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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2011
1:00 P.M.
412 KNOTT BUILDING
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Transcribed by:
CLARA C. ROTRUCK
Court Reporter

1 T A P E D P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: The Administrative
3 Assistant, please call the roll.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Representative
5 Precourt.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Here.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Adkins.

8 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Here.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Albritton.

10 REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Here.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Baxley.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Here.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Bernard.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Here.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Boyd.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Here.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Brodeur.

18 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Here.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Caldwell.

20 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Here.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Campbell.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Here.

23 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Clarke-Reed.

24 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Here.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Corcoran.

1 Cruz.

2 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Here.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Drake.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Here.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Frishe.

6 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Here.

7 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Fullwood.

8 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Here.

9 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Holder.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Here.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Hooper.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Here.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Hukill.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Here.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Jones.

16 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Here.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Julien.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Present.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Legg.

20 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Nehr.

22 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Here.

23 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Passidomo.

24 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Here.

25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Reed.

1 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Here.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Rogers.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Here.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Schenck.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCHENCK: Here.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Stargel.

7 REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Here.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Taylor.

9 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Here.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Trujillo.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Here.

12 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Williams, A.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Present.

14 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Young.

15 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Here.

16 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: The Senate, if we

18 could get the roll call for the Senate as well.

19 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Gaetz.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Here.

21 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator

22 Margolis.

23 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Here.

24 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator

25 Braynon.

1 SENATOR BRAYNON: Here.

2 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Flores.

3 SENATOR FLORES: Here.

4 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Hays.

5 SENATOR HAYS: Here.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Joyner.

7 SENATOR JOYNER: Here.

8 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Lynn.

9 SENATOR LYNN: Here.

10 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator

11 Montford.

12 SENATOR MONTFORD: Here.

13 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Negron.

14 SENATOR NEGRON: Here.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator Sobel.

16 SENATOR SOBEL: Here.

17 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Senator

18 Thrasher?

19 SENATOR THRASHER: Here.

20 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

21 much. We are also pleased to be joined today

22 by names of non committee Legislators attending

23 the hearing. Would you please read those as

24 well?

25 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Representative

1 Abruzzo?

2 REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Here.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Klar?

4 REPRESENTATIVE KLAR: Here.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
7 much. First of all, I want to thank everyone
8 for coming out today. We are very grateful to
9 both the House and Senate staff for setting up
10 this great facility.

11 We are grateful to have such a terrific
12 turn out, and we are also here to share what I
13 believe and come to share the comments and
14 recommendations to help shape both the
15 Congressional and the Senate and House
16 Districts for the next decade.

17 My name is Will Weatherford, and I along
18 with my Senate colleague, Senator Don Gaetz,
19 will be chairing today's hearing which is also
20 being webcast statewide by the Florida Channel
21 over the Internet.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, our sole purpose
23 here is to hear from the public about how you
24 believe the legal standards governing
25 redistricting should be applied in your

1 community so that you are represented in both
2 Washington and in Tallahassee fairly, equitably
3 and sensibly.

4 Our procedures today are simple but they
5 are very important. It is important that you
6 sign in so that we can create an accurate
7 public record of all attendees and speakers.

8 Also you may opt to join our e-mail lists
9 so that we can keep you informed about how the
10 redistricting process is working over the next
11 few months. If you have not signed in, please
12 raise your hand and a staff member will give
13 you an attendance card.

14 If you wish to speak today and you haven't
15 yet filled out an attendance card, please raise
16 your right hand and we will get you a card so
17 you can be called on and we will make sure not
18 to miss your testimony. It is the same
19 attendance card, whether you want to speak or
20 if I want to just sit and listen.

21 Before we begin the Chair will recognize
22 Co-Chairman, Senator Don Gaetz to explain how
23 today's hearings fit into the redistricting
24 process. Chairman Gaetz.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Mr. Speaker, and I notice there are a couple of
2 folks there who need to have either appearance
3 cards or speaker cards, and will a member of
4 the professional staff please get to those
5 folks as soon as possible.

6 Mr. Speaker, and those of us who are
7 gathered here today, every ten years the
8 Legislature is required by the Constitution to
9 redistrict the state based on increases,
10 decreases, or movements of population within
11 the state.

12 Because Florida has grown more than other
13 states in the last ten years we will move up
14 from 25 to 27 members of the U.S. House of
15 Representatives, and because some parts of our
16 state have increased or decreased
17 disproportionately, many Senate and House
18 Districts will change, either by adding or
19 losing population.

20 When redistricting is complete
21 Congressional Districts must be equal in size
22 and each Congressional District plus contain
23 696,345 people. The 40 Senate Districts must
24 also be nearly equal at 470,033 people, and our
25 120 House Districts must also be nearly equal

1 at 156,678 persons.

2 There is a map at the front of the room
3 that you can see over there. You are welcome
4 when we take our breaks come up and have a look
5 at it that shows this area of the state, north
6 Florida, particularly northwest Florida.

7 The map shows the current boundaries of
8 existing districts and the number of persons of
9 which each district is short or the number of
10 excess population to be adjusted in order to
11 achieve equal representation.

12 But Mr. Speaker, equality of
13 representation is not the only requirement that
14 redistricting plans have to meet. The laws and
15 important court cases governing redistricting
16 are explained in detail on the House and Senate
17 websites.

18 Those websites are listed on the
19 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available
20 when you came in. If you didn't get one of
21 those brochures you can get them on your way
22 out.

23 The Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes
24 Federal and State laws and outlines topics we
25 hope you will discuss at today's hearing and

1 the other 25 hearings across Florida. If you
2 didn't get a brochure our staff will be happy
3 to get you one.

4 Those same websites have available to the
5 public all of the demographic information from
6 the U.S. Bureau of the Census that will be used
7 in drawing districts and the redistricting
8 software the Legislators will be using.

9 These websites will allow any member of
10 the public to see all of the district maps
11 proposed by Legislators and for citizens,
12 themselves, to propose their own district maps
13 for their own communities, or for the whole
14 state using all of the tools available to the
15 Legislature.

16 Before, during, and after this hearing,
17 Senate and House professional staff are
18 available to show you the simple steps to
19 getting on-line and making your submission for
20 your suggestions now or in the weeks to come.

21 Every recommendation from any member of
22 the public or any group will be made publicly
23 available to everyone else. In fact, some
24 public submissions are already available on the
25 web.

1 The submission of proposed maps that make
2 sense for your community is the single most
3 effective form of public participation in this
4 process.

5 The redistricting schedule under which we
6 are operating is imposed by our State
7 Constitution. This is critical. The
8 Constitution does not permit our Legislature to
9 act on legislative maps before the second year
10 after the census.

11 In other words, the Constitution doesn't
12 permit us to act on legislative or
13 congressional maps before 2012. We have
14 accelerated this process as much as possible by
15 moving up the 2012 legislative session from
16 March to January, and beginning our statewide
17 hearings today, five months in advance of the
18 2012 session.

19 It has been suggested that the Legislature
20 should draw maps first and then ask the public
21 to comment on the Legislature's maps. We
22 believe that puts the answer ahead of the
23 question.

24 There should be no preconceptions created
25 by politicians, but rather public testimony

1 should be free and unrestricted.

2 Our intent is to use the recommendations
3 made of the 26 public hearings and through the
4 Internet sites where we are gathering input as
5 the basis for developing one or more options
6 for district maps.

7 We will share those options in open public
8 meetings before any vote is taken, even in
9 Committee.

10 Throughout the process we will solicit
11 additional public comment so that proposed maps
12 can mature with the public involved all before
13 the Legislature approves any maps.

14 Whatever the Legislature votes on is then
15 submitted for judicial review to insure that
16 the plans meet every legal requirement.

17 Because our mission today is to hear from
18 you, all of the remaining time between now and
19 8:00 p.m. tonight will be used to insure that
20 every member of the public who is here and
21 wishes to speak will have time to present
22 testimony and be listened to respectfully
23 without interruption or argument.

24 If, after every citizen has his or her
25 say, there is time remaining before our

1 scheduled adjournment, then any member of the
2 Committee may make any statement or offer any
3 observation, and, of course, any member of the
4 Legislature may today or at any time propose a
5 map or a plan and we will make it available to
6 the public immediately on our websites.

7 Mr. Speaker, I hope this description of
8 our schedule and process helps set the stage
9 for successful hearings across Florida.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Chairman. By Senate and House rules
12 we will adjourn promptly at this first meeting
13 at 4:00 p.m. There are already dozens of
14 individuals signed up to speak.

15 If there is anyone else who wishes to
16 speak that has not gotten their public
17 appearance card, please make sure and get one
18 by raising your right hand again.

19 To insure that each person is heard we
20 will divide the time equally and ask that each
21 testifier to limit his or her remarks to three
22 to five minutes.

23 That being said, as we get more cards in
24 if time becomes crunched we may come to a hard
25 clock of three minutes.

1 Our first speaker is Ms. Diane Wilson,
2 Ms. Diane Wilson is with Wakulla County
3 Democratic Women's Club, and after Diane we
4 have Ms. Carolyn Land and Ms. Marty Monroe.

5 What we would like, Ms. Marty Monroe, what
6 we would like, Mr. Marty Monroe. What we would
7 like to do is we will announce the first
8 speaker and then the two subsequent speakers to
9 follow to make sure that you can be prepared to
10 bring your comments forward.

11 So we would ask as we announce your name,
12 that you get in the cue and be prepared to
13 speak.

14 Ms. Wilson, the floor is yours and you are
15 recognized for three to five minutes. Thank
16 you, Ms. Wilson declines to speak at this time.

17 Next up we have Ms. Carolyn Land followed
18 by Mr. Marty Monroe. Ms. Land.

19 MS. LAND: Thank you for asking --

20 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I would like, just
21 for the record purposes we would love it if you
22 could come and speak at the podium. Thank you
23 very much.

24 MS. LAND: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: There is a button

1 to turn the microphone on there. Thank you,
2 Ms. Land.

3 MS. LAND: Try that. One more time.
4 Thank you for asking for public input on a very
5 important decision, and I am from Lafayette
6 County. When you compare population,
7 registered voters to most of the counties, we
8 are one of the smallest counties in the state,
9 and to me it is extremely important as we draw
10 the districts that our entire county be within
11 one district.

12 Also, as much as possible, that we be
13 grouped with people who share the same
14 industries and issues that we share as a small
15 rural county. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
17 much, Ms. Land, we appreciate your comments.
18 Next up we have Marty Monroe, followed by
19 Mr. Herb Shelton.

20 Ms. Monroe, you are recognized?

21 MS. MONROE: Thank you. Thank you very
22 much. Good afternoon. Marty Monroe. I have
23 lived in Tallahassee since the 1980s, and it
24 almost makes me home grown. I am proud to be a
25 recovering Civics teacher, and I care a great

1 deal about a healthy democracy.

2 And I am here today because I think this
3 is a very sick process. My parents are in
4 their 80s. They, too, live here in
5 Tallahassee. They live in the Westminster
6 Oaks.

7 Now, there are more trees between my house
8 and Westminster Oaks than there are people, and
9 my parents don't have a Senator Bill Montford,
10 thank you very much, I am proud to have you,
11 and they were very upset.

12 They moved from a garden apartment to the
13 main building, and you know what that created,
14 a change of address. Now, a change of address
15 seems very simple to people, but when you are
16 in your 80s, it gets very complicated.

17 Most people do not have driver's license,
18 thankfully, in retirement communities, and my
19 parents, they don't pay bills, Westminster does
20 all of that.

21 So they had to go find paid staff to write
22 them a letter to say my parents live there, and
23 fortunately, my parents travel a lot and they
24 had a passport. I am telling you folks this is
25 suppressing votes, creating problems in the

1 democracy.

2 That is very difficult for people in their
3 80s. You all think it is just a, well, you
4 just go down there and get a change of address,
5 but for real people that is real problems.

6 Monday morning, I am in chemotherapy, I
7 just came out of it this morning. Cancer
8 doesn't discriminate, and I sit in chemotherapy
9 with homeless people, the working core. I sit
10 in there with all types of people. In fact, it
11 breaks my hard to see the classroom teacher in
12 there grading papers and writing lesson plans
13 during a six-hour chemo treatment.

14 Our lives are very complicated navigating
15 the medical model. And we talk a lot. I
16 always talk politics, I am a recovering Civics
17 teacher. So we talk and we share our concerns,
18 and, yes, we are sick, but we are basically
19 heart sick, heart sick about the declining
20 democracy in the state.

21 Yes, I read the leadership letter to
22 instruct you not to speak and I don't think you
23 need to. I was laid up on the couch in chemo
24 and watched the day in the Legislature every
25 day, and I think you have spoken real loud.

1 I think your actions speak louder than
2 yours words. You had no money for the working
3 core, no money for state employees, and no
4 money for public education, and now I learn you
5 got \$30 million set aside to fight the will of
6 the voter. That is \$30 million to fight me and
7 my 80-year-old parents. \$30 million to leave
8 no lawyer behind is what I think.

9 The leadership in Florida talks about
10 saving the state money, money, money, and
11 running it like a business.

12 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Ms. Monroe,
13 Ms. Monroe, if I could for just one second, I
14 am sorry to interrupt you. We are trying to
15 focus the comments today on redistricting and
16 on the future of Florida's maps, and we
17 certainly want to hear your thoughts in regards
18 to the budget and in regards to the different
19 issues that we face as a state, but we would
20 really ask you to focus your comments today on
21 the redistricting, on the redistricting
22 process.

23 MS. MONROE: This is part of the
24 redistricting process as far as I am concerned,
25 Representative Weatherford. Okay.

1 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Just please keep it
2 tailored to the redistricting process, thank
3 you.

4 MS. MONROE: I will try if you will let
5 me. I want to know what business in Florida
6 sends their employees on a road show to ask
7 other people to do their jobs. I want to be
8 perfectly clear, it is the job of the
9 Legislature to draw the Congressional
10 legislative maps, and I understand that many
11 other states out there have completed their
12 redistricting process.

13 Their citizens were able to comment on
14 actually proposed maps, and by the way, that
15 has been the practice in Florida for the past
16 years.

17 There were prepared maps here at these
18 meetings that we could speak on. That has been
19 the practice in the past.

20 Fair District Amendment was won by a super
21 majority of voters to clarify how we want the
22 maps drawn. That is a lot of input, folks.
23 That is -- that is how we amended the
24 Constitution, because we wanted to give you
25 direction on how to draw those maps, and I am

1 just going to gently suggest what our Governor
2 always likes to say, let's get to work and quit
3 wasting time in drawing those maps.

4 By the way, I want to comment on your
5 timeline. It really looks like an incumbent
6 protection plan here, because you are delaying
7 and prolonging the process to the last possible
8 date. This creates chaos for candidates and
9 very little time for the education of
10 campaigns.

11 It is very highly unlikely that
12 Floridians, the voters, will know their new
13 districts before qualifying, and, of course,
14 the process could take much longer if you don't
15 draw maps that comply with the law.

16 So I am wondering today, Senators, House
17 Reps, aren't you just tired of being Flori-da,
18 the stupid state that holds up National
19 elections just because we can?

20 I want you to stop the delays. I want you
21 to stop stalling and I want you to get to work
22 as the Governor likes to say, let's get to
23 work. I have been ready. I think you should,
24 too.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1 much, Ms. Monroe. Next up we have Herb
2 Shelton, followed by Barbara Day, Herb is
3 representing himself.

4 Mr. Shelton, thank you for being here.
5 You are recognized, sir.

6 MS. SHELTON: Thank you for this time, but
7 actually there is a fellow here that is much
8 more knowledgeable about this than I am and I
9 would love to cede my time to him, and his name
10 is Matthew Isbell, if that is permissible.

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: What we could do,
12 sir, is if he will fill out a card we will
13 certainly make sure and find time for him, but
14 we are reading the cards off in the order that
15 they were turned in.

16 And so if he would fill out a card we will
17 make sure and give him an opportunity to speak.

18 MR. SHELTON: Okay, sorry.

19 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Would you still
20 like to speak, sir?

21 MR. SHELTON: Sure, I can speak a thing or
22 two. You know, it takes courage to do this.
23 You folks are learned, lawyers and whatever,
24 but, you know, I am just a citizen of Leon
25 County here, and you know, I want to first of

1 all thank you for this forum, you know, to
2 discuss fair districting.

3 I just want to add my voice to the sister
4 that just spoke about getting the job soon,
5 please. Sixty-three percent of Florida voters
6 wanted to see this thing finished and fairly.

7 As you know, I am Herb Shelton. I have
8 friends across the state from Pensacola to
9 Lauderdale. They vote, we have watched a tax
10 on early voting, I have watched State employee
11 pension funds being attacked. There is an
12 ultrasound mandate, there is a Supreme Court
13 attack, the Supreme Court of Florida is being
14 attacked.

15 I have watched distinguished clergy and
16 vote God for guidance on your behalf and yet
17 seen policies that are to me reveal a deep
18 sickness, and the burden of my soul for you
19 today can be best described, summed up in the
20 words of Isaiah, 520, "Woe unto them that call
21 evil good and good evil. That pit darkness for
22 light and light for darkness, that pit bitter
23 for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe unto them
24 that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in
25 their own sight, but God's invitation to you is

1 this, come into me and be healed, for why will
2 you die." And there is a quote from a man
3 named Uriah Smith back in 1884.

4 I don't know if I should say this, but
5 anyway, he spoke and wrote, "Fraud, dishonesty,
6 usurpation lying, cheating and stealing will
7 largely determine the count and the party which
8 can do most of this work will probably win."
9 Thank you for your time.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Shelton. Next up we have Ms. Barbara
12 Day from the AARP, followed by Henry Kelly.

13 Ms. Day, thank you very much for being
14 here today. You are recognized.

15 MS. DAY: Good afternoon, Chairman Gaetz
16 and Chairman Weatherford and the Committee
17 members.

18 My name is Barbara Day. I live in Panama
19 City, Bay County. I appear today as a
20 volunteer for -- as a volunteer for AARP.

21 I urge the Legislature to make
22 redistricting process to be all you can be. As
23 you exercise your constitutional duty to draw
24 voting districts for ten years beginning with
25 the 2012 elections, AARP urges you to insure

1 transparency of the legislative redistricting
2 process every stay of the way.

3 Keep transparency in place with
4 redistricting discussions among members and by
5 members, should be noticed and open to the
6 public, too.

7 Also keep transparency in place, meaning
8 the public has opportunity to comment and to
9 have those comments meaningfully considered by
10 the Legislature during our legislative --
11 legislative redistricting proceedings and on
12 redistricting proposals, that is before
13 Legislators make decisions.

14 Insure timeliness of the redistricting
15 process and insure public input. The
16 Legislature has an obligation to meet the
17 constitutional dictates as already expressed by
18 the Florida voters. The Legislator owes
19 Florida's residents and voters professionalism
20 and timely completion of the redistricting
21 process.

22 The Legislature knows the procedural steps
23 that redistricting plans will need to complete
24 in order for there to be a timely qualification
25 of the 2012 candidates under the new district

1 and for the vigorous campaigns before voters
2 cast their ballots.

