

1       rely solely on PL-94 data.

2               I respectfully submit that in the process  
3 of drafting into consideration any plan that  
4 all databases used to create that particular  
5 plan be identified. It is extremely important,  
6 particularly when we go back to the item of  
7 communities of interest, that this idea of how  
8 you came up with the map be something that the  
9 public is readily able to do. If I'm trying to  
10 recreate the map using online software or  
11 whatever, it's important for me not just to  
12 look at a hard copy map but also to know what  
13 the content of that map is.

14              Finally, I wanted to ask this question  
15 which I think is really important, which is  
16 about the total variance. We're six sessions  
17 into a process that is driven by the very  
18 definition of total variance. Am I correct?

19              SENATOR MARTIN: Six steps into the  
20 process?

21              MR. ASKEW: We're six -- you've already had  
22 six hearings, correct?

23              SENATOR MARTIN: Right.

24              MR. ASKEW: The process of redistricting is  
25 driven by the very notion of total variance.

1 Am I correct?

2 SENATOR MARTIN: It will be when we start  
3 drawing maps, I would assume, but we haven't  
4 developed that.

5 MR. ASKEW: I understand. But, again, you  
6 see what my issue is? We're into a process  
7 which may not even be necessary, if you will,  
8 if we're below 90 percent of variation. It  
9 could be a simple matter of amending the  
10 existing plan that is already in place, yet  
11 we've proceeded as if that process will take  
12 place. Did I mis --

13 SENATOR MARTIN: I don't follow you, but  
14 we've got your -- I think we have the gist of  
15 your question, and we have a gentleman here  
16 that's following those type questions very  
17 closely and will attempt to respond to you on  
18 that.

19 MR. ASKEW: Okay. Thank you.

20 SENATOR MALLOY: Maybe we should suggest  
21 that he speaks to the lawyer.

22 SENATOR MARTIN: Yeah. Charlie Terreni is  
23 our attorney assigned to us for this purpose,  
24 and he'll be glad to speak to you afterwards.  
25 But we have -- I will tell you this, in answer

1 to that question for everyone, the committee  
2 has made no decision at all on any of the  
3 elements.

4 The variance being the specific question  
5 that you asked about, we have not had a meeting  
6 to discuss it. We were appointed by the  
7 chairman to begin the process of holding public  
8 hearings, which we're doing; and at some point,  
9 as soon as the public hearing process is  
10 completed, we'll sit down as a subcommittee and  
11 take action on the merits. And that will be --  
12 or on the issue of criteria. And that will in  
13 turn be put on the Web site and disseminated  
14 back to the public.

15 MR. ASKEW: Okay. Thank you.

16 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

17 Mr. William Allen.

18 MR. ALLEN: Thank you for coming and giving  
19 us a chance to express our views. You made a  
20 comment that triggered something in my mind  
21 when you said the federal government has to  
22 approve these plans. I've been studying the  
23 Constitution, and I don't see anything in the  
24 Constitution that gives them the right to do  
25 that. Furthermore, the laws that exist does

1 not include all states, and that's not equal  
2 treatment under the law. That's just a  
3 comment.

4 I agree with the previous people that  
5 said that Greenville County should be kept  
6 intact, but I disagree about splitting off  
7 Spartanburg. I voted for Trey Gowdy. He's a  
8 good man; I'd like to keep him as my  
9 representative. So I would suggest --  
10 presently, if you combine the two counties,  
11 about 75,000 over the number you're shooting  
12 for. So I would suggest you take that number  
13 out of somewhere in Spartanburg County, not  
14 including Trey's residence, and solve the  
15 problem that way.

16 Thank you very much.

17 SENATOR MARTIN: So noted.

18 Reverend Ennis Fant. Welcome. It's good  
19 to see you again.

20 MR. FANT: Good to see you, Senator. It's  
21 been awhile.

22 SENATOR MARTIN: Yes, sir.

23 MR. FANT: My name is Ennis Fant. I'm here  
24 tonight on behalf of the African-American  
25 Pastors Leadership Conference. And a couple of

1        comments we wanted to make and one thing I just  
2        had to mention just for the record, a lot of  
3        people -- I've heard two or three comments with  
4        regard to not understanding or not wanting  
5        South Carolina to still be under preclearance.  
6        It's comments like that is the reason we're  
7        under preclearance. This is South Carolina and  
8        it has a history is the very reason we have to  
9        be under preclearance, to make sure everybody  
10       has the opportunity to have representation in  
11       government.

12                Now, with regards to communities of  
13       interest, we've met and we would like to  
14       suggest and, for the record, continue to  
15       encourage the Senate to recognize county lines  
16       as much as possible in redistricting and  
17       continue to include that as a community of  
18       interest as you have done historically.

19                Secondly, as been echoed by many persons  
20       tonight, we do not have any objections with  
21       Greenville being split from Spartanburg with  
22       regards to an additional congressional district  
23       versus the bottom tips of both counties being  
24       cut off and put in with Laurens to keep both  
25       counties together. So we would like to see

1 Greenville and Spartanburg split versus taking  
2 population from the lower part of the county  
3 and moving it into another congressional  
4 district.

5 The last and final question I think --  
6 and I think Mr. Askew addressed it as well, we  
7 were under the impression that the total  
8 variance number had been determined because  
9 that lays the groundwork for how much shifting  
10 you have to do and how many people you've got  
11 to pick up or lose. In light of the fact that  
12 the total variance for the state has yet to be  
13 determined, it kind of leaves a big question  
14 mark as to where we are, and it's sort of like  
15 putting the cart before the horse.

16 We certainly applaud you for having the  
17 hearing, but the total variance number is going  
18 to be quintessentially important to helping us  
19 really formulate as to what direction we need  
20 to go with regards to helping outline some  
21 senate districts that are of particular  
22 question.

