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REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2011

4:00 P.M.

FLORIDA KEYS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Transcribed by:

CLARA C. ROTRUCK

Court Reporter

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

2 SENATOR GAETZ: The Joint Senate House
3 Redistricting hearing is called to order, and
4 before we any other business the Chair will
5 recognize the Speaker Designate of the Florida
6 House of Representatives for a motion.

7 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: I think --
8 thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the motion
9 was going to come from the gentleman who
10 resides here in the Keys.

11 SENATOR GAETZ: The Leader.

12 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: The District
13 Leader, that is exactly right.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: Well, in that case we are
15 pleased to recognize our House Leader,
16 Democratic Leader, Ron Saunders, who is a
17 legend in the Keys and even more of a legend in
18 Tallahassee, and our good friend.

19 REPRESENTATIVE SAUNDERS: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chairman, and on behalf of all of the
21 constituents in District 120, I want to welcome
22 you.

23 It is a very big honor, by the way, for
24 those of you who aren't in the Legislature, we
25 have both Chairs, the Senate Chair and the

1 House Chair Redistricting who are here, but
2 there are also the incoming President of the
3 Senate and incoming Speaker of the House.

4 So when you have the top two presiding
5 officers of the next term in our city, that is
6 a real honor for us to have them down here, as
7 well as the rest of my colleagues.

8 We have a lot of House members and
9 Senators here and to have people come all of
10 the way to Key West and all of us who live here
11 know how hard it go to get here, so to have
12 them here is a real honor for us and we
13 certainly appreciate ya'll being here.

14 Last night I went on, because the videos,
15 they, this is the 20th meeting around the State
16 of Florida, but those that know me very well,
17 people that went to high cool with me, I don't
18 wear a coat and tie very often.

19 So I said, what is the dress for these
20 meetings. So I actually went out and watched
21 the video and every video I watched, every
22 member on the Committee was wearing a coat and
23 tie. So it is not a wedding or a funeral, but
24 I am wearing a coat and tie today.

25 But in talking with Representative

1 Weatherford, who I was elected in 2006, along
2 with Will, he is a good friend of mine, I said,
3 was the deal here. He said why don't you make
4 a motion.

5 So I would like to make a motion now that
6 we waive the rules and allow the members to not
7 wear their neckties today.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Without objection, so
9 ordered. And if there are any members of the
10 statewide press who are here or who are
11 listening, let it be known that this was a
12 bi-partisan decision and a bi-cameral decision.

13 Well, we thank you very much, Leader, and
14 thanks for welcoming us to your community where
15 you have served with great distinction for many
16 years.

17 And I will tell all of you that while we
18 hear often about the ranker in Washington,
19 there are certainly sharp philosophical
20 disagreements, disagreements on principle that
21 occur in Tallahassee.

22 That is the way the framers of our
23 Constitution set it up, but there is tremendous
24 respect and affection for Ron Saunders and he
25 is an extraordinarily Legislator and a great

1 leader for the State of Florida.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SAUNDERS: So I hope you
3 will vote for my map.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Ladies and gentlemen, were
5 are pleased to be joined today as the Leader
6 indicated, by a number of members of the
7 Florida House of Representatives and the
8 Florida Senate.

9 I will tell you that when we indicated
10 that we would be having a hearing in Key West
11 all of a sudden that was not viewed as hard
12 duty or hazardous duty, but there were people
13 on our committees who made sure that they could
14 come here and hear your views, because your
15 views matter as much as those in Pensacola, in
16 my part of the state, where we began on
17 June 20th.

18 But with your permission, Mr. Speaker, I
19 would like to ask each of the members who are
20 here today if they would briefly introduce
21 themselves and indicate the part of the state
22 that they are from so that -- well, so that you
23 will know who is talking to you and who you are
24 talking to.

25 And we will begin with the former

1 President of the Florida Senate, Senator Gwen
2 Margolis, Madam President.

3 SENATOR MARGOLIS: I am delighted to be
4 with you today and listen to your comments
5 about redistricting in the state of Florida,
6 delighted to be in Key West.

7 This was a stop I wouldn't miss. So thank
8 you for coming today and thank you for
9 expressing your opinions.

10 REPRESENTATIVE NEHR: Thank you. My name
11 is Representative Peter Nehr. I am in the
12 Tampa Bay area, specifically Tarpon Springs and
13 Palm Harbor, District 48 and I am also
14 delighted to be here, thank you.

15 SENATOR LATVALA: I am Jay Latvala. I
16 represent the 16th Senatorial District and I
17 live in Clearwater.

18 SENATOR BRANNON: I am State Senator Oscar
19 Brannon and I represent the north central area
20 of Miami-Dade County, and if you will look, pan
21 to the camera right down there you will see
22 State Representative Rob Schenck.

23 REPRESENTATIVE WORKMAN: Representative
24 Ritch Workman from Brevard.

25 REPRESENTATIVE BRODEUR: Representative

1 Jason Brodeur from the 33rd District,
2 representing parts of Seminole, Orange and
3 Volusia Counties.

4 REPRESENTATIVE JENNE: Hi, State
5 Representative Evan Jenne, District 100 in
6 southeast Broward County and thank you all for
7 having us here.

8 REPRESENTATIVE CRISAFULLI: Good
9 afternoon, Steve Crisafulli, House District 32
10 out of Brevard and east Orange County.

11 REPRESENTATIVE PLAKON: Scott Plakon,
12 Florida House District 37, it is good to be
13 here tonight and I was smart enough to marry a
14 conch, the former Suzie Rushing, Key West 1979,
15 good to be here.

16 REPRESENTATIVE FORD: Representative Clay
17 Ford from Pensacola 's District 3, and I drove
18 16 hours to get here. So I hope our input
19 tonight is going to be worth that drive, and I
20 am sure it will, thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE DIAZ: Hi, Jose Diaz from
22 District 115 in Miami, which goes from Fountain
23 Blue through Cutler Bay.

24 REPRESENTATIVE NUNEZ: Good afternoon,
25 Jeanette Nuñez, from House District 112, which

1 represents portions of Dade, Broward and
2 Collier County.

3 REPRESENTATIVE GOODSON: Good afternoon,
4 Tom Goodson, representing House District 29
5 from north Brevard through St. Lucie County,
6 the St. Lucie County line, Vero Beach, thank
7 you.

8 REPRESENTATIVE JULIEN: Good afternoon
9 everyone, I am John Patrick Julien,
10 representing House District 104, which is in
11 the northeastern parts of Miami-Dade County.
12 It is a pleasure to be here.

13 I might as well call this my second home,
14 because we are always down here anyway, but
15 looking forward to hearing what you all have to
16 say.

17 REPRESENTATIVE GARCIA: Thanks, Luis
18 Garcia, Senate District 40, northwest Dade
19 County.

20 SENATIR GARDINER: Andy Gardiner, District
21 9 out of the Orlando central Florida area.

22 REPRESENTATIVE TAYLOR: Dwayne Taylor from
23 Volusia County. I represent House District 27
24 and I am glad to be here at Key Saunders -- I
25 mean, Key West, I am sorry.