3 That means the Legislature should complete
4 its portion of the process sooner rather than
5 later.

6 Remember to take steps to insulate the
7 redistricting process from the appearance of a
8 conflict of interest. For example,
9 subcommittees of Legislators could research and
10 develop alternative redistricting proposals for
11 areas of the state remote from the sub
12 committee members.

13 Geographic residence, perhaps, just as an
14 example, perhaps four areas of the state and
15 then refine and reconcile for two halves of the
16 state, then refine and reconcile by the full
17 chambers into one state plan.

18 When it is time for your performance, the
19 Florida voters will not count as undue expense
20 and delay in that performance. It is up to the
21 Legislator.

22 What will it be? Will it be
23 redistricting, presentment or voter resentment?
24 I am confident the Legislature and its staff
25 have professional competence and technical

1 assistance to research and propose new voting
2 districts in accord with all the constitutional
3 and Federal requirements.

4 Wishing you good luck and make your best
5 effort. Thank you so much for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
7 much, Ms. Day. We appreciate your comments.
8 Next up we have Ms. Debbie Walsh from the
9 Center for American Women in Politics.
10 Followed up by Mr. Daryl Nall.

11 Ms. Walsh, thank you very much for being
12 here.

13 MS. WALSH: Thank you very much for having
14 me. I want to thank the members of the
15 Commission and good afternoon. I am Debbie
16 Walsh, Director of the Center for American
17 Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton
18 Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State
19 University of New Jersey and I probably used up
20 half my time, right?

21 For 40 years, CAWP or the Center, has been
22 monitoring and analyzing women's status and
23 prospects in American politics, tracking the
24 numbers of women office-holders and conducting
25 research about their impact.

1 I am here today because in recent years we
2 have noticed a deeply disturbing trend. The
3 stagnation and even decline in the number of
4 elected women, and we want to make sure that
5 trend is not exacerbated by the redistricting
6 process, yet the early evidence suggests that
7 unless careful attention is paid, women may
8 lose even more ground.

9 As part of our 2012 project a non partisan
10 campaign to increase the number of women in
11 Congress and State Legislatures across the
12 country, we are monitoring the redistricting
13 process nationwide.

14 We have analyzed the new map in New
15 Jersey, the first state to complete its
16 legislative redistricting and the results are
17 alarming.

18 In a state where 28 percent of the current
19 Legislature is female, women make up at least
20 57 percent of the Legislators who will retire
21 as a result of redistricting.

22 In other words, women incumbents were
23 disproportional forced out by redrawn district
24 lines. We all know that women are more than
25 half the nation's population, and on that basis

1 alone, the paucity of elected women is a
2 problem.

3 Today women hold 16.6 percent of the seats
4 in Congress, six Governorships out of 50,
5 24 percent of seats in State Legislatures, and
6 Mayor's offices in eight of the 100 largest
7 cities in the nation.

8 Here in Florida women hold one quarter of
9 State Legislative seats making it rank 20th in
10 the nation and just over a quarter of the
11 Congressional seats.

12 So although Florida has done better than
13 many states, it still fails to represent women
14 in anywhere near their proportions in the
15 population, but we are not just playing a
16 numbers game.

17 Research carried out by scholars and CAWP
18 and elsewhere demonstrates clearly that gender
19 balance changes the way government works,
20 altering the policy agenda, procedures, content
21 and outcomes on issues as varied as job loss,
22 national security and health.

23 Adding women makes a difference, and this
24 is not a partisan divide, both Democratic and
25 Republican women bring distinctive experiences,

1 prospectives and priorities to public office.

2 That is not only good for women, it is
3 good for Florida. Studies cutting across the
4 public and private sectors underscore the value
5 of gender balance. A recent article on
6 Forbes.com cited a Harvard conference that used
7 extensive scholarly research to make the
8 business case for gender equality.

9 The author reported, there is irrefutable
10 verifiable evidence that women in greater than
11 token proportions improve decision-making,
12 improve shareholder value and lower risk
13 taking. While the business of government does
14 not have shareholders, it certainly does have
15 stakeholders.

16 Citizens for whom better decision-making
17 and improved value are critically important.
18 Under the circumstances we can ill-afford to
19 diminish women's representation in government.

20 That is why I wanted to bring to your
21 attention this issue. We understand that women
22 are not legally protected in the redistricting
23 rules, but I would ask you to adhere to a
24 higher standard than merely following the basic
25 requirements which should be seen as a floor,

1 not a ceiling.

2 As you assess the various options before
3 you, don't simply do the least harm, instead,
4 aim to do the most good. I encourage you to
5 insure that women incumbents present only
6 through hard won progress are treated fairly in
7 the redistricting process. Thank you very
8 much.

9 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
10 much, Ms. Walsh, and thank you for making the
11 trip all of the way down from New Jersey. We
12 appreciate you being here.

13 Actually, I skipped Mr. Kelley, Mr. Henry
14 Kelly. You are recognized, sir, and then we
15 will follow that up by Daryl Nall. Sorry about
16 that, Mr. Kelley. You are recognized, sir.

17 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
18 I would like to on behalf of the Ft. Walton
19 Beach Tea Party thank the Joint Committee for
20 having an open and transparent process, and I
21 would like to thank Representative Weatherford
22 and the Senator from my district, Don Gaetz,
23 for their leadership on this.

24 Tea parties around the state will be
25 participating in all of the meetings and we

1 will be submitting plans, and I for one, it was
2 very disappointed to see criticism of the
3 committee process already.

4 With the growth of our population I am
5 glad to start with a blank slate and that the
6 public will have the opportunity to input
7 plans.

8 I have personally created already a
9 Congressional District and a Senate House plan.
10 I have to be honest, Representative
11 Weatherford, 120 is a lot of districts in the
12 House, but I have found the software easy to
13 use.

14 It took me about 15 minutes with the help
15 of the videos to become proficient and several
16 hours to draw the plans.

17 I will have some comments specific to the
18 panhandle tomorrow night at the meeting in Ft.
19 Walton Beach, but I wanted to say that it is my
20 view, having actually worked on the software,
21 that any group in the state of Florida,
22 particularly those with a complete staff, have
23 no excuse for not spending a few hours, which
24 is all it requires, to at least put together a
25 plan.

1 And we prefer that the redistricting be
2 resolved here in the Legislature where the
3 people have a voice rather than going to the
4 courts where they appear to be the worse
5 gerrymanders of all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
7 much, Mr. Kelley. We appreciate your comments,
8 sir. Next up we have Mr. Nall, Mr. Daryl Nall,
9 Ms. Nall, I am sorry, I apologize. Followed up
10 by Peter Butzin.

11 MS. NALL: Okay, I didn't prepare any
12 remarks, but I got signatures for the Petition
13 that got the issues on the ballot and I was
14 really happy that the people of Florida want to
15 have fair redistricting and that is why I am
16 here.

17 I really want the process to be fair and
18 not -- I am a Democrat, but even if the
19 Democrats were in power it should be fair to
20 everybody and not slanted anymore than you have
21 to to comply with the Federal laws, because the
22 State Constitution doesn't allow it be slanted.
23 Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much
25 for your comments. We have Peter Butzin up

1 next, followed by Chris Moore. Peter Butzin
2 with Common Cause. Thank you for being here,
3 Mr. Butzin.

4 MR. BUTZIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
5 Good afternoon, everyone, my name is Peter
6 Butzin.

7 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I am sorry.

8 MR. BUTZIN: I am on the national
9 governing board of Common Cause. I reside here
10 in Tallahassee and I have been involved in
11 reapportionments process that goes way back to
12 1982, and I wanted to talk a little bit about
13 my experience in 1982, when the Republicans had
14 about 30 percent of the Legislature under its
15 control and worked very closely with Common
16 Cause to try to insure the fair drawing of the
17 legislative districts.

18 And I worked with people like Pete Dunbar
19 and Curt Kiser, John Guthrie, Jack Latvala was
20 one of our organizers. We worked closely
21 together around the state to encourage people
22 to be involved in this process, and I remember
23 asking Pete Dunbar, I said, well, why are the
24 Republicans working so closely with Common
25 Cause on this issue.

1 And he said, look, we have been -- we have
2 been unfairly treated by reapportionment for as
3 long as the reapportionment process has existed
4 in Florida.

5 All we want is a fair process, because we
6 know that if it is a fair process, we will be
7 able to better represent our constituents, and
8 that is really all Common Cause is asking for
9 in this process, is that you be fair in the
10 drawing of legislative district lines.

11 That you not draw lines for incumbent
12 protection, that you not draw lines to protect
13 political parties or even communities of
14 interest, but instead that you follow the
15 standards, the 63 percent of Florida voters
16 added to the Florida Constitution in the form
17 of Sections 20 and 21, and if you uphold your
18 oath to uphold the Constitution, you will abide
19 by those anti gerrymandering standards to
20 insure a fair reapportionment process for
21 everyone.

22 I would also hope that you have a second
23 round of public hearings and encourage the
24 public to comment on your plans.

25 Now, I realize that you can't pass the

1 plans until the 2012 Legislative session, but
2 that does not mean that you can't go ahead and
3 in committee pass plans prior to January 1st of
4 2012, have another round of public hearings
5 where we are encouraged to react to those plans
6 and to have our public input.

7 Also, I would say produce those plans
8 early in the session so that we can accelerate
9 the process of court review, so the candidates
10 and voters will know the district boundaries
11 well before the elective process, and
12 ultimately I encourage you to remember that
13 Legislative Districts, Congressional Districts,
14 belong to the people, not to individual
15 Legislators or to political parties.

16 So I encourage you to uphold your oath of
17 office, support the Florida Constitution,
18 including Sections 20 and 21, the 63 percent of
19 Floridians added to the Constitution in
20 November of 2010. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you much,
22 Mr. Butzin. I appreciate you being here today,
23 sir.

24 Next up we have Mr. Chris Moore, who is
25 the Leon County Supervisor of Elections, works

1 with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections,
2 and also we have former Senator Al Lawson is up
3 after that.

4 Thank you very much for being here,
5 Mr. Moore.

6 MR. MOORE: Thank you. My name is Chris
7 Moore. I am the demographics and GIS manager
8 for the Leon County Elections Office here in
9 Tallahassee, and I am here to talk about the
10 technical and financial ramifications of
11 redistricting, not so much the demographics and
12 the mandates that you have in front of you. I
13 think those are well documented.

14 I have a unique perspective of looking at
15 districts, in that I have to look at them
16 collectively. I have to look at the Senate,
17 the House, the Congressional Districts as well
18 as Local Districts and one thing that I haven't
19 seen talked about that I would like to submit
20 for consideration is looking at these districts
21 collectively, because when you look at the
22 districts collectively there is places in Leon
23 County that the House District and the Senate
24 District may be very close by, and if there is
25 opportunities to get those lines in sync then,

1 you know, that is a financial savings to the
2 taxpayers.

3 We have to have ballots for every precinct
4 specific style, everywhere there is a hard
5 district line there is a precinct line. So the
6 more you can get that in line with each other,
7 we have an opportunity for financial savings at
8 the county level.

9 The other thing I would like to say about
10 the savings, it is the course of a decade. It
11 is not just for one year, it is for ten years,
12 and it affects equipment, it affects supplies,
13 it affects training. It ripples its way all of
14 the way through our system for a very long
15 time.

16 And as far as the statistics for the
17 districts, I think last time around you were
18 able to get down to like a zero deviation or a
19 one person deviation in the numbers, and I
20 would implore you not to hide behind the
21 numbers being so close, because what happens
22 oftentimes when you are trying to get to those
23 numbers you start to ignore other criteria that
24 is out in front of you, and if you just need to
25 get the numbers right, you start grabbing

1 pieces out of neighborhoods here and there and
2 that is where some of the fracturing that you
3 see of neighborhoods occurs, because you are
4 trying to get to a deviation that, to me is not
5 the most important criteria, nor should it be.

6 So those -- those are my suggestions for
7 -- from the Leon County Supervisor of
8 Election's Office and I thank you for your
9 time.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much
11 for those good suggestions, Mr. Moore.

12 Next up we have an old friend and former
13 Senator and House Speaker, Senator Al Lawson.
14 Senator, you are recognized.

15 Thank you for being here, sir.

16 SENATOR LAWSON: Thank you very much,
17 Mr. Chairman Weatherford and Chairman Gaetz.
18 To members I would like to say good afternoon.

19 It is a real privilege for me to appear
20 before this committee today, especially having
21 gone through reapportionment twice in the last
22 28 years, and it is very encouraging to see
23 many of you that I know on this committee,
24 because I have had the opportunity to work with
25 you.

1 And one of the things I would like to say
2 before I get started is that I know that there
3 is going to be numerous hearings. I don't want
4 any of the public to really think that just
5 because we have a hearing here, that there are
6 not other hearings, because there will be many
7 committee meetings for the opportunity for you
8 to have input.

9 And I know the last two times I have been
10 through reapportionment, it hasn't been any
11 difference. I had an opportunity to go through
12 reapportionment with the Democratic majority,
13 had opportunity to go through reapportionment
14 with the Republican majority, and there haven't
15 been any changes in those regards.

16 I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
17 your time to listen to the citizens of Leon
18 County today. I know firsthand tasks what you
19 all are faced with, and I know that you all are
20 going to make the right decision.

21 I had the privilege to serve during the
22 time where we had great strides in the
23 representation of racial and language
24 minorities in the State Legislature and
25 Congressional Districts.

1 My hope is that the work that we started
2 with will continue. The way I read the
3 amendment, the new standards of intent gives
4 priority over -- give priority over to the
5 preservation -- does not give priority over to
6 the preservation of minority access districts.

7 Though the organization claims that this
8 does not exist, but from the way I interpret
9 the law, it does not give claims to those
10 access seats.

11 Let me give you a good example. Prior to
12 1982, there was no African-Americans or
13 Hispanics in Congress, none in the Senate, and
14 only five in the Legislature, but because we
15 took minority access districts into
16 consideration, after 1982, we had two
17 African-Americans that was elected to the
18 Senate and we had three African-American that
19 was elected to Congress.

20 So that become very critical, and I want
21 to make sure that as we address these issues,
22 that we preserve and do not have retrogression.

23 Although paragraph three says that the
24 standard is not listed in order of priority, it
25 is clear that several minority access seats are

1 at risk, and I have said that these minority
2 access seats have been at risk for the last
3 three years, and especially the last year when
4 I served on reapportionment.

5 It is very important that you recognize
6 that and you identify that. My point today as
7 a citizen, I will just state is to use this
8 public hearing to tell you one simple message,
9 preserve minority districts in Leon County and
10 throughout the state of Florida.

11 When I got elected in 1982, they hadn't
12 been an African-American elected since
13 Reconstruction, but because the Legislature in
14 its wisdom during reapportionment saw to make a
15 minority access seat, this was the first time
16 that an African-American had been elected since
17 Reconstruction.

18 We have come too far to see some
19 considered vague standards that does not come
20 to the right interpretation. We have worked
21 too hard and too long to allow this to really
22 happen.

23 As a citizen of this state I am begging
24 you not to stop the progress that has been made
25 for racial equality in this state. To not stop

1 the good work that we have accomplished
2 together, Republicans and Democrats over the
3 last 30 years.

4 Please apply what these new standards may
5 say, I want it very clear, that the citizens of
6 this state, especially the minority citizens,
7 African-American and Hispanic, would like to
8 have preserved minority access seats.

9 I think it is very important for this
10 state because we are a very diverse state, and
11 we should have the representation of our
12 citizens.

13 Thank you very much and it is an honor for
14 me to appear before you today.

15 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
16 much, Mr. Lawson. We appreciate your services
17 to the state and for you sharing the historical
18 perspective with us. Thank you very much. It
19 is good to see you, sir.

20 Next up we have Ms. Deirdre Macnab.
21 Deirdre, I apologize, I didn't tell you ahead
22 of time, but you are recognized to be our next
23 speaker, and following Ms. Macnab, I apologize
24 if I don't say this right, but Juvais
25 Harrington from the NAACP.

1 First up we have Ms. Deirdre Macnab with
2 the League of Women Voters. Thank you very
3 much for being here today.

4 MS. MACNAB: Thank you very much. Chair
5 Gaetz and Chair Weatherford, thank you for
6 having us here today, and esteemed members of
7 this Committee.

8 I am Deirdre Macnab, and I am the State
9 President of the League of Women Voters of
10 Florida.

11 There is an old Chinese saying, "The
12 journey of 1,000 miles begins with one step."
13 The League of Women Voters has a lot of
14 experience in the area of 1,000-mile journeys,
15 and one of them began almost 200 years ago when
16 we fought for the right for women to vote, and
17 Susan B. Anthony was one of my favorite heros,
18 criss-crossed America, not by automobile, but
19 by foot, by stage coach and she had to sit on
20 the stage usually with a Sheriff with his guns
21 drawn so that she could speak. Luckily we are
22 not in that situation today, nor do we have to
23 travel in this same mode.

24 However, I am here to talk today about a
25 different 1,000-mile journey. This one started

1 a long time ago, also for the League of Women
2 Voters of Florida, almost 70 years ago when we
3 began, and that was back in 1939, when we did
4 our first study of government, which had two
5 findings.

6 One, an outdated Constitution, and two, a
7 malapportioned Legislature. Since those days
8 we have worked on the subject of redistricting
9 and the need for fair standards and we have
10 continued that fight to today.

11 With a vote in November, we have come very
12 close to the end of that journey. The League
13 of Women Voters has fought for this effort when
14 the Democrats were in charge in Tallahassee,
15 and we have fought for that effort with the
16 Republicans today in charge of Tallahassee.
17 This is a non partisan issue. It is also not
18 an anti incumbent issue.

19 The League of Women Voters opposed term
20 limits when it was proposed as an amendment.
21 We believe simply in fairness and fair rules.
22 After four Petition drives over these last many
23 years and with our members across the state of
24 Florida asking other Floridians to sign their
25 Petition, some might say, accosting, I have two

1 friends who are in their 80s who would stop
2 people in their nursing home elevator to sign
3 the petitions.

4 We were, along with our partner groups,
5 able to succeed in collecting 1,600,000
6 petitions and in persuading 63 percent of
7 Florida's voters in a conservative election
8 year to support and ask the Legislature to
9 follow these simple and straightforward rules.

10 Today, on behalf of our thousands of
11 members across the state of Florida who have
12 collected signatures, who have spoken to
13 groups, who have written to newspapers and
14 explained the importance of these changes to
15 their neighbors, we ask you to do the
16 following.

17 Number one, stop using taxpayer dollars to
18 fight the amendments. Imagine your family's
19 horror if you came home and told them that you
20 were paying attorneys to both fight and defend
21 the same case. That is what you are doing for
22 your constituents.

23 We the voters are paying to both prosecute
24 and to defend that which 63 percent of
25 Floridians have instructed you to follow.

1 Please drop these lawsuits and follow the will
2 of the voters.

3 Number two, move the timeline up. We
4 agree completely with your attorney who
5 encouraged you to start drawing the maps
6 immediately, and that to do otherwise is likely
7 to result in chaos and confusion in the 2012
8 election.

