

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011  
BREVARD COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBER  
MELBOURNE, FL

Transcribed by:  
CLARA C. ROTRUCK  
Court Reporter

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

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen, if  
3 you would be kind enough to find a seat if you  
4 would like to participate in our hearing this  
5 morning, and I would ask members of the House  
6 and Senators who are here for the hearing to  
7 please take their seats as quickly as possible  
8 so that we can get started.

9 The Joint Senate House Redistricting  
10 hearing is called to order. We are pleased  
11 today to be joined by members of the House of  
12 Representatives and the Senate from across the  
13 state of Florida who are here to listen to you  
14 and we will give them a chance to very briefly  
15 introduce themselves and indicate where in  
16 Florida they live and where they represent so  
17 you will know that -- you will know who you are  
18 talking about.

19 Thanks to the Brevard County Commission  
20 for allowing us to use this facility this  
21 morning and thank you for being here, all of  
22 you, especially those who have come to testify  
23 and provide insights about the redistricting  
24 process and how you believe the legal  
25 standards, Federal and State, ought to be

1 applied in this community and in this part of  
2 Florida to help shape Congressional Senate and  
3 House Districts for the next decade.

4 My name is Don Gaetz. I am a member of  
5 the Senate. I Chair the Senate Reapportionment  
6 Committee, and along with my House colleague,  
7 Representative Rich Workman, who is to my left  
8 and many of you know Rich because he is from  
9 this neck of the woods, I will be Chairing  
10 today's hearing which is being webcast  
11 statewide by the Florida Channel over the  
12 Internet.

13 We are pleased to be joined this morning  
14 by the President of the Florida Senate,  
15 President Mike Haridopolos, who represents this  
16 area in the Florida Senate.

17 President Haridopolos has laid out for us  
18 an interactive public and transparent process  
19 for reapportionment and redistricting. We are  
20 here today at his direction and the fact that  
21 we have interactive websites, the fact that we  
22 are involving the public in this process more  
23 than any other state in the Union is because  
24 Senator Haridopolos as President has directed  
25 us to do so.

1           Mr. President, thank you for letting us be  
2 on the Space Coast and it is an honor to  
3 recognize you, sir.

4           PRESIDENT HARIDOPOLIS: Well, good  
5 morning, and thank you for coming out in such  
6 large numbers. We are looking forward to  
7 hearing from you, not just today, but  
8 throughout the process.

9           As Senator Gaetz has described quite well,  
10 we are making this the most open transparent  
11 process in state history. You will literally  
12 have the opportunity to draw your own maps.

13           I believe already 17 have been produced,  
14 over 70 different suggestions of how we draw  
15 lines have been produced, and we are going to  
16 follow the road map that is I believe served  
17 this state well on prior issues.

18           As you know, with the property tax  
19 reduction that we made in 2008, we went across  
20 the state and listened to people before we drew  
21 the legislation, because the idea is we want to  
22 have a bottom up, not a top down solution to  
23 all problems, and so I think today is symbolic  
24 of that very effort.

25           Wherever you might stand in this

1 particular issue, what is most important is  
2 that we listen to your ideas, because  
3 ultimately the maps that are produced are going  
4 to be representative of what we have heard  
5 throughout the state and the testimony that the  
6 good citizens of not only this area, but across  
7 the state of Florida have given to us.

8 And so we look forward to your remarks and  
9 I think this is one of 26 meetings across the  
10 state of Florida and they will continue as we  
11 continue to make this, again, a very open and  
12 transparent process using all of the technology  
13 at our fingertips literally, in which you can  
14 produce your ideas.

15 And we are hopeful that anyone who has an  
16 idea today to present a map, we would be happy  
17 to accept it, and after hearing all of the  
18 testimony, that you might do the same, but  
19 let's be clear on two things.

20 If you draw a perfect square or a perfect  
21 circle, there is still going to be a line drawn  
22 where one person on one side of that street is  
23 going to be on the opposite district of the  
24 other person on the other side of the street,  
25 because there are going to be lines at the end

1 of the day and we are looking forward to your  
2 input in that process.

3 So I want to thank you for coming out on a  
4 beautiful Florida morning and we look forward  
5 to your testimony over today and we hope again,  
6 today, it does not end today, that you continue  
7 to give your input throughout the process and I  
8 am just grateful for all the good work of both  
9 the Republicans and the Democrats here in the  
10 room who are participating in this process,  
11 especially the Representatives who give so much  
12 of their time to this effort.

13 So Chairman Gaetz, good luck to you in the  
14 meeting and we look forward to hearing from the  
15 folks here in Brevard County.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. President.  
17 Let's take a moment to let you know who is here  
18 from the Legislature so you will know who you  
19 are talking to, and why don't we begin with  
20 you, Representative.

21 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you, Senator.  
22 My name is Peter Nehr. I am a State  
23 Representative from District 48 in Pinellas  
24 County. With your indulgence, I have one quick  
25 thing. This young lady would like to say

1 hello.

2 A VOICE: Hi, thank you for being here.  
3 My name is Jillian. Good job. Do a good job.

4 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Well, that is a  
5 difficult act to follow, but good morning, my  
6 name is Jeanette Nunez, I am State  
7 Representative for House District 112, which  
8 consists of portions of Miami-Dade, Broward and  
9 Collier County. Thank you.

10 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Good morning, I  
11 am Representative Steve Precourt, House  
12 District 41, which is west Orange County and  
13 parts of Lake and Osceola County.

14 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Good morning, I  
15 am Representative Jason Brodeur. I am from  
16 District 33 which represents parts of Volusia,  
17 Orange and Seminole Counties.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Good morning, my  
19 name is John Legg. I represent west Pasco,  
20 House District 46.

21 REPRESENTATIVE EISNAUGLE: Good morning,  
22 Eric Eisnaugle, representing House District 40  
23 in Orlando and Orange County.

24 REPRESENTATIVE FRISHE: Good morning, I am  
25 Representative Jim Frishe. I represent the

1 western edge of Pinellas County, most of the  
2 beaches, and I am very happy to be here today.

3 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, my  
4 name is Betty Reed. I represent District 59  
5 which is in Hillsborough County, Tampa,  
6 Florida.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Good morning, I  
8 am Chuck Chestnut, House District 23, a portion  
9 of Marion County and a portion of Alachua  
10 County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE TOBIA: John Tobia District  
12 31, Brevard County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Scott Plakon,  
14 Florida House District 37, Orange and Seminole  
15 Counties.

16 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Good morning, I am  
17 Jose Diaz, I represent District 115 in  
18 Miami-Dade County, Florida.

19 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning,  
20 everyone, John Patrick Julien, representing  
21 House District 104, which is in Miami-Dade  
22 County. It is a pleasure to be here.

23 REPRESENTATIVE ROUSON: Good morning,  
24 Darryl Rouson, I represent District 55, which  
25 is south Pinellas, north Manatee, Sarasota and

1 the southern most tip of Hillsborough County,  
2 and I want to thank Cocoa's finest for giving  
3 me a ride to the hearing this morning when my  
4 car caught a flat 27 miles out.

5 SENATOR ALTMAN: Thad Altman, State  
6 Senator, District 24, which we are in the heart  
7 of. It is a great honor to represent this  
8 community.

9 I have traveled the state, been to a lot  
10 of the meetings across the state, but this is  
11 actually the best looking crowd I have seen in  
12 the entire state of Florida.

13 As you know, I spent many hours of my life  
14 in this room serving you as a County  
15 Commissioner, and I would like to say  
16 something, building on what President  
17 Haridopolos said.

18 You know, some of the comments we have had  
19 in past is people asking us why aren't we  
20 producing maps, and I think it is appropriate  
21 that I am sitting here in this room, coming  
22 from local government, sort of becomes a part  
23 of your DNA, that before you take any action,  
24 whether it is a zoning item, a budget item, a  
25 contract, you always got public input first.

1           That is sort of the way it becomes a part  
2 of your essence when you come from that bottom  
3 up local government level and I am really  
4 enjoying this process.

5           I am excited about hearing from my  
6 constituents when they can go to Map Builder  
7 and build their own maps. We are doing the  
8 same and it is really, I really commend our  
9 leadership, Senator Haridopolos and Senator  
10 Gaetz and Representative Weatherford in putting  
11 this series of public hearings.

12           It is unprecedented. I would venture to  
13 guess no one in the country has ever had such  
14 public input and public involvement in a  
15 redistricting process.

16           It is a great honor to be here and thank  
17 you for taking the time to come out this  
18 morning.

19           REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: Good morning,  
20 Representative Daphne Campbell, District 108  
21 from Miami-Dade County.

22           REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning,  
23 Hazelle Rogers, State Representative, District  
24 94, representing eight cities in central  
25 Broward County, one of the most diverse

1 counties in Broward County with approximately  
2 1.8 million residents. It is good to be here  
3 this morning.

4 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Good morning, my name  
5 is Senator Gwen Margolis. I represent District  
6 35 in Miami-Dade County, and south Broward  
7 County and delighted to be here and listen to  
8 you today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good morning,  
10 they put the two Gwens together. I am State  
11 Representative Gwen Clarke-Reed, representing  
12 House District 92 which is northeast Broward  
13 County, representing seven cities.

14 SENATOR SIPLIN: Good morning, Gary Siplin  
15 State Senator, Walt Disney World.

16 REPRESENTATIVE BERNARD: Good morning,  
17 State Representative Mack Bernard, West Palm  
18 Beach, Florida, District 84.

19 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULL: Good morning,  
20 Steve Crisafuli, House District 32, central and  
21 north Brevard and east Orange County.

22 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good morning, Tom  
23 Goodson, House District 29 from Mims, Florida,  
24 to the St. Lucie County line. I have told  
25 everyone here today that I have been to about

1 every meeting, except two.

2 I have told them how wonderful you are  
3 going to act and how courteous you are going to  
4 be. So please don't let me down. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Good morning, I  
6 am Rich Workman, your State Representative,  
7 District 30 in Brevard, welcome.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
9 members and Senators for introducing  
10 yourselves.

11 Let me go over our procedures for today so  
12 everybody knows how they can participate. It  
13 is important that you sign in. We ask you to  
14 sign in so that we can maintain an accurate  
15 public record of all attendees, and also all  
16 speakers, and that will allow us to put you on  
17 our mailing lists and our e-mail lists so we  
18 can keep you informed about the redistricting  
19 process as it moves rapidly forward into  
20 committee meetings in September, and into the  
21 session that President Haridopolos has arranged  
22 for us to call earlier than usual to take  
23 actions on these maps as quickly as we can.

24 If you have not signed in we ask you to  
25 raise your hand and a member of our team will

1 get to you so that you can sign a card. There  
2 is a young lady and a gentleman down here,  
3 another young lady. So if you will keep your  
4 hands up, I apologize, another young lady over  
5 there, we will ask our staff if they would get  
6 to you and give you a card.

7 It is the same card, if you just want to  
8 participate by observing or if you want to  
9 speak. So please, please fill out that card.  
10 Right over here, John, if you wouldn't mind.

11 Before we begin the Chair will recognize  
12 Representative Rich Workman to explain how  
13 today's hearing fits into the redistricting  
14 process and schedule so that you will have a  
15 sense of where we are in the process now and  
16 what happens next. Representative.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Thank you,  
18 Chairman. Every ten years the Legislature is  
19 required by our Constitution to redistrict the  
20 state based on increases and decreases in  
21 movements of population.

22 Because Florida has grown more than any  
23 other, most other states in the last ten years  
24 we will move up from 25 to 27 members of the  
25 U.S. House of Representatives.

1           Because some parts of our state have  
2           increased or increased disproportionately in  
3           population, many State and House Districts will  
4           change either adding or losing population.

5           When redistricting is completed,  
6           Congressional Districts must be equal in  
7           population and contain 696,345 people. Those  
8           40 Senate Districts must also be nearly equal  
9           at about 470,000 people and our 120 House  
10          Districts must be nearly equal at about  
11          156,700.

12          We have displays in the front of the room  
13          showing the current boundaries of districts in  
14          this area of the state and a number of -- and  
15          the number of persons which must be added or  
16          subtracted from those current districts to  
17          achieve equal representation.

18          Equality of representation isn't the only  
19          legal requirement the redistricting plans must  
20          meet. The laws and important court cases  
21          governing redistricting are explained in detail  
22          in the House and Senate websites.

23          Those websites are listed on the  
24          Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available  
25          to you when you came in. If you did not get

1           one, please make sure you do. Our  
2           Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes both  
3           Federal and State laws and outlines topics we  
4           hope you will discuss here at today's hearing.

5           If you did not get a copy when you came  
6           in, as I said, please make sure you get one  
7           even now so that you can review it while we  
8           give public testimony.

9           The brochure also lists the House and  
10          Senate websites. The websites are packed with  
11          information about redistricting in Florida,  
12          including explanations of laws and important  
13          court cases governing redistricting.

14          The two websites are complimentary and are  
15          updated frequently. Visit both and check back  
16          often. It is a great way to stay connected  
17          about how your new Congressional State Senate  
18          and State House Districts are taking shape.

19          The websites also deliver to your  
20          fingertips all of the demographic information  
21          that we will use to redraw districts and the  
22          exact same computer programs that we as  
23          Legislators and professional staff will use.

24          Any member of the public can participate  
25          in building plans or seeing maps submitted by

1           Legislators or other citizens. Before, during  
2           and after this hearing Senate and House  
3           professional staff are available to show anyone  
4           the simple steps to getting done on-line.  
5           Building districts and submitting a plan now or  
6           in the weeks to come.

7                     Senator Gaetz has said at every one of  
8           these meetings that he is not very computer  
9           smart, and it took him 15 minutes to learn how  
10          to draw these districts. So I guess I can say  
11          if he can do it, so can you.

12                    Recommendations from citizens and groups  
13          of citizens will be made publicly available.  
14          In fact, 17 public submissions of partial or  
15          complete maps and approximately seven written  
16          seven -- 70 written ideas for maps are  
17          available on the website and after this week I  
18          am sure that number is going to drastically  
19          increase.

20                    The submission of proposed maps that makes  
21          sense for your community is the single most  
22          effective form of public participation in the  
23          redistricting process.

24                    The redistricting schedule under which we  
25          are operating is imposed by the State

1           Constitution. The Constitution does not permit  
2           the Legislature to act on State Legislative  
3           maps before the second year after the census.

4                     In other words, before 2012. We  
5           accelerated the process as much as possible by  
6           moving up the 2012 legislative session from  
7           March to January, and by beginning our  
8           statewide hearings five months in advance of  
9           the 2012 legislative session.

10                    It has been suggested that the Legislature  
11           should draw maps first and then ask for public  
12           comment. We believe that puts the answer ahead  
13           of the question.

14                    There should be no preconceptions created  
15           by politicians, but rather public testimony  
16           should be free and unrestricted. In fact, a  
17           principle author of Florida's New Redistricting  
18           Standards and the Chairperson for Florida Fair  
19           Districts campaign is on record and in  
20           agreement with the notion that the maps should  
21           not be drawn until after public testimony has  
22           been completed.

23                    Our intent is to use the recommendations  
24           made at the 26 public hearings and through our  
25           Internet websites as the basis for developing

1 one or more options for district maps.

2 We will discuss those options in open  
3 public meetings before any votes are taken,  
4 even in a committee.

5 In other words, what we are literally  
6 saying is, if you look at those maps in the  
7 back of the room, the ones actually submitted  
8 by Legislature by Florida residences to the  
9 Legislature by Florida residences.

10 We are literally starting the legislative  
11 process with those maps and other suggestions  
12 from you, the public. So if you want to know  
13 where we will begin our deliberations, it is  
14 with those public submissions, your public  
15 submissions, testimony from these meetings and  
16 other public input.

17 Throughout the process, last page, by the  
18 way, throughout the process we will solicit  
19 additional public comment so that proposed maps  
20 can mature with the public involvement, all  
21 before the Legislature approves its final maps.

22 Whatever the Legislature passes, when it  
23 then is submitted for judicial review to ensure  
24 that the final plans meet every legal  
25 requirement.

1           Because our purpose today is to hear from  
2           you, and not me reading and reading, all of the  
3           time between now and 1:00 will be used to hear  
4           you and your concerns from the public.

5           All that wish to speak will have time to  
6           present testimony and to be listened to  
7           respectfully without interruption or argument.

8           If after every citizen has had his or her  
9           say, there is time remaining before our  
10          scheduled adjournment, any member of the  
11          Committee may make any statement or offer any  
12          observation.

13          Of course, any member of the Legislature  
14          may today or at any time propose a map or plan  
15          and we will make it available to the public.

16          Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of  
17          our schedule and process helps set the stage  
18          for a successful hearing, and welcome to  
19          Brevard, Chairman.

20          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Is  
21          Libby Duncan here? She is outside? Well,  
22          there is overflow seating across the hallway.  
23          So if you have not been able to find a seat and  
24          you would like to sit, there is some overflow  
25          seating and you can see and hear what is going

1 on.

2 The reason I asked about Libby Duncan is  
3 because she is the 57th person who signed up to  
4 speak, and I am an advocate for Libby Duncan.  
5 I want to make sure she gets to speak, and so I  
6 hope everybody will be an advocate for Libby,  
7 and therefore, as we call your names to come  
8 forward, please come forward as soon as you  
9 good.

10 I will call about three names at a time.  
11 If you would like you can line up behind the  
12 microphone there and then in order to be fair  
13 to all of those who have signed up so we can  
14 hear from everybody I would like to ask if you  
15 would please hold your remarks to three  
16 minutes.

17 Hopefully we will be able to get through  
18 everyone who wants to speak, because the last  
19 person who signed up is just as important as  
20 the first person who signed up.

21 With that said, our first speaker will be  
22 Alan Bergman. Then Ben Campione, and then  
23 David Kearns.

24 And so, Alan Bergman, if you would make  
25 your way it the microphone, and Mr. Campione,

1 and Mr. Kearns, if you would be on deck,  
2 please.

3 And Mr. Bergman, we are delighted you are  
4 here this morning and your recognized before  
5 the Committee.

6 MR. BERGMAN: Thank you. I appreciate the  
7 opportunity to speak before the Committee, and  
8 it is a pleasure to see so many people have  
9 come out to this because I really feel this is  
10 an important event.

11 Good morning. I would like to thank the  
12 Committee for taking the time to listen to my  
13 thoughts on redistricting.

14 My name is Alan Bergman. I have resided  
15 in Indialantic for ten years now. Our existing  
16 districts have been blessed with large  
17 population growth. Now we require  
18 redistricting on all levels of government.

19 This is done not only to meet the present  
20 needs, but also as an eye to the future and  
21 enabling continued growth and perceived needs.

22 I came across an amusing situation where a  
23 gentleman owned a business which was straddling  
24 two counties. Consequently he collected  
25 different amounts of sales tax depending on

1           which side of the store the purchase was made.

2           You can guess on which side of the store  
3           the floor boards were more worn. My key point  
4           is I would urge you not to draw district lines  
5           inspired simply by geographical boundaries, but  
6           more important is the concept of community.

7           That is communities matter, Floridians  
8           matter. I would where possible set district  
9           boundaries to allow communities with similar  
10          vocations, ideologies and beliefs to address  
11          the same legislative responsibility.

12          They would best know the needs of their  
13          constituents. Florida is a diverse state with  
14          industry ranging from agriculture to space  
15          travel, from fishing to drilling for oil.

16          We have the oldest and yet the newest  
17          technologies from the simplest to the most  
18          complex. We must consider the unique needs of  
19          these industries and the people who work in  
20          these industries when drawing boundary lines.

21          I would not negate other considerations  
22          that are involved in this process, but due to  
23          today's constraints of time I would just  
24          emphasize this priority because I believe  
25          commerce is the life blood of our nation, state

1 and county. I would thank you very much for  
2 this consideration.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
4 Bergman, we appreciate your testimony. Next,  
5 Ben Campione, please, and then following  
6 Mr. Campione, David Kearns, and following Mr.  
7 Kearns, Doreen Archer, if you will be on deck,  
8 please.

9 Mr. Campione, thanks for being here this  
10 morning. We are looking forward to hearing  
11 from you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE CAMPBELL: My name is Ben  
13 Campione, and I would like to thank the  
14 Committee for allowing the citizens such as  
15 myself to address redistricting concerns.

