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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 4, 2011

6:35 p.m.

HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA

REPORTED BY: TERESA J. F. BAUTZ
Registered Professional Reporter

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2

3 SENATOR GLENN F. MCCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

4 SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY

5 SENATOR ROBERT FORD

6 SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO

7 SENATOR GERALD MALLOY

8

9

10 STAFF PRESENT:

11 BONNIE ANZELMO, ESQ.

12 PAULA BENSON, ESQ.

13 DEBBIE HAMMOND

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1 SENATOR McCONNELL: Good evening. I'm
2 Glenn McConnell, State Senator from Charleston,
3 Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I
4 will welcome you to one of our ten local public
5 hearings in South Carolina the Senate Judiciary
6 Committee's Redistricting Subcommittee is holding
7 across the state.

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

13 But first let me introduce the members
14 of this subcommittee. It's a bipartisan group of
15 senators from different parts of the state who
16 have been involved in different issues, coming up
17 with different solutions for the state.

18 Let's see, we don't have from the -- I
19 guess what we're going to call it is from the Pee
20 Dee. From the Pee Dee Senator Gerald Malloy
21 comes to us from Darlington County. Right here
22 from the coast and the Lowcountry, myself and
23 Senator Robert Ford to my right.

24 From the middle of the state, Senator
25 Brad Hutto from Orangeburg, and right here along

1 this part of the coast right in your home town,
2 Senator Ray Cleary.

3 As the redistricting subcommittee of
4 your senate, we are charged with one of the most
5 important tasks before the General Assembly,
6 which in this case is the process of
7 redistricting. We must recommend legislation to
8 the Senate Judiciary Committee which will redraw
9 the South Carolina 46 state senate districts and
10 the state congressional districts to include a
11 new seventh seat.

12 Likewise, there is a subcommittee in the
13 House of Representatives that is charged with
14 drawing up a plan for the 124 districts. And
15 that body of the legislature is crafting its own
16 version of a congressional plan.

17 While the House and Senate have
18 historically deferred to one another when it
19 comes to plans for their respective bodies, their
20 congressional plans may ultimately have to be
21 reconciled in the legislative process through a
22 conference committee. And a conference committee
23 is three senators, three House members working
24 out the differences in the two bills.

25 If the two bodies agree to a

1 redistricting plan through a conference
2 committee, it must be voted on by the General
3 Assembly, then must be submitted to the Governor
4 for her signature in the same manner as any other
5 bill which is passed by the General Assembly.

6 Finally, under Section 5 of the Voting
7 Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into law
8 will be pre-cleared by the Justice Department or
9 the Federal District Court in Washington, DC
10 before it can take effect.

11 The reason we have to redistrict is to
12 ensure that our state's legislative and
13 congressional districts represent substantially
14 equal populations, thereby ensuring that each
15 person's vote is given the same weight as
16 another's in our system of representation.
17 Ideally, each of the state senate districts will
18 have 100,552 persons, and each of our state's
19 congressional districts will have 660,767
20 persons.

21 The census results that were released
22 last Thursday tell us the extent to which the
23 state's districts deviated from these ideal
24 numbers. District lines will have to be redrawn
25 so that some districts gain population and others

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 We would like to hear from you about
15 communities of interest that you perceive to
16 exist in the area and how you believe they should
17 be considered in the process of drawing district
18 boundaries.

19 As we begin this public hearing we ask
20 those testifying to be clear. Redistricting is
21 an exact process and clarity is a virtue. For
22 example, in speaking about criteria communities
23 of interest, it is important for citizens to
24 establish between whether they are talking about
25 congressional or senate districts, as the

1 subcommittee must consider both.

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

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

18 Finally, in order to facilitate the
19 communication with the subcommittee and give the
20 public a way of keeping track of the process, I
21 encourage all people, you included, who are
22 interested in redistricting to consult our
23 website which is located at
24 <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>.

25 Knowing you got that down very quickly,

1 I will tell you that the website is also included
2 on the handouts that you got from the front
3 table. At the website you will find useful
4 information such as dates and locations of our
5 public hearings and subcommittee meetings,
6 redistricting data, reference materials and
7 guidelines for future participation in the
8 process.

9 We will tomorrow night be in Columbia, I
10 believe it is. Wednesday night we will be in
11 Florence and Thursday night, our final of these
12 ten meetings, will be in Charleston in the event
13 you decide you want to attend any of those.

14 I want to thank you for giving your time
15 and being willing to contribute to this important
16 process. We'll start now and call -- do we have
17 that microphone set up right over here?

