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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011
6:00 P.M.
SANTE FE COLLEGE
GAINESVILLE, 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 GAETZ: My name is Don Gaetz. I
3 am Chairman of the Reapportionment Committee.
4 I serve five coastal counties in northwest
5 Florida, from Pensacola to Panama City, and
6 along with my -- with my colleague,
7 Representative Precourt, Chair Precourt, who is
8 here tonight, I will be chairing this evening's
9 meeting.

10 The meeting is being broadcast, webcast,
11 statewide by the Florida Channel over the
12 Internet, and podcasts will be available in
13 case you miss part of it, or in case you would
14 like to go back and relive part of it.

15 Those will be available to you on the
16 Internet. Our sole purpose tonight is to hear
17 from members of the public about how you
18 believe the legal standards governing
19 redistricting ought to be applied in your
20 community so that you are ably represented in
21 Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably
22 and sensibly.

23 Our procedures tonight are simple, but
24 important. It is important that you sign in so
25 that we can create an accurate public record of

1 all attendees and all speakers, and also you
2 may opt to join our e-mail lists so that we can
3 keep you informed as to the redistricting
4 process and how it is going forward.

5 If you have not signed in, we, and you
6 would like to speak or if you have not signed
7 in just period, we would hope you might raise
8 your hand and one of the House or Senate staff
9 members will come and give you a card. That
10 way if you choose to speak tonight we will be
11 able to have you in the stack and give you an
12 opportunity to have your opinions heard, which
13 is what we would like very much.

14 If you wish to speak tonight and have not
15 yet filled out an attendance card, we will get
16 you one so that you can be called on. We don't
17 want to miss your testimony.

18 It the same attendance card whether you
19 wish to speak or whether you just want to sit
20 and listen to your friends and neighbors give
21 their opinions.

22 Before we begin the Chair will recognize
23 Representative Precourt from the House of
24 Representatives.

25 This is a Joint House Senate hearing, and

1 Representative Precourt will explain how
2 today's hearing fits into the redistricting
3 process and schedule. Representative, you are
4 recognized.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair
6 Gaetz. I appreciate the opportunity to be here
7 with all of you as well tonight. Again, my
8 name is Steve Precourt and I represent the
9 southwest side of the Orlando area, as well as
10 all of the citizens in the state of Florida in
11 the Florida Legislature and I am Vice-Chair of
12 the overall House Redistricting Committee.

13 That great staff that the Chairman
14 mentioned has also provided some notes to make
15 sure that we touch on all of the key points to
16 keep you informed of what the process is and
17 how we are going to go through it and I don't
18 miss anything.

19 As many of you know, every ten years our
20 Legislature is required by our State
21 Constitution to redistrict the state based on
22 increases, decreases and movements in
23 population.

24 Because Florida has grown more than the
25 other states around the country in the last ten

1 years, we are going to add, move up from 25 to
2 27 members of the U. S. House of
3 Representatives. So we will get two new
4 districts, and therefore, have to redraw the
5 congressional lines statewide.

6 Because some parts of our state have also
7 increased more or decreased to a degree,
8 disproportionately in population, many of the
9 Senate and House Districts that are within the
10 state, the numbers remain the same, 40 Senate
11 seats, 120 House seats, but many of those
12 boundaries will have to change either adding or
13 losing population to make sure that at the end
14 of the day they all still have the same
15 population within them.

16 When our redistricting process is
17 completed the Congressional Districts must be
18 equal in population and contain 696,345 people.
19 The 40 Senate Districts must also be nearly
20 equal, at about 470,000 people, and our 120
21 House Districts must also be nearly equal at
22 about 156,700 people.

23 Now, we have some displays that you saw as
24 you came in there in the back corner of the
25 room right over there, showing the current

1 boundaries, the current boundaries of the
2 Districts in this area of the state and the
3 number of persons in that table beside them
4 which must be added or subtracted from the
5 current Districts to achieve equal
6 representation, which is a requirement of law.

7 Equal representation though isn't the only
8 legal requirement that our redistricting plans
9 must met. The laws and important court cases
10 governing redistricting are explained in great
11 detail in the House and Senate websites.

12 Those websites are listed in the brochures
13 that you should have received on the way in and
14 that are available and if you need one, just
15 raise your hand and our staff will make sure
16 that you have that information.

17 The particular redistricting 2012 brochure
18 that you will get, summarizes Federal and State
19 laws and outlines topics that we hope you will
20 discuss here at today's hearing.

21 If you didn't get copy when you came in
22 and I see a whole bunch of folks' hands up
23 right now, if staff can't get them to you as
24 soon as you need them here, they are also
25 available outside on the tables.

1 The brochures also list the House and
2 Senate websites and that is a key piece of
3 information in today's world. These websites
4 have a tremendous amount of information about
5 redistricting in Florida, including explanation
6 of the laws, important court cases governing
7 redistricting, as well as a lot of the data and
8 the geographic information associated with the
9 process.

10 The two websites, the House website and
11 the Senate website, and they are separate ones,
12 are complimentary and they are updated
13 frequently. So visit both and check back
14 often, because it is a great way to stay
15 current with about how your new congressional
16 State Senate and State House Districts are
17 taking shape as we move forward.

18 Also on these websites you can get all of
19 the demographic information that will be used
20 from the 2010 Census in drawing the districts
21 and the exact same computer programs, I want to
22 reemphasize that, you as individuals have
23 access to the exact same computer programs that
24 our Legislators and professional staff are
25 going to use in drawing these maps.

1 Any member of the public can participate
2 in building plans or seeing maps that were
3 submitted by citizens, by special interest
4 groups, by Legislators, by whoever, all of the
5 maps that are submitted will be there available
6 for your review.

7 Now, before, during and after this hearing
8 our professional staff in the House and the
9 Senate will be available to show you how to use
10 this information as well.

11 If you need to know some of the simple
12 steps about getting on-line, building districts
13 with the district builder tool that we have on
14 there for drawing and building districts or
15 submitting a plan, they are available now.
16 They will be available by phone and over the
17 Internet for the rest of this process for you
18 to use.

19 Now, recommendations from citizens and
20 groups of citizens will be made publicly
21 available. So when you or your neighbors
22 submit something, it will be up there for
23 everyone to see.

24 In fact, there are a number of public
25 submissions that are already available on the

1 website and we received a couple more today at
2 this morning's meeting. We hope to see a few
3 more today.

4 The submission of these proposed maps that
5 makes sense for your community is, and I can't
6 emphasize this more strongly, the single most
7 effective form of public participation in the
8 redistricting process in my opinion.

9 That is because, like the old saying goes,
10 a picture paints a thousand words. You can
11 describe how, what the community is in words,
12 but as soon as you draw those lines, then we
13 have, aha, that clear picture of what you
14 intend for a particular district.

15 The schedule of the redistricting process
16 under which we are operating is imposed by our
17 State Constitution. The Constitution does not
18 permit us as Legislators to act on State
19 Legislative maps before the second year after
20 the decennial census. In other words, we can't
21 act on the 2010 redistricting until 2012.

22 However, we have accelerated the process
23 as much as we possibly can by moving up the
24 2012 legislative session from when we usually
25 meet in March and April, we have moved it up to

1 January and February.

2 In addition, we are beginning this
3 statewide process by holding these public
4 hearings five months in advance of that newly
5 accelerated 2012 session.

6 Now, it has been suggested by some that
7 the Legislature should draw maps first and then
8 ask the public to comment. Now, we believe
9 that puts the cart before the horse. That puts
10 the answer ahead of the question.

11 There really should be no preconceptions
12 created by politicians or anyone else about
13 what the redistricting maps should look like
14 before you, the public, have an opportunity to
15 tell us what your opinion is. To provide us
16 with that additional information on your
17 communities.

18 In fact, one of the principle authors in
19 Florida's new redistricting standards and the
20 Chairperson for fair districts campaign, they
21 are on record as in agreement with the notion
22 that new maps should not be drawn until after
23 the public has had the opportunity to provide
24 comment and input.

25 Now, our intent is to use the

1 recommendations made at these meetings, and
2 there is 20 -- there is going to be 26 of them
3 scheduled formally, and through our Internet
4 sites and through any other way that you send
5 us information, whether it is by Snail Mail or
6 handing us, handing it here tonight, we are
7 going to use that as the basis for developing
8 one or more options for district maps.

9 Once we have those options developed we
10 will discuss those options in additional public
11 meetings before any votes are taken as part of
12 the committee process that we will be starting
13 in September.

14 Now, throughout this process we will
15 continue, we will continue to solicit
16 additional public comment so that proposed maps
17 can develop and mature with the public engaged
18 and involved in that process, all before, well
19 before the Legislature actually approves any
20 final maps.

21 Now, whatever the Legislature passes will
22 then be submitted for judicial review to insure
23 that the final plans meet every legal
24 requirement.

25 Now, because our purpose today is to hear

1 from you, all the time between now and when we
2 adjourn at 9:00 will be used to ensure that
3 every member of the public who is here and
4 wishes to speak will have time to present
5 testimony and be listened to respectfully and
6 without interruption or argument.

7 Now, if every, if after every citizen that
8 is here has had his or her say there is still
9 any time remaining, any member of the committee
10 may make a statement or offer any observation
11 subject to Chair Gaetz' discretion, and of
12 course, any members of the Legislature at any
13 time could submit a map or proposed man and we
14 -- if they do, make that available to the
15 public on our website almost immediately for
16 your review as well.

17 Chair Gaetz, I hope that this description
18 or our schedule and the process sets the stage,
19 so to speak, for a successful public hearing
20 today.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Representative
22 Precourt. We have a large number of
23 individuals who want to speak tonight, and that
24 is great. We have a hearing that will last
25 three hours. We will adjourn promptly at 9:00

1 according to the public notice that we have
2 given for the hearing.

3 We have 58 people who have signed up to
4 speak so far. So let me be an advocate for
5 Dave Schneider. Dave Schneider so far is
6 number 58, and I think Mr. Schneider ought to
7 have the same chance as Ann stone, who is
8 number one.

9 And so, therefore, my hope is that
10 everybody will stick to and we have to do this
11 just to give everyone a chance. I hope that
12 you will stick to about two and-a-half minutes.
13 If you go to three minutes then Dave Schneider
14 won't have a chance to talk. So let's be an
15 advocate for Dave.

16 Now, before we begin, and I ask members to
17 be extraordinarily brief because of our time
18 tonight, please indicate so that the audience
19 will know who you are and what part of the
20 state you represent.

21 Let's start with Senator Thrasher on my
22 right.

23 SENATOR THRASHER: Hi, I am John Thrasher.
24 I represent Senate District 8 which includes
25 parts of Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and

1 Volusia Counties.

2 SENATOR OELRICH: Hi, I am Steve Oelrich,
3 District 14, Senate District 14. I have half
4 of Lake City, all of Gainesville, half of
5 Ocala, over to Levy county and over to
6 Interlochen area, roughly a square box.

7 SENATOR EVERS: Hi, I am State, I mean, I
8 am State Senator Greg Evers. I represent
9 Senate District 2, which encompasses north
10 Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton,
11 Washington and Holmes counties.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake
13 representing the Fifth House District,
14 panhandle of Florida. I am a graduate from the
15 University of Florida, and I represent
16 Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes, Washington and
17 Jackson Counties and I saw my Supervisor of
18 Elections here, Paul Lux, from Okaloosa County.

19 Paul, thank you for making the trip. We
20 look forward to tonight's proceedings.

21 SENATOR DEAN: Good evening, my name is
22 Charlie Dean, I am the District Senator
23 District 3. My district goes from Citrus,
24 Hernando County line and 98 and 19, to the
25 Baker and Duval County line, the Georgia line,

1 west to Monroe Street and the Capitol, the
2 largest district east of the Mississippi River.

3 SENATOR LYNN: Good evening, I am Senator
4 Evelyn Lynn. I represent District 7, and I
5 have large parts of Volusia, Clay, Marion and
6 Putnam Counties, and thank you all for being
7 here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening
9 everyone, my name is John Patrick Julien. I
10 represent House District 104, which is in Miami
11 Dade County, and earlier today after the
12 meeting that we had in The Villages I had a
13 pleasant conversation with several members of
14 the Citrus County Democratic Party, and they
15 recommended that each one of us mention our
16 party affiliation.

17 So keeping in light with that spirit, I am
18 a member of the Democratic Party.

19 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hello, everybody, my
20 name is Martin Kiar. I represent District 97
21 in the Florida House of Representatives, which
22 is located solely within Brevard County,
23 Florida. Thank you all so much for coming out
24 tonight.

25 SENATOR ALTMAN: Thad Altman, Senate

1 District 24, which is east central Florida,
2 Brevard, Orange and Seminole County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Mack Bernard,
4 State Representative from West Palm Beach,
5 Florida, and a graduate of the University of
6 Florida College of Law.

7 SENATOR MONTFORD: I am Bill Montford,
8 State Senator, District 6, which is all or part
9 of 11 counties, including, Leon, Tallahassee,
10 and the surrounding counties. Glad to be here.
11 Thank you for being here.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,
13 I am State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed
14 representing House District 92 in Broward
15 County, the northeast quadrant. I represent
16 seven cities in that area.

17 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good evening, I am
18 State Representative Mia Jones from
19 Jacksonville, representing District 14.

20 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening,
21 Hazelle Rogers, State Representative for
22 District 94 in Broward County. The county that
23 boast 1.8 million residents, the most adverse
24 county in Broward County, representing eight
25 cities. Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good evening,
2 Representative Jim Boyd from District 68 which
3 is Manatee County, down south of Tampa Bay.
4 Thank you for being here tonight.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Representative
6 Kathleen Passidomo from Collier County. I
7 represent the City of Naples, Marco Islands,
8 Everglades city. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Hi, I am
10 Representative Dana Young, and I represent the
11 City of Tampa and parts of Hillsborough County.
12 Thank you for being here.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Good evening,
14 Matt Caldwell, Representative of District 73
15 down in Lee County, Ft. Myers, but born here at
16 Shands Medical Hospital.

17 REPRESENTATIVE BEMBRY: Leonard Bembry,
18 District 10. I represent all or part of ten
19 small counties in north central Florida, that
20 is including Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton,
21 Taylor, Dixie, Levy, Franklin, Wakulla. So we
22 have a lot of good people in this part of the
23 world.

24 SENATOR HAYS: I am Alan Hays, I represent
25 Senate District 20 which is parts of Volusia,

1 Seminole, Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties, and
2 one proud graduate of the University of Florida
3 College of Dentistry, charter class.

4 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,
5 everyone, my name is Dwayne Taylor. I
6 represent House District 27 which is in Volusia
7 County, and I represent six cities in Volusia
8 County. Thank you for coming.

9 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you. I am
10 Dennis Baxley, Florida House District 24,
11 Ocala, Marion County. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Anna Rivas Logan,
13 Miami Dade County, House District 114, and I,
14 too, am a proud Gator, College of Engineering
15 and both my daughter and my son-in-law are both
16 Gators.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PORTER: Hi, Elizabeth
18 Porter, District 11, represent all or part of
19 Alachua, Suwannee, Gilchrist, Lafayette, a
20 little tiny bit of Dixie, part of here. So
21 happy to be here.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ADKINS: Hi, my name is
23 Janet Adkins. I represent House District 12,
24 which is Nassau, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Union
25 and Duval Counties.

1 REPRESENTATIVE PERRY: My name is Keith
2 Perry. I represent parts of Alachua, Levy and
3 Marion Counties and it gives me the distinct
4 honor and privilege to be your Representative
5 for some of you in this room. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good afternoon,
7 Chuck Chestnut, representing a portion of
8 Alachua County, Marion County, House District
9 23. Again, thank you all for coming and I
10 would like you all to help me welcome the
11 Legislature here to Gainesville and Alachua
12 County. And thank you for coming.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: All right, we have now
14 picked up seven more people, and now Michael
15 Bowie is number 70. So now we are going to, in
16 order to be fair to Mr. Bowie and make sure
17 everybody has a chance to speak we would like
18 to, we would like to move quickly.

19 Here is what we would like to do. You
20 will speak from there. So if Ann Stone will
21 come forward, followed by James Elland, Fred
22 Pratt, and James, I think it is Desjardin, and
23 those seats there will be on the deck seats.

24 So Ann Stone will speak first and then
25 Mr. Elland and Mr. Pratt and Mr. Desjardin if I

1 get that name correctly, if you will be on the
2 on deck circle we can move quickly.

3 And I apologize to you, but in order to be
4 fair to everyone who wants to speak, I would
5 ask that we hold our remarks as briefly as we
6 can. If somebody has already said what you
7 have said, you know, you don't have to feel
8 constrained to say it begin, and I know we all
9 want to express our views and our feelings
10 about our speakers, but the more we applaud or
11 boo or anything else, that takes time away from
12 the people who are at the back end.

13 So let's get started, and Ms. Stone, you
14 are recognized for two and-a-half minutes.

15 MS. STONE: Hi, I am very nervous so I
16 have written out what I want to say.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing fine.

18 MS. STONE: My name is Ann Stone and we
19 live in Newberry, we have been there for 12
20 years. I want to thank you for this
21 opportunity to tell you how important the
22 redistricting is to my husband and me.

23 As you have guessed, we are retired and
24 that means Social Security. It is very
25 important to us to be able to communicate face

1 to face with those who represent us.

2 Steve Oelrich's district is perfect. We
3 don't have to use a week's allowance of gas to
4 meet with him. I believe that is the way it
5 should be for everyone. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Stone, and
7 next, James Elland.

8 MR. ELLAND: My name is James Elland.
9 First I would just like to say, thank you for
10 actually coming, and actually listening to us,
11 instead of a lot of the people in the County
12 Commission that we dealt with last night, they
13 want to argue with us and not try to move
14 anything, but we do want to thank you for
15 coming, and that is all I have to say.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
17 Mr. Pratt, you are recognized, sir. Thank you
18 for coming.

19 MR. PRATT: Is it on?

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, sir.

21 MR. PRATT: Thank you for being here. I
22 am really kind of puzzled, you know, there are
23 no maps. I mean, how are we supposed to make
24 -- how are you supposed to talk about things
25 when there is no maps, and I am really in favor

1 of the Fair Districts Florida plan which is
2 continuous districts that encompass a county, a
3 city.

4 Don't break up the county like you have
5 Alachua County where Alachua County is in, some
6 of it is in one district and some of it is in
7 another district and the same with Gainesville.
8 I mean, that is only fair. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Pratt, for
10 that good testimony. And I apologize, James
11 Desjardin, followed by John Reiskind from the
12 Alachua County Democratic Party, and then Dr.
13 Gunnar Paulson is on deck, and I, if I have
14 butchered your name, sir, I apologize.