9 The current timeline makes it very likely
10 that there will be little or no time for
11 candidates to know what districts they are in
12 before the filing deadline to be able to
13 organize and prepare their campaigns, and
14 importantly, to communicate and inform voters
15 before they make their choices.

16 Florida deserves elections where the
17 people have time to understand their choices.
18 This timeline benefits only incumbents and is
19 likely to diminish competitive election and
20 certainly the time that our voters need to
21 inform themselves about their choices.

22 The current plan is to vote on final maps
23 at the end of session next year. Why not draw
24 them earlier, debate and discuss them in
25 committee meetings in the fall, and vote on

1 them in the first week of session in early
2 January of 2012.

3 This would add two months for court and
4 Justice Department reviews, and will create a
5 real chance for voters and prospective
6 candidates to know the districts before
7 qualifying.

8 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Ms. Macnab.

9 MS. MACNAB: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: We are over five
11 minutes. I certainly want to allow you to
12 finish, but if you could, just try to wrap it
13 up as much as you can for us so we can get to
14 all of the other speakers.

15 MS. MACNAB: Thank you. It would be my
16 pressure.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, ma'am, thank
18 you.

19 MS. MACNAB: Finally, we ask you to lift
20 the gag order placed on the Legislators during
21 these redistricting hearings. The people of
22 Florida deserve a chance to hear what is on
23 your mind. Let's make these hearings
24 substantive and productive.

25 We urge you to get your staff to work now

1 drawing the district maps so that we can have a
2 substantive conversation and discussion as you
3 follow the rules that the people of Florida
4 voted on in November by 63 percent. Let's get
5 to work. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
7 much, Ms. Macnab, thank you for being here and
8 for participating. We appreciate it. Next up
9 we have Juvais Harrington and after
10 Mr. Harrington we have a Bishop Holifield will
11 be next.

12 Mr. Harrington is with the NAACP. Thank
13 you very much for being here, sir, you are
14 recognized.

15 MR. HARRINGTON: Thank you, and that is
16 Juvais, but when in doubt phonetics always
17 works, oftentimes people put letters in there
18 that aren't there, so thank you very much.

19 The comments from the NAACP here in Leon
20 County, the Tallahassee branch and as we will
21 be speaking throughout the state, first of all,
22 I want to echo what AARP said that this forum
23 remains and this process remains transparent,
24 that everyone knows what is going on, when it
25 is going on, and when it happens.

1 Also, that the -- we keep in mind that
2 63 percent of the voters voted on this. So
3 that the intent of the voters come forth and we
4 have and we process and we do what the voters
5 said.

6 It is almost like, you know, when you are
7 growing up someone takes, they don't get picked
8 to play on a team, it is like, I am going to
9 take my ball and go home.

10 Well, the Legislature, you cannot take
11 your ball and go home. The people have spoken
12 and they say this is what we want. Also, we
13 want to look at the anti gerrymandering
14 portions that we want to make sure that
15 everyone is included, that everyone is fairly
16 represented and that everyone has a right.

17 NAACP is non partisan, so we speak not on
18 behalf of Democrats nor Republicans, we are
19 policy centric, so we speak to the issues, not
20 to the parties.

21 We want to make sure that fairness -- that
22 we know that and we realize that fairness
23 should be, it is not party centric, but it
24 should be to both parties, Republican,
25 Democrat, Independent, what-have-you, and that

1 we move forward in the spirit of fairness which
2 means that some of you may lose your seats, but
3 if you are being fair, if you are serving the
4 public, does it matter if you lose your seats
5 or not?

6 Nearly 30 years ago one of the statesman
7 from Florida told me that the first job of an
8 elected official is to get reelected. That is
9 your very first job.

10 Well, let flip that script. Let the first
11 job be to serve your constituents, let that be
12 the first job, to serve the people of Florida,
13 to make sure that they get what they voted for.

14 And finally I would like to say that,
15 again, stop using the taxpayers money to fight.
16 It doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense.
17 For those of you who say that you have, you
18 weren't chosen and you want to take your ball
19 and go home with it, well, don't go home, just
20 come back, you get to play next time, but this
21 time the people have spoken.

22 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
23 Mr. Harrington. We appreciate those comments,
24 sir.

25 Bishop Holifield is next, followed up by

1 Mimi Jones. Mr. Holifield is with Leon County
2 Democratic Black Caucus. Thank you very much
3 for being here, sir.

4 MR. HOLIFIELD: Thank you for the
5 opportunity. My name is Bishop Holifield. I
6 am appearing before you as the President of the
7 Leon County Democratic Black Caucus.

8 I would like for my fellow members to
9 stand, please, and be recognized. The Florida
10 Legislature -- thank you.

11 The Florida Legislature has the duty of
12 creating legislative and congressional
13 districts that, A, at the very least, preserve
14 current levels of black membership in the
15 Florida Legislature and the United States House
16 of Representatives.

17 B, the Legislature also has the duty to
18 end and correct the current situation in the
19 State of Florida that sees the votes of those
20 living in densely populated urban areas diluted
21 in a fashion that confirms, that confers an
22 unfair and disproportionate number of districts
23 on more sparsely populated suburban and rural
24 areas.

25 The Legislature should utilize available

1 scientifically measurable numbers to achieve
2 these laudable goals. The articulated outcomes
3 should be made required deliverables on the
4 part of anyone the Legislature contracts with
5 to draw its redistricting maps.

6 Finally, the Florida Legislature should
7 conduct meaningful public hearings after its
8 redistricting maps are drawn. That would allow
9 for a substantive rather than an illusory
10 public comment. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
12 much, Mr. Holifield. We appreciate that, sir.
13 Next up we have Ms. Mimi Jones, followed up by,
14 it is Rachel Sutz Pienta, I believe that is
15 right, but Ms. Rachel Sutz, but first we have
16 Ms. Jones. Thank you, Ms. Jones, for being
17 here, you are recognized.

18 MS. JONES: Hello, thank you. Thank you
19 to the Committee Chairs and to the Committee.
20 I speak to you as a private citizen who has
21 been involved in the political process for, I
22 think it started in middle school, okay.

23 I have done everything from serve, even
24 though I speak for myself, as President of the
25 League of Women Voters in Florida, all of the

1 way down to carrying trash and being a
2 petitioner. I have done it and I have enjoyed
3 it, and I still have faith in the process.

4 I would like to give you just a little bit
5 of my history. In 1982, I was working at the
6 State level. I was involved in the Petition --
7 excuse me, in the reapportionment process.
8 That was the first year that Florida had come
9 into the computer age with redistricting.

10 We then as now suggested fair and
11 equitable standards that we take from our
12 studies of government. We joined other groups
13 around the state, including Peter Butzin, we
14 worked together long and hard, and we came to
15 no avail.

16 And I have to tell you that I was pretty
17 upset with the Democrats, and I don't want to
18 be upset with the Republicans.

19 It is all a matter of who is in charge,
20 but I will tell you what, I think the people
21 are in charge. Sixty-three percent of those
22 who voted, that is a good solid majority, and
23 they have told you they want it fair and they
24 want it square, and I hope that we can thank
25 you for it when we are through with the

1 process. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
3 much, Ms. Jones. Next up we have Ms. Rachel, I
4 apologize if I am not saying this correctly,
5 Pienta, Ms. Rachel Sutz Pienta with the Wakulla
6 Democratic Executive Committee.

7 Ms. Pienta, thank you very much for being
8 here. She will be followed by Joe Conte. You
9 are recognized, thank you.

10 MS. PIENTA: Thank you, Representative
11 Weatherford. I am really here as a citizen of
12 Wakulla County today, full disclosure, yes, I
13 am a Democrat.

14 One of my -- one of my State Legislators I
15 see here today, Senator Montford, but I don't
16 see Representative Bermbry and Representative
17 Coley, and that is a shame.

18 As a citizen of Wakulla sometimes I feel a
19 little bit like a red-headed stepchild, because
20 Representative Coley and Representative
21 Bermbry's districts meet in Wakulla. And on
22 the eastern side we are a part of a district
23 that goes all the way along the coast in
24 Wakulla, down to Cedar Key, and then up to the
25 Georgia border and it sort of curves and winds,

1 sort of does this half circle thing around
2 Alachua County.

3 And so that is the east side, and then on
4 the west side my Representative goes all of the
5 way in the southern part of Leon County, like I
6 really wonder if the people in Woodville and
7 Southwood know that Representative Coley is
8 actually their Representative and not Senator
9 Rehwinkel, I am sorry, Representative
10 Rehwinkel-Vasilinda, and then that district on
11 the west side goes all the way over into the
12 panhandle over towards Destin.

13 So my Representatives are really nice
14 people and they do their best, but it is a lot
15 of ground to cover, and we don't see them very
16 often in Wakulla. And I am a fairly engaged
17 citizen, so both Representatives, Republican
18 and Democrat to their credit, both take my
19 calls.

20 So I get to talk to them, but I know that
21 the constituents, the average person in Wakulla
22 does not see them very often, and Senator
23 Montford, bless his heart, does his best, but
24 he also has a pretty large district that covers
25 a lot of ground.

1 So down in Wakulla we sit there on the
2 coast, a bedroom community for Leon County,
3 that doesn't really have full representation,
4 and I have to give some kudos actually to my
5 Leon County Representative delegation, because
6 Alan Williams and Michelle Vasilinda actually
7 speak for Wakulla quite often, because they
8 know that so many citizens in Wakulla drive
9 north on Woodville Highway and Crawfordville
10 Highway every day to work in Leon County.

11 So they are working here and they are kind
12 of subject to things that happen here in the
13 state government. It is sort of like not being
14 fully represented though.

15 So again, as one of the red-headed
16 step-children living down in Wakulla county I
17 would like to see some changes. I would like
18 to see my Representatives once in a while, and
19 again, it is not their fault. Those are
20 ridiculous districts, they cover way too much
21 ground.

22 So I would like to see something changed
23 with redistricting so that I can be fully
24 represented down in Wakulla county. Thank you
25 very much for your time today.

1 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
2 much, Ms. Pienta, we appreciate those comments.
3 Next up we have Jo Conte, and followed by --
4 following Jo will be Joseph Schweitzer.

5 MS. CONTE: Just a couple of comments, I
6 am Jo Conte, I am from Tallahassee. I ask you
7 to follow the will of the people on this, show
8 us some maps and then we can talk seriously. I
9 waive the remainder of my time.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
11 much. Next up we have Mr. Joseph Schweitzer.
12 Mr. Schweitzer, thank you very much for being
13 here.

14 Following Mr. Schweitzer will be Walt
15 Dartland, and Joseph Schweitzer, it looks like
16 a student at Florida State University.

17 MR. SCHWEITZER: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very much
19 for being here, sir.

20 MR. SCHWEITZER: Thank you. I am just
21 here to really wave against a lot of the ways
22 this process has taken place. I speak on
23 behalf of many of the students of Florida State
24 University, and as the founder of The Student
25 Caucus of Florida to say that from, again, the

1 Legislature's opposition, through suits against
2 the Fair Districts Amendments, the lack of
3 really any visible map for a long time to come
4 to see what we are basing our future lines and
5 future districts off of.

6 A complicated process is already overly
7 complicated for constituents of everybody in
8 the room. In my age group redistricting is
9 going to have a similar effect as the Voter
10 Registration Bill did in this past legislative
11 session, and again and again we find that it
12 becomes more difficult to mobilize a
13 constituency, a constituency that takes much
14 longer to mobilize than many others do.

15 We have a shorter time frame and we don't
16 know what we are working with. So as
17 complicated as the districts are and as
18 vehemently as I might disagree with the way
19 that they might be drawn as well as, I am sure,
20 the majority of the people in this room, the
21 timeline that is being presented in this effort
22 is going to cause a lot of struggle for many
23 who wish to organize on both sides of the
24 aisle. So thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1 much, Mr. Schweitzer. We appreciate your
2 comments, sir. Next up we have a Walt
3 Dartland.

4 Walt, thank you very much for being here,
5 sir, following Mr. Dartland we are going to
6 have Paul Harvill. You are recognized, sir.

7 MR. DARTLAND: Thank you so much, sir,
8 Walt Dartland. Just as a matter of disclosure,
9 I served on the Board of Common Cause, National
10 Board for about eight years, with such really
11 great people that I would hope you all had a
12 chance to meet like Archibald Cox, and with
13 John Gardner, a Republican who actually founded
14 Common Cause.

15 It was a great experience. I learned a
16 lot. I also served as Deputy Attorney General
17 for Bob Butterworth. So I am somewhat familiar
18 with the process that we all go through and
19 appreciate the opportunity to participate.

20 However, I want to first say this. I want
21 to -- I don't want it cover the same stuff that
22 everybody else covered, and I just want to --
23 in the Public Service Commission hearings we
24 use the, I adopt, I adopt the other testimony,
25 and I certainly adopt the testimony of the

1 League of Women Cities -- League of Women
2 Voters, I am sorry, and of Common Cause and
3 Peter Butzin, I think they are right on, and
4 there are a number of other people I think are
5 right on.

6 So I will just focus on a few things to
7 sort of bring, that I want to cover that wasn't
8 covered so far.

9 One is that common, I chaired Florida
10 Common Cause for about eight years. At that
11 time we initiated our own petition, if you
12 remember, and we moved right along until, and
13 we had an independent commission, sort of
14 modeled after California, and at that point
15 what happened is the Supreme Court ruled that
16 there is no such thing as an independent
17 commission, and therefore, it was an
18 unconstitutional -- they were not going to
19 allow us to vote on that deal.

20 Now, that may have been correct.
21 California still has it, and I will say this,
22 that I follow the California situation closely
23 because Arnold Schwarzenegger offered to come
24 here and testify on behalf of our initial
25 Common Cause Petition. They did pass it.

1 You have an independent commission and I
2 read the L. A. Times, I have two children and
3 grandchildren in California, so I follow what
4 is going on, and what they have found is that
5 what they have done is that the Independent
6 Commission meeting, they are going to -- the L.
7 A. Times has opined that even if they do the
8 very best job of doing it, there is not going
9 to be that much change in this stuff, itself,
10 even though there are a lot of Democrats
11 control Legislature there.

12 Now, I got to tell you, whoever has this
13 lady as a Civics teacher, I think that is the
14 greatest thing ever. We need more civic
15 education and I want to put my -- my word in
16 here that civic education is really critical.

17 I want to also comment on the second
18 effort that we are doing now, and try to set it
19 a little differently. You know, Bobby Kennedy
20 one time said that our population is the most
21 entertained and less informed, least informed
22 population in the world, and that is probably
23 true.

24 And one of the reasons I want to emphasize
25 here on this thing is that having taught at the

1 Law School in Miami and having taught at a
2 number of others, Florida International
3 University, the teaching process of the public
4 is going to be difficult for you.

5 Here we have informed people, people
6 really engaged. How about the general public?
7 That is why I would have preferred that you had
8 a map put up, and a Tea Party person said, hey,
9 this is simple, anybody can do it, get on the
10 web.

11 Like -- why couldn't the Legislature have
12 come up with a map that we could then look at
13 and see how it affects Wakulla County and
14 Lafayette County and then have them testify and
15 see what is going on.

16 The scary thing is that we may not get a
17 second chance if this thing prolongs itself and
18 we may not get a chance to comment on what is
19 eventually done.

20 The procedures as you all know who have
21 been in government, and I think Senator
22 Montford has, most of you had, know that what
23 we did in the Attorney General's Office or the
24 Department of Motor Vehicles or if you are
25 preparing an ordinance, you first prepare the

1 ordinance and you put it out for public
2 comment, I mean, that is the way it works.

3 You have the comments, they come in, you
4 take a look at the comments, you decide what is
5 reasonable, not reasonable, you adjust it and
6 then you vote on what you think is now the
7 appropriate, you know, legislation that should
8 go forward.

9 That is not going to happen here without a
10 second round of hearings. It is not going to
11 happen with a map that can be distributed to
12 all of the dealers and wheelers and dealers and
13 shakers in all of these communities are going
14 to look at that district and have a chance to
15 do an input on it.

16 You know, when I -- when I look at what we
17 are trying to accomplish here, I don't doubt
18 and I have made this clear, we are going to end
19 up in the courts. We always have. We always
20 will, and the sooner we get the process
21 resolved and the Legislature has a map and the
22 public is informed, I think at that time the
23 courts are going to deal with it and it will be
24 an extensive process this time, because it
25 involves Federal law, and you are talking about

1 the Department of Justice and it involves our
2 Constitutional Amendment, which is, by the way,
3 just so you will know, this isn't just a couple
4 of people sat down to come up with these
5 standards.

6 This was a very deliberate process in
7 which we have two former Chief Justices
8 participate, we had learned counsel, we had
9 academics come in and we worried and worked on
10 these standards for months and months and
11 months to try to come up with something that
12 would help guide this Legislature.

13 So we hope you will follow through on
14 this, you will do your best. Just remember
15 this, it won't be long, you will all be gone.
16 All of your friends will be gone and what you
17 accomplish here will probably last. So it is
18 your heritage to make this happen. Thank you
19 so much.

20 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
21 much, Mr. Dartland, we appreciate that, sir.
22 Next up we have Mr. Paul Harvill and following
23 Mr. Harvill we have Joseph Sierra.
24 Mr. Harvill, you are recognized, sir.

25 MR. HARVILL: Thank you, Senator Margolis,

1 a long time ago. I was born and bred here in
2 Florida, Tampa and Tallahassee. I was involved
3 intimately with the '81 and '82 redistricting
4 battles, with H. Lee Moffit and Dempsey Barron
5 as the respective Chairs.

6 In fact, Dempsey about punched me out, he
7 got so mad with me over the reapportionment
8 battles.

9 Now, for the real brief important
10 comments. Today and for essentially all of our
11 states and our nation's history we have had a
12 cancer on the body politic.

13 Amendments V and VI are radiation and
14 chemotherapy. The cancer will hopefully go
15 into remission, yet cancer is always lurking in
16 the body politic.

17 Another cancer is legalized extortion,
18 legalized bribery in this legislative process.
19 Remember that you are sworn to both uphold and
20 obey the Florida and United States
21 Constitutions.

22 As the old ad campaign said, come to
23 Florida, the rules are different here. The
24 rules here now are Amendments V, VI and all of
25 the other constitutional law, statutory law and

1 case law.

2 One suggestion from '81/'82, was Lee
3 Moffit came up with a very interesting idea,
4 and that would be to nest three House Districts
5 within one Senate District.

6 I think that was brilliant and I hope this
7 Legislature will adopt that concept, too. Last
8 thing, any questions? Any comments?

9 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
10 much, Mr. Harvill, we appreciate those
11 comments, sir. Next up we have Mr. Joseph
12 Sierra, followed by Linda Edson and after
13 Ms. Edson goes we will probably have a five
14 minute recess for members to use the restroom
15 and stretch for a moment, but it will only be
16 for five minutes and we will get going again.

17 But before that, Mr. Joseph Sierra, you
18 are recognized, sir, unless you are not here.
19 You are not recognized. Okay, he is not here
20 so we are going to move forward to Ms. Linda
21 Edson.

22 Ms. Edson has asked not to speak at this
23 time, okay, so what we will do is we will take
24 a five minute recess, members, and we will be
25 back here in five minutes. Please do not go

1 far. Thank you very much.

