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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 29, 2011

6:30 p.m.

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE  
GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

REPORTED BY: SHERI L. BYERS  
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 SENATOR LARRY A. MARTIN

9 SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

10

11

12 STAFF PRESENT:

13 CHARLES TERRENI

14 PAULA BENSON

15 DEBBIE HAMMOND

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1                   SEN. MCCONNELL: We're going to call this  
2 meeting to order at this time.

3                   Good evening. I'm Glenn McConnell, state  
4 senator from Charleston and chairman of the Senate  
5 Judiciary Committee. I want to welcome you to one of  
6 our ten local public hearings the Senate Judiciary  
7 Committee Redistricting Subcommittee is holding  
8 across the state.

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

13                  First, I'd like to introduce the members of  
14 the subcommittee. It's a bipartisan group of  
15 senators from different regions of the state who have  
16 been involved in trying to find innovative solutions  
17 to this state's problems that have confronted the  
18 state.

19                  From the Upstate, Senator Larry Martin of  
20 Pickens County and Senator Phillip Shoopman of  
21 Greenville. From the Midlands, we have Senator Brad  
22 Hutto of Orangeburg. From the Low Country, Senator  
23 Robert Ford and myself from Charleston. From the  
24 Pee Dee area, you've got Senator Gerald Malloy of  
25 Darlington. From the Grand Strand area, you've got

1 Senator Ray Cleary of Georgetown.

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

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

15           While the House and Senate have  
16 historically deferred to one another when it comes to  
17 the plan for their respective bodies, their  
18 congressional plans may ultimately have to be  
19 reconciled in the legislative process through a  
20 conference committee. If the two bodies agree on the  
21 redistricting plan, it must be submitted to the  
22 governor for her signature in the same manner as any  
23 other bill that is passed by the General Assembly.

24           Finally, under Section 5 of the Voting  
25 Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into law will

1 have to be precleared by the Justice Department or  
2 the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C.,  
3 before it can take effect.

4           The reason we have to redistrict is to  
5 ensure that our state's legislative and congressional  
6 districts represent substantially equal populations  
7 thereby ensuring that each person's vote is given the  
8 same weight as another's in our system of  
9 representation. Ideally, each of the state's Senate  
10 districts will have 100,552 people. And each of our  
11 state's Congressional districts will have 660,767  
12 people.

13           The census results that were released last  
14 Thursday tell us the extent to which the state's  
15 districts deviate from these ideal numbers. District  
16 lines will have to be redrawn so that some districts  
17 gain population, others lose population in order to  
18 restore the required quality of representation.

19           To begin the process of redrawing  
20 districts, we hold hearings in order to listen to  
21 your views on the redistricting process. Let me say  
22 at the outset, we are not here for the purpose of  
23 considering proposed redistricting plans. The  
24 subcommittee has yet to reach that stage of the  
25 process. When that time comes, we will have an

1 opportunity for the public to submit specific plans  
2 for the subcommittee to consider.

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

10           Examples of redistricting criteria  
11 requirements would be consideration to get into  
12 communities of interest, the cores of existing  
13 districts, county, municipal or precinct lines,  
14 compactness, congruity, as well as applicable laws  
15 and constitutional standards. We would like you to  
16 let us know how important these criteria are to you  
17 and whether there are other criteria that you believe  
18 we should take into account when drawing the new  
19 district lines.

20           As for communities of interest, they may be  
21 neighborhoods, towns, or other political subdivisions  
22 that have a common interests that define them for  
23 purposes of political representation. They could  
24 also be areas defined by common economic interest or  
25 characteristics, culture affiliation, recreational

1 interest or other factors that cause people to  
2 identify with one another. We would like to hear  
3 from you about communities of interest that you  
4 perceive to exist in the area and how you believe  
5 they should be considered in the process of drawing  
6 district lines.

7           As we begin this public hearing, we ask  
8 that those testifying please be clear. Redistricting  
9 is an exact process and clarity is a virtue. For  
10 example, when speaking about criteria on communities  
11 of interest, it is important that you distinguish  
12 between whether you're talking about a congressional  
13 or a senate district, as the subcommittee must  
14 consider both.