1 REPRESENTATIVE REED: Good afternoon, I am
2 Betty Reed from Tampa, Florida. I represent
3 the eastern part of Hillsborough County and
4 some of the southern part of Hillsborough
5 County. I am happy to be here. This is my
6 first trip and it is beautiful.

7 REPRESENTATIVE CLARKE-REED: Good
8 afternoon, I am state Representative Gwyndolen
9 Clarke-Reed, representing House District 92,
10 and for eight years in September, I always came
11 here as a local government official.

12 So I am so happy to be able to come back
13 now as a state Representative. I represent the
14 northeast part of Broward County, seven cities,
15 starting in Deerfield Beach and going all of
16 the way down to Ft. Lauderdale, out to north
17 Lauderdale and a little bit of Tamarac. Thank
18 you. Happy to see you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE ROGERS: Good afternoon, I
20 am State Representative Hazelle Rogers. I
21 represent eight cities in Broward County, one
22 of the most diverse counties in your state with
23 approximately 1.8 million residents.

24 My eight cities are Lauderhill, Lauderdale
25 Lakes, North Lauderdale, Oakland Park,

1 Plantation, Tamarac, Margate.

2 It is good to be here to listen to you.

3 Thank you for being here.

4 REPRESENTATIVE CANNON: I have been
5 introduced, but I want to introduce our host.
6 As you know, we are here on the campus of
7 Florida Keys Community College.

8 In the audience we have our President of
9 the college, Dr. Larry Tyree, and we also have
10 a couple of our Trustees here. I will mention
11 them both, Republicans and constituents, they
12 are very good friends of mine. We have Ed
13 Scales here, who was our Speaker's roommate in
14 college, the House members, Ed Scales, and we
15 have the State Republican Committee Woman from
16 Monroe County, Anne O'Bannon.

17 REPRESENTATIVE PRECOURT: And I am
18 Representative Steve Precourt, also from the
19 west side of Orlando, right in the center of
20 the state.

21 SENATOR GAETZ: If everyone has had the
22 opportunity to be introduced I want to join
23 Representative Saunders in thanking Florida
24 Keys Community College and Dr. Tyree for
25 allowing us to use this wonderful facility.

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

6 My name is Don Gaetz. I am a Senator from
7 the panhandle of Florida, northwest Florida,
8 the northwest Florida Gulf Coast from Pensacola
9 to east of Panama City is my district.

10 And along with my House colleague, Will
11 Weatherford, to my immediate left,
12 Representative Weatherford is the incoming
13 Speaker of the House of Representatives and
14 pleased to be joined by him in chairing today's
15 meeting which is being webcast statewide by the
16 Florida Channel over the Internet.

17 Our sole purpose today is to hear from you
18 about how you believe the legal standards, all
19 of the legal standards, Amendments 5 and 6, but
20 also the Federal requirements and Federal Court
21 cases, how all of the legal standards governing
22 redistricting should be applied in your
23 community.

24 You don't have to be a legal expert to
25 comment. You can just tell us about your

1 community and your part of the state and what
2 makes sense so that you are represented in
3 Washington and Tallahassee fairly, equitably
4 and sensibly.

5 Our procedures today are simple but
6 important. It is important that you sign in so
7 that we can create an accurate public record of
8 all attendees, and also you may opt to join our
9 e-mail list so that we can keep you informed
10 about how the redistricting process is moving
11 forward.

12 If you have not signed in, please raise
13 your hand and we will give you one of these
14 attendance cards. If you have not signed in,
15 raise your hand and one of our professional
16 staff will come by and get you to sign an
17 attendance card.

18 It is the same card that you would sign if
19 you wish to speak, whether you want to
20 participate by speaking or participate by
21 listening to your friends and neighbors, we
22 would like you to sign in if you would.

23 Before we begin the Chair will recognize
24 the Speaker Designate, Representative
25 Weatherford, to explain how today's hearing

1 fits into the redistricting process.

2 Mr. Speaker.

3 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
4 very much, Mr. Chairman. Make sure that is on
5 there. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,
6 again, my name is Will Weatherford, and my
7 district is in Pasco County, which is just
8 north of Tampa and very happy to be here today.

9 We had a beautiful drive in driving
10 through the Keys and it has been a great day
11 and we are looking forward to hearing from your
12 comments this afternoon.

13 One thing that is important, I will try to
14 be brief, but it is important that we walk
15 through at every hearing to give everyone kind
16 of an understanding of where we are in the
17 redistricting process and what we are doing
18 here today and what we hope we will hear from
19 you in the public comment portion.

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

24 Because Florida has grown dramatic over
25 the last ten years, we are actually picking up

1 two Congressional Seats. So were are now going
2 from 25 Congressional Seats to 27 Congressional
3 Seats.

4 Because some parts of our state have
5 increased or decreased disproportionately, many
6 State or House Districts will change, either
7 adding or gaining in population.

8 When redistricting is completed
9 Congressional Districts must be equal in
10 population and contain 696,435 people. The 40
11 Senate Districts must also be nearly equal at
12 about 470,000 people, and our 120 House
13 Districts must also be nearly equal at 156,700
14 people.

15 Now, for the approximate 73,000 residents
16 of Monroe County and the Florida Keys,
17 redistricting has unique impacts, and I will
18 tell you why.

19 Because of its unique location and the
20 fact that the county's population is less than
21 the size of a complete district, the question
22 for Monroe County can be characterized as which
23 community does Monroe County want to be joined
24 with for its State Legislative and
25 Congressional Districts.

1 In addition to that, Monroe County is one
2 of Florida's five counties that is covered
3 under Section V of the Florida -- of the
4 Federal Voting Rights Act, meaning that we must
5 consider how Monroe County's political lines
6 will impact the ability of minority communities
7 to elect a candidate of their choice.

8 Now, we have displays on the outside of
9 this room that show the current boundaries and
10 the districts, I am sorry, at the very front of
11 this room, that show the current districts as
12 they stand today, both the Florida House,
13 Florida Senate and the Congressional Districts.

14 Equality in representation is not the only
15 legal requirement that redistricting plans must
16 meet.

17 It is important to everybody to understand
18 that the laws and important court cases
19 governing redistricting are explained in detail
20 on the brochure that people handed out when you
21 first came in.

22 And in fact, if you did not get one of
23 those Redistricting 2012 brochures, if you will
24 raise your hand we will make sure that you get
25 one right now.

1 Our Redistricting 2012 brochure summarizes
2 Federal and State laws and outlines the topics
3 that we hope we will hear from you today about.

4 If you did not get a copy when you came
5 in, as I stated earlier, please raise your hand
6 and keep it up and we will get it to you.

7 The brochure -- I am sorry, before and
8 during this hearing Senate and House
9 professional staff are available to walk
10 through with you how to draw actual maps, and
11 recommendations from citizens and groups of
12 citizens will be made publicly available as
13 soon as we get them.

14 And in fact, as of this morning we have
15 over 32 public submissions of partial or
16 complete maps and approximately 110 written
17 ideas for maps that are all available on the
18 web.

19 In fact, in this week, the meetings that
20 we have had in Stuart, Boca Raton, Davie and
21 Miami, Florida residents have completed new
22 maps for submission right there at the tables
23 that are outside of this building.

24 And so we would hope that on your way out
25 you would walk through there and talk to our

1 staff and if you have are interested in drawing
2 maps and getting involved in that process and
3 submitting them to us, we would certainly
4 encourage that.

