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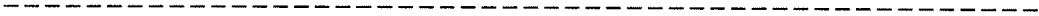
REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, March 30, 2011

York Technical College
452 South Anderson Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: YVONNE R. BOHANNON
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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

2 SENATOR GLENN F. McCONNELL, CHAIRMAN

3 SENATOR RAYMOND E. CLEARY

4 SENATOR ROBERT FORD

5 SENATOR C. BRADLEY HUTTO

6 SENATOR LARRY A. MARTIN

7 SENATOR PHILLIP W. SHOOPMAN

8

9 STAFF PRESENT:

10 BONNIE ANZELMO

11 CHARLES TERRENI

12 DEBBIE HAMMOND

13

14 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

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1 SENATOR McCONNELL: We'll convene the
2 meeting at this particular time. We want to thank
3 all of y'all for coming. Good evening.

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

10 I'd like to begin the process by giving
11 you a brief overview of the redistricting process
12 so that you will understand what all we are trying
13 to accomplish and how tonight's hearing fits into
14 the process, but first let me introduce the members
15 of the subcommittee. It's a bipartisan group of
16 senators from different regions of the state who
17 bring a wealth of experience in the past and I
18 expect for this bold and innovative solutions to
19 the problems that we confront.

20 From the upstate Senator Larry Martin
21 of Pickens County and Phillip Shoopman of
22 Greenville. From the Midlands we've got Senator
23 Brad Hutto. From the low country, myself and
24 Senator Robert Ford right here to my immediate
25 right.

1 SENATOR FORD: He meant his left.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: And then we go all
3 the way down to the Grand Strand, and we've got
4 Senator Ray Cleary from Georgetown County.

5 As the Redistricting Subcommittee of
6 your Senate, we are charged with one of the most
7 important tasks for the General Assembly which is
8 to initiate the process of redistricting. We must
9 recommend legislation to the Senate Judiciary
10 Committee which will redraw South Carolina's 46
11 state Senate districts and the state's
12 Congressional districts to include a new seventh
13 seat. Likewise, there is a subcommittee in the
14 House of Representatives that is charged with
15 drawing a plan for the 124 districts in that body
16 of the legislature and crafting its own version of
17 a Congressional plan.

18 While the House and Senate have
19 historically deferred to one another when it comes
20 to the plans for their respective bodies, the
21 Congressional plans may ultimately have to be
22 reconciled in the legislative process through a
23 conference committee. If the two bodies agree on a
24 redistricting plan, it must be submitted to the
25 governor for her signature in the same manner as

1 any other bill that is passed by the General
2 Assembly.

3 Finally, under section five of the
4 Voting Rights Act any plan that is enacted into law
5 will have to be pre-cleared by the Justice
6 Department or the Federal District Court in
7 Washington, D.C., before it can take effect.

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

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

24 To begin the process of redrawing
25 districts, we are holding hearings in order to

1 listen to your views on the redistricting process.
2 Let me say at the outset, we are not here for the
3 purpose of considering proposed redistricting
4 plans. The subcommittee has yet to reach that
5 stage of the process. When that time comes, we
6 will have an opportunity for the public to submit
7 specific plans for the subcommittee to consider.

8 Instead, this evening we are here to
9 consider the building blocks of those future plans.
10 We need to hear from you your opinions on the
11 criteria that you believe we should follow in the
12 line drawing process. We also want to know about
13 the communities of interest that we should be aware
14 of when drawing new district boundaries.

15 Examples of redistricting criteria
16 would be requirements that consideration be given
17 to communities of interest -- it's stuck together
18 here -- the cores of existing districts, county,
19 municipal or precinct lines, compactness,
20 contiguity, as well as applicable laws and
21 Constitutional standards. We would like you to let
22 us know how important these criteria are to you and
23 whether there are other criteria that you believe
24 we should take into account when drawing the new
25 district lines.

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

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

15 At the beginning of this public hearing
16 we ask those testifying be clear. Redistricting is
17 an exact process and clarity is a virtue. For
18 example, when speaking about criteria like
19 communities of interest, it is important that you
20 distinguish between whether you're talking about a
21 Congressional or a Senate district as the
22 subcommittee must consider both of those.

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

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

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

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

16 Finally, in order to facilitate
17 communication with the subcommittee and give the
18 public a way of keeping track of the process, we
19 all encourage all persons interested in
20 redistricting to consult our website which is
21 located at <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>, and
22 knowing you didn't probably get all that down, we
23 got that address for you on your material.

24 The address of the redistricting
25 website is also included in all of our handouts.

1 At the website you'll find useful information such
2 as the dates and locations of our public hearings
3 and subcommittee meetings, redistricting data,
4 reference materials and guidelines for future
5 participation in the process.

6 I want to thank you for giving your
7 time and being willing to contribute to this
8 process.

9 Before we start, I will also tell you
10 that we will -- the subcommittee will be over in
11 Greenville, South Carolina, tomorrow night. Should
12 you decide there's more you want to tell us, you
13 can either do it in writing or come to the
14 Greenville public hearing.

15 With that, we will start and begin to
16 process -- the microphone is right here. We've got
17 three that have -- together, Al Steele, Brian
18 Wilson and Dan Mace.

