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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011
10:00 A.M.
FAU
BOCA RATON, FLORIDA

Transcribed by:
CLARA C. ROTRUCK
Court Reporter

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

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen,
3 please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance, led
4 by your Senator, Maria Sachs.

5 SENATOR SACHS: I pledge allegiance to the
6 flag to the flag of the United States of
7 America and to the Republic for which it
8 stands, one nation, under God, indivisible with
9 liberty and justice for all.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. The
11 Joint Senate House Committee hearing on
12 redistricting is called to order.

13 We are very pleased to be joined today by
14 members of the House of Representatives and
15 members of the Senate, the House of
16 Representatives redistricting Committee and the
17 Senate Reapportionment Committee, and in a
18 moment I will ask them to very briefly
19 introduce themselves just so that you will know
20 what part of the state they come from so that
21 you will see who you are talking to and who you
22 are addressing your opinions to.

23 We very much appreciate Florida Atlantic
24 University for allowing us to use this
25 wonderful facility today, and thank you all for

1 being here, especially members of the public
2 who have come to share your comments and your
3 recommendations to help shape Congressional
4 Senate and House Districts for the next decade.

5 My name is Don Gaetz. I am a member of
6 the Senate. I Chair the Senate Reapportionment
7 Committee, and along with my House colleague,
8 Representative Steve Precourt, who is
9 Vice-Chair of the House Redistricting
10 Committee.

11 I will be moderating today's hearing which
12 is being webcast statewide by the Florida
13 Channel over the Internet.

14 Our sole purpose today is to hear from you
15 about how you believe the legal standards with
16 which we are all familiar, at least many of us
17 are and many of us are becoming more familiar.

18 Our purpose is to hear from you about how
19 you believe the legal standards governing
20 redistricting should be applied in your
21 community so that you are represented in
22 Washington and in Tallahassee fairly, sensibly
23 and equitably.

24 Our procedures today are simple but they
25 are important. It is important that you sign

1 in so that we with can create an accurate
2 public record of all attendees and all
3 speakers, and also you may opt to join our
4 e-mail lists so that we can keep you informed
5 about how the redistricting process is going
6 forward over the next weeks.

7 If you have not signed in, please do so.
8 If you haven't signed in, if you will raise
9 your hand we will have a staff member come and
10 give you a sign-in card. There is a young lady
11 right in the front row. Anybody else who
12 hasn't signed in, and it is the same if you
13 wish to speak, the same card.

14 It is a sign-in for attendance or to
15 speak. So if you will raise your hand and keep
16 it raised, I apologize, we will have a staff
17 member get to you just as fast as possible
18 because we want to make sure that we have an
19 accurate record of your attendance and we want
20 to get to everyone today if we can who wants to
21 speak.

22 If you wish to speak today and you have
23 not filled out an attendance card you need to
24 do so, so that we can be sure that we won't
25 miss your testimony. It is the same attendance

1 card as I said whether you wish to speak or
2 whether you wish to sit in the stands and just
3 watch others express their opinions.

4 Before we begin today the Chair will
5 recognize Vice-Chair, Representative Precourt,
6 to explain how today's hearing fits into the
7 redistricting process and schedule.

8 Mr. Vice-Chair.

9 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you,
10 Mr. Chair, and what a great crowd we have here.
11 I have a few notes that I want to go over just
12 to make sure that we cover all of the general
13 provisions of the process and a little
14 background for you as well.

15 Most of you that are here understand the
16 redistricting process, but still there are a
17 few amongst us that a little background will
18 help.

19 Every ten years our Legislature is
20 required by our Constitution to redistrict the
21 state based on increases, decreases and
22 movements of population.

23 The redistricting is really reapportioning
24 people so that every district has roughly the
25 same numbers. Because Florida has grown more

1 than any other state in the past ten years we
2 will also move up from 25 members of the U.S.
3 Congress, the House of Representatives, to 27
4 members, and because some parts of our state
5 have increased or decreased disproportionately
6 to one another in population, many of the
7 Senate and House Districts will change, either
8 adding population or losing population.
9 However, we are going to keep the same numbers,
10 40 Senate seats, 120 House seats.

11 When we are finished with our
12 redistricting, the Congressional Districts must
13 be equal actually in population and contain
14 696,345 people.

15 Now, the 40 Senate Districts must also be
16 nearly equal at about 470,000 people, and our
17 120 House Districts must also be nearly equal
18 at about 156,700 people.

19 There are a number of displays outside as
20 you may have seen as you came in showing the
21 current boundaries of the districts in this
22 area of the state and the number of people
23 which must be added or subtracted to from the
24 current district sizes to achieve this equal
25 representation.

1 Now, a point we made yesterday that was a
2 little bit misconstrued during the meeting, but
3 I want to make clear that everyone understands,
4 that equality in population for that
5 representation isn't the only legal
6 requirement.

7 It is one of the key ones that we have to
8 abide by, but it is not the only one. The laws
9 and important court cases governing
10 redistricting are explained in detail on our
11 House and Senate websites.

12 These websites are listed on the
13 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available
14 when you came in, and if you need one our staff
15 is available in the back, you can get another
16 one at your convenience.

17 This brochure also summarizes the Federal
18 and State laws and outlines a number of other
19 topics that we hope you will discuss here at
20 today's hearing. If you didn't get a copy when
21 you came in, raise your hand and staff will get
22 you one.

23 The brochure also lists those House and
24 Senate websites and there is lots of
25 information on redistricting there, including

1 the explanation of those laws we just mentioned
2 and those important court cases.

3 The two websites are complimentary and
4 updated frequently. Most of the information is
5 similar on both websites, but you may want to
6 visit both just to see for differences in style
7 and the like, and check back with them often as
8 we update them.

9 It is a great way to stay current with how
10 our redistricting process is going and how
11 those Congressional Senate and House Districts
12 are taking shape.

13 The websites also provide you with direct
14 access to the demographic information that is
15 going to be used in drawing these districts,
16 and you have access to the exact same computer
17 programs that your Legislators and our
18 professional staff will be using to redraw
19 these lines.

20 Any member of the public can participate
21 in building plans or seeing maps submitted by
22 Legislators or other citizens. Again, that is
23 a tool right online for you to use to draw maps
24 if you would like to do that.

25 Before, during and after this hearing

1 Senate and House professional staff are
2 available to show anyone that is interested the
3 simple steps to getting online. There are some
4 computers outside, you can look right over
5 their shoulders. They will show you how to
6 build districts and submit plans and they are
7 available via phone or the like if you need
8 continuing ongoing help in the weeks to come.

9 All of the recommendations that we get
10 from citizens and groups of citizens will be
11 made publicly available. In fact, and we have
12 got some updated statistics as of this morning
13 right here for you.

14 As of this morning, 32 public submissions
15 of partial or complete maps and approximately
16 110 written ideas for maps are available on the
17 web for you to look at right now.

18 In fact, at yesterday's meeting in Stuart
19 a couple of Florida residents completed new
20 maps for submission right at the tables outside
21 the room before, during and after the meeting,
22 and after this meeting this week I am sure
23 those numbers will increase substantially.

24 One point we want to make very, very clear
25 is that the submission of proposed maps that

1 makes sense for your community is the single
2 most effective form of public participation in
3 the redistricting process.

4 I like to use the old saying, a picture
5 paints a thousand words. You can get up and
6 say a lot of things about what should be where,
7 but when you draw a line on a map, then it
8 becomes very, very clear to everyone looking
9 what you mean.

10 The redistricting schedule in which we are
11 operating is imposed by the State Constitution.
12 The Constitution does not permit our
13 Legislature to act on any legislative maps
14 before the second year after the census.

15 In other words, since the census was done
16 in 2010, we can't act on those state
17 legislative maps until 2012.

18 Now, we have accelerated the process as
19 much as possible by moving up the 2012
20 legislative session from when it is typically
21 held in March and April every year, to January
22 and February of next year, and we are
23 beginning, we have begun our statewide hearings
24 five months in advance of that 2012 January
25 session.

1 Now, it has been suggested by some that
2 the Legislature should draw maps first and then
3 ask you and the public to comment, and we
4 believe that that puts the answer ahead of the
5 question.

6 There shouldn't be any preconceived
7 notions by us, by the Legislators or
8 politicians as to what those maps should look
9 like, but it should start with public testimony
10 as to what the people who are going to be
11 represented by these maps think they should
12 look like and it should be free and
13 unrestricted and unbiased by our pre -- any
14 preconceived notions that might be out there.

15 In fact, one of the principle authors of
16 Florida's new redistricting standards and the
17 Chairperson for Fair Districts Campaign is on
18 record in agreement with the notion that the
19 new maps should not be drawn until after the
20 public has had an opportunity to comment.

21 Now, our intent is to use the
22 recommendations made at 26 public hearings
23 around the state and those that we receive
24 through our Internet sites and those that we
25 receive via mail as the basis for developing

1 one or more options for all of the district
2 maps.

3 We will discuss these options in open
4 public meetings before any votes are taken,
5 even in committee. In other words, what we are
6 literally saying is, if you look at those maps
7 in the back of the room, the ones that are
8 actually submitted to the Legislature by
9 Florida residents, we are literally starting
10 the legislative process with those maps and
11 other suggestions from the public.

12 So if you want to know where we will begin
13 our deliberations it is with those public
14 submissions that are available to you right
15 now, right here today and testimony from these
16 meetings, including today's and other public
17 input in many, many forms.

18 So throughout the process we will continue
19 to solicit additional public comment so that
20 proposed maps can mature and develop with the
21 public involved all before the Legislature
22 approves the final maps.

23 Whatever the Legislature passes will then
24 be submitted for judicial review to ensure that
25 the final plans meet every legal requirement

1 that we have, whether it is constitutional law,
2 Florida Law, Federal law.

3 Because our purpose here today is it hear
4 from you, the time between now and 1:00 p.m.
5 will be used to ensure that every member of the
6 public who is here and wishes to speak will
7 have the time to present the testimony that
8 they want to and be listened respectfully to
9 without interruption or argument.

10 If after every citizen has had his or her
11 say there is still some time remaining before
12 our scheduled adjournment, any member of the
13 committee may make a statement or offer any
14 observation.

15 Of course, any member of the Legislature
16 may today or at any time propose a map or a
17 plan and we will make it available to the
18 public. So those are all made public as well.

19 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of
20 our schedule and the process that we are going
21 through helps to set the stage for a successful
22 hearing today.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
24 Representative Precourt. We have a large
25 number of people who have signed up to speak

1 today. So I am going to ask our members of the
2 House and Senate to quickly identify themselves
3 and what part of the state they represent so
4 that we can get right to testimony, and we will
5 begin on my right with Senator Maria Sachs, in
6 who's district we are delighted to meet today.

7 SENATOR SACHS: Thank you very much,
8 Mr. Chairman, and I would like to welcome all
9 of the members of the Committee here to my
10 district. My name is Maria Sachs and I proudly
11 represent parts of Palm Beach and Broward
12 County. Thank you for being here.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BERMAN: My name is
14 Representative Lori Berman and I would also
15 like to welcome you to District 86 and I
16 represent south Palm Beach County, Boynton
17 Beach, Delray beach and Boca Raton.

18 SENATOR SOBEL: Good morning, everybody
19 and thank you for being here. My name is
20 Eleanor Sobel, and I represent the southern
21 part of Broward County, Senate District 31.

22 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Thank you for being
23 here. My name is Senator Gwen Margolis, and I
24 represent the east side of Miami-Dade County
25 and part of Broward County.

1 SENATOR RICH: Good morning. My name is
2 Nan Rich, and I am -- I represent Senate
3 District 34, parts of Broward County and all of
4 the way down to the southern end of Miami-Dade
5 County and I also serve as the Democratic
6 Minority Leader.

7 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good morning, my
8 name is Jeanette Nunez. I represent House
9 District 112, which consists of portions of
10 Broward, Dade and Collier County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Good morning, I
12 am Kathleen Passidomo, I represent House
13 District 76, which is Naples, Marco Island,
14 Everglades City.

15 REPRESENTATIVE BURGIN: Good morning,
16 State Representative Rachel Burgin from
17 District 56, which is Tampa and eastern
18 Hillsborough County.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ROONEY: Hello, everyone,
20 Pat Rooney, House District 83, which is mainly
21 Palm Beach Gardens and Jupiter, as well as Palm
22 Beach. Good to be here.

23 REPRESENTATIVE CLEMENS: Good morning, I
24 am Jeff Clemens, State House District 89. That
25 includes Lake Worth, West Palm Beach and nine

1 other municipalities in central Palm Beach
2 County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: Good morning, I am
4 Dennis Baxley, Florida House District 24,
5 serving Ocala, Marion County. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good morning,
7 thank you for having us here. I am Trudi
8 Williams, and I represent District 75, which is
9 on southwest coast, Lee and Collier Counties.

10 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Good morning, I am
11 Representative Dana Young, and I represent the
12 city of Tampa and parts of Hillsborough County.

13 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Good morning, Erik
14 Fresen, representing Miami Dade County,
15 District 111, Florida House.

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

19 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Good morning,
20 Dorothy Hukill, State Representative, District
21 28, representing parts of Volusia County.

22 SENATOR BOGDANOFF: Ellyn Bogdanoff, State
23 Senator from District 25, which goes from Juno
24 Beach on the coast all of the way down to Ft.
25 Lauderdale and shoots over to Wellington.

1 SENATOR BENACQUISTO: Good morning,
2 Lizbeth Benacquisto, representing Senate
3 District 27, which is comprised of portions of
4 western Palm Beach County, Lee County, Glades
5 County, Charlotte County and Hendry County.

6 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: My list is much
7 shorter. State Representative Evan Jenne. I
8 represent southeast Broward County. Basically
9 if you are being my neighbor to the north, you
10 probably realize, the southern 595 corridor and
11 thank you all for being here and having us.

12 SENATOR BRAYNON: State Senator Oscar
13 Braynon, and I represent the north central area
14 in Miami-Dade.

15 SENATOR SMITH: Good morning, and first,
16 Mr. Chair, I want to welcome you. Actually,
17 you are sitting in my district, Senate District
18 29 represents this building.

19 I represent Broward, Broward and Palm
20 Beach County connected by the I-95 corridor.
21 Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Good morning,
23 Joseph Abruzzo, House District 85, it is
24 primarily a western and central Palm Beach
25 County district.

1 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good morning, my
2 name is Dwayne Taylor. I represent House
3 District 27 which is in Volusia County.

4 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Good morning, Mike
5 Horner. I represent state House District 79 in
6 Orange, Osceola, Okeechobee and Polk County.

7 REPRESENTATIVE PAFFORD: Good morning, I
8 am Mark Pafford, House District 88, West Palm
9 Beach, Royal Palm Beach, Green Acres and the
10 crossroads of Florida Haverhill.

11 REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Tough act to
12 follow. Richard Steinberg, State House
13 District 106, northeast Miami-Dade County.

14 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good morning, John
15 Patrick Julien, representing State District
16 104, which is in Miami-Dade County, North Miami
17 Beach, North Miami, Miami Gardens, Opa Locka,
18 City of Miami, Unincorporated Miami-Dade and a
19 small chunk of Hialeah. It is a pleasure to be
20 here.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HAGER: Good morning, Bill
22 Hager, Boca Raton, House District 87, and this
23 great University that you are at which kicks
24 off its inaugural home football game in mid
25 October, is inclusive in my district.

1 My district begins at Deerfield Beach,
2 captures the coastal communities, all of the
3 way up to Manalapan, just south of West Palm
4 Beach. Welcome. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Good morning, I
6 am Perry Thurston, and I represent House
7 District 93, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County,
8 Florida, your neighbor to the south, and thanks
9 for being here.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WALDMAN: Good morning, I
11 want to first welcome the Mark Pafford fan club
12 in the back. It is great to have you here.
13 And, oh, some have moved into the front. My
14 name is Jim Waldman. I am the State
15 Representative from District 95.

16 District 95 is northwest Broward County,
17 primarily Coconut Creek, Margate, north
18 Lauderdale, Coral Springs, a little bit of Ft.
19 Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, and my daughter
20 graduated from FAU here last year. So I have a
21 very good connection to this area also. Thank
22 you for having us.

23 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, my
24 name is Betty Reed. I represent District 59
25 which is in Tampa, the eastern part of Tampa,

1 and I want to thank you for being here this
2 morning and welcome. Enjoy.

3 REPRESENTATIVE PERMAN: Good morning,
4 Mr. Chair, fellow Legislators and neighbors. I
5 am Steve Perman, House District -- take that,
6 Pafford. I represent House District 78, which
7 is west Boca, west Delray and west Boynton,
8 also portions, in addition to Palm Beach
9 County, of Martin County, Okeechobee County and
10 St. Lucie County, including Indiantown, the
11 city of Okeechobee and the city of Ft. Pierce.
12 Welcome.

13 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good morning, I am
14 State Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed,
15 representing -- thank you, thank you.
16 Representing House District 92, which is just
17 across the Palm Beach County line starting in
18 Deerfield Beach and going south, Oakland Park,
19 Wilton Manors, Pompano Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, a
20 little bit of Tamarac, a little bit of north
21 Lauderdale. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good morning, I am
23 State Representative Hazelle Rogers from
24 Broward County, Broward County, the House,
25 central, Broward County representing eight

1 cities; Lauderdale Lakes, Lauderhill, north
2 Lauderdale, Margate, Tamarac, Oakland Park,
3 Plantation and Sunrise.

4 It is good to be here this morning, and of
5 course, Broward County, one of the most diverse
6 counties representing 1.8 million residents.
7 So it is good to be here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MORAITIS: Good morning, I
9 am George Moraitis, I represent House District
10 91, that is east Broward County, east Palm
11 Beach County. I suppose if I were to say I
12 were a Democrat I would have gotten some
13 applause, but I am looking forward to the
14 hearings this morning.

15 REPRESENTATIVE HOLDER: Good morning, I am
16 Doug Holder. I represent south Sarasota County
17 in the Florida House.

18 SENATOR SIPLIN: Good morning, Gary
19 Siplin, District 19, State Senate, Orlando,
20 Florida.

21 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Good morning, I
22 am Steve Precourt from way up north just west
23 of Orlando, House District 41, west Orange
24 County, south Lake County and parts of Osceola
25 County.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: And my district, my Senate
2 District is coastal northwest Florida from
3 Pensacola to Panama City, and Senator Smith, I
4 just want to apologize to you and tell you that
5 you and Senator Sachs will be meeting
6 separately later to sort this out.

7 We have a large number of people who want
8 to speak today and we want to hear from as many
9 people as we can.

10 We will adjourn promptly at 1:00 and we
11 have literally over 100 people who have signed
12 up to speak.

13 Now, we can do this any number of ways,
14 but in order to give everyone a fair chance we
15 are going to impose a time limit. Is Bill
16 Diamond here? Bill, are you here?

17 MR. DIAMOND: Right here.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Bill, sit down. The
19 reason why I asked you to stand up for a
20 second, Bill, is because I am an advocate for
21 you. You are the last person who signed up to
22 speak, and I want to hear from Bill Diamond,
23 but in order to hear from him, everybody else
24 is going to have to be courteous and kind.

25 Now, you are welcome to applaud. You are

1 welcome to emote, you are welcome to do most
2 anything that is legal and not unethical or
3 fattening, but remember that any time you take
4 is time you are taking away from people who
5 have come here, your friends and neighbors who
6 would like to speak.

7 So we are going to keep everybody to two
8 minutes. That is the only way we can get
9 through all of the individuals who signed up.

10 Now, if someone has already made your
11 point we will give you extra credit for saying,
12 I agree with that person and you can still
13 submit your written comments which will be part
14 of the record and available to all members of
15 the committee.

16 But if you feel the need to speak, even if
17 somebody else has made your point, we want to
18 hear you for the time that you have available.

