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3	REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE	
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5	PUBLIC HEARING	
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8	Thursday, April 7, 2011	
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11	Trident Technical College The College Center, 920 Building	
12	7000 Rivers Avenue North Charleston, South Carolina	
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14	REPORTED BY: JEANNETTE M. KING Court Reporter	
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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: SENATOR GLENN F. McCONNELL, CHAIRMAN SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY SENATOR ROBERT FORD SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO SENATOR GERALD MALLOY 9 STAFF PRESENT: CHARLES TERRENI KATHERINE WELLS DEBBIE HAMMOND (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

- 1 SENATOR McCONNELL: Good evening
- 2 ladies and gentleman.
- 3 I'm Glenn McConnell state senator from
- 4 Charleston, District 41, chairman of the Senate
- 5 Judiciary Committee. I want to welcome you to
- 6 the -- one of our -- in fact, our last -- this is
- 7 the 10th and final public hearing the South
- 8 Carolina Senate Judiciary Redistricting Committee
- 9 is holding across the state at this time.
- 10 I'd like to begin by giving you a
- 11 brief overview of the redistricting process so
- 12 that you can understand what we're trying to
- 13 accomplish and how tonight's hearing fits into
- 14 that process. At first let me introduce the
- 15 members of the subcommittee.
- One of these will be -- is on the way,
- 17 he'll be right here, Brad Hutto, coming to us.
- 18 It's a bipartisan group of senators. They bring
- 19 -- they're from different regions of the state.
- 20 They bring a wealth of experience on our floor
- 21 with dealing with problems and coming up with
- 22 solutions and that is why they're on this
- 23 committee.
- 24 And I'm, of course, from the low
- 25 country. Right next here on my right is Senator

- 1 Robert Ford.
- 2 SENATOR FORD: Right.
- 3 SENATOR McCONNELL: From the -- from
- 4 the Pee Dee area, we have Senator Gerald Malloy
- 5 from Darlington, and from right up the coast,
- 6 from the Grand Strand, we have Senator Ray Cleary
- 7 of Georgetown County.
- 8 As the Redistricting Subcommittee of
- 9 your Senate, we are charged with one of the most
- 10 important tasks for the General Assembly, which
- 11 is to initiate the process of redistricting. We
- 12 must recommend legislation to the Senate
- 13 Judiciary Committee which will redraw South
- 14 Carolina's 46 state Senate Districts and the
- 15 state's Congressional districts to include a new
- 16 7th seat. Likewise, there is a subcommittee in
- 17 the House of Representatives that is charged with
- 18 drawing a plan for the 124 districts in that body
- 19 of legislature and crafting its own version of a
- 20 Congressional plan.
- 21 While the House and the Senate have
- 22 historically deferred to one another when it
- 23 comes to the plans for their respective bodies,
- 24 the Congressional plans may ultimately have to be
- 25 reconciled in the legislative process through a

- 1 conference committee. In a conference committee
- 2 there is three House members and three Senators
- 3 who meet as a committee and you have to have two
- 4 votes from each House to put a bill together out
- 5 of the difference between the two bills. If the
- 6 two bodies agree on a redistricting plan, it must
- 7 be submitted to the governor for her signature in
- 8 the same manner as any other bill that is passed
- 9 by the General Assembly.
- 10 Finally, under Section 5 of the Voting
- 11 Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into law will
- 12 have to pre-cleared by the Justice Department or
- 13 the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C.,
- 14 before it can take effect.
- The reason we have to redistrict is to
- 16 ensure that our state's Legislative and
- 17 Congressional districts represent substantially
- 18 equal populations thereby ensuring that each
- 19 person's vote is given the same weight as another
- 20 in our system of representation. Ideally, each
- 21 of the state's Senate districts will have 100,552
- 22 persons and each of our state's Congressional
- 23 districts will have 660,767 persons.
- 24 The census results that were released
- 25 last Thursday tell us the standard in which the

- 1 state's districts deviate from these ideal
- 2 numbers. District lines will have to be redrawn
- 3 so that some districts gain population and others
- 4 lose population in order to restore the required
- 5 quality of representation to the districts.
- To begin the process of redrawing
- 7 districts, we are holding hearings in order to
- 8 listen to your view on the redistricting process.
- 9 Let me say at the outset that we are not here for
- 10 the purpose of considering proposed redistricting
- 11 plans because the subcommittee has yet to reach
- 12 that stage of the process. When that time comes,
- 13 we will have an opportunity for the public to
- 14 submit specific plans for the subcommittee to
- 15 consider.
- Instead, this evening we are here to
- 17 consider the building blocks of those future
- 18 plans. We need to hear your opinions on the
- 19 criteria that you believe we should follow in the
- 20 line drawing process. We also want to know about
- 21 the communities of interest that we should be
- 22 aware of when drawing new district boundaries.
- 23 Examples of redistricting criteria
- 24 would be requirements that consideration be given
- 25 to communities of interest, the cores of existing

- 1 districts, county, municipal or precinct lines,
- 2 compactness, contiquity, as well as applicable
- 3 laws and Constitutional standards. We would like
- 4 you to let us know how important these criteria
- 5 are to you and whether there are other criteria
- 6 that you believe we should take into account when
- 7 drawing the new district lines.
- 8 As for communities of interest, they
- 9 may be neighbors, towns or other political
- 10 subdivisions that have a common interest that
- 11 define them for purposes of political
- 12 representation. They could also be areas defined
- 13 by common economic interests or characteristics,
- 14 cultural affiliations, recreational interests or
- 15 other factors that cause people to identify with
- 16 one other.
- We would like to hear from you about
- 18 communities of interests that you perceive to
- 19 exist in the area and how you believe they should
- 20 be considered in the process of drawing district
- 21 boundaries.
- 22 At the beginning of this public
- 23 hearing, we ask those testifying to be clear.
- 24 Redistricting is an exact process and clarity is
- 25 a virtue. For example, when speaking about

- 1 criteria like communities of interest, it is
- 2 important that you distinguish between whether
- 3 you're talking about a Congressional or a Senate
- 4 district as the subcommittee has got to consider
- 5 both, got to draw proposals on both.
- 6 Along the same lines, please, explain
- 7 why you believe an area is a community of
- 8 interest and where it is located. To assist you
- 9 with that location we have maps available here
- 10 for you to identify for us particular areas to be
- 11 communities of interest when you speak. Feel
- 12 free to show us on the map or mark on the map.
- 13 It's okay to mark on these maps.
- 14 Second, we don't have rigid time
- 15 limits for speaking at these public hearings.
- 16 However, we would encourage you to have a goal of
- 17 speaking no more than five minutes so that
- 18 everyone can be heard
- 19 Also, if a citizen would like to
- 20 submit an extended written statement, we will
- 21 accept it for consideration. Written comments
- 22 will receive the same consideration as spoken
- 23 ones, and the handouts available for you provide
- 24 the U.S. mail and e-mail addresses to which your
- 25 comments may be sent.