2 (Brief recess taken.)

3 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: If we could get
4 everyone to grab their seats, we are going to
5 get started again. Please grab your seats.

6 (Brief pause.)

7 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: If we could get
8 everyone to grab their seats, please, we are
9 going to start, please grab your seats.

10 (Brief pause.)

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Members, please
12 grab your seats. We want to get started.
13 Representative Rehwinkel Vasilinda, if you
14 could please grab your seat. Representative
15 Williams, if you could please grab your seat,
16 Senator Smith, if we could get you to grab your
17 seat, sir.

18 If you could please grab your seats, thank
19 you, please. Representative Baxley, if you
20 could grab your seat, please, sir.

21 Okay, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for
22 allowing us to take that break real quickly.
23 There was a Joseph Sierra who we missed earlier
24 and if Mr. Sierra is here I would like to give
25 you an opportunity to speak.

1 You were not here when we called your name
2 before. If you are here, please raise your
3 hand, we will have you come first, Mr. Sierra,
4 I do not believe you are here.

5 Okay, moving on, we are going to go to
6 Mr. Doug Croley, Mr. Croley is with the Gadsden
7 County, he is a Gadsden County Commissioner.

8 Mr. Croley, thank you very much for being
9 here, sir. You are recognized for your
10 comments.

11 MR. CROLEY: Thank you. I do appreciate
12 the opportunity to appear here and many of you
13 I do know and I thank you for your service.

14 And let me start by -- I have some
15 handouts here for the Chair, and if I may,
16 Mr. Chair, present this to you, I would
17 appreciate it.

18 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you, sir.

19 MR. CROLEY: Mr. Chair, as a County
20 Commissioner for a large segment of northeast
21 Gadsden County, I appear before this Honorable
22 Committee to request your most sincere and
23 serious consideration of the Havana area within
24 the Florida House of Representatives District
25 serving northern Leon County, that this be

1 included.

2 This request for realignment is based upon
3 the serious need to better join together in a
4 traditional manner communities of common
5 interest and to do so in compliance with State
6 and Federal law.

7 To this were the end, please allow me to
8 reference the following key points in support
9 of this redistricting request.

10 One, because of its geographical location,
11 northeast Gadsden County is closely aligned
12 with northern Leon County, as evidenced by a
13 shared county line on the eastern side and with
14 all east, west connector roads tying together
15 both counties.

16 Two, most of the business interest,
17 employment, higher education, retail consumer
18 shopping, social, medical, transportation,
19 recreational and cultural needs and
20 requirements of northeast Gadsden County are
21 closely tied to northern Leon County.

22 And third, northeast Gadsden County has
23 transitioned into a suburb of northern Leon
24 County with most families having a close
25 day-to-day presence within the Tallahassee area

1 north of west Tennessee Street, and north of
2 east Mahan Drive.

3 The attached Florida Department of
4 Transportation county map has been highlighted
5 in yellow to indicate northeast Gadsden County
6 in a manner that lends both simplicity and
7 reasonableness to this specific redistricting
8 request, and a description of the boundaries
9 are set forth in the attachment two.

10 Now, having discussed this matter with
11 numerous citizens, I am confident that this
12 proposal will be well received if implemented.
13 I have also touched upon this subject with each
14 of our present State Representatives, both
15 Representative Williams and Representative
16 Vasilinda, who are now serving Gadsden County
17 as well as Representative Coley, on the west
18 side, and I believe that each of them fully
19 appreciate the rationale that underlies this
20 proposal.

21 Now, I want to thank this committee for
22 its time and its attentiveness, and should any
23 member now have any questions I would be happy
24 to respond, otherwise I will be available to
25 your staff to provide any information needed.

1 And I thank you very much for the
2 opportunity, Mr. Chairs, Chairs, to present
3 this information to you. And I would like, if
4 I may, provide a copy to Representative
5 Vasilinda. I missed her earlier.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, please do so,
7 and thank you for being here today and for your
8 comments and for your public service to Gadsden
9 County and our state.

10 MR. CROLEY: Yes, thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you. We also
12 have next up Ms. Betsy Barfield with the
13 Jefferson County Commission. Commissioner
14 Barfield, thank you very much for being here
15 and followed after Ms. Barfield will be Susan
16 Watson.

17 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: I did not bring
18 enough copies for everybody.

19 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: We will get copies
20 made, Ms. Barfield, thank you very much. You
21 are recognized to speak.

22 COMMISSIONER BARFIELD: Thank you very
23 much. I am honored to come before you today
24 and speak out for common sense and the
25 constitutional principle of one person and one

1 vote. I am Betsy Barfield, Commissioner for
2 District IV in Jefferson County.

3 Jefferson County is your neighbor to
4 Tallahassee, Leon County to the east. I come
5 before you to speak about two topics on
6 redistricting.

7 First, the unbalanced aspect of including
8 prisoners in the drawing of the district lines.
9 And second, the gerrymandering of Congressional
10 Districts II and IV.

11 I have given you some statistics for the
12 Jefferson County voting districts, and I am
13 sorry I don't have more for everybody else.

14 I am asking that you do not include in the
15 prison populations the drawing of the
16 districts. The reason for redistricting is to
17 make sure that everyone is properly
18 represented, and normally the voter numbers
19 somewhat track with the district population,
20 except when the prison population is included
21 in the counts.

22 Here are some facts. Prisoners are
23 convicted felons and they cannot vote. They
24 should not have district representation.

25 Prisoners are temporarily housed in Jefferson

1 County and are not residents of the surrounding
2 community and they should not be placed on an
3 equal footing of law abiding citizens.

4 Including the prison population in the
5 drawing of the districts drastically affects
6 small counties like Jefferson which I am going
7 to use as my example today.

8 Our population base is 14,000 people plus.
9 Jefferson County is split in to five single
10 member districts.

11 Each commission district should represent
12 approximately 2,100 voters, a very manageable
13 size. If all is even on the dais in Jefferson
14 County, then each Commissioner should represent
15 20 percent of the population and the voters,
16 not so in District III, because the prison
17 population is included in the drawing of that
18 district.

19 That Commissioner represents only
20 14 percent of the voters. Therefore, he is a
21 super voter on the Commission. There are two
22 Commissioners that represent 51 percent of the
23 voting population in Jefferson County.

24 So when super Commissioner votes, his vote
25 is weighted and the voters in that district

1 have more political clout than the other voters
2 in the county.

3 People, this is wrong. The practice of
4 including prisons in local districting plans
5 lead to serious distortion of political power
6 in county and state governments. How fair is
7 this to the people to whom we all represent and
8 answer to?

9 I ask you, please, do not include the
10 prison populations while drawing the lines for
11 the district in the state of Florida.

12 Next, I am not quite finished. Next,
13 Congressional District II and IV. It is
14 182 miles from Tallahassee to Jacksonville
15 Beach.

16 In this corridor there is a swath cut out
17 of the middle of north Florida that is
18 gerrymandered for Congressional District IV.
19 If you take a look at the district map for this
20 example you might wonder what do rural
21 communities in this swath have in common with
22 Jacksonville? None. I ask that you take a
23 hard look at correcting the representation of
24 these congressional districts.

25 I respectfully submit these comments to

1 you. Thank you. I am Betsy Barfield,
2 Commissioner, District IV.

3 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Commissioner, thank
4 you very much for your comments and for your
5 public service. We appreciate you being here.
6 Next up we have Ms. Susan Watson followed by
7 Bradley Maxwell.

8 Ms. Watson, you are recognized. Thank you
9 very much for being here.

10 MS. WATSON: Thank you very much.
11 Chairman Gaetz, Chair Weatherford and Committee
12 members, my name is Susan Watson. I am the
13 Regional Director of the American Civil
14 Liberties Union.

15 This process and these hearings are very
16 troubling. The Legislature has invited the
17 public to comment, but you don't give us
18 anything to comment on. Where are the maps?
19 This isn't a conversation.

20 You are not saying anything and you are
21 not giving us anything to talk about. I would
22 love to meet and talk to some of the people
23 running to represent me, but you have to draw
24 the districts to let me know who they are.

25 Make a map now. Present it to the public

1 now and start a meaningful conversation.
2 Otherwise, you are just wasting everybody's
3 time. We don't want fake hearings and
4 meaningless talk. We want fair, non partisan
5 districts.

6 The people of Florida overwhelmingly voted
7 to add Amendments V and VI to our Constitution.
8 Don't make a mockery of our vote and don't make
9 a mockery of democracy. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
11 Ms. Watson. Next up we have Mr. Bradley
12 Maxwell. Followed by Mr. Maxwell we will have
13 Nathalie Shortal or Shortal. Mr. Maxwell, you
14 are recognized, sir.

15 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Representative
16 Weatherford. My name is Bradley Maxwell. I am
17 a local business owner here in Tallahassee and
18 I want to thank all of you all for taking your
19 time to be here and to hear from the citizens,
20 and the main thing I wanted to say is I
21 appreciate the process.

22 I appreciate the opportunity for us to --
23 to have some input on these districts. I have
24 been to the website and I feel bad for you
25 guys, because in a lot of ways you are in a no

1 win situation.

2 If you would -- if you would come in with
3 maps drawn then we would be hearing from all of
4 the naysayers that, you know, you met in a back
5 room, smoke filled room and drew the maps
6 yourself and now you are just wanting us to
7 rubber stamp them.

8 So I appreciate the process, I appreciate
9 the website and the opportunity for us to have
10 input and thank you all for being here.

11 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
12 much, Mr. Maxwell. We appreciate that, sir.
13 Next up we have Ms. Nathalie Shortal, I hope I
14 am saying that right, Ms. Nathalie. She is not
15 speaking? Okay, well, thank you.

16 Thank you very much for being here. We
17 have Matthew Isbell. Did I say that right,
18 Isbell? Okay, thank you very much for being
19 here, Mr. Isbell, and after that we have got
20 Mr. Bob Fulford. Matthew is a student at FSU.

21 Thank you for being here, sir, you are
22 recognized.

23 MR. FULFORD: I have got to give you
24 credit, you are one of the few people that ever
25 get my last name right.

1 I do want to thank you for holding these
2 hearings. But the first thing I do want to
3 comment is I do feel like we should have a map
4 by now.

5 I understand that the Constitution does
6 say that a map cannot be voted on before 2012,
7 but I do feel like there is no real reason that
8 we can't see a proposed map, an idea.

9 Bigger states like California and Texas
10 already have maps coming out and I do suggest
11 this one thing.

12 I understand that the Constitution says
13 that we can't vote, you guys can't vote on a
14 map, then I highly recommend that we put you
15 guys who can do this as the Legislature, put it
16 on the ballot to become for the next ten years
17 from now redistricting, a map can be voted on a
18 year beforehand, because there is really no
19 reason to wait until the year of the elections
20 to have the vote.

21 The census came out a while ago. We have
22 the data, and maps can be done now. I don't
23 understand that delay, but beside the point,
24 basically I just want to advocate -- excuse me,
25 I just want to advocate that fair districts be

1 upheld as we passed it.

2 As many people have said, 63 percent of
3 us, of us voters supported fair districts which
4 say that parties, politicians, where they live
5 should have no effect on how the boundaries are
6 drawn.

7 Observe county and city boundaries and
8 just draw the lines as equal to population as
9 possible. Forty-eight out of the 67 counties
10 voted for fair districts.

11 Several of these counties, like Hendry,
12 Desoto, Sumter Counties, which always vote
13 Republican, voted for it, it is not a
14 Democratic, Republican issue. It is a non
15 partisan issue.

16 Over 28 counties voted over 60 percent for
17 it. I am from Broward, Palm Beach, we voted
18 over 70 percent because our area is already,
19 our districts look like spiderwebs and so we
20 especially were looking to see some more fair
21 districts that are drawn compactly and
22 succinctly.

23 I live in a small town of Cooper City
24 which is actually divided into two
25 Congressional Districts for no reason at all.

1 It has got like 40,000 people in it and my dad
2 moved across the street and we were in a new
3 district suddenly, and especially here for Leon
4 County and Tallahassee area, right now, as we
5 all know, District IV which goes all of the way
6 down to Jacksonville eats in, not just into
7 Leon County, but into Tallahassee, itself, and
8 I mean, beside the fact that rural Leon County
9 has nothing in common with Jacksonville,
10 Tallahassee especially doesn't.

11 I have actually, when I was in a different
12 apartment complex a few years ago was in
13 District IV and then I am back in District II.
14 I mean, if I move to a different apartment
15 complex because I am a student I shouldn't be
16 changing districts like that. This isn't a big
17 enough town to warrant it.

18 The same thing goes for our State Senate
19 districts. Right now I am in Senator
20 Montford's district. I voted for you in the
21 general election, but I used to actually also
22 be in the Third District back when I was in --
23 when I was in the IV as well, when I was living
24 a little further away outside in the county.
25 There is just no reason for that.

1 Leon County should be especially compact.
2 District IV also eats into part of Monticello
3 in Jefferson County and I know people have
4 talked about preserving compact minority
5 districts.

6 Monticello which is a majority black city
7 is divided between the second and fourth
8 district. I can't figure out why. So there is
9 clearly some problems with the lines now, and I
10 am just hoping that as we move forward that we
11 adhere to fair districts which was passed
12 overwhelmingly, it was passed fairly and by all
13 means, please start looking at these maps now.

14 Have a vote at the very beginning of
15 January, because we don't want to be dragged
16 into a long court battle. We don't want to be
17 waiting and seeing for candidates to see what
18 district they are going to be in.

19 It should be done now, the people have
20 spoken, and you know what, even if this creates
21 more competitive elections, it is good for
22 everybody here.

23 If you get put into a safe seat, you can
24 place and you can never run statewide. If any
25 of you guys end up in a more competitive

1 district because of fair districts, hey, you
2 become a better candidate, you can run for
3 statewide office one day, you can become
4 Governor, you know, Senator, whatever.

5 So there is plenty of benefits for you
6 guys and I just hope you will take that into
7 consideration. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
9 much, Mr. Isbell, we appreciate that. Mr. Bob
10 Fulford is up next, followed by Christian
11 Camara.

12 Mr. Fulford, you are recognized, thanks
13 from being here.

14 MR. FULFORD: I am Bob Fulford, I live
15 here in Tallahassee, always have. I am a
16 private citizen. I saw in the paper I guess
17 yesterday my friend Alan Williams, had written
18 a letter and Senator Gaetz had written
19 something, you can be my friend, too, I just
20 don't know you, even though you represent me, I
21 don't know you.

22 Anyway, the substance of those two things
23 in the paper was that this meeting was going to
24 be here, everybody ought to come and it was
25 going to be open and transparent. And has been

1 alluded earlier, I had a notion that open and
2 transparent, I was going to ask Senator
3 Thrasher something, because he is an old pal of
4 mine, and he would be able to answer me.

5 But, I opened up my e-mail last night and
6 I belong to a whole bunch of rebel rouser
7 groups like League of Women Voters and Common
8 Cause and it wasn't them, but somebody said
9 that your leadership, that is to say the
10 President and the Speaker, had put a gag order
11 on you, and so what I want to know, is that
12 true.

13 Is there -- are you not going to be able
14 to talk to us? You can't even answer that,
15 okay, I got it, okay, I got it.

16 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Why don't you
17 finish your statement and we will answer that
18 question for you, how about that.

19 MR. FULFORD: Okay, one other thing. I
20 used to work in this building. I used to come
21 here every day up on the third floor. I was
22 here when they put the top two floors on. That
23 was interesting.

24 Today is the first time I have been here
25 in over ten years, and the reason I was here

1 ten years ago was for this same thing and we
2 did the same thing and we did it the same way.

3 And if you cross a mule and a jackass, a
4 horse and a jackass, you get a mule, and we
5 crossed mules -- I mean, horses and jackasses,
6 I will get it right here in a minute, but if
7 you want to see the mule, see what came out of
8 the last session like this.

9 Look at these ridiculous districts. No
10 matter what the content is, just to look at
11 them, they are not right. If it is not square
12 or a circle or maybe an oblong or an oval, but
13 these things look like the original gerrymander
14 which was some sort of a dragon.

15 I hope, I hope we can do better. I rather
16 doubt we can, but we will see. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
18 much, Mr. Fulford and thank you for asking a
19 very direct question. I am going to give you a
20 very direct answer.

21 The answer is that there is no gag order,
22 and this is a listening tour and our thought is
23 that we are going to spend the next three
24 months hearing from the citizens of Florida
25 just like you talking about what districts look

1 like today and how we can make them better.

2 And that is why we are here and that is
3 why we are giving the public an opportunity to
4 participate.

5 There certainly is no gag order, but we
6 are here to listen first and if there is time
7 afterwards, then to speak. I think that
8 everyone could agree that politicians spend
9 lots of time talking and very little time
10 listening and we are going to change that in
11 this process and we are going to listen more
12 than we talk.

13 So thank you very much for your comments,
14 sir, and we are going to move on to
15 Mr. Christian Camara, and after Christian we
16 are going to go to Ms. Sandra Mortham.

17 Christian, you are recognized, sir.

18 MR. CAMARA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, my
19 name is Christian Camara. I am a resident of
20 Tallahassee, Florida. And first of all, I want
21 to thank and commend all of you for the
22 opportunity that you have given the public to
23 give input on this very important issue.

24 I personally think the timeline that you
25 all adopted as prescribed by the Constitution

1 is the right one because it gives opportunity
2 for the public to give input before and during
3 the redistricting process in an open manner,
4 you know, like these special hearings that we
5 are having now around the state and through the
6 legislative session.

7 From what I understand, the meetings that
8 you all are going to be conducting during the
9 legislative session will also be open for
10 public testimony. So I do want to commend you
11 for the ample opportunity you all are giving to
12 hear us before you go ahead and deliberate and
13 proceed with the process.

14 I do want to stress, however, the
15 importance in my opinion of ethnic
16 representation. I was born and raised in
17 Miami, Florida. I have been a resident of
18 Tallahassee now for six years, and in -- in
19 Miami I can honestly say that we have in our
20 State and Federal delegation, it is a microcosm
21 of our diverse community, and I think that
22 although Tallahassee is not as complex in the
23 diversity that we see down in south Florida, it
24 is, nevertheless, a diverse community and I
25 would like to see that ethnic representation be

1 taken into account.

2 So I will be brief with my comments, so I
3 want to thank you all for listening to us.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
6 much, Mr. Camara. We appreciate your comments,
7 sir. Next up we have Ms. Sandra Mortham. She
8 is here to watch the process.

9 All right, thank you very much,
10 Ms. Mortham. After Ms. Mortham we have
11 Mr. Derron Bennett. Mr. Bennett. Sorry I
12 didn't give you more lead time there, sir, but
13 we will give you time to come up, and after
14 Mr. Bennett we are going to have Darnell
15 Lumpkin will be next.

16 Mr. Bennett, thank you very much for being
17 here, sir. You are recognized to address the
18 Committee.

19 MR. BENNETT: Okay. My question is mainly
20 based on the technical aspects of the software
21 being used. I have seen many errors in it
22 already. With the correctional maps they are
23 meant to be -- there is a goal of a zero, a
24 zero deviation over each map, but the actual,
25 the number that you all have as the mean for

1 each district is wrong.

