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CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2011

Transcribed by:

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Court Reporter

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

2 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Okay, members, we
3 are going to call this meeting to order.

4 Katie, would you please call the roll?

5 THE CLERK: Representatives Abruzzo?

6 REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Here.

7 THE CLERK: Albritton?

8 REPRESENTATIVE ALBRITTON: Here.

9 THE CLERK: Brodeur?

10 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Here.

11 THE CLERK: Burgin?

12 REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Here.

13 THE CLERK: Chestnut?

14 REPRESENTATIVE CHESTNUT: Here.

15 THE CLERK: Fullwood?

16 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Here.

17 THE CLERK: Goodson?

18 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Here.

19 THE CLERK: Horner?

20 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Here.

21 THE CLERK: Legg?

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEGG: Here.

23 THE CLERK: Passidomo?

24 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Here.

25 THE CLERK: Plakon?

1 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Here.

2 THE CLERK: Reed?

3 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Here.

4 THE CLERK: Taylor?

5 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Here.

6 THE CLERK: Trujillo?

7 REPRESENTATIVE TRUJILLO: Here.

8 THE CLERK: Chair Holder?

9 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Here.

10 THE CLERK: A quorum is present.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Great. And

12 members, forgive me, I've got a little bit of
13 an issue. I am not contagious, but my voice
14 may go a little bit during this, and if it
15 does, then we will just pass the gavel down to
16 Chair Legg.

17 But, first of all, thank you, and welcome
18 to -- for being here, and welcome to the
19 Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee. The
20 bulk of our meeting today will consist of a
21 staff presentation and opportunities for your
22 feedback and input regarding public testimony
23 for redistricting. We are going to hear a
24 short presentation regarding updates to public
25 information and changes to our websites.

1 We will use this meeting and our first
2 meeting in October, essentially dividing that
3 public input into two parts to divide into the
4 specific suggestions the public gave for
5 drawing districts.

6 Today we are going to summarize what was
7 heard in the first four regions we visited this
8 summer, including written input about those
9 same four regions and any partial maps that
10 have been submitted which impact those regions.

11 In our first meeting in October, we will
12 cover the fifth region, southwest Florida, and
13 any complete or near complete maps submitted by
14 the public. But before we can get into that, I
15 want to share some direction and suggestions
16 that Chair Weatherford provided us in the
17 Redistricting Committee meeting held just
18 before this meeting.

19 First, the bulk of the work during the
20 next couple of months will be done by the three
21 redistricting subcommittees. At this point in
22 the process, our subcommittee will begin
23 digesting all of this information so that
24 members may react, make suggestions and mesh
25 these ideas with the legal requirements of

1 federal and state redistricting laws.

2 Over the last few months, we have heard
3 from approximately 5,000 people who came to the
4 26 meetings, approximately 2,000 of whom
5 presented their ideas at the meetings. We are
6 in receipt of 64 partial or complete maps from
7 the public. The Legislature only received four
8 maps ten years ago. We are also in receipt of
9 more than 200 additional unique suggestions for
10 maps that came via social media, e-mails,
11 letters, faxes and public meetings and even a
12 postcard. Based on this public input, our
13 subcommittee should have more than enough
14 information to prepare committee proposals in
15 addition to any individual member bills that
16 are offered.

17 Chair Weatherford's request of us is that
18 our subcommittee pass at least three maps for
19 the full Redistricting Committee to consider.
20 In other words, he is asking that we give the
21 full committee three options for the
22 congressional map.

23 Exactly how each subcommittee meets --
24 meets that goal is up to the members of that
25 subcommittee. We can do that through PCBs,

1 member bills or a combination of the two.

2 To meet that goal, we need to set some
3 goals of our own in terms of the time line.
4 Chair Weatherford has recommended that members
5 who wish to file a redistricting Bill do so
6 before November 14th through 18th interim
7 committee week. So each individual that wants
8 to file a redistricting Bill needs to do that
9 before the November 14th and 18th interim
10 committee week. You are certainly welcome to
11 use the full time line allowed for filing
12 legislation, to file your redistricting maps as
13 bills, but practically speaking, anything filed
14 after that November 14th date will probably
15 have to be considered as an amendment. We say
16 this because it should be expected that our
17 subcommittee will workshop redistricting maps
18 so that any redistricting maps that get voted
19 on have time to mature in the legislative
20 process and be compared to other options, and
21 also give ample time for public input. In
22 other words, it is preferred that votes taken
23 on maps reflect more than one committee meeting
24 in which that map was discussed.

25 For the public, Chair Weatherford is

1 recommending that members of the public submit
2 any original suggestions for maps before
3 November 1st. That gives you, the members,
4 approximately two weeks to study those
5 submissions before your own suggested
6 datelines -- deadlines, excuse me. Of course,
7 we will accept comments and suggestions from
8 the public throughout the process, but
9 practically speaking, anything received after
10 November 1st and thereafter will have to be
11 viewed as comments and reactions to the maps
12 that are already working their way through the
13 legislative process.

14 Regarding expectations for each of us
15 individually, members who would like to present
16 maps or amendments in this subcommittee will be
17 given as much courtesy as possible to get their
18 ideas on an agenda to be presented. However,
19 it is important to note that members will be
20 expected to explain in detail how they
21 developed their maps or amendments. Even if
22 you opt to file a map that a member of the
23 public offered line for line, be ready to
24 explain your map district by district, if
25 necessary.

1 And just one last note before I turn it
2 over to any questions that you may have, in the
3 next day or two, Chair Weatherford will be
4 sending out a memo to you and all 120 members
5 refreshing everyone about some of the
6 procedural items for redistricting that we
7 discussed last April in our initial committee
8 meetings.

9 And with that being said, members, are
10 there any questions? Representative Taylor,
11 you are recognized.

12 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.
13 Chair.

14 After we have completed the -- that work
15 up to November 14th, thereafter, what would be
16 the process on narrowing down the number of
17 maps to the three particular maps that we want
18 to suggest to the full Committee?

19 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: It is a great
20 question. I am glad you asked it. We are
21 going to deal with this almost as if -- almost
22 in the way that you have dealt with workshops
23 in the past. There will be member
24 participation by each of the members of this
25 subcommittee, and we will agree upon what maps

1 we are going to -- we are not limited to just
2 three. It is a minimum of three. So we are
3 going to decide what maps we are going to send
4 to the main Committee out of this subcommittee,
5 and we will all take part in doing that, we
6 will send them to the main Committee, and the
7 main Committee then will have the opportunity
8 to choose out of at least three maps coming
9 from this subcommittee.

10 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Any other
12 questions? Great.

13 Now, before we go forward with today's
14 presentation, just as a reminder, our staff are
15 here to answer technical questions, to provide
16 analysis of the public input, to help us craft
17 options for these maps, and when necessary, to
18 get us to the additional resource -- to get us
19 the additional resources that we may need to
20 come to a decision. They are not here to
21 answer the overarching policy questions that
22 are, frankly, more appropriate for us as
23 members to debate. So if you find that your
24 questions are about bigger, broader issues of
25 the legislative direction, our redistricting

1 time line, things of that nature, I am going to
2 ask that you direct those questions directly to
3 me versus staff.

4 With that being said, we have all at one
5 time or another met Ben Fairbrother, who is
6 standing at the podium, who has done a great
7 job this summer working very hard in our
8 listening tour, and he is going to give us a
9 brief update as to what is new with our
10 websites and public information now that the
11 public meetings are over and we are entering
12 into the next phase of this process.

13 And, Ben, you are recognized to give your
14 presentation. Thank you for being here.

15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 As the Chair said, this afternoon I will
17 be presenting a brief update on some of the new
18 features of floridaredistricting.org, as well
19 as our other committee websites. As you can
20 see on the screen, we have loaded
21 floridaredistricting.org, and although the look
22 of the site should be familiar to you, there
23 have been some significant additions over the
24 last several weeks.

