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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2011

6:00 P.M.

NEW JOURNAL CENTER AT DAYTONA STATE COLLEGE

DAYTONA BEACH, 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 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,
3 members. The Joint Senate House Redistricting
4 Hearing is called to order. Several committee
5 members are here, as well as other
6 Representatives and Senators, and I am going to
7 ask that each introduce themselves and just
8 tell us where they are from. So if we could
9 past the mike around.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could we begin with
11 Senator Lynn, in who's district we are
12 delighted to be, Senator Lynn.

13 SENATOR LYNN: I am so happy that you are
14 all here, and I want to thank the two Chairmen.
15 Is it on?

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes, it is on.

17 SENATOR LYNN: Can you all hear me?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: No.

19 SENATOR LYNN: Okay, now, we go. I want
20 to thank you all for being here, because
21 certainly this is an opportunity for you to
22 tell us whatever it is you think is important
23 as we look at redistricting, but I also want to
24 thank Representative Weatherford and Senator
25 Gaetz were kind enough and our own

1 Representative Hukill is a Co-Chair on the
2 House side, but they were kind enough to have a
3 meeting here in Daytona Beach which I very,
4 very much appreciated because I think it is so
5 important that we all have opportunities
6 throughout the state to have input.

7 There are very many meetings and we will
8 be going to a lot of them throughout the entire
9 state, but I thought it was very important,
10 because in this area we have reached a
11 diversity of opinion on so many things.

12 So I do thank you, Chairman, for doing
13 this and I thank you all for being willing to
14 come out and I look forward to hearing what you
15 have to say. Where would you like me to pass
16 this now?

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Anywhere you want.

18 SENATOR HAYS: Do you want me to take it?
19 You can tell we get along well. Thank you for
20 being here. I am Alan Hays, Senator for
21 District 20, which includes the western half of
22 Volusia County and points on further west than
23 that, but we are glad you are here. We
24 appreciate you coming and we look forward to
25 hearing what you have to say.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Could we pass that
2 down here, because I would like to have
3 Representative Costello and Representative
4 Taylor introduce themselves since this is
5 Volusia County, and Representative Brodeur. I
6 am sorry, let's get Representative Brodeur, he
7 is right there, it is easier.

8 SENATOR THRASHER: I am Senator Thrasher.
9 I am John Thrasher. I represent Senate
10 District 8 which includes part of Nassau,
11 Duval, St. Johns, Flagler and I am proud to
12 say, Volusia County. Thank you for being here.
13 I appreciate it.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Thank you, I am
15 Jason Brodeur, State Representative from
16 District 33. I represent, I live in Sanford in
17 Seminole County, but I represent parts of
18 Volusia County, in the western part, parts of
19 Deltona, Osteen and Enterprise. So very
20 excited to be here and thank you for coming
21 out.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Let's just keep
23 it, Representative Precourt, just take it. We
24 are moving around too much.

25 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, your

1 call. I am Steve Precourt, House
2 Representative from District 41 and Vice-Chair
3 of the House (inaudible).

4 A VOICE: Senator Caldwell.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CALDWELL: Representative
6 Matt Caldwell from southwest Florida, District
7 73, Lee County.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Representative Jim
9 Boyd from District 68, Manatee County, which is
10 Bradenton, Florida, just south of Tampa Bay.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Kathleen
12 Passidomo, Collier County. I represent the
13 City of Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City
14 and a lot of the Everglades.

15 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Representative Peter
16 Nehr from Pinellas County and Pasco County.

17 SENATOR EVERS: I am Representative Greg
18 Evers. I represent Senate District 2 in the
19 panhandle, great northwest.

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

24 SENATOR MONTFORD: I am Bill Montford,
25 State Senator from District 6 with 11 counties,

1 rural counties and around Tallahassee, Leon
2 County, and ten others, all or a part of them.
3 Glad you are here, appreciate you coming and
4 sharing your ideas with us.

5 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: My name is Scott
6 Plakon, House District 37, and I represent
7 parts of Orange and Seminole Counties.

8 SENATOR DEAN: State Senator Charlie Dean.
9 I represent District 3, the Florida Senate from
10 Baker county west to Leon County, south to
11 Citrus County, Hernando County and all or part
12 of 13 counties.

13 REPRESENTATIVE DORWORTH: Hi there, my
14 name is Chris Dorworth. I am a Representative,
15 I serve in Seminole and Orange Counties.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LOGAN: Representative Ana
17 Rivas Logan and I represent parts of Miami Dade
18 County.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Hi, I am Dennis
20 Baxley, House District 24, serving Ocala,
21 Marion County, and I am a graduate of Mainland
22 High School. It is great to be back.

23 REPRESENTATIVE KIAR: Hi everybody, my
24 name is Martin Kair, and I am The state
25 Representative for House District 97 which is

1 located solely within Broward County. Thank
2 you for coming today.

3 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening, I am
4 Hazelle Rogers. I represent eight cities in
5 Broward County, 1.8 million residents in
6 Broward County, one of the most diverse
7 counties in the State of Florida. Good to be
8 here. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening,
10 I am State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed
11 and I represent House District 92, which is the
12 northeast part of Broward County down to Ft.
13 Lauderdale. Glad to be here and I want to hear
14 what you have to say.

15 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good evening,
16 Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion of
17 Alachua County and a portion of Marion County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Good afternoon,
19 State Representative Mia Jones from
20 Jacksonville.

21 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good evening,
22 State Representative Mack Bernard from West
23 Palm Beach, Florida.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Welcome, I am
25 Representative Jim Frishe, I represent the

1 western edge of Pinellas County, all of the
2 beaches.

3 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening. My
4 name is John Patrick Julien. I represent House
5 District 104. It is a pleasure to be here and
6 look forward to hearing what you all have to
7 say.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DRAKE: Brad Drake, Fifth
9 House District, panhandle Florida.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HOOPER: Good evening, Ed
11 Hooper, House District 50, part of Pinellas
12 County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Clay Ford, House
14 District 3, parts of Escambia and Santa Rosa
15 County. It is the Pensacola area.

16 REPRESENTATIVE COSTELLO: Good evening,
17 everybody, Fred Costello, District 22, I am
18 honored to represent many of you. Let me just
19 tell you something. This is one group of
20 wonderfully honorable people. I want you to
21 give them a warm Daytona Beach, Volusia County
22 welcome.

23 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Representative
24 Costello is hard to follow, but I am
25 Representative Dana Young. I represent the

1 City of Tampa and part of Hillsborough County.
2 Welcome. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,
4 everyone, I am Dwayne Taylor and I am proud and
5 honored to represent you here in Daytona Beach
6 and in Volusia County.

7 I just want you to know I have a bunch of
8 wonderful colleagues that I would like to
9 welcome, not only to my district, but my home
10 where I spent 43 years of my life here. I want
11 to thank the Chairs, chair Weatherford and
12 Chair Gaetz for honoring Daytona Beach by
13 bringing this House Redistricting Committee
14 here.

15 We need the money in this community, and
16 folks, please don't say anything to embarrass
17 me tonight. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Forty-three.
19 We thought he was a lot older than that. My
20 name is Will Weatherford. I am a State
21 Representative from District 61. It is in
22 Pasco County and part of Hillsborough County.
23 Honored to be here.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much.
25 My name is Dorothy Hukill, and I represent

1 District 28, Volusia County. I am so proud
2 that so many of my fellow Volusians came out
3 tonight to greet us and to tell us how they
4 feel about this process and what they think is
5 important to them.

6 I, along with my Senate colleague, Don
7 Gaetz, sitting to my right, will be chairing
8 today's hearing which is being webcast
9 statewide by the Florida Channel over the
10 Internet.

11 Our sole purpose tonight is to hear from
12 the public about how you believe the legal
13 standards governing redistricting should be
14 applied in your community so that you will be
15 represented in Washington and Tallahassee
16 fairly, equitably and sensibly.

17 Our procedures today are simple but
18 important. It is important that you sign in so
19 that we create an accurate public record of all
20 attendees and speakers.

21 Also, you may opt to join our e-mail list
22 so that you can keep informed about the
23 redistricting process and how it is working
24 over the next several months.

25 If you have not signed in and we have many

1 people signed in, if you have not signed in to
2 speak tonight, please raise your hand and a
3 staff member will give you an attendance card.

4 If you wish to speak today and have not
5 filled it out, please do that now. Before we
6 begin the Chair will recognize Senator Gaetz to
7 explain how today's hearing fits into the
8 redistricting process. Chairman Gaetz.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.
10 Thank you, Representative Hukill. I am Don
11 Gaetz and I represent five coastal counties in
12 northwest Florida in the panhandle, from
13 Pensacola to Panama City.

14 Every ten years the Legislature is
15 required by our State Constitution to
16 redistrict the state based on decreases,
17 increases or movements of population from one
18 place to another, and because Florida has grown
19 more than other states in the last ten years,
20 we also move up from 25 members of the U.S.
21 House of Representatives to 27 members, and we
22 also pick up two more electoral votes in the
23 electoral college as a result of our increased
24 population.

25 Now, because some parts of our state have

1 increased or decreased disproportionately to
2 others, many Senate and House Districts will
3 change either adding or losing population.

4 There is a chart in the back that many of
5 you I saw were looking at when you came in.
6 You can look at it during the hearing or on
7 your way out and it indicates all of the
8 Congressional House and Senate Districts in
9 this part of Florida, and how many additional
10 voters those districts will have to pick up or
11 lose in order to be equal in population.

12 Because when redistricting is done,
13 Congressional Districts must be equal in
14 population and every Congressional District in
15 America and every Congressional District, of
16 course, in Florida, must contain 696,345
17 people.

18 There are 40 Senate Districts in Florida,
19 and they must be nearly equal at about 470,000
20 people, and our 120 House Districts must also
21 be nearly equal at about 156,700 people.

22 There are displays that you can see.
23 There are maps in the back of the room showing
24 the current boundaries of our current districts
25 in this part of the state, and you can see over

1 on the chart over in that part of the room the
2 number of persons that have to be added to or
3 subtracted from current districts to achieve
4 equal representation. So those are the maps.

5 Those are the districts that we can use as
6 a take-off point to say, here is what is wrong
7 with this district, here is where that line
8 needs to be changed, here is where this makes
9 sense or doesn't make sense.

10 You have an opportunity to use that as a
11 take-off point for any of your comments tonight
12 or your comments going forward, but equality of
13 representation isn't the only legal requirement
14 that redistricting plans have to meet.

15 The laws and the important court cases
16 governing redistricting are explained in detail
17 on the House and Senate websites.

18 Those websites are listed on the
19 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available
20 when you came in. The gentleman in the yellow
21 shirt down front has one. Would you hold it
22 up, just hold it up? There you go. That is
23 the brochure.

24 That brochure summarizes Federal and State
25 laws and outlines topics that we hope to hear

1 from you on tonight. If you did not get a copy
2 when you came in, they are available as you
3 leave, and our staff will be happy to get you a
4 copy.

5 The brochure lists our websites and the
6 websites are packed with information about
7 redistricting, including an explanation of the
8 laws and the important court cases governing
9 this topic.

10 You see the Legislature can't do what it
11 wants, we have to follow Federal law, State
12 law, constitutional requirements and applicable
13 court cases, and they are all listed in detail
14 on the website for you to look at if you would
15 like.

16 The website will also deliver to your
17 fingertips all of the demographic information
18 that is used to draw districts, and you will
19 also see overlaid on the demographic
20 information the same computer programs that
21 Legislators and policymakers would use to draw
22 lines.

23 So the demographic information provided to
24 Florida from the Bureau of the Census, and we
25 got our demographic information later than many

1 states. We got, got it in a later tranche.
2 That is why some states are ahead of us, but
3 all of that information is on the website, and
4 then the software that we will be using to draw
5 districts is there, so that you can use the
6 software if you would like and build districts
7 and submit a plan for your neighborhood, your
8 community, this part of the state or the whole
9 state if you would like.

10 Recommendations from citizens and from
11 groups of citizens, interest groups will be
12 made publicly available as soon as we get them
13 from you. In fact, some public submissions
14 already are available on the web.

15 We are delighted, yesterday when we were
16 in Jacksonville during our hearing there were
17 three maps submitted by groups, by individuals
18 in the state of Florida just dealing with
19 Senate Districts alone, and we received
20 Congressional District maps and other maps
21 during that hearing as well.

22 So we are already receiving a lot of
23 information and input. The maps are on the
24 website and we would be delighted for you to
25 look at them and comment on them.

1 The submission of proposed maps from
2 Legislators as well as from the public is the
3 best way for you to show your public
4 participation in the redistricting process.

5 Now, the redistricting schedule, the
6 timeline under which we are operating is
7 imposed by the State Constitution. We can't
8 change it. The Constitution does not permit
9 the Legislature to act on legislative maps. We
10 can't vote on them before the second year after
11 the census.

12 In other words, we can't vote until 2012.
13 Now, in order to accelerate that process
14 because we want to make sure that candidates
15 and incumbents and political parties and
16 citizens mostly know what the maps are and what
17 the process is as soon as possible, we have
18 accelerated the redistricting process as much
19 as we could by moving up the 2012 legislative
20 session from March, when we usually start to
21 January, the first time we could do it
22 constitutionally.

23 And we are beginning our statewide
24 hearings five months in advance of the 2012
25 session. Now, some folks have suggested that

1 the Legislature should just draw the maps and
2 bring them here and say, go ahead and you
3 comment on them and we will draw them, you
4 comment on them, but we believe that that puts
5 the answer ahead of the question.

6 We think there ought to be in this
7 important process no preconceptions created by
8 politicians. We already have maps that we can
9 use as a take-off point, but rather public
10 testimony should be free and unrestricted by
11 any political preconceptions that members of
12 the Legislature have.

13 In fact, Ellen Freidin, the Chairperson
14 for Fair Districts stated in testimony before
15 the Legislature last year that no maps could be
16 drawn. She wouldn't even attempt to draw maps
17 until after the public has had an opportunity
18 to comment, and we agree with Ms. Freidin in
19 Fair Districts on that issue.

20 Our intent is to use the recommendations
21 made of the 26 public hearings that we are
22 holding and the input we are receiving through
23 our Internet sites as the basis for developing
24 one or more options for district maps.

25 Then we will discuss those options in open

1 public meetings before any votes are taken. So
2 this is not your last opportunity for input.
3 It is your first opportunity for input, and any
4 map that is drawn or submitted by any member of
5 the Legislature, any interest group, any
6 citizen, you will see it and you will have a
7 chance to comment on it again before the first
8 committee vote is taken.

9 Whenever the Legislature passes a map or a
10 plan or looks at one or more options, then that
11 is submitted for judicial review to ensure that
12 a final plan meets every legal requirement. So
13 the Court has to review anything that we
14 finally do.

15 Because our purpose today is to hear from
16 you now that we have kind of laid out what the
17 process is going forward, all of the time
18 between now and our adjournment tonight at
19 9:00 will be used to ensure that every member
20 of the public who is here and wishes to speak
21 will have time to present testimony and be
22 listened to respectfully, without interruption
23 and without argument, but there is no gag rule.

24 Every, after every citizen has had his or
25 her say, then if there is time remaining and we

1 hope there will be before scheduled
2 adjournment, then any member of the committee
3 may make any statement, offer any observation,
4 answer any question or offer any proposal or
5 map.

6 Madam Chair, I hope that this description
7 of our schedule and the process going forward
8 helps set the stage for a successful hearing
9 and we look forward to hearing from the people
10 who have come here tonight to share their
11 views.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed with that
14 process I want to recognize one of our former
15 colleagues. We have now County Council Woman
16 Joyce Cusack, former State Rep. Joyce, could
17 you to stand up? Good to see you.

18 No, I didn't, and we also have, I can't
19 see with the lights, but Pat Patterson, former
20 State Rep Pat Patterson, where are you? There
21 you are. Welcome. Thank you for coming
22 tonight.

23 All right, we will adjourn promptly at
24 9:00 tonight. So far there are 36 individuals
25 -- Senator -- I am sorry. We have Senator

1 Baker, is Senator Carey Baker here?

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Senator Baker.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you for
4 coming. All right, we will adjourn promptly at
5 9:00 tonight. There are 36 individuals signed
6 up to speak so far.