5 The submission of the proposed maps that
6 make sense for your community is the single
7 most effective way that you can communicate and
8 participate in the redistricting process.

9 Our intent is to use the recommendations
10 made at these 26 hearings and through our
11 Internet sites as the basis for developing one
12 or more options for our district maps.

13 We will discuss those options in open
14 public meetings before any votes are taken,
15 even in committee.

16 In other words, what we are literally
17 saying is, if you look at those maps outside of
18 this room, the ones that have actually been
19 submitted to the Legislature by Florida
20 residents, we are literally starting the
21 legislative process with those maps and other
22 suggestions from people in the public just like
23 you.

24 So if you want to know where we are
25 beginning our deliberations, it is with those

1 public submissions and the testimony from the
2 meetings that we have had so far.

3 Throughout the process we will continue to
4 solicit your additional public comments so that
5 the proposed maps can mature throughout the
6 process.

7 Whatever the Legislature passes, it is
8 then submitted for judicial review to ensure
9 that the final plans meet every single legal
10 requirement.

11 Because our purpose is to hear from you
12 today, all of the time will now be used to
13 ensure that every member of the public who is
14 here and wishes to speak will have time to
15 present public testimony and to be listened to
16 with respect and without interruption.

17 If, and after every citizen has had their
18 say and there is time remaining on the
19 scheduled adjournment, any member of the
20 Committee may make any statement or any
21 observation.

22 Of course, any member of the Legislature
23 may today or at any time propose a map or a
24 plan to this Committee and we will make it
25 public immediately.

1 Mr. Chairman, I hope that brief
2 description gives a good perspective on the
3 hearing today and I look forward to hearing the
4 public testimony from the citizens here in the
5 Florida Keys. Thank you very much.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
7 We have a number of people who have indicated
8 that they wished to speak.

9 If you would like to speak and came in a
10 little bit late, please raise your hand and a
11 member of our staff will get you one of these
12 registration forms so that we will have it and
13 we can call on you.

14 If during the public hearing you become
15 inspired and you feel like you would like to
16 speak, you don't feel as though you have missed
17 your chance.

18 You can raise your hand and a member of
19 our staff will get you a slip of paper. We
20 will call on you. We want to make sure that
21 everyone who is here tonight will have the
22 opportunity to share their views with the House
23 and Senate Committees.

24 We have Pam Martin as our first speaker,
25 and Ms. Martin, if you would come down right

1 there by the microphone so that everyone can
2 hear you, we would be grateful.

3 Our next speaker will be Ed Scales and
4 following Ed Scales, Terry Griffs, and if they
5 will be on deck and ready to come forward.

6 Ms. Martin, thank you for taking time from
7 your day and we are anxious to hear your
8 testimony.

9 MS. MARTIN: Thank you. I am Pam Martin
10 from the upper Keys. I want to thank you all
11 for being here. The last time ten years ago
12 when I testified at the Key Largo library there
13 was just a very few of you.

14 One of the things I would like to ask is
15 why the Legislature prepares, wouldn't prepare
16 the maps earlier, debate them in the fall and
17 pass them during the first week of session.

18 It has been reported the Legislature, you
19 all, plan to finalize district maps at the end
20 of the session in March.

21 By law the courts and the Department of
22 Justice have more than 90 days after passage to
23 review the maps.

24 Under the present timeline it would be
25 cutting it very close before the June 8th, 2012

1 deadline for candidates to file their papers to
2 run.

3 Florida maps will be approved later than
4 almost every other state in the nation.
5 Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana,
6 Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi,
7 Nebraska, Nevada and Oklahoma have either
8 already completed or almost completed their
9 redistricting.

10 Your Legislature's own attorney says it
11 will cause massive voter confusion. Election
12 Supervisors will have insufficient time to
13 prepare for the election.

14 Challengers or new candidates will have
15 little if any time to mount campaigns and
16 voters will be voting for candidates they have
17 little opportunity to get to know.

18 The Constitution requires you to redraw
19 the districts during our 2012 regular session,
20 but you could debate and pass maps during the
21 first week of session.

22 You could hold interim Committee meetings
23 from September through December, and then you
24 could present the maps, allow public comment
25 and prepare final plans to submit to the full

1 House and Senate before the legislation
2 convenes.

3 Then the Legislator could bring the maps
4 to the floor and the first order of business,
5 voting on them by the end of the session's
6 first week, that would be January 13th.

7 This would double the time for review by
8 the courts and the Department of Justice
9 creating a real possibility that maps could be
10 finally approved before qualifying and allow
11 election officials ample time to prepare.

12 Inserting as what a district will look
13 like helps incumbents because incumbents are
14 already known to the voters and can raise money
15 and challengers are reluctant to throw their
16 hat in the ring.

17 The current timeline is designed as an
18 incumbent protection plan, and, you know, we
19 are here for getting the best Representatives
20 that we can to do the best job for Florida.

21 So we would like to ask why the
22 Legislature is spending money to oppose the
23 will of the constituents as expressed when
24 63 percent voted for the fair district
25 standards.

1 The Legislature doesn't want to comply
2 with fair district standards so it spent over
3 that million dollars of taxpayer money hiring
4 attorneys to fight them and to set aside
5 30 million for court battles.

6 You tried many ways to stop fair
7 districts, but it didn't work, and the citizens
8 passed it.

9 Please stop using our taxpayer dollars to
10 attack and invalidate the provisions of our
11 State Constitution that was supported by
12 63 percent of Florida voters.

13 This wastes money. At this time you are
14 spending money while teachers are being fired,
15 social services are being cut and not a single
16 job is being created, yet the House and Senate
17 are putting upwards of \$30 million aside so
18 they can try to avoid fair district standards
19 and promote their version in redistricting.

20 You know, this, and you joined in a
21 lawsuit to seek to clarify. Well, that excuse
22 doesn't fly to the voters. Politicfact and the
23 Orlando Sentinel rate the denials of spending
24 public money to avoid fair districts false.

25 The Legislature should be working to

1 uphold the constitutional provision placed here
2 by almost two-thirds of the electoral last
3 November.

4 Stop -- instead, stop spending the money
5 to protect your own seats. So we ask, where
6 are the maps? Why won't the Legislature
7 provide at least some sample maps, not the ones
8 that we the audience have done there.

9 You say that in order to do the maps you
10 must hear from the citizens about what they
11 want them to look like.

12 Well, you are asking non expert citizens
13 to comment in a vacuum and to draw the first
14 maps. The Legislature has the necessary data
15 to draw the district maps since March, and over
16 four months since not a single map drawn by any
17 Legislator has been revealed to the public.

18 So while you have created the My District
19 Builder, and I worked with that a little today,
20 to have the public draw their own maps, the
21 system does not provide the actual real input
22 that we need to look at compactness and other
23 data.

24 It is intended to make us feel good about
25 doing that, but yet you are going to use

1 consultants and you are not going to be looking
2 for very much from public input when you will
3 be doing those.

4 Without the maps to comment on, the public
5 does not have a real opportunity to really make
6 meaningful comment on the maps, and
7 unfortunately, the map, the real mapping will
8 be done away from the public eye and without
9 meaningful public input in Tallahassee, where
10 the mass, the majority of us don't live.