19 With that said I am going to call several
20 people forward so that we can kind of keep it
21 moving.

22 Joan Karp with the League of Women Voters
23 will be first, followed by Thomas, I think it
24 is Sliney, Sliney, and Tom, if you will please
25 come forward, please, as well. And then Carol

1 Porter and then Florence Fidell.

2 And so if we could begin, please, if those
3 individuals would come forward and we will
4 begin with Joan Karp. You are our first
5 testifier. We are glad to have you here this
6 morning and you are recognized.

7 MS. KARP: Good morning, I am President of
8 the Palm Beach County League of Women Voters.
9 During previous hearings many testifiers have
10 emphasized the same map criteria that we voted
11 into the Constitution last year. There are
12 only six more hearings after this morning's.

13 Still we are asking, in spite of what
14 Senator Precourt said, why aren't we seeing
15 drafts of maps at any of these hearings so that
16 the public can make comments on the product
17 instead of the criteria and we can judge if the
18 listening tour was effective.

19 By the time maps are presented there will
20 be little time for public comment. In this
21 tight budget environment these expensive
22 hearings shouldn't be wasted on merely
23 listening.

24 By now many other states have released
25 actual proposed maps for citizens' comments.

1 Arizona for one will allow 30 days of public
2 hearings.

3 The current timeline seems to be only
4 three days in Tallahassee for public comments
5 after the vote. How can we, hundreds of miles
6 from Tallahassee, analyze and comment in that
7 length of time?

8 The software, My District Builder,
9 provided to the public to draw their maps
10 doesn't provide the tools necessary to draw
11 real statewide maps that fit the criteria
12 written into the Constitution.

13 Consequently the league is not drawing
14 sample maps. The lack of timely maps impacts
15 the work of the league educating the voters.
16 How can we plan and execute candidate forms
17 without knowing where the districts fall?

18 How can we answer questions for your
19 constituents when they ask, who is running in
20 their district? Our written publications need
21 the maps as well.

22 In just one year the State Primaries will
23 already have been held, which means that
24 absentee ballots would have been mailed weeks
25 before and all ballots for early voting created

1 many weeks earlier, making the work of the
2 Supervisors' office with its limited staff
3 extremely difficult.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
5 very much, Ms. Karp. We really appreciate your
6 testimony, and next we will have Thomas Sliney,
7 please.

8 MR. SLINEY: Good morning, I am Tom
9 Sliney. I am a long time resident of Boca
10 Raton and an attorney in Boca and have been in
11 the political process for a long time.

12 I am here to speak on District 87 which I
13 am very familiar with. You can't see it, but
14 here is a map. If you can see the tan part,
15 this is District 87.

16 It is Boca Raton based. It is presently a
17 pretty compact district. If you need to make
18 some changes in the district I would suggest
19 based on the compactness theory and also the
20 county line theory, that you take one portion
21 of the district which is in District 91 and
22 bring that up into Boca Raton, take off the
23 Broward County part of the district and have
24 that go back to Broward County.

25 Also, if you need population increased and

1 I am not sure which way the district is, to
2 have the balance of the city of Boca Raton be
3 placed in the district and I would also suggest
4 that you keep the coastal cities in the
5 district. Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
7 Very helpful testimony. Next we will hear from
8 Carol Porter and following Ms. Porter, if
9 Florence Fidell is here and then Steven Laine
10 and then following Mr. Laine, Corrine Miller.

11 Carol Porter, you are recognized.

12 A VOICE: No, she is not here.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: She is not here, well, we
14 will pass her and go next to Florence Fidell.
15 Carol is here.

16 A VOICE: Okay.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: All right, Carol, are you
18 here?

19 MS. PORTER: Yes.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Carol Porter. Ms. Porter.
21 Is Carol Porter here? Do you wish to testify?

22 MS. PORTER: Can I use this microphone,
23 please?

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am, you certainly
25 may.

1 MS. PORTER: Okay. Just that we, the
2 Florida voters, would like the process to go
3 smoothly and please take all input and we would
4 like the districts to be drawn fairly for fair
5 representation, too, and I think that is all I
6 can think of right now.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: That is a lot. Thank you
8 very much, Ms. Porter. And next is Florence
9 Fidell, and then Steven Laine, if you can be on
10 deck.

11 MS. FIDELL: I am Florence Fidell, the
12 United Federation of Teachers as well as a
13 million other positions I hold, and please, I
14 say this with all due respect, please, but your
15 job is to carry out the will of the voters, and
16 I am one of those 63 percent of the Florida
17 voters actually that was more than 3,150,000
18 Floridians who voted for fair districts.

19 Your responsibility is certainly to listen
20 to us, but by your ploy, sorry, but by your
21 ploy of giving us the opportunity of drawing
22 the lines as you alluded to before, instead of
23 presenting what you think is fair and legal, I
24 find it unconscionable.

25 At these 26 hearings around the state we

1 would then have had an opportunity to comment
2 and react to your plan. I, like others, have
3 done my research, and know that you have had
4 the necessary data to draw district lines.

5 You have had it since March, and by doing
6 it this way it limits the time that prospective
7 candidates can file, to speak to us and allow
8 us to make clear decisions on who we think
9 should represent us.

10 I will end on this comment. Do you
11 honestly think it is fair for us, for me to
12 give up my work day as I did today and our time
13 and our money to prospectively travel to
14 Tallahassee months from now when you finally
15 present your maps? I absolutely do not.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
17 Ms. Fidell. And next we have Steven Laine and
18 then following Mr. Laine, Corrine Miller, and
19 following Ms. Miller, Margie Walden.

20 Mr. Laine, you are recognized. Thank you
21 for being here today.

22 MR. LAINE: Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman,
23 for all of your work and all of your co-workers
24 here making this possible, and after doing 25
25 or more of these I can see where you would get

1 a little weary of this effort but we all
2 appreciate your service.

3 A point of personal privilege,
4 Mr. Chairman. 1997 I was part of the second
5 World Food Summit in Rome, Italy. The first
6 one was in 1974, and what I suggested, I was an
7 Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

8 We had 150 speakers that three days and
9 what I suggested was that everybody get a
10 microphone, get up at one time and give their
11 three minutes and then send out a press
12 release. It would save days and hours and so
13 forth, so maybe this is something for the
14 future.

15 At any rate, I am a displaced prune
16 picker, a little bit wrinkled, a little bit
17 nutty. That means I am from California.

18 I was in Washington in 1974, three days
19 later the President quit. I didn't realize
20 there was a Ford in my future, and after 37
21 years last week, many of you will recognize the
22 37th anniversary of Gerald Ford being made
23 President of these United States.

24 Well, I have been active in civic groups
25 and so forth. I won't bore you with all of

1 that, but very active with the Boca Highland
2 Beach Condominium Association which has 62
3 condominiums that we represent in Palm Beach
4 County and Highland Beach, Boca Raton actually,
5 and we have interests such as beach
6 re-nourishment firearm issues, sea grapes
7 challenging blocking views and all of the rest
8 of this. So these are the things that we deal
9 with.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Anything on redistricting
11 before you finish?

12 MR. LAINE: Yes. I am going to get to
13 that, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your --

14 SENATOR GAETZ: You have five seconds.

15 MR. LAINE: Well, the way I did this, I
16 followed the instructions and I put this
17 altogether in two pages for three to five
18 minutes, and of course, we are down to two and
19 I am exceeding my time and I apologize to you.

20 But anybody ever heard of the Rorschach
21 Inkblot Test, you know, a psychologist shows a
22 patient and inkblot and asks what the patient
23 sees in it?

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Laine, I apologize.

25 We have got 98 people behind you.

1 MR. LAINE: Good.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: If you could please wrap
3 it up.

4 MR. LAINE: Yes, and every patient sees
5 the --

6 SENATOR GAETZ: We would be happy to take
7 your written testimony.

8 MR. LAINE: I will give it to you right
9 now, sir. And every patient sees something
10 different. We each look at the district and
11 see it from our various perspectives.

12 My District 91 has special interests in
13 the beaches of our community. Our immediate
14 district to the north of us is analogous in
15 many respects. It has just six or so
16 precincts.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Laine, I am sorry, I
18 am going to have to ask you to conclude,
19 because we do have so many other people, we
20 really appreciate it.

21 Next is Corrine Miller.

22 MR. LAINE: And in conclusion I would like
23 to thank you for all of your efforts on our
24 behalf. Got bless you and thank you for making
25 Florida such a beautiful place in which to

1 live.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
3 Corrine Miller. Corrine Miller and then
4 following Ms. Miller is Margie Walden, and then
5 Jean Craft, if you will be on deck and Tom
6 Whatley, and there are microphones on both
7 sides, whichever is most convenient.
8 Ms. Miller.

9 MS. MILLER: Yes, speaker after speaker in
10 prior hearings of this committee reminded you
11 that over 63 percent of the voters supported
12 Amendments 5 and 6.

13 A committee member said that voters often
14 don't understand the Amendments on which they
15 vote. I would like to point to a number of
16 facts that come to that assumption.

17 A citizen sponsored amendment on
18 redistricting has made the rounds four times in
19 the last decade. Hundreds of thousands of
20 people have signed on only to face
21 disappointment as the first three attempts did
22 not reach the ballot.

23 By the time 5 and 6 were placed on the
24 ballot millions of Florida citizens had all had
25 a personal civics lesson in gerrymandering.

1 I remember a Fourth of July celebration on
2 this campus where volunteers raced to keep up
3 with the number of voters anxious to sign a bid
4 for fairness in our election system.

5 During the entire campaign virtually every
6 newspaper in the state supported the effort.
7 The coalitions members addressed civic
8 organizations throughout the state. In Palm
9 Beach County alone over 120 groups heard about
10 redistricting.

11 There were public debates and explanations
12 from groups like the Collins Center and the
13 Brandon Center. The National media got into
14 the act with comments even from the New York
15 Times.

16 In the process the Legislature changed the
17 threshold for approval to 60 percent from a
18 simple majority. Undaunted by the higher
19 hurdle, the public education campaign included
20 distribution of several hundred thousand
21 non-partisan explanations of the ballot issue
22 that reached voters through libraries,
23 newspaper inserts and distribution at civic
24 meetings and events.

25 If you work with voter education for 50

1 years as I have, you learn that when people
2 choose not to vote it is because they lack
3 sufficient information and do not want to make
4 a mistake.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: And Ms. Miller, we thank
6 you. We thank you for your time.

7 MS. MILLER: I have two more sentences.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Okay.

9 MS. MILLER: The voters who did vote have
10 spoken with understanding and determination.
11 They will remember those who have not heard the
12 message.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
14 Ms. Miller. And next is Margie Walden with
15 Alliance of Delray, and then following
16 Ms. Walden, Jean Craft and Tom Whatley, and Jim
17 Watt, if you will be on deck, please.

18 Ms. Walden, thank you for coming, and we
19 look forward to your testimony.

20 MS. WALDEN: Good morning, Honorable
21 Representatives and Senators of the great state
22 of Florida. The Alliance of Delray is a
23 community-based organization comprised of 81
24 condominium and homeowners associations in
25 Delray Beach representing more than 100,000

1 residents and voters from the Everglades to the
2 ocean.

3 We have a great concern about the
4 following. One, that the lesion of the
5 compactness and geo-spatial analysis from the
6 My District Builder software.

7 Two, the lack of proposed plans and maps
8 distributed to the public for comment prior to
9 these public meetings.

10 Three, only allowing comments from the
11 public on proposed maps during committee
12 meetings that will be held in Tallahassee
13 during session.

14 Four, utilizing taxpayer funds in a
15 pending lawsuit to overturn Fair Districting
16 Amendments that were approved by 63 percent of
17 the population.

18 Five, establishing an unrealistic timeline
19 for approval that will prevent the completion
20 of the entire process in time for all incumbent
21 and new candidates to declare their candidacy
22 and for the Supervisor of Elections to prepare
23 ballots.

24 So as we are facing extremely high
25 unemployment and services are being cut, we are

1 counting the millions of dollars being spent on
2 holding these meetings and suits pending on the
3 constitutionality of these amendments. This is
4 not good governance and the waste the is
5 unconscionable.

6 The Alliance -- The alliance, the Alliance
7 of Delray members will be watching very closely
8 and we are prepared to make our voices heard
9 through every possible channel during this
10 entire process to ensure --

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Walden, thank you.
12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. WALDEN -- the enactment of fair
14 districts.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Your testimony was very
16 helpful. And now Jean Craft. Ms. Craft, you
17 are next, followed by Tom Whatley and Jim Watt
18 and then Ed Sol.

19 Ms. Craft, thank you for being here, and
20 we look forward to anything you have to share
21 with us.

22 MS. CRAFT: I, even though there has been
23 other people that have said the same thing I am
24 going to say, this would -- the voters have
25 already spoken.

1 We want fair districts and for you to come
2 to here and, I mean, I appreciate your service,
3 but for you to come and to spend the money when
4 things are so tight right now when we don't
5 even have maps to look at, to, you know, to
6 comment on and then when you go there and do
7 vote on the maps, how are people going to get
8 all of the way up to Tallahassee?

9 I mean, this is -- this should be already
10 done. You have got the software. There is
11 already procedures for doing it and I just
12 don't understand, that it seems to me as though
13 even though we have spoken clearly about fair
14 maps, fair districts, that now we are going
15 through this.

16 It is not our job to draw the maps. It is
17 your job to draw the maps. That is what the
18 Constitution says. It is our job to say
19 whether we like it or not. Right now we are, I
20 mean, it sounds nice that you are giving us the
21 software, but that is not our job. It is your
22 job to do that. Thank you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. Very
24 helpful testimony. And next, Tom Whatley, and
25 then after Mr. Whatley, Jim Watt and then Ed

1 Sol, and then if Harry Raucher will be on deck.
2 Tom Whatley.

3 MR. WHATLEY: Mr. Chair, ladies and
4 gentlemen of the panel. Thank you for taking
5 the time out to do this. I do have to disagree
6 with the previous speaker that, I appreciate
7 even Senator Sachs putting on like a little
8 hometown meeting last week to get our input on
9 this, and it is a tedious task that you all are
10 going through.

11 It could be political suicide for a few of
12 you, depending on how the maps are drawn up.
13 So I appreciate that, but, you know, I am a
14 native Palm Beach, one of the few people over
15 50 years of age that is actually born in this
16 county.

17 But I live in and probably if you look up
18 gerrymander in the definition, you might see
19 Senator Benacquisto has District 27, while if I
20 walk a quarter mile left or right, I am in
21 Senator Sachs' district.

22 I am all of the way at the very bottom,
23 and I was a little disappointed, Senator
24 Benacquisto, when you moved over to Ft. Myers
25 and I actually, anything I need I actually go

1 three miles over to Congress Avenue and go see
2 Senator Sachs.

3 So it is very gerrymandered, but you all
4 have a tough task and I would encourage you,
5 there is a time issue here, because many people
6 can't run for office. They can't file and if
7 they can't file they can't collect funds, and
8 if they suddenly as the residents requirement
9 they get moved out of another district, what
10 happens is, well, you know, they have collected
11 money, they are going to have to change up. It
12 loses confidence in the voters.

13 So that my issue is, it is a timing, you
14 have to get this done quick, but it is probably
15 the most important decision that you all are
16 going to make while your tenure in office, is
17 this tenure, every ten years.

18 This is the most important one and many of
19 you all are freshmen in your perspective seats,
20 but this is going to make a difference of what
21 happens in the state of Florida. The whole
22 nation is watching, so keep that in mind.

23 The nation is watching what Florida is
24 going to do after redistricting in the
25 Constitutional Amendments and I appreciate each

1 and every one of you for the jobs that you all
2 have done and please continue to do, contrary
3 to what some people have said, the quorums out
4 in the public because I think this is novel,
5 you guys need to do this more often, thank you.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
7 And next, Jim Watt, and following Mr. Watt, Ed
8 Sol, and then Harry Raucher and then George
9 Weiss.

10 Mr. Watt, thank you for being here, we
11 look forward to your testimony, sir.

12 MR. WATT: Good morning, Senators and
13 Representatives. For the record, my name is
14 Jim Watt from Palm Beach Gardens. My remarks
15 concern the House District in northern Palm
16 Beach County.

17 Prior to 1982, our county's House
18 delegation consisted of a multi membered
19 district with six State Representatives.

20 However, in 1982, that changed to six
21 single member districts, which we continue to
22 have today, 30 years later. For these 30 years
23 the north county district, currently District
24 83, the cornerstone of that district has been
25 the municipalities of north Palm Beach, Palm

1 Beach Gardens, Juno Beach and at certain times
2 Lake Park.

3 Therefore, there is a consistent
4 historical basis for that district. Also,
5 there is a substantial community of interest,
6 including the beaches and the area that is
7 commonly referred to as the northern Palm
8 Beaches. We even have our own Chamber of
9 Commerce.

10 I urge the Legislature to continue this
11 commitment to the northern Palm Beaches by
12 maintaining this cornerstone of the cities in
13 the districts, adding adjacent unincorporated
14 areas which have a similar community interest.
15 Thank you very much.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
17 Mr. Watt, and I would like to just mention that
18 because everyone is being so respectful of
19 those who have signed up behind you, if you
20 have extended remarks, we want those notes or
21 any kind of information that you have.

22 You can pass them to our staff members and
23 they will be included and the record made
24 available to all members.

25 And next we will have testimony from Ed

1 Sol and, Ed, thank you for being here.

2 MR. SOL: Thank you for inviting me. My
3 name is Ed Sol from Delray Beach. The
4 legislative's timeline for drawing districts is
5 unfair to Florida voters.

6 Under the present timeline for
7 redistricting, it is highly unlikely that the
8 districts will be finally approved before the
9 date candidates must sign up to run for
10 reelection. And it is unlikely that the
11 ballots will be finalized by the deadline for
12 sending absentee and overseas ballots.

13 Districts may not be finalized until
14 August. Florida's maps will be approved later
15 than most every other state in the nation, and
16 according to the Legislature's own attorney,
17 this will cause massive voter confusion.

18 Voting officials will not have time to
19 prepare for the elections. Challengers or new
20 candidates will have little or any time to
21 mount campaigns and voters will be voting for
22 candidates they will have little opportunity to
23 know. Thank you very much for the opportunity.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Sol. And
25 next is Harry Raucher and then Gregg Weiss and

1 then Karen Burke.

2 Mr. Raucher, thank you for coming today.

3 MR. RAUCHER: Thank you, thanks and good
4 morning and thanks for the opportunity to
5 address the Redistricting Committee.

6 I -- when I got my confirmation it came
7 from a gentleman named, I believe Jay Ferrin
8 who said that this would be a most open
9 transparent and interactive redistricting ever.
10 And I am hoping.

11 Timelines for maps should really be
12 September, October, I think, and we should all
13 be given a time to know what our districts will
14 be, but if they are not publicly released until
15 June, which is what our indications are, it
16 will cause many anxious moments as well as we,
17 the public, not knowing who our Legislators
18 might be and who is running.

19 At the least they should be available at
20 the very beginning of the next session in
21 January. My guess is they have already been
22 drawn or at least some lines have been drawn
23 and I think as many will say they should be
24 contiguous and compact.

25 My State Representative, Representative

1 Perman, I think represents either four or five
2 counties and I think that is wrong.

3 Filings should be greatly affected as I
4 indicated so I won't go into that and many
5 other people have said the same thing.

6 The lawsuit that is being brought is
7 unfair and unjust. A lot of taxpayer money is
8 being spend to hire lawyers and pursue the
9 lawsuit over amendments that were 63 percent of
10 the voters in the last election voted for.

11 We were led to believe that our tax money
12 was being spent more wisely and the creation of
13 jobs and the economy was the most important
14 thing in the past session.

