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REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Trident Technical College
The College Center, 920 Building
7000 Rivers Avenue
North Charleston, South Carolina

REPORTED BY: JEANNETTE M. KING
Court Reporter

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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 GERALD MALLOY

7

8

9 STAFF PRESENT:

10 CHARLES TERRENI

11 KATHERINE WELLS

12 DEBBIE HAMMOND

13

14 (INDEX AT REAR OF TRANSCRIPT)

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1 SENATOR McCONNELL: Good evening
2 ladies and gentleman.

3 I'm Glenn McConnell state senator from
4 Charleston, District 41, chairman of the Senate
5 Judiciary Committee. I want to welcome you to
6 the -- one of our -- in fact, our last -- this is
7 the 10th and final public hearing the South
8 Carolina Senate Judiciary Redistricting Committee
9 is holding across the state at this time.

10 I'd like to begin by giving you a
11 brief overview of the redistricting process so
12 that you can understand what we're trying to
13 accomplish and how tonight's hearing fits into
14 that process. At first let me introduce the
15 members of the subcommittee.

16 One of these will be -- is on the way,
17 he'll be right here, Brad Hutto, coming to us.
18 It's a bipartisan group of senators. They bring
19 -- they're from different regions of the state.
20 They bring a wealth of experience on our floor
21 with dealing with problems and coming up with
22 solutions and that is why they're on this
23 committee.

24 And I'm, of course, from the low
25 country. Right next here on my right is Senator

1 Robert Ford.

2 SENATOR FORD: Right.

3 SENATOR McCONNELL: From the -- from
4 the Pee Dee area, we have Senator Gerald Malloy
5 from Darlington, and from right up the coast,
6 from the Grand Strand, we have Senator Ray Cleary
7 of Georgetown County.

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

21 While the House and the Senate have
22 historically deferred to one another when it
23 comes to the plans for their respective bodies,
24 the Congressional plans may ultimately have to be
25 reconciled in the legislative process through a

1 conference committee. In a conference committee
2 there is three House members and three Senators
3 who meet as a committee and you have to have two
4 votes from each House to put a bill together out
5 of the difference between the two bills. If the
6 two bodies agree on a redistricting plan, it must
7 be submitted to the governor for her signature in
8 the same manner as any other bill that is passed
9 by the General Assembly.

10 Finally, under Section 5 of the Voting
11 Rights Act, any plan that is enacted into law will
12 have to pre-cleared by the Justice Department or
13 the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C.,
14 before it can take effect.

15 The reason we have to redistrict is to
16 ensure that our state's Legislative and
17 Congressional districts represent substantially
18 equal populations thereby ensuring that each
19 person's vote is given the same weight as another
20 in our system of representation. Ideally, each
21 of the state's Senate districts will have 100,552
22 persons and each of our state's Congressional
23 districts will have 660,767 persons.

24 The census results that were released
25 last Thursday tell us the standard in which the

1 state's districts deviate from these ideal
2 numbers. District lines will have to be redrawn
3 so that some districts gain population and others
4 lose population in order to restore the required
5 quality of representation to the districts.

6 To begin the process of redrawing
7 districts, we are holding hearings in order to
8 listen to your view on the redistricting process.
9 Let me say at the outset that we are not here for
10 the purpose of considering proposed redistricting
11 plans because the subcommittee has yet to reach
12 that stage of the process. When that time comes,
13 we will have an opportunity for the public to
14 submit specific plans for the subcommittee to
15 consider.

16 Instead, this evening we are here to
17 consider the building blocks of those future
18 plans. We need to hear your opinions on the
19 criteria that you believe we should follow in the
20 line drawing process. We also want to know about
21 the communities of interest that we should be
22 aware of when drawing new district boundaries.

23 Examples of redistricting criteria
24 would be requirements that consideration be given
25 to communities of interest, the cores of existing

1 districts, county, municipal or precinct lines,
2 compactness, contiguity, as well as applicable
3 laws and Constitutional standards. We would like
4 you to let us know how important these criteria
5 are to you and whether there are other criteria
6 that you believe we should take into account when
7 drawing the new district lines.

8 As for communities of interest, they
9 may be neighbors, towns or other political
10 subdivisions that have a common interest that
11 define them for purposes of political
12 representation. They could also be areas defined
13 by common economic interests or characteristics,
14 cultural affiliations, recreational interests or
15 other factors that cause people to identify with
16 one other.

17 We would like to hear from you about
18 communities of interests that you perceive to
19 exist in the area and how you believe they should
20 be considered in the process of drawing district
21 boundaries.

22 At the beginning of this public
23 hearing, we ask those testifying to be clear.
24 Redistricting is an exact process and clarity is
25 a virtue. For example, when speaking about

1 criteria like communities of interest, it is
2 important that you distinguish between whether
3 you're talking about a Congressional or a Senate
4 district as the subcommittee has got to consider
5 both, got to draw proposals on both.

6 Along the same lines, please, explain
7 why you believe an area is a community of
8 interest and where it is located. To assist you
9 with that location we have maps available here
10 for you to identify for us particular areas to be
11 communities of interest when you speak. Feel
12 free to show us on the map or mark on the map.

13 It's okay to mark on these maps.

14 Second, we don't have rigid time
15 limits for speaking at these public hearings.
16 However, we would encourage you to have a goal of
17 speaking no more than five minutes so that
18 everyone can be heard

19 Also, if a citizen would like to
20 submit an extended written statement, we will
21 accept it for consideration. Written comments
22 will receive the same consideration as spoken
23 ones, and the handouts available for you provide
24 the U.S. mail and e-mail addresses to which your
25 comments may be sent.

1 Finally, in order to facilitate
2 communication with the subcommittee and give the
3 public a way of keeping track of the process, I
4 encourage all citizens interested to consult our
5 website, which is located at
6 <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>, and knowing
7 that you got all of that, we put that address of
8 the redistricting website -- is included on the
9 handouts that you. You can go there.

10 At the website you'll find useful
11 information such as the dates and locations of
12 our public hearings and subcommittee meetings,
13 redistricting data, reference materials and
14 guidelines for future participation in the
15 process.