- 1 Finally, in order to facilitate
- 2 communication with the subcommittee and give the
- 3 public a way of keeping track of the process, I
- 4 encourage all citizens interested to consult our
- 5 website, which is located at
- 6 http://redistricting.scsenate.gov, and knowing
- 7 that you got all of that, we put that address of
- 8 the redistricting website -- is included on the
- 9 handouts that you. You can go there.
- 10 At the website you'll find useful
- 11 information such as the dates and locations of
- 12 our public hearings and subcommittee meetings,
- 13 redistricting data, reference materials and
- 14 guidelines for future participation in the
- 15 process.
- 16 Thank you for giving your time and
- 17 being willing to contribute to this important
- 18 process.
- 19 Senator Chip Campsen is here and I'll
- 20 start with you Senator Campsen. If you have --
- 21 do you have anything that you wish to say to the
- 22 subcommittee?
- 23 If so, please, come forward.
- 24 SENATOR CAMPSEN: Thank you, Mr.
- 25 Chairman. I'll be real brief. I really don't

- 1 have any comments to make about the way the
- 2 districts are to be drawn. I'm here to really
- 3 listen as you all are as a member of the public.
- But as a senator from this area, I'd
- 5 like to welcome all of you, particularly Senator
- 6 Malloy and Senator Cleary who do live out of
- 7 town, and welcome to Charleston. Thank you for
- 8 taking time out of your busy schedule to not only
- 9 come to Charleston, I know you've been all over
- 10 the state, Florence, the upstate, all over, to
- 11 make sure we get sufficient public input in this
- 12 very important redistricting process.
- 13 Thank you for your service and welcome
- 14 to Charleston.
- 15 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.
- 16 Senator Rose, would you come forward.
- 17 I saw you back there. You have any words of
- 18 wisdom you wish to impart to us.
- 19 Like to hear from you, Senator.
- 20 SENATOR ROSE: All right. Thank you,
- 21 Mr. Chairman. I have no specific comments to
- 22 make regarding the districts. Our Dorchester
- 23 County councilman chairman, Larry Hargell, will
- 24 be making those comments.
- I do just briefly want to express an

- 1 opinion. At Dorchester, Berkeley and Charleston
- 2 counties are urban areas that have a community of
- 3 interest, and under our unique delegation system,
- 4 I think it is desirable, it is good, to have
- 5 members of the Charleston delegation of Berkeley
- 6 and Charleston and Dorchester and Charleston and
- 7 Berkeley and Dorchester and Charleston. That has
- 8 the legislature sitting down at the same table
- 9 discussing issues from a regional standpoint. So
- 10 anyway, I'm here listening also and I thank you
- 11 for your service and for doing the hard work of
- 12 going around the state collecting this
- 13 information.
- MR. McCONNELL: Thank you, Senator.
- Ms. Kaye Koonce.
- MS. KOONCE: Thank you, Chairman
- 17 McConnell, and welcome to Charleston for those of
- 18 you who have traveled to attend what I understand
- 19 is your 10th hearing now.
- 20 So first, I want to thank the
- 21 subcommittee for still sitting and being in
- 22 attendance at these meetings and also for
- 23 developing the communication systems to demystify
- 24 the redistricting process. I found that an awful
- 25 lot of people are very confused about it and your

- 1 website has been a tremendous help to a lot of
- 2 folks that I've talked to. So we appreciate your
- 3 website and the communication that you and your
- 4 staff are providing in the process.
- 5 I actually want to also thank the staff
- 6 who travelled all over the state with you for
- 7 these committees as a retired state employee. I
- 8 doubt all these new and other duties is assigned
- 9 don't usually come with additional compensation,
- 10 so energy in attending these hearings is a
- 11 significant amount of work and at least one
- 12 member of the public is recognizing that.
- 13 Thank you because it is a true public
- 14 service what all of you are doing along with your
- 15 elected officials. So as a member of the public,
- 16 thank you.
- 17 I'm here tonight actually wearing two
- 18 hats. I'm the Charleston County Executive
- 19 Committee Woman for the State Democratic Party.
- 20 However, I'm also here as a lawyer who had
- 21 volunteered in numerous voter participation and
- 22 voter protection efforts over the years, for the
- 23 last 29 years or so since I graduated from law
- 24 school.
- I cut my teeth on South Carolina

- 1 elections in the '80s and, Senator McConnell, a
- 2 gentleman that you might know, Mr. Sam McConnell.
- 3 He was the chairman of the Republican party at
- 4 that time and I learned a lot from sparring with
- 5 Sam and observing Sam and I miss working with him
- 6 and Ms. Thelma too with the election commission.
- 7 So I don't mean in saying that I've
- 8 been involved in that that many years that I'm an
- 9 expert in election law or redistricting law or
- 10 anything else for that matter. But I do have a
- 11 lot of years of experience on election
- 12 volunteering and looking at the lines and the way
- 13 the elections are conducted.
- So like most of the folks in this room,
- 15 I'm sure, I care a lot about fair elections, as I
- 16 know all of you do, and about the redistricting
- 17 process. I hope you all will do everything in
- 18 your power to draw the districts that will comply
- 19 with all the federal and state requirements
- 20 because South Carolina can't afford to spend many
- 21 tax dollars on the litigation that comes after
- 22 the plans are drawn.
- 23 So if we can help it, I think it's
- 24 easier -- us giving you as much input as we can
- 25 will go toward limiting those litigation costs.

- 1 It's obviously a political process and as it
- 2 heats up and your colleagues in the General
- 3 Assembly try to impose the inevitable political
- 4 considerations and incumbency's kinds of
- 5 considerations, I hope that both of the
- 6 reapportionment committees will do all you can to
- 7 draw a plan that will be the most effective. I
- 8 know that's your goal and why you're having these
- 9 hearings, even though we do recognize that it's
- 10 likely to end up in court regardless of your very
- 11 just efforts. Maybe it won't be as much.
- 12 All of the principles that you
- 13 mentioned in your opening statement, Mr.
- 14 Chairman, about population, equality and
- 15 impactness and contiguity --
- 16 SENATOR McCONNELL: That's a hard word.
- MS. KOONCE: It is a hard word.
- 18 Reserving political subdivisions and
- 19 preserving community interests, maintaining the
- 20 course of the district, those things are all
- 21 important enough to realize that folks will talk
- 22 about any of those. You noticed that I didn't
- 23 mention the principle of protection of incumbents
- 24 because I'm pretty sure that one is going to get
- 25 considered regardless of what we say.