16 I reside in House District 29, currently  
17 represented by Tom Goodson. District 29 runs  
18 from north Brevard where it contains parts of  
19 at Titisville, Cocoa, Port St. John and  
20 Rockledge. Then runs down the west portion of  
21 unincorporated and relatively unpopulated  
22 Brevard County to south Palm Bay where it  
23 includes Grant and Micco in south Brevard  
24 County.

25 It continues into Indian River County as

1 Representative Goodson mentioned where it  
2 includes Fellsmere and parts of west Vero. The  
3 north and south areas of this district are  
4 50 miles apart and separated by the relatively  
5 large population centers of Melbourne and Palm  
6 Bay.

7 If one was to look at a map of the  
8 district which is right there, they would  
9 wonder why in the world the map was drawn this  
10 way.

11 While I will focus on District 29, there  
12 are certainly other districts in Florida that  
13 are drawn similarly.

14 First, it is exceedingly difficult for a  
15 Representative to properly represent  
16 constituents when their district is literally  
17 all over the map.

18 Certainly there are common problems that  
19 need to be addressed statewide, but the large  
20 distances in population distributions of a  
21 District like 29 place much greater burden of  
22 on a Representative to properly represent the  
23 people that reside there.

24 Additionally, we know that there are many  
25 concerns of the residents, for example, in the

1 Titusville, Cocoa area, that are different from  
2 Grant and Fellsmere.

3 For the sake of brevity I won't cite all  
4 of the differences, but they are real. It can  
5 become very difficult for a person to be tuned  
6 in to all that is going on in his or her  
7 district.

8 Clearly it is better for constituents to  
9 have a Representative who can focus on an area  
10 that have more interests in common rather than  
11 less.

12 Additionally, one problem Florida  
13 Representative and the taxpayer is that in  
14 District 29, a Representative must keep two  
15 offices, one in the north area and one in the  
16 south area to provide proper constituent  
17 access. This is unnecessary and a significant  
18 increase in cost to the taxpayer.

19 Secondly I would like to point out that a  
20 large portion of District 29 is rural, as is  
21 much of Florida. The only real population  
22 centers are at one end of the district, up in  
23 Titusville, which is at a significant distance  
24 from a large portion of the rest of the  
25 district.

1           This creates a situation where the  
2 interests of those far away population centers  
3 can significantly outweigh the interest of the  
4 rural areas.

5           While I realize that it may not be  
6 possible to create districts that don't include  
7 some population centers, those that are  
8 included should be relatively contiguous to  
9 their adjacent rural surroundings.

10           Finally, it is exceedingly difficult for a  
11 person to run as a candidate for a state office  
12 in a poorly designed district. For example, in  
13 District 29 a candidate that lives in  
14 Titusville must not only do all of the  
15 necessary functions to effectively compete in  
16 his or her local area, but he has to do the  
17 same thing, he or she has to do the same thing  
18 many miles away.

19           This increases the time, the cost and  
20 other burdens on a candidate, but the most  
21 problematic of which is becoming knowledgeable  
22 about the concerns of his or her constituents,  
23 who, as I already noted, may not even share  
24 common interests.

25           It could also discourage good potential

1 candidates from running in such a district as  
2 they should not have to bear these additional  
3 burdens simply because they were unfortunate  
4 enough to live in a poorly designed district.

5 In summary, I believe my concerns  
6 highlight the need for creating districts that  
7 are contiguous and where citizens share common  
8 interests. This helps elected representatives  
9 who better understand the concerns of the  
10 constituents and can take that with them when  
11 they go to Tallahassee.

12 It also allows for a better and fair  
13 environment under which interested candidates  
14 can run for office.

15 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Campione,  
16 and if any members of the public are here have  
17 remarks that would go on for longer than three  
18 minutes, you are welcome to submit them.

19 We will make them part of the record.  
20 They will be on the website for everybody in  
21 Florida to see and for the Senators and  
22 Representatives to study.

23 David Kearns is next and then Doreen  
24 Archer from the League of Women Voters and then  
25 William Rettinger is next and then Eddie

1 Freeman.

2 Mr. Kearns, thank you for coming this  
3 morning, and you are recognized.

4 MR. KEARNS: Good morning, my name is  
5 David Kearns. I reside in Brevard County. Let  
6 me just get a show of hands. I didn't hear  
7 party affiliations from anybody.

8 If everybody could, Republican, could you  
9 raise your hands? Democrat? So I think maybe  
10 we have a problem with the districts as they  
11 are currently drawn.

12 We have more, we definitely have more  
13 Republicans than Democrats up here.  
14 Representative Workman, I really appreciate you  
15 talking this morning, talking about the  
16 demographics and so forth.

17 I can drive in and out of my district for  
18 House Representative Workman, I can drive in  
19 and out on the southbound lane of 95 three  
20 times, three times. I can go in and out of his  
21 district, so I think we probably have a  
22 problem.

23 A staffer outside tells me that you can't  
24 draw the proposed map because the Federal  
25 Census data wasn't available until the last

1 minute. Blaming the Federal government again,  
2 okay, but you have the demographic info  
3 available on your website.

4 So you could begin a proposed map and you  
5 have a ten-year period between these episodes  
6 that you have to draw the map, and it has not  
7 been drawn.

8 So, you know, I have been watching the  
9 progress of these meetings and I can say I am a  
10 little disappointed. I think we have three  
11 things that represent bad faith.

12 First of all, looking up what is a  
13 partisan commission, what is a nonpartisan  
14 commission on Google, I discovered that there  
15 is something called partisan commission when  
16 most of the commissions, members, at least  
17 three quarters are one party as opposed to  
18 another.

19 So I think we might have a partisan  
20 commission here. I don't know, and, you know,  
21 the great examples of partisan commissions in  
22 history are called juntas, you know, and juntas  
23 are a real problem, and juntas get power and do  
24 you know how many times a junta has given up  
25 power in the history of the United States of

1 America, in the history of the world? Never.

2 A junta has never willingly given up  
3 power, never, probably never established rules  
4 in order to go ahead and rend up power, with  
5 the exception of the Constitution of the United  
6 States that planned to keep juntas out of power  
7 and to have equal representation for all  
8 citizens of the United States of America.

9 So I think what you have here is you have  
10 a timeline, you have a bit of a gag order and  
11 you have a war chest, okay. You have a  
12 timeline for releasing your committee findings  
13 that leaves precious little time or no little  
14 time from meaningful input. Making this a  
15 little bit of a joke, call it a junta joke, a  
16 joke --

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I would love to hear  
18 about Paul Pot, Cambodia is a wonderful place  
19 to hear about, but we have got a whole bunch of  
20 people now, 70 people who would like to speak  
21 behind you.

22 MR. KEARNS: Okay, I will get to the  
23 rules, I am sorry, I will go back.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We will give you ten  
25 seconds to wrap it up.

1 MR. KEARNS: Ten seconds?

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And you can submit  
3 further comments.

4 MR. KEARNS: Well, you see, the rules are  
5 important and I have seen you guys kind of  
6 stepping over the rules in voting for each  
7 other.

8 In Tallahassee, there is videos, you guys  
9 voting for each other up there. I can point to  
10 some people, but I am not going to, you know, I  
11 have a problem.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, could you keep it to  
13 redistricting, remember, the 70 of your  
14 neighbors and friends who want to speak.

15 MR. KEARNS: Okay, I think they would like  
16 to hear this, you know, I think right now you  
17 have, you have --

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, thank you very much.  
19 Thank you for your testimony.

20 MR. KEARNS: You have a situation in the  
21 state of Florida --

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Next we will have Doreen  
23 Archer from the --

24 MR. KEARNS: -- where a junta --

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: -- League of Women

1 Voters.

2 MR. KEARNS: -- controlled by the  
3 (inaudible) brothers is taking over public  
4 education in the state of Florida.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, we are going to  
6 thank you.

7 MR. KEARNS: And these people right here  
8 are responsible for it. Mike Haridopolos got  
9 paid \$850 per page for a book that nobody can  
10 read.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you,  
12 sir, we appreciate your comments. Now, you can  
13 -- you can clap and expostulate all you want.  
14 This is America, everybody is entitled to an a  
15 opinion and a picket sign, but however, just  
16 understand that the time that you take, whether  
17 you are applauding or showing disfavor takes  
18 time away from your friends and neighbors who  
19 wish to speak.

20 Ms. Archer, you are with the League of  
21 Women Voters. We are delighted to hear you  
22 today and you are recognized before the  
23 Committee.

24 MS. ARCHER: Thank you very much. As you  
25 say, I am a member of the League of Women

1 Voters of the Space Coast and I am a  
2 constituent of Senator Altman and  
3 Representative Workman.

4 I just have a simple question, and maybe  
5 somebody will give me the answer. Why does the  
6 Legislature continue to spend taxpayer money to  
7 oppose the will of the constituents as  
8 expressed by 63 percent of the voters who voted  
9 for the fair district standards?

10 They held over 30 hours of committee  
11 meetings in 2009 and 2010, trying to find fault  
12 with the Amendments, using lawyers from Speaker  
13 Cannon's law firm at \$300 an hour and then  
14 tried to confuse voters by trying to place  
15 Amendment 7 on the ballot.

16 They then tried in court again  
17 unsuccessfully to have Amendments 5 and 6  
18 stricken from the ballot, costing more tax  
19 money and legal fees.

20 The Florida House signed on to join a  
21 lawsuit that was filed by Representatives  
22 Corrine Brown and Diaz-Balart, which asks the  
23 Court to strike Amendment 6 from the  
24 Constitution, and this is interesting, the  
25 Secretary of State because he is charged with

1 implementing Amendment 6 is a Defendant in that  
2 case.

3 So Florida taxpayers are now paying to  
4 both sue and defend the same lawsuit. The  
5 Legislators say they only joined the lawsuit to  
6 seek clarification of the reforms, not to  
7 invalidate Amendment 6, but the lawsuit  
8 contains no request for clarification.

9 It ask just to invalidate the Amendment  
10 and to hold it unconstitutional. If the  
11 Legislature would stop trying to get out of  
12 following the fair district standards and apply  
13 them as the voters intended there would be no  
14 need for litigation and no need to spend the  
15 taxpayers' money.

16 It is obvious that the Legislature does  
17 not want to comply with the standards and have  
18 set aside more funds for court battles to fight  
19 what is now part of the Florida Constitution.  
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22 ma'am. William Rettinger is next, and  
23 following William Rettinger we have Eddie  
24 Freeman and then Peter, and I apologize, Peter,  
25 if I guess this wrong, Fusscas, and then Joyce

1 Hamilton Henry with the American Civil  
2 Liberties Union.

3 Mr. Rettinger, thank you for being here.  
4 We look forward to your testimony.

5 MR. RETTINGER: And thank you for hearing  
6 us all today, Senator. My name is William  
7 Rettinger and I am a constituent of both  
8 Representative Workman and Senate President  
9 Haridopolos. I have spoken to both of them  
10 many times, but the fact of the matter is, this  
11 is and will and always has been a dog and pony  
12 show.

13 Sorry, folks, but I have gone through  
14 redistricting with Florida Legislators four  
15 times now.

16 Never have I gone to a hearing where there  
17 weren't maps for us to look at and give our  
18 input on and then ya'll come back with the  
19 finished product.

20 I have heard some staff say to us, well,  
21 that is putting the horse -- the cart before  
22 the horse. No, it is not. You are required to  
23 do the maps. It is your job, not ours. Our  
24 job as citizens were to go vote. We did.  
25 Sixty-three percent of us voted for fair

1 districts. That is the will of the people,  
2 whether you are a Republican, Democrat,  
3 Independent, NPA, no matter what you are.  
4 Sixty-three percent of the voters spoke.

5 You should be listening to that, not  
6 fighting it in court, not spending taxpayer  
7 dollars to be both Defendant and Plaintiff in a  
8 court case, not wasting tax dollars that we can  
9 ill afford to waste when we have needs in  
10 education and everything else.

11 Do the redistricting maps, let us see what  
12 you draw and then let us give input. That is  
13 how it has always been. That is how it should  
14 be. Gerrymandering should be ended. It  
15 doesn't matter whether it is a Democratic  
16 Legislature doing it or, Republican Legislature  
17 doing it, it does not matter. It is wrong.

18 Districts that go from one end of this  
19 county down to another county are ridiculous.  
20 Other speakers have spoke. It is the truth. I  
21 feel for that Representative that has to follow  
22 through with all of those constituents. He  
23 cannot represent them all equally and it is not  
24 fair.

25 The 14th Amendment to the Constitution of

1 the United States gives --

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Sir, could I ask you to  
3 wrap up?

4 MR. RETTINGER: Yes, sir. Gives us equal  
5 representation. Do it. Give us the maps, let  
6 us do input and give us fair districts like we  
7 voted for. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. And  
9 next, Eddie Freeman, and following Mr. Freeman,  
10 Peter Fusscas, and then Joyce Hamilton Henry  
11 and then Vicki, I think it is Impoco, and if  
12 you could line up that way we could use the  
13 time to hear from each one of you.

14 Mr. Freeman, thank you for being here and  
15 we look forward to any testimony you have.

16 MR. FREEMAN: Thank you, sir. I  
17 appreciate it very much and I will stay within  
18 my time.

19 Honorable Senators and Honorable  
20 Representatives, right now, right now American  
21 men and women are fighting to defend our  
22 freedom and democracy. What will you purchase  
23 with their sacrifice?

24 Ten years ago the Legislature bought  
25 districts that bent and stretched like a snake

1 through parts of six, seven, eight counties, in  
2 our democracy with representatives who cannot  
3 live in their communities.

4 A vote to gerrymander is a vote to  
5 dishonor the sacrifice of over one million men  
6 and women who gave their lives for our liberty  
7 and democracy.

8 Gerrymandering only works with ignorance  
9 and I can promise you this. If this  
10 Legislature votes to gerrymander again, I will  
11 visit every veteran Senator and organization in  
12 central Florida to let them know who to file  
13 their sacrifice in defiance of our democracy.

14 As you venture forth, may God bless you  
15 and God bless our democracy.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very  
17 much. Good testimony. Peter Fusscas is next  
18 and then Joyce Hamilton Henry and then Vicki  
19 Impoco, and then following Vicki, Phil, and I  
20 apologize, Phil, I think it is Koechlein. Mine  
21 gets butchered, too.

22 Mr. Fusscas with the Brevard Citizens  
23 Coalition, welcome, and thank you for your  
24 testimony.

25 MR. FUSSCAS: Thank you very much, and it

1 is a pleasure to be here today addressing the  
2 junta. Sounds to me like sour grapes. They  
3 with like to be the new junta, but I am here to  
4 represent a stretch we call it the outer banks,  
5 Melbourne Beach, Indialantic and we call south  
6 beaches.

7 We would like to preserve the three  
8 principles which you were espousing, and  
9 correctly so, the issue of compactness,  
10 continuity and the preservation of shared  
11 interests.

12 Now, compactness does not mean geographic  
13 shapes, but the ability of citizens to relate  
14 to each other and their Representatives, and  
15 continuity has been defined as one where a  
16 person can go from any point within the  
17 district to any other point, and it is these  
18 three principles that I am here to discuss.

19 When the Spaniard, Ponce de Leon, landed  
20 in 1513 on Melbourne Beach, it was historic.  
21 From that point we have built a very strong  
22 community in the ocean side and the beaches.

23 We send our children to school together.  
24 Our gardens clubs decorate the community  
25 together. We share our parks and beaches. We

1 celebrate home day, which I think is close to  
2 95 years. The original bridge on 192, the  
3 causeway, was built by members of our  
4 community, and the south beaches, we soon will  
5 be sharing the same Post Office, because I  
6 understand one is going to be closed, or at  
7 least it is recommended, and the two municipal  
8 offices are less than a mile away. We have a  
9 shared community and I wouldn't like to see  
10 that broken up anymore than it is.

11 Now, my Representative in Precinct 154 is  
12 Debbie Mayfield, a very charming and able State  
13 Representative, but, and that is House District  
14 80. We would like to, in all due respect, we  
15 would like to be considered to be a part of  
16 another district because of our shared  
17 interests.

18 And so if you would just give us some  
19 consideration in regards to the ocean side, it  
20 would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,  
22 and Representative Mayfield did come in. There  
23 she is. Thank you very much, Representative,  
24 for being here.

25 Next we will hear from Joyce Hamilton

1 Henry with the ACLU, and following her, Vicki  
2 Impoco and then Phil, who's name I butchered  
3 and I am sorry, Phil.

4 Ms. Hamilton Henry, thank you very much  
5 for being here.

6 MS. HAMILTON HENRY: Good morning, I am  
7 the Director for the Mid Florida Regional  
8 Office of the ACLU. The ACLU protects and  
9 defend the U.S. Constitution and Bill of  
10 Rights.

11 You have heard, already heard from  
12 hundreds of Floridians who demand that the  
13 process be fair, transparent and that you act  
14 with integrity.

15 You have heard from me and numerous others  
16 that is critically important that district  
17 lines are drawn in full compliance with  
18 Amendments 5 and 6. These Amendments establish  
19 rules in the Florida Constitution to stop  
20 politicians from designing districts to favor  
21 themselves.

22 We implore you to draw maps and complete  
23 this lengthy and expensive process.

24 Sixty-three percent of Floridians have already  
25 told you what we want.

1           Over the past weeks, hundreds of  
2           Floridians have reinforced that mandate and the  
3           main date is to be fair, expeditious,  
4           transparent, act with integrity, and protect  
5           our democracy.

6           Citizen participation is at the heart of a  
7           healthy democracy. Too many citizens have  
8           already been rendered, been disenfranchised and  
9           rendered voiceless.

10           We want to make sure that our democracy  
11           works fairly, vibrantly and inclusively and we  
12           will continue to provide input in this process  
13           and we will continue to monitor this for the  
14           remaining months.

15           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Henry. It  
16           is good to see you again. Vicki Impoco and  
17           then Phil with the AARP, and then Lori Scott,  
18           the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections.

19           Ms. Impoco, did I get your name right,  
20           ma'am?

21           MS. IMPOCO: Yes, you did.

22           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, it is nice to see  
23           you, and thank you for being here. You are  
24           recognized.

25           MS. IMPOCO: Thank you. Yes, my name is

1 Vicki Impoco. I am the Vice-President of the  
2 Brevard Chapter of the National Organization  
3 for Women and the Vice-president Of the Space  
4 Coast Progressive Alliance.

5 Floridians overwhelmingly approved fair  
6 districts to end gerrymandering. We want  
7 districts that are set along geographic rather  
8 than political boundaries.

9 Many states have already completed their  
10 redistricting process. Other states have  
11 provided proposed legislative maps at their  
12 public hearings to allow citizens the  
13 opportunity to comment on actual proposed maps.

14 It is your job and your responsibility as  
15 elected representatives to present maps to  
16 constituents, not the other way around.

17 Voters have requested over and over at  
18 public district meetings to see your concept of  
19 the fair district. Once again, where are the  
20 maps?

21 The redistricting timeline which ends  
22 later than almost every other state in the  
23 nation discourages potential candidates from  
24 engaging in what is supposed to be a democratic  
25 process.

1           This timeline protects incumbents because  
2 challengers will have insufficient time to  
3 mount campaigns. State lawmakers have filed a  
4 lawsuit specifically designed to overturn the  
5 Amendment voters just approved.

6           Taxpayer money is not only funding this  
7 lawsuit, but also paying Florida Secretary of  
8 State Kirk Browning's office to defend the  
9 standards. This is an outrageous waste of  
10 taxpayer money at a time when funding for  
11 critical services for millions of Floridians  
12 are being cut.

13           State Senate President Haridopolos assured  
14 us this process would be open and in the  
15 sunshine. If this is the case, why has my  
16 Representative John Tobia been unable to tell  
17 me how much this lawsuit is costing taxpayers.

18           Your position on the Amendments allegedly  
19 negatively impacts minority voters, and it is  
20 disputed by the very people you claim to be  
21 trying to protect. The Florida Conference of  
22 Black State Legislators, Democracy Ahora and  
23 the NAACP have all endorsed fair districts.

24           Voters should question whether your  
25 lawsuit actually stems from a desire to promote

1 democratic ideals or to thwart them.

2 State Representative Will Weatherford and  
3 State Don Gaetz were members of groups created  
4 to defeat Amendments 5 and 6. That means that  
5 the two Legislators most responsible for making  
6 sure that the Legislature follows the  
7 redistricting rules laid out in Amendments 5  
8 and 6 were both members of a group explicitly  
9 created to defeat those rules.

