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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2011
6:00 P.M.
BROWARD COLLEGE GYM
DAVIE, FLORIDA

Transcribed by:
CLARA C. ROTRUCK
Court Reporter

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

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Good evening,
3 everyone. My name is Will Weatherford, and I
4 have the distinguished pleasure of chairing
5 this hearing this evening.

6 This Joint Senate/House Redistricting
7 Hearing is called to order right now.

8 We are pleased to be joined by many
9 members of the Florida House and Senate, and
10 before we get started, I would like to just
11 take a few moments to allow each one to
12 introduce themselves briefly to the audience
13 and let them all know which community they
14 represent.

15 I also think that since we are here in
16 Broward County, we would also start with our
17 distinguished Senator, Senator Sobel.

18 SENATOR SOBEL: Thank you very much,
19 Representative Weatherford. We are in my
20 district, which is District 31. This is Davie,
21 Florida, and this is -- we got some Davie
22 people here, and I will try to be brief, but
23 many years ago I taught special ed at this
24 college to adults, and Rivka Spiro, I want to
25 -- is she here?

1 I want to thank Broward Community --
2 Broward College for hosting this tonight, which
3 has had a 30 percent increase in enrollment.
4 And I -- yes, it has. And they represent
5 66,000 students here on this campus. And they
6 told me that law enforcement has a
7 hundred percent pass rate on the exams that
8 they take, and they have students from 150
9 countries.

10 I believe that they purposely had it in
11 this gym so we would get some capital money to
12 help Broward College, and I hope you will take
13 note of it.

14 So welcome to Broward County. I
15 absolutely love living here. Let me tell you
16 some fun facts that make up -- that make our
17 county special.

18 It is the second-largest county in the
19 state, 18th-largest county in the country.
20 There are 31 cities in Broward County, the
21 sixth-largest school system with 263,000
22 students.

23 Broward County was created out of parts of
24 Dade and Palm Beach Counties in 1915. It was
25 named for Florida Governor Napoleon Bonaparte

1 Broward, who pledged to drain the Everglades
2 for development.

3 Jeff Atwater, current CFO, is a Napoleon
4 Bonaparte Broward's great-grandson. The county
5 was founded in 1915, almost 100 years ago,
6 1,200 square miles, roughly the size of Rhode
7 Island, 787 square miles devoted to
8 conservation, 23 miles of beaches. Population
9 in 1920 was a little over 5,000, and today it
10 is almost two million.

11 The Broward County Library is one of the
12 largest public library systems in the country.
13 Home of the Florida Panthers. Snow fell in Ft.
14 Lauderdale in 1977, the first time in recorded
15 history.

16 Pompano Beach Festival Flea Market is the
17 largest indoor flea market in the country.
18 Broward -- Plantation Golf Course was the site
19 for the famous "Caddyshack" pool scene, and
20 Hollywood Beach featured Demi Moore in "Body
21 Heat," so welcome to Broward County and thank
22 you for being here.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: That is a warm
24 welcome from Senator Sobel. Thank you,
25 Senator.

1 SENATOR MARGOLIS: Good evening and
2 welcome. My name is Senator Gwen Margolis. I
3 represent District 35. I've represented a very
4 small part of Broward County for many years,
5 probably over 30 years, and I am delighted to
6 represent the east side of Miami-Dade County.

7 In Broward County, I represent the area
8 between I-95 and the Turnpike, south of
9 Hollywood Boulevard. So I am very pleased to
10 be here with you all. It is a little bit of --
11 a little bit of everything in the district, but
12 we -- I am delighted to be here with you. I
13 can't really beat what Senator Sobel said, so I
14 am going to pass the mike over.

15 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good evening,
16 Hazelle Rogers, Representative for District 94,
17 representing eight cities in Broward County.
18 They are Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes, Margate,
19 North Lauderdale, Plantation, Sunrise, Tamarac,
20 and I hope I did not leave any of my cities
21 out.

22 And I was boasting all over this state
23 that we are 1.8 -- approximately 1.8 million
24 residents, the most diverse county in the state
25 of Florida.

1 Welcome. We are glad to see you. I am
2 thrilled that you're all here. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good evening,
4 everyone. My name is John Patrick Julien,
5 representing House District 104, which
6 encompasses North Miami Beach, North Miami,
7 Miami Gardens, Opa-Locka, a large chunk of
8 unincorporated Miami-Dade County, and a small
9 sliver of the City of Miami and Hialeah.

10 It is an honor and a privilege to be here,
11 and I look forward to hearing what you have to
12 say.

13 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good evening
14 everyone. Good evening, everyone, and welcome.
15 My name is Betty Reed, I represent District 59
16 in Tampa, Florida. That is the eastern part of
17 Tampa and Hillsborough County.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WATSON: Good evening. My
19 name is Barbara Watson. I represent District
20 103. It incorporates the southern part of
21 Miramar, Miami Gardens and Opa-Locka. Those
22 are three large areas of our Dade area, and we
23 are very much diversified in our community.
24 And I thank you all for coming out this
25 evening, and we look forward to your questions

1 this evening.

2 REPRESENTATIVE PASSIDOMO: Thank you. My
3 name is Kathleen Passidomo. I represent House
4 District 76, which is in Collier County, and it
5 includes the City of Naples, the City of Marco
6 Island and the City of Everglades City. Thank
7 you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Good evening,
9 everyone. My name is Dwayne Taylor. I serve
10 in the House of Representatives in District 27,
11 which is Volusia County.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS: Good evening.
13 Thanks for allowing us to come this evening.
14 My name is Trudi Williams, I am a House member
15 from District 75, which is on the west coast of
16 Florida, Lee and Collier Counties.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MORAITIS: Good evening, I
18 am George Moraitis. I represent the east part
19 of Broward County, a little bit of southeast
20 Palm Beach County, and I look forward to the
21 hearing tonight. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: You've got some
23 fans, George.

24 My name is Mike Horner, District 79 in
25 Osceola County.

1 REPRESENTATIVE HUKILL: Dorothy Hukill,
2 District 28, parts of Volusia County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE FRESEN: Thank you for
4 coming out. Erik Fresen of central Miami-Dade
5 County, House District 111.

6 SENATOR BOGDANOFF: Ellyn Bogdanoff,
7 Senate District 25, goes from Ft. Lauderdale
8 all the way up to Juno Beach, Broward and Palm
9 Beach Counties.

10 SENATOR BRAYNON: Good evening. State
11 Senator Oscar Braynon, I represent north
12 central Miami-Dade, the 33rd Senate district.

13 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good evening, my
14 name is Jeanette Nuñez. I am State
15 Representative for House District 112, which
16 consists of portions of southwest Broward,
17 including Miramar and Pembroke Pines, portions
18 of Dade County and portions of Collier County.
19 Thank you for coming.

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

23 REPRESENTATIVE THURSTON: Good evening, I
24 am Perry Thurston, House District 93, Ft.
25 Lauderdale and Plantation, and this is our only

1 meeting in Ft. Lauderdale -- in Broward County.
2 So we are glad to see so many of you have come
3 out and we look forward to your questions.

4 REPRESENTATIVE STEINBERG: Good evening, I
5 am Richard Steinberg, District 106, northeast
6 Miami-Dade County.

7 REPRESENTATIVE FULLWOOD: Good evening,
8 Reggie Fullwood, District 15, Jacksonville,
9 Florida.

10 REPRESENTATIVE YOUNG: Welcome. I am
11 Representative Dana Young, District 57, which
12 is the City of Tampa.

13 SENATOR SMITH: Good evening. Senator
14 Chris Smith, 29th Senate district, which is
15 Palm Beach, and in Broward, it is Ft.
16 Lauderdale and Lauderhill, Lauderdale Lakes,
17 Plantation, Wilton Manors, Pompano Beach,
18 Deerfield Beach and parts of unincorporated
19 Broward County. Thanks for coming out.

20 SENATOR SIPLIN: Gary Siplin, State
21 Senate, District 19, Orlando, Florida.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: State
23 Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, House
24 District 92, Broward County, Deerfield Beach,
25 Pompano Beach, Oakland Park, Wilton Manors, Ft.

1 Lauderdale, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, North
2 Lauderdale and Tamarac.

3 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: State
4 Representative Evan Jenne, District 100, where
5 we all currently sit and stand right now. So
6 thank you so much for coming and visiting.

7 I would encourage you to stay, have
8 dinner, have drinks afterwards and give some
9 money back to the local economy, so I
10 appreciate that.

11 Thank you all so very much. It's been a
12 long trip for a lot of these folks here, been
13 around the state, so thank you all for being
14 here.

15 And as any of you have heard me speak on
16 this subject before here, District 100 through
17 the decades has been gerrymandered. So I would
18 like your input in making sure that we correct
19 that situation, so thank you.

20 SENATOR RICH: Good evening, I am Nan Rich
21 and I am State Senator for District 34,
22 mostly -- mostly western -- western Broward
23 County, but one of the gerrymandered districts
24 that goes all the way down to the southern tip
25 of Miami-Dade County, and I do also serve as

1 the Senate Democratic Minority Leader.

2 SENATOR SACHS: Good afternoon, my name is
3 Maria Sachs and I am State Senator from this
4 district, actually -- no. I have parts --
5 beautiful parts of Palm Beach County and part
6 of Broward County is right around Deerfield
7 Beach and the northern parts of Broward County.
8 Thank you for inviting us here today.

9 REPRESENTATIVE ABRUZZO: Thank you. Good
10 evening, Joseph Abruzzo, State House District
11 85, which is primarily a western and central
12 Palm Beach County district.

13 REPRESENTATIVE BAXLEY: I am Dennis
14 Baxley, serving Florida House District 24,
15 Ocala/Marion County. I am a former resident of
16 Hollywood and graduated from Miami-Dade College
17 Funeral Service program. Great to be back home
18 and visiting and to hear from you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.
20 Well, thank you. As you can see, we have many
21 members from different parts of the state, and
22 we appreciate them being here, but more
23 importantly, we appreciate you being here and
24 the tremendous turnout that we have had.

25 Again, my name is Will Weatherford, and I

1 am chairing today's hearing, along with my
2 Senate colleague, Don Gaetz, and today's
3 hearing will be webcast statewide by the
4 Florida Channel over the Internet.

5 Our sole purpose here is to hear from you,
6 and it is to hear from you about the legal
7 standards and the governing when it comes to
8 redistricting that should be applied to your
9 community so that you are represented in both
10 Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably
11 and sensibly.

12 Our procedures today are extremely simple,
13 but they are also very important, and it is
14 important that you sign in so that we create an
15 accurate public record of the attendees and
16 speakers.

17 Also, you may opt to join our e-mail list
18 so that we can keep you informed about the
19 redistricting process as we move forward.

20 If you wish to speak today and you have
21 not filled out an attendance card, please raise
22 your hand and we will get you a card and so you
23 can be called upon to give your testimony. It
24 is the same attendance card whether you want to
25 speak or just sit and listen. So when you fill

1 it out, you just check the box to say that you
2 would like to speak.

3 Before we begin today, I would like to
4 turn it over to my colleague, Senator Gaetz, to
5 walk us through as what we are here to do
6 today, what the process will be and maybe a
7 little bit of background in regard to the
8 redistricting process in Florida.

9 Senator Gaetz, you are recognized, and
10 thank you for being here, sir.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
12 Mr. Chairman. I am Don Gaetz. My Senate
13 District is in far northwest Florida, from
14 Pensacola to Panama City.

15 Every ten years, the Legislature is
16 required by our Constitution to redistrict the
17 state based on increases, decreases and
18 movements of population within the state. And
19 because Florida has grown more than other
20 states in the last ten years, we pick up two
21 additional members of the U.S. House of
22 Representatives; in fact, we get two more
23 electoral votes as well.

24 Because some parts of our state have
25 increased or decreased disproportionately to

1 others, many Senate and House districts will
2 change, either by adding or losing population.

3 And when redistricting is complete,
4 Congressional Districts must be equal, and they
5 must be equal in population and contain 696,345
6 people. That is the magic number, 696,345
7 people, and federal case law means that that
8 has to be pretty exact.

9 The 40 Senate Districts, we have 40
10 Senators in the state, the 40 Senate Districts
11 must be nearly equal at about 470,000
12 population each, and our 120 House Districts
13 must be nearly equal at about 156,700 people.

14 There are displays that you saw when you
15 came in, they are over on that side of the
16 room, showing the current boundaries of
17 districts in this area of the state, and also
18 showing the number of persons which must be
19 added to or subtracted from current districts
20 to achieve equal representation.

21 Equality of representation is important,
22 but it isn't the only legal requirement that
23 redistricting plans have to meet. There are
24 other requirements, and the laws and important
25 court cases that define those other

1 requirements are explained in detail on the
2 House and Senate websites.

3 Those websites are listed on the
4 Redistricting 2012 brochure that was available
5 when you came in. If you didn't get one of
6 those, you can get it during the hearing or you
7 can get it on the way out.

8 That brochure, "Redistricting 2012,"
9 summarizes federal and state laws and outlines
10 topics and issues that we really need your
11 input on at today's hearing. If you didn't get
12 a copy, please pick one up before you leave.

13 The brochure also lists the House and
14 Senate websites, which are packed with
15 information about redistricting, including an
16 explanation of laws and important court cases
17 governing this topic.

18 The two websites, the House and Senate
19 website, are not exactly the same. They are
20 complementary, and they are updated frequently.
21 They have been updated today, for example.

22 And please visit both and check back
23 often, because it is a great way to stay
24 current about the additional submissions we
25 receive, the new maps that are posted, and will

1 help you understand how Congressional and State
2 Senate and State House Districts might be
3 taking shape.

4 The websites also deliver to your
5 fingertips all of the demographic information
6 that will be used in drawing districts. Let me
7 say a word about that.

8 The United States Bureau of the Census
9 does the census and then releases census
10 information to the states. Florida didn't get
11 its census information last, but we were one of
12 the last states to get it.

13 And as soon as we got that information, we
14 posted it as rapidly as possible on these
15 websites so that you can see the same
16 demographic information defining and describing
17 the people of Florida and of your community,
18 the same information that policymakers and
19 courts would use in drawing districts.

20 We also have provided you with the
21 computer programs that the Senate and House
22 will be using in drawing districts so that you,
23 if you wish, can draw districts, or you can
24 observe how districts that are presented by
25 other people or by interest groups would work,

1 and that -- those computer programs are
2 available to you for your use before, during
3 and after the hearing.

4 Senate and House professional staff are
5 available to show anybody the simple steps to
6 getting online and building or moving lines
7 around for districts, and if you wish,
8 submitting a plan now or in the weeks to come.

9 Recommendations from citizens and
10 citizens' groups will be made publicly
11 available to everybody. So if you submit your
12 ideas, those ideas will be made available to
13 everyone in Florida who wants to tune in.

14 In fact, as of today, there are 32
15 submissions of partial or complete maps. So
16 there are 32 maps for you to review. Some of
17 those maps are from special interest groups,
18 some are from individuals, some may contain the
19 ideas that members of the Legislature have.

20 And there are approximately 110 written
21 ideas for maps, all available on the web so
22 that you can see them on the House and Senate
23 websites. And after this week, I am sure those
24 numbers will increase.

25 In fact, in the last couple of days,

1 attendees at the meetings that we have had just
2 like this have drawn districts for submission
3 with the help of our staff at the display
4 tables, and that is -- those staff members are
5 available to help you as well.

6 Now, the submission of proposed maps that
7 makes sense for your community is a very
8 effective form of public participation in the
9 redistricting process.

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

15 In other words, the census was in 2010,
16 and under our Constitution, we can't vote on
17 the floor until 2012. However, we can discuss
18 maps, we can present maps, we can debate maps,
19 just like the public is doing now and like
20 members of the Legislature are free to do
21 yesterday, today and tomorrow.

22 It has been suggested by some that the
23 Legislature should draw the maps first and then
24 ask the public to comment. Now, certainly that
25 is one way to do things. We believe that puts

1 the answer ahead of the question.

2 We believe there should be no
3 preconceptions created by politicians, but
4 rather, public testimony should be free and
5 unrestricted, and we have had hundreds of
6 people provide that kind of testimony.

7 In fact, Ellen Freidin, the Chairperson of
8 the Fair Districts campaign, is on record in
9 her testimony before the Senate and House
10 Committees as stating that no new maps should
11 be drawn until after the public has had an
12 opportunity to comment, and in that regard, we
13 certainly agree with Ms. Freidin.

14 Our intent is to use the recommendations
15 made at these 26 public hearings and the
16 recommendations and input we get through our
17 Internet sites and through regular mail and
18 through your conversations with your elected
19 representatives as the basis for developing
20 options for district maps.

21 We will then discuss those options as soon
22 as we possibly can in open public meetings
23 before any votes are taken. There will be open
24 public meetings before any votes are taken even
25 in committee.

1 In other words, what we are saying is, if
2 you look at the maps that are here today, the
3 ones that are actually submitted to the
4 Legislature by Florida interest groups and
5 residents, we are starting the legislative
6 process, not with preconceived maps drawn in
7 Tallahassee, but rather, we are starting the
8 process with the input that we are receiving
9 from residents, and you are able to look at
10 that online and also here with the displays
11 today.

12 So if you want to know where the
13 Legislature will begin its deliberations, it is
14 with those public submissions and the testimony
15 from these meetings and other public input.

16 Throughout the process, we will solicit
17 additional public comment so that proposed maps
18 can mature with the public involved, all before
19 the Legislature votes even in committee on any
20 maps.

21 Whatever the Legislature passes is then
22 submitted for judicial review. We don't get to
23 decide what the maps are. We get to make a
24 proposal. We get to vote and say, "Here is our
25 idea," and then the Florida Supreme Court must

1 review our proposal, and also the proposal that
2 we make from the Florida Legislature must be
3 submitted for federal review as well.

4 Because our purpose today is to hear from
5 you, all the time between now and adjournment
6 will be used to ensure that all of the members
7 of the public who are here and wish to speak
8 will have the time to present testimony and be
9 listened to respectfully.

10 If after every citizen has had her or his
11 say there's time remaining before our scheduled
12 adjournment, and I hope there will be some,
13 then any member of the committee, Democrat or
14 Republican, House member or Senate, may make
15 any statement, answer any question, offer any
16 proposal or show you any map that they might
17 like.

18 Of course, any member of the Legislature
19 may today or at any time propose a map or a
20 plan, and as soon as they do, we will make it
21 available to the public.

22 Mr. Chairman, I hope this description of
23 our schedule and our methodology helps set the
24 stage for a successful hearing this evening.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you

1 very much, Chairman Gaetz.

2 We will adjourn, as the Chairman said, at
3 9:00 this evening. There are approximately
4 about 50 people who have signed up to speak,
5 and so to ensure that each person is heard, we
6 are going to try to limit the comments to two
7 to three minutes.

8 And you've got a lot of folks here, we are
9 going to give you our undivided attention. We
10 would ask that you just be concise and be
11 respectful. This is a passionate issue, and
12 certainly we hope to hear that passion and hope
13 to hear your thoughts and comments, but we
14 would ask that you keep them respectful, and we
15 want to give everyone an opportunity to have a
16 chance to speak today.

17 And so with that, our first speaker today,
18 or tonight, is going to be Ms. Beverly
19 Williams, followed by Ed Wujciak. I hope I
20 said that right, Ed. And after Ed will be
21 Carol Smith.

22 And so, Ms. Beverly, as you are making
23 your way, we are going to try to announce three
24 names at a time so we can keep it moving and
25 kind of get you in the queue and get prepared

1 to speak.

