

Meeting of the Election Laws Subcommittee

South Carolina House of Representatives

Judiciary Committee

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Summerville, SC

April 14, 2011

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REP. CLEMMONS: We are convening a meeting of the Election Law Subcommittee of the South Carolina House Judiciary here in Summerville for the purpose of taking testimony from each of you who are interested in sharing with us your thoughts and concerns about the redistricting process that we are on the front end of embarking upon.

Before I share with you comments of how we will proceed in this meeting this evening, I'd like to first welcome and introduce members of the South Carolina House of Representatives who are with us tonight. And I'll start with my boss, Speaker Bobby Harrell, who needs no introduction here. And the real power behind the thrown at his side, Cathy. So, it's good to have you both here with us tonight. In addition, we have panelists here tonight, members of the subcommittee: Bakari Sellers, Representative Sellers is from Denmark, South Carolina. Next to Representative Sellers and beside me is our able legal counsel Patrick Dennis. To my right, again no introduction is needed here.

1 This is Jenny Horne, and we have  
2 representative Karl Allen here with us here  
3 from Greenville. We also have with us in the  
4 audience, stand up if you would when I call  
5 your name, we've got Peter McCoy. Peter's in  
6 the back here, Representative McCoy.  
7 Representative Joe Danning and Representative  
8 Chris Murphy, and former Representative Jim  
9 Felder. I'm sorry. It's good to see you, Mr.  
10 Felder. It's been a long time. We also have  
11 lost one of our subcommittee members to  
12 traffic. He is on his way, Representative Tom  
13 Young from Aiken will be joining us in the  
14 next few minutes.

15 With that said, ladies and gentleman, and  
16 my name is Alan Clemmons. I'm from Myrtle  
17 Beach. I have the honor of chairing the  
18 subcommittee tonight. I have some prepared  
19 remarks I'd like to share with you that should  
20 set the tone for this meeting tonight and give  
21 you a better feel for the redistricting  
22 process that we're engaged in and to help you  
23 better understand what it is that we are  
24 looking for from each of you tonight.

25 Ladies and gentleman, these hearings,

1           this hearing and the series of eight hearings  
2           we've held prior to tonight throughout all the  
3           regions of South Carolina, are really the very  
4           first step in a long and involved process that  
5           must be followed to complete a workable  
6           redistricting plan. We hope to start tonight  
7           with you folks here in Summerville by taking  
8           extensive public input. That input will form  
9           the basis of how we proceed in the  
10          redistricting process. From that input, this  
11          subcommittee must create and submit to the  
12          full House Judiciary Committee a plan for how  
13          to draw lines for the South Carolina House of  
14          Representatives, all 124 seats and for the  
15          United States House of Representatives  
16          including the new 7th District that South  
17          Carolina received in the most recent  
18          reapportionment process. The full committee  
19          must then submit a plan that may or may not be  
20          the same as the subcommittee's recommended  
21          plan to the full House of Representatives for  
22          consideration. As though that portion of the  
23          process were not complex enough, any plan that  
24          gains approval by the House and later the  
25          Senate, must also be submitted to the United

1 States Justice Department pursuant to the  
2 Voting Rights Act for what is called pre-  
3 clearance. If the plan does not comply with  
4 first the constitutional mandates of one  
5 person/one vote and equal protection; and  
6 second, with the statutory requirements of the  
7 Voting Rights Act, more work may still need to  
8 be done.

9 As you can see from my description, this  
10 is a very long and a very involved process,  
11 and tonight's hearing is a first step towards  
12 reaching the end product. Tonight, ladies and  
13 gentleman, our goal is to listen to each and  
14 every interested party tell us what they would  
15 like to see accomplished in the House's  
16 drawing of district lines for both the South  
17 Carolina House of Representatives and the  
18 United States House of Representatives. As  
19 the House undertakes the process of redrawing  
20 district lines, public input is indispensable  
21 in helping us to shape the house that best  
22 represents the people of South Carolina. The  
23 House of Representatives is often called the  
24 People's House, and in order to continue to  
25 earn that distinction, we must know how the

1 people want their house to look, how the  
2 people wish to be represented. That is the  
3 sole purpose of these hearings tonight: to  
4 hear from the public and to take your guidance  
5 as we shape the House and congressional  
6 districts for the coming decade. That is the  
7 sole purpose of these hearings.

8 Resulting from this series of hearings,  
9 this subcommittee plans to adopt a set of  
10 criteria drawn primarily from what we hear  
11 from the public. These criteria will be the  
12 guiding principles by which our subcommittee,  
13 the full committee, and ultimately the entire  
14 House will redraw lines. As you all know, the  
15 plan that is ultimately produced, must more  
16 than anything else, assure principles of one  
17 person/one vote, meaning that we are required  
18 to have as equal a population in each district  
19 as possible. But beyond those requirements,  
20 this subcommittee is particularly interested  
21 in what political subdivisions or smaller  
22 communities have in common or do not have in  
23 common, to indicate or suggest whether they  
24 should be located in one district or multiple  
25 districts. While this hearing is being

1           conducted tonight in Summerville to  
2           allow residents of the immediate area an  
3           opportunity for input, the subcommittee is  
4           happy to hear testimony from anyone interested  
5           in any part of the state or the state as a  
6           whole.

7           I anticipate that this meeting will last  
8           approximately two hours tonight, and while we  
9           want to hear everything that anyone has to  
10          offer, we reserve the right to limit  
11          individual testimony to ten minutes if  
12          necessary. I would ask each person as they  
13          offer testimony to be considerate of others.  
14          We're here to offer their opinions as well.  
15          If the people who precede you offer the same  
16          testimony that you plan to offer, it's  
17          perfectly acceptable for you to give your name  
18          and simply concur or endorse their testimony.  
19          Your concurrence will be an important part of  
20          our record tonight.

21          Ladies and gentleman, I'd also like to  
22          share with you that we have extensively  
23          publicized this meeting. We have done so  
24          through newspapers of general circulation and  
25          through the press association. We've sent out

1           hundreds of e-mails to those who have  
2           indicated an interest in this process. We  
3           have taken every opportunity that has availed  
4           itself including the placing of this hearing  
5           schedule on our State House e-mail, excuse me,  
6           our State House website. We hope that your  
7           area has received significant advance  
8           information to let you know that his hearing  
9           is being convened tonight. And I think this  
10          has worked because I see such a good  
11          attendance here, and I thank you all. We  
12          thank you all for your participation tonight.

13                 As we go through the night, you may have  
14          written documentation that you wish to share  
15          with the committee to make a permanent part of  
16          the record, we invite you to share that  
17          written information with us, be it a proposed  
18          map or a letter or just your thoughts written  
19          out that you wish to have as a part of the  
20          record. We would only ask that you clearly  
21          print your name and your mailing address on  
22          anything you wish to hand up to us. And at  
23          the appropriate time, our attorney will be  
24          happy to receive that written documentation.  
25          Ladies and gentleman, those are my comments

1           for you tonight. Again, we are delighted to  
2           be here with you as we end this process of  
3           public hearings. As I say we're ending the  
4           process of public hearings, that's probably  
5           not exactly correct because the record is  
6           going to remain open as we go through this  
7           process, and you can contact us by mail or  
8           through our website at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov) to  
9           share with us your concerns, your thoughts and  
10          your recommendations as we go throughout this  
11          process.

12                 With that ladies and gentleman, the time  
13           is now yours, and I will call you up in order  
14           that you have signed up to be heard. At the  
15           end of your presentation of those that have  
16           signed in, for those that may have joined us  
17           after the sheets were taken up, the sign in  
18           sheets, we will also afford you an opportunity  
19           to speak to us as well. First we have Mr. Jim  
20           Felder, former representative of the South  
21           Carolina House of Representatives. Mr.  
22           Felder, it's an honor to see you tonight. We  
23           welcome your comments.