11 It takes me nine and-a-half hours speeding
12 in the middle of the night to get to
13 Tallahassee.

14 Okay, so we really need to go ahead and
15 have that comment period where people can
16 actually do it. How can citizens hundreds of
17 miles from Tallahassee review, analyze and
18 comment on complicated statewide maps in two or
19 three days?

20 So it is pretty obvious what has been
21 trying to happen. No maps, pushing the time
22 limits, lawsuits are probably going to follow,
23 and it is going to be hard for candidates to
24 run.

25 The public isn't falling for it. We

1 passed Fair Districts because we want fair
2 districts. You know, it has always been
3 America has been about equal opportunity, have
4 a chance, balance of power, and we would like
5 you to honor the constituents what they voted
6 for.

7 Thank you very much for coming and
8 visiting us. Please tip our waiters and
9 waitresses very well, okay, and give the bag
10 boys a lot of dollars and spend a lot of money
11 in town. We could use it. Thank you.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, and Ms. Martin,
13 I hope you can stay for the whole hearing
14 because we are going to let every member of the
15 public who wants to speak, speak, then we are
16 going to turn to members of the Committee for
17 any observations they might have, and then
18 Speaker Weatherford is making a list.

19 There were a number of specific expressed
20 and implied questions in your testimony, and
21 you will hear answers to those and all of the
22 members of the audience will be here before you leave
23 today, if you could stay for the whole hearing.

24 MS. MARTIN: I will.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: Thanks so much,

1 Ms. Martin. A great way to start out. Our
2 next speaker will be Ed Scales.

3 MR. SCALES: Good afternoon, I am Ed
4 Scales and I have been a resident of the
5 Florida Keys since 1998, and for full
6 disclosure, I am an attorney and I am
7 affiliated with the Gray Robinson Law Firm
8 which is the counsel for the House of
9 Representatives for redistricting.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: You may sit down then.

11 MR. SCALES: But I am not here today on
12 behalf of anybody, except myself. First of
13 all, welcome to the Florida Keys, and more
14 particularly, welcome to Florida Keys Community
15 College.

16 I know this is not a meeting about higher
17 education, but as a Trustee of our Community
18 College I would be remiss if I didn't take this
19 opportunity to thank you so much for your
20 support of higher education, and especially
21 funding are to Florida's state colleges.

22 In particular, thank you for funding the
23 capital improvement on our campus, the state of
24 the Art Marine Propulsion Building which will
25 provide practical job training and practical

1 research for thousands of residents, not only
2 in the Keys, but throughout the state of
3 Florida.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: And Ed, we appreciate the
5 thanks, but if you could bring it around to
6 redistricting, we would be grateful.

7 MR. SCALES: I will. I will. Had I not
8 mentioned the Community College though the
9 President would have shot me in the head.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: There you go.

11 MR. SCALES: With regard to redistricting,
12 I want to thank the Legislature for providing
13 this open and transparent process and to give
14 Florida citizens the opportunity to know how we
15 feel about redistricting and how we should be
16 represented in the Florida Senate, the Florida
17 House and the United States Congress.

18 As you are no doubt aware, Monroe County
19 and the Florida Keys are different than just
20 about any other area in the state. If you
21 don't believe that, I challenge you to walk on
22 Duval Street tonight at 2:00 a.m. and you will
23 realize that we are fundamentally different
24 than most places in the state of Florida.

25 And you will recognize that difference by

1 designating not only Key West, but Monroe
2 County as an area of critical state concern.

3 You have recognized our unique
4 significance to the entire state, our historic
5 cites, our proximity to the largest coral reef
6 in North America, our unparalleled fishing,
7 diving and snorkeling opportunities and our
8 very sensitive and fragile ecosystem.

9 You have also recognized our unique
10 challenges, our goal for affordable housing,
11 our staggering windstorm insurance, our
12 hurricane --

13 SENATOR GAETZ: We got to get it back to
14 redistricting. Other people wants to speak,
15 too.

16 MR. SCALES: Against -- against this back
17 drop, please recognize that the Florida Keys
18 need a cohesive, single Representative in the
19 House and the Senate and the United States
20 Congress.

21 Our geography is not compact as the new
22 requirements outline, but our issues are unique
23 and that is why we need the Keys to stay
24 together in a single House District, a single
25 Senate District and a single Congressional

1 District.

2 And so I would urge you that in drawing
3 the maps, please keep the Florida Keys together
4 and not split them up.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you so much,
7 Mr. Scales. Our next speaker is Terry Griffs,
8 if I have that correct, and then following
9 Terry Griffs, Michael Berman from the ACLU.

10 Terry, are you here? I am sorry, you are
11 not going to speak?

12 Thank you very much for being here in any
13 case, and if you have any written testimony we
14 would be happy to take that into the record and
15 share it with all of the Committee members.

16 Michael Berman from the ACLU.

17 Mr. Berman, thank you for being here and
18 you are recognized, sir.

19 MR. BERMAN: I am Dr. Michael Berman, Key
20 west, and actually, I don't think I actually
21 registered for this as a member of the ACLU.
22 It has nothing to do with what I am here to say
23 today.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: It says so right here on
25 your thing. It says representing ACLU,

1 Florida. If you are not, I apologize.

2 MR. BERMAN: I actually never said that,
3 but that is okay, I am a proud member of the
4 ACLU. I am sure many of you on the panel are.

5 I only have a few things to say. Florida
6 implemented the Fair Districts Amendments
7 overwhelmingly this past November.

8 The new rules mean that you can't make a
9 district to favor any political party. I am
10 troubled that so many of you, of our
11 Legislators, opposed, fought and continue to
12 fight these voter approved fair district rules.

13 What steps are you going to take to make
14 sure the new redistricting rules that are now a
15 part of our Constitution are followed?

16 It is an insult for the -- to the
17 democratic process for you to ignore and
18 continue to fight the results of an election
19 just because you disagree with the outcome.

20 The Legislature has spent already over a
21 million dollars and has put aside \$30 million
22 to fight the overwhelmingly approved Fair
23 District Amendments.

24 Furthermore, this process today and these
25 hearings are very troubling. The Legislature

1 has invited the public to comment but gives us
2 nothing to comment upon.

3 Why does it take you so long to develop
4 the maps of the new House, the Senate and
5 congressional Districts? You have had the
6 information from the census for months.

7 If anyone of us can use the Internet to
8 create a map, why can't you do it? After all,
9 we are not the experts. You have consultants.

10 This isn't really a conversation. You
11 have not said anything and you have given us
12 nothing to talk about.

13 My understanding is the final outlines of
14 the new districts will be approved just prior
15 to the next election, giving the incumbents an
16 overwhelming advantage.

17 If I want to run for office, when will I
18 know what district I am in? Thank you.

19 SENATOR GAETZ: And Dr. Berman, thanks for
20 your testimony and I hope you can stay until
21 the end of the hearing because I think you will
22 get some helpful information in answer to your
23 comments and questions.

24 Robert, is it Cintron?

25 MR. CINTRON: Yes, sir.

1 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Cintron, you are next,
2 and following Mr. Cintron, Ian Whitney who
3 writes here that he represents the Monroe
4 County Democratic Executive Committee.