15           Along the same lines, please explain why  
16 you believe an area is a community of interest and  
17 where it is located. To assist you, we have maps  
18 available for you to mark and identify particular  
19 areas that you consider to be communities of  
20 interest.

21           Second, we don't have rigid time limits for  
22 speaking at these public hearings. However, we would  
23 encourage you to have a goal of speaking no more than  
24 five minutes so that everyone may be heard. Also, if  
25 a citizen would like to submit an extended written

1 statement, we will accept it for consideration.  
2 Written comments will receive the same consideration  
3 as spoken ones and to have that available to you  
4 provided U.S. mail and e-mail addresses to which  
5 comments may be sent.

6           Finally, in order to facilitate  
7 communication with the subcommittee and give the  
8 public a way of keeping track of the process, I  
9 encourage all persons interested in redistricting to  
10 consult our Web site, which is located at  
11 <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>. The address of  
12 the redistricting Web site is included in the  
13 handouts that you got.

14           At the Web site, you will find useful  
15 information such as the dates and locations of our  
16 public hearings and subcommittee meetings,  
17 redistricting data, reference material, and  
18 guidelines for future participation in the process.

19           Thank you for giving your time and being  
20 willing to contribute to this important process.  
21 With that, we will begin the testimony.

22           First, I would ask Mr. Tony DiStefano.  
23 Have I got it close?

24           MR. DISTEFANO: DiStefano. That's close.

25           SEN. MCCONNELL: DiStefano. We



1 Charlestonians accent a couple of little different  
2 syllables along the way.

3 MR. DISTEFANO: It's optional. You don't  
4 have to worry.

5 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

6 MR. DISTEFANO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
7 Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for this  
8 opportunity.

9 I'm going to talk about redistricting  
10 principles, general principles of districting, which  
11 I think are important as the framework, the  
12 background, the basis of what you do.

13 One of the main tests for a democracy in my  
14 view is show me the opposition party's candidate. A  
15 democratic system of government requires at least two  
16 candidates compete for each office. Elections should  
17 be contested on a level playing field, and the rules  
18 should be fair.

19 After each tenured census in America,  
20 legislative districts are redrawn. But how are these  
21 districts redrawn? The goal should not be, "Let's  
22 draw the district lines so my political party has the  
23 maximum advantage and we can win as many seats as  
24 possible." The goal should be that these district  
25 lines make sense and will they foster elections that

1 give voters a real choice.

2           Currently, some legislative districts are  
3 gerrymandered, that is, they're designed to benefit  
4 one party or the other. A county, city, or town may  
5 be divided among two or more legislative districts.  
6 Some districts appear to be about 150 miles long and  
7 may be 25 miles wide. Such districts often confuse  
8 voters so they don't know which district they are in  
9 or who represents them. This is not fair to the  
10 voters, and it's not fair to the candidates.

11           Too often candidates for offices run  
12 unopposed. They have no opponent in the general  
13 election because their districts are so skewed in  
14 favor of their political party. A candidate may have  
15 opposition in the primary election, but the  
16 differences between the candidates in a primary  
17 election tend to be based on small differences and  
18 personalities rather than on real differences on  
19 substantive issues.

20           This is not democracy. This is  
21 pseudodemocracy, a false democracy. Either we  
22 believe in equality and democracy, as we say we do,  
23 or we do not. If we do believe what we say, then all  
24 legislative districts should be drawn so they are  
25 compact, do not divide up county, cities, and towns,

1 and are not designed to favor one political party  
2 over the other.

3           After our founding fathers drafted the  
4 Constitution, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well,  
5 Dr. Franklin, what have you given us?"

6           Franklin replied, "A republic, madam, if  
7 you can keep it."

8           Let us keep it by drawing legislative  
9 district lines that are fair and competitive. Thank  
10 you.

11           SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

12           Mr. Billy Boylston.

13           MR. BOYLSTON: Mr. Chairman, thank you.

14           My name is Billy Boylston. I'm here and  
15 speaking on behalf of Congressman Jeff Duncan. So  
16 I'll try to keep it short, as I don't speak as well  
17 as he does.