19 MR. STEELE: Mr. Chairman and fellow
20 members of the committee, we want to thank you for
21 allowing us to have this opportunity to give you
22 our opinion and our input for our community. We
23 want to speak to the -- to the three of us.

24 There are three -- there are three of
25 us that organized a community effort to raise

1 awareness about redistricting. And one of our
2 members, returning member, wrote the resolution,
3 actually has a -- his daughter has a lacrosse game
4 tonight. We weren't able to convince him this is
5 more important, so two of us will represent our
6 community.

7 And what we did was -- this was back I
8 guess before Christmas when redistricting -- after
9 the census data came back. We realize those of us
10 that live in Fort Mill and Tega Cay for some time
11 realized the impact the last census had on our
12 community. For about 200 years we've all been
13 represented in the same House and Senate seats and
14 districts in South Carolina, and for whatever
15 reason at the last census our -- our community was
16 divided.

17 The railroad tracks in the middle of
18 town is the House district line and about
19 two-thirds or one-third of us are represented in
20 different Senate seats. And, consequently, we've
21 not been able to elect anybody from our community
22 since 1992, Becky Meacham. And this is not
23 about -- I want to say this again. I say this
24 every time we make presentations.

25 We -- we really appreciate our

1 representatives and our senators. They've done a
2 wonderful job representing us. This is nothing
3 personal against any of them. This is strictly
4 about our community and our ability to elect
5 someone to represent us and our unique interest in
6 our state government. And that's all. We have no
7 bones to pick with anyone. We want to thank you
8 and them for taking time out of your lives to
9 represent people of this state.

10 So basically what happened was before
11 we did anything we wanted to make sure that we had
12 a blessing of our -- of our delegation. So we
13 called a meeting, the three of us did, and we
14 invited the mayor of Fort Mill, the mayor of Tega
15 Cay. We invited the president of the Fort Mill
16 Chamber of Commerce, the -- the Tega Cay Chamber
17 and the chairman of our school board, as well as
18 our four -- two senators and -- and two
19 representatives.

20 And one of our representatives -- or
21 one of our senators, as you know, was elected to
22 the fifth district and was not there. So we had
23 Wes, Ralph and Debbie along there with us, and they
24 were very supportive. And we told them that we
25 would like to see our community be reunited again

1 under the same district. We don't care whether you
2 put us in with Lancaster or Rock Hill. That's no
3 problem. We get along. It's not about getting
4 along, but we just want you to all put us together
5 in whichever way you decide to do it so we can have
6 our voice back.

7 So what we did was, we run the
8 resolution. We asked all five entities to consider
9 passing it, which they all five did. I think you
10 have a copy of the resolutions in your packet. We
11 also got some signatures.

12 And -- and to take up our five minutes,
13 we'd like to talk a little bit about the fact sheet
14 that we have because we think if you understand our
15 unique characteristics of our community, you'll
16 understand a little bit better why it's so
17 important to us that we have this reunification
18 occur.

19 Fact number one of course is I talked
20 about the 2000 census split us up. We're hoping
21 the 2010 census will put us back together as one
22 community.

23 Number two kind of goes along with
24 number one in your -- in your information. It
25 talks about we're a very fast growing area. We

1 think we're probably one of the fastest growing
2 townships in South Carolina. And our township is
3 all of the land in York County that is north of the
4 Catawba River. In other words, Lake Wylie splits
5 us from Rock Hill, and the river splits us from
6 part of Rock Hill and the rest of Rock Hill.

7 And there's only two ways to cross
8 river and that lake, and that's I-77 and Highway
9 21, and they're side by side. So I live on Lake
10 Wylie. I can see the other side of my district and
11 I can ride my jet ski over there in maybe 15 to 20
12 seconds, but it takes me 20 -- 20 or 25 minutes
13 from my truck to go there.

14 So we have some unique -- unique
15 problems that we deal with being -- being kind of
16 up -- we're like a part that sticks up into
17 Charlotte, yet we're York County. We're really a
18 bedroom community for Charlotte and we have unique
19 problems that come with that.

20 As the fastest growing township -- and
21 our school district is one of the fastest school
22 districts in the state as well. We've doubled in
23 the student population since the last census, and
24 we have one of the highest school tax millage rates
25 in the entire state in an effort to keep our

1 schools as good as they were when we came here, and
2 that voice I think deserves a -- that -- that
3 element of our community deserves a voice in
4 Columbia as well.

5 Now, this will not be changed again
6 until 2022 is when the first graders in our school
7 district will be registered voters that year, and
8 we want all of the class members to be able to vote
9 for them, not just half of them like it is now. So
10 that -- that's what's motivating us to do this.

11 The other thing that I'd like to talk
12 about -- and Dan is going to finish this up. You
13 talk about things that make -- that make natural
14 boundaries. The Catawba River and Lake Wylie --
15 the Catawba River is the County line for every
16 county between North Carolina and Columbia,
17 Fairfield, Kershaw, Chester and Lancaster, York and
18 Lancaster.

19 There's also -- I don't know of any
20 school district that the boundary crosses the --
21 the river. So there's county lines and there's
22 school district lines, and it makes sense to us
23 that the voting districts should consider that.

