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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

MARCH 29, 2011

6:30 p.m.

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA

REPORTED BY: SHERI L. BYERS
Registered Professional Reporter

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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3 SENATOR GLENN F. MCCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

4 SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY

5 SENATOR ROBERT FORD

6 SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO

7 SENATOR GERALD MALLOY

8 SENATOR LARRY A. MARTIN

9 SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

10

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12 STAFF PRESENT:

13 CHARLES TERRENI

14 PAULA BENSON

15 DEBBIE HAMMOND

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

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

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

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

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

1 Senator Ray Cleary of Georgetown.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 SEN. MCCONNELL: DiStefano. We

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

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

5 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

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

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

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

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

1 give voters a real choice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

12 Mr. Billy Boylston.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 Mr. Chairman and others, thank you.

25 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

1 Ann Willbrand.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 I am a regular voter and also a poll worker

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

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

12 Thank you.

13 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

14 Terry Jowers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 SEN. MCCONNELL: Kathy Hensley.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

21 Ben Kinlaw.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

9 Kyle Lacio.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

2 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

3 Earl Coleman.

4 Sunny Donovan.

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

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

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

21 Thank you.

22 SEN. MCCONNELL: Charles Jennings.

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

25 First, we just want to thank you all for

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

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

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

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

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

3 Thank you.

4 SEN. MCCONNELL: Jane Thompson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Any questions?

11 Thank you.

12 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

13 Mr. John Philcox.

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

15 Thank you Senators. Thank you also for serving.

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

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

1 County as one entity.

2 Thank you.

3 SEN. MCCONNELL: Thank you.

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

5 SENATOR MASSEY: I just wanted to make sure

6 I was signed up. I wanted to make sure you don't

7 leave me out and give me the information.

8 SEN. MCCONNELL: Your chance. You got it.

9 I think they want to keep you.

10 SENATOR MASSEY: I don't want to say

11 anything to make them change their minds.

12 SEN. MCCONNELL: Senator Danny Verdin, I

13 see you there, sir. Any wisdom you wish to impart to

14 the group?

15 SENATOR VERDIN: I appreciate the

16 opportunity to be down here. I was actually down

17 here trying to conduct a little business in

18 neighboring Edgefield County, and I had to fill up my

19 Suburban with about \$35.00 worth of fuel to get down

20 here, and I guess that much to get back.

21 But I'm very appreciative of the committee

22 going state wide at various venues, and I'm happy to

23 be among the fine folks down here.

24 SEN. MCCONNELL: Anyone else here signed up

25 that we didn't get their paperwork and want to be

1 heard?

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

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

12 We will stand in recess.

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

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

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

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me on the date and at the time mentioned on page 1 and the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing transcript as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

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

Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 4th day of April, 2011, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



Sheri L. Byers

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