of the highest unemployment with a  
9 wonderful, wonderful resource. Why hasn't I-73 been  
10 built? If you look at the current congressional  
11 district, there's no one fighting for it. Let us have a  
12 fight. Let us in the fight. That's all we want.

13                   Thank you.

14                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Ralph Baker.

15                   MR. BAKER: Chairman McConnell, Shery Smith  
16 and Susan Scouten and those who spoke about the  
17 desirability of compact districts and the elimination of  
18 gerrymandering have covered all of the points that I want  
19 to make. And with that, I'll stop talking and shorten up  
20 the evening a little bit.

21                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Your brevity was  
22 clarity.

23                   Mr. Brett Bursey.

24                   MR. BURSEY: You all, I am Brett Bursey,  
25 and I am the director of the South Carolina Progressive

1 Network. It's a 16-year-old organization that works to  
2 improve the quality of democracy that we practice in  
3 South Carolina. And I want to urge the committee to  
4 understand where we are in the practice of democracy.  
5 Redistricting is not about economics. It's about  
6 ensuring the equality of the vote.

7                   And what we have in South Carolina through  
8 past histories and redistricting, and the reason that we  
9 are a Section 5 state is the least competitive  
10 legislative races in the nation. Most of the senators in  
11 this room, in the vast majority, at least pushing 70,  
12 about 68 percent of the representatives in this body that  
13 are making up these plans did not have competition in the  
14 general election.

15                   It's got to be a critical consideration for  
16 you. As I have learned more about it, I realized how  
17 difficult it is. There is so much history that's gone  
18 into the segregation of our communities.

19                   The redistricting plan last -- ten years  
20 ago, it resulted in us having one district that elected a  
21 majority black district of 60-plus percent, and that  
22 packing that has been spoken of is something that we  
23 really need to consider. We have to have more  
24 competition in the generals.

25                   We have -- in the United States, our

1 practice of democracy and turning out to vote is so sadly  
2 lagging behind the rest of the world. There are 138  
3 nations in the world where the citizens turn out at a  
4 higher percentage than we do in the United States. We're  
5 between Armenia and Nigeria.

6               Senators, there are places that people  
7 stand in line for days and get shot at that people are  
8 turning out with greater frequency to vote than they are  
9 here, and part of it is because they don't feel that it's  
10 doing any good. And part of that is that there is not  
11 any honest competition. And when we elect our  
12 representatives in the primaries, we end up with a much  
13 more strident politic. It's so much more difficult to  
14 reach compromise and have intelligent decisions made that  
15 benefit the majority of people.

16               This redistricting is a very important  
17 thing, and I realize there is only so much you can do,  
18 but I encourage you not to make decisions about this  
19 based on economics. I encourage you not to make this  
20 based on decisions of safe districts, which is what got  
21 us, partially, into the problem that we're in today, and  
22 I want you to consider the plan that I think has been the  
23 best one that I've seen, which I found out just today  
24 that has not been submitted and would beg the committee's  
25 permission to turn it in tomorrow. It's one that

1 Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter has drawn that received  
2 36 votes on the floor of the House, did not pass. But it  
3 creates a new seventh district centered in the middle of  
4 the state. It's around Orangeburg, and it cuts the sixth  
5 district from being 60 plus to being in the 40s. There  
6 are no majority-black districts in Representative  
7 Cobb-Hunter's plan.

8                   Now, I want you all to look at that,  
9 because I think that you're -- you've got to lead.  
10 You've got to be responsible for the fact that so few  
11 people are voting. In a four-year election cycle, half  
12 the people that are eligible to vote in South Carolina  
13 are staying home. Let's bring some competition back in.  
14 It might make your job a little bit harder, but it will  
15 make it much more interesting, and the results will be  
16 better.

17                   Senator McConnell, can I submit these plans  
18 that I thought you had today? There is some electronic  
19 failure. We have maps and statistics I would like to get  
20 to you.

21                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Absolutely. You can  
22 still submit that. The subcommittee is going to meet  
23 tomorrow and consider maps --

24                   MR. BURSEY: Thank you very much.

25                   SENATOR McCONNELL: -- and all this

1 testimony.

2                   MR. BURSEY: Is there anyone speaking on  
3 behalf of the ACLU today? I would -- no one has  
4 mentioned it, but I would encourage the committee not to  
5 overlook the maps that they've drawn. They have two.

6                   SENATOR McCONNELL: We have that map.  
7 Staff counsel informs me we have that map, both drawing  
8 and statistically.

9                   MR. BURSEY: Thank you, sir.

10                  SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir, but we don't  
11 have the database on that other one.