24   REP. FELDER:     Thank you Mr. Speaker, panel  
25           members.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: I'm not Mr. Speaker.  
2 REP. FELDER: Mr. Chairman.  
3 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Speaker is seated over there.  
4 REP. FELDER: Forgive me, sir. Thirty-nine years  
5 ago while a young House member, I served on  
6 the joint Senate House Reapportionment  
7 Committee, chaired by the legendary Marion  
8 Gressette of Calhoun County. We had a tough  
9 job because we didn't have all the technology  
10 available to us that you guys have got today,  
11 but I still don't envy the paths that you have  
12 ahead of you. I have a statement, it's short  
13 and I'll take any questions that anyone has  
14 afterwards, and I'll submit it to counsel to  
15 be a part of the record. To the redistricting  
16 committee, please be advised that the South  
17 Carolina Vote Education project urges you to  
18 recommend to the full House of Representatives  
19 the creation of a second majority/minority  
20 congressional district in South Carolina. The  
21 recent census states that African Americans  
22 make up nearly thirty percent of the state's  
23 population, and fairness would dictate that it  
24 is fitting and proper to create two such  
25 districts. The African American community of

1 interests are as follows, with a few  
2 exceptions: We live in the same neighborhoods,  
3 attend the same churches, belong to the same  
4 fraternities, sororities, lodges and social  
5 organizations. Therefore, we feel we should  
6 have the opportunity to chose a congress  
7 person from our community to represent our  
8 interests in the United States Congress. The  
9 Voter Education Project is an organization  
10 that was created in 1966 to help implement the  
11 1965 Voters Right Act. Further, our mission  
12 is to help maintain a level playing field for  
13 African Americans to participate in the  
14 political process. Those are the end of my  
15 prepared remarks.

16 In 1972, in South Carolina, we only had  
17 twenty black elected officials. Only three in  
18 the House, a few on county councils and city  
19 councils scattered around the state. We have  
20 progressed since that time, I must say. You  
21 know what the number of African American's are  
22 in the House? We have over five hundred local  
23 elected officials around the state, county  
24 council, city council, school boards and so  
25 forth. So, we have come a long ways. But, we

1 don't want to lose any of that ground, so  
2 we're simply urging you to maintain a level  
3 playing field and allow an opportunity for a  
4 minority group to have a fair share and a fair  
5 shake at the new congressional district that  
6 will be created. I'll take any questions you  
7 may have at this time.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mr. Felder. Are there  
9 any questions? Mr. Sellers.

10 REP. SELLERS: Thank you so much Mr. Chairman. Mr.  
11 Felder, we've traveled around the state as  
12 Chairman Clemmons has said, and whenever this  
13 comes up I like to just, it's something that  
14 I'm very interested in and I want you to know  
15 that I can't speak for the whole committee,  
16 but a few of us have not seated and -- have  
17 not seated the seventh district to any part of  
18 the state, but are interested in understanding  
19 what a majority/minority district will look  
20 like or another one. Have you given any  
21 thought to what that district would look like  
22 or the counties it would incorporate, or any  
23 other districts that would surround it?

24 REP. FELDER: Well, I haven't given a lot of  
25 attention to it. I've looked at some maps,

1 did some configurations, but as I see it, it  
2 would really, it's almost going to be from  
3 Columbia East on that second district, leaving  
4 the coast maybe as it is and do the  
5 reconfiguration between Columbia, Orangeburg  
6 through the PeeDee and maybe a part of York  
7 County and up that way, as I see it.

8 REP. SELLERS: If you actually get your doodle pen  
9 out anytime soon between now and the end of  
10 this process, it would be very, very good if  
11 you could just submit something to us if you  
12 have that time and think that you can help us  
13 in that manner. Thank you.

14 REP. FELDER: Thank you.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Any other questions? Mr. Felder,  
16 thank you so much, and you indicated you'd  
17 like to leave your written comments. If you'd  
18 just bring them forward and hand them to  
19 counsel. Thank you Mr. Felder. Ms. Susan --

20 MS. BRESLIN: Breslin.

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Breslin.

22 MS. BRESLIN: Mr. Chair and members of this  
23 committee, my name is Susan Breslin. I'm  
24 speaking to you on behalf of the Charleston  
25 County Democratic Party. The Chair would be

1           here, but he's in California at the moment, so  
2           you're stuck with me.

3   REP. CLEMMONS: We're delighted to have you Ms.  
4   Breslin.

5   MR. BRESLIN:    I'd like to thank you all for coming  
6           down here.  I wish you'd come a little bit  
7           further so I wouldn't have had to drive all  
8           the way up the road, but we're close enough  
9           for Charleston to be represented.  There are  
10          several points that I'd like to make in this  
11          presentation about what the Charleston County  
12          Democratic Party is looking at.

13                 First, I'd like to reinforce some of the  
14                 principles in the Voting Rights Act of  
15                 redistricting, particularly the district  
16                 should be as closely as possible should be  
17                 compact, contiguous and they should respect  
18                 political subdivision lines and communities  
19                 and interests.  The districts that you have  
20                 now around Charleston County are, I drew  
21                 little pictures of them today while I was  
22                 looking them up.  They are extraordinarily  
23                 uncompact and wandering around, they look  
24                 like, you know, they look like a picture of  
25                 the old original district that earned the name

1           Gerrymander, and I think there are some  
2           principles that would help you bring the  
3           districts closer in line with the goals of  
4           compactness and (inaudible). I'd also like to  
5           express our support for the editorial in the  
6           Post and Courier of last week that districts  
7           be competitive. That's not in the Voting  
8           Rights Act, but I think it's an important  
9           consideration. I can't say it any better than  
10          the Post and Courier did. Most districts in  
11          the state now are not competitive. They  
12          should be competitive.

13                 I'd first like to talk about the  
14          congressional district. I think it's as much  
15          as possible helpful to build congressional  
16          districts on county. The first congressional  
17          district right now splits Charleston County  
18          and it splits the City of Charleston, splits  
19          the City of North Charleston, and it creates  
20          problems for the voters. It creates, I'm sure  
21          it creates problems for the election  
22          officials, and it splits up natural areas of  
23          interest. The City of Charleston has well  
24          known interests to be in two different  
25          congressional districts. I guess some people

1           might see it as helpful, but you kind of lose  
2           the focus when it's split in two districts.  
3           So on the congressional district, we would  
4           recommend that Charleston County be part of  
5           one congressional district, not two. And that  
6           would probably mean that District Six be moved  
7           West, possibly going beyond where it is now in  
8           Orangeburg and into more of Columbia. The  
9           House, I focused mainly on the House district.  
10          Our House districts in Charleston County, now  
11          we have thirteen districts that, in part,  
12          represent Charleston County. Seven of them  
13          represent other counties as well. It's a real  
14          hodge podge, so that the interest of  
15          Charleston County are only, you know, within  
16          Charleston County are only really represented  
17          by six people, concentrated exclusively on  
18          Charleston County. There has to be a better  
19          way of doing that. Now, a couple of those  
20          districts have such small fractions of the  
21          other counties that it almost doesn't matter.  
22          Counties in the first building block, the  
23          second building block are cities or towns. In  
24          Charleston County, geography is also very  
25          important. We have lots of islands, lots of

1 rivers, one ocean. To the extents possible  
2 respect those natural boundaries as well as  
3 the political (inaudible).

4 I particularly would like to focus on  
5 communities of interest. And Charleston  
6 County is blessed with a great many  
7 historically black communities. There not  
8 often well known outside the black community.  
9 I think, for instance, in Mt. Pleasant the  
10 black communities go back and forth with each  
11 other, know each other, marry back and forth  
12 with each other. There's a long long history  
13 there, and it's a very strong community of  
14 interest and it's really important to them to  
15 be able to maximize their power because  
16 they're surrounded by development and they're  
17 being under tremendous pressure to keep these  
18 very proud communities intact. So, I think an  
19 effort should be made to identify the  
20 historically black communities, and we would  
21 be glad to help you with that in the  
22 redistricting process and try to keep them  
23 together with a political subdivision. The  
24 compactness is a very big issue, and I live on  
25 Folly Beach, so I'm going to use District 115

1 as an example. That's almost an ideal  
2 district. It is so beautifully compacted. It  
3 represents a political subdivision and there  
4 are lots of black communities within James  
5 Island. They're all in the same house  
6 district. Folly Beach has a natural affinity  
7 with James Island. The only way to get out of  
8 Folly Beach is to go through James Island, and  
9 it's that's district with a little bit under  
10 and if has the only precinct on James Island  
11 that is not in that district, it would be  
12 (inaudible) James Island 22, which is  
13 (inaudible) is now in District 119 which is a  
14 little bit over, I think you've got two  
15 problems solved without a lot of disruption.  
16 But, 115 I think can see the ideal that you  
17 should be looking at in terms of respect for  
18 communities, providing people with  
19 representation for their common interests.  
20 And surely we can do better than that. That's  
21 kind of sad. We look forward to -- one other  
22 thing on James Island, and I'm sure it's true  
23 in other places in Charleston. There are two  
24 black communities on James Island, each of  
25 which is split amongst three precincts. Now,

1 I know you don't deal with precincts at the  
2 legislative level, but all of you are in your  
3 legislative caucuses locally and have  
4 something to do with precincts, and the same  
5 principles to the extent possible should apply  
6 to precincts because they are so often used as  
7 the building blocks for districts. We would  
8 be very happy to work with you, give you any  
9 information that would be helpful to you and  
10 we appreciate the work that you're doing and  
11 we feel sorry for you.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Breslin. Thank you  
13 ma'am. Are there any questions? Thank you  
14 for your presentation tonight Ms. Breslin.  
15 I'm sorry, Ms. Breslin, could you come back  
16 forward for just a moment. Mr. Allen has a  
17 question to ask you.