25 With the public hearings wrapped up this

1 summer, all that public informa- -- public
2 input has been added to
3 floridaredistricting.org, and -- but let's
4 first start with the left side of the page as
5 we scroll down here.

6 We look at the "Legislative Headlines"
7 section. This section changes the most
8 frequently. All the latest news and updates on
9 the redistricting process can be found here.
10 For example, materials from today's meetings
11 are actually posted here. In addition, if your
12 constituents want the latest information on
13 what is happening with the redistricting
14 process, those answers will likely be found
15 here.

16 The next set of links that you will see on
17 the page if you scroll down is the "Public
18 Participation" section. This is where
19 Floridians can find ways, obviously, to
20 participate in the process. There are a number
21 of different handouts that are helpful to you
22 and your staff and the public. In particular,
23 the concepts and terminology document is the
24 one that is frequently requested by your staff.
25 This document goes over the basics of

1 redistricting and includes definitions of
2 vocabulary that is frequently used in the
3 process.

4 If you look down to the "Legal Concepts"
5 section, this section hasn't changed
6 significantly over this last several months;
7 however, I will point out that the legal
8 presentations that you were given in April in
9 committee are available under this section. So
10 if you would like to pull those up, those are
11 there.

12 To the bottom right of the page, you will
13 see the section called "Additional Resources"
14 right here. This is another one that we
15 frequently reference to your staff. The first
16 link right here gives the current populations
17 of each district and as well as how many people
18 that district needs to gain or lose in the 2012
19 redistricting process. And under this section
20 as well you can also find House, Senate and
21 congressional maps, as well as individual
22 district maps.

23 If you scroll up on the page a little bit,
24 you will see a number of buttons on the right
25 side here. And the first one I would like to

1 draw your attention to is the "Public Hearing
2 Videos" button right here. This button used to
3 be entitled "Watch Meetings Live" during the
4 summer public meetings. Because this button
5 was such a popular button then, and still is,
6 we have turned this button into an archive site
7 that will allow the public to get quick access
8 to video archives from those meetings.

9 Below the "Blog and Resources" button is
10 the "Meeting Records" button. That will bring
11 you to a page that has all of the videos and
12 podcasts and action packets from the past
13 redistricting committee meetings, and I have
14 pulled it up here.

15 The next button I would like to draw your
16 attention to is -- actually, if I could go back
17 to that page, I will show you a couple of
18 things. This will bring you to a page -- like
19 I said, this includes all the podcasts and
20 action packets. The most recent blog posting
21 that we had gives the public a greater insight
22 into the transition between the summer meetings
23 and the interim.

24 Moving to the middle of this page, you
25 will see where constituents can find in-depth

1 answers to the process and other meeting
2 records. And then to the right of the page,
3 you will see a list over here of all the links
4 to our different sites, back to
5 floridaredistricting.org, including our social
6 media sites and that sort of thing.

7 I am going to go back to
8 floridaredistricting.org. The final button
9 that I would like to show you on this site here
10 is the "Public Submissions" button, and this
11 will take you to another blog-style page, and
12 not only does this page include every public
13 map submission that we have had, but it also
14 includes all the written testimony that
15 we've -- that's been submitted to the
16 Redistricting Committee. And you will see
17 those on the left side here.

18 These map submissions can be searched in a
19 number of different ways, including the
20 different type of map, the Senate map,
21 congressional or House map. It can be searched
22 by county. It can also be searched by name if
23 you know the name of the constituent that
24 submitted that map.

25 Now, each public submission of a map, on

1 the left side here you can see includes a
2 summary of the submission, statistics relevant
3 to the plan, the PDF file and the ability to
4 download that map in a KMZ format. So if you
5 are reviewing the public submissions and you
6 see a certain map that you would like to
7 explore in detail or enhance using My District
8 Builder, you can quickly download that plan
9 into My District Builder using that KMZ file
10 link, which is located right here.

11 So let's quickly run through how to save
12 one of these files on your computer and then
13 open it up in My District Builder. The first
14 thing we are going to do is click on the KMZ
15 file link right here, and it automatically
16 prompted me to save this to my desktop. You
17 name it what you like to name it and save it
18 where you would like to. I am going to go
19 ahead and click "Save," "Yes." So now that
20 file has been saved in my computer. The next
21 thing you will do is open up My District
22 Builder, which we already have loaded, and you
23 will go to the "File" tab and then click
24 "Open." You will locate the plan that you just
25 saved to your computer, select it and "Open,"

1 and this box tells you that there might be a
2 delay while the file loads, depending on the
3 size of the file, whether it is -- if it's a
4 congressional plan that has 27 districts in it,
5 it might take a little bit longer, obviously,
6 than a congressional plan that only has two. I
7 will say "Okay," and then as you can see, in a
8 second it will load up, and I will make this
9 bigger for you so you can see, full screen, and
10 you can see that that single Senate district
11 that we have loaded onto our computer is now
12 loaded into My District Builder, you can
13 explore the demographics of it and you can
14 enhance that district to your own liking.

15 Now, if you would like a more detailed
16 review of this process or the different
17 additions to our website, we would be happy to
18 make our staff available to you one-on-one,
19 and, of course, as additional changes are made,
20 the Committee will be updated.

21 Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
22 would be happy to take any questions.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Thank you for your
24 very detailed presentation.

25 Members, do you have any questions for

1 Mr. Fairbrother? Representative Taylor, you
2 are recognized for a question.

3 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.
4 Chair, and I will make this brief.

5 As far as the finished product, the
6 finished map, do we submit that particular file
7 to Bill Drafting, or what happens as far as
8 filing a completed map for a Bill?

9 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Mr. Fairbrother.

10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Mr. Chair, if I could
11 defer to either my staff director --

12 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Alex?

13 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 Yes, Representative Taylor, the process is
15 basically the same as most other bills, with
16 one exception, that you first submit it to the
17 House Redistricting Committee. The House
18 Redistricting Committee will then prepare it in
19 a proper format, submit it to Bill Drafting for
20 you -- so let's say it is a Bill or a floor
21 amendment, submit it to Bill Drafting for you,
22 but then you will still through the LEGUS
23 system, you or your legislative aide will still
24 get the e-mail asking if you actually want to
25 file that information. So the one difference

1 is the House Redistricting Committee is a
2 middle man between you and the Bill Drafting.

3 For committee amendments, as you would for
4 any other committee, you will just come
5 directly to the House Redistricting Committee,
6 and Bill Drafting is not part of committee
7 amendments.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: And I think,
9 Representative Taylor, you will also find that
10 in your packet -- and we will get into this in
11 just a few minutes -- you are going to see
12 there are a lot of -- a lot of ideas in here
13 that came about based on suggestions made by
14 the general public that were literally comments
15 from the podium, and staff has taken those
16 suggestions and actually manipulated that
17 portion of a region or an area into what it
18 would look like on a map, so that they -- so
19 you can actually see what someone's suggestion
20 is, and it's saved the computer system -- the
21 software program so that it can be used at some
22 point by this Committee if we so choose to use
23 that. So --

24 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: I was really
25 trying to -- I know this is going to be pushed

1 through like a Bill, Mr. Chair, but when it
2 comes to the actual Bill itself, who is going
3 to do the -- is staff going to do an analysis
4 of the Bill, or how does it -- how do the
5 particulars work when it comes to defining,
6 again, what you said earlier in your criteria
7 on how we would have to pretty much defend what
8 it is or explain how we got to this point, how
9 does the actual Bill look? Because now we get
10 the staff analysis and, you know, pretty much
11 the background and all these other things. Is
12 that process still going to be the same?