24 We have -- being next to Charlotte we
25 have a lot of unique traffic problems and crime and

1 other things that we have to deal with that when
2 you get across the lake, it is different. So for
3 those reasons we think we should be together.

4 That's my portion of the presentation.
5 I'd like to let Dan Mace finish this up. Thank you
6 very much for allowing us to speak to you.

7 MR. MACE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
8 Senators. My name is Dan Mace, and I'm -- I
9 originally grew up in Marion County, South
10 Carolina, and graduated Clemson and practiced --
11 I'm an architect. I practiced most of my career in
12 the Florence and -- and Myrtle Beach area. I moved
13 up here in 2002, and, you know, Al grew up here and
14 spent his entire life here. I'm, I guess, one of
15 these new folks that moved into a fast growing area
16 of the state and having enjoyed the benefits of
17 that.

18 I will tell you in 2002 the previous
19 census had already dictated our House and Senate
20 districts, so I just accepted it like most people
21 would, and when the opportunity -- when Al came up
22 to me and talked about the potential for us to be
23 considered for redistricting, I jumped at the
24 opportunity. I live in Tega Cay. Al is in -- in
25 the Fort Mill township, and it was rather

1 surprising that we -- we wouldn't be considered a
2 community of interest as you define for this
3 redistricting effort.

4 Again, we're experiencing exponential
5 growth. I have a middle school child and she's in
6 the eleventh grade and a new high schooler in the
7 ninth grade, and it's my interest that they see our
8 community and the interest and the unique interest
9 of our community be forwarded with unified
10 representation as we move forward.

11 As Al also said, I agree 100 percent
12 we've had great representation since I've been a
13 member of this community, and I think the potential
14 for the unknown is what concerns me. At least
15 knowing that we have been unified, that we -- that
16 you have taken our growth and -- our exponential
17 growth and our unique situation as a reason to have
18 that unified representation will be -- and I would
19 really appreciate that strong consideration.

20 To that end in the packets we have
21 solicited and received unanimous support from
22 the -- both city councils of Fort Mill and Tega
23 Cay, the school board, both Chambers of Commerce
24 and any numbers of civic groups that we met with at
25 the Rotary. Both Al and I are former presidents of

1 the Fort Mill Rotary Club, and everywhere we go --
2 the Lions Club, everywhere we -- we go we get
3 nothing but support for this effort. And I would
4 like to read the resolution to you if I could and
5 we'll conclude.

6 Whereas the people of Fort Mill
7 township including residents of the city of Tega
8 Cay, the town of Fort Mill and the unincorporated
9 areas of York County located north of the Catawba
10 River have a common interest unique to our
11 geographic location adjoining a major metropolitan
12 area and whereas Fort Mill township is currently
13 served by leaders in the South Carolina State
14 Senate and House of Representatives who ably
15 represent the interest of our community together
16 with the disparate interest of others, and whereas
17 the people of Fort Mill township desire to have a
18 unique interest advanced in a more unified fashion,
19 now therefore be it resolved the people of the Fort
20 Mill township pledge support for the redistricting
21 of the state of South Carolina lines for state
22 senator and state representative to include all of
23 Fort Mill township in one district.

24 Again, thank you for your attention.
25 We appreciate the opportunity to speak to you all.

1 MR. STEELE: Are there any questions we
2 can answer? I think we tried to cover everything
3 in our fact sheet. I don't know, you guys don't
4 live up here. You -- if there's anything we can
5 answer for you, we'd be glad to try to do that.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: You -- you spoke
7 clearly. Thank you.

8 MR. STEELE: Thank you.

9 MR. MACE: Thank you.

10 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you for being
11 here with us.

12 Next is Steve Love. Steve Love.

13 MR. LOVE: My name is Steve Love. I --
14 I reside at 118 Crescent Ridge in York where the
15 honorable John King is my representative, 19.

16 I'd like to begin, I think the state of
17 South Carolina has had -- still has a diverse
18 racial ethnic population of almost 30 percent, but
19 yet the black representation mimics the diversity
20 in terms of socioeconomic status and class without
21 having political representation, particularly
22 geographical location of political in our county
23 and state, but we are not adequately represented.

24 Underrepresented taxpaying citizens
25 people may not have a voice when it comes to policy

1 and decision making, but our counties and states
2 are being -- which is why we rely on legislators
3 with culture and civic backgrounds to make our
4 concerns known. Taxpaying citizens believe they
5 all have representatives when elected official
6 comes here to which state he reside. And while one
7 cannot assume that simply by having more African
8 Americans, it can create -- officially minimizes
9 the need for African Americans, it can create an
10 environment more conducive to support those
11 unrepresented.

12 If we are to live effectively in our
13 ever increasing technologically and global society,
14 we must be sensitive to diverse legislation in our
15 county and state. Of these counties represented,
16 Cherokee, Chester -- Chesterfield, Kershaw,
17 Lancaster, Newberry and Union Hill collectively,
18 the minority population consistently stays about 30
19 percent, but we fall -- fall short as it relates to
20 elected officials that most likely represent us.

21 I'm asking the Redistricting
22 Subcommittee to draw diverse lines that's conducive
23 for all Americans of these counties, but
24 specifically York County, the ones that can have
25 political astuteness with -- with articulation for

1 the complex issues that hangs for African Americans
2 such as high unemployment, saving public schools,
3 healthcare.