15 MR. DESJARDIN: That is close enough. My
16 name is Jim Desjardin or Desjardin, and I am a
17 member of the League of Women Voters in this
18 county, and also a member of the Democratic
19 Party.

20 And along with many, many other people I
21 work very hard to get this amendment, well,
22 first of all, to get the amendment on and then
23 to get it passed, and I am here to plead that
24 you will perhaps follow the law and make
25 compact contiguous districts rather than having

1 them a yard wide and 200 miles long to pick up
2 parties, people from your party.

3 I think that the district should choose
4 the Representatives and not the different --
5 the Representatives pick out the voters they
6 would like to have voting for them.

7 So please, we could do a much better job
8 if we had maps that we could comment on, that
9 really is your job. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you so
11 much for that testimony, John. I think it is
12 Reiskind from the Alachua County Democratic
13 Party, and then Dr. Gunnar Paulson, and then
14 Roy Abshien, you are recognized, thank you for
15 being here tonight, sir.

16 MR. REISKIND: Sure, the name is Reiskind.
17 I wanted to go into a little history of
18 gerrymandering, which the change of our State
19 Constitution is going to make a lot more
20 difficult and hopefully ban.

21 There may be, there may often be good
22 idealistic reasons to produce geographically
23 distorted districts, but they are still
24 distortions and I wanted to talk about the very
25 first case of this in America that I believe

1 took place 25 years before Governor Jerry of
2 Massachusetts imposed such a districting plan
3 in his state and gave the name gerrymandering
4 to gerrymandering.

5 The perpetrator was the Governor of
6 Virginia, Patrick Henry. He was strongly
7 opposed to the new U.S. Constitution which he
8 felt could lead to a monarchy, a Constitution
9 that took too many rights away from the states.
10 A Constitution that did not have provision to
11 protect many of the rights of citizens. He was
12 considered at the time an anti Federalist.

13 Now, James Madison, the father of our
14 Constitution, was a Federalist who promised
15 that he would do his best to add as amendments
16 a Bill of Rights to the Constitution, but
17 Henry, Governor Henry was skeptical and blocked
18 Madison's Senatorial aspirations.

19 So James Madison decided to run for
20 Congress in 1789, the very first Congress.
21 Governor Henry then gerrymandered the first
22 Congressional District of Virginia, putting in
23 all of the anti Federalist counties he could,
24 in addition to the home county of James
25 Madison, and found a former tall General to run

1 against him by the name of James Monroe, but
2 Madison campaigned very hard.

3 It was in February, it was cold, and
4 Madison was a very slight, he was shorter than
5 I was, am, and he won that race in spite of
6 Patrick Henry's gerrymandering.

7 He fulfilled his promise, as politicians
8 should, and we have our Bill of Rights today.
9 So this is just a little story about I think
10 the dangers of gerrymandering.

11 Now we have for the first time criteria to
12 apply to redistricting, that we have neutral
13 districts, that they are compact, et cetera, as
14 in our amendments to the Constitution.

15 It should make our elected Legislators
16 more responsive to the communities they serve.
17 Maps would, of course, help us at this process,
18 but I understand your introduction.

19 This process, if done properly, will be a
20 very good thing. It is time to stop, to end
21 the distortions, whether it is to keep
22 incumbents in office, or to put as many of one
23 party into as few districts as possible.

24 I urge you to do your legal duty and do
25 your best this coming year. Thank you very

1 much.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you for
3 some of that great background. And now
4 Dr. Gunnar Paulson, followed by Roy Abshien,
5 and then Robert Jordan would be next.
6 Dr. Paulson, thank you for being here.

7 DR. PAULSON: Thank you for being here
8 tonight. It is interesting what John was
9 talking about gerrymandering because you are
10 sitting in a county that is the epitomy of
11 gerrymandering.

12 Here we are in a county of a quarter of a
13 million people and we have four pieces of four
14 Representatives in the House. That is
15 gerrymandering. So I think the other thing is
16 about the maps, I disagree with you. If I was
17 going to do something I would have had maps
18 first.

19 I know when I had to write my dissertation
20 I didn't just -- I didn't just go around and
21 write it in pieces, I wrote it and then I had a
22 draft and then I corrected it from there, but
23 if you can't have the maps tonight, what really
24 needs to be done, and I would like you to think
25 about this.

1 I think you should give us a deadline that
2 you do have maps. Don't give us maps next
3 June. Don't give us maps at the end of the
4 legislative session. You could say you could
5 have maps to be ready in January. You could
6 say that you have maps that are debated and
7 given to us this fall and I hope you take that
8 into consideration, because I don't think then
9 if you say no to that, I don't think your
10 argument would be logical or valid what you are
11 giving to us tonight if you don't give it to
12 us.

13 The next thing is, you know, I looked at
14 this about setting boundaries. If you look at
15 Alachua County, Alachua County, like I said,
16 has a quarter of a million people, but we are
17 really unique in that we have 215,000 people in
18 the urban area.

19 I live right next door here. I don't live
20 in the City of Gainesville, but our urban area
21 has 215,000 people, and if you look at the map,
22 Marion County has 331,000 people. They have
23 three seats down there and two of them just
24 filled in their district and then you have
25 parts in ours.

1 We could have two full seats here, and I
2 hope that takes into consideration, or you can
3 look at, I was looking at it, it took me five
4 minutes to do this. I looked at us in
5 Gilchrist County and Levy county, there is
6 635,000 people, five seats are 650,000 people.

7 You have boundaries of four counties, you
8 have the river, Santa Fe and the Suwannee
9 river. These are the kinds of things that I
10 hope you look at.

11 Now, one of the last things is, I have got
12 all of my degrees from the University of
13 Florida and I am glad we have so many Florida
14 graduates up there. If you really care about
15 the University of Florida, and we need to be
16 guaranteed representation in this county and
17 this city.

18 We don't need to have parts of just all of
19 these different places where we have our seats,
20 and I hope you take that into consideration,
21 because it is the flagship University, we are
22 the major urban center in north central
23 Florida, and I hope we do have that, it is all
24 taken into consideration and I am a proponent
25 of the fair districts and for what that is, you

1 are trying to keep political and natural
2 boundaries and it is contiguous. I think I
3 have given you all of these when I spoke to
4 you.

5 Again, I appreciate it. I hope that you
6 can take it again, the last thing I want to
7 leave you with is, please, set a deadline for
8 the maps. Even if you have, if you feel like
9 you are entitled and not giving us maps
10 tonight, you don't need to give us maps in
11 April. You don't need to give us maps in May.

12 Set a deadline, let us know so that we
13 really can have an input. Again, thank you for
14 coming here tonight and I appreciate you
15 listening to us, and go Gators.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you,
17 Dr. Paulson. And Dr. Paulson, just so you
18 would know, just as a factual matter, there is
19 absolutely no prohibition to any maps being
20 introduced by any Legislator as soon as today.

21 So, you know, there is certainly no
22 requirement that maps be introduced late in the
23 process. They can be introduced today. In
24 fact, we have maps now that are on the website
25 that have been proposed.

1 Ray Abshien and then next, Robert Jordan
2 and following Mr. Jordan, Goldie Schwartz from
3 the Sierra Club.

4 Ray Abshien, you are recognized, and
5 thanks so much for coming tonight.

6 MR. ABSHIEN: Yes, sir, thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman, that is Roy Abshien. Before I
8 read this, for reasons that will be obvious, I
9 want to tell you who the signatories are on
10 this letter.

11 It is Reginald Landers, Jr.,
12 Vice-Chairman, Marion County Democrat Executive
13 Committee, and Roy Abshien, Chairman of the
14 Marion County Republican Executive Committee.

15 Mr. Chairman, on behalf of our Marion
16 County community, thank you for the opportunity
17 to address you and the committee members and to
18 provide input on this most important
19 redistricting process.

20 We implore you to consider the
21 significance of Marion County and its five
22 municipalities of Ocala, Bellview, Dunellen,
23 McIntosh, and Redding, as a designated
24 community of interest in your redistricting
25 process.

1 With the explosive growth over the past
2 ten years, and a current population of over
3 330,000 people, Marion County's land mass of
4 over 1,660 square miles makes us the fourth
5 largest county in Florida.

6 While we acknowledge and appreciate the
7 exceptional public service and I want to pause
8 here, there are four, we are blessed to have
9 four Senators and they are all on stage tonight
10 and we thank you for the job you are doing for
11 us.

12 While we acknowledge and appreciate these
13 folks, the public service of all of our
14 legislative delegation under present
15 conditions, we have only one member out of the
16 seven members that is from Marion County.

17 While all have been attentive, their
18 primary seat of interest is in another
19 community, and we have not yet had a Senator
20 from Marion County in over 20 years.

21 The county is currently divided into four
22 separate Senate Districts with each
23 representing only a portion of our community.

24 It is imperative that Marion County have
25 contiguous representation whenever possible.

1 These fractured districts preclude our ability
2 to speak with one voice as a community.

3 In addition, the current district
4 configuration has created a logistical hardship
5 in advancing our community issues and needs to
6 the Legislature.

7 The time to act is now. We, the citizens
8 of Marion County, together, speak as one voice
9 on this redistricting issue. Please assure
10 that our voices heard by giving us compact,
11 contiguous and equitable legislative
12 representation. Our economic vitality, our
13 prosperity and quality of life, our very future
14 is at stake.

15 Respectively submitted again, Reginald
16 Landers, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Marion County
17 Democratic Executive Committee, and Roy
18 Abshien, Chairman of the Marion County
19 Republican Executive Committee. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Great bi-partisan
21 comments. Thank you. Robert Jordan is next,
22 and following Mr. Jordan, Goldie Schwartz, and
23 then Anna Jordan is next after Goldie Schwartz.

24 Mr. Jordan, thank you for being here
25 tonight. We look forward to your testimony.

1 MR. JORDAN: Thank you. My name is Robert
2 Jordan. I am a retired attorney and by the
3 way, Anna Jordan will not be speaking.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Okay.

5 MR. JORDAN: My comments will be brief. I
6 am concerned about the constitutionality of
7 redistricting. You base your redistricting on
8 the U.S. Census which counts all of the
9 population of the state of Florida regardless
10 of citizenship.

11 Therefore, some districts are based on
12 people who are not legally allowed to be here
13 and are not legally allowed to vote.
14 Therefore, the people who legally can vote get
15 more representation than counties and areas
16 where everybody there is basically legally
17 there.

18 Instances of south Florida, Dade and
19 Broward County have a substantial amount of
20 representation. They also have a substantial
21 amount of illegal aliens. That is
22 unconstitutional.

23 I doubt that there is anything that you
24 can or will do about that, because you have to
25 base your numbers on the U. S. Census, but it

1 is not fair to counties like Levy County where
2 I am from, because we get less representation.
3 That is unconstitutional. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Jordan,
5 and next, Goldie Schwartz and following Goldie
6 Schwartz, Darlene, I think it is P-i-F-a-l-o,
7 and then Adelia Vachon, Vachon, is that right?

8 Ms. Schwartz, you are recognized. Thank
9 you for coming tonight.

10 MS. SCHWARTZ: Thank you so much for
11 coming here, too, and it was kind of a last
12 minute thing that I came and obviously from the
13 previous speakers, I didn't do a lot of
14 homework.

15 All I came to represent is my favor to
16 what the citizens passed, which was Amendment V
17 and VI, and I want you to, recommend that you
18 follow the actual language that was presented.

19 And I also would like to recommend that
20 cities not be separated, and I agree with a lot
21 of what the previous speakers have said about
22 natural areas, natural cities, boundaries being
23 kept as you are in the process of
24 redistricting. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Ms. Schwartz. And now, is it Darlene, I
2 apologize, PiFalo, is that correct?

3 MS. PIFALO: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. PiFalo,
5 and then Adella Vachon is next, and then
6 Rosalie, I am not even going to try. We are
7 just going to call you Rosalie from the League
8 of Women Voters.

9 MS. PIFALO: Thank you, and that was a
10 very good pronunciation, but I go by Darlene.
11 Thank you for being here. It is an honor to
12 have you all sit and listen to us.

13 I was listening, when I was listening to
14 people and trying to figure out why am I here,
15 and I think about our Constitution, but someone
16 just brought up something, I won't take long,
17 but the Census.

18 I thought that was very interesting,
19 because I have been, I am a realtor, I have
20 been a realtor for 38 years in the state of
21 Florida, but with the Census it brought
22 something to mind, because actually the Census
23 takers, I called the National Association of
24 Real Attorneys, the Florida Association of
25 Realtors on this, because the Census, when

1 taking the Census, they were calling realtors
2 to ask them how many people lived in that
3 house.

4 And I took the liberty of saying I don't
5 have a right to tell you that, because I think
6 it would have skewed the numbers of the Census
7 and if they were doing it all over the country,
8 it frightens me that that is what they were
9 doing, because I didn't know if I had a house
10 listed, if there were five people in there, ten
11 people in there, or nobody in there.

12 So that kind of concerned me when the
13 Census was being taken. So I just want to
14 leave you with that question in your mind.
15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Very good point. Thank
17 you very much. Ms. Vachon, is it Vachon,
18 ma'am? Thank you very much and we look forward
19 to your testimony. Rosalie, you are on deck,
20 and then Jean Calderwood, would you please be
21 ready?

22 MS. VACHON: Yes, I am Adella Vachon and I
23 also live in Levy County and near the city of
24 Williston and that is one of the points I want
25 to make.

1 When you are talking about how lines are
2 drawn, my understanding is that right down
3 Noble Avenue, which is down the center of
4 Williston, one side is one district and the
5 other side is the other district.

6 And so obviously that is not a very
7 unified district in, group in that district
8 because you have one Representative on one side
9 of the street and the other one on the other
10 side. So it is a little hard for them to speak
11 for everybody if they are halfway divided.

12 So I think one of the things we need to
13 look at is to make sure that these are drawn
14 fair and equitable, so everybody has fair
15 representation regardless of whether it is a
16 political party, regardless of minority group
17 or whatever they are, all of us should be able
18 to be represented.

19 So I think that going along with the idea
20 of gerrymandering and all you have to do is to
21 look at our maps in color and it is very
22 obvious that what we have been dealing with
23 since 2000, there is a lot of gerrymandering in
24 Florida.

25 I think they should be contiguous, they

1 should be compact if it is possible. Honor
2 city lines, honor county lines to get your
3 people in a group so you are not dividing
4 cities, you are not dividing counties.

5 They have alluded to this, the County of
6 Alachua has four different districts, it should
7 never be like that. They should be able to
8 speak with one voice for that city.

9 It reminds me of a child playing baseball,
10 and Papa becomes the coach so the kid can play
11 even though he is not a good player. We go out
12 and we draw these lines so regardless of what,
13 you know, what you are doing, you are just
14 really not up to par representing everybody
15 equally, and I don't think that should be.

16 And this needs to be done in a timely
17 manner. As I understand that your maps can't
18 be out until 2012. Okay, that is fine, but
19 let's get them done because if you don't get
20 them done and then they have to be signed off
21 on by the Florida Supreme Court, they have to
22 be signed off by the Department of Justice.

23 My question to you is, what if they get
24 signed off by the Florida Supreme Court and
25 they go up and they don't get signed off by the

1 Justice Department and we are already up to
2 May, because you have to declare for your -- if
3 you are going to be a candidate to run in June.

4 So where is your time going to be to
5 redraw those and for people to know,
6 particularly in your Congressional Districts
7 when you are adding two districts. There are
8 people now in their districts, as you said,
9 they change in the population.

10 Somebody that is representing a district
11 may no longer live in the district they are
12 currently representing, and one map I want to
13 show you in particular, and we are up here in
14 the rural area, and I know that Representative
15 Bembry, if you look at his district, and if you
16 look at Senator Dean's district, all you have
17 to do is look at their districts in these
18 colored matches and you understand the
19 territory they cover.

20 How on earth can they represent people
21 over such an area? There isn't any way
22 possible they can ever meet with all of these
23 people in their district or even a very low
24 percentage of them.

25 But look at our Congressional District 6

1 and tell me this isn't gerrymandering.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could somebody assist Ms.
3 Vachon to hold that up so that the audience can
4 see it? And Ms. Vachon, I would like to ask
5 you, just because of the large number of people
6 behind you, if you could wrap it up, please.

7 MS. VACHON: Yes, I am going to with this.
8 Look at the yellow, that is Congressional
9 District 6.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes.

11 MS. VACHON: I think it is very obvious
12 there has been gerrymandering there, and I have
13 other maps that show that --

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
15 ma'am, for your testimony. Thank you. And
16 just as a point of factual information, the
17 people who are on this stage didn't draw maps
18 and then run on the maps they drew.

19 Actually somebody else drew the maps in
20 the districts we had to run in. So we
21 understand that.

22 And now we would like to hear from
23 Rosalie, and Rosalie, out of curiosity, can you
24 help me with your last name?

25 BANDYODHYAY: Sure, absolutely. I am

1 Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, that is how you say my
2 name, Bandyopadhyay.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Bandyopadhyay.

4 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Uh-huh, perfect.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Got it, thank you very
6 much, and thanks for being here on behalf of
7 the League tonight.

8 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Thank you. I am a
9 member of the League of Women Voters for 37
10 years, and our members, we have about the first
11 three rows here, we are sitting all front and
12 center, and we would like to welcome you all to
13 Alachua County, Gainesville, on behalf of the
14 League and welcome to Gator country.

15 There is a great deal of interest and
16 concern in our area, as you hear, about the
17 redistricting process. As the Legislature
18 makes one of the most important decisions of
19 the decade, apportionment of legislative and
20 congressional lines.

21 Throughout these hearings you have been
22 hearing from citizens and League members about
23 how upset they are that the state of Florida is
24 spending taxpayer money to go to court to try
25 and invalidate the will of 63 percent of the

1 voters, 3.1 million, who voted in favor of the
2 Fair Districts Amendments in November.

3 Some have said that you are not spending
4 money to invalidate the will of the voters, but
5 that you have simply joined the lawsuit in
6 order to clarify how the amendments impact the
7 Federal Voting Rights Act.

8 As a long time resident of this area and a
9 past League president, I need to state that
10 this statement is contrary to the facts. I
11 have here the complaint and other legal papers
12 that have been filed by Gray Robinson of
13 Speaker Cannon's previous law firm on behalf of
14 the House.