10 Florida leads the nation in the number of  
11 Federally convicted public officials, yet you  
12 fail to pass a single ethics reform law. This  
13 failure along with your fair district foot  
14 dragging demonstrates your complete lack of  
15 interest in doing anything to restore the  
16 confidence of Floridians in our government.

17 As our Representatives you took an oath to  
18 uphold and obey the State Constitution.  
19 Amendments 5 and 6 are now a part of the State  
20 Constitution. You must immediately end the  
21 lawsuits, road blocks and delays. Stop  
22 spending taxpayer money to manipulate the  
23 system to protect your political careers.

24 Florida is not a kingdom and you must  
25 uphold the entire Constitution, not just the

1 laws and amendments you approve of, and would  
2 everyone that voted for 5 and 6 and would like  
3 to see maps, please stand up.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Ms. Impoco.

6 MS. IMPOCO: Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We appreciate your  
8 testimony today. Next, Phil, I am going to  
9 apologize to you. How do we pronounce your  
10 last name?

11 MR. KOECHEIN: That is all right, it is  
12 Phil Koechein. Only my parents and my siblings  
13 understand it.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, Phil,  
15 notwithstanding that we are delighted to have  
16 you here today representing AARP, and then Lori  
17 Scott, our Supervisor of Elections from Brevard  
18 County, if you will be on deck, Ms. Scott, and  
19 then Georgia Phillips.

20 Thank you very much, sir, for being here  
21 and your are recognized.

22 MR. KOECHLEIN: My name is Phil Koechlein.  
23 I live here in Brevard, and I am fortunate to  
24 represent AARP for Brevard, northern Indian  
25 River and Osceola Counties.

1           I want to thank you all for having shown  
2 up today, and so on, but the way districts are  
3 now drawn I don't think even Matel or Hasbro  
4 would ever develop a puzzle piece that looks  
5 like this. It is just that has happened over  
6 the years.

7           It is very, very difficult for any one up  
8 there to be able to go ahead and follow what  
9 people need or their thoughts are. I don't  
10 understand really how Representative Goodson or  
11 Representative Crisafuli can possibly do it in  
12 their territory, because anywhere from the  
13 state, in Goodson's case from Titusville all of  
14 the way down to west Vero, or from, and in the  
15 other case all of the way from Port Canaveral  
16 all of the way over, Alafia, did I say that one  
17 right?

18           A VOICE: Alafia.

19           MR. KOECHLEIN: Alafia. Sorry, I was  
20 close, but the thought pattern is so far  
21 removed and I don't understand why they don't  
22 even get a ticket from the FAA for flying too  
23 low when they try to get from one end of their  
24 counties to the other, very difficult.

25           If you would as much as possible look at

1           trying to hold together not just the  
2           communities, but the neighborhoods. Try to  
3           draw the lines as much as possible as you can  
4           so that the neighborhood or the homeowners'  
5           associations or whatever stay contiguous within  
6           themselves. It would be very, very helpful  
7           that way.

8                     It also helps because trying to hold that  
9           thought pattern over these people and so on so  
10          you can possibly represent them is very, very  
11          important.

12                    It allows you to go ahead and to know  
13          better what their need and be able to handle  
14          and help to them.

15                    You would much be able to represent the  
16          people if you would be elected along those  
17          lines and try to help it on that basis. I  
18          would like in conclusion then to mention three  
19          things.

20                    Go ahead and vote the way we passed that  
21          amendment, very, very important. That is why  
22          we felt very strongly about it. We wanted it  
23          not it be set along party lines, but along  
24          community lines.

25                    Return that 30 million or whatever the

1 number was, rather than fighting the issue,  
2 turn it back and put it back into the  
3 Legislature and the funds, but I prefer if you  
4 could, of course, being AARP, that it be help  
5 for medical for the seniors, okay.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I will let you have that  
7 short commercial there.

8 MR. KOECHLEIN: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And could you wrap up,  
10 please, sir.

11 MR. KOECHLEIN: I will, and please review  
12 our proposals and give it enough time that at  
13 the very end that we have time to be able to  
14 look at it and say, have a say to respond to  
15 it.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very, very much  
17 for your testimony today. And Ms. Scott, thank  
18 you for being here, and thank you for your  
19 service to the people of Brevard County. You  
20 are recognized.

21 MS. SCOTT: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman  
22 and members. I feel like I should be  
23 presenting in a Bill, I have got the Sergeant's  
24 office in here.

25 I wanted to welcome you to Brevard County

1 on behalf of Brevard's 360,000 voters. We are  
2 the eighth largest county in the state of  
3 Florida.

4 We are unique in that we have a big  
5 geographic footprint as my delegation members  
6 sitting there know, which is for my office, it  
7 creates issues of just servicing our voters.

8 We have seven delegation members, five  
9 single member County Commission districts, five  
10 single member School Board districts, 16  
11 municipalities and five special tax districts.

12 So as you can imagine when those lines are  
13 drawn, it is very unique and can create little  
14 niches of precincts.

15 I know that a lot of my fellow Supervisors  
16 have come and spoken to you about timelines and  
17 I just want -- and I am not going to repeat  
18 that. I am just going to say, thank you for  
19 the service that you do. Traveling around the  
20 state as a veteran of the working in the  
21 Legislature, I know that the job before you is  
22 very daunting and we have a big state and a lot  
23 of voters, and thank you for the service that  
24 you do, and anything that my office can do to  
25 be of assistance if we can, I appreciate it

1 very much. Thank you and enjoy your day in  
2 Brevard.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Scott,  
4 thank you for being here. Georgia Phillips is  
5 next, and followed by Barbara Knick, and then  
6 David Bradford.

7 So if those individuals will come forward  
8 so that we can hear from them.

9 Ms. Phillips, thank you very much. It  
10 says you are from the city of Rockledge and  
11 that must mean that are you representing the  
12 City today?

13 MS. PHILLIPS: Well, we have three here  
14 from the City, we have Councilman Dick Blake  
15 and myself and we are going to let our  
16 Chairman, Councilwoman Colleen Stuart to do the  
17 talking in interest of your time.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay, that is very good.  
19 And your name again, ma'am?

20 MS. STUART: My name is Colleen Stuart,  
21 and I am Chairman of the Rockledge City  
22 Council.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

24 MS. STUART: You will find my card  
25 somewhere down on that list so when you get to

1           it you can skip over it.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, thank you for being  
3 here and representing those other individuals  
4 who have ceded their time.

5           MS. STUART: Thank you. I would like to  
6 read a letter from the Mayor of Rockledge on  
7 behalf of all of the Council members offering  
8 our input as a council.

9           "On behalf of the Rockledge City Council,  
10 please accept our appreciation for the work  
11 being done to reapportion House and Senate  
12 Districts based on the 2010 census data.

13           We as an elected body are aware of the  
14 task ahead of you and the ramifications for all  
15 of the citizens of the state of Florida.

16           The Rockledge City Council would like to  
17 go on record with the committee with regard to  
18 the concept of nesting or establishing a Senate  
19 District and carrying three House Districts  
20 from each nest or Senate District.

21           This would appear to be the simplest and  
22 most representative manner in which to approach  
23 reapportionment. The City of Rockledge is  
24 currently in three House Districts and we have  
25 no objection to continuing to be in a multiple

1 House Districts if that is feasible and  
2 practical.

3 We are also open to being in two Senate  
4 Districts if that also is necessary for proper  
5 division of the population.

6 Thank you for your service and we wish you  
7 the best in completion of this critical task  
8 for our state and please call upon us if we can  
9 be of any assistance." Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Madam  
11 Chairman. Appreciate your being here. Barbara  
12 Knick is next and then David Bradford and  
13 Richard Ware.

14 Ms. Knick, thank you for being with us  
15 today and we look forward to your testimony.

16 MS. KNICK: Thank you. This is quite a  
17 show you are putting on.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I like Representative  
19 Workman a lot, I like to hang with him, but I  
20 would much rather be at home with my wife,  
21 Vicki, so, you know, keep that in mind as well.

22 MS. KNICK: Well, that is not what you  
23 took the job for.

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is right. That is  
25 why they pay me the big bucks.

1           MS. KNICK: That is right. I just want to  
2 say, it is not about party politics. It is  
3 about one country established by our founders  
4 who gave us the Constitution as the law of the  
5 land.

6           If we follow the Constitution and put our  
7 country back above party politics we can get  
8 back to a country of prosperity. You were  
9 elected to represent the people.

10           I ask that you put aside personal  
11 ambitions and do the job we elected you to do  
12 and establish districts for the benefit of the  
13 people. Thank you.

14           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15 ma'am. And next, David Bradford from Brevard  
16 Community College. Mr. Bradford, thank you for  
17 being here, and I understand that you may have  
18 maps to present, is that correct, sir?

19           DR. BRADFORD: Yes, I will leave them with  
20 you.

21           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Very good, thank you for  
22 that.

23           DR. BRADFORD: Thank you. I am  
24 Dr. Bradford, I teach political science at the  
25 Brevard Community College, Cocoa campus. The

1           founding fathers, and I am speaking, by the  
2           way, for my 32 political science students.  
3           Some of them are here and they have done all of  
4           this work on drawing this map.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could we just take a  
6           second since they submitted maps, if your  
7           students are here could they please stand?

8           DR. BRADFORD: They could be across the  
9           hall.

10          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Okay.

11          DR. BRADFORD: Some of them are in  
12          classes.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Some of them are in  
14          class. That is good. Go ahead, sir.

15          DR. BRADFORD: The founding fathers of the  
16          United States of America defined the purpose of  
17          the Federal government when they created the  
18          Constitution and Preamble.

19          They were very concerned with limiting the  
20          power of the new government while promoting  
21          individual freedoms and providing the welfare  
22          for the citizens. So their wisdom and their  
23          effort created this new government and country  
24          that has endured now for over 200 years.

25          So Congressional representatives, and by

1 the way, these maps we have drawn are based on,  
2 we are looking at the Federal law, we are  
3 looking at Congressional delegations, not  
4 State.

5 We want, or the voice of the government,  
6 we wanted to ensure that Congressional  
7 Districts continue to be the voice of a  
8 grouping of people who will be represented in  
9 Washington. We now know that Speaker Tip  
10 O'Neil was right.

11 All politicians are local and the most  
12 effective voice is that well-designed  
13 Congressional District.

14 Now, my 32 students took it upon  
15 themselves in the last six and-a-half weeks to  
16 design the Congressional Districts by doing the  
17 work of laying it out by looking at the law.  
18 We did look at the Ortiz study.

19 The problem with the Ortiz study is that  
20 it does build these specialized districts of  
21 minorities and not spread out throughout the  
22 county well.

23 So we didn't -- we wanted to really look,  
24 examine this and so we looked at the concepts  
25 of boundaries, natural boundaries, river

1 boundaries, road boundaries. We looked at the  
2 districts, the laws and the Court's intent.

3 One thing that we ask that you look at  
4 when you get back into Tallahassee and you  
5 start designing these Congressional Districts,  
6 is that the Voting Rights Act in 1965, while  
7 important at that time, should not be allowed  
8 to create districts within districts, because  
9 we believe redistricting should be done with  
10 what we have drawn and we respectfully submit  
11 it to the committee today.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
13 Dr. Bradford, and we really appreciate the  
14 submission, and any further testimony that any  
15 of you or your students have, we would be  
16 delighted to take.

17 DR. BRADFORD: By the way, I made sure  
18 that all of my students are registered to vote,  
19 so this is the future of Florida.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: All right, all right,  
21 great. Thank you, Dr. Bradford, and now, from,  
22 we would like to hear from Richard Ware,  
23 following Mr. Ware, Peter Koch, and then  
24 Colleen Stuart. Is the City of Rockledge going  
25 to speak some more or is Ms. Stuart -- that was

1           you. That is right, Madam Chair, I apologize,  
2           then Josiah Gattle.

3           Mr. Ware, thank you for coming and giving  
4           your time today. You are recognized.

5           MR. WARE: Thank you, and thank the other  
6           members for coming out and listening to us  
7           today.

8           This is not my first time in a  
9           redistricting meeting. In '91, I lived in  
10          Orlando. I was unfortunate to live in what  
11          became U. S. House District 3 due to  
12          gerrymandering. In 2001, I lived in Volusia  
13          County, lived in an area that created a new  
14          House District in, and at that time we were  
15          able to point out the problems with the maps  
16          and say, you are proposing to do this but you  
17          are leaving six precincts in the entire county  
18          into someone's district from another county and  
19          they were able to go back and redo some of  
20          those things to eliminate some of the  
21          gerrymandering problems that they had and some  
22          are just bad drawings in some cases.

23          This is the first time I have come to one  
24          of these meetings and not had at least five or  
25          six proposed maps from the Legislature, itself,

1           that we could say, well, this is a good idea  
2           and this is a bad idea, why don't you take this  
3           from this map and move it over here.

4                    What I would ask is this body, once you  
5           come up with your maps, come back out with them  
6           and present them to the public and then get  
7           public input to refine those maps, because  
8           without that we are not going to be able to  
9           progress and correct what we see as problems  
10          that are undoubtedly going to happen, and if  
11          you do that you may be able to save some money  
12          in terms of lawsuits.

13                   Obviously we have had and still have  
14          districts within this state that are  
15          gerrymandered, such as U. S. House District 3  
16          which runs from Jacksonville all of the way  
17          down to the south part of Orlando and into  
18          Orange County.

19                   When it was originally drawn it started  
20          all of the way over by Ocala and when it went  
21          into the court system, that was cut down, but  
22          still it was gerrymandered to represent a  
23          minority population, which whether you feel  
24          that that is correct or not, people in  
25          Jacksonville and people in Orlando are not

1 properly represented by one person trying to  
2 cover that entire area.

3 Here in Brevard County, I am a citizen of  
4 Titusville and we have House District 29, House  
5 District 32, both of which are very expansive,  
6 they represent a lot of people but they  
7 represent people at opposite ends of interest.

8 When you are talking about people that  
9 live by the airport in Orlando versus people  
10 that live in Merritt Island, you are talking  
11 about two very diverse groups of people that  
12 have very different concerns and desires from  
13 the folks that represent them in government.

14 The same thing with folks in House  
15 District 29 in Titusville versus the folks in  
16 Vero Beach.

17 Then again you have House District 80,  
18 which is represented by Ms. Mayfield down in  
19 the south end of Brevard County, but most of  
20 her district is actually in another county. So  
21 she represents only a small portion of that.

22 If we could try and move that into someone  
23 who lives in Brevard County and has interests  
24 there in that area, that would make more sense  
25 in terms of representing the actual communities

1           that we have here today. That is all I have.

2           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Ware.

3           Very good suggestions. Peter Koch, and then

4           Josiah Gattle and then Joseph Pishgar.

5           Mr. Koch, thank you very much for being

6           here, we appreciate it.

7           MR. KOCH: I am Peter Koch.

8           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I apologize.

9           MR. KOCH: Well, that is incorrect also,  
10          but it is for convenience's sake.

11          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: If you say it, it is  
12          correct.

13          MR. KOCH: Okay.

14          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: If I say it, it is wrong.

15          MR. KOCH: I registered to vote on 17  
16          August, 1954, at 3:00 in the afternoon. In  
17          those days, you recall, you had to be 21 to  
18          register. I have not missed an election since  
19          then, whether State, Federal or local.

20          Enough about me. Every ten years we  
21          create a monster in this country. You guys are  
22          fully aware of this monster. It is called a  
23          gerrymander.

24          Some of you are going to feed this monster  
25          for your own political advantage and interest.

1 Others of you are going to fight this monster  
2 because you got something like this that  
3 supports you.

4 This is called the United States  
5 Constitution and its various amendments. The  
6 14th Amendment particularly is your shield.  
7 This is the Holy Grail of democracy, the U. S.  
8 Constitution.

9 Some of you don't pay attention to this  
10 because all you are interested in is political  
11 advantage. We have got to get rid of political  
12 advantage and use the Constitution to its  
13 fullest extent, and believe me, if we catch you  
14 clowns doing this, we are going to bring the  
15 Constitution to bear upon you, and believe me,  
16 as was pointed out before, the state of Florida  
17 leads with the population of Federal elected  
18 officials in various jails.

19 We can make -- we can get you there, too,  
20 if necessary, and don't think I am -- this is  
21 not a joke. This is the -- this is the big  
22 problem with you people.

23 You think this whole thing is a joke. I  
24 come from a place where this was never a joke.  
25 I am not a native born American. I lived for

1 the rations and for 12 years, and believe me,  
2 this is important.

3 You guys, you guys have never experienced  
4 that. You live fat, dumb and happy on your  
5 salaries which can't be attached. It is time  
6 you guys woke up.

7 Wake up, America, this is the  
8 Constitution. This is the Holy Grail, and if  
9 you are going to fight it, you are going to  
10 lose.

11 The Holy Grail always wins, and you -- you  
12 guys, you know who I am talking about. You are  
13 the guys, who your offenders are, you know who  
14 you are. And believe me, you may be here  
15 today, maybe even tomorrow, but next week, next  
16 month, next year, you are out of here, and once  
17 you are out, you stay out. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, I think.  
19 Next, Josiah Gattle and then following Josiah  
20 Gattle, Joseph Pishgar, if you will be on deck,  
21 please, and next, Harry Goode.

22 Mr. Gattle, thank you for coming today and  
23 we look forward to what you might have to say.

24 MR. GATTLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I  
25 registered to vote about two years ago right

1 after the 2008 election, and I am relatively  
2 new at this, but I was thinking as I was  
3 thinking about the districts and what unites  
4 people.

5 In this hard economy it is economic  
6 issues. It is about what they earn their  
7 living from, and in this county we have three  
8 major economic drives, tourism, space and  
9 agriculture, and I believe that the districts  
10 should be drawn in such a way that all three of  
11 these interests are represented by each of our  
12 Representatives, so that they can represent the  
13 whole interest of the counties.

14 Now, whether it is Orlando with tourism  
15 based, and also agriculture, but incorporating  
16 all of the economic interests in each  
17 representative district, that way we can fully  
18 represent each and every individual, because  
19 they are across party lines.

20 Economic interests are what drive your  
21 livelihood, what drive how you get to your  
22 beliefs, and what is valuable to you.

23 I thank you from balancing these interests  
24 and for these open meetings and the opportunity  
25 to give you input. Thank you very much,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Gattle.

3 Next, Joseph Pishgar with the Space Coast  
4 Progressive Alliance and then Harry Goode with  
5 the City of Melbourne and then Jack  
6 Schluckebier, Schluckebier.

7 Mr. Schluckebier, did I get that right,  
8 Schluckebier waives his time and then David  
9 Gunter.

10 So Mr. Pishgar with the Space Coast  
11 Progressive Alliance, we are delighted you are  
12 here and we look forward to what you may have  
13 to say.

14 MR. PISHGAR: I will submit this  
15 afterwards by the way, in writing as well.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

17 MR. PISHGAR: My name is Joe Pishgar and I  
18 live in west Melbourne. I am represented by  
19 State Representative John Tobia, and State  
20 Senator Mike Haridopolos.

21 On behalf of the citizens of Brevard  
22 County and the Space Coast Progressive Alliance  
23 I would like to nominate the Florida State  
24 Legislature for a Tony award in the category of  
25 political theater.

1           In the past few weeks you have provided  
2           considerable value and entertainment by hosting  
3           a series of sham meetings to request feedback  
4           on a process that has not yet begun.

5           While states as contentious as California  
6           and as bureaucratic as Massachusetts have  
7           somehow managed to generate first and second  
8           drafts already of their redistricting maps,  
9           you have languished and agonized over how  
10          transparent you are by providing the public  
11          with a piece of software that each hard core  
12          geeks and nerds find daunting, clumsy and  
13          altogether pointless.

14          These proceedings are a farce, part of a  
15          blatant delay that many consider the incumbent  
16          protection program. Many other states have  
17          already completed their redistricting, South  
18          Carolina, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana and  
19          Texas, Minnesota is nearly done. Oklahoma has  
20          been done for some time now.

21          Can you honestly expect us to believe that  
22          our redistricting should naturally proceed at a  
23          slower pace than Oklahoma's. Is the state  
24          where humans have been blasted into orbit for  
25          the past half a century somehow technologically

1 inferior to Oklahoma?