23 SENATOR MARTIN: Sure.

24 MR. FANT: Thank you.

25 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

1 Mr. Perry Simpson.

2 MR. SIMPSON: Thank you for this  
3 opportunity. I'm Perry Simpson. I'm from  
4 Senate Seat 10. Ten years ago, I was from  
5 Senate Seat 9. Next year, I don't know what  
6 senate seat I'll be from, but I would like to  
7 solve that problem, and I think I have a plan.  
8 The plan has already been mentioned.

9 There's been many comments about  
10 communities of interest, and my community of  
11 interest tonight is Laurens County. And I  
12 think the Reynolds v. Sims ruling was an  
13 erroneous ruling. And we all make mistakes,  
14 but we should not perpetuate any erroneous  
15 ruling. I think that could be corrected.

16 I think it was erroneously applied to the  
17 senate seats. And I see no reason why we can't  
18 go back to the Constitution and have one  
19 senate -- one senator per county, 46 each. So  
20 I think that's the best plan. And I humbly ask  
21 your consideration for that plan.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

24 Mr. Theo Mitchell. Welcome. Good to see  
25 you.

1           MR. MITCHELL: Thank you. Mr. Chairman  
2           Martin, Members of the Senate Panel, Ford,  
3           Shoopman, and Malloy. I haven't seen y'all in  
4           quite a while. It's always good, as they say,  
5           to have you come to Greenville and be able to  
6           listen to the intelligence that we have  
7           permeating throughout the community in this  
8           audience.

9           I'm not here to go through the history.  
10          You heard a lot of the history from my  
11          predecessors who have come up here. Certainly  
12          we all know the whole reason for the Reynolds  
13          v. Sims and other cases that unfortunately had  
14          to be brought to be able to bring about equity  
15          and parity as far as redistricting and  
16          representation is concerned.

17          It so happens that I'm familiar with the  
18          hearings throughout the state when I was in the  
19          House and Senate. We reapportioned on several  
20          occasions. At least two and a half. I didn't  
21          make it to the latter part of the half.

22          But be that as it may, the community of  
23          interest is one that you need to look at as far  
24          as the congressional district is concerned.  
25          There's no way we can get by Senate District



1       6 -- I'm sorry -- U.S. House District 6 without  
2       looking at that new house district that is  
3       going to be brought about.

4                In the State Senate, can't get by Senate  
5       District 7 here in Greenville. Can't dilute  
6       it. Going to have to look at the minority  
7       representation and the people who actually hold  
8       those seats and take out from it.

9                The last time I was sitting on a panel  
10       dealing with reapportionment, the argument was  
11       do we start from the bottom of the state or do  
12       we start from the top of the state. Those  
13       lines and configurations make all the  
14       difference in the world as far as where we  
15       start drawing the lines. I think you-all know  
16       that.

17               We know that no matter how you look at  
18       it, there are going to be those who, as the old  
19       saying goes, CYA. This is the real test of  
20       statesmanship. This is not an emotional issue.  
21       This is the real political issue. And that is,  
22       why are you sitting there and why should  
23       somebody else not want to sit where you sit but  
24       to serve and to give input and to have a say  
25       and to bring about what they feel is an input

1 from their community.

2           There's no way, shape, or form can we  
3 omit the fact of the Hispanic growth in the  
4 state and certainly here in this Upstate when  
5 we draw lines. South Carolina has the largest  
6 Hispanic population proportionate in any state  
7 in the nation. What are we going to do about  
8 it? Are we going to have others represent  
9 them, or do we just close our eyes to their  
10 aspirations and their desires for  
11 representation, just like the fight that it had  
12 as far as blacks.

13           I don't think that we can represent all  
14 ethnic groups in their own entity and their own  
15 aspirations, desires, and all of the stuff  
16 you've been reading about and all the talk  
17 shows that talk about some of the things that  
18 have changed a whole lot of minds, and I think  
19 prejudiced a whole lot of people.

20           You have an awesome task. I applaud all  
21 you. I commend you for you taking and making  
22 the sacrifice. But remember, we can't dilute.  
23 We are going to have to pay for what some  
24 people in the past saw fit not to do the right  
25 thing. And that's why we have to be

1       precleared.

2               That's why -- I had to laugh when you  
3       talk about one senator per county. We have 300  
4       some-odd thousand people in Greenville County.  
5       And then think of McCormick County. 7,000  
6       people. One senator? Abbeville County --  
7       13 -- I couldn't -- I can't believe some of the  
8       mentality that keeps us in court.

9               And I believe our governor said we have a  
10       deficit, and I certainly don't think we have  
11       enough money to fight again in the district  
12       courts and spend a whole lot of money trying to  
13       correct wrong things.

14              Thank you very much.

15              SENATOR MARTIN: Vardrey Fleming. Vardrey  
16       Fleming. Welcome.

17              MR. FLEMING: Yes, I am Vardrey Fleming,  
18       and I am president of the West Greenville  
19       Community Association, one of the largest  
20       communities in the city of Greenville.

21              Just briefly, my concern is as I -- as we  
22       have worked very hard over the years to  
23       revitalize the community and to not only just  
24       housing-wise but otherwise, I am very much  
25       concerned as we talk about redistricting about

1 separating the people. I -- my concern is that  
2 if we separate the people after working so hard  
3 to bring them together and to move forward  
4 socially and otherwise, that this would be  
5 devastating to your community.

6 Thank you very much.

7 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

8 Doris Fleming.

9 MS. FLEMING: Good evening. I am Doris  
10 Fleming, vice president of Sterling Community  
11 Neighborhood Association. And I'm a resident  
12 of Sterling. I disagree with South Carolina  
13 Voter ID Bill. I think it discriminates  
14 against the handicapped, the elderly, and the  
15 nondrivers. I would like to see District 23  
16 and 25 to be nesting districts in District 7.

17 I live in a community of people with  
18 common interests. Don't reduce our voting  
19 power by splitting the districts. Thank you.

