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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Gressette Building, Room 308
Columbia, South Carolina

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

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 SENATOR GLENN F. McCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

3 SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY

4 SENATOR ROBERT FORD

5 SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO

6 SENATOR GERALD MALLOY

7 SENATOR LARRY A. MARTIN

8 SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

9

10 STAFF PRESENT:

11 DEBBIE HAMMOND

12 ALEX SMITH

13 CHARLES TERRENI

14 KATHERINE WELLS

15

16 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

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

9 I'd like to begin by giving you a brief
10 overview of the redistricting process so that you
11 can understand what we're trying to accomplish and
12 how tonight's hearing fits into that process.

13 First let me introduce the members of
14 the subcommittee. They're a bipartisan group of
15 senators. They come from different regions of the
16 state. They've been involved in different issues.
17 They bring to the table a wealth of experience in
18 legislative matters and solving problems in this
19 state.

20 First of all, I'll start over here with
21 the upstate. Phillip Shoopman comes to us from
22 Greenville right up there at the top of the state.
23 From the Midlands, got Senator Brad Hutto. Then
24 from the low country, Senator Robert Ford and
25 myself. We go over to the Pee Dee area. We've got

1 Senator Gerald Malloy, Darlington, Lee, Marlboro
2 and wherever else. And then from the Grand Strand
3 we've got Senator Ray Cleary of Georgetown and
4 Horry counties.

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

18 While the House and Senate have
19 historically deferred to one another when it comes
20 to the plans for their respective bodies, their
21 Congressional plans may ultimately have to be
22 reconciled in the legislative process through a
23 conference committee. The conference committee is
24 three members of the House, three members of the
25 Senate. It takes two votes from each side to put

1 something into a bill.

2 If the two bodies, two from each side,
3 agree on a redistricting plan or we pass one, it
4 must be submitted to the governor for her signature
5 in the same manner as any other bill that is passed
6 by the General Assembly.

7 Finally, under section five of the
8 Voting Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into
9 law will have to be pre-cleared by the Justice
10 Department or the Federal District Court in
11 Washington, D.C., before it can take effect. The
12 reason we have to redistrict is to ensure that our
13 state's legislative and Congressional districts
14 represent substantially equal populations there by
15 ensuring that each person's vote is given the same
16 weight as another's in our system of
17 representation.

18 Ideally each of the state's Senate
19 districts will have 100,552 persons, and each of
20 our state's Congressional districts will have
21 660,767 persons. The census results that were
22 released last Thursday tell us the extent to which
23 the state's districts deviate from these ideal
24 numbers. District lines will have to be redrawn so
25 that some districts gain population and others lose

1 population in order to restore the required
2 equality of representation.

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

13 Instead this evening we're here to
14 consider the building blocks of those future plans.
15 We need to hear your opinions on the criteria that
16 you believe we should follow in the line drawing
17 process. We also want to know about the
18 communities of interest that we should be aware of
19 when drawing new district boundaries.

20 Examples of redistricting criteria
21 would be requirements that consideration should be
22 given to communities of interest, the cores of
23 existing districts, county, municipal or precinct
24 lines, compactness, contiguity, as well as
25 applicable laws and Constitutional standards. We

1 would like you to let us know how important these
2 criteria are to you and whether there are other
3 criteria that you believe we should take into
4 account when drawing the new district lines.

5 As for communities of interest, they
6 may be neighborhoods, towns or other political
7 subdivisions that have common interests that define
8 them for purposes of political representation.
9 They could also be areas defined by common economic
10 interests or characteristics, cultural
11 affiliations, recreational interests or other
12 factors that cause people to identify with one
13 another. We would like to hear from you about
14 communities of interest that you perceive to exist
15 in the area and how you believe they should be
16 considered in the process of drawing district
17 boundaries.

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

1 Along the same lines, please explain
2 why you believe an area is a community of interest
3 and where it's located. To assist you with the
4 location, we have maps available for you here for
5 you to mark and identify particular areas that you
6 consider to be communities of interest.