7 Is there anyone else who wishes to speak,
8 please raise your hand and we will get a card
9 to you.

10 To ensure that each person is heard we are
11 going to divide the time equally and ask each
12 testifier to please limit your time to three to
13 five minutes.

14 Please be considerate of all of the people
15 behind you. We want the first person who
16 speaks and then the last person who speaks to
17 have the same amount of time. So please be
18 considerate.

19 I am going to call on a person and then
20 have the next up so that you know that you are
21 on deck and you will be ready.

22 Our first speaker tonight will be Jim
23 Cameron from the Daytona Regional Chamber,
24 followed by Sandra Rose.

25 Mr. Cameron, you are recognized. The

1 floor is yours.

2 MR. CAMERON: Thank you. I am Jim
3 Cameron, Senior Vice-President of Government
4 Relations, Daytona Regional Chamber, and I want
5 to say we are glad to have you in town tonight.

6 We appreciate you going on the road,
7 taking the input of people like we have out
8 here throughout the state. So we think this is
9 the right process, because you are getting the
10 input from the people.

11 Like Senator Gaetz said, you don't have
12 maps come in here already drawn, you are
13 getting the input first, so we like that
14 process there.

15 We, at the Chamber, as far as Volusia
16 County, we have had a nearly 12 percent
17 increase from the last process though, but we
18 have had some shifts in population, but we want
19 to support any type of plan that is going to
20 increase voter turn out.

21 We can't get enough of that, but we feel
22 that communities of like interests should be
23 well represented as a top priority. We want to
24 make sure that minorities, all constituencies
25 are represented in the Legislature as well as

1 Congress.

2 As for Volusia County, our Chamber, we
3 would like to see two to three Congressional
4 Districts and we would like to see these built
5 around strategic economic drivers. Our
6 beaches, our ports, airports, speedway,
7 industrial parks, higher educational
8 facilities. So that is what we are looking at,
9 two to three congressional districts.

10 As for Senate Districts, we are saying no
11 more than four Senate Districts with at least
12 one being Volusia majority based. As for the
13 House, no more than six House Seats in Volusia,
14 but with at least three of those being, again,
15 Volusia majority based.

16 I also want to commend, like I say, all of
17 you for coming here tonight. As I said earlier
18 for taking the time and doing this process. I
19 wanted to also thank your staff, because I have
20 been working with my District Builder, it is a
21 little bit different from the Fred System ten
22 years ago though, but Alex and Jason, they have
23 done -- they have been very patient and walked
24 me through the process and all. So I wanted to
25 thank them as well. Thank you for coming

1 tonight.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
3 much, Mr. Cameron. Thank you for your
4 testimony. Next up we have Sandra Rose,
5 followed by Ann McFall. Ms. Rose, you are
6 recognized.

7 MS. ROSE: Good evening. As we know, the
8 Legislature cut \$300 million in corporate
9 taxes. Now you are suing us with our own
10 money. You have put up saying maybe up to \$30
11 million that you are willing to spend to sue
12 the taxpayers.

13 What I want to know, if we are supposed to
14 be cutting back, saving money, why are you
15 willing to spend \$30 million of my money, their
16 money, to sue us for Amendments that we have
17 already voted for and passed. Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
19 much, Ms. Rose. Ann McFall and Ann is our
20 Volusia County Supervisor of Elections,
21 followed by Lynn Peterson. Ms. McFall.

22 MS. MCFALL: Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you for your
24 service to our county and our state.

25 MS. MCFALL: Thanks. And Senators and

1 Representatives, welcome to Volusia County. I
2 have been to this rodeo before. In the '90s, I
3 served on the Volusia County School Board
4 during the reapportionment and the
5 redistricting. In 2000, I was the Chair of the
6 Volusia County Council when we redistricted,
7 and the most challenging job there ever is, is
8 to be Supervisor of Elections when lines are
9 drawn. It makes you a little testy, if you
10 will.

11 I just want to share a few minutes,
12 political jurisdictions going through Volusia
13 County and I don't want to sound selfish. This
14 is not exclusive to Volusia County. I think
15 everyone on the dais knows this happens in
16 their counties as well.

17 Volusia County shares political
18 jurisdictions with 13 other counties. We have
19 three Congressional Districts, 3, 7 and 24;
20 four State Senate seats, 1, 7, 8 and 20; six
21 State House seats, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33; five
22 County Council districts; five School Board
23 districts, elected by zone; an elected hospital
24 district, going through half of Volusia County
25 alone, not all of Volusia County votes in the

1 west Volusia hospital district; five Soil and
2 Water seats elected county-wide.

3 We have 16 cities, four of which run by
4 zone, Daytona Beach, Deltona, Ormond Beach,
5 Orange City. Volusia County has 179 precincts.
6 It cost the general fund of Volusia County
7 about \$1,500 per precinct per election.

8 Of the 179 precincts, 43 precincts are
9 split. Well, what does that mean? That means
10 every time a line is drawn and then another
11 line is drawn and another line is drawn, you
12 have splits in that one precinct, because the
13 precinct is there for ten years as well.

14 Precinct 602 I think is probably the
15 poster child for split precincts. It has eight
16 different splits, and that is the Pelican Bay
17 area. The eight splits during our primary
18 means you have a Democratic ballot, a
19 Republican ballot and an MPA ballot. So three
20 times eight gives you 24 different ballots in
21 one precinct.

22 If Volusia County had no split precincts
23 we would have 290 precincts. Of those 290, 55
24 would have less than 100 voters. So you see
25 the impact and I am sure everyone on the dais

1 understands the impact of drawing a line, and
2 what impact it has for the next ten years on
3 every department of elections statewide.

4 So I ask that you look at the lines, maybe
5 be appreciative of political jurisdictions,
6 whether it is a county or a city. I don't care
7 how many districts there are, just let me know
8 in plenty of time, so ideally I -- actually,
9 the VTDs we presented last year to the
10 legislative staff, Volusia County, if things
11 were drawn a little clearer, would just need
12 129 precincts, we wouldn't need 179.

13 So I just ask that you be mindful of that.
14 I don't care where you draw the lines, but be
15 mindful of the political jurisdictions, and I
16 thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
18 much, Ms. McFall. All right, next up we have
19 Lynn Peterson, followed by Lisa Walker.
20 Ms. Peterson, you are recognized.

21 MR. PETERSON: Thank you. I received an
22 e-mail reply from Will Weatherford,
23 Redistricting Chair and Don Gaetz, the
24 Reapportionment Chair thanking me for my
25 interest in speaking at this hearing.

1 The e-mail describes this as the most open
2 transparent and interactive redistricting ever.

3 However, it did not claim to be efficient
4 or done in a timely manner, which is of huge
5 concern to me and others. The process seems to
6 be purposefully stalling, intentionally slow to
7 thwart the time and opportunities that new
8 legislative hopefuls will have to prepare and
9 execute an effective campaign for office.

10 In addition, voters' time to familiarize
11 themselves with candidates and issues will also
12 be curtailed. It feels as if the residents of
13 Florida are not your main concern, but that
14 favoring your reelection, with reelection of
15 incumbents seems most important.

16 And in speaking of voting, in 2002, the
17 people of Florida voted to limit public school
18 classroom size. Parents wanted small classes
19 so their kids could get more help, teachers
20 wanted it because they are more personally
21 interactive with 25 kids rather than 35 kids.

22 I am a teacher in Volusia County and right
23 now I am scheduled to have 178 students in my
24 six classes. This is because even though we
25 voted to limit class sizes, the Florida

1 Legislature defied our vote and has changed
2 what voters --

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Ms. Peterson,
4 could you please limit your comments to
5 redistricting?

6 MR. PETERSON -- voted for. Oh, I am. I
7 have never taught 178 students before, and you
8 should tremble at the thought that I have that
9 much to do.

10 Now, you think I have gotten sidetracked.
11 Again, after 63 percent of the people of
12 Florida voted, voted for fair redistricting,
13 the Florida Legislature wants to ignore the
14 voters of Florida again and challenge in court
15 our wishes and fair, for fair and compact
16 redistricting.

17 We would like our Representatives to
18 represent Floridians, not extreme right wing
19 Floridians, not extreme left wing Floridians,
20 but just plain old every day Floridians. Thank
21 you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
23 much. All right, next we have Lisa Walker
24 followed by Robert Field. Ms. Walker, you are
25 recognized.

1 MS. WALKER: Good evening, everybody.
2 Thank you for allowing me to speak at this
3 meeting.

4 First of all, I want to say that I am for
5 the Amendments V and VI and hope that you all
6 will follow that law that was agreed on by
7 63 percent of the voters last November.

8 Specifically, what I would like to speak
9 about tonight is the town that I live in. I
10 live in the town of Deltona, and Deltona right
11 now is the largest city in Volusia County.

12 Deltona has almost 85,000 people. Back in
13 2000, when the redistricting was done, I don't
14 know why it was done the way that it was, but
15 Deltona was split in so many different ways
16 that Deltona now does not have any
17 Representatives.

18 Deltona has split into two Congressional
19 Districts, two State Senate Districts and four
20 State House Districts, and none of those
21 Representatives live within 30 miles of
22 Deltona.

23 They don't come to our City Commission
24 meetings. They basically, Deltona is being
25 ignored in the State House and the State Senate

1 and within our Congress, and I hope when you go
2 ahead and redraw the lines that you do follow
3 Amendments V and VI and follow the lines so
4 that you make Deltona be in a State House
5 District by itself, a State Senate District by
6 itself, and also a Congressional District by
7 itself, and that is basically what I have to
8 say. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
10 much, Ms. Walker, for your testimony. Next we
11 have Robert Field, followed by Charles
12 Moskowitz.

13 MR. FIELD: Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Field, you are
15 recognized.

16 MR. FIELD: I was a supporter of V and VI
17 and I support the aims of 20 and 21 for compact
18 and contiguous districts that are consistent
19 with existing political boundaries.

20 I think this is paramount, not just to
21 represent the voters, but also to encourage
22 turn out. When people know who their
23 Representatives are, when their Representatives
24 are the same as their neighbors, their
25 co-workers, their family members, they are more

1 likely to vote. They feel involved in the
2 process.

3 Now, I think some of the preliminary maps
4 that I have seen are encouraging in some
5 respect, but I have one major concern.

6 We have, it seems that we may continue
7 this practice of gerrymandering majority
8 minority seats. Now let me say right up front,
9 I am in favor of minorities in government. I
10 have worked for minority candidates in the
11 past. I will again in the future.

12 I am committed to the ideal of a
13 representation in our legislative bodies that
14 represent our demographics as a state and as
15 communities.

16 However, I think the cost that we pay for
17 these safe seats for candidates is too great,
18 because what it does, is at the cost of
19 offering representation to certain minority
20 groups, it then disenfranchises members of
21 those minority groups, because when people who
22 live in what should be three or four different
23 districts and you should be competitive in
24 those competitive districts, are instead,
25 sheppard into one district. Their votes are

1 neutered.

2 They don't have a real impact on the
3 future of their state or the future of their
4 nation. I think this is a grave problem. We
5 should address it aggressively. We should --
6 we should apply the ideals of 20 and 21 for
7 compact and contiguous districts with
8 consistency with existing political boundaries,
9 absolutely, thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
11 much, Mr. Field, for your testimony. Next we
12 have Charles Moskowitz, followed by Judy
13 Ngying. Am I saying that right, N-g-y-i-n-g?
14 All right, Mr. Moskowitz, you are recognized.

15 MR. MOSKOWITZ: Thank you. Good evening
16 everyone, we do appreciate everybody coming up
17 this evening to hear and answer questions.

18 I have two questions for you. Since
19 Amendments V and VI passed, I am a little
20 puzzled about why we, I guess the people, the
21 State, the Legislature, whatever, had to hire a
22 law firm to try to find fault with Amendments V
23 and VI. That is my first question.

24 The second question is, is, which law firm
25 did we have to pay \$300 per hour of taxpayer

1 money to try to find fault with Amendments V
2 and VI. I hope you have answers to that,
3 because there is a lot of other folks that are
4 going to ask me the same question and I
5 couldn't answer them. Thank you very much.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
7 much, Mr. Moskowitz for your testimony. Judy
8 Ngying, followed by Candy Gilman.

9 MS. NGYING: Hi, I am Judy Ngying, and I
10 am a resident of Deltona and I am happy to be
11 here, and I am going to piggy-back a little bit
12 on Charles, what he just said.

13 I like my money and some of my money has
14 been taken away with the three percent on state
15 employee, with a three percent for my pension,
16 and then I am also seeing that \$30 million of
17 my tax money, not personally, of course, but of
18 Florida, is being used to fight that Amendment
19 that 63 percent of us voted for.

20 And we know that many of you sitting here
21 right now did not even get 63 percent of our
22 votes. So we have a super majority that have
23 voted for this Amendment, yet our tax dollars
24 are being spent to fight the Amendment and then
25 defend the Amendment.

1 It is very hard to explain to the upcoming
2 children who are going to be voters how such a
3 thing can happen. So that is my statement, and
4 my question and I hope that we do have a
5 resolution to that very quickly before that \$30
6 million is exhausted. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Madam Chair.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Just since that question
10 has been raised a couple of times at, you know,
11 our goal tonight is not to -- not to argue with
12 anybody but to listen, but everybody is
13 entitled to their opinion, but everybody is not
14 entitled to their own set of facts.

15 There is no \$30 million. I don't know who
16 told you that, ma'am, but there is no \$30
17 million that has been set aside to sue anybody.

18 There is a lawsuit that has been entered
19 into by two members of Congress, one a Democrat
20 and one a Republican, dealing with the Federal
21 issue in Amendment VI, but the lawsuit has
22 nothing to do with state redistricting.

23 The Senate is not a party to that lawsuit.
24 The House is an intervenor in the lawsuit. I
25 am not a lawyer, but my understanding is that

1 they are an intervenor in order to get
2 clarification as to any inconsistencies between
3 the Federal Voting Rights Act and Amendment VI,
4 but the lawsuit is not entered into, was not
5 started by the Legislature, and there is no \$30
6 million.

7 So whoever told you that, please encourage
8 them to give me a call and I would be happy to
9 share with them any information that I have.
10 Thank you, ma'am.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
12 much, Mr. Chair. Next we have Candy Gilman,
13 followed by Ellen Darden.

14 MS. GILMAN: Well, first of all, I would
15 like to say thank you very much for giving us
16 the opportunity to come out and meet with you
17 and this is democracy in my opinion, and I
18 think we have got a great group of people
19 sitting on that table, at the stage, I am
20 sorry. And you have done an excellent job.

21 You have done a wonderful job for Florida
22 and I think our Governor has done an
23 outstanding job. He is cutting our cost --
24 folks -- shame, shame on you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Ms. Gilman, Ms.

1 Gilman, just hang on one minute. Members of
2 the audience, please, out of respect for the
3 speaker, let's not have a reaction to what is
4 said.

5 Give her the opportunity to say what she
6 wishes to say just as you want that opportunity
7 when you are at the mike. Thank you very much.
8 Go ahead, Ms. Gilman.

9 MS. GILMAN: That was mainly what I want
10 to say. I have listened here and I am going to
11 go on home to my mom, but I want to say thank
12 you from the bottom of my heart, and if
13 Floridians do not understand what you go
14 through, they shouldn't be trying to wear your
15 shoes. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
17 much, Ms. Gilman for your comments and your
18 testimony. Next up we have Ellen Darden,
19 followed by Matty Rose. Ms. Darden, you are
20 recognized.

21 MS. DARDEN: Good evening, I am Ellen
22 Darden. I reside in New Smyrna Beach. I want
23 to thank you all so much for allowing me to
24 address you today.

25 I have got three brief points that I would

1 like to make, but the first one is the most
2 important one to me, and that is to
3 congratulate you and to thank you for being
4 here for us in this series of meetings around
5 the state.

6 I am here just as a concerned citizen, but
7 I have never in my life seen a redistricting
8 reapportionment process being carried on in
9 such a positive, open and transparent method.

10 You have to take my word for this, but I
11 spent my entire life interested in or
12 participating in good government, public policy
13 and politics, and straddled two redistricting
14 times in Tallahassee while I was working in and
15 around the Capitol.

