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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY
BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA

March 28, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

DEBORAH L. DUSSELJEE, Registered Professional Reporter

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1 APPEARANCES:

2

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

3

- 4 SENATOR McCONNELL
- 5 SENATOR FORD
- 6 SENATOR MALLOY
- 7 SENATOR CLEARY
- 8 SENATOR HUTTO
- 9 SENATOR SHOOPMAN

7

STAFF PRESENT:

8

- 9 CHARLIE TERRANI
- 10 DEBBIE HAMMOND
- 11 KATHERINE WELLS

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1 6:32 p.m.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Good evening. I'm Glenn
3 McConnell, State Senator from Charleston, and I'm
4 Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

5 I want to welcome you to one of our ten local
6 public hearings that the South Carolina Senate Judiciary
7 Committee, Redistricting Subcommittee, is holding across
8 the state. I would like to begin by giving you a brief
9 overview of the redistricting process so that you can
10 understand what we are trying to accomplish and how
11 tonight's hearing fits into the process.

12 First let me introduce the members of the
13 Redistricting Subcommittee. It is a bipartisan group of
14 senators from different regions of the state who bring a
15 wealth of experience working to try to create some bold
16 and innovative solutions for the problems this state
17 faces.

18 From the Upstate, Senator Phillip Shoopman
19 comes to us from Greenville. He has come a long way
20 down here to be with you. And then we've got right here
21 to my immediate right, Senator Robert Ford who, like
22 myself, is from Charleston County. And then from the
23 Grand Strand area, we have got Senator Cleary who
24 represents Georgetown and Horry. And then if you move
25 inland from there to the PeeDee, the great PeeDee area,

1 Senator Gerald Malloy comes to us from Darlington and
2 Lee -- and where else?

3 SENATOR MALLOY: Marlboro and Chester.

4 SENATOR McCONNELL: He represents about four
5 counties.

6 SENATOR FORD: He was confused by moving to
7 the right --

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: I see Senator Tom Davis
9 has joined us. Senator, it's good to have you with us,
10 sir. Representative Ken Hodges.

11 Representative, it is good to have you with
12 us. We always like having the House attending the
13 Senate meetings.

14 As the Redistricting Subcommittee of your
15 Senate, we are charged with one of the most important
16 tasks before the General Assembly, which is to initiate
17 the process of redistricting. We must recommend
18 legislation to the Senate Judiciary Committee which will
19 redraw South Carolina's 46 state Senate districts and
20 the state's congressional districts, to include a new
21 seventh seat.

22 Likewise, there is a subcommittee in the House
23 of Representatives that is charged with drawing the plan
24 for the 124 districts in that body of the legislature
25 and crafting its own version of a congressional plan.

1 While the House and Senate have historically
2 deferred to one another when it comes to the plans for
3 their respective bodies, their congressional plans may
4 ultimately have to be reconciled in the legislative
5 process through a conference committee. If the two
6 bodies agree on a redistricting plan, it must be
7 submitted to the Governor for her signature in the same
8 manner as any other bill that is passed by the General
9 Assembly.

10 Finally, under Section 5 of the Voting Rights
11 Act, any plan that is enacted into the law will have to
12 be precleared by the Justice Department or the Federal
13 District Court in Washington, D.C. before it can take
14 effect.

15 The reason we have to -- to redistrict is to
16 ensure that our state's legislative and congressional
17 districts represent substantially equal populations,
18 thereby ensuring that each person's vote is given the
19 same weight as another's in our system of
20 representation.

21 Ideally each of the state's Senate districts
22 will have 100,552 people and each of our state's
23 congressional districts will have 660,767 persons. The
24 census results that are being released this week will
25 tell us the extent to which the state's districts

1 deviate from these ideal numbers. District lines will
2 have to be redrawn so that some districts gain
3 population and others lose population in order to
4 restore the required quality of representation.

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

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

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

25 We would like for you to let us know how

1 important these criteria are to you and whether there
2 are other criteria that you believe we should take into
3 account when drawing new district lines.

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

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

15 As we begin this public hearing, we ask that
16 those testifying be clear. Redistricting is an exact
17 process, and clarity is a virtue. For example, when
18 speaking about criteria of communities of interest, it
19 is important for citizens to distinguish whether they
20 are talking about congressional or a Senate district, as
21 the Subcommittee must consider both districts in its
22 drawing.

23 Along the same lines, please explain why you
24 believe an area is a community of interest and where it
25 is located to help us. To assist you, we have maps

1 available for you to mark and identify particular areas
2 that you consider to be communities of interest.

3 Second, we don't have time limits for speaking
4 at these public hearings. However, we would encourage
5 you to have a goal of speaking no more than five minutes
6 so that everyone may be heard.