20 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

21 Dorothy Russell. Welcome.

22 MS. RUSSELL: Thank you for the  
23 opportunity. My name is Dorothy Russell. I'm  
24 here because I want my statements recorded. I  
25 live in a common interest community. It

1 extends from Anderson Street -- you don't have  
2 it on -- you can't see it, but I'll tell you.  
3 It extends from Anderson Street, Pendleton  
4 Street; from Anderson to Valentine Street;  
5 Andrews Street to Easley Bridge Road convening  
6 back into Pendleton Street. This area is  
7 called Sterling community.

8 Now, I'm the president of the Sterling  
9 Neighborhood Association. We have experienced  
10 the results of cracking and packing methods of  
11 the 1965 Voting Rights Act. We strongly  
12 disagree with it. We demand to be allowed to  
13 vote for our current state and local  
14 representatives.

15 If you should change precincts based on  
16 census data, think about locations closer to  
17 communities of common interests. For example,  
18 the Sterling community has a rec center. It  
19 has adequate space for voting abilities and the  
20 facilities to be able to vote -- to have people  
21 in the community come in to vote there. By the  
22 way, if you must change precincts, send  
23 notifications at least a month early so that  
24 the voters will have a chance to make  
25 appropriate adjustments.

1           Districts 23 and 25 must remain. I said  
2           Districts 23 and 25 must remain in Senate  
3           District 7, the Congressional District 4.

4           And I appreciate your time.

5           SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

6           Clarence Echols. Welcome, Mr. Echols.

7           MR. ECHOLS: Thank you. Thank you,  
8           Senators, for the work that you're doing. I'm  
9           Clarence Echols, and I'm president of the  
10          Greenville County NAACP branch. I live in  
11          Senate District 8. And the reason why I want  
12          to say that is because that is David Thomas's  
13          senate district.

14          One of the things that we have to be  
15          concerned about is the attitudes and ideas that  
16          are being put forth by some of our  
17          representatives, some of the things that have  
18          been put forth like the Voter ID Bill, which  
19          has been described by a friend of mine as a  
20          solution without a problem; Immigration Reform  
21          Bill, where you propose to have small groups of  
22          paid law enforcement personnel ride around  
23          through the state and help various municipalities  
24          enforce the Immigration Reform Bill. And the  
25          last time I looked at South Carolina way back

1       when those small groups were going around  
2       enforcing laws and so forth, you know what I'm  
3       talking about.

4               The reason I mention this is because  
5       redrawing the districts that are not sensitive  
6       to the needs of the minorities in the Upstate  
7       in particular will help dilute the voting  
8       power -- the little voting power that we have  
9       right now. Plans to split Greenville County  
10      away from Spartanburg County and possibly join  
11      Greenville County with counties like Pickens  
12      and Oconee County where the minority population  
13      is less than 10 percent would continue to  
14      dilute the voting power of minorities.

15              We have a large population of  
16      Hispanics -- or growing population of Hispanics  
17      that was talked about by Mr. Mitchell. That  
18      needs representation. When we say minorities,  
19      we're talking about folk who do not have  
20      representation. To have one senator per  
21      county, I'd like to propose that if we had  
22      that, there would be no minority senators in  
23      the state of South Carolina if something like  
24      that was approved.

25              So you have to look at the ideas and

1 attitudes for folk who have the power right now  
2 to redraw these districts and apportion power  
3 to minorities is suspect. I urge you again,  
4 when you go back to start doing the work that  
5 you do, to remain sensitive to the needs of  
6 special interest districts, minority voters in  
7 this state.

8 Thank you.

9 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

10 Andrea Crockett.

11 MS. CROCKETT: Good evening. My name is  
12 Andrea Crockett, and I am on the Sterling Land  
13 Trust Board. And just very briefly I would  
14 just like to say as well that we would like to  
15 have our communities stay together, District  
16 23, 25; State Senate District 7, and  
17 Congressional District 4. If you would just  
18 try to keep us together, because we are one  
19 voice and we'd like to remain together.

20 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

21 Steve Mauriello. Welcome.

22 MR. MAURIELLO: Thank you for having me.  
23 I'm here to propose that I do not wish to have  
24 the Greenville County cut by any way. I wish  
25 it to remain the same. I think the most



1 appropriate district for District 7 would be  
2 Greenville County, Pickens County, and Oconee  
3 County due to the contemporary socioeconomic  
4 situations between these three counties.  
5 They're highly -- Greenville is a highly  
6 vibrant county, Pickens is growing, and Oconee  
7 will benefit by the combination of the  
8 Congressional District 7 being in that corner  
9 of the state.

10 Another word I'd like to say -- and I  
11 hope no one takes offense -- but our growing  
12 Latino population, I'd like to know how many of  
13 them are actual legal citizens. So I'm not  
14 going to take of that -- anything of that into  
15 account at all until it's proven that they are  
16 legal citizens of the United States of America.

17 But again, I think the most appropriate  
18 redistricting and would help the state would be  
19 Greenville County, Pickens County, and Oconee  
20 County. It will be a very solid technological  
21 economic area.

22 Thank you for having me.

23 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you. Thank you.

24 Brit Adams. Welcome.

25 MR. ADAMS: Thank you. I'll have to

1 disagree with the last gentleman. I'm from the  
2 3rd Congressional Seat District, and being  
3 citizens of that, we have the Oconee Nuclear  
4 Station over there. And that's a very  
5 important thing to our community. We'd like  
6 the 3rd Congressional District to stay the way  
7 it is. Jeff Duncan has a good understanding of  
8 nuclear energy. We like his energy plans, and  
9 we'd like to keep that all intact.

10 Thank you.

11 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

12 Esther Wagner. Welcome.

13 MS. WAGNER: Thank you. Hello. Hi,  
14 Senator Shoopman. It's nice to see you again.

15 My name is Esther Wagner, and I'm here  
16 for the Esther Wagner Needs A Job Foundation.  
17 But actually, I was going to speak on that  
18 Greenville County needs to be kept as a single  
19 entity, but many people have already done that.  
20 Maybe not so eloquently, but they have done it.