13 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: At this point, we
14 are not sure what it is going to look like. We
15 don't know if it is going to be a PCB, we don't
16 know if it is going to be a member Bill, we
17 don't know if it is going to be a combination
18 of the two. So it is kind of hard to answer
19 that question, other than in very general
20 terms, you can expect that it would look like
21 any other Bill that was brought before the
22 Legislature. However, this is going to be
23 something that is workshopped even if it --
24 even if it is a member's Bill, so that your
25 participation, as well as my participation or

1 Representative Horner's participation in this
2 subcommittee will be taken into consideration
3 and a part of the process.

4 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: And to follow up,
5 Mr. Chair, will other members outside of the
6 congressional subcommittee be allowed to file
7 bills or maps, and would that count against
8 their six bills that they are allowed to file?

9 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes, it would be
10 considered just like any other Bill that would
11 be filed, and certainly everyone in the
12 Legislature has the opportunity to file their
13 bills within their Bill slot numbers, but, yes,
14 it would be considered. If you file a
15 stand-alone Bill that has to do with
16 redistricting, it would be one of your six.

17 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: So --

18 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Follow-up.

19 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Follow-up, thank
20 you. So then they would have to file a Bill
21 with all three and reference the House -- 120
22 House seats, the 40 Senate seats and the 27
23 congressional seats. Would they have to file
24 it in one Bill, or are they three separate
25 bills?

1 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: We -- there's
2 going to be three separate bills that will be
3 voted on for the House district lines, the
4 Senate district lines and the congressional
5 district lines. I think I am hearing your
6 question -- I think I am answering the question
7 that I am hearing, but any member of the
8 Legislature has the opportunity to file a Bill
9 as a stand-alone Bill pertaining to essentially
10 whatever topic they feel is important, and it
11 will be -- even redistricting would be handled
12 just like any of those bills that you have
13 filed in the past and we would go through the
14 entire vetting process. However, it could be
15 that that one Bill that you write as an
16 individual member of the Legislature, one of
17 your six bills, could be the map that is chosen
18 for all of the congressional districts in the
19 state of Florida, that can happen, and I
20 certainly encourage you to do as much homework
21 as you can and draw maps and present them to
22 us. Sure, and what we will do is we will have
23 Alex just go ahead and expand on that a little
24 bit and move forward, so Alex.

25 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and just

1 to address the technical side of the questions
2 that you are asking, the -- you would file one
3 of the three plans, House, Senate or
4 congressional. The House and Senate by the
5 Florida Constitution will at the end of the
6 process be passed on a singular -- single joint
7 resolution. The congressional plan would be
8 passed as a general Bill, which is why they
9 take a different path. The House and Senate go
10 directly to the Florida Supreme Court -- or I
11 shouldn't say that -- they go to the Attorney
12 General, then to the Supreme Court. The
13 congressional plan goes to the Governor,
14 because there are two different types of bills.
15 But the bills themselves, as the Chair was
16 saying, look like any other Bill, except that
17 it is quite a lengthy Bill, it is about 400
18 pages, depending on how it prints out, of just
19 literally census blocks being assigned to a
20 district. So it reads, "District 10 has
21 Jackson County and the following census blocks
22 from Holmes County," and so forth. And so with
23 that, you are used to seeing a written Bill
24 analysis. What you will see with the
25 redistricting plan, just because it is a

1 different type of legislation, is you will see
2 a statistical analysis in lieu of a written
3 Bill analysis.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Follow-up?

5 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.
6 Chair.

7 And like we normally do with our bills, do
8 we need to have a Senate companion Bill or a
9 Senate sponsor for that same very Bill?

10 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Not necessarily.
11 We will -- I don't want to get the cart before
12 the horse, because we haven't really determined
13 at this point what it is going to look like,
14 whether it is going to be a PCB or an
15 individual Bill, so -- but I wouldn't think
16 that through this process it would necessarily
17 have to have a Senate sponsor in the same way
18 that other bills have in the past.

19 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Follow-up,
20 Mr. Chair?

21 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Yes, follow-up.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: I am not talking
23 about a PCB. I am mainly talking about a
24 stand-alone Bill that I would file, will I need
25 to go get a Senate sponsor for that same Bill,

1 that is all.

2 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Thank you for your
3 questions.

4 Members, any other questions? Great.

5 Now we are going to the packet that you
6 have in front of you, members. This is the
7 same packet of information that the
8 Redistricting Committee and other subcommittees
9 will receive today, and this will be the
10 subject of what our staff, Alex Kelly and Jeff
11 Takacs, is presenting today. And Alex Kelly is
12 the one that is sitting next to me. I kept
13 referring to you as Alex. I should call you
14 Mr. Kelly formally here in our meetings.

15 The first four tabs relate to the four
16 regions we are discussing today. The fifth
17 tab, which we have included for you, is summary
18 level data regarding the first 63 maps that
19 have been submitted by the public, the first 63
20 maps that have been submitted by the public.
21 Note all of this information will also be
22 available on floridaredistricting.org for
23 anyone in the public to review.

24 What I would suggest is since the packet
25 covers four regions of the state, I think that

1 what we will do is we will ask Mr. Kelly and
2 Mr. Takacs to present one region at a time, and
3 then I will open up to any questions or
4 comments that you might have about that
5 particular region. So with that being said,
6 Mr. Kelly and Mr. Takacs, you are recognized to
7 begin your presentation.

8 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: And that is Mr.
10 Takacs.

11 MR. TAKACS: Thank you.

12 Before we get started, I wanted to kind of
13 show you what the first slide would look like
14 within northwest Florida and then kind of talk
15 to you about how you can follow along with me
16 and Alex as we go forward.

17 You will notice on this slide here on the
18 screen on the upper left-hand side, you will
19 see the NW-4. What we are doing, as you look
20 at your book, we are not actually going to be
21 talking about all of the examples within your
22 book, because either, A, it doesn't actually
23 match up with a congressional map, or B, just
24 for the sake of time, we are not able to go
25 through all of the examples. So if you are

1 following along in the book, just keep an eye
2 on that upper left-hand portion of the screen,
3 and then you will be able to follow along
4 within the book or you can just watch the
5 screen as we move forward.

6 Talking about northwest Florida here, this
7 is the first example. We received testimony in
8 the Tallahassee meeting talking about removing
9 Jefferson County from current Congressional
10 District 4, which on the screen is the yellow
11 district going from Duval County all the way
12 over to parts of Leon County there. And this
13 is a real good example about a request or
14 something that can happen in one county and the
15 effect that it can have on another county. In
16 this instance, the person requested that all of
17 Jefferson County be removed from this district.
18 Well, of course, Jefferson County being just
19 the county to the east of Leon County, if you
20 were to remove that district from that county,
21 you would also have to remove the Leon County
22 portion of that district as well for it to be
23 contiguous. So that is an example of how one
24 county can affect another within this process.

25 A very common request that we received

1 from many citizens across the state talks about
2 their own city or municipality and keeping them
3 whole within the process. This is an example
4 here in northwest Florida that we see that
5 deals with the City of Monticello. Someone
6 testified that they would like their city whole
7 within this redistricting process. That is
8 what the City of Monticello would look like.
9 As you note as you look at that, those city
10 limits in terms of a district, you will notice
11 that there are some holes within the city
12 limits that if you were to draw that as a
13 legislative district, a congressional district,
14 you would have to fill those holes and address
15 those issues in order to create a district.

16 It is also important to note, thinking
17 about city boundaries, sometimes when you are
18 working with a city boundary, it may also not
19 be contiguous, so you would have to fill in
20 geographies of land to make it so.

21 Similarly to the first example that we
22 just talked about, there was some testimony
23 talking about linking eastern Leon County for
24 congressional as well as Senate districts,
25 thinking about a district -- a congressional

1 district being more centered within that
2 region. Here again, we have shown
3 Congressional District 4 that extends from
4 Duval County to Leon County, you can see the
5 Leon County portion is kind of highlighted in a
6 pink color there. Again, those folks would be
7 asking for their Congressional Representative
8 represent an area that is more centered within
9 Leon County and the Big Bend region.