18           "I really wanted to be with you in person  
19 tonight. With the vote scheduled for this evening, I  
20 knew you would want me to remain in Washington doing  
21 what you sent me there to do: Fighting against  
22 runaway government spending, repealing Obama Care,  
23 and returning our nation to the Constitution.

24           "On April 2nd, 2009, I announced my  
25 candidacy to the United States Congress. Over the

1 course of these past few years, I've had a chance to  
2 get to know the people of Third Congressional  
3 District as potential voters and constituents but  
4 most importantly as friends. The residents of Aiken,  
5 Edgefield and McCormick counties have invited me into  
6 their homes, shared their stories, and prayed for my  
7 family and me.

8           "The people who reside in the southern half  
9 of the Third District are nothing short of some of  
10 the finest individuals this country has to offer and  
11 some of the greatest people I have ever met. They  
12 are entrepreneurs, small business owners, and  
13 farmers. They are former and current employees of  
14 the Savannah River Site, whose talents help keep our  
15 nation safe. They're military veterans, policemen,  
16 firefighters, and teachers who sacrifice every day to  
17 give back to our communities.

18           "Representing these inspiring individuals  
19 in Congress is one of the highest honors and greatest  
20 responsibilities I could ever imagine, which leads us  
21 to the bitter sweet topic of this evening's meeting:  
22 Redistricting.

23           "While I am thrilled that South Carolina's  
24 increased population will result in a Seventh  
25 Congressional District for the first time since World

1 War II, I would consider any redistricting plan that  
2 changes who I have the pleasure of representing as a  
3 great loss. The ten counties that form the Third  
4 District create a unique balance in regards to  
5 demographics and needs. The district is anchored in  
6 nuclear power on both ends with Oconee Nuclear  
7 Station to the north and the Savannah River Site to  
8 the south.

9 "Districtwide, small businesses continue to  
10 be the driving force in the economy, especially  
11 businesses that can be found from Pumpkintown to  
12 Ridge Spring. With the release of the new census  
13 data, the information makes clear that the third  
14 district will be forced to shrink in population to  
15 make room for the new congressional seat.

16 "My wish is for the General Assembly to  
17 strongly take into consideration the wisdom of the  
18 current district boundaries and make as few changes  
19 as constitutionally possible.

20 "I appreciate you taking the time to listen  
21 to the public's concerns on this very important  
22 matter, and I hope you will listen to the concerns  
23 above all matters as you make your decision."

24 Mr. Chairman and others, thank you.

25 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

1           Ann Willbrand.

2           MS. WILLBRAND: Mr. Chairman, committee  
3 members, I'm Ann Willbrand. I'm a 25-year resident  
4 of Aiken. I'm second vice chair of the Aiken County  
5 Democratic Party and also a member of the League of  
6 Women Voters. Tonight I'm really speaking to you  
7 more as a private citizen.

8           My concern about having fair and equitable  
9 electoral process has brought me to speak to you this  
10 evening. Thank you for taking the time to hear all  
11 of us, the voters.

12           While this hearing is just one step to  
13 ensure transparency of the reapportionment process, I  
14 appreciate that it provides a meaningful opportunity  
15 for interested members of the public like me to  
16 participate. I support districts that are drawn  
17 substantially on population, compactness, and respect  
18 for existing boundaries, political competitiveness,  
19 and are reflective of the racial and ethnic diversity  
20 of our communities.

21           I want to talk tonight in two particular  
22 issues that concern me: One is the way that our  
23 state legislative districts are drawn, particularly  
24 the House, since we just had an election; and also  
25 U.S. Congress.