16 Thank you for giving your time and
17 being willing to contribute to this important
18 process.

19 Senator Chip Campsen is here and I'll
20 start with you Senator Campsen. If you have --
21 do you have anything that you wish to say to the
22 subcommittee?

23 If so, please, come forward.

24 SENATOR CAMPSEN: Thank you, Mr.
25 Chairman. I'll be real brief. I really don't

1 have any comments to make about the way the
2 districts are to be drawn. I'm here to really
3 listen as you all are as a member of the public.

4 But as a senator from this area, I'd
5 like to welcome all of you, particularly Senator
6 Malloy and Senator Cleary who do live out of
7 town, and welcome to Charleston. Thank you for
8 taking time out of your busy schedule to not only
9 come to Charleston, I know you've been all over
10 the state, Florence, the upstate, all over, to
11 make sure we get sufficient public input in this
12 very important redistricting process.

13 Thank you for your service and welcome
14 to Charleston.

15 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

16 Senator Rose, would you come forward.
17 I saw you back there. You have any words of
18 wisdom you wish to impart to us.

19 Like to hear from you, Senator.

20 SENATOR ROSE: All right. Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman. I have no specific comments to
22 make regarding the districts. Our Dorchester
23 County councilman chairman, Larry Hargell, will
24 be making those comments.

25 I do just briefly want to express an

1 opinion. At Dorchester, Berkeley and Charleston
2 counties are urban areas that have a community of
3 interest, and under our unique delegation system,
4 I think it is desirable, it is good, to have
5 members of the Charleston delegation of Berkeley
6 and Charleston and Dorchester and Charleston and
7 Berkeley and Dorchester and Charleston. That has
8 the legislature sitting down at the same table
9 discussing issues from a regional standpoint. So
10 anyway, I'm here listening also and I thank you
11 for your service and for doing the hard work of
12 going around the state collecting this
13 information.

14 MR. McCONNELL: Thank you, Senator.

15 Ms. Kaye Koonce.

16 MS. KOONCE: Thank you, Chairman
17 McConnell, and welcome to Charleston for those of
18 you who have traveled to attend what I understand
19 is your 10th hearing now.

20 So first, I want to thank the
21 subcommittee for still sitting and being in
22 attendance at these meetings and also for
23 developing the communication systems to demystify
24 the redistricting process. I found that an awful
25 lot of people are very confused about it and your

1 website has been a tremendous help to a lot of
2 folks that I've talked to. So we appreciate your
3 website and the communication that you and your
4 staff are providing in the process.

5 I actually want to also thank the staff
6 who travelled all over the state with you for
7 these committees as a retired state employee. I
8 doubt all these new and other duties is assigned
9 don't usually come with additional compensation,
10 so energy in attending these hearings is a
11 significant amount of work and at least one
12 member of the public is recognizing that.

13 Thank you because it is a true public
14 service what all of you are doing along with your
15 elected officials. So as a member of the public,
16 thank you.

17 I'm here tonight actually wearing two
18 hats. I'm the Charleston County Executive
19 Committee Woman for the State Democratic Party.
20 However, I'm also here as a lawyer who had
21 volunteered in numerous voter participation and
22 voter protection efforts over the years, for the
23 last 29 years or so since I graduated from law
24 school.

25 I cut my teeth on South Carolina

1 elections in the '80s and, Senator McConnell, a
2 gentleman that you might know, Mr. Sam McConnell.
3 He was the chairman of the Republican party at
4 that time and I learned a lot from sparring with
5 Sam and observing Sam and I miss working with him
6 and Ms. Thelma too with the election commission.

7 So I don't mean in saying that I've
8 been involved in that that many years that I'm an
9 expert in election law or redistricting law or
10 anything else for that matter. But I do have a
11 lot of years of experience on election
12 volunteering and looking at the lines and the way
13 the elections are conducted.

14 So like most of the folks in this room,
15 I'm sure, I care a lot about fair elections, as I
16 know all of you do, and about the redistricting
17 process. I hope you all will do everything in
18 your power to draw the districts that will comply
19 with all the federal and state requirements
20 because South Carolina can't afford to spend many
21 tax dollars on the litigation that comes after
22 the plans are drawn.

23 So if we can help it, I think it's
24 easier -- us giving you as much input as we can
25 will go toward limiting those litigation costs.

1 It's obviously a political process and as it
2 heats up and your colleagues in the General
3 Assembly try to impose the inevitable political
4 considerations and incumbency's kinds of
5 considerations, I hope that both of the
6 reapportionment committees will do all you can to
7 draw a plan that will be the most effective. I
8 know that's your goal and why you're having these
9 hearings, even though we do recognize that it's
10 likely to end up in court regardless of your very
11 just efforts. Maybe it won't be as much.

12 All of the principles that you
13 mentioned in your opening statement, Mr.
14 Chairman, about population, equality and
15 impactness and contiguity --

16 SENATOR McCONNELL: That's a hard word.

17 MS. KOONCE: It is a hard word.

18 Reserving political subdivisions and
19 preserving community interests, maintaining the
20 course of the district, those things are all
21 important enough to realize that folks will talk
22 about any of those. You noticed that I didn't
23 mention the principle of protection of incumbents
24 because I'm pretty sure that one is going to get
25 considered regardless of what we say.

1 I look forward to having an opportunity
2 though as an interested citizen in having access
3 to your plans as you go forward, maintaining that
4 website and the information for all of us
5 interested folks so we can watch what's happening
6 and respond and continue to provide input beyond
7 these hearings -- these ten hearings, this one
8 tonight.

9 I just want to mention one quick
10 example of how I think the public input is
11 important in all levels of the election process.
12 Several of you -- well, I think probably you and
13 Senator Ford may remember this incident, but a
14 few years ago the General Assembly changed the
15 polling place for the voters in the Charleston
16 precinct that voted at Joseph Floyd Manor.

17 Where you two senators are not from
18 Charleston, that's a highrise, which has senior
19 citizens and mainly disabled individuals that
20 live in these -- about 12 or 14, maybe 13,
21 stories tall. Before the change there were two
22 precincts. In the bottom -- voted in the first
23 floor of that building.