4 Again, I'd like to take this
5 opportunity to thank this subcommittee for coming
6 here.

7 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

8 Mr. Marvin Smith. Marvin Smith.

9 MR. SMITH: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
10 and other distinguished members of our state
11 Senate. I'm Marvin Smith, board chairman of the
12 York County Regional Chamber of Commerce. I'm here
13 to speak on behalf of our 850 business member firms
14 in Rock Hill, Fort Mill and Tega Cay. We
15 appreciate your holding this public hearing which
16 gives organizations like the Chamber an opportunity
17 to provide you our perspective as a voice of the
18 local business community.

19 First of all, you've heard testimony
20 from Al and Dan representing the Fort Mill township
21 which is located in York County. The Chamber
22 appreciates the fact that a specific group of
23 business people from a key geographic area of our
24 county is focusing on the representation of that
25 particular area. We strongly support their

1 position.

2 In a broader sense, the York County
3 Regional Chamber also supports a redistricting
4 process, the equitability of portions
5 representation to York and other counties across
6 the state. We believe that such a redistricting
7 process will result in more York County-based
8 representation in the South Carolina General
9 Assembly.

10 While currently each of our 11
11 legislative delegation members are admirable people
12 and respected legislators, less than half of the
13 delegates reside in York County. We believe York
14 County is due consideration for greater
15 residential-based -- residents -- I'm sorry --
16 resident-based representation for the following
17 reasons.

18 According to the 2010 census, York
19 County is the state's second fastest growing county
20 with a ten-year population growth of 37.3 percent
21 which as you probably know is nearly two and a half
22 times that as of the state's overall growth rate.
23 The new census results also indicate that 226,000
24 South Carolina citizens live in York County making
25 us the state's seventh most populated county.

1 As a strong business center and
2 significant contributor of retail sales taxes to
3 state revenue, the county's business community
4 including resident employees need more direct
5 representation in the state legislature. And while
6 York County benefits from our proximity to a large
7 metropolitan area just across our state line, there
8 are many unique and complex issues we face as a
9 border county. Therefore the county needs to have
10 its interest advanced by representatives who best
11 understand the significance of these issues.

12 We feel these reasons are consistent
13 with the traditional redistricting principles for
14 redrawing district lines as noted on the
15 subcommittee's website. We appreciate your
16 interest in York County and consideration of the
17 Chamber's position which is represented by
18 resolution that we've submitted for the record.
19 Thank you very much.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Dean Faile.

21 MR. FAILE: Thank you, Senator. I'm
22 Dean Faile. I'm with the Lancaster County Chamber
23 of Commerce and I reside in Lancaster County. For
24 40 years I resided here in Rock Hill, so I'm keenly
25 aware of some of the concerns that were just

1 pointed out by members here in York County, Fort
2 Mill and Tega Cay. I'm primarily concerned about
3 Senate District 16 and protecting that district as
4 a majority district in Lancaster County.

5 When I started looking at some of the
6 data -- some of the census data that came out and
7 some of the different statistics, you know, I was
8 wondering if York County really had an argument to
9 be honest with you in Fort Mill and Tega Cay, and
10 upon looking at that data, I found that they
11 actually do have a very good argument.

12 I think it's -- it's interesting to
13 note that in York County that they will be the
14 largest county with only one majority district --
15 Senate district in the state of the top seven, and
16 I found that interesting, and I understand your
17 concern. At the same time in looking at that data,
18 I found that if Lancaster County were to be denied
19 a majority Senate seat, we would also be the
20 largest -- being the seventeenth largest county in
21 the state did not have the opportunity to have a
22 resident senator.

23 When you look at the neighboring
24 counties -- and when I say neighboring, neighboring
25 in size -- you'll notice that in Lancaster County

1 in District 16 we have 62 percent of the population
2 when it was drawn in 2000. That's comparable to
3 Orangeburg which is the sixteenth largest county,
4 Sumter which is the fifteenth largest, and then
5 even Oconee which is smaller than us which is 18
6 and with a hundred percent of their population in
7 one district. Even Greenwood has 69 percent in one
8 district which is the nineteenth largest.

9 So I would respectfully ask that
10 Lancaster County continue to have at least the
11 majority of our citizens with nearly eight --
12 80,000, 76,652, I feel like it's a reasonable
13 request that at least 50 to 60,000 of those be
14 contained in one district.

15 I also think the communities of
16 interest is a valid point. I actually concur with
17 the Fort Mill and Tega Cay assessment. Having
18 lived in York County for 40 years, it's hard for me
19 to imagine Fort Mill and Tega Cay not being aligned
20 together in one Senate district. I totally agree
21 with that.

22 I also believe that the Catawba River
23 is a natural border, a national boundary. I know
24 we're not talking options tonight here and we'll
25 have that opportunity, but it's easy for me to look

1 at an option that would take the southern portion
2 of York County District 16, move that to another
3 district, remove some of the areas south of -- in
4 Lancaster County that's near Senator Sheheen's
5 district, because both of those districts --
6 Senator Coleman's, Senator Sheheen's district are
7 declining in numbers. They're going to have to
8 expand. District 16 is going to have to shrink.