10 Here we talk about linking Wakulla and
11 Leon Counties. There was testimony in the
12 Tallahassee meeting talking about those two
13 counties and how similar they are and they have
14 similar interests and similar people and things
15 of that sort. It is important to note when
16 thinking about a district like this that
17 connects two of these counties like this does
18 here, you are land-locking yourself. And what
19 I mean by that is that if you are building
20 districts from the west to the east, and you
21 want to keep this district whole that you have
22 just created, linking Wakulla and Leon
23 Counties, all of your districts to the west
24 have to be the ideal population for a
25 congressional district. If they are not, as

1 you are moving east, you are going to have to
2 break up this district that is created here.
3 So just something to think about. There are
4 certain areas of the state as you are building
5 that you have to be cautious of land-locking
6 yourself in a specific district in a specific
7 region.

8 A very popular topic in the Pensacola, Ft.
9 Walton Beach and Panama City meetings was the
10 concept of keeping districts horizontal or
11 vertical. We had a number of people testify on
12 both sides of the issue for horizontal and
13 vertical districts. To give you kind of a
14 general flavor of what those folks were talking
15 about, folks who were in favor of horizontal
16 districts talked about linking communities that
17 are very similar to one another, whether it be
18 economical -- you know, economic issues that
19 they have in common, if it is tourism, the
20 folks to the south and the beach communities in
21 that region talked about having more in common
22 with the beach communities in the county next
23 door versus the northern area of those
24 counties, which tend to be more agricultural
25 and more rural, and so those folks would

1 also -- talking about being horizontal
2 districts, those folks to the north also
3 testified saying, "We would like to be kept
4 together as well."

5 On the other side of the aisle, you had
6 folks that talked about vertical districts,
7 talking about keeping counties whole within
8 this process, not crossing county boundary
9 lines as much as you can, and thinking about a
10 county as a whole, saying, you know, "We as a
11 county are all one community, and we should be
12 kept together as a county in this process."

13 Thinking about horizontal districts, going
14 back for just a second, if you create
15 horizontal districts, thinking in the
16 congressional map, if you look to the north of
17 all of those counties, they are less populated
18 than the southern regions of all of those
19 counties are. So what may occur is you would
20 have a longer, big district to the north that
21 might stretch over several counties, whereas
22 you may have shorter county -- shorter
23 districts on the southern end of that region as
24 well.

25 Again, thinking about keeping cities whole

1 in this process, we did hear testimony from the
2 City of Destin asking that they be kept whole
3 within this process. Again, you will see that
4 there are some holes within the city limits of
5 Destin that would need to be filled within a
6 congressional district.

7 It is also important to note, thinking
8 about city boundaries, thinking about the VTDs
9 and the testimony that we received from the
10 Supervisors of Election across the state, many
11 of them asked that the Voter Tabulated
12 Districts, which are the boundaries that they
13 created in an attempt to minimize voter
14 confusion to keep communities whole and
15 neighborhoods whole, they asked that we try to
16 build as many districts as possible with whole
17 VTDs. Oftentimes when you are building a
18 district and you want to include an entire city
19 within that district, you are oftentimes going
20 to have to choose between keeping VTDs whole or
21 to split VTDs in order to go right along the
22 city boundaries. So that is a policy decision
23 that you would have to make.

24 The next example actually talks about two
25 different congressional districts. The first

1 is asking that all of Okaloosa County be put
2 into Congressional District 1 and south Walton
3 County be put into Congressional District 2. A
4 couple of things here of note: Of course,
5 thinking about where we are in the state, the
6 testimony did not talk about what is west of
7 Okaloosa County. Thinking about District 1,
8 you would have to think about going west as
9 well with District 1, so that is something to
10 think about.

11 Thinking about that south Walton County
12 suggestion, it wasn't actually defined, the
13 parameters of south Walton County weren't
14 defined in the testimony. Just so you had a
15 visual here for this purpose, we used I-10 as
16 the dividing line in Walton County to divide
17 north to south. There certainly could be other
18 geographic or roadway barriers that could be
19 used to create that district.

20 Also, too, obviously thinking about this
21 Congressional District 2 and for District 1,
22 obviously with an ideal population of nearly
23 696,000 people, you'd have to add to south
24 Walton County or to Okaloosa County in order to
25 meet that ideal population for a district.

1 The next issue came up in our Panama City
2 hearing. This is the concept of keeping Bay
3 County whole versus splitting it into different
4 districts. There were arguments on both sides
5 of this issue as well. The folks that were in
6 Bay County that argued to keep Bay County whole
7 in this process said, you know, "We want to be
8 able to go to a single Representative, we want
9 to know who that person is. We would like for
10 them to live near us and be in our community,
11 someone we could have access to and be able to
12 communicate with." On the other side, there
13 were folks who said, you know, "I like having
14 multiple voices representing me in Washington
15 and Tallahassee, and I would like to see, you
16 know, maybe there being multiple
17 Representatives representing this area." So
18 that is, again, a policy decision that would
19 need to be made. On the screen here, this is
20 what Bay County as a whole would look like if
21 it were all in one singular district.

22 Thinking about Bay County as well,
23 obviously, again, thinking about a
24 congressional district when you are trying to
25 meet nearly 700,000 people, if you were to keep

1 Bay County whole, you would have to add other
2 counties or communities to it to meet that
3 ideal population.

4 This was a unique request that we got that
5 is interesting to look at. This is the concept
6 of syncing up legislative and congressional
7 districts with judicial circuit boundary lines.
8 This is a political boundary, thinking about
9 judicial circuit boundary lines, that is
10 something that could be examined. For this
11 example, what we have done here is this is the
12 14th Judicial Circuit, which is all outlined
13 here. One of the biggest challenges that you
14 would run into if you were running into this
15 concept is that judicial circuits are not drawn
16 based on population, which is obviously the
17 main driver of what redistricting is. So you
18 may need to -- as an example, if you were
19 creating a congressional district, the district
20 shown above may not meet that ideal population
21 for a congressional district, so you would be
22 forced to cross that line into another county
23 or community to create that district.

24 Again, this is the horizontal versus
25 vertical argument that we spoke about a moment

1 ago, but this one was a little bit different in
2 that the example here, if you are looking --
3 following along in your book, specific roadways
4 and specific cities were mentioned in this
5 particular suggestion to us as opposed to more
6 of the global issue of vertical versus
7 horizontal. So there were specific roadways
8 used, thinking about Highway 98 as a dividing
9 line, and there were other municipalities, both
10 north and south, that were suggested to be
11 linked together. So that is kind of another
12 opportunity or another way that that could be
13 done as well.

14 Here is a publicly submitted map. It is a
15 partial map of a congressional district that
16 extends from Escambia County and goes west
17 here, grabbing whole counties. Thinking about
18 this specific map, it is 8,438 people short of
19 the ideal population of a congressional map, so
20 it would need to have more people and more
21 communities added to it, but, clearly, you
22 know, this is a map looking to keep counties
23 whole within that District 1.

24 Next here is a public submission that we
25 received as well. This is a District 2,

1 thinking about the Big Bend region. A couple
2 of things to look at on the screen as you are
3 looking at this: The actual district that was
4 drawn in peach is the submitted district that
5 they gave to us. The pinkish-purplish outline
6 that you also see on the map is the current
7 District 2. As we reviewed this submission and
8 reviewed the current District 2, we believe
9 what they were attempting to do here was to
10 take the current district and try to adjust it
11 to meet the ideal population. We don't know
12 that for sure, but that is what we suspect as
13 we reviewed this particular submission.
14 Thinking about that, too, they came within 574
15 people of the ideal population in drawing this
16 map. Obviously thinking about the
17 congressional map and that plus or minus one
18 standard, they got pretty close for us, so that
19 is -- that was a nice thing to do.