24 However, the lines were redrawn so that
25 the actual residents of that building were drawn

1 out of those precincts. They had to go up to
2 Rosemont to what is now known as, I think,
3 Freddie -- Freddie Whaley Community Center to
4 vote.

5 Now, in the cycle the legislature
6 corrected that error, but they did have to vote
7 two times by going out of their building, and
8 again, these are elderly and disabled citizens.
9 I believe that was a honest mistake. It's kind
10 of hard to figure out who, because everybody is
11 pointing fingers at other -- in each direction,
12 toward the legislator, the election commissioner
13 or whoever.

14 But the point was, if -- it was a
15 mistake that could have been avoided with more
16 public input. Had the legislators talked to
17 party leaders of both parties and asked -- in
18 that precinct and asked them, or really any
19 resident in that precinct, I think that would
20 have been avoided.

21 My point is that the elected and party
22 leaders of both parties can provide useful
23 information to you in all this process and I hope
24 you will take that opportunity or give us that
25 opportunity to provide that information beyond

1 these hearings.

2 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you.

3 MS. KOONCE: The one community of
4 interest concept that I also want you to consider
5 is an idea -- I think it's common sense. It's a
6 community of interest that would look at the
7 media markets in the state and how they fit
8 together with our communities, cities and
9 municipalities.

10 For example, you know, here in
11 Charleston, there are two Congressional
12 districts, the 1st and the 6th. They encompass
13 several media markets, Charleston, Florence,
14 Myrtle Beach. I guess part of Myrtle Beach and
15 Columbia and that's inefficient for the
16 candidates, but it also, and more important
17 probably, is inefficient and difficult for
18 citizens to understand which of all of those
19 candidates really is going to be their elected
20 official.

21 Now, that's true in both Congress and
22 for the Senate, so I guess that's an overlapping
23 concept. But the voters here in the -- in those
24 media markets, in Charleston for instance, hear
25 advertisements for two or more Congressional

1 candidates and two or more Senate candidates. I
2 don't know that they're -- that is certainly not
3 the only consideration, but I think it is worth
4 looking at.

5 And actually, I don't want to go
6 through all the details of this. I discovered
7 this idea when I was researching how communities
8 of interest might be better defined and it comes
9 from a 2010 Indiana law review article by an
10 attorney out in Colorado and I'll provide that
11 information to you. It's only six pages. It's
12 not a long article, but I hope you will consider
13 that.

14 And the second point that I want to
15 make is related to the legal authority and
16 responsibility, of course, of the redistricting
17 committees. I know the state doesn't use
18 commissioners and I know, of course, the
19 legislator takes its responsibilities very
20 seriously. But about 20 states do have some
21 version of a commission and it appears from the
22 findings, those states have less litigation or
23 fewer lawsuits than the states who don't utilize
24 some form of a commission, so I'd ask you to
25 review that.

1 As you probably know there is a
2 tremendous amount of information about these
3 redistricting commissions from the National
4 Conference of State Legislators. So I won't go
5 through all those options and I know the time is
6 limited.

7 But I do hope that you'll look at that
8 as an option. There are a number of variations
9 on those things that I think will help us, again,
10 to minimize litigation.

11 I don't sound like a lawyer, but -- I
12 keep talking about minimizing litigation but I
13 think it's the state's best interest and the
14 voters' best interest if we would do that.

15 So thank you very much for your time,
16 again, and I appreciate all of you being here and
17 allowing us to take part.

18 MR. McCONNELL: Thank you.

19 Susan Breslin.

20 MS. BRESLIN: Good evening. I'm
21 speaking tonight on behalf of the Charleston --
22 Charleston Democratic Party. The Chair is in --
23 on the other coast or otherwise he would be here.

24 As I would like to first thank you very
25 much for coming, particularly coming to

1 Charleston. As you know, the others is not
2 coming to Charleston. We have to go to them some
3 distance. And thank you for having all these
4 hearings and for making the process so open and I
5 particularly appreciate your website. I use it a
6 great deal. It's very, very helpful.

7 And I'm absolutely convinced that you
8 want public participation in this process and I
9 certainly -- certainly we applaud that.

10 I'd like to express support for the
11 editorial that ran from the Post and Courier this
12 morning encouraging you to make districts
13 competitive. I know that's a hard concept when
14 your own seats are at stake, but particularly the
15 standard districts. They are so weird in shape
16 to be existing districts most of them.

17 They are -- they are known -- the
18 original gerrymander that led to the word looks
19 something like an awful lot of these districts.
20 Something else was in the works when they drew
21 ten years ago and I hope that you will be able
22 to come up with districts that are much more
23 compact, more cohesive and more respectful.

24 With respect to specific criteria for
25 you to look, we, of course, endorse the

1 principles that you enunciated, Chairman
2 McConnell, with the possible exception of keeping
3 the cores of districts intact. I'm not sure
4 what that really means. It could be interrupted
5 a number of ways, but that's not one of the
6 principles.

7 With respect to Congressional
8 districts, you have such a great opportunity to
9 add a new district. I would ask you above
10 everything else to keep the counties intact.
11 Charleston County and half the city of Charleston
12 is split right now in two Congressional districts
13 and it doesn't make a lot of sense.

14 I know if you can't do anything where
15 every county has its own -- you know, there has to
16 be some kind of splits. But as a major
17 principle, keep the county intact. The county is
18 a community of interest. It shares the same
19 problems in a way that people in other
20 counties -- even Berkeley and Dorchester, have
21 common concerns, but Berkeley and Dorchester are
22 different from Charleston.

23 Now, Charleston needs someone in
24 Congress who understands Charleston's problems.
25 So that will be extremely important to us.

1 In terms of the Senate districts, the
2 thing that's most troubling to me about the
3 Senate districts as they exist now is the -- they
4 split communities all over the place. I live on
5 Folly Beach.

6 I'm represented by Senator Campsen.
7 His district takes in a piece of James Island and
8 then it goes over to the peninsula -- and one
9 part shoots up the peninsula and goes in to
10 Hanahan and another part of it goes into Mt.
11 Pleasant where it splits in the middle. That
12 part of Senator Campsen's district is split by
13 Senator Cleary's district.