18 MS. HAMMOND: Over here next to the
19 stage.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Vincent
21 Lehotsky. Have I got that close?

22 MR. LEHOTSKY: You got it exactly.

23 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.

24 MR. LEHOTSKY: All right, good
25 afternoon, evening. Vincent Lehotsky. I'm in

1 the Allsbrook district. I'll be discussing the
2 senate district. I'm in Senate District 28, and
3 I and others, I believe we feel that we're being
4 disenfranchised with our present representation.

5 Granted that the senator might have to
6 -- well, if you look at it this way, that's with
7 North Myrtle Beach. And when North Myrtle Beach
8 cries for road paving, I out along highway 701
9 and 19 out in the boondocks with the cows, the
10 pigs, the horses, we get nothing. Every time
11 North Myrtle Beach or Little River wants
12 something, they cry much louder.

13 If there was some suggestion that if you
14 combine Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach with
15 Little River and let them fight over whoever is
16 their senator, because we're basically not being
17 represented the proper way that we should.

18 If you look at it, 28 goes all the way
19 back up there. If there's some way that -- keep
20 this together on their own, and maybe give us
21 part of 33, however it's to be, we'll let the
22 coast, the shoreline, Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle
23 Beach, however it's to be, we believe we get
24 shortchanged by a lot of the newcomers.

25 I'm a newcomer myself. But the whole

1 thing is I see where these people, we all get
2 basically screwed by anybody who lives in North
3 Myrtle Beach, Little River and Myrtle Beach, the
4 representation is uneven. And I never -- believe
5 me, I never see my senator out there. And I
6 never even see my congressman.

7 So, for that matter, the congressional
8 districts, please keep us in mind that we're a
9 different group of people out here out with the
10 farms and the fields, that maybe if we had our
11 own congressman that didn't have to deal with the
12 tourist traffic, that didn't have to deal with
13 whoever it is on the coastline, that we would
14 have somebody that cares enough for those who
15 grow the crops and the food and tobacco for this
16 county, for this state.

17 My concern is I don't want to be a part
18 of any district that has anything to do with
19 North Myrtle Beach. The senator spends too much
20 time out there, and leave him out there. Give us
21 representation that will care about what we have.
22 Thank you.

23 SENATOR HUTTO: Can you just point out
24 on here where Loris is from here, where is Loris?
25 Is that where you live?

1 MR. LEHOTSKY: Yes. But I'm on the
2 outskirts of Loris, I'm in Allsbrook. And I
3 would rather us be our own town.

4 SENATOR HUTTO: I just want to know
5 where that is.

6 MR. LEHOTSKY: Right here, the Live Oak
7 district.

8 SENATOR HUTTO: Okay.

9 MR. LEHOTSKY: And just that we're a
10 different group of people, we ain't the coast
11 people. We are the -- we're different. They
12 are, you have to respect them.

13 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.
14 Mr. Steven Neeves.

15 MR. NEEVES: Thank you, Senator, for
16 being here and letting me follow Vinnie. I'm
17 going to make a quick comment on the
18 congressional redistricting. I'm excited about
19 the seventh district, I do believe it should be
20 based on the population and growth that's
21 happening in Horry County as a center and a
22 starting point.

23 But I have heard different rumors and
24 comments that possibly Horry and Georgetown
25 Counties should be separated in that process and

1 that Horry should be connected to other counties
2 for this new district. And I just want to go on
3 record saying I think that it's a mistake.

4 I've been blessed to go to Georgetown's
5 leadership program this year, even though I was
6 raised in Horry County. And our economies and
7 our culture and history are so connected, I think
8 that Horry and Georgetown need to be kept
9 together due to this new district and go from
10 there. I would look to (unaudible).

11 And I would say for my last comment just
12 the fact that we are in Horry-Georgetown
13 Technical College. I hope y'all just consider
14 keeping those cultures together.

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you. Lois
16 Eargle.

17 MS. EARGLE: Lois Eargle. Thank you for
18 coming. We're so glad that you are here in Horry
19 County. And we appreciate the fact that you came
20 here because I know you probably could be doing
21 some other things, and I know your legislature is
22 in session.

23 But it's wonderful to be in a country
24 that we have the opportunity to speak up and tell
25 someone how we feel. Although I have no bones

1 about it, saying what we thought we feel, what
2 plans it's going to be the three judges and
3 judicial department and (inaudible).

4 (Whereupon, two sentences inaudible.