21 But I would like to say that I have the  
22 distinct displeasure to work for the census,  
23 and I can't speak for the last ones, but I can  
24 tell you that this one is so flawed that it  
25 shouldn't be used to organize a softball team

1 let alone our representation in Congress.

2 Thank you.

3 SENATOR MARTIN: Lottie Gibson. Ms. Lottie  
4 Gibson.

5 MS. GIBSON: My area of concentration has  
6 been voiced. Thank you.

7 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you, Ms. Gibson.  
8 It's good to be with you tonight.

9 Maxim Williams. Welcome, Mr. Williams.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. Maxim  
11 Williams. I would first like to request that  
12 what I'm wearing is not entered into record. I  
13 just came out of Karate class.

14 SENATOR MARTIN: So noted.

15 MR. WILLIAMS: I am a director out of the  
16 mission division for Bon Secours St. Francis  
17 Health System, and I'm here today for a simple,  
18 practical request. We are working directly  
19 with the City of Greenville, Greenville County,  
20 and the residents of the entire Sterling  
21 neighborhood, so my request, therefore, is that  
22 the current lines of this community of interest  
23 remain intact as you hear, review, and make  
24 adjustments to lines and plans.

25 I make this request on behalf of such a

1 small community for the following reasons:  
2 Although small, it is a historic community to  
3 the African-Americans throughout Greenville and  
4 throughout the country. The last almost three  
5 years, we created a master plan of which I'm  
6 the lead facilitator, and it recognizes and  
7 depends on the current map identified by the  
8 city and county. This plan addresses economic  
9 development plans, helping create new income  
10 streams and opportunity for Sterling residents,  
11 West Greenville residents, and Greenville at  
12 large.

13 The commercial and residential lines  
14 currently established are an opportunity for  
15 West Greenville and her residents to have a  
16 more vibrant and healthy and economically  
17 viable community for all in that area.  
18 Infrastructure plans are reliant on the map,  
19 and we have engaged, at least in my view, a  
20 very inspiring level of collaboration between  
21 the city and county. I'm kind of new here, but  
22 I hear that's a good thing.

23 This plan has appreciated the good will,  
24 advocacy, and resource allocation of all its  
25 city, county, Senate and House representatives.

1 The residents of the community who have formed,  
2 as you've heard, the first community land trust  
3 in South Carolina ahead of enabling legislation  
4 reside in this neighborhood that has both city  
5 and county lines. Their work in unison with  
6 the county, the city of Greenville and a long  
7 number of nonprofits, churches, businesses, and  
8 our health system relies on the map Sterling --  
9 the current map of Sterling to remain intact  
10 and not suffer a divide or a shrinkage.

11 A once historically African-American  
12 community is now a home to a diverse group of  
13 residents: white, black, Hispanic, young, and  
14 old, and all have engaged in ways of  
15 revitalizing this community in ways that both  
16 benefit Sterling and Greenville.

17 It is little known that the Sterling  
18 history -- the name Sterling comes from a  
19 Caucasian woman who funded the education of an  
20 African-American man who then founded the  
21 school who he named it after. He also worked  
22 with black and white leaders to establish a  
23 homeownership base in the late and early 1900s.  
24 This was our collective history as a people of  
25 all backgrounds working together. Our work

1 today honors that legacy of inclusion.

2 I would like to close by highlighting the  
3 exact borders of the community so you have  
4 record of these street names as you review maps  
5 and neighborhood lines. The Sterling borders  
6 are: Pendleton Street, Easley Bridge Road,  
7 Andrews Street, Valentine Street, and Anderson  
8 Road, Vardry Street back to Anderson Road.

9 The map of this community can be found at  
10 our hospital Web site, [stfrancishealth.org](http://stfrancishealth.org) or  
11 from the city of Greenville or Greenville  
12 County Redevelopment Authority. The master  
13 plan can also be found at our hospital Web  
14 site, and it's currently going through the  
15 final rounds of approval both with the city and  
16 the county.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

19 Representative Chandra Dillard. Welcome.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DILLARD: Welcome home?

21 SENATOR MARTIN: Yeah. The Senator from  
22 Greenville wanted to know if you were going to  
23 let him testify before the House committee.

24 REPRESENTATIVE DILLARD: Sure. It works  
25 both ways, doesn't it? Well, I know what kind

1 of day you've had, so I will be very short.

2 SENATOR MARTIN: That's fine.

3 REPRESENTATIVE DILLARD: Many of my  
4 constituents have been before you and expressed  
5 many of the things that I would say. And I'm  
6 very proud of them for being here at the  
7 hearing. You did hear comments concerning  
8 Districts 23 and 25 remaining in Senate Seat 7.  
9 And in regards to District 23, I'd like to say  
10 that it should remain whole in Senate 7 and not  
11 piecemealed as we go along. Because I know  
12 this is going to be a challenging process.

13 And what I also add is we have heard many  
14 times tonight about communities of interest,  
15 that they really do need to be defined. And  
16 they can be defined by street boundaries but  
17 also in looking at our county and municipal  
18 economic and community development departments.  
19 They have clear boundaries for neighborhoods.  
20 They are named. So there is no reason why we  
21 can't identify those communities of interest.

22 And then lastly, I will simply say that  
23 as you consider the variance, which is going to  
24 be so important, that you perhaps think outside  
25 the box and not look at what has already been

1 done. Because again, this is going to be very  
2 challenging. And that if we need a higher  
3 variance than we've had in the past, then let's  
4 consider that in order to ensure that each  
5 person is represented with their vote.

6 So thank you, Senators.

7 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you. We appreciate  
8 you being with us.

9 Mark Powell. Welcome.

10 MR. POWELL: Thank you. Mark Powell. I've  
11 got a question. I need clarification before I  
12 speak. Are you talking about this map and this  
13 map only or also the individual House of  
14 Representatives on the state level?