7 Also, if a citizen would like to submit an
8 extended written statement, we will accept it for
9 consideration. Written comments will receive the same
10 consideration as spoken ones, and the handouts available
11 to you provide the U.S. mail and e-mail address to which
12 these comments may be sent.

13 Finally, in order to facilitate communication
14 with the Subcommittee and give the public a way of
15 keeping track of the process, I encourage all persons
16 interested in redistricting to consult our website,
17 which is at <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>, and that
18 is available on the paperwork I think that we have given
19 you. The address is, as I understand it, in all of the
20 handouts.

21 At the website, you will find useful
22 information, such as the dates and locations of our
23 public hearings and Subcommittee meetings, redistricting
24 data, reference materials and guidelines for future
25 participation in the process.

1 I want to thank you for giving your time to
2 come out and to meet with us and be willing to
3 contribute to this important process.

4 And just for your information, I think
5 tomorrow night we are in -- in Aiken? We are in Aiken
6 and the following night, Rock Hill. It is a
7 long-distance drive if any of you want to join us at
8 Aiken tomorrow night.

9 Senator Pinckney is here.

10 Senator, it is good to have you with us also.

11 SENATOR PINCKNEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. We are going
13 to start. If I mess up your name, just blame it on my
14 Charlestonese.

15 Ms. Marilyn Caprielian.

16 Did I get that close?

17 MS. CAPRIELIAN: That's as close as anyone has
18 got in a long time.

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: We have a podium. That
20 way everyone out here can hear, and we can, too.

21 MS. CAPRIELIAN: Thank you for allowing me to
22 testify before the South Carolina Senate Judiciary
23 Committee's Redistricting Subcommittee as you examine
24 the effects of redistricting on Beaufort, Colleton,
25 Hampton, and Jasper Counties.

1 My name is Marilyn Caprielian, and I reside in
2 Sun City in South Carolina's Beaufort County.

3 I'm very concerned about the possibility of
4 northern and southern Beaufort County being split into
5 separate Senate districts. All of us who reside in
6 Beaufort County are brought together by key factors,
7 such as economic development.

8 The Lowcountry Economic Alliance is the local
9 economic development organization for Beaufort County
10 recognized by the South Carolina Department of Commerce,
11 and the LEA's economic development efforts focused on
12 the county as a region, not as separate parts.

13 Unified transportation system: Highway 170
14 and Highway 278 are four-lane primary highway links that
15 provide ease of transportation to all parts of the
16 county. In a countywide referendum, the voters of
17 Beaufort County approved a sales tax increase to pay for
18 improvements to this shared transportation network.

19 Commonalty of communications: All persons of
20 the county are served by one major newspaper published
21 under different mastheads, the Beaufort Gazette and the
22 Island Packet. The same stories, news stories,
23 editorials, etc., appear in each. Likewise, all
24 portions of the county are served by television network
25 stations in Charleston and Savannah.

1 Local government: The City of Beaufort in the
2 northern part of Beaufort County is the county seat.
3 Putting the county seat in a separate Senate district
4 than the one in which the majority of county residents
5 are would be very damaging to the community. I believe
6 the latest census showed that a majority of residents
7 live south of the Broad River. And north of the Broad
8 is where our county seat is.

9 Thank you, again, for allowing me to testify;
10 and I hope you will consider my reasons on why a Senate
11 district that incorporates northern and southern
12 Beaufort County would be appropriate and beneficial.

13 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, ma'am.

14 Mr. Charles Lucas.

15 MR. LUCAS: I would like to thank you for the
16 opportunity to talk with the committee.

17 I'm Charles Lucas, Walterboro City Council;
18 and the City of Walterboro, as well as the county, is
19 divided into three representative districts for the
20 state and three senatorial districts for the state. Our
21 people feel like we don't really get adequate
22 representation because you are diluting our population
23 as such that we -- we are just a very small piece of the
24 pie when it comes to electing our officials.

25 We would like to have an official that's

1 elected in Colleton County, living in Colleton County,
2 and that is part of our community.

3 Thank you.

4 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

5 Mayor Bill Young.

6 MAYOR YOUNG: Chairman McConnell and Senators,
7 thank you for allowing me to speak to you tonight.

8 As you know, Colleton County is divided six
9 ways in three Senatorial districts and three House
10 districts. The City of Walterboro, with a population of
11 5400, is also divided six ways, with each legislator
12 taking a small fragment.

13 The result has been that we really have no
14 communities of interest with our legislators and they
15 are not answerable to the citizens of Colleton County.
16 While Colleton County is not large enough to make up a
17 Senatorial district by itself, it is large enough to
18 make up a substantial portion of a district. This would
19 give us a Senator who would owe some allegiance to us.