18 REP. ALLEN: Thank you Mr. Chairman. When you  
19 mentioned districts should be competitive,  
20 could you just give me your feel for what  
21 you're saying on competitive districts and  
22 that terminology.

23 MS. BRESLIN: Well, the way the Post and Courier  
24 describe it, that you can't automatically  
25 predict the outcome of an election, that there

1 is enough of a balance among political  
2 interests, that there is some chance for one  
3 party or another to win an election.

4 REP. ALLEN: That was the gist of that Post and  
5 Courier article?

6 MS. BRESLIN: That's right. I can make a copy of  
7 it.

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Ms. Breslin, if you would put your  
9 name and address and that, we'd be happy to  
10 take that as a part of a public record and  
11 make it available to all the members. And  
12 while you're doing that Ms. Breslin, it gives  
13 me an opportunity to introduce some  
14 dignitaries that have joined us. We have  
15 representative Robert Brown, seated in the  
16 front here and Seth Whipper over here to your  
17 left. It's good to have you gentleman with us  
18 today. We also, Ms. Horne has pointed out to  
19 me that we have other dignitaries in the room  
20 that I'd like to introduce to you. We have  
21 high school government teacher Gary Barnett  
22 with us. Mr. Barnett would you stand? And we  
23 have his students here from Ashley Ridge High  
24 School that are observing the redistricting  
25 process. Thank you being here tonight. This

1 is civics in action. Congratulations. I'm  
2 pleased that you're here seeing what we do  
3 tonight.

4 Ms. Breslin, I'm going to bother you to  
5 stand up one more time. Representative Young,  
6 who has joined us, has a question for you.

7 REP. YOUNG: Thank you very much. I have one  
8 question, and I appreciate your testimony. Do  
9 you have any thoughts on how we can draw some  
10 of these districts to make them more  
11 competitive when, at the same time, we have a  
12 challenge not to retrogress and to try to  
13 maintain the minority representation with the  
14 existing districts?

15 MS. BRESLIN: That's a wonderful question. I'm  
16 lucky because I'm only speaking for Charleston  
17 County. Our minority representatives are  
18 exceptional, and I personally believe that  
19 they were meant to be in a district which was  
20 not drawn to be overwhelmingly black. I  
21 understand that those districts are a great  
22 concern of yours. I can't tell you that X  
23 district should include -- We could take a  
24 stab at that if you would like, but, for  
25 instance, Representative Whipper is a friend

1 of mine. He's very well known in Charleston.  
2 I can't believe that people wouldn't vote for  
3 him all over the county, so I'm not worried  
4 about him. He may be worried about him. We  
5 have had examples recently of black candidates  
6 winning in districts that were not even close  
7 to being a minority district, so maybe there's  
8 a possibility to move out a little bit. I  
9 certainly, I know their existing constituents  
10 would want to continue being represented, but  
11 I don't know whether that's true with the rest  
12 of the state. I think we're particularly  
13 lucky in Charleston in our representation in  
14 the House.

15 REP. YOUNG: Thank you very much.

16 REP. CLEMMONS: Any other questions before Ms.  
17 Breslin sits down? Ms. Breslin, thank you so  
18 much for your remarks today. We are moving on  
19 to Mr. Robby Robbins.

20 MR. ROBBINS: Mr. Chairman, I did not want to  
21 speak. I thought I was signing in just to sign  
22 in. (Inaudible)

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Robbins, we are delighted to  
24 have you with us tonight. Rob Groce.

25 MR. GROCE: Unfortunately, that's the correct

1           pronunciation.

2   REP. CLEMMONS: Rob Groce, thank you, sir.

3   MR. GROCE: I had to comment on the proposed  
4           realignment and creation of new district  
5           boarders upon the State House Districts.

6   REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Groce, could you begin by giving  
7           us an address?

8   MR. GROCE: I live here at 113 Antebellum Way,  
9           Summerville.

10   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you sir. Go ahead.

11   MR. GROCE: Between 2000 and 2010, the number of  
12           State House Districts that have a  
13           minority/majority in registered voters or  
14           simply the population alone actually, has  
15           significantly decreased from 23 percent in the  
16           year 2000 to only 15 percent as of 2010.  
17           Under the new redistricting that's being  
18           proposed, will there be, I'm hoping, I'm  
19           strongly encouraging, that there would be  
20           included in these districts an opportunity to  
21           improve the number of minority/majority  
22           districts here in the state and to reflect the  
23           30 percent of the population that this  
24           minority actually represents.

25   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Any questions? Mr.

1 Groce. Thank you so much for your  
2 contribution tonight. Mr. Ed Carter.

3 MR. CARTER: I'm like Robby Robbins.

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, again. It's good to have you  
5 here Mr. Carter. Peggy Bangle.

6 MS. BANGLE: (inaudible)

7 REP. CLEMMONS: You folks are making my job too  
8 easy. Garry Barnett. Mr. Barnett, you  
9 weren't just signing in tonight.

10 MR. BARNETT: No, sir, I always have something to  
11 say.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Well, good. We look forward to  
13 hearing from you, sir.

14 MR. BARNETT: Okay. I live in Ravenel, South  
15 Carolina at 6350 The Blarney Stone, just over  
16 the line from Dorchester County. I moved  
17 there in 1998, and I went to vote in the  
18 congressional elections that year and much to  
19 my surprise they would not give me the ballot  
20 for the district that I thought I lived in. I  
21 was ready to vote for my old friend and  
22 golfing buddy, Henry Brown, at the time, and  
23 they said no Mr. Barnett, you don't live in  
24 his district. I said, what do you mean, I  
25 live in Charleston County right there. I'll

1 show you where. And then they pulled the map  
2 out and said well, if you just lived over  
3 there we'd give you that ballot, but we can't  
4 because you don't live there, you live here.  
5 So, with a little mud on my face, I went ahead  
6 and cast my ballot in the Sixth Congressional  
7 District. I'd want to echo the comments that  
8 I heard earlier that especially in our  
9 congressional district, I would certainly hope  
10 that one of the goals would be to preserve the  
11 political autonomy of the counties and try to  
12 minimize the impact of having to split  
13 counties among congressional districts. And I  
14 would think that since this is being done  
15 where we can certainly examine this to  
16 hopefully get Charleston, Berkeley and  
17 Dorchester County, all of the parts in the  
18 same congressional district. I would think  
19 that that would hopefully be a major priority.

20

21 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mr. Barnett.

22 MR. BARNETT: Thank you.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Any questions? Hearing none. Thank  
24 you sir. Ms. Yasmin Anderson. Hi.

25 MS. ANDERSON: Hi everyone. My name is Yasmin

1 Anderson. I'm in Mr. Barnett's AP Government  
2 class, and I just had one question. I just  
3 wanted to know how could redistricting  
4 negatively affect Dorchester County? And that  
5 was all.

6 REP. HORNE: I'll take a stab at that one because I  
7 am the Representative from Dorchester County.  
8 I don't see how it would negatively impact us.  
9 We have had a 45 percent population increase  
10 in Dorchester County in the last ten years.  
11 So I wouldn't say it would negatively, but it  
12 is going to change due to the population  
13 increase that we've had recently. So you may  
14 see more, we have more representation in  
15 Dorchester County as a result of it because my  
16 district has to be constricted to 37,301  
17 people and every other member has to have that  
18 kind of target, that's a target for an ideal  
19 district. So we may get more representatives,  
20 and of course, if they're like my colleagues  
21 here, they're all fine representatives. I'd  
22 love to have them in Dorchester County. Thank  
23 you.

24 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you.

25 REP. CLEMMONS: Ms. Anderson, would you come back

1 to the podium for just one moment.

2 Representative Allen has a question for you.

3 For me, oh, no.

4 REP. ALLEN: That was such a fine question from a  
5 fine young lady, going to positively affect  
6 your grade in that class?

7 MS. ANDERSON: A 100 on a test grade. (inaudible)

8 REP. CLEMMONS: Excellent question Mr. Allen. Are  
9 there any other questions for this witness?  
10 Hearing none. Thank you so much for being  
11 with us tonight. Kensley Wade.