2 And with that, Ms. Williams, you have the
3 floor. Thank you very much for being here this
4 evening.

5 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. Just one
6 second.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: We will make
8 sure that mike is working for you. Speak
9 directly into the mike, too, if you could.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. Good afternoon. I
11 am Beverly Williams. My city is Lauderdale
12 Lakes, which recently celebrated 50 years this
13 past June.

14 I have been a resident for 37 of those
15 years. I reside in the Eastgate section of
16 Lauderdale Lakes, an area that consists of
17 single family homes, recently new townhomes and
18 Somerset Condominiums. Today I represent my
19 community of 34,000.

20 In 2000, our Legislators decided to split
21 our community, which created mass confusion.
22 Election time is a disaster, trying to explain
23 to our residents why and how it happened, why
24 they can't vote for certain people, why do they
25 take this little area out of District 94 and

1 move us to 93. It doesn't make sense, and
2 which I do agree.

3 Our kids attend the same schools, we share
4 community backgrounds. Over the years, I have
5 fought to keep our children within our school
6 boundaries. We are neighbors, and splitting
7 districts negatively impacts our community.

8 The area I am speaking of is located
9 between Oakland Park Boulevard, 31st Avenue,
10 State Road 7 and Northwest 19th Street.

11 We feel like a stepchild, cast aside. We
12 are asking that our community is put back in
13 District 94 where we belong. Representative
14 Perry Thurston, we want to go home.

15 I have drawn my map of what we think our
16 district should look like. I will send it in.

17 Thank you for allowing me to speak. I am
18 also an Escambia County transplant. Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: All right.
20 Thank you very much, Ms. Williams, we
21 appreciate that.

22 Next up is Ed, and I'm sorry if I
23 butchered your last name there, sir, and then
24 following Ed is Carol Smith and then Timoli
25 Ross -- I'm sorry, Timothy Ross.

1 You are recognized.

2 MR. WUJCIAK: Actually, you did a
3 wonderful job.

4 I thought long and hard about how to share
5 with you my citizen's perspective on
6 redistricting. I considered objecting to the
7 lack of timely maps or the timeline clearly
8 intended to favor incumbents or the arrogance
9 of spending our tax money to thwart us. Na,
10 too obvious.

11 I think I will comment on the behavior of
12 politicians, and I certainly have a lot here,
13 more than I expected. I decided to borrow an
14 idea from our neighbors in the 12-step
15 movement.

16 I imagined an officeholder standing in
17 front of his or her constituents and saying, "I
18 admit that I am powerless over personal
19 political ambition and partisan advantage."

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ed, I hope
21 the direction you are going is related to
22 redistricting, because that is what we are here
23 to talk about tonight. So please keep it
24 focused on redistricting only, if you could.

25 MR. WUJCIAK: Yes. Okay.

1 "I have -- I entered politics for
2 idealistic reasons, but I have allowed this
3 culture to interfere with my actual job, to
4 honestly serve the best interests of my
5 constituents and the people of Florida."

6 Well, Mr. and Mrs. Politician, the voters
7 of Florida have done you a great favor. By
8 passing Amendments 5 and 6, the voters have
9 freed you from the apparently irresistible
10 temptation to follow your worst impulses.

11 By voting to remove political
12 considerations from the redistricting process,
13 the people expressed their fervent hope and
14 belief that if temptations are removed, the
15 Florida Legislature can do the right thing, can
16 actually do an honest job of redistricting.

17 The Legislature should be deeply grateful
18 to the voters for giving them the freedom and
19 opportunity to act like statesmen, not partisan
20 political hacks. Take this gift from the
21 electorate and make us proud we elected you.
22 Don't insult our intelligence, don't betray us.
23 We are watching. Thank you.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
25 very much, Ed. Thank you for those comments.

1 Next up we have Ms. Carol Smith.
2 Following Carol, we have Timothy Ross and then
3 J. Field.

4 You are recognized, ma'am.

5 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Good evening,
6 Legislators. Thank you for scheduling these
7 public hearings to allow the public to discuss
8 this extremely important issue, and you have
9 heard volumes.

10 You have standards in place in the Florida
11 Constitution approved by 63 percent of Florida
12 voters at the last election.

13 Now I urge you to continue this public
14 process by drawing prospective maps and
15 releasing them to the public in the fall, say
16 by October 3rd. As these maps work through the
17 committee process, the public would then have
18 several months to comment, critique the maps,
19 if you will, and adopt a rule that the maps
20 will be voted on in the first week of session
21 so they will have adequate time for required
22 judicial review. There is precedence for
23 voting on Bills early in the session, so let's
24 do this.

25 Do not allow these hearings to become just

1 charades, because they have been vital. Please
2 demonstrate that you are above partisan
3 politics.

4 The approved maps must be in place so
5 candidates know their districts before the
6 June 4th to 8th filing deadline. I urge you to
7 keep the interests of voter uppermost in your
8 minds.

9 The House districts in Broward County have
10 the strangest wiggly boundaries, one connected
11 by the Sawgrass Expressway, several crossing
12 county lines with just several blocks in
13 Broward, the balance in neighboring counties,
14 one connects Broward and Collier through the
15 Florida Everglades.

16 Many Senate and Congressional Districts
17 are just as bad. My own Congressional District
18 19 ends in Broward with a big C-shape cutting
19 across parts of seven cities just in Broward,
20 not to mention all that goes up through Palm
21 Beach County.

22 Congressional Districts 20 and 23 are
23 gerrymandered worse than the name's sake from
24 1812. We know you can do better. Use the
25 standards the voters approved, consider

1 municipal and county boundaries, communities of
2 common interest, put blinders on with regard to
3 party and incumbency, make them as compact as
4 possible, and, of course, maintain minority
5 protections. It can be done. You have in your
6 possession several suggestions.

7 Again, I urge you, draw the maps by
8 October 3rd, release them for public comment
9 during the committee process and be ready for a
10 vote in early January. Think of the voters
11 first. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Next up, Mr. Ross, followed by J. Field
15 and then Jim Wolfe.

16 Mr. Ross, you are recognized, sir.

17 MR. ROSS: Thank you, Representative.
18 Redistricting in Florida has traditionally been
19 a tool that elected officials used to choose
20 who votes for them rather than the voters
21 choosing who represents them.

22 This gives incumbents an advantage that is
23 almost impossible for a challenger to beat.

24 Over the past 20 years, less than two
25 percent of incumbents have been defeated in the

1 state of Florida. I believe that the voters
2 should be allowed to fairly choose their
3 elected officials rather than elected officials
4 choosing their voters.

5 I urge you to adopt a same timeline for
6 redistricting. Florida has one of the latest
7 redistricting timelines in the nation.
8 Otherwise, we run the risk of final approval
9 for the redistricting occurring so close to the
10 election that it engenders mass confusion of
11 voters and does not allow for a thoughtful or
12 organized election.

13 I recommend a deadline of October 3rd,
14 2011, for Legislators to file all proposed
15 redistricting plans. All committee review
16 should be completed by December 2011. There
17 should be a requirement that any amendments
18 have sufficient notice to allow citizens to
19 review and travel to Tallahassee to testify
20 before the committee vote.

21 The Legislators should -- the Legislature
22 should vote on final plans no later than
23 January 13th, 2012.

24 Over 62 percent of voters approved
25 Amendments 5 and 6 in 2010. Contrary to

1 Senator Alan Hays' statement, you have
2 allocated over 30 million to oppose the will of
3 the voters, verified by Politifact.com. Stop
4 lying to us and do what we elected you to do.

5 Use that money for education or creating
6 jobs, and stop wasting it on opposing the will
7 of the voters. Draw districts that observe
8 city and county boundaries.

9 In my hometown of Wilton Manors, we have a
10 population of about 11,000. We have three
11 Congress people, two State Senators and two
12 State Representatives. We should have one
13 Congress person, one Senate Senator and one
14 State Representative.

15 I am upset that you would waste our tax
16 money on having these hearings before you even
17 have maps of the redistricting proposals. That
18 tells me that you really don't care what the
19 voters think about redistricting.

20 The ability to offer substantive comments
21 is severely diminished without the presentation
22 of maps at these public meetings. I ask that
23 an additional set of meetings be established
24 throughout the state in order to allow for
25 effective comment on proposed maps.

1 In closing, I reiterate that we must use
2 the same timeline for implementation of
3 redistricting, that you stop opposing the will
4 of the voters in regards to redistricting and
5 that you set up an additional set of
6 redistricting meetings with public comment
7 around the state once maps are available.
8 Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, we want you to feel
11 free to express yourself, but also recognize
12 we've got about 60 people that -- we are now up
13 to 62 people, so we got to move quick. We want
14 to give everybody the chance to speak.

15 And with that, Mr. Field, or J. Field, you
16 are recognized, sir. I'm sorry, there is no
17 first name, it just says "J.," and after
18 Mr. Field, we've got Jim Wolfe and Judie Wolfe.

19 MR. FIELD: Okay, thank you very much for
20 allowing me to speak. I am a resident of Dania
21 Beach. I'd like to refer to an earlier
22 document in our history, the Declaration of
23 Independence, where it talks about the consent
24 to be governed and the consent to be taxed, and
25 this is done through elections. But we have a

1 system nowadays, it seems, where people can
2 waltz into office without no election
3 whatsoever, because there is no opposition, or
4 there is only token opposition.

5 We should have a system that does not --
6 with these crazy lines drawn all over the
7 place, we should try and keep municipalities
8 and counties together as much as possible in
9 districts who have a common goal, common
10 concerns. And that is about all I have to say
11 about it. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
13 very much.

14 Next up we have Jim Wolfe, followed by
15 Ms. Judie Wolfe and then Jean Hansen.

16 Mr. Wolfe, are you here?

17 Mrs. Wolfe is here. Thank you very much
18 for being here.

19 MS. HANSEN: They have decided not to
20 speak. I am Jean Hanson.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry,
22 okay. Well, Jean, thank you very much for
23 being here. You are recognized.

24 MS. HANSEN: There's been a lot of
25 controversy about the Legislature doing the

1 redistricting and they're picking their own
2 districts, et cetera, but nothing is ever said
3 about the county commission and the school
4 board districts.

5 And I would like the Legislature to do
6 something about that so that they are fair,
7 because they are not fair, and as we know by
8 all of the corruption and all of the lawsuits
9 which we are having to pay for. We now have
10 two people who've just resigned from the School
11 Board.

12 So I ask you to, please -- yes, we want
13 fair districts, but we all know that the
14 Supreme Court has given you the start of a
15 plan, and then you have to follow that, and
16 that is why the districts are long and skinny,
17 and nobody is taking that into consideration.

18 I would also like you to pass a law that
19 there would be term limits for everybody who is
20 in elective office.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Jean, I
22 promise you, we are very happy to hear all your
23 thoughts, and there are some really good ones,
24 but we want them to be focused on the state
25 redistricting. That is what we are here to

1 talk about today.

2 MS. HANSEN: Well, I think you are doing a
3 good job, and I thank you.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.
5 Thank you very much.

6 Next up we have Alfred DiMaio and I
7 believe Elizabeth DiMaio, I apologize if I said
8 that wrong, sir. After the DiMaio's, we have
9 Arthur Joseph.

10 You are recognized to speak, sir.

11 MR. DIMAIO: Thank you. I have the
12 material that your House Committee passed out,
13 and it is Article III, Section 2, where there
14 is no apportionment plan, or a district shall
15 be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a
16 political party or an incumbent. This is
17 before Amendments 5 and 6, that was in our
18 Constitution. So I --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Actually,
20 sir, that is amendments. That is Amendments 5
21 and 6.

22 MR. DIMAIO: Okay. How is it though that
23 we are in a situation where we have a
24 Legislature that is so unrepresentative of the
25 complexity of the population that. In fact, we

1 have the erosion of the confidence of the
2 citizens in this Legislature?

3 This is the crisis I think we are in, and
4 so I ask you, as you go about this critical
5 work, go back to things we have learned in
6 elementary school, those fundamental ideas and
7 ideals, that dignity of the individual who
8 referred to the Declaration of Independence,
9 but the idea that your job is to make this a
10 better democracy.

11 Your job is to keep your eye on that
12 problem, how every day can we make this a more
13 effective democracy. Instead of caucusing, how
14 can my Republican, Democrat or whatever caucus
15 make sure that we keep power.

16 Power is delicious, power is intoxicating.
17 I know that once you taste it, you are going to
18 want to keep it and go on and on, and you've
19 figured out how to do that for all sorts of
20 wiggles and twists and turns. But it is
21 undermining the confidence of citizens in our
22 government.

23 And you have the power to stop this, to
24 change this, to make an effective development
25 so in fact every day is a better democratic day

1 from our population.

2 I ask you to go to your consciences, go
3 back to that, not just your party bosses who
4 tell you how to act one way or the other, and
5 when you bring up those maps, which we must
6 have by October, at least the beginning of the
7 process of discussion, it is ridiculous to talk
8 about this kind of problem without some kind of
9 proposed maps, that you talk to each other, not
10 your one caucus here and your other caucus
11 there in the back room or pull -- but you start
12 to talk to each other, because you have got to
13 make this a better place.

14 And finally, how in the world can you
15 explain to this population, how can you spend
16 money to fight these amendments when you have
17 cut money to the public schools and to public
18 -- it is --

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
20 Mr. DiMaio.

21 Next up we have Mrs. DiMaio, followed by
22 Arthur Joseph and then Marty Ireland.

23 You are recognized, ma'am.

24 MS. DIMAIO: Good evening. I have three
25 comments. First, I am disappointed at the

1 elongated timeline to design and approve the
2 maps. I encourage you to accelerate that
3 timeline to enable voters to get to know the
4 candidates that are looking to represent them.

5 Second, I am very angry that you would
6 spend our taxpayer dollars to fight against the
7 will of the voters who voted for the Fair
8 District Amendments.

9 And, lastly, you asked what we wanted to
10 see in the maps. I specifically want to see a
11 separation of the east coast and the west coast
12 counties. Broward and Collier Counties are not
13 communities of common interest.

14 Voters from these two counties do not
15 belong in a single district. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
17 very much.

18 We have Mr. Arthur Joseph up, and then
19 Marty Ireland, followed by Kevin Cerino.

20 You are recognized, sir.

21 MR. JOSEPH: I could probably do this
22 without a mike, but, anyway, my name is Arthur
23 Joseph, and I am a retired air traffic
24 controller. I controlled traffic at the Miami
25 Air Traffic Control Center for 36 years, and

1 probably handled many flights that you folks
2 have flown on safely and without falling asleep
3 at the job.

4 Anyway, I am representing the American
5 Civil Liberties Union of Florida, more
6 specifically the Broward Chapter, and we
7 believe, unlike Senator Gaetz has said, we want
8 to see the maps as soon as possible, as
9 expeditiously as possible.

10 We can't talk intelligently until we see
11 the maps and then give our input. You have had
12 the information for months. Still no maps.

13 If a person wants to run for office, how
14 will they know what district they are in? I
15 want to meet and start talking to the people
16 that will represent me. How can I do it?
17 Possibly via a crystal ball or a Ouija board.

18 The new rules, Amendments 5 and 6, were
19 overwhelmingly approved by the voters, but
20 according to my investigation, there's a number
21 of people sitting up there, including the
22 Representative Weatherford and Senator Gaetz,
23 that voted for Amendment 7, which was the
24 poisoned pill that would have killed Amendments
25 5 and 6. I don't think the people appreciate

1 that, and I know the ACLU doesn't appreciate
2 that.

3 I have heard there is a gag order on
4 Legislators not to talk to the public about
5 redistricting. If this is true, why?

6 After you have redrawn the maps, will you
7 hold the real hearings so the public can give
8 you the real input on the real data? This
9 Florida process is one of the slowest and most
10 secretive in the country.

11 We, the people, are suspicious and feel
12 you are trying to keep us in the dark about the
13 real task at hand.

14 Why are you spending Florida taxpayers'
15 money to challenge the Fair Districts process?
16 Why did Governor Scott slow the process by
17 withdrawing the paperwork that former Governor
18 Crist had forwarded to the Department of
19 Justice in an expeditious manner?

20 In summation, I believe that Amendments 5
21 or 6 are clear enough in their message so that
22 even Stevie Wonder could see them. The people
23 of Florida have spoken loud and clear that they
24 want to see the good 'ol boy process of the
25 past cease.

1 They want fair districts and they want to
2 see the new maps ASAP in order to voice their
3 satisfaction or lack thereof. There is a Latin
4 phrase that should become your motto, *acta non*
5 *verba*, which stands for action, not words.

6 Thank you very much, and I would like to
7 thank all the people that have worked hard and
8 had voted for Amendments 5 and 6.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
10 sir.

11 Next up we have Marty Ireland, who is a
12 retired letter carrier, followed by Kevin
13 Cerino, and then finally, Adrienne Kaltman with
14 the League of Women Voters of Broward County.

15 Mr. Ireland, you are recognized, sir.

16 MR. IRELAND: Thank you very much. My
17 name is Marty Ireland. I am a retired letter
18 carrier, and I have been a resident in south
19 Florida for over 60 years. I got you beat by
20 13 years, Representative Taylor.

21 And I have seen gerrymandering from both
22 sides, the Democrats and the Republicans.
23 However, last year when we had the run for
24 Governor, our Governor Rick Scott put on a lot
25 of advertising.

1 At the each -- at the end of each
2 advertising, he said, "Let's get to work." You
3 haven't got to work. You failed to listen to
4 Governor Scott. We want to see maps. We don't
5 see maps.

6 Senator Gaetz, you said we have
7 approximately 32 submissions. Where is yours?
8 That is what we want to discuss tonight. We
9 want to discuss yours. We want to see what you
10 are going to come up with.

11 And you said you wanted to get the impact
12 from the public. I watched a Daytona Beach
13 hearing. There was a gentleman by the name of
14 John Hoyt. He took the time. He took the time
15 to draw a couple of maps for his area.

16 He wanted to explain what he felt might
17 need some adjustments. He was cut off by
18 Representative Dorothy Hukill. I don't know,
19 why would she cut him off? He was giving you
20 what you wanted, but apparently you did not
21 want to listen as a committee. Shame on you.
22 Shame on you.

23 You said that Ms. Friedman stated that you
24 shouldn't draw it, that we should speak first.
25 Well, we all make mistakes. Now, I haven't

1 made one, because I have been married to my
2 wife for 41 years, so, you know, I did the
3 right thing there. But Ms. Friedman is wrong.
4 She is totally wrong. And she has a right to
5 her own opinion.

6 And the interesting fact that is going to
7 happen in Broward County, and this is going to
8 be your challenge, it is in the Senate seats
9 29, Senator Smith's seat, and Senate seat 25,
10 Senator Bogdanoff's seat.

11 Now, there is supposed to be some type of
12 levitation or an evening of the thing, but I
13 noticed in Senator Smith's districts, 42
14 non-Hispanic whites, 45 -- excuse me, I'm
15 sorry, 45, and this is based on two thousand --

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Ireland,
17 I am going to have to ask you to be quick here,
18 because we are running out of time.

19 MR. IRELAND: I am almost finished, I am
20 almost finished.

21 Forty-five percent non-Hispanic whites,
22 45 percent non-Hispanic Afro-Americans. In
23 Ellyn Bogdanoff, I saw it was about 90 percent
24 -- 90 percent non-Hispanic whites.

25 My point is, they both went up and down

1 the east coast. Why can't we have them in
2 Broward County? That is what Broward County
3 wants.

4 You Republicans don't have to worry about
5 losing control of the House. The Democrats are
6 here tonight. And we just want to have fair
7 representation and we want equal
8 representation. And I do have some -- a good
9 Senator in Senator Sobel, and I thank you very
10 much.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
12 very much, Mr. Ireland, thank you.

