

EX. 11

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUSION - BEAUFORT SATELLITE SITE

In Raleigh, North Carolina
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Transcribed by Brad Worley

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1 (Transcriptionist's note: the following
2 transcript is of proceedings held at the satellite
3 hearing site following disconnection of the
4 communications feed from the central Raleigh site.)

5 SEN. BROWN: All right. Next on my list
6 I have Lloyd Jones. Mr. Jones?

7 Before you start, Mr. Jones -- Mr. Jones,
8 before you start -- I don't know if you've heard,
9 but each individual site is going to go ahead and
10 record responses or your comments tonight, so all
11 this will be in the record. So if you'd just feel
12 free to say what you were going to say before this
13 change. This will allow us to move along so you
14 won't have to be here to midnight tonight, okay?
15 All right, Mr. Jones.

16 MR. JONES: My name is Lloyd Jones, Jr.
17 I live in Roper, which is in Washington County. I
18 believe these maps comply with the Voting Rights
19 Act. These maps strictly follow the old county
20 provision as allowed by law. I hope the courts
21 will respect the constitutional role that
22 legislatures have in drafting district lines. The
23 drawing of legislative districts is the
24 responsibility of the elected branches of
25 government. I respectfully request that the courts

1 refrain from changing redistricting laws and
2 standards after the lines have been drawn.

3 And President Trump won 76 of North
4 Carolina's 100 counties. You can't win the
5 legislature while losing North Carolina's small and
6 medium cities, as well as almost all of the rural
7 areas. No maps can fix this for Democrats. Only
8 better policies can. These maps are fair and
9 legal. Thank you.

10 SEN. BROWN: All right. Next I have
11 Carol Phelps from Washington County.

12 MR. PHELPS: I'm Carol Phelps. I'm from
13 Creswell, a little town in Washington County. I
14 spent 24 years in the Air Force and spent 22 years
15 working for NCDOT. So I'm retired now. Now, what
16 I gave up to come here today, I gave up half a
17 fishing trip with my brother this morning, right on
18 the Alligator River. But it wasn't a total loss,
19 because I caught a baby crab, two baby perch, a
20 really nice bass that I couldn't keep because it's
21 a half-an-inch too short, and a catfish, and it'd
22 been a shame to put him in the pan by itself. So I
23 hit the road and -- and came on up here.

24 I'd like to commend the panel that worked
25 on these maps, because now Washington County is one

1 piece. My job as the Chair was twice as hard when
2 it was split down the middle. So I really
3 appreciate that. I think you put a -- a -- a fair
4 job as you could putting it together. And though
5 everybody's never going to be happy, there's so
6 much that can be said and done, but there has to be
7 a point where the line is drawn and we go forward.
8 I hope nothing changes quickly that we have to go
9 through this mess again, because it causes a whole
10 lot of hard feelings with everybody, in every
11 party.

12 With that being said, my family reunion
13 gets nasty, because my cousin is the Chairman of
14 the Democratic Party in Washington County. So we
15 stay on different sides of the front yard once when
16 the party starts. But I thank you for your time.
17 I thank you for all the work that you do. And I'm
18 proud to be a citizen of the State of North
19 Carolina and the United States of America.

20 SEN. BROWN: Thanks for that. Richard
21 Friend?

22 MR. FRIEND: I prefer not to hold the
23 mic. If I can, can I put it on my cuff?

24 SEN. BROWN: Yes.

25 MR. FRIEND: My name is Richard Friend.

1 I live in New Bern, Craven County. In Covington v.
2 the State of North Carolina, the U.S. District
3 Court found that the North Carolina Legislature had
4 violated the U.S. Constitution by illegally drawing
5 28 districts. This has created a pretend or
6 illegitimate democracy. The -- the Legislature
7 continues in its pretend democracy today with these
8 hearings.

9 The concept of notice and opportunity is
10 a well-established principle in law. An excellent
11 example of that is North Carolina Statute 160A-364,
12 which is the statute that controls notice for
13 zoning changes. That statute requires two
14 publications in a newspaper of general publication
15 in a period not less than 10 and not more than 25
16 days before the hearing.