12 MR. BUTLER: She wants me to speak on behalf of  
13 her.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Okay.

15 MR. BUTLER: I just want to start off by saying  
16 thank you for this opportunity. I really  
17 appreciate it. My name is Scott Butler. I  
18 live in Legend Oaks. My question is in this  
19 little sheet that I received, it has the  
20 increase of whites and blacks from 2000 to  
21 2010. I'm wondering for this redistricting,  
22 are the Latinos represented at all in this at  
23 all? Are they represented fairly?

24 REP. CLEMMONS: I think I can respond to that by  
25 saying Latinos are counted in the breakdowns.

1 Under the Voting Rights Act, we look at  
2 certain indicators. We look at minority and  
3 we look at black representation in the area.  
4 And we're required under the Voting Rights Act  
5 to allow, where at all possible, no  
6 retrogression, no going backwards in  
7 minority/majority districts. So the answer to  
8 your question is yes, Latinos are also  
9 considered minorities. Latino citizens are  
10 counted just as any other citizen.

11 MR. BUTLER: Thank you.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Very good question. Any  
13 questions from the subcommittee. Hearing  
14 none. Thank you so much sir. Our next  
15 witness tonight is Gladys Pyatt.

16 MS. PYATT: I just only signed in.

17 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Pyatt. Katherine  
18 Eastvold. Good evening Ms. Eastvold.

19 MS. EASTVOLD: Hi. Thank you Mr. Chair.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. EASTVOLD: My name is Catherine Eastvold. I  
22 live at 119 Newington Road here in  
23 Summerville. Juliana 8, (inaudible). I'm  
24 actually here on behalf of my husband, who had  
25 written out a statement, but now is very sick

1 in bed with the flu. He also lives at the  
2 same address. So, these are remarks from Dr.  
3 Jonathan Eastvold, Chair of the Issues  
4 Committee for the Dorchester County Democratic  
5 Party. At some point, it is pointless for the  
6 minority party to show up at a hearing like  
7 this. In states across the country, minority  
8 parties like ours are partitioning the  
9 majority party to please don't hurt us.  
10 Majority parties across the land reply, and  
11 that's the ball game for another decade. In  
12 South Carolina, the republicans hold all the  
13 cards and it doesn't look good for the  
14 democrats. In fairness, I have little doubt  
15 that there are some in our party that would do  
16 the same to you if our roles were reversed. I  
17 thought seriously about staying home rather  
18 than joining the charade, but this is more  
19 than about one party's electoral chances for  
20 the next decade. We'll get our own safe  
21 seats, just not as many. What is ultimately  
22 at stake is not who wins and loses in the next  
23 round of politics, but something much more  
24 fundamental, the ability of voters to change  
25 their minds. Why would you not make a

1 district competitive unless you didn't trust  
2 the people to choose you again. Do you think  
3 it helps people to take seriously their duties  
4 as citizens for their votes not to matter, for  
5 them to get the message explicitly or  
6 otherwise, that you think they're too stupid  
7 to do anything but be manipulated by spin  
8 doctors. (Inaudible) and are often  
9 contentious democracy what keeps our deeply  
10 polarized politics from bursting from the  
11 ballot box into the streets is the public's  
12 confidence that there will always be another  
13 election where today's winners will be held  
14 accountable and today's losers can hope again.  
15 Locking in the effects of last November's  
16 landslide for five more election cycles makes  
17 narrow partisan sense, but is deeply  
18 irresponsible, not to mention cowardly. Are  
19 today's incumbents so concerned that they  
20 won't do an acceptable job, that they need to  
21 protect themselves at the expense of voter  
22 choice. If so, the people of South Carolina  
23 might have liked to know that a few months  
24 ago. Politically driven redistricting is  
25 predicated on a notion that demography is

1           destiny. Though where we are coming from will  
2           inevitably determine where we are going and  
3           that the common good is less than some of it's  
4           micro-targeted parts. We Americans are better  
5           than this. Our elections matter. Let us not  
6           trade away our civic birth right for the  
7           watery soup of narrowly construed partisan  
8           advantage. Do the right thing, draw  
9           competitive districts. Those are the remarks  
10          from my husband, Dr. Jonathan Eastvold.

11       REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Ms. Eastvold.

12       MS. EASTVOLD: I don't have our address on here, so  
13          if somebody has a pen.

14       REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Let me ask of my  
15          subcommittee members, if you have any  
16          questions of Ms. Eastvold. Hearing none. Ms.  
17          Eastvold, thank you for being here. Thank you  
18          for bringing your family with you. Next we  
19          have Carol Duncan to speak to us tonight.

20       MS. DUNCAN: I came to listen. Unfortunately, I  
21          (inaudible)

22       REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you for clarifying the record.  
23          We now know who to blame. Thank you so much.  
24          Ladies and gentleman, those are all of the --.  
25          Thank you. We have Michael Mulay.

1 MR. MULAY: Yes, sir.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Mr. Mulay, we look forward to  
3 hearing from you.

4 MR. MULAY: Mr. Chairman and distinguished  
5 representatives, my name is Michael Mulay and  
6 I live at 1469 Village Road in Charleston  
7 County. I want to thank you for taking the  
8 time to come our way to hold this meeting. As  
9 Representative Horne can attest and I'm sure  
10 you all are all aware of, the economies of the  
11 Lowcountry, especially for those of Folly,  
12 James Island, Kiawah Island and Seabrook  
13 Island thrive on the tourism and recreation  
14 industries. I state this fact in hopes that  
15 the information, that this information will  
16 not be forgotten as you all take on the tough  
17 task of redrawing the State House seats.  
18 Knowing that the target size of House  
19 Districts, as Representative Horne called it,  
20 is roughly 38,000 and knowing that the current  
21 House Seat 115 size is a bit under populated  
22 to meet this goal, I ask that you all take in  
23 consideration keeping these municipalities  
24 that share equal economies and equal means of  
25 economies together, bring them together to

1 bring the population of the current house seat  
2 into the target size. I also want to point  
3 out that costal restoration is also a very  
4 serious shared interest among all four of the  
5 municipalities, and my opinion for you, and I  
6 hope that you all will take this into  
7 consideration as you do redraw this, is very  
8 simple to remember: One coast, one voice. I  
9 ask that you all please consider when you are  
10 redrawing to make Kiawah and Seabrook into the  
11 current 115 House Seat. I'm open for any  
12 questions you may have.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Questions? Thank you  
14 Mr. Mulay.

15 MR. MULAY: And I'm going to rewrite it because  
16 you're not going to be able to read it right  
17 now and then I'll hand it up to you so you can  
18 put it in the record. Thank you.

19 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. We appreciate that, sir.  
20 Do we have any others that have not signed up  
21 tonight to speak that would like to speak?  
22 Yes, ma'am. Would you please come forward and  
23 give us your name and address?

24 MS. CRUMB: Good afternoon. My name is Angie  
25 Crumb, and I'm from Dorchester County in House

1           Seat 97. My address is 324 (??) Road,  
2           Ridgeville, South Carolina. And I would like  
3           to thank the House members for being here to  
4           allow us to exercise our feeling and freedom  
5           of -- to listen to us, to help make a  
6           difference. My concern is Dorchester County,  
7           some of you know and don't, it's mostly a  
8           three part county. You got the lower part  
9           which I refer to as the Summerville area. The  
10          middle section is between Ridgeville, Jedburg  
11          and the upper is St. George area. And doing  
12          this redistricting, we have Representative 97  
13          that covers those areas up until the  
14          Ridgeville here. And I would like, I have not  
15          really got to know exactly what the census  
16          are. I noticed 130 something, but what it is  
17          that I heard Ms. --

18        REP. CLEMMONS: Horne.

19        MS. CRUMB: Just say it's 37,301. I wonder whether  
20          it would be possible that you can create  
21          another house district even if you have to  
22          borrow some from Berkeley County. I would  
23          like to see it's possible that someone like me  
24          could run in that particular district. And  
25          why I say that is because everybody has

1 different concerns, just like in Ridgeville  
2 now, and you all might be surprised, we don't  
3 have proper water and sewer. Not even a  
4 decent fire station. So when you create this  
5 district, then you have someone in that  
6 district that knows the concerns and feelings  
7 and the community interests at heart. Thank  
8 you.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much ma'am. Any  
10 questions by subcommittee members. Thank you  
11 so much for speaking to us tonight. Do we  
12 have others that wish to testify? Okay. The  
13 gentleman here in the fine looking seersucker  
14 suit.

15 MAYOR YOUNG: (??)

16 REP. CLEMMONS: It's good to have you again sir.

17 MAYOR YOUNG: Good to see you again chairman. I  
18 wondered if it was too early to wear this  
19 suit, so I was glad to see that it wasn't.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: It absolutely is not. You are in  
21 proper order tonight, Mayor.