15 Nowhere in these legal papers is there any
16 request for clarification as some of you have
17 said, that it is only for clarification, and in
18 fact the only thing the House is asking in
19 these papers for the Court to do is invalidate
20 Amendment VI by ruling it unconstitutional, and
21 I quote from these.

22 "Wherefore, the House of Representatives
23 respectfully request."

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Let's let Rosalie talk,
25 please.

1 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Thank you. I am just
2 reading, quoting from here. "Wherefore, the
3 House of Representatives respectfully request
4 the Court to declare the Amendment facially
5 unconstitutional under the election clause of
6 the United States Constitution." This
7 specifically as it is addressed here is Article
8 1, section (4), clause 1 of the U.S.
9 Constitution.

10 Misrepresentation of the purpose of this
11 lawsuit gives the League members and the League
12 of Women Voters of Florida grave concern and
13 should be of concern to every Florida citizen.

14 So we now ask this committee and the
15 Legislature to drop the lawsuit, stop spending
16 taxpayer dollars for it, follow the law of the
17 land and let's get to work on drawing these
18 maps. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very. Jean
20 Calderwood is next, Ms. Calderwood. And
21 following Ms. Calderwood, Alton Hines and
22 following Alton Hines, Alex Patton.

23 Ms. Calderwood, thank you for being here.
24 We look forward to your testimony.

25 MS. CALDERWOOD: Thank you, and thank each

1 and everyone of you for being here. We know
2 that a lot of you are far away from your homes
3 and this has been a very tedious and laborious
4 project that is again important for the future
5 generations of the state of Florida of Florida,
6 so we appreciate you being here and listening
7 to us.

8 I can tell you that I proudly served as
9 the Mayor of the City of Alachua, which
10 compared to Gainesville, we are the next
11 largest city in Alachua County, but even though
12 we only boast about 10,000 people, I formally
13 served about four years as Mayor and seven
14 years on the Commission.

15 And even though we are a small proud rural
16 community, we did end or act very much with the
17 urban areas and our representation with the
18 House and the Senate from the State standpoint
19 and Congressional standpoint, our interaction
20 there often meant that we had to make sure that
21 the voice of the rural folks was heard.

22 When you start looking at Amendment V and
23 Amendment VI and the compactness and the
24 contiguous lines around counties and city
25 borders, we don't want to sacrifice the vote or

1 the voice of the rural folks that are out
2 there.

3 If you will look at the City of Alachua,
4 we are 46 square miles. When you look at an
5 area, that sounds like a pretty decent amount
6 of land, but when you are competing with urban
7 areas, and that is the case throughout the
8 state of Florida, the rural concerns and the
9 rural needs can be very much different from
10 those in the urban areas.

11 We want all districts to be fair. We want
12 everyone to be represented. We want every
13 voice to be heard and every vote to count, but
14 let's not sacrifice those that cross county
15 lines into rural areas.

16 An example would be the legislation last
17 year that had to do with septic tanks in the
18 state of Florida. That was an issue that
19 probably didn't bother anybody at all in Miami,
20 Florida. It probably didn't bother a lot of
21 people in Jacksonville, but in the
22 unincorporated areas of many counties, that
23 became a very expensive contentious issue and
24 some of our Representatives, where they crossed
25 rural lines, heard that voice. So that

1 representation was extremely important,
2 Representative Porter, some of our people,
3 Representative Chestnut, Senator Oelrich from
4 these areas know, Representative Perry, know
5 firsthand what that means.

6 So we ask when you look at the appeal to
7 be compact and contiguous, don't exclude your
8 rural people from those lines. Don't set a
9 line that is going to make their voice not
10 heard when there is legislation enacted,
11 statewide or in the Congress. Thank you very
12 much.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you for
14 your service to your community. Next is Alton
15 Hines, please, and following Alton Hines, Alex
16 Patton and we have a very large number of
17 speakers.

18 So please, in deference to your friends
19 and neighbors, if somebody said it before,
20 maybe, maybe you can just say ditto, but
21 Mr. Hines, we are delighted to have you here
22 and look forward to what you have to say.

23 MR. HINES: Thank you very much for
24 allowing us this opportunity. I represent the
25 Columbia County Republican Executive Committee

1 and I would like to speak to you for just a
2 moment on our thoughts and views on the issue
3 before us.

4 In Columbia County, it has a population of
5 about 67,000 people, yet we have got four
6 Representatives in Tallahassee, and I guess you
7 could say that would be, that would be good,
8 but at the same time, we would prefer to see
9 Columbia County whole in a state and in the
10 State Senate and also in the State House of
11 Representatives.

12 I know that U. S. 90 is a good line of
13 demarcation for dividing the districts in half,
14 but at the same time, it is not necessarily
15 good for the citizens of Columbia County.

16 Columbia County takes our politics and our
17 politicking very seriously with a series of
18 rallies where we invite both the Democrats and
19 the Republicans to speak before the -- those
20 who come, and we will have in excess of 100 to
21 150 people come out on five or six different
22 nights all throughout the county.

23 And if Columbia county was all in one
24 State Senate seat, then we would be able to
25 have our Representative there all of the time

1 for all of the districts, for all of the
2 different precincts.

3 You know, the other issue that comes to
4 mind is the excess work that multiple Senate
5 and House seats puts on the Supervisor of
6 Election's Office, particularly when it comes
7 to tabulating the votes.

8 It delays the announcement of the final
9 results, but it also just puts additional work
10 on the Supervisor as far as training poll
11 workers and educating the public.

12 It is very often in Columbia County that
13 we have voters who are disappointed because for
14 one reason or the other they show up at the
15 wrong poll, and they try to vote in the wrong
16 district. If everybody was in the same
17 district, that problem would not exist.

18 And the other issue -- okay, I thank you
19 very much. To summarize, I could say we would
20 like it say that we would like to see the State
21 districts and the Senate seats all contiguous.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.
23 Next, Alex Patton, followed by Robert Hoffer
24 from the American Postal Workers Union, and
25 behind Mr. Hoffer, Kathy Kidder, another

1 representative of League of Women Voters.

2 Mr. Patton.

3 MR. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My
4 name is Alex Patton, I have been following the
5 redistricting debates since 1990, when I worked
6 on my very first campaign and I do not envy the
7 complex process that all of you are going
8 through.

9 In fact, I am starting to question who
10 each one of you individually made angry so that
11 you drew this short straw. However, we welcome
12 you to Gainesville and we are glad that you are
13 allowing us to have our input into this very
14 valuable process.

15 I am afraid that this process may be even
16 made more difficult with the Fair Districts
17 Amendments that were passed last year.

18 Obviously, fair districts are something
19 that sound like a really good thing. However,
20 and again, who wouldn't want these districts to
21 be drawn fairly? But at the end of the day I
22 just don't understand the language used in the
23 Amendment and exactly what they are trying to
24 intend to do.

25 For example, the law says these districts

1 may not be drawn with the intent to favor or
2 disfavor the incumbent or political party.
3 That language in itself is problematic.

4 It is like saying something is pink or
5 unpink. Now, I am a pretty bright guy. I went
6 to the University of Florida, and I don't know
7 what in the hell that means. So, again, I wish
8 you well. These laws, themselves, make
9 absolutely no sense to me, and I think that
10 that is the kind of confusion that these types
11 of rules and these types of amendments that are
12 passed that are feel good amendments that are
13 going to certainly lead me to not envy the task
14 that all of you are undertaking.

15 So I do thank you all very much for your
16 patience and your ability to listen to all of
17 us, and my only hope is, is that I wish you the
18 best of luck in drawing these maps.

19 However, I want you to pay particular
20 attention to protect our right to equally
21 proportional districts and there are strong
22 arguments made by minority participation in the
23 districts in the way that they are drawn, and
24 also something that respects the Voting Rights
25 Act of 1965. Thank you all very much, and I

1 wish you well.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Robert
3 Hoffer, and following Mr. Hoffer, Kathy Kidder
4 and then Laurie Newsom.

5 Mr. Hoffer, thank you for being here on
6 behalf of the Postal Workers Union. We look
7 forward to anything you might have to share
8 with us.

9 MR. HOFFER: Well, I appreciate the
10 opportunity to address the gathering here, and
11 I was going to go on a tirade about how this is
12 costing a lot of money and there is no maps.

13 So what are we talking about, but although
14 it is an expensive exercise in public
15 interaction with their Legislators, I won't get
16 into that.

17 I do appreciate the difficulty that you
18 are having. I know that maps are being drawn.
19 I mean, that anybody that sits here and thinks
20 that there aren't maps being drawn is pretty
21 naive.

22 And the previous speaker was talking about
23 how contiguous and just wants to be fair. I
24 know that as an objective person, when I look
25 at some of these districts, they look awfully

1 strange, and as an objective person, they don't
2 seem right.

3 It just seems like they have been drawn up
4 with a particular purpose in mind, and I won't
5 get into that, but we felt like there is
6 something needed to be done, that it just had
7 gotten out of hand, and that is why the
8 Amendments passed, and overwhelmingly.

9 So for our Legislature to be fighting it
10 and be hiring a legal team to be fighting it is
11 unconstitutional, you know, it is kind of hard
12 to swallow by most people.

13 The speaker did say something about how
14 you could contact these people by e-mail or
15 Snail Mail. Sir, Snail Mail goes pretty dang
16 fast compared to the Legislature and the postal
17 service is very secure.

18 As far as voting, I would like for
19 everyone to consider that vote by mail would
20 reduce the cost of a lot of -- the cost
21 incurred by the Supervisors of Elections and it
22 would make it where even people that are in
23 these big huge areas, it would make it easier
24 for them to get their votes cast and counted.

25 The mail is secure, it is inexpensive,

1 hopefully we will still be around for years
2 more to come and deliver your ballots by mail.
3 Thank you for my opportunity --

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and you get
5 the prize for the best one liner of the night
6 so far. And you are right, maps are being
7 drawn, there is about a dozen of them on the
8 websites now. Thank you, Mr. Hoffer.

9 Kathy Kidder, also from the League of
10 Women Voters, followed by Laurie Newsom and
11 then Nicholas Wilson and Ron Gonzalez, if you
12 will be ready as well. Ms. Kidder, thank you
13 so much for being here.

14 MS. KIDDER: Thank you. I am here to say
15 on behalf of the League that voters are
16 ill-served by the timeline you have set for
17 redistricting. The Legislature plans to adopt
18 redistricting maps in March, at the end of the
19 legislative session.

20 That is too late. Potential candidates
21 won't know the boundaries of the new districts
22 in time to effectively campaign and voters will
23 hardly have a chance to get to know the
24 candidates before fall elections.

25 One could think that this whole process is

1 simply designed to protect incumbents. Is
2 there an alternative? Of course. Other states
3 are already well into redistricting. Some have
4 completed it. Florida needs to get moving.

5 It is not an easy process and it takes
6 time. You have repeatedly said that the
7 Constitution prevents you from acting on
8 redistricting until the 2012 legislative
9 session.

10 Let's be very clear. You can do
11 everything but vote on the final plans right
12 now and through this year. Why can't you
13 advance the time table so that the Legislature
14 votes on redistricting in early January, staff
15 and committees could be drawing maps right now
16 as the hearings continue.

17 Perhaps that is occurring. Maps can
18 certainly be prepared and released soon after
19 the final hearing on September 1st. That
20 allows four months for citizen input, committee
21 work and legislative study to discuss and
22 refine the proposals so the lawmakers can vote
23 on them in the very first week of the January
24 session.

25 An extra two months will allow for the

1 litigation that is certain to come and for
2 court and Justice Department review. I was
3 appalled as I listened to yesterday's hearing
4 to hear the suggestion that the Court speed up
5 their process rather than taking the full time
6 allotted for their review.

7 You have the power to speed up your
8 process. The League wholeheartedly supports
9 the Supervisors of Election who have been
10 appearing regularly at these hearings to tell
11 you that conducting effective fair elections
12 under this timeline is going to be problematic.

13 Adopting a realistic, a redistricting plan
14 in January is realistic, very possible, and
15 eliminates the difficulties that Supervisors,
16 voters and candidates will have under your
17 plan.

18 Why can't you revise the redistricting
19 timeline so that Legislators can approve the
20 plan in the first week of the 2012 session?
21 The League of Women Voters urges you to make
22 your redistricting plans available soon, to
23 solicit citizen input on these maps and to
24 advance the date for adopting new districts.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Kidder.
2 And again, factually, just so you will know,
3 Ms. Kidder, there is nothing that prevents any
4 member of the Legislature from offering a map
5 today or from votes being taken as early as
6 January. So you are exactly right.

7 Next is Laurie Newsom and then Nicholas
8 Wilson, and then Bud -- I am sorry, Rod
9 Gonzalez. Ms. Newsom, thank you for being
10 here, and you are recognized.

11 MS. NEWSOM: Thank you, I am Laurie
12 Newsom. A proud member of the Alachua County
13 Republican Executive Committee, and as such
14 have been intensely involved in this whole
15 process.

16 I will be brief because Mr. Alex Patton
17 voiced one of my concerns, which is the
18 ambiguousness of the language of the two
19 amendments, and I hope that that is dealt with
20 fairly, because I am concerned that the
21 intention of the Amendments will be distorted
22 and actually cause possibly the opposite of
23 what the intent was meant to be.

24 I also can be brief because former Mayor
25 Jean Calderwood summed up my feelings

1 completely when it comes to the redistricting.
2 I am very concerned that the rural concerns
3 will be set aside and not attended to properly
4 in the redistricting process.

5 I am very concerned and interested in the
6 benefit of our rural areas, the citizens
7 involved and the lands involved. So I would
8 hope that this would be something that would be
9 taken with grave concern and great sincerity
10 when you do apply your expertise, and thank you
11 very much.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
13 Ms. Newsom. And next is Nicholas Wilson and
14 then Rod Gonzalez, and then I am sorry, Manny,
15 it could be Lucoff, at 5000 Southwest 25th
16 Boulevard. Your -- would you please be on
17 deck. Nicholas Wilson, thank you for coming.

18 MR. WILSON: Good evening, I am Nicholas
19 Wilson, I was born and raised here in Alachua
20 County. I just want to thank all of you for
21 taking the time tonight and the time that you
22 have continued to take by coming out and
23 listening to your community members and their
24 concerns.

25 The website that you have designed for us

1 is very informative, and the tools are very
2 helpful in allowing us to understand the
3 process.

4 It is frustrating though to hear of those
5 who are trying to slow and hinder your efforts
6 through to the Amendments passed last year and
7 I hope that when it is time to draw the new
8 districts that logic and common sense are used
9 and all of those involved will help instead of
10 hinder and allow the redistricting to move
11 quickly and smoothly.

12 I also want to say that I agree with
13 Ms. Calderwood and Mr. Patton in what they
14 said. So I don't really have much more to add
15 there. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Wilson.
17 Rod Gonzalez, you are up, and followed by Mr.,
18 I think it is Lucoff, and then Kathleen
19 Shiverick, I believe. Mr. Gonzalez, thank you
20 for coming tonight.

21 MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chairman, Senators,
22 Representatives, my name is Rod Gonzalez. I
23 appreciate you all being here today.

24 Call me sinical, I guess, but politics
25 being what they are, I can only assume that

1 those who started this whole process marketed
2 Amendment V and VI to the public who voted for
3 it, have defended it in court and are defending
4 it currently, must have had an image, a map
5 already drawn out.

6 You don't spend millions of dollars trying
7 to push this without already having something
8 in mind and kind of already knowing what the
9 outcome would be if you get it.

10 I mean, remember, this is politics,
11 nothing is left to chance. So I would only ask
12 that they already share those maps with the
13 public and with the committee.

14 These Amendments potentially mean a large
15 change to the state laws which are going to
16 cost us millions of dollars beyond what the
17 census would normally require we do every ten
18 years.

19 So I would ask that once again, those who
20 really were for this and pushed it initially
21 kind of perform a civic duty, save us time,
22 effort, money and litigation and share these
23 potential maps with us, the public and
24 yourself.

25 A lot of the individuals who are against

1 this are Democrats and Republicans, so
2 bipartisan. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
4 And next is, is it Manny Lucoff? Mr. Lucoff,
5 thank you for your testimony tonight, and you
6 are recognized before the committee.

7 MR. LUCOFF: Thank you for coming. Thank
8 you for getting it right. When one goes into
9 public service and wants to pursue political
10 office, one wonders what is the reason behind
11 why you are there where you are sitting now.

12 Is it because you are primarily interested
13 in serving the general public, or is it because
14 you have other motives? I am a little sinical
15 about this, and because there is such a large
16 outpour of members of this Legislature who are
17 fighting the fair districting, one wonders what
18 your motives are, to protect your seat and not
19 serve the public.

20 I perceive this exercise as a kabuki
21 dance, that we could save a great deal of money
22 by doing away with this public relations effort
23 to tell the public we are going to listen to
24 you. What a joke.

25 If one follows the news, reads the papers,

1 listens to the people who are in public office,
2 there is not much doubt as to what it is you
3 are up to. The majority party would love to
4 kill fair districts.

5 They are interested in redistricting, not
6 fair districting. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for your
8 testimony. Kathleen Shiverick, and after
9 Kathleen is Terry Martin-Back, and then Judy
10 Brumfield.

11 Ms. Shiverick, thank you for being here
12 tonight. We look forward to your comments.

13 MS. SHIVERICK: Yes, and thank you for
14 providing us with the opportunity to have
15 public input into this.

16 I have to confess, I was a little
17 skeptical coming here this evening, but
18 actually the statements for the bipartisan
19 impact of gerrymandering, it is really a
20 statement to the problems that we experience
21 locally here in Alachua County, and an
22 additional statement, the bipartisan letter
23 from Marion County.

24 There is no doubt that the redistricting
25 which took place ten years ago instituted in

1 Alachua County significant gerrymandering.

2 There are little slices of Gainesville
3 that go westward into very large multiple
4 county, very rural area, and it dilutes, it
5 dilutes out the voice of the cities within
6 Alachua County, as well as the University of
7 Florida which is a major economic enterprise.

8 So we would ask you to please consider
9 providing maps as soon as possible so that the
10 legal process that will need to take place next
11 spring will be done in a timely manner so that
12 fair elections can then take place in the 2012
13 election cycle. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for
15 your testimony. Terry Martin-Back and then
16 Judy Brumfield, and then Tamara Fleischaker, I
17 believe, and I apologize if I have
18 mispronounced that name.