14 Senator Cleary's district comes between
15 two parts of Senator Campsen's district. And
16 poor Senator Cleary has to go all the way from --
17 I don't know how high, but to campaign -- I mean,
18 these people have to campaign in these districts.
19 I feel sorry for them.

20 But you know, we're being hurt on James
21 Island by being split into two Senate districts.
22 Senator McConnell, you used to represent me on
23 Folly Beach and they took away a piece of it and
24 gave it to somebody who is a fine senator.

25 I'm not objecting to him, but he lives

1 in Mt. Pleasant. He knows Mt. Pleasant. He
2 ought to represent Mt. Pleasant and we ought to
3 have somebody who understands the problems we
4 face out on Folly Beach.

5 And Mt. Pleasant ought to have one
6 senator who understands the whole thing. It said
7 it has three senators and I understand little
8 pieces of it districts.

9 The second thing that happens when that
10 kind of chopping takes place is that -- which is
11 a particular concern of ours is the historically
12 black communities are separated. They are all
13 over Charleston County. I'm not speaking for any
14 other county, but they're all over Charleston
15 County.

16 They're split on James Island between
17 two senators. They're split in the Neck and into
18 West Charleston and through two senators. They
19 are split in Mt. Pleasant. I can't even count
20 whether they're split two ways or three. I think
21 probably three ways.

22 These are people who have lived there
23 for a very long time who have very special
24 problems in keeping their communities intact.
25 These are people who go to church together, who

1 go to lunches together, who share events
2 together. But when it comes to their political
3 representations, they can't talk to each other
4 because their representative are separate people.

5 And that is not -- to my mind, that
6 violates the voting rights act. That really
7 devastates the strength of minority communities,
8 particularly historically minority communities,
9 with their very special problems.

10 So in summary, I would ask you to pay
11 tremendous attention to the boundaries of
12 communities. We would be happy to supply you
13 information on particular communities of interest
14 and the special concerns of older communities
15 that are struggling in a sea of development
16 around.

17 And again, thank you very much for
18 being here. We appreciate it.

19 SENATOR McCONNELL: Angie Chum.

20 MS. CHUMLEE: Chumlee.

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: How did I get that
22 wrong? Tell me.

23 MS. CHUMLEE: Because I did not write
24 that.

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: Thank you, ma'am.

1 I --

2 MS. CHUMLEE: Thank you. I would like
3 to thank the committee for giving us this
4 opportunity to address you about redistricting
5 and some of our concerns.

6 I live in Dorchester County. My
7 Senatorial District 38 and Congressional District
8 6.

9 I'm not going to take much of your
10 time, but one of my most important concern is
11 when you redistrict is -- I know you do it by
12 community interest, but economic interest is very
13 important. One that needs to be considered.

14 The rural part of Dorchester County
15 right now, we are lacking water and sewer. And
16 you say to describe why water and sewer -- you
17 have family in Dorchester County that cluster
18 together. And I say cluster, that means they
19 literally up on each other due to the fact that
20 the property in which they have, they cannot get
21 it perked.

22 So then they don't -- they cannot --
23 according to the law, you cannot live or put
24 anything there if you're not perked. And this is
25 real serious. They do not have the quality

1 lifestyle that they wish to have, that they would
2 want.

3 And then also, it's -- in Ridgeville
4 section -- Ridgeville has one fire station --
5 that live beyond five miles range which cause
6 everybody else in rural for your insurance and
7 property could be higher. So this is some
8 concern -- that when you do redistrict consider
9 community interest as well as economic interest.

10 I thank you.

11 SENATOR McCONNELL: Pete Anderson.

12 MR. ANDERSON: I am from Edisto Beach
13 and I'm here tonight to see if you could help us
14 out a little bit. We have 414 permanent
15 residents who represent 40 percent of Colleton
16 County tax base. And we have three senators and
17 none of them live in Colleton County and there's
18 a lot of things that we need and I don't know
19 within the last -- some of them have never been
20 to Edisto lately.

21 I mean, like both of you guys have been
22 there. They have too, but not lately.

23 But I would like to encourage you to
24 try to draw this thing and put us somewhere.
25 Like some of these other people, we need some

1 help. We need -- we need to have a senator that
2 we could -- that lives in Colleton County, that
3 knows Colleton County and that would be a big
4 help to us.

5 Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Larry Hargell.

7 MR. HARGELL: Thank you, Senator
8 McConnell.

9 I have copies of my address I will give
10 to you after I deliver it. It's about three
11 minutes.

12 But anyway, my name is Larry Hargell.
13 I am chairman of the Dorchester County Council.
14 I am here to express opinions on behalf of myself
15 and Dorchester County about important factors
16 that should determine within Dorchester County
17 boundaries of districts of United States
18 Congress, South Carolina State Senate and South
19 Carolina House of Representatives.

20 In order for voters to feel connected
21 to and confident in the legislator that's elected
22 to serve them, district boundaries for all
23 elected positions should be drawn to include
24 certain communities of interest. In Dorchester
25 County those communities of interest are as

1 follows, lower Dorchester County.

2 The primary community of interest in
3 Dorchester includes residents in Summerville, and
4 within a mile or so on both sides of the
5 following roads, Dorchester Road between Ashley
6 Phosphate Road and Orangeburg Road and Trolley
7 Road, Ladson Road, Bacons Bridge Road, boundaries
8 for, let's say, districts should include those
9 areas. Another community of interest is upper
10 and middle Dorchester County. The rural areas
11 west and north of lower Dorchester County as
12 defined above is a community of interest
13 distinctly separate from the urban areas of lower
14 Dorchester County as defined above.

15 Another area of community of interest
16 is Summerville itself. Part of the town of
17 Summerville is in Berkeley County and part is in
18 Dorchester County. Parts of the town of
19 Summerville is in the rural areas and part is in
20 the urban areas of Dorchester County.

21 Much of the town of Summerville is new
22 territory annexed since the last redistricting
23 years ago. Traditionally, the town of
24 Lincolnville and areas of Ladson in Charleston
25 County have been considered part of Summerville.