20 We are also working on the House side to try
21 and get a Representative that would be wholly elected
22 from Colleton County. Our county is almost perfect in
23 population and demographics for a single House district.

24 We would appreciate your help and influence in
25 that effort also. Colleton County will not have true

1 representation and a true community of interest until we
2 have districts that allow someone who represents the
3 majority of our county to be elected.

4 I know that this is a difficult task. I also
5 know that if you have the will to correct this past
6 injustice, that it can be done.

7 When I'm asked to speak to young people and
8 other groups on leadership, one thing that I always tell
9 them is that leaders must know the difference between
10 something they don't like and something that is wrong.
11 You can disagree about things you don't like, but you
12 have to go to war about things that are wrong.

13 The way Colleton County is cut up is wrong.
14 Please, fight this good fight for the citizens of
15 Colleton County so that we can have a real voice in
16 Columbia.

17 Thank you.

18 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

19 Gary Hodges.

20 MR. HODGES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will
21 be very brief.

22 I actually just have one question here, and I
23 couldn't understand the small map that was handed out,
24 but this one is a little bit better.

25 I want to make sure before I comment that I

1 understand this. District 45 goes all the way over
2 here, all this gray area? Kind of encircles District 46
3 and then comes back around in here, is that what these
4 colors mean? That's what it appears on the small --

5 SENATOR McCONNELL: I'm color blind so --

6 MR. HODGES: This is what I'm talking about
7 here.

8 I'm in District 45, and I'm concerned based on
9 the same things that Mayor Young said, is this district
10 is just -- it just doesn't seem to be based on anything
11 that you have in your guidelines here.

12 Now, when you look up here -- and I looked up
13 some of this stuff here today. I'm going to commend the
14 folks up in the Greenville area. They have four
15 resident Senators in Greenville, and they have one
16 partial Senator, and then his district or -- his or her
17 district spreads out to another county.

18 Now, the same thing as Spartanburg. They've
19 got three resident Senators and one Senator who goes
20 down to make up the population for the district, and I
21 understand all that. I think that's great.

22 Then down in the Lowcountry, we've got a
23 little bit of a different situation. A lot of it goes
24 into Charleston, too.

25 What I want to comment on, for example, is

1 there are one, two, three, four districts, Senate
2 districts, that are not in Charleston County, but they
3 go into Charleston County. Then there is a Senate
4 district -- there are two Senate districts that are
5 exclusively Charleston County, and then there is one
6 that's in Charleston County that goes out into Berkeley.

7 I don't understand why one would encroach on
8 one and then one would encroach out. That doesn't make
9 sense to me. The way Greenville does it, it looks a lot
10 better. It is just cleaner.

11 Now, in our case down here, the new census
12 number shows that Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton
13 Counties, who are our sister counties, however you want
14 to call it, have enough numbers to have two full
15 Senators.

16 Based on what I read in the Beaufort census,
17 it looks like they will get about 1.6, and Hampton and
18 Jasper would make up the rest.

19 The biggest issue I have in all of this is two
20 cases -- you have two districts, 45 and 39. The Senator
21 has five counties. I'm not sure how you hold -- any
22 human being can keep up with that, with the things that
23 a Senator is involved in, i.e., appointing magistrates
24 and so on and so forth. How does one keep up with
25 representing five counties? That's the issue I have.

1 I think there should be some type of goal to
2 limit any Senator to two counties, maybe no more than
3 three. I know you've got a lot of criteria you have to
4 work out and a lot of that is federally imposed. But
5 when you have one or two that are spread so thinly that
6 they have to cover five counties, that's just not right
7 and it is not proper representation.

8 When you look at a district that goes here and
9 here and all the way back here with another district in
10 the middle, something is not right. You look up in the
11 north part of the state, they have it right in
12 Greenville/Spartanburg. So if any of y'all are from
13 that area, we commend you.

14 This area between Charleston and down to the
15 Georgia line, it needs some work. And I am here just to
16 ask you to please keep all of that in mind as you go
17 through this tough process.

18 Thank you.

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

20 Mr. Joseph Flowers.

21 MR. FLOWERS: Thank you, Senator McConnell and
22 Senators. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you.

23 I am from Colleton County. I am on county
24 council. I am the immediate past-chairman of county
25 council for four years and have been on council for over

1 ten years.

2 As you well know, we have been carved up in
3 Colleton County like a -- I guess a bunch of sailors
4 with knives in a bar room on Saturday night when it
5 comes to districting. This thing has grown to the point
6 where it's unfathomable for us at this time. It is time
7 that we have some relief in 2011.