9 That would -- that would accomplish
10 that goal of allowing some additional room for
11 growth in that District 16. It would also
12 accomplish the goals of the communities of interest
13 that -- that Al Steele and those pointed out that I
14 believe are fair and good argument.

15 So my concern and my request is at the
16 very least keep Lancaster County with only two
17 Senate districts. Give us the opportunity to have
18 one district with at least 50 percent of our
19 citizens in one district. At the very -- very
20 minimum 50,000 in one district so that we have the
21 opportunity to elect someone.

22 You know, as is stated here, we've been
23 fortunate. Senator Gregory was our senator for 16
24 years. There's -- there's an opportunity he may
25 become that senator again. We believe he's

1 represented the entire district well. We believe
2 the interest -- if you look historically over the
3 last hundred years of the connection between the
4 city of Lancaster, the city of Fort Mill, there's a
5 tie. Springs Industry created that tie for more
6 than a hundred years. That -- that tie continues
7 today when you look at the economic growth that's
8 coming out of Charlotte.

9 Al pointed out Fort Mill and Tega Cay
10 are bedroom communities of Charlotte. You could
11 not help but realize that Lancaster County is a
12 bedroom community of Charlotte as well with -- with
13 Ballantyne being right in Charlotte. We drove down
14 521. We are certainly a bedroom community to
15 Charlotte as well.

16 So there's a lot of commonalities
17 between the two, and we feel like that you can
18 actually accomplish both of those requests in a
19 fair way. Thank you for your time.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, sir.

21 Mr. Steve Willis.

22 MR. WILLIS: Thank you, sirs, for
23 taking the time from your busy schedule to be here
24 for this public input. I'm Steve Willis. As you
25 probably saw on the signup sheet, I'm the county

1 administrator for Lancaster, but I want to stress
2 my comments are personal, not official comments for
3 the county of Lancaster.

4 You'll hear from many folks tonight.
5 I'll confine my remarks strictly to Lancaster
6 County and urge you to keep District 16 as close as
7 possible to its current configuration. As Dean had
8 mentioned, there may be some tweaks that could be
9 made to improve the district, but we would like to
10 keep it as close as possible.

11 Lancaster County as Dean mentioned was
12 the fifth fastest growing county in South Carolina.
13 The population increased to 76,652 which is about
14 three-fourths of one of the new districts. For
15 many years we've been ably represented in large
16 part by the senator from District 16, currently
17 vacant. But a senator from District 27 who is
18 currently Vince Sheheen has a very small portion of
19 Lancaster County down in the southern part of Horry
20 and Kershaw.

21 District 16 is currently vacant and our
22 up and coming young senator from Lancaster, the
23 honorable Mick Mulvaney got up and went to
24 Washington, represented us in the U.S. House of
25 Representatives. Election is coming up on April

1 12th, and as Dean mentioned, we may send you a
2 veteran senator. He can hit the ground running and
3 make a real contribution to your work in Columbia.

4 As you enter the process of
5 redistricting the state Senate, I'd remind you of
6 two factors that I would urge you to consider as
7 you begin your redistricting. One of the factors
8 in redistricting is maintaining communities of
9 interest. What's a better indication of community
10 of interest than a county line.

11 The residents share a common governing
12 body, elected officials such as shared court,
13 emergency services, public works, planning
14 commissions and on and on and on. I wish we could
15 go back to where we had one resident senator from
16 every county, but unfortunately that can't be done.
17 But to the extent possible I'd urge you to make
18 sure that many counties are represented in the
19 Senate so that each area of our great state can
20 have a voice in Columbia.

21 In closing I'll make my second point
22 simply stating that may we'll be able to send you
23 another on April 13th and remind you you're
24 permitted by the courts to the maximum extent
25 possible the incumbent in District 16 and we hope

1 to do so.

2 Thank you for your time this evening
3 and appreciate your services.

4 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

5 SENATOR FORD: Can I have that?

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Stan Smith.

7 MR. SMITH: I'm Stan Smith. I'm from
8 District 16. I live in Fort Mill in Baxter. I'm
9 surprised at how close I am to my neighbors in
10 sharing a common opinion. I'll read you my
11 statement.

12 There are three ways folks can think
13 about redistricting, county lines and
14 jurisdictions, political affiliation by geography,
15 and rational business and development interest. In
16 order to shift from being a bedroom community, the
17 northern tiers of both York and Lancaster counties
18 need to be in the same senatorial district. This
19 will enable us to leverage the infrastructure
20 already in Charlotte and paid for by North
21 Carolinians as well as leverage the technology and
22 lifestyle assets that already exist in Charlotte.

23 It is from these that we can naturally
24 and organically recruit new businesses and
25 development due to our favorable tax structure and

1 regulatory environment. In effect we can leverage
2 the fact that we are a bedroom community of
3 Charlotte. We can actually build a real economic
4 and business infrastructure because of our
5 location.

6 To let party affiliation or traditional
7 administrative jurisdictions drive the shape of any
8 district in South Carolina is old south thinking.
9 Thinking for the new south and for the prospects of
10 South Carolina to become truly prosperous is to
11 think about the economic commonalities and regions
12 within South Carolina and leverage these into
13 marketable branded engines for growth and
14 development.

