

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, March 24, 2011

6:30 p.m.

Central Carolina Technical College  
133 South Main Street  
Sumter, South Carolina

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

---

COMPUSCRIPTS, INC.  
A Full-Service Court Reporting Agency  
Post Office Box 7172  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
1-803-988-0086  
1-888-988-0086  
www.compuscriptsinc.com

1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2           SENATOR GLENN F. McCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

3           SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY

4           SENATOR ROBERT FORD

5           SENATOR GERALD MALLOY

6           SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

7

8 STAFF PRESENT:

9           BONNIE ANZELMO

10          CHARLES TERRENI

11          DEBBIE HAMMOND

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1           SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. We're  
2 going to call the meeting together, call it to  
3 order at this point.

4           Good evening. I'm -- my name is Glenn  
5 McConnell. I'm the state senator from Charleston,  
6 and I'm the chairman of the Senate Judiciary  
7 Committee. I welcome you to one of our ten local  
8 public hearings. We are the Senate Judiciary  
9 Committee Redistricting Subcommittee that is  
10 holding across the state.

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

15           First let me introduce the members of  
16 the subcommittee, a bipartisan group of senators  
17 from different regions of the state, who bring a  
18 wealth of experience, working to create bold and  
19 innovative solutions to the problems of South  
20 Carolina. From the upstate we've got Senator  
21 Phillip Shoopman. He comes from us from  
22 Greenville. From the -- I don't see anybody from  
23 the Midlands at the moment. From the low country  
24 is Senator Robert Ford right here to my left.  
25 Myself -- both of us are from Charleston. From the

1 Pee Dee area we've got Senator Gerald Malloy. And  
2 from down in the Grand Strand, we've got Senator  
3 Ray Cleary of Georgetown.

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

17           While the House and Senate have  
18 historically deferred to one another when it comes  
19 to the 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. If the two bodies agree on a  
23 redistricting plan, it must be submitted to the  
24 governor for her signature in the same manner as  
25 any other bill that is passed by the General

1 Assembly.

2                   Finally, under section five of the  
3 Voting Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into  
4 law will have to be pre-cleared by the Justice  
5 Department or the Federal District Court in  
6 Washington before it can take effect.

7                   The reason we have to redistrict is to  
8 ensure that our state's legislative and  
9 Congressional districts represent substantially  
10 equal populations thereby ensuring that each  
11 person's vote is given the same weight as another  
12 in our system of representation.

13                   Ideally each of the state's Senate  
14 districts will have 100,552 persons, and each of  
15 our state's Congressional districts will have  
16 660,767 persons. The census results that are being  
17 released this week will tell us the extent to which  
18 the state's district deviate from these numbers.  
19 District lines will have to be redrawn so that some  
20 districts gain population and others lose  
21 population in order to restore the required  
22 equality of representation.

23                   To begin the process of redrawing  
24 districts we are holding hearings in order to  
25 listen to your views on the redistricting process.

1 Let me say at the outset we are not here for the  
2 purpose of considering proposed redistricting  
3 plans. The subcommittee has yet to reach that  
4 stage of the process. When that time comes, we  
5 will have an opportunity for the public to submit  
6 specific plans to the subcommittee to consider.

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

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

24           As for communities of interest, they  
25 may be neighborhoods, towns or other political

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

8           We would like to hear from you about  
9 communities of interest that you perceive to exist  
10 in the area and how you believe they should be  
11 considered in the process of drawing district  
12 line -- boundaries.

13           As we begin this first -- the first in  
14 a series of public hearings -- this is actually our  
15 second -- let us set three general ground rules to  
16 govern the information we receive: clarity,  
17 brevity, and civility. These ground rules will be  
18 important if we are to ensure that every citizen  
19 gets a full and fair opportunity to be heard.

20           So, first, we need to ask those  
21 testifying to be clear. Redistricting is an exact  
22 process and clarity is a virtue. For example, when  
23 speaking about the criteria communities of  
24 interest, it is important that citizens distinguish  
25 between whether they are talking about

1 Congressional or Senate districts, as the  
2 subcommittee must consider both.

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

9           Let us set brevity as our second ground  
10 rule for discussion. We don't have rigid time  
11 limits to speak in these public hearings. However,  
12 we would encourage you to have a goal of speaking  
13 no more than five minutes so that everyone may be  
14 heard. Also, if a citizen would like to submit an  
15 extended written statement, we will accept it in  
16 consideration. Written comments will receive the  
17 same consideration as spoken ones, and the handouts  
18 available to you provide the U.S. mail and e-mail  
19 addresses to which comments may be sent.