13 Next up we have Kevin Cerino. Kevin, you
14 are recognized, sir. Thank you for being here.

15 After Kevin, we are going to have -- I
16 hope I say this right -- Adrienne Kaltman, and
17 then David Brundage.

18 Sure, we will pass these maps out. Thank
19 you for bringing them with you. You are
20 recognized, sir.

21 MR. CERINO: Thank you. My name is Kevin
22 Cerino, and I really don't envy any of you
23 people here, because you really have an
24 impossible task.

25 The two amendments that made it to the

1 Constitution last year were very contradictory.
2 They said that the districts need to be
3 compact, but they also said that they need to
4 recognize -- they shouldn't split up cities,
5 but in order to do that, sometimes you are
6 going to need to necessarily do that.

7 What is being passed out right now is a
8 map. That is not a map of a proposed district.
9 That is not a map of an existing district.
10 That is a map of the city right here in Broward
11 County, the City of Dania Beach.

12 That city is made up of four
13 non-contiguous parts. It looks like somebody
14 took a tomato and threw it up against the wall
15 and splattered.

16 There is no way that you are going to be
17 able to -- and there are many other cities in
18 Broward County and in other parts of the state
19 that are made of all kinds of zigzag lines, and
20 I didn't know how you are going to make compact
21 districts and also not split up these areas.

22 Now, the one thing in this amendment it
23 does say is that districts shall be feasible
24 using existing political and geographical
25 boundaries.

1 A very simple solution to that is when
2 redrawing the lines for the State House and the
3 State Senate, use the existing maps, because
4 those are political -- existing political
5 boundaries, and if the district is too small,
6 you add a precinct from a neighboring district
7 that has too many. Very simple. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
9 very much. We appreciate your comments.

10 Adrienne Kaltman, or Adrienne Kaltman,
11 followed by David Brundage and then Steve
12 Moyer.

13 You are recognized. Thank you for being
14 here.

15 MS. KALTMAN: Good evening. My name is
16 Adrienne Kaltman. As a native Floridian and
17 President of the League of Women Voters of
18 Broward County, I welcome you to Davie and
19 thank you for this opportunity to speak on
20 behalf of the League.

21 Once every ten years, every state in the
22 country redraws its districts for Congress,
23 State Legislatures and local government. Often
24 this redistricting process fails, marked by
25 secrecy and legislative self-dealing,

1 regardless of which political party controls
2 the Legislature.

3 In 2010, 63 percent of Florida's voters
4 and 73 percent of voters here in Broward County
5 approved Amendments 5 and 6, yet congressional
6 Representatives Corrine Brown and Mario
7 Diaz-Balart, joined by the Florida House, filed
8 suit to prevent implementation, asking the
9 court to strike Amendment 6 from the Florida
10 Constitution.

11 That is over \$1 million of taxpayer money
12 has been spent hiring attorneys to fight
13 voter-mandated redistricting standards does not
14 inspire confidence that our elected officials
15 are actually serving their constituents.

16 I urge you to stop using taxpayer dollars
17 to invalidate this constitutional provision,
18 dollars which would be better used to create
19 employment in this challenging economy.

20 Not one Legislator's map has been
21 presented for public comment or review. Thus,
22 unlike what has occurred in public hearings in
23 other states, Floridians have been unable to
24 publicly comment on Legislators' proposed maps.

25 I urge you each to make

1 legislatively-drawn district maps available in
2 a reasonable manner and in a reasonable time so
3 that the good citizens of Florida have as
4 equally a meaningful opportunity to make our
5 voices heard as do citizens of other states.

6 Having just two or three days to review,
7 analyze and comment on statewide maps is both
8 unrealistic and unduly burdensome.

9 Instead of voting on final maps at the end
10 of session next March, I ask you to draw them
11 now, discuss them in this fall's committee
12 hearings and vote on them during the first week
13 of session in early January 2012.

14 The timeline will allow time for court and
15 the Justice Department reviews, while adding
16 transparency and openness to the redistricting
17 process.

18 Thank you all for this opportunity to
19 speak. I wish you a safe journey back to
20 Tallahassee. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
22 very much.

23 David Brundage. David Brundage, you are
24 recognized, sir, followed by Steve Moyer and
25 Bernard Seeman.

1 MR. BRUNDAGE: Good evening. Thank you
2 for letting me speak.

3 I live in a small town called Cooper City.
4 We pride ourselves in being a small family
5 town, and we pride ourselves in our schools.
6 We are divided. I voted for 5 and 6 because I
7 want to see Cooper City one district. Thank
8 you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
10 very much. By the way, I should have pointed
11 this out earlier, but you get bonus points for
12 brevity, sir, so you are leading the charge
13 right now. Thank you very much for that.

14 Next up we have Steve Moyer. After
15 Mr. Moyer, we have Bernard Seeman and then Alan
16 Ehrlich.

17 You are recognized.

18 MR. MOYER: Thank you for the opportunity.

19 I also live in Cooper City, which is just
20 a little south and just a little west of here
21 in District 97. District 97 also goes past 75,
22 picks up a piece of Weston, goes through the
23 Everglades to the north, comes back in at the
24 county line and takes a piece of Parkland. Big
25 C-shaped district.

1 Between Cooper City and where we are now
2 in Davie, the two cities together would just
3 about make a House district, and they share a
4 lot in common. There is a common Chamber of
5 Commerce. Here in Davie, it is an equestrian
6 community. You will find a hitching post for
7 the horses at the McDonald's. And in Cooper
8 City where my daughter just graduated high
9 school, they are the Cowboys.

10 One time when I lived down in the Keys, it
11 was Senate District 97, I believe. Senate
12 District 97 picks up five counties. It would
13 take five and a half hours to drive from Key
14 West at one end to Immokalee at the other.
15 That would make a lot of sense, five counties,
16 if we were up in the north central part of the
17 state, but it also picks up pieces of Dade and
18 Broward. We're in south Florida, the most
19 densely populated counties in the state. These
20 kind of districts are what we like to see as
21 one of the people who voted for 5 and 6 to
22 become more compact and more reasonable, and we
23 would appreciate that.

24 I also appreciate the fact that you guys
25 have to satisfy the Constitution, the state,

1 the federal Constitution, the Voting Rights
2 Act, Amendments 5 and 6, the Supreme Court, the
3 Department of Justice. I don't envy your jobs
4 at all, but that is why we elected you. We
5 appreciate your efforts, and thank you all very
6 much.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
8 very much, Mr. Moyer.

9 Next up, Mr. Seeman, followed by Alan
10 Ehrlich and Eddy Edwards.

11 MR. SEEMAN: Thank you. My name is
12 Bernard Seeman. I don't have a prepared
13 speech. I thought I would just come and
14 listen, and then I decided maybe I should say a
15 few words.

16 I want to say, first of all, that it was
17 very enjoyable listening to all the prior
18 speakers, I agree with just about everything
19 that they have said, and the message here is, I
20 believe, keep our communities intact, don't go
21 dividing it with two and three different
22 Representatives so we don't know running around
23 who to find and who to speak to in getting
24 anything done, because when you divide it with
25 two and three different Representatives, that

1 really means nothing is going to get done.

2 So you, as the Representatives, really
3 have a unique opportunity now to set an example
4 for the rest of the country, in fact, because
5 the whole country is looking at you to see if
6 Florida is going to rise above petty politics.
7 Whether you are a Democrat or Republican,
8 doesn't make any difference, you are both
9 guilty of doing the same thing, you want to
10 stay in office. Let's think of us, the voters,
11 and the community who sent you here.

12 So what I will do if I see my district is
13 gerrymandered in the same old way, I will know
14 that the incumbent did it, and I will vote
15 against the incumbent to send a message, we
16 don't want it done this way.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

18 Alan Ehrlich, you are recognized, sir,
19 followed by Eddy Edwards and Scott McCluskey.

20 MR. EHRLICH: My name is Alan Ehrlich, and
21 I represent house number 9411 on Northwest
22 Tenth Street in Plantation.

23 In the local section of yesterday's local
24 newspaper, *The Sun Sentinel*, an article talked
25 about these public hearings and the new

1 constitutional standards attempting to, quote,
2 curb gerrymandering. I hate to disagree with
3 the author of the article, but last year when
4 the voters of Florida overwhelmingly voted and
5 approved the Fair Districts amendments, they
6 weren't trying to just curb gerrymandering, our
7 state's shameful history of gerrymandering;
8 rather, they were trying to end it.

9 Floridians don't want districts that
10 protect those currently in power. They want
11 you to draw districts that do not favor an
12 incumbent or one political party or the other.
13 They want districts that are compact and
14 contiguous and are designed so that people of
15 all races and ethnicities are fairly
16 represented.

17 You have asked the public to testify and
18 offer suggestions on this process, but you have
19 not shown us any maps proposed by the
20 Legislature. Where are the maps?

21 It is clear to me that in order for the
22 citizens of Florida to intelligently comment on
23 this process, they must have a meaningful
24 opportunity to comment on actual proposed maps
25 before final passage by the Legislature.

1 Without actual proposed maps for the public to
2 comment on, it is no surprise that so many
3 people view these hearings as meaningless and a
4 sham. You could do much better.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
6 sir.

7 Next up, Eddy Edwards, followed by Scot
8 McCluskey and Rose Marie Rauschkolb.

9 MR. EDWARDS: Thank you. My name is Eddy
10 Edwards. I am from the Caribbean-American
11 community. We have population throughout the
12 state of Florida.

13 I am here in support of the Voting Rights
14 Act and Amendment 5 and 6, the latest
15 amendments to the Florida Constitution. We are
16 asking that you set the dates and time certain
17 to have legislatively-drawn district maps
18 available for the public to comment before the
19 vote of the House and the Senate.

20 Communities of interest might not have
21 been included in Amendments 5 and 6; however,
22 if we draw compact districts without stacking
23 and cracking, we will produce districts that
24 are fair. Compact districts are the best way
25 to keep naturally formed districts together,

1 not splits in streets and neighborhoods, just
2 keep the neighbors that are a member of the
3 same homeowner's association, have students
4 attending the same elementary and middle
5 schools, attend the same church and play in the
6 same community centers.

7 Compact geographic districts, contiguous
8 boundaries, are the intent of the Voting Rights
9 Act and Amendments 5 and 6. We must not draw
10 districts that will disenfranchise voting
11 patterns in the community.

12 People choose where to live. Businesses
13 choose where to locate based on the
14 demographics that will support goods and
15 services they provide. The Caribbean-American
16 community operate primarily and mainly within
17 Broward County, with a focus on central
18 Broward. We have our own doctors, lawyers,
19 financial institutions that hire from within
20 our communities so that they can service
21 language diverse, ethnic and culturally diverse
22 community that is naturally compact with a
23 strong Caribbean population.

24 We need to have the timeline moved, and we
25 need to be mindful of Amendments 5 and 6.

1 On behalf of the community, I want to
2 thank you for listening to the community, and
3 we trust that you will give us another
4 opportunity to look at the Legislature-drawn
5 map outside of Tallahassee somewhere more
6 access and less costly to travel before you
7 begin your vote. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
9 very much.

10 Next we have Scot McCluskey, followed by
11 Rose Marie Rauschkolb, and Karin Hoffman.

12 MR. McCLUSKEY: Thank you, Legislators,
13 for coming down this evening. I am a native
14 Floridian, life-long Democrat, public sector
15 worker, Union member. So as such, the majority
16 members may not like some of what I have to
17 say, but I will keep it short anyway.

18 Problems with the current districts are
19 known and have been articulated well by many
20 people. I would simply like to ask the
21 majority members to have the courage of your
22 convictions. If your policies are the will of
23 the people, you will be re-elected.

24 Regardless, it is real simple, follow the law.

25 Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

2 Next up we have Ms. Rose Marie Rauschkolb,
3 and after that, Karin Hoffman and Sergio
4 Escobar.

5 You are recognized, ma'am.

6 MS. RAUSCHKOLB: Good evening. My name is
7 Rose Marie Rauschkolb, and I have lived in
8 Broward County for nine years. I would like to
9 thank this committee for being here in Davie
10 today and for listening to input from the
11 public before drawing the new maps.

12 I have a few questions, but first I just
13 wanted to say I think it is very important when
14 you draw the new lines, that you keep the
15 coastal parts of our county separate from the
16 more inland parts. The coastal parts are very
17 different from the more inland portions of the
18 county. They have specific interests and
19 problems, and they should have more
20 coastal-based representation and coastal
21 legislative districts. The same idea would go
22 for the more agricultural and urban areas
23 within the state.

24 I read an article recently in *The Sun*
25 *Sentinel* newspaper that the reason that some of

1 the Florida maps look so funky was that they
2 were drawn to accomplish two interwoven
3 objectives: One, to maintain majorities for
4 the party in power; and two, to boost the
5 number of minority lawmakers elected. It went
6 on to say that the new 2012 maps will have to
7 demonstrate that the plans will not reduce the
8 number of legislative and congressional
9 districts likely to elect minorities.

10 It seems to me that the district maps, as
11 directed by law, should reflect a certain
12 number of voters, regardless of skin color or
13 ethnicity of those voters. We don't need
14 gerrymandered districts representing quotas for
15 certain skin colors or ethnicities. We are all
16 Americans. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Judge
17 not by the color of their skin, but the content
18 of their character." Elections recently here
19 in Florida have shown that people of every skin
20 color and every ethnicity can be elected when
21 they reflect the wishes of the voters within
22 that district.

23 Having said that, I have a few questions
24 about Amendment 5 and 6. As I understand,
25 these amendments were meant to stop

1 gerrymandering, and make district lines more
2 compact. But there are some words in these
3 amendments that are confusing and can be
4 interpreted different ways; for instance, "Make
5 the district lines more compact." "Compact"
6 can mean different things to different people.
7 Currently, U.S. Congressional District 23
8 meanders over five counties, certainly not
9 compact unless you are seeking to select a
10 certain group of voters.

11 What does it mean that incumbents can't be
12 disfavored? Does that mean if two incumbents
13 are in the same seat and thus forced to run
14 against each other, they can sue each other for
15 being disfavored?

16 What does the word "practicable" mean?
17 What does the word "feasible" mean? And under
18 what circumstances is following existing
19 political boundaries feasible or not? And,
20 finally, what are existing political
21 boundaries? Amendments 5 and 6 say that they
22 need to be utilized, but what qualifies as
23 these boundaries? Are these boundaries the
24 current legislative seats? If those are
25 gerrymandered, then why use them? If those

1 boundaries aren't the current district lines,
2 then what else could they be?

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms.
4 Rauschkolb, I am going to have to ask you to
5 wrap it up here, we are over three minutes.

6 MS. RAUSCHKOLB: I am done. It seems to
7 me that there are many different types of
8 political boundary lines, which makes the term
9 confusing. I raise these questions because it
10 appears there is a lack of clarity in
11 Amendments 5 and 6 and could mean more lawsuits
12 over the new maps that are approved by the
13 Legislature. We don't need more lawsuits.

14 Again, I want to thank you for listening,
15 and I wish you good luck with this truly
16 difficult task ahead.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
18 very much, ma'am.

19 Next up we've got Karin Hoffman, followed
20 by Sergio Escobar and Allan Barsky.

21 I am also going to try to remind folks,
22 we've got over 80 people who have signed up to
23 speak now. It continues to grow, and that is a
24 good thing, but because of that, we are going
25 to have to limit everybody. I said two to

1 three minutes in the beginning. We are going
2 to try to stick closer to two. So please bear
3 with us.

4 And you are recognized, and thank you for
5 being here.

6 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you so much for making
7 this time available. You have a challenge
8 ahead of you because of the way that the
9 wording is, and as she alluded to earlier,
10 you've almost head up a whole framework that
11 you are not able to abide by. You are either
12 going to favor or disfavor, there is no other
13 way around it. An incumbent or a political
14 party, there is no other way around it.

15 Racial or minority groups, what
16 constitutes a racial or minority group? Is it
17 a racial minority group within a district
18 because some are not represented?

19 The best tool is to really focus on
20 communities of interest, because there are --
21 and another gentleman mentioned earlier, you've
22 got Caribbean groups, you've got Hispanic,
23 you've got the Cuban, you have Central
24 American, you've got the suburban, you've got
25 the coastal communities. They are like

1 interests. That is the best way to be able to
2 design a district so that you have fair
3 representation of that district.

4 Representative Ron Klein knew the benefit
5 of having a coastal community up along the
6 coast, because there is a similar interest,
7 being able to take his constituents' concerns
8 to Washington, DC.

9 Also, because of this, beware of the
10 challenges of the time frame. There are people
11 within this organization that are here tonight
12 that are ready to challenge you in the courts.
13 Do not let this be the debacle that happened in
14 the year 2000, the election process. Be
15 careful how you are doing this, you can rise
16 above it, but with this wording, you know the
17 challenge that lies ahead of you. Thank you so
18 much.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
20 very much. We appreciate your comments.

21 Sergio Escobar, followed by Allan Barsky
22 and Carlos Verney, Jr.

23 You are recognized, sir.

24 MR. ESCOBAR: Thank you very much. First
25 of all, I really feel very happy having you

1 here, because it is a very important tool and a
2 very important opportunity.

3 SENATOR GAETZ: Excuse me, sir, could you
4 move your mike up?

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: There we go,
6 yeah, get closer to the mike.

7 MR. ESCOBAR: Sure. Better now? Okay,
8 good.

9 As I was telling you, that I think it is a
10 very important tool that we -- having you be
11 here. I think it is a very good way in order
12 to have an exchange of ideas between your
13 voters, as we are citizens and you are our
14 representatives in Tallahassee.

15 My name is Sergio Escobar. I live in
16 Weston, a very nice city here in Broward
17 County, and one of the most diverse communities
18 that we have in this county. I do believe that
19 the census has done a very interesting job,
20 because we are looking for new political
21 boundaries and we are facing a new political
22 map.

23 That is why I really want to call your
24 attention for that community that people used
25 to call Hispanic or Latino, it doesn't matter

1 the name, but it is a very growing community
2 that is in Broward County, and I do believe in
3 Miami-Dade County as well. So I don't want to
4 see -- you see us as the numbers. We are
5 people, too. We are here for building -- to
6 keep on building the future of the -- our
7 generations.

8 It is very important that in the new map
9 that we are going to see in the future, that
10 not only the majority or the minority will be
11 there. We want to see that everyone has each
12 one a position and deserve the best in that
13 community. Thank you very much.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
15 very much, sir.

16 Allan Barsky? Come on down, you are
17 recognized, and after Allan, we have Carlos
18 Verney, Jr., and Jaemi Levine. And also, if I
19 could, I know we've got a large group over here
20 to the right of me. If we could, as many
21 people as we could get to grab a seat, it is
22 hard for people to get to and from the restroom
23 and to make their way, so we would like to
24 clear that out as much as possible, and we're
25 back to you, Allan, so you are recognized, sir.

1 MR. BARSKY: Thank you. Allan Barsky, I
2 am a registered voter in the districts of
3 Senator Bogdanoff and Representative Moraitis.
4 We have heard a lot about fair districting
5 tonight, so I am not going to repeat all of the
6 things that people have said. We may disagree
7 somewhat on what fairness actually means in
8 this effort, but, you know, have any of you
9 received anything, any comments, from any
10 member of -- any person in Florida saying that
11 we want -- we want you to delay the process,
12 we'd like you to have lots of lawsuits, we'd
13 like you to spend lots of money on lawsuits,
14 we'd like you to gerrymander in favor of
15 incumbents? I don't think you have heard any
16 of those things. And as someone two speakers
17 ahead of me had mentioned, there is a real
18 concern about lawsuits. You know, even if
19 there is a decision on redistricting in
20 January, how many months is it going to take
21 until it goes through the court review
22 processes and the federal review process? And
23 we have primaries that are supposed to take
24 place next -- next August. I just don't see
25 how all of this is going to be done.