15 I as well as most of the other citizens of
16 Florida hope you will do the right thing and
17 truly make this redistricting transparent, open
18 and interactive. Thank you very much for
19 hearing me.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir, for your
21 very useful testimony. Thank you.

22 Next is Gregg Weiss and then following Mr.
23 Weiss, Karen Burke, Rick Neuhoff and then Henry
24 Kelley.

25 Mr. Weiss, thank you for coming today and

1 we look forward to your testimony.

2 MR. WEISS: Well, thank you very much.
3 Glad to be here. Gregg Weiss, for the record.
4 You asked me to tell you my story and my story
5 is, if you have a pen, you might want to write
6 this down.

7 I am from Precinct 2066 in Palm Beach
8 County, and we -- my block, we have nine homes
9 on the block and we are pulled out of our
10 neighborhood and we are placed in a precinct a
11 quarter of a mile away.

12 So my neighbors all vote for different
13 people than the nine houses on my block. This
14 is -- we are -- we are the poster children for
15 what goes wrong sometimes in redistricting, and
16 Mack Bernard is my Representative, no offense
17 to you, Mack, but my neighbor across the street
18 has Representative Clemens.

19 And we live in the city of West Palm Beach
20 and I see we have four Representatives
21 representing our city of 100,000 people, so we
22 are split up.

23 So if you can fix my personal district or
24 my personal precinct I would think that this
25 would have been a successful event.

1 The only other things I really want to say
2 is, if you could look and see, you know, try to
3 put the city together so that we are, we are a
4 community of interest, and also save our
5 Supervisor of Elections from having to spend so
6 much money to print up all of these different
7 ballots as we are cut up in all of these
8 different ways.

9 And then lastly, I also would have liked
10 to have seen some maps, some ideas of where you
11 thought the line should be drawn, because I
12 think together we can come up with much better
13 ideas when we all put our thoughts together.
14 So thank you very much.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Mr.
16 Weiss. That is exactly the kind of input we
17 need.

18 Next is Karen Burke and following
19 Ms. Burke, Rick Neuhoff and then Henry Kelley,
20 following Mr. Kelley, Allen Robbins.

21 Ms. Burke, thank you for being here.

22 MS. BURKE: Thank you. I would like to
23 defer to Tom Sliney's plan who spoke already
24 regarding District 87 and 91, to help identify
25 like communities of interest and geographic

1 areas that could form the basis of a district
2 or part of a district or identify unique
3 attributes of a given area that the Legislature
4 must be keenly aware of.

5 An example of this could include, but is
6 by no means limited to keeping coastal
7 communities in Palm Beach County together is
8 critically important, because they comprise a
9 community ever interest with special needs and
10 concerns from the rest of Palm Beach County.

11 Coastal communities must be kept together
12 because there are issues such as property
13 insurance and tourism, require these
14 communities to have a strong representation at
15 the State and Federal levels. Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
17 Ms. Burke. That is very helpful testimony.
18 Rick Neuhoff, then Henry Kelley, then if Allen
19 Robbins will be ready and then Mark Allen
20 Siegel. Mr. Neuhoff.

21 MR. NEUHOFF: My name is Rick Neuhoff. I
22 am running for Palm Beach County Commission in
23 District 5 and I have a lot -- I have a lot of
24 respect for you as Florida's Legislators.

25 Over the years gerrymandering has been

1 used to stack partisan votes and give dominance
2 to one party or another, but the times have
3 changed and more than 3,150,000 Floridians have
4 called for fair districts.

5 Technology has radically changed our
6 election process, and because of that today's
7 vocabulary words are geo-spatial analysis. I
8 agree with the Delray Alliance, you can either
9 fix My District Builder software to include
10 geo-spatial analysis or replace it with the
11 Esolvia Seserio software.

12 We are sick and tired of gerrymandering.
13 Election results must represent the actual
14 votes that we cast. It is ridiculous that
15 Floridians are paying attorneys and law firms
16 to argue both sides for and against the
17 redistricting process.

18 Don't you know what side the redistricting
19 issue we are on? We voted for Amendments 5 and
20 6. Now it is up to you to draw the lines in a
21 prompt fashion so that the new fairly drawn
22 compact and contiguous non-partisan districts
23 are in place in plenty of time for the 2012
24 elections.

25 We want fair districts and fair elections

1 now. The last time I heard a Florida
2 politician say they wanted to keep the voting
3 process simple, Florida wound up with a
4 butterfly ballot and we all know the sad ending
5 to that story.

6 So please stop playing games with
7 redistricting. By now you fully understand the
8 meanings of the words compact and contiguous.
9 What part of non-partisan districts don't you
10 understand? I am sure you do.

11 With all due respect I agree with the
12 League of Women Voters and the United
13 Federation of Teachers. These meetings are
14 theatrical and misleading, giving you the
15 opportunity to tell us to produce our own maps
16 for you to consider. Really? Are you serious?
17 You can't expect us to become redistricting
18 software experts and then present our --

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Neuhoff.

20 MR. NEUHOFF -- amateur attempts for your
21 consideration.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Neuhoff, all of those
23 people, Mr. Neuhoff, all those people you want
24 to have vote for you, they are waiting to speak
25 and you have used up your time. Thank you very

1 much for your testimony.

2 MR. NEUHOFF: Thank you for all of the
3 help that you are being today, sir.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Absolutely. Now we are
5 all going to be nice, we are all going to be
6 nice, and let's -- no, no, no, no, no. Let's
7 not -- let's not boo any of the people who
8 speak. Let's instead, okay.

9 A VOICE: You, you.

10 A VOICE: You guys aren't doing a good
11 job.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen,
13 ladies and gentlemen, we have two choices. If
14 you would like to emote, you are welcome to, it
15 is your time. If you would like to hear your
16 friends and neighbors' concerns and testimony,
17 we can do that.

18 But as long as I am Chairing I am going to
19 be helpful and try to get to the last person
20 who signed up to speak, notwithstanding your
21 down sign, ma'am.

22 Now, Mr. Henry Kelley, you have the
23 testimony that you would like to bring to the
24 Committee, we are anxious to hear you.

25 MR. KELLEY: Thank you, Senator, and I

1 would like to thank the members of the
2 Committee for their hard work in attending all
3 of these meetings.

4 I have attended several meetings already
5 and I have watched a few on the Internet, and
6 in the interest of sparking more booing, there
7 is a recurring theme of you guys being told to
8 do your job.

9 On behalf of the Tea Party statewide we
10 believe that in the republic --

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen,
12 please -- we are going to be -- we are going to
13 be kind and courteous to everyone who speaks,
14 regardless of their point of view.

15 MR. KELLEY: The reason why I bring that
16 up is because we believe in a republic the
17 citizens have an obligation to participate and
18 to tell you how we think on a given issue.

19 As such I have personally drawn two
20 Congressional maps, a full Senate map and a
21 full House map for your review.

22 I am here to express my disappointment in
23 the professional groups who stand before you
24 and complain, but haven't lifted a finger to
25 draw their own maps to show you what they want

1 and to put their agenda on display.

2 I received no money from my Tea Party
3 work. I drew these maps in my own spare time.
4 It can be done by anyone with a minor bit of
5 effort of watching the U-Tube video which is
6 five minutes long and a few minutes of
7 experimenting with the software.

8 In fact, there was an editorial today in
9 the Miami Herald from the League of Women
10 Voters and I put it to you, that time could
11 have been better spent taking ten minutes to
12 draw a new district.

13 However, I would like to ask the Committee
14 to consider adding to your calendar. I know
15 you have already had 26 meetings or will have,
16 but I would like the opportunity to present my
17 maps in detail at a committee hearing and I ask
18 that you open up an opportunity for people who
19 have done full maps to explain to you the lines
20 that I have drawn, why I drew them and why I
21 place them where I have and how I view, we
22 should adhere to the Fair Districts Amendment.

23 I will point and I am afraid my eyes
24 aren't what they used to be. The reason I drew
25 two Congressional maps was to show the impact

1 of the minority district and how that
2 gerrymandered district ordered by a Federal
3 Judge affects millions of Floridians and I
4 can't see which map is --

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Kelley, I would -- if
6 you could bring it in for a landing.

7 MR. KELLEY: My point is that we believe
8 in the Fair Districts Amendments as well. I
9 have put my money where my mouth is. I would
10 be glad to discuss what I call my good
11 congressional map that has nine Congressional
12 Districts and how I believe this will help the
13 state of Florida.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

15 MR. KELLEY: Thank you.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
17 And next we will hear from Allen Robbins and
18 following Mr. Robbins, Mark Allen Siegel, then
19 David Torgerson, and then Tami Donnally.

20 Mr. Robbins, thank you for being here and
21 we are delighted to have your testimony.

22 MS. ROBBINS: My name is Allen Robbins. I
23 am from Boynton Beach. Can you map that poster
24 that I requested earlier from your staff to be
25 put on screen, please, before I start?

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Of course.

2 MS. ROBBINS: Okay. That was the reason
3 that we are all here today and if you scroll
4 down a little further down you will see that
5 the -- we are here to do fair districting, and
6 I am here to talk about the software, both the
7 House and the Senate software.

8 I found some serious problems in the
9 software, itself, and I am going to read you
10 what I have. I have a full document of roughly
11 about 60 pages documenting some of the
12 problems.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Can you leave that with
14 us?

15 MS. ROBBINS: Your staff already has that.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, thank you.

17 MS. ROBBINS: I am just going to read a
18 short version of what is in here.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Please.

20 MS. ROBBINS: My District Builder and the
21 Senate District Builder directly relate to the
22 success of the Amendments 5 and 6. There is a
23 national public web-based mapping project, that
24 uses a version of District Builder that used
25 geo-spatial formulas.

1 The other versions of the District Builder
2 have failed to include this vital component and
3 other versions of District Builder will not
4 deliver compact and contiguous non-partisan
5 district scores.

6 The Florida House has been notified of
7 this serious problem on several occasions. The
8 Florida State House responded by saying they
9 would not include shell plan summary explaining
10 we do not plan to include a compactness
11 measuring tool.

12 The Florida House Senate's position is
13 completely unacceptable. The words compact and
14 -- is in the language of both Amendments 5 and
15 6 and again we call for the state of Florida to
16 use the version of District Builder that has
17 geo-spacial analysis.

18 We know that no mathematical formula is
19 likely to adequately correct for all of the
20 geographical and social variabilities that can
21 result in irregular district shapes.

22 However, when the authors wrote Amendments
23 5 and 6 they clearly called for a geometric
24 measure of compactness as part of the process.

25 When Florida State House told me that you

1 do not need Reocovia Hall Palsway Popper and
2 Schwartzberg scores to know what makes sense
3 for creating compact districts.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, could I ask you to
5 conclude, please? You have gone over time.

6 MR. ROBBINS: Okay, then I will end it
7 with this paragraph. We want fair districts
8 drawn. Therefore, we demand that My District
9 Builder and the Senate District Builder
10 software either be fixed, replaced so that the
11 mandate of the people is followed to the letter
12 of the law to make sure that the DOJ and the
13 Florida Supreme Court have full access to
14 geo-spacial analysis to measure relative
15 compactness which is a mandate.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

17 MR. ROBBINS: For the people.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: And you are going to leave
19 your information with the staff, thank you so
20 much. That is very helpful.

21 Next, Mark Allen Siegel with The Autobot
22 Group, then David Torgerson, Tami Donnally, and
23 Susan Bucher, who is the Supervisor of
24 Elections. Mr. Siegel.

25 MR. SIEGEL: That is for Susan, not for

1 me. I served in another Legislature in another
2 galaxy far, far away, and went through a couple
3 of reapportionment processes and generally it
4 is pretty disgraceful.

5 However, the state of Florida adopted the
6 Fair District Amendments. In this county
7 70 percent of the people voted for fair
8 districts, which is why you have such anxiety
9 about it not being followed.

10 There are several things which you must
11 keep in mind. First of all, the absolute
12 integrity of county and city boundaries. There
13 is no excuse for crossing a county boundary
14 more than once or for dividing a city up among
15 four legislative districts.

16 Even the requirements of the Voting Rights
17 Act would require no city to be divided into
18 more than two districts.

19 So the number one thing we will be looking
20 at is how our Palm Beach municipalities are
21 treated. Don't cut up the cities, keep them
22 whole. Don't make our county partners of four
23 or five counties. Give us one or two partners
24 and keep the districts whole.

25 Second, there have to be objective

1 standards. Mr. Robbins mentioned several of
2 these standards. If you don't have objective
3 standards to measure the varying and
4 compactness and contiguity of your districts,
5 you are intentionally flying blind. Don't do
6 that.

7 It is not, it shouldn't be a subjective
8 matter when someone looks at the map and say,
9 well, geez, that looks compact. There are
10 well-established mathematical tools to
11 determine these things. Include them in your
12 software. There was no harm in that.

13 Finally, the schedule that you have
14 developed discriminates against our fighting
15 men and women. They vote, they vote overseas.

16 As Supervisor Bucher will tell you, the
17 schedule that is projected will make it
18 impossible to give our soldiers, seamen and
19 airmen the opportunity to vote in our primaries
20 and our general elections. Thank you for your
21 attention.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.
23 Next we will hear from David Torgerson and
24 after Mr. Torgerson, Tami Donnally, then
25 Supervisor Bucher, and then Bill Martin.

1 Mr. Torgerson, thank you for being here,
2 sir, and we look forward to your testimony.

3 MR. TORGERSON: I am just -- everything
4 has been covered pretty much. I am just here
5 and wondering why I don't have a couple of maps
6 in my hand of what you are proposing, that I
7 think it would be much more effective at this
8 stage if you already had something you were
9 proposing for us to look at and figure out what
10 is going on. So where are the maps?

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Sir, thank you very much,
12 and next, Tami Donnally, Ms. Donnally, thank
13 you for being here. We look forward to any
14 testimony you might have for us.

15 MS. DONNALLY: Thank you, good morning.
16 My name is Tami Donnally, and I have lived in
17 Palm Beach County since 1966. I appreciate the
18 openness in which you are holding these
19 hearings and I think it is very important to
20 solicit citizen input and listen first before
21 drawing the maps.

22 I certainly don't envy the job that you
23 have ahead of you. I want to speak briefly
24 about the new Constitutional redistricting
25 requirements, Amendments 5 and 6. I have some

1 concerns that these Amendments and their
2 potential impact on the outcome of the process.

3 I am concerned many of the key words and
4 phrases of the Amendments are not sufficiently
5 defined to prevent confusion. Words like
6 compact, practical and feasible all sound easy
7 enough to understand, but what do they actually
8 mean?

9 Are there specific definitions of these
10 terms? What factors determine whether or not a
11 district meets the compactness requirements of
12 the Amendments, for example?

13 Similarly, what is practical and feasible
14 to one person may not appear to be so to
15 another person. What legal definitions of
16 these words exist to clarify their meanings?

17 What qualifies existing legal boundaries
18 under Amendments 5 and 6? Couldn't there be
19 many types of political boundaries that could
20 be used to draw district lines, and, if so, how
21 do we know which boundary lines to follow or
22 which not to follow?

23 I would also ask that you consider the
24 commonality issues between communities. For
25 example, many people use Lake Worth as their

1 home city. While eastern Lake Worth
2 communities identify with coastal issues and
3 other coastal cities, the western Lake Worth
4 communities have similar issues closer to those
5 of Wellington.

6 Again, I want to say thank you very much
7 for allowing us an opportunity to be here today
8 and express our concerns. I appreciate your
9 time and I hope you will be able to draw good
10 maps for the state of Florida. Thank you
11 again.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
13 Ms. Donnally. Next, Ms. Susan Bucher,
14 Ms. Bucher, it is good to see you again, and
15 thank you for your service to the people of
16 Palm Beach County.

17 MS. BUCHER: My name is Susan Bucher and I
18 am the Supervisor of Elections in Palm Beach
19 County, and I am here this morning to, number
20 one, thank you for coming, but to explain to
21 you that the time frame is not workable for the
22 Supervisors of Elections throughout the state
23 of Florida.

24 As everyone in this room knows, Florida is
25 considered a swing state and a very important

1 2012 Presidential election next year. The eyes
2 of the world will be focused on the state of
3 Florida, and there is always special focus here
4 in Palm Beach County on elections.

5 I have had 20 elections in my first 30
6 months as a Supervisor of Elections and let me
7 tell you, it is not easy to put together voting
8 sites, over 450 of them and 790 precincts and
9 get the ballots printed and packaged and
10 shipped and delivered here in time to give each
11 voter the ballot that they deserve and they
12 should have. It all takes time.

13 We should be working on a schedule right
14 now for what needs to be done for next year.
15 However, we can't, because we don't have the
16 district lines, and we can't even schedule a
17 Presidential preference primary because the
18 date is not set.

19 You are sending our state into a perfect
20 storm of disaster. Take a look at your own
21 calendar. The process shows that without
22 lawsuits we get the information as Supervisors
23 on June 1st. We start qualifying candidates on
24 June 4th. That is simply impossible.

25 To conduct elections efficiently and

1 accurately, election officials need time to
2 adjust precinct lines to new districts, gain
3 approval of those precincts by the Board of
4 County Commissioners and notify all of our
5 voters well in advance of election day.

6 Even though I am considerate of the hard
7 working non-incumbent candidates who don't know
8 where their station campaign because they don't
9 know where the districts will be, you are
10 placing our voters in the worst possible
11 position and this entire process is supposed to
12 be for the voters.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: And Ms. Bucher, just out
14 of respect for your constituents, if you could
15 submit us your remarks in writing and then
16 conclude if you can, please, just in a few
17 sentences.

18 MS. BUCHER: I am your election partner.
19 I would like to complete.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, you have got about
21 -- you have got a number of people, almost 100
22 people behind you who would like to speak.

23 MS. BUCHER: I understand, and they are
24 giving me their time. Thank you.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: I will be happy to grant

1 you another 15 seconds, but please try to
2 conclude.

3 MS. BUCHER: Given your timeline, voters
4 will have little time to get to know their
5 candidates running in their areas. If you
6 follow your current timeline, something that
7 was created by you and can be changed by you, I
8 believe you are setting our state up for
9 massive voter confusion in a very important
10 election year and that is entirely unnecessary.

11 If the Legislature or the Attorney
12 General, the Supreme Court and the Justice
13 Department complete their work on schedule,
14 election administrators will have less than two
15 weeks to adjust the records for Florida's
16 11 million plus voters before the absentee
17 ballots must be mailed to our military
18 overseas.

19 During the 1992 redistricting election --
20 schedule there were 13 lawsuits and in '02,
21 there were five. Your own staff analysis for
22 Amendment 7 stated that due to Amendments 5 and
23 6 the Office of the State Administrator
24 believes there be an impact at trial and
25 appellate levels as they assume litigation will

1 increase.

2 Why doesn't your calendar reflect what you
3 know or expect to happen this year? The
4 Supervisors have seen the long path potential
5 and it puts us after the 2012 election. I have
6 a copy here. You are not recreating the wheel
7 here.

8 The wheel of redistricting is well worn
9 and full of case law and traditional
10 districting principles. All that is being
11 asked of this Committee is to follow the
12 already established Federal and State laws.

13 The language of Amendments 5 and 6 passed
14 by 71.2 and 71.56 percent respectively here in
15 Palm Beach County and over 63 percent
16 statewide. The voice of our voters is very
17 clear.

18 The only thing that is being asked of this
19 Committee is to do your job in a timely manner
20 to ensure that there is enough time set to
21 properly establish election standards in place
22 for a smooth election.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Bucher, I apologize,
24 but we have given you twice as much time as --

25 MS. BUCHER: Rushing our Supervisors in

1 order --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: -- we have given your
3 constituents.