20 Here we are thinking about Franklin
21 County. There was some testimony asking that
22 Franklin County be linked with other rural
23 counties. We do hear this from other testimony
24 across the state as well. This is what
25 Franklin County looks like.

1 Another thing to think about, especially
2 thinking about a congressional map, the Big
3 Bend region, again, is an area where you could
4 get land-locked if you don't think about the
5 ideal populations for those districts to the
6 west and to the east.

7 Mr. Chairman, that is the last map for
8 that region. I can take questions if you have
9 any.

10 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Great. Thank you
11 very much. Members, any questions about that
12 particular region?

13 Great. Appreciate that very much.

14 MR. TAKACS: Thank you.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: We will move on to
16 the next region.

17 MR. TAKACS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

18 The next region is the northeast and north
19 central portion of the state, starting off here
20 with keeping Nassau County whole; again, an
21 example of a community asking they be kept
22 whole within this process. This is what Nassau
23 County would look like. The position of Nassau
24 County is a bit unique. Obviously we can't
25 draw any districts to the north of Nassau

1 County, so we would have to go to the south or
2 to the west of Nassau County in order to create
3 a district. Thinking about Nassau County, it
4 is roughly 73,000 people, so you would have to
5 have a significant number of more people added
6 to it in order to meet that ideal population
7 for a congressional district.

8 This was some testimony we received in the
9 Jacksonville meeting in regards the Fleming
10 Island community. If you look on the screen
11 where the two red arrows are, that is kind of
12 where that Fleming Island is. It is a little
13 bit of a peninsula there. Their request was
14 that they be kept within the same congressional
15 district. As you can see where that peninsula
16 is of Fleming Island, there is two districts
17 that's kind of bisected in the middle there.
18 The blue district is Congressional District 3,
19 and the greenish district is Congressional
20 District 6. That is the current map that you
21 are looking at there.

22 The next issue is keeping Clay County
23 whole; again, another community asking that
24 they be kept whole within this process. This
25 is what Clay County would look like. One of

1 the issues that they talked about there,
2 thinking about reasoning as to why they'd be
3 like to be kept whole is that their fear was if
4 they were linked with a member from
5 Jacksonville, from Duval County, that their
6 issues might get kind of, you know, not
7 prioritized as much, thinking about a member
8 from Jacksonville, that Jacksonville would kind
9 of take over the membership of that district
10 and the issues that would be brought forward by
11 that Representative.

12 Again, obviously thinking about the
13 population of Clay County, you are talking
14 about roughly 191,000 folks, you have to add a
15 significant number of people to get to that
16 ideal population for a congressional district.

17 Thinking about that same concept, the
18 folks in Baker County also asked that they be
19 kept whole within this process, but they also
20 asked that they be connected to rural
21 communities as well. Baker County is a
22 relatively small county with a population of
23 27,115, so, obviously, many other counties
24 would need to be added to that. Thinking about
25 rural communities, less populated counties, it

1 would take a large number of those counties and
2 those communities to be combined together to
3 meet that ideal population for a congressional
4 district.

5 The next issue comes from our St.
6 Augustine meeting, which talks about keeping
7 St. Johns County whole, and if that is not
8 possible, linking that community with Flagler
9 County. As you can see here, this is the St.
10 Johns County line as it appears now. Thinking
11 about a congressional map, St. Johns and
12 Flagler Counties can be combined together if
13 you chose to do so. Their combined population
14 is 285,735. So you would still need some more
15 communities to be added to it to meet the ideal
16 population for a congressional district, but
17 that, if the policy decision was made, could be
18 done.

19 Next, thinking about, again,
20 municipalities, this was the request of the
21 City of Deltona that they be kept whole within
22 this process. They did note that they are the
23 largest city in Volusia County and they would
24 like to be kept whole in the process. As you
25 can see, looking at the city boundaries there,

1 there may be some contiguity issues or some
2 holes there that would need to be addressed in
3 completing a congressional district, but that
4 is what the City of Deltona looks like.

5 Moving on to The Villages, this was --
6 probably the most popular opinion that came out
7 of that meeting was keeping The Villages whole.
8 Here on the map, as you can see, this was the
9 best attempt we could make to recreate what The
10 Villages looks like. How we went about doing
11 this was that we took the census-designated
12 places of The Villages in Sumter and Marion
13 Counties -- again, thinking about The Villages,
14 The Villages is actually in portions of three
15 counties: Marion, Sumter and Lake. So for
16 Sumter and Marion, we used the
17 census-designated places, thinking about the
18 Lake County portion of this district that we
19 drew here, we used all of the City of Lady
20 Lake -- the Town of Lady Lake to be a part of
21 this district. Again, thinking about holes,
22 non-contiguous areas of land, those would be
23 issues that would need to be addressed in this
24 issue if The Villages were to be kept whole.

25 This is also an example of perhaps a

1 compact community that may force you to cross
2 county boundary lines if you wanted to draw a
3 district that looked like this, but here you
4 have a cohesive, compact group of people that
5 could be included together within a single
6 district.

7 Next, an issue that we heard in many of
8 the meetings across the region, thinking about
9 The Villages and Gainesville and Orlando, we
10 heard this, and this was keeping Marion County
11 whole. Again, the many folks testified
12 thinking about how divided they are within the
13 various maps, and they asked that they be kept
14 whole within this process. That's what Marion
15 County would look like. Marion County's
16 population is 331,298, so, again, obviously
17 more counties and communities would need to be
18 added to it in order to meet that ideal
19 population.

20 Here is the concept of keeping Gilchrist
21 and Levy Counties together and whole and
22 linking them with Alachua County. You can see
23 here on the map what we did was we combined all
24 three of those counties and kept them whole, so
25 you can see what that would look like. The

1 population of those three counties together is
2 roughly 305,000, so, again, more communities
3 would need to be added to it in order to meet
4 that ideal population for a congressional
5 district.

6 Also, too, this would be another example
7 of where you need to be a little concerned
8 about the land-locking issue there. You are
9 ending that district there on a coastal
10 community, so another district would have to go
11 around it or south of it, again, thinking you
12 don't want to land-lock yourself when meeting
13 the ideal population for that congressional
14 district of being plus or minus one person.

15 This is actually a public submission that
16 we received in the Davie, Florida, meeting. It
17 wasn't actually received in the region itself,
18 but received in our Davie meeting. We put it
19 here within this region, obviously because it
20 affects a district within that region, and this
21 was an attempt to redraw the lines for
22 Congressional District 3. What this gentleman
23 did was, thinking about -- he offered several
24 different looks, one of which would be talking
25 about starting the district in Jacksonville and

1 moving west, keeping counties as whole as
2 possible. This -- if you look at the screen
3 there, the one on the top there goes from
4 Jacksonville and then goes all the way to the
5 west to where Jackson County is west of Leon
6 County. This gentleman also gave kind of a
7 second look of another option for you, so to
8 speak, would be to connect that area -- instead
9 of going so far to the west, you would then go
10 kind of to the southeast where you would
11 connect into the Ocala and Gainesville area as
12 well.

13 This was another partial submitted map
14 that we received. I'm sorry, excuse me, this
15 is actually from an e-mail that we received,
16 talking about Volusia and Flagler Counties in a
17 congressional district. They drew all of
18 Volusia County there, and Flagler County, and
19 said, "We would like for this to be the base of
20 a district. If you -- if this doesn't meet the
21 ideal population" -- which it doesn't -- "we
22 would like this district to go to the west, but
23 please avoid Gainesville and Jacksonville to
24 the west and to the north." So they kind of
25 started a base of a district and left it there.

1 That particular base has a population of
2 roughly 106,000, so, obviously, again, more
3 counties, more communities would need to be
4 added to it to meet that ideal population.