1 So what I am asking for is, you know,
2 whatever efforts you can, not just have fair
3 districts, but to have court-proof districts,
4 have your map in such good shape and have both
5 sides and all of your colleagues and all of
6 your supporters behind these maps so strongly
7 that we are not going to be fighting court
8 cases right up to and even after the primaries
9 and the major elections. I fear that we are
10 going to be again a laughingstock. We are
11 supposed to be, you know, a light unto the
12 nations in terms of our electoral process and
13 democracy, and it is really up to you to
14 prevent us from being embarrassed.

15 Thank you very much for all your efforts.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
17 very much.

18 Next up, Carlos Verney, followed by Jaemi
19 Levine and John Ziegler.

20 MR. VERNEY: Good evening, Legislators. I
21 reside in District 96 and also Congressional
22 District 19. Congressional District 19 extends
23 from northwest Broward all the way up to
24 central Palm Beach. Now, District 96 is a more
25 compact district, except for the southern part

1 of that district that encompasses cities where
2 there's only five precincts in that district.

3 I would strongly urge you to -- that the
4 maps of these districts, whether they be
5 congressional, State Senate or State Rep, match
6 across the lines and not have the case what --
7 such as myself, where I live in District 96, in
8 Congressional District 19, that are not
9 compact, that stretch across county lines and
10 actually divide parts of certain cities like my
11 own Coral Springs into two, District 96 and
12 District 95. Thank you very much.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
14 sir.

15 Next up, Jaemi Levine, followed by John
16 Ziegler and Jose Lopez.

17 MS. LEVINE: Just take this down for the
18 short people.

19 Hi. Thank you all for being here. I am
20 having a lovely time at the pre-party. I
21 haven't seen anything that has been indicative
22 of an event. I am glad that you here and that
23 you want to visit with us, but I really would
24 appreciate it if next time you would bring some
25 maps that we could look at.

1 I seem to remember a commercial from the
2 '80s. It very much fits the situation. Ladies
3 and gentlemen, where is the beef?

4 MR. ZIEGLER: I am John Ziegler from
5 Plantation. First of all, I would like to
6 address Mr. Cerino's concerns about Amendments
7 5 and 6 conflicts, particularly with the shape
8 of Dania. I am familiar with Dania's shape,
9 and a lot of Dania's -- the boundaries of Dania
10 are influenced by Port Everglades, an
11 industrial zone. So I wouldn't be too
12 concerned about the shape of Dania.

13 I am concerned, though, about a couple of
14 the plans I saw over there, particularly the
15 Libby plans. I don't understand them. They
16 look like they are fracturing communities.
17 There's a lot of gerrymandering going on with
18 those -- with that -- those particular plans,
19 there is a lack of contiguousness and
20 compactness, and I don't see where Amendments 5
21 and 6 are even paid attention to with
22 Mr. Libby's plans.

23 Anyway, I want to reiterate, don't
24 splinter communities, don't delay the process,
25 have the maps ready by the fall for public

1 review. Don't blind-side us with eleventh-hour
2 maps. We need -- and if you do, we need an
3 additional set of hearings quickly. Don't use
4 these hearings as a rubber stamp for
5 last-minute gerrymandering and playing out the
6 clock, which only favors incumbents.

7 Thank you very much for this chance to
8 speak with you. Thank you.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

10 Next up, Jose Lopez, followed by Nicholas
11 Steffens and Robert Muniz.

12 Mr. Lopez? Okay, I don't see Mr. Lopez.
13 We will put him to the side and move on to
14 Nicholas. After Nicholas, we have Robert
15 Muniz, and after Robert, we have Alice Levy.

16 You are recognized, sir.

17 MR. STEFFENS: Thank you very much.

18 Again, since we don't have old maps to
19 talk about, I just want to talk about the maps
20 we have now and their effect on Broward County.
21 There are some cities that are so gerrymandered
22 that I feel genuinely bad for those residents.
23 I am fortunate to live in Parkland, which is in
24 District 97, and while it was discussed
25 previously, Parkland is in Representative

1 Kiar's district, and he lives in Davie, in
2 Cooper City, and for those of you not familiar,
3 those areas, while contiguous by design through
4 the Everglades, are not really naturally
5 contiguous through people, so to speak.
6 Fortunately, Representative Kiar is a hard
7 worker and we see him all the time in Parkland,
8 in northern Coral Springs, so I have no
9 complaints. But if we had a lazier legislator,
10 I would have many more complaints, I am
11 certain.

12 But we have cities like Plantation with
13 five House members and Miramar with five House
14 members, Sunrise and Deerfield Beach and
15 Pembroke Pines with four House members, and
16 then we have the City of North Lauderdale,
17 which has 41,000 residents and it has four
18 House members. That is not acceptable anymore.
19 In the past, you were able to get away with
20 that, and I understand why you did that, but
21 that is not going to pass muster anymore.
22 These districts, especially a city like North
23 Lauderdale with 41,000 people in it, should be
24 in one district. A city like the city I live
25 in, Parkland, which is a relatively small

1 district, should be in one district, and it
2 should be with Coral Springs, which is just to
3 our north and we share many of the same
4 schools, we go to the same hospitals, we have
5 the same community, we go to the same Chambers
6 of Commerce, those types of things that bind
7 those communities. While the people in Davie
8 and Cooper City and Weston are very nice
9 people, in Parkland, I don't have a whole lot
10 in common with them, I don't go to the same
11 schools, we don't do a lot of the same things,
12 because we are geographically disbursed.

13 So I hope that in the future you will take
14 a look at that and really abide by these Fair
15 Districts. Although I am very much afraid that
16 this is what some people have referred to as a
17 dog and pony show, that this -- that you wanted
18 the answers before the questions, or the
19 questions before the answers. In my opinion,
20 this is just going to go in a binder so you can
21 send it to the Supreme Court and say, "Hey, we
22 really tried, we went out there and spoke to a
23 lot of people and took a lot of input, and this
24 is what we got," and that is not going to pass
25 muster if the maps you produce do not comply

1 with Fair Districts. So I hope that you do
2 that, that you look at the cities and the
3 communities of interest, keep them together,
4 and let's avoid a court fight, expensive court
5 fight that this state cannot afford, and we can
6 have these maps done on time and then people
7 can run in the next election. Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

9 Next up, Robert Muniz. Robert? Raise
10 your hand if you are here, Robert. Okay,
11 Robert I don't think is here right now.

12 After Robert, we had Alice Levy.
13 Ms. Levy, you are here, and following Ms. Levy,
14 we have Margaret Delmont-Sanchez and then John
15 Voss.

16 You are recognized, ma'am.

17 MS. LEVY: Good evening. I, like everyone
18 in this room, am dearly committed to the
19 democratic process. I, like many people here,
20 am a transplant. Twenty-four years ago, I
21 moved to what I thought was a sleepy, small
22 community. It was a choice I made to invest in
23 a new homestead, a new community, a sharing of
24 aspirations, joys, difficulties, successes.

25 Over the 24 years, this has involved a

1 determination to meet, accept, celebrate an
2 expanding and enriching diversity. I embrace
3 my community's diverse cultures, their needs
4 and their talents. So should my government.

5 The U.S. Census and its sequelae,
6 redistricting, are tantamount to the democratic
7 process. These events should assure that we as
8 a nation, we as a state, ensure that not only
9 are all our citizens represented, but they are
10 guaranteed a loud and confident and equal voice
11 in our governance.

12 Floridians have spoken, clearly spoken,
13 with a 63 percent passage of Amendment 5 and 6.
14 It is now well past time that our state take
15 action. Citizens need to be supplied with
16 probable district maps. Citizens need
17 something concrete to evaluate. Citizens need
18 assurance that viable candidates have an
19 opportunity to identify districts, raise funds
20 and introduce themselves to their voting
21 public.

22 I have read in the guidance that the
23 committee has put out that the discussion
24 should not show an intent to favor or disfavor
25 an incumbent or party. As an aside, all of you

1 are incumbents and may feel under attack
2 tonight.

3 I must say as past President of the League
4 of Women Voters, I have worked with and spent
5 time with many in my delegation. I respect and
6 like them all, and I appreciate what they do
7 for our communities.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Levy, I
9 am going to have to ask you to wrap it up, we
10 are getting at the end there.

11 MS. LEVY: I was intrigued on the emphasis
12 about favoring and disfavoring, that they used
13 the word "intent." I want to make sure that
14 not by sense of omission that the intent to
15 favor occurs, and that is going to occur if we
16 continue to delay these hearings and map
17 drawings. We need to go forward. October 3rd
18 has been mentioned repeatedly. I implore you
19 to do that. Five and 6 have been reviewed by
20 the Supreme Court. That was mandated because
21 Florida has a history of disenfranchising
22 voters. We don't want to be known for that.
23 Let's step forward, let's draw our maps, let's
24 show the nation that we enfranchise our voters.
25 Thank you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

2 Next up, Ms. Margaret Delmont-Sanchez,
3 followed by John Voss and Norm Grad, I may be
4 saying that wrong, but Norm Grad.

5 You are recognized.

6 MS. DELMONT-SANCHEZ: Good evening. I am
7 Margaret Delmont-Sanchez, resident of Broward
8 County since early 1970s. I grew up here, and
9 I have experienced the growth of the Hispanic
10 community. I still remember when we only had
11 one building in downtown Ft. Lauderdale and you
12 couldn't go any farther than University Drive.

13 Thank you so much, members of the
14 Legislature, for making this time to hear the
15 facts. I have served my community without
16 thinking about ethnic backgrounds or any types
17 of population. One of the first ones to impel
18 Latin women, empower Latin women, in the
19 southwest area of Broward County, even though I
20 live in Pompano, and it is a ten-year
21 organization which educates women and their
22 families about the U.S. culture, the health and
23 the financial systems in the U.S.
24 Consequently, we teach them how to contribute
25 back into the community, as we are socially

1 responsible, as we live in this country that
2 gives many to us, we are responsible to give
3 back. I am also former Vice-President and
4 Chief Development Officer for Hispanic Unity of
5 Florida in the past ten years, and today I
6 serve as one of the Directors of the National
7 U.S. Venezuelan-American Chamber of Commerce,
8 and volunteer to educate at Youth Leadership
9 Broward. I have served previously and
10 volunteered in numerous organizations, and as I
11 said, I did not look at ethnic or any type of
12 population to serve my community.

13 Today I am here, because since we will be
14 impacted by the redistricting. Note that the
15 question is and knowing how do we make it work.
16 Hispanic population continues to grow.

17 One out of every four people in Broward
18 County is Hispanic, as I am Hispanic-American.
19 Twenty-five percent of the population in
20 Broward County is Hispanic. One out of five
21 people in West Palm Beach is Hispanic. And if
22 we truly say that we are Americans, we have the
23 responsibility to bring everybody together.

24 How do we make more Hispanic elected
25 officials in our system? How do we work

1 together --

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Sanchez,
3 I am going to have to ask you to wrap it up. I
4 apologize for interrupting.

5 MS. DELMONT-SANCHEZ: Let's make it
6 all-inclusive for everyone, teach our
7 generation -- our new generation and kids in
8 this society. Just wanted to make a point that
9 out of the 458,247 Hispanics from which all of
10 those are over 18 years of age here in Broward
11 County. So let's think about it. Florida is
12 the top five states of the fastest Hispanic
13 growth in the U.S. So include us, make us
14 participate, show us how we can make a
15 difference and get us involved. Reflect our
16 growing population and its need. We are great
17 consumers and we also pay our taxes. Thank you
18 very much.

19 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
20 very much.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, we are now to John
22 Voss. This is our 33rd speaker. We have 80
23 speakers so far, and growing. So, please, I do
24 not want to be rude, but at the same time, I
25 just want to make sure that -- let's see, our

1 81st speaker is Nathaniel Wilkerson. I want to
2 make sure Nathaniel gets an opportunity to
3 speak, so let's try to be quick.

4 Mr. Voss? Okay, well, that is quick, too.
5 Mr. Voss is not here. Next up we have Norm
6 Grad. I hope I am saying that right. Norm? I
7 can't read the third letter, I am sure it is my
8 eyes, but --

9 MR. GRAD: Thank you for coming to Broward
10 County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thanks for
12 being here. After Norm, we've got Kathy
13 Aterno, and after Kathy, we have former
14 Congressman Ron Klein.

15 You are recognized.

16 MR. GRAD: Right, okay, Norman Grad,
17 right. Listen, I have been in Broward County
18 35 years, and I am going to mention two
19 political names, because I know this should not
20 be partisan. We don't care about partisanship,
21 right? Right. I am going to mention -- I
22 don't know how many old people -- elder
23 statesmen we have here. I am going to mention
24 Dempsey Barron. Hands, anybody remember him at
25 this table? Oh, okay, sure. Were you born,

1 Evan? Okay, all right, Dempsey Barron. How
2 about -- in Broward County, how about John
3 Lamello, hands? Oh, okay, those were the days,
4 right?

5 Okay. Listen, get on with -- I appreciate
6 what you are doing. Thanks for coming to
7 Broward County. I firmly believe that at I-4
8 we should have a north Florida and a south
9 Florida. Perry wanted to do it in Texas.
10 Maybe when he becomes President, he can do it,
11 all right, but that is what I honestly believe.
12 We have a two-state situation here, and that is
13 what we are going to have to live with. So
14 let's get through this, do it, and we
15 appreciate you all coming down here. I know
16 you had to pay for it out of your pockets,
17 okay. And then let's get to the courts, let
18 the courts decide. Hopefully, they will do the
19 right thing. And to quote our House of
20 Representatives in Washington, I am watching
21 C-PAN, you are going to love this, "I reserve
22 the balance of my time."

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
24 Norm. Bonus points for Norm.

25 Next up, Kathy Aterno, who is coming up,

1 and then we've got Mr. Ron Klein, following,
2 Randy Fleischer.

3 Kathy, thank you for being here. You are
4 recognized.

5 MS. ATERNO: Thank you very much. I won't
6 repeat what a lot of speakers said before me.
7 What I brought here is obviously the existing
8 congressional district map. I am sure it sat
9 on the back of my wall with all of your maps
10 for the past eight years, and I look forward to
11 getting a new one.

12 I came here because I was hoping that you
13 would provide maps for us to comment on, and it
14 is unfortunate, because we all know if anyone,
15 20 percent of the Legislature sitting before
16 us, you all know what your districts look like.
17 You know that streets that are cut in half, you
18 know that communities are divided, and I
19 believe with all the modeling, and you probably
20 all have done your individual maps already for
21 your future districts, I am just asking you to
22 expedite the process, put maps out there
23 seriously for public input this fall. I am
24 concerned about the timeline, and particularly
25 what this will have the impact on the Divisions

1 of Elections in the various counties, and
2 jamming them running into the summer of next
3 year would impact getting out absentee ballots,
4 and those individuals that are impacted are
5 seniors since -- our service people abroad,
6 people that can't, students and everything
7 else. So please move forward. Give us this
8 fall some serious maps.

9 Also, please don't make us all have to go
10 to Tallahassee. It is not as if it is next
11 door for a lot of people in south Florida.
12 Provide us another opportunity for real input.
13 Thank you.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
15 very much.

16 Next up we have former Congressman Ron
17 Klein. Thank you for being here, sir, and for
18 your service to our state and our country. You
19 are recognized.

20 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 Thank you. It is great to be here. Beautiful
22 blue tie, Mr. Gaetz, Senator Gaetz, nice to see
23 everyone. A lot of friends up here, and it is
24 wonderful to see everyone, and thank you for
25 your service of doing this.

1 Ten years ago, I was in your shoes and in
2 your seats, and I ran around the state like you
3 did, so thank you for taking the time to do it.
4 It is a tough job. We all know there are some
5 new rules in place this time around. I happen
6 to remember ten years ago, one of the
7 newspapers in Florida said that it looked like
8 the maps that were drawn as approved by the
9 Supreme Court, because it was very limited
10 guidance, looked like they were drawn by a
11 drunk monkey. That's what it said. That sort
12 of left an impression on me. If you think
13 about the map that you just saw a minute ago,
14 certainly the districts that I served and many
15 of you serve in really are doing exactly what
16 the people here said, they divided up
17 communities. And they did it in a way which
18 has really diluted the impact of the
19 communities coming together.

20 Now, I think it is very important that you
21 talk about the fact that we now have the
22 opportunity to do it in a positive way. I feel
23 like a little bit of a historian here, because
24 the term limits, they are only a handful of you
25 that were actually in the Legislature ten years

1 ago. So it is really a small number of people.
2 But certainly we all know that what you came
3 here with today and what the opportunities to
4 make it better are something that can
5 acknowledge that there are cities and counties
6 and geographic lines that can be honored to the
7 best that we can do.

8 We also know that the notion of when you
9 have a significant number of seats that are
10 either drawn hard Republican or hard Democrat,
11 as most of the districts in the state are, that
12 disenfranchises a whole lot of people. The
13 first time I ran for State House, there was no
14 Republican -- I was a Democrat. There were no
15 Republicans that ran at all. So the entire
16 Republican community in that district never got
17 a chance to vote for four years, because there
18 was nobody running. It is the same thing on
19 the other side when Republicans have total
20 control of the district. That is not what is
21 in the best interest of this state. We want
22 good, quality people to run from whatever
23 background and have that competition.

24 It's already been talked about, about the
25 timeline, and I want to suggest a couple of

1 things. Number one, having been through this
2 before, the notion of coming forward is fine,
3 and listening, that is great, but also the
4 notion of dragging this thing out, because
5 there will be court challenges all the way
6 until June or maybe even longer.

7 When I ran in 1992, I started running a
8 year ahead of time in a district that I thought
9 was going to be what was the 89th district. It
10 didn't even get resolved until July of that
11 following year, and the primary was in the end
12 of August. Now, that is not good for the
13 process, it is not good for the community, not
14 to know where you are running, it is not good
15 to run a campaign that way. Most importantly,
16 the constituents, these are the people that we
17 all answer to, did not have a chance to really
18 even get involved in that campaign.

19 So the notion that you have already heard,
20 I am not going to repeat it, of moving it all
21 up, you have plenty of time after you complete
22 this process to get these maps out there, go
23 through the whole process. If you can do some
24 more hearings around the state, I think that
25 would be useful, but give the public plenty of

1 time. I know there were some comments early on
2 about two or three days before voting. I hope
3 you are not -- that is not the consideration.
4 What you need are weeks and maybe even a couple
5 months.

6 The other thing is with the congressional
7 districts, folks, the Constitution does not
8 speak to that same timeline on the Legislature.
9 You could actually get to the congressional
10 seats very quickly and move that along so at
11 least as the members of Congress are running,
12 wherever they are running from, they will have
13 an opportunity and the public will know what
14 those -- what those timeframes are.

15 So, in summary, I think that you do have a
16 great opportunity, obviously, to get it right.
17 Your integrity, the legitimacy of the process
18 and the future of our state really are at stake
19 here. And I know that you want to get it
20 right, and the constituents, the citizens of
21 Florida really want you to get it right so they
22 can have more confidence in the work that you
23 do in Tallahassee and the work in Washington.
24 Whether you are a Democrat, Republican or
25 Independent, everyone should know that their

1 vote counts. Thank you very much.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
3 very much, sir.

4 Next up we have Randy Fleischer with the
5 Broward County Executive Committee, Democratic
6 Executive Committee, followed by Lon Clay Hill
7 and Alanna Mersinger.