1           I want to see redistricting process within  
2 Aiken County give all voters a greater voice in  
3 selecting our members of the General Assembly. In  
4 the last election in November, two new members of the  
5 statehouse were elected from Aiken County. But their  
6 election was determined in the primary, not the  
7 general election. These candidates had no opposition  
8 in the general election, as is the case with about  
9 60 percent of the members of the General Assembly.

10           This process disenfranchised every voter in  
11 those districts who chose not to vote in that party's  
12 primary. In fact, none of the Aiken County House  
13 delegation had any opposition in November. It is  
14 likely they will have no opposition in the next  
15 election either unless there are major changes to the  
16 way districts are drawn.

17           When these districts are drawn so the  
18 majority party is favored over the minority by two to  
19 one or more, there is little or no incentive for  
20 opponents to go through the arduous process to run  
21 for office knowing that they are sure to lose. The  
22 general election then becomes little more than a  
23 coronation. This is not democracy.

24           I urge you to avoid the temptation to  
25 create such safe districts and wherever possible,

1 instead create competitive districts so we voters  
2 have a much better chance of having a choice of  
3 candidate. Drawing districts that have a much closer  
4 partisan carry is much more likely to entice  
5 candidates to run for election. It gives the voters  
6 a choice, and it holds the incumbents accountable.  
7 Which we do not do right now.

8 I would also like to see some major changes  
9 to the way the U.S. Congressional Districts are drawn  
10 contrast to the previous speaker. Aiken County  
11 suffers from two major issues with the current Second  
12 and Third Districts. Both of those districts are  
13 just too large. Requiring a two- to three-hour drive  
14 from end to end, which makes no sense in a state as  
15 small as South Carolina. This does not serve  
16 candidates from any party or the elected officials  
17 well since they have less opportunity to connect with  
18 voters spread over such a large area.

19 Aiken has little in common with Oconee and  
20 Anderson counties in the Third District or Beaufort  
21 and Jasper counties in the Second District. I  
22 strongly suggest that both the Second and Third  
23 Districts be redrawn so that the Third District  
24 serves just the upstate counties. The Second  
25 District should be split so that the lower part is



1 merged with the First District, and the upper part  
2 forms a new compact western mid state Second District  
3 that includes Aiken, Lexington and the other  
4 surrounding counties.

5 I am aware that there are some effort to  
6 create some consolidated economic development  
7 activities around the Midlands, and so I think that  
8 that would be a very good model to use for trying to  
9 draw such a mid state district.

10 The other issue I strongly urge you to  
11 address is that Aiken County is now split between two  
12 congressional districts. I think it is far better.  
13 The county boundaries are respected when drawing  
14 district lines as well as all the other boundaries.  
15 It's much easier to run a single congressional  
16 campaign in a county. And including the county of  
17 one congressional district makes it easier for voters  
18 to engage the candidates on local issues and  
19 hopefully will provide more informed discussion of  
20 the political candidates.

21 Once elected, compact districts wholly  
22 encompassing the county increase the chance the  
23 representative is responsive to a more unified set of  
24 interests and issues that face the county.

25 I am a regular voter and also a poll worker

1 and very active in many aspects of local and state  
2 political process. I want the opportunity to vote  
3 for those I consider to be the best candidates in  
4 districts that are drawn fairly to represent all  
5 viewpoints.

6           After the election, I want my elected  
7 representatives to truly represent me and the issues  
8 I'm concerned about, whether or not we have the same  
9 party affiliations. I want to see districts that are  
10 constructed so these officials have the opportunity  
11 to hear my concerns and my views on a regular basis.

12           Thank you.

13           SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

14           Terry Jowers.

15           MS. JOWERS: Hi, I'm Terry Jowers from  
16 Williston. My family's been in Barnwell County since  
17 the 1796s. We're very ably represented by  
18 Senator Hutto. We appreciate your service.

19           Currently, I work with a group called  
20 Organizing for Health. I'm the South Carolina lead  
21 organizer. And our goal is to organize -- to reform  
22 healthcare from the bottom up around greater access,  
23 improved quality and reduced costs.