2 Is there a special redistricting buffalo  
3 that we can borrow on loan from Oklahoma at  
4 some point to help speed things along?

5 What precisely are these hearings for? I  
6 mean, apart from the massive waste of taxpayer  
7 dollars as each of you chalk up expenses  
8 attending these to your office accounts. You  
9 want our feedback. On what exactly?

10 Fair districts passed with 63 percent of  
11 the vote. You have given us nothing to provide  
12 feedback on. Yes, on the surface, the thing is  
13 transparent, but there is no substance behind  
14 the glass to speak of.

15 You have had census data for months now.  
16 Is there no one in Tallahassee with Google  
17 Maps, Microsoft office, and a wide format  
18 printer, and asking us to draw the maps for you  
19 is even further a stretch, and a contemptible  
20 attempt to crowd source blame for the incumbent  
21 favoring maps you will end up producing on your  
22 incumbent favoring timeline.

23 You will pick the map that best suits the  
24 preservation of the incumbents and point to the  
25 adorable little Aunt Betty sitting on her front

1 porch with a glass of lemonade and a book and  
2 My District Builder loaded up --

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: As much as I want to hear  
4 more about Aunt Betty, because --

5 MR. PISHGAR: I will wrap it up. I will  
6 wrap it up.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Just because we have now  
8 about ten more people who want to speak in  
9 deference to them if you could summarize.

10 MR. PISHGAR: Have I occupied my three  
11 minutes already?

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You have just got a  
13 little bit of time, so if you could summarize.

14 MR. PISHGAR: You will point to Aunt Betty  
15 and you will say, it wasn't us, it was Aunt  
16 Betty, but by that point in time candidate  
17 qualifying will be opponents, candidates who do  
18 not have the incumbent's inside track on  
19 districts will not even know what their  
20 districts look like.

21 How long will candidates have to wait  
22 until they know what their districts look like,  
23 a month, a day, will they even get to know  
24 before qualifying?

25 This is to say nothing of the havoc this

1 is going to reap now on the Supervisor of  
2 Election's Office.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mr. Pishgar, I am going  
4 to ask you to summarize, please and just take  
5 about ten seconds.

6 MS. PISHGAR: Sure. We demand the  
7 expeditious drawing of fair nonpartisan  
8 election districts. We demand that you put a  
9 stop to these fake hearings, these pointless  
10 futile practices of naval gazing that you have  
11 seen fit to expend our tax dollars on and focus  
12 maybe, I don't know, on something more  
13 important, like jobs.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Pishgar.

15 MR. PISHGAR: Thank you for your time.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Harry Goode is next with  
17 the City of Melbourne, and then following  
18 Mr. Harry Goode with the City of Melbourne and  
19 then David Gunter and then Ernest Wohlbold.

20 Mr. Goode, thank you very much for being  
21 here and look forward to your testimony.

22 MR. GOODE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it is  
23 a pleasure to be here. My City Manager is also  
24 here, as you mentioned, he has waived his time  
25 unless there is any questions.

1           I just have a few points and I will try to  
2           be brief. First, again, thank you for  
3           undertaking these 26 hearings around the state  
4           and bringing one of them to the Melbourne area.

5           Having sat in your chair as 14 years as a  
6           former Legislator, I can assure you that I am  
7           not here to criticize this process or question  
8           your motivation. I especially applaud the  
9           direction your protocol to make this a  
10          listening and not a speaking tour. I know it  
11          takes discipline.

12          Second, most cities would probably  
13          consider that having a city represented in the  
14          Legislature or Congress should be cohesive to  
15          the city boundaries as possible.

16          I would also agree, the idea for smaller  
17          cities, but not for cities greater than 40,000  
18          or 50. Take Melbourne, for example, which is  
19          nearly 80.

20          Right now, for as long as I can remember  
21          we have had at least two Representatives and  
22          two Senators. I would like to keep it that  
23          way. We must prefer it that way. And we could  
24          ask that you do your best to keep it that way.

25          It is the closest thing that we can get to

1 represented coverage that we had before Florida  
2 moved to single member districts. We now have  
3 in my opinion what is very important.

4 Third, as you think about references I  
5 have just stated, I would combine them with  
6 your constitutional duty to neither favor nor  
7 disfavor any political party, and as most of  
8 you know, I was in the process, I have been a  
9 Democrat and I have been a Republican and now I  
10 am an Independent, so I have been around the  
11 horn and some days it is 14 to three R and the  
12 next day 14 to three D, it can change.

13 Therefore, you may want to consider doing  
14 something like these cities, such as Melbourne,  
15 by our City Charter, have to do, since we also  
16 redistrict every ten years. Consider though we  
17 are not partisan by charter, as most cities are  
18 not.

19 If you disregard partisanship and consider  
20 the constitutional rules, also provide that you  
21 cannot disfavor one another as incumbent  
22 Legislators, you really should not have a hard  
23 time doing as we do. Just drawing the district  
24 map with roughly equal population groups and  
25 keeping cohesive communities is an important

1 objective.

2 I would ask that you consider our city's  
3 unique request because you may not hear it put  
4 quite the way as you listen elsewhere on your  
5 tour. It is worth repeating, we in Melbourne  
6 welcome and desire as many State  
7 Representatives and State Senators as you will  
8 give us, as you can afford.

9 Similarly, if you want to carve our city  
10 up and give us tiny slices of three  
11 Congressional Seats, we will take that, too.

12 Once again, on behalf of the citizens  
13 thank you for taking the time to do this and  
14 being such good listeners, and as they say in  
15 the universal Melbourne language, good day.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Thank you  
17 very much. Mr. Gunter is next.

18 MR. GUNTER: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And then Mr. Wohlbold and  
20 then William Whitehead with the Brevard Chapter  
21 of the ACLU. Mr. Gunter.

22 MR. GUNTER: Members of the Legislature,  
23 I thank you for this opportunity. I am here  
24 representing only myself. I will try and be  
25 very brief and run through this quickly.

1           First, everyone needs to be attentive to  
2           the fact that this community voted for fair  
3           districts just like the rest of the state did.  
4           Granted, the results otherwise were not  
5           anyone's surprise that they were sort of  
6           dominated by one party, but this community went  
7           for fair districts overwhelmingly.

8           Second, the notion of the Legislature  
9           paying to oppose fair districts at this point  
10          is repugnant to our democracy. It is  
11          absolutely ridiculous to have you taking our  
12          money, fighting the will of the people and now  
13          trying to resist what we voted for as a  
14          majority. If you want to take up a collection  
15          among yourselves to oppose it, we welcome that.

16          Finally, I want to address each of the  
17          maps very briefly. With regard to the  
18          Congressional delegation, we obviously know it  
19          doesn't make any sense for the Space Coast to  
20          also be in with Polk County. I don't know why  
21          that happened, but it makes no sense at all.

22          What really makes sense is for the Space  
23          Coast to have a Representative who represents  
24          this entire community. So I think we should  
25          have, the size of Brevard County is almost big

1 enough from its own Congressional District.

2 I think we should have one district and  
3 have the overload go wherever the maps  
4 otherwise dictate as we have to fill in around  
5 us, but I think we should be united with one  
6 member of Congress.

7 With regard to the Senate, it is not too  
8 difficult. We are only allowed two Senate  
9 seats, basically. We have more or less drawn  
10 horizontally which is an appropriate means in  
11 this county, and the only question becomes from  
12 a fairness standpoint, is it fair to everyone  
13 around us if we have two Representatives in the  
14 Senate.

15 We have two fine Representatives in the  
16 Senate and we are very well represented, but  
17 there is not much to do there because like I  
18 said, it is relatively simple, just how we  
19 divide it east, west.

20 The House unfortunately is indicative of  
21 gerrymandering. We have now taken all of these  
22 communities and with all deference to Mayor  
23 Goode, it makes no sense to take Palm Bay and  
24 minority populations in Cocoa and so forth and  
25 to split them into ribbons vertically where we

1 now divide it all up.

2 In fact, if we take, I know we are trying  
3 to avoid in this process supposedly showing  
4 where Legislators live, but I went on the  
5 computer and looked it all up, and basically  
6 every Legislator in this community lives in the  
7 central corridor of the county more or less.

8 There is no one from up in the Titusville  
9 in the northern part of the county. They don't  
10 have representation, and remarkably, Palm Bay  
11 is almost big enough to have its own House  
12 District. There is no one from Palm Bay.

13 Certainly Palm Bay should be represented  
14 by a member of the House. Likewise, Melbourne,  
15 which is the second biggest community, there is  
16 no one who lives in Melbourne. So, again, that  
17 particular part of the county, it is my belief  
18 that there is not a single member of the  
19 delegation who lives south of the Pinetta  
20 Causeway on the mainland.

21 So that entire pocket of people is not  
22 represented by any one who resides within their  
23 community. We all know as residents here that  
24 commonly because of the unique geography of our  
25 county, we refer to south county, central

1 county and northern county. I think that the  
2 House Districts need to sort of reflect that,  
3 and again, when we draw lines they need to be  
4 horizontal coming across, you know,  
5 thoroughfares there.

6 The only question that may be unique is,  
7 again, the beach side communities may have  
8 enough common interests that it makes sense on  
9 the beach side to run up the beach and then  
10 down Merritt Island or something like to sort  
11 of keep them -- they have the unique issues  
12 with regard to things like insurance coverage  
13 and protection from storms and so forth. They  
14 may be better represented by someone who  
15 represents those, but I thank you for your time  
16 and I thank you for your consideration, and I  
17 look forward to seeing the fruits of the  
18 process.

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Gunter,  
20 very helpful testimony. Earnest Wohlbold, did  
21 I get that correct, sir?

22 MR. WOHLBOLD: Yes, you did.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And then following  
24 Mr. Wohlbold, William Whitehead, and then  
25 Dwayne Lyndgren.

1           Mr. Wohlbold, thank you for being here,  
2           and you are recognized.

3           MR. WOHLBOLD: Thank you. My main concern  
4           about this whole process is it is going to drag  
5           out so long that our representatives aren't  
6           going to have a chance to choose an office to  
7           run for. They will not know where they are  
8           running.

9           This seems to me to be an incumbent  
10          protection act the way you are working this.  
11          Thank you.

12          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. And I might  
13          say, if we have time, we want to hear from the  
14          public, but if every member of the public has  
15          time within the time limits we have, we have  
16          made notes and we are going to get back to a  
17          number of the questions about timelines and  
18          other factual questions, not to get into a  
19          debate with people who may have different  
20          points of view, but rather just to provide some  
21          factual information that might provide some  
22          either reassurance or even cause greater  
23          concern.

24          Mr. Whitehead with the Brevard Chapter of  
25          the ACLU. Thank you very much for being here,

1 and we are anxious to hear your testimony.

2 MR. WHITEHEAD: Welcome, Legislators and  
3 concerned citizens. I am Bill Whitehead, I am  
4 a Board member of the Brevard Chapter of the  
5 ACLU.

6 Your appearance today at this hearing  
7 would suggest to some that you are earnestly  
8 seeking positive input from the citizenry, but  
9 most of you supported the passage of voter  
10 suppression laws and most of you supported the  
11 expenditure thus far of about a million dollars  
12 to fight the Fair Districts Amendments.

13 So a skeptic might conclude that you are  
14 conducting sham hearings in order to delay the  
15 creation of new districts and to make it  
16 difficult for challengers to compete against  
17 incumbents.

18 After all, you have had the census data  
19 for over four months and you are responsible  
20 for the creation of the new districts, not us.  
21 So why are you asking us to push the process.

22 Sixty-three percent of Florida voters  
23 voted for the creation of fair districts, and  
24 in the 2012 campaign coming up we want to make  
25 sure that we have fair contests or challenges

1 to be able to compete against incumbents, and  
2 certainly your delaying tactics are going to  
3 make it very difficult for challengers to be  
4 recognized by the public and to compete fairly  
5 against incumbents.

6 We want an end to redistricting delays, an  
7 end to the waste of taxpayer's money. After  
8 all, you have set aside something like \$30  
9 million for continuing to fight fair districts,  
10 and we want you to cease these self-serving  
11 tactics. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
13 Dwayne Lyndgren is next, and then followed,  
14 following Mr. Lyndgren we would like to hear  
15 from Mr. Stuart Gorin, and then Liz, I think it  
16 is Schillo, so if they will be on deck, please.

17 Mr. Lyndgren, thank you for coming and you  
18 are recognized before the Committee.

19 MR. LYNDGREN: Dwayne Lyndgren, Satellite  
20 Beach. I appreciate you all being here. I  
21 didn't realize that I should have come with  
22 prepared insults, but I will try to do better  
23 if I can make --

24 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: That is all right, you  
25 can get copies outside.

1           MR. LYNDGREN: I probably observed that if  
2           you had some maps here there would be an equal  
3           number of people here to tell you that this is  
4           a sham because you guys have already made up  
5           your minds of what you are going to do. So if  
6           I were you I wouldn't worry about it. You guys  
7           are doing a great job.

8           I think there was adequate warnings went  
9           out about what the, what Amendment 5 would do  
10          in the redistricting process, and what I would  
11          suggest is that you do that the way the  
12          Constitution says it, and then there are  
13          Federal laws that require you to make  
14          exceptions to what the Florida Constitution  
15          says, then do that second.

16          And on our own county, I notice that we  
17          have got, as you know, we have got five  
18          Representatives, including Representative  
19          Mayfield, we got two Congressmen, we got two  
20          Senators. That mix has served us very well.

21          Our representative, our legislative  
22          delegation works very well together. The, you  
23          can tell that by, and I have had meetings with  
24          all of them. I can tell that they get  
25          together. I would love very much to be able to

1 keep what we have got as far as total  
2 representation. I do realize that we have got  
3 some districts that are over populated.

4 I think Senate District 24 is about  
5 54,000, and the Congressional District by  
6 117,000 over. But when you look at our  
7 districts you will find that both of those  
8 districts, if you -- there is a lot of western  
9 movement out there.

10 I mean, District 15 goes all of the way --  
11 Congressional District 15 goes all the way to  
12 Polk County. So I would urge that you kind of  
13 carve off the western portions of those  
14 districts to see if we can't get to the numbers  
15 we are looking for there, because our real, I  
16 believe our real interest is more Brevard  
17 County, Indian River County than it is Brevard  
18 County, Polk County.

19 So I would really urge you to try to keep  
20 it as much together as we can in Brevard and  
21 Indian River County, and I really, I ask you to  
22 continue to do what you are doing. I think you  
23 guys are going to do a great job. I am looking  
24 forward to see how it comes out. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, and thank you

1 for your service to our country, sir.

2 MR. LYNDGREN: I appreciate -- I didn't see  
3 anything about the Constitution, I didn't bring  
4 a copy of the Constitution although I did spend  
5 32 years of my life in the Army defending it,  
6 but I noticed there must be some Glen Beck  
7 people in the people in the crowd because they  
8 are bringing their constitutions with them and  
9 I appreciate that.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You bet. There are  
11 several of us who do that. Stuart Gorin is  
12 next and following Mr. Gorin, Liz Schillo, and  
13 then Molly Tasker with the League of Women  
14 Voters.

15 Mr. Gorin, thank you for coming and we  
16 look forward to what you might have to share  
17 with us.

18 MR. GORIN: Thank your, good morning. My  
19 name the Stuart Gorin, I live in Viera. I am  
20 aware that Florida will be gaining new, two new  
21 Congressional Districts and that one of them  
22 may very well be incorporated in the central  
23 part of the state.

24 With that in mind I strongly believe that  
25 all of our county of Brevard should be in the

1 same Congressional District. It is a  
2 completely diversified county, economically,  
3 socially and ethnically and our Federal  
4 Legislators should be able to represent all  
5 Brevardians.

6 For a population parity, of course, this  
7 district could include all or part of a  
8 neighboring county as well.

9 At the state level I live in a legislative  
10 district that runs as a thin snake through two  
11 counties, forcing our Legislator to travel long  
12 distances to serve constituents.

13 I would like to see my district redrawn  
14 horizontally rather than vertically, keeping  
15 part of Brevard as one contiguous sector for  
16 our Legislator to serve. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.  
18 Next we will hear from Liz Schillo, I believe  
19 it is, and because we have had a number of  
20 people who have come in a little bit late and  
21 have asked to also be able to testify, we want  
22 to hear from them.

23 So I, you know, with respect to those who  
24 may be coming behind issues please try to limit  
25 your comments and then if you have extended

1           comments, we will take them for the record and  
2           distribute them to all members of the  
3           Committee.

4           Ms. Schillo, you are recognized. Thanks  
5           from being here.

6           MS. SCHILLO: I am Liz Schillo, and I am  
7           from Merritt Island here in Brevard County, and  
8           I just want to thank you for holding these  
9           hearings across the state and taking the public  
10          comments before you draw the district lines.

11          When you draw the district lines here in  
12          Brevard I would like to ask if you keep Merritt  
13          Island and Cape Canaveral, as well as Cocoa  
14          Beach areas together in the State House, Senate  
15          and Congressional districts.

16          These areas represent a coastal community  
17          of interest that we need to keep together to  
18          the greatest possible extent. Coastal areas  
19          like these have unique concerns like tourism  
20          and property insurance that need representation  
21          in the Legislature.

22          I think you should also split Brevard into  
23          north central and south sections in terms of  
24          State House seats and last year we all know  
25          Amendments 5 and 6 were passed to make the

1 district lines more fair.

2 After reading the Orlando Sentinel article  
3 this morning about your meeting yesterday and  
4 then going on-line and rereading the  
5 Amendments, it seems that the Amendments say  
6 that the districts didn't have to be compact,  
7 if they are minority districts.

8 To me this sounds like there are two  
9 standards of districting, one for minority  
10 seats and one for non minority seats. Is this  
11 true? Do minority seats have to be compact  
12 according to Amendments 5 and 6? If they don't  
13 issues then I think the seats surrounding  
14 minority districts won't be compact either  
15 because they have to fill in the borders of the  
16 non compact minority seats.

17 Isn't that what we have now? I am really  
18 hoping this committee can shed some light on  
19 this issue for me. In this case I must say I  
20 am a little disappointed because this is not  
21 what I thought when they were passed last fall.  
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24 ma'am. Next, Molly Tasker from the League of  
25 Women Voters, and then Katherine Smith, if you

1 will be on deck, and then William Joseph.

2 Ms. Tasker, thank you for coming today.

3 You are recognized.

4 MS. TASKER: Thank you. Good morning, I  
5 am Molly Tasker and I live in Melbourne,  
6 Florida, and I would like to say that I am a  
7 constituent on this issue of each and every one  
8 of you are that are sitting up there today.

9 I am part of the 63 percent of the Florida  
10 voters that want fair redistricting. I have to  
11 take my glasses off to read.

12 We directed, gave instructions, gave input  
13 to our Legislators that we want redistricting  
14 equal in population, compact and utilizing the  
15 existing geographic and political bounds to the  
16 extent possible.

17 We expected in response to that for our  
18 Legislators to come up with ideas and to come  
19 up with possible redistricting plans. That has  
20 not yet happened.

21 Our Legislature has said there is nothing  
22 you can do, the Constitution requires you to  
23 draw the districts during the 2012 session.

24 However, the Legislature will hold interim  
25 committee meetings from September through

1 December, you could use that time to present  
2 maps, you certainly are allowing some public  
3 comment but not on any of your proposals, and  
4 prepare final plans to submit to the full House  
5 and Senate before the Legislature convenes.

6 The Legislature could then bring the maps  
7 to the floor as a first order of business,  
8 voting on them by the end of session's first  
9 week, January the 13th. This would perhaps  
10 allow potential candidates to plan a little  
11 better and so forth.

12 Additionally, I think that you should  
13 perhaps utilize the staff that this committee  
14 has, if you as individual Representatives and  
15 State Senators don't want to do it, utilize  
16 your staff and have them go in and prepare some  
17 possible redistricting maps.

18 You shouldn't depend on the public to do  
19 your job. You should do it and we should have  
20 that done as soon as possible and put on your  
21 websites these potential redistricting plans.

22 Then we could, we, the public, those of  
23 us, the 63 percent that wanted redistricting  
24 could then comment on those potential  
25 possibilities.

1           I know we can comment and you put on the  
2 website what private institutions and private  
3 individuals have put forth, but I believe that  
4 is insufficient. I believe that you are  
5 dodging your job. We need to move along with  
6 it.