8 We have had over twenty years of this now.
9 And when everybody is in charge, nobody is in charge.
10 And you've got three Senators, none of which live in
11 Colleton County. We've got three representatives. And
12 we don't -- like he said, there is no community of
13 interest here.

14 Also, you've got two Senators, as the
15 gentleman just alluded to, that have five counties.
16 There is no way they can give adequate coverage to five
17 counties. And these are the only two Senators in the
18 State of South Carolina that have five counties, as far
19 as I can tell.

20 It is time that we redid the districting
21 properly so that we can get some representation from
22 Colleton County. We do not have, when it comes to
23 elections, anymore. (sic) Our people have become
24 disenfranchised with the election process because we do
25 not have. This -- this redistricting business has been

1 laughable when it comes to what our county has been
2 carved up into.

3 Communities of interest, you're talking about
4 that. We have one county seat, which is Walterboro.
5 They have three Senatorial districts and three House
6 districts that go into Walterboro. Of course, that's
7 our county seat.

8 So our next door neighbors don't know where
9 they are voting, and the one across the street don't
10 know what district they are in. I have people come ask
11 me all the time, have no idea of who their Senator is or
12 who their Representative is, and people that should
13 know.

14 It is time that we did something about this,
15 gentlemen. I hope that you will see to it that we have
16 some -- have some better representation for Colleton
17 County this year.

18 Talking about U.S. House of Representatives
19 seats, we -- in Colleton County, historically we are in
20 the First Congressional District, back when the Reverend
21 Lewis was there, Admiral Davis, goes on down for several
22 more. We were in the First Congressional District.

23 Most people in Colleton County, when they go
24 out of county to shop, go to Charleston to shop. We get
25 all of our T.V. out of Charleston. We get our newspaper

1 out of Charleston. Of course, the First Congressional
2 District has been historically the district that we have
3 been in and certainly would like to consider that again
4 at this time with this reapportionment.

5 I think that certainly we have more interests
6 that are in common to that area than the district we are
7 in now, which stretches all the way up to Columbia.
8 Most of the people rarely go up in that area.

9 I certainly hope that you gentlemen will look
10 at this for us and help us. We need your help. We
11 really do. We need to be -- we need to have good
12 representation. We don't need to have our Senator
13 stretched so thin that they really don't have any time
14 to spend in our county to give us adequate time for --
15 most of the time, we don't have but one meeting a year.
16 And some of them don't come to that meeting for Colleton
17 County.

18 There is no way that we can have good
19 representation if we don't have people that have common
20 interests with us. We would ask you to put us in a
21 senatorial district that -- where we can count in that
22 senatorial district. We do not count now. Our votes
23 don't count.

24 Thank you, gentlemen. I appreciate it.

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

1 Allison Davidow.

2 MS. DAVIDOW: Yes, sir.

3 Thank you for the opportunity to offer my
4 views on the redistricting of the State of South
5 Carolina, specifically redistricting affecting Beaufort,
6 Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties.

7 My name is Allison Davidow. I'm the
8 Democratic Party Committee Woman from Beaufort County.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: I apologize. I tried my
10 best.

11 MS. DAVIDOW: You did a great job.

12 I'm a recent returnee to South Carolina. Due
13 to the wisdom of my parents, I was born in this state.
14 Much has changed since then. I can now cherish
15 relationships with those of different races, ethnic
16 groups, and religions. That would have not been
17 possible in 1943 when I was born.

18 However, if my father were alive and of
19 working age today, as a textile engineer, he would not
20 have a job. Yes, much has changed, but much remains the
21 same.

22 When preparing these remarks, I reviewed the
23 maps of the current U.S. congressional districts as well
24 as the statehouse and the Senate districts. The history
25 of those districts' configuration and the interests of

1 our area, and finally, the former criteria, which you so
2 amply described.

3 As to the latter, I see that South Carolina
4 very likely has and will obey the criteria for the
5 mathematical equality of each district. We will have
6 the right numbers plugged into each area, but there is
7 so much more than that.

8 Will our newly re-configured maps adequately
9 address the interests of the residents in the individual
10 districts? And by interests, I mean the interests that
11 address current and potential sources of income which
12 have been so woefully neglected in our area in the hopes
13 that tourism or the military will step in and save our
14 economy.

15 Educational achievement, which is currently at
16 a level that would hardly attract businesses and I -- is
17 in desperate need of improvement. It -- our
18 corresponding educational needs of our children, which
19 includes help from the State to keep our brightest and
20 best in our area.