24           My family has been active in the community  
25 forever. My grandparents who -- Lizzy and Talbert

1 Jowers, lived in Williston, and they used to bring  
2 home hobos during the depression and struggle to feed  
3 them and their ten children because they couldn't  
4 stand to see anyone go hungry.

5           My father, Quinby, has lived his whole life  
6 in service to others. Every year he plants an  
7 enormous garden so he can help feed half the widow  
8 women in Barnwell County. And he has instilled that  
9 in us.

10           My daddy's motto, even at 82 years old, is  
11 "Every day is a good day, but a great day is one  
12 where you do something for someone who can't afford  
13 to pay you back." And at 82, my daddy still lives  
14 that every day.

15           And so I'm here today to remind you about  
16 those people who can't always speak for themselves.  
17 I ask you to keep in mind the minorities in this  
18 state and keep their voices at least in the mix as we  
19 consider redistricting.

20           I ask you to be logical when you draw  
21 lines. About 200 years ago, I was the clerk at the  
22 Barnwell County Board of Registration. And what I  
23 saw over and over again were people who were so  
24 frustrated because they didn't know which district  
25 they were in. Somebody on one side of the road was

1 in one district and one on the other. It made  
2 absolutely no sense. And so I just ask you to be  
3 mindful of that. That whenever possible, use logical  
4 lines.

5           Now, when it comes to looking at  
6 communities of interest, I always have to speak for  
7 the rural interest. I often tell folks I live out in  
8 Rural-tania, out near where our motto is, "There may  
9 not be much to see in a small town, but what you hear  
10 makes up for it."

11           When you're looking at drawing  
12 congressional lines, I can promise you that Allendale  
13 and Barnwell and Bamberg and Hampton counties have  
14 absolutely nothing in common with Beaufort County. I  
15 would love to see a rural congressional district that  
16 had the opportunity to elect someone who understands  
17 us, someone who comes from us. And that is, again,  
18 the kind of community of interest that I would lobby  
19 for.

20           I ask you also to be equitable. If we had  
21 a 35 percent minority population in this state, I'm  
22 not sure what the numbers are, I haven't had a chance  
23 to really look at them since they came out, but I'm  
24 asking you to be equitable so that you consider that  
25 whatever districts you draw up keep those numbers in

1 line so that we would have a possibility of being  
2 fair and equitably represented by all folks in our  
3 state.

4 I also ask you to be visionary and brave.  
5 It is pretty easy to look after your own interest.  
6 It's pretty easy to look after the interest of your  
7 friends and your buddies or even your party. And I'm  
8 asking you to rise above that, to be logical, to be  
9 fair and equitable, to be brave and visionary when  
10 you're drawing these lines. And I believe that if  
11 you do that, then you will help every day to be a  
12 great day for South Carolinians.

13 SEN. MCCONNELL: Kathy Hensley.

14 MS. HENSLEY: Good evening, Mr. Chairman  
15 and members of the commission.

16 I'm a retired federal state employee, and  
17 I'm an elected commissioner of the Lexington Soil and  
18 Water Conservation District and the chair of the  
19 Lexington County Democratic Party. And it's in that  
20 position that I've had most experience with the  
21 different lines of County Council, the House  
22 districts and the Senate.

23 And on election day and a few weeks after  
24 election day, I hear all these complaints: "Well, I  
25 went to the polls to vote, but they wouldn't let me

1 vote for the person that I wanted to vote for."

2           And the reason was that they had not  
3 checked their voter registration beforehand and  
4 didn't realize who their representative was.

5           We have five senators in the county of  
6 Lexington. Three of those senators live in other  
7 counties, in Newberry, Richland, and Aiken Counties.  
8 I have a copy of our map here which shows those.

9           As most of you know, Lexington used to be a  
10 very rural county but with the development and  
11 movement to the suburban area, we are splitting at  
12 the seams. And what you see, the green up there is  
13 represented by a senator who lives in downtown  
14 Columbia. The yellow is represented by a senator who  
15 lives in Newberry. And -- actually, I misspoke  
16 because we used to have -- it got cleaned up. We  
17 used to have someone from Aiken who represented a  
18 part of the southwest portion of the state.