16 This is unique and I think the people in
17 this audience and around the state need to
18 understand how unique it is for the
19 transparency, for the opportunity for
20 individual citizens who aren't anybody to get
21 up in front of you all and tell you what we
22 think for the site that you have up on the
23 website where you are even giving us the tools
24 to help law the lines. It is unbelievable.

25 Everybody has always thought of

1 redistricting as sneaky stuff done in back
2 doors and I, behind closed doors and dark rooms
3 and that sort of thing. I don't think there is
4 anyway that we can evaluate this process in
5 such a fashion.

6 Secondly, I want to address the protection
7 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Voting
8 Rights Act, we all are proud of. It has been
9 in place for 45 years, but this process isn't
10 -- is about protecting the sacred rights of all
11 of us for an equal and fair opportunity to
12 vote.

13 So I am hoping that through this process,
14 given the fact that over the last 45 years, so
15 many of the people who were called minorities
16 have achieved magnificent positions of power
17 and responsibility and population and so on
18 that perhaps our districts could go away from
19 being those, some of those snaky little
20 squiggly things that I think dilute
21 representation, to be more of communities of
22 interest where the districts are more compact.

23 I think certainly our most recent
24 elections, just look at the evidence here in
25 Florida, where a minority gentleman, Marco

1 Rubio is now a State Senator, a U.S. State
2 Senator and Mr. Allen West is now a Congressman
3 in a district that demographically he may not
4 represent, shows how far we have come. So
5 perhaps we could get those districts a little
6 bit more compact.

7 And then finally just a couple of wishes
8 for my home county, Volusia County. We have
9 needs that are different in various
10 geographical areas of our county. As you
11 consider the House Districting, consider
12 perhaps a seat that represents the coastal
13 area.

14 The needs of the coast are different than
15 the more rural areas in the western part of our
16 state. And secondly, on the Senate side, if
17 there is anyway possible to dedicate a Senate
18 seat to Volusia County so that we don't have
19 people spiking in from other communities of
20 interest.

21 That is just a couple of points I wanted
22 to make, but most importantly, thank you all
23 for this process. It is amazing.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
25 much, Ms. Darden, for your comments and your

1 testimony. Next we have Matty Rose, followed
2 by Ken Ali.

3 MR. ROSE: Good evening, stage people. My
4 name is Matty Rose, and I am a resident of
5 Volusia County, a long time resident in
6 Florida.

7 I come before you because I am a voter, a
8 registered voter, and I voted in the last
9 election and I voted on the prevailing side for
10 Amendment V and VI.

11 I also want to tell you my story. If you
12 turn around and look at the screen, it says
13 tell us your story. And I want to share
14 something with you, and then I will get into
15 the specifics of redistricting.

16 Many years ago when I was a young man I
17 joined the Army voluntarily because those that
18 were in the hierarchy of the military service I
19 admired. I admired because they always looked
20 good, they dressed in uniform and they made
21 decisions that I had to follow, and the
22 Congress of the United States and the President
23 of the United States were admired because those
24 in power, you had respect, due respect for
25 them.

1 And later on in life after I got out of
2 the service I started to become politically
3 involved and I start to admire in the same
4 respect those that were in the military, but
5 those that were in the political scene, and
6 because they always looked good and they always
7 talk good and you can always depend upon those
8 that were elected to do the right thing for
9 you, but those of you that are on the stage
10 that are representing this meeting here today,
11 I don't have that same feeling, and I am very
12 disappointed not only in the current
13 Congressional Districts that are gerrymandered
14 and have been for a long time, to just seek
15 different needs of different people or
16 different political parties.

17 You are gerrymandering the process,
18 although these are open meetings and they are
19 dragged out and the road show, to put all of
20 you on stage here to hear comments, I am of the
21 opinion that you your mind, your voting made up
22 and this is just an event and all of the other
23 events scheduled around the state to have
24 individuals come and speak and hear my story.

25 So what I would like to ask you to do

1 tonight and in the other hearings you go to is
2 not just listen, I would like to see some
3 action. I would like to see those maps drawn.

4 You have enough information, you are all
5 well-schooled and you are on the political
6 scene, you are behind the scenes, you know much
7 more than I do, and I would hope that you would
8 draw these district lines to represent the
9 people in Florida.

10 You don't need anymore information. You
11 should have been here already showing us what
12 you have done and not asking us what you should
13 have done. Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
15 much, Ms. Rose. Next we have Ken Ali, followed
16 by Joe, I can't read the name, but is it
17 Siegmerster. Is that an S? S, okay, I am
18 sorry. All right, Mr. Ali, you are recognized.

19 MR. ALI: Thank you, I am Ken Ali and I am
20 glad to be here and I want to welcome you all
21 it Volusia County. I am a proud immigrant
22 American, and I want to say I am proud to be
23 American.

24 I came to this country legally. I crossed
25 legally, I went through the process and I

1 became a citizen. This is the first census
2 that I am experiencing as an American citizen
3 and I am proud of the process.

4 I have been to countries where
5 representatives don't get to come and meet the
6 people, and I welcome you. I want to thank you
7 for the work that you have been doing, and this
8 country is a great country, and we cannot
9 afford to lose it.

10 We cannot afford to slip, and you are our
11 representatives. You are charged with the
12 responsibility of representing us in
13 Tallahassee. I came to this country, I started
14 a business. I ran for office after I became a
15 citizen.

16 I was a candidate for City Commissioner in
17 this city and in no other country can you do
18 that, and I believe in the exceptionalism of
19 America and we got to continue going forward.

20 I appreciate each and every one of you,
21 regardless of which side of the aisle you are
22 on. We vote for who we want to represent us,
23 and I hope that this process will be a fair
24 one, that each group is represented.

25 I agree with Ms. McFall that precincts

1 should not be sub divided and it puts more
2 strain on her department and her budget cuts is
3 going to be tougher.

4 So I would ask that you look at that, and
5 as I always say, I always say, I wasn't born in
6 this country but I will die for this country.
7 My son has just back from Afghanistan, two
8 towers in Iraq, one in Afghanistan.

9 And to all of our sons and daughters, we
10 are proud of them, we are proud of our
11 veterans, I know there are veterans up there
12 that have served this country, who have given
13 their lives and we have got to continue moving
14 forward. Going back is not an option. Thank
15 you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
17 much, Mr. Ali. Thank you so much for your
18 testimony, and I want to thank you specifically
19 for your service to our country, and also your
20 family members. Thank you very much.

21 All right next, we have Joe Siegmerster.

22 MR. SIEGMERSTER: Siegmerster.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I am sorry, and
24 followed up by Patricia Drago.

25 MR. SIEGMERSTER: Yes.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Go ahead. You are
2 recognized.

3 MR. SIEGMERSTER: First off I would like
4 to thank all of you for coming. I know as you
5 go around the state that you will have people
6 that are on your side and people that are
7 against you, and to sit up and take some time
8 is not an easy thing. So as a voter and as a
9 citizen, I thank you for your citizen activist
10 in being in the place that you are.

11 I am a citrus farmer, an entrepreneur, a
12 former teacher. I am an agriculturalist and I
13 live and reside in Volusia County, and what I
14 would like to do is just say a little bit
15 tonight, as you go, and as you do these
16 districts, as well as your job, that you
17 remember that agriculture is an important part
18 of this state and this country.

19 We have always been a free country because
20 we are able to feed ourselves. At the time
21 when another country controls our food, we no
22 longer have that control.

23 As you go out and you go, most people do
24 not realize that agricultural is the second
25 leading industry in the state, and when we talk

1 about jobs and tourism and in building and in
2 the other legs of the stool of the support,
3 agriculture continues to do that.

4 So when you make these districts, I ask
5 that you take that one person who has talked
6 about the rural concerns, that you take that
7 into account, because I can tell you that my
8 concerns are not the same concerns as the
9 people of Daytona Beach.

10 I have had the opportunity to deal with
11 several of you, because I have agriculture
12 interest in other parts in other districts, and
13 I can say that the people that we have in
14 office, whether Democrat or Republican, have
15 always treated me with the utmost respect and
16 took notice of my concerns.

17 My concern is, is that with term limits
18 some of you on both sides will not be there in
19 the future, and if these districts aren't drawn
20 to take into those considerations, you could
21 have people put into or elected in the
22 districts that are split where that is not
23 taken into account.

24 The average American is more than three
25 generations from a farming background, and

1 most, I would venture to say that I could
2 probably find one person in any group that
3 thought that food came from Winn-Dixie or
4 Publix.

5 So as you do this and as you go, please
6 take heart and do that. Just to give you an
7 example, agriculture and related industries is
8 the number one employer in Volusia County,
9 okay. It is number two in the state.

10 We account for, you know, 40,000 jobs in
11 this county alone. And so please, you know,
12 thank you once again for doing that, and, you
13 know, people are going to agree with me and
14 disagree with me, that is fine, I can deal with
15 that, but thank you for coming, thank you for
16 listening, and please, you know, remember
17 agriculture as you sit down through this
18 process.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much.
20 Very important comments. Thank you very much.
21 All right next we have Patricia Drago, followed
22 by Tony Ledbetter, and then just so you can get
23 ready, John Hoyt has a presentation. All
24 right, you are recognized, Ms. Drago.

25 MS. DRAGO: Thank you. I am speaking this

1 evening on behalf of the Volusia County League
2 of Women Voters. I have been designated. I
3 want to say as many of our other speakers did,
4 thank you for holding these hearings. I know
5 that it takes a great deal of time and energy
6 traveling the state and not all of what you
7 hear is what you want to hear and a lot of what
8 you hear is just a repeat, repeat, repeat. So
9 thank you for your patience.

10 As you hold these public hearings around
11 the state I know that a lot of the input in the
12 absence of maps is going to be generalities.

13 Well, the generalities really are in sync
14 with much of the language of Amendments V and
15 VI that passed recently in the 2010 election.
16 And just for your information, they passed by
17 greater than 70 percent in Volusia County.

18 So your audience has been strong
19 supporters of the change to the Constitution
20 with Amendments V and VI. We heard
21 compactness, we heard geographic contiguity and
22 we heard racial minorities and ethnic
23 minorities and making sure that those are
24 protected.

25 Please draft and publish the proposed maps

1 as soon after the conclusion of these hearings
2 in September as you can. This would facilitate
3 in another, I know we welcome it, another
4 citizen input prior to legislative session and
5 the committee hearings.

6 As I saw on your schedule, the committee
7 hearings are from the end of September to
8 December. So if the hearings conclude at the
9 end of September, that is a very short turn
10 around to get the maps out to the public and to
11 take that input.

12 I think we heard from our Supervisor of
13 Elections not just the number of --
14 presentation of the maps, taking input and then
15 adoption by the Legislature, reviewed by the
16 voting rights, compliance with the voting
17 rights by the Justice Department.

18 There are a lot of other steps in this
19 process, to make sure that not just Volusia
20 County Supervisor of Elections, but every
21 Supervisor in the state is able to prepare the
22 ballot for a good election.

23 Florida has not always had the smoothest
24 elections. Any delay would threaten that
25 process and if this is done smoothly with great

1 attention to the schedule, it is conceivable,
2 not probable, conceivable that the maps could
3 be adopted early in the legislative session.

4 We appreciate the fact that you scheduled
5 the session up. We hope that that would
6 expedite that. We also want to say, thank you,
7 Senator Gaetz, for clarifying about where the
8 role of the Senate and the House and the
9 litigation, but I think you heard from us as
10 taxpayers and as citizens that we have a
11 concern that taxpayer dollars are clearly spent
12 now in enforcement and defense of the
13 legislation that was adopted and not to go
14 further afield than that.

15 We feel very strongly that that has, it is
16 now law, and we look for you to implement it
17 and we thank you very much for your time.
18 Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
20 much, Ms. Drago. Next up we have Tony
21 Ledbetter and then John Hoyt.

22 MR. LEDBETTER: My name is Tony Ledbetter.
23 I live in Ormond Beach. I would like to also
24 thank you for coming to have these hearings
25 here.

1 I think it is important. I want to echo
2 my friend, Ellen Darden, Candy Gilman and Ken
3 Ali. I had, I back up 100 percent what they
4 said.

5 I think this is the first time that we,
6 the people, have been involved in these kinds
7 of meetings, and I think that is important
8 because we, the people, are who you are
9 supposed to be listening to, and I am going to
10 make my comments short.

11 I believe that you have the ability to
12 look and draw the maps in a fair way. So I
13 would trust you to do that, you know, and it is
14 very important that the people have input and
15 that is what we are doing today, is having
16 input.

17 So I just believe that you have the
18 ability to take the information and draw the
19 maps fairly and I appreciate you coming and we
20 will see you in 2012.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,
22 Mr. Ledbetter, so much for your comments. Next
23 we have John Hoyt with a presentation, and then
24 we have -- let me just make a comment right
25 now.

1 We are going to need to limit this very
2 strictly to three minutes after your
3 presentation, because we have many, many more
4 people who have signed up, which I am really
5 happy about, but we have limited time. Go
6 ahead, you are recognized.

7 MR. HOYT: First of all, good evening, and
8 just, I think it is great that you all here to
9 listen to some specific proposals.

10 I hope they are of interest and are
11 reasonable. I have a partial redistricting
12 proposal for Volusia County and portions of
13 northeast Florida.

14 My name is John Hoyt, I am a resident of
15 Port Orange and I am the President of the FMO,
16 that is the Federation of Manufactured Home
17 Association in Florida, homeowners in Florida,
18 and my responsibility extends from Volusia
19 right up through the northern border of the
20 state.

21 My proposal suggests some boundary changes
22 for the House, Senate and U. S. Congress
23 Districts in Volusia County, as well some
24 changes in adjacent districts due to these
25 changes.

1 If you will look at the screen up there,
2 you are looking in the center there at House
3 District 25. Now, you will see on the eastern
4 boundary of that a little green area there
5 sticks out into Volusia County, picking up
6 Deberry and half of Deltona.

7 Now, that is problematical. I had someone
8 that lived in a mobile home park there and I
9 wanted to find out who their Representative was
10 so that they could promote something important
11 to mobile home owners, and I called three
12 different Representatives and they didn't know
13 from that address whether or not that person or
14 that park was represented in their district.

15 They said I have to contact their aides.
16 Well, I contacted the aides and the aides said,
17 well, I will call you back. I have to look it
18 up by the address to see if you are in my
19 district. That is ridiculous.

20 We need to have these boundaries along
21 geographical boundaries or political boundaries
22 that are easily recognizable. So if you come
23 from a given town, that is your Representative,
24 that is your Senator.

25 So Volusia County, the district boundaries

1 currently divide many cities that are currently
2 resulted from severe gerrymandering efforts
3 during the last redistricting effort. I hope
4 we get away from it this time around.

5 Now, my proposal attempts to realign
6 district boundaries along more logical
7 political and geological boundaries.

8 Now, Volusia County has natural
9 boundaries. You have a series of wildlife
10 management areas running north and south
11 dividing the state east and west. You have the
12 Spruce Creek area which is a logical division
13 between cities north of Ponce Inlet and south
14 of Ponce Inlet, and then you have St. Johns
15 River which is a natural boundary on the west,
16 and the ocean, of course, on the east.

17 The four major populations area are
18 Deltona, the Daytona Beach, Orlando area, a
19 cluster of towns along I-95 in the western part
20 of the state, and a string of towns from Ponce
21 Inlet down to the southern boundary from Spruce
22 Creek.

23 Now, House District 25 currently includes
24 the very end portion of Deltona. This boundary
25 should be moved westward to the St. Johns River

1 and compensating adjustments of District 25 can
2 be made to the west.

3 House District, next slide, please. House
4 District 26, now, look at that thing. It kind
5 of wraps around the center part of Daytona
6 Beach, and it actually includes part of Deland
7 and some of the north Deland area.

8 I suggest that that entire area be moved
9 eastward to the wildlife management areas so
10 that that section would be added to 26.

11 Now, compensating adjustments to 26 can be
12 made either on the northern boundary or down in
13 the south. You will see that 26 has half of
14 Deltona in there.