19 MS. MARTIN-BACK: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
20 and Representatives here. Unlike some of the
21 folks here, I actually went on and did some
22 homework looking at the districts, and I was
23 trying to give an idea or an example of how we
24 could draw, especially Congressional District 6
25 where we can combine Marion County, Alachua

1 County and Columbia County.

2 But one thing I did notice is, is that
3 Marion County is in the central Florida
4 district, and Alachua County is in the north
5 central Florida district.

6 I would like to see a plan where we can
7 conceive to have the people of Alachua County,
8 Columbia County and the counties that
9 represented in that north central Florida
10 district. That way when we want to see our
11 Representative, we don't have to drive to
12 Orlando or we don't have to drive to
13 Jacksonville.

14 I also would like to, I beg you to please,
15 do not, do not create districts like Florida's
16 Third Congressional District. How can you
17 possibly conceive that somebody on the north
18 side of 16th Avenue has something different
19 from the guy across the street on 16th Avenue.

20 Please, I am asking you to do this, please
21 keep in mind the representation of those in
22 Union County who only have like 17,000 people,
23 keep them in consideration, and thank you for
24 being here tonight.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, very useful

1 testimony. Judy Brumfield and then Tamara
2 Fleischhaker, I think and then Delena May.
3 Ms. Brumfield, thank you for being here for
4 your testimony.

5 MS. BRUMFIELD: Thank you very much. Judy
6 Brumfield. Most of my comments have already
7 been addressed. I just want to say that these
8 Amendments, V and VI, the redistricting have,
9 is all very confusing and I just hope that you
10 people are not confused by it, and that the new
11 districts that you are drawing are not in favor
12 or disfavor of incumbents.

13 That this is not in favor of one political
14 party or another political party, and we just
15 want our tax dollars saved. We don't want you
16 to spend more money.

17 We are tired of game playing. We see it
18 enough at the local level. So please don't do
19 this to us anymore. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for your
21 comments. And Tamara, is it Tamara or Tamara?
22 And please help me with the last name. I
23 apologize.

24 MS. FLEISCHHAKER: It is Tamara
25 Fleischhaker.

1 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Tamara, I am sorry.

2 MS. FLEISCHHAKER: Thank you, it was a
3 valiant effort. Good evening, and on behalf of
4 the Ocala, Marion County Chamber of Commerce,
5 our Board of Directors and members, I would
6 like to thank you for the opportunity to speak
7 with you this evening and present a resolution,
8 and given the time and the number of speakers I
9 am just going to present a few highlights from
10 a resolution that we have submitted to the
11 Joint Committees.

12 And under our redistricting resolution,
13 whereas, the Marion County, it is five
14 municipalities, is deemed a community of
15 interest and under the current district
16 boundaries, legislative representation at both
17 the State and Federal levels is fractured and
18 fragmented, and Marion County has experienced
19 exponential growth within the past ten years,
20 and is expected to experience additional growth
21 of nine percent over the next decade.

22 And given that, we are the fourth largest
23 county in the state of Florida, and given the
24 diversity of our economic base, coupled with
25 our strategic location in the heart of north

1 central Florida, we resolve that Marion County
2 has a significant community of interest, should
3 be maintained in a single district where
4 possible.

5 S unified legislative voice is crucial to
6 the future prosperity of Marion County, to
7 compliment the healthy business, legislative
8 voice, sorry, business environment and economy
9 as well as contribute to the quality of life
10 for all of its citizens.

11 Where possible, easily and identifiable
12 compact, contiguous geographic boundaries
13 should be followed, recognizing the districts
14 must be configured so that they are relatively
15 equal in total population according to the
16 latest census data and applicable statutory
17 guidelines.

18 Again, I would like to thank our Marion
19 County legislative delegation and the other
20 representation here from the Joint Committees
21 and I thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for that very
23 specific guidance. Delana May, please,
24 followed by Thomas Hayes- Morrison and then Bea
25 Byrum.

1 MS. MAY: Hi, there. I have been here for
2 55 years, mostly in this area, and I am here
3 today to speak on behalf of my five
4 grandchildren who were all born in Florida, all
5 live in Gainesville, and that is why I am not
6 in the south of France right now.

7 I am too worried about my state and my
8 government to leave the country and that is why
9 I am working so hard to make this place a
10 better Florida and a better country.

11 I have five grandchildren and that is,
12 that is the purpose. I want to thank you all
13 for taking the giant step of coming here
14 tonight. Everybody that gives it some thought
15 knows that you didn't have to.

16 A lot of people don't go to their town
17 meetings. They, we see this all over the
18 country. The things that go on in Washington
19 that we are just appalled by and when they go
20 home on break, nobody can find them. That is
21 not the case in Florida.

22 You have all taken a giant step forward
23 and I think that a lot of cooperation and a lot
24 of toning it down would be in order.

25 Again, the -- my only message to you is to

1 say, thank you for coming. We know you didn't
2 have to. This was a giant step and we
3 appreciate it, and I appreciate it for my five
4 grandchildren because they are probably not
5 going to leave Florida.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, we hope they
7 won't. We appreciate it. Thomas
8 Hayes-Morrison, and then Bea Byrum and then
9 Drollene Brown.

10 Mr. Hayes-Morrison, thank you for coming
11 tonight, we look forward to what you have to
12 say.

13 MR. HAYES-MORRISON: Thank you, my name is
14 Thomas Hayes-Morrison, and I would like to
15 thank you all for coming and giving us an
16 opportunity to voice our opinions.

17 And I have to share with you, I was a
18 registered Democrat in Alachua County for 19
19 and-a-half years, but I shifted my party
20 affiliation in May.

21 So I realize I may show the enthusiasm of
22 the newly converted, and if I do so, please
23 bear with me.

24 My sense is most people don't choose who
25 they vote for based solely on party

1 affiliation. We actually do choose our elected
2 officials based on what we think they as
3 individuals stand for, and we vote for
4 individual candidates, not just party, and as a
5 nation we voted that way for 235 years.

6 Unfortunately, that history looks as if it
7 is being ignored and the freedom and openness
8 of choice, that is how our electoral
9 foundation will be severely restricted, if not
10 entirely eliminated in Florida.

11 Amendments V and VI can be read in such a
12 manner as to promulgate arbitrary and
13 unfulfillable restrictions that essentially
14 handicap severely any effort towards fair
15 districting.

16 One of the most often Democrat affiliated
17 groups who support Amendments V and VI,
18 including many large ones from outside of
19 Florida, talking about leveling the playing
20 field, they are conceding their failure to
21 convince our voters that their proposed
22 policies are best for the people of our towns,
23 cities, counties and state as a whole.

24 They claim it is not their fault they
25 can't gain a majority, there must be something

1 inherently crooked about the current districts.
2 They say this must be so because the majority
3 of Florida voters are registered as Democrats.

4 This ignores the fact that the vast
5 majority of Florida's voters consistently poll
6 as well as vote as conservatives. Democratic
7 registration is simply an administrative
8 convenience for most and their party
9 memberships nominal at best.

10 I remind you that President Obama won 20
11 out of 40 State Senate Districts in Florida and
12 half the state in popular vote. It doesn't
13 sound crooked to me. Rather, it displays,
14 rather the efficacy of having a clear and
15 appealing message.

16 Republicans don't hold the seats they
17 don't because things aren't fair or the playing
18 field isn't level. The Democrat message simply
19 doesn't generally ring true with many of our
20 voters.

21 So rather than develop viable policies
22 that appeal to the majority, they are taking a
23 shot at developing a partisan quota system set
24 by the courts disguised in a sound good, feel
25 good package --

1 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Hayes-Morrison, just
2 in fairness to everybody behind you, could you
3 bring it in for a landing?

4 MR. MORRISON: Absolutely.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay.

6 MR. HAYES-MORRISON: Actually, I think I
7 am at a minute and 55 seconds, but okay, we
8 will do it. Here is the landing, all right,
9 they are taking a shot at developing a partisan
10 quota system set by the courts, disguised in a
11 sound good feel good package, sold by millions
12 of dollars of false advertising to fair
13 districts.

14 I just urge the committee to follow the
15 rule of law. Thanks for letting me voice my
16 opinion.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, sir, thank you very
18 much. Bea Byrum and then Drollene Brown and
19 then Hugh Calderwood. Thank you for coming.

20 MS. BROWN: Bea Byrum had to leave for a
21 few moments and I wonder if you could put her
22 card underneath the others. I am Drollene
23 Brown, I am the next person.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

25 MS. BROWN: I campaigned for the Fair

1 District Amendment, not because it was very
2 clear. I as an editor I can tell you that any
3 phrase that says may or may not is redundant.
4 May implies may not.

5 So we can quibble about the wording, but
6 58 years ago I was in the eighth grade and I
7 had to take Civics in St. Auburns, West
8 Virginia, and Mr. Jones, our Civics teacher,
9 told us about gerrymandering, and as a
10 13-year-old I thought, this is really dumb, and
11 that is why I campaigned for the Fair District
12 Amendments.

13 I told every -- I would go to Walmart and
14 I would tell the clerk, vote yes on V and VI.
15 I told my ophthalmologist, vote yes on V and
16 VI, everywhere I went, I did, in my small way,
17 making people aware that we want fair
18 districts, and I think you understand what that
19 means.

20 You know that if you draw something that
21 looks like a dragon down the middle of the map
22 that is not right. We just want fairness. It
23 is not Democratic, it is not Republican, it is
24 non partisan, let's be fair. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.

1 Hugh Calderwood is next, and following Hugh
2 Calderwood, Theonia Sunquist, and then if David
3 Nessel will be ready to come behind Theonia
4 Sunquist.

5 So mr. Calderwood, we are really grateful
6 that you took the time to come tonight, and you
7 are recognized.

8 MR. CALDERWOOD: Thank you very much. I
9 want to thank all of you for coming. I really
10 actually want to thank that you put our local
11 Representatives up front so that I can see some
12 friends of mine.

13 And I also again, as we get into this, we
14 are getting into more repeating, repeating,
15 repeating, and I also want to repeat, I don't
16 envy you, your job, and I apologize if you were
17 insulted by somebody up here as to what your
18 motives are for running for public office. I
19 am sure Representative Chestnut did not
20 appreciate that.

21 And again, people who know me, I always
22 hate to follow my wife because she is much more
23 articulate than I am, and then I always just
24 feel crazy.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are not alone, you

1 are not the only guy.

2 MR. CALDERWOOD: And I do want to echo her
3 feelings about the rural, the people who are,
4 in this county is a perfect example of that we
5 have a large urban center, primarily Democratic
6 and then we have what we call around here, the
7 donut, the rest of the county around that, and
8 then there is always this argument going on
9 between the donut and the center.

10 And as an example, we recently had a
11 Charter Review Committee and there were those
12 of us who wanted to have single member
13 districts voting in the county for the -- for
14 elected offices, but, no, they didn't want
15 that, they wanted everybody to vote on
16 everybody.

17 So that we in the small towns didn't
18 really get a chance to have a Representative
19 that represented our interests versus the urban
20 interests. So I would encourage you to keep
21 that in mind.

22 I certainly don't like gerrymandering like
23 some of the districts and some of them are
24 Democratic and some of them are Republic, but I
25 don't like to see that, but I would like to see

1 interests put in protecting the rural voters.

2 We also see that in the state where we
3 have high populations in South Florida and we
4 in north Florida feel like we are not, we don't
5 have the power to really voice our concerns
6 when we are fighting the big population centers
7 in south Florida. So keep all of that in mind.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
10 Theonia Sunquist is next. Theonia Sunquist
11 going once, twice, Ms. Sunquist?

12 Then David Nessler, and following Mr. Nessler,
13 Jim Beniz, I believe it is, and then Paul Lux.
14 Thank you for coming today.

15 MR. NESSLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
16 not here today as a Democrat or a Republican.
17 I kind of look back, you know, through my life
18 and I remember when the Democrats were in power
19 in this state and I remember the pork choppers
20 and they, then they made sure that they, to the
21 best of their ability, they could stay in power
22 and they did some gerrymandering, and then for
23 the last few, and that was wrong, and for the
24 last few decades we have had the Republicans,
25 and they have, your predecessors, I am not

1 going to blame you, did some gerrymandering and
2 that was wrong.

3 And as we teach our kids, two wrongs don't
4 make a right, we need to fix it. So the way it
5 looks to me is the adults decided to step up
6 and step in with the Fair Districts Amendment.

7 I also note that other states, they have
8 taken this exact same, many other states have
9 taken this exact same verbiage in these
10 Amendments and it has all passed Federal Court
11 system muster and so I am kind of confused
12 about why efforts are being made in the Federal
13 Courts to block this when it is already passed.

14 So it seems like it is kind of a futile
15 effort. I got to wonder if that is the reason
16 for that is just to run out the clock before
17 the next two-year election cycle.

18 So I would really ask you ladies and
19 gentlemen to be, is to step up and be
20 statesmen.

21 It is, you know, this is the way it is
22 going to play out. We already know that from
23 other states and other Federal Court approvals
24 of that. So step up, it is now part of the
25 Constitution, our State Constitution. So apply

1 both the spirit and the letter of the law.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
4 Mr. Nessler. And again, Mr. Nessler, just so we
5 can do a little fact checking, just so you
6 would be aware of it, the -- it was the Florida
7 House of Representatives and the Florida
8 Senate, these committees that filed Amendments
9 V and VI for pre-clearance.

10 We asked the Justice Department to
11 pre-clear them and they agreed with our
12 recommendation and our appeal that they be
13 pre-cleared, so thank you very much.

14 Jim Beniz, you are next, and then Paul Lux
15 and then William Boyette.

16 MR. BENIZ: Hello. Thank you
17 Representatives and Senators for coming here
18 tonight and listening to us. I have lived all
19 my life in the state of Florida, part of in
20 Hillsborough County, the last 25 years here in
21 Alachua County.

22 But regardless of the county you live in,
23 we all love this state and we want to be
24 represented fairly. We are tired of the --
25 some of the ridiculous districts that have been

1 drawn in this state.

2 I would, regardless of party affiliation I
3 would like to see fair districts. I would like
4 to see everybody represented properly. I can't
5 add a lot to what people have said tonight.

6 Mr. Patton, Ms. Calderwood have pretty
7 well summed everything up that I had to say,
8 but we would ask that the political games cease
9 and we get down to the business of what the
10 people need and want in this country, in this
11 state.

12 We all love Florida and we want to see
13 what is best, we want to hear you do what is
14 best for Florida. I think this Amendment is
15 ambiguous in its wording.

16 I think you were given a moving target to
17 shoot at and maybe you will come up with
18 something that the originators of the Amendment
19 intended. It would have been nice to see
20 something of a sort of a map of what they
21 thought that they were going for when they --
22 when they went after this Amendment, but we
23 just want you to do the right thing for the
24 people of Florida, and that is all I have got
25 to say. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much.
2 Appreciate your testimony. And Paul Lux,
3 Supervisor of Elections from Okaloosa County,
4 my home county, came all of the way to Alachua
5 County to see me. How are you doing, Paul?

6 MR. LUX: Good evening, and thank you,
7 Mr. Chairman, Senators, Representatives, and
8 most notably, my two Senators, Senator Gaetz,
9 Senator Evers and my personal Representative,
10 Brad Drake from House District 5, and thank you
11 for having us here today.

12 Every bit as important as the time is
13 tonight so that everyone has a chance to speak,
14 I am just here to re-emphasize that time is
15 important to the Supervisors of Elections also.

16 The second speaker from the League of
17 Women Voters alluded to the fact that our time
18 crunch is very specific. If all of the
19 timelines that have been published go according
20 to schedule, we will have less than two weeks
21 to re-precinct.

22 Now, that means, our work can't start
23 until not only your work is done, but also the
24 work of the Department of Justice, the work of
25 the Court systems and their review and then we

1 can start. That gives us less than two weeks
2 to re-precinct.

3 Now, in addition to everything else that
4 we have to do, candidate qualifying which is
5 that very first week of June, is very important
6 because most candidates probably would like to
7 know what district they are running in by the
8 time they get around to running.

9 But much more important to me is the fact
10 that 21 days after qualifying closes, I have to
11 mail ballots to my overseas military voters.
12 Federal law requires that they get them 45 days
13 prior, and that is 21 days after qualifying
14 ends.

15 And so all of the work that has to be done
16 in between time and if some of the timelines
17 aren't met, then my re-precincting is going to
18 get pushed back after a candidate qualifying.

19 So again, I would just like to
20 re-emphasize the need for the timeliness of
21 this and that we get it done quickly so that we
22 can begin our work to make sure that Florida's
23 elections are run fairly and efficiently.

24 The other thing I would like to mention is
25 district lines, themselves. I know Mr. Boyetx,

1 who is the Chief Deputy here in Alachua County,
2 Supervisor of Elections and my counterpart, the
3 Honorable Pam Carpenter will be speaking
4 momentarily, but if you have been to Pelican
5 Beach Condominiums down on south Okaloosa
6 County, if you live in the condominiums to the
7 west, you are in Congressional District 1. If
8 you are on the wrong side of the entryway and
9 you live in the condominiums to the east, you
10 are in Congressional District 2, and heaven
11 forbid, you live on the west side of the Rocky
12 Bayou Bridge, those three streets there that
13 are just a little tiny enclave of Congressional
14 District2, not even all of the houses on that
15 little peninsula.

16 So just bear those thoughts in mind as you
17 go forward and thank you again for your time.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sure, thank you, Paul. I
19 am in one of those three streets, as you know,
20 I am in that little nipple of Congressional
21 District 2, and you are exactly right, that if
22 everyone takes all of the time that they are
23 allotted, then there would only be two weeks
24 left in the process. Let's hope that everyone
25 doesn't take all of the time that they are

1 allotted, but that they do their job
2 thoroughly, but that they do their job as soon
3 as they can. Thanks, Paul.

4 MR. LUX: And the good news is it doesn't
5 look like there are any drunken monkeys up
6 there. So I know that is who they accused of
7 drawing the lines last time and I don't see any
8 up there, so very good, very good positive
9 direction.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You get the prize for the
11 second best line of the night. William Boyetx,
12 Mr. Boyetx, and you will be followed by Terry
13 Fleming and then Dave Danvers and then Pam
14 Carpenter.

15 MR. BOYETX: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As the
16 Honorable Paul Lux mentioned, I am the Chief
17 Deputy Supervisor of Elections here in Alachua
18 County. I brought some maps with me this
19 evening and I would love to leave them with
20 Mr. Guthrie or another Representative of your
21 staff. I am not sure if I have enough for all
22 of you, but I definitely have plenty to pass
23 around.

24 I would like to start with a little
25 southwest corner of Alachua County, the area

1 around the City of Archer.