17 This hearing -- the original notice on
18 this hearing came out Friday. At least that was
19 the first notice I received. And that was through
20 the internet, not from the legislature, not from
21 any public source, but from a private source. The
22 maps were published then, at least one of them; the
23 second one came out shortly after that. And the
24 data supporting them, this 16-page document, I
25 printed this out this morning. I was able to

1 access it late last night, less than 24 hours
2 before this hearing.

3 I ask the U.S. District Court to reject
4 this sham of a public hearing for lack of
5 appropriate notice. The legislature seems to place
6 the importance of zoning changes considerably
7 higher than the voting -- excuse me -- voting
8 rights -- requirements. Thank you.

9 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Friend. Next
10 I have C.F., I think it's Pittenger.

11 MS. PITTENGER: My name is Brett
12 Pittenger. I am from New Bern, North Carolina.
13 The spirit of the federal gerrymandering ruling
14 calls for a transparent and thorough effort
15 representing all the voters in North Carolina. The
16 Joint Redistricting Committee had, at one point,
17 the opportunity to use a -- or utilize a
18 non-partisan approach, and they rejected it, moving
19 forward with their -- their maps protecting
20 gerrymandering and the incumbents largely elected
21 by the gerrymandering process.

22 If the legislature moves forward with
23 these maps, which many of us think is what you're
24 going to do no matter how many of us are outraged,
25 it is my hope that the three-member federal panel

1 finds not only these maps, but your intent morally
2 reprehensible and removes this responsibility --
3 this redistricting responsibility from the
4 legislature and places it with a non-partisan
5 commission. Thank you.

6 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Pittenger.
7 Next I have Bill Roach.

8 MR. ROACH: I'm from Carteret County, and
9 I came along to the speakers today. And I wrote
10 all this stuff down, and now it's all jumbled up.
11 But it looks like we started out on this because
12 our first effort to redistrict ended up in the
13 Supreme Court, and they told us we did it wrong.
14 It cost us about, what, four or five hundred
15 dollars? And we're probably going to do the same
16 thing; it's going to cost us more money. I hope,
17 at some point, if they have something where it
18 says, we can't give teachers a raise because we
19 don't have enough money in the budget, that the
20 legislature will be ashamed of themselves. Or
21 there will be a rainy day fund shortage where we
22 have a hurricane down here in Beaufort County.

23 A couple of thoughts that I heard today
24 that I -- they talked about -- one guy said
25 something about, well, the Democrats did it for

1 years. And they did. And they did it for Jim Crow
2 laws. They did to suppress -- for racial
3 suppression for 100 years. They were wrong. The
4 Republicans got into power. They've done it. The
5 Supreme Court said, you tried to keep a certain
6 group of people -- make it harder for them to get
7 to the polls. Okay. The Supreme Court said it.
8 It's not -- not a matter of -- doesn't amount to
9 nothing. So here's another group.

10 Any time that you're trying to suppress a
11 group who may or may not agree with your opinion,
12 Democrat, Republican, liberal, conservative, you're
13 a suppressionist. You're a supremacist. And if you
14 happen to be white, fill in the blank. So if you
15 support it -- now, I don't think all the majority
16 parties did this, but if you support the system
17 that's set up to do it, sorry. It's just -- that's
18 the way it is.

19 I think this is the most important issue
20 that we've got going right now. I think if we
21 could resolve this one issue to where we have
22 non-partisan, we could have a true debate in North
23 Carolina. We could have -- we could -- we could
24 have this state improved for everyone. We'd have a
25 conversation about what's right, about what we

1 think is right. You wouldn't you have to worry if
2 you were -- if you win your primary, all I have to
3 do is out-conservative or out-liberal whoever that
4 is. I've got to get to the left of Bernie or to
5 the right of whoever, and then I'm going to win
6 because I'm safe. Let's have a conversation,
7 figure out a way to make it a non-partisan
8 agreement. Other states are doing it; it's working
9 for them. Thank you.