21 Civic involvement is a huge interest. We need
22 a district that will encourage citizen voting,
23 participating in the governmental activities, and as our
24 previous speaker said, communication with confidence
25 with our leadership in Columbia.

1 And finally, we need a district that responds
2 to our interests in infrastructure requirements as Ms.
3 Caprielian noted. We have a demographic here that has
4 specific requirements.

5 But when I see the present Second
6 Congressional District's map, which looks remarkably
7 like a shrimp, I wonder how those in busy downtown
8 Lexington can relate to Yamassee. Or, how can a farmer
9 in Jasper County relate to businessman in Irmo?

10 The current configuration discourages
11 intraspace discussion. One area's interest within the
12 district can always be counted on to outweigh another.
13 Thus, we, as constituents, are not participants in any
14 exchanges that lead to a decision. We are simply told
15 how our Congressman will vote. We must assume thereby
16 that another part of our district has greater interests
17 to be accommodated.

18 Will our newly configured maps address
19 diversity? Districts should be drawn that give African
20 Americans and our growing Latino population an
21 opportunity to speak and be heard respectfully.

22 The current approach encourages rather than
23 discourages voting by race. It is well known that there
24 was an agreement between white and African-American
25 legislators resulting in one safe predominantly

1 African-American congressional district, the Sixth.

2 Was this the inspired answer to the poison of
3 bigotry that has affected South Carolina for centuries?
4 Or, does this mean that African Americans will be the
5 children at the Thanksgiving table, able to have one,
6 and only one, voice in Congress?

7 This divide-and-conquer approach is reflected
8 in our legislative districts -- in our county council
9 districts too or might be. One of our county's
10 political leaders was heard to say recently, When the
11 county redistricts, redistricting happens, we will have
12 to be sure to have three black seats. Good grief. What
13 an answer.

14 Finally, will our new maps show South Carolina
15 as the progressive model state that it could be? We all
16 know that South Carolina is frequently the center of
17 national attention. Is this the basis for bragging or
18 complaining?

19 We have a beautiful, fragile environment that
20 attracts would-be South Carolinians and their annuities
21 and their incomes from around the world. We are the
22 right size state for governance and self-planning. We
23 have a population that has a history of hard work and a
24 value for its children. We have pride.

25 But all of these five points will not help us

1 if we do not respect one another's needs, if we do not
2 listen to one another's stories, if we do not look
3 beyond party labels or skin color, if we cannot engage
4 in a dialogue, if we do not come to understand that
5 present celebrations notwithstanding, the willfulness
6 that led to the carnage of 1861 to '65 is a thing of the
7 past. We are one glorious state in one glorious nation.

8 Thank you.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Next, Ms. Jocelyn Staigar.

10 MS. STAIGAR: Ten copies, should I pass them
11 out?

12 (Tenders documents to Senators.)

13 MS. STAIGAR: Good evening, and I thank the
14 South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee's
15 Redistricting Subcommittee for allowing me to testify at
16 the public hearing on redistricting for Beaufort,
17 Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties.

18 My name is Jocelyn Metzger Staigar, and I
19 reside in Hilton Head, South Carolina, which is in
20 Beaufort County.

21 The Beaufort County community consists of
22 three areas generally referred to as Beaufort/Port
23 Royal, Bluffton, and Hilton Head. Each relates to the
24 other in many ways: Culturally, environmentally,
25 historically, and economically. And it would be very

1 damaging to the Beaufort County community if its
2 northern and southern parts were split into two
3 different Senate districts.

4 Here are some reasons why these three areas
5 are within the same community of interest.

6 Geographic integrity. Beaufort County is
7 known for its rivers, wetlands, and marshes. Port Royal
8 Sound, which is the largest estuary on the East Coast is
9 what unifies our county. While bodies of water in other
10 parts of the state may divide, the Port Royal Sound
11 unites as evidenced by the county-wide support for
12 entities that protect the estuary.

13 One system of public schools. The Beaufort
14 County School District is one single county-wide
15 district, and community leaders from all parts of the
16 county serve on the same school board. The school
17 district has taken a strong position against splitting
18 the district and emphasized the shared goals of public
19 schools in all parts of the county.

20 Environmental interests. No part of Beaufort
21 County is urbanized or industrialized. Instead, all
22 portions are defined by its Lowcountry environment: A
23 shared natural resource that attracts tourists,
24 retirees, and service industries. All parts of the
25 county share a common interest in protecting our natural

1 environment for its economic well being.

2 Thank you, again, for giving me the
3 opportunity to testify on this important matter. I hope
4 you will consider the value of creating a Senate
5 district that includes northern and southern Beaufort
6 County.