2 I have got this color coded by the
3 different State House Districts, and I doubt
4 you can even see it from how close you are to
5 me, but if you look, there is this tiny bit of
6 green, State House 22, blipped off from the
7 rest of the green.

8 That is where the State House District
9 cuts one cul-de-sac inside the city limits of
10 Archer off from the rest of the City of Archer,
11 putting about four houses in a different House
12 District than the rest of the city.

13 And then we got a little V up here that
14 cuts in and takes a couple dozen voters on the
15 north edge of the city and puts them a third
16 State House District. So we have a
17 municipality with about 600 voters represented
18 by three of our Representatives on the podium
19 here this evening.

20 I am sure that they are well represented,
21 but I think they might prefer to have their
22 voice unified together.

23 Now, you will notice, the majority color
24 is the red of State House 10. If we look at
25 the county, you will see there is no further of

1 that red anywhere in the entire rest of our
2 county.

3 And no disrespect to the job that I am
4 sure that Representative Bembry does to his
5 constituents, but we would be thrilled if he
6 was not representing our county.

7 That small piece which represents less
8 than 1,000 voters in our county adds just as
9 much of a logistical overhead to every election
10 we prepare as Representative Chestnut's portion
11 of our county, and that is a burden on our
12 county every election that we prepare.

13 In a primary election, I have to prepare
14 as many as six different ballot styles for that
15 little area, the same number of ballot styles I
16 prepare for this area, and that is an amount of
17 proof reading, an amount of preparation time,
18 programming, equipment preparation, and that
19 just adds up.

20 And drawing back from those points, as
21 several other speakers have mentioned this
22 evening, the State Constitution of Florida puts
23 the Administration of Elections as a county
24 level office.

25 For that reason we feel it would be great

1 if the county limits could be the first
2 priority when drawing district lines, as that
3 would coincide with the administration of the
4 elections.

5 While the districts look great, this is
6 what we look at when we are administering it.
7 We don't see where the rest of these districts
8 go. We see it at this level in each county as
9 we prepare our elections.

10 If a county must be split, which in many
11 cases is unavoidable, then we would ask that
12 the next level down be respecting the
13 communities of interest in the municipal city
14 limits as I showed with my little demonstration
15 there on Archer, and when a city is too big to
16 be in one district, we ask if you could please
17 restrict to major arteries that are easy for us
18 to explain to the public, when they are trying
19 to ascertain their Representative.

20 If we look here, we are on the map, it is
21 pretty easy to see the interface between
22 Districts 22 and 23, but 34th Street runs right
23 here, and if I were to start at the south end
24 of Gainesville and drive north, at the
25 beginning I would be in State House 22. A

1 little bit further north to my west I would be
2 in State House 23. To my east, in 22, a little
3 bit further north, both sides I am in 23. A
4 little further north to my west, I am in 23, to
5 my east I am in 22. A little further north, to
6 both sides I am in 22. A little further north
7 to my east I am in 23. To my west I am in 22,
8 and a little further north I am back in 23 on
9 both sides.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I think we get the joke.

11 MR. BOYETX: So while looking at the map,
12 you know, a bird's eye view, it doesn't look
13 that bad. When we are communicating with our
14 public and trying to help them understand their
15 Representatives, it can very complicated very
16 fast, and I don't think that that serves our
17 public that you are elected to serve, my boss
18 is elected to serve and that I have chosen to
19 be in a field to serve the best possible.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for
21 your testimony, and could you make sure that
22 you leave the maps that you have for one of our
23 staff members?

24 This is exactly the kind of precision
25 testimony that we need, to see exactly where we

1 need to make changes.

2 And next, please, Terry Fleming and
3 following Mr. Fleming, then Dave Danvers, then
4 Pam Carpenter.

5 MR. FLEMING: Good evening, my name is
6 Terry Fleming. Thank you for the opportunity
7 to speak. Thank you for being here. You know,
8 a Supreme Court Justice famously observed that
9 I may not be able to define pornography but I
10 know it when I see it.

11 There is a lot in common with pornography
12 with this districting process, starting with
13 the fact that is so obscene. I appreciate the
14 presentation that was just provided because it
15 really made that point, how obscene the process
16 can be, the results can be.

17 I do ask you to consider all of the
18 requirements of the Fair District Amendments,
19 compact, contiguous, communities of interest
20 and I fully support the efforts of the fair
21 districts folks to make this a bipartisan
22 effort.

23 Certainly, as has been observed up here
24 this evening, both parties are guilty of that.
25 We see the results in the maps that we have

1 seen tonight and have been shown out in the
2 lobby.

3 Please, take those things into
4 consideration, communities of interest,
5 contiguous, compact geographical boundaries and
6 please draw districts that fairly represent the
7 communities in this state.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Fleming,
9 and just one fact check, communities of
10 interest have been mentioned by a number of
11 folks tonight.

12 Communities of interest are not in
13 Amendments V and VI. There was an effort made
14 by a group to actually include communities of
15 interest as a criterion for drawing districts,
16 and that was struck down by the Florida Supreme
17 Court. So communities of interest are not part
18 of Amendments V and VI, but thank you.

19 Mr. Danvers, and then Pam Carpenter and
20 then Martin Luther King, III.

21 MR. DANVERS: I would like to thank all of
22 you for coming. I want to, I have read a lot
23 on the website, and I am a bit confused because
24 a lot of this is all weighted towards outside
25 interests suggesting how we do this thing.

1 In the explanation of the two Amendments,
2 the Fair Amendments, they are talking about,
3 you do this, and if we don't like it we will go
4 to court.

5 And my main reason for standing here, I
6 would like to see the people and their elected
7 representatives accomplish this redistricting
8 and not the courts. We have spent enough
9 money.

10 No offense, lawyers, but I think we can
11 get this done, but I would like some of the
12 people who backed the Amendments, spent all of
13 that money and time to step forward and help
14 your Representatives get this accomplished.
15 There is all I have to say.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
17 And next, Pam Carpenter, who is the Alachua
18 County Supervisor of Elections. Thank you for
19 your service, ma'am, we look forward to your
20 testimony.

21 MS. CARPENTER: Thank you. Good evening,
22 and welcome to Alachua County. My staff member
23 has made a presentation before me, and he is my
24 detail man. I would like to cover some more
25 general things with you.

1 Your legislative staff has worked with the
2 election officials and the census officials to
3 establish what we have called voting tabulation
4 districts, VTDs, which take into consideration
5 intact communities, traffic patterns and
6 physical barriers.

7 Please adhere to these lines when you are
8 redistricting and redrawing your maps. A lot
9 of work has gone into them on the part of the
10 Supervisors of Elections and the Census
11 representatives.

12 The best place to draw a district line is
13 along a county line, if it is at all possible
14 and we ask that you divide our districts along
15 county lines whenever that is available to you.

16 While there is much attention to Florida's
17 meandering districts there are many more
18 examples of our small cities being separated
19 into three or four districts, as Will had shown
20 you the examples previously.

21 Some of them running right through the
22 middle of the condominiums, as Paul mentioned.
23 The best way to avoid this, again, is to follow
24 the PTD lines whenever possible.

25 I want to reiterate the need for this

1 process to be completed in a timely manner. We
2 are up a -- we are up against some really hard
3 deadlines. We have to get those ballots out 45
4 days prior to the election. We have to have
5 time to notify all of the voters of the change
6 in their districts and precinct and by law that
7 means mailing them a new card, and we have to
8 have time to do that.

9 We have to have time to allow our voters
10 to become familiar with the districts that they
11 are going to be in and the candidates running
12 from those districts. So please, move this
13 process along as quickly as you can and vote on
14 it as quickly as you can.

15 One of the other things is just a
16 reminder. We as elected officials may have
17 been elected by a majority of our voters, but
18 once elected, we represent all of our citizens,
19 and we all need to remember that.

20 It is not a partisan thing. It is a
21 citizen thing. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
23 Ms. Carpenter, and now Martin Luther King, III,
24 following Mr. King, Marcel Verrando, and then
25 Shelia Paige. Mr. King, you are recognized.

1 MR. KING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
2 Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee. I
3 am certainly honored to participate in this
4 hearing this evening.

5 Very briefly and quickly, obviously I am
6 not a citizen of the state of Florida, but my
7 father led or was one of the leaders of the
8 modern Civil Rights Movement as well as he and
9 a team of many leaders worked to create the
10 climate so that the 1965 Voting Rights Act
11 would be passed in our nation which has been
12 extended over and over again by the United
13 States Congress.

14 He often said that injustice anywhere is a
15 threat to justice everywhere. Certainly I feel
16 this applies with special urgency to my
17 neighboring state of Florida, where there
18 appears to be a multi prong effort to dilute
19 voting power of people of color, poor people,
20 and reduce the number of African-Americans and
21 Latino elected officials.

22 I am referring specifically to several
23 measures. One of these would be shortening the
24 early voting periods from 15 to seven days.

25 Another measure forces voters to cast

1 provisional ballots instead of allowing them --

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. King, I am delighted
3 to hear your views on those matters, but in
4 deference and respect to those behind you,
5 could you keep your comments to redistricting
6 and I would be happy to meet with you
7 afterwards on the other matters.

8 MR. KING: Okay. Let me -- let me quickly
9 get to the issue of redistricting which very
10 simply, I know most importantly folks have
11 talked about the fair district Florida issue.

12 Obviously, redistricting is important to
13 all of us and certainly in this state and
14 really everyone across our nation, every year
15 we all want to make sure that all elected
16 officials who represent each and every one of
17 us can be elected fairly.

18 So the legislation sounds good, but I
19 think there are concerns about it. My
20 particular concern is that we ensure in this
21 state and in our nation that African-Americans,
22 Latinos and poor folk can be elected to office.

23 That is the only major issue of concern
24 that I have. So as you draw your districts,
25 and as you have done all of these years, you as

1 legislative members, I hope and pray that the
2 fair scenario really is fair for all
3 Floridians. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. King. Thank you for coming from Atlanta.
6 Marcel Verrando and then Shelia Paige and then
7 and then Khalil Quinan, I believe, from Santa
8 Fe College. Mr. Verrando, did I get your name
9 correctly, sir?

10 MR. VERRANDO: Yes, sir, you did.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized, and
12 we look forward to your comments.

13 MR. VERRANDO: Ladies and gentlemen of the
14 Legislature, my name is Butch Verrando, I am a
15 Director of Tea Party Solutions in Marion
16 County.

17 We have a membership of roughly 1,800
18 people that are Democrats, Republicans,
19 Libertarians, and a number of other parties.
20 We are a totally non partisan group.

21 I have been asked to come up here to speak
22 as one voice for many, and our quest is to
23 simply ask that Marion County be treated as a
24 single entity.

25 Currently our county is cut up into

1 pieces, much like a butcher's map, and we as a
2 group just ask you to treat us fairly and treat
3 us as one unit. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
5 Next, Shelia Paige, Ms. Paige, are you here?
6 Shelia Paige? Going once, twice? Three times.
7 Then it, and I apologize, Khalil Quinan from
8 Santa Fe College, and then Karen Paige and then
9 Marihelen Wheeler, I think it is, and I
10 apologize if I have messed that name up.
11 Mr. Quinan, thank you for being here.

12 MR. QUINAN: You actually got my name
13 right, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Wonderful. That is one
15 out of 350.

16 MR. QUINAN: Yes, sir, probably in the
17 United States. First I would thank everyone
18 here. I would like to specifically really
19 quickly thank Senator Oelrich and
20 Representative Chestnut for our transportation
21 Bill that we recently got passed. It has been
22 something that I have done here since I started
23 in Santa Fe College. I am the Senate President
24 Pro Tempore of Student Government, and so as a
25 fellow elected official I would like to thank

1 you for that.

2 Now, touching on redistricting, one thing
3 that I make important with my job here, it is
4 in government is the letter of the law. We
5 have our Constitution, we have our laws, we
6 have our statutes.

7 We have the way that we do things outlined
8 much like you guys do as well, and with that I
9 would like to request that you guys follow
10 Amendments V and VI and I know that you guys
11 recommended it as well, and it is just as
12 important, because it makes sense.

13 I mean, there is a lots of things that
14 have been said about the tricky wording, but
15 there is not a may or may not. It simply says,
16 and maybe it is because I want to be a lawyer
17 one day, but it simply says that you can't
18 favor or not favor somebody.

19 It is just, you can't have a situation
20 where somebody will be elected just because of
21 where they are, and being somebody who wishes
22 to be a lawyer, I wish to be a lawyer because I
23 have a strong foundation of justice.

24 I have that strong desire for justice. I
25 did the Lincoln/Douglas debate in high school,

1 and the criterion was always justice.

2 And so the ultimate point is that, it is
3 to do the right thing. I am not -- I was not
4 born in the United States. I migrated to the
5 United States, and it is, this has been my
6 adopted home because of this overwhelming sense
7 of justice and righteousness in our country,
8 and I say with grade pride, our country,
9 because I feel like I am part of this melting
10 pot.

11 And with such I request that you guys
12 please stick to Amendments V and VI, please get
13 maps out early for us to be able to criticize
14 and scrutinize.

15 As an official I write Bills as well for
16 our Senate and people criticize and scrutinize
17 and find my errors, so I request the same of
18 you. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for
20 your time for being here. Next we have Karen
21 Paige. Karen Paige? And following Karen
22 Paige, it is Marihelen Wheeler, Marihelen
23 Wheeler. I got it right.

24 Ms. Paige, thank you for being here
25 tonight. You are recognized.

1 MS. PAIGE: I am Karen Paige. I have
2 lived Gainesville 1955. I first became aware
3 of gerrymandering when I was in junior high
4 school and high school, I really wasn't
5 interested in politics or news much before
6 then, and I learned about the pork choppers and
7 who were Democrats and they were making
8 decisions and setting up political boundaries
9 so that they could get what they wanted and
10 their political contributors wanted.

11 And now we have the, our recent
12 Legislatures have done the same thing for the
13 Republican party. Regardless of whether it is
14 Democrats or Republicans, that is not fair, it
15 is not representative, it is not democracy.

16 I am totally flummoxed by people who say
17 they don't understand Fair District Amendments
18 V and VI. To me I graduated from the
19 University of Florida, also, they are very
20 simple to understand.

21 We want everyone's vote to be counted
22 equally and fairly. We want to not have our
23 districts cherry picked so that certain people
24 or certain parties will be elected regardless
25 of whether it is Democrats or Republicans.

1 The idea of fair is a very simple idea.
2 The -- this whole idea that the people
3 supporting fair districts already have maps in
4 mind, that is so untrue.

5 We want to have impartial committees,
6 impartial people look at all of the needs and
7 the outlines and what will be fair districts.
8 Then we want Legislators that will maybe become
9 again statesmen rather than politicians.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.
11 Paige. Marihelen Wheeler, followed by Jay
12 Shannon, with the University of Florida College
13 Democrats, and then Eric Brown with the
14 University of Florida College Democrats.

15 Marihelen, thank you for being here.

16 MS. WHEELER: Thank you. I put down on
17 there that I was a citizen. I didn't represent
18 anybody because I was afraid if I put veteran
19 teacher down there that I wouldn't get a chance
20 to speak.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, no, citizen, citizen
22 is the, citizen is the highest post in this
23 republic.

24 MS. WHEELER: Show I chose well. I have
25 some concerns that I want to express first and

1 then I will go to a recommendation that I have
2 that maybe will make this go a little faster,
3 because --

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Please.

5 MS. WHEELER -- my concern is speed as
6 well, that we get there done. Being a teacher
7 I am a little skeptical of the public forum,
8 and I must say it is because when the House and
9 Senate Bills came up legislating my profession
10 that we had -- that we were told that there was
11 teacher input to the process, and when I went
12 with the FEA group to Tallahassee we found out
13 that, yes, indeed, there was teacher input, but
14 none of the recommendations were accepted.

15 So this makes me a little skeptical about
16 a forum here with no maps and I am an art
17 teacher, so I am very visual. So having the
18 maps there or having the redrawing the census,
19 I would like to see where the demographics have
20 shifted around.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is available, that
22 is available on the website. You can see all
23 of that.

24 MS. WHEELER: All right, good. So
25 according to what I, I watched the program on

1 Sunday about all of this, so I have a little
2 more information about representation for so
3 many thousand people, and I wanted to say 60 on
4 or 600, but anyway, I am an art teacher, not a
5 mathematician for sure.

6 Okay, but what I am concerned about, too,
7 is the timing on this, because it is an
8 election year, unfortunately, a national
9 election year, and Florida doesn't have a great
10 reputation when it comes to conspiracy theories
11 and things like that and elections, and I would
12 hate to see this, which I know is a requirement
13 by law and it is something we have to do,
14 somehow interfere with that election and make
15 it controversial again.

16 Now, the recommendation that I have, the
17 recommendation that I have for maybe speeding
18 this up. I would really like to have seen what
19 our Senator Oelrich and our Representatives
20 could have maybe had a meeting with us first to
21 show us where those districts are and give us
22 their opinions about, you know, how it is
23 easier to manage or not manage.

24 Have some of us then also question those
25 things so that we had a better opportunity or

1 sounded more educated when we came here to say,
2 look, you know, this doesn't look right. You
3 see, as an art teacher, I think dragons look
4 really cool through the map, but, you know, for
5 -- I also taught in Levy County for ten years
6 before I came to Gainesville to teach another
7 20.

8 Yes, I am old, but the thing is, I know
9 there is a big difference in cattle farmers and
10 clammers and Town and Gown, so I would support
11 the fair districting at all costs, but the main
12 cost I think that is going to be for people
13 like me is the timing where we want to make
14 sure that our citizens have the opportunity to
15 vote without having any impediment.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and you have a
17 very good suggestion, and a number of
18 Legislators have, I have done it in my
19 district, have met with groups, non partisan
20 groups as well I have met with, I happen to be
21 a Republican, but I met with the Democratic
22 party in my county and we went over all of this
23 as well as with Republican groups and many
24 Legislators are doing it, Senator Sachs in
25 South Florida is doing it, so that is an

1 excellent suggestion.

2 MS. WHEELER: That would speed things up.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes.

4 MS. WHEELER: And we would be able to get
5 with our voters.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Our
7 teacher, good idea. Jay Shannon from the Young
8 Democrats, College Democrats, and then Eric
9 Brown from the College Democrats and then Helen
10 Warren from the Audubon Society.

11 Welcome, and thank you for being here
12 tonight.

13 MR. SHANNON: Thank you, I appreciate it.
14 I am, as you read, I am a member of the
15 University of Florida College Democrats and
16 also I am also an intern with (inaudible)
17 Florida, which means that most of you on the
18 stage don't like me, and that is really
19 unfortunate, but I really had to say a few
20 things about redistricting.