2 It is one off. So when you get down to,
3 if you draw the maps like they are currently
4 drawn from the northwest corner of the state
5 down to the southeast corner, you will get down
6 to your last district, you will have 21 extra
7 individuals.

8 Well, if you correct the mean you will be
9 left with six extra individuals. So there is a
10 problem in the actual numbers in the software.

11 Also questions are, if other states are
12 using the My Districting Software, they
13 provided a, then called an AMI file, which is
14 so that you can put it on the Amazon web server
15 which is actually listed on the server
16 software.

17 The question is, will the State of Florida
18 actually provide that, because by providing
19 that it will actually save the state money,
20 because the servers, the server will not need
21 to be used at the same level as if they provide
22 it so private industries can actually build
23 their districts by themselves. What else?

24 There is also errors in the software where
25 if you attempt to lock a district that splits a

1 block or a voting district, and then you build
2 something else elsewhere, where you cut into a
3 higher level, say you locked, you attempt to
4 lock a block but you build something with a
5 voting district later or destroy the previous
6 block lock and build the voting district over
7 it.

8 And I had also had a question. Will the
9 State provide a deviant, it is called, it is a
10 type of linux, which My District Builder
11 suggests it is called linux which the State
12 should be providing an image file of the, My
13 District Builder with the appropriate data and
14 datasets so that the private industry could
15 just download a file which would probably be
16 about a gigabyte and no longer have to use
17 their server. That is all.

18 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: That is all? Well,
19 Mr. Bennett, I will tell you, your tech
20 suaveness is much above my pay grade and
21 probably most of the people on this Committee,
22 but you raise very interesting points, and in
23 fact, if you could stick around for a few
24 minutes we have got some staff that is here, we
25 have Mr. Alex Kelley who is one of our, is my

1 Staff Director and can probably answer some of
2 those questions.

3 And members of the Committee, what we will
4 probably do, is once we answer his questions,
5 if he feels like they are, if they suffice, we
6 may at least explain to everybody what the
7 answers are to those, because I frankly don't
8 have that, and, but I do think you bring up
9 good points.

10 We certainly want to have comments on our
11 software. We appreciate you very much for
12 being here, sir, so thank you for your
13 comments. Yes?

14 Next up we have Mr. Darnell Lumpkin.
15 Okay, thank you very much for being here,
16 Mr. Lumpkin. He is going to pass that up.
17 Next we have Mr. David Mock, I believe,
18 M-o-c-k.

19 Mr. Mock? Okay, we will keep moving
20 forward. Next after Mr. Mock we had Ms. Teri
21 Cariota, C-a-r-i-o-t-a. Ms. Teri, great, thank
22 you very much for being here. After Ms. Teri
23 we will have Adam Anthony Biblo, I believe is
24 how you say it, but Ms. Cariota, I hope I am
25 saying that right, you are recognized.

1 MS. CARIOTA: It is close. Good
2 afternoon, yes, it is Teri Cariota. Some of
3 you may recognize me, having seen me walking
4 around the halls during session.

5 For those of you who don't know me, I wear
6 several volunteer hats in Leon County. I am a
7 resident of Leon County, originally from Miami,
8 I am a retired law enforcement officer, but I
9 moved back here five years ago, and in fact,
10 retired on March 4th, 2006, and on March 5th of
11 2006, I was here working in Tallahassee, not
12 because I enjoy the politics but I enjoy the
13 public service.

14 In an interest of open disclosure as my
15 predecessor from Wakulla County did, I, too,
16 just so you are aware, I am a Democrat, and I
17 am in fact the Chair of the Leon County
18 Democratic Party.

19 However, I am not here on behalf of any
20 organization. I am here as an individual
21 citizen, as a resident and registered voter of
22 Leon County, and I am speaking from the heart
23 when I tell you that I consider myself a poster
24 child for unfair districts.

25 I live in Piney Z here in Tallahassee and

1 Senator Garcia can tell you, I see him in the
2 back of the room, if any of you have ever -- if
3 you don't know where Piney Z is, if you have
4 ever been to his house for any events, that is,
5 that is Piney Z and his -- and I don't mean to
6 embarrass you, Senator, but here is why I
7 mention that.

8 When I moved here I didn't realize I was
9 moving into that one tiny sliver of Tallahassee
10 and Leon County that is not represented by
11 people, not from Tallahassee, not from Leon
12 County, not from anywhere even close to
13 Tallahassee or Leon County.

14 And no disrespect intended to Senator
15 Dean, in fact, I appreciate the fact that you
16 actually do show up for delegation hearings
17 here in Tallahassee.

18 I know it is a long drive for you all the
19 way from Citrus County. My Senator lives in
20 Citrus County. Regardless of whether you are a
21 Democrat or Republican or you know, whatever,
22 that is just wrong.

23 When you look at the current maps, I know
24 we don't have the projected maps, but when you
25 look at the current maps, you will see, I call

1 it not that sore thumb that sticks out, but
2 that sore pinkie that sticks out.

3 And I do have respect for you, sir,
4 because, like I said, I, too, am a retired law
5 enforcement officer. And then my Congressman
6 lives all the way over in Jacksonville, and
7 that would be Linda Crenshaw.

8 I think the last time I ever saw
9 Congressman Crenshaw in Tallahassee or Leon
10 County is when he was in the Legislature
11 himself here many years ago, I believe.

12 It would be nice to see my elected
13 officials, the people who I can vote for a
14 little more frequently. Senator Montford can
15 even tell you, I, while I was not a volunteer
16 on his campaign, I was a volunteer for his
17 opponent for a man I couldn't even vote for.

18 I can't even vote for Senator Montford if
19 I wanted to, in the general election and I
20 apologize for that, but again, my Senator lives
21 all the way down in Citrus County, and while I
22 have visited your county, I just think that is
23 a little too far away for my representation.

24 I wholeheartedly believe in a two party
25 system and as strange as this sounds, I think

1 you all need to keep the politics out of
2 redistricting, keep the public service in
3 redistricting.

4 You all elected to serve all of the
5 public, not just the people who happen to be
6 the same registered party as yourselves. It is
7 not fair. Please do the right thing. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
10 Ms. Cariota, and if you would, please let us
11 know next time the Senator is having a party,
12 because we never get invited. So if you could
13 let us give us a heads up.

14 Next up we have got Mr. Adam Anthony
15 Biblo, I believe is how you say it, and after
16 Mr. Biblo we have got Charles Parrish.
17 Mr. Biblo, thank you very much for being here,
18 sir, and you have the floor.

19 MR. BIBLO: Thank you, Chairman Gaetz, and
20 it is Biblo for the record, but very close,
21 very close.

22 I am going to make a few quick points,
23 many of them, what has already been said, so I
24 don't want to belabor them.

25 My main point is when you go through the

1 process and you slice up smaller jurisdictions,
2 and I mean smaller than Miami or St. Petersburg
3 or Jacksonville, that is populous and you slice
4 Tallahassee or Leon County into multiple
5 districts and we extend to, for example, Citrus
6 County as pointed out, our representation is
7 not what we -- we would expect.

8 And again, this is not in any way a
9 reflective of our current Senator who is very
10 good and I get e-mail from, and it is not
11 saying that, but in general, urban area should
12 be served by, should be an urban district,
13 should be a compact district, shouldn't be
14 divided.

15 When it is divided, whatever the intent
16 is, it gives the appearance that it is divided
17 for the wrong purpose. That is to dilute,
18 diminish the effect of the voters of the
19 political power of that urban area.

20 The same with a rural area. Why frustrate
21 the intent of the rural area by combining it
22 with slices or trenches of urban areas. So,
23 again, without trying to get into why the
24 districts have been set up that way, it gives
25 the impression that it is not serving the

1 public purpose.

2 So I ask you that as you go about
3 redistricting to make sure that the public
4 purpose is served.

5 When we study demographics one of the
6 things we look at, there is various measures,
7 indexes of similarity and dissimilarity, and
8 when you get two-thirds representation,
9 two-thirds one party an one-third the other,
10 but the population is closely split 50/50
11 throughout the state, it -- something doesn't
12 seem right.

13 I am going to leave you with that point
14 and ask you to fix it since it is in your
15 hands.

16 Lastly, I am going to point out, I agree
17 with Ms. Macnab, Mr. Harrington, and many other
18 speakers, the State voted the last election and
19 there was a consensus, if not overwhelming
20 majority, that passed two new Constitutional
21 Amendments and I would ask you to follow that
22 respectfully.

23 I would ask you to, excuse me, to respect
24 that mandate, and I want to thank you for your
25 time and I want to wish you all of the best in

1 this effort. All right.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
3 much, sir, we appreciate your kind words. Next
4 up we have Mr. Charles Parrish. Mr. Parrish,
5 thank you so much for being here.

6 Mr. Parrish is with the Jefferson County
7 branch of the NAACP. After Mr. Parrish we will
8 have Ms. Linda Williams. Mr. Parrish, you are
9 recognized, sir.

10 MR. PARRISH: Thank you both, gentlemen,
11 from the House and the Senate. My primary
12 purpose here before this hearing is to
13 emphasize the fact that the smaller counties in
14 this state really don't have any representation
15 when you really boil it down to the way the
16 districts are drawn.

17 For example, Jefferson County, we don't
18 really have any representation, and I say it in
19 this manner because if a person, the
20 Representative for one section of our county
21 really doesn't need the few votes that the
22 county has in order to get elected.

23 Therefore, we don't have any
24 representation because that person really is
25 not concerned about us. He doesn't need us to

1 get elected.

2 It seemed to me when we teach in our
3 public schools, our civic classes, we teach one
4 thing about Florida government and we do the
5 opposite.

6 It seemed to me that representation should
7 be based upon population, true enough, but the
8 way our Legislature is designed, we are two
9 Legislature, the population is not really
10 represented in the House of Representatives,
11 especially in the small counties of Florida,
12 whereby a county is cut into three sections.
13 We don't really have representation.

14 You just got us as a figure on the book,
15 but we really don't have representation, and I
16 wish you would consider that when you start
17 redistricting the state.

18 As it was made my Commissioner from
19 Jefferson County made a comment about not
20 including the prison population in District
21 III.

22 In Jefferson County we have five
23 Commissioners who are elected by districts. If
24 you take the population, the prisoner
25 population out of District III, where would you

1 put it?

2 If that is the case, where are you going
3 to put all of the prisoners in the state of
4 Florida? Where are you going to put them?

5 So I am saying to you that you need to
6 look at the makeup of the whole state and give
7 the smaller counties better representation.

8 Now, when you legislate you mandate that
9 the 67 counties do this and thus and that, but
10 those small counties don't have representation
11 to really fight for the welfare of that county,
12 because if we are split up the way we are in
13 Jefferson County, we don't have any
14 representation. So I think that you will
15 consider that in your redistricting. Thank
16 you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
18 much, Mr. Parrish, for your comments, sir. We
19 next up have Ms. Linda Williams with the League
20 of Women Voters, followed by Mr. Don Curtis.

21 MS. WILLIAMS: I am just representing by
22 poor old family.

23 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Okay.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: In a snaky district of
25 Leon. So it is a pleasure to be here and I am

1 sorry I am not dressed better. Over 50 years
2 ago in high school civics, a nice old lady
3 named Ms. Blair brought up gerrymandering, and
4 I haven't thought about it for a long time,
5 until, say, the last ten years.

6 So we, you know, we are happy for the City
7 of Mayport and Jacksonville when they get
8 Federal funds to do something, but it doesn't
9 do a hang for us in Leon County or our morale.

10 I mean, I don't know whether we are so
11 important they need us in Duval or we are such
12 bad people they don't want us in Leon, but
13 please, be fair, and before I die, let me vote
14 in Leon County, because I live here.

15 I pay taxes here, as do my neighbors at
16 Piney Z and our friend from Wakulla County,
17 give us some local representation, and I am
18 glad to meet my Senator.

19 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
20 much. Thank you very much, Ms. Williams. Very
21 peppy and to the point. Next up we have
22 Mr. Don Curtis, Mr. Curtis, old friend, thank
23 you for being here, sir, and after Mr. Curtis
24 we have got a Ms. Kathleen Wallmeyer, you will
25 be next. So Mr. Curtis, the floor is yours,

1 sir.

2 MR. CURTIS: Well, thank you, and thank
3 you to all of you that are taking your time to
4 spend this summer. I am taking a little time
5 as well. We have been on the wild fires non
6 stop for weeks now, and as soon as I make my
7 comments I will have to leave. We have got a
8 13,000-acre wild fire knocking at our door step
9 above Lake City.

10 Having said that, again, I am Don Curtis
11 from Lake Bird, Florida, which is in Taylor
12 County, about 50 miles from here.

13 In this rural part of Florida we are a
14 conservative group of people, but you can't
15 always tell it from the election choices that
16 we have had, and historically redistricting has
17 been used to accomplish many objectives,
18 including routing past problems and bringing
19 balance to the choices the government have when
20 selecting representation, and we applaud that.

21 However, I am going to make a few comments
22 focused on House District X, Congressional
23 District II and Senate District III. When I
24 was preparing these remarks I was reminded of
25 my grandmother making biscuits.

1 She would roll out the dough, she would
2 take a jar and cookie cut the biscuits, and
3 then she would take the scraps and put them
4 altogether and make the dog biscuit. That was
5 the throw away. You didn't serve that at the
6 table.

7 And when you look at some of our
8 districts, for instance, in 2002, House
9 District X was gerrymandered in such a way that
10 the last time I collected it, it was 70 percent
11 one party, 20 percent another party and
12 10 percent of the miscellaneous.

13 In fact, that party that has had
14 70 percent has elected or reelected itself
15 without interruption since Reconstruction. So
16 for over 100 years.

17 The word disenfranchise comes to mind if
18 you are a conservative. That is wrong and we
19 just want hopefully this time to right a wrong
20 so that when you redraw House Districts in this
21 part of Florida we hope there can be balance so
22 that we want be the throw away House District
23 again.

24 And in 2002, though, a good start was made
25 to draw Congressional District Number II with a

1 bit more balance, and it took eight years, but
2 this past November, we were able to elect a
3 conservative of a different party to Congress
4 and that was the first time since
5 Reconstruction as well.

6 Change comes slow in the rural areas of
7 the Big Bend of Florida. Over 100 years
8 though, that is a little too slow.

9 Now, also in 2002, Senate District III was
10 redrawn with a bit more balance. So we had a
11 choice and we could elect a conservative and
12 Senator Dean is my district, and I am okay with
13 you being from Citrus County. That is not a
14 problem.

15 And just to close, I just, you guys are
16 going to analyze umpteen scenarios, and we just
17 ask for balance in this rural part of Florida
18 just to not be the throw away, to give us
19 something that gives us meaning full
20 representation that changes what we have had
21 for 100 years. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
23 much, Mr. Curtis. We have got Ms. Kathleen
24 Wallmeyer up. Did she have to leave? Okay, I
25 am sorry. Okay, well, thank you very much for

1 being here earlier.

2 We have got Mr. Joe Cain. Joe Cain is
3 with the Democratic Executive Committee, and I
4 think Mr. Cain, you have a presentation that we
5 are going to pull up on the screen, is that
6 right? Okay. Come on up.

7 Following Mr. Cain we are going to have
8 Ms. Laura Forster. Mr. Cain, you are
9 recognized, and I believe it is four or five
10 slides I think that you got with it.

11 MR. CAIN: Well, I just wanted to -- I am
12 kind of a newcomer to politics here, though I
13 helped the Obama with communication and my
14 background is science, not politics, and I have
15 only become involved with the Democratic
16 Executive Committee for the past year.

17 But there have been a lot of really good
18 points made and it seems to me that one thing
19 that should come out of this particular session
20 is following the idea that you all should go
21 ahead and make up something to shoot at. I
22 mean, a saw-man to go for.

23 Now, for example, go back a couple of
24 slides if you could do that, and -- we can't
25 get them bigger, okay, well, no problem.

1 I think that the -- what everybody has
2 been saying here and most of you really know,
3 but haven't -- it is really clear that there is
4 no -- not very much compactness and I am
5 thinking just to the technical, in a technical
6 way, draw a circle, that is pretty compact, but
7 for example, like Congressional District III,
8 oh, come on, now, how in the world, why in the
9 world would you draw something like that? Go
10 back another -- the previous one.

11 Now, this is the one that was complained
12 about earlier, Congressional District IV, which
13 has a little finger right into Tallahassee, and
14 that there is no real reason for that either.

15 And go back one more, yes. Well, yes,
16 that one, that is fine. I think that -- well,
17 somehow it didn't get all of it, but that is
18 all right, okay, well, okay, this is District
19 II and that is sort of an absurdity, too, in
20 terms of the topography of it, because why in
21 the world -- look off to the left there,
22 Pensacola and you are splitting a county for no
23 reason at all as far as I can tell.

24 I mean, if you just slice that
25 mathematically down the left edge and added a

1 couple of counties on the right, it would be a
2 lot more compact.

3 Then the last slide is the -- the same
4 thing happens in your State Senate Districts as
5 well as the Congressional Districts. I mean,
6 they don't really make much sense. So what I
7 am suggesting is, go ahead and give it a shot,
8 don't wait until all of the rest of the
9 sessions and the input are here.

10 I think it is real clear from all of us
11 and you will get the same kind of input from
12 the other people, the rest of the people in the
13 state, that go give it a shot, make, put up the
14 strawman and let us -- let us have at it then.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
17 much, sir. Thank you very much for that and
18 also for your presentation. We have Ms. Laura
19 Forster. Ms. Forster? Thank you very much.
20 After Ms. Forster we have Ms. Cynthia
21 Henderson.

22 Ms. Forster, you are recognized and thank
23 you very much for being here today. Forster, I
24 am so sorry.

25 MS. FORSTER: Forster.

1 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I know. It is hit
2 and miss with we up here, I got to tell you.

3 MS. FORSTER: Okay, my name is Laura
4 Forster for the record.

5 Thank you, gentlemen, for being here, and
6 ladies. I came here today originally to say
7 thank you for having this meeting. It was very
8 well advertised. I knew about it.

9 I also was getting e-mails today saying
10 that it wasn't an open session here and you
11 couldn't speak and all of that kind of stuff.
12 So I don't know who is sending that out, but
13 that is not true, because from what I have seen
14 here you are listening well and I have a couple
15 of questions, a couple of other things I wanted
16 to say that I have seen here.

17 I have seen a lot of special interest
18 groups here, and I am not a Tea Party person,
19 per se, I am a registered Republican and I was
20 that up until the 2000 election, I was an
21 Independent and I felt that I needed to take
22 this country, what I saw was happening was
23 going way to the left.

24 And I don't think our forefathers intended
25 that to ever happen and I really feel it is due

1 to special interest groups and redistricting is
2 a very important part of the way we vote in
3 this country.

4 And I do see the funny lines and so forth
5 in all of the different places, but that is
6 based on population, and I really feel that you
7 guys have been hired by the public, you are our
8 Representatives, just like when I was a
9 teacher, I was expected to teach the children.

10 I didn't like, the reason I quit teaching
11 is I did not like the special interest groups
12 that were telling me, the professional, how to
13 teach children.