5 Asked witness to speak louder and closer to
6 microphone.)

7 MS. EARGLE: It's been, you know, you
8 talked about Horry County here being a very
9 diverse county.

10 And ah, we -- I would like to see maybe
11 Myrtle Beach, Conway -- see, Conway is the county
12 seat -- and then try to keep that senate talking
13 about the senate district lines. That's just my
14 comment. I don't have any of the other comments.
15 It's as much about me that I have come here as it
16 is about you. Any questions?

17 SENATOR McCONNELL: We thank you for
18 coming. Appreciate it. Mr. Charlie Luquire.

19 MR. LUQUIRE: Here's a sheet, senator.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. LUQUIRE: Chairman, my name is
22 Charlie Luquire. I'm from Georgetown and what
23 you have is what I'm going to be talking about is
24 in bullets. I'm talking primarily about senate
25 seat 34 and speaking on behalf of myself and some

1 of my friends and neighbors in Georgetown.

2 I guess what I would like you to
3 consider, we are aligned with Horry County. We
4 kind of wish you had this meeting in Georgetown.
5 We don't understand the reason. We do think the
6 four bullets and some of what you mentioned in
7 your introductory remarks are very important to
8 the process. And it's preserving the core of the
9 district existing prior to the redistricting.

10 In that regard we think the core of our
11 district 34 is linked up to the lower part of
12 Horry County.

13 (Whereupon, two sentences inaudible.

14 Asked witness to speak louder and closer to
15 microphone.)

16 MR. LUQUIRE: We think it's worth to
17 avoid contests between you incumbents.

18 Some of our communities of interests, I
19 think the Georgetown Horry County is in support
20 of as well as Georgetown supporting the port of
21 Georgetown. Of course tourism, retirement, the
22 light industry is important.

23 Community interests in our area. I
24 guess I'll just -- we understand that the new
25 senate district with just over 100,000 population

1 in the various districts. And given that I think
2 that we can have a couple of these points that I
3 just mentioned that are still (inaudible) get
4 real good senatorial districts (inaudible), not
5 just 34 but the other senatorial districts that
6 represent Georgetown County. And that's 31 of
7 them, 31 and 33. Thank you, sir.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.
9 Appreciate your comments. Dennis DiSebato. Did
10 I get that name pretty close?

11 MR. DiSEBATO: You did actually. The
12 first person in weeks actually to pronounce that
13 correctly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is
14 Dennis DiSebato, I'm here giving public comment
15 on behalf of the Carolina Forest Civic
16 Association. I'll keep my comments brief.

17 Carolina Forest is a very unique area of
18 Horry County, I think it fills the fourth
19 principle of a redistricting community of
20 interest. It is a melting pot of Horry County.
21 It consists of a lot of people who have relocated
22 to this area from out of state, and its growth
23 has been more rapid than other areas within this
24 county.

25 I just was handed census numbers. In

1 2000 we had 3,338 full-time residents in Carolina
2 Forest. As of the most recent census we have
3 20,243 residents within that area. So we have a
4 506 percent population increase.

5 We are rapidly outpacing the growth
6 across Horry County, and at the same time we are
7 outgrowing our infrastructure needs as a result.
8 And I think we have a very unique perspective on
9 what's happening in Horry County, and our need to
10 not have to (inaudible) with other areas
11 surrounding Horry County.

12 So I will just ask that you please
13 consider keeping Carolina Forest within a
14 senatorial district that is attuned to its needs,
15 its very unique needs. Thank you.

16 SENATOR HUTTO: Can you show us where
17 that is on the map.

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: Could you just kind
19 of point out that general area to us.

20 MR. DiSEBATO: Somewhere right around
21 here. It's right in between -- geographically
22 it's basically right in between Conway and Myrtle
23 Beach along 501.

24 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. Thank
25 you, sir.

1 A VOICE: If you drove down 501 you'd
2 see it.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Daniel Cochran.

4 MR. COCHRAN: I'm Daniel Cochran and I
5 live in Longs, Goose Creek section, which is
6 basically across the street here in Horry County.
7 Just two quick points. And to follow up on what
8 Dennis was saying, that's absolutely true. 501
9 is a parking lot from that Hess station, the
10 Wilco, down to where 31 is. Why can't that be
11 fixed or at least the lights synced?

12 I know that's not y'all's deal to deal
13 with in the senate, but it's a major
14 consideration when it takes an hour to go two --
15 it takes a half hour to basically go three miles
16 from CCU down to Carolina Forest on any Thursday
17 or Friday, when the economy is kicking up, you
18 know.