7 SENATOR McCONNELL: Next is Anne Pollitzer.

8 MS. POLLITZER: I am very relieved that we are
9 having this hearing and that we have such a good turnout
10 and so many people are speaking.

11 My name is Anne Christianson Pollitzer, and I
12 am a fifth generation Beaufortonian. My
13 great-grandfather came in during the great Civil War,
14 and the family is still here.

15 I live right here on Saint Helena Island. As
16 you can see, we are not part of the 46th District. Our
17 district goes around here and all the way up here. For
18 a long time, we were represented by a member from
19 Walterboro. Why is this such a strangely-shaped
20 district? It is in order to put -- encapsulate all of
21 the minority population into one area, very carefully.

22 If you will look at how it's cut, 45 goes up
23 here. Forty-six is here where the money is and the
24 well-to-do families. And it is my understanding that
25 this was done purposely, and I have a very grave doubt

1 that anything we say tonight is going to affect it very
2 much.

3 Now, our state has increased greatly in
4 population. Almost half of that increase comes in
5 Beaufort and Jasper Counties. We should get a new
6 representative in the Lowcountry. I'm very doubtful
7 that that will happen. The power in the state is in the
8 big cities, and they are carefully mapped off to
9 themselves. Lines are drawn through the middle of
10 precincts, through the middle of counties. It does not
11 take into account the voters, the citizens.

12 So I want to speak tonight for the citizens of
13 the State of South Carolina. The district lines need to
14 be drawn logically. They do not need to be drawn
15 through the middle of counties. They do not need to
16 jump rivers and bays and separate people that don't live
17 together from each other.

18 I believe that our representatives should live
19 in our midst. Our representative in Washington lives
20 outside of Columbia. He has an office here. He has
21 another one at Hilton Head. There is lots of money in
22 Hilton Head. But I feel that we have no power, as many
23 of the other speakers have mentioned.

24 I think I have made my points about the
25 logical boundaries, representatives living in our midst

1 so that we will know who to call when we need to talk to
2 them, so the constituents will know, and so that people
3 who live across the street from each other are not
4 voting in different places.

5 Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Representative Kenneth
7 Hodges.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HODGES: Good evening. Thank
9 you, Senator McConnell and the Redistricting
10 Subcommittee. Welcome to the Lowcountry. We thank you
11 for allowing the public to have input in this process of
12 redistricting.

13 Certainly we realize that you have a great
14 challenge ahead of you, and we want to commend you for
15 the work that you have already put in. I am here
16 basically to encourage you to do as we have done in the
17 past, to seriously consider communities of interest in
18 this redistricting process.

19 Many times when we look at a map, it's hard to
20 determine who lives there. And a lot of times when we
21 see a map, and even though it seems odd to some, there
22 may be some reason and some rationale behind it.

23 Many times we fail to realize that there are
24 persons who -- for instance, look at Saint Helena.
25 There is a community of interest on this side of the

1 Saint Helena Sound as well as on the other side. It
2 crosses over into Colleton County, the same interests
3 that's in Charleston County.

4 Many of those persons, before there was an
5 interstate, they traveled up and down the waterways. A
6 lot of people would be shocked to discover that on one
7 side of the river, even in another county, there are
8 persons of the same family because they used to travel
9 by water.

10 Certainly it may even look odd that a part of
11 this district is in Colleton as well as in Beaufort
12 County. There is some logic behind it. There were
13 people with a common concern, with a common culture, a
14 common heritage.

15 Certainly compactness in Greenville is a lot
16 different than compactness in the Lowcountry when you
17 see the broad geographical area, and many of these
18 areas, they are not even populated. So certainly a
19 Representative or Senator in this area has a larger
20 geographical area to cover.

21 I wish that it was so compact that we could
22 put everybody in one county, but because of the
23 geography of the Lowcountry, that's hard to do.

24 I want to encourage you to make certain that
25 we continue in this process to take into consideration

1 the communities of interest, that we do develop the
2 districts that are as compact as possible, that we avoid
3 splitting up precincts to the best of our ability, but
4 that we work hard to create districts that will adhere
5 to the 1965 Voting Rights Act, as amended. I'm hoping
6 that we can come up with good district plans in the
7 House and the Senate, and that they will also seek the
8 approval of the Governor, and that it will withstand the
9 tests and the criterions that has been sent down to us
10 as well.

11 As it relates to our congressional district,
12 certainly, as I pointed out earlier, there are
13 communities of interests along the coast. We would
14 certainly be in a better position to have a coastal
15 county in the U.S. House when we consider drawing that
16 new congressional district.

17 I think that along the coastline there is far
18 more communities of interest and far more community
19 concerns, commonality along the coast as opposed to a
20 district that runs all the way up through a rural area
21 and all the way up to the Columbia area, Midlands.