- 1 I look forward to having an opportunity
- 2 though as an interested citizen in having access
- 3 to your plans as you go forward, maintaining that
- 4 website and the information for all of us
- 5 interested folks so we can watch what's happening
- 6 and respond and continue to provide input beyond
- 7 these hearings -- these ten hearings, this one
- 8 tonight.
- 9 I just want to mention one quick
- 10 example of how I think the public input is
- 11 important in all levels of the election process.
- 12 Several of you -- well, I think probably you and
- 13 Senator Ford may remember this incident, but a
- 14 few years ago the General Assembly changed the
- 15 poling place for the voters in the Charleston
- 16 precinct that voted at Joseph Floyd Manor.
- 17 Where you two senators are not from
- 18 Charleston, that's a highrise, which has senior
- 19 citizens and mainly disabled individuals that
- 20 live in these -- about 12 or 14, maybe 13,
- 21 stories tall. Before the change there were two
- 22 precincts. In the bottom -- voted in the first
- 23 floor of that building.
- 24 However, the lines were redrawn so that
- 25 the actual residents of that building were drawn

- 1 out of those precincts. They had to go up to
- 2 Rosemont to what is now known as, I think,
- 3 Freddie -- Freddie Whaley Community Center to
- 4 vote.
- Now, in the cycle the legislature
- 6 corrected that error, but they did have to vote
- 7 two times by going out of their building, and
- 8 again, these are elderly and disabled citizens.
- 9 I believe that was a honest mistake. It's kind
- 10 of hard to figure out who, because everybody is
- 11 pointing fingers at other -- in each direction,
- 12 toward the legislator, the election commissioner
- 13 or whoever.
- 14 But the point was, if -- it was a
- 15 mistake that could have been avoided with more
- 16 public input. Had the legislators talked to
- 17 party leaders of both parties and asked -- in
- 18 that precinct and asked them, or really any
- 19 resident in that precinct, I think that would
- 20 have been avoided.
- 21 My point is that the elected and party
- 22 leaders of both parties can provide useful
- 23 information to you in all this process and I hope
- 24 you will take that opportunity or give us that
- 25 opportunity to provide that information beyond

- 1 these hearings.
- 2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.
- 3 MS. KOONCE: The one community of
- 4 interest concept that I also want you to consider
- 5 is an idea -- I think it's common sense. It's a
- 6 community of interest that would look at the
- 7 media markets in the state and how they fit
- 8 together with our communities, cities and
- 9 municipalities.
- 10 For example, you know, here in
- 11 Charleston, there are two Congressional
- 12 districts, the 1st and the 6th. They encompass
- 13 several media markets, Charleston, Florence,
- 14 Myrtle Beach. I guess part of Myrtle Beach and
- 15 Columbia and that's inefficient for the
- 16 candidates, but it also, and more important
- 17 probably, is inefficient and difficult for
- 18 citizens to understand which of all of those
- 19 candidates really is going to be their elected
- 20 official.
- Now, that's true in both Congress and
- 22 for the Senate, so I guess that's an overlapping
- 23 concept. But the voters here in the -- in those
- 24 media markets, in Charleston for instance, hear
- 25 advertisements for two or more Congressional

- 1 candidates and two or more Senate candidates. I
- 2 don't know that they're -- that is certainly not
- 3 the only consideration, but I think it is worth
- 4 looking at.
- 5 And actually, I don't want to go
- 6 through all the details of this. I discovered
- 7 this idea when I was researching how communities
- 8 of interest might be better defined and it comes
- 9 from a 2010 Indiana law review article by an
- 10 attorney out in Colorado and I'll provide that
- 11 information to you. It's only six pages. It's
- 12 not a long article, but I hope you will consider
- 13 that.
- 14 And the second point that I want to
- 15 make is related to the legal authority and
- 16 responsibility, of course, of the redistricting
- 17 committees. I know the state doesn't use
- 18 commissioners and I know, of course, the
- 19 legislator takes its responsibilities very
- 20 seriously. But about 20 states do have some
- 21 version of a commission and it appears from the
- 22 findings, those states have less litigation or
- 23 fewer lawsuits than the states who don't utilize
- 24 some form of a commission, so I'd ask you to
- 25 review that.

- 1 As you probably know there is a
- 2 tremendous amount of information about these
- 3 redistricting commissions from the National
- 4 Conference of State Legislators. So I won't go
- 5 through all those options and I know the time is
- 6 limited.
- 7 But I do hope that you'll look at that
- 8 as an option. There are a number of variations
- 9 on those things that I think will help us, again,
- 10 to minimize litigation.
- I don't sound like a lawyer, but -- I
- 12 keep talking about minimizing litigation but I
- 13 think it's the state's best interest and the
- 14 voters' best interest if we would do that.
- So thank you very much for your time,
- 16 again, and I appreciate all of you being here and
- 17 allowing us to take part.
- MR. McCONNELL: Thank you.
- 19 Susan Breslin.
- MS. BRESLIN: Good evening. I'm
- 21 speaking tonight on behalf of the Charleston --
- 22 Charleston Democratic Party. The Chair is in --
- 23 on the other coast or otherwise he would be here.
- 24 As I would like to first thank you very
- 25 much for coming, particularly coming to

- 1 Charleston. As you know, the others is not
- 2 coming to Charleston. We have to go to them some
- 3 distance. And thank you for having all these
- 4 hearings and for making the process so open and I
- 5 particularly appreciate your website. I use it a
- 6 great deal. It's very, very helpful.
- 7 And I'm absolutely convinced that you
- 8 want public participation in this process and I
- 9 certainly -- certainly we applaud that.
- 10 I'd like to express support for the
- 11 editorial that ran from the Post and Courier this
- 12 morning encouraging you to make districts
- 13 competitive. I know that's a hard concept when
- 14 your own seats are at stake, but particularly the
- 15 standard districts. They are so weird in shape
- 16 to be existing districts most of them.
- 17 They are -- they are known -- the
- 18 original gerrymander that led to the word looks
- 19 something like an awful lot of these districts.
- 20 Something else was in the works when they drew
- 21 ten years ago and I hope that you will be able
- 22 to come up with districts that are much more
- 23 compact, more cohesive and more respectful.
- 24 With respect to specific criteria for
- 25 you to look, we, of course, endorse the

- 1 principles that you enunciated, Chairman
- 2 McConnell, with the possible exception of keeping
- 3 the cores of districts intact. I'm not sure
- 4 what that really means. It could be interrupted
- 5 a number of ways, but that's not one of the
- 6 principles.
- 7 With respect to Congressional
- 8 districts, you have such a great opportunity to
- 9 add a new district. I would ask you above
- 10 everything else to keep the counties intact.
- 11 Charleston County and half the city of Charleston
- 12 is split right now in two Congressional districts
- 13 and it doesn't make a lot of sense.
- I know if you can't do anything where
- 15 every county has it own -- you know, there has to
- 16 be some kind of splits. But as a major
- 17 principle, keep the county intact. The county is
- 18 a community of interest. It shares the same
- 19 problems in a way that people in other
- 20 counties -- even Berkeley and Dorchester, have
- 21 common concerns, but Berkeley and Dorchester are
- 22 different from Charleston.
- Now, Charleston needs someone in
- 24 Congress who understands Charleston's problems.
- 25 So that will be extremely important to us.