12                  MR. TERRENI: Yeah, we do.

13                  SENATOR McCONNELL: We do. We have it.

14 Okay. Good.

15                  All right. Mr. Robert Sinners.

16                  MR. SINNERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and  
17 thank you, members of the committee. I'm going to be  
18 brief as possible, but I just wanted to emphasize the  
19 importance and the thought that goes behind the creation  
20 of cohesive, and I guess you say, districts that have  
21 commonalities with them.

22                  When you're drawing this new plan -- the  
23 first plan, that I noticed, ignores or seems to ignore  
24 all of the idea of having commonalities between your  
25 constituents. And I think that is very important

1 culturally, and it's also very important for us to  
2 consider, because these districts are going to be what  
3 we're dealing with for the next decade. That includes  
4 economic growth, and that includes the inherent political  
5 divisions that are going to be arising in the next  
6 decade.

7                   And I would like to critique the first plan  
8 briefly by just saying that it separates Spartanburg  
9 County. It separates Charleston from North Charleston.  
10 It creates competing interests between the first district  
11 and the sixth district. You have four competing  
12 congressmen to represent the coast. You have three  
13 competing congressmen that are representing Upstate  
14 districts.

15                   Lexington is also represented by Jasper  
16 County. Richland would be represented by North  
17 Charleston as well, and Spartanburg would also find a  
18 representative also representing parts of Richland  
19 County. We need to have congressional districts that  
20 have anchors, if you will. We need an I-73 congressman,  
21 a representative for BMW, one that represents the  
22 military bases that we have, Fort Jackson and down in  
23 Beaufort at Parris Island, among others. We also need  
24 someone that represents Boeing and the economic base that  
25 that will bring in.

1                   We don't need to think about this as much  
2 as politically or racially as much as where the future of  
3 South Carolina is going to be in the next ten years and  
4 where those population surges are going to happen.  
5 They're going to happen in Rock Hill, They're going to  
6 happen in Charleston, Summerville, or Dorchester, that  
7 area, and they're going to be happening in the Upstate.

8                   Therefore, we need to think about the fact  
9 that having fragmented and divided districts are going to  
10 create a fragmented and divided political system and  
11 secure that for the next ten years. That will not bring  
12 South Carolina progress. That will not bring any benefit  
13 to the citizens of this state. And, furthermore, I think  
14 that it's very selfish that they're created just because  
15 of political divisions that create safe districts.

16                   I'm asking you to consider the House plan,  
17 and, furthermore, consider more plans that are happening.  
18 You need to have these distinct cultural areas, such as  
19 the Upstate, Rock Hill, the Grand Strand, Charleston  
20 represented by someone that represents those needs.

21                   That is the core of it, and I will leave  
22 you with that, because it is pint night, and I have  
23 places to be.

24                   Thank you.

25                   SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you. That

1 concludes all of the people that we have signed up for  
2 this committee. We will take into consideration all of  
3 these comments, any written comments that are received or  
4 wish to be sent in tonight.

5                   We will reconvene at 10 a.m. in the morning  
6 in this room to consider looking at all of the plans and  
7 all of the input and come up with something to recommend  
8 to the full Senate Judiciary Committee for tomorrow  
9 afternoon.

10                   With that, thank you all for coming. Have  
11 a good evening.

12                   (The meeting was concluded at 7:11 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2

3 I, Janni S. Jardine, Court Reporter and  
4 Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large,  
5 do hereby certify:

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

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

16 Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my  
17 official seal July 5, 2011, at Columbia, Richland County,  
18 South Carolina.

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Janni S. Jardine

Janni S. Jardine  
Court Reporter  
My Commission expires  
September 1, 2019

	INDEX	PAGE
1		
2		
3	WITNESS:	
4	JOE DUGAN	7
	REPRESENTATIVE ALAN CLEMMONS	12
5	ETHAN RIVERA	19
	SHERY SMITH	22
6	JOHNNIE BELLAMY	25
	MURRAY JORDAN	27
7	BRAD DEAN	30
	JAMES GUNN	34
8	CLIFF CLARK	35
	MARLA JEAN HAMBY	36
9	CHARLIE LUQUIRE	37
	CHUCK OTTWELL	39
10	JONATHAN COWAN	40
	STEPHANIE RAWLINSON	42
11	BILL PICKLE	44
	DEBBIE HARWELL	47
12	TOMMY PHILLIPS	50
	TOM GRIMES	53
13	CHRISTOPHER KENNEY	55
	LE FLOWERS	58
14	JANE PAGE THOMPSON	58
	CLAUDE O'DONOVAN	61
15	REVEREND ENNIS FANT	63
	CURTIS ASKEW	67
16	MICHAEL LUPPE	67
	MATTHEW BLEWITT	71
17	SUSAN SCOUTEN	74
	JOHNNY FRYER, JR.	75
18	RALPH BAKER	77
	BRETT BURSEY	77
19	ROBERT SINNERS	81
20	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	85
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		