14 I have hired you. The other people in
15 this room have hired you. If we don't like
16 what you are doing, we will fire you. That is
17 how it works.

18 I expect you to have integrity, if you
19 don't have integrity then I will fire you.
20 Now, the courts are also there to watch you as
21 well, and if you don't have integrity, the
22 courts will step in because someone will sue,
23 that is why we have the right, I don't like
24 lawyers, I am a doctor's wife, I don't like any
25 of you who are lawyers.

1 I feel like I am -- but, you know, I am
2 having to learn that if I want the things to
3 happen in my country I have got to get
4 involved. So I am learning, so here today was
5 a very good learning. I thank you for that. I
6 thank you.

7 I am learning from the people who have
8 gotten up and spoken. I have learned a lot of
9 things from you as well, but I just want to let
10 you know, these special interest groups, the
11 Florida League of Women Voters, the NAACP, I am
12 calling you out, the ACLU, you do not represent
13 me. You do not represent me, and we need to
14 get off this color business. I don't see your
15 color here.

16 I don't see your ethnicity. You are
17 Americans. We need to start acting like
18 Americans and stop this ethnicity thing. I was
19 raised in Miami since 1969, that is not my
20 country anymore. It is chaos down there
21 because there is no leadership.

22 We joke about it up here, the -- down
23 there in Miami. We left Miami because it was
24 chaos during the Illion crisis. That is not
25 America, that is not how we run our --

1 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Ms. Forster, I
2 would ask you to keep the comments related to
3 redistricting.

4 MS. FORESTER: Yes, but the redistricting
5 area down there is going to have the same
6 problems, they are an olden district. They
7 don't represent the rural districts. I don't
8 know how you guys do that.

9 I can't make -- I have no way of knowing,
10 nobody here knows how to do this. They have
11 been hired to do this. That is my point. You
12 guys have been hired to do this, be informed,
13 listen to the people, the people really want it
14 to be fair.

15 They do, 63 percent wanted it to be fair,
16 but we can't do it without integrity, and the
17 last thing I want to say, I am sorry I got off
18 on a tangent there.

19 Please think about God, think about God,
20 because this is a big task before you and you
21 cannot do it without his help. You really
22 can't.

23 Our forefathers under the Fourth of July
24 presentation at my church, and I have read a
25 lot about George Washington, that is the man

1 you need to read about. He did not make it
2 through that war.

3 He did not make it through coming up the
4 rules of redistricting and things like that
5 without God's help, and that is all I have to
6 say. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
8 Ms. Forster, very much.

9 SENATOR GARCIA: Mr. Chairman?

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I am sorry, yes,
11 Senator Garcia, you are recognized.

12 SENATOR GARCIA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
13 and I do appreciate your comments and I am glad
14 you are getting incorporated into a political
15 process, but I can't go without making a
16 comment in reference to those that you said
17 about Miami-Dade County.

18 I live in Miami-Dade County, and I
19 represent Miami-Dade County and I am proud to
20 represent the diversity that exist in that
21 community.

22 Unfortunately, we spoke, we spoke -- let
23 me speak for a minute. Unfortunately, you may
24 have left, but I stayed there to fight and make
25 sure that we do the things right.

1 We have had our issues in Dade County,
2 absolutely we have, like every part of this
3 state has had their issues, but to stand up
4 here and criticize that Miami-Dade County is a
5 different country, no.

6 Miami-Dade County is part of the United
7 States of America. Miami-Dade County is a lot
8 of --

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
10 Senator.

11 SENATOR GARCIA: -- citizens that work
12 there, fight there and make sure that we do the
13 right thing. So I don't appreciate, I am
14 sorry, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry, Mr. Chairman,
15 I don't appreciate when those comments are made
16 about a community of hard working people who
17 came to this country to make sure that they
18 leave a better place for their families.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ma'am, you
20 are not recognized to speak. We have moved on.
21 No, he is not, he is not, he addressed the
22 body, and thank you very much, Senator, we
23 appreciate your comments.

24 SENATOR GARCIA: Thank you very much.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1 very much. We are going to continue to move
2 forward in the process. We only have about 30
3 minutes left. We are going to hear from
4 Ms. Cynthia Henderson, Ms. Henderson, you are
5 recognized to address the committee --

6 A VOICE: She had to leave.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: -- okay, she
8 had to leave, okay, so we will move forward.
9 Next up we have Mr. Daryl Barowicz.
10 Mr. Barowicz. Thank you very much for being
11 here, sir. After Mr. Barowicz we are going to
12 have Dorothy Inman-Johnson, but Mr. Barowicz,
13 thank you, sir, you are recognized, and you
14 have the floor.

15 MR. BAROWICZ: I don't know how to follow
16 that. My name is Daryl Barowicz, and I am a
17 resident of Tallahassee. I have been a
18 resident of the state of Florida for 40 years,
19 28 down in Pinellas County and the rest of it
20 up here in Tallahassee, and I am a retired
21 proud public servant in the state of Florida
22 for 38 years.

23 Just a few points. Some of them were
24 reiterated but I think they need to be
25 repeated. When your process of redistricting I

1 urge all of these hearings and based on fair
2 distribution of population, that these
3 districts are contiguous with each other, that
4 these districts do not focus on particular
5 parties.

6 They do not focus on particular party
7 Representatives or Senators, and above all,
8 after all of your public hearings and after all
9 of the money that is spent on the public
10 hearings, that you come back to the citizens of
11 the state of Florida with the outcome of these
12 hearings and show us the maps and show us how
13 they were based on, the comments that were
14 derived from these public hearings.

15 These meetings should take place after the
16 maps are drawn and brought back to the
17 citizenry so that they understand how they were
18 based and what they were based on. Thank you
19 for being here.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
21 very much. Next up we have Ms. Dorothy
22 Inman-Johnson, followed by Ms. Inman-Johnson we
23 have Curtis Baynes. You are recognized, thank
24 you for being here.

25 MS. INMAN-JOHNSON: Good afternoon. First

1 of all I thought I would be speaking on
2 redistricting before a non-political,
3 non-partisan commission that was appointed in
4 accordance with the referendum items that we as
5 citizens voted for.

6 The purpose or intent of that referendum
7 and what the take away was for Florida citizens
8 was that we would have a body that did not have
9 a dog in the hunt on the outcome of this
10 redistricting process.

11 I don't see how that can happen when
12 seated elected officials are overseeing the
13 drawing of these districts.

14 So making that point first, these points
15 cannot be emphasized often enough. There
16 should be no gerrymandering in this process.
17 People have spoken about that over and over
18 again since I have been sitting here.

19 There is no good reason why you have to
20 run a district line down an Interstate highway
21 to pick up some more people in order to elect
22 anybody to the Legislature.

23 Second, all of the districts should be
24 compact and contiguous so that the people that
25 those Representatives are being elected for

1 know their constituents, know the areas they
2 are representing, and can put themselves there
3 often enough so that their citizens have real
4 input into the process.

5 Third, do not divide urban communities.
6 Do not chop up and divide counties.
7 Representatives should represent people who
8 have interests and needs in common. There is
9 no one size fits all in the state of Florida.

10 I hope that at some point in this process
11 I will see that non-political, non-partisan
12 commission we thought we voted for, but if not,
13 I hope at least the body will abide by the
14 principles that ensure fair elections,
15 representative government, and a government
16 that the people can feel really represents
17 their interests. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
19 very much, Ms. Inman-Johnson. Next up we have
20 Mr. Curtis Baynes, followed by Alejandro
21 Posada.

22 Mr. Baynes, you are recognized, sir.

23 MR. BAYNES: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman
24 or Mr. Chairman and everybody. My name is
25 Curtis Baynes, 1323 East Tennessee Street in

1 Tallahassee. I am here representing no one
2 other than a group of one. As anyone in
3 Tallahassee can tell you, I represent no one.

4 I, although I don't have represent -- I am
5 representing anyone, I do echo some of the same
6 comments that you have heard here this evening
7 and the only visuals I have got for you are
8 these.

9 My State Representative's office is
10 75 miles west of my house. My Congressman's
11 office is 158 miles east of my house. I think
12 that while they may be nice people, they are
13 not representative of me and I would certainly
14 like to see compact districts. Well, more
15 compact districts anyway.

16 Based upon book closings at last election,
17 now, they may be a little bit different now, I
18 would like to see no district in Florida with
19 more than 37 percent Republican, no more than
20 43 percent Democrat, and at least 20 percent
21 Non-Affiliated voters such as myself. That is
22 what the state registration roles show. I
23 think that would be helpful in producing more
24 fair districts, thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1 very much, Mr. Baynes. Next up we have
2 Alejandro Posada, followed by Phillip Howard.

3 Mr. Posada, thank you very much for being
4 here, sir. You are a college student at FSU?

5 MR. POSADA: Yes, sir.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good to see
7 you.

8 MR. POSADA: First off I would just like
9 to thank the Committee for allowing me the
10 chance to speak.

11 I think one of the primary goals of this
12 whole process has to be transparency and I
13 think ya'll have done a great job here today.

14 You mentioned earlier how a lot of times
15 we hear politicians talk, but rarely do we see
16 them listening to us, so I really appreciate
17 that.

18 I think something that needs to be of
19 primary concern is that we don't rush anything
20 here because I know there have been a few
21 people that have come up and said we need to
22 get this taken care of now, immediately, we
23 need maps now, what-have-you.

24 But I think it is important that in the
25 interest of transparency that everyone's views

1 be allowed to be heard, and it seems like today
2 we have had a good bit of that going on, but I
3 think that needs to continue until, you know, I
4 feel that everyone has gotten a chance to voice
5 their opinion.

6 So essentially I would just like to urge
7 you not to rush this, to think it through, to
8 listen to all of your constituents and to keep
9 that in mind. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
11 very much, Mr. Posada, we appreciate your
12 comments. We have one last comment card from
13 Mr. Phillips Howard. Mr. Howard, you are
14 recognized, sir. It looks like you are also a
15 student at FSU. Thanks for being here.

16 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, thank you
17 Mr. Chairman. I will just keep brief, because
18 I know --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If you could
20 speak into the microphone a little bit, too.

21 MR. HOWARD: Yes, I would just like to
22 also thank you for having such an open
23 procedure between the maps you put online. I
24 have had a lot of fun playing with them and
25 these meetings, it was very well advertised. I

1 was able to hear about it with no problem.

2 One thing that I would just like for the
3 Committee to consider is to make sure more than
4 anything that districts are fair and balanced
5 as opposed to being nearly compact.

6 In this day and age I can take this little
7 device right here and contact my Congressman or
8 any other Representative regardless of where he
9 is. So if districts do have to be divided a
10 bit or certain areas, it is okay as long as it
11 is in the general interest of the people and
12 once again, just thank you for holding these
13 meetings and have a wonderful day.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
15 very much. We appreciate those comments.

16 Members, that is the end of the list of
17 the comments of those who told us they wished
18 to speak. Is there anyone in the audience who
19 wishes to speak who has not had the
20 opportunity? Now would be a good time to raise
21 your hand and we would get to you. Anyone who
22 has not had the opportunity to speak?

23 Okay, with that we have actually an e-mail
24 someone who sent us during the meeting, and we
25 are going to try to do this at all of our

1 meetings to give you the opportunity for some
2 public input. So many could not be here from
3 Franklin county.

4 A gentleman by the name of Ned Pooser and
5 Ned is from Sopchoppy, and he said, "First, I
6 would like to thank the Senate President, Mike
7 Haridopolos and this Committee for allowing
8 public access to the redistricting project.

9 Second, I am from Franklin County, and as
10 a small rural county our issues differ from our
11 larger urban neighbors. We would like to be
12 included in the district of other rural
13 counties so that our voices are not smothered
14 by larger urban counties. I hope you will
15 consider this in your redistricting plans.
16 Thank you." Ned Pooser, who could not be here,
17 but asked that that would be on the record.

18 Okay, we had someone who had spoken
19 already but we do have a minute. He asked if
20 he could have one minute, and Mr. Harvill, we
21 will give you one minute, sir, but please make
22 it quick, yes, sir, thank you.

23 MR. HARVILL: Greetings, again, I just
24 want to say as Former Speaker Moffit's
25 brilliant idea to reiterate it. Three House

1 Districts within one Senate District, that
2 would be beautiful. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
4 very much. Okay, members, that is the end of
5 the public testimony and kind of step one in
6 our process.

7 Before we close out I would like to ask
8 the members, is there any, any public comment,
9 any comment from members of the committee or
10 anything specific that anyone would like to
11 address or any questions from any members the
12 of the committee, now would be the time to do
13 that? Real quickly, yes, we have
14 Representative Cruz for a question.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Thank you, Chair
16 Weatherford, thank you very much. I just have
17 a quick question. I notice that we have
18 essentially an interpreter here for the deaf
19 and I appreciate that very much.

20 My question is relative to mostly I would
21 suspect the south Florida population, when
22 these hearings go down in the south Florida
23 area, perhaps in the Haitian communities or in
24 the heavy Hispanic communities, will there also
25 be interpreters for that?

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I believe
2 that that is in the plan, Representative Cruz,
3 and we will do everything we can to make sure
4 and accommodate all of the ethnic and language
5 groups that are out there that would need to
6 have some interpretation necessary.

7 So the answer to that is yes, but we will
8 work to try to make sure that that happens at
9 all of the locations.

10 REPRESENTATIVE CRUZ: Thank you very much.

11 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Thank you,
12 Mr. Chair. I had someone to call and wanted to
13 know if they cannot e-mail or do anything with
14 computers, they want to send a handwritten
15 entry to the Committee. Who do they send it to
16 and is that a possibility?

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Just to
18 reiterate. Your question is, if someone wants
19 to send a handwritten note or a letter that is
20 typed but they don't have the ability to
21 e-mail, where would they send it?

22 They would -- I will tell you what we will
23 do. We will get you an address, because I
24 don't have that in front of me, but we will get
25 you an actual mailing address and we will get

1 an address for the Committee.

2 I think if you go on to our website, the
3 Redistricting Committee actually has an address
4 that you can mail to. That would be the
5 address, but we will make a public statement
6 about that tonight at the 6:00 hearing.

7 Next we have Representative Rehwinkle
8 Vasilinda for a question. Never mind, am I
9 missing anybody?

10 Okay, I think Senator Gaetz, you had a
11 comment. Mr. Co-Chairman, you are recognized.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
13 Mr. Chairman and thank you for the fair and
14 thoughtful way in which you conducted today's
15 hearing. No matter what anyone's point of view
16 might be, I don't think anybody can leave here
17 today saying that they did not have the
18 opportunity to be heard and that is a credit to
19 you, Mr. Chairman, and I know it is the way we
20 will conduct our hearings in the upper 25
21 hearing locations across Florida.

22 I can tell you that I have filled a legal
23 pad with three pages of notes, very good
24 constructive suggestions and comments from
25 individuals who -- who brought concerns from

1 their local community and their neighborhood
2 about problems that need to be rectified in this
3 redistricting process.

4 I wanted to just reiterate something that
5 we indicated in the opening, because there may
6 be folks who weren't here for the opening, and
7 therefore, did not hear what our procedure is
8 going to be.

9 There were some people who asked the
10 question, well, why don't we produce maps first
11 because the public won't have an opportunity to
12 know about or comment on any maps that might be
13 drawn in, later in the process.

14 First of all, as the Chairman indicated,
15 the Speaker indicated, we believe that it is
16 probably better to listen first before we
17 commit ourselves to starting to draw maps so
18 that we will have the benefit of the kind of
19 advice and guidance that we have received today
20 from a number of people who have made some very
21 constructive suggestions about their own
22 neighborhoods.

23 Secondly, let me just reiterate, if I may,
24 Mr. Speaker, what we said at the beginning, and
25 there may be some folks who wanted to know why

1 we didn't have the answer here before we had
2 the question and they may not have been here
3 for the beginning of the hearing.

4 Let me repeat what we said and this is our
5 procedure. Our intent is to use the
6 recommendations made at 26 public hearings and
7 through our Internet sites, and I may say, we
8 are already getting suggestions, including
9 proposed maps on our Internet sites and they
10 are there for you to look at.

11 Our intent is to use the recommendations
12 made at hearings and through our Internet sites
13 as the basis for developing one or more options
14 for district maps. This is important.

15 We will then share those options in open
16 public meetings, take comments from the public
17 before any votes are taken even in Committee,
18 so you will see maps before the first vote is
19 taken even in Committee.

20 And then as we said at the beginning,
21 throughout the process we will solicit
22 additional public comment so that proposed maps
23 can be matured with the public involved at
24 every step all before the Legislature approves
25 any maps.

1 So if there were people who may have had
2 prepared remarks about why we didn't do maps
3 first or maybe you weren't here at the
4 beginning, perhaps this will help clarify what
5 our process is.

6 And then, Mr. Speaker, there was some
7 questions about the timeline and again, let me
8 reiterate what we laid out at the beginning
9 that perhaps not everyone had an opportunity to
10 hear.

11 That is, first, according to the Florida
12 Constitution we cannot meet in legislative
13 assembly to vote on maps until January. What
14 we did is to move up the legislative session by
15 two months so that we could begin voting
16 earlier than we ordinarily would.

17 Some individuals asked and it was a very
18 good question, well, why does some other states
19 have their maps already done? Well, the state
20 of Illinois did theirs in a back room, came out
21 and said here are the maps, and that was that,
22 but the way the Bureau of the Census, and we
23 don't choose to operate that way.

24 The way the Bureau of the Census works,
25 not all of the census information comes to all

1 of the states at once. They come in tranches.
2 They come in groupings, and Florida was in the
3 last grouping to get our census information, so
4 that is why we are a little bit later in the
5 process than some other states.

6 However, our President, President
7 Haridopolos, and our Speaker, Speaker Cannon,
8 told Representative Weatherford and me that we
9 needed to begin immediately after the
10 legislative session and we have begun literally
11 the month after the legislative session to have
12 public hearings to gather input so that we can
13 meet a timeline that we laid out for you.

14 Our timeline is listed on the House and
15 Senate websites so you can see how the timeline
16 works, and you can see the various stops that
17 we are obliged to make by law before we can
18 vote on any maps and before any maps are
19 finalized.

20 Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would mention that
21 any Legislator, any member of this Committee or
22 any Legislator who is not a member of this
23 Committee or any special interest group or any
24 citizen can produce maps at any time and those
25 maps will be immediately placed on our website

1 so that the public can see them.

2 So there is no requirement that people be
3 silent about their views. Any member of this
4 Committee, any Legislator can produce any map,
5 any time and we will make it available to the
6 public.

7 And the groups that are very interested
8 this year, and of course, they are interested
9 each time there is a census in how
10 redistricting is carried out. Those groups as
11 well have the opportunity to produce a map.

12 They did ten years ago, but sadly,
13 apparently not so far this time, but as soon as
14 they do produce a map, those maps will be made
15 available on the website, the Senate and House,
16 as soon as those maps are provided to the
17 Senate and the House.

18 I would just reiterate that there will be
19 an opportunity for the public to review any
20 plan before that plan is voted on. The House
21 has already adopted rules. We will recommend
22 to the Chair to the Senate, that the Senate
23 adopt similar rules so the public has an
24 opportunity to see every amendment, every plan,
25 every iteration and have the opportunity to

1 comment to before it is voted on.