19           So as you can see, this has really been  
20 pretty much gerrymanded. And with the population  
21 movement as it has occurred, we now have communities  
22 of interest, mostly suburban, but still we have that  
23 urban area in West Columbia in Lexington.

24           And so the point that I would like to see  
25 is more of our districts -- more of our senators

1 living in or nearer to the places where they  
2 represent so that they do understand the difference  
3 between a rural or an urban or a suburban situation.  
4 And that we don't end up with -- and I know we're not  
5 talking about house districts tonight, but my house  
6 district has a lot of split precincts, and I  
7 understand because I work with these precincts so I  
8 know how they have to be drawn that way. But one  
9 precinct has three houses in my precinct rather  
10 than -- maybe those three houses should have been  
11 moved to another precinct.

12           So that's the -- actually what I wanted to  
13 make as a point is that we have -- we need to have  
14 better representation of people who live within our  
15 county boundaries because most of our countries are  
16 pretty unified in our interest and so forth. So I  
17 think that we're looking for fairness and keeping  
18 those communities of interest together.

19           Thank you.

20           SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

21           Ben Kinlaw.

22           MR. KINLAW: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
23 members of the subcommittee. I thank you for setting  
24 up these hearings across our state and allowing  
25 public input.

1           March 23rd I spoke to the subcommittee at  
2 the first hearing in Orangeburg. And my opening  
3 comments was that Barnwell County being more like  
4 Aiken in terms of culture and common interest.

5           The statement, "one vote, one voice" rings  
6 even more true when you consider that up until the  
7 U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1964 in Reynolds versus  
8 Sims against one state senator for each county. This  
9 case ruled that the state legislature district had to  
10 be roughly equal in population and result in each  
11 county not being truly represented by one vote and  
12 one voice in Columbia.

13           We hear terms such as equal population,  
14 equal representation, and fair and effective. The  
15 task ahead of our General Assembly is certainly  
16 daunting. The point I raise is that we have a  
17 federal template for U.S. Senators. Each state is  
18 allotted to two U.S. Senators.

19           In 2010 census, California had a population  
20 of 37,253,956, and Wyoming had a population of  
21 563,626. The ratio used in Reynolds versus Sims is  
22 41 to 1. I suggest that using these numbers as our  
23 reference, this ratio is 71 to 1. I know that the  
24 federal court ruled in '64 for state senators to  
25 apportion, but my position is that each county will



1 not have equal representation until a state senator  
2 has a vested interest.

3 I would like to reiterate, Barnwell County  
4 prefers to remain in the Second Congressional  
5 District. We've had a great rapport with  
6 Congressman Wilson, we'd like to continue to remain  
7 in that district. Thank you.

8 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

9 Kyle Lacio.

10 MR. LACIO: Hello. I'm Kyle Lacio. I'm  
11 from Lexington County. It's an honor to speak before  
12 the senators. I've seen all of you on TV. It's  
13 great to be able to speak before you.

14 I would like to make a point that currently  
15 we're in a recession, and I think that the politics  
16 and the senator to get us out of this recession  
17 that -- the politics this recession will establish  
18 something that can last for 40 years. I think if you  
19 look back of what got us out of the Great Depression  
20 is those politics lasted for a long time and that you  
21 could really leave an enduring, I don't know,  
22 solution to the problems.

23 I think that politics is not talked about  
24 in solutions to the problems at all. That the  
25 problem that we're in currently is a problem created

1 by supply side economics by focusing on pumping money  
2 to businesses and rich and that we need to start  
3 looking at the demand side of the economy, putting  
4 money into the hands of the people of South Carolina  
5 so we can spend money and create jobs.

6           And until you guys start talking about how  
7 we can get money to the Average Joe in South  
8 Carolina, we're never going to get out of this  
9 recession. We're never going to be the state that  
10 moves up to the top.