20           Third, we must stress civility as a  
21 ground rule for the discussion. Let us work  
22 together on these plans, and we must not allow the  
23 task to become mired in controversy or caught up in  
24 partisan bickering. Let us use these ground rules,  
25 clarity, brevity and civility, to have a positive



1 and purposeful start to the redistricting process.

2           Finally, in order to facilitate  
3 communication with the subcommittee and to give the  
4 public a way of keeping track of the process, I  
5 encourage all persons interested in redistricting  
6 to consult our website which is located at  
7 <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov> [sic]. The  
8 address of the redistricting website is also  
9 included in our handouts.

10           At the website you will find useful  
11 information such as dates and locations of our  
12 public hearings and subcommittee meetings,  
13 redistricting data, reference materials, and  
14 guidelines for future participation in the process.

15           Thank you for giving your time coming  
16 out and being willing to contribute to this  
17 process, and with that, I will call the first  
18 person who wishes to testify.

19           And where are they going to be  
20 testifying?

21           MS. HAMMOND: Right here.

22           SENATOR McCONNELL: Right over here at  
23 the podium. So if you will, come up to the podium.

24           First we have Shery Smith. Glad to  
25 have you with us this evening.

1 MS. SMITH: Good evening, Senators. My  
2 name is Shery Smith, and I'm the chairwoman of the  
3 Sumter Tea Party. Thank you for giving us the  
4 opportunity to share our thoughts and concerns with  
5 you as you embark on this very difficult process.

6 Our main concern is that this be a fair  
7 process. None of these seats, whether they be  
8 Senate, state Congressional or U.S. Congressional  
9 should be predetermined or shoe-ins because of  
10 where those lines have been drawn.

11 A lot of people, a lot of Tea Party  
12 people put a lot of time, effort and sometimes even  
13 blood, sweat and tears into the last election cycle  
14 for our candidates. Our candidates won most of  
15 those seats too. Congressman -- Congressman Mick  
16 Mulvaney and Representative Murrell Smith are just  
17 two examples of those candidates. We worked very  
18 hard in the Fifth District to get Congressman  
19 Mulvaney elected. And not just in Sumter County,  
20 but we went into other parts of the Fifth District  
21 as well.

22 Please keep these things in mind when  
23 you make these decisions. They affect all the  
24 people of this district. The Tea Party is watching  
25 this process as you move forward and they just want

1 to make sure that this is a fair and balanced  
2 process. We're not -- we don't know the ins and  
3 the outs and the details. We don't have the tools  
4 to present specifics at this time, but we just are  
5 interested in it being a fair and balanced process.

6 Thank you very much.

7 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you. We  
8 appreciate you coming.

9 The next one is Mr. Calvin Bennett --  
10 Bennett.

11 MR. BENNETT: I'm not going to be long.  
12 I just want to make a brief sentence.

13 I just ask in your decision making with  
14 this redistricting that it mirrors the population  
15 of South Carolina and the diversity in which it  
16 represents. If you do that, I think you would have  
17 no problems. We need another majority black  
18 district here in South Carolina, and that's  
19 basically that. If you follow with the census, I  
20 believe you'll be all right, but if you go off that  
21 agenda, you're going to have problems.

22 Thank you.

23 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

24 Ferdinand Burns. How are you doing,  
25 sir?

1 MR. BURNS: Fine. How are you doing?

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: I'm all right.

3 Good to have you with us.

4 MR. BURNS: Good evening. Thank you  
5 senators for this opportunity to be very brief to  
6 talk about the redistricting of lines for Sumter  
7 County and for the state of South Carolina.

8 We know that in this state we've had  
9 problems before with redistricting. What I want is  
10 for the districts to be drawn fairly so that South  
11 Carolina can come from under the 1965 Voting Rights  
12 Act. If we do it right, we can get from under  
13 that, but if we don't do it right, we're going to  
14 continue to be under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

15 So the -- the preface -- I notice that  
16 you had all the districts that are truly  
17 representative of people. Well, you have diversity  
18 here. You have the Hispanic population that has  
19 grown 147 percent in the last ten years. And I'm  
20 sure the African American community has grown as  
21 well.