7 Second, we don't have rigid time limits
8 for speaking at these public hearings. However, we
9 would encourage you to have a goal of speaking no
10 more than five minutes so that everyone may be
11 heard. Also if a citizen would like to submit an
12 extended written statement, we will accept it for
13 consideration. Written comments will receive the
14 same consideration as spoken ones, and the handouts
15 available to you provide the U.S. mail and e-mail
16 addresses to which the comments may be sent.

17 Finally, in order to facilitate
18 communication with the subcommittee and give the
19 public a way of keeping track of the process, I
20 encourage all persons interested in redistricting
21 to consult our website which is located at
22 <http://redistricting.southcarolinasenate.gov> [sic].
23 Knowing that's a lot real quick, the address for
24 the redistricting website is also included in the
25 handouts that we've given you.

1 At the website you'll find useful
2 information such as the dates and locations of our
3 public hearings and subcommittee meetings,
4 redistricting data, reference materials and
5 guidelines for future participation in the process.

6 We want to thank you for giving your
7 time and being willing to contribute to this
8 important process.

9 With that, I'll call the first
10 presenter and that will be Mr. Michael Rogers.

11 Why don't you come on forward. Let me
12 see where they're having you -- at the district --
13 I mean, at the table.

14 MS. HAMMOND: Right there.

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: Right there with
16 one of those microphones. Make sure those lights
17 are on for you so that we can hear you and all
18 those folks behind you can.

19 MR. RODGERS: Yes, it's on.

20 Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you
21 for having this hearing. My name is Mike Rogers
22 and I want to talk very briefly about the process.
23 And I'd like to point out something about the South
24 Carolina Constitution and its requirements for this
25 process.

1 Two members of this committee are both
2 called the senator from Charleston. This
3 appellation is phrased in accordance with the
4 decorum of our state Senate, but unfortunately
5 there's a rather serious problem with the phrasing.
6 Just who is the senator from Charleston? The
7 problem is serious because it's a violation of our
8 South Carolina Constitution which states the Senate
9 shall be composed of one member from each county,
10 not more than one, not less than one, exactly one.

11 Currently zero senators are from
12 Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun, Chester,
13 Chesterfield, Colleton, Dillon, Hampton, Lancaster,
14 Lee, Marlboro, McCormick, Saluda or Union counties.
15 That's 15 counties that no senator calls home. Our
16 state Senate district maps must align exactly with
17 the county lines, but they do not. Instead our
18 Senate is drawn -- districts are drawn across
19 county lines in a way that turns this
20 geographically-based body into a population-based
21 body. In effect our Senate is just another House.

22 Our South Carolina Constitution set up
23 a bicameral legislature. Can you imagine the
24 uproar if our federal government started drawing
25 U.S. House and U.S. Senate district lines that

1 crossed state lines? But that's what we do here.
2 Our state government draws South Carolina House and
3 South Carolina Senate lines that cross our county
4 lines. Our Senate -- our state legislators violate
5 the South Carolina Constitution in this regard.

6 Our South Carolina's Constitution
7 states the House of Representatives shall consist
8 of 124 members to be apportioned among the several
9 counties. Each county shall constitute one
10 election district. Each county must constitute one
11 election district. Each county must elect exactly
12 one senator and as many representatives as in
13 proportion to the county's part of our state
14 population.

15 Our state legislatures [sic] are
16 required to produce a district map and the district
17 lines exactly matching county lines with exactly
18 one senator for each county and with a number of
19 representatives in each county distributed
20 according to population. Our state legislators are
21 required by -- by our S.C. Constitution to do this
22 work and they must do it.

23 As you mentioned before, Senator
24 McConnell, the -- that's not the only
25 responsibility. The additional responsibility is

1 that you have to adhere to federal law and you must
2 satisfy the federal requirement that the districts
3 in our state comply with the Voting Rights Act and
4 related U.S. Supreme Court decisions. That's an
5 additional requirement.

6 You first have to focus on the
7 Constitutional requirement of our South Carolina
8 Constitution. Ideally, you all would devise a plan
9 that satisfies both the requirements of federal law
10 and our South Carolina Constitution at the same
11 time, and so however you go about this, you must
12 keep in mind that the federal requirement is an
13 additional requirement that does not, repeat, does
14 not, magically allow our state legislators to
15 ignore their responsibility under our U.S. -- under
16 our South Carolina Constitution.