- 1 In terms of the Senate districts, the
- 2 thing that's most troubling to me about the
- 3 Senate districts as they exist now is the -- they
- 4 split communities all over the place. I live on
- 5 Folly Beach.
- 6 I'm represented by Senator Campsen.
- 7 His district takes in a piece of James Island and
- 8 then it goes over to the peninsula -- and one
- 9 part shoots up the peninsula and goes in to
- 10 Hanahan and another part of it goes into Mt.
- 11 Pleasant where it splits in the middle. That
- 12 part of Senator Campsen's district is split by
- 13 Senator Cleary's district.
- 14 Senator Cleary's district comes between
- 15 two parts of Senator Campsen's district. And
- 16 poor Senior Cleary has to go all the way from --
- 17 I don't know how high, but to campaign -- I mean,
- 18 these people have to campaign in these districts.
- 19 I feel sorry for them.
- But you know, we're being hurt on James
- 21 Island by being split into two Senate districts.
- 22 Senator McConnell, you used to represent me on
- 23 Folly Beach and they took away a piece of it and
- 24 gave it to somebody who is a fine senator.
- 25 I'm not objecting to him, but he lives

- 1 in Mt. Pleasant. He knows Mt. Pleasant. He
- 2 ought to represent Mt. Pleasant and we ought to
- 3 have somebody who understands the problems we
- 4 face out on Folly Beach.
- 5 And Mt. Pleasant ought to have one
- 6 senator who understands the whole thing. It said
- 7 it has three senators and I understand little
- 8 pieces of it districts.
- 9 The second thing that happens when that
- 10 kind of chopping takes place is that -- which is
- 11 a particular concern of ours is the historically
- 12 black communities are separated. They are all
- 13 over Charleston County. I'm not speaking for any
- 14 other county, but they're all over Charleston
- 15 County.
- They're split on James Island between
- 17 two senators. They're split in the Neck and into
- 18 West Charleston and through two senators. They
- 19 are split in Mt. Pleasant. I can't even count
- 20 whether they're split two ways or three. I think
- 21 probably three ways.
- These are people who have lived there
- 23 for a very long time who have very special
- 24 problems in keeping their communities intact.
- 25 These are people who go to church together, who

- 1 go to lunches together, who share events
- 2 together. But when it comes to their political
- 3 representations, they can't talk to each other
- 4 because their representative are separate people.
- 5 And that is not -- to my mind, that
- 6 violates the voting rights act. That really
- 7 devastates the strength of minority communities,
- 8 particularly historically minority communities,
- 9 with their very special problems.
- 10 So in summary, I would ask you to pay
- 11 tremendous attention to the boundaries of
- 12 communities. We would be happy to supply you
- 13 information on particular communities of interest
- 14 and the special concerns of older communities
- 15 that are struggling in a sea of development
- 16 around.
- 17 And again, thank you very much for
- 18 being here. We appreciate it.
- 19 SENATOR McCONNELL: Angie Chum.
- MS. CHUMLEE: Chumlee.
- 21 SENATOR McCONNELL: How did I get that
- 22 wrong? Tell me.
- MS. CHUMLEE: Because I did not write
- 24 that.
- 25 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, ma'am.

1 I --

- MS. CHUMLEE: Thank you. I would like
- 3 to thank the committee for giving us this
- 4 opportunity to address you about redistricting
- 5 and some of our concerns.
- I live in Dorchester County. My
- 7 Senatorial District 38 and Congressional District
- 8 6.
- 9 I'm not going to take much of your
- 10 time, but one of my most important concern is
- 11 when you redistrict is -- I know you do it by
- 12 community interest, but economic interest is very
- 13 important. One that needs to be considered.
- 14 The rural part of Dorchester County
- 15 right now, we are lacking water and sewer. And
- 16 you say to describe why water and sewer -- you
- 17 have family in Dorchester County that cluster
- 18 together. And I say cluster, that means they
- 19 literally up on each other due to the fact that
- 20 the property in which they have, they cannot get
- 21 it perked.
- 22 So then they don't -- they cannot --
- 23 according to the law, you cannot live or put
- 24 anything there if you're not perked. And this is
- 25 real serious. They do not have the quality

- 1 lifestyle that they wish to have, that they would
- 2 want.
- 3 And then also, it's -- in Ridgeville
- 4 section -- Ridgeville has one fire station --
- 5 that live beyond five miles range which cause
- 6 everybody else in rural for your insurance and
- 7 property could be higher. So this is some
- 8 concern -- that when you do redistrict consider
- 9 community interest as well as economic interest.
- 10 I thank you.
- 11 SENATOR McCONNELL: Pete Anderson.
- 12 MR. ANDERSON: I am from Edisto Beach
- 13 and I'm here tonight to see if you could help us
- 14 out a little bit. We have 414 permanent
- 15 residents who represent 40 percent of Colleton
- 16 County tax base. And we have three senators and
- 17 none of them live in Colleton County and there's
- 18 a lot of things that we need and I don't know
- 19 within the last -- some of them have never been
- 20 to Edisto lately.
- I mean, like both of you guys have been
- 22 there. They have too, but not lately.
- But I would like to encourage you to
- 24 try to draw this thing and put us somewhere.
- 25 Like some of these other people, we need some

- 1 help. We need -- we need to have a senator that
- 2 we could -- that lives in Colleton County, that
- 3 knows Colleton County and that would be a big
- 4 help to us.
- 5 Thank you very much.
- 6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Larry Hargell.
- 7 MR. HARGELL: Thank you, Senator
- 8 McConnell.
- 9 I have copies of my address I will give
- 10 to you after I deliver it. It's about three
- 11 minutes.
- But anyway, my name is Larry Hargell.
- 13 I am chairman of the Dorchester County Council.
- 14 I am here to express opinions on behalf of myself
- 15 and Dorchester County about important factors
- 16 that should determine within Dorchester County
- 17 boundaries of districts of United States
- 18 Congress, South Carolina State Senate and South
- 19 Carolina House of Representatives.
- 20 In order for voters to feel connected
- 21 to and confident in the legislator that's elected
- 22 to serve them, district boundaries for all
- 23 elected positions should be drawn to include
- 24 certain communities of interest. In Dorchester
- 25 County those communities of interest are as

- 1 follows, lower Dorchester County.
- 2 The primary community of interest in
- 3 Dorchester includes residents in Summerville, and
- 4 within a mile or so on both sides of the
- 5 following roads, Dorchester Road between Ashley
- 6 Phosphate Road and Orangeburg Road and Trolley
- 7 Road, Ladson Road, Bacons Bridge Road, boundaries
- 8 for, let's say, districts should include those
- 9 areas. Another community of interest is upper
- 10 and middle Dorchester County. The rural areas
- 11 west and north of lower Dorchester County as
- 12 defined above is a community of interest
- 13 distinctly separate from the urban areas of lower
- 14 Dorchester County as defined above.
- 15 Another area of community of interest
- 16 is Summerville itself. Part of the town of
- 17 Summerville is in Berkeley County and part is in
- 18 Dorchester County. Parts of the town of
- 19 Summerville is in the rural areas and part is in
- 20 the urban areas of Dorchester County.
- 21 Much of the town of Summerville is new
- 22 territory annexed since the last redistricting
- 23 years ago. Traditionally, the town of
- 24 Lincolnville and areas of Ladson in Charleston
- 25 County have been considered part of Summerville.