4 MS. BUCHER: -- to accommodate some made
5 schedule can cause errors and mistakes and we
6 all just want Florida to have successful
7 elections.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Bucher,
9 thank you very much. Next we will hear from
10 Bill Martin, if Mr. Martin is here, you are
11 recognized.

12 Following Bill Martin will be Peter
13 Feaman, and following Mr. Feaman, Philip Ward
14 and then John Smith. Mr. Martin.

15 MR. MARTIN: Do I get this much applause?

16 SENATOR GAETZ: If you earn it. If you
17 earn it.

18 MR. MARTIN: I don't think I will. Thanks
19 for coming and giving us an opportunity to
20 listen to our comments of how we want our
21 districts to look for the next ten years.

22 For the record, my name is Bill Martin. I
23 have lived in Palm Beach County for 18 years.
24 It was until recently the principle owner and
25 CEO of Estee Microwave. I am sorry, is that

1 better?

2 A VOICE: Yes, sir.

3 MR. MARTIN: Okay, thank you. We employed
4 135 people who live in the county, the
5 opportunity to acquire this company is why I
6 came to Palm Beach County originally.

7 We survived three major hurricanes and
8 kept manufacturing. The company continues to
9 manufacture here in Palm Beach County today and
10 I remain active in business through my firm,
11 Martin & Associates.

12 I would like to talk to you a bit about
13 preserving coastal communities. I think our
14 area has when well-served by having coastal
15 districts that are separate from the inland
16 areas of our county.

17 Districts going along the coast from
18 northern Palm Beach County through Boca Raton
19 and then south make a lot of sense because we
20 have unique needs and interests.

21 My wife and I live in a marina just off
22 the Intercoastal, concerns like property
23 insurance cost, protecting ourselves and our
24 homes from hurricane storm surges, exposure to
25 wind and water damage, are particularly

1 important to us, we live along the coast.

2 Therefore, I think it is important that
3 coastal communities be kept together in state
4 legislative and Congressional Districts so that
5 we have the opportunity to let people who
6 understand our unique and specific concerns.

7 I would ask you to strongly consider that
8 in drawing your districts. I think this will
9 ensure that our coastal families will be
10 well-represented in the years to come.

11 Again, I want to thank you for allowing me
12 to speak today.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
14 We appreciate your testimony. And next is
15 Peter Feaman, followed by Philip ward and then
16 John Smith and then Susan Litchfield.

17 Mr. Feaman.

18 MR. FEAMAN: Thank you, my name is Peter
19 Feaman.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Feaman, I apologize, sir.

21 MR. FEAMAN: That is okay. Everybody does
22 it. I have been a resident -- I live in Boynton
23 Beach. I have been a resident of eastern Palm
24 Beach County for almost 30 years.

25 I am here not to complain, criticize or

1 posture. I do have some specific
2 recommendations that may help the Committee in
3 their deliberations in driving and creating
4 districts.

5 However, I have seen the League of Women
6 Voters speak here today. I have seen their
7 website where they posted talking points for
8 these hearings.

9 They demand you produce maps now. They
10 criticize the process. That is posturing. It
11 was the League of Women Voters, itself, that
12 first publicly proposed maps when we did this
13 ten years ago.

14 It is in the redistricting archives of the
15 Florida Senate. I looked it up. With
16 Amendments 5 and 6, however, this time around
17 you must take public input first because the
18 wording of these Amendments clearly is so
19 difficult to comprehend, such as existing
20 political boundaries, compactness. There is --

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Now, ladies and gentlemen.
22 Excuse me, this is not included in your time.
23 Ladies and gentlemen, if you interrupt a
24 speaker, you can applaud later after somebody
25 speaks or you can show your emotions, but while

1 someone is speaking we are going to listen and
2 we are going to be respectful. We are
3 Americans. Please go ahead, sir.

4 MR. FEAMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It
5 would seem that the language in Amendments 5
6 and 6 as a lawyer myself for over 30 years are
7 so subjective that the League of Women Voters
8 perhaps doesn't want to show their hand by
9 drawing their own districts this time around.

10 They want the House and Senate to go first
11 and then they can say, huh, got you, but, you
12 know, in today's political climate there will
13 be lawsuits.

14 Finally, before I get specific
15 suggestions, it is a shame that a group once
16 founded on principle of civic participation is
17 not taking advantage of these public hearings
18 by giving you specific ideas and what you can
19 do.

20 This is a process they had no problem with
21 10 or 20 years ago. Now, two points with
22 regard to this area.

23 First, there is no question that in Palm
24 Beach County there are two distinct economic
25 communities, number one, agriculture. It

1 drivers the economy in the western half of our
2 county, and then the beach communities and that
3 drives the economic engine east of the Florida
4 Turnpike, two distinct economic concerns.

5 Our maps should keep our eastern beach
6 communities whole as they have similar economic
7 interests.

8 Our western agricultural community should
9 be connected to others with the same interest,
10 and finally, because I see my time is almost
11 up.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: It is.

13 MR. FEAMAN: And I want to be respectful
14 of that. We also have diverse population in
15 this county which should be pointed out which
16 nobody has said anything yet.

17 Our African-American neighbors in Rivera
18 Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glade and South Bay are
19 all now represented in a minority/majority
20 district.

21 I know that you cite Sections II and V of
22 the Federal Voting Rights Act on your website
23 and I would like you to keep that in
24 consideration as well so can draw --

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

1 MR. FEAMAN -- districts that represent all
2 Floridians and not special interest groups.
3 Thank you very much.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Feaman,
5 appreciate it. And next we will hear from
6 Philip Ward and then following Mr. Ward, John
7 R. Smith and then Susan Litchfield with the
8 League of Women Voters, and then Michael
9 Barnett.

10 Mr. Ward, thank you for being here. We
11 look forward to your testimony.

12 MR. WARD: Thank you, my name is Philip
13 Ward. I have lived along the Jupiter Beach,
14 the dog friendly Jupiter Beach since 1984, and
15 I am a managing partner of a law firm in West
16 Palm Beach with 35 employees.

17 I want to echo the comments of Mr. Feaman,
18 but also the gentleman from the Tea Party. I
19 think those were worthy comments. I also
20 believe strongly that historically our
21 districts have been drawn in a way that unite
22 large coastal communities.

23 I urge the Legislature to continue this
24 tradition because voters have grown accustomed
25 to these districts, and most importantly, they

1 make great sense at many levels.

2 Whether dealing with issues like
3 insurance, tourism, transportation, emergency
4 preparedness and more, coastal residents
5 greatly benefit from representation from
6 leaders who live in these areas and know these
7 issues firsthand.

8 Many Florida districts have been drawn
9 with a goal of uniting distinct communities of
10 interest, such as agricultural districts,
11 suburban districts and inner city districts,
12 and in our case, our unique coastal areas, both
13 along the intercoastal and the beach side.

14 We need and deserve the same type of
15 representation that only be preserved through
16 fair redistricting. Thank you again.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
18 Mr. Ward, and next, we will hear from John R.
19 Smith and then following Mr. Smith, Susan
20 Litchfield with the League and then Michael
21 Barnett and then Loretta Jacobson.

22 Mr. Smith.

23 MR. SMITH: Nice to see everyone. My name
24 is John R. Smith. I own a financial services
25 company here in the county and I am Chairman of

1 the Business Political Action Committee of Palm
2 Beach County. I will be quick.

3 The business community here in this county
4 is very aware that communities of interest
5 exist in Palm Beach County.

6 We believe their interests must be
7 recognized, must be preserved by the
8 Legislature, and we believe this can be
9 accomplished without violating the new
10 standards from fair districts.

11 We have communities here that have more in
12 common with each other than they do with other
13 geographic or demographic interests. Your goal
14 must be to unite distinct communities of
15 interest, such as the large coastal community
16 of interest, the agricultural districts in the
17 west, and inner city or minority districts.

18 These three communities need and deserve
19 representation which reflects their unique
20 needs. The coastal communities especially must
21 be considered.

22 It is important they be kept together in
23 State Legislative and Congressional Districts
24 so that they have the opportunity to elect
25 people who understand their unique and specific

1 concerns. They have different concerns than
2 the inland parts of the county.

3 Likewise, the agricultural communities in
4 the western part are the engine that drives
5 their local economy, as Peter Feaman said.
6 They are the primary source of jobs.

7 They are a community of interest with a
8 completely different economic makeup than
9 coastal communities.

10 Joining both the agricultural communities
11 in the west and the coastal communities into
12 the same district would ultimately
13 disenfranchise both in Tallahassee. The
14 community or the county also has thriving
15 African-American communities, such as in Rivera
16 Beach, Pahokee, Belle Glades, South Bay, which
17 is a third community of interest you must
18 honor.

19 Those cities should remain in the
20 majority/minority House District 84 that they
21 have today. Also, African-Americans in Rivera
22 Beach should remain in the majority/minority
23 Senate District, 29, Chris Smith, as they are
24 today.

25 This is necessary in order to ensure that

1 the minority citizens in these communities
2 don't lose their voice.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Smith.

4 MR. SMITH: My pleasure.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: We appreciate your
6 testimony very much.

7 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Senator.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: And next is Susan
9 Litchfield, also with the League of Women
10 Voters. Thank you for coming today and we look
11 forward to your testimony.

12 MS. LITCHFIELD: Yes, good morning. I
13 want to thank you all for being here and I am
14 very -- I think it is a big job you have to do,
15 but I am going to speak just as a citizen.

16 In talking to my neighbors I am very
17 concerned about representative government. I
18 have been walking around for maybe three years
19 signing petitions to get these Amendments on
20 the ballot.

21 I live in the city of Delray, and my
22 mother, who lives a mile and-a-half from me,
23 has a different Representative although we have
24 a similar interest, and the city of Delray,
25 well, we all want good schools, we all want a

1 good ocean, we all want things for our
2 children, transportation and whatever, and all
3 of us do work together.

4 So I had no one in my community to show a
5 map to and say where these lines are going to
6 be drawn, but in representing the people that I
7 live with, we like to be all drawn together,
8 because that is what we are. We are citizens
9 and we want to be represented by people that
10 help us to make a better community. Thank you.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Litchfield,
12 very useful testimony. Next, Michael Barnett
13 and then Loretta Jacobson, Michael Coleman, and
14 then Shirley Herman.

15 Mr. Barnett, thank you for being here.
16 You are recognized, sir.

17 MR. BARNETT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
18 members of the panel. My name is Michael
19 Barnett, and I have been a resident of south
20 Palm Beach County for most of the last 24
21 years.

22 I would like to speak today with regards
23 to the importance of ensuring that minority
24 African-Americans in Palm Beach County have a
25 chance to elect candidates of their choice in

1 the House, Senate and Congressional maps.

2 I know that over the last few decades this
3 body has made great strides in the
4 representation of racial and language
5 minorities in the state's Legislature and
6 Congressional Delegation and my hope today is
7 that this progress will continue, but my fear,
8 however, is that with the new redistricting
9 standards before you today, that there will be
10 a danger, a danger to the progress we have
11 made.

12 Now that our Constitution contains a
13 requirement for the districts to be
14 geographically compact and to follow political
15 boundaries where feasible, it seems quite
16 possible that these minority districts in our
17 county may fall victim to these new standards.

18 I hope you would understand that the
19 minority, majority/minority districts sometimes
20 are not compact. Take, for example, Chris
21 Smith's Senate District 29, which stretches
22 from Broward County all of the way in Ft.
23 Lauderdale, to Rivera Beach up here in Palm
24 Beach County.

25 This district is not pretty looking but it

1 does ensure that minority citizens of Rivera
2 Beach do have the chance to elect a candidate
3 of their choice.

4 If this particular district were to be cut
5 in any other way the result would silence the
6 voice of these citizens, a result which is not
7 good for our county.

8 And I would also like to point out there
9 are still other disparities within our House
10 delegation, in African-American residence in
11 neighborhoods like Lake Worth, Lantana,
12 Boynton, Delray Beach still do not have a
13 chance to elect a candidate of their choice in
14 the House. So I would urge you to rectify the
15 situation as required under Federal law.

16 In closing, my purpose again is to remind
17 you, please, to preserve minority access
18 districts in Palm Beach County and throughout
19 Florida. We have come too far to see the vague
20 new standards which are open to much
21 interpretation, roll back the progress we have
22 made in this state.

23 We have worked too hard for too long to
24 allow this to happen. So I would ask you to
25 please continue the work we have accomplished

1 together as Republicans and Democrats.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.

3 MR. BARRETT: Thank you.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate it very much.

5 Next, Loretta Jacobson is recognized, and
6 following Ms. Jacobson we will hear from Mike
7 Coleman and then Shirley Herman from the
8 National Organization for Women, and then
9 Roger, I am sorry, Robert Ganger, I believe it
10 is.

11 Ms. Jacobson, you are recognized and thank
12 you so much for taking time out of your day.

13 MS. JACOBSON: Thank you all for
14 listening. I am speaking as a private citizen,
15 not as a political activist.

16 I hope you all listened when you were
17 introducing yourselves and to the laughter at
18 some of your districts which are geographically
19 spread all over the map. This is not what we
20 wanted when we voted for Fair Districts.

21 Most of the people have already addressed
22 my concerns. Our taxpayer dollars being spent
23 for a lawsuit that we don't want, geographic
24 contiguous areas.

25 However, I must address the coastal

1 communities. Those of us that live in other
2 parts of the state, not along the coast, such
3 as west Boca where I live, we also have wind
4 damage, water damage, all types of the same
5 concerns.

6 We need to have a logical geographical
7 contiguous fair districts in a timely manner,
8 and I think you are hurting yourselves by
9 giving the appearance of deliberate delay.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for
11 being with us today, Ms. Jacobson. And next we
12 will hear from Mike Coleman, then Shirley
13 Herman, then Robert Ganger, and then Silvia
14 Hall.

15 Mr. Coleman, thank you very much for being
16 here.

17 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you very much for
18 having the opportunity to speak before this
19 group today.

20 A couple of things that I have noticed
21 during the conversations. There are buzz
22 words, there are people that have come in and
23 they have discussed things and they have talked
24 about one side having talking points and the
25 other side obviously, they don't have talking

1 points, but they all know what a coastal
2 communities is, and it must be just maintained
3 and kept because it seems to be very, very
4 important to them.

5 Obviously we are here for political
6 reasons and that is something that we all need
7 to consider. There are two maps that are out
8 right now on the -- as of last night on your,
9 on your board.

10 These maps, one of them is completely
11 contiguous. Another is completely contiguous.
12 They are within one voter and the maps are
13 vastly different.

14 That is what I really wanted to talk to
15 people about. One map shows that there is 17
16 communities in Broward County that have been
17 split up to achieve what zero has to be done.

18 One of the entire maps, a fellow named
19 Sean Phillipi, put it together.

20 It has no communities torn up. It matches
21 all of the way down to the single vote, and it
22 is something that needs to be considered. It
23 would have been nice to have collaboration as
24 in ya'll bring in maps so we could see what you
25 were thinking, but nobody did.

1 So all I see is somebody is trying to play
2 out a game, run out the clock and get two more
3 years in old districts and put self into the
4 court.

5 I do appreciate the time and thank you
6 very much.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. Thanks
8 for pointing out the value of that map by
9 Mr. Phillipi.

10 Next is Shirley Herman with the Palm Beach
11 National Organization for Women. Then Roger, I
12 think it is Ganger, I apologize if I
13 mispronounced that, and then Silvia Hall and
14 then following Ms. Hall is Margaret Mackey.

15 Shirley Herman.

16 MS. HERMAN: Hi, I am Shirley Herman from
17 Palm Beach County, National Organization for
18 Women.

19 I had other remarks prepared but I kept
20 hearing coastal community and when I sit on my
21 deck I see the intercoastal and I guess that is
22 a coastal community.

23 But my district, one of my districts is a
24 half mile wide and 150 miles long, but, you
25 know, I love my coast, I love the water that I

1 am looking at, but I have more in common with
2 my neighbors to the west in Northwood where I
3 go to eat, or in downtown West Palm Beach where
4 I go to play, than I have with people living on
5 the coast 75 miles north or south of me.

6 So I am not sure that it really means the
7 connection with people who live on the coast.
8 I think it may have to do with other issues,
9 and I think that contiguous, contiguous
10 boundaries that include your neighbors who
11 don't have the same view out their window as
12 you is the right way to do it.

13 So that we all have a say in what happens
14 around us in the blocks that we -- where we
15 live.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
17 Ms. Herman, very helpful. Next, Roger, Robert
18 Ganger, did I mispronounce that?

19 MR. GANGER: Yes, sir, four times. It is
20 Robert Ganger. I apologize, I have a frog in
21 my throat.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: No, it is my eyesight and
23 it is not your writing.

24 MR. GANGER: No, it is usually Granger, by
25 the way. I am speaking on behalf of the

1 Florida Coalition for Preservation which is a
2 local non profit corporation headquartered here
3 in Delray Beach.

4 Our mission is to champion responsible
5 development on Florida's barrier islands and
6 coastal communities. And although I don't want
7 to have a debate with the lady who just spoke,
8 we are an A political organization, concerned
9 primarily with preserving the fragile land and
10 marine environment on the state shorelines, and
11 enchancing the quality of life for millions of
12 people who enjoy our fabulous beaches and
13 waterways.

14 So think of us as a local organization
15 that really is statewide in scope, and I am
16 here today to propose that the Legislature make
17 no major changes to Senate District 25 and
18 House District 87 as a part of your 2012
19 redistricting process.

20 The website says that one of the
21 principles guiding definition of a compact
22 district is, quote, "How the communities relate
23 to one another in order to promote the creation
24 of effective representational units."

25 And as a practical matter, there are close

1 to 20 individual jurisdictions, the front of
2 the ocean in Senate District 25, and among them
3 seven jurisdictions within House District 87.
4 Everyone of those districts is on the
5 shoreline.

6 Our coalition is focused primarily on a
7 handful of these jurisdictions that basically
8 go from Delray Beach to Lake Worth, and what we
9 are finding is that these municipalities
10 increasingly want to work together to deal with
11 the shared issues that are unique to coastal
12 communities, and particularly to the
13 populations who are located on the barrier
14 island and the intercoastal waterway.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: And, sir, could I ask you
16 to conclude, please?

17 MR. GANGER: You certainly may. All I am
18 asking you to do is to consider the coastal
19 communities, 1,300 miles of coast line in
20 Florida as kind of a one big district and keep
21 the districts as close together as you can so
22 that there is some representation at the state
23 level on issues that we all share. Thank you.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
25 Appreciate it. Andn next is Silvia Hall, and

1 following Ms. Hall will be Margaret Mackey and
2 then Toni Rosenberg, I believe.

3 Ms. Hall, are you here?

4 MS. HALL: I am here.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Great, thank you so much
6 for coming and we look forward to your
7 testimony, and who do you have with you?

8 MS. HALL: My daughter, Martha.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Hi, Martha, how are you?

10 MS. HALL: And -- hi, I live in east Boca,
11 and I would like to say just one thing. I do
12 not understand why we have to divide towns or
13 cities between like three or four different
14 Congressional Districts. I don't get it.

15 I would like to see east Boca, west Boca
16 just one district. I would like to see this to
17 be redrawn according to city limits and
18 boundaries, and for one simple reason, because,
19 you know, if our Representatives have to
20 represent the whole city, they have to deal
21 with like seniors, parents with children like
22 me, okay, who would like good schools and we
23 don't like the educational cuts going on in
24 Tallahassee.

25 They have to deal with minorities because

1 Boca has minorities. They have to deal with
2 other issues, and that means common sense
3 politics, and that is not what we have right
4 now. Okay. That is all I would like to say.

5 I would like to keep east Boca, west Boca
6 one district, period. That is it. It makes
7 sense to keep the cities and towns together.

8 I live just around the corner from here,
9 but Maria Sachs, my State Senator, is
10 (inaudible). I mean, that is so how bad it is.