7           Without maps to comment on, the public  
8 does not have a real opportunity for meaningful  
9 comment on real maps. I know you have promised  
10 that you will have a two or three day comment  
11 period before any votes are taken on any  
12 proposal, but honestly, how can citizens  
13 hundreds of miles from Tallahassee review,  
14 analyze and comment on complicated statewide  
15 maps in two or three days.

16           So I encourage you to do this as soon as  
17 possible and to make it available to the  
18 general public as soon as possible and  
19 certainly probably we should all enlist the aid  
20 of the media in this to publicize the maps and  
21 so forth.

22           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Could I ask you to wrap  
23 up, Ms. Tasker, because we have a lot of  
24 people?

25           MS. TASKER: Yes, in fact, I am done, but

1 I do want to remind you that we, all of us, are  
2 the constituents of you, all of you, on this  
3 issue. So please be responsive.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5 Ms. Tasker. Next is Katherine Smith, Katherine  
6 Smith is next and then following Ms. Smith,  
7 William Joseph, and then Debra Gileco.

8 Katherine Smith, thank you for being here  
9 and I are recognized. You can move that down  
10 anyway you want to.

11 MS. SMITH: Yes. Thank you for being here  
12 today.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Of course.

14 MS. SMITH: And listening to our ideas and  
15 concerns, and I will be very brief. As a  
16 citizen I am very interested in this process  
17 because I want to make sure that I am fairly  
18 represented for the next decade at both the  
19 State and Federal levels.

20 I have a few concerns I want to raise  
21 today. I don't think I mentioned, I am from  
22 Canaveral Groves here in Brevard County.

23 First of all, I dislike gerrymandering as  
24 much as anyone, but as I was reading Amendments  
25 5 and 6 which are now in the State

1 Constitution, I was becoming confused as to how  
2 they are going to be carried out when key words  
3 in the Amendments are not defined.

4 For example, what does the phrase,  
5 existing political boundaries mean? Are those  
6 boundaries the current legislative and  
7 Congressional seats? If Amendments 5 and 6  
8 were meant to end gerrymandering, then how can  
9 we use existing seats as political boundaries?

10 Are existing boundaries city boundaries?  
11 Has anyone looked at how city boundaries look  
12 lately? Melbourne, for example, is all over  
13 the place. Which brings me to another  
14 question.

15 What does it mean for a district it be  
16 drawn in a compact manner? Is there one  
17 standard scientific definition for compactness?  
18 Sometimes districts may be more compact if they  
19 are in one county and other times they may be  
20 more compact if they are drawn to include  
21 portions of several counties.

22 Won't this lack of definition potentially  
23 lead to lawsuits over how new maps are drawn?  
24 I think it could. I only raise these questions  
25 because I want to make sure my family and I are

1 fairly represented when new maps are drawn.

2 I think you have a very difficult task  
3 ahead of you that will be confusing and  
4 difficult to accomplish. Thank you again for  
5 your time.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
7 Ms. Smith, and now William Joseph is next and  
8 then following Mr. Joseph, Debra Gileco, please  
9 be on deck, and then Maureen, I think it is  
10 Rupe.

11 Mr. Joseph, thank you for coming and you  
12 are recognized, sir.

13 MR. JOSEPH: I have lived in Brevard  
14 County with my wife and family for 40 years,  
15 and I have seen our Legislatures get  
16 progressively worse, and all I want to say  
17 today is, you have gotten the message, fair  
18 districts, present them to us, we will give you  
19 our input. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21 Mr. Joseph. Debra Gileco is next and then will  
22 Maureen Rupe please be on deck, followed by  
23 Frank Montelione.

24 Ms. Gileco, thank you for coming? Is it  
25 Gileco?

1 MS. GILECO: Yes, it is Gileco.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you.

3 MS. GILECO: I would just like to speak to  
4 you this morning on a subject that is very near  
5 and dear to my ear, and yes, I said ear.

6 During the last election cycle I  
7 personally spent time on the telephone. I  
8 spoke with over 2,500 people in regards to the  
9 Fair District Amendments.

10 So needless to say after the election was  
11 over with and the Amendments were passed, I  
12 felt like maybe I had done some good. I am  
13 sitting here now wondering, why did I do that?  
14 We are not being listened to.

15 But you know what, I am really not  
16 discouraged. I am a very tenacious woman, so  
17 when it is time for the next election cycle to  
18 roll around, I am going to make 5,000 calls and  
19 I am going to talk to people about this process  
20 and what we are doing right now, about the time  
21 that is being wasted, the money that is being  
22 wasted.

23 All I am asking for you to do is what the  
24 voters voted for. I just, I do not understand  
25 this process. I was at the event yesterday in

1 Orlando, and the common theme from all of the  
2 people here in the audience is the same, and I  
3 know that you have to be getting a little tired  
4 of hearing the same thing over and over and  
5 over again.

6 So please, listen to what we want. Make  
7 fair districts. That is all we are asking.  
8 Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank your, Ms. Greek co,  
10 thanks for your public service in getting  
11 people out to vote.

12 Maureen Rupe and then Frank Montelione,  
13 and then Kathleen, I believe it is Dove. Is it  
14 Rupe, ma'am?

15 MS. RUPE: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you for coming.

17 MS. RUPE: Maureen Rupe. I live in Port  
18 St. John. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.  
19 I am not unfamiliar with redistricting. I was  
20 on the county redistricting ten years ago and I  
21 am currently on the -- for this year's  
22 redistricting, but some of your process has me  
23 really concerned.

24 For start, I don't like meetings at 10:00  
25 a.m. when most of the work is disenfranchised

1 from it, but I believe your use of the  
2 software, I don't know how it can be feasibly  
3 used.

4 What if you have thousands or even  
5 millions of suggestions and maps? Do you have  
6 the resources to be considerate of every one  
7 that submits?

8 In addition, the software was developed  
9 for the people to submit their proposals. What  
10 about the people that cannot afford computers  
11 or do not understand using computers? I  
12 believe the redistricting timeline is  
13 unrealistic.

14 The last public meeting is on  
15 September the 1st, 2011 in Hendry County. The  
16 final districts don't have to be in place until  
17 June 2012. Once you past the final map in  
18 March, the map requires court preclearance and  
19 a Department of Justice review.

20 If the final maps are not ready until  
21 June, how can anyone really campaign if you  
22 don't know what district you have to campaign  
23 in?

24 Why when we are in dire straits  
25 financially, and more importantly, the people

1 have given you directions loud and clear at the  
2 ballot box, are you spending tax dollars to  
3 overturn the vote of the people and spend  
4 unnecessary money on this paid tour of the  
5 state, especially when the majority of people  
6 are telling you at these meetings to do your  
7 job and show us the maps.

8 I am looking for a reconfiguration of  
9 District 29. District 29 is a poster child to  
10 gerrymandering. It stretches from Mims in  
11 north Brevard to St. Lucie County. I was  
12 surprised there weren't a bit of Key West in  
13 it, it was so silly.

14 It is a -- it is a vertical misshape in  
15 configuration that served to give a seat to  
16 Representative Tom Feeney and everybody knows  
17 that.

18 This district is an example of why the  
19 people brought Amendment 5 and 6 to the ballot.  
20 I am asking you to follow the law, put aside  
21 your personal interests and do what is best for  
22 Florida. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Rupe.  
24 Mr. Montelione, we have to impose a little  
25 tighter time frame.

1 MR. MONTELIONE: Sure.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: We have had a number of  
3 additional people. So now, just in respect to  
4 the people behind you, we are going to have to  
5 ask that comments verbally be limited to two  
6 minutes, but if you have additional comments  
7 that you want to present in writing, we will  
8 take all of them and make all of them available  
9 publically.

10 So with that said, Mr. Montelione, you are  
11 recognized for two minutes.

12 MR. MONTELIONE: I would like first to say  
13 thank you to the Representatives, the Senators,  
14 Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, thank you for  
15 being here in Brevard and for doing a good job  
16 that you are doing.

17 I keep hearing words like 63 percent,  
18 words like input and feedback, and I don't, I  
19 was not one of the 63 percent, because my  
20 belief is that if the Constitutional Amendment  
21 is so confusing that you don't know what it  
22 actually says, then don't vote for it, and  
23 there was so many things in that Amendment that  
24 were not defined that, you know, to me it was  
25 not worth voting for.

1           As far as maps go, I was -- I was up as a  
2 volunteer to help draw those maps the last time  
3 and it was more confusing then than it is now.  
4 At least you are looking for input, not  
5 feedback, but input, in order to draw these  
6 maps.

7           The last time it was only the  
8 Representatives and the Senators that were  
9 drawing the maps. If you happen to be in  
10 Tallahassee you can give your input, but at  
11 that time it was only, it was input and you  
12 went and drew the maps and drew the lines.

13           As far as District 29, let me defend  
14 District 29 a little bit. The only things that  
15 lived in District 29 ten years ago were cows  
16 and pigs. There were a few places like  
17 Titusville and down in the south that did, but  
18 most of the people who lived in District 29  
19 were agriculturally based and that is why that  
20 district was drawn the way it was, to keep that  
21 group together.

22           I would like to see a map drawn for our  
23 county, for Brevard County, north, south,  
24 central and the beaches, because we all have  
25 different and separate interests and I think it

1 would work out best that way and I would like  
2 to thank both the Republicans and the Democrat  
3 Representatives and Senators that are here  
4 today. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Next we  
6 will hear from Karen Dove and then Ann Ford,  
7 and then Steven Lindsley, and then Spence  
8 Guerin, and we would ask you to hold to two  
9 minutes if you can. Submit your written  
10 comments, we will certainly take them into  
11 account. You are recognized.

12 MS. DOVE: Okay, I just wanted to say, my  
13 name is Karen Dove and I am from Palm Bay and I  
14 did want to thank you all for holding these  
15 forums before deciding on the lines on the maps  
16 in accordance with the redistricting because of  
17 the census.

18 But I have to say, I kind of, everybody  
19 says that politics is local and I just couldn't  
20 help but thinking, I kept going back to, oh, I  
21 am watching the whole debate thing, where is  
22 Obama's plan, why do you already have one and  
23 it is the same thing, you complain when you  
24 have one, you complain when you don't.

25 I don't think you are ever going to make

1           everybody happy here. So I do appreciate you  
2           allowing us to have our input and I certainly  
3           agree with, it is best if we have areas of  
4           people that have common interests and I do  
5           think that the north, central, south and beach  
6           is a good idea.

7           I know that sometimes that is probably not  
8           practical, but I do think that that would be  
9           the best thing for Brevard. I have kind of  
10          tossed around back and forth whether I liked  
11          the idea that it was split between, you know,  
12          two people, but I am like, well, then you have  
13          two people, you know, working for you, so,  
14          maybe one is better. I don't know, but then  
15          again, you are the guys that were paid to do it  
16          and I am sure you are getting big, big bucks,  
17          right?

18          I have lived here for 25 years and I know  
19          that Brevard is a large county and I certainly  
20          believe it would be nice if we only had one  
21          Representative, as I said, but I am sure that  
22          two somehow gives us a little bit more clout if  
23          one doesn't think the way I do, maybe I can get  
24          one of them to at least listen to me.

25          We are unique with our space capabilities

1 and I think that that is imperative that we  
2 have as many people working to that as  
3 possible.

4 Tourism, of course, is the life blood of  
5 Florida, being we don't have an income tax, and  
6 I would clearly like to keep it that way.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And Ms. Dove, could I ask  
8 you to summarize very quickly, please?

9 MS. DOVE: And so I just want to say,  
10 thanks for doing this and I am sure you are  
11 going to do a good job and I am going to keep  
12 my eye on-line and I appreciate what you are  
13 doing.

14 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
15 ma'am, for your testimony. Next is Ann Ford  
16 and following Ms. Ford, Steven Lindsley and  
17 then Spence Guerin.

18 Ms. Ford, thank you for being here. You  
19 are recognized.

20 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Good morning, I am  
21 Ann Ford. I live in Port St. John. I have  
22 been a Brevard County resident for over 30  
23 years.

24 First of all, I would really like to thank  
25 you all for making the time to gather citizen

1 input before you begin redrawing the district  
2 lines.

3 District 29 where I live is probably one  
4 of the most distorted districts in the state of  
5 Florida. It really needs work, it is over 80  
6 miles long, some places it is about a mile  
7 wide.

8 If we were still rural, that might make  
9 sense, but we have some high concentrations of  
10 populations. So I would like to see a district  
11 that is smaller and more compact.

12 I welcome the opportunity to play on-line  
13 and I do have the map that I may consider  
14 submitting that.

15 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Please do submit it.

16 MS. FORD: I would like to talk about  
17 Amendments 5 and 6. I was very glad that they  
18 were passed. I believe that they are going to  
19 give you some additional guidance in the task  
20 before you, but I have some concerns about  
21 them.

22 Some of the key language I don't think has  
23 been defined clearly, words like compact, words  
24 like existing political boundaries, existing  
25 geographical boundaries.

1           In other words, like practicable,  
2           feasible. Have these words been defined in  
3           this application? If they have, how so, and by  
4           who?

5           One final comment on the Amendments. If I  
6           understand it right, a district will not have  
7           to be compact if it is in direct conflict with  
8           the Voting Rights Act. So will some districts  
9           be compact, other districts won't?

10          Again, the concerns that I have, while I  
11          think the intentions are good, is there is some  
12          vagueness, there is some exemptions and  
13          loopholes that I think may prevent the best  
14          possible outcome for District 29.

15          Clearly you have a very challenging task  
16          before you that I don't envy, but I am here  
17          simply today to ask you to do your very best  
18          for District 29 and all of Florida. Thank you.

19          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
20          ma'am. We appreciate it. Steve Lindsley is  
21          our next speaker and following Steve, Spence  
22          Guerin and then if Juanita Baker will be  
23          prepared to come forward.

24          Mr. Lindsley, thank you for taking your  
25          time today. We look forward to your testimony.

1           MR. LINDSLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I  
2 appreciate all of your time and it is nice to  
3 see so many Legislators out here. I know it is  
4 a thankless job. You don't get paid near  
5 enough as far as I am concerned, but thanks for  
6 taking the time to receive our input.

7           I think this is the right way to go,  
8 taking our input before you get to the maps. I  
9 did try the tool and I did find it difficult to  
10 use, but I am reinspired, I will try it again  
11 and I am glad to have the opportunity to have  
12 that input.

13           I would agree with those of us around that  
14 have said that we need to have compact  
15 districts. What we have now are these three  
16 headed monsters and I don't think we need to  
17 have those. They need to be compact. I don't  
18 think they need to be necessarily drawn  
19 arbitrary based on the attitude and longitude,  
20 but they need to be compact and they should not  
21 take any sort of, you know, demographic into  
22 account.

23           You shouldn't group them based on  
24 minorities. You should just, you know, base  
25 them on community. Let's see, sorry, I didn't

1 have prepared remarks but I heard -- anyway, I  
2 think compact is the key. Compact is much  
3 better than being driven off of any kind of  
4 demographic. I am an unapologetic  
5 conservative.

6 I don't have anything to worry about as  
7 far as having a compact district. Conservatism  
8 is a winning argument. I think we can, we  
9 don't have to be afraid of having three headed  
10 -- we don't need three headed monsters to be  
11 able to win the argument, and I am ready for  
12 compactness. Thanks.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14 Sir, we appreciate your testimony. Spence  
15 Guerin is next, and then Juanita Baker, if you  
16 will be on deck, followed by Jim Tulley. Did I  
17 get that right, Mr. Guerin?

18 MR. GUERIN: My name is Spence Guerin. It  
19 is nice to have citizen input. Who can argue  
20 with that? I have heard a lot about  
21 transparency. I kind of question this  
22 transparency.

23 I saw the hearings at The Village. No  
24 Legislator at those hearings, despite the  
25 questions from the audience, no Legislator,

1 including yourself, Senator Gaetz, was  
2 forthcoming about the amount of money the  
3 Legislature has spent and continues to spend, I  
4 presume, on the lawsuit having to do with  
5 Amendment 6.

6 According to the St. Petersburg Times, the  
7 Legislature has spent about half of the  
8 \$700,000 already spent on redistricting, about  
9 half of that has been spent on Amendment 6  
10 lawsuit, according to the St. Peter Times, who  
11 got that information from a spokesman for the  
12 Florida House of Representatives.

13 I heard people ask Senator Hays if he had  
14 voted for it, and with clever answers that  
15 actually were not transparent, they are were  
16 avoiding answering the question which the  
17 people wanted to know, are you spending money  
18 on fighting this lawsuit, and actually, on  
19 fighting this Amendment 6, and actually the  
20 answer is yes, you have spent half of \$700,000  
21 on that lawsuit, and no Legislator at that  
22 hearing had the whatever it takes to stand up  
23 and say simply, I am sorry to say, yes, we  
24 have.

25 And yourself, too, Senator Gaetz, didn't

1 admit that, and I think that just contributes  
2 to continued citizen distrust in our  
3 Legislature.

4 If you had maps here for us to review,  
5 like are being produced by citizens, then we  
6 would be able to comment on them and that is a  
7 really, it needs to be done.

8 To have citizen input is great, but we  
9 need the maps to comment on bottom line. Thank  
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Guerin,  
12 and again, if we, if we have time after  
13 everyone has had a chance to speak, albeit  
14 briefly, we will try to get back to some of the  
15 questions that have been raised, factual  
16 questions.

17 Ms. Baker, Juanita Baker is next, followed  
18 by Jim Tulley, followed by Elizabeth Nall.  
19 Ms. Baker, you are recognized.

20 MS. BAKER: Yes. I am Juanita Baker from  
21 Indian River County. It is a distance up here,  
22 but my Representatives live even further up  
23 north.

24 Sorry, I have to put on my glasses. The  
25 eyes of the nation are really upon Florida.

1 This is a historic opportunity to shine, to  
2 raise Florida as an example to others to strive  
3 to live up to the ideals of our country  
4 liberty, justice, equality for all.

5 The people of Florida have spoken, not  
6 just Democrats, not just Republicans, but  
7 everyone. The great majority of people want a  
8 fair system to be devised so that everyone's  
9 vote counts.

10 I am afraid that I want that, too. I want  
11 there to be a chance that the district in which  
12 I vote will be someone who will represent my  
13 interests. I need to be able to be nearer my  
14 Representative to be able to talk to them.

15 You do have a very difficult job ahead.  
16 And thus, it is a danger of being accused of  
17 being unfair, which may cost dearly in the  
18 future elections.

19 You will gain much admiration if instead  
20 you can raise, rise above the party and devise  
21 a map that is rationale, logical and based on  
22 areas where everyone is fairly represented.

23 Now, you may, your map and website really  
24 demonstrates the tedious, the difficult of this  
25 task. It is really overwhelming for anyone,

1 and I am very computer literate and it is very  
2 frustrating to work with that map.

3 You also, you all have that are involved  
4 really have a choice to strive for your best,  
5 your highest ideals, or resort to being  
6 pressured again.

7 I appreciate this kind of input, but, you  
8 know, there is a better way, there is a better  
9 way to make this process to draw lines that are  
10 fair for everyone.

11 California has a process of having a  
12 committee. I don't believe that. I think you  
13 need experts. We base our decisions on science  
14 these days. We want to do the best by what is  
15 logical and rational.

16 Well, the political science students took  
17 six weeks. I would imagine that it would be  
18 best to have you take \$500,000, I am sure you  
19 could get many scientists willing to spend  
20 three months to make a good map that is  
21 demographically representative of people.

22 We have a wonderful state here with many  
23 diverse people. We need to have each of those  
24 groups representatives so that they have a fair  
25 chance that their vote really counts. You can

1 have this committee of scientists, social  
2 scientists know the population. We have  
3 population scientists, we have geographers --

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am.

5 MR. BAKER: We could get together and have  
6 a great group of experts that are nonpartisan  
7 to make this map drawing process. Then you can  
8 have the input from every citizen, too, both  
9 processes you need citizen input. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
11 ma'am. We appreciate your testimony. Jim  
12 Tulley and Elizabeth Nall, and I don't mean in  
13 any way to be overly firm, but I am going to  
14 have to interrupt you when you hit two minutes,  
15 because we have a bunch of people who still  
16 want their voices heard. Mr. Tulley, you are  
17 recognized.