8 MR. FLEISCHER: Thank you. It is an honor
9 to follow Ron Klein. I know that while Ron was
10 representing our people, Florida was known as
11 the Sunshine State. It is even in the State
12 Constitution, government in the sunshine. But
13 with all due respect, I fear that we no longer
14 live in the Sunshine State. We live in a
15 fascist state, a state that has been bought and
16 paid for, and the Governor acts like he owns
17 the state --

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, we are
19 not here to talk about the Governor or any
20 political philosophy. If you want to talk
21 about redistricting, we will talk about that.

22 MR. FLEISCHER: Well, I am concerned -- I
23 will tell you, Mr. Chairman, I am concerned
24 that those supporting it have no interest in
25 Government in the Sunshine, that people are

1 hiding like cockroaches, waiting until the end
2 to foist their maps on us. There is no
3 interest in working for the people. They are
4 only interested in hiding their maps until the
5 last minute, denying Fair Districts, because
6 the majority is only interested in the
7 preservation of power.

8 Ten years ago, I testified at these
9 hearings on this campus, and I testified that
10 the majority was interested in drawing
11 districts for personal pleasure, and I compared
12 the majority to dogs pleasuring themselves,
13 dogs licking their balls because --

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Sir, this is
15 completely inappropriate, I'm sorry --

16 MR. FLEISCHER: Ten years -- I will tell
17 you, ten years later --

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are done.

19 MR. FLEISCHER: I'm not done.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you for
21 coming tonight. You are done. That is
22 inappropriate. That is inappropriate. Thanks
23 for coming.

24 Next up -- next up we have Lon Clay Hill,
25 followed by Alanna Mersinger and Marilyn

1 Soltanipour.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, again, we will give
3 everyone the time that they deserve, but we
4 just ask that you be respectful. A lot of
5 people came a long way to hear and be a part of
6 this process, and we would ask that you'd be
7 respectful.

8 Sir, you are recognized. Thank you very
9 much for being here.

10 DR. HILL: My name is Dr. Lon Clay Hill.
11 I will try to speak in some constitutional and
12 lofty terms, but I intend to have a bite. I
13 speak with a hillbilly accent, partly modified
14 by experience, but just because I am a
15 hillbilly doesn't mean I am dumb.

16 I have been in this state now for 22
17 years. I came to this campus when it was
18 called Broward Community College. My work, for
19 the most part, was teaching mathematical
20 science, and my dissertation was on
21 visualization, because it turns out that deep
22 and abstract principles can sometimes be
23 understood with a few simple images.

24 So the first thing I have to say is acting
25 in all deliberate speed, you have an obligation

1 to make the visual messaging debate begin.

2 Now, other than my strong support for most
3 but not all of what's been said today, I have
4 only two things to offer. One is a deeper
5 perspective as -- it turns out I am a
6 descendant of John Hancock, but I learned
7 recently that it is not the John Hancock of
8 Massachusetts, but be that as it may, our
9 country has had its debates, and these debates
10 have revolved around voting, voting for women,
11 voting for the descendants of slaves. I
12 actually was fortunate enough to have my first
13 vote cast for John Kennedy in 1960, because in
14 Kentucky, we were ahead of the curve for
15 18-year-olds.

16 Now we are in another wave that is coming.
17 It is probably not the biggest, but I want a
18 meaningful vote. I don't want my vote
19 distorted by the interest of an incumbent.
20 Now, to be --

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Hill, I
22 need you to wrap it up for me.

23 DR. HILL: Yes, it will get there, but in
24 any case --

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: It needs to

1 get there, please. Thank you.

2 DR. HILL: Yes, you want to listen, listen
3 good.

4 The incumbent, if he or she does a good
5 job, has a natural advantage, and you need no
6 other.

7 Secondly, the personal issue, when I came
8 back from the summer of 1964 when I had been
9 working in some voter registration in a sister
10 southern state, I had, it turns out, my last
11 truly meaningful discussion with my
12 grandfather, and anyone who wants to talk, I
13 can talk 30 minutes about things that I am very
14 glad my grandfather did, but, unfortunately, my
15 grandfather in really the last significant
16 conversation with me, instead of being glad
17 that I thought the Constitution should apply to
18 all Americans, said he was worried that I
19 will -- and I will change the language -- that
20 I might marry a colored gal. Now, each --

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mr. Hill, I
22 need you to wrap it up.

23 DR. HILL: It is a sentence or two. Each
24 of us has a history, and we will remember it
25 for the totality of what we do. I am not proud

1 of that part of my grandfather's history, and
2 you are choosing now how you will be remembered
3 and not just in the press of the day. Thank
4 you very much.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
6 sir.

7 Alanna Mersinger. After Alanna, we have
8 -- Alanna, I apologize, Alanna Mersinger, and
9 following Alanna, we have Marilyn --

10 MS. SOLTANIPOUR: Soltanipour.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Soltanipour,
12 thank you very much, and then we have Bob and
13 Carolyn Kinnard. You are recognized, ma'am.

14 MS. MERSINGER: Hi. Welcome to my
15 friends. It says up there to tell us your
16 story, so I will do the quick story. I won't
17 be long, sir, I swear.

18 I came to the last redistricting and I
19 said, "Please make it contiguous, compact, and
20 communities of interest together." So my city,
21 the fabulous City of Miramar, has five
22 Representatives and three Senators, because we
23 are cut up like a little jigsaw. Now, my
24 Representative, who is a lovely man, but he
25 lives in Collier County. I don't. In between

1 myself and my Representative is 110 miles and
2 about 18 alligators. Why? What do I have in
3 common with these alligators? Nothing.

4 All I am asking for is this time, when you
5 do it, don't take my power and disburse it.
6 You have taken the power of Miramar where we
7 can really not have an impact on any of these
8 races. We are almost a side bar. And give us
9 back our power. We are entitled to our power.
10 This is a democracy, I want a republic, let me
11 have my power back and my republic. Thank you.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
13 very much. And thank you for teaching me how
14 to say Ms. Soltanipour's name, who is next, and
15 following her, we have Bob and Carolyn Kinnard
16 and then Edward Leuchs.

17 You are recognized, ma'am.

18 MS. SOLTANIPOUR: Hi, I am Marilyn
19 Soltanipour. That was Alanna Mersinger.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Yes, you are
21 next, right?

22 MS. SOLTANIPOUR: Yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry.

24 MS. SOLTANIPOUR: I'm sorry.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Kinnard,

1 you are after that.

2 You are recognized, Marilyn.

3 MS. SOLTANIPOUR: My name is Marilyn
4 Soltanipour, and ten years ago I spoke before a
5 committee very much like this one. I came to
6 voice my concerns as to the way gerrymandering
7 only serves to suppress concerns common to
8 contiguous communities, cities and counties.
9 And it seems like lines are drawn to benefit a
10 particular party, a group or an individual, as
11 opposed to protecting the very democracy you
12 all swore to protect.

13 I am here because, frankly, I, like
14 Alanna, although I live in Pembroke Pines, I am
15 also tied to Collier County. We do not have
16 any power whatsoever. My community cannot be
17 heard, because as far as, you know, our numbers
18 are concerned, we would never get someone from
19 Pembroke Pines elected into that seat. The
20 numbers are not there.

21 I urge you when you draw maps, please give
22 voice to all citizens of Florida, not just one,
23 not just another, but everyone should have a
24 seat at the table. Thank you.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

1 Okay, Ms. Kinnard, now you are recognized,
2 and following Ms. Kinnard, we have Edward, I
3 believe it is Leuchs, I apologize if I am
4 saying that wrong, followed by Lenys Klumpp and
5 Peter Tingom.

6 You are recognized.

7 MS. KINNARD: Thank you very much. My
8 name is Carolyn Kinnard. My husband, Bob, and
9 I are citizens of the City of Ft. Lauderdale,
10 which has 32 to 37 distinct neighborhoods which
11 are bound by natural boundaries, such as
12 rivers, streets, highways and, of course, the
13 ocean.

14 About ten years ago or so, my husband and
15 I were precinct chair people, and as we were
16 walking our precinct, we found out that only
17 three-fourths of our Tarpon River neighborhood
18 was included. We had to get into the car, go
19 down to Davie Boulevard, drive up over the New
20 River into Shady Banks, and we found out that
21 we were only doing half of that neighborhood.

22 So when we are doing the redistricting, at
23 least in Ft. Lauderdale, we would like to keep
24 it to the neighborhoods. They are pretty much
25 similar, and we would appreciate that.

1 Also, in Ft. Lauderdale, those of you
2 people who are from Ft. Lauderdale, we are
3 going to have a city meeting Thursday,
4 August 25 at 5:30 in which we will do
5 redistricting for our city itself. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

7 Mr. Klumpp, you are recognized, sir, and
8 following Mr. Klumpp, we have Peter Tingom,
9 followed by Richard Hoyer.

10 MR. LEUCHS: Hi, I am Edward Leuchs.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I'm sorry,
12 did I skip you? You are right, I did, I'm
13 sorry about that, Edward. You are recognized.

14 MR. LEUCHS: No problem.

15 I want to address something that hasn't
16 been fully addressed, and that is the
17 relationship between the Fair Districts and the
18 Voting Rights Act. I will be very brief.

19 The one good thing that I would say about
20 the 2002 redistricting is it did preserve three
21 African-American congressional seats, which is
22 an important legacy to our state. It also
23 created three Hispanic majority districts.

24 I have looked at -- people say there are
25 no maps, but you can go on the Internet, and I

1 have looked at partisan Republican maps and
2 partisan Democratic maps, and I am pleased that
3 both maps show a new Hispanic majority seat.
4 So both Republicans and Democrats seem to be in
5 agreement that there is a new Hispanic majority
6 seat in Orlando and Orange County. And that is
7 a good thing, I think that is good for our
8 state.

9 I am disappointed to see that both
10 Republican maps and Democratic maps are
11 eliminating Corrine Brown's seat, the Third
12 District in Jacksonville.

13 I have come up with my own maps, I don't
14 know who I should give them to, but it is clear
15 to me as a -- I am a geographer, a former
16 geography teacher, land use planner for 19
17 years, certified by the AICP as a mapmaker
18 who's worked all my life with maps and followed
19 congressional districts as a hobby. I can
20 assure you, you can create a close to
21 50 percent African-American district going from
22 Jacksonville, only -- only splitting up Duval
23 County, including Baker, Columbia, Madison,
24 Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden County, which is
25 60 percent African-American, and Alachua

1 County. I don't know why this isn't being
2 contemplated. That is not a violation of Fair
3 Districts, it's whole counties. They are all
4 contiguous, they are all along the border with
5 Georgia.

6 So my point is I don't see any need to
7 reduce our African-American delegation due to
8 Fair Districts.

9 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
10 sir. We will have staff -- you can give it to
11 staff right here -- right there.

12 Next we have Lenys Klumpp. Thank you.
13 I'm sorry, I am probably not saying that right,
14 I apologize.

15 MS. KLUMPP: No, you have. Thank you.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay, good.
17 And after Ms. Klumpp, we've got Peter Tingom
18 and Richard Hoyer.

19 You are recognized.

20 MS. KLUMPP: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
21 members of the committee. I am Lenys Klumpp,
22 and I have lived in Davie for eight years now.

23 First I want to thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak here, and for you coming
25 out here and not drawing the lines before you

1 have received public testimony, enough of it.

2 I am a Hispanic in this community. I was
3 born and raised in the United States, but come
4 from Cuban decent. And where I understand the
5 concerns of my colleagues, my friends, my
6 neighbors, it concerns me that we will limit,
7 if not cripple, the ability for minorities,
8 including Hispanics, to participate in this
9 process. And I won't give you a long story to
10 tell you my story, but I have lived abroad and
11 I have witnessed the inability of minorities
12 living abroad not being able to represent their
13 beliefs, their groups, and it has been
14 devastating, and I think that I am proud of my
15 country and my community for being able to send
16 members that represent their communities. And
17 I hope that as you take a look, you keep in
18 mind that -- I understand the points that the
19 others have made, but I disagree in that I
20 think that you will hurt minorities if you
21 don't keep in mind these lines and how you draw
22 them. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
24 very much.

25 Peter, you are recognized, followed by

1 Richard Hoyer and Henry Kelley.

2 MR. TINGOM: Thank you. My name is Pete
3 Tingom, I am an elected city councilman, City
4 of Plantation. How many people up there
5 represent Plantation? One, two, three, four,
6 five, six, seven.

7 We are divided because of the way the
8 lines are drawn. And we are a small, compact
9 community of about 86,000 people, and we would
10 like the Legislature to respect that.

11 I would like to say just a few principles.
12 Number one, accelerate the process, accelerate
13 the process and get things to people soon
14 enough so that we won't be tied up in litigious
15 acts in June and July and August.

16 Number two, avoid spending unnecessary
17 taxpayer dollars.

18 Number three, accelerate the process.

19 Number four, try to reason without having
20 backroom meetings where you draw your
21 districts. If you don't do this, we will be in
22 the same situation as many speakers have said
23 ten years from now when we redistrict again.

24 We would like to be represented in a
25 close, compact, fairly small city of 86,000

1 people, and I hope that you can accelerate this
2 process -- get the message? -- so that we do
3 have things to look at, we can look ahead to
4 selecting our Representatives.

5 And I will close with a small quote from a
6 British Lord Acton: "Absolute power tends to
7 corrupt absolutely." Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
9 sir.

10 Next up we have Richard Hoye with Broward
11 Young Democrats. I'm sorry if I am saying that
12 wrong, man.

13 MR. HOYE: Yes, sir, you are.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. What
15 is your name? We'll at least get it out once
16 that is right.

17 MR. HOYE: It is pronounced Hoye.

18 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Hoye, I'm
19 sorry. Okay. I think I did say that once, but
20 I messed it up.

21 You are recognized, and then we've got
22 Henry Kelley and Ana Valladares.

23 MR. HOYE: Thank you all for coming out
24 tonight. I will be brief, but necessarily
25 redundant.

1 The real discussion cannot begin until we
2 have an idea as to what the actual maps
3 resemble in order to ensure compliance with
4 standards as mandated by the Justice
5 Department. Please present the maps as soon as
6 possible so that the proposed plan can be
7 properly vetted by the public. The money that
8 has been set aside to conduct these hearings
9 pose ridiculous legal challenges to the will of
10 the voters can be better utilized by further
11 funding public education, jobs initiatives and
12 generally improving the lives of those that
13 cannot help themselves.

14 Finally, I ask that you be diligent in
15 drawing fair districts so that they are truly
16 representative of the population. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.
18 Thank you, Mr. Hoyer.

19 Next up we've got Henry Kelley, followed
20 by Ana Valladares and then Michael Francis.

21 And, Mr. Kelley, I believe you have a map
22 that you have brought with us that you are
23 going to be pointing to over here to our left
24 and the audience's right, is that correct, sir?

25 MR. KELLEY: Yes. Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: If we could
3 get that pulled up.

4 MR. KELLEY: As he is pulling it up, I
5 will use a moment of my time to comment. I was
6 at the meeting earlier today in Boca Raton, and
7 I was very disappointed to hear Representative
8 Waldman quoted as saying that these hearings
9 are a joke. I notice he is not here this
10 evening. I took my work seriously in creating
11 the maps that I've submitted to the committee,
12 and I am very disappointed to have my work
13 characterized as a joke.

14 Secondly, the League of Women Voters asked
15 a trick question to a lot of Representatives.
16 They asked who wanted to vote on the first week
17 in January met in session, and a number of the
18 committee members raised their hands. So I say
19 to you, if I've had the time to create maps in
20 my spare time, where are your maps? And I
21 direct that directly to the people who raised
22 their hands to say they would vote the first
23 week in January. Show us your maps and show us
24 what your agenda is so we can comment on it.

25 Now, having said that, I believe this is

1 map number four. I wrote and drew two
2 congressional maps, and Representative Klein
3 made some spot-on comments that I would agree
4 with. This map I drew -- it is hard to see on
5 here, but I took the existing U.S.
6 Congressional District 3, which is labeled
7 "number one" on this one because of the way a
8 federal judge has determined it, that is where
9 we have to start with. And I would say if you
10 look in the central Florida area and all the
11 way down, you will see the counties and the
12 districts are fractured. They are not nice,
13 neat and contiguous -- they are contiguous, but
14 they are not whole counties.

15 The other map that I've drawn that is
16 sitting over there, map number five, over
17 80 percent of the counties in the state of
18 Florida I managed to fit whole counties into my
19 congressional districts. But when you start
20 with that majority-minority district, it
21 affects nearly seven million Floridians in the
22 adjoining counties around it. And I say I
23 agree with the Fair Districts voters. We voted
24 for tight, compact districts, and when we have
25 to start with a court-ordered district that

1 supports one special interest group, it affects
2 millions of Floridians, and ladies and
3 gentlemen of the committee, that is unfair, and
4 I ask that you stand up for states' rights
5 under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution.
6 The voters of Florida have spoken for tight,
7 compact, contiguous districts, and that is
8 what, you know, the -- I have gone through the
9 exercise of drawing the maps, I am familiar
10 with the software. Despite what people have
11 said, I found the software very easy to use.
12 There is a five-minute YouTube video that makes
13 it very understandable, and I think that -- you
14 know, as I said, I will be glad, in the balance
15 of my time tomorrow, Representative
16 Weatherford, because I will see you in Miami,
17 that I have additional comments about some of
18 the methodology that I went through to achieve
19 these maps, but this map represents everything
20 that is wrong when a federal court tells us
21 what a district has to look like. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
23 very much, Mr. Kelley.

24 Next up we've got Ana Valladares, followed
25 by Michael Francis and then Michael De Gruccio.

1 MS. VALLADARES: Good evening, my name is
2 Ana Valladares, and I am a resident of the City
3 of Weston in Broward County. I am a Hispanic
4 of Cuban decent and a U.S. citizen. I have
5 been a Broward County resident for 28 years,
6 and I have lived in the U.S. for almost 40
7 years. I am co-owner of two small businesses
8 based in Weston that provide jobs and services
9 through the design, architecture and
10 construction industry.

11 I want to thank the panel, the members of
12 the House and Senate here today, for allowing
13 us, the citizens of Broward, the opportunity to
14 hear our voices in regards to the redistricting
15 efforts for our Florida communities.

16 As an active, engaged member of my
17 community, and a child advocate, I have the
18 honor over the years of serving in and being
19 involved in numerous organizations, initiatives
20 and boards representing our community at large,
21 most recently as a Governor appointee to
22 Governor Bush and Governor Crist to the
23 Childrens' Services Council of Broward County.
24 In that capacity, I constantly remind -- I am
25 constantly reminded of the diversity of our

1 community and the many issues, needs and
2 services that all our Broward children and
3 families require.

4 However, I am here today as a member of
5 the Hispanic community to remind you the
6 Hispanic community in Broward is large, it is
7 spread throughout the county, and it is also
8 rich in diversity and a complex community, made
9 up of hard-working families, and our members
10 make significant contributions to our local
11 economy and the state. The Hispanic community
12 is an important, vibrant component of the
13 fabric of this community and of our beautiful
14 state of Florida, and is still growing.

15 Therefore, it is imperative that the
16 redistricting process meets the basic
17 objectives that define the Constitutional
18 Amendment 5 and 6 approved by 63 percent of
19 Florida voters in 2010. The new districts
20 should not be designed to further interests of
21 incumbents or political parties. We demand
22 that the districts are compact, contiguous,
23 mindful of city boundaries and mindful of the
24 rights of the minorities. We will be watching
25 with attention as you begin to draw the maps so

1 that you adhere to those standards set forth by
2 Amendment 5 and 6. Thank you.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

4 Michael Francis is up next, and you are
5 recognized, sir, followed by Michael De
6 Gruccio, or De Gruccio, I apologize if I say
7 that wrong, and Cheryl Duckworth.