11           As far as the redistricting, I think that  
12 we should consider -- we should strongly consider --  
13 I think what he said was great, the state  
14 representation becoming county representation. I  
15 think we should just definitely consider districting  
16 in ways that allow people good representation.

17           I know when I go to vote, there's more than  
18 one ticket that we have to pick which one we're in.  
19 It's very confusing. Having -- I don't know if it's  
20 up here on this map, but, I mean, you got -- it looks  
21 like some kind of artistic painting. It's squiggly  
22 lines. People obviously wanted to live somewhere  
23 other than who they're representing. And let's get  
24 back to keeping communities as communities and  
25 letting people be represented by their local guy.

1 Thank you.

2 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

3 Earl Coleman.

4 Sunny Donovan.

5 MS. DONOVAN: Gentlemen, thank you for  
6 being here tonight.

7 I'm from Aiken County. We're represented  
8 on our Congress congressional districts by two able  
9 people: Joe Wilson and Jeff Duncan. From all the  
10 things I've heard from Jeff, "Sunny, we want to move  
11 it over and have you more there so I can be in your  
12 district."

13 I'm kind of on the line. My husband and I  
14 worked so hard to get Jeff Duncan elected. And you  
15 may or may not know, but Aiken County carried Jeff  
16 Duncan 70 percent, put him over the edge. So that we  
17 were very well represented by Jeff Duncan, and we  
18 don't want to lose him. So please don't redistrict  
19 Aiken County. It's divided in half now. We like it  
20 that way.

21 Thank you.

22 SEN. MCCONNELL: Charles Jennings.

23 MR. JENNINGS: Good evening, Chairman, and  
24 to the Redistricting Subcommittee.

25 First, we just want to thank you all for

1 realizing how important that this is, redrawing the  
2 redistricting lines that you decided to go throughout  
3 the state of South Carolina getting some input from  
4 the citizens.

5 I am Charles Jennings, chairman of  
6 McCormick County Council of Government. I'm just  
7 here to say that McCormick County, one of the  
8 smallest counties in the state of South Carolina,  
9 which I don't have to say that, you all are already  
10 aware of it. But we here at the mercy seat. We  
11 never been divided in the Senate, and I know -- or in  
12 the house. It would help us that whatever you do,  
13 that you will make sure that McCormick County don't  
14 be divided. That it will stay whole. That we will  
15 have one representative represent us in the Senate as  
16 well in the House.

17 We will appreciate you all consider that.  
18 That would help us be able to have some voice when we  
19 do come to Columbia, and that you -- I feel like the  
20 representative will listen to us a little bit more  
21 when we are one instead of divided. Please remember  
22 that because we love McCormick County. We've been  
23 there all our life. I just live three miles from  
24 where I was born, from what I was told.

25 So that's why I ask you again, please, when

1 you all consider drawing these lines, remember  
2 McCormick would like to stay intact.

3 Thank you.

4 SEN. MCCONNELL: Jane Thompson.

5 MS. THOMPSON: Hello, gentlemen. It's good  
6 to see you in Aiken instead of me seeing you in  
7 Columbia. Thank you for this opportunity tonight.

8 I urge you to talk to your buddies over in  
9 the House and consolidate these meetings because poor  
10 Aiken, we've got one this week, one next week, and I  
11 know you all spend a lot of money coming down here.  
12 And I think the House is spending a lot of money  
13 coming down. So as you do these around the state, it  
14 would be great if you guys come together so that the  
15 House Subcommittee and the Senate Subcommittee, in  
16 order to save taxpayers not only money but also those  
17 of us who are interested some time.

18 As you look at redistricting us locally in  
19 South Carolina, your senate districts, Aiken is very  
20 well served by Shane Massey and Greg Ryberg. And we  
21 love Shane Massey and Greg Ryberg.

22 We do have several members of our  
23 legislative delegation that tend to never make it to  
24 Aiken. And if I can make it to Columbia to talk to  
25 you guys about issues that bother me, and I am an

1 individual, independent contractor, and it takes  
2 money out of my pocket to go up there, I think that  
3 those guys could at least come down here and show up  
4 for a legislative delegation meetings. And they  
5 don't.