10 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Roche. Next
11 I have Jodi, is it Lones?

12 MS. LONES: Lones.

13 SEN. BROWN: Lones, sorry.

14 MS. LONES: I'll be brief because I don't
15 have a lot to say. Because, frankly, I haven't
16 time to look at the maps. I'm a full-time
17 taxpayer. I had something going on this weekend.
18 And even though the legislature has known about
19 this since June 5th at the early -- at the latest,
20 I mean, here we sit, right before the deadline,
21 trying to have a public hearing, trying to have
22 everybody speak at once. And I just wanted to
23 express how frustrated I am with this process and
24 how it really hasn't given us an opportunity to
25 speak.

1 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Lones. Next,
2 Helen Robinson.

3 MS. ROBINSON: My name is Helen Robinson.
4 I'm a voter in New Bern. I'm a taxpayer in New
5 Bern. And I think I realize today that I'm an
6 unhappy donor to the legal fund to pay for bad
7 maps. The citizens of North Carolina have been
8 given about 48 hours to review a proposal that was
9 ordered months ago. We're now trying, with limited
10 time and limited information available, to decide
11 whether this proposal represents a good-faith
12 effort to comply with the Court and to respect the
13 rights and needs of all voters.

14 Gerrymandering has long been a tool of
15 partisan politics. Democrats have used
16 gerrymandering in North Carolina for years. So
17 have Republicans. Republicans have now taken, in
18 recent years, this practice to a whole new level.
19 Sorry, but I believe that taxation without
20 representation is wrong.

21 We're trying to understand whether the
22 Republicans in Raleigh have operated in good faith.
23 It appears that they have simply used more
24 invisible stitches to sew together this surgical
25 procedure that they've done. The lack of time for

1 review, the failure to provide adequate explanatory
2 information and the rehiring of surgeon/mapmaker Tom
3 Hofeller are clear signs to me of continuing lack
4 of good faith.

5 The plan we have before us today seems to
6 me like a weak imitation of a credible attempt to
7 really cooperate with the direction of the Court.
8 It is not fair and it is not wise for politicians
9 to draw their own districts. We should know that
10 by now in North Carolina. Most North Carolinians,
11 no matter what their political affiliation, are
12 sick and tired of gerrymandering. I wonder when
13 the politicians are gonna hear that. We're sick
14 and tired of it. We have learned the lesson, I
15 think.

16 It's time for an independent commission.
17 An independent commission seems to be the only way,
18 in North Carolina, that we're going to be able to
19 achieve a more fair system.

20 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Robinson.

21 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

22 SEN. BROWN: Next is Michael Shachter.

23 MR. SHACHTER: Very good, yep. Hard to
24 pronounce; hard to spell. Okay. I'm Michael
25 Shachter. I'm the first vice president of the

1 Craven County Branch of the North Carolina NAACP.
2 And I've lived in Craven County for about 40 years.
3 And I'm an unaffiliated voter. These hearings are
4 a sham because the maps just came out, and there
5 was no time to have any analysis of the
6 implications for the effects on black or other
7 minority voters.

8 It is unlikely that these maps could have
9 been drawn fairly or justly because of the way they
10 were done and who was in charge of the process.
11 That is, the same people that were elected under
12 the illegal, unconstitutional and racially
13 gerrymandered district maps that the U.S. Supreme
14 Court rejected and sent back to be withdrawn.
15 These same people were, once again, in charge of
16 drawing these maps. So it is very unlikely that
17 much has changed with this discriminatory outcome of
18 these districts.

19 It is also -- the entire project is in
20 violation of the Voting Rights Act, which states
21 that the voting power of black citizens should
22 be -- should not be diluted by any means. This
23 would be in violation of the principle of one
24 man -- well, one person, one vote and the true
25 meaning of this -- of the concept.