5 Mr. Cintron, thank you for coming, and we
6 look forward to your testimony.

7 MR. CINTRON: Thank you, sir, and thank
8 you for being here. My name is Robert Cintron.
9 I live and work in Key West. I grew up in Key
10 West.

11 I don't represent anyone but myself here
12 today, and I want you to know that I have been
13 a Republican since 1972, when I first was able
14 to vote, and I have always been a Republican.

15 But as a Republican I do not expect my
16 party to carve up our state in such a way that
17 would favor the Republicans over the Democrats,
18 favor incumbents over other folks.

19 I expect you to draw lines that are fair
20 and representative of the demographics of the
21 districts that you, for the lines that you are
22 going to draw.

23 Many of my friends and colleagues have
24 said and I have read that this, these
25 proceedings are nothing more than a horse and

1 pony show, and that you are just going through
2 the motions to make it appear that this is a
3 fair process.

4 I don't accept that. The reason I don't
5 accept that is that hundreds of thousands of
6 women and men died to preserve our democracy
7 and they deserve that you all treat this
8 process with the utmost respect, and in my
9 estimation, what you are doing is probably the
10 most fundamental thing that you can do to
11 preserve this democracy, because if people
12 believe that districts are being drawn to favor
13 parties or to ensure that an incumbent is
14 re-elected, then you are just going to further
15 damage an already very damaged perception that
16 people have of our democracy.

17 And I just want to share with you one
18 story that, an actual story that I was a part
19 of about ten years ago.

20 A very good friend of mine who happens to
21 be in this room decided to run for a statewide
22 office, and I met with a friend of mine who is
23 in the Florida Legislature who was on Key West
24 on vacation and I explained to him that this
25 friend of mine was running for this office, and

1 he laughed and he told me that this friend of
2 mine had absolutely no prospect of winning the
3 election.

4 And I asked him why, and he said because
5 this district was drawn in such a manner that
6 only a certain type or class of person could be
7 elected.

8 And it turns out, unfortunately for my
9 friend, that he lost the election, and that
10 didn't set very well with me, because it just
11 doesn't seem right that gerrymandering is used
12 to protect seats, to favor incumbents and to
13 help parties maintain their control of the
14 Legislature and the Senate and the Congress.

15 As you all know, the United States Supreme
16 Court has said many, many times that you cannot
17 draw district lines based upon political
18 considerations such as those.

19 And I would urge you to please, make a
20 difference and demonstrate to the people of
21 this state that you are going to do it right
22 this time and that you are going to draw lines
23 that are fair and are an accurate reflection of
24 the demographics of the community.

25 And I once again thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak.

2 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
3 Mr. Cintron. Very excellent testimony.

4 Next, Ian Whitney with the Monroe County
5 Democratic Executive Committee, and then
6 following Mr. Whitney, Phillip Schaeffer with
7 the Monroe County Democratic Executive
8 Committee and then Constance Gilbert is next
9 after that.

10 Mr. Whitney, thank you for coming and we
11 are delighted to have your testimony.

12 MR. WHITNEY: Yes, thank you all for
13 coming down to Key West. My name is Ian
14 Whitney. I am the Democratic State Committee
15 man for the Florida Keys.

16 I would like to just have a disclaimer
17 first that I would probably say this if
18 Democrats controlled the Legislature and were
19 running this meeting right now, because I think
20 that it would apply.

21 I am somewhat skeptical that public input
22 is going to really play that much of a role in
23 this process, because in 2010, I think that the
24 public made their position on redistricting
25 extremely clear by passing Amendments 5 and 6.

1 It is -- one distinction that Key West has
2 other than key lime pie and being a really
3 popular tourist destination, is that we are
4 about as far away from Tallahassee as you can
5 get in the state of Florida, and people down
6 here just like all across the state think that
7 Tallahassee is broken.

8 Not because good people aren't sent there,
9 but because the process is so rigged and the
10 way that the districts are set up is so rigged
11 that in many districts across the state
12 elections turned out to be more formality than
13 actually an in-depth campaigns of people
14 competing to win office based on their merits.

15 One thing that I would like to see and
16 simple, I guess this is my comment. If you
17 follow the law, if you follow what the
18 amendments say and speed up the process so that
19 we know what these districts are further out
20 before qualifying so that good candidates can
21 step up and run, then we will have a
22 Legislature that is more representative of the
23 people of this state. Thank you.

24 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
25 Mr. Whitney, and next, Phillip Schaeffer, and

1 following Phillip Schaeffer, Constance Gilbert
2 with the Key West National Organization for
3 Women.

4 Mr. Schaeffer, thank you for coming and we
5 look forward to what you have to share with the
6 Committee.

7 MR. SCHAEFFER: Thank you. I want to join
8 with Representative Saunders, I am Chairman of
9 the Monroe County Democratic Executive
10 Committee and I want to share his welcome to
11 this distinguished group of visitors to the
12 Florida Keys. And to follow on Pam Martin's
13 suggestion, please tip on the high end.

14 My statement actually is simple. I could
15 reiterate the comments that you have heard
16 already, but I am not going do.

17 I would simply ask that you do what you
18 have been sworn to do, and that is follow the
19 Constitution of the State of Florida.

20 That Constitution has been amended through
21 Amendments 5 and 6 with the redistricting
22 guidelines contained therein. The voters
23 overwhelmingly voted for that. It is now part
24 of the State Constitution.

25 I hope when you get back to Tallahassee

1 you will address this issue, promptly, fairly
2 and equitably and get the maps drawn. We will
3 be watching. Thank you.

4 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
5 Mr. Schaeffer, for your testimony.

6 Next is Constance Gilbert, ready, and then
7 following Ms. Gilbert, and I apologize if I
8 butcher this name, Ty Symroski.

9 MS. GILBERT: Perfect.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Gilbert, thank you for
11 coming and the floor is yours.

12 MS. GILBERT: Thank you, sir. I welcome
13 all of you to Key West. I am -- I was brought
14 here first in 1944, which is before most of you
15 were born.

16 I haven't lived here non stop since then,
17 but I have a good deal of experience in the
18 last 17 or 18 years, and also in the 60s when I
19 taught at Miami-Dade then Jr. College, now
20 Community College, and brought my creative
21 writing students down to Key West for field
22 trips.

23 I am thrilled that you are here,
24 especially those of you who haven't visited us
25 before, because we are a very, very lovely

1 place to spend some time.

2 Unfortunately, beyond the positive affects
3 of showing ourselves off to those of you who
4 have never been here before, I am afraid I have
5 not been given reason to have faith in the
6 process that we are now a part of.

7 The National Organization for Women in
8 Florida were very early and active supporters
9 of our Amendments 5 and 6. We worked in full
10 faith that the Legislature would not, in fact,
11 work against what the will of the voters had
12 proven itself to be.

13 It is very positive that you are here, but
14 I am reminded that gerrymandering is
15 manipulation, and it is discrimination, no
16 matter which way you cut it. That I am small
17 and female and right, mostly, and Jewish, is no
18 reason to believe that I can't vote for someone
19 who is brown and Christian and male.

20 Leave me to decide, even if in political
21 parties, I hate to admit it in this company,
22 but I don't vote a straight ticket. I try very
23 hard to vote for the best possible candidate.