15 SENATOR MARTIN: We don't handle the House.

16 MR. POWELL: Thank you. I wish you would  
17 have said that earlier. I think we could have  
18 had a lot speeches cut a lot shorter than they  
19 are tonight.

20 SENATOR MARTIN: Yeah. And I want to make  
21 clear, the South Carolina House that  
22 Representative Dillard is a member of, we're  
23 not -- they handle -- and I made that comment  
24 in my opening remarks. That was a script that  
25 Ms. Hammond gave me that Chairman McConnell's



1       been sharing with all groups. And that's the  
2       first time I had read it, because he always  
3       chairs these meetings. But the Senate -- just  
4       like any bill, the Senate traditionally has  
5       handled its plan, the House handles its plan.  
6       But, now, we both pass and will consider like  
7       any other bill the congressional plan. We will  
8       have a plan, they will have a plan, but we will  
9       accept their House plan and they will accept  
10      our Senate plan.

11           MR. POWELL: Thank you. I was just --

12           SENATOR MARTIN: We don't have a lot to say  
13      about what they do.

14           MR. POWELL: I didn't think you did. And I  
15      had to listen to way more stuff than I probably  
16      should have had to --

17           SENATOR MARTIN: That's okay.

18           MR. POWELL: -- based on what you're  
19      actually here for.

20           All right. Jeff Duncan's my man. He's  
21      cool. But if you think about the situation  
22      that we have, he represents nine and a half  
23      counties. One man, one voice, nine and a half  
24      counties. Greenville County is huge. There's  
25      like five guys that split it up. I'm not going

1 to threaten you with a lawsuit by saying road  
2 here, street here, community here, this  
3 neighborhood, that neighborhood. I think you  
4 need to take the blinders off and you need to  
5 look at it as pure numbers.

6 Now, you asked us to be specific in  
7 like -- I forgot the fancy word you used for  
8 like "neighborhoods that are important to you"  
9 kind of thing. It's not important. If you  
10 keep that kind of stuff and you allow it to be  
11 micromanaged, you're defeating the purpose of  
12 representation. Some people will say you get  
13 more representative, but the problem is is in  
14 my -- got to get my map right. In my senate  
15 district, I have Mr. Billy O'Dell. Now, I am  
16 really ticked to hear that map might have  
17 gotten redrawn years ago when he lived down in  
18 the Ware Shoals area. I mean, what a stupid  
19 looking map for my district. Okay?

20 So if that's happening, take off the  
21 blinders. Don't listen to political parties.  
22 Don't listen to your friends who are in  
23 political office. Don't listen to people even  
24 out here that say draw the line here, I demand  
25 it, I require it.

1           I'm not demanding or requiring anything.  
2           I'm begging you to take off the blinders and  
3           simply -- maybe use a computer program  
4           that does -- keep humans out of it. Keep  
5           special interest out of it.

6           Let it simply -- if it's got to be by the  
7           numbers, let a program do it. Yeah, you may  
8           tweak it to kind of semi make the program look  
9           for one area. But my area is one of the many  
10          stupid-looking areas on there. I wish ours is  
11          simple as, you know, some of the other places.  
12          But the little fellow who's got from Mount  
13          Pleasant all the way up to Myrtle Beach, how  
14          can he be a representative of the people he  
15          represents when it takes him a day to get from  
16          person to person. Okay? That's a problem I  
17          see with how we're doing this.

18          For instance, my representative, Billy  
19          O'Dell, he has what I'm going to call the south  
20          side of 85. If you look at that, almost the  
21          I-85 corridor. Look at the money in those  
22          districts.

23          I'm from Pelzer. Okay? Mill hill.  
24          Ain't no money in Pelzer. Pelzer, just like  
25          Greenville, got started because it was a

1 textile mill, and that's where people went to  
2 live. Okay? Greenville is the same way.  
3 You've torn down all your mills and we've torn  
4 down all of ours.

5 But the problem is my representative is  
6 representing what I'm going to call the more  
7 poverty side of Anderson County. If you look  
8 at the money and where the money is and then  
9 you throw them all the way down into Hodges and  
10 down into there, my representative, what kind  
11 of voice do we have when we don't have the  
12 money to give our representative to represent  
13 us.

14 I would like for everyone to go to the  
15 South Carolina Ethics Commission Report under  
16 Candidates Campaign Contributions, and I think  
17 you would find it very interesting that the  
18 people who have, for instance, in my area, the  
19 north side of I-85, city of Anderson,  
20 Powdersville, the big money folks around Lake  
21 Hartwell, we don't have any -- well, we do have  
22 the little bottom corner down there in my  
23 district. But I think what happens, the way  
24 you've got it drawn now, it follows the money.  
25 And it follows the ones who squeal real loud

1 and claim they're going to -- you know, "keep  
2 it here or." Okay?

3 I beg you not to do any of the "keep it  
4 here or," and I beg you not to listen to  
5 senators or friends saying, don't write me out  
6 of my district. What am I going to do? You'll  
7 run against the person who is in the office  
8 next time around in a different district. So  
9 if you write people out of the districts they  
10 now live in, tell them to get over it. They  
11 can run for the district they're now located  
12 in. Okay?

13 So don't do anything because someone says  
14 you must, I'm gonna watch you, I'm telling you.  
15 Do it because it's the simplest thing to do.  
16 Don't do it because of your friend or anybody  
17 out here who threatens you.

18 I'm a native American. It don't get no  
19 minoritier [sic] than that in this situation.  
20 I'm asking you not to use any special  
21 interests.

22 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

23 Mr. Darrin Goss. Welcome.

24 MR. GOSS: Thank you. Well, good evening.  
25 I'd like to just make a few comments, and my

1        comments are really more procedural in nature  
2        as it relates to this hearing as well just to  
3        point out that so far so many folks have talked  
4        tonight, and really none of them have been from  
5        my county. I'm actually from Spartanburg  
6        County Senate Seat 12, Congressional District  
7        4, of course, and really live between two  
8        communities. I work here in Greenville County  
9        at the United Way.