11 When it really was, it really was insane,
12 you know, who they represent, it was
13 ridiculous.

14 Another reason, whenever a Representative
15 lives in Boca, like they live in Boca Raton,
16 you can walk down to the office and say, excuse
17 me, what is going on in Tallahassee right now.
18 Here is my opinion.

19 When you have to drive like three times
20 over, you never do anything, because you have
21 to drive. It is better, it is more -- it is
22 better democracy to have everything keep
23 together tight, because we are a community,
24 okay.

25 The schools are a community. The citizens

1 are a community. They are our community. One
2 town, one district, period.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and
4 thanks for bringing your daughter today. Next
5 we will hear from Margaret Mackey, and then
6 following Ms. Mackey, Toni Rosenberg and then
7 Ken Lassiter.

8 Ms. Mackey? Ms. Mackey, are you here?
9 Okay, we will pass Ms. -- are you Ms. Mackey?
10 All right, next then, is it Toni Rosenberg?

11 MS. ROSENBERG: Yes.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Rosenberg, thank you
13 for coming and the floor is yours.

14 MS. ROSENBERG: Thank your, thank you.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: And would you step a
16 little closer to the mike so everybody can hear
17 you.

18 MS. ROSENBERG: Sure. Thank you. Thank
19 you all for being here. My name is Toni
20 Rosenberg and I live in Boca Raton which is
21 Palm Beach County.

22 I am just here to make a short statement,
23 stating that the Libby map violates which
24 everyone has said the 5 and 6 Amendments
25 because it breaks up Broward and Palm Beach

1 counties.

2 This map creates a continuous district,
3 currently the 20th Congressional from Palm
4 Beach County to Collier. This does not, and I
5 repeat, does not fairly represent the people of
6 the community within the same district and is
7 not a fair district.

8 I am asking all of you to put your
9 political feelings aside, come together with us
10 as Floridians and make it a fair district for
11 everybody.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,
13 Ms. Rosenberg. Next we will hear from Ken
14 Lassiter, following Mr. Lassiter, Tom Whatley,
15 and then Ken Reinhardt, following
16 Mr. Reinhardt, Gloria Reinhardt.

17 Mr. Lassiter.

18 MR.LASSITER: Yes.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much for
20 being here.

21 MR. LASSITER: Good morning and thank you
22 for this opportunity to speak to you today. My
23 name is Ken Lassiter and I have the honor of
24 serving as the president of the Coalition of
25 Boyton West Residential Associations. That is

1 a non profit civic organization. It is
2 non-partisan and we represent 94 residential
3 communities and about 110,000 people.

4 Our area serves the area west of the city
5 of Boynton Beach, north of the Delray line,
6 which is Lake Worth Vintage District, L-30
7 canal, north up to Lantana and we go as far
8 west as the Loxahatchee National Wildlife
9 Preserve.

10 If you look at a map it is a nice compact
11 sensible area. However, our compact sensible
12 area has four State Representatives, two State
13 Senators and two Congressmen.

14 Senator Benacquisto and Representative
15 Perman are two of our Representatives, and they
16 have two of the worst examples of poor
17 districting that you can find on a Florida map.

18 You are making it difficult for them to
19 give us good representation when they have a
20 district that covers half, all of the way
21 across the state or cuts across wide swatches
22 of Lake Okeechobee up into counties, two or
23 three counties north.

24 It is very hard for them to give us a good
25 representation. So were are asking you to

1 please consider us a community of people who
2 are very similar, because we, half of us are
3 family communities and half are retirement
4 communities and give us Representatives that
5 cover our area fairly.

6 Also I would like to say that we agree
7 with the comments of the League of Women
8 Voters, of the comments of Ms. Walden from the
9 Alliance of Delray Residential Associations and
10 the comments of our Supervisor of Elections.
11 Thank you very much for giving us an
12 opportunity to speak.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir,
14 thank you, Mr. Lassiter. Next we will have Ken
15 Reinhardt and then Gloria Reinhardt and then
16 Bunny Steinman and then Linda Johnson.

17 Ken Reinhardt, thank you for coming. We
18 appreciate your being here.

19 MR. REINHARDT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman
20 and members of the Committee. I appreciate the
21 opportunity to express our views here and
22 engage in this transparency.

23 I am a 20-year resident of Coral Springs,
24 so I have been following the ins and outs of
25 our state for that period of time and I think

1 now is an opportunity to write something that
2 has been woefully out of wack for a long time.

3 Many people have already eloquently
4 expressed my concerns, one of which is the
5 timing of this process.

6 I appreciate the transparency and the
7 opportunity for citizen input now. I am more
8 concerned about having adequate citizen input
9 after a final plan has been devised.

10 And I am not running for anything, but it
11 has been, apparently there is a three-day
12 window for citizens of Florida to respond to a
13 final plan and that is woefully inadequate.

14 It takes time to distribute the plan out,
15 let us see what the final plan is, provide time
16 for review, time for you all to massage that
17 and respond accordingly and three days very
18 obviously won't accomplish that.

19 It is imperative that a plan is devised
20 early in the session rather than later so that
21 we all have an opportunity as well as the
22 Supreme Court, the Department of Justice and
23 everybody for adequate input.

24 I am also concerned about the transparency
25 involved. I appreciate the opportunity here to

1 get our ideas out. The Florida Statutes
2 apparently indicated until this becomes a Bill,
3 that redistricting is exempted from public
4 review.

5 It looks like it is exempted from but not
6 prohibited. So is there an opportunity before
7 this becomes a Bill for citizen input? This
8 would certainly short-circuit the process and
9 help us come together to reach a mutual agreed
10 solution. Thank you very much for your time.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Reinhardt, good points, and Ms. Reinhardt,
13 we just heard from your junior partner, and you
14 are recognized.

15 MS. REINHARDT: And I want to dispute
16 everything he said.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: It sounds like my house.

18 MS. REINHARDT: Actually, I am only
19 mirroring comments made earlier today, maybe a
20 little different spin.

21 If any of you remember your college days,
22 and you had homework due the following morning
23 or you had a paper due and you didn't start
24 writing it until around 10:00 the night before,
25 when you didn't get the grade you expected on

1 that paper you said, oh, I just didn't have
2 enough time.

3 I might have used that excuse on occasion,
4 but my point today is that planned
5 procrastination for political purposes is,
6 should not be a goal of Florida.

7 We appreciate this opportunity to speak
8 today. We don't want to infer that this is not
9 important that we speak ahead of time, but the
10 earlier that you produce the finished product
11 so we have an opportunity to assess it, to
12 analyze it, to talk to our Representatives and
13 our Senators.

14 This is a very important political
15 process, and as you can see, there are very
16 interested people in this community. So the
17 earlier the better, and less procrastination
18 the better, thank you.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Reinhardt,
20 thank you very much. Bunny Steinman is our
21 next speaker, and following Ms. Steinman, Linda
22 Johnson, with the NAACP, and then Mae Yates,
23 and then Charles Shane, if you will be ready,
24 please. Bunny Steinman.

25 MS. STEINMAN: I am right here.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank your, Ms. Steinman,
2 for being here. We appreciate your testimony.

3 MS. STEINMAN: Thank you for having me.
4 Okay. I wear many hats but today I represent
5 the Teachers Retirees in Florida. I am part of
6 NICF and the AFT and I agree with your earlier
7 speaker, Florence Fidell, my colleague of the
8 UFT.

9 We the people voted overwhelmingly for
10 Amendments 5 and 6. I heard your explanation
11 about drawing your own maps. However, I
12 believe it was your responsibility to have the
13 maps drawn for us to react to, and it seems to
14 me you have heard the suggestion over and over
15 and over again, and I hope you will listen and
16 act on our suggestions. Thank you.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
18 Ms. Steinman. And next is Linda Johnson with
19 the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

20 Ms. Johnson, thank you for coming today.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Good evening, well, good
22 afternoon now. I am one of the Vice-Presidents
23 for the Florida State Conference of the NAACP.

24 I want to extend a thank you to the
25 Attorney Feaman and Mr. Smith and others, the

1 Supervisor of Elections for her comments.

2 On behalf of the Florida State Conference
3 of the NAACP we are requesting that the state
4 of Florida should ensure, of course, that it is
5 the tone of many, transparency, fairness and
6 compliance with the Voters Rights Act with
7 equal protection.

8 You should ensure one person, one vote.
9 You should redistrict in a way that avoids
10 minority vote dilution. You should avoid
11 drawing district lines so that the minority
12 population is over -- the minority population
13 and my eyes are jumping, population is over
14 concentrated or packed into election districts.

15 You should also be careful to avoid
16 cracking, drawing district lines so that an
17 area of concentrated minority population is
18 divided and spread among several districts that
19 are predominantly white.

20 You should be careful to avoid stacking,
21 drawing district lines so that a large minority
22 population concentration is included with a
23 larger white population with the purpose or
24 effect of depriving minority voters of a voting
25 majority.

1 We also respectfully request that you
2 avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights
3 related to the status quo, that it is -- that
4 if this is done, this would -- this could
5 possibly stop the creation of the -- of
6 retrogressive redistricting plans.

7 It was a lot of conversation regarding the
8 mapping piece. I am not going to go over that,
9 but one thing that we did note and I want to
10 bring to your forefront.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: And if you could conclude,
12 ma'am, I would be grateful.

13 MS. JOHNSON: Yes, that you have
14 additional meetings to discuss those maps,
15 because it is imperative that we have a visual
16 of that and I agree with the comments regarding
17 that.

18 So with that being said, because of the
19 sake of time.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you.

21 MS. JOHNSON: I want to submit to staff.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: Please.

23 MS. JOHNSON: The additional talking
24 points so those areas could be addressed by the
25 House and the Senate members, if you don't

1 mind.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for your time.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Please do, we would
5 appreciate your testimony. And next is Mae
6 Yates with the Democratic Executive Committee,
7 then Charles Shane and then, I think it is
8 Albert Shalhoub, and I apologize, sir, if I
9 mispronounced your name.

10 Mae Yates, are you here? Ms. Yates, thank
11 you for coming. Could someone help Ms. Yates
12 with the microphone, please, to make sure we
13 all hear her? Just a moment, Ms. Yates.

14 MS. YATES: This is Mae Yates.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: There you go.

16 MS. YATES: I live in Palm Beach County,
17 Boynton Beach and I just wanted to say that I
18 have -- I already agree with most of the people
19 in this audience has already said to you. So
20 repeating it is not going to be very
21 beneficial.

22 But I want you to really, really respect
23 my Supervisor of Elections, Susan Bucher, and
24 the Cobra organization, the Alliance
25 organization, the League of Women Voters and

1 really keep these things in mind when you draw
2 the lines and not be political.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Ms.
4 Yates. Thank you for coming today. Charles
5 Shane is next and then Albert, I believe it is
6 Shalhoub, and then Patricia O'Conner with the
7 League of Women Voters and then Pamela Goodman
8 with the League of Women Voters.

9 Charles Shane. Yes, okay. Mr. Shane, we
10 will pass on him. And I apologize, Albert, if
11 if have mispronounced your name. I am sure I
12 have, Albert Shalhoub. Sir, are you here? At
13 351 Club Circle, Number 209? He apparently has
14 left.

15 Patricia O'Conner with the League of Women
16 Voters, and then following Ms. O'Conner, Pamela
17 Goodman with the League, and then that Nazario,
18 I am sorry, Benjamin Nazario.

19 Ms. O'Conner, you are recognized, and
20 thank you for coming.

21 MS. O'CONNOR: Thank you, good morning,
22 Florida Legislators and staff. My name is
23 Patricia Lynch O'Conner. I am a voting
24 resident of Palm Beach County, the city of
25 Boynton Beach.

1 I am only one of approximately 72 percent
2 of the Palm Beach County voters who
3 affirmatively said we want fair districts. We
4 voted for 5 and 6, quote, "Standards for
5 Legislature", and I say Legislature, not League
6 of Women Voters, "to follow in legislative
7 redistricting."

8 I am here with the hope a member of the
9 House on this Committee can provide me with
10 some clarification of the documents from the
11 United States District Court, Southern District
12 of Florida Litigation, Mario Diaz Balart, et.
13 al, and the Florida House of Representatives,
14 Plaintiff, versus the State of Florida,
15 Defendant.

16 In intervening in the House litigation,
17 against the constituents they represent and who
18 overwhelmingly voted for the provisions now
19 contained in Article III of our Florida
20 Constitution, places the citizens of the state
21 in the position of being both the Plaintiff and
22 the Defendant.

23 It is truly disingenuous or perhaps
24 dishonest for members of this body to assert
25 that the intervention is to seek a

1 clarification. When the first paragraph of the
2 introduction states, quote, "This section
3 challenges the constitutionality of a recently
4 adopted provision of the Florida Constitution",
5 and the last paragraph states, "Accordingly,
6 the House seeks and is entitled to a
7 declaration that the Amendment violates the
8 election clause of the United States
9 Constitution."

10 Every day this action goes forward
11 Floridians continue to incur legal fees to
12 argue for and to argue against constitutional
13 reapportionment.

14 Well over a million dollars has already
15 been spent on this process, with another
16 30 million set aside for fair districts,
17 including litigation.

18 I ask you to withdraw the House as a party
19 in respect of the voters of Florida and the
20 fiscally responsible thing to do. Please put
21 an end to the unnecessary legal fees.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: May I ask you to conclude,
23 because you have gone over time, ma'am?

24 MS. O'CONNOR: The League of Women Voters
25 as well as the citizens of Palm Beach County

1 will follow this through. We voted for in a
2 majority and we want to see it done.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am.
4 And next is Pamela Goodman, also with the
5 League of Women Voters, and then Benjamin
6 Nazario and then Clifford, I believe it is
7 Shay, and then Karen Wilkerson.

8 Ms. Goodman, thank you for coming today
9 and you are recognized.

10 MS. GOODMAN: Thank you, Senator, very
11 much. It is a pleasure to see you. I have
12 been talking to you for over 50 hours online,
13 watching all 17 of the hearings that have
14 progressed so far.

15 SENATOR GAETZ: I am so sorry for you.

16 MS. GOODMAN: It was a pretty much one way
17 conversation. I am the first Vice-President of
18 the League of Women Voters of Florida. I am
19 the Redistricting Chair and have held that
20 position since the Fair Districts Florida
21 campaign began over five years ago.

22 I will keep my comments very pointed and
23 that will be responding to you in person,
24 Senator Gaetz, finally, for some of your
25 comments last night at the close of the Stuart

1 hearing.

2 Senator Gaetz, you said last night that
3 the timeline is a huge issue and that you have
4 no intent to drag out this process. You will
5 try, you will try to make sure that this
6 process is as expedient as possible.

7 Well, trying isn't good enough. The only
8 thing good enough is a commitment. You have
9 all received the letter sent last week by the
10 League of Women Voters, Common Cause, NAACP and
11 Democracia.

12 I hope that you have all had a chance to
13 review that proposed revised extremely
14 constitutional correct timeline that was
15 included in that letter. And please note that
16 it is consistent with the request of all of the
17 Supervisor of Elections in the state of
18 Florida. I will summarize.

19 It will allow time for meaningful citizen
20 input into the maps that will actually be
21 considered by the Legislature. Additional
22 public hearings after maps have been through
23 the Committee process.

24 Secondly, it will allow for orderly
25 preparation for elections in the new districts.

1 Thirdly, it will allow citizens to have
2 the opportunity to get to know their candidates
3 and allow challengers time to mount very
4 credible campaigns.

5 Please show us the respect, the respect of
6 a response. How many of you Legislators here
7 today would be willing to vote to adopt a new
8 proposed timeline, have additional public
9 hearings after the maps, go through the
10 committee process and take up the maps as the
11 first order of business when the Legislature
12 convenes in January? Can I please have a show
13 of hands?

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
15 ma'am. Appreciate it. And following
16 Ms. Goodman is Benjamin Nazario.

17 MS. GOODMAN: Senator, you said last night
18 that these committees could have taken the easy
19 way of doing the process in back smoked filled
20 rooms.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Goodman, you have gone
22 over your time limit.

23 MS. GOODMAN: You chose this to be a
24 painful process.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Goodman, Ms. Goodman,

1 Ms. Goodman, your time has elapsed. Next we
2 will hear from Benjamin Nazario. Mr. Nazario,
3 are you here, sir?

4 Mr. Nazario, you have the floor. And
5 following Benjamin Nazario is Clifford Shay and
6 then Karen Wilkerson.

7 Mr. Nazario, you have the floor.

8 MR. NAZARIO: Good morning.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Good morning, sir. Let's
10 give Mr. Nazario our attention. He is a
11 citizen of Florida just as everyone else who
12 has testified.

13 MR. NAZARIO: Thank you for the
14 opportunity to speak at this event. My name is
15 Benjamin Nazario and I live in a developed
16 community, Wynn Moore and the Coconut Creek.
17 My Representative is Representative Waldman
18 and I respect him very much.

19 My thoughts on the proposed 2011, 2011
20 redistricting efforts are, developed community
21 Wynn Moore should remain whole within the
22 district and the district for the state level
23 should remain within Broward County boundary
24 lines and the district for the Federal level
25 should be as compact as best as possible.

1 Thank you very much.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Nazario.

3 Next is Clifford, I believe it is Shay, is that
4 correct, Clifford Shay? Mr. Shay, all right,
5 we will pass you.

6 Then Karen Wilkerson, then Iris Scheibl
7 and then Fred Scheibl, and then Maria Cole.

8 Ms. Wilkerson, thank you for coming and we
9 are delighted to have you here today.

10 MS. WILKERSON: Thank you, I am from West
11 Palm Beach. Fortunately, unlike previous
12 years, your committee of the Florida
13 Legislature has clearly defined standards which
14 have become part of our State Constitution, and
15 since these standards are clear I don't know
16 why you are having these hearings.

17 You are wasting our government's money in
18 a time of fiscal problems. Because of your
19 designed time frame and I am using number eight
20 here, your map that you handed out, how can we
21 expect Election Supervisors to meet the
22 deadlines for mailing ballots to overseas
23 military personnel?

24 The deadline is the 21st of September,
25 while the proposal is still being reviewed by

1 the State Supreme Court. Your timeline is
2 unrealistic in preparing candidates to qualify.

3 The deadline is June 4th through 8th, next
4 year, while redistricting is before the State
5 Court.

6 Even with the speediest review, the
7 Supervisor of Elections will have three days to
8 qualify candidates. The primary for candidates
9 is August 14, while the Florida Supreme Court
10 is still reviewing your proposals, and election
11 day is November 6th of next year.

12 This is why the Department of Justice will
13 be reviewing the proposal. Your calendars
14 don't even recognize the fact that many court
15 challenges are expected, and you decided before
16 the adoption of the maps.

17 These time frames you are operating under
18 almost ensure the state of Florida will be
19 facing the situation where the United States
20 Supreme Court will question whether our votes
21 count in the next Presidential election.

22 You must change this timeline. Be
23 responsible and save us some money. Stop these
24 hearings, publish the map proposals as was done
25 ten years ago. Hold hearings on the maps

1 throughout the state and pledge yourself to
2 vote on the issue during the first week of
3 January.

4 Don't underestimate the residents and the
5 voters of Florida. We do not think these
6 hearings are offering transparency to the
7 process.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much. We
9 appreciate your testimony.

10 MS. WILKERSON: May I just -- please stop
11 playing with our votes.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
13 Ms. Wilkerson. Next we will hear from Iris
14 Scheibl, is it Scheibl?

15 MS. SCHEIBL: yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Scheibl, thank you for
17 coming today. We appreciate you being here and
18 giving of your time.

19 MS. SCHEIBL: Iris Scheibl. I live in
20 Palm Beach Gardens. I would like to echo what
21 a lot of other people have said about the end
22 of the timeline, that it is really far out.