19 So what I'm asking is similar to what
20 he's saying, we definitely need -- the
21 demographics in here have really changed. We've
22 got a lot of people who have moved in, you know.
23 And it's not so much the hotel businesses, you
24 know, I mean, it's getting to the hotel
25 businesses that we who actually have to live here

1 and support the coast with employment, you know,
2 and showing up for work, it's kind of 501 sucks.

3 But that's enough about that. If you
4 can keep the little districts together, and I
5 live in a precinct that's split among the state
6 senators -- I mean, state house or -- I was
7 looking at it this afternoon. A chunk of my
8 wallowing precinct, I'm the Republican EC for the
9 precinct, and half of my precinct is off with one
10 gentleman and the other half is with another
11 gentleman. You know, it would be nice if we
12 could kind of keep our neighborhoods together.

13 To that point, when we started looking
14 at this house --

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: Those are house
16 districts, as best we understand, that split
17 you're talking about.

18 MR. COCHRAN: Yeah, yeah. Sorry about
19 that. I guess I got to bring that up at Allen
20 Clemmons' meeting on Thursday. Okay, I got you.

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: We don't want to
22 take any credit for the House.

23 MR. COCHRAN: To the point of district
24 one, I'm a Tea Party activist. I hate to put
25 that label on me, but I do work real hard with

1 the Carolina Patriots, I'm their vice chair. I'm
2 also the district one coordinator for Campaign
3 For Liberty. And it is a bloody nightmare to
4 cover this district.

5 I mean, I'm out of pocket hundreds and
6 hundreds of dollars driving down to Charleston to
7 deal with you folks down there who have total
8 different needs than the people in Georgetown and
9 Horry County and Marion. I mean, I hate to make
10 it real simple, guys, if you make like a little
11 rectangle and take Georgetown and bring it up a
12 bit and then up like that and in that corner,
13 that's district seven.

14 You know, because our demographics are
15 so different here than the major import
16 businesses for the harbor of Charleston and all
17 the stuff y'all got going on down there, you
18 know. It's almost night and day sometimes. I
19 mean, yeah, we need to fix the Georgetown harbor,
20 we need to open that up, you know, from what I'm
21 reading.

22 I don't visit Georgetown much, you know,
23 other than driving through it to get down to
24 Charleston when I'm doing meetings down there.
25 But that amoeba there, boy, it would be nice if

1 you guys could fix that thing. But I know that
2 y'all are going to have a hard time doing
3 anything about that amoeba.

4 But it would be nice if you could cut
5 off a little corner up there from Marion,
6 Georgetown and Horry County. I think we got
7 enough to fill the 600,000 that you're looking
8 for in this area. And we are a different
9 demographic than the people that are in Florence.
10 That's my two cents worth, and thanks for
11 listening, guys.

12 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you. That is
13 all the sheets that we have filled out. Does
14 anyone that filled out a sheet to be heard that
15 we have not gotten?

16 Representative, come on forward. I was
17 going to call on you anyway. We are delighted to
18 have you with us.

19 MR. VIERS: Thank you, Senator
20 McConnell. I will not be speaking on the senate
21 districts because I only will be speaking on the
22 state house districts. But out of -- and I'm
23 actually here to enter testimony for the
24 congressional district. I know when the Justice
25 Department goes through their preclearance

1 process, a lot of it has to do with public
2 testimony. That's a big factor. And I would
3 argue or submit to the committee, and I'm going
4 to be saying the same thing at the House hearing
5 for the congressional districts this Thursday,
6 that there is a model that I believe is very
7 simple that we have used in the past.

8 Prior to 1992 Horry County was actually
9 in the old sixth congressional district, which is
10 basically the Pee Dee district. It took portions
11 of Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Marion,
12 (inaudible) Georgetown and Horry. A lot of folks
13 don't know this, or at least it's not that much
14 of a public record, but west of the waterway
15 Horry County is the second largest tobacco
16 producing county still in the state.

17 The rural area of the Pee Dee is still a
18 very big agricultural community. I have a place
19 out in the country near Nichols and Marion. And
20 a lot of those folks when they have to go for
21 medical needs or hospital needs, they go to
22 McLeod in Florence because it's only about 35, 40
23 minutes away, as well as the technical colleges,
24 Darlington Technical College, Florence-Darlington
25 Technical College, is in the same geographic

1 region.

2 And also for just the pure demographic
3 purpose of it, it would be probably a competitive
4 district. You could argue that Horry County
5 would be a -- is a strong republican county, but
6 if you factor in all your other counties, I think
7 it would be fair to both parties.