24 Please respect my intelligence. A very
25 nice and intelligent gentleman from Key West

1 named Chris Belland, writes a column in the Key
2 West Citizen, and a couple of times over the
3 last months he has pointed out that statesmen
4 look forward to the next generation.
5 Politicians look forward to the next election.

6 It is up to you to prove my discomfort
7 wrong. I hope you will. Thank you very much.

8 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
9 Ms. Gilbert, for your testimony.

10 Ty, Ty Symroski, if I got that right.

11 MR. SYMROSKI: Very.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Then Kimberly Sloan, who
13 writes here that she represents the ACLU.
14 Mr. Symroski.

15 MR. SYMROSKI: Yes, thank you very much
16 for coming here. My name is Ty Symroski and I
17 am a resident of Key West, and again, thank you
18 for, ladies and gentlemen of our government to
19 come here. It is great to see the government
20 can make a house call once in a while. So
21 thank you very much for coming here.

22 I would like to reiterate both the
23 comments of Ed Scales, as well as Robert
24 Cintron, to recognize, as you are looking at
25 these boundaries, to recognize that the Florida

1 Keys have been designated as an area of
2 critical state concern.

3 This entails a great deal of
4 responsibility and partnership with the state
5 to administer and address these very unique
6 issues that we have down here.

7 These issues include the endangered
8 species that we have down here. Its very
9 strange aspects of affordable housing, and, of
10 course, certain --

11 SENATOR GAETZ: Mr. Symroski, to make it
12 more comfortable, President Margolis suggests
13 that maybe you manipulate the microphone so you
14 don't have to bend over.

15 MR. SYMROSKI: Thank you, thank you very
16 much.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: She is a nice lady. She
18 is thinking of your best interest.

19 MR. SYMROSKI: Thank you very much. So we
20 need a -- and we have a very, at this time of
21 the year we are all very aware of hurricane
22 evacuation. So we, as you draw these
23 boundaries I hope you will be aware that we
24 need that cohesive representativeness of
25 interests and the people that are going to be

1 responsible for implementing the area of
2 critical state concern, crafting the local
3 response, and will bear the results of that.

4 So as you draw these boundaries I hope you
5 will recognize that we are unique down here.
6 We have a unique responsibility and we need
7 that cohesiveness to address that and to make
8 sure that we have the best Representative that
9 we can that can speak fully to those issues.

10 So thank you again very much for coming
11 here.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much, sir,
13 for your testimony. Next is Kimberly Sloan
14 here?

15 MS. SLOAN: Yes.

16 SENATOR GAETZ: Ms. Sloan, representing
17 the ACLU, and then Elissa Bishop-Becker is
18 next, and then Doctor, Reverend Doctor Randolph
19 Becker follows Ms. Bishop-Becker.

20 You are recognized, Ms. Sloan, and thank
21 you for taking time to come and share your
22 views.

23 MS. SLOAN: Thank you, and just so it is
24 clear, I am also with the Democratic Executive
25 Committee, and thank you all for being here and

1 for hearing our comments.

2 One thing I wanted to point out and
3 something that I desperately hope that you all
4 address is why it is at this point we are
5 having an invitation for the public to comment.

6 I mean, that is something that we did
7 already. The people of this state have voted
8 on this. They approved this. We stood out on
9 street corners, we got signatures. We typed
10 our Facebook accounts away.

11 We did everything that we could to get
12 this passed and it is passed, and so why are we
13 still here talking generally about the
14 redistricting issue?

15 Why don't we have maps? Why don't we have
16 something more at this point to talk about?
17 Why is it being stalled? Why do we have
18 attorneys working to fight this?

19 That is from where I sit, what it exactly
20 looks like, that we are fighting the whole
21 redistricting movement. The people of this
22 state have spoken and they said that they don't
23 want gerrymandering. We want more equitable
24 districts. When are we going to see movement
25 in that direction?

1 In addition, I am a government employee,
2 and I have recently had my pay cut by three
3 percent. So why is it that we are funding
4 attorneys millions of dollars in order to go
5 against something that the people of this state
6 have spoken and voted on and said that they
7 wanted, and I want to know why, specifically
8 what steps you all are taking to implement
9 these redistricting amendments. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, thank you,
11 Ms. Sloan, and if you can stay until the end of
12 the hearing I think we will be able to provide
13 you with some -- with some background on your
14 questions. Elissa Bishop-Becker. Come on
15 down.

16 MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Hello.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: If you need to adjust the
18 microphone, ma'am, feel free. We are delighted
19 to have your testimony.

20 MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Do you think I do?

21 SENATOR GAETZ: You don't. You are
22 sounding great to us.

23 MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Thank you so much.

24 All right, that is all.

25 SENATOR GAETZ: No, no, no. We are not

1 letting you off that easy.

2 MS. BISHOP-BECKER: Okay, first of all, I
3 want to thank you all for coming here, but I
4 have to tell you, I am a little bit puzzled as
5 to the purpose of this whole process.

6 I heard, I just got here so I didn't hear
7 anybody before me, but I just heard someone say
8 something similar.

9 First of all, we are very happy with our
10 Representative from Key West, but it seems to
11 me like a very strange process and one that I
12 don't really trust.

13 We have already told you, as that woman
14 before me said what we wanted, with -- as
15 expressed by our votes for overwhelming votes
16 for Amendments 5 and 6.

17 And now, and you have joined in a lawsuit
18 as intervenors which is just another word for
19 plaintiff, in a lawsuit to fight Amendments 5
20 and 6 that we voted for, to fight the will of
21 the people, and now you are coming to listen to
22 us to find out what we want.

23 We have already told you what we want. I
24 don't know how I can trust that you are going
25 to listen to us. It seems like a sham to be

1 totally honest.

2 It seems, and the fact that you are using
3 our money to fight against us is just wrong,
4 and really, I have heard the arguments. I have
5 heard the denials. I have heard this is
6 bi-partisan.

7 I really don't care if it is bi-partisan.
8 It is wrong, and that is what I have to say.

9 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for your
10 testimony. And next, Reverend Doctor Randolph
11 Becker and we have just heard from your boss,
12 Reverend, so --

13 REVEREND BECKER: I had better concur.

14 SENATOR GAETZ: I would suggest that you
15 may want to stay within the lines, Pastor.

16 REVEREND BECKER: Yes.

17 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you for being here.

18 REVEREND BECKER: Glad to be here, and
19 besides looking at the immediate issues of what
20 is before you, which is the implementation of a
21 referendum that has overwhelmingly passed, the
22 question is how are you going to do that, not
23 are you going to do it.

24 I will tell you what I am looking for. I
25 am looking for a rational, logical algorithm, a

1 model, a systematic model that can be applied
2 within the state, and there are many
3 mathematical models that could be used that
4 have no relationship to any partisan politics.

5 A model that say begins with the four
6 corners and the 11 population centers of the
7 state and using ZIP codes, all of the
8 statistical areas. Maps out new districts
9 based upon the number you want to get to in
10 each district.

11 Doing some model like that that is not
12 based on who wants this territory or who wants
13 that, we could get to a model that could stand
14 for a long period of time, no matter who is in
15 control of the various houses of government,
16 and I don't hear that happening.