5 The next issue was thinking about
6 testimony that we received that would deal with
7 the reduction of Lake County's representation,
8 basically similar to the concept of keeping a
9 county whole, but obviously with the population
10 of Lake County being as big as it is, they
11 recognized that we just want a reduction in our
12 population -- in our representation, I should
13 say. So what this district here is is that
14 this district essentially encompasses all of
15 Lake County, with the exception of what they
16 believe is the Lady Lake/The Villages portion
17 of Lake County.

18 Next is a suggestion -- it is actually
19 chart that we received from the Daytona
20 Regional Chamber of Commerce. Thinking about
21 the congressional map, they kind of talk about
22 what their current delegation is and what they
23 would like to see their delegation be moving
24 forward. Their current delegation has three
25 members of Congress within the county. They

1 would like to see either two or three in their
2 delegation. And unlike their request for the
3 House and Senate maps, they didn't propose that
4 a majority of Volusia County be within that --
5 one of those two or three districts, but they
6 did want to comment on what their
7 representation would look like in Washington.

8 Next is a publicly submitted map that we
9 received. This is a partial map. The next
10 several slides are actually all partially
11 public submitted maps. This one here has a
12 base in Lake County, also includes all of
13 Sumter County to the west and then has portions
14 of northwest Orange County.

15 It is important to note -- I should go
16 back to that one. That -- the ideal population
17 for that district, they are actually 24 people
18 short of the ideal population.

19 This next congressional map that we
20 received from a member of the public has all of
21 Lake County within it and then a vast majority
22 of Seminole County within it. Again, thinking
23 of ideal population, they got to ten. Their
24 map is ten people away from the ideal
25 population.

1 Again, another congressional map that we
2 received that also has all of Lake County in
3 it. This has all of Lake County, all of
4 Sumter, all of Citrus, and then portions of
5 northwest Orange County, again, just -- again,
6 multiple different looks for this region that
7 we received for the congressional map from
8 members of the public. The ideal population
9 for this map was 941 away from the ideal.

10 We got another map. This is the last map
11 for this region; again, all of Lake County, all
12 of Sumter County and then most of Marion
13 County, I can't say all, but it has a lot of
14 Marion County within it, another look for you.
15 This is a -- this is actually a combination of
16 a couple of different maps that we received,
17 folks that had similar ideas. We kind of put
18 that graphic up there for you, but that is,
19 again, combining Lake County, Sumter County and
20 most of Marion County.

21 And that is the last map of that region,
22 Chairman.

23 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Great. Members,
24 any questions about that portion of the state?

25 Seeing none, we will move forward to

1 central Florida.

2 Mr. Kelly, I didn't even realize you got
3 up. You got replaced. You are recognized.

4 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
5 thank you, members, and I will be continuing on
6 with central Florida and southeast Florida for
7 the rest of the presentation.

8 In the Polk County meeting, a piece of
9 testimony suggested keeping the City of Winter
10 Haven whole in a congressional district, and
11 this is a representation of that. And, again,
12 it is a good reminder of what Jeff was speaking
13 about earlier that in keeping a city whole,
14 oftentimes you are actually going to have holes
15 in the city, you are going to have to cure that
16 issue, you are going to have points of
17 non-contiguity, but in addition to that, you
18 are going to be, by following city boundary
19 lines, frequently using census blocks. And
20 just a point that we wanted to bring up in
21 that, when you are actually using My District
22 Builder, when you are drawing districts or
23 perhaps maybe working with someone's suggestion
24 like this in the public, the main reason why
25 you have for -- at least for -- in our

1 practical purposes, census blocks in a program
2 like My District Builder is they do correspond
3 to city boundary lines. So if you are running
4 up along the edge of one district and another,
5 and you really feel compelled to have a city
6 entirely within a district, that is why you
7 would go down to a level of using census
8 blocks. Otherwise, generally, we would
9 recommend that you would use VTDs when you're
10 drawing districts.

11 But, anyway, moving on, a related
12 suggestion also from the Lakeland meeting
13 regarding not just Winter Haven, but the bulk
14 of northern Polk County suggested keeping the
15 cities like Lakeland -- what was referred to as
16 northeast Polk County, which wasn't entirely
17 defined in the meeting, but, nonetheless,
18 Lakeland, northern Polk County, that it was
19 suggested that it was okay actually to split
20 that from the southern parts of the county,
21 Bartow and other communities, and that there
22 was a genuine difference between those
23 communities. And so the lines here on the map
24 is our best estimation as to what the presenter
25 meant based on their testimony, although, for

1 instance, we include all of Haines City in the
2 map, although we weren't entirely clear what
3 they meant by northeast Polk County.

4 Moving to the Wauchula meeting, the
5 suggestion was to keep Highlands County whole,
6 which you heard in many of the meetings as far
7 as rural counties go, not always, but in many
8 of the meetings, to keep rural counties whole
9 and give them a concentration of all the
10 residents being represented by one particular
11 person, in this case, Congress.

12 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Mr. Kelly, can I
13 ask you just to hang on one second? I just
14 wanted to welcome Speaker Credel, who just
15 walked in, and say hello to him and welcome you
16 to our subcommittee meeting.

17 Please continue.

18 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

19 The next suggestion that came from that
20 meeting, referring to Hardee County, was a
21 request to not align Hardee County with the
22 coastal portions of let's say counties like
23 Manatee or Sarasota. There wasn't an objection
24 to aligning Hardee County with potentially the
25 rural parts of those communities, but don't

1 align them with the coastal portions of those
2 counties.

3 And similar to that, another gentleman at
4 the Wauchula meeting referred to the different
5 agricultural communities in that part of the
6 state and actually offered State Road 17 as an
7 actual transportation corridor. It wasn't
8 entirely clear whether that gentleman meant
9 State Road 17 as an artery for the district, or
10 an actual eastern boundary, but either way,
11 identified 17 as a connector for several
12 communities where rural agricultural interests
13 are predominant, and that person suggested that
14 aligning Hardee County and other communities
15 with eastern Manatee, eastern Sarasota, eastern
16 Charlotte, would be okay, because those are
17 communities that have cohesive interests.

18 The next suggestion referred to actually
19 taking Congressional District 9 out of -- or at
20 least as much as possible out of Hillsborough
21 County and moving it into Pasco County. And as
22 it is, if you actually did take the population
23 of the 9th Congressional District out of
24 Hillsborough County -- and it is that darker
25 orange district that is on the screen right

1 there that goes from Pasco into Pinellas and
2 over into Hillsborough -- if you took that
3 population out and you added it back to Pasco
4 County and moved the 5th Congressional District
5 out of Pasco County, the populations aren't
6 identical in terms of the swap that you would
7 be making, but they are not that far removed
8 from each other. So as you can see, one move
9 tends to lead to another -- well, it has to
10 lead to another when you are moving the
11 districts from one place to another.

12 There was a suggestion in Orlando to keep
13 the student population at UCF all in one
14 district. It was a suggestion without a lot of
15 definition, and like any college or university,
16 students don't necessarily live in one clearly
17 defined place around the campus, particularly a
18 school like UCF, which has a number of
19 commuters and students who probably live five,
20 six miles from the campus. So it was a general
21 suggestion, and it is a good example of one
22 where sometimes some additional information may
23 be helpful. And, frankly, we as staff offer to
24 you that your insight into suggestions like
25 this may be particularly helpful if this

1 happens to be an area -- this or any other
2 suggestion that is your part of the state and
3 you may be able to offer further guidance as to
4 what the presenter may have meant when they
5 made a suggestion like this.

6 There was a suggestion in the Lakeland
7 meeting regarding the Four Corners region,
8 which is thought of as where Lake County, Polk
9 County, Osceola County and Orange County meet.
10 They happen to meet relatively at one point.
11 In fact, if you know the Kings Ridge community,
12 you have driven past there, that is, roughly
13 speaking, about where the four corners meet,
14 and the suggestion in one of the meetings was
15 that this is a compact, cohesive community,
16 high-growth community, and should be considered
17 for, despite the fact that it crosses county
18 boundary lines, a heart of a congressional
19 district.