17 Thank you.

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

19 Victoria Middleton.

20 MS. MIDDLETON: Senator.

21 I appreciate the opportunity to speak.
22 I'm Victoria Middleton, the executive director of
23 the ACLU in South Carolina.

24 I'm going to read my statement with
25 your indulgence because I would like it to be on

1 the record, and I have copies for the committee
2 members. And I will sound as though I'm feeding
3 you back some of your own principles, but, again,
4 with your indulgence.

5 I'd like to start by thanking the
6 members of the subcommittee for holding this public
7 hearing and others around this state.

8 Because redistricting determines the
9 composition of districts in which individuals elect
10 their representatives and have a voice in how they
11 are governed, every voter has a vital stake in the
12 outcome of the communities' redistricting and every
13 voter should feel welcomed to participate in the
14 process.

15 This sort of collaboration between you,
16 law makers, redistricting experts, in which I am
17 not one, individuals and advocacy organizations
18 like my own to draw and analyze plans and promote
19 transparency in the redistricting process is
20 absolutely essential, so we commend you on it and
21 thank you for our opportunity to participate.

22 As you've noted, Senator McConnell,
23 fair and equal representation is the cornerstone of
24 American democracy. The Constitution requires
25 states to apportion their Congressional districts

1 according to the one person, one vote principle.
2 The Supreme Court has interpreted the Equal
3 Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as
4 requiring state legislative seats to be apportioned
5 according to the one person, one vote principle as
6 well.

7 Improper redistricting can result in
8 unequal representation in voting districts,
9 dilution of minority votes and fractured
10 communities.

11 In addition to the one person, one vote
12 principle, the redistricting plan, as you've noted,
13 should be drawn utilizing traditional principles
14 such as compactness, contiguity, preservation of
15 county lines, communities of interest, and
16 competitiveness because it's very important that
17 each voter's right to -- to have a voice in how he
18 or she is governed is heard.

19 The redistricting plan must also take
20 into consideration the Voting Rights Act which
21 prohibits the use of redistricting plans that
22 result in diluting minority voting strength.
23 Communities of color in particular face obstacles
24 to meaningful participation in a political process
25 in our state and in others, and that includes the

1 redistricting process.

2 The federal Voting Rights Act includes
3 protection provisions to ensure these communities'
4 involvement in the process. So compliance with the
5 Voting Rights Act ensures that racial and language
6 minorities have an equal opportunity to participate
7 and elect candidates of choice.

8 We look forward to collaborating with
9 the committee, with individual voters and other
10 interested parties over the next few months in
11 drawing fair and equal districts for our state
12 legislature and our seven Congressional seats. I
13 thank you for the opportunity to go on the record
14 about this, and we stand ready to assist in any
15 way. Thank you, sir.

16 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

17 Bonan Li. Did I pronounce that
18 correctly?

19 MS. LI: Yes.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.

21 MS. LI: Yes, that's correct. Thanks
22 everybody. I appreciate the chance to be able to
23 speak.

24 What I would like to say today is I
25 think we can improve our redistricting technology.

1 We can go to the next generation technology which
2 is the smart redistricting engine. Currently all
3 the redistricting software rely on human beings to
4 optimize the plans which is very inefficient, very
5 time-consuming.

6 A professor in the University of South
7 Carolina invented a product which uses the human
8 computer interaction to perform redistricting, and
9 the human being can just on a map to draw your
10 communities of interest and to -- comprise your
11 draft to ideas, and then the computer can do the
12 rest of the things. The computer has the -- the
13 product has the smart redistricting engine, and
14 then a computer will optimize the plan. The speed
15 is very fast. It's about 50 plans within a minute.

16 So we have our right to introduce this
17 product to everybody and we hope this product can
18 help South Carolina to make the redistricting
19 process smoother. Thank you.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

21 Mr. Lonnie Randolph.

22 MR. RANDOLPH: Good evening to first
23 the members of the Senate, the chair, staff
24 persons, and let me especially say good evening to
25 all of the citizens who came out today to express

1 their views.