15 In a global economy we have to package
16 the state into segments that truly reflect and
17 attract manufacturing and industry, technology and
18 innovation, farming operations or retirees,
19 vacationers or so forth.

20 In entities -- if entities outside of
21 the state, businesses within the state are to
22 locate here and embed themselves in South Carolina,
23 they need to have a clear idea of what they're
24 buying into.

25 Please forget the political

1 self-interest of the folks that will talk to you
2 here. Pay attention to redistricting as an
3 economic issue for the growth of the state itself.
4 A rising tide lifts all boats. Political
5 self-interest will sink us all.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Al Steele.

7 MR. STEELE: I already went.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: We've got two of
9 you, man.

10 Ann Stevens.

11 MS. STEVENS: Mr. Chairman and
12 senatorial body, I'm here -- and I'm not speaking
13 as a person representing Union County, but more or
14 less speaking for myself in that I reside in Union
15 County which has been divided between Chester and
16 Fairfield counties representing District 17, and I
17 know I would be bringing in hopes that we will some
18 day get a residential senator because we have had
19 that before.

20 But I'm pleading to you in your
21 consideration in your redistricting drawing of your
22 lines, as you see the little portion of Union
23 County falls in District 17, and I would ask if
24 this body would consider redrawing the lines in the
25 interest of all persons and to try, if you can, to

1 get all of Union County into one district. Thank
2 you.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: Mr. Terence
4 Murchison. Did I get that name pretty close or --

5 MR. MURCHISON: You're perfect.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.

7 MR. MURCHISON: Probably one of the
8 few.

9 Mr. Chairman, other senators, good
10 evening, and thank you for the opportunity to
11 address you today. My name is Terence Murchison,
12 Sr., a resident of York County, South Carolina. I
13 live in District 47 represented by Thomas Pope. I
14 also am represented -- I live in the district of
15 York County School District Number Two which is
16 Clover, South Carolina.

17 I'm here to speak to you, though, for
18 the primary purposes of wanting you to consider
19 drawing lines that will allow us to elect an
20 African American to the Senate. The way I want to
21 explain that to you, though, is by giving you a
22 real live situation that we -- we had here in York
23 County and currently exists in York County. Let me
24 tell you a little bit more.

25 First of all, I am an executive board

1 member of the NAACP, the western York County
2 branch. I'm a chair of the Black Committee. I'm a
3 landowner, a taxpayer, a registered voter, and I
4 voted in every election since I graduated college
5 even though some of those elections were in other
6 states.

7 I want you to think about the reality
8 of this. York County School District Two currently
9 has an election process for the school board, and I
10 know you have no control over how lines are drawn
11 for school districts, but I want you to think about
12 this.

13 When I lived in Rock Hill, I worked
14 behind the infrastructure of single member
15 districts. The results of that work achieved full
16 representation of all races and genders of people
17 living in the Rock Hill school district. Okay?
18 Rock Hill currently has a seven member school board
19 trustees. Three are male, four female, of which
20 two are African Americans. Okay?

21 In the district now two are elected at
22 large and the voters of district -- in the
23 voters -- in the districts where they live. Okay?
24 The districts don't openly accept changes -- they
25 openly accept these changes, but just through the

1 political process we -- we were able to work those
2 changes through.

3 If I could ask you to help us change an
4 environment in our county, what I would ask you to
5 do, if you were in the county, to -- to start the
6 process of changing York County School District Two
7 because currently in Clover there's seven members
8 located -- that can be located to the -- elected to
9 the school board. Currently four males and three
10 females which are all white. Okay?

11 The way it's set up in that district is
12 that two are designated at large and five are
13 designated as holding seats one through five.
14 These seats are required that the candidate running
15 for the seats must live in a specific boundary.
16 Okay? Those living anywhere else in the district
17 can also vote for those candidates.

18 So essentially for the last -- for the
19 last ten years that I've lived in that district
20 there have been four African Americans that have
21 run for office for school board. None of those
22 candidates have been elected because if you look at
23 the empirical evidence, the voting evidence, it
24 says that white votes will not vote -- vote for
25 black votes.

1 So I go back to the point I was making
2 at the very beginning. If we're going to change
3 this county, we need to have senators that look
4 like me or look like some other African American
5 people in here, and -- and by doing so I think
6 you -- you are the ones that hold that. If you can
7 carve out a district where we can elect a possible
8 senator that's of African American descent, I would
9 greatly appreciate your doing so.

10 Again, I'm Terence Murchison, Sr. I
11 reside here in the county of York and have been
12 here in the school district that I -- I live in
13 since 1998. Prior to that I moved to this county
14 in 1981 and I've lived in other places in and out
15 of the county, but I am here now.

16 So I'd ask you to seriously consider
17 helping us to influence what goes on in York County
18 by carving out a district that can be represented
19 by an African American and elected by an African
20 American. Thank you.

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: Well, that
22 concludes all the people that have signed up. Has
23 anybody signed up that we have not gotten their
24 paperwork on?

25 And I'll go to the two senators here.

1 I'll go to them. Senator Wes Hayes. Senator,
2 where are you? Right back there. Any words of
3 wisdom you wish to give the group?

4 SENATOR HAYES: No. No. I'm -- I'm
5 here to listen.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: You heard enough by
7 Senator Ford today.