20 There was a suggestion regarding keeping
21 Brevard County whole within a congressional
22 district. The size of the county is a little
23 smaller than -- about 150,000 people smaller
24 than what you need for a congressional
25 district, so you could include all of Brevard

1 in a congressional district.

2 Likewise, there was also a suggestion
3 regarding removing Congressional District 3
4 from the Orlando area. It was a suggestion
5 that was debated back and forth to some degree
6 at the Orlando meeting, persons who felt that
7 they didn't want to be represented by a
8 Congressperson who was in Jacksonville, but
9 then others who spoke to the minority
10 communities in Orlando and ensuring that they
11 have some kind of ability to elect a candidate
12 of choice. So this was a debated point, and we
13 want to include that suggestion to note that
14 that debate occurred at that meeting.

15 There was a suggestion actually, and this
16 was a fairly popular suggestion from a number
17 of people, particularly via e-mail, regarding
18 putting all of Osceola County into the same
19 congressional district. And a number of those
20 people also carried forth that remark one step
21 further by saying to then get the remaining
22 population from Orange County. They identified
23 similar economic interests and so forth. What
24 you see in the graphic here in yellow is a
25 depiction of what that could look like.

1 Obviously the boundaries of Osceola County are
2 pretty clear, but no one specifically suggested
3 what parts of Orange County to include with the
4 district, so this is just a suggestion as to
5 what that could look like if you combine the
6 two.

7 And just a couple of suggestions, we will
8 come back to a suggestion that was actually
9 very contrary to that, but moving on, there was
10 a request from a Seminole County resident, a
11 very specific request from a Seminole County
12 resident who has a Winter Park ZIP code, lives
13 in the sort of little L corner right there
14 where Seminole and Orange meet, and as you can
15 see, roughly within that ZIP code, about four
16 different congressional districts intersect
17 there, and this resident wants to vote in the
18 same congressional district that his neighbors
19 in Orange County in the same ZIP code, just a
20 street over, vote in. So a pretty specific
21 request right there.

22 There was more than one suggestion
23 regarding how it is that Brevard County relates
24 to Orange County, and specifically, this
25 suggestion suggests that Brevard County should

1 be separate, or at least have the ability to
2 determine who the candidate is, as opposed to
3 being lined up with an Orange County elected
4 office holder. And so as the meetings went on
5 throughout the state, that point came across in
6 a number of areas. That point came across in
7 Volusia County, Marion County, Palm Beach
8 County, not just whether or not a district
9 wholly encompasses all or part of a county, but
10 taking a look at whether a district is the
11 majority of the county. So even if a county
12 line is split, what a number of people came
13 forward and said is they wished that they could
14 at least have some predictability as to whether
15 the elected office holder is likely to come
16 from their home county, because they felt like
17 their county deserved a Congressperson or so
18 forth, and that was the issue here.

19 A map that was submitted -- if you
20 reference back to the Osceola County example
21 that came up before about making Osceola a
22 whole community and then lining it up with
23 Orlando in a congressional district, this
24 district came forth from a group called
25 LatinoJustice, and their suggestion was for the

1 predominantly Puerto Rican communities,
2 Hispanic communities in Osceola County, a
3 little bit of Polk and Orlando be aligned
4 together. Their goal was to try to create a
5 majority-minority seat. The seat that they
6 submitted and actually submitted to us via our
7 application, I believe is approximately
8 43 percent Hispanic, but they were trying to
9 create an opportunity for the Hispanic
10 communities in Osceola, Orange and Polk
11 counties to elect a candidate of choice. Of
12 course, that doesn't match up with the
13 suggestion of keeping Osceola County whole, so
14 you can see that there was a genuine difference
15 of opinion from those two groups.

16 Mr. Chair, that's the comments for central
17 Florida.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Thank you very
19 much.

20 Members, any questions about central
21 Florida? Representative Taylor, you are
22 recognized for a question.

23 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Thank you, Mr.
24 Chair. I remember being at the Orlando
25 meeting, and there were some questions about

1 the creation of that additional congressional
2 district being placed there because of the
3 increase in the population in that area. Have
4 you looked at the policy issues associated with
5 that request if it was possibly that one of
6 those two additional congressional districts
7 that were received -- that the state received?

8 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Mr. Kelly.

9 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

10 I am not sure how to equate it to the
11 question of two additional districts, because
12 in a sense, they are all -- all their lines are
13 going to change. But in terms of the policy
14 issues that might come up, the district that
15 they have suggested does not meet the
16 50 percent number that Section 2 of the Voting
17 Rights Act would require. So that in itself is
18 not an issue.

19 In terms of state law and other issues and
20 just the discretion that you may have, there is
21 no existing Hispanic district there today, so
22 you don't have a question of retrogression,
23 which Amendment 6 to Florida's Constitution
24 would deal with. So it is really a question of
25 discretion for you as to whether or not you

1 feel that you have compact, cohesive
2 communities there that would warrant putting
3 together into a single district.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Representative
5 Horner, you are recognized for a question.

6 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thanks.

7 Alex, I remember at the Orlando hearing
8 there were probably ten or so presenters on
9 this Hispanic district, if you will, but they
10 handed out a map and it had kind of smooth
11 edges. It was more of a blob than -- I am
12 looking at number 37, your previous slide is --
13 looks different than the map presented. Now,
14 you are talking -- this is the LatinoJustice
15 map. There was another group, and forgive me
16 for not remembering their name, but
17 Commissioner Quiñones spoke, former Rep Tony
18 Suarez spoke, you probably recall they had a
19 lot of speakers and they passed a map around,
20 they didn't put it on the screen, it was a
21 little rounder. Did that map make it or -- and
22 perhaps it just didn't meet the appropriate
23 standards. Did that make it into the system or
24 --

25 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Mr. Kelly.

1 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 Representative, this may have been the --
3 it may have been a similar, related map, I am
4 not entirely sure. This organization though
5 did submit a map that night, which was
6 submission 17 in our system, and then within
7 about a week, week and a half, revised their
8 submission. So it could have been that what
9 they handed out that night was what you were
10 thinking of, and then they updated it and
11 revised it some. So I am not entirely sure as
12 to whether it is the same thing that you
13 referenced Mr. Quiñones was handing out, or if
14 it was just an earlier version of their updated
15 submission.

16 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Follow-up?

17 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: And also I went
18 and looked at the statistics on this particular
19 map. It seemed to have a relatively low
20 African-American population. So would it be
21 accurate to say creating this district would
22 not preclude an African-American district in
23 central Florida being created, or is that a
24 poor assumption on my part?

25 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Mr. Kelly.

1 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 It does look like in the drawing of the
3 district, relatively speaking, they have
4 avoided impacting the concentrations of
5 African-American communities in Orlando. So it
6 does -- to some extent, it does look like they
7 don't overlap and there is no conflict there.

8 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Great questions.
9 Members, any other questions about central
10 Florida?

11 Great. Moving on, we will move to
12 southeast Florida.

13 MR. KELLY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

14 A suggestion came forth regarding
15 combining all of Martin County, St. Lucie,
16 Indian River, Okeechobee, all into forming one
17 congressional district, which that -- those
18 counties is actually less than the size of a
19 congressional district, so you could do that.
20 You would still need approximately 94,000 more
21 people to complete the district.

22 The Martin County Supervisor of Elections
23 actually had staff speak that night and then
24 submitted a letter regarding keeping the
25 community of Indiantown whole, and it is a good

1 example beyond just the issue of keeping a
2 community whole.