2 My name is Lonnie Randolph, Jr. I am
3 the president of the South Carolina State
4 Conference of the NAACP, and I am honored and proud
5 to be here today to make a few comments. Several
6 persons who spoke earlier did make some of the
7 comments that I had planned to make. Senator
8 McConnell in his opening remarks did the same, so I
9 will try and skip over those remarks and address
10 some concerns that I do have about the process.

11 Having said that, I do hope and we --
12 those of us who support justice and equality for
13 all people do hope that this process will be one
14 that is fair to -- not to members of the Senate,
15 not to members of the House, not to the members of
16 Congress, but fair to all citizens in the state of
17 South Carolina.

18 One of the things that we have
19 evaluated and looked at over the years is basically
20 over the last two process -- redistricting
21 processes is that there has -- there appears to be
22 some packing what we define -- has been defined as
23 packing of districts. That process has caused a
24 very unusual and strange division of the people in
25 the state of South Carolina. The districts of the

1 people of color have become blacker. The districts
2 of people with less color have become whiter.

3 And I do hope that during this
4 process -- there is a way to fix this, and we hope
5 that all citizens and all members of this committee
6 and members of the General Assembly will work very
7 hard to decrease this major problem that is
8 affecting our states -- our state.

9 One of the major issues that results
10 from such a process is that it means that only one
11 group of people in this state will have influence
12 with the process. We have seen that with the
13 absence of African Americans and women in the
14 decision make -- decision making positions in the
15 state, and one of the critical areas that causes
16 this type of isolation is the packing of districts
17 with people based on race, and we hope that this
18 process -- we can address that in a way that we can
19 eliminate and move South Carolina forward in the
20 21st century.

21 I also want to say that this process
22 can be done without any retrogression. We are
23 hoping that we can maintain the influence that
24 we've had for all people of this state based on
25 doing this process in a fair and just way. Lack of

1 polarization, we feel that we can address that and
2 should not have that.

3 And also as far as the seven
4 Congressional districts, my comments are general in
5 nature -- in nature because I'm speaking of all of
6 the elections -- the election process in totality.
7 I think if we make it fair across the board, you
8 will see better participation by the citizens of
9 this state.

10 But the seventh Congressional district
11 I've heard some comments made earlier even before
12 the results -- the census results came in as to
13 what they thought it would be and what they knew it
14 would be. I hope that we will take a further look
15 at that to ensure that the earlier comments are not
16 just taken based on preliminary results, but that
17 the influence of those individuals in rural
18 communities will be considered as they should be in
19 the seventh Congressional district.

20 Thank you so very much for allowing me
21 this opportunity, and if there are any questions,
22 I'd be more than happy to address them.

23 SENATOR McCONNELL: Senator Ford.

24 SENATOR FORD: Mr. Randolph, I have to
25 be careful. How are you doing?

1 MR. RANDOLPH: I'm doing fine, Senator.
2 I hope you're doing well.

3 SENATOR FORD: You used the word
4 packing. Can you give me an example -- can you
5 give me an example of what you're saying?

6 MR. RANDOLPH: Well, there are several
7 districts -- and I don't have the number here
8 before me, but there are several districts that
9 have majority African American population and white
10 population with what I consider to be 60 percent
11 severance, and I don't think that's necessary to
12 win an election.

13 The very matter that I mentioned to
14 you -- that I mentioned to you, I think the
15 districts are being drawn in a way where
16 influence -- if you go back again -- I can go back
17 20 years, I can. The amount of influence that
18 certain people in our General Assembly and our
19 Senate -- both House and Senate, the amount of
20 influence that certain groups have had no longer
21 have, and packing as we define it, ensuring that
22 certain people are represented generally regardless
23 of their ethnicity, we --

24 SENATOR FORD: One more question. What
25 percentage -- 60 percent would be what percentage

1 over what the NACP [sic] would have in mind?