1 As a result of all of this, Summerville no longer
2 is a single community of interest and districts
3 within the town of Summerville could be split,
4 some of the areas in lower Dorchester and
5 adjoining Charleston and Berkeley Counties.

6 Lower Dorchester County has a
7 population similar in characteristics to that of
8 urban Berkeley and urban Dorchester County. As a
9 result, district boundaries could include
10 portions of the urban portions of two or three of
11 these counties. End result, residents with those
12 boundaries feeling they are being represented as
13 a community of interest.

14 County legislative delegation system --
15 because of South Carolina's unique county
16 legislative delegation system, it is important
17 that Dorchester County have one or more senators
18 and one House member who reside in Dorchester
19 County.

20 Further, because of this county
21 delegation system and the fact that the residents
22 of lower Dorchester County and adjoining Berkeley
23 and Charleston Counties have common concerns and
24 demographic characteristics, it would be good for
25 state legislators residing in Dorchester,

1 Berkeley and Charleston counties to serve on
2 these other legislative delegations by
3 representing some of the geographic areas of
4 adjoining counties.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to
6 express these views about redistricting and I
7 appreciate the work that you've put in. I will
8 give you copies for everyone.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Dewitt Williams.

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
11 and his panel and to my fellow citizens.

12 I'm Dewitt Williams from St. Stephens,
13 South Carolina. 92 years old. Of reasonable
14 health and a good mind and I'm not running for
15 nothing. I'm running for life.

16 Now, I would hope that this panel would
17 look after these districts and do it for a more
18 level playing ground. I'm against so called safe
19 districts. If you're worth your salt, you can be
20 elected again. For this so called safe district,
21 first got to lose the attitude. You don't have
22 to do nothing and I'll be elected again.

23 Thank you so much for your time.

24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Jonathan Hoffman.

25 MR. HOFFMAN: That's very difficult to

1 follow up.

2 Thank you for your time today. I have
3 very similar feelings of the gentleman before me.

4 I wanted to know -- and I thought there
5 would be more -- I want to hear more from you
6 gentlemen on -- talking about discussions you
7 have had as a group with regard to turning to a
8 system where we no longer have gerrymandering based
9 on political affiliation, go back to the basic
10 equivocal compactive size, the existing political
11 boundaries. Wanted to know if that has happened
12 and if it hasn't why you guys have chosen to
13 stick with a system that creates more of
14 protection systems as well as systems that
15 depends on how political winds are blowing, tends
16 to favor one party over another based on the
17 number of seats that are able to be created.

18 And then finally, the only thing that I
19 ask is that community interest should be taken in
20 consideration of the voters. It's their
21 districts. They shouldn't be become vices. The
22 more competitive we have, the better it is,
23 better outcomes we get and the less divisive
24 conduct there is in Columbia and in Washington.

25 Thank you.

1 SENATOR McCONNELL: Joseph Darby.

2 MR. DARBY: Good afternoon, gentleman.
3 Thank you for the opportunities and I will e-mail
4 this to you this week.

5 My name is Joseph Darby. I appear
6 before you tonight as First Vice-president of
7 Charleston branch of NAACP. National Advancement
8 of Colored People is to insure political,
9 educational, social and economic equality and
10 rights of all persons and to eliminate race based
11 discrimination. Our agenda is not only a civil
12 rights agenda but an American agenda. As our
13 pledge of allegiance urges us to be one nation
14 under God indivisible with liberty and justice
15 for all, urges to remember those noble words as
16 you try to take the awesome tasks of
17 redistricting.

18 You do so by representing democracy.
19 The citizens of our state and nation elect those
20 who will see to their best interest and make for
21 them the policy. That privilege was long denied
22 to many Americans, but today, all citizens have
23 the right to elect those who will make better
24 decisions.

25 The responsibility of redistricting

1 therefore should not be partisan political
2 advantage, but districts will allow all citizens
3 to fairly and equitably to have their say on
4 election day. Too often today politicians take
5 extreme positions and say that they're standing
6 up for the people.

7 The people include those who celebrate
8 confederate heritage, those whose ancestors were
9 slaves, those who came to the United States in
10 the current wave of immigration. The people live
11 in prosperous Greenville County and in impoverished
12 Allendale County.

13 The people send their children to
14 school along the I95 and the I85 corridors. The
15 people are CEOs, small business owners and ditch
16 diggers and those who clean hotel rooms.

17 Keep the people in mind as you
18 undertake the redistricting process and see that
19 our state Senate and House districts reflect
20 economic and culture and political well being for
21 all people. That goes especially with our
22 Congressional districts since you have a
23 wonderful opportunity to create a new
24 Congressional district this time.

25 It is our hope that that Congressional

1 district will give a little balance to our
2 Congressional delegation so that those in
3 Columbia and those in Washington would look more
4 like all of the people.

5 Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR McCONNELL: Larry Kobrusky.

7 MR. KOBRUSKY: First, thank you for
8 coming tonight. It's an honor speaking in front
9 of you. I know you have a very busy agenda and I
10 appreciate the opportunity.

11 I'm speaking tonight with regard to the
12 Congressional redistricting, the U.S.
13 Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. I
14 personally had the opportunity to run for
15 Congress, and as a rare opportunity as this is,
16 it went all the way from the North Carolina line,
17 all the way from Charleston County, and I ask you
18 today when you do the redistricting to consider
19 making one based in Charleston and Berkeley and
20 Dorchester and give the Grand Strand their own
21 Congressional district as they deserve with the
22 increased population there in the Myrtle Beach
23 and Georgetown County.

24 I had the opportunity to personally
25 walk the district and it raises other issues for

1 me. I'm here today about the Constitution and
2 also the Voting Rights Act, the preclearance
3 requirement. Our Constitution under Article 4,
4 Section 4, guarantees to every state or
5 republican form government, which means self
6 government.

7 With regard to the Section 5 of the
8 Voting Rights Act, that has to do with conditions
9 that existed in the '50 and early '60s. We're
10 now almost 50 years from that. I ask you to
11 join with the effort to take on the preclearance
12 requirement.

13 Not all the Voting Rights Act, but that
14 section, because what it's saying is that you, as
15 a representative, are too depraved to make
16 decision based on local matters, matters of the
17 election process, matters of changing voting
18 districts. That's a local matter. Not subject
19 to the whims of federal bureaucrats in
20 Washington.