21 I spent a lot of time campaigning for Fair
22 Districts Florida. I understand that some of
23 the language has become under scrutiny and I
24 understand that there are members of both sides
25 of the aisle that are coming out against it and

1 for it.

2 But I do want to say a few things. In
3 terms of the touchy feely support that Fair
4 Districts sort of evokes with people like me,
5 Democrats who I spend time with, you know, I am
6 sorry that we have to do that, but the reason
7 we pass legislation like that is to make sure
8 that you guys don't make that mistake again,
9 because it happened last year, it happened in
10 2000, it happened in 1990.

11 Regardless of the party you are a part of,
12 and I am a Democrat, I admit that the choppers
13 were terrible, but regardless of the party you
14 are a part of, it is still happening and when
15 we talk about minority representation, whether
16 it is Hispanics or poors or African-Americans,
17 poor people, you know, I don't feel like they
18 are getting their fair shake at representation
19 when there are people in Tallahassee passing
20 legislation that cuts their access to voting or
21 their access to education, or their access to
22 community services.

23 And, you know, the system status quo just
24 simply doesn't work, and I get so infuriated
25 when I am sitting in the corner of the room

1 when I hear people like Alex Patton come up and
2 tell me that I am a touchy feely Democrat and I
3 am supporting legislation --

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Shannon, why don't
5 you use what little time you have left to make
6 your point and not to make someone else's
7 point.

8 MR. SHANNON: Right, right, and I am sorry
9 about that. My point is, at the end of the day
10 I am a person, most recently an American
11 citizen, and I stand up for my fellow man and
12 woman, not my fellow Democrat or Republican and
13 I would really appreciate it if I felt the same
14 from you on stage, and so thank you for your
15 time.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much,
17 Mr. Shannon, excellent points. Eric Brown,
18 also representing the College Democrats, Eric
19 Brown, are you here?

20 A VOICE: I think he waives in support.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: A waive in support. Now,
22 we in Tallahassee say that is eloquent
23 testimony. Helen Warren is next, Helen Warren
24 and following Ms. Warren, Kyle Mitchell also
25 with the College Democrats and then Alden

1 Green. So if Alden Green will be on deck as
2 well.

3 Ms. Warren, thank you for being here, you
4 represent the Audubon Society, it says here.

5 MS. WARREN: I should probably correct
6 that, I am mostly representing just myself as a
7 citizen. Being President of the Audubon
8 Chapter I don't necessarily have views that
9 they have shared that I can say I am
10 representing them.

11 But as a citizen of this community, that
12 is what I would like to present, some of my
13 ideas and thoughts and support and thanks and
14 appreciation that you are here. It is amazing
15 to see this many people in one room without any
16 babies to kiss or dinners, meals and those kind
17 of things that usually bring a large collection
18 of politicians into one area, and really do
19 feel like you are here to hear the comments
20 from the public.

21 You have already heard many of the
22 concerns I think, I can't add anything to what
23 the Supervisors of Elections have said with
24 respect to the time of essence in this
25 situation, but the consideration when I looked

1 at the lines of where the maps are for the
2 State Districts and the Congressional
3 Districts, having previously been from Pinellas
4 County and seeing the way that those lines have
5 divided the county up with several districts
6 and then looking at the State Districts with,
7 in particular, District 3, 7, 1 and 8, it is
8 hard to imagine that there can be similar
9 representation for a group of people where you
10 have individuals living on the Georgia, Florida
11 border in District 3, as an example, that goes
12 all of the way down to possibly Cedar Key, and
13 I am not quite sure where the southern border
14 of District 3 is.

15 But I would ask for a consideration that
16 if we want to get the public, we have a very
17 large number of people who are disenfranchised
18 from the political process, which is the
19 essence of what makes this country as great as
20 it is, and when we see districts that are
21 established such as this, it is not hard to
22 imagine why so many people are feeling
23 separated from their politicians who are
24 supposed to be representing us regardless of
25 our party.

1 So I would ask for a consideration that
2 the lines look along, as well as what they are
3 saying with the county lines, but maybe the
4 consideration that there may be some kind of
5 compact 50-mile radius that could be considered
6 at sometimes, and inclusion of something
7 similar to what the Water Management Districts
8 provide so that we can have cohesion of area
9 community.

10 I think with the water issues that we have
11 got going on, there are certainly many issues
12 that surround the feelings and sentiments of
13 the public as to whether we are getting our
14 water privileges and environmental issues
15 related to that.

16 So in summary, I think you have pretty
17 well heard many of the similar things. I am
18 now rambling, but time is of the essence, let's
19 please get this done quickly and get
20 communities of the county lines more
21 coordinated.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
23 Ms. Warren. Next, Kyle Mitchell from the
24 College Democrats, Kyle Mitchell. And then
25 following Mr. Mitchell, Alden Green, and then

1 Benetta Standly is here, an old friend that
2 follows us from city to city from the American
3 Civil Liberties Union. Kyle Mitchell.

4 MR. MITCHELL: Hello, thank you for your
5 time. Senator Gaetz, you have dismissed
6 multiple speakers' concerns about the speed of
7 adoption of district maps by saying that the
8 Legislature is free to adopt maps at any time.

9 If anyone in the audience believes that
10 the leadership in the Legislature will move any
11 faster than they are required to on this issue,
12 that is exceedingly wishful thinking.

13 The three-fifths of Florida voters that
14 supported Fair Districts know intrinsically
15 that Florida is defined by its cities,
16 counties, and natural boundaries, not community
17 dividing lines drawn as a partisan power grab.

18 Senator Gaetz, the people asked that you
19 and your committee reference not election
20 results but an Atlas when drawing districts.
21 There should be many left over to use after the
22 Legislature's attack on public education.

23 Fair Districts is the law. Please follow
24 it.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Mitchell,

1 and next, Alden Green, and after Ms. Green, it
2 is Ms. Standly and then John Wasser.

3 Mr. Green, thank you for being here, and
4 you are recognized, sir.

5 MR. GREEN: Thank you. I have a couple of
6 points to make. One is I don't think that the
7 Fair Districts Amendment is ambiguous. I think
8 it is, your work is cut out for you in
9 complying with it, but I think it gives some
10 fairly simple guidelines to how to do it.

11 You know, one of the ways that Florida is
12 the laughing stock with some of my friends from
13 different states who are politically inclined,
14 I say, look at the District Map for 6, 3 and 4,
15 I think. One of them goes from Jacksonville to
16 Tallahassee. One of them goes from
17 Jacksonville to Orlando, and my own District 6,
18 it makes a sort of funny V-shape around it.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And to think we have
20 Patrick Henry to blame for all of this.

21 MR. GREEN: Well, if Patrick Henry needs
22 to be blamed, that is fine, but I think that
23 what has happened with, it is clear from
24 looking at our current map that the district
25 lines were politically drawn to protect both

1 Democrats and Republicans in the state, and I
2 think what has happened with districts that are
3 drawn with that as a basis, as a basis for
4 their being drawn, we end up in a United States
5 for Congress, for instance, of getting both
6 Democrats and Republicans who are further to
7 the left or to the right and it makes it
8 difficult, it makes it much more difficult, for
9 instance, in the current controversy about the
10 -- about the debt ceiling.

11 It makes it much more difficult for the
12 Congress to function for the benefits of the
13 citizens rather than for the parochial interest
14 of the members.

15 So I think it is important that you look
16 at the Fair Districts, you accept it as law and
17 not fight it and do your best to comply with
18 it. I know it is going to be hard, but I think
19 it is critical for the future of Florida and
20 for the future of the country. And thank you
21 very much.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Green.
23 Now, Benetta Standly with the ACLU, and then
24 John Wasser, and then Samuel Welker with Fair
25 Districts, and then Whitney Markle with the

1 Sierra Club.

2 Ms. Standly, good to see you again.

3 MS. STANDLY: Good evening, and I will
4 continue to follow you around and I will follow
5 you around when you have real hearings when you
6 show us the maps so that we can have something
7 to comment on.

8 So I am here today to represent the
9 63 percent of Floridians who voted in favor of
10 Amendments V and VI, the disenfranchised, the
11 people who are distrustful of the Florida
12 Legislature, and the people who just simply
13 could not make it here today.

14 I am here to hold you all accountable. I
15 want to publicly say this entire process is a
16 farce. It is a waste of taxpayer's money and
17 time.

18 We, the people of Florida, truly
19 understand that Amendments V and VI actually
20 protect minority voting rights. They add two
21 protections that were never in the Florida
22 Constitution. We expect you to make sure that
23 minorities have the opportunity to elect the
24 candidates of their choice and not give us two
25 or three districts around the state.

1 The new rules are something that all of
2 Florida, most of Florida has agreed upon. We
3 need you to follow those rules, but you are not
4 hearing me when I say as I follow you around
5 the state, that we don't trust that you will
6 follow the rules.

7 I am quite frankly disappointed that many
8 in the Florida Legislature continue to oppose
9 and fight these new rules, and you are using my
10 taxpayer dollars to do so. This is obviously
11 unacceptable.

12 The entire purpose of Amendments V and VI
13 was that voters can choose their elected
14 officials and not the other way around. Stop
15 wasting taxpayer money. This is an absolute
16 insult to Florida voters.

17 We know that you have \$30 million in
18 reserve in the House, we know you have \$8
19 million in the Senate reserved to deal with
20 litigation related to V and VI. Stop
21 undermining the will of Florida voters. We
22 have spoken. Follow our Constitution.

23 People are trying to run for office in
24 this state, they don't know what district they
25 reside in and they can't campaign. You need to

1 get the ball rolling, you need to do your job
2 and stop asking us to give you a map.

3 You are required to give us the map, so
4 show us the map.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ms. Standly, you are
6 getting, you are getting your act down very,
7 very well. Good to see you again. Ms. -- John
8 Wasser is next, and then Samuel Welker from
9 Fair Districts and then Whitney Markle from the
10 Sierra Club it says here. John Wasser.

11 MR. WASSER: My name is John Wasser. I am
12 a Yankee and some of you might call me a damn
13 Yankee. I am liberal even by Yankee standards,
14 and I am angry.

15 I moved nine years ago to Union County
16 where there was a guy named Alder Crenshaw who
17 claims to represent me in Washington. He is a
18 George W. Bush Republican. He is elected by
19 fat cats in Jacksonville, for gosh sakes, and
20 his district extends all of the way to Leon
21 County.

22 At some point it is only about four miles
23 high and it must be at least 150 or more miles
24 wide, and the only reason for a district like
25 that is to deny voting rights to the people in

1 this rural county out here when he gets elected
2 by a heavily populated area in Jacksonville, to
3 represent people in counties out here where a
4 majority of the voters are registered
5 Democrats.

6 That is specifically to deny the people
7 out here their rights and I am angry. We need
8 to do something about that, and part of the
9 reason why so many Republicans got elected
10 around here is because the Democrats did such a
11 bad job of fielding candidates, not only on the
12 state level but even locally, our --

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, no, no, let's let
14 Mr. Wasser talk, please.

15 MR. WASSER: In 2010 we had -- we had a
16 local candidate for State Senator, is a
17 Democrat who has been openly vindictive towards
18 gays and women and probably blacks as well, and
19 I work -- done some work for temporary agencies
20 and I have done --

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Wasser, Mr. Wasser,
22 we are getting a little far afield, let's bring
23 it in for a landing, and the landing zone is
24 talking about redistricting.

25 MR. WASSER: Okay, I want to see the

1 redistricting, get these counties out here, a
2 Representative that they can be proud of and I
3 would be happy to join any lawsuit if it
4 doesn't work right. So get it right, please.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Wasser.
6 Next is Samuel Welker, from Fair Districts,
7 then Whitney Markle with the Sierra Club, and
8 then Phoebe, I think it is Papadi, or Papadi.

9 Mr. Welker, thank you for being here. We
10 are delighted to have you here tonight.

11 MR. WELKER: Thank you, I am delighted to
12 be here. I am not here for Fair Districts.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am sorry, it says it
14 here.

15 MR. WELKER: I know. I really --

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I was just trying to be a
17 literalist.

18 MR. WELKER: I have taught in middle
19 school and high school for 37 years, most of my
20 students have been literalists. So I
21 understand that.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I hope they did well.

23 MR. WELKER: My children always do well.
24 I teach only beautiful, intelligent children.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: There you go.

1 MR. WELKER: But they have changed a great
2 deal, our children have changed a great deal in
3 the past 37 years. One of the ways that they
4 have changed is their faith in politics and
5 faith in their political leaders, whereas 37
6 years ago my students felt that government
7 service and politicians and statesmen were
8 honored, respected individuals.

9 It was a career that they wanted to go
10 into. If I were to ask my students today what
11 they felt about politicians, political leaders
12 and people in government service, they would
13 not for the most part be very flattering.

14 They have lost a great deal of respect in
15 our government. I would recommend that there
16 is no possible way that you are going to
17 satisfy everyone. We know that in here, fair
18 districts to me sound like fair districts.
19 Fair means something different to other people,
20 I suppose, but the citizens of this state voted
21 63 percent for two amendments.

22 It seems to me it would help restore a
23 great deal of faith in a lot of people,
24 including my children who are not apathetic,
25 who really do care, if in redistricting we

1 followed those Amendments and you followed
2 those Amendments. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
4 Mr. Welker. Great testimony. Whitney Markle,
5 it says here representing the Sierra Club, and
6 then Phoebe, I apologize, I think it
7 is-PAP-a-p-a-d-i, and then if Jeremiah
8 Teddersol will be ready to speak. Ms. Markle,
9 Mr. Markle.

10 MR. MARKLE: thank you, sir, last time a
11 public official called me Mr. Markle, it was a
12 Judge.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, I am not a Judge.

14 MR. MARKLE: And it is Whitey, it is not
15 Whitney, my momma named me that and I can't
16 help it.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Oh, it is Whitey, I am
18 sorry, it is my bad eyes.

19 MR. MARKLE: That is okay.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: My bad eyes, I apologize.

21 MR. MARKLE: My bad writing there. I am
22 the Conservation Chair for the Suwannee St.
23 Johns Sierra Club, and we represent 15 counties
24 here in north central Florida. A lot like
25 Charlie Dean's district, we are the biggest

1 Sierra Club group east of the Mississippi
2 River.

3 So we have resources that we are
4 concerned, our concern is conservation of
5 resources. We have the St. Johns, the Arakawa,
6 the Suwanee, Ichetucknee, Withlacoochee,
7 Crystal, Homosassa and the Chassahowitzka
8 Rivers that we have to deal with, and I would
9 like to ask you, unlike when I ran for State
10 Senate along with Senator Oelrich when he was
11 running for his first term as Sheriff in
12 Alachua County, I was running for State Senate
13 District 5 at the time against the last great
14 dean of the Florida Senate, George Kirkpatrick,
15 and I don't have to tell you who won that
16 election.

17 But I got a map from the Secretary of
18 State the day after I qualified and it was
19 about eight feet tall and about six feet wide,
20 and that map cut Palatka in half, it cut Lake
21 City in half, it cut Live Okay in half, it cut
22 Chiefland in half, it cut Bronson in half, it
23 cut Williston in half, and whoever has done the
24 rearranging at this point has done a pretty
25 good job.

1 We in Marion County would like to ask that
2 you kind of solidify Marion County rather than
3 having more than one Senator from Marion
4 County, but we would like to ask that it be a
5 continuous, like we said, compact geographical
6 boundaries, and we would like to ask you that
7 you represent not only all of the constituents
8 in your districts, but also those resources
9 that we just talked about. Thank you very
10 much.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Markle. And Ms. Phoebe, I apologize, could
13 you pronounce your last name for the committee?

14 MS. PAPADI: Sure, it is no problem. It
15 is Papadi, Phoebe Papadi.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Papadi, Ms. Papadi, thank
17 you for being here, and we look forward to what
18 you have to say.

19 MS. PAPADI: Thank you, good evening. So
20 many factors to consider, and the one I feel
21 most strongly about is the lack of partisan
22 politics.

23 If the United States is a melting pot,
24 then our redistricting map right now is a
25 goulash, it is a mess, and luckily, we have an

1 opportunity to fix it.

2 As a life long staunch liberal Democrat, I
3 would be delighted if every district turned out
4 to have a majority of Republicans, if the lines
5 were drawn with integrity and following the
6 rules.

7 So I would urge you in this process to
8 have that be your number one priority, is to
9 have integrity and follow the rules and I think
10 all of the rest would fall into place. Thank
11 you so much.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Papadi.
13 Jeremiah Teddersol, Jeremiah Teddersol? Our
14 next line up then would be Dave Schneider.
15 Dave, we got to you, Students for a Democratic
16 Society. Dave, are you here, and then George
17 Papadi, I believe and then Stan McClain. Dave,
18 I am glad we got there.

19 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, I am, too.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am an advocate for your
21 right to speak.

22 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, yes, absolutely, and
23 I was actually commenting to some friends, this
24 might be the only time you will ever hear a
25 Republican say, I am an advocate for Dave

1 Schneider, at least a lot of people know that.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: For your right to speak,
3 for your right to speak. Dave.

4 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, yes, I appreciate it.
5 Thank you. You know, I think a lot of the
6 speakers here have really gotten to the points
7 that I wanted to emphasize, but I think I want
8 to clarify the issue here a little bit, because
9 we are not here just for unfair districts.

10 I think we are not here just because, you
11 know, these districts were drawn poorly. It is
12 because of what those districts being drawn
13 poorly results in, which is what we saw this
14 past legislative session where we saw unbridled
15 attacks on working families and students.

16 I, myself, am a student at the University
17 of Florida, Political Science and History
18 major. My Senator is Senator Oelrich up there.
19 Senator Oelrich, we appreciate you voting with
20 us on a lot of the Bills pertaining to graduate
21 students, graduate assistants, and especially
22 the Unions, and just the attacks that were
23 placed on people.

24 We saw this happen time and time again in
25 this past legislative session.

1 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Schneider, as much as
2 an advocate as I am for your right to speak,
3 speak about redistricting.

4 MR. SCHNEIDER: Sir, sir, I am getting
5 there, because this --

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Get there some time soon.

7 MR. SCHNEIDER: These two are closely
8 intertwined, you know, because when we don't
9 have fair districts, when we have is what one
10 gentleman brought up, when you driver up 34th
11 Street, a major street in Gainesville and you
12 are moving from one district to the next, to
13 the next, to the next, that is not -- those
14 districts weren't drawn to be fair.

