

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 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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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

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

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

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



Janni S. Jardine

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

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