15 Now, we can either exclude Deltona and
16 move it over to 27 or move it down to Deberry
17 or back up, but one way or another we need to
18 do something about Deltona so that it is not
19 split into two districts. It can easily be
20 done.

21 Next slide, please. Now, 27, that is
22 where most of us live right here in the Port
23 Orange area. It is illogical to divide Port
24 Orange in half there.

25 You hear someone from Port Orange, you

1 don't know what Senate or House District they
2 are in. I recommend that the southern boundary
3 of District 27 be moved down to Spruce Creek.

4 That is natural geographic boundary, and
5 that compensating adjustment be made by
6 deleting Deland and just moving that whole
7 western boundary to the wildlife management
8 area. I believe that should be sufficient.
9 If you need more adjustment you can go up there
10 and adjust that northern boundary with Ormond
11 Beach.

12 Next slide, please. House District 28 is
13 reasonably well-founded. It takes in all of
14 south Volusia County, and it is well-designed,
15 except that I recommend moving that northern
16 boundary in my previous slide down to the
17 Spruce Creek area, the Ponce Inlet. Ponce
18 Inlet would be in there, but the New Smyrna
19 Beach down to Oak Hill would be still remain in
20 28.

21 And to compensate for that I would suggest
22 moving the western boundary over to pick up
23 Deltona or Deberry or both of them. You would
24 have to juggle the population figures to figure
25 out how best to do that, but I just mention

1 District 25. It is that little piece of green
2 there, that should be moved west so that we can
3 allow for some compensating area put in 28, and
4 perhaps 26.

5 Next slide, please. The Senate. This
6 needs some work. Look at that thing. That is
7 some of the worse gerrymandering I have ever
8 seen in my life. Look at the one in the middle
9 there, that gray thing. I don't know who
10 managed it, he must have had some political
11 pull, but he has got all of the center of
12 Jacksonville, comes right down through Flagler
13 and St. Johns and picks up the International
14 Airport and the Speedway.

15 Now, tax revenue or something, he had some
16 clout, I am telling you, but that needs some
17 work.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Hoyt,
19 Mr. Hoyt, we have so many people who are signed
20 up. I want do get to them. Please, can you --

21 MR. HOYT: Okay.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: One minute.

23 MR. HOYT: One minute, you got it. Okay,
24 in summary, move the district that -- a
25 district that includes what some of the part of

1 Volusia, make that district all of Volusia, and
2 then District 8 along the coast, make that the
3 district above District 1 and District 1 would
4 lie between 8 and then adjust the boundaries
5 westward for the population centers.

6 For the U.S. Congress Districts, again,
7 District 24, U.S. Congressional District should
8 include all of Volusia, and to move the
9 boundaries westward and upward and make
10 compensating changes elsewhere.

11 District 3, again, District 3 slide. We
12 need to move that District 3 slide such that it
13 does no longer come down as a spike into
14 Volusia County. That should be moved right up
15 north of Volusia.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Okay, Mr. Hoyt, I
17 am going to have to stop you.

18 MR. HOYT: Okay, that completes my
19 presentation, thank you for listening to me.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Hoyt, if you
21 haven't done this already you can submit it
22 on-line, and submit it to staff, too, all
23 right. So just talk to one of our staff
24 members, please.

25 MR. HOYT: Yes, I submitted in an e-mail

1 to the staff.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
3 much. Right, next we have Joe Stich followed
4 by Sally Gillies and then Tom McGurn. Mr.
5 Stich.

6 MR. STICH: Okay, everyone, please, let's
7 try to limit our comments because we have so
8 many people signed up. Thank you very much.
9 Mr. Stich, you are recognized.

10 MR. STICH: Thank you. My name is Joe
11 Stich. I live in New Smyrna Beach and I do
12 thank you all for showing up here this evening.
13 It is -- it is very well appreciated by the
14 community and I thank you for it.

15 What I wanted to address is something that
16 is going on in our country that affects where
17 the population lives. And what I am talking
18 about is Agenda 21, and Agenda 21 is a movement
19 inside the United States to move the population
20 to --

21 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Stich, Mr.
22 Stich. You need to limit your comments to
23 redistricting.

24 MR. STICH: I am.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: That is not

1 redistricting.

2 MR. STICH: It affects redistricting.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Could you talk
4 about the process of redistricting? Thank you
5 very much.

6 MR. STICH: The movement of people into a
7 confined area that is the process that is going
8 on with it affects how those districts are
9 going to be drawn, and what happens is the
10 people that are not in a confined district have
11 limited populations for their area. Five
12 people for 20 acres, whatever the case might
13 happen to be.

14 You are disenfranchising their votes,
15 because across the street is an apartment
16 complex that has 400 people living in it, and
17 if you don't take into consideration the
18 disenfranchisement of the voting population of
19 the people in conservation areas, which is what
20 is happening with this process, then you end up
21 with no option, except to gerrymander, because
22 there is no way to put the people anywhere
23 else, except to reach out and grab 300 people
24 over here and 200 people over there, to
25 compensate for the numbers that you need.

1 Presently 40 percent of the land in
2 Florida is owned by the government, and
3 40 percent of the land in Volusia County is
4 owned by the government, and that pushes people
5 into these confined areas and it makes it, in
6 my opinion, a bad situation for representative
7 government.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
9 much, Mr. Stich. Next we have Sally Gillies,
10 followed by Tom McGurn. Ms. Gillies, you are
11 recognized.

12 MS. GILLIES: Thank you, Chairman Hukill.
13 And thank you all for being here to listen to
14 us. I had no idea so many of you would come
15 down, and I think that is pretty cool.

16 I hope that you do hear us though about
17 contiguous small districts. It is just insane
18 the way it has been going here. I lived in
19 Palm Beach County for 20 years. I don't want
20 to see that in my new county.

21 I have been up here in Volusia for, since
22 2003, and I love it. I think it is just a
23 great beautiful place, but I don't want to see
24 what happened down there happen up here, and
25 drawing the districts so that they are small,

1 contiguous, people are a community that have a
2 Representative or a Senator I think is very
3 important and I appreciate your interest very
4 much.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
6 much, Ms. Gillies. Next we have Tom McGurn,
7 followed by James Harper. Mr. McGurn, you are
8 recognized.

9 MR. MCGURN: Thank you. Tom McGurn,
10 Daytona citizen for all of over 60 years, I
11 believe. Forty years ago I was a District
12 Manager for the Federal Census which all of you
13 realize takes place every ten years and I had
14 11 counties.

15 I had about 1,000 employees that I had to
16 find, I had to recruit, test and then have them
17 trained all in three months. We got -- we had
18 a successful census. I believe we had a
19 million people we counted at that time and we
20 covered from St. Augustine all of way down to
21 Brevard County, and all of the way across to
22 Pasco and Hernando.

23 Ever since that time I have been very
24 interested in the population process here in
25 Florida. I have been very dismayed at the

1 gerrymandering that has been going on and these
2 maps out here in front, to me, they are
3 reprehensible, and I wish that we would have
4 had a few sample maps here.

5 I heard some excuses saying, well, people
6 would be afraid if we had some type of pre -- I
7 can't think of the right word, but we could
8 have at least had some of the sample maps
9 sitting out here to look at.

10 I haven't had a chance to look on-line to
11 look at some of these things, but I will later
12 on. It would have been nice if I could have
13 looked at them and made some comments on them
14 this evening. Unfortunately that didn't
15 happen.

16 Long before Ann McFall became the
17 Supervision of Elections I was involved in the,
18 every so often when I wasn't on military duty I
19 would get involved in the election process
20 here, and I saw some of these split precincts
21 that she is talking about.

22 I think I have -- I worked in one of those
23 precincts, and it had six splits in it and I
24 was appalled. People were putting their
25 ballots in the machines, in the wrong machines,

1 this way and that way and the clerks didn't
2 have any idea on how to run things.

3 I hope that somebody will have enough
4 sense to do something about that. Deltona is
5 probably the biggest city in Volusia County
6 now. It has District 33, 25, 26. How many
7 people in Deltona know Dr. Costello?

8 They probably know Jason Brodeur because
9 he lives over there in that -- close to that
10 area there, okay. Somebody down there needs to
11 be in that one area there.

12 Geographical compactness, city, county
13 lines should be taken into effect. I think
14 that is all I can say right now.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
16 much, Mr. McGurn. Next we have James Harper,
17 followed by Les Thackston. You are recognized,
18 Mr. Harper.

19 MR. HARPER: Good evening, my name is
20 James Harper, and I am a resident of Daytona
21 Beach, Florida. I want to take a 30 second
22 side bar.

23 Someone said something about the Voting
24 Rights Act earlier. Basically the purpose of
25 the Voting Rights Act wasn't so that blacks

1 could get elected to office, it was so that we
2 could vote, we would have the right to vote.

3 So just to say that very clearly, you
4 know, and having said that, I am glad to see so
5 many black Representatives up on the stage, and
6 unfortunate -- well, don't anybody take
7 anything I say personal, but unfortunately, a
8 lot of you are only window dressing.

9 You have no power, you have no voice,
10 because you are dominated by a Republican led
11 Senate and House.

12 So therefore, I say this only to go to the
13 redistricting point. The minority/majority
14 districts basically is legalized segregation.
15 That is basically what it is.

16 There was a point in time -- there was a
17 point in time when it was needed, because there
18 was no black representation in elected office,
19 but as we continued to do better, you know, it
20 is not the color of the person today
21 necessarily that needs to be voted into office.
22 It is the person, itself.

23 Now, let me qualify that. We need black
24 representation, we need minority representation
25 or women representation, but if their voices is

1 not heard, and I don't mean they can speak and
2 you hear them, it doesn't really mean a hill of
3 beans.

4 So they are now and now the lines are
5 drawn so that the majority Republican
6 districts, which are majority white districts,
7 do not have to cater to their black
8 constituents.

9 These white majority districts you all
10 have drawn them, I wouldn't call it a
11 conspiracy, but they have been drawn in such a
12 way that the blacks that vote do not, you do
13 not have to be accountable voters because your
14 districts are drawn so that there are no blacks
15 and Hispanics in them. All of the blacks and
16 Hispanics are in the minority/majority
17 districts.

18 So you all need to be accountable to all
19 of the residents of the state of Florida.
20 Again, we need, you need to cater to everybody.

21 Very quickly, and I am going to wrap this
22 up, because I see you all fumbling and jumbling
23 up there, which is fine, you know, because the
24 thing is, you need to be accountable to all of
25 us.

1 These white majority Republican districts
2 have got to stop. As I mentioned earlier, the
3 Voting Rights Act was important because at that
4 time we could not vote and it is important
5 today even more so because the Republican
6 Congress and House and Senate are doing things
7 and it is getting harder for people to vote
8 today.

9 You are making it harder for us to vote
10 today. You know what you --

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Harper, please
12 stick to redistricting, and just can you wrap
13 up your comments, thank you.

14 MS. HARPER: Yes, ma'am, I will do that.
15 As I was saying, wrapping it up, and what I was
16 saying in tying it in was things that you all
17 have done recently in reference to the voter so
18 that we can vote you all in, okay, have been
19 done to make it harder for us to vote, and you
20 know what you have been doing.

21 And I will just say this real quickly and
22 I will get out of here, so that Barack Obama
23 isn't elected in 2012. We know what you are
24 doing, but I just -- I am partial, but having
25 said that I hope, you know, you do things that

1 make it easier for all of us to vote, for
2 people to get to vote easier, but also most
3 importantly, draw the districts so that these
4 white majority districts --

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: All right,
6 Mr. Harper, Mr. Harper.

7 MR. HARPER -- aren't drawn in such a way
8 that you all are not accountable to your
9 minority Representatives.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
11 much. All right, next, could I please ask
12 members of the audience to refrain from the
13 whistles, et cetera, so we can get moving.

14 Mr. Thackston, followed by John Nicholson.

15 MR. THACKSTON: Good evening, Les
16 Thackston.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: You are
18 recognized.

19 MR. THACKSTON: I live in the world's most
20 famous beach, that is Daytona Beach in case
21 anybody wants to know.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: We can't hear you.
23 Can you talk into the mike, please?

24 MR. THACKSTON: Sure.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you.

1 MR. THACKSTON: A little low. I live in
2 the world's most famous beach, that is Daytona
3 Beach. I got to say it twice.

4 I would like to speak on being in a state
5 that has a mandate, and I think ya'll know what
6 mandates are. Someone earlier said that most
7 of you probably didn't get in with 63 percent.
8 Well, if you don't do something about the
9 redistricting on V and VI, there will be
10 another mandate next year. I think there is
11 going to anyway.

12 So please make them compact, as compact as
13 you can. I would like to make an observation
14 on the maps, on the District Builder maps. I
15 asked the gentleman outside what they were
16 going to be used for and how they were going to
17 be aggregated to come up with something, and he
18 said they weren't. They were going to be
19 looked at by somebody.

20 I think that is a real waste of time. I
21 am not sure if it is just something to make
22 people feel good, but if you are not going to
23 do anything but just look at them and not use
24 the data that you get from them, and then what
25 happens if four million people send them again.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
2 much. All right, next up we have
3 Mr. Nicholson, and then Mike Nolan. Mike
4 Nolan? Mike Nolan? I have to get my other
5 stack.

6 All right, we will put Mike Nolan aside.
7 Faye McHugh followed by Elizabeth Albert. Faye
8 McHugh? Do you want to waive your time?

9 Okay, next we have Elizabeth Albert,
10 followed by -- Matty Rose we had, no? Okay,
11 Elizabeth Albert.

12 MS. ALBERT: Yes.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: You are
14 recognized.

15 MS. ALBERT: Good evening. Before I start
16 I want to just put a little sidebar in, not as
17 aggressive as our previous speaker, but a
18 moment ago the \$30 million was discussed, and I
19 excited the forum to check some sources.

20 And I just want to say that three
21 independent media outlets researched that \$30
22 million, and those would be the St. Peter
23 Times, the Orlando Sentinel and the Miami
24 Herald and they found the denial that there was
25 a fund to be false.

1 Now, this is a public input hearing. I am
2 a member of the public and I hope that you are
3 hearing me as I notice some of you are
4 participating in text messaging.

5 I am going to go ahead and read the
6 comments that I had prepared because I spent my
7 time preparing them, and I would hope that you
8 would just listen. If you don't like what I
9 say, that is fine, but I am going to start now.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Go ahead.

11 MS. ALBERT: Thank you so much. Good
12 evening, I would like to begin by saying thank
13 you, thank you all, the citizens of Florida who
14 sit here this evening.

15 Thank you to all of the members of the
16 audience who have given their time to exercise
17 their constitutional rights and participate in
18 this public hearing. Thank you for donating
19 time that should be spent with a spouse,
20 children or loved one.

21 Thank you for coming out to fight for what
22 63 percent of voters approved in 2010. My
23 focus this evening is on the current lawsuit
24 filed to oppose the implementation of Fair
25 Districts. I urge the Legislature to drop this

1 unnecessary and very expensive lawsuit.

2 The Legislature should be working to
3 uphold the Constitution, not working to protect
4 the interest of the incumbents by spending
5 \$30 million taxpayer dollars to fight what
6 approximately two-thirds of the voting public
7 approved.

8 I want to know how the taxpayers can
9 afford to fund this lawsuit during a time when
10 our state cut the education budget by \$1.3
11 billion. How can \$30 million be spent to fight
12 fair districts when 2,000 State employees will
13 be forced into unemployment?

14 Couldn't \$30 million be spent to avoid
15 layoffs for workers in State mental health
16 hospitals, juvenile justice facilities and
17 state prisons?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Ms. Albert, could
19 you limit your comments to redistricting,
20 please?

21 MS. ALBERT: I am wrapping it up, yes,
22 ma'am, I sure am.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you.

24 MS. ALBERT: Thank you. How does the
25 Legislature justify spending \$30 million

1 taxpayer dollars when social services are being
2 cut to the most needy citizens of our state and
3 there are nearly one million Floridians out of
4 work.

5 To quote a former Governor of our great
6 state, this is a do nothing Legislature. Well,
7 it seems when referencing the implementation of
8 fair districts, you are still a do nothing
9 Legislature.