18 MR. TULLEY: Good afternoon, my name is  
19 Jim Tulley. I am the Mayor of Titusville, but  
20 I am not here speaking for that constituency, I  
21 am here for myself.

22 I find gerrymandering completely  
23 offensive. I am an unabashed Conservative but  
24 I want to see people elected on the strength of  
25 their ideas, not because lines are drawn in a

1 particular way.

2 You just have to look around the room and  
3 see what we have right now. I want to see our  
4 elected leaders elected on the strength of  
5 their ideas, on their ability to lead and build  
6 consensus and certainly most important on the  
7 content of their character.

8 I have been playing around with My  
9 District Builder for a couple of weeks now and  
10 I have learned three things.

11 Number one, you don't have an easy task.  
12 Number two, compact districts can be built, I  
13 have done it. And number three, on this notion  
14 that either a county or a city ought to be in  
15 the same district, there is two sides to that  
16 argument.

17 If you put a city or a county all in one  
18 district, that district only gets one vote. If  
19 you divide it up into multiple districts, then  
20 it may get more than one vote, but those votes  
21 are diluted by the other interests that are  
22 incorporated into those numerous districts.

23 Either way you do it is going to be viewed  
24 as unfair by somebody. So the bottom line,  
25 wherever you draw lines you are going to be

1 criticized.

2 And so I what would propose to you is that  
3 you inject a certain amount of scientific  
4 randomness into the process. Seriously, that  
5 you draw compact contiguous districts that are  
6 somewhat random and don't force you to make  
7 decisions that result in things like this or  
8 have resulted in things like this in the past.

9 You are at a historic moment in time. Our  
10 democracy has been the life of the world for  
11 200 years. It started out imperfectly and we  
12 have made gradual steps to better it.

13 You are at a rare moment in time where you  
14 can make another historic step. You can help  
15 us get past this notion that race, ethnicity,  
16 religion, national origin are important for  
17 voting districts. They are not, we have got to  
18 get past that, otherwise, why don't we build,  
19 why don't we build districts based on gender or  
20 age.

21 It is all ridiculous. Inject some  
22 randomness into it. Stephen Covey says we  
23 should begin with the end in mind. Well, the  
24 end is easy.

25 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And the end has been

1 arrived at. Thank you for very much,  
2 Mr. Mayor.

3 MR. TULLEY: Okay, thank you, do the right  
4 thing.

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Elizabeth Nall is  
6 recognized next, and following Ms. Nall,  
7 Richard Smith, and after Mr. Smith, Judy  
8 Strahan.

9 Ms. Nall, thank you for coming today and  
10 you are recognized.

11 MS. NALL: Hello. I am a public school  
12 teacher and the reason I mention that is  
13 because this is the last meeting I will be able  
14 to attend.

15 I think you should think, take into  
16 consideration proposals to have these in the  
17 evening if you can so that more people could  
18 attend them.

19 On the onset, this looks beautiful. You  
20 know, an open air forum, but I think really it  
21 is disingenuous because you don't have the  
22 maps.

23 Basically when you get the maps, then is  
24 when we are going to have the most important  
25 input. We need to have the maps. Once you get

1 the maps up there, then all of these people who  
2 are here speaking could tell you what is wrong  
3 with that.

4 Are you going to have all of these  
5 meetings after we get the maps? I don't think  
6 so, because I don't think your calendar allows  
7 for it.

8 We need the maps now and we need to get  
9 rid of this ridiculous lawsuit and those of you  
10 who are involved in the lawsuit should come  
11 forward and tell us who you are. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Nall. And  
13 Richard Smith, with the Brevard Federation of  
14 Teachers, then Judith Strahan and then Milly  
15 Krause.

16 Mr. Smith, thank you for coming today.

17 MR. SMITH: Hi, guys. Time means  
18 everything. I have an Aunt Jean who is pretty  
19 much a cleaning freak. I was having breakfast  
20 one time at her house, I had a bite or two  
21 eggs, dropped my napkin, this literally  
22 happened, I bent over to get the napkin, she  
23 already had my plate scraped and she was  
24 washing it in the sink. I didn't get a fair  
25 shot at that breakfast.

1           I can't read into your hearts what you are  
2           as people. That is not for me to do and I  
3           can't do it. I am not going to try to do it.  
4           So motivation is not something I want to  
5           ascribe to you. However, actions are something  
6           I can see.

7           I teach physics, I understand about data  
8           and behaviors, and I understand that there is  
9           difficulties with the precincts. I understand  
10          that and I understand that some time in early  
11          November this could be done.

12          It will be obvious to all of us citizens  
13          that if these maps are drawn early November,  
14          and then acted on in January, so the maximum  
15          amount of time can be provided to people to run  
16          for these districts, then you will have done  
17          your job.

18          I am thinking about that young man that  
19          stood up here and talked about the sacrifice of  
20          people who fought for freedom. I hope you will  
21          think about that, too. Timing is everything.  
22          Thank you.

23                 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
24          Mr. Smith. Excellent points. Judith Strahan  
25          is next, and then Milly Krause.

1 Ms. Strahan, are you still here, ma'am?

2 All right, we will pass her.

3 Milly Krause, Ms. Krause, thank you for  
4 coming today, and then Earnestine Aaron and  
5 then after Ms. Aaron, Kathleen Jaskolski,  
6 Jaskolski, I believe.

7 Ms. Krause, thank you. You are  
8 recognized.

9 MS. KRAUSE: Yes, good morning. I am from  
10 Cocoa Beach, and I just want to be brief. I  
11 wanted to mention, when I was in high school,  
12 this is something 40 years ago, I remember  
13 discussing gerrymandering and for some reason  
14 up until, you know, maybe 20 years ago I was  
15 thinking it was illegal, and I am just amazed  
16 at this time and place in history that we still  
17 have gerrymandering.

18 And I would like to say maybe it is not  
19 illegal as far as the law, but it should be  
20 illegal ethically and we should really be  
21 working to preserve our democracy and we are  
22 not when we continue such practices.

23 I know among my friends we have talked, we  
24 are really concerned about our democracy. We  
25 don't feel like we are being represented.

1           There is many things that have happened, but  
2           that is not the purpose of what I am here for  
3           right now.

4           The other thing is I wanted to say that I  
5           really do believe in geographically compact  
6           districts, and I don't see any question with  
7           that, compact means compact.

8           It is altogether, and I have a friend who  
9           lives in Cocoa Beach, four streets from me.  
10          She is not in my District 30. I have a friend  
11          in Palm Beach who is in my district. A friend  
12          in Melbourne who is not. That is not  
13          geographically compact and that does not bring  
14          people together.

15          And then my final point I wanted to  
16          mention was about the ability to do and create  
17          fair districts. We have laws and some of those  
18          laws are helpful and some of them do appear to  
19          hamper us and I wanted to reiterate not on the  
20          same tune exactly, but with the Mayor of  
21          Titusville said.

22          There are some, you know, we are not doing  
23          it on age. We are not doing it on this and  
24          that, but we do have some discriminatory  
25          problems, and I would like to try to look at

1 those road blocks and see how we can look at  
2 those road blocks and still create fair  
3 districts. Thank you very much for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Krause.  
5 Now, Earnestine Aaron, Ms. Aaron? We will pass  
6 Ms. Aaron. In that case, Kathleen Jaskolski.  
7 She left.

8 All right, Valerie Brant-Wilson with Alpha  
9 Kappa Alpha. Is that you, ma'am? Okay, we  
10 look forward to your testimony in a moment.

11 Mary Greene, if you will be on deck,  
12 please, and then Ken Greene, if you will be  
13 prepared after Mary Greene.

14 Ms. Brant-Wilson, thanks for coming today.  
15 You are recognized.

16 MS. BRANT-WILSON: Good afternoon. I want  
17 to thank all of you for being here and I also  
18 want to thank Florida Channel because with  
19 Florida Channel I was able to actually hear a  
20 lot of the public hearings and the same things  
21 are being generated.

22 My questions are, and first, Alpha Kappa  
23 Alpha does not, is a nonpartisan organization  
24 which means that we only look at policies. We  
25 did not push one way or another, which your

1 lines should be drawn.

2           However, as a private citizen, I vote in  
3 Brevard County. I also would like to think  
4 about not just you, the people, the will of the  
5 people who are saying that they want it to be  
6 common with agriculture, common with the Space  
7 Coast, common with whatever geographical, the  
8 beach area.

9           We as African-Americans, me personally, I  
10 want representation that looks like me as well  
11 up there, and I do, I am a little nervous.

12           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing fine.

13           MS. BRANT-WILSON: But I do want the young  
14 gentleman who stated about economics, here in  
15 the Space Coast we know that our jobs are  
16 diminishing. So therefore, we want  
17 representation who is going to actually push  
18 for economics and that is going to generate.

19           We also know that this is a tourist area.  
20 We want that as well, and I work in Indian  
21 River County, which means that I commute. So  
22 therefore I have the pulse of both communities,  
23 and I am like some of the Representatives here  
24 who have to travel and have to listen to  
25 everybody, but some of my concerns are, well,

1 when you get back to Tallahassee --

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am, could we ask you  
3 to bring it in for a landing because we have a  
4 lot of people behind you?

5 MS. BRANT-WILSON: My concerns are, I have  
6 two questions. When you start your timeline,  
7 when you open up in January, will the public  
8 still have input to help formalize the lines  
9 that are going to be drawn?

10 Two, at what point are you going to cut  
11 off public input so that you can do your job so  
12 that we can quickly get it done?

13 And then thirdly, I would like to see that  
14 we as the public get a chance to review what  
15 you have.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am, very,  
17 very much. Next is Mary Greene and then  
18 following Mary Greene, Ken Greene, and  
19 following Mr. Greene, Bob, I think it is Wille,  
20 Bob Will or Wille.

21 Ms. Greene, thank you all for being here.

22 MS. GREENE: Thank you all for being here,  
23 my name is Mary Greene, I am a resident of Palm  
24 Bay. I have lived here in Florida for about 22  
25 years.

1           I have some concerns like many other  
2 people have already mentioned about this whole  
3 process. I have gone on-line to try and look  
4 at the maps and to try and work with them. I  
5 am not a computer geek, so it was not an easy  
6 process at all for the average citizen to be  
7 able to come up with a map to present to you.

8           My also -- one of my other concerns is the  
9 fact that that is your job, not mine. I am not  
10 getting paid for that. I happen to be  
11 disabled. I volunteer a lot throughout my  
12 community.

13           I expect you to do the job that you are  
14 getting paid to do and so far I haven't seen  
15 that happen. I have been following this  
16 process on-line and in the newspaper as you  
17 have traveled throughout the state. By now I  
18 would think you have probably been presented  
19 with some maps that citizens and organizations  
20 have given you, that you probably could have  
21 had some suggestions up here already from  
22 people who have already come up with these  
23 maps, but they are not here.

24           So we have been presented with nothing.

25           This is your job, not our job as citizens and I

1           resent that you are throwing it back into our  
2           laps and expecting us to do the job you are  
3           being paid for. Thank you.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
5           Ms. Greene. And Ken Greene is next. Ken, we  
6           just heard from your boss.

7           MR. GREENE: You know it. Do you want to  
8           argue with her?

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: No, sir, boss.

10          MR. GREENE: I haven't won a battle yet, I  
11          have been married 30 years. I am still waiting  
12          for my first victory.

13          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, so have I and I  
14          have learned it is better to be happy than  
15          right.

16          MR. GREENE: I will remember that there.

17          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized, sir.

18          MR. GREENE: Okay, thank you.

19          Representatives, thank you for taking your  
20          time, I know you all have busy schedules. I am  
21          here as Ken Greene, not as an elected official  
22          from the City of Palm Bay. So what I am  
23          expressing now is my personal views.

24                 I was at a meeting where there were some  
25          elected officials from Tallahassee and they

1           made a general statement, and I generally give  
2           people the benefit of the doubt until you prove  
3           otherwise.

4                    When this person got up and spoke, he, I  
5           will name the agenda, and I will stop right  
6           there, made a comment that the Democratic party  
7           has \$43 million in their till to fight this  
8           issue.

9                    I was giving him the benefit of the doubt  
10          until he opened that statement or made that  
11          statement. In my mind, you are, your job is,  
12          and I know a smaller portion of it, is to  
13          gather the facts, make an informed decision and  
14          represent the people of your district.

15                   Anything else is above and beyond. And in  
16          my mind, when I hear an elected official who is  
17          going to be making a decision on it and tells  
18          me information I don't even know about, nor did  
19          I really want to know about, but when you fight  
20          the system with our own money on the tax  
21          dollars and you have a bottomless pit, because  
22          it is our tax dollars, I have a problem with  
23          that.

24                   I know the job is difficult. I know you  
25          make 51 percent of the people happy and

1           49 percent you make unhappy, but you have been  
2           given a mandate of 63 percent of the people  
3           which tells me the writing is on the wall.

4           One individual just said it before, you  
5           have the opportunity to go down in history in  
6           the state of Florida as doing it right, and I  
7           implore you as a citizen, please do it right.  
8           Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. Bob  
10          Wille, or Wille is next and then Carolyn, I  
11          think it is Norton, 1365 west Island Club, and  
12          then John, and I apologize, it is my eyes,  
13          John, not your writing, okay, you know who you  
14          are.

15          Bob, you are recognized, thanks for coming  
16          today.

17          MR. WILLE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I  
18          would like to introduce myself as Bob Wille, I  
19          am a resident of Titusville. Tom Goodson is my  
20          Representative, Thad Altman is my Senator.

21          I have been a resident here in Brevard  
22          County for 30 years. I live in Titusville but  
23          I commute to Melbourne. I was an elected  
24          official in the south part of the county, so I  
25          feel a sense of being a resident of all of

1 Brevard County and over these past 30 years,  
2 and I got the sense that these meetings were  
3 for the purpose of you to glean information  
4 from us so that you could do your job and  
5 create these maps and that is what I am here  
6 and prepared to do.

7 I don't take lightly your investment and  
8 your time and energy to come from all parts of  
9 the state and very busy schedules to come here  
10 and I appreciate it. So I will leave it at  
11 that.

12 I start, you know, with communities of  
13 interest. Being in Representative Goodson's  
14 District 29, it has been referred to a number  
15 of times here today, and so from that  
16 standpoint I am going to reference what I  
17 believe is, at least in Titusville where I  
18 reside, there is probably more of a community  
19 of interest to the west than to the south. So,  
20 you know, I will preface my comments from that.

21 Economic, transportation, educational and  
22 social connections, we have state routes from  
23 Brevard County of 46, 50, 192, as well as the  
24 beach line that connect us east, west. We have  
25 synergies between Port Canaveral, Orlando

1 International Airport, and the Space Center.

2 We have a new medical city in Lake Nona  
3 that is closer to Titusville than where I  
4 commute to work in Melbourne. So I offer that  
5 as testimony in this discussion in drawing your  
6 lines.

7 We have a close association with the  
8 University of Central Florida and our Brevard  
9 Community College here. Brevard's beaches --

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And, Bob, I am going to  
11 have ask you to summarize if you can because of  
12 the large number of people behind you.

13 MR. WILLE: And I appreciate that and I  
14 will. So having made those comments I just  
15 would like to identify that we have more of an  
16 interest to the west and I would like you to  
17 consider that when drawing those lines, okay.

18 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
19 Mr. Wille, I appreciate your testimony.  
20 Carolyn, is it Norton?

21 MS. NORTON: Yes, it is.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following Ms. Norton,  
23 John, you are going to have to help me with  
24 your name when you get up here, and a second,  
25 John Schantzen, please be on deck. Ms. Norton,

1 thanks for coming.

2 MS. NORTON: Good afternoon, I live in  
3 Vero Beach and Indian River County, and I met  
4 with a number of people today to car pool and  
5 we met in front of Nike, and in the words of  
6 Nike, we are asking you to please do the right  
7 thing.

8 I am a transplant and I have been here  
9 about 11 years. I am proud to be an American  
10 and I am proud to live in a democracy.

11 Unfortunately, in the time that I have  
12 lived here I have seen the people running this  
13 state do some things that at times have been  
14 ridiculous, incompetent and unfortunately,  
15 unethical.

16 My friends back up north sometimes send me  
17 e-mails and say, Carolyn, please come back, you  
18 have got to get out of there. I want to be --

19 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Don't leave, Carolyn, we  
20 want you to stay.

21 MS. NORTON: I don't want to leave.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: It will get better.

23 MS. NORTON: I love it here and I am  
24 asking you to follow the will of the people,  
25 they voted overwhelmingly in support of these

1 Amendments, make me proud to be a Floridian, do  
2 the right thing.

3 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
4 your testimony. John, I apologize, how do I  
5 pronounce your last time?

6 MR. TITKANICH: Titkanich, everybody  
7 butchers it.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Titkanich, I should have  
9 known that.

10 MR. TITKANICH: I forget it on days.

11 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Now, thank you so much  
12 for being here, you are recognized.

13 MR. TITKANICH: Well, actually, we would  
14 like to thank you for coming here to Brevard  
15 County to listen to us. I commend you for  
16 taking that opportunity to solicit public input  
17 prior to letting the computer technocrats and  
18 the GIS technicians go behind the closed doors  
19 and start drawing the lines.

20 You certainly have a heavy responsibility  
21 to ensure fair representation and I don't think  
22 I or anybody really should be commenting or  
23 condemning your efforts until the results of  
24 those maps are out, you know.

25 I mean, you have a process set up. It is

1 providing public input, that is foundational to  
2 local government, get public input first and  
3 then put policy out or put, you know, what you  
4 are proposing out. So I think you are doing  
5 the right thing.

6 With that being said I would like -- I  
7 would hope that you would recognize that the  
8 population shift to central Florida and  
9 certainly hope you strive to ensure fair and  
10 equitable representation for our region.

11 You know, take into account the  
12 communities and the uniqueness that our  
13 community, Brevard County. I echo what  
14 Rockledge said in terms of, you know, I like  
15 the idea, Senator, three districts or three  
16 Representatives, or Mayor Goode, the more the  
17 better. I mean, we are being, you know, it  
18 gives us better representation.

19 Finally, just exercise that same faith,  
20 the extraordinary faith that our founders did  
21 when they set up this form of government and  
22 they put this system of democracy that we have  
23 in place.

24 I have faith in you, I know, I work for  
25 the City of Cocoa, we are looking forward to

1           what you have to do. We enjoy working with you  
2           and we again appreciate your time to come here  
3           and listen to the people first. Thank you so  
4           much.

5                   CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. We  
6           appreciate your testimony. John Schantzen is  
7           next and then Slullz, I think it is Phupps and  
8           then Jerel Banks, please be on deck.

9                   Mr. Schantzen, did I pronounce your name  
10          right, sir?

11                  MR. SCHANTZEN: Yes, you did. Thank you,  
12          Senator.

13                  CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized.

14                  MR. SCHANTZEN: Okay, thank you. I  
15          appreciate you being here. I am a voter in the  
16          districts represented by Senator Haridopolos  
17          and Senator Crisafuli, and I dare Senator  
18          Crisafuli to drive from one end of the district  
19          to the other without crossing another district.

20                  He can't, because he can't go through the  
21          Space Center to get there. If he could go all  
22          the way up and then back down then he could  
23          probably get to his Orlando and Orange County  
24          district.

25                  Similarly, with my Congressional District,

1           they gerrymandered my Congressional District so  
2           that Tom Feeney could have a seat in Congress.  
3           That is wrong.

4                     You are all sworn to uphold the  
5           Constitution of the State of Florida. I trust  
6           you have the same feeling about the  
7           Constitution of the United States.

8                     Remember your religious roots when you  
9           take that oath and do what is right and not go  
10          in there with an R or a D in front of your  
11          name, but go in there blindly, representing the  
12          people who elected you, representing the  
13          63 percent of the population that changed our  
14          Constitution, the one you are sworn to uphold,  
15          and let's do it in a manner that is expeditious  
16          so that anybody who seeks to run for office  
17          which our democracy encourages has the  
18          opportunity to know where they are running.

19                    Let's not wait until the last week of the  
20          Legislature like we do with the budget and so  
21          nobody knows what is happening. Let's get it  
22          out, get it done early so that people when they  
23          have to qualify, are knowing what they are  
24          qualifying in, okay. Thank you.

25                    CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

1 Shirley, I think it is Shirley Plupps, did I  
2 get that right, ma'am?

3 MS. PLUPPS: You sure did.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And following Ms. Plupps,  
5 Jerel Banks and then Renie Parsons, or Renie  
6 Parsons.