10                And one of the things that I see on a  
11        day-to-day basis is the underrepresentation of  
12        those in both communities who need voice. I  
13        should also mention I pastor a church in  
14        Spartanburg County. So a unique set of lenses  
15        that I see this process through. So as we talk  
16        about procedures, there's a couple of things  
17        that I just want to underscore that have  
18        already been said, and that is, access to the  
19        redistricting data and plans as you go and  
20        continue this process.

21                I think it's very important for those  
22        things to be transparent, to be made available.  
23        I have some concern about some language and  
24        terminology regarding that the Senate procedure  
25        said you will try to make those -- that

1 information available. I say that, for the  
2 record, that you should not try but you should  
3 commit to making those plans public and making  
4 them accessible to those who cannot afford it,  
5 who do not have the resources in making those  
6 available without cost, because your current  
7 procedures require the potential to have to pay  
8 for those things.

9           The second thing I would say, to  
10 underscore what Representative Dillard said  
11 earlier, is how we define communities of  
12 interest. Communities of interest certainly  
13 for county lines but also for those predefined  
14 special emphasis neighborhoods here in  
15 Greenville County or those community economic  
16 development neighborhoods in Spartanburg County  
17 that have already been defined by both city and  
18 county municipalities in their community  
19 development areas.

20           I would also say that I think that race  
21 does play a role in the whole idea of  
22 representation. And because of our storied  
23 history and because of the underrepresentation  
24 of historic voices to the political process  
25 that communities of interest defined by race,

1 by voting consistencies, as well as some party  
2 affiliation should be a part of what you  
3 review.

4 Finally, I would say that I agree that we  
5 should have continued hearings, that this not  
6 be the only one for you as well as our House  
7 hearings that are forthcoming, as we can see  
8 openly the maps that are drawn and are being  
9 debated by both sides of our elected assembly.

10 So thank you very much.

11 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you, Pastor.

12 And along those lines, on April 13th at  
13 5:30 in this very room, the House Judiciary  
14 Committee --

15 Is that right, Representative Allen?

16 REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN: That's correct, sir.

17 SENATOR MARTIN: 5:30 on April 13th in this  
18 room the House Judiciary Committee will hold  
19 its reapportionment public hearing.

20 Mr. David Aguilar. David Aguilar. Did I  
21 pronounce it right? He might have left.

22 SENATOR FORD: Unless you pronounced it  
23 wrong.

24 SENATOR MARTIN: The Senator from  
25 Charleston believes I pronounced it wrong.



1           Leola Simpson.   Leola Robinson Simpson.  
2   Is she still here?

3           MS. SIMPSON:   Good evening, gentlemen.

4           SENATOR MARTIN:   Welcome.

5           MS. SIMPSON:   We sometimes in our  
6   deliberations forget about school district  
7   redistricting, so I would like to go on record  
8   asking you to keep communities of interest  
9   intact when school board lines are redrawn.

10           School board redistricting is also  
11   important.   When school district lines are  
12   drawn, these lines often do not follow the  
13   county council lines.   In the 2000  
14   redistricting process, huge minority  
15   communities of interest that have formerly been  
16   located in District 25 were shifted north to  
17   District 26.   As a result of that, along White  
18   Horse Road in Greenville, we lost communities  
19   along Staunton Bridge Road and the Judson  
20   community and the Woodmont community down  
21   toward Canterbury, which formerly were in  
22   District 25, and this diluted the  
23   representation of minority students and  
24   parents.

25           So we just ask you not to forget about

1       how those lines involving communities of  
2       interest are drawn when it comes to our school  
3       board seats. Thank you very much.

4               SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

5               That, my friends, was the last speaker  
6       that we have signed up. Does anyone else wish  
7       to be heard?

8               Yes, sir. Simply identify yourself  
9       for the record.

10              MR. CHEEZEM: My name is Bear Cheezem. I'm  
11       a graduate student at Clemson University. I'm  
12       also a resident of the 6th Congressional  
13       District, U.S. Congressional District. I was  
14       unable to attend the meetings in Conway and  
15       Florence, so tonight was my option to come and  
16       talk.

17              I would like to talk about as long as  
18       I've been living, the area of the Pee Dee and  
19       the Grand Strand have been represented by  
20       people from Charlotte, York, Columbia, and  
21       Charleston, and most of the interests of the  
22       Pee Dee can be tied to Florence and Myrtle  
23       Beach. And so when you're looking at  
24       redistricting, look at the economic ties the  
25       communities have to each other as well as the

1 cultural ties that keep those communities  
2 together. That's really what I wanted to say.

3 SENATOR FORD: What's your name again?

4 MR. CHEEZEM: My name is Bear, B-E-A-R;  
5 Cheezem, C-H-E-E-Z-E-M.

6 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you. We appreciate  
7 you sharing that with us. And by the way, I  
8 think the Conway hearing actually is going to  
9 be Monday evening. Is that correct?

10 SENATOR FORD: And Florence is Wednesday.

11 SENATOR MARTIN: Yeah. Yeah. But we're  
12 glad you came tonight. Welcome. We're glad to  
13 have you.

14 Would anyone else like to be heard?

15 Yes, sir.

16 MR. AGUILAR: Yes, sir. My name is David  
17 Aguilar, and I'm a student and activist. And,  
18 sir, just three things very briefly. Number  
19 one, I would say that many people have said  
20 that Greenville is both socially and  
21 economically a single community. I wish for  
22 that to be kept together. People have said it  
23 more eloquently than I have, and I would like  
24 to lend my voice to that.

25 And secondly, regarding the census data

1 and the exploding Latino population,  
2 particularly in the senate district which I  
3 live in and the precincts which I live in,  
4 Sevier in Wade Hampton, if the census data is  
5 to be trusted -- and we don't know whether it  
6 is or can be -- but it's going to be -- that's  
7 what our districts are going to be drawn  
8 according to and how many of those people are  
9 illegal or not is not clear.