1 The new voting districts should be drawn
2 in a non-partisan process, not in a matter to
3 protect incumbents or members of any political
4 party. They should provide all voters, and black
5 voters in particular, with the opportunity to elect
6 people of their choosing. The districts should be
7 drawn to represent the voting power in proportion
8 to the characteristics of the population of our
9 state. And, therefore, our representatives in
10 government would truly represent the will of the
11 people.

12 We have -- we have not had the time to
13 analyze these maps, but it's extremely unlikely
14 that these maps and districts will accomplish this
15 goal. And that will mean that they are still in
16 violation of the Court's orders.

17 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Schachter.
18 Next I have Jeffrey -- is it Bower?

19 MR. BARKER: Barker.

20 SEN. BROWN: Barker, okay. I'll give you
21 a pad, here. I'm sorry.

22 MR. BARKER: Old man with a left hand.
23 Good evening. My name is Jeffrey Barker. I'm a
24 relatively new resident of Beaufort County. Before
25 coming to Beaufort County, I spent nearly 30 years

1 being a lobbyist and a deeply involved observer and
2 speaker with a legislature of another state.
3 During that period, I was also general counsel to
4 the Common Cause of the state and co-author on a
5 brief for the Supreme Court of that state, by which
6 we successfully sued the Senate of that state over
7 redistricting issues in 1982. Redistricting and
8 gerrymandering have been near and dear to my
9 intellectual and emotional and political heart ever
10 since.

11 I was convinced when I relocated to North
12 Carolina, 40 years after graduating at UNC, that
13 things would be different here. But, as I've
14 written to many of my friends in that other state,
15 it seems like North Carolina's having a race to the
16 bottom with many of the other states, and they're
17 darn near close to winning. This particular
18 process here is an absolute, certain proof of that.

19 There is something terribly, terribly
20 wrong, members of the legislature and the General
21 Assembly, when a party that receives just over 50
22 percent of the statewide vote can garner over 66
23 percent of the seats in the General Assembly.
24 There is something terribly wrong with the
25 districts that lead to such malapportionment and

1 mal districting. And the United States Supreme
2 Court has agreed that the decisions that were made
3 in 2011 were unconstitutional.

4 And yet, as you've heard time and time
5 again here today and from the other locations
6 throughout the state, the legislature continues to
7 turn a deaf ear to this problem and to press
8 forward as if nothing had happened after dragging
9 its feet so long that the process, for us, has been
10 entirely rigged by virtue of the fact that we did
11 not get these maps until less than five days ago.
12 And we still have not had adequate access or time
13 to review the data underlying these maps, much less
14 the opportunity to address the entire committee, as
15 opposed to two members, whose appearance here today
16 I appreciate. Nonetheless, a personal appearance
17 is a whole lot better than the dry transcript
18 that's going to come out of this hearing.

19 And I hope the legislature will recall
20 that a functioning democratic republic only
21 functions properly when its elected officials
22 realize that they are there at the choice of their
23 constituents, not for the purpose of telling their
24 constituents what they're supposed to believe. We
25 don't ask legislators to do things. We inform them

1 of our positions. And we have every right and
2 expectation for them to responsibly respect and
3 respond to our expectations. Thank you.

4 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Barker. Bill
5 Hines.

6 MR. HINES: Thank you for this
7 opportunity. I'm really happy that you noticed
8 that Eastern North Carolina had no opportunity to
9 present its citizens' viewpoints on gerrymandering.
10 And that, finally, we were finally given this
11 opportunity at the very last minute.

12 The Joint House and Senate Redistricting
13 Committee passed criteria for drawing the maps.
14 Most of the criteria did not reflect requests from
15 the public at previous input hearings and were
16 passed despite objections from Democratic
17 lawmakers. Will our input to be taken into
18 consideration from these hearings?

19 The data and the files that were used to
20 shape the new districts were only released late --
21 late last night. So it was too late to conclude if
22 the new redistrict plan -- excuse me, redistricting
23 included transparency, compact and contiguous
24 districts, the efficiency gap calculation, equal
25 population, no racial or partisan gerrymandering.