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- 1 As a result of all of this, Summerville no longer
- 2 is a single community of interest and districts
- 3 within the town of Summerville could be split,
- 4 some of the areas in lower Dorchester and
- 5 adjoining Charleston and Berkeley Counties.
- 6 Lower Dorchester County has a
- 7 population similar in characteristics to that of
- 8 urban Berkeley and urban Dorchester County. As a
- 9 result, district boundaries could include
- 10 portions of the urban portions of two or three of
- 11 these counties. End result, residents with those
- 12 boundaries feeling they are being represented as
- 13 a community of interest.
- 14 County legislative delegation system --
- 15 because of South Carolina's unique county
- 16 legislative delegation system, it is important
- 17 that Dorchester County have one or more senators
- 18 and one House member who reside in Dorchester
- 19 County.
- 20 Further, because of this county
- 21 delegation system and the fact that the residents
- 22 of lower Dorchester County and adjoining Berkeley
- 23 and Charleston Counties have common concerns and
- 24 demographic characteristics, it would be good for
- 25 state legislators residing in Dorchester,

- 1 Berkeley and Charleston counties to serve on
- 2 these other legislative delegations by
- 3 representing some of the geographic areas of
- 4 adjoining counties.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to
- 6 express these views about redistricting and I
- 7 appreciate the work that you've put in. I will
- 8 give you copies for everyone.
- 9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Dewitt Williams.
- 10 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
- 11 and his panel and to my fellow citizens.
- 12 I'm Dewitt Williams from St. Stephens,
- 13 South Carolina. 92 years old. Of reasonable
- 14 health and a good mind and I'm not running for
- 15 nothing. I'm running for life.
- Now, I would hope that this panel would
- 17 look after these districts and do it for a more
- 18 level playing ground. I'm against so called safe
- 19 districts. If you're worth your salt, you can be
- 20 elected again. For this so called safe district,
- 21 first got to lose the attitude. You don't have
- 22 to do nothing and I'll be elected again.
- Thank you so much for your time.
- 24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Jonathan Hoffman.
- MR. HOFFMAN: That's very difficult to

- 1 follow up.
- 2 Thank you for your time today. I have
- 3 very similar feelings of the gentleman before me.
- I wanted to know -- and I thought there
- 5 would be more -- I want to hear more from you
- 6 gentlemen on -- talking about discussions you
- 7 have had as a group with regard to turning to a
- 8 system where we no longer have gerrymanding based
- 9 on political affiliation, go back to the basic
- 10 equivocal compactive size, the existing political
- 11 boundaries. Wanted to know if that has happened
- 12 and if it hasn't why you guys have chosen to
- 13 stick with a system that creates more of
- 14 protection systems as well as systems that
- 15 depends on how political winds are blowing, tends
- 16 to favor one party over another based on the
- 17 number of seats that are able to be created.
- And then finally, the only thing that I
- 19 ask is that community interest should be taken in
- 20 consideration of the voters. It's their
- 21 districts. They shouldn't be become vices. The
- 22 more competitive we have, the better it is,
- 23 better outcomes we get and the less divisive
- 24 conduct there is in Columbia and in Washington.
- Thank you.

- 1 SENATOR McCONNELL: Joseph Darby.
- 2 MR. DARBY: Good afternoon, gentleman.
- 3 Thank you for the opportunities and I will e-mail
- 4 this to you this week.
- 5 My name is Joseph Darby. I appear
- 6 before you tonight as First Vice-president of
- 7 Charleston branch of NAACP. National Advancement
- 8 of Colored People is to insure political,
- 9 educational, social and economic equality and
- 10 rights of all persons and to eliminate race based
- 11 discrimination. Our agenda is not only a civil
- 12 rights agenda but an American agenda. As our
- 13 pledge of allegiance urges us to be one nation
- 14 under God indivisible with liberty and justice
- 15 for all, urges to remember those noble words as
- 16 you try to take the awesome tasks of
- 17 redistricting.
- 18 You do so by representing democracy.
- 19 The citizens of our state and nation elect those
- 20 who will see to their best interest and make for
- 21 them the policy. That priviledge was long denied
- 22 to many Americans, but today, all citizens have
- 23 the right to elect those who will make better
- 24 decisions.
- 25 The responsibility of redistricting

- 1 therefore should not be partisan political
- 2 advantage, but districts will allow all citizens
- 3 to fairly and equitably to have their say on
- 4 election day. Too often today politicians take
- 5 extreme positions and say that they're standing
- 6 up for the people.
- 7 The people include those who celebrate
- 8 confederate heritage, those whose ancestors were
- 9 slaves, those who came to the United States in
- 10 the current wave of immigration. The people live
- 11 in prosperous Greenville County and in impoverished
- 12 Allendale County.
- The people send their children to
- 14 school along the I95 and the I85 corridors. The
- 15 people are CEOs, small business owners and ditch
- 16 diggers and those who clean hotel rooms.
- 17 Keep the people in mind as you
- 18 undertake the redistricting process and see that
- 19 our state Senate and House districts reflect
- 20 economic and culture and political well being for
- 21 all people. That goes especially with our
- 22 Congressional districts since you have a
- 23 wonderful opportunity to create a new
- 24 Congressional district this time.
- 25 It is our hope that that Congressional

- 1 district will give a little balance to our
- 2 Congressional delegation so that those in
- 3 Columbia and those in Washington would look more
- 4 like all of the people.
- 5 Thank you very much.
- 6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Larry Kobrusky.
- 7 MR. KOBRUSKY: First, thank you for
- 8 coming tonight. It's an honor speaking in front
- 9 of you. I know you have a very busy agenda and I
- 10 appreciate the opportunity.
- 11 I'm speaking tonight with regard to the
- 12 Congressional redistricting, the U.S.
- 13 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. I
- 14 personally had the opportunity to run for
- 15 Congress, and as a rare opportunity as this is,
- 16 it went all the way from the North Carolina line,
- 17 all the way from Charleston County, and I ask you
- 18 today when you do the redistricting to consider
- 19 making one based in Charleston and Berkeley and
- 20 Dorchester and give the Grand Strand their own
- 21 Congressional district as they deserve with the
- 22 increased population there in the Myrtle Beach
- 23 and Georgetown County.
- I had the opportunity to personally
- 25 walk the district and it raises other issues for

- 1 me. I'm here today about the Constitution and
- 2 also the Voting Rights Act, the preclearance
- 3 requirement. Our Constitution under Article 4,
- 4 Section 4, guarantees to every state or
- 5 republican form government, which means self
- 6 government.
- 7 With regard to the Section 5 of the
- 8 Voting Rights Act, that has to do with conditions
- 9 that existed in the '50 and early '60s. We're
- 10 now almost 50 years from that. I ask you to
- 11 join with the effort to take on the preclearance
- 12 requirement.
- Not all the Voting Rights Act, but that
- 14 section, because what it's saying is that you, as
- 15 a representative, are too depraved to make
- 16 decision based on local matters, matters of the
- 17 election process, matters of changing voting
- 18 districts. That's a local matter. Not subject
- 19 to the whims of federal bureaucrats in
- 20 Washington.
- 21 If you're a republican now, there may be
- 22 a democrat administration. Times can shift. The
- 23 next administration could be conservative
- 24 republicans. Whether you're a democrat or
- 25 republican, these are decisions that we need to