8 And I would just ask that you consider
9 using the road map of the old sixth congressional
10 district. Horry County has grown so much and my
11 little house seat I have to give up 12,000
12 people. George Hern that represents Conway has
13 to give up 18,000 people. So we're growing.

14 And as you looked at -- I was involved
15 in the redistricting in 2002 when I was a field
16 rep for Congressman Brown. In the old first
17 congressional district we got smaller, we gave up
18 half of Georgetown which is basically the 701
19 corridor from Conway to Georgetown. We gave that
20 up to Congressman Clayburn and the Berkeley,
21 Dorchester, Charleston area shrank and it's kind
22 of a little -- I would call it a little island,
23 plateau. I don't know how you would call it. I
24 heard it called something else.

25 Bottom line is I think there's a map to

1 use for both sides, for both parties, that would
2 fit in the state of South Carolina. And I would
3 ask that this committee consider throwing Horry
4 County with its brethren in Florence for a Pee
5 Dee district that has always been up until 1992.
6 Thank you.

7 SENATOR McCONNELL: Questions? Senator
8 from Orangeburg.

9 SENATOR HUTTO: If you took Georgetown
10 and Horry and Williamsburg, Florence and Marion
11 and Dillon, that's still not enough for a
12 congressional district. So assume you took
13 those, because those were right there in that
14 block. Which other one are you saying that's got
15 the more logical nexus out of the next cluster or
16 district?

17 MR. VIERS: I would also expand it to
18 Marlboro, Darlington, potentially. I believe
19 that gets the 600,000. You may have to go all
20 the way to Hartsville --

21 SENATOR HUTTO: Right.

22 MR. VIERS: -- which would be, I think,
23 in Senator Malloy's area. But I believe while
24 there are some patches of rural and there's not a
25 lot of population, if you keep going further west

1 to about northwest, you could make a
2 congressional district out of here that would not
3 be a guaranteed Republican or Democratic
4 district, it would be paired to the whole state,
5 and it would be -- it's kind of tobacco country
6 really.

7 I mean, we are the beach, but west of
8 the waterway ten minutes out of here, there's not
9 much difference rurally between parts of Horry
10 County and parts of Dillon, Marion and Florence.

11 And Senator Elliott, I believe, who has
12 one of the largest geographical districts, I
13 mean, he represents, I think, portions of almost
14 every county. So I think that gets you your
15 600,000, Senator.

16 SENATOR HUTTO: Thank you.

17 MR. VIERS: Thank you, sir.

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: Anyone else who
19 signed a sheet, or if you didn't sign a sheet and
20 just had a change of heart, and wants to be
21 heard?

22 Yes, come on up. And I'll need you to
23 state your name for the record and everything.
24 We have to keep a record of all this so that we
25 have it for future reference.

1 MR. BARNES: Okay. My name is Earl
2 Barnes, I live in Horry County at Springfield,
3 right at the -- right outside of Myrtle Beach.
4 I've only been here about five years, but I went
5 through a lot of this. And what the gentleman
6 before me was saying, this is the congressional
7 district, the new congressional district.

8 If you take approximately the eight
9 counties from Horry, Georgetown, Williamsburg,
10 Florence, Marion, Dylan and Darlington and
11 Marlboro, it's under the new census, I had it
12 under the old, that is approximately one
13 congressional district. It's a little bit --
14 it's about approximately between 10,000 from what
15 my figures said, so I just started messing with
16 it. It was 10,000 over.

17 However, I do believe that no matter how
18 it comes out that only Georgetown and Horry
19 County and probably Marion should be in the same
20 district, regardless of which politics itself,
21 politics.

22 And I would recommend also on there's
23 something that you would never think of, I've
24 either been in or one of my relatives have been
25 in a county all my life that has been divided

1 more than three times, three times. I think a
2 county should not be -- any county should not be
3 divided more than twice, you know, in the
4 district. And that's it. Thank you.

5 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir. We
6 appreciate you coming. Anybody else? Yes,
7 ma'am.

8 MS. SEJDA: Good evening, senators. My
9 name is Susan Sejda. I sit on a trilateral board
10 for Horry Georgetown and Williamsburg. And the
11 needs of these -- Horry County has the largest
12 population so they get the most help.

13 The Williamsburg area and the Georgetown
14 area are really suffering. There's no jobs,
15 there's no help out there. There's no sign of
16 hope for any of the people in those two counties.
17 With your redistricting, I would like you to
18 consider that when you look at all those
19 counties, that some of the suggestions made here
20 you would include some of that into Horry County
21 since we're the second or third richest county in
22 the state.