10 To quote the current Governor, let's get
11 to work. Why don't we get to work on stopping
12 this lawsuit and creating fair districts?
13 Thank you for hearing me.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
15 much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I am going to ask
17 the audience, please, let's refrain, it is
18 going to take time away from people who really
19 want to speak and we want to hear them.

20 All right, next we have Kathy, I can't
21 read it, from Ocean Terrace, Kathy. Is it
22 P-o-l.

23 MS. POGAS: P-o-g.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: P-o-g, Pogas, I am
25 sorry. Followed by Michael Arth. You are

1 recognized.

2 MS. POGAS: Most of what I want to talk
3 about has already been brought up, but I do
4 want to make a point.

5 Mr. Hoyt, who brought these maps up and
6 showed us what they look like, that had an
7 impact, we could see how things are drawn.

8 If you would please make some maps, get
9 them out to us and let us see what they are and
10 then we can make good comments and points
11 specific to what we are looking for.

12 Right now we are making general comments,
13 general ideas of what we want, but it is hard
14 to put that altogether. We need a place to
15 start and work together towards a goal where
16 everybody is represented. That is all we
17 really want.

18 We want everybody to be represented
19 fairly, and we want the people that represent
20 us to know who we are and be there for us.
21 Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
23 much. All right, next we have Michael Arth,
24 Michael, followed by Reverend Victor Gooden.
25 You are recognized.

1 MR. ARTH: My name is Michael Arth, I am
2 an urban designer and a policy analyst, and I
3 have a bumper sticker that says if voting
4 actually worked, it would be illegal.

5 Why would I have such a bumper sticker? I
6 spent 17 years working as a policy analyst
7 trying to understand our system, and I also ran
8 for Governor. So I got an intimate look at how
9 our system works, and I voted for Amendments V
10 and VI because I think they are little baby
11 steps in the right direction, and I hope you
12 will implement the policy that has been voted
13 by a quorum of the voters.

14 But unfortunately, V and VI are not fair,
15 equitable or sensible. It is only slightly
16 better than what we had before. Much like when
17 we go to the polls and we vote for a Democrat
18 or Republican, we are usually voting a lesser
19 of two evils.

20 The system that is put before us, it is
21 sort of like a mommy with her two-year-old. Do
22 you want spinach or do you want broccoli. At
23 least that mommy cares about the two-year-old,
24 but when it comes to the political system, the
25 Democrats and the Republicans do not care about

1 the voters. They care about staying in power.

2 We have seen this because we have what is
3 called a winner take all system, which forces
4 us into a duopoly.

5 Now, we could take a little baby step
6 further and improve our districts by having
7 what is called instant run off voting where you
8 rank your candidates in order of preference.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Arth, can you
10 limit your comments to redistricting, please?

11 MR. ARTH: This is about redistricting,
12 this is how to have fair districts. May I
13 continue, please?

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Well, can I --

15 MR. ARTH: The way you have a fair
16 district, all right, and the way you have a
17 fair district is you rank your candidates in
18 order of preference.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Arth, please
20 limit your comments to redistricting.

21 MR. ARTH: Okay.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: It has been
23 adopted. It is in the Constitution. We are
24 going to follow it. So let's talk about
25 redistricting. Thank you.

1 MR. ARTH: What I am going to explain is
2 how to have fair districts, if you will just
3 give me a minute. This is how we can make V
4 and VI work even better.

5 Just like the Republicans in their own
6 internal election, this is how they elect the
7 Chair. They have what is called rank choice
8 voting, and they don't want most Americans to
9 know about this, but it is a fair, it is
10 called, it is a fair and equitable way and
11 sensible way to elect a leader.

12 The system we have only creates about
13 12 percent representation in Congressional
14 Districts, 12 percent. So if you want full
15 representation and you want a fair and sensible
16 and equitable system, then you implement and
17 this is something that could be done on the
18 legislative level.

19 You will have rank choice voting. You
20 don't have spoilers, parties are not so
21 important, and you will -- you will never have
22 to have a redistricting fight if you also
23 implement proportional representation, which
24 would take it even one step further. Thank
25 you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
2 much. Next we have Reverend Victor Gooden,
3 followed by Jim Oddie. Reverend, you have
4 signed up twice.

5 REVEREND GOODEN: Two different groups.
6 Going to speak once though.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Okay, thank you
8 very much. Go ahead, thank you, Reverend.

9 REVEREND GOODEN: Madam Chair, Mr. Chair,
10 Senators and Representatives, good evening.
11 First of all, thank you for all that you do and
12 we certainly appreciate it.

13 My name is Reverend Victor Gooden, I am
14 coordinator for Governmental Relations at the
15 great Bethune Cookman University, and I have
16 lived and voted in Daytona Beach for over 22
17 years.

18 Communities of interest should be
19 represented as a top priority over arbitrary
20 geographical boundaries. We want to make sure
21 that minorities are represented fairly in
22 Tallahassee and Washington, especially in the
23 area of higher education.

24 When you sit down to finally draw these
25 new lines, remember us here in Volusia County,

1 because of the factors that drive our economy
2 are diverse and different, such as our beaches,
3 the world's most famous beach, airports, the
4 speedway, other businesses and higher
5 education.

6 We need at least two to three
7 Congressional Districts, no more than four
8 Senate Districts, at least one of those would
9 be based in our county. No more than six House
10 Districts with at least three of those based in
11 our county, and fairness should be the major
12 issue throughout this whole process.

13 It is important for people to have a say
14 in how the district lines are drawn, and the
15 Legislature's redistricting hearing process
16 that we are having tonight is legitimate and
17 the best way to do it.

18 Judges, Commissions and Panels are okay,
19 but not for this particular situation. You are
20 the ones that we elected. You are the ones
21 that we are holding accountable, and again, we
22 thank you for all that you do, and please
23 remember Volusia County. Appreciate it.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
25 much, Reverend, so much for your comments. We

1 are going to have adhere strictly to the clock
2 now. So please use your time wisely.

3 MR. ODDIE: Oh sure, when I get up here.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Starting with you,
5 Mr. Oddie, yes.

6 MR. ODDIE: Now we stick to the clock,
7 okay.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: You are recognized
9 Mr. Oddie.

10 MR. ODDIE: That is okay.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Followed by Peter
12 Kouracos.

13 MR. ODDIE: I should be able to go under
14 the time because I have the benefit of being
15 able to reference to specific speakers.

16 My name is Jim Oddie, I am a long time
17 resident of Volusia County, a business owner
18 and a part of the Republican Executive
19 Committee.

20 And tonight I would like you to give
21 special weight to what Mr. Jim Cameron has said
22 about our business, and also Ms. Ann McFall,
23 our Supervisor of Election as far as making it
24 easier on their office and the complexities of
25 getting people out to vote.

1 I would also like to recognize what
2 Mr. Ken Ali said. He tied up a lot of things
3 about service to our country and what it means
4 to be an American, especially when you are not
5 born here.

6 And I would also you very much to consider
7 what the gentleman spoke about the agriculture.
8 I think that is very important. Since I had
9 the advantage of being able to reference off of
10 those people, now I would just like to get to
11 my own point.

12 And that is we saw the judicial, the
13 judicial branch keep some amendments off the
14 ballot in this last election, things that
15 referred to protecting us from healthcare
16 initiatives that were given to us from the
17 Federal government. Those weren't on the
18 ballot.

19 We saw V and VI that were allowed on the
20 ballot, and at the Federal level we see that
21 Amendment VI is being challenged, and that is
22 good, because this isn't a democracy.

23 This is a representative Republic, and we
24 did things for 140 years when one party was
25 making the decisions and now that the other

1 party is doing it the same way, it is being
2 challenged.

3 So I want you guys to do the same things
4 that they are doing in Congress for Amendment
5 VI, and challenge that, challenge Amendment V.
6 We elected you to go up there and make the
7 districts and I am asking you guys to keep it
8 out of the hands of the judiciary.

9 We already know it is going to be reviewed
10 by them, but let's play by the same rules that
11 worked for a long time and not change it just
12 because another party is doing the
13 redistricting or is in charge of it, because I
14 would like to reiterate one other speaker up
15 here.

16 We don't need black representation. We
17 don't need white representation. What we need
18 is good representation, and we have seen now
19 that that is good or bad is not limited by what
20 color they are or where they are from.

21 So with that in mind, let's use the rules
22 we had, but let's keep the districts compact
23 and fair so that we can avoid the judicial
24 review. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,

1 Mr. Oddie, so much.

2 MR. ODDIE: Thank you for coming out
3 tonight for this transparent process.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you. Next
5 we have Peter and then followed by Harry
6 Rosenthal. You are recognized.

7 MR. KOURACOS: Madam Chairman,
8 distinguished members of the State Legislature.
9 I am not sure if the public knows that we have
10 the incoming Senate President and the incoming
11 Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives
12 here, am I correct?

13 Anyway, I want to make this very brief.
14 The first thing that I would start at is, this
15 is a very big issue, and it has affected us a
16 number of times throughout the course of my
17 lifetime as redistricting has occurred at least
18 four times in my lifetime that I can recall.

19 I would like to start by asking the most
20 high Lord God to impart the wisdom of Solomon
21 upon the entire Legislature as it would relate
22 to the crafting of the districts in question
23 for this redistricting.

24 And I would like to touch on briefly the
25 Congressional Districts in this county which,

1 and my comments are basically reserved toward
2 Volusia County only. For many, many years in
3 the earlier part of my lifetime, probably about
4 35 years ago, Volusia County comprised one
5 county in whole as part of its Congressional
6 District.

7 At that time it was Congressional District
8 4. Throughout the course of several
9 redistrictings which really started to occur as
10 the Democrats started to lose their grip on
11 power maybe about 20 or so years ago, the
12 district or the county became carved up several
13 times and now we have at least three
14 Congressional Districts here. District 24,
15 Sandy Adams, District 7, John Mica and District
16 3, Corinne Brown. I think the time has come at
17 this particular point that Corinne Brown is
18 really living too far away to -- to have a
19 position in this county. She is too distant
20 and it is really too gerrymandered.

21 So Congressional District 3 needs to be
22 reformed out of this county and as far as the
23 remainder of the county, it really either needs
24 to fall into Congressional District 24 or
25 Congressional District 7, one or the other,

1 whichever is easier for the Legislature to do.

2 Insofar as the State Senate boundaries, I
3 am sure it is a hassle for Senator Thrasher to
4 come all the way down here and campaign in this
5 county. Senator Lynn has served us extremely
6 well as a Senator, I as an individual elector
7 in this county have been very pleased with her.

8 I don't know what you need to do with
9 that, but something needs to be done with it,
10 and I have to say, you know, 30 or so years ago
11 there were a lot of complaints from the four
12 towns area, which is Deltona, Deberry,
13 (inaudible) City and Enterprise.

14 During that time period the Democratic
15 Legislature refused to give a State House seat
16 over in that area over the complaints of many
17 of the residents of that time period,
18 principally because they were afraid that it
19 would create a Republican seat.

20 Well, that may or may not be the case
21 today, because of changes in the demographics
22 in the population in the city of Deltona.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I need to stop
24 you.

25 MR. KOURACOS: Okay.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
2 much. Sorry. All right, Harry Rosenthal,
3 followed by Ed Kelley. And after Ed Kelley, we
4 have Andy Kelly. You are recognized,
5 Mr. Rosenthal.

6 MR. ROSENTHAL: My name is Harry
7 Rosenthal. For 53 years I have been a
8 registered voter in Daytona Beach. I want to
9 thank each of you for being here. I don't
10 remember this ever having occurred before.

11 I understand that Volusia County is
12 represented by four State Senators and six
13 State Representatives. That is 10 percent of
14 the State Senate and five percent of the State
15 House.

16 Are we over represented in the Senate or
17 are we under represented in the State House of
18 Representatives? One or the other has got to
19 be true.

20 The second is, if we have 40 Senators and
21 120 Representatives, then why not we have three
22 House seats in every Senatorial seat at our
23 district and therefore you have eliminated a
24 lot of this problems that you have with
25 overlapping. Thank you very much.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
2 much for your comments, Mr. Rosenthal. Ed
3 Kelley. Good evening, Mayor.

4 MR. KELLEY: That followed up that pretty
5 easy, because one of the concerns that we have
6 and we adopted it at our Commission meeting,
7 that District 26 we feel would be well served
8 by combining that to have Ormond Beach in that
9 District 26.

10 I have nothing against Senator Thrasher.
11 He is my Senator. Senator Lynn also represents
12 Ormond Beach and I am sure that we will send a
13 letter supporting that as well. You have heard
14 from most everyone that that is part of the
15 problem.

16 We were told that we would be better off
17 having more people representing a smaller part.
18 Maybe it is time to look at the other way and
19 try to keep us all uniform. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
21 much, Mayor, for your comments. Andy Kelly.
22 Good evening to our County Council member.

23 MR. KELLY: Thank you very much. That is
24 what I came up to say was good evening to you
25 on behalf of the Volusia County Council. And

1 Co-Chair, I am looking for Ms. Joyce Cusach
2 right here, thank you very much, and
3 Ms. Alexander is here as well. Carl Persis is
4 here, thank you very much.

5 I would be happy to read this, thank you,
6 but if I may, I wanted to say welcome and I
7 wanted everybody on the floor, general floor
8 that are going to be redistricting in the
9 county, as well as your local cities are, and I
10 want to say thank you to each of the
11 Representatives past and present for serving us
12 as you have been serving us.

13 I think what you have heard the
14 predominant message is very loud and clear, is
15 that you hear us, and then please that you be
16 fair to our Volusia County. Ms. Cusach, would
17 you would like me to read this?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Mr. Kelly, do you
19 want to continue?

20 MR. KELLY: Dear Representative, this is
21 from the concurrent Chair, Frank Bruno. "Dear
22 Representative Taylor. The Volusia County
23 Council unanimously voted at its July 7th
24 meeting to let Florida Legislators know that
25 our preference to put boundary lines that will

1 be created for Florida Senate District 7. As
2 you know, Volusia County residents currently
3 are represented by four State Senators from
4 Districts 1, 7, 8 and 20.

5 Voters in the last election made it clear
6 that they wanted to have districts that are
7 more compact and follow natural boundaries.
8 The County Council agrees, and we request that
9 the new boundaries that are drawn and make
10 Volusia County the core of Senate District 7.
11 Thank you for your consideration."

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
13 much. Can we -- I have not seen a copy of
14 that. Has that been sent to us? All right,
15 if you could just leave us a copy of it, I
16 would appreciate it.

17 Next up we have Jerry, is it Doty, D-o-t
18 -- is that D-o-t-y? Jerry from Flushing
19 Avenue, Daytona Beach? Followed by Eddie
20 Stamm. Okay, Jerry not here? Jerry? No. All
21 right, Eddie Stamm. You are recognized, Mr.
22 Stamm, followed by Sussanne Jones.

23 MR. STAMM: First off, thank you for
24 coming. I moved here from Washington, D. C.,
25 about three years ago. I grew up in Baltimore,

1 Maryland, and I have to say this would have
2 never happened up there.

3 You guys could have been home doing
4 whatever you wanted to do. So I just wanted to
5 take the time to thank you. It is a
6 representative government, and since I have
7 been involved with some of the political
8 processes here, I know the people in their
9 candidacy to get elected, I have met these
10 people and I feel that, you know, I can speak
11 to any one of them or call their office if
12 there is something that I am not really
13 comfortable with.

14 I don't know a lot about the
15 redistricting. I know it is an issue that for
16 years has troubled depending on what side you
17 are on, but I think if, you know, the
18 transparency you are showing right now, we
19 couldn't ask for anything more, and, you know,
20 the industry of grievance continues on.

21 There is always going to be somebody that
22 has something that they don't like, and
23 hopefully, you know, that can get worked out,
24 so I want to thank you for coming. This is
25 something that is very hard for me to believe,

1 coming from Washington, D. C. It would be very
2 unlikely that this would happen, so thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you, Mr.
4 Stamm, for your comments and your testimony.
5 Next we have Susanne Jones, followed by Lois
6 Troxell. You are recognized, Ms. Jones.

7 MS. JONES: Thank you for allowing me to
8 give my opinion. My name is Susanne Jones and
9 I am from New Smyrna Beach. I have a question.