22 We just want this to be fair. If it's  
23 not fair, then of course the NAACP will take  
24 action. We believe that South Carolina can be a  
25 great state, but South Carolina is going to have to

1 learn to do it right. We have to get our  
2 priorities right.

3 I'm just still reminded of how much  
4 money we spent on the penal system rather than on  
5 the people. It cost \$40,000 to house a juvenile.  
6 Certainly -- for one year. Certainly we ought to  
7 be able to do something else with that kind of  
8 money. I think we have our priorities wrong.

9 So in the redistricting plan it has to  
10 be fair and balanced as the chairman of the Tea  
11 Party said, but it has to be fair and balanced with  
12 all groups, not just one group. So we ask that you  
13 do it right, get from under the 1965 Voting Rights  
14 Act, and the NAACP will be watching.

15 Thank you very much.

16 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

17 All right. Next I have Mr. James  
18 Felder. Good to see you again.

19 MR. FELDER: Thank you, sir.

20 I represent the South Carolina Board of  
21 Education Project. The organization has been  
22 around since 1965 to aid and assist minorities in  
23 securing the ballot and offering for office, and  
24 that since 1965 we've gone from eight black elected  
25 officials in this state to 928 today, but we still

1 find we have some problems.

2           But first I want to thank this panel  
3 for doing what it is doing. I served on the first  
4 reapportionment panel. I was a young legislator  
5 back in 1972 when one Marion Gressette chaired that  
6 committee when we apportioned South Carolina for  
7 the first time in the House and Senate races.

8           Since that time through NAACP and the  
9 EP, I've been through a lot of wars in this  
10 reapportionment business. So I know a little bit  
11 about it. But I'm pleased that the Senate is at  
12 least beginning to give the community an  
13 opportunity to have some input.

14           Senator McConnell, is the House going  
15 to do likewise to your knowledge?

16           SENATOR McCONNELL: I hope they'll  
17 follow our lead.

18           MR. FELDER: Thank you so much.

19           Well, I won't be redundant because  
20 the -- two of the panels -- panels [sic] have  
21 already plowed the ground where I was going, and  
22 that would be diversity. So I won't repeat what  
23 they said already, but I am concerned about  
24 diversity, not only from an African American  
25 standpoint but from a Hispanic standpoint as well.

1           So fair and balanced, that's a good  
2 trait. If we exercise it and we follow through  
3 with it, then this reapportionment should go  
4 smooth. So, Senators, I wish you well, and if I  
5 can be of any help with my little bit of knowledge  
6 and experience, I so offer it. Thank you.

7           SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

8           All right. The next is Mr. Johnathan  
9 Bryan. Good evening, sir.

10          MR. BRYAN: Senators, I'm Johnathan  
11 Bryan. I'm the attorney for Sumter County, and  
12 I've been through this once before with the  
13 county's -- when we had a redistrict of Sumter  
14 County after the last census, and I have a very  
15 specific suggestion for the sake of brevity, and  
16 that is that you try to avoid split precincts as  
17 much as possible.

18          Patricia Jackson is our election  
19 commission director, and when we did the redistrict  
20 of Sumter County ten years ago, she came to me and  
21 said, you know, "We really got to avoid splits  
22 whenever possible," because any time you have a  
23 split precinct it makes it harder to administer the  
24 election.

25          And she understands and I understand

1 that one of the things we really need to do in  
2 order to instill confidence in the government by  
3 the people is run a well-administered election. So  
4 on behalf of the people that run the election  
5 commission and people trying to instill confidence  
6 in government, we'd ask you to avoid splits as much  
7 as possible.

8           If it's impossible, that's fine, but  
9 with these numbers that you had, you know, 100,000,  
10 600,000, I think if you could avoid the splits, I  
11 think you could maintain communities of interest  
12 and the other -- some of the other policies that  
13 you're trying to protect by avoiding that. So  
14 that's just one specific example that I hope you  
15 take them forward.

16           Thank you, sir.

17           SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

18           Grady Brown.

19           REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Good evening. I  
20 like the rest won't be repetitive, but I'm -- you  
21 know, first of all, I would be remiss if I didn't  
22 take an opportunity to say a great big welcome to  
23 some of the, if not the most prestigious members of  
24 the Senate. Good to have you in the Gamecock city,  
25 Sumter.