23 So I'm concerned for the board that I
24 represent which is three counties, which is a
25 challenge for us board members to make the right

1 decisions when we get very little to work with.
2 And with the federal government going to make,
3 you know, possibly cut half our programs, this is
4 really going to be tough on us.

5 And this redistricting is really
6 important so we know that we can at least take
7 care of adequate amounts of Georgetown County.
8 And so that includes all three of those entire
9 counties that I represent. So that's all I have
10 to say, and thank you for coming down.

11 SENATOR McCONNELL: Ma'am, would you
12 spell your last name, the court reporter needs
13 the spelling of your last name.

14 MS. SEJDA: S-E-J-D-A.

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: I see at least two
16 elected officials. Solicitor, did you have
17 anything you wish to tell us?

18 SOLICITOR: Glad you're here, Senator.
19 We really do appreciate y'all coming down.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you for coming
21 out, very much appreciate it at the college.
22 Thanks for your time.

23 Senator Dick Elliott, I see you here.
24 Do you have anything you wish to impart to us?

25 SENATOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman and members of the committee. We really
2 appreciate the sacrifices you guys are making as
3 you go across the state at these hearings. I
4 think that Viers summed it up very well a while
5 ago in the congressional district. When we get
6 the old Pee Dee district back together, I think
7 somewhat the family will be back together with
8 the exception of the coast.

9 Most of those counties in the Pee Dee
10 are very compatible. They are business
11 communities and they all fit together. The coast
12 is obviously different. Now, so I'm going to
13 hopefully recommend that we take Horry County and
14 Georgetown and the rest of Pee Dee counties that
15 we mentioned here tonight to make the population
16 blend, and the sixth district as we know it today
17 fulfill its obligation to (inaudible) is the
18 civil rights vote.

19 And I hope we get the Pee Dee area back
20 together as one happy family again. For 40 years
21 we were together, but we got separated, I
22 believe, in 1990, and I think there's still that
23 yearning throughout most of the area to let us
24 get back together.

25 As it relates to the senate district,

1 I'm generally happy with the shape of my
2 district. I have Highway No. 9 runs right
3 through the center of it, with the exception
4 again of the narrow strip on the coast. It's a
5 very compatible region, ag or business
6 communities, and we get along well with all of
7 those counties. And we like to stay a part of
8 Horry, Marion, Dillon and Marlboro. I think
9 those folks out there appreciate our service.

10 And one of the speakers earlier said
11 something about our roads. The delegation has
12 tried desperately to solve our road problems.
13 We've made a great deal of progress. You see 22,
14 you see 31, you see 544, 701, then you can see
15 that a lot of progress has been made. Not fast
16 enough for many of us, myself certainly included.

17 And those of you that visit here, you
18 can see that we do have some mounting road
19 problems. Unfortunately there's not enough money
20 to take care of the deep road needs that we have
21 and the rest of the state as well.

22 Again, I want to thank you guys for
23 being here and listening to us as we outline our
24 views of what we'd like to see our state look
25 like in the future, these congressional and

1 senate hearings.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Before you go, I
3 heard about the problem with the roads. And of
4 course I thought that would be put in the
5 department of transportation in the cabinet, and
6 we would have miraculous results.

7 SENATOR ELLIOTT: Senator McConnell, let
8 me give you one example. Health and human
9 affairs is part of a cabinet agency now. And it
10 ran up a \$650 million deficit. I'm not sure we
11 can afford all of the cabinet fixes.

12 SENATOR McCONNELL: Again, I would
13 reiterate to you that we do solicit remarks, and
14 if you didn't want to stand before us but if you
15 have some written remarks you would like us to
16 consider, they will be given the same weight as
17 if you went on the record today. And I would
18 encourage you to do so, let us hear from you.

19 With that, we will stand in recess until
20 tomorrow night. Anybody else? All right. Thank
21 y'all for coming.

22 (The hearing concluded at approximately
23 7:19 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Teresa J.F. Bautz, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public of the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing deposition was taken before me on the date and at the time and location stated on page 1 of this transcript; that the deponent was duly sworn to testify to the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that the testimony of the deponent and all objections made at the time of the examination were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing deposition as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the testimony of the deponent and of all objections made at the time of the examination 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 13th day of April, 2011, at Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina.

Teresa J.F. Bautz
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public
State of South Carolina at Large
My Commission expires:
March 8, 2020