22 So I just want to thank you. We know that you
23 have a great task ahead of you. I want to commend you
24 for the very fine work that you have done. And I'm
25 hoping that we take into consideration what you have

1 done in the past as the rationale of the how and why the
2 districts are the way they are, and that I hope that we
3 will do all that we can so that we can adhere to the
4 Voter Rights Act.

5 Thank you.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Senator Tom Davis.

7 SENATOR DAVIS: Mr. Chair, I will withdraw my
8 request at this time.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Senator Clementa Pinckney.

10 SENATOR PINCKNEY: Mr. Chairman, I will do the
11 same.

12 SENATOR FORD: You don't have a welcome up to
13 Beaufort?

14 SENATOR PINCKNEY: Welcome to the Lowcountry.
15 Thank you all for bringing the rain.

16 SENATOR McCONNELL: Lee Shaffer.

17 MS. SHAFFER: Thank you very much for this
18 opportunity. I really hope it's okay if I just ask
19 questions. Some of you may have seen the "Lincoln
20 Lawyer". There were good lines in there. This was
21 offered by an attorney questioning a witness, and he
22 said, If you don't mind, I will do the questioning. And
23 I'm sure that's your role tonight. I appreciate the
24 opportunity, and I'm so glad there has been so much
25 input from our citizens.

1 My question to you, and you may have said this
2 before I got here, is, What is the next step? Will
3 there be another opportunity for public input? Will we
4 know what your options are so that we have an
5 opportunity to give input again? And what is the
6 process for this as it goes through the protocol? Does
7 the Department of Justice have to rule on this? What
8 happens next, or is this just a crumb?

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: No. What we are
10 soliciting tonight are comments regarding background for
11 criteria, building blocks, objective building blocks
12 that you use to draw districts.

13 And then once we hear all that testimony, this
14 subcommittee will take all of that, look at that, all
15 the submissions that we have gotten through our website,
16 and then we will draw up a set of criteria and adopt
17 those.

18 The criteria will be then used for purposes of
19 asking people for public input, as well anybody that
20 really wishes to submit proposed plans that follow those
21 criteria. And we will take all of that input. Then the
22 staff will, based on that, draw a plan for the
23 Subcommittee to look at.

24 And then the Subcommittee then has to take it
25 to the Subcommittee (sic). Then we're going to have

1 folks come in who have amendments to it, and we will
2 consider amendments and changes to it.

3 But I would -- those criteria normally will be
4 followed. We have had to tell members of the Senate,
5 no, before when they bring in amendments which don't
6 follow the criteria. But it is to try to get it -- a
7 rational basis in the criteria.

8 So then after that, we will not do that with
9 the House of Representatives. They will handle
10 everything on their side on the House districts. We
11 will handle the Senate districts.

12 Each of the respective houses will do a
13 congressional, same way, with all the similar steps.
14 And then what we will do is go to a conference committee
15 and try to work out the differences.

16 They go to the Governor for signature. From
17 the Governor, they go to the Justice Department or they
18 have got to go to the D.C. court for approval, one of
19 the two.

20 MS. SHAFFER: This is not the only opportunity
21 for public input?

22 (Off-the-record discussion.)

23 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. The staff has
24 reminded me also that when you signed in on the sign-in
25 sheet, you will be put on notification lists, and we

1 will be notifying you along the way of opportunity for
2 you to look, observe, and to have input.

3 MS. SHAFFER: Thank you, very, very much.

4 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Fred Hamilton.

5 MR. HAMILTON: Good evening. I would like to,
6 again, commend this board for the fine work that you are
7 attempting to do and have done.

8 I represent, hopefully, some of the citizens
9 from Bluffton. I would like to also let you know I'm on
10 town council in Bluffton as well.

11 We have a very prestige (sic) natural resource
12 that we would like to preserve in Bluffton. That's our
13 waterways. Many of our neighboring states and counties
14 has lost that resource because of pollutions that they
15 encountered sometime from growth. Bluffton has been a
16 very aggressive growing population.

17 I would like for you to keep in mind that when
18 you do draw the lines, you remember that we have natives
19 there that find (sic) that historical and that valuable
20 resource to heart. They really would protect that at
21 every cost. And when you do draw these lines, you
22 incorporate those communities.

23 And these -- and I have to share with you that
24 this is -- you're also talking about preserving a
25 culture, which is extremely important.

1 You've heard several testimonies here today
2 that says that we have to keep in mind not only the --
3 the small communities, we have to keep in mind how these
4 communities existed and why it is so important that
5 those people voices are heard.