7 Ms. Plupps, thank you for coming today and  
8 we are anxious to hear from you.

9 MS. PLUPPS: Okay. I am representing the  
10 North Brevard Republican Club and the Space  
11 Coast Republican Winners Club and I would like  
12 to echo the previous comments of speakers.

13 The importance of keeping districts  
14 geographically together cannot be over  
15 estimated. My District, number 29, again, is  
16 represented by Tom Goodson, and runs from Mims,  
17 south to St. Lucie County. It looks like a  
18 Rorschach blot.

19 This makes representation of the varied  
20 interests of diverse populations a very  
21 difficult task. It is also expensive, because  
22 extra district offices must be established to  
23 serve the electorate.

24 So let's make an effort to draw lines that  
25 will serve the contiguous population. I know

1           you have heard this many times today before,  
2           but constant dripping, where is the stone?  
3           This is another drip dropping on you. Thank  
4           you.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you. Jerel Banks  
6           and after Ms. Banks, I then it is Renie or  
7           Renie Parsons and then John Schmidt.

8           Mr. Banks, thank you for being here.

9           MR. BANKS: And good morning to everyone,  
10          I am a little nervous.

11          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are doing good.

12          MR. BANKS: And I am thinking about  
13          running for office and I can't run for office  
14          being nervous, but anyway.

15          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You should see us.

16          MR. BANKS: But anyway, I really would  
17          like to thank you for coming out and I am in  
18          Senator -- who? I am in Senator Altman's  
19          district, yes, and also -- huh, and also I am  
20          in Representative Goodson's district, also, but  
21          I would just like to say that you really need  
22          to get this done so if people do decide to run  
23          for office, they will have a chance to know  
24          exactly who to go to, if they decide to raise  
25          funds, because you may raise funds thinking it

1 is going to be one way and it is not.

2 So I would really appreciate it if you  
3 hurried it along and also if you are the ones  
4 that are supposed to be making the maps, make  
5 the maps and then bring it to the people,  
6 because, you know, then we can have a voice  
7 about it. So that is all I have to say. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
10 Mr. Banks, you did very well. And then, I  
11 apologize.

12 MS. PARSONS: Renie.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Renie, Renie Parsons, and  
14 then John Schmitt and then, boy, I am going to  
15 have a hard time with this, somebody at 160-C  
16 something Trail, and I apologize to that lady  
17 or gentlemen.

18 Ms. Parsons, you are recognized.

19 MS. PARSONS: Thank you so much. I will  
20 try not to repeat what has already been said.  
21 I am Renie Parsons from Vero Beach, Florida,  
22 and I was one of 63 percent of Indian River  
23 County residents who voted in support of  
24 Amendments 5 and 6.

25 That is really important for you to know,

1           because Indian River County is not exactly a  
2           Baskin of Democratic party or populism.  
3           Sixty-three percent of Indian River County  
4           support Amendments 5 and 6. So I don't feel I  
5           should have to be here today supporting or  
6           defending Amendments 5 and 6, but here we are.

7           The voters have already spoken and you  
8           really don't need our feedback because we don't  
9           have the demographic information. We don't  
10          have the necessary data that it is going to  
11          take to put those maps together, and we expect  
12          you folks to do the job.

13          It is a big job. You have a lot of  
14          responsibility because as the Washington Post  
15          has said, Florida is the number one state to  
16          watch with regard to redistricting, because of  
17          the 2012 election, and we all know what that  
18          means.

19          So the fate of the country really is in  
20          your hands. I don't think that is overly  
21          dramatic to say that. And it is nice to have a  
22          public hearing, but it is really unnecessary,  
23          because we really need you folks to move along  
24          and do your job, but where are the maps?

25          Well, we know where the maps are.

1           Apparently I have read that some State  
2           legislative -- Legislator was adopted to  
3           withhold the maps. Well, that doesn't sound  
4           very democratic to me. That doesn't sound,  
5           that doesn't sound like a good basis for the  
6           start of this process, so that worries me.

7           And I guess I would just like to add that  
8           it is up to you to do the maps with a credible  
9           job, that have credibility with them, that have  
10          integrity and aren't going to be challenged.

11          I am concerned that we are taking this  
12          time now when there is a very unrealistic  
13          timeline for you folks in January, to put those  
14          maps together. Will those maps be finalized by  
15          March 15th?

16          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am, I apologize. Can  
17          you summarize? You are over time.

18          MS. PARSONS: We would like those maps to  
19          be done so that they follow the legally  
20          mandated timeline and that there is not a delay  
21          at the other end.

22          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am.

23          MS. PARSONS: Thank you.

24          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much for  
25          your comments. John Schmitt, Mr. Schmitt? And

1 now I apologize, someone from 160 something  
2 Trail, 32963. I know your phone number. Is  
3 that you, anybody? I am very sorry if we  
4 missed you up. Dianne, M-a-r-c-u-r, I think,  
5 from Cape Canaveral, and then following Dianne,  
6 Joanne Muncey, and then Libby Duncan and then  
7 Tim Franta or Franta.

8 Dianne, I apologize, is it Marcur?

9 MS. MARCUM: It is Diane Marcum.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Marcum. I am sorry, it  
11 is my eyes, not your writing.

12 MS. MARCUM: No, it is any writing.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are recognized.

14 MS. MARCUM: And I live in Cape Canaveral,  
15 and I would just echo everything everybody said  
16 and I was -- I can't say it any better than the  
17 person that had the water dripping on the  
18 stone.

19 We say it but it, 63 percent of the people  
20 said it, you have your marching orders, for  
21 whatever reason you don't seem to want to  
22 follow them, or if you are going to follow  
23 them, that is great, but that is what we all  
24 seem to be telling you to do.

25 I personally would not want one dollar of

1 my dollar, of my money or any of our money  
2 funding a lawsuit against us. That is such a  
3 waste of taxpayer dollars.

4 In a session you just came out of where  
5 you did away with a lot of other things that  
6 didn't seem very important. So I would ask you  
7 respectfully to please pull back that lawsuit,  
8 because that just seems ridiculous.

9 If I were going to define success for my  
10 opinion, I would look at the map and I would  
11 see chunks instead of snakes. That word keeps  
12 coming up and it is so obvious from everybody's  
13 perspective that there is no reason to have a  
14 snake unless someone is trying to get something  
15 that is outside the logical drawing of the  
16 maps.

17 So I wouldn't want to see any of those. I  
18 think Brevard County, if I am not mistaken, our  
19 population is about equal to the Congressional  
20 District, and about equal to four of your  
21 House, Florida House Districts, and a little  
22 less than two Florida Senate Districts.

23 Excuse the cliché, but it doesn't get, it  
24 isn't rocket science, we are the easiest county  
25 you can deal with, I think, because of our

1 population, we have made it real easy for you.

2 I would like to see Brevard County all one  
3 Congressional District for the most part  
4 because I think we have all of the same common  
5 interests around tourism, technology, space and  
6 echo tourism and environmental issues. So that  
7 would be my suggestion.

8 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, thank you very  
9 much for your testimony. Joanne Muncey.

10 MS. MUNCEY: Yes, good morning, and thank  
11 you for being here, and I am Joanne Muncey from  
12 Cape Canaveral, Florida, and I just want to say  
13 that I really believe that you are all  
14 intelligent enough to take on this challenge.

15 What I am depending on is that you are  
16 going to be fair and creative in keeping  
17 community interests intact, and hopefully  
18 having the common sense to keep neighborhoods  
19 intact and not divided along a street line.  
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
22 ma'am. Next is Libby Duncan and following  
23 Ms. Duncan, Tim Franta or Franta, and then John  
24 Duncan.

25 Okay, Tim, thank you very much for being

1 here and you are recognized. Is it Franta or  
2 Franta?

3 MR. FRANTA: Franta.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Franta, okay. You are  
5 recognized and we look forward to your  
6 testimony.

7 MR. FRANTA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
8 Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I  
9 just wanted to, I will be real quick. I will  
10 submit my testimony, but two things I would  
11 like to say.

12 One, I would like to concur with Bob  
13 Wille, if you do north and south versus east  
14 and west, you can draw districts that have no  
15 higher education, no water sources, no garbage  
16 dumps, no manufacturing.

17 If you do east, west, you get very uniform  
18 districts that have diversity in business and  
19 education, but if you did north and south you  
20 can have really limited districts. So I  
21 encourage east and west, we have far more  
22 similarities than north and south.

23 I would like to disagree with the previous  
24 speaker. We desperately need two Congress  
25 people and let me tell you why.

1           We need someone on the Appropriations  
2           Committee and we need someone on the  
3           Substantive Committee. We have three large  
4           Federal installations in the district and we  
5           have had one seat flip over three times in the  
6           last three elections.

7           So we have no seniority in one seat and  
8           the other seat if you are on a Substantive  
9           Committee you can't be on Appropriations. So  
10          we desperately need two Congressional Seats in  
11          the Space Coast. It is absolutely necessary.

12          And since most of you aren't from here I  
13          would like to point out that we did have some  
14          unity, both the ACLU and a lot of the  
15          Republicans said north, south, central and  
16          beach. So there was some community, I just  
17          wanted to make that observation, so thank you.

18          CHAIRMAN GAETZ: The lion shall lie down  
19          with the lamb. Patricia Farley Crutcher, I  
20          believe, with the Democratic Club, are you  
21          coming, ma'am? And then following her, Lee  
22          Newell and then Jan Siren, and I am sorry,  
23          ma'am, I didn't give you a heads up soon  
24          enough.

25          Thank you for coming and you are

1 recognized.

2 MS. CRUTCHER: Thank you very much for  
3 doing this. First, I would like to say that I  
4 have been a resident in Brevard County over 40  
5 years. I registered when I was 18 and I  
6 haven't missed an election either.

7 I have been a public school teacher for  
8 over 20 years, and the subject that I teach is  
9 American Government. Every year I teach over  
10 300 students what gerrymandering is, why it is  
11 wrong and their textbook says it is  
12 unconstitutional.

13 Now, then I give them a map of the Florida  
14 districts, and with crayons my high school  
15 students can pick out areas that certainly  
16 don't look right. Over around Pinellas County,  
17 around Tampa Bay, around Lake Okeechobee, you  
18 have got districts that start on one side of  
19 the state and go all of the way to the other  
20 with a very thin line.

21 And in Brevard County, our own county, we  
22 have got the north end of the county going a  
23 big loop around to the bottom end of the  
24 county. That doesn't look right either.

25 Now, I am going to ask you to please do

1           what the voters ask and make us some fair  
2           districts. I worked very hard on the fair  
3           districts issue. It is very important to the  
4           voters in this area.

5                     Please draw us some maps. That is your  
6           responsibility, bring us some maps, present us  
7           with the maps, do your jobs and let me be proud  
8           of the state of Florida with my students,  
9           please.

10                    CHAIRMAN GAETZ: And Ms. Crutcher, before  
11           you leave, just a quick, since you are a  
12           history teacher, I learned something I didn't  
13           know and a lot of things I didn't know at the  
14           Gainesville hearing, but we had a teacher at  
15           the Gainesville hearing say that it wasn't  
16           Governor Eldridge Gary from Massachusetts after  
17           whom gerrymandering is named that did it the  
18           first time, that it was Patrick Henry trying to  
19           crowd out James Madison. Is that true?

20                    MS. CRUTCHER: That I am not aware of. I  
21           thought it was Eldridge Gary, that is why my  
22           book says. Thank you.

23                    CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Well, dog-gone, Patrick  
24           Henry, he is starting to get a bad wrap here.  
25           Lee Newell and following Lee Newell, Jan Siren

1 and then Alice Kreitz or Kreitz.

2 Mr. Newell, thank you for coming, and you  
3 are recognized, sir.

4 MR. NEWELL: Thank you for hearing me  
5 today. I live in Micco, Florida, Micco is as  
6 far south in Brevard County as you can go. We  
7 are so far south in Brevard County that we have  
8 an Indian River County zip code and area code  
9 which, of course, makes us part of the infamous  
10 District 29.

11 One thing we do have in common with Mims  
12 at the far north end of Brevard County, is that  
13 we are a rural area and we have lots of senior  
14 citizens. So I have some suggestions for  
15 improving your process.

16 Many of the people I know have dial up  
17 access to the Internet which makes your whole  
18 Internet function really impossible for them to  
19 use. So I think you need to reach out to the  
20 larger community that does not have the  
21 Internet access or does not have the broadband  
22 access to the internet.

23 So you need to find a way to get your  
24 information out and solicit from them, how to  
25 engage the media, I don't know, perhaps you can

1 get Caylee Anthony involved.

2 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: I think she is busy.

3 MR. NEWELL: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank God.

5 MR. NEWELL: And to speed up the process.

6 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: She is not babysitting.

7 MR. NEWELL: Yes. To speed up the process  
8 so that we have an opportunity to comment on  
9 what the Legislature comes up with as far as  
10 new district lines and so that we can avoid the  
11 thing that really concerns me is that right at  
12 the bottom of this on your page you have got  
13 for qualifying for elections, June 4th, through  
14 June 8th, four days to qualify for elections.  
15 I think that is obscene. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: You are welcome. Now,  
17 Jan Siren, please, and then following  
18 Mr. Siren, Alex Kreitz, I am sorry, Alice  
19 Kreitz or Kreitz, and then Ken Greene, please  
20 be ready. Thank you, sir, for coming and you  
21 are recognized.

22 MR. SIREN: Thank you all for coming here  
23 to hear our input. I appreciate this very  
24 much. I don't -- I did not come here with  
25 prepared remarks and it is just as well because

1 given the limitation of time I would have had  
2 to throw them away by now.

3 So what I am going to read to you is  
4 pretty much written in the last few minutes. I  
5 will try to be brief. I take polite exception  
6 to Mr. Tulley's earlier remarks about  
7 randomness in this process.

8 I believe the whole process should be  
9 deliberate. The District Builder tool does not  
10 fully facilitate that. It specifically  
11 excludes voter registration information,  
12 supposedly to avoid even the appearance of  
13 political bias.

14 In other words, you can't bring Republican  
15 versus Democrat versus Independent into the  
16 District Builder tool and I wondered why not.

17 I would expect that after all of these  
18 submissions that various people will make of  
19 maps, party insiders will take the maps and  
20 apply them to other software that includes the  
21 registration information that the public has no  
22 access to and those insiders will maximize the  
23 benefits to incumbents of both parties.

24 I say the voter registration information  
25 should have been made available in that, in the

1 software so that citizens could see the  
2 political impacts of the maps.

3 I would, and finally in conclusion, ten  
4 years from now when we are back here, the  
5 process will be very different. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir, and next,  
8 Alice, is it Kreitz or Kreitz?

9 MR. KREITZ: Kreitz.

10 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Kreitz.

11 MR. KREITZ: It is Kreitz in German.

12 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Yes, ma'am.

13 MR. KRIETZ: And I would like to put in a  
14 plug for my favorite newspaper which is the  
15 local newspaper, Hometown News, because this  
16 Friday they are printing a letter of mine, 800  
17 and some words about the Constitution.

18 So I was pleased to see the Constitution  
19 be brought here today. Well, that only ties in  
20 with those that spoke before me regarding the  
21 Constitution.

22 I came here as a private citizen. Having  
23 worked for two U. S. Senators I have read a lot  
24 of Bills in the past but that was during the  
25 Reagan years before lawyers wrote most of the

1 Bills and amendments and things like that, and  
2 I think that most of the people that voted for  
3 the Amendments 5 and 6 to the Florida  
4 Constitution, you know, probably didn't have  
5 the scope of understanding that many of us need  
6 on definitions.

7 And I actually came here today just to  
8 find out the definition of some of the words in  
9 Amendments 5 and 6, because I sat at home on my  
10 computer and read the words and they just  
11 jumped out at me. What does this really mean?

12 And I think most of us that voted, you  
13 know, for the fair districts probably didn't  
14 take the time to define every single word.

15 So I am just wondering if somehow in all  
16 of your work you could put together the  
17 definition, the best to your ability, of  
18 compact and practicability and feasible, well,  
19 you know, and some of these are really, you  
20 know, they are just confusing words, and then  
21 existing political boundaries, even that is  
22 confusing.

23 I mean, to me it reminds me of what the  
24 definition of is, is, you know, and I did not  
25 have sex with that woman, and that sort of

1           thing. It just, it just somehow doesn't make a  
2           lot of sense when you start reading these  
3           things and wondering, and I come from a state  
4           that had a lot of gerrymandering.

5           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Ma'am, I have to ask you  
6           to wrap up.

7           MS. KREITZ: Okay, so I just don't like  
8           gerrymandering either.

9           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Tank you very much. I  
10          appreciate your testimony. Next is Ken Greene,  
11          Mr. Greene? We did hear from him, okay. Then  
12          Frances Speegle with the Democratic Executive  
13          Committee. Is Frances Speegle here? Very  
14          good, and while you are making your way to the  
15          microphone, Ms. Speegle, please next, Matthew  
16          Susin or Susin, S-u-s-i-n, Susin, I am sorry,  
17          and then Chris Curdis please be prepared to  
18          testify.

19          Ms. Speegle, thank you very much for  
20          coming, and we are grateful you took the time  
21          today to be with us. You are recognized,  
22          ma'am.

23          MR. SPEEGLE: My name is Frances Speegle,  
24          I live in Palm Bay. I have been a citizen of  
25          Florida for 43 years and things keep getting

1 worse.

2 All of you should be ashamed of  
3 yourselves, especially you, Senator  
4 Haridopolos, even with all of your efforts to  
5 stop us, fair districts passed by 63 percent of  
6 the vote. A good many of those voters being  
7 from your party.

8 I worked hard to get that done, now  
9 instead all of you are -- as you now instead of  
10 all of you doing as you should and getting the  
11 maps drawn, I have to watch the lawsuits, these  
12 delaying tactics, this dog and pony show that  
13 we, the taxpayers are paying for.

14 We should be here today looking at maps,  
15 discussing if the lines have been drawn  
16 properly. No maps. Where are the maps?

17 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
18 Ms. Speegle, and next, Matthew Susin, Susin,  
19 Matthew Susin. Not here, Chris Curdis followed  
20 by Mary Nail and Courtney Roberts. Chris  
21 Curdis?

22 Mary Nail? Thank you very much for your  
23 testimony today, we look forward to hearing  
24 from you.

25 MS. NAIL: Thank you, gentlemen, and

1 ladies. As far as my elected officials are  
2 concerned, I actually elected you to represent  
3 me and to do the job that was put forth in the  
4 ballot initiative resulting in Amendments 5 and  
5 6. You see, I don't really like this citizen  
6 legislation idea.

7 I like representative government more than  
8 that and I would like to have you all, yes,  
9 indeed, do the work, but you are providing  
10 ample input for people to come here and present  
11 your ideas and also on-line.

12 If somebody is having trouble with  
13 broadband versus dial up you can go to your  
14 public library, they have broadband, okay. So  
15 there is access for everybody. Anything else  
16 is an excuse.

17 The talking points, people are saying they  
18 don't understand the tools that you have  
19 provided, the Internet tools. That they want  
20 to be involved to the bitter end, that you are  
21 spending too much money, and that they want to  
22 know the definition of words.

23 This audience is clearly representing  
24 those who put forth the ballot initiative. I  
25 did not vote for this, because I believe in

1 representative government.

2 You know, what they are really saying is,  
3 they don't want to provide you with any maps  
4 because they want you to provide maps because  
5 they want to hang you on your map provisions in  
6 the next election and say, look what you did,  
7 look at these awful maps. So therefore, let's  
8 defeat these people.

9 No, I am glad that you are allowing the  
10 public to have input and put forth their maps  
11 because there is the process. The people and  
12 the representatives and you ultimately decide.  
13 So I don't want people that look like me  
14 representing me. I want people that are  
15 qualified, that love the Constitution of the  
16 United States of America, that will carry it  
17 out and I say, bully, bully, buggedy, buggedy,  
18 keep it up, love everything that you are doing  
19 and I support you 100 percent. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.  
21 Nail. Courtney Roberts is next, and following  
22 Courtney Roberts, Mary Hillberg.

23 MS. ROBERTS: I had withdrawn my request  
24 to speak today originally but I resubmitted it  
25 because you guys are getting blasted for --

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  What is your name, sir,  
2           please?