8 MR. FRANCIS: Hi. I want to thank you for
9 the opportunity to speak today, and I want to
10 add my voice to those who have called for an
11 acceleration of the process. I am having a
12 hard time understanding how delaying the
13 process helps any of you in your re-election
14 campaigns for next year, and I think that -- I
15 would like to see the maps set by October 3rd,
16 also to ask you that you do add statewide
17 hearings once maps are set so that those of us
18 down here in south Florida don't have to travel
19 to Tallahassee, and I thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
21 very much.

22 Michael? Michael is next. Following
23 Michael, we have Cheryl Duckworth and then
24 Joseph Wagner.

25 MR. DE GRUCCIO: Good evening. I thank

1 you for the time. I became a voter here in
2 1998, and my current district, House District
3 97, didn't exist. Parkland was always the
4 forgotten child. I think we were a part of
5 Palm Beach or just a forgotten annex to
6 Broward, and we had two State Representatives
7 at the time, Mr. Rayson and Mr. Ritter.
8 Luckily, the last legislative redistricting
9 combined our great city into one.
10 Unfortunately, the County hasn't done that yet.

11 But as we move forward, I would like to
12 see that. I understand everybody is very testy
13 and very upset with their own opinions here.
14 As the prior Hispanic, I would also like to see
15 some district like that, but I also understand
16 the complexity of that happening.

17 The other thing is, no matter where you
18 stand, Republican, Independent, Democrat, it is
19 just I see a rhetoric happening, and I hope
20 every part -- member of the committee, the
21 legislate and so forth, remember that it is the
22 will of the voters -- grant you, the voters
23 have voted for things like the pigs -- fetal
24 pigs and so forth, but I would really like for
25 the voters and the Representatives and Senators

1 to understand and not do the rhetoric. I read
2 in *The Miami Herald* under the blog that
3 Chairman Smith of the Florida Democratic Party
4 decided to start attacking his own previous
5 stance, saying that he wasn't involved, there
6 were no maps involved when he was a part of the
7 process. I know Chairman Bitner has sent
8 letters back and forth. I hope this process is
9 open and fair, and thank you and have a great
10 evening.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
12 very much. We appreciate your comments.

13 Cheryl Duckworth. Cheryl, thank you for
14 being her, you are recognized, followed by
15 Joseph Wagner and Alejandro Casas.

16 DR. DUCKWORTH: I thank you, good evening.
17 My name is Dr. Cheryl Duckworth, and I am happy
18 to teach international conflict resolution
19 right next door at Nova Southeastern, and I
20 think that there -- one of the things that you
21 teach when you teach international conflict
22 resolution is elections, elections monitoring,
23 and what constitutes an election being free and
24 fair. And, of course, we all know it is not
25 the people who cast the votes many times, it is

1 the people who count the votes. Perhaps no
2 state knows that better than Florida.

3 One of the things that can happen
4 socially, not just from a voting fairness
5 standpoint, but socially is serious, serious
6 conflict when people lose faith in the system.
7 And what I am hearing here tonight is that a
8 lot of people are beginning to lose faith in
9 the system.

10 We will be watching. Thank you.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

12 Next up, Joseph Wagner. Joseph, are you
13 here, making your way down? Raise your hand.
14 If you are not, going once, going twice.

15 Okay. Moving forward to Alejandro Casas,
16 and following Alejandro, we'll have Matthew
17 Isbell and -- I will come back to that name.
18 You are recognized.

19 MR. CASAS: I would like to thank the
20 Legislators for organizing this open forums
21 where private citizens can express their views.
22 I realize this hearing is mostly about
23 redistricting the state of Florida, but I would
24 like to put in my two cents for Broward County.

25 My name is Alex Casas. I was born in

1 Cuba, and I came to this wonderful country when
2 I was ten years old, and I have been a
3 tax-paying U.S. citizen for over 50 years and I
4 wouldn't have it any other way. For the last
5 seven years, I have been living in the great
6 City of Miramar where I have been quite active
7 in the City's affairs as a Chairman of the
8 Economic Development Advisory Board, and now as
9 a member of the Budget Advisory Task Force.
10 What I'm trying to say is that I am what is
11 defined as a Hispanic, and I am also very much
12 involved in local civic affairs.

13 As per data from the 2010-2011 Census
14 Bureau, the number of persons of Hispanic or
15 Latino origin in Broward County is 25.1
16 percent. That is one quarter of the total
17 residents of Broward County. Again, as per
18 census data, as of 2007, owned businesses of
19 Hispanics make up about 22 percent of the total
20 firms in Broward County, and I am sure it is
21 much higher now in 2011.

22 The dynamics of the present district
23 boundaries in Broward County make it almost
24 impossible for elected officials to really
25 represent the present and ever-growing Hispanic

1 community.

2 In another thought, Broward County is
3 well-known for the voter apathy shown during
4 local elections. Most people choose not to
5 vote because they don't know or can't identify
6 with the candidates. Maybe, just maybe, the
7 voters could be more closely identified with
8 the candidate, perhaps share similar family
9 values, whatever those may be, or be very
10 familiar with events in the country where they
11 came from, whatever that may be, then maybe,
12 just maybe, voters will become more
13 enthusiastic about participating in one of the
14 greatest freedoms the United States offers, the
15 freedom to vote.

16 I hereby ask the Legislature to take
17 seriously into consideration whatever proposal
18 is presented to them that would increase the
19 chances of Hispanics being voted into office.
20 It not only makes sense, it would be the right
21 thing to do. Thank you very much.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
23 Alejandro.

24 Next up, Matthew Isbell. Matthew, you are
25 recognized, followed by -- I think it is Elroy

1 John. I apologize if I am saying that wrong,
2 Elroy John, followed by Paul Fealk.

3 You are recognized. Good to see you
4 again.

5 MR. ISBELL: Hi, thank you. Yes, I am a
6 student, I currently am going to Florida State
7 University. I actually had the opportunity to
8 speak at these hearings back in -- I think it
9 was June or July when you guys started in
10 Tallahassee, and I am visiting family here now,
11 so I figured I would talk again.

12 I actually grew up in Broward County. I
13 lived here for 19 years until I went up to
14 college, living in Cooper City and Davie most
15 of my life.

16 And basically I want to talk about what a
17 lot of other people are talking about, which is
18 the issue of the way a lot of these
19 communities, Davie, Cooper City, Plantation,
20 Miramar, are divided across several different
21 districts, even specifically talking about
22 something like District 37, or 97, the one that
23 hits Davie, goes through the Everglades and
24 then goes up into Parkland in north Broward.

25 I think a good idea would be to make it

1 where any district -- yes, it is technically
2 compact through the Everglades, but it
3 shouldn't count as compact if it is going
4 through nothing but federally protected
5 wetlands that have literally zero population in
6 them. I should be able to walk across any
7 district that exists if I wanted to, just walk
8 across. Did anybody here walk across the
9 Everglades and get into Parkland? Not unless
10 you want to become alligator meat.

11 Basically we need to have districts that
12 are compact via population and not just through
13 saying, oh, well, it is compact via land. And
14 cities -- like Cooper City has 30,000 people in
15 it, Davie is like about 90,000, Plantation is
16 about 80,000 and so on. These are not big
17 communities, and these are communities that are
18 similar. Davie and Cooper City have almost no
19 real difference between them. I have lived
20 here all my life, and I can tell. Pembroke
21 Pines has no difference between us. There's no
22 difference between Davie, Pembroke Pines,
23 Cooper City or Plantation. They could be one
24 district, nice, little, square, rectangle style
25 district. They should be compact, and they

1 should -- you know, the Everglades, that's --
2 the Everglades has to be in some district, but
3 it shouldn't be some sort of connector.

4 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Matthew, I am
5 going to need you to wrap it up for me.

6 MR. ISBELL: Sure, sure, no problem.

7 Just also the issues of things like we
8 know a lot of these districts right now are
9 gerrymandered. The Florida 22nd, which
10 stretches all the way from here to West Palm
11 Beach, looks like a freaking comb. It goes
12 along the coast and it eats in here, here or
13 here. It is not compact, and it just has to
14 change.

15 Just one last thing: Broward County voted
16 over 73 percent for Fair Districts. Only five
17 out of 700 precincts voted against it. That
18 says -- that is why we see everyone here saying
19 the same thing. We want them compact and we
20 need them compact now. Thank you very much.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

22 Elroy, did I stay that right?

23 MR. JOHN: Yes.

24 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Elroy John,
25 all right, thank you very much. Thanks for

1 being here. Next up after Elroy, we have Paul
2 Fealk and then Angelo Castillo, Castillo who is
3 a commissioner from Pembroke Pines.

4 You are recognized, Paul -- or I mean you
5 are recognized, Elroy.

6 MR. JOHN: Elroy. Thank you for the
7 opportunity to speak.

8 I wanted to start by giving credit where
9 credit is due, because I think it is important
10 that you guys have had this meeting for us, but
11 I would say it's partial credit, because I
12 think it is just part of your responsibility to
13 us in this process. Your meeting is missing
14 some key elements. You are here ostensibly to
15 listen to what we have to say, and you look
16 like you are listening, but we really don't
17 know, because there's no back and forth,
18 there's no real discussion, there's no exchange
19 of ideas between -- there's no exchange of
20 ideas between the Representatives and the
21 represented. So we are left to assume that you
22 are going to go back and implement some of the
23 ideas that we're giving you here. We are
24 assuming that. You are asking us to buy what
25 you are selling, which is that you are going to

1 do what is right based on trust. I think that
2 is a big leap for a lot of us to take, as you
3 are hearing tonight.

4 So if you feel like you are getting beat
5 up on the same points, I hope you recognize
6 why. It is because we are frustrated, and we
7 are frustrated, and I don't think I am speaking
8 for myself only here based on what I have
9 heard, we are frustrated, we are frustrated
10 because this feels like we are being humored
11 more than we are really being listened to and
12 represented.

13 So I would call on you to do some of the
14 same things others are calling you to do.
15 Release your versions of the map early,
16 October, so that we have a chance to review
17 them, so that candidates have a chance to
18 review them and can really learn the issues
19 that they are going to be speaking to us about
20 when we have to vote for them next year. So
21 hopefully you will implement those ideas.
22 Thank you for your time.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
24 Elroy.

25 Paul, you are recognized.

1 Following Paul will be Angelo Castillo,
2 Commissioner from Pembroke Pines, and I believe
3 it is Caryl Hattan, Vice-Mayor from the town of
4 Davie. I hope I got that right.

5 You are recognized, sir.

6 MR. FEALK: Thank you. Senator Gaetz, I
7 believe in your opening remarks you said
8 something about a requirement that the
9 Legislature not propose maps until 2012. If I
10 heard that correctly, I just want to say I give
11 the Legislators credit for more intelligence
12 than you give yourself, because if you wanted
13 to propose maps, you could just call them
14 tentative maps, you could call them discussion
15 drafts. When you guys want to do something,
16 you usually find a way.

17 With that caveat, I want to associate
18 myself with the position of the Fair Districts
19 organization. I want to propose to you that in
20 a country and in a state where we really have
21 two viable parties, that political elections
22 are only truly democratic if we have electoral
23 democracy, and that means the districts are
24 drawn in a way to make it possible that either
25 side might win, not technically, but as a

1 practical matter. And when you do that, you
2 make the system really work. Ron Klein talked
3 about districts where they didn't even have an
4 opponent running. I am saying just because you
5 have an opponent running is not sufficient if
6 they don't have a meaningful chance to win.

7 Finally, I want to mention that most of
8 you probably decided to run for office with
9 some idealism and some belief that the public
10 interest is what you wanted to serve. You
11 probably are learning or have learned in office
12 that along with that belief, there are some
13 powerful interests and forces that come to work
14 upon you, and the need to be re-elected and the
15 need to run costly elections. And I would hope
16 that you will look at the long view of history
17 and stand up and be heard and put aside those
18 powerful interests and become a hero to the
19 people. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

21 Angelo Castillo, Commissioner?

22 Commissioner, thank you for joining us. Thank
23 you for your public service.

24 And following Mr. Castillo, we have Caryl
25 Hattan, I hope I am saying that right, the

1 Vice-Mayor of the Town of Davie.

2 COMMISSIONER CASTILLO: Mr. Chairman,
3 members of the committee, thank you very much.
4 Welcome to Broward County. My name is Angelo
5 Castillo. I am a City Commissioner of Pembroke
6 Pines, Florida. It is the tenth-largest city
7 in the state. I want to thank all of you for
8 your service and for the difficult chore that
9 you have ahead of you. I know that this will
10 not be easy.

11 Many of the things that I wanted to say
12 have indeed been covered, and so I will very
13 quickly leave you with this thought, if I can:
14 Those of us who are privileged to serve in
15 elected positions do so in our democratic --
16 representative democracy, because the people
17 give to us not just the opportunity to serve
18 them, but they also give us their proxy. When
19 we become elected officials, we -- we vote on
20 their behalf, and that is a very, very high and
21 important duty to follow. Every once in a
22 while, the people tug at the leash of
23 government and they say, "We want it to heel at
24 this line," and that limits our authority.

25 Now, in a state where increasingly we see

1 Republicans and Democrats not getting along,
2 not finding a way to be statesmen, not just at
3 the state, but also at the national level,
4 there is one thing that we should be very, very
5 clear about. It is impossible in a state like
6 Florida to get a 63 percent agreement on any
7 one thing and not have Republicans, Democrats
8 and Independents supporting that thing. It is
9 just mathematically not possible. And so for
10 the Legislature to fail to address this issue
11 in the exact manner that the people of this
12 state have commanded you to address it would be
13 not just an affront to your responsibilities as
14 elected officials, but worse than that, it
15 would be an affront to every citizen of the
16 state of Florida.

17 I believe it is very, very important for
18 you to come as -- come back to us with a map or
19 some set of options that people can actually
20 look at and review and give you substantive
21 input as quickly as possible so that the task
22 before you can be achieved sooner rather than
23 later, so that the people have more rather than
24 less input into that decision-making, and I
25 urge you to do that on behalf of the good

1 people here in Broward County who are rooting
2 for the success, not just of Broward County and
3 the state of Florida, but also the United
4 States. Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
6 Commissioner.

7 Next up we have our Vice-Mayor from Davie.

8 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: Yes, sir, good
9 evening.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Mayor, thank
11 you very much for being here.

12 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: I would like to
13 welcome you to the Town of Davie.

14 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

15 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: Senator Sobel, I have
16 to just make a quick correction, unfortunately.
17 "Caddyshack" was done at Rolling Hills in
18 Davie. "Caddyshack," the movie, was done at
19 Rolling Hills in Davie, our golf course. Just
20 a little correction. We don't want to give
21 Plantation credit for that, although they are
22 very nice.

23 Anyway, I am speaking here today as a
24 member of the Broward Teachers Union, and the
25 30,000 -- \$30 million that you set aside to

1 fight the citizens' directive to make fair
2 districts could have well been used for
3 education.

4 Secondly, gerrymandering. I have heard
5 that word so many times, and I looked it up,
6 and, of course, I waited and waited and waited,
7 so now it is not on here, but it had all kinds
8 -- the synonyms, look them up when you get a
9 chance. As a teacher to tell you,
10 gerrymandering is trade-off, it is -- I am
11 going to take the time to look it up, because
12 it was very well done, and I'm probably not
13 going to be able to find it right now, but --
14 dictionary, here we go. Sorry, gentlemen and
15 ladies. Anyway, I had it -- I was sitting
16 there so long with it, it just went off my
17 phone. Anyway, it has a lot of synonyms that
18 are not very pleasant to hear, not very good
19 things, and I've heard that all night about
20 gerrymandering.

21 My point is this: We can't go back. I
22 was here ten years ago in the theater when you
23 did the ten-year redistricting last year --
24 last ten years ago. And we can't go back. We
25 can't change what the Democrats did, what the

1 Republicans did. We can go forward, we must go
2 forward and you must do what you have been told
3 to do by the people of this state, your
4 constituents. They certainly gave you a
5 mandate to make fair districts, and that is
6 what they are expecting you to do, and
7 transparently, not behind closed doors, it
8 needs to be transparent.

9 The other thing I would like to suggest is
10 we can't get to Tallahassee. It is not easy
11 for us to get up to Tallahassee. It is
12 expensive, it is a big trip, a long trip to
13 drive. It's -- you know, my suggestion is that
14 you put out the maps and then you have
15 videoconferencing, allowing people like all the
16 people that are here tonight to come in and
17 give their testimony to you in Tallahassee.
18 With the technology we have today, there is no
19 need for us to have to travel to Tallahassee
20 when we have -- go to meetings, we have
21 videoconferencing. You could set it up. You
22 could be sitting right up in Tallahassee
23 listening to the same things, because we get no
24 feedback, so it is just a matter of listening.
25 We could give you our testimony there about

1 what we think of the maps that are drawn.

2 And thirdly and finally, please do it in a
3 most timely manner. It is very important that
4 you do the timeline and you push it up and do
5 what you've got to do. Thank you, and welcome
6 to Davie.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
8 Mayor.

9 Next up we have --

10 VICE-MAYOR HATTAN: I am Vice-Mayor.
11 Don't let the Mayor hear you call me Mayor.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Vice-Mayor,
13 all right. We don't want to get you in
14 trouble. Thank you for hosting us here in
15 Davie.

16 Next up we have Marsha Ellison, with the
17 NAACP, followed by Roosevelt Walters and then
18 Diego Martini.

19 Marsha, thank you for being here. You are
20 recognized.

21 MS. ELLISON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
22 name is Marsha Ellison. I am President of Ft.
23 Lauderdale/Broward NAACP, and I'm also
24 representing the Florida State Conference
25 NAACP, and our position is the following: The

1 State of Florida should ensure transparency,
2 fairness and compliance with the Voting Rights
3 Act with equal protection. You should ensure
4 one person, one vote. You should redistrict in
5 a way that avoids minority vote dilution. You
6 should avoid drawing district lines so that the
7 minority population is over-concentrated or
8 packed into election districts.

9 You should also be careful to avoid
10 crackling or fracturing, drawing district lines
11 so that an area of concentrated minority
12 population is divided and spread among several
13 districts that are predominantly white. You
14 should also be careful to avoid stacking,
15 drawing district lines so that the large --
16 that a large population concentrated is
17 included with a large white population with the
18 purpose of or effect of depriving minority
19 voters of a voting majority.

20 We also respectfully request that you
21 avoid drawing plans that erode minority rights
22 relative to the status quo, that you avoid
23 creating retrogressive redistricting plans.

24 A key traditional redistricting principle
25 is respect to communities of interest. These

1 are defined by three characteristics: The
2 extent to which non-members identify members as
3 a distinct community, the extent to which
4 members identify themselves as a distinct
5 community and the extent to which members are
6 similarly affected by governmental action.
7 African-American citizens form one of the
8 strongest communities of interest in the state,
9 and the redistricting plans should have a
10 priority -- as a priority the fashioning of
11 districts that accord appropriate
12 representation to the communities of interest.

13 We are aware and request adherence to
14 redistricting principles outlined in Section 20
15 and 21 of the Florida Constitution. Districts
16 shall not be drawn with the intent --

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Ms. Ellison,
18 I am going to have to ask you to wrap it up.

19 MS. ELLISON: Yes, absolutely.

20 -- of denying or abridging the equal
21 opportunity of racial or language minorities to
22 participate in the political process or
23 diminish their ability to elect a
24 Representative of their choice. In addition,
25 districts should be compact and contiguous.