10 I am of Latino decent myself. It is  
11 possible even to draw a Latino plurality seat  
12 in Greenville County, a house seat. So I would  
13 encourage that that be kept in. When we're  
14 redrawing districts, that we think about that.

15 But lastly, the most important thing  
16 would be -- we talked about transparency. And  
17 we really appreciate your coming out here and  
18 listening to us. But I would like to see -- as  
19 you've said, right now we haven't drawn any  
20 maps -- but when we start drawings maps and the  
21 legislature begins to draw maps, that that  
22 would be made available to the public every  
23 step of the way. That not only the map would  
24 be available on, for example, the state's Web  
25 site, but that the information and rationale

1 behind it, even if these are proposals, that it  
2 doesn't come down to the end where we're  
3 presented a map and the public input -- it's  
4 basically already decided and the public does  
5 not have much input.

6 So I would like to see hopefully the  
7 state legislature would really take into  
8 consideration, Mr. Senator, public input all  
9 along, not just at the beginning right now and  
10 not just at the very end when it really is not  
11 of much consequence anymore.

12 So thank you, sir, for coming out.

13 SENATOR FORD: David, spell your last name  
14 for me, please.

15 MR. AGUILAR: David Aguilar, A-G-U-I-L-A-R.

16 SENATOR MARTIN: I think I mispronounced  
17 awhile ago. Thank you so much.

18 Welcome. Come on up. If you would, give  
19 your full name.

20 MR. ROMINE: Sure. I'm Ron Romine from  
21 Spartanburg. R-O-M-I-N-E. I'm here in a -- I  
22 guess you would say tilting-at-windmills  
23 position. I'm a yellow dog Democrat, and I  
24 might as well say that right at the beginning.

25 As it stands right now, Democrats make up

1 in a given presidential year, Al Gore, John  
2 Kerry get 36, 37 percent of the vote in South  
3 Carolina. And I realize the difficulty. And  
4 the Supreme Court always has recognized that  
5 party is a reason to challenge redistricting  
6 proposals. They have not been very specific on  
7 how that's done.

8 But I would submit to you that if we have  
9 a 7th Congressional District, which we do have,  
10 and Jim Clyburn is the only Democrat in that  
11 group, Democrats are seriously underrepresented  
12 in the Congress of the United States. That  
13 takes it down to about 14 percent.

14 But I fully appreciate your job, and  
15 that's why I'm -- I say it's tilting at  
16 windmills. It is not tilting at windmills to  
17 remind you, however, the African-American  
18 population of this state is about close to 30  
19 percent. If there is only one African-American  
20 member of that congressional delegation.

21 (People speaking in unison: There's two.)

22 MR. ROMINE: Well, okay. There are two.  
23 Yes. You're right. You're right. But I would  
24 not count on that individual lasting very long.

25 SENATOR MARTIN: We've done very well, but

1 I want the speaker to address us.

2 MR. ROMINE: To be quite honest, I would  
3 just remind you in pursuit of both of these  
4 objectives that for the first time since 1960,  
5 the Justice Department of the United States is  
6 controlled by Democrats. And whatever comes  
7 out of here will eventually have to pass muster  
8 with a Democratic administration. You might  
9 just keep that in mind as we go forward.

10 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you very much.

11 If you would, those of you that come up  
12 and speak, if you would, give the young lady  
13 your address and e-mail address where we can  
14 contact you.

15 MR. GARCIA-QUINTANA: Thank you, Senators.  
16 Thank you. Good to see you again.

17 SENATOR MARTIN: State your full name for  
18 the record.

19 MR. GARCIA-QUINTANA: Roan Garcia-Quintana.  
20 I live in Mauldin, South Carolina.

21 MR. FORD: Roan what?

22 MR. GARCIA-QUINTANA: Garcia-Quintana.  
23 It's a Spanish name.

24 THE REPORTER: Please spell your name for  
25 the record.

1           MR. GARCIA-QUINTANA:  G-A-R-C-I-A-hyphen-  
2           Q-U-I-N-T-A-N-A.

3           I would like to thank you for having this  
4           opportunity.  It's sad to hear here the desire  
5           to keep hyphenating Americans.  You know, I  
6           happen to have been a native of Cuba, but when  
7           I took that oath of citizenship, I dropped my  
8           hyphen.  I mean, I have my hyphenated name, but  
9           I don't want to hyphenate a label.  So just  
10          call me an American.  And this should not be  
11          based on segregating Democrats, giving  
12          Democrats -- protecting incumbents.

13          Thank you.

14          You know, you guys know the games you  
15          play up in Columbia -- down in Columbia.  I  
16          lived there most of my life and I've been  
17          living here for the last ten years, and you  
18          know, you keep protecting yourselves.  I'll  
19          name one person.  Joe Wilson.  When he was  
20          Senator, he took Chapin out because they  
21          weren't voting for him.  Now subsequently Jackie  
22          Knotts took that seat.  And where I used to  
23          live in White Hall, it's no longer there.  It's  
24          all Red Bank.  Redneck Red Bank.  And that's  
25          what Jackie Knotts gets.



1           And anyway, I would just like to say do  
2           the right thing. I know the courts have this  
3           thing about gerrymandering and allowing us to  
4           gerrymander, but all that does is segregate our  
5           communities. Contrary to what was said here,  
6           we have one senator per county, I would dare  
7           say the numbers would dictate that you probably  
8           on the State Senate would end up with more  
9           African-Americans than less. Instead of  
10          creating -- as far as Congress, like it was  
11          said, two African-Americans already represent  
12          our state. Why do we need to do that? Just  
13          start thinking of being just an American  
14          without hyphenating yourself.

15                 I know the history. I know the history  
16          of the South. I love the South, warts and all.  
17          But it's time to come together and put our  
18          needs as Americans and not hyphenate ourselves  
19          to death.