10 Why is the Legislature even drawing up
11 these districts when it should be done by a
12 nonpartisan commission, a computer could even
13 do it.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Madam Chair, let's give a
15 factual answer.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Go ahead.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Because the Constitution
18 of Florida requires the Legislature to do it,
19 and does not allow anyone else to do it. That
20 is the answer.

21 MS. JONES: I am glad I have my answer
22 then. Well, I believe that the districts
23 should be drawn geographically, contiguous with
24 the diverse people in our areas to prevent
25 safe, safe seats from being continuing forever.

1 That will make the politicians have to
2 understand all of the issues of the people in
3 this community so that they don't just address
4 the few.

5 The other comment I want to make is, and I
6 think that fair districting is appropriate, but
7 why on earth have you voted to suppress the
8 vote?

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
10 much for your comments. Next we have Lois
11 Troxell, followed by Harold Butts. You are
12 recognized, thank you.

13 MS. TROXELL: Hi, I am Lois Troxell from
14 Edgewater, Florida. It was very discouraging
15 to hear you when you were telling your -- who
16 you represent. A piece of this county, a piece
17 of that county, a piece of this city, a piece
18 of that city.

19 Doesn't that sound crazy to you? Doesn't
20 it sound crazy to you? And some of you were
21 probably involved in it before when it was done
22 this way. This is what we don't want.

23 We don't wouldn't you to do
24 gerrymandering. We don't want you to protect
25 your seat. Give us a little credit. You draw

1 fair districts and we will vote for the best
2 candidate, and that will be the best for the
3 state, and that is what you should be
4 interested in ethically, morally, every other
5 kind of way. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
7 much for your comments. Harold Butts, followed
8 by Kleu Nguyen. I might be misstating that. I
9 hope not.

10 MR. BUTTS: Good evening, honorable ladies
11 and gentlemen. I am from Daytona Beach. In
12 fact, I was born in Daytona Beach. How many in
13 the room were born in Daytona Beach? Five
14 other fellow members -- six. I compliment you
15 for being here.

16 I have been active in politics for
17 probably 30 years, both here, California, and
18 North Carolina. I have never seen a pamphlet
19 like this. I had no idea that the emphasis
20 would be so much on protecting minorities of
21 their representation, and I am appreciative
22 that probably the demographics of Florida are
23 somewhat represented by the whites and the
24 blacks up there.

25 However, there is one color I don't see on

1 that stage. What about the browns? How are
2 they represented if this purpose of this whole
3 effort is to give representation to minorities,
4 why are there no browns up there with you,
5 Latinos I am referring to. Have you thought
6 about that?

7 I don't know the demographics of the House
8 and the Senate. Is it roughly that proportion,
9 Hispanic? I ask you that. That is all. If
10 you don't have it, look with them.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Let me tell you,
12 we have a Hispanic member serving. He just may
13 not be here today, all right. Thank you. Do
14 you have further testimony?

15 MR. BUTTS: That is it.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Okay, thank you,
17 Mr. Butts. Next, how do you say your last
18 name, I am sorry. Nguyen all right, and
19 followed by Joyce Cusach. Thank you very much,
20 you are recognized. Ms. Nguyen.

21 MS. NGUYEN: Hello. I can't believe that
22 out of the all people here I am the shortest
23 one. Thank you. I am here representing the
24 City of Deland, Mayor Robert Apgar. He was
25 unable to attend tonight because of budget

1 meetings.

2 So I am just going to read a letter that
3 he drafted and I will sent the letter out to
4 the Representatives later on this week.

5 "Dear Representatives. As you begin your
6 deliberations on the establishment of new State
7 House and Senate Districts for the state of
8 Florida, we want to share with you our
9 thoughts.

10 Over the past decade Volusia County has
11 been served by six House members and four
12 Senators who's districts are spread across
13 several counties.

14 While we have always enjoyed good
15 representation by those elected to serve us, we
16 think that west Volusia and all of Volusia
17 County will be better served by fewer
18 districts.

19 West Volusia and Volusia County as a whole
20 have shared interests that are best represented
21 by having Representatives and Senators that are
22 solely dedicated to the needs, values and
23 aspirations of the people they serve.

24 Having fewer districts with the vast
25 majority of the people in it reside within west

1 Volusia and Volusia County would enable
2 Legislators to achieve compliance with
3 Amendments 5 and 6 and enable our
4 Representatives to focus more clearly on the
5 concerns of the people they serve.

6 As always, we appreciate your service and
7 for taking the time to weigh our thoughts and
8 concerns. Sincerely, Mayor Robert Apgar."

9 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
10 much. Please convey our thanks to the Mayor.
11 All right, next we have Joyce Cusack followed
12 by Charles, K-n-a-u-s-e, is that correct? From
13 Sunny Brook Circle. Good evening, you are
14 recognized.

15 MS. CUSACK: To the wonderful folk that
16 are before us, to the august body of the
17 Florida Legislature. I greet you in the
18 beautiful city of Daytona Beach and the home of
19 Volusia County. I am glad to see you.

20 It has been too long. I want you to know,
21 Baxley, it is good to see you. I want you to
22 know that we are honored that you are here in
23 Volusia County and I bring you greetings from
24 Volusia County Council where I was elected to
25 be a part of that august body this past

1 November. So I am still serving as you are
2 serving.

3 I want to talk, tell us your story, well,
4 I have a story to tell, but you probably know
5 my story, that I live in west Volusia and ended
6 up in east Volusia with the redistricting.

7 So I would want you to know that drawing
8 compact districts is very important. It is
9 just so that not every person that lives in
10 west Volusia would be able to represent east
11 Volusia, as it happened to me, Representative
12 Hukill, in 2000.

13 So just keep these districts compact,
14 contiguous and make sure that they are a
15 representative of the people, and I do not need
16 to have a minority district. I just need to
17 represent people, and so, and that is what
18 happened to me in 2000. I represented the
19 people, so make that happen.

20 Make that happen and the citizens in
21 Volusia County and the state of Florida will
22 always be eternally grateful for you and the
23 service that you provide for all of us. Thank
24 you, and God bless you all.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very

1 much. All right, next we have I believe
2 Charles has waived his time, so we have Carl
3 Persis, followed by Dana Swanson, followed by
4 Benetta Standly. Where is Mr. Persis? Did Mr.
5 Persis leave? Is Carl Persis back there?

6 All right, let's take Dana Swanson, can
7 you come, Dana, and we will come back to Mr.
8 Persis. You are recognized.

9 MS. SWANSON: Thank you very much for
10 coming out here tonight. Again, a lot of
11 people have said, you could have had other
12 things you could have been doing for your
13 evening.

14 And as a resident of Volusia County since
15 I was four years old, as a resident of west
16 Volusia County and also have also worked in the
17 east side, I also know that each side has its
18 own special unique qualities and its own
19 special unique traits, and that I hope that you
20 try to represent, draw the lines to best
21 represent both sides as fairly as possible.

22 And that I know sometimes you can't draw a
23 box and have everything work out perfectly,
24 especially like on our coast line, yes. So I
25 just would hope that you would try to draw them

1 as compact as possible, but still maintaining
2 the interests of that community. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
4 much, Ms. Swanson, for your comments. Next we
5 have Benetta Standly, followed by Anita
6 Lapidus. Ms. Standly, you are recognized.

7 MS. STANDLY: Thank you, Madam Chair.
8 Good evening, my name is Benetta Standly.
9 Welcome to Daytona Beach. I direct the
10 northeast Florida Office for the American's
11 Civil Liberties Union of Florida.

12 I am here tonight on behalf of Dr. Joyce
13 Hamilton Henry who directs our north central
14 Florida office and she is not able to be with
15 you tonight.

16 So I am here to hold you accountable. You
17 work for the voters across Florida. I am here
18 to give voice today to the voters who supported
19 Amendments 5 and 6 last November. The
20 disenfranchised and the folks who simply
21 couldn't be here tonight that needs to have
22 their voices heard.

23 I want to make sure that everyone
24 understands that Amendments 5 and 6 actually
25 adds minority voting rights protections into

1 the Florida Constitution for the first time,
2 which helps the provisions that are within the
3 Federal Voting Rights Act.

4 As I have said before to you all, to the
5 delegation, we need information from you on how
6 many majority, minority districts exist in
7 Florida, where they are located and how your
8 maps will protect them.

9 Perhaps you could do that through having
10 some sort of voter workshop across the state.
11 You know you have a legal obligation to make
12 sure that the minority voters have the
13 opportunity to pick the candidates of their
14 choosing.

15 As you know, the new rules for drawing the
16 legislative boundaries have been overwhelmingly
17 approved by the voters, but we need the Florida
18 Legislature to follow by these rules.

19 You said you will, but hear me, people do
20 not trust the work that you are going to do.
21 Quite frankly, I am disappointed that the House
22 has intervened in the Amendment 6 lawsuit, and
23 you guys continue to oppose and fight these new
24 rules.

25 Quite frankly, it is insulting to the

1 voters. We understand that when redistricting
2 happens all around this country, and Florida is
3 no different, that the political party in
4 charge is likely to draw lines that favor
5 themselves. That is not acceptable.

6 The entire purpose of Amendments 5 and 6
7 were for voters to choose their politicians,
8 not the other way around. This is supposed to
9 be a fair nonpartisan process. I trust that
10 you guys will make sure that that is adhered
11 to.

12 Again, as I have said before, these
13 hearings are window dressing, they are fake and
14 they are not really a conversation. We don't
15 want any insider back room deals. This is
16 quite frankly a slap in the face. You guys
17 haven't presented us with any information to
18 give you public comment on.

19 We want you to stop wasting taxpayer
20 money, because quite frankly, Senator Gaetz,
21 \$30 million in the State House has been set
22 aside in reserves to fight these Amendments,
23 and we know that in the Senate \$8 million has
24 been set aside.

25 So stop undermining the will of the voters

1 in Florida. It is your job to draw these maps,
2 not mine. Stop suggesting to the public that
3 we submit maps to you. It is your job. It is
4 written into the Constitution.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: All right. I need
6 to cut you off. Your three minutes is up.
7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. STANDLY: Well, I am going to make one
9 final point. Let's have a real conversation.
10 Give us some maps, let us react to those.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
12 much. All right, next we have Anita Lapidus,
13 Anita Lapidus, followed by Sally Sherman. You
14 are recognized.

15 MS. LAPIDUS: Hi, I am Anita Lapidus.
16 Good evening, and thank you for coming. Most
17 of what I would say has been said. I agree
18 with the League of Women Voters. I even find
19 myself tonight agreeing with Ann McFall that
20 precincts shouldn't be subdivided into postage
21 size voting areas.

22 We need sensible solutions, common sense
23 approaches, contiguous districts, and we need
24 to see them in order to have trust in this
25 process.

1 You have heard a lot of angry people.
2 Well, I was one of the people who sat in a
3 theater and handed out the little petitions to
4 get this on the ballot, to have it voted for,
5 and I want to see that it means something, that
6 it means we can have truly fair elections.

7 I am sure that is what you want, too, but
8 things get pulled to one way or another. Stand
9 firm. Look for the honest fair election.
10 Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
12 much, Ms. Lapidus, for your comments. Next,
13 Sally Sherman, followed by Heidi Herzberg,
14 Herzberg, I am sorry. Ms. Sherman, you are
15 recognized.

16 MS. SHERMAN: Thank you. Good evening,
17 Madam Chair and to our distinguished panel. I
18 would like to bring you greetings from the
19 Flagler County Board of County Commissioners,
20 chaired by our own Alan Peterson, Commissioner.

21 On July 6th, our Board of County
22 Commissioners met and they sent me here to
23 deliver a very simple message that is important
24 and has a lot of impact. We ask as you go
25 through the redistricting process, please keep

1 Flagler County whole.

2 We ask again, for the Senate seat, keep
3 Flagler County whole, include any other whole
4 county districts as needed to make your numeric
5 thresholds.

6 As it relates to the House seat, we are
7 going to ask, please keep Flagler County whole,
8 to the extent possible. We do recognize that
9 in order to meet our numbers a few years ago we
10 were included as a part of St. Johns and
11 Volusia County, but again we say, please keep
12 Flagler County whole. Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
14 much for your comments. Very good. All right,
15 next, we have Heidi Herzberg, followed by
16 Dennis Bonilla. You are recognized.

17 MS. HERZBERG: Thank you, good evening,
18 ladies and gentlemen, first of all, as a
19 Representative and a Commissioner of the City
20 of Deltona, I would like to thank you for
21 providing all of us, the residents of Volusia
22 County, this opportunity to speak to you and to
23 see all of you in person. We appreciate your
24 coming here and your representation.

25 I speak to you as a resident of 25 years

1 of the City of Deltona. We are the largest
2 city in Volusia County. We are the second
3 largest city in central Florida. We have a
4 population of 85,000 people.

5 Currently we are experiencing the three
6 levels of redistricting that many of our cities
7 are, city redistricting, county redistricting
8 and state redistricting for which you are here
9 this evening.

10 With each level of redistricting our
11 citizens become more and more limited and
12 diluted as to what their role is and to what
13 representation they have. They have city
14 redistricting, then we have county
15 redistricting and now state.

16 In the City of Deltona we have two
17 Congressional seats, we have two State Senate
18 seats and we have four State House
19 Representative seats. Not one of our
20 Representatives, as you heard here before this
21 evening, lives in the city of Deltona. Some of
22 them live as far away as Jacksonville.

23 Our Representatives, as some of you are
24 you up here, do the best with the limitations
25 that they have. We understand that it is very,

1 very difficult when most of you have a small
2 section of Deltona and many of our residents do
3 not know which Representative represents their
4 part of Deltona.

5 This evening you have heard one out of
6 every five speakers that have come up here
7 mention the city of Deltona, and almost every
8 map that was presented to you by the gentleman
9 prior mentioned Deltona and the fracturing that
10 has occurred in our city.

11 This fracturing is very confusing for our
12 residents. And it encourages, unfortunately
13 encourages voter apathy as well as
14 disenchantment in our elected officials as it
15 is very difficult for the residents of Deltona
16 to know who their Representatives are and who
17 to contact.

18 I encourage you to consider the city of
19 Deltona as the largest city in the county, the
20 second largest city in central Florida when you
21 are providing your redistricting. I would
22 encourage you to look at the lines and see how
23 we are fractured.

24 We have 85,000 people. It is a huge voter
25 base for everyone. You have the opportunity to

1 make history. This challenge of redistricting
2 and the census comes along once every ten
3 years, and it is your wisdom as Representatives
4 and your responsibility as Representatives of
5 the citizens of the state of Florida to shape
6 the future of our state, and I encourage you to
7 do so, and please look at Volusia County and
8 please look at the city of Deltona and try to
9 pause our Representatives to have better
10 representation for the citizens in our county,
11 because we do have a large voter block and I
12 thank you again very much for allowing all of
13 us to be a part of this opportunity.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you. Thank
15 you for your service, too. Next we have Dennis
16 Bonilla, followed by Nick Koval. Dennis, you
17 are recognized.

18 MR. BONILLA: Thank you. My name is
19 Dennis Bonilla, and I am a brown man, and --
20 but that is how it was described, but I like to
21 think of myself as off white.

22 Now, I have lived in Volusia County for 41
23 years and consider myself almost a southerner.
24 My main concern here this evening is that the
25 work that you have been charged with that has

1 been spoken to by the voters be done so that it
2 is completed in time for the 2012 election, and
3 that would mean my understanding is that you
4 get through with these sessions by
5 September 1st, and you have upped the time for
6 your regular meetings through January, and this
7 should be the first order of business.

8 I am a great believer in the Constitution
9 and I do not feel our courts, I support them
10 and respect them. I want the opportunity to
11 see the work that you are going to do and if I
12 don't agree with it, have the opportunity to
13 challenge in court and then have the court
14 decide between them in time for the next
15 election. Thank you very much.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
17 much for your comments. All right, next we
18 have Nick Koval and Amy -- I am sorry, Barry,
19 Barry Maquire. You are recognized.

20 MR. KIVAL: Good evening, ladies and
21 gentlemen, my name is Nick Koval. I live in
22 the city of Deberry.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: A local elected
24 official.