21 If you're a republican now, there may be
22 a democrat administration. Times can shift. The
23 next administration could be conservative
24 republicans. Whether you're a democrat or
25 republican, these are decisions that we need to

1 make.

2 There is no evidence in the last 45
3 years that we're the same South Carolina as we
4 were in the early '50s and '60s. I point out in
5 my own race that Tim Scott, who was a black
6 conservative, won his seat. And in our primary,
7 he won every precinct in Charleston County except
8 the three that I won.

9 In the governor's race, you had Nikki
10 Haley, a woman whose parents were from India and
11 she was raised a Sikh. She won every single
12 precinct in Charleston County, often by two or
13 three to one. That means the Republican primary
14 for Congress and governor, the only one to win
15 any precincts were a black candidate, a woman
16 whose parents are from India and the Jewish
17 candidate. There is no evidence that people are
18 not voting for minorities.

19 The presidential election, the same
20 county where Tim Scott, who is a conservative
21 black male, President Obama won. I think we all
22 agree he was a liberal democrat. So it shows
23 that people are voting for the man, the same
24 overwhelming majority that voted for him also
25 voted for Tim Scott.

1 In Charleston County, the chairman for
2 the Charleston School Board has been black for
3 most of the last ten years or chairman of county
4 council, I think, for eight of the last ten
5 years. So I ask you to consider the -- not -- to
6 take on preclearance requirement, make those
7 decisions.

8 And I'm going to hand you at the
9 conclusion of my remarks a copy of the
10 Constitution and also, the United States Supreme
11 Court in Zell versus Miller (sic) had this to
12 say, this goes to the redistricting, saying that
13 the Voting Rights Act does not trump the 14th
14 Amendment. It did not have racial
15 gerrymandering.

16 It says, Just as the state cannot
17 segregate citizens of race in all public parks,
18 all armed forces and schools and not separate the
19 citizens in the different voting districts on the
20 basis of race.

21 This is the United States Supreme
22 Court.

23 At the heart of the Constitution,
24 guarantee of equal protection lies the simple
25 command that government must treat citizens as

1 individuals rather than as components of racial,
2 religious, sex or national classes. Race based
3 assignment of voters that districts embodies
4 stereotypes, that treat individuals as products
5 of their race, thereby evaluating their cause and
6 efforts, their very worth as citizens, according
7 to criteria barred to the government by history
8 by the Constitution.

9 It goes further to address the Voting
10 Right Act. It specifically says, This -- when
11 they outlawed the Georgia district, it said it
12 was racially gerrymand. It says that Georgia's
13 interest in complying with the Justice Department
14 preclearance demands did not use -- did not
15 justify use of racial gerrymanding, the great
16 white majority Congressional district, so
17 therefore, it's saying that the Voting Rights Act
18 does not give you the authority to treat people
19 as racial statistics rather than individual
20 Americans. Treat us as citizens, treat us as --

21 I saw this first hand when I walked
22 this district. There's parts of Charleston, you
23 cannot look at it any other way, that sections
24 were blocked off to be in the 6th Congressional
25 district solely seeing people as racial

1 statistics. They're three parts of Charleston
2 County, parts of the peninsula, parts of the
3 lower part, the county, parts of North
4 Charleston. Sections are literally sectioned
5 off, treating people as racial statistics and
6 putting in another Congressional district in the
7 county will help common interest.

8 And I say this as a concerned
9 Republican. If you do not use the Voting Right
10 Act, the 1st Congressional district is evenly
11 balanced between Democrats and Republicans.
12 Charleston County has probably shifted now to
13 become a very competitive one that -- and I point
14 out that our former Congressman lost in
15 Charleston County very heavily even without the
16 6th Congressional district's population in there.
17 You will create a balanced Congressional
18 district, want elections to be based on ideas not
19 based on race.

20 And I also -- I heard some eloquent
21 speakers before, but many of our families came
22 from other places. As I said, when I ran for
23 office, I carried my grandfather's citizenship
24 papers. My family being Jewish wandered the
25 earth for 2,000 years.

1 America is unique in the history of the
2 world. It's the only place where you're treated
3 as an individual. It doesn't matter what your
4 race is. Many people came here from all over the
5 world for that. It's not the case. Look at
6 Eastern Europe, look at Yugoslavia. We want to
7 take that on.

8 A lot of Eastern Europe -- before the
9 second World War, they did have different voting
10 -- different precincts for different races. If
11 you were Russian, Polish or Jewish, you voted
12 for -- your percentage of the population and you
13 had separate districts assigned to you. So you
14 voted for the Jewish candidate, the Russian
15 candidate, the Polish candidate. That's
16 basically what the voting rights has done.

17 It had an important role to play in the
18 '60s in assuring that the right to vote was for
19 people, for all Americans. And that's been --
20 nobody has been denied the right to register to
21 vote now or to vote for whoever they want. What
22 it does now is segregates us into apartheid
23 districts where you have black race and white
24 race with districts that separates us in
25 Charleston County and divide people rather than

1 unite them.

2 It makes us have elections about race,
3 not ideas. I ask you -- the 6th Congressional
4 District rather -- I believe is unconstitutional.
5 I just -- if I had been aware then what I know
6 now in the voting rights, I probably would have
7 brought a case at that time to declare it
8 unconstitutional.

9 And if the redistricting process goes
10 ahead and the Justice Department requires race
11 based gerrymander and treats people as racial
12 statistics and not as individuals, I believe that
13 would be unconstitutional.

14 It is not -- I will leave you with that
15 Supreme Court case. If that's your task, is to
16 comply with the Supreme Court and the U.S.
17 Constitution, I ask you to do what's best for
18 individuals, for commonality of interest. Don't
19 break up communities based on race and treat us
20 as individuals.

21 And that's the message I want to leave
22 with you today and that's something that makes us
23 unique in America, that that's our heritage. It
24 wasn't like that but we should do what's best,
25 not refer to the past and divide and conquer,

1 divide things out as a racial spoil system, but
2 treat us as individuals, Americans, and restore a
3 sovereignty to South Carolina.