22 MAYOR YOUNG: And I also bring you greetings  
23 Representative Sellers. I had lunch today  
24 with your third grade teacher who had some  
25 interesting stories to tell me about when you

1           were in the third grade.

2   REP. SELLERS:   The meeting's over.

3   MAYOR YOUNG:   But Ms. Bartley said to tell you  
4           hello.  I want to thank you for allowing me to  
5           testify before the House Subcommittee on  
6           redistricting.  As you know, Colleton County  
7           has been divided six ways with three  
8           senatorial districts and three house  
9           districts.  The City of Walterboro with a  
10          population of 5400 is also divided six ways  
11          with each legislature taking a small fragment.  
12          The result has been that we really have no  
13          legislator who shares in a community of  
14          interest with the majority of citizens in our  
15          county, and no legislator who is answerable to  
16          our county.  Traditional redistricting  
17          principles say the district should be compact  
18          and contiguous, that they should follow  
19          natural man-made or political geographic  
20          boundaries, that cores of districts be  
21          maintained to allow for a continuation of  
22          similar representation or communities of  
23          interest be kept together in the same  
24          district.  The City of Walterboro and Colleton  
25          County meet all of the above principles and

1           yet we are divided six ways. The City of  
2           Walterboro is certainly compact, contiguous,  
3           follows natural and man-made geographical  
4           political boundaries and could serve as the  
5           core of the district if it were not so  
6           divided. The mayor and council run at large  
7           with each representing the entire city. We  
8           utilize the same parks, belong to the same  
9           civic clubs, attend the same churches and  
10          support the same local charities and events.  
11          As a city, we are a true community of  
12          interest. Colleton County also meets the  
13          above criteria for redistricting, and we  
14          believe it's almost perfect in population and  
15          in demographics to have a representative in  
16          the State House. Our county follows many  
17          natural boundaries, as well as political and  
18          geographic boundaries. As a county, we are  
19          also a true community of interest. We have  
20          one public school system and one high school.  
21          From across our county, children come together  
22          to be educated, participate in sports and the  
23          fine arts and to socialize. We, as a county,  
24          have one superintendent of education. We  
25          elect the sheriff and a clerk or court who

1 represent the entire county as well as an at-  
2 large county council member. We utilize the  
3 same healthcare system, hospital and doctors.  
4 We participate in the same recreation leagues  
5 and arts council activities. We share in the  
6 support of one institution of higher learning,  
7 USC Salkehatchie, and we cherish the beauty  
8 and the bounty of the ACE Basin which is a  
9 result of our stewardship and lies mostly  
10 within our border. We support each other in  
11 good times and also in times of turmoil and  
12 tragedy. It would seem that one would have to  
13 work very hard to find reasons to justify  
14 dividing us up when placing Colleton County in  
15 a single house district would be so easy to  
16 support. It would make sense to draw as many  
17 districts as possible within the borders of  
18 each county and not start in a large county  
19 and take chunks away from the smallest (end of  
20 recording A) . . . and Jasper County's  
21 entitled to 0.66 districts. Together they  
22 work out to an almost five districts that meet  
23 the criteria for redistricting with one shared  
24 district. Charleston County is entitled to  
25 9.4 districts, while Dorchester County has

1           enough population for 3.66 districts.  Again,  
2           they combine for an almost perfect 13  
3           districts that meet the criteria for  
4           redistricting with one shared district.  
5           Colleton County is entitled to 1.04 districts  
6           and meets the criteria for redistricting.  
7           Under our current plan, the population centers  
8           in Hampton County and a large part of rural  
9           Colleton County were used to form one of our  
10          districts.  There's no reason why the new  
11          district couldn't be drawn to include the  
12          population centers within Colleton County as  
13          well as the rural areas of our county to give  
14          us a representative.  Using a two percent  
15          deviation from the magic number of 37,301  
16          gives you a usable number of 38,047 people for  
17          a district.  Colleton County has 38,892  
18          people.  Only 845 citizens are 0.02 of a  
19          district more than the allowed number.  We  
20          hope that you will find a way to place all of  
21          Colleton County in a single district, but if  
22          you must place part of Colleton County in  
23          another district, it should be the smallest  
24          amount legally required of the approximately  
25          845 people that we are over the limit.  And

1 the area with that population should be  
2 contiguous with the other district. It is  
3 imperative that the other 37,047 residents of  
4 our county be placed in a single house  
5 district. We would not want, for example, to  
6 be divided into two districts, one with 25,000  
7 and one with 13,892. For 20 years now, we  
8 have been gerrymandered almost out of  
9 existence. Because of this, we are requesting  
10 that you draw our district first or at least  
11 very early in your deliberations so that you  
12 can guarantee the people of Colleton County  
13 that they will no longer be disenfranchised.  
14 The past injustices that have been leaded on  
15 our citizens justified this request for  
16 preferential treatment. Our situation is  
17 equally as dire on the Senate side. We have  
18 two Senators that represent five counties and  
19 one who represents four. At your Beaufort  
20 hearing, it was heartwarming to hear people  
21 from Beaufort and other counties join us and  
22 testify that the people of Colleton County  
23 have made a compelling case for having a  
24 single district and that the past wrong should  
25 be righted. I know that this is a difficult

1 task for you, but I also know that if you have  
2 the will to correct the past lack of fairness  
3 that it can be done. When I look at your  
4 committee, I have great hope for a better  
5 outcome this time because I know that you're  
6 people of integrity and that you will do what  
7 is right. Please help us fight this good  
8 fight for the people of Colleton County so  
9 that our citizens can finally, after all these  
10 years, have a real voice in Columbia. Thank  
11 you.

12 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you sir. It was good to have  
13 you with us.

14 MAYOR YOUNG: Thank you.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Any questions. Thank you, sir.  
16 Representative Young has a question for you  
17 Mayor.

18 MAYOR YOUNG: Yes, sir.

19 REP. YOUNG: You said that if we drew it in two  
20 districts that there could be hypothetically  
21 25,000 in one district in Colleton County and  
22 13,000 in another, and my question is why do  
23 you presume that if there's 25,000 Colleton  
24 County residents in one district that that  
25 district would not elect a Colleton County

1 resident to serve?

2 MAYOR YOUNG: I don't know. I don't presume that.

3 I just think because of the past unfairness  
4 that it's time for us to have a district that  
5 makes up a considerable amount of our county,  
6 and you know, that would preferential to what  
7 we have now, but I think for a long time we've  
8 made up parts of districts for other people  
9 and that it's time that maybe we had a chance  
10 to have most of our people represented in one  
11 district.

12 REP. YOUNG: Thank you very much.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much sir.

14 MR. (??): Thank you Chairman.

15 MR. LORE: My name is Tom Lore. I'm at 510 Lynwood  
16 Road in Walterboro, South Carolina. I'd like  
17 to start out by addressing the gentleman's  
18 question in regard to Mayor Young, and it  
19 might be repetitive and I know you cautioned  
20 us about that, but I didn't drive this far to,  
21 you know, listen to everybody else. First of  
22 all, sir, in regard to your question. Let me  
23 put it in terms of what Mr. Young gave you  
24 statistically and I'm going to speak non-  
25 statistically. And it's not personal to the

1 people, but we have these following counties  
2 have a piece of us, Jasper County, Charleston  
3 County, Beaufort County, Berkeley County,  
4 Hampton County and Orangeburg County. Now,  
5 you figure that out. You don't have to say  
6 that they've got a large piece of us, but all  
7 they need is a small piece and we're in  
8 pieces. Mayor Young is much more calm than I  
9 am. He's a native South Carolinian. I am  
10 not. I came from North Carolina about 40  
11 years ago. When my first wife died, they said  
12 I guess you're going to go back home. That  
13 was five years ago. I am home. And I'm going  
14 to speak ugly for my home, and my home is in  
15 pieces, and we deserve better than that. And  
16 again, that is not personal. There's one  
17 representative here tonight and I think he is  
18 a fine gentleman, and I don't know him that  
19 well. Mr. Bobby Brown from Charleston. But  
20 Mr. Brown would tell you that most of his  
21 votes come from Charleston. He campaigns very  
22 hard in Jacksonboro. I do not live in  
23 Jacksonboro. I live in Walterboro. Am I kind  
24 of getting through to what, you know, I need  
25 to tell you. The other thing, I am a

1           Walterboro resident. If I want to have a  
2           conversation with some of my colleagues in  
3           Walterboro, it is very possible that I will  
4           talk to at least two other people in  
5           Walterboro and we don't any of us have the  
6           same representative or senator in Walterboro.  
7           Thank you.