25 MR. KOVAL: Thank you very much. There is

1 only a few things that I would like to comment
2 on, and I am listening here to all of these
3 folks give you ladies and gentlemen an idea
4 that we are here to try to re-enforce our duty
5 as citizens of Volusia County.

6 My suggestion, if anybody realizes or have
7 been involved in a redistricting plan, at best
8 it is a monumental task. My suggestion would
9 be to look at Volusia County and where at all
10 possible keep cities or municipalities or towns
11 intact, where possible.

12 Where that is not possible, use physical
13 feature boundaries so it doesn't confuse the
14 voters, and what I mean by physical feature
15 boundaries, streams, railroads, power lines and
16 major roads where possible. This way that
17 would set the lines of these alignments.

18 This way it gives the voters a clear idea
19 of where they are supposed to vote, who they
20 are supposed to vote for and give them a
21 general idea and understanding on what the
22 redistricting plan is.

23 Ladies and gentlemen, I know it is a
24 monumental task. I don't envy you, but one
25 that has been involved with the Census Bureaus

1 since 1970, and worked on redistricting plans
2 from where I originally came from, I know what
3 a difficult task it is, but I believe that if
4 you keep the population that is assigned to
5 each census tract within a municipality, within
6 a county, I think your job would be much easier
7 following those boundaries.

8 Thank you very much for listening to what
9 I have to say and my suggestions and I believe
10 that everybody here is all looking at the same
11 idea. Thanks very much, everybody.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
13 much for your comments and for your service
14 also. All right, next we have Barry Maquire,
15 followed by Richard Gardner.

16 A VOICE: Barry Maquire waives his time.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Waive, thank you
18 very much. Richard Gardner, followed by
19 William Ternent. Richard Gardner? There is
20 Richard.

21 MR. TERNENT: Hello, I am Bill Ternent.
22 As many other folks have said, thank you for
23 being here and thank you for what you are
24 doing.

25 My message will be short, just really in

1 two parts. Many of you I have met and talked
2 to you on other issues before, so I have been
3 out talking with a number of different groups
4 and suggesting that they do get involved in
5 this process, urging them to be here tonight
6 and to be in contact with you as it moves
7 forward.

8 The first part of that message is just
9 simply follow through on what it is the voters
10 have asked you to do. It is not that
11 complicated. I know that there is some
12 ambiguities in it, but they are not excessive,
13 and I know that you are strong enough and
14 courageous enough and thoughtful enough to
15 follow through on what it is that they have
16 asked.

17 The second thing that I have found though
18 in talking with folks in various settings, I
19 have encouraged them to go out and get on-line
20 and try to use the materials that are there so
21 that they could directly participate, and I
22 think that that is very good that you have
23 tried to reach out to encourage people to
24 participate, but what I am finding from most
25 people is that they say, those materials are

1 very, very difficult to use.

2 That the instructions that are out there
3 are not adequate for them to be able to do what
4 it is that they intended to do when they moved
5 out to that. So I would encourage you to have
6 whomever is in charge of that part of the
7 project to really take a very close look at it
8 and see what can be done in order to make those
9 materials more useful and that would allow more
10 people to give you their direct input in a
11 meaningful way. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
13 much, and for clarification, that was William
14 Ternent. I happen to know Bill, so, and Bill,
15 I will give you a number of a person where you
16 can talk to someone from staff to give you
17 clarification.

18 All right, next we have Richard Gardner.
19 He just preempted you while you were working
20 your way down.

21 MR. GARDNER: That is quite all right.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you, you are
23 recognized.

24 MR. GARDNER: Thank you, Representative
25 Hukill. My name is Richard Gardner. I live in

1 Ormond-by-the-Sea, and I am a registered
2 Independent and I vote. And the slide behind
3 you says tell us your story, and my story
4 tonight is one of perception.

5 62.6 percent of the voters voted to sort
6 of change the rules or to change the game a
7 little bit on setting up districts and
8 redistricting, and I think it is imperative
9 that the Legislature follow that, follow that
10 lead, and the perception out there though is
11 something I think quite different.

12 The perception, whether it is \$30 million
13 in reserve or the \$900,000 that has already
14 been spent to try to overturn this, or the
15 organization is that some of you up there on
16 the stage belong to that have contributed to
17 the Diaz Balart and Brown lawsuit, it all goes
18 to the perception that the Legislature is
19 trying something nefarious to overturn 62.6
20 percent of the public that voted for it.

21 And given the fact that we also have a
22 Supreme Court decision, Citizens United, now we
23 don't even know who might be out there
24 distributing money to overturn what actually is
25 an overwhelming number of people that voted to

1 change this. So I would urge all of you, urge
2 to look inside, urge you to work hard. As
3 Senator Gaetz pointed out, it is your job to
4 draw those districts.

5 While you might say, might be a good
6 little game for us to play that, to play
7 Legislator for a day and draw those districts,
8 it is really going to come down to what you all
9 do.

10 Please do the right thing. There is going
11 to be people that are going to be watching. We
12 have confidence in our form of government and I
13 want to make sure that that confidence remains
14 and destroy those perceptions that are out
15 there. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much,
17 Mr. Gardner, for your comments. All right,
18 next we have Judy Reiker, followed by Jane
19 Mealy. Judy, are you here, is Commissioner
20 Reiker here? No, okay, Jane Mealy, followed by
21 David Buldautt. Jane Mealy? Okay. You are
22 recognized, thank you.

23 MS. MEALY: Thank you, I am Jane Mealy, I
24 am the Commissioner in City of Flagler Beach,
25 which is the jewel of the east coast for the

1 people from Daytona Beach not to be
2 competitive.

3 We are the only beach that is three miles
4 from 95, so come visit us. Flagler Beach is
5 about the size of Deltona, so I can well relate
6 to my colleagues from Deltona who complained
7 about being split up, and in no way do I mean
8 to say anything negative about Dr. Costello or
9 Representative Taylor or any of our others, but
10 we are divided up and it doesn't work well.

11 Flagler County is a very small county. We
12 have about 90,000 people. Flagler Beach only
13 has 5,500. I am represented by a person who
14 represents part of Putnam County, part of St.
15 Johns County and on up the beach.

16 I don't have very much in common with the
17 people from Ponte Vedra, and I feel like I have
18 more in common with the people in Daytona. I
19 would like to see, as Sally Sherman said before
20 representing the County Commission, that
21 Flagler be made whole or become whole.

22 We have five cities in Flagler County,
23 some very small, one very large by comparison.
24 We are working very hard to work together to
25 come up with solutions to our common problems.

1 Parts of Flagler County are agriculture.
2 Parts are typical suburb area, coming from New
3 York, that is, compare Palm Coast to. Flagler
4 Beach is very much a beach community. Bunnell
5 is more an industrial and agricultural area.

6 So we are very diverse. We are very
7 diverse in our population as well, but we are
8 working very hard. We meet quarterly, each of
9 the city governments, to try and find ways that
10 we can help each other.

11 If we had one set of government people
12 that we could turn to, it would work better and
13 I see Dr. Costello agreeing. So I am hoping
14 that when you do your redistricting that you
15 will keep things like that in mind for the
16 citizens of Flagler County, and others that are
17 similar to us.

18 We may be small, but we have a lot of
19 voters, too, and they do vote, I can tell you.
20 And our votes count just as much as the people
21 from the big cities. So please keep this in
22 mind. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
24 much for those comments and for your service.

25 Thank you. Next we have David Buldautt

1 followed by Carolyn Morgan. Mr. Buldautt, you
2 are recognized. Good evening.

3 MR. BULDAUTT: Chairman Hukill, members of
4 the Volusia voters, legislative delegation,
5 Senator Gaetz, thank you for coming here.

6 Thank you for hearing us, my name is Dave
7 Buldautt, a life long resident of Deland. As
8 far as redistricting goes, I like what we have
9 here, because I actually think having nine
10 people on our legislative delegation gives more
11 count to Volusia than it would be having only a
12 few.

13 I kind of like it. I don't feel like I am
14 a disenfranchised voter. I love Deland and I
15 live in District 26, Fred Costello is my State
16 Representative. I live in State Senate 7.
17 Evelyn Lynn is my State Senator, and I live in
18 Congressional District 7, John Mica has been my
19 Congressman since the day I turned 18 and
20 registered to vote, so I like my
21 Representatives. I like where I live. I don't
22 want to see it changed. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
24 much, Mr. Buldautt, for your comments. Next we
25 have Carolyn Morgan, followed by Leslie Parent.

1 You are recognized, Ms. Morgan.

2 MS. MORGAN: Thank you. I am from Flagler
3 County. I work in Clay County. I have to
4 admit that I attended the Clay County
5 delegation meeting and was quite surprised to
6 see so many of our Flagler County
7 Representatives all of the way up in Clay
8 County.

9 But I think that the compact districts are
10 essential to what we are doing. I think that
11 the confusion that so many of our voters have
12 as to who they represent, who represents, whom
13 we would contact in terms of any issue that is
14 before the Legislature, it is just really hard
15 to keep track of.

16 The districts are extruded. They are
17 strange looking, I think they need to be
18 compact. They do need to watch reasonable
19 boundaries, the kinds of boundaries that people
20 can relate to. I think it would make a better
21 representative situation.

22 I think the Legislature needs to stop
23 fighting the Amendment 5 and Amendment 6, and I
24 will, as a Flagler County person I would say
25 that Flagler needs to have -- to be made whole.

1 It is too small a county to be separated
2 and parsed out into different districts the way
3 it is. We already I know from working in
4 Flagler and now in Clay, that we are pulled to
5 the north by regional transportation issues.
6 We are pulled to the south by the District 5
7 designation that we are following for
8 transportation at DOT.

9 We have got a media market that is
10 Orlando. We have got representation that is
11 Jacksonville. We don't, if you are listening
12 to Bright House television, you haven't got a
13 clue what is happening in Jacksonville. Nobody
14 will tell you what is even happening in St.
15 Augustine.

16 We really need to be put in one place.
17 Flagler suffers so badly from being pulled
18 apart. Thank you very much.

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much
20 for your comments. Next we have Leslie Parent,
21 followed by Alan Peterson. Leslie? Leslie
22 Parent? Alan?

23 MR. PETERSON: Good evening, Madam
24 Chairman, Senator Thrasher, Representative
25 Costello, my name is Alan Peterson. I am

1 Chairman of the Flagler County Board of County
2 Commissioners.

3 I am here tonight to represent all 95,000
4 residents of Flagler County. You have heard
5 other people speak tonight. Please keep
6 Flagler whole. We are represented by two
7 Representatives currently and two Senators, but
8 the Senate Districts for example run 100 miles
9 from Duval down into Volusia County. It makes
10 no sense in today's environment.

11 So please, as others have spoken tonight
12 from Flagler County, please keep Flagler County
13 whole, give us one Senator, one Representative.
14 Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,
16 Chairman, for your comments and for your
17 service. Now we have David Corcoran, David
18 Corcoran? Is Mr. Corcoran here?

19 MR. CORCORAN: Yes.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: There you are.
21 Let me just say, there are certain people who
22 did not respond when I called their name. So
23 if they are here, Carl Persis, Mike Nolan,
24 Jerry Doty and Leslie Parent, we will get you
25 right after Mr. Corcoran, you are recognized.

1 MR. CORCORAN: Thank you very much,
2 Ms. Hukill, Senator Thrasher, members of this
3 Committee, and the citizens of Volusia and
4 Flagler and maybe Seminole County, wherever.

5 My name is David Corcoran. I live
6 occasionally in Daytona Beach, sometimes in
7 Orlando, and then sometimes I go to Phoenix,
8 Arizona area to work as a food service worker
9 during the fall football season.

10 So I have a lot of interest about the
11 redistricting and all of this stuff and
12 everything, and I know it is all part, you
13 know, the Constitution, you know, the census
14 every ten years it has to be done.

15 But let me give a little history lesson to
16 all of the people here, you know, in the good
17 old days they used to have the old good old boy
18 ways of politics. You know, they stack the
19 deck for however is in power.

20 Now, the Legislature, whether with the
21 Democrats or the Republicans and they are going
22 to make it all in favor of their, and maybe
23 give a little more for the minority candidate
24 districts, maybe here or there, but in these
25 days, now, I got to make one thing.

1 We know that the Republicans can throw the
2 cards for the next two years, we know Rick
3 Scott is the Governor and he was elected with
4 huge Tea Party support, that stands for tax,
5 enough already, and we know for a fact that in
6 2000 when George W. Bush was elected, that
7 Kathleen Harris had a large part with her dirty
8 old hands with the Secretary of state, and what
9 was her reward?

10 The Legislature, some of you guys went
11 out, made a special district in Sarasota just
12 for her, and to let the people know,
13 Representative Harris was so incompetent, she
14 got out real quick and got beat by Bill Nelson
15 a couple of years ago in a landslide.

16 To make it real short, ladies and
17 gentlemen, we know that everybody wants their
18 piece of the pie. Everybody knows they want
19 their little bit of the money coming from D. C.
20 and Tallahassee, so they can take care of their
21 little pet projects, but at the end of the day,
22 watch out for the lobbyists, watch out for the
23 attorneys, because if you go to Tallahassee
24 during the season, there is sometimes more
25 lobbyists and attorneys talking to all of you

1 guys that can fill the whole football stadium
2 at Doak Campbell Stadium when the Florida State
3 Seminoles play and that is about 90,000.

4 So a lots of eyes and ears. It is more
5 than we the people, sometimes follow the money.
6 Thank you very much.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
8 much for your comments. All right, next Carl
9 Persis, is Carl here? Not here, okay, Mike
10 Nolan, Mike Nolan from New Smyrna Beach. Jerry
11 Doty, Jerry, from Daytona Beach? And Leslie
12 Parent? Who am I seeing? No, Leslie Parent
13 from Holly Hill.

14 All right, last call for those four. All
15 right, that concludes the list of those who
16 have already signed up who wish to speak. Yes,
17 sir.

18 MR. NICHOLSON: I had a card, John
19 Nicholson.

20 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes, we did, I
21 think. Come forward, yes. I am sorry.

22 MR. NICHOLSON: Not a problem.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: All right, John
24 Nicholson.

25 MR. NICHOLSON: John Nicholson, Daytona

1 Beach. I have four people up there that
2 represent me and I don't know whether you are
3 here or not. I mean, I have neighbors up
4 there, Dwight (inaudible) lives across the
5 bridge from me, but I don't know whether he
6 represents me or not. I have Fred that lives
7 up the road on Ormond, but I don't know whether
8 I am in his district or not, because they
9 gerrymander Daytona Beach in such a fashion
10 that they think they are doing the right thing,
11 but it really ends up that I am confused, and I
12 can tell you, I go to one or two meetings so I
13 am familiar with how politics works.

14 If I am confused, you can imagine what the
15 rest of the community is confused. They will
16 ask me and I will say how in the heck do I
17 know. I have to look at my card to let me know
18 who is where and what.

19 So what I am asking you is there used to
20 be a dirty word called gerrymandering. It was
21 wrong back then, and now gerrymandering is
22 okay. When you gerrymander, and I understand
23 you can look us straight in the face and say
24 that Corrine Brown's district had nothing to do
25 with race.

1 I am sorry, when you say that to me, I
2 know you are lying, okay. It had everything to
3 do with race. The Supreme Court says you can't
4 do it. If you look at it with the fact that,
5 well, she can't get elected any other way, what
6 I am telling you, that in Daytona Beach we have
7 70 percent white voters and the previous Mayor,
8 we had 60 percent of our City Council was
9 black, all right.

10 We had a Commissioner from a 99 percent
11 white district was voted in. It can happen.
12 Things are changing. This is 2012. You are
13 looking at 2020. Things are changing. We have
14 to look at who the person is, and if they can't
15 be qualified to get elected on any other reason
16 then they shouldn't be there in the first
17 place.

18 So I am asking you, I know you think you
19 are doing us a good favor by dividing us up
20 into 10, 12, 15 districts, and having that many
21 Representatives, but we really don't. You only
22 get a small portion of their time.

23 If Evelyn was for Volusia County only we
24 could go to her and we could know that she
25 backed us, but when she represents God knows

1 how many other counties, then where does her
2 allegiance lie.