- 1 make.
- 2 There is no evidence in the last 45
- 3 years that we're the same South Carolina as we
- 4 were in the early '50s and '60s. I point out in
- 5 my own race that Tim Scott, who was a black
- 6 conservative, won his seat. And in our primary,
- 7 he won every precinct in Charleston County except
- 8 the three that I won.
- 9 In the governor's race, you had Nikki
- 10 Haley, a woman whose parents were from India and
- 11 she was raised a Sikh. She won every single
- 12 precinct in Charleston County, often by two or
- 13 three to one. That means the Republican primary
- 14 for Congress and governor, the only one to win
- 15 any precincts were a black candidate, a woman
- 16 whose parents are from India and the Jewish
- 17 candidate. There is no evidence that people are
- 18 not voting for minorities.
- 19 The presidential election, the same
- 20 county where Tim Scott, who is a conservative
- 21 black male, President Obama won. I think we all
- 22 agree he was a liberal democrat. So it shows
- 23 that people are voting for the man, the same
- 24 overwhelming majority that voted for him also
- 25 voted for Tim Scott.

- 1 In Charleston County, the chairman for
- 2 the Charleston School Board has been black for
- 3 most of the last ten years or chairman of county
- 4 council, I think, for eight of the last ten
- 5 years. So I ask you to consider the -- not -- to
- 6 take on preclearance requirement, make those
- 7 decisions.
- 8 And I'm going to hand you at the
- 9 conclusion of my remarks a copy of the
- 10 Constitution and also, the United States Supreme
- 11 Court in Zell versus Miller (sic) had this to
- 12 say, this goes to the redistricting, saying that
- 13 the Voting Rights Act does not trump the 14th
- 14 Amendment. It did not have racial
- 15 gerrymandering.
- 16 It says, Just as the state cannot
- 17 segregate citizens of race in all public parks,
- 18 all armed forces and schools and not separate the
- 19 citizens in the different voting districts on the
- 20 basis of race.
- 21 This is the United States Supreme
- 22 Court.
- 23 At the heart of the Constitution,
- 24 guarantee of equal protection lies the simple
- 25 command that government must treat citizens as

- 1 individuals rather than as components of racial,
- 2 religious, sex or national classes. Race based
- 3 assignment of voters that districts embodies
- 4 stereotypes, that treat individuals as products
- 5 of their race, thereby evaluating their cause and
- 6 efforts, their very worth as citizens, according
- 7 to criteria barred to the government by history
- 8 by the Constitution.
- 9 It goes further to address the Voting
- 10 Right Act. It specifically says, This -- when
- 11 they outlawed the Georgia district, it said it
- 12 was racially gerrymand. It says that Georgia's
- 13 interest in complying with the Justice Department
- 14 preclearance demands did not use -- did not
- 15 justify use of racial gerrymanding, the great
- 16 white majority Congressional district, so
- 17 therefore, it's saying that the Voting Rights Act
- 18 does not give you the authority to treat people
- 19 as racial statistics rather than individual
- 20 Americans. Treat us as citizens, treat us as --
- I saw this first hand when I walked
- 22 this district. There's parts of Charleston, you
- 23 cannot look at it any other way, that sections
- 24 were blocked off to be in the 6th Congressional
- 25 district solely seeing people as racial

- 1 statistics. They're three parts of Charleston
- 2 County, parts of the peninsula, parts of the
- 3 lower part, the county, parts of North
- 4 Charleston. Sections are literally sectioned
- 5 off, treating people as racial statistics and
- 6 putting in another Congressional district in the
- 7 county will help common interest.
- 8 And I say this as a concerned
- 9 Republican. If you do not use the Voting Right
- 10 Act, the 1st Congressional district is evenly
- 11 balanced between Democrats and Republicans.
- 12 Charleston County has probably shifted now to
- 13 become a very competitive one that -- and I point
- 14 out that our former Congressman lost in
- 15 Charleston County very heavily even without the
- 16 6th Congressional district's population in there.
- 17 You will create a balanced Congressional
- 18 district, want elections to be based on ideas not
- 19 based on race.
- 20 And I also -- I heard some eloquent
- 21 speakers before, but many of our families came
- 22 from other places. As I said, when I ran for
- 23 office, I carried my grandfather's citizenship
- 24 papers. My family being Jewish wandered the
- 25 earth for 2,000 years.

- 1 America is unique in the history of the
- 2 world. It's the only place where you're treated
- 3 as an individual. It doesn't matter what your
- 4 race is. Many people came here from all over the
- 5 world for that. It's not the case. Look at
- 6 Eastern Europe, look at Yugoslavia. We want to
- 7 take that on.
- 8 A lot of Eastern Europe -- before the
- 9 second World War, they did have different voting
- 10 -- different precincts for different races. If
- 11 you were Russian, Polish or Jewish, you voted
- 12 for -- your percentage of the population and you
- 13 had separate districts assigned to you. So you
- 14 voted for the Jewish candidate, the Russian
- 15 candidate, the Polish candidate. That's
- 16 basically what the voting rights has done.
- 17 It had an important role to play in the
- 18 '60s in assuring that the right to vote was for
- 19 people, for all Americans. And that's been --
- 20 nobody has been denied the right to register to
- 21 vote now or to vote for whoever they want. What
- 22 it does now is segregates us into aparthied
- 23 districts where you have black race and white
- 24 race with districts that separates us in
- 25 Charleston County and divide people rather than

- 1 unite them.
- 2 It makes us have elections about race,
- 3 not ideas. I ask you -- the 6th Congressional
- 4 District rather -- I believe is unconstitutional.
- 5 I just -- if I had been aware then what I know
- 6 now in the voting rights, I probably would have
- 7 brought a case at that time to declare it
- 8 unconstitutional.
- 9 And if the redistricting process goes
- 10 ahead and the Justice Department requires race
- 11 based gerrymander and treats people as racial
- 12 statistics and not as individuals, I believe that
- 13 would be unconstitutional.
- 14 It is not -- I will leave you with that
- 15 Supreme Court case. If that's your task, is to
- 16 comply with the Supreme Court and the U.S.
- 17 Constitution, I ask you to do what's best for
- 18 individuals, for commonality of interest. Don't
- 19 break up communities based on race and treat us
- 20 as individuals.
- 21 And that's the message I want to leave
- 22 with you today and that's something that makes us
- 23 unique in America, that that's our heritage. It
- 24 wasn't like that but we should do what's best,
- 25 not refer to the past and divide and conquer,