1 Map production by precinct and voter age
2 population -- in producing the data for the
3 maps, we ask that you include precinct and
4 district voting age population desegregated by
5 race and national origin. We ask that the data
6 also include voter age population of citizens
7 who can vote. And finally, we find the absence
8 of prospective maps at redistrict public
9 hearings very troubling. The ability to offer
10 substantive comments is severely diminished
11 without the presentation of maps at these
12 public halls.

13 We ask that an additional set of meetings
14 is established throughout the state in order to
15 allow for effective comment on the proposed
16 maps. Given the population of Broward County,
17 we question the establishment of one meeting in
18 Broward County. Multiple locations would
19 result in a more interactive process by
20 allowing more voices to be heard. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
22 very much, Ms. Ellison. And for those of you
23 -- if you have a script that you are reading
24 from, or prepared notes, and I know we are
25 trying to get it in two minutes and you are

1 having a tight time, feel free to turn those
2 over to us, or a copy of them. We will make
3 sure they are admitted into the record. We
4 want to make sure that all of your comments are
5 heard. So, Ms. Ellison, thank you very much.

6 Next up we've got Roosevelt Walters,
7 followed by Diego Martini, Lynn Simon and Carol
8 Tollefsen.

9 MR. WALTERS: I say good evening to the
10 committee, and thank you for being here, and I
11 am sure that you are not hearing anything here
12 that you have not already heard in other places
13 in the state or will hear as you travel around
14 the state, because I think all of us have a
15 common interest in making sure that good, right
16 and just things is done as we go through this
17 redistricting and reapportionment process.

18 Having stated that, I am not going to
19 testify. I am just simply going to put forth
20 some questions that I hope that you will
21 consider when you want to do the good, right
22 and just things when drawing these maps. And
23 that is, in an effort to redraw the districts
24 as the citizens have asked you to do, please
25 keep in mind the Voting Rights Act and Civil

1 Rights Act, because sometime when we are trying
2 so hard to follow our new directions, we forget
3 that we also had old directions, and the Civil
4 Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act is --
5 sometime is conflicting, maybe 5 and 6 is
6 conflicting with those acts. So we want to
7 make sure that you be aware of those laws that
8 we have to follow.

9 Secondly, if there is a conflict between
10 the Amendment 5 and 6, and Section 20 and 21 of
11 the Florida Constitution, which set of rules
12 will this committee use? And I will tell you,
13 I am -- I went to an all-black school, so you
14 don't expect me to be up there with most of
15 you, but I can read a little bit, and I know
16 they are conflicting languages in what you
17 would have to deal with when you are drawing
18 these lines.

19 And the last thing I want to say is, how
20 much of our money have you used, the House, to
21 fight us with? I have checked your websites,
22 and it is not there. So the next time you
23 update your website, I would ask that you
24 please put that amount up there so that we will
25 know how well you are spending our money to

1 fight us.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

3 Next up we have Diego Martini. After
4 Diego, we have Lynn Simon and Carol Tollefsen.

5 Diego, you are recognized for two minutes.
6 And just so everybody knows, it is 8:25 right
7 now. We've got to have a few minutes. There
8 have been some questions that have been asked
9 tonight by the audience. We are going to make
10 sure that Senator Gaetz has an opportunity to
11 address some of those questions while you are
12 still here, and we also want to give a few
13 minutes to members on the committee, so we are
14 going to keep going all the way up until about
15 8:45 or 8:50, and then we are going to move
16 into some comments from the committee.

17 But with that, Diego, you are recognized,
18 sir. Thanks for being here.

19 MR. MARTINI: Thank your, sir. Welcome,
20 and thank you for allowing me to speak.

21 The leadership in the Florida House and
22 Senate has committed itself to supporting
23 unscrupulous corporations over working class
24 people, undermining cultural participation and
25 education, and dividing our communities by

1 stigmatizing Hispanics regardless of their
2 legal status in the United States. Let's
3 counter this by continuing to build a more
4 inclusive, educated and just America. This is
5 what is great about America. People speaking
6 up, courage to stand up and say, "Value my
7 career, value my family."

8 Our congressional leaders are diluted as
9 far as knowing what makes this country great.
10 A strategically divided line to keep incumbents
11 in office is a form of diluted intelligence,
12 lack of cultural sophistication, and most of
13 all, inadequate common-sense thinking.

14 To your question, what I want to see in
15 these maps is justice. Millions of immigrants
16 -- millions immigrate to this country for the
17 promise of equal opportunity and justice,
18 justice that this country is responsible for
19 delivering to its citizens. I and all the
20 people behind me want to be represented justly.
21 Show us that you are capable of getting this
22 done, and not capable of spending the majority
23 of your time in office answering and making
24 calls to big corporate wealthy bulldogs.

25 You were sent to Tallahassee to do a job

1 for the working people of this state. Why is
2 that hard for you to understand that hassle and
3 -- why is it hard for you to understand that
4 basic principle? Let's see a greater
5 collective American good in action from here on
6 out. Let us start tonight. Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
8 Diego.

9 Lynn Simon, you are up. Lynn, is that you
10 coming down? All right. We've got Lynn Simon
11 coming down, Carol Tollefsen, followed by
12 Stephanie Shimko, I believe. You are
13 recognized.

14 MS. SIMON: Hi, I am Lynn Simon. Just
15 really quick, I had heard maybe that you might
16 possibly be thinking of dissolving District 97,
17 and I just hope that you don't do that. We
18 have been together now for quite some time, and
19 I would like to see that District 97 stays
20 together. Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
22 very much.

23 Carol Tollefsen, followed by Stephanie
24 Shimko and then Phil -- I believe it is Burg,
25 but I am not positive.

1 You are recognized, ma'am. Thanks for
2 being here.

3 MS. TOLLEFSEN: Good evening. I am a
4 life-long Florida resident and of southwest
5 Hallendale, I am a Democrat and I vote in every
6 single election, no matter how small. My area
7 is currently, I believe, District --
8 Congressional District 17, which is located
9 almost entirely in Miami-Dade. We are pretty
10 much ignored in our little slice of Hallendale.
11 The VA Hospital is in our district. I don't
12 even know where that is.

13 Formerly I was in a congressional district
14 mostly in Broward. We were represented by a
15 Republican, E. Clay Shaw. His constituent
16 service was excellent. He didn't care about
17 political party or ethnicity.

18 Now, in closing, I would like to state
19 that quality representation does not need to
20 worry about political party or anything else.
21 There is no need to gerrymander. If you are a
22 good Representative, a good Senator, you will
23 be re-elected or elected. It depends on how
24 your constituents service.

25 Now, I also would like to say one last

1 point. Don't just consider east and west
2 Broward. Consider separating east and west
3 Florida. Leave them over there. We are here.
4 Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
6 very much. Coming from Pasco County, I know
7 how you feel.

8 Next up we have Stephanie Shimko, followed
9 by Phil Burg and then Barbara Laxon.

10 Stephanie, thank you for being here. You
11 are recognized.

12 MS. SHIMKO: Thank you. I recognize that
13 you have a very large task ahead of you and
14 that probably no matter what, you are going to
15 have people that are dissatisfied. So I would
16 make the recommendation that you do everyone a
17 favor and any maps that you present, and
18 hopefully they will be presented in an
19 extremely timely manner, you make comments as
20 to why the districts were drawn the way they
21 were drawn. If they cannot be contiguous, if
22 they cannot keep communities together, there
23 should be a reason why. I think you are seeing
24 a lot of anger here, and that would probably
25 help to quell some of it.

1 As someone who deals in international
2 business, I spent the last three years in the
3 Middle East. I would tell people about
4 Florida, and I would hear, "Oh, hanging chads.
5 How can you tell us about democracy when you
6 can't run it yourselves?" I don't want to see
7 you fight. I want to see you build. Please
8 make me proud instead of embarrassed, and you
9 have that power. Thank you very much.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.
11 Phil, you are recognized.

12 MR. BURG: Thanks.

13 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Following
14 Phil will be Barbara Laxon and Franco Ripple.

15 MR. BURG: Welcome again to Davie. My
16 name is Phil Bucie, and Davie is the largest
17 city in Broward County based on land area, and
18 it is nice to have you here. I want to
19 compliment you on the job that you have
20 started. The process that I have seen as far
21 as transparency, public involvement, all of
22 that is really, really good. But, of course,
23 it is really the outcome that is going to be
24 the kind of measure of whether we can stand
25 proudly together with the maps that are finally

1 adopted or not.

2 And a couple of things that would really
3 help, one is to move the process along with
4 maps that we can look at, and the other is to
5 take away the cloud of this lawsuit. Frankly,
6 it questions the intentions of what is
7 happening, and although we want the outcome to
8 be good no matter what, I don't think the
9 lawsuit is a helpful thing, because Amendments
10 5 and 6 provide us multiple beneficial goals,
11 including protection of minority-majority
12 districts, compactness. Those are not always
13 going to go perfectly well together. As was
14 said earlier with the state congressional
15 districts, the compactness is going to suffer a
16 bit in order to protect minority-majority
17 districts. That's just the way it is. But
18 when we get into the State House and Senate
19 districts, we can have much more compact
20 districts, and we can also have a definition or
21 an understanding of what we mean by
22 compactness.

23 And I know one lady earlier raised the
24 question about protecting the beach areas. I
25 don't know if I necessarily agree with her or

1 disagree with her, but if you could get an
2 outside third party to look at what we define
3 as "compactness," and give the State of
4 Florida, including the Legislature and the
5 communities of interest, some ideas what we
6 mean by compactness that we can actually
7 measure these maps with, it would be very
8 helpful.

9 So, anyway, I would say try to -- you
10 know, we are going to trust but verify, at
11 least I will. I will trust but verify that
12 this will have an optimistic outcome. But
13 please move the maps along. You know, we want
14 to talk, and it is easier to talk about
15 something that we can look at, and I will try
16 not to throw stones at things, but you need to
17 get out there with some ideas. And, please --
18 you know, someone said put up how much money
19 the Legislature is spending on this lawsuit.
20 You know, I think it would be better just to
21 end it. Then we don't have any question about
22 the goodness of your intentions. Thank you.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
24 very much.

25 Barbara Laxon. Following Barbara, we have

1 Franco Ripple and Sean Phillippi.

2 MS. LAXON: Yeah, I am not going to go
3 over all the things that everybody has said,
4 which I agree with most of them, but one thing
5 that I noticed that was not brought up in terms
6 of redistricting, when they were talking about
7 different counties -- now, when you go into
8 different counties, you have different laws,
9 you have different procedures that handle
10 different things. How can a Representative
11 represent the voters in more than one county
12 when the issues are -- by law are different and
13 are not equal. So that -- this confuses -- has
14 always confused me.

15 And also I would like to talk about the
16 setting up districts on an adversarial manner.
17 "Us," "them," as Republicans, Democrats, okay,
18 or minorities or different ethnicities or
19 whatever, it is always "us" or "them." Why
20 can't we stop being "us" or "them" and be "we"?
21 And the Constitution was -- the founders of the
22 Constitution wrote numerous times that they
23 wanted to avoid factions. So why are we
24 gearing everything in order to humor these
25 factions? We need to get rid of political

1 parties all together. Thank you.

2 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

3 Franco Ripple? Is Franco here? After
4 Franco, we have Sean Phillippi, and then Ira,
5 but I don't see a last name -- Ira Shear, I
6 think, maybe or --

7 MR. RIPPLE: Thank you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: You are
9 recognized.

10 MR. RIPPLE: Thank you. Good evening,
11 Senators and Representatives of reapportionment
12 committee. Thank you for doing these hearings
13 all across the state. I know you are probably
14 ready to go home for the evening, and you will
15 be soon.

16 I do have some questions that I would like
17 to ask. They are rather pointed questions. I
18 appreciate your answers to these questions at
19 the end.

20 The Fair Districts guidelines prohibit you
21 from drawing maps with the intent to favor an
22 incumbent. That means that your intent and why
23 you drew a map a certain way will be relevant
24 to whether the map complies with the Fair
25 Districts criteria. Have you or any Florida

1 Legislators entered into an attorney/client
2 relationship or a joint defense agreement with
3 regard to redistricting such that the public
4 will not be able to know what discussion you
5 had with lawyers and consultants regarding the
6 drawing of the maps? There is a bill this year
7 that was introduced to require that drafts of
8 the maps in bill drafting be available to the
9 press and public and not be considered as
10 confidential. The bill was abandoned and never
11 received a hearing. Please raise your hand if
12 you will commit to allowing the public to see
13 what drafts of maps have been submitted into
14 bill drafting. Thank you.

15 Have any members of the committee
16 consulted with outside experts regarding the
17 drawing of maps? If you have not engaged
18 consultants, please raise your hand. Thank
19 you.

20 You have been asking the public to draw
21 maps and post them on My District Builder, yet
22 we have not seen a single map on the website
23 offered by any member of the Legislature. It
24 is hard to believe that none of you are at
25 least experimenting with maps that might be

1 offered. Please tell us, the public, has any
2 legislator prepared a draft of a final map, or
3 a final map, and, if so, where are the maps
4 being prepared and what software is being used
5 for each map and where is this software housed?

6 Is any private entity contributing funds
7 to help in the preparation of any maps by any
8 legislator?

9 And finally, public records show that you
10 have spent at least \$1 million hiring lawyers
11 to oppose the Fair Districts amendments, which
12 I will remind you were supported by roughly
13 63 percent of the population. Now that you are
14 spending our tax money to have our amendments
15 held unconstitutional, please raise your hand
16 if you think that the House of Representatives
17 should drop its involvement in the legal
18 attacks on Amendment 6.

19 Thank you, Legislators, for your time.
20 Have a good evening.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

22 Next up we have Sean Phillippi. Sean, you
23 are recognized. Thanks, I think it is my
24 understanding you maybe have a map you want to
25 point our attention to, is that right?

1 MR. PHILLIPPI: I did create a map. If
2 you want to bring it up, that is fine.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Okay. Yes, I
4 think staff is going to pull that up for us.
5 And while we are waiting, the next speaker we
6 have is Ira Shear and Burnadette Norris-Weeks.

7 And just to remind everyone, it is about
8 8:38. We've got about eight to ten minutes,
9 and then we are going to come and have some
10 reactions from the members on the committee.

11 You are recognized, sir.

12 MR. PHILLIPPI: Thank you. I started
13 drawing a map just to see if it was possible to
14 draw congressional districts without breaking
15 up municipalities, which is the ideal standard
16 set forth in Amendments 5 and 6. And I was
17 able to go ahead and draw a map without
18 breaking up the population of any municipality
19 throughout the state.

20 There is only one other map that has been
21 submitted that is both contiguous and complete,
22 and that other map has six Congressmen in
23 Broward County, and they currently have six
24 Congressmen in Broward County, even though,
25 after the population shifts, we're entitled to

1 a little over two and a half Congressmen. None
2 of the congressional districts now, nor in
3 Mr. Libby's map, have any Representatives
4 completely encompassed within Broward County,
5 and Mr. Libby's map has 17 municipalities
6 broken up. Since I was able to draw a map with
7 just my own two hands, without breaking up any
8 municipalities, you are able to do so, and this
9 proves it.

10 And, also, to the people who said that
11 they want coastal communities kept together, I
12 would encourage them to move to strictly
13 coastal communities like Lighthouse Point, like
14 Hillsborough Beach, like Lauderdale-by-the-Sea,
15 like Manalapan, like several others throughout
16 the state of Florida. You should not be able
17 to break up municipalities, and you choose
18 where you live.

19 So I would just encourage of the House of
20 Representatives and the State Senate to go
21 ahead and keep south Florida intact, because
22 south Florida is about 6,000 people short of
23 eight congressional districts. So I would
24 encourage you to keep the community of interest
25 of south Florida together, give us our eight

1 Congressmen, and have those Congressmen have
2 communities of interest intact.

3 And I would also encourage you lastly to
4 go ahead and have your maps released by the
5 first of the year, have your committee meetings
6 this year, so when you get the legislative
7 session started, you hit the ground running
8 instead of starting from scratch. Thank you
9 for your time.

10 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

11 Ira, thanks for being here, sir, you are
12 recognized, followed by Burnadette Norris-Weeks
13 and then Lori Moseley.

14 MR. SHIRE: Ira Shire, but it's okay,
15 Hollywood, 34 years. I just want to be added
16 to the list, number one, agreement with 5 and
17 6; number two, stop wasting money on the
18 lawsuits; number three, get the maps out;
19 number four, please do your job. And by the
20 way, while you are up there, I noted texting,
21 talking, et cetera, during this. And, finally,
22 I voted in the primary for Frederica Wilson
23 proudly, but I also knew it was important for
24 me to follow that primary, because my district
25 was clearly -- the primary was the winner, the

1 fact that I am a Democrat, there are many
2 Republican districts the same way, which means
3 10,000 votes represented my congressional
4 district of 650,000 votes. We have to stop
5 this. Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

7 Burnadette, thank you very much, and
8 following Burnadette, we have Lori Moseley.

9 MS. NORRIS-WEEKS: Thank you. Good
10 evening. I am Burnadette Norris-Weeks. I am
11 the attorney for the Broward County Supervisor
12 of Elections office. While I have no authority
13 to speak this evening on behalf of Dr. Brenda
14 Snipes, I will say that from a timing
15 perspective, the plan failure of the
16 Legislature not to produce maps in a timely
17 manner is unfortunate.

18 I see firsthand the complexities of
19 putting on good elections. There are so many
20 moving parts to elections. Assuming there are
21 no problems, absolutely no problems, which is a
22 rarity with putting on elections, the
23 Legislature's timetable projects final
24 districts will get final approval just days
25 before candidates are due to start qualifying

1 for their seats. It is not fair for the SOEs
2 who already have such a challenging job as it
3 stands. And due to the sweeping legislative
4 changes that were passed in this last
5 legislative session, which many of the people
6 in the audience probably don't even have a clue
7 about, and I believe, in my personal opinion,
8 it makes voting more difficult, this added to
9 the redistricting process where you will have
10 qualifying just days before is unconscionable.

11 Broward County has a huge voting
12 population. We teeter back and forth with
13 Miami-Dade County in terms of the largest
14 number of voters in the state.

15 In November 2010, Florida voters approved
16 two amendments, as you all know, to protect
17 voting rights and prevent political
18 gerrymandering of voting districts. While
19 there is little love shown by the Legislature
20 to south Florida communities, if you all create
21 a process that is due for major problems,
22 Florida could again be the laughingstock of the
23 country. We have come too far since 2000.
24 This process needs to be transparent, maps need
25 to be drawn.

1 Finally, I would like to also say that I
2 worked for the Legislature as an attorney about
3 15 years ago. It is interesting to see that
4 some of the people who were there drawing maps
5 at that time, I saw one gentleman passing out
6 maps was walking around passing out the
7 brochures this evening. So it is very easy --
8 if in good faith this body had good faith
9 intentions of allowing the public to understand
10 and see a transparent process, it is very easy
11 to do. You have very competent staff. Let's
12 face it, many of you already have ideas about
13 what you want to see. Not to share those ideas
14 with your constituents is simply not fair.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I am going to
16 have to ask you to wrap it up. We are running
17 out of time. Thank you.

18 MS. NORRIS-WEEKS: The public is not being
19 provided an opportunity to speak about a real
20 map as opposed to generalities related to
21 redistricting principles.

22 Finally, the voters have asked tough
23 questions tonight. There have been no answers
24 from this body. I understand that you will do
25 that in a moment, and that is great. This is a

1 public hearing so that you all can hear from
2 the voters. Now that you have heard that we
3 want to see maps, what will you do with this
4 information? Thank you.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you.