1           Of course I represent the portion of  
2 Sumter County and have for the past 26 years and  
3 three months and 24 days, and I have constituents  
4 in here tonight.

5           I note you all are going to do a  
6 wonderful job in reapportionment plans concerning  
7 the House and Senate here in our great state. You  
8 have a job -- of course we all have a job to -- to  
9 get it done and, as Mr. Burns so accurately stated,  
10 to get it done right. And I will of course -- I'm  
11 looking forward to the process from the House side  
12 when we go back into session the second week in --  
13 in August.

14           For those of you who may not know,  
15 Senate rules and House rules are somewhat  
16 different. House rules only allow filibustering  
17 on -- on one issue, and that's reapportionment.  
18 And I would imagine that's going to be a major  
19 issue come -- come August on the House side.

20           There's been much talk about -- and  
21 there's been several articles in -- in the  
22 newspapers in the last month, Senators, with  
23 regards to the extinction of the white democrat,  
24 and I would just -- I would ask you all to be very  
25 careful in -- in the plans that you make and -- and

1 the numbers that you draw and not protecting anyone  
2 but doing it right and doing it so that -- that  
3 South Carolinians have a fair shake across the  
4 board when it comes to representation in the House  
5 and Senate.

6           Being -- you know, it's an honor to be  
7 able to be a member of the Senate, one of 46  
8 members that represents the great state of South  
9 Carolina in the House. 124 House members represent  
10 the -- representing the four and a half, 4.3  
11 quarter million people that we have here in -- in  
12 our great state, and with that being said, I  
13 just -- I would once again like to welcome you all  
14 to -- to Sumter County.

15           I notice you have a job in going  
16 around -- of course my senator -- my senator who  
17 has told me he'd take care of me -- no, he didn't  
18 tell me that. He did not -- I don't want to put  
19 him on the hot seat.

20           But, Senator Malloy, it's good to have  
21 you here tonight and have all of you here and  
22 just -- with that being said, I sit down and say  
23 thank you for coming and I look forward to working  
24 with you in the process through the next several  
25 months and into the heat of the summer with regards

1 to that all-important issue which affects every  
2 South Carolinian.

3 Thank you again.

4 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you. We  
5 appreciate you coming.

6 REPRESENTATIVE BROWN: Thank you.

7 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Braden Bunch.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Brady Bunch?

9 MR. BUNCH: Very close. Braden Bunch.  
10 I'm glad I'm finally old enough to where the kids  
11 no longer understand that joke.

12 But my name is Braden Bunch. I'm the  
13 chairman of the Sumter County Republican Party.  
14 I'd like to thank you all for coming out tonight.  
15 It's good to see a lot of y'all in here in Sumter  
16 again.

17 One of the things I'd like to  
18 suggest -- and I guess I could even say I'm also  
19 here as the president of Sumter's Little Theater  
20 because it's not really a partisan suggestion per  
21 se -- is that we often talk about the consideration  
22 of communities which is a very valuable thing to do  
23 when developing these areas.

24 I would suggest that with the -- let's  
25 just say with the growth and the expansion of -- of

1 the Internet and communications throughout the  
2 state, that our communities themselves are starting  
3 to expand, and the thing that I'd like to point out  
4 here is when we considered not splitting precincts  
5 within state House or state county -- or state  
6 Senate seats, I'd also suggest that you consider  
7 starting to try not to split the state Senate seats  
8 and Congressional seats.

9           My point being here, I live in the  
10 Sixth Congressional District. You would think --  
11 mathematically speaking, we have 42 senators. We  
12 will now have seven Congressional districts.  
13 That's approximately six per Congressional  
14 district. The Sixth Congressional District right  
15 now, however, has 14 state senators represented  
16 within its borders.

17           You could actually go and look in the  
18 other places as well. If you were to go up into  
19 the upstate, one of the more tighter Congressional  
20 districts -- it's in -- the Spartanburg/Greenville  
21 area actually still has nine state senators within  
22 its borders in some way, shape or form, either  
23 whole or in partial.

24           So I would suggest that you consider  
25 the fact that the areas that y'all represent I

1 believe you consider communities in and of  
2 themselves. So the less you break those up, the  
3 more you're able to keep these communities  
4 together.

5           That's just the suggestion I would make  
6 to you is that try to keep us from having to deal  
7 with explaining to folks why their state senator is  
8 not also the same Congressional district --  
9 Congressional officer as their neighbor down the  
10 street.