3           MS. ROBERTS:  Courtney Roberts.

4           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Okay.

5           MR. ROBERTS:  R-o-b-e-r-t-s.

6           CHAIRMAN GAETZ:  Got it.  Take your best  
7           shot, two minutes.

8           MS. ROBERTS:  You guys are getting blasted  
9           for trying to do something that I think that we  
10          need to have more of, which is open government.  
11          I am very proud of my Legislature.  I am very  
12          proud of the delegation from Brevard County  
13          that has gone forth this year and done a very  
14          tough job in the last session of trying to take  
15          care of our economy, our state economy in tough  
16          times.  I am very proud of that.

17          The big contention in these hearings that  
18          I have been watching since the first one up in  
19          Jacksonville is the interpretation of the  
20          Constitutional Amendments.

21          What is fair?  And it has got to all boil  
22          down to one thing.  You guys are our  
23          Representatives.  We are a republic, you are  
24          going to have to make that decision.  I am an  
25          engineer.  I am a retired space program

1 engineer. Unlike so many that are just getting  
2 laid off, I lasted through the program until I  
3 had been worn out.

4 But my impression of the way to approach  
5 this is very mechanical. I agree with Mayor  
6 actually. Do a computer break down, make  
7 polygons throughout the whole state, then  
8 incorporate the number of people that are  
9 required to be in each district. The heck with  
10 all of this diversity and special interests and  
11 you got to take care of me so I can take care  
12 of you, do it on the actual numbers.

13 There is no way you cannot have diversity  
14 in a Congressional District in Florida. There  
15 is no possible way. How many hundred thousand  
16 are there? It is going to be diverse. The  
17 people that are saying that you can't do that  
18 without gerrymandering are saying because we  
19 have a black President, white people aren't  
20 represented in this country.

21 Now, I think you guys can do the job and I  
22 have faith in you, thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Next is  
24 Mary Hillberg, Ms. Hillberg and then Shannon  
25 Roberts and then Ernest Williams and then Jim

1 Stroud.

2 Ms. Hillberg, thank you for coming today.

3 You are recognized.

4 MS. HILLBERG: Thank you, I am Mary  
5 Hillberg and I am from Merritt Island, Florida,  
6 and I would like to thank you for having us  
7 here today and I remind you that we have all  
8 voted in a majority way to have this done, and  
9 you have a certain amount of resources to use,  
10 and I would appreciate it, I think all of us  
11 would appreciate it if you would use the  
12 remainder of those resources in a productive  
13 way to do the job that we have asked you to do.

14 I would also agree with Mayor Tulley in  
15 using a nonpartisan blind sort of approach that  
16 would initially give us some kind of a grid or  
17 some kind of an idea of what fair is, and of  
18 course, using the populations statistics that  
19 you have to use. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
21 ma'am. Next is Shannon Roberts, Ms. Roberts  
22 and then following Ms. Roberts, Ernest Williams  
23 and then Jim Stroud.

24 Shannon Roberts, you are recognized,  
25 thanks from coming.

1 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you so much. I am  
2 Shannon Roberts from Cape Canaveral, and I want  
3 to thank you very much for coming here today,  
4 although I agree with certainly a lot of the  
5 presenters that said we probably could have  
6 done this in a more timely way, just proceeded  
7 very aggressively, you know, after November  
8 2010, when we supported 5 and 6 just to move  
9 out smartly.

10 I think the elements of a successful  
11 approach would be that it is fair and obviously  
12 that is what fair districts stand for, it is  
13 professionally done and that is where I do  
14 believe that if we had three to five optional  
15 maps that were professionally prepared by the  
16 staff that we pay for up in Tallahassee, that  
17 we would have been much better off.

18 And also that it should have been customer  
19 focused, because as many have said today, a lot  
20 of the processes used with the website are not  
21 very friendly, very burdensome, even for  
22 professional people, even information  
23 technologists, and it also should be in that  
24 way customer focused and friendly for all of  
25 your residents to use.

1           It should be timely. I think a number of  
2           the persons that have spoken have talked about  
3           the delay in the process, it is going to take  
4           us out to June 2012, when I believe that  
5           Florida is second to last in the nation to have  
6           the redistricting process completed, when we  
7           really should be first in the nation if we  
8           really are making ourselves proud to be  
9           Floridians.

10           And lastly, it should be cost effective.  
11           I know this is something Representative  
12           Crisafuli talks about in terms of cost  
13           effectiveness, and if we look at the costliness  
14           of this process in terms of the different  
15           hearings that are being taken, I know that is  
16           good for the public to have involvement, but  
17           the lawsuit considered as well as the time  
18           involved in dragging this out, I think it has  
19           been a very costly process.

20           And I just would hope in closing that you  
21           would make us proud to be Floridians by making  
22           Florida a showcase for the nation about how to  
23           do it best.

24           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Roberts.  
25           Excellent testimony. Ernest Williams and

1 following Ernest Williams, Jim Stroud and then  
2 Michael Blake, the Mayor of Cocoa. Ernest  
3 Williams.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, Melbourne Beach. For  
5 140 years, one party dominated Florida and drew  
6 the district lines to suit and protect that  
7 party.

8 In 1996 that changed, and another party  
9 took power. All of a sudden things were wrong.  
10 Where was the ACLU and all of these other  
11 protectors of the Constitution for 140 years?

12 Amendment 5 and 6 were passed solely to  
13 undo the election of 1996. I applaud your  
14 attempts to do this in this climate. Dozens of  
15 people have referred to the 63 votes or  
16 63 percent that passed 5 and 6.

17 Well, that is the same election that you  
18 were voted in into office, and one election  
19 does not negate the other. It is your  
20 responsibility. Use common sense and reason  
21 and good luck.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much, Mr.  
23 Williams. Jim Stroud, Mr. Stroud? Are you  
24 with us? Mayor Michael Blake, Mr. Mayor?

25 MAYOR BLAKE: Yes, sir.

1           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you so much for  
2 coming, and thanks for your service to the  
3 people of Cocoa.

4           MAYOR BLAKE: Thank you very much,  
5 Senator, and to all of our elected  
6 Representatives, job well done.

7           I mean, I am a school teacher first and  
8 foremost, and I understand the reason why, you  
9 know, we are seeing both ends of this double  
10 edged sword. So I think you very much for  
11 coming.

12           A few short quick points. One, I want to  
13 say thank you for your commitment. Two, so  
14 long as you do the will of the people and it is  
15 done fair and equitable, then we will stand  
16 beside you and support you. That is all I ask.

17           More so than anything else, sir, we ask  
18 that the maps be readily available, the City of  
19 Cocoa has prospered by having multi  
20 Representatives. Currently we have about three  
21 that runs through our city of Cocoa, Senator  
22 Thad Altman, my Representative Crisafuli, and  
23 also Representative Thomas Goodson.

24           So clearly beyond a shadow of a doubt  
25 there is a great number, there is power in

1 numbers. So we thank you for having that for  
2 us.

3 And in conclusion, I am a little nervous,  
4 believe it or not, can you --

5 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Mayors can't be nervous.

6 MAYOR BLAKE: Oh, yes, we can, I am human  
7 just like everyone else. Yes, sir. In  
8 conclusion, and we want something about you  
9 making history. If I may quote Dr. King, you  
10 are not history makers. History is making you  
11 all. So we thank you very much and God bless  
12 you. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,  
14 Mr. Mayor. We have heard or called 73 people  
15 to testify today. We have received a lot of  
16 extraordinarily helpful testimony.

17 What I would like to do now in our  
18 remaining minutes and we don't have too many  
19 left, is to ask if there are members of the  
20 Committee, Democrats, Republicans, House  
21 members, Senators, who would like to respond to  
22 any questions that were raised or make any  
23 comments or offer any specific proposals.

24 Let me start first with the members of the  
25 House of Representatives.

1           A VOICE: Thank you, Senator, if you  
2 haven't figured it out yet, I am 29, okay. But  
3 I would like to say this. If you leave here  
4 with nothing else, what you should have learned  
5 here today, that 80 people came before us.

6           Out of those 80 people, half could have  
7 been over here, half could have been over there  
8 or a quarter here or there. So that being  
9 said, you can only imagine the job we have to  
10 do, and this being the first time I am  
11 involved, it is extremely pressing to try to  
12 please everybody.

13           So that being said, please, after the  
14 meeting if you have any questions get with me  
15 and my aid, Amy, if you want some further  
16 information we will try to get to it. Please  
17 be as patient as you can with us.

18           We are going through the state, this is  
19 going to be done right. It is going to be done  
20 the right way. Thank you so much. Thank you,  
21 Representative.

22           A VOICE: Members of the House, anymore  
23 members of the House that wish to make comment?

24           A VOICE: Thank you very much. I am the  
25 Vice-Chairman of the House Reapportionment

1 District Subcommittee.

2 There are a lot of things I knew about  
3 Brevard County, growing up in Winter Haven, I  
4 came over to the beach a lot, every time I  
5 could sneak away, that is.

6 It has changed a great deal. We have  
7 learn a lot today that I wouldn't have known  
8 otherwise and to be able to do an effective  
9 job. So for those of you who brought us  
10 concrete suggestions, thank you very much.

11 There are a lot of people who stood up and  
12 said, where are the maps. Folks, some of them  
13 are out in the lobby. If you want to  
14 contribute something constructive, please go  
15 look at those and give us some suggestions  
16 because those are some of the basis that we are  
17 going to start with when we actually get right  
18 down to finalizing this.

19 That is where we are going to start. We  
20 are starting with what the people in each area  
21 want for their Representatives. So that is,  
22 and that is why we are here, so if you have got  
23 some, something to contribute, take a look at  
24 the maps out there and give us your input on  
25 what changes you think ought to be made to

1           those maps.

2                   It is a very good starting point and  
3           really, I beg you to participate in that  
4           process. Freedom is a heavy lift. All you  
5           have to do is look around the world and see how  
6           hard it is to maintain freedom.

7                   It takes everybody's participation. We  
8           are a part time Legislature, most of us have  
9           other jobs to try to maintain. We need your  
10          help. Freedom is a heavy lift, more hands make  
11          a lighter one.

12                   REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Representative  
13          Nehr.

14                   REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you,  
15          Mr. Chairman, and I just want to really quickly  
16          just let everybody know in the audience that  
17          Representative Workman over here is probably  
18          one of the hardest working Legislators for you  
19          in your district.

20                   Let me tell you what, he got many people  
21          to join the Space Caucus, you know, and he had  
22          to explain it me exactly why he needed to do it  
23          but he works extremely hard.

24                   And Chairman Gaetz at the beginning of the  
25          meeting told me to make sure I take a lot of

1 notes to make sure I fully understand your  
2 questions. And the notes that I took about  
3 were referencing more about the timelines that  
4 people were talking about here during the  
5 meeting.

6 And people are referencing timelines in  
7 the various legislative websites and we just  
8 want to let you know, those are deadlines,  
9 those are not goals.

10 The timing for two out of the three maps  
11 that we must draw as Senator Gaetz will tell  
12 you is dictated by the Florida Constitution,  
13 and since the Florida Constitution only allows  
14 passage of the maps after 2012, we in the  
15 Committee just wanted to make sure that we  
16 allowed input from the public during these  
17 summer months.

18 You know, committee meetings start in  
19 September. Maps will be discussed during that.  
20 I am sure we will be seeing maps and public  
21 input will also be allowed at those committee  
22 meetings before anybody makes any votes on any  
23 maps, the public will be allowed to do that.

24 Session, as you know, it starts on  
25 January 10th for two months. We will try and

1           Senator Gaetz and also Representative  
2           Weatherford who is not here, who is the Chair  
3           of the Redistricting Committee for the House,  
4           have also stated in public that we will be  
5           looking and voting on those maps as soon as  
6           possible when the Legislature starts.

7                     It doesn't mean we are going to vote on  
8           them on the last day. We could easily vote on  
9           them in the first week or the second week if  
10          that happens to work out for us in committee  
11          meetings, and I think that people should know  
12          that, but again, we have deadlines but we also  
13          have goals to get them much more ahead of time.  
14          Thank you, Senator.

15                    CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much. The  
16          Chair recognizes Representative Stargel.

17                    REPRESENTATIVE STARGEL: Thank you, I am  
18          Representative Stargel, I represent Polk  
19          County, and this the 12th meeting that I have  
20          attended. We finished session, the date in  
21          April, we finished session in May, we started  
22          these meetings in June. I have five children.  
23          There is a lot of ways I would have liked to  
24          have spent my summer besides going to these  
25          meetings, but they are profitable.

1           Many people have said where are the maps,  
2           draw the maps. I can't begin to assume that I  
3           know what is best for your community until I  
4           have taken the time to hear what is most  
5           important to you.

6           I heard in the panhandle how some people  
7           wanted to have, add districts together and the  
8           coastal areas together, other people wanted to  
9           have vertical lines. The Villages said they  
10          wanted to stay all in one compact little area  
11          in the middle of The Villages.

12          We heard input from Wesley Chapel and the  
13          things I have heard today about considering the  
14          north, the south, the central, these have been  
15          profitable meetings, they have been beneficial.  
16          It is not a dog and pony show.

17          I am taking this information. I am taking  
18          a lot of notes and I am going to go back and  
19          then start trying to draw maps to take what you  
20          need into consideration. So thank you,  
21          Mr. Chairman, for this meeting.

22                 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Representative Legg?  
23                 John?

24                 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Thank you,  
25                 Mr. Chairman. One thing I do want to mention

1 to those here, I know there was some discussion  
2 about the difficulty perhaps using District  
3 Builder. It is a wonderful program and I have  
4 wanted to offer to the community my  
5 professional staff who is becoming quite adept  
6 with District Builder.

7 We will offer our office resources for  
8 workshops or if you have lines that you would  
9 like to have drawn, we will offer that as a  
10 service, because we have no preconceived ideas  
11 of where those lines should be.

12 We want to hear your input. So I have  
13 Trey Holton, Carey Jansen, Rick Kindras here,  
14 all three, I know Trey is spending a lot of  
15 time really becoming adept and expert in  
16 District Builder, so do that, please, offer  
17 that.

18 And I am sitting here, I actually began  
19 the political process as an intern in Jason  
20 Steel's office in the 1981/'82 session, when  
21 they were drawing redistrict lines. So I have  
22 been doing this 30 years off and on and I can  
23 tell you, one thing that a lot of people have  
24 said, they are discontent, their unhappiness  
25 with the way the lines were drawn, even to a

1 point where we have a Constitutional amendment,  
2 with Amendments 5 and 6 and one thing that  
3 really has been in common with all of those  
4 lines that people are upset with is never  
5 before has the Legislature heard input from the  
6 public prior to drawing those lines.

7 What is different this time is we are  
8 going to get public input and we are going to  
9 let the people of Florida participate, and I  
10 think it will be quite different. So I think  
11 this is a good thing, and what is unique in  
12 this process.

13 So I am just honored to it be a part of  
14 it, and again, as I said earlier, our  
15 leadership has shown a great vision and it is  
16 exciting to travel around the state and to  
17 listen different parts and different  
18 communities and what is important to them and I  
19 want to thank the members that took the time to  
20 bring their ideas forward and to assist us in  
21 drawing the best lines possible.

22 CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Other members who wish to  
23 comment or make any statements? Senator Storms  
24 and Senator Rhonda Storms joined us during the  
25 hearing the she heard the testimony and I want

1 to ask if you would like to make any comment,  
2 Senator?

3 SENATOR STORMS: Well, I am here. I have  
4 been fiddling around with the District Builder  
5 in trying to draw maps and I just want to tell  
6 you a little bit about what the experience is,  
7 and do two things.

8 For the teacher that is here, I am a high  
9 school English teacher and for the teacher that  
10 is here, I don't know where you are sitting,  
11 but let me encourage you to give District  
12 Builder, it is on-line, available to your  
13 students, give them an assignment and say for  
14 the first semester, here is your job.

15 Draw maps, divide the class into three  
16 sections. You have the State House, the State  
17 Senate and Congressional Districts and that  
18 should be their project. They will get no  
19 better experience in the political process in  
20 understanding what they can do if they do that,  
21 and I encourage teachers to take that as an  
22 opportunity and besides, it is free. It won't  
23 cost you anything. So that is a good idea, but  
24 let me just tell you this.

25 You understand that when you start with

1 the districts you have to have a certain amount  
2 of population and it is one person, one vote.  
3 So you want to have, when you get down with any  
4 districts you want to kind of land one plus one  
5 or it would be great if it would all be equal,  
6 right, the exact number of people that you need  
7 in the district, but if you can't get there,  
8 then plus one or minus one, right?

9 Now, let me tell you what my experience  
10 is. You look at the state and if you are  
11 thinking, you are like me, you are saying,  
12 okay, can I just do squares. I mean, how hard  
13 is it? Just what you want and all of the  
14 hearings that I have heard, you want compact  
15 districts and you want communities of interest,  
16 right?

17 Well, set aside for a second that  
18 communities of interest is not in the Fair  
19 Districts Amendment, but I will try and draw  
20 you your districts on compactness and  
21 communities of interest.

22 And so what you do is, I said, okay, where  
23 do I start, would I start, if I am drawing  
24 those districts would I start in the middle of  
25 the state and then what would happen with the

1 population as I got to the end of the state  
2 around the fringe.

3 So instead of starting in the middle of  
4 the state I started at the end of the state.  
5 So I started up by the panhandle and then my  
6 plan is to rotate back and forth, top of the  
7 state, bottom of the state, top of the state,  
8 and hopefully by the middle I will come up with  
9 a bunch of people left to draw districts,  
10 right.

11 So then as I looked at District Builder, I  
12 went in and I started doing what you might do,  
13 which is pick up by counties, grab this county,  
14 this county, this county until I got where I  
15 needed to be with District 1.

16 Well, that left me about 6,000 people over  
17 by doing just the counties. So now I had to  
18 stop and I had to say, okay, now, I have to  
19 lose 6,000 people. How do I lose 6,000 people.

20 Well, I do what the District Builder says,  
21 it takes you down to the VTDs, which are voter  
22 tabulation districts, and those are kind of  
23 communities of interest. So I start taking out  
24 VTDs.

25 I find myself now 200 people short for my

1 district. So now I have to add 200 people.  
2 How do I do that? I now have to drill down  
3 even further to go to the census blocks, which  
4 is what the census has provided us, and so now  
5 I can start until I get to just plus one minus  
6 one, now I have my district that I have worked  
7 so hard on now. I spent an hour on this one  
8 district.

9 And now because I am working in the census  
10 block, now I have to come out and take the  
11 larger view of the district, and what do I  
12 find. Now I see what the district looks like  
13 by numbers and I find that it is kind of funky.

14 I have got this little squiggly thing over  
15 here and I am looking at that and I am like,  
16 somebody is going to say that is not compact  
17 and I am trying to do something bad.

18 So I say to my staff and I am looking,  
19 okay, we have got to square this up. Cut this  
20 off and bring it down.

21 Now, here is where these public meetings  
22 are important, because if I go to square it up  
23 and I want to find out where I lose people in a  
24 place I know nothing about, the public hearings  
25 will tell me if you are going to take from

1            somewhere, if you are going to make a line  
2            break, break at this road, break at the  
3            Interstate, break at this toll road and keep  
4            this community together if you can do it.

5            I have not looked at minority districts.  
6            I have not looked at party affiliation. That  
7            is how I am doing it.

8            One last thing that I will tell you is  
9            this, that after you do all of that, you have  
10           got the Fair Voting Rights. You have got the  
11           Voting Rights Act that you have to apply to  
12           that.

13           We cannot infringe upon the rights of  
14           minorities. So after I do all of this  
15           compactness, what will happen with my minority  
16           access seats. I don't know the answer to that  
17           question yet, but I will tell you in my  
18           district, there are people who care whether or  
19           not people who look like them, who talk like  
20           them actually have a shot to be elected.

21           And so take is what I am working at, and I  
22           am sorry, Mr. Chair, for taking so long but I  
23           thought that that explanation was -- would be  
24           helpful to people. Thank you.

25           CHAIRMAN GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1           Senator Storms, we are at the end of our period  
2           of time.

3                     (Whereupon, the proceedings were  
4           concluded.)

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA )

COUNTY OF LEON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned, and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing pages 2 through 173 represent a true, correct, and complete transcript of the tape-recording;

And I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2011.

\_\_\_\_\_

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014