17 I am hearing plans being made for how we
18 are going to work all of this out, but there
19 are within higher mathematical operations, ways
20 this could all be figured that would take it
21 out of the political realm, and I think that is
22 what the people asked for, that it is not be a
23 political operation, but rather be a simple
24 statistical, it is actually a geographic
25 operation that could be taken care of by

1 computers easily using already established
2 lines such as ZIP codes.

3 So you wouldn't divide neighborhoods, you
4 wouldn't divide certain areas, but there would
5 logically go together based upon that model and
6 not upon the manipulation of the people.

7 I hope you will find some model that
8 doesn't reflect personality, but rather
9 reflects values. Thank you.

10 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you very much,
11 pastor. Now, we have had excellent testimony
12 up to this point, but we have had fewer people
13 sign up to testify at this hearing than at any
14 of the other hearings so far, and I am sure
15 that is not because we lack ideas or opinions
16 or points of view.

17 So if there is anyone else who did not
18 sign up to speak who would like to sign up to
19 speak, we will pause for a moment if anybody
20 else has had the spirit move them.

21 If not we will go to Committee members for
22 their comments and observations and then to
23 Speaker Weatherford. Anybody else that we have
24 missed?

25 Okay, if no one else has any public

1 testimony, let's turn first to members of the
2 House of Representatives Redistricting
3 Committee to ask if any would like to share any
4 observations, make any comments or if they have
5 any plans or proposals to present.

6 Any members?

7 Then let's go to members of the Senate who
8 are here. Any comments or questions? If the
9 spirit moves any of you we may come back to you
10 as well.

11 Speaker Weatherford, thank you for taking
12 notes during the meeting. There were a number
13 of very good questions that were asked and
14 points that were made that call out for
15 information.

16 Daniel Patrick Moynihan, that great
17 Democratic Senator said everyone is entitled to
18 their opinion but not everyone is entitled to
19 their own set of facts.

20 So we are going to try to lay out some
21 information so that at least we may leave here
22 with a similar set of facts.

23 Let me start with a historical analysis
24 that we learned from a member of the Democratic
25 Executive Committee in Alachua County up in

1 Gainesville who also happens to be a teacher.

2 And he testified and explained the history
3 of gerrymandering. I thought it started with
4 the Governor Eldridge Gary of Massachusetts,
5 but according to the testimony we received in
6 Gainesville, it was actually Patrick Henry.

7 Patrick Henry was trying to make sure that
8 James Madison didn't get elected to the
9 Virginia House of Burgesses, and so therefore,
10 he gerrymandered poor James Madison, and as a
11 consequence, all of this got started with, give
12 me liberty or give me death. So it has a -- it
13 has a rich historical precedent.

14 With that, Mr. Speaker, you are
15 recognized.

16 REPRESENTATIVE WEATHERFORD: Thank you
17 very much, and as the Chairman and many members
18 of this Committee recognize, when you put a
19 microphone in front of me, the spirit always
20 moves me, and I feel compelled to speak.

21 And so I did very copious notes and I want
22 to thank everybody for taking the opportunity
23 to come out here and to share with us your
24 views and to give us your perspective on
25 redistricting.

1 And there is a couple of things I would
2 like to touch on, Mr. Chairman, if that is
3 okay. I am going to try not to take up too
4 much time and let people get home.

5 The first thing is that we hear a lot of
6 the same comments when we are on the road and
7 when we are going from town to town and county
8 to county and sometimes rumors get into the
9 blood stream, and certain comments continuously
10 get made, although we have pointed out some
11 facts otherwise.

12 And so I wanted to try to fix some of
13 those and I know some folks also have talking
14 points that may not have been amended since
15 some of the facts have come out, so I want to
16 address those as well.

17 The first one of that is the timeline, the
18 issue of the timeline, and people have said
19 that, you know, maybe we should be like
20 Illinois or one of the other seven or eight
21 states that were mentioned earlier.

22 Well, there is a reason that we are not
23 done with redistricting, and it is very simple.
24 The first reason is because we are one of the
25 last states, not the last state but one of the

1 last states to get our census data.

2 We got it back in, I believe it was April
3 or late March, while we were in the middle of
4 session and most states got it much earlier
5 than that.

6 For example, the state of Virginia, the
7 state of Louisiana, the state of Mississippi,
8 they have elections this November. So they got
9 their census data long before we did and drew
10 their maps long before we did, because they had
11 elections in about three and-a-half months,
12 whereas ours aren't until November 12.

13 And so there is a reason other states are
14 ahead of us. I want to make sure no one is
15 misled by that.

16 The other thing is, and I think this is
17 important to point out as well, and that is
18 that if the timeline which was so important
19 which we are now hearing about every hearing
20 that we go to, it would have been nice if the
21 Fair District folks would have put that into
22 the Constitution, because they could have
23 easily added that to the Constitutional
24 Amendments, Amendments 5 and 6 and asked for a
25 specific timeline, because currently the reason

1 we are on the current timeline that we are on
2 is because the Constitution of the State of
3 Florida says we cannot vote for legislative
4 maps until the session in 2012.

5 And ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you
6 what we have done so that we can vote on them
7 as quickly as we possibly can.

8 We normally have session in March of 2012
9 or March of any year, it is actually the first
10 Tuesday of March, and what we did was we moved
11 it up by two months and so we are actually
12 going to meet for session in January, the first
13 week of January just so we can make sure and
14 past maps out as quickly as possible, get them
15 into the courts and good into the process so
16 people can qualify and know the districts that
17 they are running for.

18 So for those who say that we are slowing
19 the process down. There is nothing that could
20 be further from the truth. In fact, we are
21 moving very quickly and we have done so much as
22 to move our session ahead by 60 days.

23 The other thing I want to point out is
24 because of the Constitutional requirement that
25 we can't vote on maps until the session, what

1 we are doing this summer is we are spending the
2 summer months, June, July and August on the
3 road and listening to you, and it would be
4 really easy for me to sit in the Ivory Tower or
5 any member of this Committee to sit in
6 Tallahassee and to try to draw maps for the
7 entire State of Florida, but if you have never
8 been to those communities, if you have never
9 sat across from the citizens eyeball to eyeball
10 and had a chance to hear from them and hear
11 from people like Ed Scales who talk about the
12 uniqueness of the Florida Keys, then we
13 wouldn't really understand what we are doing
14 and what we are drawing.

15 So the reason we are on this tour, the
16 reason we are going to 26 different locations
17 all over the state of Florida, starting in
18 Pensacola and ending here, is just for that
19 reason. So we can see the community you live
20 in, we can understand the uniqueness and the
21 communities of interest, we can understand what
22 you think about your district, about your
23 community, and I think that is why we are doing
24 it the way that we are.

25 The other thing that we have heard a lot

1 about or we hear the same question everywhere
2 we go. There are several people who get up and
3 say, where are the maps, why hasn't the
4 Legislature shown us the maps.

5 And there is a chicken versus the egg
6 debate taking place. If the Legislature would
7 have drawn the maps first and then showed up
8 and said, here is our maps, here are the
9 districts we have drawn for ourselves, what do
10 you think.

11 Most people would have said it was a sham,
12 that clearly the Legislature had already made
13 its decision and that we have already drawn the
14 maps for ourselves and that we are wasting
15 everybody's time and why are we even here.