1 All these things must be considered.

2 Using the same consultant that drew the
3 original, unconstitutional districts to help draw
4 these changes, will only result in similar
5 embedded, slanted influence. Use a non-partisan
6 process to redraw unconstitutional legislative
7 districts. You should pass House Bill 200 and
8 reform redistricting measures that would take
9 drawing maps out of the hands of politicians. I
10 resent the process that occurred today that didn't
11 allow me to share that with the other four meetings
12 so that other interested people around the state
13 could light up their legislators and let them know
14 about House Bill 200.

15 I want everyone's vote to matter.
16 Gerrymandering is wrong. It's time to fix the --
17 these unconstitutional violations. Do the right
18 thing and rise above partisanship. You must
19 perceive -- you must preserve democracy in North
20 Carolina. Thank you.

21 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Hines. Next,
22 I have Sharon Evans with Democracy NC. No? Next I
23 have Keith Kidwell, Chairman of Beaufort County
24 GOP.

25 MR. KIDWELL: I'll stand if it's all

1 right, Chairman?

2 SEN. BROWN: Yeah.

3 MR. KIDWELL: I find it more difficult to
4 speak when sitting for some reason. My name is
5 Keith Kidwell, the Beaufort County Republican Party
6 Chairman. Also, the first vice chairman of the
7 Third Congressional District for the Republican
8 Party. I want to thank our legislature for their
9 work on these maps, although I do have some
10 disagreement with them.

11 I also want to point out a couple of
12 things that I've heard over and over here this
13 evening. From us, as -- as well as on the -- the
14 other locations and that is the use of the word
15 democracy. People, we are not a democracy. Look
16 at your historic documents, we are a republic.

17 Benjamin Franklin was asked, when he left
18 the -- the writing of the constitution, Mr.
19 Franklin, what have you given us? And he stated, a
20 republic, if you can keep it, ma'am.

21 Thomas Jefferson said a democracy is the
22 most evil form of government contrived by man. I
23 ask any of you who refer to us as a democracy to go
24 back and read your history books; we are not.

25 I also ask you to look up the word

1 gerrymandering in the dictionary. It comes from a
2 sal amander-shaped voting district. I do not see
3 but one sal amander-shaped voting district. I see
4 blocks, I see sections. I don't see gerrymandering
5 on this map, by and large. There is one, and
6 that's the Third -- the Third Senatorial District.

7 With that said, Beaufort County has
8 issues that are unique to coastal, water-bearing,
9 and our economic engines that we have in Beaufort
10 County. We are not closely affiliated in any way,
11 shape, or form with Warren or Vance County or
12 Northampton County. That's why I take issue with
13 the Third Senatorial District. It does not work
14 well. If you have somebody who's -- who is a
15 representative, I don't care if they're Republican
16 or Democrat, if they're from Beaufort County, how
17 do they represent people in Vance County? How do
18 they fairly understand those people's issues? Or
19 if they're elected from Vance or Warren or
20 Northampton, how do they understand issues we have
21 unique to here in Beaufort County? That deal with
22 fishing and hurricane and wind insurance and hail
23 insurance. They don't understand that.

24 There's no way you can ask one senator to
25 represent people in a district that runs 160 miles.

1 It would take you nearly three hours to go from one
2 end to the other. That is absolutely unacceptable.
3 I spoke with Senator Hise yesterday in reference to
4 this. He indicated that this was the only way
5 these maps could be drawn based on what the Court
6 had said.

7 Representative Speciale, I'll like to ask
8 you today, I would like to meet again with Chairman
9 Hise, between now -- Chairman of this committee,
10 between now, and then when these maps are
11 finalized. Because in 24 hours, Mr. Rader and I
12 have come up with at least six other viable options
13 that would keep Beaufort County in a more
14 centralized location without true gerrymandering,
15 because that's what we do have.