2 So again, Mr. Chairman, I want to thank
3 you for your work today. I want to echo what
4 you said when you were interviewed about
5 Amendments 5 and 6, and that is that they are a
6 part of our Constitution, and I, like you, like
7 all of the members here, swore an oath to
8 preserve, protect and defend the Constitution
9 of the United States and of the State of
10 Florida, and those provisions are in our
11 Constitution. They will be faithfully abided
12 by.

13 But I would also point out that there are
14 other requirements of redistricting, such as
15 the Federal Voting Rights Act and various
16 Federal case law that we must also take into
17 account. Those aren't secret. They are on the
18 Senate and House websites in their entirety.
19 You can read them and see where there may be
20 some opportunities to comment or provide your
21 input on how your neighborhood, your community
22 can be best represented by applying the
23 standards that are in the Federal Voting Rights
24 Act and in our State Constitution.

25 I look forward to the continuation of our

1 hearing tonight beginning at 6:00. If there
2 are those who would like to come back, we would
3 welcome you, and we will be in Pensacola and in
4 Ft. Walton Beach tomorrow, in Panama City the
5 next day, and then moving through the entire
6 state to give all of the people of Florida a
7 chance to be heard on the Internet, as well as
8 face to face with their Legislators.

9 So thank you, Chairman Weatherford, for
10 your presiding at this hearing and for the good
11 work that you have done.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
13 very much, Mr. Chairman. We are looking
14 forward to working with you. If I could just
15 quickly say, for the members of the public who
16 have had an opportunity to speak or would like
17 to add more, please feel free to e-mail us.

18 You can also mail us, we actually do have
19 a pamphlet representative that has the address
20 on it, if you could pick that up on your way
21 out.

22 We look forward to working with you, and
23 of all of the legal records from today's
24 meeting, video, podcast, transcripts will be
25 available in the coming days on the House and

1 Senate websites.

2 We will be here at 6:00 this evening and
3 going until 8:00. Members, please be on time,
4 and with that, Senator Gaetz moves we rise.

5

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Have a seat,
7 everyone. We appreciate everybody coming back
8 for the part two of our hearing, Joint
9 Redistricting Hearing today.

10 My name is Will Weatherford, and I am one
11 of the Co-Chairs of this Committee, along with
12 Senator Don Gaetz, who is the other Co-Chair.

13 We took three hours of public testimony
14 earlier today. I thought it was very
15 productive and I want to thank again the
16 members of the public who are here today who
17 were here earlier this afternoon and have also
18 come back.

19 We are very grateful for the public
20 participation that you have given us and we are
21 going to continue in that mode.

22 And so, members, what we are going to do
23 is so far we have probably got eight or ten
24 cards here. We expect to get a few more, but
25 we are going to go through them one at a time

1 and give people the opportunity to speak before
2 this Committee, and then we will move forward
3 and move on and hit the road and go to
4 Pensacola.

5 So with that in mind we are going to start
6 with our first person here, and that is
7 Mr. David Best, if Mr. Best is here. Mr. Best
8 represents the Coffee Party, and Mr. Best,
9 thank you for being here, sir.

10 You are recognized to address the
11 Committee. Please give Mr. Best your
12 attention, please.

13 MR. BEST: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Touch the -- there
15 is a button there, sir.

16 MR. BEST: Hello, hello. Better, better.

17 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, you are on.

18 MR. BEST: Okay. My name is David Best, I
19 am here as a citizen first and a voter. I have
20 voted in every election that I can remember in
21 the last 30 years. I know I have missed one or
22 two, but the ones I remember, in almost all of
23 them.

24 I am also here as a member of the Coffee
25 Party, USA. I work with the Coffee Party of

1 Florida, the local Coffee Party group. The
2 Coffee Party strives to maintain independence
3 from all political parties and labels.

4 We are grassroots volunteers who want to
5 restore stability to the political process that
6 we believe has suffered from extreme
7 polarization by both parties, and we too often
8 see parties, as a matter of fact, every day in
9 the paper I see it.

10 I think parties are working too often in
11 their own interest for the next election rather
12 than the common good of the people. To that
13 end I also want to say I believe in the
14 Constitution of the United States and the
15 Constitution of the State of Florida.

16 My goal here is to insure that the voice
17 of the people, not the power of the dollar and
18 special interests are the most considered and
19 will decide the policies and directions of our
20 state.

21 To that end I wish to compliment the
22 Florida Legislature on the openness that it has
23 shown so far in this process, particularly for
24 the things you have put on-line and made
25 available to me, just the common person, and I

1 want to encourage you to continue with that
2 openness and transparency when the rubber hits
3 the road down the road. Okay.

4 Unfortunatly the absence of maps. I
5 don't know what you heard this afternoon, but
6 it just seems like we could have had some maps
7 with some ideas of where you are going. Have
8 got to believe that you have studied this and
9 probably everyone of you, particularly with
10 incumbency, knows what you are planning to do
11 in this redistricting process.

12 So I would request that rather than wait
13 until the end and receive a lot of public
14 hearing input, that you go ahead and get some
15 maps out there and give us some ideas of where
16 you are going so that at least the people later
17 in the hearing process will have more ideas
18 what is going to happen beyond what we have got
19 now.

20 I believe that the voters have already
21 given you -- whatever we say, the will of the
22 voters was made clear in the last election, V
23 and VI Amendments passed, 63 percent of the
24 vote, that is pretty telling right there.

25 To me when I read them they are fairly

1 clear. So I believe the intent of those
2 amendments is clear, but I also believe that
3 the intent of many political incumbents,
4 particularly those in high ranking positions,
5 has been made clear as well by actions more so
6 than by words. Time is fleeting.

7 I think this timeline is going to be a
8 very difficult one to maintain. I have been on
9 projects where I looked at and I thought this
10 project is going -- there is no room at all for
11 any error.

12 It is going to be hard enough to stay on
13 this timeline as it is. So I encourage you to
14 really get real and certainly you have all
15 worked on these project plans and you have got
16 to know this. I can't tell you this. You know
17 more than I do.

18 So lastly I guess as a Coffee Party
19 activist I pledge to support leaders who work
20 towards positive solutions and to hold
21 accountable those who obstruct them. I am here
22 to ask that you be leaders that I can support,
23 and I thank you very much for the opportunity
24 to comment.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1 much, Mr. Best. We appreciate your comments
2 here today. One thing I did not point out
3 earlier and you certainly fell within this time
4 frame, Mr. Best, but for those who did not get
5 a chance to speak earlier, we are going to try
6 to keep the comments between three and five
7 minutes.

8 That kind of seems to be the wheelhouse
9 that has worked so far. We are going to
10 continue to work during in that direction and
11 also I will announce the name of the person who
12 is going to be speaking and then try to put you
13 on deck so if you are next, you will hear your
14 name as well and just be prepared it come up
15 and speak when that person ahead of you is
16 done. So again, Mr. Best, thank you very much
17 for being here.

18 The next speaker that we have is, I
19 believe, Jayce Michael Hill, if I am saying
20 that right. It could be Joyce, but I frankly
21 can't tell. I apologize.

22 You are good, okay, all right, he is
23 waiving and I don't know, usually with Bills we
24 say waive in support or so we will just say he
25 waives. We have Matthew Isbell.

1 Matthew spoke to us earlier, certainly you
2 are welcome to come back and speak. No
3 problem, we are happy to have you. Thanks for
4 being here. After Matthew we will have Dan
5 McDaniel.

6 MR. ISBELL: Thank you again for letting
7 me speak. I know I spoke to you guys earlier
8 today. I kept this short earlier because I
9 wanted to let other people speak, but I decided
10 to sign up again just to address some.

11 One other key thing and it was brought up
12 at the end of the meetings and that was the
13 issue of minority districts and minority
14 representation in not only in the Legislature
15 but Congress.

16 Specifically the Congress right now of our
17 25 seats we are going to go to 27 I know. We
18 have three majority African-American districts
19 and several majority Hispanic districts.

20 The comment and there has been questions,
21 okay, well, fair districts has passed, what
22 about things like the Third District which
23 stretches from Jacksonville down to Orlando.

24 You also have the Hastings District which
25 stretches over about three or four counties in

1 south Florida, and, you know, there has been
2 some arguments made by some Legislators, some
3 activists, on both sides of the aisle saying
4 that, you know, if something like the Third
5 District is eliminated that will hurt minority
6 representation.

7 And I just want to offer a different point
8 of view on that, that, you know, especially in
9 terms of the Voting Rights Act which was passed
10 back in '65, to insure minority representation
11 not only being allowed to vote, but also be,
12 drawing majority African-American districts,
13 but the key thing about that is that was
14 designed to insure that, especially in the
15 south where they have been in the process for
16 100 years, Legislators did not draw lines to
17 carve up a compact African-American community
18 that already existed.

19 Where there was a compact area and people
20 would draw three or four districts between it.
21 The VRA does not require those drawings, you
22 know, a district that stretches from
23 Jacksonville all the way to Orlando, basically
24 packing every African-American imaginable in.

25 In fact, there are districts similar to

1 that in North Carolina and Georgia have been
2 struck down in past Supreme Court cases as
3 basically racial gerrymandering where you are
4 packing every Democrat, every African-American
5 in, and I just don't feel, you know, this is
6 not stated for anybody specifically, but I just
7 want to say for the record, I don't feel that
8 is needed.

9 We have plenty of white, majority white
10 districts, majority white states that have
11 elected African-Americans, Hispanics, anybody.
12 We are not, we are no longer in the, pardon my
13 words, the Jim Crow, south, where you needed,
14 you need a majority minority district to elect
15 a minority.

16 It is just not the case and I just want to
17 make that point clear, that is what I feel
18 that, you know, if there is, if you can create
19 a majority minority district that is compact
20 like we have now for the Rico Wilsons down in
21 south Florida where I am from, where I have
22 lived in at different points in my life, that
23 is a compact district, but something, a
24 district that stretches from Jacksonville to
25 Orlando, it is just not needed. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
2 much, Mr. Isbell, we appreciate your comments
3 again. Next we have Mr. Dan McDaniel,
4 following Mr. McDaniel we have Dustin Ponder.

5 Mr. McDaniel, thank you very much for
6 being here, sir, you are recognized.

7 MR. MCDANIEL: Yes, thank you,
8 Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee. I
9 appreciate you taking the comments from the
10 public. I don't envy the job that you have. I
11 know that in past committees, if I can just
12 preface by saying this, the members that I have
13 known of this Committee while the charges have
14 always seemed to be that they are going to do
15 something in their favor, it seems that they
16 always came away and found that it was more of
17 a punitive appointment rather than one that
18 managed to allow them to cash in on any kinds
19 of favor.

20 What I wanted to do in the 30 years of
21 business and government that I have had is just
22 share for a moment a perspective on the, both
23 the analysis and process management sides of
24 the redistricting, or really anything that you
25 wanted to tackle, business or government-wise,

1 at least looking back at some of the more
2 difficult projects I have, and I don't want to
3 compare them with the enormity of your task.

4 But in analysis we are always, my
5 background, just to let you know, is an
6 economist and IT manager, and what we are doing
7 in an analysis is always taking these complex
8 problems and trying to break them down into
9 something manageable, and clearly, at the IT
10 management level or any kind of higher upper
11 management level, you can't understand every
12 detail, even though we try and we want to.

13 On the process management side we are
14 trying to come up with some simple rules that
15 we can follow as we are dealing with the
16 analysis, and what I just wanted to present is
17 what I think would be a fair way to perhaps
18 deal with the constraints, not just of the past
19 and of the political, but also of the
20 amendments that are in place.

21 And in three simple steps what I might
22 propose is to first look at the state of
23 Florida and rather than start drawing from
24 Escambia or start drawing from Key West or
25 somewhere in between, instead recognize that

1 you as members of different districts currently
2 have so many different composite makeups within
3 your district.

4 And it might be best if we tried to keep
5 these districts not just contiguous and not
6 just community oriented, but also to favor the
7 interest within that particular area, whatever
8 they might be, agricultural, urban, whatever,
9 and my proposal simply would be to start with
10 the urban cities in the state of Florida.

11 And by the populations I looked at, if you
12 took the House Districts, for example, I think
13 you would have nine cities in the state of
14 Florida that had populations over the size of
15 one House District.

16 Jacksonville would fit five House
17 Districts, a couple of cities would fit two and
18 the rest one, a couple of cities, I don't know,
19 if my numbers were exactly right, number ten
20 and eleven were about the size of a district,
21 maybe not quite.

22 But if the principles of the redistricting
23 were applied then within each of these cities,
24 then a lot of the political problems and
25 accusations that might arise at a statewide

1 level would at least go away within the locale.
2 You are creating urban.

3 And then the second step would be to look
4 at SMSA's, something of that sort, we have got
5 a lot of them around the state and fill the
6 rest in that way. They would leak over into
7 some of the urban cores, but cover more of the
8 suburban areas and you would have suburban
9 styled districts, and then when you are done,
10 some may argue and some always will that you
11 have a gerrymandered looking district.

12 I would argue that rather than being
13 gerrymandered, they would probably look more
14 like swiss cheese, maybe donuts here and there,
15 but they would be the more rural and exurbia
16 type districts, and I think they would
17 represent a more common interest in that
18 respect, but if you looked at those cities and
19 those SMA's, then the rest of the state, if it
20 filled out and looked like a gerrymander, I
21 think that under the provisions as the way I
22 have read Amendments V and VI, I think it could
23 all be justified and that is just presenting
24 things from an analytical and process
25 management standpoint.

1 I want to thank you all for your time.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
3 much, Mr. McDaniel. We appreciate those
4 comments. Next up we have Mr. Dustin Ponder,
5 who is here. After Mr. Ponder we will have Jay
6 Liles.

7 MR. PONDER: Thank you, sir. I was here
8 earlier, you know, and I have heard a lot of
9 talk today about democracy and listening to the
10 will of the public before we put out maps on
11 redistricting.

12 And I just have to say, I mean, who are we
13 talking about democracy for, you know? I mean,
14 you look at the last redistricting maps and the
15 result was 50 percent of our Senators and
16 Representatives are millionaires. When I think
17 in the general population, it is about five
18 percent, and I don't think people are naive
19 here.

20 I don't expect to convince you all to draw
21 up maps with my arguments and to implement fair
22 districts. I mean, I think we all know how
23 politics works.

24 The politicians have the interest of
25 working families, people of color and the poor

1 in mind first, instead of as one woman per
2 earlier, the people that hire them, we would
3 already have maps.

4 We wouldn't be having a lawsuit where the
5 people are both defending and paying for the
6 prosecution to overturn the Fair Districts
7 Amendment.

8 So all I got to say is you all are saying
9 you are listening to the public. You are
10 saying you support democracy, not just for the
11 top two percent, but for everybody.

12 Well, my father always used to say,
13 actions speak louder than words, no matter how
14 eloquently put. So, I mean, I am hoping that
15 the rest of the public will join me and just
16 say, let's get to it, you know, we know what
17 the game is.

18 The people know what the game is. I mean,
19 we have been through it all already. Let's see
20 the maps, let's move forward.

21 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
22 Mr. Ponder. Next up we have Jay Liles, after
23 Mr. Liles, we have Jack Davis.

24 Mr. Liles, thank you very much for being
25 here, sir.

1 MR. LILES: Thank you, Chairman
2 Weatherford, thank you, Chairman Gaetz, and the
3 members of the Committee.

4 I am Jay Liles. I reside at 1962 Vineland
5 Drive here in Tallahassee. Prior to living in
6 Tallahassee I was raised in Plant City,
7 Florida. I went to school in Gainesville,
8 Florida. I lived in St. Pete for ten years.

9 My father was a member of this august
10 body, along with Ron Saunders's father back in
11 the 1960's.

12 I only say all of that because I want you
13 to know I feel your pain. I understand what
14 you are up against and I appreciate what you
15 have agreed to do, and I hope you will take the
16 input of the citizens of this state and come up
17 with the best plans you can as you go forward.

18 Some of you may know me as an advocate for
19 environmental issues here in the Legislature.
20 I want you to know that today I don't speak for
21 those groups. I speak as a citizen of the
22 state of Florida.

23 Let me further preface my comments with a
24 few facts if you don't mind and I will be very
25 brief about this.

1 I live in the Ninth House District. I am
2 a resident of the Third State Senate District
3 and I am in the Second Congressional District.
4 To visit with my State Senator, Senator Dean,
5 in his home office I would need to travel
6 211 miles, a six-hour trip back and forth.

7 To visit with my Congressman in his home
8 district, that is another 4.5 hour drive,
9 110 miles in Panama City. Some of my
10 neighbors, very near neighbors in eastern
11 Hillsborough County are represented by
12 Congresswoman Corrien Brown who lives in
13 Jacksonville. In a district that some people
14 say is that the most gerrymandered district in
15 the nation.

16 According to the 2010 Census, Senate
17 District III and Congressional Districts II and
18 III need to be reduced in size to be
19 proportional correct.

20 The Fair Amendment District -- the Fair
21 Amendments Amendment, Fair Districts Amendment,
22 pardon me, approved by 63 percent of the voters
23 tells us that the committee should strictly
24 adhere to, quote, compact and contiguous
25 districts in order to end gerrymandering by

1 political parties.

2 In keeping with the amendment I sincerely
3 hope that this Committee and the Legislature
4 will approve a reduced, geographically reduced
5 size, District II, Congressional District II
6 and Senate District III and bring my neighbors
7 in Leon County into the Second Congressional
8 District.

9 In the 2010 election cycle there were
10 4,631,068 registered Democrats. There were
11 4,039,000 registered Republicans and 2,186,000
12 Independents, yet in the State legislature, as
13 you all know, it is 81 to 39 Republicans versus
14 Democrat.

15 In the State Senate it is 28 to 12
16 Republicans versus Democrats. Our
17 Congressional Delegation and most of the major
18 offices, with the exception of one U.S. Senate
19 office are held by Republicans, and I know many
20 of you, some of you anyway on this Committee
21 think that is just because your campaign
22 strategies were better, but honestly, let's get
23 real.

24 There is something wrong in that. As some
25 of my friends have said, the politicians in

1 Florida are picking the voters rather than
2 voters picking their candidates.

3 In a civics lesson would fully tell us
4 that a representative form of government
5 insures the will of the majority is and it
6 prevails, while strenuously protecting the
7 rights of the minority.

8 When people feel their voice is not heard
9 by their elected representatives they begin to
10 lose confidence in the institution as a
11 government, and then they lose interest in the
12 rights of others, and at its lowest point they
13 lose interest in civil law.

14 That is something none of us can afford to
15 have happen no matter what our party. So as
16 you conduct your work I would ask you to
17 suspend your loyalty to party and as I know you
18 are, be loyal Floridians in your thinking and
19 in your efforts.

20 Consider that the decisions you are making
21 here are going to be for ten years, long after
22 many of you are out of this institution, out of
23 this process.

24 Please ask yourselves, how can your
25 successors govern effectively that the policies

1 they craft are the product of an echo chamber.