15 They weren't drawn for people like us,
16 they were drawn from democracy, but democracy
17 for the powerful few who end up getting
18 reelected time and time again in Tallahassee
19 and never represent us.

20 They are the people who brought forth
21 these attacks time and time again on Unions,
22 they are the ones that slashed millions and
23 millions of dollars.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We are wondering far
25 afield again, let's get back to redistricting,

1 redistricts.

2 MR. SCHNEIDER: But Mr. Chair, these two
3 issues are so closely intertwined.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, you are going to
5 have to stick to the purpose of the hearing,
6 because have got 20 people behind you who want
7 to speak.

8 MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes, sir, yes, sir.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: So you have got about ten
10 seconds.

11 MR. SCHNEIDER: My point is -- my point is
12 that we need fair districts here if we are
13 going to reclaim democracy for working
14 families, for students at the University of
15 Florida and elsewhere, and for the middle class
16 who has been under such gross attack from the
17 Florida State Legislature for far too long, and
18 that is why I am here tonight.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much.
20 George, you are up, and then following George,
21 Stan McClain with the Marion County Board of
22 County Commissioners, then Richard Blake, and
23 then Carl Zalak.

24 MR. PAPADI: Yes, I ask that you
25 demonstrate some restraint and moderation in

1 redistricting efforts. I ask that you abide by
2 the Fair Districting Amendment, Amendments V
3 and VI, and I argue that as we all know, the
4 gerrymandering is a corrupting process and a
5 conscious focused effort to consolidate power
6 in a way that subverts our democracy.

7 I strongly disagree with the notion
8 presented by one speaker tonight that the Fair
9 District Amendments were merely a veiled
10 attempt at achieving quotas. Nothing could be
11 further from the truth.

12 The citizens who worked hard to achieve a
13 63 percent approval of that were -- were
14 focused on achieving or with the concern that
15 individual voters have the same.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: George, could you speak
17 into the mike a little bit. We want to get
18 every word.

19 MR. PAPADI: Sure. That the individual
20 votes that -- that are placed have the same
21 political weight that all citizens' votes have
22 an equal power, and I thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very much
24 for your testimony. Next is Stan McClain
25 followed by Richard Blake and then Carl Zalak,

1 and Mr. McClain, Commissioner McClain, thank
2 you for your service, and you are recognized.

3 COMMISSIONER MCCLAIN: Thank you, Chairman
4 Gaetz and members of the House and the Senate.
5 I had the, the Commission did put a letter
6 together to present to you. However, you have
7 already heard from three citizens from our
8 community, one representing non partisan, one
9 representing bipartisan and then also our own
10 chamber of commerce.

11 We would be in agreement with pretty much
12 anything that they have already said. What,
13 all I that would ask at this point would be
14 that the Commission be allowed to enter our
15 letter into the record and present that to a
16 clerk or whoever might be the appropriate
17 person.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Absolutely it would be,
19 we would look forward to that information.
20 Thank you, Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER MCCLAIN: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Next is Richard Blake,
23 Mr. Blake? Richard Blake, are you here? If
24 not, then let's go to Carl Zalak with the
25 Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

1 Mr. Zalak, thank you for being here,
2 Commissioner, and thanks for your service to
3 the community.

4 MR. ZALAK: Honorable Senators and
5 Representatives, thank you so much for the
6 opportunity to speak this evening. Just two
7 thoughts on the redistricting.

8 If you would entertain, District 8 as it,
9 Congressional District 8 as it runs from part
10 of Marion County all of the way down to
11 Orlando, we think with the growth and the
12 statistics that is on your website, that we can
13 condense some of that, bring that a little more
14 north into Marion County, and with Marion
15 county and The Villages together in District 8,
16 it would be a great district for our future.

17 The second thing is, as our Senators are
18 so split, we would just ask that you would give
19 us a greater voice in the Senate with a
20 consolidated or a slightly consolidated Senate
21 District.

22 It is really interesting. I listened to
23 the lady a little while ago, and as a matter of
24 fact, when you guys take the time to serve and
25 come out here and listen to all of these

1 people, for someone to call this a farce, it is
2 pretty amazing to me.

3 I want to thank you for your service, and
4 it was pretty funny, because last night I had a
5 community meeting where we listened to the
6 people and we deliberated and we brought back
7 real results.

8 They called that a farce, too, it is
9 amazing. Thank you so much for your service.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and
11 Commissioner, if you have any specifics about
12 the -- about the advice you just gave us, any
13 particular areas that you think need to be
14 included in particular lines, if you would give
15 that to us, we would be very grateful.

16 COMMISSIONER MCCLAIN: Thank you so much,
17 sir. We will get that to you.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and now John
19 Schiffeamullon, John Schiffeamullon, please,
20 followed by Evelyn Foxx with the Alachua County
21 Branch of the NAACP, and then Kali Blount with
22 the Alachua County Housing Authority and Black
23 Nurses' Association. Mr. Schiffeamullon, did I
24 get that correctly, sir?

25 MR. SCHIFFEAMULLON: Close enough. Ladies

1 and gentlemen, thank you for giving us this
2 opportunity. Mr. Chairman, I would like to
3 thank you particularly for referring to my
4 country properly as a republic and not a
5 democracy. That all too often gets missed.

6 Fair districts, fair means different
7 things depending on who you ask. The
8 Supervisor of Elections for Alachua County
9 recently suggested that the county lines would
10 simplify the administration of the vote.

11 People who live in the City of Gainesville
12 would probably tell you that fair is the county
13 of Alachua. I live in that recently mentioned
14 city of Archer, in Precinct 11-A0, not A-1.

15 People who live in the rural districts
16 would tell you that a district that represents
17 the County of Alachua represents the City of
18 Gainesville, not the rural areas.

19 So fair depends on who you ask. I looked
20 at the -- at the Fair District Amendment and I
21 don't think very many people would have a
22 problem with the concept of compact, contiguous
23 geographic borders.

24 The rub is in the details. The exceptions
25 and I don't envy you that. The Voters Rights

1 Act of 1965 that has to be considered, the
2 exemptions for minorities, people who speak
3 different languages. That is not really your
4 fault. That is ours.

5 Theodore Roosevelt once said, in fact, he
6 said it more than once, I have no tolerance for
7 hyphenated Americanism. A man is an American
8 and he is nothing else, or he is no American at
9 all. Thank you for your time.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
11 I appreciate your comments. Evelyn Foxx with
12 the NAACP and then I think it is Kali or Kali
13 Blount, with the Housing Authority and then
14 John Martin.

15 Ms. Foxx, thank you for being here, and we
16 look forward to your testimony.

17 MS. FOXX: Thank you so much, Mr. Chair,
18 and members of this Committee. I welcome you
19 to Gainesville and Alachua County.

20 I am a little puzzled about this hearing
21 here tonight. I was present ten years ago when
22 we were at Key West and we had maps weeks
23 before the hearing.

24 Our state is made up of 16 percent
25 African-Americans, 22 percent Hispanics. My

1 challenge and my urge to you is to please be
2 fair, and then after hearing our Chair tonight
3 so abruptly cut off Dr. King's son, I don't
4 know if you could really be fair.

5 Anyway, please be fair and please do the
6 right thing. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. I
8 am advised as a historical fact that the
9 earliest ever hearing that was held in
10 Gainesville at the last cycle in 2000, after
11 the 2000 census, was actually held in July.

12 So we are a little ahead of the game, but
13 thank you, Ms. Foxx, and Ms. Blunt, how do I --
14 Mr. Blunt, how do I pronounce your first name,
15 sir?

16 MR. BLOUNT: Kali.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Kali. Thank you for
18 being here, and you are recognized. John
19 Martin is next, and then after Mr. Martin, then
20 Peter Johnson.

21 MR. BLOUNT: I am Kali Blount, a
22 registered nurse and citizen planner. I live
23 and occasionally work here in Gainesville. I
24 work as an RN, so I can use my Master's in
25 planning according to its academic ideas

1 without distortion by pay checks from
2 politicals.

3 I have observed a lot as a Board member
4 for Public Housing and Workforce Development,
5 that is Florida Works in our areas and other
6 work in community funding and development,
7 poverty reduction, healthcare and affordable
8 housing. I am going to try to talk real fast
9 and say a whole lot.

10 So I appreciate the attention of all of
11 you who are not busy surfing the Internet right
12 now.

13 I have comments about the products of our
14 pattern of representation, but first I want to
15 Amen the call for speeding up the process, and
16 as the Chair has responded several times, any
17 member can offer a map or maps from the public
18 are on the website, that is a turkey shoot.

19 We want the institution, your committee
20 structure to produce faster, do your collective
21 job expeditiously.

22 Now, my story, your screen says, tell us
23 your story. So my story of experience and
24 representation has to do with being a member of
25 the Boards of both Housing Authorities locally

1 at different times.

2 We have an annual conference in D. C.
3 where people, Board members and residents and
4 Directors of Public Housing and Community
5 Development gather in D. C. every spring to do
6 a day on Capitol Hill.

7 We spend a month prior contacting our
8 people, so for Gainesville that means
9 contacting the Representatives of District 16
10 and 3 and then we go as a Florida delegation,
11 20 or 30 people sometimes to see each Senator
12 together.

13 Now, all, those four contacts for us
14 Gainesville folks have always yielded immediate
15 response, except for one Representative who
16 never answers us until the day before our
17 Capitol Hill visit, which means we are already
18 in D. C., practicing our talking points, and
19 then with different persons, sometimes we see
20 the esteemed person themselves, sometimes a
21 senior aid. This particular person, as I said,
22 never responds until the day before and we only
23 see a junior aid or student intern ever, and
24 that is the kind of responsiveness that I am
25 concerned about.

1 This same person also has closed their
2 local office in response to a visit by a local
3 group of persons on a particular issue where
4 they had stated their opinion and were not
5 willing to discuss it.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Blount, we are
7 getting a little far afield. If you could --

8 MR. BLOUNT: I am talking about the
9 results from a pattern --

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I am talking about
11 redistricting and we would like you to
12 conclude, please, because we have a whole bunch
13 of people behind you and not too many minutes
14 left.

15 MR. BLOUNT: Okay, so that the pattern of
16 districting that we have has brought us,
17 supposedly has created opportunities for
18 minority representation. So I am talking about
19 the topic, but it also gets us, gets us stuck
20 with some unresponsive chaf in the bundle, and
21 that is why I am describing that person.

22 Your thing said tell us your story. That
23 is my story. This pattern also gets us the
24 politics that re-enforces poverty and
25 therefore, stunts development of individuals,

1 development of the state economy.

2 The Workforce Development folks have told
3 you that we get objections from recruiting
4 industries about our poor education rankings.
5 We have existing state legislation that has
6 said, break up economically segregated housing.
7 That has been on the books since '85.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize, sir, we
9 really have a lot of people behind you, and if
10 you can't keep it to redistricting I will have
11 to thank you for your testimony.

12 MR. BLOUNT: Well, if fair districts can
13 evolve across Florida and much of this country,
14 maybe we can involve toward eight or 12 major
15 parties and even proportional representation
16 and coalitions and governments that function
17 and really respond to the people better than
18 what we are seeing here tonight.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you
20 very much. John Martin, you are next, and then
21 Peter Johnson, and following Peter Johnson,
22 Erin Murphy with the University of Florida
23 College of Democrats.

24 Mr. Martin, thank you for being here and
25 thanks for your patience. We look forward to

1 your testimony.

2 MR. MARTIN: Thank you, sir. I am from
3 Hawthorne, the City of Hawthorne where I served
4 as Mayor.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thanks for your service
6 as Mayor, sir.

7 MR. MARTIN: Currently I am not on the
8 Commission currently. I am in House District
9 -- I mean Congressional District 3, probably
10 the most gerrymandered one maybe in the
11 country.

12 I am in Senate District 14 and House
13 District 23. My concern is actually similar to
14 what Mayor Calderwood said earlier in Alachua,
15 that -- that especially we haven't talked much
16 about the Congressional Districts.

17 When you look at the Congressional
18 Districts and you are from a very small
19 community and I am not be-smurfing anyone who
20 serves in that district, but I remember the
21 first time I called their office and identified
22 myself as the Mayor of Hawthorne, they said,
23 well, we need to check to see what
24 Congressional District you are in.

25 And I said, well, I have already done

1 that, but anyway, I really believe that when
2 you look at and when you take into the small
3 communities, you need to look not only at the
4 geographic, but what is the natural fit for
5 those communities, and a place like Hawthorne,
6 I think that we deserve to be in with the rest
7 of Alachua County or the majority of Alachua
8 County and not Jacksonville and Orlando,
9 because that -- I mean, pick one of the two,
10 but trying to be between both of them is very
11 difficult.

12 The other thing I want to say and this is
13 kind of more on the light side, you know, be
14 careful, as much as I respect the voters of
15 Florida, I mean, I grew up following the
16 Legislature around from a young kid.

17 We all, we are not only about this latest
18 thing, but we voted to put pigs in the
19 Constitution as well. So sometimes there are
20 unintended consequences, and I will tell you as
21 with someone who has followed politics in this
22 part of the state since I can remember, that
23 one of the unintended consequences of term
24 limits has been that you don't have the
25 representation for the rural areas and those

1 types of things, not that the men and women
2 that are there now are not capable, but without
3 the seniority that they had, it becomes a
4 numbers game.

5 So all I am saying to that is that when
6 you look at the vote that was taken and I
7 respect the vote for the two Amendments, there
8 will be unintended consequences, okay.

9 There was a time when the Democrats were
10 running the state of Florida for the most part,
11 they did redistricting. I am sure that they
12 didn't mean to redistrict in such a way that a
13 majority of Republicans came in. They came in
14 probably under districts that Democrats had
15 drawn for the most part.

16 So all I am saying as citizens, let's not
17 panic. With term limits, the next time that
18 this happens, with all due respect to you, most
19 of you won't be sitting here.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is right.

21 MR. MARTIN: So things will change. Let's
22 take a deep breath, try to do what we think is
23 in the best interest of the citizens of the
24 state of Florida, and realize that they are,
25 all of those who are both for or opposed to

1 these Amendments, and I will close with this,
2 believe me, there will be consequences that are
3 unforeseen that you won't like if you supported
4 it or if you didn't support it, because
5 elections have consequences. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, we
7 appreciate it. Peter Johnson, you are next,
8 Peter Johnson? Is Peter Johnson here? How
9 about Erin Murphy with the College Democrats,
10 and then following Ms. Murphy, Reba, and I am
11 not going to take a shot at this, Reba, you are
12 going to have to help me. 1904 Northwest 11th
13 Road, and then Chris Ott is next. Ms. Murphy,
14 thank you for being here.

15 MS. MURPHY: Thank you. My name is Erin
16 Murphy and I am the President of the UF College
17 Democrats. Thank you all for being here this
18 evening.

19 As a UF student I go to campus every day
20 and go to class in one House District and that
21 is Representative Perry's, and then I go home
22 to my apartment in another House District,
23 which is Representative Chestnut's.

24 I am sure you are both wonderful
25 Representatives, but it can be confusing at

1 times because as a student and as someone who
2 is interested in politics, there are issues
3 that I would like to advocate on, especially as
4 a student at a university where I am facing
5 budget cuts to my university, hikes in tuition,
6 cuts to my Bright Future's funding, which is
7 the reason I am able to attend, able to attend
8 college.

9 And I think that it is difficult, because
10 sometimes I wonder who is really representing
11 me. The place I live or the place I go to
12 school. It can get, it is very confusing, and
13 so as a constituent, where should I turn, and
14 in going through all of this out of the blue
15 there came Fair Districts.

16 Amendments V and VI, they are going to be
17 on the ballot for 2010, and so, you know, I
18 advocated passionately for those Amendments in
19 the 2010 election, and I know that we worked
20 very hard on our campus to get students to
21 understand the issues and to vote and democracy
22 ran its course and Amendments V and VI were
23 adopted with 63 percent of the vote, and they
24 are now a part of the Florida Constitution.

25 And things that I find disheartening is

1 when I get the feeling that you as my elected
2 officials aren't really interested in enforcing
3 the will of the people. When I heard that
4 there is a \$30 million fund in the House and an
5 \$8 million fund in the Senate in preparation
6 for legal battles over this, which I understand
7 there are legal battles every time there is
8 redistricting, but I am pretty sure this is
9 more than the cost than it usually is, and it
10 is in anticipation of fighting Fair Districts,
11 I have to ask, please don't waste taxpayer
12 dollars in fighting something that the
13 taxpayers voted for.

14 And with that I would ask you to implement
15 Fair Districts Florida, as the people of
16 Florida have asked you to.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Murphy.
18 And Ms. Murphy, again, not to be argumentative,
19 but just because sometimes something gets in
20 the blood stream and it is hard to get it out,
21 ten years ago in the Senate and I wasn't in the
22 Senate ten years ago, but ten years ago in the
23 Senate the legal costs associated with
24 redistricting, and there were I think three
25 court challenges, were \$10 million.

1 The \$9 million that are budgeted for over
2 a two-year period are not to fight Fair
3 Districts, but rather to make sure that we are
4 able to present the redistricting plans to the
5 various courts that we have to present them to
6 and defend them in front of those courts as
7 well as the United States Justice Department.

8 I can tell you that in the Florida Senate
9 there is not one penny in any line item, in any
10 budget, to fight Fair Districts. That is just
11 not true.

12 But thank you very much, Ms. Murphy, for
13 your testimony. And Reba, can you help me out
14 with that last name?

15 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: I did it once. It is
16 Bandyopadhyay.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Do it again?

18 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Bandyopadhyay.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Bandyopadhyay.

20 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: Yes, don't look at it,
21 it is easier.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay, I will just,
23 Bandyopadhyay. Thank you so much for being
24 here, again.

25 MS. BANDYOPADHYAY: I would like to thank

1 you for coming to Gainesville and to Alachua
2 County to listen to us and giving us the
3 opportunity to speak.

4 I agree with many other previous speakers
5 that this would have been a much more useful
6 exercise if we had all had maps to look at
7 beforehand.

8 And as has been pointed out, although the
9 previous last time you had the meetings in
10 July, they also had maps in July for people to
11 look at. So it is a little bit of an exercise.

12 On the other hand, I can point to one
13 thing that concerns me, is that the legislative
14 line for the Congressional Districts, the U. S.
15 Congress, goes down more or less 13th Avenue,
16 except for it carved out my neighborhood to
17 stick it on the east side of town, even though
18 it is on the west side.