11           That's all I've got. Thank you.

12           SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

13           Mr. Kevin Johnson.

14           MR. JOHNSON: Well, good evening. I  
15 just wanted to thank you gentlemen for coming and  
16 presenting the information to our community.

17           One of the things that my  
18 organization -- and I work with Wateree's task  
19 force -- is that the shift in populations -- I just  
20 was really curious of how that's going to affect  
21 the state when you look at the shift. Were there  
22 any shifts as far as non-minority -- non-Hispanic  
23 whites and also other minorities because we just  
24 wanted to get a feel of how funding will change in  
25 those areas once the redistricting process is

1 enacted.

2                   So I don't know if that question was  
3 answered earlier, but one of the things that we do  
4 want to really find out is that from the shift how  
5 will the finances change. That was primarily my  
6 question. And I didn't know I would get a chance  
7 to speak to everyone, but can that be answered?

8                   SENATOR McCONNELL: I've had the --  
9 I'll have counsel talk with you at the end. He  
10 perhaps can give you some guideposts on that  
11 answer.

12                   MR. JOHNSON: Well, and -- and also in  
13 retrospect to that, one of the things that we do  
14 see in this state is that a lot of the funding that  
15 comes for -- our aid comes from the federal budget.  
16 So hopefully with the shift in population and also  
17 that we've seen the growth in the state, that more  
18 money be allocated in that direction.

19                   And I've heard some stances on tax  
20 reform and some other instances, but not  
21 necessarily in the direction of entitlements, but  
22 we would like to see with the new population and  
23 the shift of non-Hispanic whites that's in front of  
24 you from the state be allocated in that way.

25                   Thank you.

1           SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

2           That concludes all of the people that  
3 have signed up. Is there anyone here who has not  
4 signed up besides the senator? I'm getting ready.  
5 I got you down. I know you're not going to leave  
6 without getting a chance to say something.

7           Who else was it that wished to --  
8 everybody else wish to -- all right. Well, then I  
9 would ask Senator Leventis if he'd come forward and  
10 address the panel.

11          SENATOR LEVENTIS: Thank you very much,  
12 Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank all you  
13 gentlemen because I know you've had a hard week  
14 because I've watched you work and you worked very  
15 hard.

16          I want to talk about the community of  
17 interest that Sumter is and tie it into the entire  
18 community that I've been part of now for over 35  
19 years.

20          Sumter, Clarendon and Lee have always  
21 had a very close community of interest. Sumter and  
22 Clarendon at one time formed the multi-member  
23 districts when -- back in the day, and the reason I  
24 point that out, we've got central Carolina where we  
25 are today that has outlets in Sumter, Lee and

1 Clarendon County, also Kershaw. USC Sumter's  
2 service area includes Sumter, Lee, Clarendon and  
3 Williamsburg. Sumter and Lee share a detention  
4 center for purposes of economy and -- and  
5 effectiveness and efficiency.

6           Although we have a lot of  
7 interconnection with Richland County, it is 16 to  
8 17 miles from the last stop light in Sumter County  
9 to the first stop light in Richland County. It's  
10 over 20 miles between the first major commercial  
11 areas where there's, for example, a food store -- a  
12 chain store. So that kind of defines us. The same  
13 thing is true with Kershaw, although we have  
14 interconnections with all of them.

15           Sumter is a military/industrial  
16 community, and although we're not huge, we do have  
17 107,000 people, and that is enough by itself for a  
18 Senate district and obviously should have a strong  
19 influence in a Congressional district being  
20 one-seventh basically of a Congressional district.

21           When I say we're a military town, you  
22 understand we have Shaw. I know you all understand  
23 that. But that soon will represent 7,000 employees  
24 as Third Army comes to join the Ninth Air Force and  
25 fighter wing -- the 20th fighter wing. That's very



1 substantive in terms of its employment. One of the  
2 largest employers in the state. It exceeds BMW.  
3 It exceeds Boeing. It may not exceed Boeing in the  
4 end, but right now it does and will for some time  
5 to come.

6                   So we're a military town, and we're  
7 getting the Army in, and in military terms that's  
8 very important because when I was in the service,  
9 there was the Army and the Navy and the -- and we  
10 would always, you know, talk a good game, but now  
11 everybody understands that joint-ness is the thing,  
12 and when you've got a joint effort, Army and Air  
13 Force working together, then you're going to have  
14 more of an opportunity to withstand efficiency  
15 efforts by the federal government in terms of your  
16 military operations. So there's that common  
17 interest.