8       REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much. Mr. Lore,  
9           would you come back to the microphone for just  
10          a moment. Mr. Sellers has a question for you.

11       REP. SELLERS: This maybe a question for either you  
12          or the Mayor. Either one of you all can  
13          answer it. Is it also a preference, just so  
14          that the committee, when looking at this and  
15          whomever is drawing this has options, is it  
16          also a preference because I've heard this  
17          repeated many times, that Walterboro, the City  
18          of Walterboro stay whole? And I know you gave  
19          us a few options here and a few options there,  
20          but is it also an overwhelming sentiment in  
21          Colleton County that, I don't want to say at  
22          least, I don't want to use that word, but one  
23          of your preference if you have to draw them  
24          out was that the City of Walterboro be kept  
25          together instead of cutting into three.

1 MR. LORE: I will speak only for Tom Lore.

2 Absolutely.

3 REP. SELLERS: Okay.

4 MAYOR YOUNG: (Inaudible)

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Would you step towards the  
6 microphone so your comments are recorded in  
7 the public record?

8 MAYOR YOUNG: I was just saying that like I said  
9 that for a town of 5400 people to be divided  
10 between six legislatures. Nobody has enough  
11 of us for us to be important to them. And so  
12 we just don't have a voice. We're  
13 disenfranchised because everybody's  
14 responsible so nobody's responsible. The guys  
15 that represent us are, you know, Bobby is a  
16 great guy. I don't have a thing against  
17 Bobby. He's just got a little piece of us.

18 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mayor Young.

19 MR. LORE: I want to piggyback on what this young  
20 lady said a few minutes ago. If she was  
21 complaining, and rightly so, I don't know her  
22 situation, but she was complaining about North  
23 Charleston and some other places being split  
24 up. I believe you got a few more than 5500  
25 people to split up, but I'm with you. I

1           sympathize with you because we feel it every  
2           day. And I want, unless you think I have no  
3           humor, and then I'll shut up. I want to give  
4           you some encouragement. He saw your third  
5           grade teacher today. I was the Associate  
6           Superintendent of Schools in Walterboro and  
7           Colleton County for many years. Mr. Young was  
8           a band director. I have access to his  
9           records.

10        REP. CLEMMONS: Let the record reflect those  
11           comments were intended for the benefit of  
12           Bakari Sellers. Yes, sir, your comments  
13           please.

14        MR. PLOWDEN: Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of  
15           the House Subcommittee. Hello again. I  
16           believe and hope that we made a compelling  
17           case that Colleton County fits the legal  
18           description of an area that is entitled to a  
19           House District. And the opportunity for us to  
20           have at least one resident representative.  
21           This new district will be compact contiguous  
22           boundaries, follow political boundaries,  
23           communities of interest will be kept together.  
24           There are 38,860 people in Colleton and the  
25           ideal number is 37,301 or 15,059. If this

1 district is created, you will have contributed  
2 to righting a twenty year wrong. With respect  
3 to the Congressional District One, I would  
4 suggest a natural boundary would include  
5 Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton, Charleston and  
6 Berkeley Counties. This would encompass  
7 664,000 people, almost identical to the ideal  
8 of 660,000, aberrance of only ten percent. I  
9 would represent a district of 24 percent  
10 African Americans as opposed to the present  
11 district of 20 percent. These counties have  
12 the following attributes in common, all are  
13 coastal counties that are experiencing rapid  
14 growth. They are connected by I-95 and the  
15 Atlantic coastline. They share a reliance on  
16 tourism to feed their economies. Major  
17 destinations include Hilton Head, Beaufort,  
18 Edisto and the many attractions in Charleston.  
19 There will be two or three deep water ports in  
20 this district. Interstate commerce is  
21 facilitated by I-95, I-26, the Savannah Hilton  
22 Head International, Charleston International  
23 and Lowcountry Regional Airport. With a  
24 development of the Boeing presence in  
25 Charleston area to support industries is

1           evident. Most television and major regional  
2           newspaper coverage is shared in Charleston.  
3           The primary service area and secondary and  
4           medical services are provided by the medical  
5           centers at MUSC, Roper St. Francis and the HCA  
6           system. This is a national and historically  
7           known region as the Lowcountry for over 200  
8           years as opposed to the PeeDee or the  
9           Piedmont. The Lowcountry is defined as the  
10          coastline from Savannah to just north of  
11          Charleston. It contains about one-third of  
12          the Gullah heritage that extends from  
13          Wilmington, North Carolina to Jacksonville,  
14          Florida. The ACE Basin, one of the largest  
15          undeveloped in America is located primarily in  
16          Beaufort and Colleton County and would adhere  
17          to the political boundaries, another of the  
18          criteria. This leaves the Myrtle Beach area  
19          available for the new district. It seems as  
20          if previous plans start in the upcountry where  
21          lines are nice and straight and logical and  
22          fall into and move southward. Let's start in  
23          the Lowcountry for a change. This is the  
24          third hearing I've attended and common cry has  
25          been to draw districts in common sense and

1           logical manner. I believe this proposal meets  
2           those criteria. In the areas on the  
3           Charleston Air Force base, Parris Island, the  
4           Marine Air Station, Charleston Naval Weapons  
5           Station, that is a lot of commonality of  
6           interest, boundaries that are contiguous  
7           following natural and political geographic  
8           boundaries. I am hopeful this proposal will  
9           give you a starting point to begin your  
10          deliberations with respect to congressional  
11          redistricting. Thank you.

12        REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you sir. Sir, for the record,  
13          would you give us your name and your address.

14        MR. PLOWDEN: My name is Moultrie Plowden. I live  
15          at 71  
16          Wade Hampton Avenue in Walterboro.

17        REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much for your  
18          comments. Keep the microphone for just one  
19          second. We have a question from Mr. Young.

20        REP. YOUNG: Mr. Plowden, I have a question for  
21          you. It's good to see you again.

22        MR. PLOWDEN: Good to see you, sir.

23        REP. YOUNG: I appreciate your testimony in  
24          Beaufort. You said Charleston, Berkeley,  
25          Jasper and Colleton, were those the five. Was

1           it more than that or just those five counties  
2           that you identified in being the same  
3           congressional district?

4   MR. PLOWDEN:   Jasper, Beaufort, Colleton,  
5           Charleston and Berkeley.

6   REP. YOUNG:   Okay.  And I've got another question.  
7           I don't know if it's for you or for someone  
8           else from Colleton County, but I did want to  
9           know for the town of Walterboro, my  
10          understanding from the testimony today and  
11          again in Beaufort, that the town is divided  
12          within three house districts.

13  MR. PLOWDEN:   Yes, sir, and three senate districts.

14  REP. YOUNG:   And three senate districts.  Well,  
15          with respect to the house districts, is there  
16          any particular house district that has much  
17          more of the town than another part or are they  
18          all equally divided?

19  MR. PLOWDEN:   Pretty well equal.

20  MR. LORE:   The biggest one has 23 percent, which  
21          means the rest of them have --

22  REP. CLEMMONS:  Mr. Young, let the record reflect  
23          that Mr. Lore just responded that 23 percent  
24          of the city is contained in one district, and  
25          that is the largest percentage of the district

1 contained, of the city, contained in any one  
2 district.

3 MR. (??): Do y'all know which district that is?

4 REP. CLEMMONS: Mayor Young has responded to that  
5 question that it's District 120. Thank you.  
6 Yes, sir. Please come forward. Give us your  
7 name and address to start, would you please  
8 sir.

9 MR. KINARD: Gentleman, Chairman and ladies, I'm  
10 Ted Kinard from Walterboro, 605 Lynwood Road.  
11 This is my home. I was born and raised and I  
12 served my 20 years in the Air Force and I'm  
13 back and I've been there about almost 30  
14 years, back again. My home area. I've always  
15 been told the last 20 years that no one can  
16 run for state office in our county for the  
17 Senate or for the House because of our  
18 situation as being split up. I won't belabor  
19 the fact, but I'd like to second the Mayor and  
20 Councilman Lore's statement and Mr. Plowden's  
21 that we need some help, and I'd appreciate it  
22 if you could help us. Thank you.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mr. Kinard. Yes, sir.

24 MR. HULTQUIST: My name is Leonard Hultquist. I  
25 live at 201 Winn Street in Walterboro, South

1 Carolina.

2 REP. CLEMMONS: Could you spell your last name,  
3 please sir?

4 MR. HULTQUIST: H-u-l-t-q-u-i-s-t.

5 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you.