3 Another good example, as Jeff I think was
4 referring to earlier, regarding
5 census-designated places that are not actually
6 incorporated cities, so in some cases, these
7 can be readily identified, depending on the
8 census data, depending on data that EDR has
9 here in the Legislature, but sometimes they
10 can. So this can be, but sometimes these type
11 of communities can be difficult to identify in
12 the process, and these kind of suggestions do
13 sometimes benefit from some additional input.

14 The next suggestion -- many, many
15 suggestions in southeast Florida pertain to
16 keeping cities whole, especially as you moved
17 into Brevard, Palm Beach -- Broward, Palm Beach
18 and Miami-Dade Counties. In this case, just
19 one example, keeping the City of Port St. Lucie
20 whole, and another example moving into Broward,
21 keeping the Town of Wilton Manors whole. And
22 in all of these cases, as was brought out a
23 couple times before, there were holes in the
24 district, as you can see the hole right in the
25 middle of the city right there, so you have to

1 be conscious of those.

2 The other issue that we noticed with the
3 south Florida requests, specifically the number
4 of keep city whole requests, is that many times
5 those cities run up against each other. So you
6 have to consider that it may physically not be
7 possible to meet all those requests. And in
8 some cases, it is helpful to help identify do
9 some of those cities belong together, do they
10 have particular geography or so forth that
11 would match them up together, and there were
12 some suggestions in south Florida to that
13 extent. Speaking of which, the next suggestion
14 referenced here regards combining the Cities of
15 Cooper City and Davie into a district.

16 There was a decent amount of discussion
17 regarding the 17th Congressional District,
18 which is a majority -- currently a
19 majority-minority African-American District,
20 and there were a number of suggestions, the one
21 on the screen regarding just keeping the
22 current district intact. There were some
23 suggestions to reconfigure the current
24 district. This particular gentleman's
25 suggestion, he was actually -- the 17th

1 Congressional District is the red district and
2 the 20th Congressional District is the purple
3 district. This gentleman was actually
4 suggesting to take the 20th Congressional
5 District, pull it all into Broward County and
6 then take the 17th District and push it closer
7 to the coastline, not all the way to the
8 coastline, but closer to the coastline.

9 Actually, back up for one second. There
10 were a couple of other suggestions, we didn't
11 include them here, but they were unique in that
12 they recommended for the 17th District actually
13 wrapping in the port, wrapping in the airport
14 as well into the district.

15 There was a suggestion about keeping
16 districts -- congressional districts in
17 Miami-Dade County running vertical,
18 north/south. Practically speaking, for
19 congressional districts, this is generally the
20 way they are now because of the coastline,
21 because of where people live. For State House,
22 maybe State Senate districts, you have a little
23 more latitude in terms of drawing the districts
24 east to west, but in terms of congressional
25 districts, practically speaking, this is

1 probably the way you would have to draw
2 districts just because of where people live and
3 the coastline itself.

4 Moving down to Monroe County, there was a
5 suggestion in the Key West meeting to keep
6 Monroe County whole, which is applicable to the
7 current map today, because Monroe County is
8 divided into two different congressional
9 districts today. The one thing -- Monroe
10 County is a good example -- Monroe County,
11 Collier, Hillsborough, Hendry and Hardee
12 Counties are all counties affected by Section 5
13 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, so those kind
14 of implications also come up in these kinds of
15 requests.

16 There was a separate request from the Keys
17 requesting that the Hispanic communities not
18 have their vote diluted, and currently Monroe
19 County, the two congressional districts just
20 referenced, do both -- are both served by
21 Hispanic members of Florida's congressional
22 delegation.

23 Coming back to the 17th Congressional
24 District and that area, there was a request to
25 line up North Miami Beach with Aventura and to

1 move those communities together because of some
2 similarities between those communities. So the
3 individual -- actually, a couple of individuals
4 who submitted this request wanted to be taken
5 out of the 17th Congressional District.

6 And then overall there was a general
7 suggestion to not dilute the Hispanic
8 representation for Broward County. Today,
9 Broward County is represented by one member of
10 -- one Hispanic member of Florida's
11 congressional delegation.

12 Now, we referenced before that there were
13 many requests to keep cities together. This is
14 actually a request to keep a city separated,
15 Coconut Creek, and this is just -- this is not
16 meant to represent a district, but this is just
17 the boundaries of Coconut Creek filled in. But
18 Coconut Creek today is represented by two
19 members of Congress, two members of the State
20 Senate and two members of the State House, and
21 actually, their specific request, too, was
22 remain represented by two members at all
23 levels.

24 There were a number of suggestions at the
25 different southeast Florida meetings regarding

1 coastal communities. There was never one set
2 definition as to what that is, and that is
3 probably fair to say about most of the state,
4 but a number of people at the different
5 meetings did at least offer some examples of
6 districts that they felt like represented
7 coastal communities, and so some of those were
8 included here, and their suggestion was to not
9 break up coastal communities.

10 The next suggestion referred to a
11 gentleman who broke up Palm Beach County into
12 different segments by cities and suggested that
13 if Palm Beach County had to be divided or if
14 Palm Beach County, let's say, had to be aligned
15 with Martin County, he drew the county into
16 different cities. If you go along the
17 coastline where most of the population is, this
18 gentleman basically drew a north, middle and
19 south area, lined three to four cities together
20 in each area, and then took everything that is,
21 roughly speaking, off the coast, Wellington
22 over, and put that into the fourth area. And
23 so his suggestion was if you have to split up
24 the county, group those cities in pods, if you
25 will, and keep those -- and keep those

1 groupings together, whether it is the
2 congressional map or the other maps.

3 This map that was submitted splits up Palm
4 Beach County into two congressional districts,
5 and there's a little bit of Broward at the
6 bottom end of that as well. A point that is
7 important to raise here is that this kind of
8 configuration does potentially raise some
9 Voting Rights Act questions with the 23rd
10 Congressional District, not to say that you
11 can't follow through with a suggestion like
12 this, but, again, it is one of those cases
13 where if you have an interest in a suggestion
14 like this, you have to consider its impact on
15 existing districts that, in this case, elect an
16 African-American candidate of choice. So,
17 again, it is just a good example of where some
18 of those issues collide.

19 And then this map was submitted by the
20 Haitian-American Task Force on Redistricting.
21 Actually, this map was drawn at the Miami
22 meeting at Miami-Dade College, and it
23 essentially recreates most of Congressional
24 District 17, although it attempts to grab more
25 of the Haitian-American community in that area.

1 And in the booklet -- or in your -- in your
2 meeting packet, we show a visual of the current
3 congressional district just so you can get an
4 idea as to what changes were made.

5 And with that, Mr. Chair, those are the
6 comments about southeast Florida.

7 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Thank you very
8 much.

9 Members, any questions about southeast
10 Florida?

11 Seeing none, members, obviously you can
12 tell by how difficult of a task it was just to
13 take all of these suggestions from the public
14 and put them on paper so that you could
15 visually see them. Number one, I would like to
16 thank Mr. Kelly and Mr. Takacs and
17 Mr. Fairbrother for their hard work today in
18 putting together these presentations for us.
19 And just as a reminder, in the early October
20 interim committee meetings, the subcommittee
21 will cover the fifth region, which is southwest
22 Florida, and the complete or near complete maps
23 submitted from the public in that area.

24 I want to thank you all again for your
25 hard work so far in this process. Obviously,

1 it is going to -- it is going to require an
2 awful lot of work, and I appreciate
3 Representative Taylor's questions today, and
4 hopefully we will be able to get specific
5 answers for you and continue to answer
6 questions as we go through the process. I look
7 forward to continuing to work with all of you
8 over the next coming months, and with that,
9 Representative Abruzzo moves we rise.

10 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
11 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF LEON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is of a tape-recording taken down by the undersigned, and the contents thereof were reduced to typewriting under my direction;

That the foregoing pages 2 through 70 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 21st day of February, 2012.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014