23 As a citizen activist who is trying to
24 encourage people to run for office, they don't
25 know where they would be running for and that

1 is really an issue.

2 But I also would like to speak as a
3 resident of a coastal community. I arrived in
4 Florida 11 years ago on a sailboat.

5 We lived in Palm Beach County for a year
6 in Boynton Beach and now up the county in Palm
7 Beach Gardens. I have lived in states all
8 across the country, inland, agrarian
9 communities, big cities, coastal communities
10 and I have got to say that coastal communities
11 have more in common anywhere in the country
12 than they would with the inland communities.

13 And we have got tourism, port issues,
14 marine industries, environmental issues,
15 hurricane issues, border issues and that ties
16 into homeland security.

17 And so while a compact district may not
18 result in a coastal community being contiguous,
19 we really need a contiguous coastal community
20 and I urge you to do so. Thank you.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,
22 Ms. Scheibl. And now Mr. Scheibl, having heard
23 from the Captain of that sailboat, we will hear
24 from you, sir.

25 MR. SCHEIBL: Yes, we actually live on

1 land now, but --

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Either way, ashore or
3 afloat, we are glad to have you here.

4 MR. SCHEIBL: Thank you, Palm Beach
5 Gardens as Iris said. I just wanted to make
6 the point that a lot of the folks who have
7 spoken very strongly in favor of the passage of
8 the Fair Districts Amendments, kind of look at
9 this as getting us to a blank sheet of paper
10 where you can sit down and basically write all
11 of the wrongs over the last 100 years.

12 I hope you don't look at it that way,
13 because the main reason for redistricting
14 really is to come into line with the census and
15 there are an awful lot of districts in the
16 state where you are already where you need to
17 be.

18 And so I hope that you work on the margins
19 and not try to disrupt a lot of the
20 relationships that already exist by trying to
21 draw the districts in a radical manner.

22 By that token I would also like to see the
23 coastal communities considered as well as the
24 agricultural communities as communities of
25 interest, kept together because their interests

1 are the same, and if you do change the
2 boundaries I hope you try to align the state
3 boundaries with the Congressional Districts
4 because a lot of people have a hard time
5 keeping track of what district they are in.
6 Thank you.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very, very much,
8 sir. Very useful testimony. Maria Cole is
9 next and then Linda Rosenthal with the Boca
10 Delray Democratic Club, then Todd Bonlarron
11 representing Palm Beach County and then Lynne,
12 and I apologize, I think it is Hubbard with the
13 Rivera Beach Citizens Task Force.

14 Ms. Cole, thank you for being here today,
15 and you are recognized.

16 MS. COLE: Good afternoon, I am a resident
17 of Juno Beach and I have lived in Juno Beach
18 for the last 14 years and I am about ready to
19 make your day.

20 I stand in agreement with Margie Walker
21 who spoke earlier, Mr. Robbins who spoke
22 earlier, and I prevail upon all of you to take
23 into consideration what our Supervisor of
24 Elections completely and most articulately
25 expressed to you. Thanks.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much.

2 Linda Rosenthal. Is Ms. Rosenthal here?

3 Ms. Rosenthal, thank you for coming today.

4 MS. ROSENTHAL: You are welcome and I
5 would like to thank all of you who are
6 representing us today, all of you who serve the
7 people of Florida, whether I agree with your
8 policies or not, you are still serving us and I
9 think that is really great.

10 And I would just like to say representing,
11 I am the President of the Boca Delray
12 democratic Club and I just want to reiterate
13 that we feel that the issues of the timeline
14 need to definitely be addressed and addressed
15 immediately.

16 We also need maps and we also want the
17 lawsuits to discontinue immediately. Thank
18 you.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
20 Ms. Rosenthal. Next is Todd Bonlarron,
21 representing Palm Beach County. It is good to
22 see you, Todd.

23 MR. BONLARRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
24 Todd Bonlarron here on behalf of the Palm Beach
25 County Board of County Commissioners. I want

1 to thank you for joining us in Palm Beach
2 County today.

3 I really wanted to take a couple of brief
4 moments to just really talk about a big picture
5 issue from our Board of County Commissioners
6 that we think is important to redistricting in
7 our area.

8 And that is that it is our position to
9 focus on the big picture of our current
10 representation that we have in Palm Beach
11 County based on the numbers.

12 We have 11 members of the State House, six
13 members of the Senate, four members of
14 Congress. We have kept pace with growth in the
15 state of Florida and our main issue is that we
16 ask for nothing more, but we ask for nothing
17 less.

18 And most specifically, the one thing that
19 we do ask of you is that we would like at least
20 three of our State Senate seats to have a
21 majority of their districts in Palm Beach
22 County.

23 We enjoy that today. We enjoy that with
24 the representation from Senator Sachs, from
25 Senator Bogdanoff and Senator Benacquisto. We

1 would love to keep them as part of our
2 delegation of our hometown base.

3 We also share great representation in the
4 Senate from our other members and I pointed out
5 Senator Smith also, while his district is not
6 wholly in Palm Beach County, a majority here,
7 his main office is located in Palm Beach County
8 as well and we appreciate his work as well as
9 Senator Negron's.

10 So thank you for being here and we
11 appreciate your consideration as you continue
12 these deliberations.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, Todd.
14 We appreciate your testimony, and Lynn, is it
15 Lynn Hubbard? Thank you very much,
16 Ms. Hubbard, and after you are finished with
17 your testimony we will hear from Brittany
18 Bruce, and then Lawrence Wanderman and then
19 Joyce Salomon.

20 Ms. Hubbard, you are recognized. Thanks
21 for coming.

22 MS. HUBBARD: Good afternoon, I am Lynn
23 Hubbard, citizen of Riviera Beach,
24 representative of the Riviera Beach Citizens
25 Task Force, yes, a predominantly

1 African-American community.

2 It is important that Rivera Beach is not
3 splintered into a manner where there will not
4 be fair representation. Rivera Beach is
5 presently the victim of rape and pillage of its
6 resources.

7 I, too, live off the marina and in a
8 coastal community. We need to make sure that
9 the will of the people for fair districting is
10 upheld.

11 As difficult as it may be, it is important
12 that our Representatives fight to see that we
13 have equal representation. We are not just
14 throwing around the term of coastal community.
15 Living inland, the coastal community that we
16 enjoy belong to us as residents in Rivera Beach
17 and we want to make sure that we are able to
18 take part in our resources. Thank you.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
20 Ms. Hubbard. Next, Brittany Bruce and then
21 Lawrence Wanderman and then Joyce Salomon.
22 Following Ms. Salomon, Mark Schneider.

23 Ms. Bruce? Are you here, Ms. Bruce? Ms.
24 Bruce is right behind you there.

25 Ms. Bruce, thank you so much for being

1 here and you are recognized.

2 MS. BRUCE: Thank you for having me.

3 Every time I have heard the word fair being
4 mentioned today it seems to be synonomous with
5 politics. So all politic, political biases and
6 redundant complaints aside, I am here to bring
7 some common sense regarding this matter to the
8 surface.

9 State Senate Seat House and Congressional
10 Districts are just that. Districts drawn meant
11 to represent a group of constituents and their
12 common interests.

13 So, hello, mixing both inland and coastal
14 areas isn't fair and obviously doesn't
15 represent constituents with common interest.
16 It only mixes the physical and political
17 interest, but more importantly it combines a
18 number of conflicting interests to the citizens
19 residing there.

20 Specific primary concerns we get lost in
21 the shuffle if you draw new interest, new
22 district lines that combine coastal and inland
23 parts of Palm Beach County together. It is
24 hard to represent -- it is hard for
25 Representatives to be experts on every issue,

1 and by lumping coastal and inland areas
2 together, I don't believe citizens' concerns
3 can be represented as well as they could be if
4 you preserve coastal communities of interest.

5 State Representatives and Senators already
6 have enough on their plate with a number of
7 individual and specific concerns their
8 constituents bring to the table. That is not
9 fair to them or to me. That is not fair to
10 anybody.

11 Anyway, having too many conflicting
12 interests leads to nothing being accomplished,
13 as evidenced by some existing district lines
14 presently mixing land and coastal communities.

15 Please note that the rude interruptions
16 and the hems and haws don't accurately
17 represent the vast majority of concerned
18 working citizens that aren't able to be here
19 today.

20 The point is I want to be represented
21 fairly and that is why I am here today, to
22 remind you of common sense facts that have been
23 lost. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
25 ma'am. And next is, next is Lawrence

1 Wanderman. Mr. Wanderman, thank you for coming
2 and you are recognized before the Committee.

3 MR. WANDERMAN: Thank you for recognizing
4 me, Mr. Chairman. I am from Coconut Creek and
5 Winmore Village as the gentleman before.

6 And I know most of us would like to see
7 villages or would like to see the districts all
8 set up in a compact area according to the
9 mathematical formula just to be sure that
10 everything is reasonable or close together. We
11 have -- we share common interests.

12 And the other thing that I would like to
13 mention is the statements by the Superintendent
14 of Elections, because we hear it in any county
15 that it goes, to have the timeline.

16 We need that to be sufficient to allow
17 Representatives to prepare, Senators to
18 prepare, for everyone to be able to handle the
19 outcome of election. Thank you.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
21 We appreciate your testimony. Joyce Salomon,
22 Ms. Salomon, thanks for coming today and giving
23 us your time.

24 MS. SALOMON: I give in Coral Springs in
25 Broward County. Our medium size city is

1 divided into two Congressional districts and
2 three House Districts, 95, 96 and 97. Why?

3 With your own voices, your own words
4 listing your gerrymandered district lines you
5 have condemned the current situation. The only
6 reason I can see for it is that you folks in
7 Tallahassee are trying like hell to protect
8 your jobs and save seats.

9 You are picking your voters, not letting
10 us pick our Representatives, and that is not
11 democracy.

12 And then there is the issue of the suits
13 against Amendments 5 and 6.

14 What gave you the gall to use \$30 million
15 of our taxpayer money to fight implementation
16 of something that 63 percent of Floridians
17 voted for.

18 When the budget is in free fall you choose
19 to throw our hard earned funds into a fight
20 where we are funding both sides. The Attorney
21 General is by law charged with fighting against
22 you, again, with our money. It is a disgrace.

23 Are you all so afraid of the voters that
24 you won't let us vote in fairly drawn
25 districts? Can't you defend your records in an

1 open forum?

2 And now we come to the timeline. I agree
3 with the League of Women Voters representatives
4 and I can't believe that you have not already
5 drawn preliminary maps. That is what you are
6 getting paid for, drawing those maps. Show us
7 your efforts.

8 The timeline you have offered, not showing
9 your maps until the end of the session is
10 unworkable. Not allowing time for adequate
11 review by the courts and the Supervisors of
12 Elections will be hard pressed to get ballots,
13 correct ballots out to our service men serving
14 overseas.

15 How will candidates have time to file if
16 they don't know what their district lines are?
17 Again, you are in self protect mood trying to
18 present fair opposition. The only --

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Speaking of timelines, if
20 you could conclude, please.

21 MS. SALOMON: Yes. The only reason for
22 your actions is that I can see is that you are
23 afraid of us, the voters of Florida. That you
24 fear running on your records and that you can't
25 defend your actions and it is a disgrace.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. Next
2 we will hear from Mark Schneider and following
3 Mr. Schneider, Dennis Grady and following
4 Mr. Grady, I think it is Janne Goodwin, and
5 then if Wanda Francis will be on deck.

6 Mr. Schneider, thank you for coming today,
7 and we appreciate your testimony.

8 MR. SCHNEIDER: Members of the Florida
9 House and Senate, I would like to address the
10 impact of redistricting on the representation
11 of racial minorities and on the implementation
12 of policies addressing the needs of minority
13 communities.

14 In the previous Senate, not this one,
15 three of 15 Senators from southeast Florida
16 were black, as were four of 23 members of the
17 House.

18 Two of the black Senators were elected
19 from majority/minority districts, while one was
20 elected from a majority/majority district.

21 Three of the black House members were
22 minority/majority district representatives,
23 while one was from a majority/majority
24 district.

25 The ability of minority Legislators to be

1 elected from majority/majority districts argues
2 that the redistricting process should not
3 cluster minorities heavily in specific
4 districts as they are currently.

5 Black minority/minority districts are
6 comprised of an average of 60 percent black
7 voters and blacks electorate outside these
8 districts average around 10 percent.

9 The latter districts are commonly called
10 bleached because of the effect of clustering
11 minorities in specific districts.

12 The process of bleaching districts in the
13 redistricting process may guarantee
14 representation by minorities in the
15 Legislature. This representation I suggest
16 would be preserved were the bleaching reduced.

17 Further, the domination of the Legislature
18 by highly bleached districts more or less
19 guarantees that the legislative process ignores
20 the needs of minority communities.

21 As a case in point, consider the failure
22 of the current Legislature to support penal
23 reforms that would have lessened the
24 disproportionate impact of incarceration on
25 minority communities, despite these reforms

1 having impeccable conservative backing from
2 Florida Tax Watch and from the Governor's Law
3 and Order Transition Task Force.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, sir. We
5 appreciate your testimony, and we are delighted
6 you were here today.

7 Next is Dennis Grady.

8 MR. GRADY: Good afternoon, Senator.
9 Welcome to you and your colleagues to Palm
10 Beach County. I am here to really commend you
11 and your colleagues for the process you are
12 engaged in.

13 Far too often we concerned citizens
14 approach our elected officials and chastise
15 them for not listening to us first before they
16 act.

17 In this process you are doing exactly the
18 opposite. You are listening first and then you
19 will go to Tallahassee and you will act. We
20 appreciate that process.

21 It reminds me of my youth, when I spent
22 every summer on my grandfather's farm, and far
23 too often he reminded me -- he had to remind
24 me, remember why God gave you two ears and one
25 mouth, son.

1 You have learned that the wisdom of that
2 saying and you are here to listen, not only to
3 us here in Palm Beach County, but you started
4 in the panhandle, you are going to finish in
5 the Keys. You have taken time and effort to
6 allow all citizens who are concerned to come in
7 here, express the districts that they would
8 like to see, the concerns they have for you to
9 keep close at hand when you are engaged in the
10 process.

11 Probably the most important thing that we
12 haven't touched on is that 11 years later the
13 population in the state of Florida is
14 17 percent greater than when we went through
15 this process before.

16 Florida continues to be a growth state
17 with a growing population and as we hope in the
18 future, a growing economy. This process is
19 important to us. You have provided us an open
20 transparent and citizen friendly process.

21 And now I am going to remember what
22 Grandpa said I am going to sit back down. I am
23 going to continue to listen and wish you well
24 as you conclude this very important political
25 process.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
2 Mr. Grady, for your testimony. Next we will
3 hear from, I believe it is Janne or Joanne
4 Goodwin.

5 MS. GOODWIN: Joann Goodwin.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Goodwin, would you
7 please come forward?

8 MS. GOODWIN: Joann Goodwin, Pompano
9 Beach, Florida. I would like to defer my time
10 to Pam Goodman from the League of Women Voters.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: I am sorry, ma'am. We
12 aren't deferring time. Instead what we are
13 doing is taking people in the order in which
14 they signed. If you would like to speak we
15 would love to hear your testimony.

16 MS. GOODWIN: Oh, can you tell me where
17 you left off?

18 SENATOR GAETZ: You are certainly welcome
19 to do that.

20 MS. GOODWIN: Senator, you said last night
21 these committees would have taken the easy way
22 of doing this process in back smoke room
23 filled, in back smoke filled rooms and you
24 chose this painful process over that.

25 It doesn't have to be so painful, sir. It

1 can be productive. After a start tonight in
2 Ft. Lauderdale, begin the hearing with the
3 commitment from the Committee to adopt our
4 proposed timeline.

5 After 50 hours of listening, take 60
6 seconds to announce the one decision by you and
7 this group, will you stand and will you all got
8 together and produce maps and present them to
9 us so we don't have to continue with these
10 hearings and we can actually look at maps that
11 you are willing to produce.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank your, Ms. Goodwin,
13 we appreciate your testimony.

14 MS. GOODWIN: That was actually a
15 question, will you?

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, ma'am, if we have
17 time at the end Representative Precourt and any
18 member of the Committee can answer any
19 question, make any statement or offer any map.

20 MS. GOODWIN: Will you?

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, your time has
22 elapsed.

23 MS. GOODWIN: Will you commit to -- no, it
24 hasn't. Will you commit to --

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am.

1 MS. GOODWIN -- drawing maps and showing
2 them to us?

3 SENATOR GAETZ: We will answer questions
4 if we have time.

5 MS. GOODWIN: Can't you just say yes or no
6 to that question?

7 SENATOR GAETZ: The answer to the question
8 is your time is elapsed. I have given an
9 answer before and I will continue to give the
10 same answer if we have time at the end, but
11 let's be respectful of all of these other
12 people who want to speak.

13 Next we will hear from Wanda Francis and
14 then Henry Salomon, although I think didn't
15 Henry speak before and then Anthony Barbar and
16 then Natalie Andre.

17 Ms. Francis.

18 MS. FRANCIS: Yes, my name is Wanda
19 Francis. I live in Ft. Lauderdale, and I just
20 want to make a comment. My district runs from
21 south Broward all of the way to Jupiter Beach.
22 So I think that the issues maybe are not quite
23 the same in Broward County as it might be in
24 Jupiter Beach.

25 I would like to second Ms. Goodwin, Pam

1 Goodwin's comments and also Joy Salomon's
2 comments and I would like a commitment from you
3 all to stop spending taxpayer monies so that
4 you can fight amendments that were passed by
5 63 percent of the Florida citizens, and please
6 stop making Florida look and the laughing stock
7 of this country. Thank you.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
9 Ms. Francis. Next, did Henry Salomon speak
10 before? Did he sign up twice just to make
11 sure? I think Henry --

12 MR. SALOMON: I defer my time.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: You defer your time.
14 Okay. Thank you very much, sir. We will hear
15 from Anthony Barbar, if Mr. Barbar is here and
16 then Natalie Andre and then Marie Davis and
17 then Elinor Williams, if you can be ready.

18 Mr. Barbar, thank you for being here
19 today, and you are recognized.

20 MR. BARBAR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
21 welcome to Boca Raton and to south Palm Beach
22 County. Thank you for, each of you for your
23 service to our community and for what you are
24 doing for our state.

25 I would just like to say that I concur

1 with what Mr. Sliney and Ms. Burke said
2 earlier. I live in Representative Hager's
3 district, which is District 87, and I hope that
4 as you look at that and you look at compact
5 communities that you also consider communities
6 that have compatible interests.

7 And thank you for all of our hard work. I
8 know this is a thankless job, but we appreciate
9 you doing it. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir.
11 We appreciate your testimony. Natalie Andre.
12 Ms. Andre, thank you for coming and sharing
13 your views today.

14 MS. ANDRE: Yes, good morning, maybe it is
15 afternoon already, yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: It is afternoon.

17 MS. ANDRE: I am Natalie Andre. I live in
18 Delray Beach. I have been involved in a lot in
19 women's issues. I am a League member as well
20 as a NOW member.

21 I have been living in Florida for 30
22 years. My children grew up here, and I am
23 thankful when I have grandchildren that will
24 not be living here when I see all that is going
25 on.

1 I agree with the League's position. I am
2 very upset over the points that Ms. Bucher has
3 made. I think that they should be listened to,
4 and saying all of that I would like to talk
5 about what I did personally.

6 Last week being underemployed, I took the
7 time to make a map, a Congressional map just
8 for Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County has
9 exactly enough people if you throw in Deerfield
10 and Parkland to have two Congressional
11 Representatives.

12 I tried the map two ways, dividing it
13 north and south and east and west. It made
14 sense mostly north and south with Lake Worth
15 being the cut off.