- 1 divide things out as a racial spoil system, but
- 2 treat us as individuals, Americans, and restore a
- 3 sovereignty to South Carolina.
- 4 And remember what they're saying, if
- 5 you have to preclear things by bureaucrats in
- 6 Washington, they're saying that you're not
- 7 worldly enlightened enough to make those
- 8 decisions yourself and they're saying in the
- 9 early '60s, the legislator was trying to stay one
- 10 step ahead of the Justice Department and maintain
- 11 segregation. I don't think anybody can state any
- 12 case that that's happened in 40 years.
- We can disagree whether things are
- 14 conservative or liberal but nobody is trying to
- 15 deny somebody the right to register to vote,
- 16 nobody is trying to deny the right to vote for
- 17 whoever you want. The participation, I know in
- 18 Charleston County, the black and white voters was
- 19 probably the same.
- I think there was a higher percentage
- 21 of black turnout at the presidential election
- 22 than there was white turnout. Those are no
- 23 longer issues in Charleston County. We shouldn't
- 24 be bound by what happened 40 or 50 years ago.
- 25 We're a much different state now.

- 1 I encourage you to resist the easy step
- 2 of just referring to the Justice Department.
- 3 Make those efforts yourself and restore local
- 4 sovereignty.
- 5 I'd like to leave you with the
- 6 Constitution and the Supreme Court's case that I
- 7 talked about, which I believe is law of the land,
- 8 and it says support of the Voting Rights Act does
- 9 not trump the Constitution, it does not trump the
- 10 fact that you have to treat people as individual
- 11 citizens and not racial citizens.
- 12 Otherwise, you're saying that some
- 13 people who are in a racially gerrymander district
- 14 that their vote doesn't count as much. It
- 15 creates a people who see themselves racial
- 16 warriors rather than representing everybody and
- 17 there's never any primary challenge in those
- 18 districts.
- 19 We need to be treated as individuals
- 20 and have elections about ideas and not race.
- 21 Thank you.
- MR. McCONNELL: Dr. Sharon Young.
- DR. YOUNG: I'm Dr. Sharon Young and I
- 24 thank you very much for coming to the low country
- 25 and giving all of us an opportunity to have an

- 1 input into what's going on.
- 2 I've heard some wonderfully, eloquently
- 3 presented ideas and thoughts regarding the
- 4 concepts needed to be followed and I can say Amen
- 5 to each one of them. I live in an area of
- 6 Bonneau, South Carolina, which is in Berkeley
- 7 County. I'm in part of that gerrymandered district
- 8 area.
- 9 One of the things that I'd probably
- 10 underline that I've heard you say, you're going
- 11 in the direction is the fact that we are
- 12 neighborhoods, we are neighbors, we are friends,
- 13 we are communities, and I think that's where we
- 14 need to keep the focus as lines are drawn. We
- 15 need to realize that as neighbors, our children
- 16 are going to the same schools, they're playing in
- 17 the same recreational facilities, the same games.
- 18 They're also looking for jobs. They
- 19 are family jobs for our young people. We also
- 20 need, as someone pointed out, community services.
- 21 We need sewers, water and law enforcement
- 22 throughout the area. I know these are not the
- 23 same. If you live in a rural area, their needs
- 24 are not the same as those in urban areas.
- 25 So I think as you look at drawing, if

- 1 you make us -- as one of our former speakers
- 2 said, make the areas compact, make them cohesive,
- 3 make them geographically local. I don't think
- 4 you'll have the trouble with media outreach
- 5 because those areas will have their media of
- 6 whatever it is.
- 7 And we will also then be able to
- 8 maintain and/or establish wider, stronger
- 9 community bases from which to work. And as our
- 10 former speaker just noted, that's not based on
- 11 race. That's based on common needs and on common
- 12 interest and on knowing your neighbors and
- 13 looking out for your neighbor and I think it was
- 14 along a line that will make it for Congressional
- 15 but with national, Senatorial and Congressional
- 16 state wide. We need to make it so that we have
- 17 neighborhoods and not have districts that stand
- 18 the length of our state or the width of our
- 19 state. And we need people who know one another,
- 20 work together, and then they'll support what's
- 21 going on in Columbia or in Washington.
- Thank you very much for this
- 23 opportunity.
- 24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Derrick Reddick.
- 25 MR. REDDICK: I'm sorry. I missed a

- 1 lot of questions and stuff that people has been
- 2 asking. I just walked through the door.
- 4 you all and good evening to the public who
- 5 allowing this.
- 6 My first question would be at this
- 7 point pretty good. That's the first thing.
- 8 Second thing is, I did hear two speakers which
- 9 focused on some stuff that was real good.
- 10 A lot of people say race, and I hate
- 11 to, you know, get into that. The thing, it's not
- 12 basically race, it's culture. That's what it is.
- 13 It's culture. We were raised -- each and
- 14 everyone one of us raised different.
- The second thing is I would like to
- 16 speak on, I was supposed to -- been to two
- 17 funerals today that happened up in Berkeley, the
- 18 lower part of Berkeley County, and the two
- 19 gentleman that died was 17 years old.
- 20 The newspaper reported a couple other
- 21 issues, that they was older than that, but they
- 22 was 17 years old. I knew for a fact because we
- 23 and a couple of other gentlemen take the kids up
- 24 to Sumter to play basketball. People say
- 25 community service -- when they say community

- 1 service, the first thing they going to talk about
- 2 is the police. For what?
- 3 Let these kids get some education.
- 4 That's the first thing. If you get an education,
- 5 you get the jobs and what have you, and there're
- 6 jobs here. If you need deterrents, you need --
- 7 not able -- don't do this and don't do that.
- 8 That don't do because all of that is an
- 9 intervention. It could be based on intervention.
- 10 That's what it's based on. Everybody could do
- 11 intervention.
- 12 If we're going to get a senator up in
- 13 that area or a -- I'm sorry, a senator and a
- 14 Congressman, I'd like to see them working, not
- 15 come out, make speeches, this, that and the
- 16 other. If you put a community center, which is
- 17 what I'm trying to do -- sorry, I'm trying to get
- 18 the community involved in.
- 19 We're trying to get the kids to
- 20 understand. First thing we do with them is
- 21 explain to the kids. Same thing with kids. I'm
- 22 58 years old and I was raised right here in the
- 23 south. When I go to school and do something, I
- 24 would have to report to six people before I got
- 25 home. In other words, when they said it takes a

- 1 community to raise a child and the first one get
- 2 out of place is to blame ourselves because we no
- 3 longer raise children anymore. We let the T.V.,
- 4 the internet, raise them.
- 5 But if you put a place out there where
- 6 they can go play basketball, put some supervisors
- 7 in the gym or what have you, because everybody
- 8 don't play baseball and everybody don't play
- 9 football. Basketball is the next to both sports.
- 10 You put it there, let them play baseball, let
- 11 them have a gym.
- 12 The second thing is in the meanwhile
- 13 you're playing basketball, you got place for a
- 14 GED right there on the spot. GED. You've got
- 15 other classes for the kids, things to do. And I
- 16 would like to say I hope the next senator, if we
- 17 get one, will do that.
- 18 All right. Thank you all for letting
- 19 me speak even though it was too fast.
- Thank you all.
- 21 SENATOR McCONNELL: Representative Wendel
- 22 Gilliard, do you have anything you wish to say.
- 23 It's your chance to talk to the Senate?
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE GILLIARD: Thank you, Senators.
- 25 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