6 MR. HULTQUIST: I'm just here to listen and to  
7 consider the words of all my colleagues with  
8 respect to this matter. Thank you very much.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Mr. Hultquist. Next we  
10 will here from the Honorable Representative  
11 Rod L. Brown.

12 REP. BROWN: Good evening.

13 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening sir.

14 REP. BROWN: It's so nice to see this thing, this  
15 panel. I certainly appreciate you giving us  
16 your time and sacrifices just to be here this  
17 afternoon and I'm really pleased that you're  
18 here. For the record, I'm State  
19 Representative Rod L. Brown. I represent  
20 District 116. That encompasses Charleston and  
21 Colleton County. It's a large rural district,  
22 10 percent urban and 80 miles long. I'm  
23 basically satisfied with this court ordered  
24 district, but I would like to call to your  
25 attention the principle of compactness.

1 District 116 being stretched over 80 miles  
2 long makes it difficult for any representative  
3 to be visible in all sections of the district,  
4 and to attend various county, municipal and  
5 community meetings, and other social  
6 functions. While being mindful of the fact  
7 that issues like improving education, health  
8 care, economic development, they all are the  
9 same. Of course, I do realize that this would  
10 be a very challenging issue for you because of  
11 the core of my district and the distribution  
12 of the population, but I do encourage you to  
13 give this some consideration. In 2001, the  
14 lines for the 1st Congressional District and  
15 the lines for the 6th Congressional District  
16 divided the town of Hollywood into half. This  
17 was very confusing because I live in the 1st  
18 Congressional District which is in the center  
19 of the town of Hollywood and my neighbor two  
20 blocks down the street lives in the 6th  
21 Congressional District. We share many  
22 commonalities such as culture, history,  
23 ethnicity, language and other social concerns.  
24 Yet, we had to vote for two different  
25 representatives. In drawing these

1 congressional district lines, the town of  
2 Hollywood should be kept whole, not fragmented  
3 because of our needs, interests and voting  
4 strength. We want to elect a representative  
5 who would be responsive to the needs of the  
6 entire town. I read, according to the census  
7 data, we will be drawing a 7th Congressional  
8 District. I think this should be a rural  
9 coastal district. One that would give a  
10 greater sensitivity to the needs of the rural  
11 community, such as economic development,  
12 access to health care, improving education,  
13 job creation and ensuring that our rural post  
14 office remain open. This district should have  
15 the voting strength to elect a representative  
16 who would respond to these concerns. I  
17 certainly appreciate you giving me this  
18 opportunity to speak. It's certainly nice to  
19 see the residents of Colleton County. I hear  
20 you loud and clear and I'm quite sure they did  
21 too. Nice to have you. Thank you.

22 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Representative Brown. I  
23 had a hand out the corner of my eye. Yes,  
24 sir, if you'd like to come forward, we'd sure  
25 like to hear from you.

1 MR. DAVIS: First of all, let me say good evening  
2 to you.

3 REP. CLEMMONS: Good evening sir.

4 MR. DAVIS: And to my colleagues to the left, which  
5 I've been a part of for a long time, 30 some  
6 years. I represent, I'm a councilman here in  
7 Dorchester County 107. I, too, would like to  
8 see a minority district in the House of  
9 Representatives for the minorities in  
10 Dorchester County. We have one on city  
11 council and we converse. I can talk to him.  
12 He can talk to me. But in Columbia you're not  
13 represented really by a minority. So,  
14 Dorchester County's a fast growing county.  
15 We've grown by 45,000 people. Over the next  
16 ten years, I'm hoping there will be a lot of  
17 minorities that move here because of our  
18 plants, Boeing one of them. And we'd like to  
19 have a minority district for a House seat, if  
20 it was possible. I know, you know, we don't  
21 create people, but one thing, we need to be  
22 represented. I think there's only been two  
23 councilmen since reconstruction. I hope we  
24 don't have to wait until another world war  
25 before we get another one.

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Councilman Davis, would you share  
2 with us your full name and your address?

3 MR. DAVIS: Willie R. Davis, 170 (??) Street, St.  
4 George, South Carolina. That's on the far end  
5 of Dorchester.

6 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

7 MR. DAVIS: My district runs from (??) to (??)  
8 School presently and going east.

9 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you Councilman. Do we have  
10 any questions? Councilman, could you  
11 entertain a question by Representative  
12 Sellers?

13 MR. DAVIS: Of course.

14 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

15 REP. SELLERS: What is the minority population in  
16 Dorchester County?

17 MR. DAVIS: About 28 percent.

18 REP. SELLERS: 28 percent. Thank you.

19 MR. DAVIS: If I'm not mistaken.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. Any other questions?  
21 Councilman Davis, thank you for your comments  
22 today. Do we have any others in the room that  
23 would like to share their comments. Yes, sir,  
24 in the back.

25 MR. CALLAHAN: Good evening. My name is Tim

1 Callahan. I am a resident of Berkeley County,  
2 7009 Skinner Street on Daniel Island. I also  
3 am a councilman in Berkeley County. One of  
4 the things that is certainly one of the issues  
5 that's been brought up to me both county wide  
6 and within my district, really has to do with  
7 the splitting of Berkeley County into two  
8 congressional districts as it is set right  
9 now. With the current growth, I can say I  
10 think it would be more ideal if a seat is  
11 coming up as conventional wisdom would say,  
12 somewhere in the Myrtle Beach area, that  
13 Berkeley County in it's entirety be included  
14 in that district as well and not be split up.  
15 As of right now, certainly where I live, when  
16 you go through the Clements Ferry corridor  
17 through Daniel Island, there was not much  
18 population there ten years ago. Obviously  
19 based on these numbers and the fact that it's  
20 the fastest growing by percentage region in  
21 the area, I would hope that they can  
22 accommodate keeping the county together as a  
23 whole. And if it could not be accommodated in  
24 a 7th District into the 1st District where  
25 part of our county lies right now. You know,

1           some sort of uniformity within the county, I  
2           think, would be appreciated and certainly  
3           would go along with the growth that we've  
4           seen. Generally, that's really the only issue  
5           that I'd like to discuss.

6   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much Mr. Councilman.  
7           Any questions? Thank you sir. We appreciate  
8           your input. Do we have other comments  
9           tonight? I'm sorry, would you come back  
10          forward for just a moment sir? We have a  
11          question by Mr. Young for you.

12   REP. YOUNG: Mr. Callahan, I want to make sure I  
13          understand. You think that Berkeley should be  
14          in the same congressional district than Horry?

15   MR. CALLAHAN: Well, the way I look at it is, you  
16          know, and you have to look at the numbers.  
17          It's a choice. I would prefer not to have  
18          Berkeley County split the way that it is. So,  
19          you know, if you took a population where you  
20          have let's say an Horry or an Horry,  
21          Georgetown, Berkeley, I don't want to speak  
22          for Charleston, but you know, maybe some east  
23          of the Cooper River in Charleston, that's kind  
24          of a northern coastal district versus the  
25          southern coastal district which could be

1           District One. District Six has, you know,  
2           more of an interior rural. You know, that  
3           equation seems intriguing to me. But, you  
4           know, my number one preference is that the  
5           county not be split up.

6   REP. YOUNG: Do you think Charleston County and  
7           Berkeley County have more -- let me put it  
8           this way. Of the two counties, Charleston or  
9           Horry, which of the two does Berkeley as a  
10          county have more in common with?

11   MR. CALLAHAN: Charleston.

12   REP. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you very much.

13   MR. CALLAHAN: Sure.

14   REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you very much sir. We have  
15          Seth Whipper with us who would like to  
16          comment. Come forward Representative Whipper.  
17          While you're coming forward, I need to  
18          recognize David Mack is with us tonight. Oh,  
19          I'm sorry. David stepped out of the room for  
20          a moment. I think I see Joe Jefferson back  
21          there in the back. Representative Jefferson,  
22          welcome. And there is Representative Mack  
23          walking in the door. Good to have you with us  
24          tonight, representatives. And Representative  
25          Whipper, we look forward to hearing from you

1           tonight.