16 So I would like to suggest that as an
17 idea. I have here the map, this, the current
18 Congressional Districts are in blue and you can
19 see, you probably can't see from where you are,
20 all of the squiggly lines here, that is our
21 current Congressional Districts.

22 You can't even see the inside of some of
23 those districts, and the green and orange ones,
24 that is Palm Beach County the way I proposed
25 it. So that is my suggestion.

1 It is a very amateur one, but apparently
2 you are not trying to give us any professional
3 ones, so.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, Ms. Andre, I want to
5 just let folks know that the maps that you have
6 submitted, and we are very grateful for that,
7 are on the House and Senate websites.

8 So if could not see what Ms. Andre was
9 showing you, you can go to the House or Senate
10 websites and see her maps.

11 Next we will hear from Marie Davis, and
12 then following Ms. Davis, from Elinor Williams
13 and then from Ed chase. Marie Davis, thank you
14 for coming today.

15 MS. DAVIS: Yes, you are welcome. Thank
16 you for permitting all of us to make our
17 opinions known whether you like it or not.

18 My name is Marie Davis. I am here as a
19 private citizen. I reside on Singer Island and
20 I have been in Palm Beach County since 1960.

21 First I would like to say I worked at the
22 polls for off and on for the last 30 years and
23 I echo the comments of Ms. Bucher. Even on a
24 good day it is a long tired day and I was part
25 of the pregnant Chad. So I would rather that

1 Palm Beach County not be the eye of the storm
2 again.

3 In any event, I do have a couple of things
4 I would like to comment on today. First, I
5 live on Singer Island which is part of Rivera
6 Beach which is a coastal community and I urge
7 you to keep the coastal and beach communities
8 together in the State and Congressional
9 Districts.

10 As a resident of Singer Island I have far
11 more in common with the people who have places
12 on the intercoastal and we are more concerned
13 with less the view and more problems such as
14 beach erosion and hurricanes and that sort of
15 thing.

16 I have much more in common with Palm Beach
17 Shores than I do with the most inland areas of
18 Palm Beach County being cow country, although I
19 love cows, I just don't have that much in
20 common with them, but I do eat beef.

21 You know, we have, we have problems that
22 are unique, such as the property insurance and
23 beach erosion and a lot of other issues, for
24 Singer Island and Rivera Beach is the Break
25 Water Project.

1 We have 9 million -- the State of Florida
2 set aside \$9 million for the Beach Water
3 Project, and we have -- we are having problems
4 getting that money released.

5 I think it is very important that the
6 beach and the coastal communities be adequately
7 represented, and if we lose the ability to have
8 coastal communities of interest represented in
9 Tallahassee and Washington, I think that our
10 voices will count much more now than it will be
11 at some other time.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for
13 your testimony and thanks for all of your years
14 of working at the polls. That is tremendous.

15 Next, Elinor Williams and then following
16 Ms. Williams, Ed Chase, and then Dimitry Levin,
17 and then Ilene Gross.

18 Ms. Williams, thank you for coming today
19 and you are recognized.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Well, I am just
21 hoping in ten years when we do this again that
22 when everybody introduces themselves, that
23 everybody doesn't laugh like you just told a
24 really funny joke when you told us which
25 districts you represent or which areas you

1 represent, because they cover so many different
2 counties.

3 And I just think it is very important for
4 local governments to, well, for you, our
5 Representatives, to work closely with our local
6 governments, and you can do that when you are
7 majority Palm Beach County or maybe even a
8 couple of counties, but when you have -- when
9 you have a district that majority Palm Beach
10 County and then there is a little tad in
11 Broward or there is, you know, there is a
12 little bit that snakes over here and picks up a
13 few more counties, but not even the whole
14 county, just a part of the county, it is very
15 hard to represent those people at.

16 And it is very hard for your local
17 governments to work with you. We would like
18 our local governments to be able to make sure
19 that their legislative priorities are addressed
20 and recognized in Tallahassee and in
21 Washington, and I think so if you can, if you
22 can do your best to try to keep the counties
23 integral, especially the counties, local
24 governments in general, but the counties in
25 particular, I think that would be ideal.

1 And again, the timeline is very worrisome,
2 if during this October to December timeline you
3 could draw the maps and have them ready to vote
4 on the first week in January, I think that
5 would be great. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you very
7 much. That was Elinor Williams, right?

8 Next we have Ed Chase, Mr. Chase.

9 MR. CHASE: Thank you, Representative
10 Precourt. My name is Ed Chase. I am the
11 President and CEO of the Northern Palm Beach
12 County Chamber of Commerce.

13 First of all, thank you for being here and
14 listening to us first. Two things I wanted to
15 agree with so I don't have to go on to any
16 length about them.

17 Number one, I do agree with former State
18 Representative Jim Watt's theory on House
19 Districts in north Palm Beach County.

20 Secondly, I would agree with Palm Beach
21 County's request that three Senate Districts
22 should have the majority of their precincts in
23 Palm Beach County.

24 The Committee encouraged testimony
25 directed toward the desire to preserve the

1 proper placement of communities of interest in
2 the districts.

3 I want to talk about two of our Senate
4 Districts about that. First of all, Senate
5 District 28, northern Palm Beach County shares
6 that Senate District with the Treasure Coast.
7 Actually, it is a majority Treasure Coast
8 district that extends into northern Palm Beach
9 County, and we feel that north Palm Beach
10 County has been served very well by that
11 configuration.

12 Senator Negron, Senator Pruitt before him,
13 they have shown northern Palm Beach County
14 great attention. We think that we share
15 communities of interest with the Treasure Coast
16 that involved population, economic with a focus
17 on the life science and especially in the
18 environment both we do share the north and
19 south fork of the Loxahatchee River and both of
20 our counties have worked together for the
21 restoration of that river.

22 Secondly, on Senate District 25, it is a
23 very long coastal district. I would encourage
24 you to adjust this district to include more of
25 Palm Beach County to preserve the communities

1 of interest that includes similar population.

2 Also environmental concerns because of the
3 beach issues which those communities share as
4 well as the Lake Worth lagoon issues. And
5 Senator Bogdanoff, if it helps, we are very
6 happy that you are our State Senator.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
8 Mr. Chase. And next we have Dimitry Levin and
9 then following Mr. Levin, Ilene Gross and then
10 Cara Capp and then Pam Bergsma.

11 Is Dimitry Levin here? Dimitry Levin, we
12 will pass then to Ilene Gross. Ms. Gross, are
13 you here? Ms. Gross?

14 Then we will go to Cara Capp, with Clean
15 Water Action. Ms. Capp, you are recognized.
16 Thank you for coming.

17 MS. CAPP: Thank you, I am a little short
18 for this mike. Hi, again, I am Cara Capp. My
19 husband and I are new homeowners in Delray
20 Beach with Lori Berman and today I am here on
21 behalf of Clean Water Action.

22 We are a national non profit organization
23 with 19,000 members and supporters here in
24 Florida standing by us today.

25 I definitely appreciate the opportunity to

1 comment. I am especially happy to be here
2 because I am a proud double alum of FAU,
3 undergrad and grad, so always happy to be in
4 owl country.

5 Though I am unhappy to say that I think my
6 input today could surely have been more
7 meaningful if this Legislature had prepared
8 maps in advance of these public hearings. We
9 want maps drafted with your experience and
10 expertise and not based on my novice efforts
11 with some simple online software.

12 Clean Water Action is concerned by the
13 repercussions of not having these maps
14 available, and of the delayed timeline for
15 finalizing these maps, especially the fact that
16 has been repeated over and over again, that the
17 election managers won't have time to finalize
18 their absentee ballots.

19 People over and over again have mentioned
20 the brave men and women who serve overseas. I
21 would also like to bring up the handicapped,
22 the elderly and college students like those who
23 study here at FAU who rely on absentee ballots.

24 We would like to ensure that each of their
25 votes is counted equally and fairly and we are

1 asking you to make that happen by hastening
2 your timeline for this process to make sure the
3 maps are done in a reasonable manner.

4 Our members are also concerned with
5 efforts by the Legislature to oppose Fair
6 District standards voted on by an overwhelming
7 majority of Florida's residents. Money is
8 being spent to oppose these Amendments, while
9 Florida's teachers, social services and public
10 employees are forced to shoulder debilitating
11 financial hits.

12 This Legislature should be working to
13 uphold the standards approved by 63 percent of
14 our voters, not spending time and effort to
15 defend longstanding party seats.

16 To conclude, Clean Water Action is urging
17 this Legislature to work diligently to enforce
18 the Fair District standards that Florida's
19 residents are asking for.

20 Please bring forward a draft map for
21 consideration as soon as possible, a map that
22 will evenly, fairly and logically redraw
23 district boundaries with a blind eye to voting
24 trends within individual communities. Thank
25 you.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Ms.
2 Capp. Pam Bergsma is our next speaker and
3 following Ms. Bergsma is Sue Gardner, and then
4 David DiCrescenzo, thank you, Senator Sachs,
5 and then Carolyn O'Brien.

6 Pam Bergsma, thank you for coming today,
7 and you are recognized.

8 MS. BERGSMA: Well, thank you, Chairman
9 Gaetz and all of the Legislators, especially
10 the ones who have traveled so far.

11 Speaking as a grandmother who for the past
12 decade has been taking that grueling drive from
13 South Florida all of the way to Tallahassee so
14 that my voice could be heard, I only know how
15 hard that drive is. So welcome to the hood.

16 Now, I was very delighted, very delighted
17 that these meetings were taking place all
18 across the state of Florida. But needless to
19 say, I am very, very disappointed today and to
20 tweak a line from an old movie, show me the
21 map.

22 I thought I was going to be discussing
23 your input today. My input was voting for
24 Amendments 5 and 6. I was hoping at this point
25 that I would see a map that I could discuss

1 with you before we get into the nitty gritty of
2 making that the district lines, and the fact
3 that it looks like I am now going to have to
4 take that trip all of the way to Tallahassee to
5 see your map, this meeting really wasted my gas
6 and my time.

7 Speaking as a mother, a grandmother, my
8 only child was born here in the state of
9 Florida. I came from D. C. as a young woman to
10 this state almost 40 years ago, and I made this
11 my home, and in Alexandria, Virginia, where I
12 grew up with my two wonderful parents and my
13 other siblings, both my parents are buried in
14 Arlington Cemetery, we used to be able to just
15 cross the bridge in 15 minutes and make our
16 voice heard.

17 It is hard in this state to be heard. We
18 are long, very long, and it is a hard drive
19 getting up there to the Capitol. So this is a
20 wonderful thing that is being done here, but
21 let's do it the right way.

22 I encourage all of you to go back and make
23 that map and the rest of these meetings be able
24 to present it so that we can get the citizens
25 in Florida's input, and I am speaking as a very

1 concerned voter and citizen of my state.

2 I would like the rest of my nation to be
3 proud of where I live. I would like my
4 siblings to look down from Alexandria, Virginia
5 at me and say gee, Pam, you are in one hell of
6 a state.

7 So you have an opportunity to do this.
8 You can lead, and I encourage you to do that.
9 Thank you very much.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Bergsma,
11 and Ms. Bergsma, thank you for the service of
12 your family members to our country. Thank you
13 very much.

14 Sue Gardner is next and following
15 Ms. Gardner is David DiCrescenzo, and then
16 Carolyn O'Brien, and then I think it is Terrie
17 Rizzo. Ms. Gardner.

18 MS. GARDNER: Yes.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for coming.

20 MS. GARDNER: Thank you. Sue Gardner. I
21 have been a resident of west Boca for more than
22 20 years. Going all of the way back to the
23 beginning of these hearings I want to support
24 what was said by the first speaker.

25 I am unaffiliated, but the woman from the

1 League of Women Voters made important points.
2 I particularly urge this group to provide a
3 proposed legislative map, set of maps that the
4 voters can review in advance and provide input
5 for the State Legislature when it goes into
6 session in January. Thank you.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, ma'am,
8 for your being here today. And David, are you
9 here? If not, we will go to Carolyn O'Brien
10 and following Ms. O'Brien, to Terrie Rizzo, and
11 then to Henry, I think it is Strouss, and then
12 to Rachelle Lipman.

13 Ms. O'Brien.

14 MS. O'BRIEN: Hi, thank you all for doing
15 this. I have never done anything like this
16 before in my life, so bear with me.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: You are doing fine.

18 MS. O'BRIEN: I want you to know I am a
19 member of the Palm Beach County --

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, could you speak
21 right into the microphone, please?

22 MS. O'BRIEN: I am sorry. I am a member
23 of the Palm Beach County REC, the Boca Raton
24 Republican Club and a Tea Party member and I
25 just want to tell you one thing.

1 There were a million people in Palm Beach,
2 in Washington, D. C., not 70,000. The next
3 thing I want to say, we talk about fairness.
4 In August of '08, they had a Town Hall meeting.
5 Bill Nelson, Ron Klein, Alex Hastings, not one
6 Republican was allowed.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: Ma'am, ma'am, let's try to
8 keep our comments to redistricting. Okay.

9 MS. O'BRIEN: Okay, I live in Palm Beach
10 County. I live one block north of Palmetto
11 Park Road and I feel that my district was -- it
12 was Adam Hass was my Representative, now, Bill
13 Hager is mine.

14 I feel like Boca Raton is split right down
15 the middle and I live east of Fourth Avenue and
16 I would like to see all of Boca Raton and the
17 east, eastern part of Boca all in one district,
18 and Alan West is my Congressman and he knows
19 how to hold a Town Hall meeting.

20 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
21 ma'am. Next is Terrie Rizzo and then following
22 Ms. Rizzo, Henry Strouss and then we will hear
23 from Rachelle Lipman with the Kings Point
24 Democrat Club and then from, our next speaker
25 will be Sean Phillippi or Phillippi.

1 Ms. Rizzo, thank you.

2 A VOICE: Terrie Rizzo had to leave. She
3 asked me just to speak on her behalf.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: I am sorry, ma'am. We
5 have to take people who have signed up.

6 A VOICE: Okay.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: So therefore, I beg your
8 pardon, if you would like to speak, sign up and
9 we will sure try to get to you.

10 Next, Henry Strouss. Henry Strouss?
11 Rachelle Lipman from the Kings Point Democrat
12 Club, and then Sean Phillippi and I apologize
13 if I mispronounced that and then Morris Levine.

14 MS. LIPMAN: I am Rachelle Lipman and I
15 agree with the Supervisor of Elections and Mark
16 Siegel and Mr. Robbins.

17 I am a resident of Kings Point Delray
18 Beach and our concern is that they keep
19 District 90 the same.

20 We that live in Kings Point do not want
21 our community split. We have the same concerns
22 locally and statewide and they are being
23 addressed by our current local and district
24 Legislators.

25 I also am very, very upset that you don't

1 have the maps. I originally am from the state
2 of Delaware. Maybe it is because it is the
3 second smallest state in the United States and
4 they are always accurate and they always have
5 maps and everything else when we come to
6 hearings, and I am very, very discouraged with
7 this hearing that you are not, you don't have
8 maps here.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Ms. Lipman.
10 Well, good news, because the next testifier has
11 maps. Sean Phillippi.

12 MR. PHILLIPPI: A map. A map.

13 SENATOR GAETZ: A map.

14 MR. PHILLIPPI: So about 36 hours ago I
15 was the second person to submit a Congressional
16 map that was both contiguous and complete, and
17 I did so without breaking up a single
18 municipality in the entire state, except for
19 Jacksonville, which has a population greater
20 than that of a single municipality.

21 And the thing that I would encourage the
22 Legislators to do is to get a clarification
23 from the Justice Department and work together
24 to get a hard definition of majority/minority
25 districts, because some of the feedback that I

1 got from a very nice gentleman with the House
2 Redistricting Committee is that a district that
3 has a total of 82 percent minority
4 representation is not considered a
5 majority/minority district which honestly
6 baffled me.

7 So I would encourage Democrats,
8 Republicans to work with the Justice Department
9 to get one uniform standard for
10 majority/minority districts, and just say that
11 it is possible to go ahead and create
12 Congressional maps without harming municipal
13 boundaries, because I have done so and if
14 someone like me can do so, anyone can do it.
15 Thank you for your time.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Amen, thank you so much.
17 Next we will hear from Morris Levine and then
18 David Hyde. Following Mr. Hyde, Hillary Keyes,
19 and after Ms. Keys, Helen Goldenberg.

20 Mr. Levine, are you here, sir? Are you
21 here, sir? Then we will pass him for the
22 moment.

23 David Hyde, Mr. Hyde? While you are
24 coming down, if Hillary Keyes would get on
25 deck, as well as Helen Goldenberg and Glenn

1 Joseph.

2 Mr. Hyde, we are delighted that you are
3 here today and look forward to your testimony.

4 MR. HYDE: Thank you very much, and it is
5 wonderful to see everyone here to listen to us.
6 I am a recent Floridian. I came from San
7 Francisco. I left my suit there.

8 But I have been active in political arenas
9 in various places, and I consider myself a
10 Floridian, and I think as people who represent
11 us, that you can think of both the concerns of
12 the coastal units and the inland environment.

13 I use the beach a lot. I also don't live
14 on the beach. I live in Boynton, and the
15 Commissioners there represent the whole town,
16 and I think you can, too, although we are
17 elected as Democrats and Republicans, et
18 cetera.

19 So I really want to encourage you to think
20 in that direction. I want to definitely agree
21 with the League of Women Voters and their
22 concerns. I want to also agree with the
23 Supervisor of Elections and their concerns, but
24 I really want to think of us as non-partisan,
25 and I want you to think that way.

1 I want you to put together the best
2 possible redistricting you can possibly do in a
3 non-partisan way and move forward fast. Thank
4 you.

5 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, Mr.
6 Hyde. Hillary Keyes is our next speaker, and
7 after Ms. Keyes, then Helen Goldenberg and then
8 Glenn Joseph.

9 Ms. Keyes, thank you for coming.

10 MS. KEYES: Hi, I am Hillary Keyes, and I
11 am a resident of Boca Raton. I want to thank
12 you for having this meeting, but I also am very
13 concerned with the fact that, A, we do not have
14 maps which would not be a problem, except for
15 the timeline.

16 And I think it is so important that we
17 listen to our Supervisors of Elections because
18 they are the ones that are going to have to
19 make this work, and if you are not listening to
20 them and giving them enough time to do their
21 jobs, this is not going to fly, and again, I
22 don't want to be butterfly ballot seen.

23 I would also like to ask, the Florida
24 House has joined the Brown lawsuit and is
25 trying to get Federal Court to declare

1 Amendment 6 unconstitutional, even though
2 63 percent of voters supported it.

3 Are any private funds being collected or
4 used to fund the House's position in this
5 lawsuit?

6 SENATOR GAETZ: And time permitting we
7 will certainly ask a House member to respond to
8 that when we are finished. Anything else,
9 Ms. Keyes?

10 MS. KEYES: That will do it.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much. Helen
12 Goldenberg, are you here? Ms. Goldenberg?
13 Then we will go to Glenn Joseph from the
14 Caribbean American Complete Count Committee.

15 MR. JOSEPH: Mr. Chairman, Legislators,
16 good morning. Good afternoon, actually. We
17 know what we have. We know everyone has an
18 idea of what they want. What we don't know is
19 what we will get.

20 This process looks transparent and
21 inclusive, however, that was the same process
22 seemingly in the last Legislature. Leadership
23 party always makes the decisions and because of
24 that we had those draconian pieces of
25 legislation that exists today.

1 I guess because of that you will
2 understand why we are so skeptical. The
3 process can be transparent, yet recommendations
4 may not be accepted or will not be accepted.

5 We are here in support of the Voting Right
6 Act and Amendments 5 and 6, the latest
7 Amendments to the Florida Constitution.