20                 Thank you.

21                 MR. EARLE: Hi. Nathan Earle. E-A-R-L-E  
22          is the last name.

23                 I guess my main concern up here tonight,  
24          I've got actually two of them. First of all,  
25          if you'd look at some of the shapes of some of

1 these directs, they are, as one of the speakers  
2 pointed out, a lot of them are real spread out.

3 I'm a lawyer, and before I became a  
4 lawyer I had to go to law school. And one of  
5 the cases we read was a case emanating out of  
6 North Carolina. A congressional district up  
7 there had, essentially, pods. There was a pod,  
8 a community here, and then it ran along  
9 Interstate 85 for quite some distance without  
10 really capturing any of the community there  
11 before it hit the next pod, and then it  
12 traveled on down the interstate a little bit  
13 further.

14 And, you know, the purpose there was to  
15 guarantee that that was going to be a  
16 minority-controlled congressional seat in order  
17 to satisfy the Justice Department. Okay? And  
18 that seems to be the rule. Okay?

19 So if you guys do anything different,  
20 then you probably are going to make Eric Holder  
21 upset. But I would encourage you not to worry  
22 inordinately about upsetting Eric Holder or the  
23 Obama Justice Department and that you would  
24 focus more on obtaining true fairness. Because  
25 I would submit to you that some of those

1 African-Americans in that congressional  
2 district lived so far away from their  
3 congressman and he probably visited his office  
4 so infrequently that they didn't have any  
5 meaningful representation other than the fact  
6 that that congressman shared the same skin  
7 color with them.

8           And I'll tell you, as some people seem to  
9 have forgotten, Tim Scott does represent a  
10 congressional district in South Carolina, and  
11 that man is an African-American. Or as he  
12 would probably say, he's black. Okay?

13           And it is really time for us to get past  
14 it being 1870. It is 2011. The Civil War was  
15 more than a hundred years ago, and we are  
16 still -- and I understand that there's some  
17 issues, but I wanted to ask the gentleman who  
18 was up here earlier if he knew who the  
19 President of the United States was. And I can  
20 tell you, it's not George Washington. And so I  
21 just -- you know . . .

22           So if your focus is on fairness in making  
23 sure the people are represented, you'll make  
24 sure that as much as possible, especially for  
25 these state senate seats that, you know, that

1 the district is relatively compact. Because  
2 the closer people are in together, the more  
3 there is going to be an authentic community and  
4 the more that one senator or that one  
5 congressman is going to speak for that entire  
6 district.

7 That's all I have to say.

8 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you.

9 Mr. Dan Harvell. And he will wind us up.

10 MR. HARVELL: Well, good to see you here,  
11 Senators. And I know some of you remember me  
12 well from the Property Tax Reform days in  
13 Columbia. I had a lot of discussion with  
14 Senator Ford during those times. I appreciate  
15 y'all being here.

16 Much has been said tonight that I agree  
17 with, and that does not need to be repeated.  
18 But the one thing that I do want to point out  
19 here, from my standpoint as a citizen taxpayer,  
20 I want these lines to be drawn, no matter  
21 whether they're county council, school  
22 district, state representative lines, senate  
23 lines, or congressional lines, I want to make  
24 sure for me I'd like to know that they're drawn  
25 not because of political voting history.

1 Gerrymandering.

2           These districts that we're looking at  
3 here, many of them have more to do with who  
4 voted historically in what matters in past  
5 elections than they do with population. And  
6 I'm sorry to say that, but I know that for a  
7 fact.

8           In Anderson County, as part of the  
9 Anderson County Taxpayers Association, we did a  
10 pretty thorough look back when redistricting  
11 was done in our county districts the last time.  
12 And we looked at those long-term sitting  
13 incumbents and we looked at the voting patterns  
14 in those districts, and we watched what  
15 precincts were dropped and what precincts were  
16 picked up based on those incumbents' past  
17 voting results. And that can certainly happen  
18 here. And I'm sure that a lot of the lines  
19 that you see here are a result that we have  
20 today of that very same thing.

21           So all I'm saying is let's try to keep  
22 this process as scientific as we can and not  
23 let our representatives, elected and honorable  
24 as they are, not let them draw these lines  
25 based on whether or not it's going to make it

1 easier for themselves to get re-elected.

2 Thank you.

3 SENATOR MARTIN: Thank you. Ms. Lottie  
4 Gibson.

5 MS. GIBSON: I am Lottie Gibson, and I  
6 serve on the Greenville County Council. And  
7 on behalf of the Council, I want to thank you  
8 for coming and especially for sharing in the  
9 people's house.

10 I certainly wanted to suggest that you  
11 pass the word on for our April meeting that we  
12 have the gavel and that we have the time clock  
13 and that we have clear instructions on what  
14 we're supposed to say as it relates to  
15 redistricting. We've had lessons in history  
16 and all of this, but let's try to stay on  
17 target for what we're about.

18 And again, I thank you. And if I'm in  
19 order, I move for dismissal.

20 SENATOR MARTIN: You did well.

21 Let me tell all of you this before you  
22 leave. On behalf of the Senate Judiciary  
23 Committee, we appreciate you being here, we  
24 appreciate your involvement. And you will be  
25 able to follow what we do on our Web site.

1           And thank you so much for being here.  
2           Anything in writing that you would like to  
3           leave with us, feel free to do that as well.

4           Good night.

5           (The hearing concluded at 8:30 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Heather M. Curlin, Professional Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing hearing was taken before me on the date and at the time and location stated on page 1 of this transcript; that the testimony made at the time of the hearing were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing transcript as typed is a true, accurate, and complete record of the testimony at the time of the hearing to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither related to nor counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested in the events thereof.

Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 11th day of April, 2011, at Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina.

Heather M. Curlin  
Professional Court Reporter  
Notary Public  
State of South Carolina at Large  
My Commission expires:  
May 21, 2011