2       REP. WHIPPER: Welcome to the tri-county area.

3           Berkeley County, Dorchester, councilmen,

4           governments, community action agency, and a

5           number of other coordinated efforts to have on

6           community. I just kind of would like to add

7           some local flavor because I don't mind sharing

8           this kind of information because I know that

9           like Colleton County, they have an interest

10          that they would like to express and there's

11          been a lot of talk about keeping certain

12          governmental entities whole. I often complain

13          that I have so much money in Dorchester and

14          Berkeley County that I can't take advantage

15          of. (Inaudible) we host a lot of the

16          residents of Berkeley County and Dorchester

17          County as employees. We have an interesting

18          connection in this area, that for so long

19          Charleston County has had so many major

20          economic injuries and we take care of a lot of

21          people in the tri-county area. And then

22          sometimes I complain because everybody in

23          Dorchester and Berkeley County talk about the

24          fine real estate prices that they have, and

25          they do, great real estate prices in Berkeley

1 and Dorchester County. I would love to have  
2 those prices in Charleston County. And so I  
3 lose a lot of money in Charleston County to  
4 Dorchester and Berkeley County, but I can  
5 accept that because we really are one  
6 community. As a matter of fact, the 64 miles  
7 between Colleton County and Charleston are  
8 routinely navigated by people who work every  
9 day in Charleston County or in Colleton and  
10 they drive back and forth. They use 17A.  
11 They use 64. They use Highway 17. In the  
12 relationship between Dorchester County and  
13 Colleton County, Highway 17A is well traveled  
14 between the two. You know, it's an  
15 interesting mixture. The points about these  
16 interesting (inaudible) as well as, also  
17 shows, as Representative Brown talked about  
18 his district, because so much of it is rural.  
19 And if you travel 17A through Colleton County  
20 coming into Dorchester County it's a fine  
21 drive with some great scenery. It's so  
22 luscious. The wetlands, the rivers, the  
23 creeks. We share a lot along that highway,  
24 and that rural nature is there. And it's an  
25 interesting thing because you have to account

1           for it. You know, there are people in  
2           Dorchester and Berkeley County who, within in  
3           the last ten years, are just beginning to  
4           reckon with the idea of zoning. There are  
5           people in Dorchester and Berkeley County and  
6           certain areas that still have horses and  
7           chickens and goats. I don't know what they  
8           going to do in Berkeley County in the next few  
9           years, because, I mean, there are a lot of  
10          people who still farm, and they are just on  
11          the other side of Goose Creek, which is about  
12          12 miles from, say, the mid area of Charleston  
13          County coming between North Charleston up to -  
14          - well, actually from Charleston up to Goose  
15          Creek. It's a real urban kind of an area.  
16          But once you go past Goose Creek, then you hit  
17          rural area. And Berkeley County -- now, I  
18          think we were told that, I forgot which county  
19          that's supposed to be the largest county in  
20          the state, I forgot, during one of our  
21          hearings we heard about it, but, you know, it  
22          couldn't be more than a few square feet than  
23          Berkeley County. Berkeley County's huge.

24        REP. CLEMMONS: I think that'd be Horry County.

25        REP. WHIPPER: Is it Horry County?

1 REP. CLEMMONS: Yes, sir.

2 REP. WHIPPER: And it would only be a few square  
3 feet, it couldn't be much. Berkeley County is  
4 huge and it carries a lot of rural area, as  
5 you know, (inaudible). And then parts of  
6 Georgetown kind of leak into Berkeley County  
7 that way. So we've got a lot of different  
8 kinds of major but substantial topography and  
9 demography that make up this area. And it  
10 would be, of course, nice if we could have 124  
11 counties, but we don't. We only have 46. And  
12 so, things have happened in the past that we  
13 have to remember in terms of how people ended  
14 up living where they live. So that creates,  
15 and that's why the courts talk about the  
16 communities of interest. Because you can see  
17 where coming -- I mean, the idea of people  
18 living in rural settings along 17A and 64,  
19 Highway 64, Highway 17, the lower part of  
20 Charleston County, you know, until maybe about  
21 15 years ago, maybe about 20 years ago,  
22 Charleston County was one of the top five  
23 farming counties in the state. Charleston  
24 County. Mr. Limehouse will tell you about his  
25 farm. Talk to him anytime, he'll tell you

1 about his farm, his tomatoes, peas and corn.  
2 So we are still looking at transition. So,  
3 you know, when we talk about drawing these  
4 lines, there's some real reasons for how these  
5 things have occurred. Until Walter Lloyd's  
6 death, I think Walter Lloyd lived in  
7 Walterboro. We are sorry to have lost him so  
8 early. It's interesting about Colleton County  
9 because there aren't -- it's interesting how  
10 that happened. I think Bill Bowers, he's a  
11 professor at the University of South Carolina.  
12 I think he teaches there. I think he lives in  
13 the area as well.

14 MR. (??): He lives in Hampton.

15 REP. WHIPPER: He's in Hampton County.

16 MR. (??): Yes, sir.

17 REP. WHIPPER: That's where my family came from.

18 (Inaudible) And so this idea of how we look  
19 at these communities, we are challenged, but  
20 there is a reality about how people live in  
21 this area despite our so called rural nature.  
22 And you talk about the Charleston area, and  
23 Summerville, it's beautiful. This area was a  
24 second home for a lot people in Charleston  
25 County and that's why it's called Summerville.

1           They come up here for the summers to get away  
2           from mosquitos and gnats down in 'ol swampy  
3           Charleston. But to draw these districts still  
4           requires that you look at the fact that you're  
5           talking about where people live and who they  
6           are and what goes on in their lives. Some in  
7           the rural Colleton area, for instance, are  
8           rural schools and tend to be more challenge  
9           than urban schools, but then, guess what, in  
10          Charleston County 80 percent of our schools  
11          are Title I schools. That's in Charleston  
12          County. That's where Boeing is. So we do have  
13          even some commonality with those areas as they  
14          struggle with their schools, we struggle with  
15          ours. Of course, there's big struggle with  
16          the schools in the upper areas of Dorchester  
17          County for that same reason, despite the fact  
18          that some of them are very urban. I've been  
19          through (inaudible). I enjoy it very much.  
20          But we have that problem. So I'm saying to  
21          you only because it's important that we  
22          understand that people matter and where they  
23          are and who they are and what they're all  
24          about, it still has to be considered minutely  
25          even because of the fact is, you know, that's

1 a reality that we all live with. So I just  
2 wanted to say that as we go forward. And I  
3 wanted to put that on the table, because I  
4 serve in the State House of Representatives  
5 and I didn't want anybody here to think that I  
6 would wait until we got to Columbia to say  
7 what I needed to say. You know what I mean?  
8 Because it's not my district. I'm a  
9 representative. I'm elected by the folks.  
10 That's okay. I still do what I need to do to  
11 make sure that the world looks better daily.  
12 I certainly want to say those things while  
13 everybody was here. If there are any  
14 question, I'd be happy to answer them.

15 REP. CLEMMONS: Any questions of the subcommittee?  
16 Mr. Whipper, thank you so much for your  
17 comments. Thank you for your service to South  
18 Carolina.

19 REP. WHIPPER: Good to see you in the Lowcountry.

20 REP. CLEMMONS: It's good to be here with you. Do  
21 we have any other presenters that would like  
22 to comment to us tonight? Speaker Harrell.

23 SPEAKER HARRELL: I would just like to publically  
24 thank the subcommittee for the work that you  
25 folks have done around the state, coming from

1 Denmark, the Orangeburg area, Myrtle Beach,  
2 right here in Summerville, Greenville and  
3 Aiken. People don't realize the amount of  
4 time and travel that you gentleman and lady  
5 have put in over the last couple of weeks  
6 doing nine public hearings, nine different  
7 places in the state, this being the last  
8 hearing. Thank you for coming to the  
9 Lowcounty for the last hearing so that it was  
10 easy for me to attend your last hearing. I  
11 intended to be wherever it was, so thank y'all  
12 for making it here. But I just want to  
13 publically thank you for your efforts, how  
14 hard you've worked, how you've treated  
15 everyone who's come before you all over the  
16 state with dignity and respect, even when you  
17 had some pretty heated meetings in a couple of  
18 places, you still maintained your composure  
19 and treated everyone with dignity and respect.  
20 You've made the South Carolina House of  
21 Representatives very proud. Thank you Mr.  
22 Chairman.

23 REP. CLEMMONS: Thank you. We're honored by those  
24 comments. Thank you Mr. Speaker. Ms. Horne.

25 REP. HORNE: And before I make a motion to adjourn

the meeting, I would like to thank everyone for being here. Those of you who live in Summerville and those of you who are visiting Summerville, we hope you'll come back and dine in our fine restaurants, as Representative Whipper said, and thank you. I recognize Councilman, Town Councilman Aaron Brown is here. We've already heard from Mr. Davis, and I think we had County Treasurer Mary Pearson here. I know she's left, and we had County Councilman Hargett was here. I want to thank all the elected officials in Dorchester County and in Summerville for being here tonight and thank you for your service to our community. And I'd like to move that the meeting now be adjourned.

REP. CLEMMONS: And if we have no further comments, upon motion of Ms. Horne, this meeting stands adjourned. Thank you for your participation tonight.

- - - - -