2 MR. RANDOLPH: Well, I can't give you
3 an answer what we would have in mind. I want to
4 see what you produce. You produce a fair -- you
5 produce an unfair system or unfair number, we will
6 let you know. You produce a fairness -- our issue
7 is fairness, equity and justice for all people, and
8 the system does not function that way.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

10 MR. RANDOLPH: Thank you.

11 SENATOR McCONNELL: Kamau Marcharia?

12 Did I get that pretty close or did I --

13 MR. MARCHARIA: (Inaudible.)

14 Good evening ladies and gentlemen,
15 deciding officials. My name is -- I'm a county
16 council member of Fairfield County, and I'm here
17 basically to learn what this process is all about.
18 And I came kind of late. And I concur with what
19 Dr. Randolph has just said, and I'm here to listen.

20 And -- and the name is Kamau Marcharia.
21 And it's an easy name to remember. If you say, I
22 know you, Kamau, you pretty much got it. Swahili
23 simply means black warier.

24 But I think Dr. Randolph expressed some
25 of the concerns that I've been concerned about and

1 learning as this redistricting kind of occurred.
2 And thank you for allowing me just to express that.
3 That's basically what I want to say at this point
4 in time. Thank you very much.

5 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you so much,
6 sir.

7 Sergeant, do y'all have any more
8 notices back there?

9 Is there anyone that filled out an
10 application to be heard that has not been heard?

11 Before I turn -- I have two senators
12 visiting us from the Midlands. Delighted to have
13 both of you.

14 Senator Scott, anything -- words of
15 wisdom you want to give to the committee? Or did
16 you give us all this afternoon that you wanted
17 to -- in this room since we've all been here
18 together?

19 SENATOR SCOTT: No.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Senator Cromer.
21 Senator Cromer from Newberry, Lexington and
22 wherever, we're happy to have you. Is there any
23 words of wisdom you wish to give the subcommittee?

24 SENATOR CROMER: No, sir. Just please
25 do a good job.

1 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

2 Do we have any members of the House out
3 there tonight?

4 SENATOR SHOOPMAN: I think they're
5 having a redistricting hearing.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: They're having a
7 redistricting hearing tonight, so I suspect that's
8 where they are.

9 SENATOR SHOOPMAN: Yes, they are.

10 SENATOR McCONNELL: Was there anyone
11 else that wished to be heard?

12 All right. With that, in case you
13 decide again, let me reiterate -- oh, I'm sorry.
14 Please come forward. You will need to identify
15 yourself for the record.

16 MS. NOLAN: May I just stand here and
17 identify myself?

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: Unfortunately the
19 court reporter can't hear you and we're taking
20 everything down, so I'd ask you to please come
21 forward and have a seat. Make yourself comfortable
22 and -- please state your name for the record.

23 MS. NOLAN: My name is Lu Nolan. And I
24 really just had a question. I wanted to ask what
25 is the next step as far as the Senate is concerned

1 in this.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Well, I'll try
3 to -- the road map is tomorrow night we head to
4 Florence. Thursday night we go to Charleston.
5 That will conclude the ten public hearings. And we
6 will take that testimony, look at it, look at the
7 record, and try to get -- sometime here in the next
8 week or so adopt a set of criteria for drawing
9 maps. That will be the next step. Then after we
10 draw the criteria, we'll obviously take public
11 input, take that criteria, give it to the staff and
12 ask them to use that and begin drawing.

13 MS. NOLAN: How soon -- or will the
14 criteria be made available to the public?

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: We will hold a
16 public hearing on it, and the decision will be made
17 in public. The vote will be taken in public. They
18 will immediately go up on our website. You will
19 also be able to go on our website and interact, and
20 we of course would welcome between now and the time
21 that we vote any public input. And then after we
22 have the criteria, we'll be taking input on what
23 the district lines should be before we draw them --

24 MS. NOLAN: I --

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: -- or while we draw

1 them.

2 MS. NOLAN: Okay. And what point --
3 what point approximately do you expect to have this
4 entire process completed?

5 SENATOR McCONNELL: Well, I can't speak
6 for the House of Representatives.

7 MS. NOLAN: I know.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: But right now we
9 are shooting to wrap this up by the first of June.

10 MS. NOLAN: Okay. So hopefully this
11 year that --

12 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, ma'am, because
13 the elections -- our goal is to make sure that the
14 primaries and everything go off on time.

15 MS. NOLAN: Okay. I thank you and I
16 thank you for this hearing and all the hard work
17 that you're putting into it, and I'm glad that
18 you're keeping us informed.