6 Lastly, but certainly not least, we are
7 going to have the Mayor of Miramar, Lori
8 Moseley. And ladies and gentlemen, I know
9 there's probably about 14 or 15 people that had
10 signed up to speak that we are going to run out
11 of time, unfortunately. That being said, we do
12 value your input. There are many ways that you
13 can communicate with us, and Senator Gaetz will
14 talk about that at the end, but, Mayor, thank
15 you for being here, and you are recognized.

16 MAYOR MOSELEY: Thank you, my pleasure,
17 and thank you all for being here and thank you
18 for taking the time, and I know how it feels, I
19 will be short and sweet.

20 I am the Mayor of the fourth-largest city
21 in Broward County, and I have four
22 Representatives and three Senators.

23 I want you to remember when you take into
24 consideration that it is very important to have
25 communities of interest. Miramar happens to be

1 one of the most culturally diverse cities in
2 Broward County. It is not necessary for us to
3 have Representatives from Collier County, nor
4 is it necessary for us to have Representatives
5 from Dade County. And many of my
6 Representatives are sitting right here, and
7 they are fantastic people, but not one of them
8 has a majority of my city. So will you please
9 take that into consideration when you go
10 forward?

11 And wouldn't it be fantastic if the State
12 of Florida did the right thing and set the tone
13 for the country so that when people begin to
14 talk about elections, we won't talk about the
15 past, and nor will we talk about the
16 partisanship that is happening in Washington?
17 Wouldn't it be nice for Florida to take the
18 lead on something very positive? And I know
19 you all know what the right thing to do, and
20 like cities, we are nonpartisan, we try to do
21 the right thing for our residents. Yes, I have
22 a party, but my obligation is first to my
23 residents, and they are the very same
24 constituents that you have.

25 So I ask you, please take into

1 consideration everything that everyone has said
2 here, and that you will hear and actually draw
3 maps that makes sense for communities. Thank
4 you all very much.

5 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
6 Mayor.

7 That concludes our public testimony
8 portion. We thank all the ladies and gentlemen
9 who took place in helping make this a very good
10 process and an opportunity for us to hear from
11 you.

12 We would like to give members of the
13 committee an opportunity, if they had some
14 observations or questions or concerns, that now
15 would be a good time. I know that
16 Representative Horner, I think, had wanted to
17 offer a suggestion. I think if we can get a
18 microphone to him, that would be helpful.

19 Representative Horner, you are recognized.
20 Thank you for being here.

21 REPRESENTATIVE HORNER: Thank you,
22 Mr. Chairman. We heard an interesting point
23 tonight. I think it was from Matthew Isbell.
24 He talked about how compactness is more than
25 just being technically compact, but it is also

1 about functionally being compact. I just
2 wanted to note that I thought the point was
3 really well said.

4 We have heard from more than one meeting
5 that we should consider roadways, and whether
6 it is actually practical for an elected
7 official to represent a community. I just
8 wanted to note that the point was well-taken
9 and I will be considering it as we move
10 forward.

11 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
12 Representative.

13 I think Senator Rich had a comment to
14 make, if we could get a microphone to her.

15 Senator, you are recognized.

16 SENATOR RICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. And
17 I want to thank the residents of Broward County
18 for coming out this evening.

19 I want to say that we have had three
20 hearings in Broward County -- in south Florida
21 so far: Martin County, Palm Beach County and
22 now Broward County, with Dade County tomorrow.
23 I think the message has been incredibly clear
24 from testimony by hundreds of people, and I
25 think the issue of the maps, the issue of

1 particularly accelerating the process and
2 changing the timeline, these are things that we
3 have heard from so many people, and I think not
4 only in south Florida, but even though I didn't
5 attend the northern and central areas, the same
6 things have been said there.

7 So I would like to ask that you and
8 Senator Gaetz will talk about this, consider
9 making some changes to show the population, the
10 constituents, the voters in this state that we
11 are actually listening to what they are saying
12 at these meetings.

13 And I know that, obviously, this is not
14 something you are going to decide right this
15 moment, but I do believe that the message has
16 been so consistent, and that if we go around
17 this state and ask people to come and talk to
18 us, and then we do nothing about it, then the
19 committee -- these meetings will not have been
20 worthwhile. So I would just ask that if you
21 could consider it and possibly come back within
22 the next week or so, not necessarily during
23 these committee hearings, but think about
24 making some significant changes.

25 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,

1 Senator.

2 Representative Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed would
3 like to make a comment, and then we have
4 Representative Nuñez as well.

5 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Thank you,
6 Mr. Chair. I have heard tonight and I have
7 heard in other hearings about who is suing or
8 who is taking everything to court, that we are
9 fighting the people. I would just like it to
10 be known that not every legislator in the House
11 of Representatives agreed on taking anything to
12 court. So I just want you to know that, and I
13 think it is very important that that point gets
14 out.

15 I too want to thank everybody who has come
16 out this evening. We have heard the same --
17 some of the same comments that have gone on in
18 other hearings, and I am sure we are going to
19 hear as we move forward the same comments
20 elsewhere. I hope that folks have their ears
21 open and are listening. Thank you.

22 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
23 Representative.

24 Representative Nuñez for a comment.

25 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Thank you,

1 Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to take this
2 opportunity to thank the members of the public
3 that came and participated this evening. It
4 was a long hearing, but we appreciate your
5 input. And I just wanted to note that I heard
6 several comments tonight about how the
7 communities here in Broward relate to the
8 neighboring counties, and that kind of input, I
9 believe, is extremely helpful to us as we move
10 forward in this process. And we have heard
11 several comments earlier today in Palm Beach
12 County as well, and I will definitely keep that
13 in mind as we go to Miami tomorrow and reflect
14 later on this week on all of the comments that
15 we have heard and the time we've spent here in
16 southeast Florida. So thank you, Mr. Chairman.

17 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you,
18 Representative.

19 Any other comments from the committee?

20 Okay. Seeing none, I think we would like
21 to turn it over to Senator Gaetz, and Senator,
22 maybe perhaps you could answer some questions
23 and some insight into the comments that we
24 heard today, and maybe some clarification as
25 well. You are recognized.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Absolutely. Thank you
2 very much, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to everyone
3 who testified.

4 For those who felt that the hearing today
5 was not useful, all I can tell you is that I
6 filled nine pages of notes, and those notes
7 include a lot of observations about individual
8 neighborhoods and individual communities,
9 information that I as a Senator from northwest
10 Florida could never have learned in an echo
11 chamber in Tallahassee. I had to come here and
12 listen to you. So your observations and your
13 analysis was extraordinarily helpful to me.

14 We wanted to go through a few things that
15 were mentioned, certainly not to argue with
16 anybody, because everyone is entitled to their
17 own opinion, but as Daniel Patrick Moynihan
18 said, not everybody is entitled to their own
19 set of facts. So we want to make sure that we
20 all leave here at least with some of the same
21 facts in mind.

22 First, Mr. Roosevelt Walters, I think,
23 made one of the most useful comments tonight
24 when he talked about the conflicts that might
25 exist between the Voting Rights Act and

1 Amendments 5 and 6. We don't know if those
2 conflicts exist, because Amendments 5 and 6 in
3 their entirety have never been used as a
4 template or set of requirements for any state.
5 So this will be an opportunity for us to chart
6 new ground on the whole question of any
7 conflicts that may or may not exist between the
8 Voting Rights Act and 5 and 6. But those who
9 believe that this is a simple thing, that it is
10 a bumper sticker issue, just do it, should
11 listen to Mr. Walters, because I think his
12 testimony was very useful in pointing out that
13 there may be issues that we really do have to
14 work through in good faith.

15 Secondly, the very first person who spoke
16 tonight, and the very last person, the Mayor of
17 Miramar, talked about communities of interest.
18 Twelve other people who spoke talked about
19 communities of interest. And there was someone
20 who said that they wondered why Representative
21 Weatherford and I had supported Amendment 17,
22 which was struck down by the Supreme Court.
23 Well, Amendment 7, which was struck down, would
24 have placed communities of interest as a
25 criterion that could have been used in defining

1 districts into our Constitution. So there is
2 an apparent or potential tension between those
3 who spoke about communities of interest,
4 whether they were beach communities or ethnic
5 communities, and those who demand faithful
6 adherence to what they consider to be the red
7 letter of Amendments 5 and 6.

8 Third, I wanted to get to the question of
9 timing, because it was raised by so many
10 people, and our democratic leader, Senator
11 Rich, just raised it again. Let's just review
12 for a moment the timing that there is and also
13 the comments that Chair Weatherford and I have
14 both made at prior hearings about timing.

15 First, the Legislature usually meets in
16 March. In order to speed up the process, we
17 were able to convince our colleagues in both
18 houses to agree to move up the legislative
19 session until January. So that moves it up as
20 quick as the Florida Constitution allows us to
21 vote.

22 Now, there is a gentleman who said that he
23 thought I had said that members couldn't
24 propose maps until 2012. No, no, no, no. We
25 can propose maps today. We could propose maps

1 yesterday. Any Democrat, any Republican,
2 certainly Senator Rich who has asked for an
3 acceleration of the process, I will commit to
4 her as Chairman of the Senate committee, we
5 will take up her map at the very first meeting
6 of the Senate Reapportionment Committee in
7 September. So we moved up our committee
8 meetings from December to September, we can
9 take up maps instantly in September, and we can
10 debate them and discuss them and we can vote in
11 committee. What we can't do by the Florida
12 Constitution is cast votes on the floor until
13 January, but there is no reason at all why we
14 can't debate and discuss maps beginning in
15 September. And I think I can speak for my
16 colleague, the speaker designate,
17 Representative Weatherford, in saying that it
18 is our intention that options be available for
19 committee members, for Republicans, Democrats,
20 House members, Senators, as early as possible
21 so that we can begin eliciting opinions. You
22 see, I can't simply define that we are going to
23 vote by a certain time, because I am only one
24 of 40 Senators. There may be other Senators
25 who disagree with a map that I might propose

1 who might want to debate it or discuss it or
2 amend it, and that might take more time to
3 allow them who disagree with me to do that.
4 But what I can commit is that Senator Rich's
5 map will be taken up at the very first
6 committee meeting in September.

7 Fourth, there were those who said that we
8 ought not to do the hearings first, we ought to
9 have maps first. I think that is a legitimate
10 point of view, but I would go back to the fact
11 that -- and this gentleman indicated that he
12 associated himself with the Fair Districts
13 point of view. Ms. Freidin, Ellen Freidin, who
14 is the head of Fair Districts, is the one who
15 testified before the House and Senate and said
16 that maps couldn't and shouldn't be drawn. She
17 wouldn't even attempt to draw them until the
18 public was heard from first. So maybe that was
19 wrong. Maybe we should have done what Illinois
20 did, and that is some legislators literally did
21 go into a back room, they are a one-party state
22 as well, and they came back out and said, "Here
23 are the maps, take it or leave it," the
24 Legislature voted and they went home. That is
25 one way to do it, but we elected to listen

1 first and then draw maps. The reason that is
2 important is because we are hearing today, just
3 like my colleagues heard when we were in my
4 part of the state, information about
5 neighborhoods and communities we couldn't get
6 if we were just listening to politicians in
7 Tallahassee.

8 Also I would point out that the -- it is
9 not as if there are going to be, you know, one
10 or two maps that spring fully-grown from the
11 brow of Zeus, and those are the maps. The fact
12 is 21 maps have already been proposed. Any
13 member of this committee, any member of the
14 Legislature who is not on the committee,
15 Democrat or Republican, can propose a map
16 yesterday, today or tomorrow. It will be, I
17 think, the fact that there will be many maps
18 proposed, not one map or two maps or just
19 approved maps, there will be many maps, and I
20 believe that they will be in some conflict with
21 each other, because you have different points
22 of view and different interests, as were
23 expressed in the hearing tonight.

24 Also, Mr. Chairman, there was a suggestion
25 that legislative representation needed to

1 somehow reflect the population of Florida,
2 Republicans and Democrats. We've got a problem
3 with that, we can't really do that, and I will
4 tell you why. There are 40 Senate districts,
5 for example. Twenty-eight of those districts
6 are currently held by Republicans, but eight of
7 the districts that elected Republican Senators
8 voted for Barack Obama in 2008. So you can
9 look at it one of two ways: Either President
10 Obama was a much more compelling and convincing
11 candidate to people who typically vote for
12 Republican Senators, so they voted for a
13 Democrat, or you can say that there were many,
14 many individuals who voted for President Obama
15 who also voted for Republican Senators. The
16 fact is that the Florida electorate is not
17 neatly divided. Republicans do vote for
18 Democrats. Many of us voted for President
19 Obama. Democrats vote for Republicans. Many
20 Democrats voted for Republican Senators. And
21 the fastest-growing group of voters in our
22 state are non-affiliated voters, or Independent
23 voters, and we can't tell them how to vote. So
24 as long as we have a secret ballot, we can't
25 guarantee that the Legislature will reflect

1 exactly what the party affiliations are,
2 because as several people pointed out tonight,
3 folks more and more are voting for the
4 individual and not for the party, and that is
5 the way it ought to be.

6 Next, Mr. Chairman, there were several
7 observations about the Florida process being
8 slower than other states. Let's put the facts
9 on the table about that.

10 First, the Bureau of the Census releases
11 census data. We have to rely on the census
12 data and use it for redistricting. They don't
13 release it all at once to all states. They
14 release it in groups or tranches. Florida
15 didn't get its census data last, but we were
16 certainly not first or even in the middle. We
17 received our census data in close to the last.
18 And as soon as we got the data, we put it
19 on-line as rapidly as we could so everybody in
20 the state could see the demographic information
21 that defines and describes Floridians.

22 And, secondly, you know, we could have
23 done -- somebody mentioned Illinois. We could
24 have done what Illinois did, and that is simply
25 have a take-it-or-leave-it proposition by the

1 Legislature to the people. We elected not to
2 do that. People of Goodwill can disagree about
3 that.

4 Then there were some other individuals who
5 mentioned a series of states like Louisiana who
6 finished their redistricting sooner than
7 Florida. The reason is because they vote on
8 odd years, they don't vote on even years. So
9 they are permitted by law to do their
10 redistricting early; in fact, they are obliged
11 by law to do it.

12 And finally I would just say, again, that
13 Chair Weatherford and I have both agreed that
14 we would move the process as quickly as we can,
15 given the fact that we have 120 opinions in the
16 House and 40 opinions in the Senate and lots of
17 opinions in the state of Florida, and we
18 shouldn't shut off debate and tell people to
19 sit down and be quiet and they have to vote
20 today. We need to make sure that all opinions
21 are heard and given the opportunity to be
22 considered.

23 Then, Mr. Chairman, there was an
24 observation that what we ought to do is have
25 court-proof districts. I love that phrase. I

1 wish it were possible. The individual said he
2 had a fear of many lawsuits elongating or
3 protracting the process. Well, frankly, that
4 is one of the reasons why we are listening
5 first and then drawing districts, because the
6 maps ought to reflect the input that we
7 receive. Now, not everybody here tonight
8 agreed. Some people disagreed rather strongly
9 with other people. So everyone won't be
10 satisfied. But in order for our maps to pass
11 judicial muster, we have to be able to show and
12 say that we drew upon the information and input
13 that we received from the public, and that is
14 -- doesn't make our maps court-proof, but it
15 gives us a better opportunity to defend what we
16 are doing before the courts, as we are required
17 to do by law. Although I would have to say
18 that if you look at the record of these
19 hearings, individuals who say they are members
20 of various special interest groups have already
21 indicated that lawsuits will be filed even
22 before any bills have been passed. So,
23 unfortunately, I think we may find ourselves in
24 lawsuits brought by special interest groups who
25 won't find themselves entirely happy, no matter

1 what we do.

2 And, finally, Mr. Chairman, I would say
3 that there were those who said that we ought to
4 have maps that would make it more likely that
5 Hispanics would be elected. I think that is a
6 very legitimate point of view, but you can
7 understand, I would hope, that there could be
8 tension between that point of view and then the
9 point of view of those who say that we ought
10 not to draw districts around ethnic groups, but
11 rather, those districts ought to be drawn
12 compactly around city and county boundaries.
13 So it is not as easy as falling off a log.

14 And then, Mr. Chairman, there were some
15 questions at the very end by a gentleman who
16 wanted to know -- who said, and I thought this
17 was very useful, that there needs to be a
18 rationale for why new districts are drawn. We
19 need to be able to explain why we did what we
20 do when we do it. And that is exactly why the
21 record of these proceedings is so important.
22 We need to be able to draw from the record and
23 say, "The reason why we changed the way the
24 lines are drawn in Indiantown" -- which is
25 something we heard a great deal about last

1 night -- "is because we learned that here is a
2 community of less than 4,000 people that is
3 split among three congressional districts." So
4 we have to have that information in order to
5 develop the rationale for drawing districts.

6 Someone indicated that outside third
7 parties ought to be used to define terms like
8 "compactness." We are obliged by our
9 Constitution to draw the lines and then propose
10 them to the judiciary for review, but there
11 will be outside third parties. I don't know
12 how outside they are. The Florida Supreme
13 Court is certainly inside our state, and then
14 the federal judiciary as well.

15 Finally, there was a gentleman who asked a
16 series of questions. I think we have answered
17 some of them. He asked are we using outside
18 consultants. I can't speak for anybody except
19 myself. I can tell you not yet, but we
20 probably will. It is routine to use outside
21 consultants, demographic experts, legal
22 authorities in the area of reapportionment and
23 redistricting, to make sure that we are not
24 violating the federal laws and the relevant
25 court cases that we have to abide by even as we

1 abide by the Florida Constitution.

2 The gentleman asked if we are going to use
3 outside counsel. The answer is yes. Democrats
4 and Republicans, House and Senate have
5 historically used outside counsel, because we
6 have to get objective opinions from individuals
7 who can look at the law and say "Here is what
8 we advise that you do" in these cases where
9 there are tensions between conflicting values.

10 And then the gentleman asked is there
11 software that is used by members to draw
12 districts. The answer is yes. That software
13 is on-line. It is the District Builder
14 software that you can look at and use as well.

15 And finally, the individual asked is there
16 any private entity contributing funds to assist
17 members in drawing districts. I can only
18 answer for myself. The answer to that question
19 is no.

20 I hope that by providing this information
21 we have helped to lay some questions to rest.

22 I come from a small town called Niceville,
23 Florida, and in Niceville, we got a place
24 called Doris' Restaurant. And if you go into
25 Doris' at seven o'clock in the morning with the

1 most outrageous statement, by six o'clock that
2 night, everybody in Niceville has heard it, and
3 about two-thirds of us believe it. So
4 sometimes information gets put into the
5 bloodstream that gets repeated and repeated as
6 if it were true, and that is why we wanted to
7 provide you with these clarifying bits of
8 information.

9 This is not your last time to participate.
10 This is your first time. We look forward to
11 your continuing to provide information to this
12 process as we go forward.

13 I think the idea of videoconferencing,
14 which came up from one individual, is a very
15 interesting idea, and if we can make that work,
16 I think that is a way that we can reach out
17 even further and in another round to make sure
18 that we hear from the people of Florida.

19 Thank you all. You have been
20 extraordinarily helpful tonight.

21 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
22 very much, Senator Gaetz.

23 Today if you did not speak, and you would
24 like to have your opinion heard, please send it
25 to us. Also, all the records from today's

1 meeting, video, podcast and transcripts will be
2 available in the coming days. And with that,
3 Senator Gaetz moves that we rise.

4 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
5 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 170 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 1st day of November, 2011.

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

Commission Expires:

November 13, 2014