8 Communities of interest might not have
9 been included in Amendments 5 and 6. However,
10 if we draw compact districts without stacking
11 and cracking we will produce districts that are
12 fair. Compact districts are the best way to
13 keep naturally formed districts together.

14 Voters need to select elected officials,
15 not the elected officials using redistricting
16 to cherrypick who their voters are.

17 Gerrymandering districts drawn for a
18 powerful few don't manipulate any community.
19 Give us compact contiguous districts within
20 counties and city boundaries and we will
21 consider that fair.

22 We want to ensure the districts are not
23 drawn to dilute a compact area that in the next
24 two to five years will be a strong voting block
25 based on the census. We are aware that every

1 elected official took the oath of office to
2 uphold the Constitution, 5 and 6 was passed.

3 People choose where they live. Businesses
4 choose where to locate based on the
5 demographics that will support goods and
6 services. We operate primarily within Broward
7 County and Miami-Dade County. We have our own
8 doctors, lawyers, et cetera.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: May I ask you to see if
10 you can conclude, sir?

11 MR. JOSEPH: Sure, sure. We want to make
12 sure that you hear what we are saying and
13 comply with what the law says.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much, sir.
15 We appreciate your testimony. And I apologize
16 to Annette Evans, I didn't give you any
17 warning, but Annette Evans would be next and
18 then Starla Brown and then Carol Osno and then
19 Kenneth, and I apologize, it is my eyes, not
20 your writing, Kenneth, I think it is Kenneth
21 Sommer with the Democratic Club of Greater
22 Boynton, on Montrose Bay Avenue.

23 So Annette Evans, thank you so much for
24 being here and you are recognized.

25 MS. EVANS: Thank you. I want to say one

1 positive thing first, the staff for the
2 website, they are excellent. They are
3 professional and I appreciate what they do. I
4 wanted to say that.

5 Otherwise, I echo so much of what has been
6 said eloquently here by various members of the
7 League of Women Voters, the Supervisor of
8 Elections, Margie Walden.

9 The basic message I have is that the
10 timeline that you have established ensures that
11 incumbents will benefit. This means that the
12 will of the people is not being carried out.
13 The 63 percent who voted for Amendments 5 and
14 6.

15 Some here have said that -- seem to think
16 that public participation means that they all
17 submit their own maps and they seem to think
18 that those of us who want maps here are lazy or
19 something, that we want the government to do
20 things for us or something. That is not it.

21 If you understand what public
22 participation is, usually public hearings that
23 are held by government, they present a plan for
24 the public to review and comment on. That is
25 how it works.

1 And someone also said that what you hear
2 today doesn't represent the working people who
3 are not here. Well, plenty of the people here
4 are retired and they worked a lot their whole
5 lives. There is a lot of people who took off
6 work, too.

7 Don't assume that we all here on welfare
8 or something. I don't like that connotation.
9 Also, the last thing I want to say is I am
10 offended that my Representative has been absent
11 about half of the time and when he was here he
12 was reading, because like you said, we should
13 have respect here for everybody, everybody that
14 is here.

15 Lastly I want to say that partisan line
16 drawing marginalizes moderate voters which
17 exacerbates our fractured politics.

18 Eliminating gerrymandering is important to
19 maintaining true democracy. Our democracy is
20 precious, not having geographically cohesive
21 contiguous districts disenfranchises voters.
22 Thank you.

23 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,
24 Ms. Evans. Next we will hear from Starla Brown
25 and then Carol Osno and then Kenneth something,

1 and I apologize, Kenneth. Starla Brown, are
2 you here? Starla?

3 Okay, Carol Osno, Carol, is that you?
4 Thank you for coming and you are recognized.

5 MS. OSNO: Osno, O-s-n-o.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Osno.

7 MS. OSNO: Thank you.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: All right, I apologize,
9 ma'am.

10 MS. OSNO: Okay. Well, being we are at
11 the end, so much has been said so I am going to
12 make this very personal then for me, about me.

13 I live in Congressional District 22, and
14 my Representatives are here. I haven't gotten
15 much eye contact, but I think they are
16 listening.

17 I feel categorized. I feel labeled. I
18 don't feel like you are an American. I am seen
19 as a Caucasian, a woman, a Jew, a person over
20 50. I am put into a computer to figure out how
21 to best use me, where will my vote go.

22 I feel that the candidates choose me and I
23 do not get to choose them, and I just have to
24 add, I find it appalling that an unemployed
25 individual must follow frustrating and highly

1 impossible regulations to collect a maximum of
2 \$250 a week for unemployment while Tallahassee
3 spends millions to fight the will of the
4 people.

5 None of you are unemployed sitting there
6 and I don't wish it on you, but you have no
7 idea. Governor Scott will get the numbers down
8 because people are throwing their hands up and
9 saying, forget it, I can't even bother, I am so
10 frustrated, the heck with my unemployment
11 check. Thank you.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, ma'am. And I
13 apologize to Kenneth who lives at 10616. Do
14 you know.

15 A VOICE: Kenneth Sommer.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Kenneth Sommer,
17 Mr. Sommer, I am so sorry, sir, it is my eyes,
18 not your writing if you are here. Not here,
19 okay, then we will move on.

20 Our next speakers will be in this order,
21 Mildred Cook, Maggie Davidson, Harold Muller,
22 or Muller, and Kenneth Thomas.

23 Ms. Cook, thank you for coming, and you
24 are recognized.

25 MS. COOK: Thank you. I appreciate you

1 being here and I appreciate you hearing me. I
2 do think it is disgraceful that the Republican
3 lead Legislature has spent, is preparing and
4 has spent so much money fighting the will of
5 the people.

6 A technical audit performed by the Palm
7 Beach County Democratic Executive Committee
8 found the My District Builder software
9 mysteriously deleted an entire section on
10 compactness and geospatial analysis.

11 The missing section was designed to
12 calculate ratios of compactness and make an
13 overall scoring of compliance with the
14 redistricting requirements under Amendment 5.

15 The Palm Beach County DEC Chairman Allen
16 Siegel has raised legitimate questions regarding
17 why the Speaker's Office had ordered the
18 removal of the compactness analysis.

19 Those questions have not been answered.
20 Although contained in the Legislature's initial
21 release of the My District Builder software,
22 the compactness and geospatial analysis
23 components were deleted by House Redistricting
24 Committee staff soon after they appeared.

25 Splitting city and county lines and

1 grouping minorities into minority districts
2 causing the bleaching of adjacent districts
3 unlike compactness were characteristics to be
4 avoided under the Fair Districts Amendments.

5 By removing the compactness and geospatial
6 analysis from the software, new district lines
7 drawn on party or incumbent lines are not as
8 detectable without the geospatial analysis
9 numerical ratings.

10 And regarding these public hearings, it
11 would be informative to get an answer as to why
12 the geospatial analysis section was removed by
13 the legislation -- legislative leadership.

14 Unfortunately, the committee members have
15 already been instructed not to comment on any
16 aspect of the process. The Legislature's
17 current redistricting software without the
18 compactness statistical component flaws the
19 process and stacks the deck in favor of the
20 incumbent.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Cook, you have gone
22 quite a ways over time. Thank you very much.

23 MS. COOK: Republican leadership.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, and
25 you will get an answer to that question about,

1 about the spacial feature on the redistricting
2 software time permitting. Next, Maggie
3 Davidson.

4 A VOICE: I am sorry, Maggie had to leave.
5 She sends her apologies, but if you would like,
6 I can speak on her behalf.

7 SENATOR GAETZ: No, sadly, Maggie gets
8 only to speak for herself.

9 Harold Muller. Please come forward,
10 Mr. Muller, and then Kenneth Thomas and Daniel
11 Goldstein will be our final speaker.

12 MR. MULLER: Good afternoon, my name is
13 Harold Muller, I am not representing anybody
14 and please excuse if you hear my stomach
15 growling, I guess you know what I am talking
16 about.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: If you will speak into the
18 microphone directly, sir, then everybody can
19 hear you.

20 MR. MULLER: Is this better?

21 SENATOR GAETZ: Yes, sir.

22 MR. MULLER: First, I want to congratulate
23 the people who are in charge of managing the
24 website. I think they do an excellent job.
25 Unfortunately I cannot say the same thing for

1 the people who designed the portions of the
2 redistricting.

3 Frankly, it looks like the basic idea of
4 people who don't have anything better to do, to
5 spin their wheels designing maps and providing
6 comments, but the inside designs what they
7 want.

8 Then at the end they dump all of this
9 stuff in a black hole and spring the official
10 plan on the public as late as possible. To
11 minimize -- this minimizes in the feelings and
12 the process by people and organizations outside
13 the power structure.

14 How do you know who looks at the maps that
15 have been laboriously created and all the
16 proposals and requests? How do we know who
17 uses the material in what way? Who -- what
18 impact it has on the official map? You don't.

19 If the intention had been to give people a
20 role in the process, the time plan would look
21 more like that. On April 30th the
22 redistricting committee would have published
23 their initial draft and would have heavily
24 publicized it so that people and colleagues to
25 look at.

1 Ideally this proposal would have been
2 created by an independent entity and not the
3 existing district map.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,
5 your time has elapsed and we are just about out
6 of time. We want to get as many people in as
7 we can. Thank you very much.

8 Next is Kenneth Thomas. Mr. Thomas? And
9 following Mr. Thomas, Daniel Goldstein, and we
10 will try mightly try to get Bill Diamond in,
11 because I am an advocate for you, Bill. Fire
12 away.

13 MR. THOMAS: Good afternoon, my name is
14 Kenneth Thomas and I am a resident of west Boca
15 Raton, and after being here for almost three
16 hours there is very little left that needs to
17 be said.

18 I think so many eloquent speakers have
19 already covered most of the material. So I
20 could use the time to stand here and talk about
21 my wonderful kids, my grandkids and all of
22 those things, but that has nothing to do with
23 the work of redistricting that has to be done
24 every ten years.

25 And from what I have gathered today there

1 has been, I haven't seen very much
2 redistricting work done and I keep wondering
3 why, because we have talked about so many
4 different things, about what is wrong with the
5 system, what is right with the system, but we
6 haven't accomplished any work today.

7 And so I keep going back trying to figure
8 out what will it take to get us to do the work
9 of redistricting. All my life I have been
10 taught to assume positive intent, and as I look
11 at this wonderful group up here in front of us,
12 I have to assume that you are really here to do
13 the very best for the voters who voted you into
14 office and who also voted for Amendments 5 and
15 6.

16 So I think that maybe if I can, maybe to
17 help get this thing back on track and get to
18 doing some of the voting work, I think first we
19 need to make sure that your constituents
20 realize that you do have positive intent, that
21 you intend to enact their will, and I think the
22 best gesture you can do at this time is to
23 probably drop the lawsuits against Amendments 5
24 and 6.

25 The next thing I would ask of you is to

1 review the timelines that you have imposed upon
2 this process, because as you have heard from
3 Supervisor Bucher and others, this all can't be
4 accomplished within the time that is remaining.

5 So you need to look at a process that is
6 going to allow everything to fall in place on
7 time. I think you would be better served and I
8 am working hard, I am trying to keep my two
9 minutes down.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Four seconds.

11 MR. THOMAS: Four seconds, okay.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: As I am for Bill Diamond.

13 MR. THOMAS: Provide examples, I think
14 Mr. Ortez provided --

15 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much for
16 your testimony.

17 MR. THOMAS -- as well as Mr. Phillippi.

18 SENATOR GAETZ: Appreciate it, our next
19 speaker is Daniel Goldstein. Is Mr. Goldstein
20 here? If not, Bill Diamond, you are my man.
21 You are my man.

22 MR. DIAMOND: Clean up hitter, right?
23 Thank you very much, honorable members of the
24 State Legislature. My name is Bill Diamond, I
25 am Town Councilman in the town of Palm Beach.

1 I am speaking here on my own behalf, but I
2 think my sentiments are shared by a good number
3 of members of my community.

4 Very frankly, the coastal communities in
5 Palm Beach County have an important common
6 interest when it comes to Federal, State and
7 County actions to replenish their severely
8 eroded beaches.

9 For example, the town of Palm Beach has
10 worked closely with the towns of Palm Beach
11 Shores and the town of South Palm Beach to
12 secure permits and reimbursement of millions of
13 dollars spent by them on beach replenishment of
14 our common ocean fronts.

15 Whatever is done to replenish one
16 community's ocean front beach almost always
17 affects another community's beach because of
18 the literal north to south flow of ocean
19 currents which carries precious sand down all
20 of our ocean front communities.

21 Therefore, it is best to keep these
22 coastal communities together as one.
23 Governmental units so that they will continue
24 to have more strength in petitioning the
25 Federal, State and County governments for

1 assistance after storms, hurricanes, et cetera,
2 which destroy their most valuable natural
3 resources, which is our great beautiful
4 beaches.

5 Thank you, again, for your patience, your
6 kind necessary and this magnificent exercise in
7 popular democracy.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
9 Mr. Diamond. We do have a number of other
10 people who signed up late. I wish that we
11 could, we could have accommodated everyone.
12 Some folks went a little bit overtime, but we
13 tried to accommodate as many people as
14 possible.

15 Senator Sachs and Senator Sobel, Senator
16 Smith and your Representatives are all
17 available to you if you didn't have a chance to
18 speak to the Committee, that you can have a
19 chance to speak with them.

20 As well, if you have information that you
21 wanted to share, you certainly can provide it
22 in writing. It will be part of the Committee's
23 record and every member of the Legislature will
24 have access to that record.

25 We do have just, I did reserve about two

1 minutes at the end because I think there was
2 someone who mentioned that people had been
3 instructed not to speak at every single meeting
4 of this Committee.

5 We have had I guess 15 or 16 of them. We
6 have had members who have spoken. There is a
7 free will to do that. Did any members of the
8 Committee have anything that they wished to say
9 at this time?

10 We will start with House members. Any
11 House members have any comments you might like
12 to make in brief, in brief?

13 A VOICE: Thank you, thank you. I just
14 want to let those of you out here who keep
15 criticizing the system to understand that we,
16 though we are the Florida Legislature, we
17 didn't all agree with each other.

18 And I for myself want to let you know that
19 I agree with 99 percent of the people who spoke
20 today. I specifically agree with Supervisor
21 Bucher, and I want you to know that many of my
22 colleagues feel the same way.

23 We want the answers and we also want the
24 maps, too. Thank you.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,

1 Representative. Any other members of the House
2 wish to speak? Any Senators wish to make a
3 brief comment before we leave?

4 Senator Sachs, could you do a brief
5 comment and then I am going to defer to
6 Representative Precourt?

7 SENATOR SACHS: Thank you very much,
8 Mr. Chairman. And I want everyone here, all of
9 the Legislators, House members and Senate
10 members to know that the people of Broward and
11 Palm Beach County have spoken loud and clear.

12 I think everyone here has expressed
13 exactly what they feel. I know that I am very
14 proud to be a part of this community. You have
15 been courteous, they have been professional but
16 they have been vocal, and we have been
17 passionate about what we want and what we as
18 citizens want the Legislature to do.

19 So thank you very much, the people of
20 Broward and Palm Beach County. We have heard
21 you, we have heard your words, we have heard
22 your feelings, we have heard your passion and
23 now we need to get to work, Mr. Chairman.
24 Thank you very much.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you. The Chair

1 recognizes Representative Precourt to answer a
2 couple of factual questions that were raised by
3 folks who deserve factual answers.

4 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: Thank you, Chair
5 Gaetz, and one misconception out there that has
6 been perpetuated in part of this conversation
7 is that any member of this Florida Legislature
8 can submit a map at any time.

9 So don't get the idea that it is just the
10 Republicans or just the House members that are
11 sitting here and listening to you first, any of
12 the members can submit maps at any time.

13 Now, there is a couple of other factual
14 errors that have been brought up here. There
15 have been a number of comments about the
16 compactness tools being used in the My District
17 Builder, in the District Building software,
18 particularly from a gentleman by the name of
19 Alan Robbins.

20 First, I want to thank him for working
21 with our staff and communicating these issues
22 to them and I hope that he will continue to
23 work with them. However I do need to add that
24 the response that the House has given on this
25 issue, that Mr. Robbins read in part, the House

1 as was stated in some of our committee meetings
2 during this past session will at a minimum give
3 its members compactness measurements and other
4 measurement tools to judge and deliberate the
5 maps.

6 As our staff conveyed to Mr. Robbins and
7 others, we developed the best product we could
8 in order to get many members of the public
9 involved in the district building software.

10 As is evident in the hallway, we are
11 receiving maps from the public, many maps, so
12 that My District Builder is more than just a
13 functional application, but begin, Mr. Robbins,
14 we appreciate your good work and intentions and
15 your willingness to continue to work with
16 staff.

17 There are also a couple of other comments
18 about that measurement tool from the Florida
19 House's My District Builder application, in
20 particular. It is simply just not accurate
21 that the measurement tool was in there, in the
22 My District Builder.

23 Unfortunately that is a point of confusion
24 that was raised by an opinion column published
25 in the Sun Sentinel that the Sentinel later ran

1 a correction to because it simply wasn't true.

2 There are multiple district building
3 softwares out there. The House's application
4 is called My District Builder. The Senate's is
5 called District Builder and there are also a
6 number of private vendors who make these
7 applications and there apparently is some
8 confusion.

9 A couple of other very quick points. The
10 statement that there was no good work done here
11 today. I think the people sitting here can say
12 is factually false. There was a lot of good
13 information provided here today and a lot of
14 good work.

15 In particular related to things and just a
16 few of the comments related to the northern
17 Palm Beaches community, related to the coastal
18 communities, related to agriculture in this
19 area, related to the African-American
20 communities in Palm Beach County and it went on
21 and on. Very good input that we will take into
22 account in dealing with these districts.

23 The point that the Legislature should draw
24 the maps first and the statement that that is
25 just not the process is factually incorrect.

1 If you, if any of you are involved in the
2 Federal NEPA, National Environmental Policy Act
3 process, it requires that you reach out to the
4 public with no solutions initially so you get
5 information back first before then presenting
6 for further public comment which we will do in
7 this process, alternative solutions to that.
8 So we will be doing that.

9 The question related to the use of
10 taxpayer funds to litigate and joining in a
11 lawsuit. We are doing what we are obligated to
12 do. We are sworn to uphold the State
13 Constitution and the United States
14 Constitution, and there are allegations that
15 there are conflicts between the law that we
16 have passed and the State Constitution and the
17 U.S. Constitution that we need to have that
18 resolved as soon as possible.

19 That is our obligation and we are using
20 funds available to the House from a contingency
21 fund that we use for everything, whether it is
22 replacing the carpet or buying new computers.
23 That is our contingency fund that they have
24 been referred to. Any statements to the
25 contrary are factually incorrect.

1 We are scheduling time -- there was a
2 question about scheduling, allow time for
3 people to run and for the elections process to
4 proceed while locally you hear from your
5 Supervisor of Elections that she doesn't have
6 the process.

7 I assure you, it is in the record that
8 other Supervisors of Elections have said that
9 they will have enough time to work on the
10 process, that they will be working on their
11 positions and their systems concurrent with the
12 elections process.

13 So please feel free to contact them. I
14 will give you a name, Supervisor Ortel in
15 Seminole County for one, please contact some of
16 these other folks.

17 And with that I think I have covered most
18 of those. I haven't covered all of the
19 comments, but we do appreciate your time being
20 here and the constructive input that we have
21 had from you today. Thank you.

22 SENATOR GAETZ: And we would encourage you
23 to stay involved in the process. This is not
24 your last effort or your last opportunity.
25 This is your first opportunity.

1 At every stage of the game from this point
2 forward you will have the opportunity to have
3 your input and there will be public meetings
4 and public hearings held before any votes are
5 taken, and with that Representative Precourt
6 moves we rise.

7 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
8 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 175 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 26th day of October, 2011.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014