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

20 MS. NOLAN: I go to your site every day
21 just about.

22 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. Please
23 feel free to go there. We'll be posting as we
24 can --

25 MS. NOLAN: Thank you.

1 SENATOR McCONNELL: -- as the new
2 information becomes available.

3 Was there anyone else with their arms
4 up? Yes, ma'am, please come up.

5 Again, I'd ask you for the record to
6 please state your name so the court reporter can
7 get it and we can identify your testimony.

8 MS. ADDISON: My name is Tishia
9 Addison.

10 The question that I have for you is
11 what if during your redistricting process a
12 senator, someone who is already an elected
13 official, say, two of them, they start -- the lines
14 start to cross?

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: They cannot cross.

16 MS. ADDISON: So what would you do in
17 that -- in that matter such as you're doing
18 redistricting -- because the lines are so close,
19 you redistrict and the person that's in Orangeburg
20 versus the person that's in Barnwell and they live
21 kind of close in a proximity area, how would you
22 determine that? Because in Lexington we have
23 someone that came and spoke with us who talked
24 about redistricting and sometimes how that has
25 occurred before. How would that be addressed?

1 SENATOR McCONNELL: We will address it
2 by -- people will not be in two districts. The
3 lines will be very clear. We have VTDs and we have
4 computers and the ability to make sure that the
5 districts are contiguous, that there are not
6 doughnut holes, that everybody is accounted for in
7 a district.

8 We will as we draw those districts try
9 to be mindful of the criteria we adopt such as
10 communities of interest and things. Where a VTD
11 line may lie is something sometimes we don't have
12 control over, where a precinct line and where the
13 VTDs match up to whatever the variance is. We just
14 can't go over and add people and -- and violate
15 whatever those criteria are.

16 MS. ADDISON: So someone could lose
17 their office in redistricting?

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: That's up to the
19 voters.

20 MS. ADDISON: But, I mean, in reference
21 to once the lines are drawn, if you end up with two
22 where they're currently separated?

23 SENATOR McCONNELL: If the Senate
24 adopts criteria trying to draw districts who have
25 already -- pitting incumbents against incumbents,

1 trying to maintain core sections of existing
2 districts, that reduces the possibility, but
3 everything is possible, that we seek to apply the
4 criteria and to make sure that we follow what we
5 call traditional redistricting.

6 MS. ADDISON: Does incumbents have
7 priority within redistricting?

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: There will be a set
9 of criteria that have priority. The -- I guess the
10 next question would be what do we do on the floor
11 of the Senate. If amendments are put up to just --
12 purely for this purpose or that purpose, ulterior
13 purposes to draw districts, that we hope the
14 criteria will defend against those, and the
15 criteria will be the objective guideposts for the
16 Senate to make decisions on where the line actually
17 comes down.

18 MS. ADDISON: Has that happened before?

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: Oh, yeah, we've
20 turned some senators down before.

21 MS. ADDISON: Where they're --

22 SENATOR McCONNELL: The criteria
23 they -- what they wanted in amendments did not
24 match what this subcommittee and the full Judiciary
25 Committee had adopted as criteria and we had to

1 tell them no.

2 MS. ADDISON: Okay. All right. Do you
3 base it off of -- to where it allows us to remain
4 in public and state?

5 SENATOR McCONNELL: This -- if you will
6 look at this committee --

7 MS. ADDISON: It's very diverse.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: That's correct.
9 That should tell you the signal that I as the
10 chairman of the Judiciary Committee have chartered
11 for this committee to do it right.

12 MS. ADDISON: So hopefully after
13 redistricting we may be able to have a little more
14 balance as far as --

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: That's up to the
16 voters.