16 Instead, for the first time since I have
17 been in the Legislature, the Legislature is
18 actually listening first, and we are coming to
19 you first and listening to you before we draw
20 the first line.

21 And frankly, I wish, Mr. Chairman, we
22 would do that on more issues. I think we are
23 usually criticized when we say we have passed
24 bad policy or people accuse us of passing bad
25 policy, it is usually because they say were

1 rushing too quickly.

2 And one thing I can tell you about this
3 process is that we are not rushing, we are
4 being deliberate, but we are also being very
5 sensitive to the timeline that is before us.

6 Another issue that is very important in
7 regards to the maps is that Ellen Freidin, who
8 is the Chairwoman of Fair Districts, she was
9 the woman who was behind the Amendments 5 and
10 6, funded them from the very beginning,
11 supported them, was the face of the entire
12 organization.

13 She testified before a Joint House and
14 Senate Committee in Tallahassee over a year ago
15 and specifically said to us that she would not
16 even attempt to draw the first map until she
17 went and heard from the citizens of the public.

18 She specifically said that, and we agree
19 with Ms. Freidin and we agree with the leader
20 of Fair Districts and that is why we are doing
21 this.

22 The other thing is, when people ask about
23 the maps, there are 32 maps that have already
24 been submitted, most of them are actually out
25 in the foyer there.

1 We hope you look at those. Those are
2 actually the maps that we are looking at.
3 Those are the starting point. We are allowing
4 the citizens of Florida to start this
5 conversation and draw maps and submit maps to
6 us to give us ideas.

7 There was a comment made by a gentleman by
8 Mr. Berman who asked how would -- how would you
9 know as a candidate what seat you are going to
10 be running for with all of the kind of
11 confusion that he had talked about.

12 And I just want to point out and be very
13 clear, there shouldn't be any confusion,
14 because what will happen is, we will go into
15 session, we will pass maps during session. The
16 Attorney General's Office has 15 days to then
17 submit those maps to the Florida Supreme Court.
18 These are the legislative maps.

19 Those maps will go before the Supreme
20 Court and the Supreme Court has 30 days to make
21 a decision and to tell us what they are going
22 to do, approve or what-not, and then it goes to
23 the Department of Justice, and the Justice then
24 has 60 days to make a decision and to pre-clear
25 those maps.

1 And so there is a very clear line and if
2 anyone wants that information, it is on the
3 websites, and if you have that brochure, keep
4 it, go online, study it, it should not be that
5 confusing.

6 There is a very clear way to know what
7 seats you are going to be running in and how to
8 follow the process.

9 The fourth thing, and this has been
10 brought up quite a bit today as well, is in
11 regard to the lawsuits and litigation,
12 Mr. Chairman.

13 This also seems to come up quite a bit and
14 I want to make sure that I clarify a few
15 things.

16 There is litigation that is going on. The
17 Congresswoman from Northeast Florida,
18 Congresswoman, Corrine Brown, a Democrat, and a
19 Republican, Mario Diaz-Balart, from Miami, both
20 filed litigation.

21 That litigation has nothing to do with
22 legislative maps. It has nothing to do with
23 the map of the seat that I am running for. It
24 has nothing to do with the map that Senator
25 Gaetz is running for.

1 It only deals with Congressional maps, and
2 for those who say that the Legislature or there
3 is a lawsuit involved with Legislators fighting
4 against the Constitutional Amendment that deals
5 with legislative maps, it is not true. There
6 is no litigation. That does not exist.

7 There is litigation that is taking place
8 on the Congressional maps and what I will tell
9 you is that myself as Chairman of this
10 Committee and Co-Chair with Senator Don Gaetz,
11 we swear every two years to uphold the
12 Constitution of the United States and of the
13 State of Florida.

14 And that means that we are going to follow
15 Amendments 5 and 6, and we will follow them to
16 the letter of the law and we will make sure
17 that they are upheld and that they are
18 respected. That is our job and we will make
19 sure and do that.

20 Also we hear a lot about that the
21 Legislature has stored away money, \$20 or \$30
22 million to fight these amendments which I just
23 clarified, to fight the amendment.

24 I want to clarify that as well. That is
25 not true. There was an article written about

1 it and it is one of those things that got in
2 the blood stream and so we hear it over and
3 over.

4 There is no \$20 or \$30 million that is
5 dedicated to fighting these lawsuits. It is
6 not true, and frankly, if you don't believe me,
7 you can go to Transparency Florida.gov,
8 Transparency Florida.gov is a website where you
9 can track money that is being spent at the
10 state level in the Legislature.

11 I hope you will follow that. I hope you
12 will look at it and hold me accountable if what
13 I am saying is not true.

14 Mr. Chairman, I also want to point out
15 lastly that any member of this Committee can
16 submit any map or any plan to this Committee or
17 to the Legislature at any time, and as you have
18 stated before, if anyone in the Senate submits
19 a map, you will have it heard in the very first
20 Committee hearing in September, and I think
21 that the Florida House would be willing to do
22 the same.

23 So we encourage members of the public to
24 continue to work with us, follow this process.

25 There is a lot of misinformation out there. If

1 you have questions, please follow up with us.
2 There is many ways to communicate with our
3 offices and please visit our websites and learn
4 more about what we are doing.

5 We are honored to be here today in the
6 beautiful part and unique part of our state. I
7 hope you learned a little bit of something
8 about this process.

9 We have certainly learned a lot about your
10 community and we appreciate your time.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 SENATOR GAETZ: Thank you, Speaker
13 Weatherford. This is not your last time to
14 have input to this process. Instead, it is
15 your first opportunity.

16 There will be other opportunities as well.
17 There was an individual who asked whether or
18 not there would be votes in the Legislature
19 that would not be in public.

20 The fact is that there won't be and there
21 can't be, it would be a violation of the law
22 and anybody who tried to vote on a matter like
23 this without doing it in a public hearing and
24 first taking public testimony, would be in
25 serious legal trouble and probably lose their

1 jobs.

2 So the other commitment we can make to you
3 is, if after tonight and tomorrow or the next
4 day or the day after that, you have decided
5 that while we did hear some general comments
6 tonight about the process, frankly, we didn't
7 hear too many comments tonight about one of the
8 questions that is really important to the Keys.

9 And that is, as Speaker Weatherford
10 indicated at the beginning, because the Keys
11 doesn't have enough population for a Senate
12 Seat or a Congressional Seat, or a State House
13 Seat, the real question is, what part of South
14 Florida do you believe constitutes a community
15 of interest for you to be attached to for those
16 districts.

17 And so if later an idea comes to you or a
18 proposal comes to you we are very interested.
19 You can contact us online. You can contact us
20 by mail. Leader Saunders is right here in this
21 community. You can contact him face to face
22 and share your views or share your proposals or
23 suggestions.

24 And again, we commit to you that no
25 decision will be made on any map even in the

1 Committee that is not made in public taking
2 public testimony ahead of time with you being
3 able to see how every single member of the
4 Legislature votes.

5 And with that Representative Weatherford
6 moves we rise.

7 (Whereupon, the proceedings were
8 concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF LEON)

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

That the foregoing pages 2 through 64 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