4 And remember what they're saying, if
5 you have to preclear things by bureaucrats in
6 Washington, they're saying that you're not
7 worldly enlightened enough to make those
8 decisions yourself and they're saying in the
9 early '60s, the legislator was trying to stay one
10 step ahead of the Justice Department and maintain
11 segregation. I don't think anybody can state any
12 case that that's happened in 40 years.

13 We can disagree whether things are
14 conservative or liberal but nobody is trying to
15 deny somebody the right to register to vote,
16 nobody is trying to deny the right to vote for
17 whoever you want. The participation, I know in
18 Charleston County, the black and white voters was
19 probably the same.

20 I think there was a higher percentage
21 of black turnout at the presidential election
22 than there was white turnout. Those are no
23 longer issues in Charleston County. We shouldn't
24 be bound by what happened 40 or 50 years ago.
25 We're a much different state now.

1 I encourage you to resist the easy step
2 of just referring to the Justice Department.
3 Make those efforts yourself and restore local
4 sovereignty.

5 I'd like to leave you with the
6 Constitution and the Supreme Court's case that I
7 talked about, which I believe is law of the land,
8 and it says support of the Voting Rights Act does
9 not trump the Constitution, it does not trump the
10 fact that you have to treat people as individual
11 citizens and not racial citizens.

12 Otherwise, you're saying that some
13 people who are in a racially gerrymander district
14 that their vote doesn't count as much. It
15 creates a people who see themselves racial
16 warriors rather than representing everybody and
17 there's never any primary challenge in those
18 districts.

19 We need to be treated as individuals
20 and have elections about ideas and not race.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. McCONNELL: Dr. Sharon Young.

23 DR. YOUNG: I'm Dr. Sharon Young and I
24 thank you very much for coming to the low country
25 and giving all of us an opportunity to have an

1 input into what's going on.

2 I've heard some wonderfully, eloquently
3 presented ideas and thoughts regarding the
4 concepts needed to be followed and I can say Amen
5 to each one of them. I live in an area of
6 Bonneau, South Carolina, which is in Berkeley
7 County. I'm in part of that gerrymandered district
8 area.

9 One of the things that I'd probably
10 underline that I've heard you say, you're going
11 in the direction is the fact that we are
12 neighborhoods, we are neighbors, we are friends,
13 we are communities, and I think that's where we
14 need to keep the focus as lines are drawn. We
15 need to realize that as neighbors, our children
16 are going to the same schools, they're playing in
17 the same recreational facilities, the same games.

18 They're also looking for jobs. They
19 are family jobs for our young people. We also
20 need, as someone pointed out, community services.
21 We need sewers, water and law enforcement
22 throughout the area. I know these are not the
23 same. If you live in a rural area, their needs
24 are not the same as those in urban areas.

25 So I think as you look at drawing, if

1 you make us -- as one of our former speakers
2 said, make the areas compact, make them cohesive,
3 make them geographically local. I don't think
4 you'll have the trouble with media outreach
5 because those areas will have their media of
6 whatever it is.

7 And we will also then be able to
8 maintain and/or establish wider, stronger
9 community bases from which to work. And as our
10 former speaker just noted, that's not based on
11 race. That's based on common needs and on common
12 interest and on knowing your neighbors and
13 looking out for your neighbor and I think it was
14 along a line that will make it for Congressional
15 but with national, Senatorial and Congressional
16 state wide. We need to make it so that we have
17 neighborhoods and not have districts that stand
18 the length of our state or the width of our
19 state. And we need people who know one another,
20 work together, and then they'll support what's
21 going on in Columbia or in Washington.

22 Thank you very much for this
23 opportunity.

24 SENATOR McCONNELL: Derrick Reddick.

25 MR. REDDICK: I'm sorry. I missed a

1 lot of questions and stuff that people has been
2 asking. I just walked through the door.

3 I'd like to say good evening to all of
4 you all and good evening to the public who
5 allowing this.

6 My first question would be at this
7 point pretty good. That's the first thing.
8 Second thing is, I did hear two speakers which
9 focused on some stuff that was real good.

10 A lot of people say race, and I hate
11 to, you know, get into that. The thing, it's not
12 basically race, it's culture. That's what it is.
13 It's culture. We were raised -- each and
14 everyone one of us raised different.

15 The second thing is I would like to
16 speak on, I was supposed to -- been to two
17 funerals today that happened up in Berkeley, the
18 lower part of Berkeley County, and the two
19 gentleman that died was 17 years old.

20 The newspaper reported a couple other
21 issues, that they was older than that, but they
22 was 17 years old. I knew for a fact because we
23 and a couple of other gentlemen take the kids up
24 to Sumter to play basketball. People say
25 community service -- when they say community

1 service, the first thing they going to talk about
2 is the police. For what?

3 Let these kids get some education.
4 That's the first thing. If you get an education,
5 you get the jobs and what have you, and there're
6 jobs here. If you need deterrents, you need --
7 not able -- don't do this and don't do that.
8 That don't do because all of that is an
9 intervention. It could be based on intervention.
10 That's what it's based on. Everybody could do
11 intervention.

12 If we're going to get a senator up in
13 that area or a -- I'm sorry, a senator and a
14 Congressman, I'd like to see them working, not
15 come out, make speeches, this, that and the
16 other. If you put a community center, which is
17 what I'm trying to do -- sorry, I'm trying to get
18 the community involved in.

19 We're trying to get the kids to
20 understand. First thing we do with them is
21 explain to the kids. Same thing with kids. I'm
22 58 years old and I was raised right here in the
23 south. When I go to school and do something, I
24 would have to report to six people before I got
25 home. In other words, when they said it takes a

1 community to raise a child and the first one get
2 out of place is to blame ourselves because we no
3 longer raise children anymore. We let the T.V.,
4 the internet, raise them.

5 But if you put a place out there where
6 they can go play basketball, put some supervisors
7 in the gym or what have you, because everybody
8 don't play baseball and everybody don't play
9 football. Basketball is the next to both sports.
10 You put it there, let them play baseball, let
11 them have a gym.