2 I have worked with many of you on a lot of
3 issues. I know that one to one environment we
4 tend to agree more often than not, or at least
5 find accommodation. It is the group thing that
6 concerns me and I hope we are able to get past
7 that and I thank you for the time.

8 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
9 much, Mr. Liles.

10 Next up, members, we have got Jack Davis.
11 Do you want to say ditto? Okay. We can do
12 that. Ditto for Mr. Jack Davis. Thank you
13 very much, sir, for being here. We appreciate
14 you participating in this process.

15 We next have Alex Belk, I believe that is
16 a K. Alex, did I say that one wrong, buddy?

17 MR. BELLOA: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I apologize. 680
19 West Virginia Street. All right.

20 A VOICE: Repeat that.

21 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: That is right,
22 after Alex we have got Mr. Carlos Ray, you are
23 going to be next. You are recognized, sir, and
24 sorry for not pronouncing your name right.

25 MR. BELLOA: I have chicken scratch for

1 writing, that is okay.

2 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Your handwriting is
3 still better than mine, I can assure you.

4 MR. BELLOA: I want to thank everybody
5 first of all, for giving me the opportunity to
6 speak here today and the rest of the citizens
7 in the room.

8 It is, I want to state that openness is
9 extremely important and that is the key in all
10 of this.

11 I know it is going to be a hard fought
12 battle. There is a lot of disagreement on both
13 sides how things should be run and written, but
14 ultimately if we remain open and this continues
15 to be an open process I think what is going to
16 come out of this, you know, what is good, it is
17 going to be contentious, but hopefully it will
18 be good for everybody.

19 And in addition to this I think that we
20 need to stick to the spirit of the law. We
21 need to have compact districts that are
22 reflective of the people that are living there.
23 I am in Senator Montford's district, and I am
24 in Senator Alan Williams -- I am sorry,
25 Representative Alan Williams' district.

1 If I cross the street, literally 40 feet
2 from my door I am in someone else's district.
3 I think that it is Marti Coley's district. So
4 I mean, we are talking literally 40 feet and it
5 is not like there is a totally different
6 community between us, it is the same community,
7 the same people.

8 A lot of the folks that live on one side
9 are predominantly African-American, the other
10 one are students. And so if we have anything
11 that affects us in this district that has to do
12 with transportation, which is Tennessee Street
13 is a major corridor in Tallahassee, there is a
14 lot of transportation issues with the city, who
15 do we go talk to?

16 If we are African-American you talk to
17 Alan Williams and if you are a student you go
18 talk to Marti Coley, and that to me pits these
19 two groups against each other.

20 There is not one Representative in that
21 district that knows exactly what happens on
22 both sides of the street that pay attention to
23 that, and I think that is wrong for the people
24 that live in that community.

25 I agree with everything that Mr. McDaniel

1 spoke about earlier, that we need to start with
2 the bigger urban cores and work our ways out
3 there, because the situations that effect
4 somebody in the city are not going to be the
5 same that effect somebody out in a rural
6 county, like Union.

7 African-American issue, Hispanic issues
8 are very important to me, and, but they are not
9 the same in Duval County that they are in
10 Orange County. They are not the same that they
11 are in Union, they are not the same that they
12 are in Ocala, that is not a county, in Marion
13 County. So we need to keep our communities
14 together.

15 We all need to work together and we need
16 to encourage that by having districts that
17 encourage us to go talk with one another and
18 our Representatives that are going to know
19 their districts well.

20 When you have somebody who has to travel
21 400 miles from one point of the district to
22 another, how are they really going to get to
23 know anybody other than what is within the
24 20 miles that they live in.

25 So let's use a little bit of a common

1 sense approach. I know sometimes common sense
2 is not very common, but I think that we have
3 come a very long way, as one gentleman
4 mentioned, the Jim Crow south, we have grown a
5 lot from that period in time, and if we have
6 faith in our constituencies and our folks,
7 people are going to do what is best for them
8 and their communities and they are going to
9 come together.

10 We have just got to have a little bit more
11 faith in ourselves to do so. Once again, just
12 thanks again and please keep in mind that the
13 most important in all of this is keeping
14 communities together.

15 We need to have people who are going to be
16 advocating for their communities, not for 65
17 different communities of who they have met
18 maybe five or six people along the way. Thank
19 you very much, and that is all I have.

20 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
21 much, sir. We appreciate that very much. Next
22 up we have Mr. Carlos Rey, followed by Beatriz
23 Macia. Mr. Rey, thank you for being here, sir,
24 you are recognized.

25 MR. REY: Thank you, Chairman Weatherford,

1 thank you, Chairman Gaetz. Again, thank you
2 for this opportunity and making this an open
3 and transparent process.

4 The only reason I am coming up here is to
5 present to you a study that took place in
6 Columbia Law School where they have a program
7 where students are given the opportunity to
8 learn the redistricting laws and given the
9 tools to redistrict certain states.

10 At the end of that program those students
11 are required to take a state and actually
12 redistrict the state based on the projected
13 census reports, and here I have before me the
14 report, itself, which takes into account
15 compactness and the VRA laws as well, and it
16 addresses only congressional districts, but I
17 think it gives you an idea of what are some
18 considerations you can you look at when you are
19 making your decisions, and I don't know if I
20 can present this to the Board.

21 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: We are actually
22 very familiar with that. We actually have it
23 on-line. On our website at Florida
24 redistricting.org. The Senate has it up and to
25 be, to be even more direct, we think that is

1 actually a perfect example of the steps that we
2 have taken to be open and transparent to where
3 we are soliciting that type of participation,
4 and that, the young man, the student who
5 produced that map of the Congressional
6 Districts of Florida spent a lot of time on
7 that and I believe gave it to us three or four
8 weeks ago.

9 MR. REY: Very good.

10 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: We have it, and if
11 you want to give members a copy you can, but I
12 believe, members, you can hand it maybe down
13 here, but it is on-line. We have it up and
14 on-line and there are actually other maps as
15 well, but again, I think that speaks to the
16 process we have created and what technology now
17 allows us to do, to allow people to take
18 advantage of the software we have.

19 So I am glad that you are here to talk
20 about it. I didn't want to interrupt you, but
21 wanted you to know we have it.

22 MR. REY: I wanted to make sure you were
23 aware of that, and also I think that people can
24 look at this report and see the, that the
25 issues that have been brought up in this,

1 before this Board has been addressed and other
2 people are looking at it and it shows that
3 individuals can have an impact as far as what
4 considerations are taken when making these
5 decisions, and you have given us the tools, the
6 redistricting tool, itself, and it is one of
7 those things that we should take advantage of
8 as well.

9 And I want to thank you again for this
10 opportunity and I am kind of embarrassed that
11 this is on there, but thanks again for this
12 opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: That is quite all
14 right, Mr. Rey. We appreciate you being here
15 and we echo your comments. We think that there
16 will be many opportunities in the future for
17 people to participate and do exactly what this
18 young man from Columbia University has done.

19 So thank you. Next we have Beatriz Macia,
20 I hope I am saying that correctly, and after
21 that we have Brian Lupiani.

22 Ms. Macia, thank you for being here today,
23 and we would love to hear from you. You are
24 recognized.

25 MS. MACIA: Thank you, Representatives. I

1 guess I need to let you know something. It is
2 Macia, but I will say Macia, and being Cuban,
3 Macia is a whole other family. The accent on
4 the I, not the A.

5 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: I am sinking in my
6 chair as you are talking, so thank you.

7 MS. MACIA: How would you know that. Good
8 evening, Senators and Representatives. As I
9 said, I am Beatriz Macia, I am a Board member
10 of the Tallahassee Tea Party and I am a
11 Hispanic voter.

12 I know that Florida is a long narrow and
13 diverse state. It is difficult. I recognize
14 the fact that whether you all held these
15 listening meetings or not you were going to be
16 criticized, and I appreciate the fact that you
17 chose to listen to us anyway.

18 I understand that you are going to be
19 looking at a lot of factors and I hope that one
20 of the things that you will look at is the
21 concept just like that when our Congress was
22 originated it had two Houses to balance the
23 needs of the large states with the small
24 states.

25 We have large counties, urban and diverse

1 and we have small rural counties that have less
2 resources and are just important that they are
3 heard and represented.

4 I know that there are interests in the
5 different regions that need to be acknowledged,
6 you know, we have tourism, we have fishing, we
7 have agricultural, we have new technologies
8 that are coming.

9 Our Governor is working hard to bring, you
10 know, interesting businesses to Florida, as
11 well as many of our regional development
12 councils.

13 I have worked in a lot of different parts
14 of government. I have worked in Departments of
15 State, in the Legislature, I have worked in the
16 Governor's Office, and I am a small business
17 owner, so I have, you know, a pretty
18 appreciative understanding and working
19 knowledge of the processes that you work in and
20 how those policies and all of those things are
21 actually implemented, and then the affects on
22 the diverse folks that are impacted.

23 So I look forward to the day that we don't
24 have to talk about minorities and that we
25 didn't have to talk about selfish interests.

1 I really look forward to the day that we
2 are talking about building a better Florida. I
3 just want you to know that I choose to put my
4 faith in your good intentions. I have watched
5 you all. I was here during the session. I
6 have watched you all talk to each other.

7 I have watched you work through problems,
8 and very difficult issues. I have an
9 appreciation for what you do, and also know
10 that I will also still be involved and I will
11 be a part of the process, so thank you very
12 much.

13 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
14 much. We appreciate you being here. Next up
15 we have Mr. Brian Lupiani, followed by
16 Mr. Eutn, and I would try to read your first
17 name, but I can't make it out. So Mr. Eutn,
18 but first we have Brian.

19 Thank you for being here, sir, you are
20 recognized.

21 MR. LUPIANI: Thank you, gentlemen and
22 ladies. I wasn't necessarily going to say
23 anything. I just wanted to be sure that I had
24 a chance to if something came up, but having
25 only gotten into the room just a couple minutes

1 ago, I am not sure what has come before.

2 But first I appreciate ya'll having these
3 hearings. I wish there were drafts that we had
4 a chance to respond to. Maybe there will be a
5 second round that you all can come around the
6 state with a proposal and get some comments on
7 it.

8 I would just like to say that it is
9 paramount to me that you all go by the
10 amendments that the citizens just recently put
11 into the Constitution. I don't like that it is
12 being challenged and delayed by some. It was
13 overwhelmingly approved by voters and I have
14 been in favor of those standards, not that it
15 matters to you what I have done, but I have
16 been a Democrat since I could vote and I was
17 originally for these standards back in 1978,
18 when the Democrats ran everything.

19 I think it is good for everyone. It needs
20 to be fair and we really need to just go by as
21 much as possible just based on raw population,
22 demographics, racial demographics to the extent
23 that we need to to comply with the Voting
24 Rights Act, but there should be no -- and I
25 realize it is, this isn't going to count for

1 much with many of you, but there should be no
2 consideration given to partisan registration or
3 to incumbents current location.

4 Some of the things we see on the current
5 map, it is -- it is almost incredible to have
6 to point out anything like this, finger for a
7 Congressional District, whatever it is, from
8 Jacksonville that comes cutting across, snakes
9 into all of the way over into Leon County.

10 There is a State House District X and I
11 don't mean this, I am not picking on anybody in
12 particular here, but it is insane to me that
13 somebody in Apalachicola is in the same State
14 House District as people I know in Ocala.

15 It is, you know, you have to do better. I
16 plan on -- I haven't had a chance yet to look
17 at the software you all have made available. I
18 appreciate that that is out there and I, you
19 know, I hope a number of groups will use it,
20 but as I said, just keep partisan political
21 party affiliation completely off the table.

22 Go strictly by population and follow
23 existing political and geographic boundaries as
24 much as possible. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1 much, sir, and it is not too much to ask that
2 we keep partisan politics out of this process.
3 We believe that is exactly what this body will
4 do. It is what the Constitution asked us to do
5 and it is a very good suggestion and we will
6 certainly take it to heart and make sure that
7 we do so.

8 Next up we have Mr. Eutn. In fact this is
9 the last card that we have and if you are here
10 and you would like to speak and we have not
11 called your name, please raise your hand and we
12 will find someone who will give you a card to
13 fill out.

14 We want to make sure that everyone here
15 has the opportunity to speak and while we are
16 looking for that, Mr. Eutn, you are recognized
17 to speak. Thank you for being here, sir.

18 MR. EUTN: Thank you. I would only like
19 to say is this, that the people of Florida are
20 watching what your body does today. And we do
21 not want to see a situation where this body
22 decides to take political affiliation into
23 consideration when it comes to setting up these
24 districts.

25 The people of the state have voted on this

1 matter. The people of this state have made
2 decisions how they want to have their districts
3 drawn, and I think this body should adhere to
4 that.

5 And it concerns me that this body has done
6 things that usurp, usurp the rights of the
7 people. And so I would hope and I would hope
8 that everyone here takes it very serious to do
9 the right thing and do the thing that the
10 people of Florida, this fine state of Florida
11 have asked you to do. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you, sir, and
13 that is the last, I think that is the last of
14 our public testimony.

15 We do have someone, okay, great, while we
16 are waiting for that, as mentioned earlier, as
17 people e-mail us or give us information they
18 would like to make on the record but could not
19 be here, we want to oblique them.

20 Mimi Jones, who sent us an e-mail saying
21 she could not be here, wanted us to know that
22 she wanted us to follow the Constitution and we
23 plan on following that.

24 And then we also were reached via Facebook
25 from a lady by the name of Diane

1 Blackford-Wilson who just wanted to restate
2 that Wakulla County is an extension of Leon for
3 all practical purposes and should have the same
4 Representatives as Leon County, and we
5 appreciate them contacting us and knowing that
6 not everybody can be at a meeting, but that
7 their comments can be on the record.

8 So last up we have Ralph Wilson.

9 Mr. Wilson, we would love to have you come
10 forward. Thank you for being here, and you are
11 recognized to address the Committee.

12 MR. WILSON: Thank you very much. Thanks
13 for holding this hearing. I really appreciate
14 it, and I think a lot of us are here for a
15 pretty simple reason.

16 I feel like the voters have spoken and
17 feel like it is just another of many affronts
18 to the voter's will and the people's will in
19 the state for this to be challenged in the way
20 it is.

21 So I think, yes, I think that that is
22 really all there is to say, so I thank you for
23 your time.

24 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very
25 much, Mr. Wilson. We appreciate your comments.

1 Any other comments from the public, last call?

2 Okay.

3 Any comments and/or questions from members
4 of the Committee?

5 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Mr. Speaker.

6 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Yes, Representative
7 Williams, you are recognized.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Thank you,
9 Chair. I just want to say for the record that
10 I was glad to see so many individuals from this
11 area, parts of which I am proud to represent,
12 along with Senator Montford.

13 Had an opportunity to come out and share
14 their thoughts and concerns about this process
15 that we take very serious, and thank you for
16 the opportunity given to this area for them to
17 be heard. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
19 Representative and thank you for hosting us
20 here in Tallahassee. We are very grateful for
21 that. Senator Gaetz, I think you had a comment
22 that you --

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Just quickly,
24 Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank you for
25 presiding over the hearings today. Some of

1 those who were here tonight were not able to be
2 here earlier today.

3 We certainly are not going to repeat all
4 of the comments that we made about the process
5 and the schedule, but I think given that some
6 of the comments that were made tonight, it is
7 only fair that we indicate the process and
8 schedule in a couple of ways.

9 So let me, let me refer to introductory
10 comments that were made at the very beginning
11 of the session today so that those who may not
12 have been able to hear those comments would
13 have the benefit of knowing which way we are
14 headed.

15 The redistricting schedule under which we
16 are operating is imposed not by our own wishes,
17 but by the State Constitution. The
18 Constitution does not permit the Legislature to
19 act on legislative maps before the second year
20 after the census.

21 In other words, until 2012, but we did
22 accelerate the process as much as possible by
23 moving up the 2012 session, from March to
24 January, and by beginning our statewide
25 hearings five months in advance of the 2012

1 session.

2 It has been suggested by some that the
3 Legislature should draw maps first and then put
4 them out and ask the public to comment.

5 We believe that that puts the answer ahead
6 of the question. There should be in our view
7 no preconceptions created by politicians, but
8 rather public testimony and public input should
9 be free and unrestrained.

10 Our intent is to use the recommendations
11 made at all 26 of the public hearings we will
12 be holding and to use the input we are
13 receiving over the Internet, and I might
14 mention, Mr. Chairman, that we have been
15 heavily followed on-line this afternoon and
16 this evening, very heavy on-line traffic with
17 individuals saying they want to participate
18 on-line, they want to submit plans, they want
19 to offer comments and we welcome that.

20 And our intent is to use all of that input
21 we are gathering as the basis for developing
22 one or more options for district maps, and then
23 we will share those options in open public
24 meetings before any votes are taken, even in
25 Committee.

1 Let me state that again. First we are
2 asking for public input via the Internet,
3 getting heavy Internet traffic and via our 26
4 public hearings, and then once we have that
5 information and as we develop one or more
6 options for district maps, we will share those
7 options in open public meetings before any
8 votes are taken even in Committee.

9 Throughout the process we will solicit
10 additional public comment so that all proposed
11 maps can mature with the public involved, all
12 before the Legislature approves final maps.

13 And finally, Mr. Speaker, just for the
14 record and for those who may not have been able
15 to be here this afternoon, whatever the
16 Legislature then votes on, it is submitted for
17 judicial review at the State and Federal level
18 to insure that final plans meet every legal
19 requirement.

20 So on behalf of our Senate colleagues,
21 Senate members of the Committee, Mr. Speaker,
22 thank you for doing a great job today, and we
23 look forward to seeing you tomorrow morning in
24 Pensacola as we continue our statewide tour.

25 CHAIRMAN WEATHERFORD: Thank you very

1 much, Mr. Chairman, for those comments, and
2 members, if I could have everyone's attention
3 for one minute before we break.

4 I think everyone knows that we have
5 several days ahead of us. We are now moving
6 tonight to head over to Pensacola where we will
7 meet with citizens in Pensacola tomorrow
8 evening.

9 We will be in our good Senator's backyard
10 in Ft. Walton Beach, and then finally finishing
11 Wednesday in Panama City, but I want to thank
12 the staff for putting this together. This was
13 very well orchestrated, it was perfectly placed
14 where people could see what the maps look like,
15 you could get information, everything was
16 waiting for folks and I just really thank the
17 staff for making this a seamless process.

18 I also want to thank the members who are
19 here, not just the members on the Committee,
20 but we have dozens of members who traveled from
21 all over the state of Florida who don't even
22 sit on this Committee that wanted to be a part
23 of this process to see how it works and it
24 engage the public and I thank them for that as
25 well.

1 Lastly, and most importantly, we want to
2 thank the public who is here tonight and who
3 were here earlier this afternoon.

4 We are going to make this process the most
5 open, the most transparent, the most engaging
6 process, not only that Florida has ever had,
7 but anyone in the country has ever had, and
8 that is our goal and we will fulfill it and we
9 thank you for being here today and with that,
10 Senator Gaetz moves we rise.

11 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
12 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned, and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing pages 2 through 173 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape- recording;

And I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

Dated this 7th day of August, 2011.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014