6           So as you look at how to reapportion our  
7 local districts here in Aiken, 24 and 25, I would  
8 suggest you take away the portions from 26 that are  
9 currently split between Kit Spires and Nikki Setzler,  
10 and go on and give that portion to Greg Ryberg and to  
11 Shane Massey because they do represent us well. And  
12 the other two tend not to make it to our meetings.  
13 And that's very important for us local people.

14           At the federal level, the congressional  
15 district level, I urge you to take back Senate  
16 Congressional District out of the northern part of  
17 the state. So split Horry County in half and come  
18 over here and include Rock Hill in to 5, 1, and  
19 portions of 6, instead of touching 2 and 3.

20           I say that not only because we are well  
21 represented by Joe Wilson and Jeff Duncan in  
22 Congressional Districts 2 and 3 here in Aiken, but  
23 because of the burden of the Savannah River Site and  
24 its issues alone, one congressman just can't handle  
25 that workload. I know how hard both Joe's people and

1 Jeff's people work to represent the interest of that  
2 nuclear facility. It's the largest one we have in  
3 the United States of its kind. It needs two  
4 congressional representatives. It's very key, I  
5 think. I think it's really key for us to have that  
6 dual representation in Aiken from not only a  
7 logistical standpoint but from that standpoint.

8 Thank you all for being here. I appreciate  
9 it.

10 Any questions?

11 Thank you.

12 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

13 Mr. John Philcox.

14 MR. PHILCOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 Thank you Senators. Thank you also for serving.

16 This is a daunting time for all of you, and  
17 I wish you patience, resolve and good wisdom. I just  
18 want to second what Chairman Jennings spoke to. I'm  
19 the vice chairman of McCormick County. We love our  
20 county. We love the integrity of our county. We're  
21 small. We don't have a whole lot of votes for you,  
22 but every once in a while we're the mouse that roared  
23 and we do pay a lot of attention to what you all do.

24 I want to also echo Chairman Jennings'  
25 comments that we would like to stay in McCormick

1 County as one entity.

2 Thank you.

3 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

4 Shane Massey. Senator, did you want to --

5 SENATOR MASSEY: I just wanted to make sure  
6 I was signed up. I wanted to make sure you don't  
7 leave me out and give me the information.

8 SEN. MCCONNELL: Your chance. You got it.  
9 I think they want to keep you.

10 SENATOR MASSEY: I don't want to say  
11 anything to make them change their minds.

12 SEN. MCCONNELL: Senator Danny Verdin, I  
13 see you there, sir. Any wisdom you wish to impart to  
14 the group?

15 SENATOR VERDIN: I appreciate the  
16 opportunity to be down here. I was actually down  
17 here trying to conduct a little business in  
18 neighboring Edgefield County, and I had to fill up my  
19 Suburban with about \$35.00 worth of fuel to get down  
20 here, and I guess that much to get back.

21 But I'm very appreciative of the committee  
22 going state wide at various venues, and I'm happy to  
23 be among the fine folks down here.

24 SEN. MCCONNELL: Anyone else here signed up  
25 that we didn't get their paperwork and want to be



1 heard?

2                   If not, we will stand -- where do we head  
3 tomorrow night? York. Rock Hill. We'll be up in  
4 Rock Hill. If any of you think of something you want  
5 to talk to us about, we'll be in Rock Hill tomorrow  
6 night. And Greenville -- up in Greenville on  
7 Thursday night.

8                   The Senate has done this in the past, and  
9 we've always done this. And we're delighted to see  
10 the House is having its meetings. If they wanted to  
11 come with us, that's fine.

12                   We will stand in recess.

13                   (The hearing concluded at 7:14 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the date and at the time mentioned on page 1 and the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing transcript as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the proceedings 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 4th day of April, 2011, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



*Sheri L. Byers*

Sheri L. Byers,  
Registered Professional Reporter,  
Notary Public  
State of South Carolina at Large  
My Commission expires:  
January 5, 2014