8 SENATOR HAYES: Greg -- Gregory was
9 here. He left. He is not a senator --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please remember
11 that, everybody, he is not your senator. I will
12 be.

13 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. Is
14 there anybody else? Last call. With that, we'll
15 be moving -- yes, sir. Please state your name for
16 the record and if you would come down because we
17 have -- we are keeping a record of everything
18 that's going on. It helps us. In fact, that's why
19 we don't have to take many notes. Sit here and
20 listen.

21 MR. BIRD: My apologies. I managed to
22 sign up twice on the wrong sheet, so I did not get
23 on your speaking tonight, but if you will listen to
24 me a moment --

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: We'll listen to

1 you.

2 MR. BIRD: -- I'd appreciate it.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: How about state
4 your name for the record.

5 MR. BIRD: I am Roy Bird. I am from
6 Oconee, South Carolina, which is part of York
7 County. It's part of the western part of York
8 County that is a community of interest of its own.
9 It represents a major part of South Carolina. What
10 I am here to tell you is that the community of
11 interest that drew me here 25 years ago and speaks
12 for us as South Carolinians is we have had a major
13 part of history of this country, a revolution,
14 civil wars. We have had a lot happen right here in
15 our state.

16 And while I am only the first resident
17 of my first family here, I have worked with a lot
18 of people and see a lot of people who are three and
19 four generations. These are the people I would
20 like to see as a community of interest.

21 What we have here is a rural flavor
22 that is very attractive. It's one of the reasons
23 that we have people moving to this area. It's one
24 of the things that makes South Carolina so unique.

25 The thing that I am very interested in

1 for my community of interest is that we not let
2 population centers overrun and overrule those of us
3 who have contributed to this great state for such a
4 great period of years, over a hundred years. We do
5 not want to lose that flavor.

6 We have had representatives of all
7 sorts of groups. I guess if I had to say I was a
8 group, it's probably Cherokee, but we won't go into
9 that. But the point is that we do not want to let
10 our population centers take over and dictate to the
11 rest of us how we go about living our lives. We
12 want to be able to live it as unique individuals
13 which we are.

14 In South Carolina we have had the
15 blessing to be recognized by almost everywhere in
16 the nation as a place to live, a place of warm
17 humanity. It's a place that people come to bask
18 their last few years of life in, their last decade
19 or 12. Some of us will be around for a long while.

20 But I want you to know that we do not
21 want to lose that. We're not New York City. We
22 aren't Boston. We're not Houston, Texas. We are
23 South Carolinians and must not lose that community
24 of interest. It's very important to us.

25 There are still people who actually

1 farm for a living. True, some of them do it
2 because they can't find another job, but most of us
3 enjoy that sort of thing.

4 So I thank you for your time. I thank
5 you for letting me speak even though I'm not clever
6 enough to sign up on the right sheet, and thank you
7 so much for your appearance here tonight.

8 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

9 Is there anyone else? Yes, ma'am.

10 And if y'all would, if you would fill
11 out a sheet so that the staff has got the ability
12 to be able to contact you. We would very much
13 appreciate it, those of you who are additionally
14 speaking.

15 Go ahead, ma'am. I'm sorry.

16 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you for this
17 opportunity. I'm Terry Taylor. I'm also from
18 Mc Connells, and I'm brand new to this process.

19 The thing that surprised me was
20 communities of interest, yet the criteria -- I
21 didn't know what the criteria were for
22 redistricting. For -- for me I like the one man,
23 one vote. But -- and I believe the smallest
24 minority that this United States has formed to
25 protect is a individual. It doesn't matter what

1 race, what gender, what ethnicity. The individual
2 is one man, one vote.

3 So communities of interest I think is
4 an illegitimate criteria for redistricting. I
5 think that the main thing is one man, one vote by
6 population. I'm not sure about the other criteria,
7 but the way you could make it is one man, one vote
8 without distorting that principle with communities
9 of interest, whether it's business interests or
10 whatever.

11 Our interests -- our common interests
12 is the right of each person to direct his own life,
13 to live his own life and have the liberty to pursue
14 his own happiness. So I request when you consider
15 the redistricting, you consider it only on the
16 basis of one man, one vote and give everyone the
17 opportunity to have his voice heard in directing
18 his own life. Thank you.

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

20 MR. LONG: Good evening. Thank you for
21 coming here. We appreciate that. Senator
22 McConnell, we've been -- we -- we did this ten
23 years ago and here we are again.

24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Back at it again.
25 I can't believe it's been ten years.

1 MR. LONG: Back at it again.

2 You mentioned several things that are
3 significant considerations -- I'm sorry, Don Long.
4 I live in Lake Wylie, South Carolina. Lake Wylie,
5 we are the second -- York is the second fastest
6 growing county in the state. We are the fastest
7 growing community in -- in York County. We grew
8 189 percent from the year 2000 to 2010. 189
9 percent.

10 SENATOR FORD: What's your name?

11 MR. LONG: Don Long, L-O-N-G.

12 My plea to you has to do with the whole
13 county. You mentioned several things that you want
14 to consider as being significant as you look at the
15 redistricting. You mentioned communities of
16 interest and compactness. You mentioned applicable
17 laws and standards. I would add one more item to
18 that, and that's fairness and equitability.