- 1 REPRESENTATIVE GILLIARD: Senator Glenn
- 2 McConnell. I appreciate the moment.
- 3 Whatever happens or whatever the
- 4 results out of all of this, I think foremost
- 5 it's -- our responsibility is to listen to the
- 6 citizens and let them know that their voices,
- 7 their concerns has been adhered to. I see -- I
- 8 look around this room and I see a lot of people
- 9 here and I'm going to be quick, short, because I
- 10 really think they will listen to the people.
- No matter how you look at it, right
- 12 now, we do have an opportunity for a 7th
- 13 Congressional District and I hope the opportunity
- 14 will finally let the country know that the state
- 15 of South Carolina is listening to the voices of
- 16 the people. No matter how you shake it up, we
- 17 have six Congressional districts now. Five out
- 18 of the six, we have republican representation,
- 19 one is democrat. That should speak unto itself.
- Thank you.
- 21 SENATOR McCONNELL: Before we conclude
- 22 tonight -- and that concludes all the people who
- 23 asked to be heard -- somebody bringing a sheet.
- While that's happening, if you signed
- 25 up tonight, you notified the subcommittee, go

- 1 ahead and tell you that the committee will --
- 2 when it recedes tonight will proceed to meet on
- 3 Wednesday at 9 a.m. in Room 308 at the Senate
- 4 office building to consider the testimony that we
- 5 received and looking at the building blocks,
- 6 which are the criteria.
- Jane Pulling, do I have that correct?
- 8 MS. PULLING: Yes, you do.
- 9 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.
- 10 MS. PULLING: I hope I'm not last.
- 11 SENATOR McCONNELL: There is one more
- 12 after you.
- MS. PULLING: Excellent.
- I am Jane Pulling. I'm a
- 15 representative of Berkeley County, Pinopolis,
- 16 South Carolina. My senator is Paul Campbell,
- 17 District 44, and I'm in the 1st Congressional
- 18 District and I'm secretary and alternative.
- 19 The two points that I'd like to make I
- 20 think have been made tonight, but perhaps not by
- 21 someone from Berkeley County. The first point
- 22 that I would like to make is that I've been --
- 23 that both political parties have critical
- 24 important information to share in this
- 25 redistricting process.

- 1 Local, county parties have an intimate
- 2 knowledge of communities of interest. So I would
- 3 just encourage this committee and the Senate as a
- 4 whole when they consider the redistricting
- 5 process to really receive that input from a
- 6 political party.
- 7 I personally believe, and this is my
- 8 belief, that this state desperately needs a
- 9 viable two-party system. I think that many of
- 10 the ills that we suffer state wide could be
- 11 corrected if we had a fair balance in the
- 12 legislature and to that end, all of the republican
- 13 party is in charge of this process at the
- 14 legislator level and at the gubernatorial level.
- 15 I would just ask that you consider the
- 16 needs of those who may not be formally
- 17 represented, and I guess I'm thinking of treating
- 18 others as you would wish to be treated if you
- 19 were the party out of power. I think that there
- 20 is more balance than we think in this state and I
- 21 think that's been amply demonstrated by several
- 22 speakers.
- I would refer back to the last
- 24 gubernatorial election, the results were 52
- 25 percent to 49 percent. That's not an mandate in

- 1 anybody's vote and I think it speaks to a greater
- 2 balance that I believe exists.
- 3 And then I'd like to close by echoing
- 4 the comments of Senator Williams, who is much
- 5 better looking than I am and much more charming,
- 6 but I think he has it right, we don't need
- 7 gerrymandered districts in South Carolina anymore.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Gwendlyn Robinson.
- MS. ROBINSON: Good evening. My name
- 11 is Gwendlyn Robinson and I live in Mt. Pleasant.
- 12 And when I heard about this issue, I
- 13 sent an e-mail to as many people as I could get
- 14 it to because I realize how important this is and
- 15 hopefully, the community realizes how important
- 16 it is.
- And one of the things that gets my
- 18 attention, I think I heard at least one speaker
- 19 apologize for mentioning race. Well, I never
- 20 apologize for mentioning race. I want you to
- 21 know who I am and when people deal with me, I
- 22 want you to be conscious of it because I don't --
- 23 I'm always reminded of who you are. And when
- 24 black people stop apologizing for being black and
- 25 while people start squirming in their seats when

- 1 an issue of race is mentioned, maybe we will have
- 2 progressed to where we need to be.
- And what I need to say to this jury,
- 4 sic, is that when these lines are drawn, I think
- 5 there has to be race consciousness. I think
- 6 there has to be an awareness that we are all
- 7 members of this state, that we all have concerns,
- 8 that we all have needs, that we are all
- 9 contributing members of this society and as the
- 10 former said, if we can stay away from
- 11 partisanship, if we can remember that generally
- 12 what's hurts one of us hurts all of us and what's
- 13 good for one of us is generally has some positive
- 14 impact on the rest of us.
- And if these lines are drawn such that
- 16 they eliminate those considerations for people of
- 17 color, they eliminate those for considerations,
- 18 economic considerations, then we're going to be
- 19 back to business as usual and I think if we
- 20 progress, it has to be a situation where we try
- 21 and amend and correct some of those things that
- 22 we've suffered in the past and I think moving on
- 23 is good for everybody and now if the people who
- 24 make the decisions would just be aware of that
- 25 and I will certainly be appreciative on my behalf

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1 and hopefully for a whole lot of other people,
2 and this would be people who are similarly
3 impacted.
            Thank you so much.
             SENATOR McCONNELL: That concludes all
6 of the speakers that have signed up. Again, I
7 would remind you that your written comments are
8 just as important and if you have any additional
9 comments after hearing what the speakers have
10 said, please do a brief submittal to us through
11 our site or by the U.S. Postal.
12
            And again, we thank you for coming and
13 have a good evening.
14
             (The public hearing was concluded at
15 7:40 p.m.)
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2	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
3	
4	I, Jeannette M. King, Court
5	Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:
6	
7	That the foregoing transcript was taken
8	before me on the date and at the time and location stated on page 1 of this transcript;
9 time of the proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and were then 10 transcribed; that the foregoing proc	
	transcribed; that the foregoing proceeding as
11	typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the proceeding to the best of my ability.
12	
13	I further certify that I am neither related to nor counsel for any party to the cause
14	pending or interested in the events thereof.
15	
16	Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 20th day of April,
17	2011, at Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina.
18	carorina.
19	Recall of the
20	Jeannette M. King
21	Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina
22	My commission expires 3/12/17
23	
24	
25	

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