3 That is the same thing when all of you get
4 divided up, where does your allegiance lie. I
5 know you want to represent all of us in
6 Florida, but we are distinct communities. So I
7 ask you to try to keep whole the cities, first
8 of all, and the counties, second of all. Try
9 to keep the communities together. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
11 much for your comments. All right, we have
12 Charles Field. Mr. Field wants to speak. Yes.
13 You are recognized, Mr. Field. Thank you.

14 MR. FIELD: Thank you. When I came here
15 tonight, I didn't know whether I would have
16 anything relevant to say that my son, Rob, Rob
17 Field is, you know, very active in the
18 community.

19 I am a retired labor economist from
20 northern Virginia, worked in Washington, D. C.,
21 for 30 years. When I try to synthesize what
22 has been said here tonight, I have two
23 additional things that I would like to say that
24 I think are relevant.

25 Number one, I have traveled all over the

1 country for many, many years. In this county
2 there must be at least 15 independent cities
3 involved.

4 Some of them are contiguous, some of them
5 aren't, that the other thing is, and what has
6 been, you know, most of the people say that
7 cities, I mean, if a city can't stand on its
8 own, it should be combined with the city next
9 to it, that so we don't have a lot of
10 gerrymandering.

11 On the other hand, we do have a lot of
12 minorities in this -- in this county. Many of
13 them, most of them I guess are located in
14 Daytona Beach, but there has been, I have
15 noticed over the 11 years that I have been here
16 that the minorities is spreading out to other
17 cities within the county, that -- but I would
18 like to see both of these concepts recognized
19 in redistricting.

20 That -- so that -- so that minorities have
21 an equal chance of being or a larger chance of
22 being elected and also that the districts are
23 (inaudible) so that, and consolidated.

24 I live in south Daytona which has 13,000
25 residents. Thank goodness, we only, you know,

1 that we are not divided. I would hate to see
2 something like that happen. Thank you for
3 listening to me.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
5 much for your comments, Mr. Field, and
6 Mr. Field, I am going to have a staff member
7 bring a card over to you. We don't have a card
8 from you. We have one from your son. So I
9 would appreciate it if you would fill that out.
10 Thank you very much.

11 All right, is there anyone else in the
12 audience who would like to speak? I have
13 called all of the cards and we have recalled
14 people who did not -- who left the room or had
15 to leave completely.

16 Anyone else who would like to speak?
17 Going once, going twice, no. I just want to
18 tell you, especially representing Volusia
19 County, how proud I am for the input.

20 You have just turned out in mass, in
21 numbers, with wonderful ideas and I am so
22 proud. We have actually some time left. So I
23 am going to see if there are members, House
24 members who would like to speak and Senate
25 members. I think we will start with the Senate

1 first.

2 Any Senators which to say anything, or
3 comment? Okay, there being none, all right,
4 House members?

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I think Senator Montford
6 has something.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: I am sorry, go
8 ahead. You are recognized.

9 SENATOR MONTFORD: Thank you. This is the
10 first time I have taken the opportunity to
11 speak after a public hearing, but I felt moved
12 to do so, and if you may just bear with me just
13 for a moment.

14 My, I am a freshman. I may not look like
15 it, but I am a freshman among this group, but
16 my experience has been about 40 years in the
17 public school system, and two terms, two terms
18 as a County Commissioner, three terms elected
19 as School Superintendent, and I participated
20 over the 40 years in a lot of public hearings.

21 Public hearings about growth management
22 when we didn't have a Growth Management Act in
23 Florida, school rezonings, redistricting and
24 all of you have been through that, know how
25 tough that is, but I sat here tonight and this

1 is the ninth public hearing that I have
2 participated in with this group, especially
3 under the leadership of Senator Gaetz and
4 Representative Weatherford, and I am proud to
5 be a part of this process.

6 Going into this process when we began, I
7 anticipated and thought I would learn
8 something, and I have, but I have learned far,
9 far more than what I ever dreamed I would.

10 I thought I sort of knew it all, but from
11 Pensacola to Tallahassee, Ft. Walton Beach,
12 Panama City, Jacksonville, St. Augustine and,
13 where are we? I apologize, it has been a long
14 day.

15 This is the ninth one and I have learned
16 so much. So I want to say thank you. Every
17 time there has just been a different flavor and
18 what has been so important to us in this group
19 and I think I can speak for my colleagues, is
20 the sincerity and honesty with which we have
21 been granted the opportunity to learn from you,
22 but I also want to give, hopefully give you
23 some comfort.

24 And I am a Democrat, so I am -- I am one
25 the ones that asked to be on this Committee as

1 a freshman and was granted the opportunity, but
2 I, in all of my years I don't think I have
3 worked with a group of colleagues that have
4 been more dedicated and open to the process.

5 You talk about a transparent process.
6 This is transparent, but what goes even deeper
7 than that, and I have learned over these nine
8 public hearings and working with my colleagues
9 here how genuinely sincere they are in what I
10 call growing up, doing what is right.

11 Now, we all are not going to agree. I
12 don't think any of us will probably agree with
13 exactly what we come out with, but I can go to
14 sleep on tonight and when we finish the
15 process, I will know that I worked with some
16 colleagues that really honestly did it right,
17 and I have got, I have a lot of experience in
18 that.

19 Again, we may not all happy with the
20 process. I may not be happy with it, I mean
21 with the results, but I promise you, you can
22 sleep tonight knowing that these
23 Representatives and Senators will do what is
24 right in their heart and I honestly believe
25 that, and I promise you, I wouldn't say that if

1 I didn't believe it.

2 So thank you for the opportunity to say a
3 few. This is the first time I have done this.
4 Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you so much,
6 Senator, for your comments. Thank you.
7 Representative Taylor.

8 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Volusia
9 and Flagler for showing up tonight. It is
10 important that you did come out and you shared
11 your story. You have made me be envy of the
12 Legislature because I know all of my members
13 here are jealous that I have got the number one
14 group of people who have come out in support
15 and shared their stories.

16 So thank you for coming out. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you very
18 much, Representative Taylor. Representative
19 Costello.

20 REPRESENTATIVE COSTELLO: Thank you very
21 much for coming out. I want to thank Senator
22 Montford for his comments, because I echo that.
23 This is an outstanding group of people. I
24 mentioned that up front.

25 I just want to tell you and I know we are

1 not to get specific, Deltona, I represent, I
2 love it, I love them, I am honored to represent
3 them. They want one Representative.

4 Deberry, I represent part of Deberry. I
5 am honored to represent them, they want one
6 Representative. Deland, I am honored to
7 represent part of them, they want one
8 Representative. Ormond Beach, I represent part
9 of Ormond Beach. I am honored, I was Mayor
10 there for eight years, they want one
11 Representative.

12 Flagler County, I am honored to represent
13 part of Flagler County. They want one
14 Representative. Whatever I end up
15 representing, I am honored to represent you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Very good. Thank
17 you, Representative Costello. Next we have
18 Representative Baxley.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Thank you,
20 Chairman. First of all, I wanted to thank all
21 three of our fine Chairmen for the leadership
22 that we have had, the decorum with which these
23 meetings have been conducted for us to hear
24 things that we needed to hear, and I am very
25 grateful.

1 I hope many of you will come join this
2 fine crew as they get near my home at The
3 Villages tomorrow, a very different environment
4 and also in Gainesville tomorrow night. So you
5 come and travel with us, but thank you and for
6 the freedom that we have felt as members to
7 participate.

8 No one has ever told me that I shouldn't
9 say something, but I believe that this is,
10 there is a time to listen and there is a time
11 to speak, and for the bulk of these hearings it
12 has been a great time for us to listen. Thank
13 you, Chairman.

14 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you,
15 Representative Baxley, so much, for your
16 comments.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Madam Chair?

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Yes, Chairman.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, and
20 thanks to all of you who have hung with us.
21 There are other things that you could have done
22 tonight that probably would have been even more
23 entertaining.

24 Let me just say as the Senate Chair of the
25 Reapportionment Committee, that this has been

1 extraordinarily helpful to me.

2 I think there is somebody who has been
3 traveling with us from hearing to hearing who
4 made the comment tonight that this was window
5 dressing, but yet it is her third hearing that
6 she has been to.

7 I can tell you that I took eight pages of
8 notes earlier today. I took four pages of
9 notes tonight. There are things that I have
10 learned from your testimony about -- about the
11 east and west Volusia County, about Deltona,
12 about the way that you look at your communities
13 that we couldn't have learned if we would have
14 sat in Tallahassee in an echo chamber and drew
15 some maps and said, well, here they are.

16 It is much better it seems to me, that we
17 should listen first and then make a proposal or
18 a series of proposals, and I want to emphasize
19 that any member of this committee can offer a
20 map at any time today, tomorrow, tonight.

21 Any member of the Legislature who is not
22 on this committee can offer a proposed map any
23 time they want to. Any member of this
24 audience, any special interest group who is
25 represented here tonight or who wasn't

1 represented here tonight can propose a map at
2 any time.

3 They will all be made public and we will
4 all have a chance to comment on them before any
5 votes are taken. So this isn't your last time
6 to participate. This is your first time to
7 participate in what we believe will be an open
8 process.

9 Someone mentioned earlier tonight that
10 Florida hasn't had the most, you know, perfect
11 record as far as elections are concerned. That
12 is true, but ten years ago when these maps were
13 drawn, by the way, I should say hardly anybody
14 in the Legislature was there ten years ago.

15 So I, for example, ran in a district that
16 somebody else drew, and that is the case with
17 all or most everybody on this stage. We didn't
18 create the districts we are running in. We are
19 running in districts that somebody else drew.

20 But I would tell you this, that the
21 redistricting process that Florida has used has
22 been honored nationally for being open and
23 transparent and this is more open and
24 interactive with the public than any in the
25 country.

1 There is a reason that some states have
2 finished earlier, and that is because they had
3 some people who went in a back room, drew some
4 maps, came out, voted, that was it. That was
5 Illinois.

6 There are other states that vote in off
7 years, like Louisiana and others, and they got
8 their census information before we did and they
9 were able to act before we did. We were one of
10 the last states to get our census data from the
11 Bureau of the Census, not the last, but one of
12 the last, and as soon as we got the census
13 information, the demographics information upon
14 which redistricting is based, it was
15 immediately put on the website so that the
16 people of Florida could see all of the
17 information that we would see, and then we
18 placed the software that we will use to draw
19 the maps on our websites so that you could look
20 at that software and we are delighted that
21 Mr. Hoyt tonight offered up his maps.

22 We had maps that have been offered in the
23 last two days. We have had three Senate maps
24 that have been proposed. We have had two
25 Congressional maps that have been proposed. We

1 have had a House map that was proposed by
2 Mr. Hoyt, as well as the Senate and the
3 Congressional map, and if you go on the
4 websites you will see that there are plenty of
5 maps to react to, and it is not that it is
6 going to be some official map that will be
7 drawn by some member of this committee.

8 Any member of this committee or member of
9 the Legislature or you can propose a map at any
10 time, but before any votes are taken those maps
11 will be publicly available and you will have a
12 chance to see them and you will have a chance
13 to react to them.

14 Let me mention a couple of other things,
15 Madam Chair. There was someone who said
16 tonight, and I wrote it down because I so wish
17 it were true. He said this is not a
18 complicated process, there are some
19 ambiguities.

20 Well, I wrote that next to all of the
21 specific requirements and recommendations that
22 people made for what ought to determine a
23 district line, and here they are.

24 Natural geographic boundaries, geological
25 boundaries, strategic economic driver

1 boundaries, county lines, city lines, racial
2 and ethnic minorities, contiguous lines,
3 communities of interest, streams, roads,
4 railroads, power lines.

5 Now, it would be hard to draw maps that
6 would make everyone happy using all of those
7 indicators, so I wish it were simple. I wish
8 everyone could agree, but if you have the
9 perspective tonight to listen as we did, and it
10 was such a great gift to listen to all of you,
11 gosh, we had people in this room who disagreed
12 strongly with each other.

13 We will have people on this committee,
14 Democrats and Republicans, House members and
15 Senators who will disagree with each other.
16 This Representative democracy stuff, it is a
17 little bit messy.

18 It probably would be easier if we had a
19 group of people who just said, here are the
20 maps, take them or leave them, if you don't
21 like it, sue us, but that is not the way we
22 have chosen to operate.

23 So we look forward to the interactive
24 process, and if the gentleman, the letter
25 carrier who came forward, I will tell you, that

1 was Americana when he said I want a chance to
2 see everything, and if I don't like it, I want
3 a chance to take my case to court, and that
4 opportunity will be there, too, because
5 anything we draw has to be submitted for
6 judicial review and anything that is drawn and
7 voted on, it can be submitted as well to the
8 courts under a legal case that any member of
9 the public wants to bring forward or any
10 special interest group wants to bring forward.

11 Finally, Madam Chair, I would just say
12 this. So many people said tonight, you know,
13 you just need to abide by Amendments 5 and 6,
14 quit fighting them.

15 Just a couple of notes. First, I hope we
16 have, I don't know where it got in the blood
17 stream that there was \$30 million in the House
18 and what was the number, eight or \$9 million in
19 the Senate dedicated to fighting Amendments 5
20 and 6. I don't know how it got in the blood
21 stream, but if I had a quarter for every rumor
22 that we heard in Tallahassee we wouldn't have
23 had a \$3.8 billion budget deficit last year.

24 I will just tell you this. It was the
25 House and Senate that submitted Amendments 5

1 and 6 for pre-clearance to the Department of
2 Justice. We submitted them through
3 pre-clearance, we made the arguments through
4 our lawyers that we paid with your money that
5 Amendments 5 and 6 would comply with the Voting
6 Rights Act and ought to be carried forward.

7 We submitted them and they were
8 pre-cleared. We took an oath to preserve and
9 protect and defend the Constitution of the
10 United States and of the State of Florida,
11 Democrats, Republicans, House and Senate
12 members, you know, that is in the Constitution.
13 We are going to follow our oath.

14 And finally I would just say this. You
15 will have a chance to see whether the final
16 products and it may not be one product, it may
17 be several options that are laid before the
18 Legislature and the courts, are faithful to
19 what you believe Amendments 5 and 6 were
20 intended to do, and if you don't like it you
21 will have the opportunity to stand up in public
22 and say you don't like it, and if you are part
23 of a group or even if you are an individual you
24 will have the opportunity to challenge it
25 politically and challenge it legally.

1 That also the way the process is supposed
2 to work. So thank you for helping us take the
3 first step toward a conversation that we
4 believe will end in plenty of time.

5 We don't plan to drag our feet a bit. We
6 are bound by the Constitution in terms of the
7 timeline, we can't vote until January. If the
8 fair districts people thought that it was wrong
9 and we should vote sooner, maybe they should
10 have included it in their Constitutional
11 amendments. They didn't.

12 So we can't vote until January, but by
13 golly, you will see plans, you will already, if
14 you go on the websites now, you will see plans
15 that are already available that people are
16 already debating and discussing and you will
17 have the opportunity to see those just as we
18 will.

19 So thank you, Representative Hukill, for
20 doing a good job chairing our meeting tonight.
21 Thank you, Senator Lynn and Senator Thrasher
22 for having us in your district. Thank you all
23 for being here, and God bless you. This is
24 what it is all about.

25 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Thank you. Thank

1 you very much, Senator. I want to thank
2 Senator Gaetz's Chair and Chairman Weatherford
3 for the way they have conducted these meetings.

4 The committee will be moving on tomorrow
5 to two more meetings in different cities. Just
6 for you in the audience, I want to thank you
7 the most for your contributions, your comments.
8 This is truly representative democracy at its
9 best.

10 If you spoke and have more to say you want
11 to add, you can do a written extension of your
12 remarks on-line. If you did not speak and wish
13 to submit comments on-line, you can.

14 I do want to say that all of the records
15 from today's meeting, video, pod cast,
16 transcripts will be available in the coming
17 days via the Senate and House Redistricting
18 websites.

19 Please continue to follow us so we can
20 participate together to draw the lines that
21 will define our community and how we are
22 represented in Washington and Tallahassee in
23 the days and weeks to come.

24 Thank you once again, Volusia.

25 (Whereupon, the proceedings were

1 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 144 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 20th day of September, 2011.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014