18                   Most people don't realize the  
19 industrial center that we are. In the 1990s -- and  
20 I realize we've got to deal with today, but in the  
21 1990s -- and I know a few of you know this -- there  
22 were more net new industrial jobs in Sumter than  
23 any other county. That includes BMW moving to  
24 Greenville. There were more new industrial jobs,  
25 greater growth here than any other county.

1           We've been hit hard by the early 2000s  
2 and the most recent economic times. But the point  
3 is that we've got numerous industries out here  
4 from -- from right at the countryside that -- as  
5 well as homegrown corporations, so we do have a  
6 community of interest and the employees are drawn  
7 not only from Sumter, Lee, Clarendon, but also from  
8 some of the surrounding areas, Williamsburg,  
9 Richland County, yes.

10           The Item newspaper that's here this  
11 evening is distributed in Sumter, Lee and Clarendon  
12 counties and -- and a little wider.

13           The judicial circuit -- we do have our  
14 solicitor here, Solicitor Finney. You all know his  
15 dad, but he's a man in his own tie, and now he's  
16 our solicitor and newly elected -- has Sumter, Lee,  
17 Clarendon and Williamsburg counties. Again, a  
18 community of interest.

19           We are bordered clearly -- I know that  
20 reapportionment knows no -- no bounds except state  
21 lines and the ocean. But we are bordered with  
22 fairly substantial borders with Lake Marion to the  
23 south and the Wateree swamp through the west.  
24 Through those two areas are only two roads, one  
25 going to Columbia and one going down to Orangeburg,

1 the Calhoun area, 95. And so that -- that's a  
2 reality. Even though I know you can't absolutely  
3 follow it, it does in my opinion have a lot of  
4 influence.

5           Now, you're going to have hard choices  
6 to make. We do have links with Richland. We do  
7 have links with Kershaw, but our primary links,  
8 including even banks in common, are Sumter, Lee,  
9 Clarendon. I would just commend that to you with  
10 162,000 people in these three counties that -- and  
11 I realize that your task is difficult because --  
12 with Senator Malloy and myself and Senator Land  
13 we're short over 30,000 people.

14           But as you put these together -- and we  
15 do have a good interaction with Darlington County,  
16 especially Lee and Darlington, as well as Sumter  
17 and Lee. But as you put it together, recognize  
18 those communities of interest and -- and to  
19 whatever degree possible try to keep us together.

20           We'll work with anyone. And -- and  
21 we'll work constructively. The Sumter Chamber of  
22 Commerce just joined the Midlands area Chambers of  
23 Commerce, but our most -- what we have most in  
24 common as a community is what I just described to  
25 you, and I hope that that would be of some help in

1 trying to -- to make up your minds as we -- as we  
2 move forward. Thank you.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you very  
4 much, Senator.

5 No one else has walked in. With that,  
6 then that -- we will stand in recess.

7 Where do we hit -- Monday night if you  
8 want to come and visit us, we'll be -- we'll be  
9 down in Beaufort. Tuesday night we'll be in Aiken,  
10 and Wednesday night if any of you decide --

11 MS. HAMMOND: Okay. Wednesday night  
12 we'll be in Rock Hill.

13 Senator McCONNELL: Wednesday in Rock  
14 Hill.

15 MS. HAMMOND: Thursday night in  
16 Greenville.

17 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thursday night in  
18 Greenville. So --

19 SENATOR LEVENTIS: You understand why I  
20 was not --

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: Get interested,  
22 come on and join us.

23 Thank you all again for coming. Have a  
24 good evening.

25 (The public hearing was concluded at 7:06 p.m.)

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

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 5th day of April, 2010, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



*Yvonne R. Bohannon*

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

## I N D E X

1		
2		Page
3	OPENING REMARKS BY SENATOR McCONNELL	3
4		
	SPEAKERS:	
5	SHERY SMITH	9
	CALVIN BENNETT	11
6	FERDINAND BURNS	11
	JAMES FELDER	13
7	JOHNATHAN BRYAN	15
	GRADY BROWN	16
8	BRADEN BUNCH	19
	KEVIN JOHNSON	21
9	SENATOR LEVENTIS	23
10	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	29
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		