17 MS. ADDISON: Okay. What I'm looking
18 at --

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: This is a
20 bipartisan diverse group and they will --

21 MS. ADDISON: No, I -- I believe that
22 and if --

23 SENATOR McCONNELL: They'll do the best
24 they can do, I can assure you.

25 MS. ADDISON: I learned --

1 SENATOR McCONNELL: That's why I picked
2 them.

3 MS. ADDISON: I learned that very well
4 in listening -- listening to Senator Ford, so --
5 in -- in some of his campaign from governor, so I
6 learned that very well as you -- as you as well
7 being from Fairfield County. So a little bit of
8 homework.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. ADDISON: But -- so when we're
11 looking at the redistricting -- as we're looking at
12 it, what opportunities will we have to get new
13 officials within redistricting because it continues
14 to be district -- it continues to be zoned in a
15 certain manner to where the same people are
16 continuously elected and there are --

17 SENATOR McCONNELL: We've not drawn --
18 I can tell you we've not drawn any maps at this
19 juncture.

20 MS. ADDISON: Okay.

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: There are other map
22 drawings going on around the capital, but this
23 group has not drawn any maps -- and has not drawn
24 any maps and we've not looked at it. Instead our
25 focus is on public hearings and hearing from the

1 public on what they think should go into it. I
2 mean, we -- we've heard testimony from across the
3 state in different places what they thought were
4 communities of interest, things that they look for
5 in traditional redistricting.

6 MS. ADDISON: Thank you.

7 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

8 Was there anyone else? Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. CATO: Thank you, Senator
10 McConnell, and thanks to the subcommittee.

11 My name is Carol Cato and I live here
12 in Columbia. And I have a question for you, and
13 I'm not here as League of Women Voters. I'm here
14 as -- as a citizen. And the question I have for
15 you is this.

16 In my precinct which is ward ten, it --
17 we have two Congressional districts, six and two.
18 For instance -- and this runs through Shandon --
19 the community of Shandon. It runs straight through
20 the community of Shandon. On one side of the
21 road -- on one side of the street somebody will be
22 in district six. On the other side they will be in
23 district two. Is there any way that we can avoid
24 that? I know the lines must be drawn someplace.

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: What I'm hearing

1 you say -- correct me if I'm wrong -- is don't
2 split a VTD, a voting tabulation district.

3 MS. CATO: Well, it makes it --

4 SENATOR McCONNELL: Are they -- are
5 y'all in separate districts based on which side of
6 the street?

7 MS. CATO: Yes. Yes. And we are in
8 separate Congressional districts. And also it
9 makes it more prone to mistakes at the precinct
10 level when -- when people are voting because we
11 have to keep track of both Congressional districts.
12 We hand out cards, and every once in a while I
13 notice that the wrong card is handed to somebody.
14 And they have, you know, come up and said, Well,
15 you know, I voted in the wrong district.

16 SENATOR McCONNELL: One of the things
17 that we've been taking testimony on -- one of the
18 things I mentioned of course is precinct lines
19 called voting tabulation districts in the lingo of
20 the redistricting.

21 But, again, we will get those
22 statistics. We download. We have already
23 downloaded most of that data, but we have not drawn
24 districts. So that's why we're taking testimony
25 right now. Do you have difficulties with split

1 precincts? What kind of difficulties do you have?

2 Should we be mindful of that when we draw?

3 MS. CATO: Well, I would request that
4 you certainly be mindful of it. And I wanted to
5 congratulate you and the subcommittee and I want to
6 congratulate you on the diversity that you have and
7 the quality that you have up there.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

9 MS. CATO: Thank you very much.

10 SENATOR McCONNELL: You've been to some
11 committee meetings and you know this group --

12 MS. CATO: I know --

13 SENATOR McCONNELL: -- is not shy on
14 words.

15 MS. CATO: I know quality when I see
16 it. Thank you.

17 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

18 Anyone else before we wrap up?

19 With that, again, if you have some
20 written comments that come to mind, please submit
21 them. We will be over in Florence tomorrow
22 tonight, and we welcome you to join us. We'll be
23 down in Charleston on Thursday night and then that
24 will close the -- this level of the hearings.

25 Thank you all again for coming. Have a

1 good evening.

2 (The public hearing was concluded at

3 7:14 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

That the foregoing transcript was taken before me on the date and at the time and location stated on page 1 of this transcript; that all statements made on the record at the time of the proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing proceeding as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the proceeding 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 this 14th day of April, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



Yvonne R. Bohannon

Yvonne R. Bohannon
Registered Merit
Reporter, CRR
My Commission expires
April 11, 2015

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