19 What that does, it means that we have two
20 Representatives in Congress, one of whom is
21 described as D-Jacksonville, and the other one
22 is described as R-Ocala. That is who has --
23 who Gainesville has representing them in the
24 Congress, and that is actually important
25 because that splits, as has been talked about,

1 it splits the community of the University of
2 Florida in two, which is actually relevant to
3 how we get funding, not just at the state
4 level, but also in the Federal level because we
5 look at funding that comes from Congress
6 regarding scientific, medical research that
7 comes to the University of Florida and there is
8 a big economic engine here and if we don't have
9 a Representative in Gainesville, which I don't
10 really think has been maybe explicitly
11 mentioned, then it is very difficult to get
12 those points across to our Legislators because
13 we have to go to Ocala or we have to go to
14 Jacksonville.

15 They have local offices but that is not
16 the same thing as having their primary seat
17 here in Gainesville. And so I would just like
18 to urge that when we look at those lines in
19 this upcoming redistricting, that it is
20 considered that Gainesville, itself, is a city,
21 is a community of interest, and although that
22 exact terminology is not in the Fair Districts
23 legislation, that we actually consider that as
24 being a primary continuous boundary that we
25 would like to see in one district and not in

1 two. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you,
3 Ms. Bandyopadhyay. Now we have Michael Bowie
4 from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and then James
5 Ingle and then Ron Thornton.

6 I apologize, I didn't mean to skip you,
7 Chris Ott. I had you right on top. Thank you
8 for being here.

9 MR. OTT: Well, thank you for being here.
10 I want to thank you for taking, for giving up
11 your evening. I am sure you have families and
12 things, I know I have a son out at, from out of
13 town.

14 It looks like he is out having fun with
15 his friends and I am going to miss him because
16 he is leaving in the morning, but this is an
17 important event.

18 I was at the last redistricting when it
19 was at the Doyle Conner Center ten years ago.
20 At that point I wondered why it was called a
21 hearing, because there wasn't much listening
22 going on, there was people texting and talking
23 and chatting, and I appreciate that you have
24 run a fair meeting, Mr. Gaetz. I appreciate
25 that.

1 I think what we need our districts that
2 elect Representatives that we can access
3 readily and we can meet them. Some of the --
4 some of the 150-mile long districts and things
5 we got, I know, I live in Gainesville and I
6 work in Archer, and every election I see
7 Mr. Bembry out there putting out his signs at
8 the Davis Center, and, you know, I say hi and
9 then I see him in Tallahassee, also, but it is
10 pretty ridiculous what we got.

11 And I think just common sense, just
12 showing those maps, that is why 63 percent of
13 Floridians have spoken through the ballot to
14 change the way that we redistrict things.

15 The first time the Fair Districts tried to
16 put this on the ballot they actually didn't,
17 they wanted to remove the redistricting from
18 the Legislature. They wanted to have an
19 impartial body to do the job, but the Courts
20 threw that out because they said that it was
21 two issues, multiple issues on a ballot, you
22 can only have a specific one issue on a ballot.

23 You know, I am trying to look at that
24 bumper sticker that says More Wag and Less
25 Bark, but what I see is that as a consequence

1 of having Representatives that I don't feel
2 really represent me, and I think this is just
3 another gentleman put it pretty well.

4 When you draw things to favor incumbents,
5 incumbents know they can win so they can go to
6 Tallahassee or Washington and they can say what
7 they want to say, and it makes our country get
8 more and more polarized and we are now at the
9 place where, I don't know, I am kind of fearful
10 about, you know, our country driving off the
11 cliff, playing chicken with the debt crisis and
12 what-not, because we can't sit down and have a
13 discussion about issues.

14 What we are doing now is we are picking
15 sides, and I have neighbors and I am tired of
16 picking sides. We are all Americans here, and
17 I think if you watched the World Cup the other
18 day when the Brazilian girl just dropped in the
19 box to waste time, and the fans in the stands
20 saw it, nobody heard her, she was faking it,
21 and she got put on the stretcher, took up two
22 minutes of time, Abby Wambach back said, watch
23 the time, please, Referee. As soon as that
24 stretcher got off the field, that girl jumped
25 off, ran around, tried to get back in the game.

1 Floridians are watching what is going on.
2 We don't want to be duked. And they are
3 watching because they want this to be a fair
4 process.

5 Where are the maps? Got maps? We should
6 be discussing the particulars of how to make
7 things fair. One thing that I have gotten here
8 tonight is the folks in the rural county
9 wanting to have a fair shake.

10 The other thing I have heard is we are
11 going to have water issues here. We are going
12 to have, you know, there is the old story, I
13 got good news and bad news about water. Do you
14 want the good news, the good news is where --

15 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize, Mr. Ott, you
16 are going to have to wind it up.

17 MR. OTT: I am wrapping it up. The good
18 news is we are going to be drinking sewage in
19 about 25 years. The bad news is there not
20 going to be enough to go around.

21 So we have some serious issues, we need to
22 start working on talking about the issues and
23 stop picking sides.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Ott, very
25 much. Michael Bowie, Michael Bowie here? How

1 about James Ingle, James Ingle, then Ron
2 Thornton and then Mark Werner with the
3 Democratic Party. Mr. Ingle, thank you for
4 coming tonight.

5 MR. INGLE: I appreciate it, sorry, I am
6 actually a little bit under dressed than
7 everybody else, I woke up about --

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are a citizen, we
9 work for you, you are not under dressed. We
10 welcome you.

11 MR. INGLE: Thank you. I woke up about
12 4:00 this morning, drove to Crystal River,
13 worked a ten-hour shift in a power plant, drove
14 back and came to this meeting, so it has been
15 kind of a full day.

16 I wanted to tell you guys how impressed
17 and how much I like this process. That is what
18 I wanted to do, it is not true. I feel like it
19 is lacking a lot.

20 You know, this seems entirely backwards to
21 me, like we are here discussing the districts
22 and what they need to look like without a map,
23 with a giant blank 30-foot screen behind you.

24 It seems very hard to have a legitimate
25 conversation about it without the information

1 being out.

2 You have mentioned several times that
3 there is nothing stopping the Legislators from
4 putting maps out today or yesterday or the day
5 before, but the fact that there is nothing
6 stopping them and no maps have come out from
7 the Legislators, it seems to make it seem to me
8 that it is not a particular priority for the
9 leadership in the Legislature.

10 You know, I don't want to stand up here
11 and attack all Legislators, you know, I have
12 been to Tallahassee, I have sat in Mr. Evers's
13 office and Mr. Oelrich and Mr. Chestnut and
14 they seem like decent people and they have
15 always been honest and straight up with me and
16 I don't want to -- what I say sound like I am
17 attacking every single person standing up
18 there, because I am certainly not.

19 I also know you are great people, but the
20 Legislature as a whole, I have just not been
21 very impressed with them on this issue.

22 You know, Florida is already kind of a
23 laughing stock around the country for politics
24 and now we are in a position of Florida is
25 suing itself about fair districts.

1 So we as taxpayers get to pay both sides
2 of a lawsuit, like we are just throwing money
3 at lawyers, and it just seems like in a state
4 where we talk so much about budget crisis, that
5 seems like a bad place to be spending money
6 right now.

7 You know, and during the last election the
8 voters spoke, you know, and whether you agree
9 with the Fair Districts or not, two out of
10 three Floridians came out and said that is how
11 they wanted their districts done, before we had
12 a map that looked like that, and there is only
13 one reason a map like that gets drawn. It gets
14 drawn for political power.

15 The party in power draws that map to make
16 sure it maintains power, and I realize that
17 nobody standing on this stage had anything to
18 do with drawing that map. That was before
19 everybody's time, but at the same time,
20 everybody on this stage has had -- been
21 affected by how that map was drawn.

22 So, I mean, this is all of our problem and
23 I think that the voters need to be listened to,
24 and I worry that several of the kind of veins
25 the Legislature went in seem to be against the

1 will of the people.

2 It seemed like voter rights were under
3 attack and it doesn't seem like as much as
4 being done as could be to move forward with the
5 Fair Districts, and as I said I would love to
6 come up here and tell you how impressed I am
7 with this process, and I wish the process was
8 in place so I could be impressed with. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you very
11 much for taking the time to come tonight. Now,
12 here is where we are. We have by my clock
13 about 14 minutes left. I have about 30 people
14 who want to talk.

15 So we are not going to get to everybody,
16 so here is what we can do, if we don't get to
17 you tonight, obviously it is not because we
18 didn't want to, we have heard, by my count,
19 gosh, 71 speakers so far.

20 So if we didn't get to you, you can still
21 submit your comments, they will be given to
22 every single member of the committee and every
23 member of the committee will have the benefit
24 of your wisdom and there will be other hearings
25 and other opportunities as well to speak if you

1 would like, but we are going to go as far as we
2 can with the people who are here. We ask you
3 to please be as brief as you can.

4 Ron Thornton? Ron Thornton? Once, twice,
5 three times, Mike Werner, representing the
6 Democratic Party. And then, Kim, I think it is
7 Popejoy, and then Tommy Langford.

8 Thank you very much for being here
9 tonight, Mr. Werner.

10 MR. WERNER: Thank you for giving me the
11 opportunity to speak, and I would like to thank
12 you, the Chairman, for your -- your demeanor
13 and the respect you have given to all of the
14 speakers and how you have made this more of an
15 affable and non partisan type of atmosphere.

16 First of all, I would like to have a
17 question. I didn't know before I came here and
18 I am rather new to this redistricting process,
19 I didn't know that there was some legal move
20 afoot that was put into place by the
21 Legislature to contest the legality of the Fair
22 Districting Amendment, and I just wonder how
23 many people on the stage now voted in favor of
24 contesting that Amendment or whether, what is
25 the, you know, whether they were in favor of

1 it.

2 Is there anyone on the stage who was in
3 favor of legally contesting the Fair
4 Districting Amendment?

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I will tell you what we
6 can do. As opposed to giving everybody an
7 opportunity to explain their position, why
8 don't we give you, why don't we give you a
9 chance to talk afterwards with anybody you want
10 to talk to, but I think you will find that,
11 that there is a difference of opinion among
12 Senators, Representatives, Republicans,
13 Democrats. What else do you have for us
14 tonight?

15 MR. WERNER: Well, I would just like to
16 mention the main reason that I am here, and
17 that is because the gerrymandering process can,
18 by its very nature, dilute out whole sections
19 of the electorate and produce a result in which
20 there is, instead of which democracy instead of
21 being government by the majority, is government
22 by the minority.

23 And we have several examples of that in
24 recent and not so recent history, starting with
25 Samuel J. Tilden against Rutherford B. Hayes,

1 when Rutherford B. Hayes was named President,
2 even though he had a minority of the votes,
3 when Albert Gore got a majority of the votes of
4 the country and George Bush was proclaimed
5 President.

6 So I just want to make the point that you
7 have a very large responsibility in instituting
8 the fair districts to prevent this from
9 happening, because I am concerned that we are
10 moving more towards a democracy where there is
11 government by the minority instead of
12 government by the majority.

13 And lastly, I would like to echo the
14 sentiment about think globally but act locally,
15 and in that sense I think that there are, what
16 we do here has some bearing on really around
17 the world.

18 Right now in the Middle East there is a
19 tremendous upsurge of sentiment for democracy
20 and I think it is our responsibility to be a
21 beacon of democracy and be an example that
22 other people can follow and embrace.

23 And I think that is what we want to do and
24 that is what the voters of Florida wanted to do
25 with the Fair District Amendment, was to make

1 this a better democracy and that is why I would
2 urge you to go with the Amendment and the
3 spirit of the Amendment.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
5 Next, Kim, is it Popejoy, and then Tommy
6 Langford, and I hope we will have time for Ted
7 Yoho. Kim?

8 MS. POPEJOY: Kim Popejoy, citizen and for
9 those of you that are still able to listen,
10 thank you very much for being here to listen.

11 It has been said that if you have a varied
12 group of people it takes seven times and seven
13 different ways and I think that you have all
14 heard today that people want you to speed up
15 the process and I know you have heard that at
16 least seven times.

17 People want you to pay attention to the
18 county lines, you have heard that at least
19 seven times today. I think you have also heard
20 that people need you to try and keep rural
21 districts contiguous also, seven times.

22 So I urge you to take those particular
23 areas of concern back to your committees and
24 urge your staff to give us maps ASAP.

25 Secondly, I want to go to just very

1 briefly, the big picture, and it has been
2 mentioned a couple of times, that we are much
3 more of a polarized society today than we have
4 been in quite some time, and some of that may
5 be laid at the feet of how districting is done.

6 Without competitive districts, then we
7 have less opportunity for representing the
8 middle of the country, and if we go back to
9 1859 and 1860, we are a very polarized country.

10 I am sure that no one at that time thought
11 that it would explode in the way that it did.

12 I am sure that nobody thinks that the kind of
13 polarization that we have in the country today
14 is going to explode in anything kind of
15 similar, but I ask you to keep that in mind
16 that we want to make sure that we do not let
17 the polarization that is current in our country
18 continue to progress to the point where we are
19 actually at each other's throats as we were in
20 past.

21 And one of the ways that we can do that is
22 to create competitive districts, competitive
23 districts will give us middle of the road
24 candidates.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very much

1 for your comments. Next is Tommy Langford, and
2 then Ted Yoho and we are going to try to get to
3 D. J. Ferguson. Mr. Langford?

4 MR. LANGFORD: Thank you, sir, for the
5 honor to speak to you tonight. I appreciate
6 having the opportunity to be here.

7 Just a couple of words, I will be brief, I
8 am here to represent Gilchrist County. I want
9 to remind you and ask you to keep the rural
10 counties rural as much as you can, because our
11 wants and desires are a little bit different
12 than the urban areas and I am sure that you
13 understand that.

14 The other thing is, just make sure that we
15 try to keep it as fair as we can. I know ya'll
16 have been elected to go to Tallahassee. You
17 got the majority votes, that is the reason you
18 hold that seat. So I just ask that you do it
19 right, do it fair, abide by the law.

20 I appreciate your courage for being here
21 tonight. I know that you are in a situation
22 where you are going to hear good things, bad
23 things, everybody wants this, everybody wants
24 that, and you can't please them all, but do the
25 best you can with what you got and thank you,

1 sir.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
3 Ted Yoho and then D. J. Ferguson.

4 MR. YOHO: How are ya'll doing, appreciate
5 your time, Mr. Chairman, and the Honorable
6 Representatives.

7 I pretty much am going to defer to what
8 everybody said because they have covered all of
9 my points, but just a few things.

10 Especially in regards to Ms. Kidder,
11 especially in regards to a candidate, since I
12 am -- I am a candidate, and it is hard to
13 campaign without these lines drawn, and we have
14 been told it may be even up to November. It
15 just creates --

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Let me disabuse you of
17 that. That is simply not true.

18 MR. YOHO: Well, that is good, that makes
19 me feel better, but it causes a lot of
20 confusion on the voter's side, too.

21 My encouragement is to be fair, equitable,
22 expedient and use common sense as Mr. Boyetx
23 pointed out here in the town of Archer and all
24 of the different districts in that, and I know
25 you will be.

1 It is hard to give an opinion and people
2 have brought this up over and over again
3 without seeing a map. It is kind of like going
4 out on a blind date and your buddy said, well,
5 what is it like, and I said well, I will tell
6 you after we go out on the date.

7 You would expedite this or make it faster
8 if we had the maps where we could just say
9 these look good, and, you know, I know that is
10 a tough thing with the demographics.

11 And so I encourage you to make it as, the
12 maps available as soon as possible and to bring
13 the process to a quick and equitable conclusion
14 and I appreciate your time and your service.

15 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. D.
16 J. Ferguson, D. J. Ferguson? Okay, George
17 Tedford, George Tedford? Judith Etzler, Judith
18 Etzler, Judith Etzler. I -- is there -- are
19 you Ms. Etzler? Please come forward. You will
20 be our last speaker this evening.

21 First shall be last and the last shall be
22 first. We are delighted to have your
23 testimony.

24 MS. ETZLER: Thank you for holding this
25 meeting. I voted for Fair Districts, and I

1 really believe in one citizen, one vote. I am
2 getting pretty sinical about all of the ways
3 that I am being manipulated as a citizen, I am
4 just talking as one citizen.

5 I am a very serious citizen and I always
6 vote and I follow issues. I follow the news on
7 television, I follow local issues, I follow
8 Federal and I also try to pay attention to
9 national issues.

10 But I don't appreciate all of the
11 political games that are being played with me.
12 Word framing, not gerrymandering districts,
13 there are so many things that I don't
14 appreciate and I think it waste my time, it
15 waste your time and it also waste our citizens'
16 money.

17 Please, the last thing I will say is,
18 please treat us with respect. We need your
19 respect. We try to respect you, and also if
20 you would treat us as intelligent citizens.

21 I am very intelligent and I am tired of
22 being disregarded and I am tired of being, the
23 feeling of being sinical about my government.
24 I love my government. I am an American
25 citizen, I always vote.

1 I come from a long family of voters and I
2 was taught to love my country. So please allow
3 me to keep on doing that and keep on respecting
4 the people who make the laws and don't waste
5 our money, thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Etzler.
7 We have heard 70 -- by my reckoning, we have
8 called 79 names and I think we have heard 75
9 testifiers tonight.

10 We appreciate everyone's willingness to
11 come forward. There are maps available now on
12 the websites that have been submitted. There
13 are likely to be more maps submitted.

14 The one thing I would like to share with
15 you is that apparently there is some impression
16 that somehow this committee will -- will have a
17 map that springs fully grown from the Brow of
18 Suske (phonetic). That is simply not the case.

19 The fact is that there will be individual
20 maps generated by individual Legislators, just
21 like there are individual maps being generated
22 now by citizens and by interest groups.

23 The last time there was a public hearing
24 in Gainesville about this matter was in July,
25 in the last cycle. There were maps then, but I

1 will guarantee you that there will be maps long
2 before July, and, you know, unless the creek
3 rises, we will be long gone with this whole
4 issue long before July.

5 So we really appreciate your willingness
6 to come out tonight. We appreciate your
7 kindness to the individuals who spoke, whether
8 you agreed with them or whether you didn't
9 agree with them, and we are delighted to get
10 the kind of input that we could not have gotten
11 any other way or any other place than from
12 listening to the specifics about your
13 neighborhoods and your communities.

14 This is not your last time to have input.
15 This is your first time to have input, and
16 please continue to be involved in this
17 important process that defines our
18 representative government.

19 With that, Representative Precourt moves
20 we rise.

21 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
22 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 163 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 12th day of September, 2011.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014