19 When you look at districting or
20 redistricting, as you will, the county is a
21 fundamental community of interest. I mean, the
22 county establishes our tax base, our tax rates and
23 does our tax assessments, does our tax collection.
24 It's our basic local government for the whole
25 geography. It has a lot to do with our recreation

1 facilities. It supervises most of the planning and
2 development in the county. It's responsible
3 through the sheriff's office for a lot of the law
4 enforcement that's done. It funds a lot of the
5 volunteer fire departments, provides equipment to
6 them. So our fire protection has a lot to do with
7 the county.

8 The county is really a basic community
9 of interest, and in our case growth is also a
10 characteristic of the county that has the
11 characteristics of the community of interest that
12 you brought.

13 In terms of compactness from a
14 political and economic and community unit point of
15 view, the county is about the most compact
16 geographic unit that you're going to find.

17 Applicable laws and standards, I'll
18 leave that to your good judgment. You understand a
19 lot more about that than I do. But I do understand
20 fairness and equitability, or at least I've tried
21 to.

22 The last time around if you take the
23 legislative manual and go through the Senate
24 districts and you look at the population associated
25 with each of the districts and where they come

1 from, what towns they come out of, Greenville
2 County had four resident Senates -- senators. 92
3 percent of the residents of Greenville County were
4 represented by a resident senator. Spartanburg
5 County had three resident senators. 98 percent of
6 the residents of Spartanburg County were
7 represented by a resident senator.

8 Richland County had three resident
9 senators, a hundred percent of the residents of
10 Richland County were represented by a resident
11 senator. Horry County had two resident senators.
12 94 percent of the residents in Horry County were
13 represented by a resident senator. Lexington
14 County, it was 72 percent. Orangeburg it was
15 effectively a hundred percent. Beaufort was
16 effectively a hundred percent.

17 Florence was the closest one to our
18 remote situation for most. Only 61 percent of the
19 residents of Florence County were represented by a
20 resident senator. They only had one in their
21 county. York County, only 55 percent of the
22 residents for this county.

23 Going in to this decade we're
24 represented by a resident senator. We only have
25 one resident senator. Fairness and equitability

1 would say that ain't fair and that ain't equitable.
2 We should have had two senators -- resident
3 senators for the past decade, and if there is any
4 idea that we're not going to have two resident
5 senators during the next decade, then fairness and
6 equitability to my mind is out the window.

7 We have 226,000 residents in this
8 county. You said a hundred and -- 100,500 is the
9 standard. We have enough population in this
10 calculation for 2.25 resident senators. That means
11 we can give away 25 percent of the population to
12 somebody else, but we ought to have at least two
13 resident senators. And somebody else can take the
14 25 percent.

15 I feel the way that several of the
16 other speakers have. I think we're very well
17 represented. I don't have any objection to the
18 representation that Lake Wylie has, that York
19 County has. I just think, though, from a fairness
20 and equitability point of view, yeah, the current
21 guys are great, but you got to consider the future.

22 What's going to happen over the next
23 decade? We will have the same representatives we
24 had today ten years from now? I don't know. Maybe
25 we will. But I'm not sure of that, and I think

1 that we have to look at the basic community of
2 interest as you said, the compactness of the plan
3 and the fairness and equitability as it relates to
4 how many resident senators should York County have.

5 We have 11 members of our legislative
6 delegation today. We have one resident senator and
7 four resident representatives. Five out of our 11
8 members of our delegation live in the county. Six
9 don't. I don't think that's right. I just don't
10 think that's right.

11 The population now, by the way,
12 justifies six resident representatives rather than
13 four and two resident senators rather than one.
14 And, I mean, those are full seats, not just partial
15 ones, but full resident seats. And I'd like to see
16 the Senate in this case -- as you look at the
17 Senate representation, take that into account and
18 please give us a second resident senator's seat.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

21 All right. Then I guess that concludes
22 this hearing. The -- again, if you have any
23 comments --

24 SENATOR HUTTO: Mr. Chairman.

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: -- we'll be over in

1 Greenville.

2 SENATOR HUTTO: Mr. Chairman.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes.

4 SENATOR HUTTO: The one thing -- and
5 I'm -- particularly to the last gentleman, you
6 know, you do have the distinction, though, of
7 having the county that's had the longest tenure of
8 a resident congressman.

9 MR. LONG: Yes, sir.

10 SENATOR HUTTO: Right. And I didn't
11 hear anybody speak to the Congressional districts.
12 So I assume everybody is satisfied. Y'all always
13 have had a congressman for longer than any other
14 county in the state, but --

15 MR. LONG: As long as we can keep this
16 one as long as we kept the last one, yeah.

17 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right. With
18 that, again, thank you all for coming, and have a
19 good evening.

20 (The public hearing was concluded at
21 7:31 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Yvonne R. Bohannon, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at Large, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing transcript was taken before me on the date and at the time and location stated on page 1 of this transcript; that all statements made on the record at the time of the proceeding were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed; that the foregoing proceeding as typed is a true, accurate and complete record of the proceeding 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 5th day of April, at Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.



Yvonne R. Bohannon

Yvonne R. Bohannon
Registered Merit
Reporter, CRR
My Commission expires
April 11, 2015

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