12 The second thing is in the meanwhile
13 you're playing basketball, you got place for a
14 GED right there on the spot. GED. You've got
15 other classes for the kids, things to do. And I
16 would like to say I hope the next senator, if we
17 get one, will do that.

18 All right. Thank you all for letting
19 me speak even though it was too fast.

20 Thank you all.

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: Representative Wendel
22 Gilliard, do you have anything you wish to say.
23 It's your chance to talk to the Senate?

24 REPRESENTATIVE GILLIARD: Thank you, Senators.

25 SENATOR McCONNELL: Yes, sir.

1 REPRESENTATIVE GILLIARD: Senator Glenn
2 McConnell. I appreciate the moment.

3 Whatever happens or whatever the
4 results out of all of this, I think foremost
5 it's -- our responsibility is to listen to the
6 citizens and let them know that their voices,
7 their concerns has been adhered to. I see -- I
8 look around this room and I see a lot of people
9 here and I'm going to be quick, short, because I
10 really think they will listen to the people.

11 No matter how you look at it, right
12 now, we do have an opportunity for a 7th
13 Congressional District and I hope the opportunity
14 will finally let the country know that the state
15 of South Carolina is listening to the voices of
16 the people. No matter how you shake it up, we
17 have six Congressional districts now. Five out
18 of the six, we have republican representation,
19 one is democrat. That should speak unto itself.

20 Thank you.

21 SENATOR McCONNELL: Before we conclude
22 tonight -- and that concludes all the people who
23 asked to be heard -- somebody bringing a sheet.

24 While that's happening, if you signed
25 up tonight, you notified the subcommittee, go

1 ahead and tell you that the committee will --
2 when it recesses tonight will proceed to meet on
3 Wednesday at 9 a.m. in Room 308 at the Senate
4 office building to consider the testimony that we
5 received and looking at the building blocks,
6 which are the criteria.

7 Jane Pulling, do I have that correct?

8 MS. PULLING: Yes, you do.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: All right.

10 MS. PULLING: I hope I'm not last.

11 SENATOR McCONNELL: There is one more
12 after you.

13 MS. PULLING: Excellent.

14 I am Jane Pulling. I'm a
15 representative of Berkeley County, Pinopolis,
16 South Carolina. My senator is Paul Campbell,
17 District 44, and I'm in the 1st Congressional
18 District and I'm secretary and alternative.

19 The two points that I'd like to make I
20 think have been made tonight, but perhaps not by
21 someone from Berkeley County. The first point
22 that I would like to make is that I've been --
23 that both political parties have critical
24 important information to share in this
25 redistricting process.

1 Local, county parties have an intimate
2 knowledge of communities of interest. So I would
3 just encourage this committee and the Senate as a
4 whole when they consider the redistricting
5 process to really receive that input from a
6 political party.

7 I personally believe, and this is my
8 belief, that this state desperately needs a
9 viable two-party system. I think that many of
10 the ills that we suffer state wide could be
11 corrected if we had a fair balance in the
12 legislature and to that end, all of the republican
13 party is in charge of this process at the
14 legislator level and at the gubernatorial level.

15 I would just ask that you consider the
16 needs of those who may not be formally
17 represented, and I guess I'm thinking of treating
18 others as you would wish to be treated if you
19 were the party out of power. I think that there
20 is more balance than we think in this state and I
21 think that's been amply demonstrated by several
22 speakers.

23 I would refer back to the last
24 gubernatorial election, the results were 52
25 percent to 49 percent. That's not an mandate in

1 anybody's vote and I think it speaks to a greater
2 balance that I believe exists.

3 And then I'd like to close by echoing
4 the comments of Senator Williams, who is much
5 better looking than I am and much more charming,
6 but I think he has it right, we don't need
7 gerrymandered districts in South Carolina anymore.

8 Thank you.

9 SENATOR McCONNELL: Gwendlyn Robinson.

10 MS. ROBINSON: Good evening. My name
11 is Gwendlyn Robinson and I live in Mt. Pleasant.

12 And when I heard about this issue, I
13 sent an e-mail to as many people as I could get
14 it to because I realize how important this is and
15 hopefully, the community realizes how important
16 it is.

17 And one of the things that gets my
18 attention, I think I heard at least one speaker
19 apologize for mentioning race. Well, I never
20 apologize for mentioning race. I want you to
21 know who I am and when people deal with me, I
22 want you to be conscious of it because I don't --
23 I'm always reminded of who you are. And when
24 black people stop apologizing for being black and
25 while people start squirming in their seats when

1 an issue of race is mentioned, maybe we will have
2 progressed to where we need to be.

3 And what I need to say to this jury,
4 sic, is that when these lines are drawn, I think
5 there has to be race consciousness. I think
6 there has to be an awareness that we are all
7 members of this state, that we all have concerns,
8 that we all have needs, that we are all
9 contributing members of this society and as the
10 former said, if we can stay away from
11 partisanship, if we can remember that generally
12 what's hurts one of us hurts all of us and what's
13 good for one of us is generally has some positive
14 impact on the rest of us.

15 And if these lines are drawn such that
16 they eliminate those considerations for people of
17 color, they eliminate those for considerations,
18 economic considerations, then we're going to be
19 back to business as usual and I think if we
20 progress, it has to be a situation where we try
21 and amend and correct some of those things that
22 we've suffered in the past and I think moving on
23 is good for everybody and now if the people who
24 make the decisions would just be aware of that
25 and I will certainly be appreciative on my behalf

1 and hopefully for a whole lot of other people,
2 and this would be people who are similarly
3 impacted.

4 Thank you so much.

5 SENATOR McCONNELL: That concludes all
6 of the speakers that have signed up. Again, I
7 would remind you that your written comments are
8 just as important and if you have any additional
9 comments after hearing what the speakers have
10 said, please do a brief submittal to us through
11 our site or by the U.S. Postal.

12 And again, we thank you for coming and
13 have a good evening.

14 (The public hearing was concluded at
15 7:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Jeannette M. King, Court 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 20th day of April, 2011, at Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina.



Jeannette M. King
Jeannette M. King
Court Reporter and Notary Public
for the State of South Carolina
My commission expires 3/12/17

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