6 We have streets like Buck Island and
7 Simmonsville, Goethe Road, Heyward Street, Boundary
8 Street, Calhoun Street, Lawrence Street, Wharf Street.
9 Those are the core of our Bluffton community, which we
10 welcome all of our neighbors, our new citizens that has
11 moved here because it does give us an opportunity to
12 progress. It helps us to be able to be a bigger and
13 better city, but meanwhile, preserving what is naturally
14 there has been a challenge with this growth.

15 So if you would, please, help us to maintain
16 those groups and those citizens who would vote for a
17 representative that would understand how important our
18 natural resources are for us.

19 Thank you.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: That is all the written
21 requests that we have. Is there anyone here who is
22 writing a request that wanted to be heard?

23 MR. BONDS: Mr. Chairman?

24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

25 MR. BONDS: I did not put down to speak but

1 I would like to speak briefly, if possible.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: That would be fine.

3 As you come up, let me remind -- the staff,
4 again, reminded me that we solicited your written
5 comments. And if you do not care to stand up tonight
6 but after hearing this you have input or an opinion, we
7 would very much welcome your written comments, and we
8 will consider them just like you were here at this
9 hearing. So please feel free to do that. We would love
10 to have them.

11 With that, yes, sir.

12 MR. BONDS: My name is Bobby Bonds, B-O-N-D-S.
13 I live in Walterboro and have for about twenty years.

14 And just briefly, the first speaker this
15 evening, when I heard her talking about the
16 commonalities of interests between northern and southern
17 Beaufort County, where she did not want to split up that
18 district, my mouth dropped.

19 And the reason is because we don't have that
20 in Colleton County, and it's not because the people in
21 Colleton County are not wanting to work together. Quite
22 frankly, I think it's, amongst other things, a lack of
23 representation that we have got.

24 We have got commonalities of -- we want
25 commonalities of interest. What I feel we have got

1 really in our districts right now are commonalities of
2 disinterests. The way we are shaped up -- what we have
3 got in Colleton County, quite frankly, where we go -- I
4 have been staring at this little map. So when I come up
5 here and see this one, it kind of sets me back. But I
6 will be honest, we just don't have a whole lot in common
7 in District 37 with people who are way over here in
8 Berkeley County. And development that's going on in
9 Berkeley County and the interests and the population and
10 the things that are going on there, we just don't have a
11 commonality of interest with them.

12 And I think when you have got a Senator who is
13 covering five counties, and such different counties in
14 terms of commonality of interests, it just becomes very
15 difficult for the Senator and becomes very difficult for
16 the people who are living there.

17 When I look at Jasper County, we have almost
18 no commonality of interests as relates to folks who are
19 down toward Sun City and the development that's going on
20 there and what's going on in terms of infrastructure and
21 what's going on in terms of -- of what -- development
22 and so forth. We just don't have that here. And we've
23 got a situation where we just find ourselves split up.

24 The closest thing to commonality of interests,
25 quite frankly, that I see -- I will be honest. I think

1 District 39, as it is drawn now, there is some
2 commonality of interests there as it relates. But,
3 again, I would like to see a situation where we don't
4 have, I think, two of our three Senators having five
5 districts, and I would like to see some more commonality
6 of interests in terms of, like they said, the
7 infrastructure, the development that's going on in these
8 other counties, in Jasper County and parts of Charleston
9 County. The needs that are going on there and the
10 commonality of interests in Charleston County are just
11 nothing as they are in Colleton County where I'm from
12 and Hampton County.

13 I just think that makes a tremendous burden on
14 the Senator, to be spread that thin, and I think that --
15 I would appreciate considering drawing up a district
16 that truly has some more commonalities of interests with
17 a rural county like ours, that's looking forward and
18 wanting to progress in terms of economic development.

19 I just don't think we have got it the way it
20 is drawn today and would look to having y'all address
21 some issues and put some more commonalities of interests
22 together as it relates to our county.

23 Thank you.

24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Is there anyone else?

25 All right. That will close the record then on

1 this hearing. We, again, thank you all for coming and,
2 again, remind you, please go to the website. Follow the
3 progress of it.

4 Also, if you have any written comments based
5 on what somebody said tonight, please feel free to send
6 those to us. We would very much appreciate it.

7 That, and y'all have a good evening.

8 (The hearing concluded at about 7:26 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Deborah L. Dusseljee, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing hearing was taken before me on the date and at the time and location stated on Page 1 of this transcript; that the hearing was recorded stenographically by me and was thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing hearing as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the hearing 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 11th day of April, 2011, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



Deborah L. Dusseljee
Deborah L. Dusseljee, RPR
Notary Public
State of South Carolina at Large
My Commission expires:
June 4, 2017