16 With that said, I want to thank everybody
17 for coming out here to -- this evening. This is
18 the American process. This is what we are supposed
19 to do. So please remember we are a republic. We
20 are not a democracy. Come now, represent the
21 people you speak for. Do a good job, I love what
22 y'all have done tonight. Thank you for coming out.

23 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Kidwell.
24 Next I have Tim Buck. He left? Wilbur Costello?
25 Hood Richardson?

1 MALE SPEAKER: Gone.

2 SEN. BROWN: Pam Woods?

3 MS. WOODS: Here.

4 Good afternoon. I'm Pam Woods. I'm the
5 President of Craven County Branch NAACP. Today
6 we've heard a lot, a lot of statements and a lot of
7 information, some of which I'm sure none of us had
8 before. But we've been given information at the
9 last minute for us to consider, not very good. I'm
10 just going to make a couple points because most of
11 the information has been passed.

12 I see on these maps that counties that
13 have totally different geographic economic issues
14 and interests have been grouped together. That
15 doesn't make sense to me. And I'm sure if it
16 doesn't make sense to me, with my level of
17 understanding, it doesn't make sense to a lot of
18 other people.

19 We should've been working on this or
20 fixing this problem a long time ago. And I truly
21 don't believe that this was just done. I heard it
22 said earlier that they've known since June. I'm
23 sure they did this long before 48 hours ago. It
24 was given to us 48 hours ago, because they wanted
25 to wait 'til the last minute. And I don't think

1 what we say or do is going to really matter, but we
2 have to say it.

3 We must let people know how we feel, or
4 they will continue to do whatever they want in the
5 way they want. I think it was totally
6 disrespectful for us to be here at 4:00 p.m. in a
7 room this small. It can't be a public meeting if
8 the public can't get here. They can't get here,
9 and they can't fit in here. And after being here
10 an hour they would've sweated and died in here.
11 But that's just how I feel, 'cause I'm hot all the
12 time.

13 So I think this was an open meeting, as
14 was said earlier, but not a public meeting, a
15 public hearing. And that's okay. Because a lot of
16 things were said, and I'm sure if there is a real
17 transcript, somebody will read it.

18 Using the same consultant to redraw the
19 lines, I think was terrible. It's just the same as
20 hiring a thief that does the vault. You think
21 everything's going to be in there when you're done.
22 You can't trust the results. It's just not good.
23 And for us to believe that we -- for them to
24 believe that we trust the results is not good.

25 I think it's important that we read -- we

1 all read and pass -- help to pass House Bill 200.
2 It's a very informative bill, and it will enlighten
3 anyone who reads it. Thank you for your time.

4 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Woods. Next
5 I have, and I -- this name's tough.

6 MR. CAGIATI: That's got to be me.
7 Alessandro Cagiati.

8 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, sir.

9 MR. CAGIATI: Thank you for the
10 opportunity. Thank you for the opportunity to
11 utilize my constitutional right. As elected
12 officials, you all took, among other things, an
13 oath to withhold, excuse me, to uphold the
14 Constitution and defend it. In 2011, legislation
15 was promulgated, enacted and passed that was later
16 deemed unconstitutional.

17 Now, you have the gentlemen who drew that
18 up initially, that wonderful colored map, doing it
19 again, with more money spent for him to do it.
20 Whiskey tango foxtrot are you thinking?

21 Furthermore, with regards to this
22 meeting, you've had at least six months, possibly a
23 year to come up with it. On Friday, it became
24 knowledge that this meeting was going to be held.
25 Sunday you released the map; yesterday, you

1 released the backup data. Well, I'm sorry, but
2 obviously more people showed up than anybody
3 anticipated. The fact that they showed up is
4 great. The fact that this meeting is held three
5 days before you're going to vote on it, you have
6 two days to review the testimony or opinion,
7 statements of the public that you asked for.

8 Like Mr. Sanderson, who has been
9 conspicuously absent since before the break, I hope
10 the rest of you do not turn your back on the
11 statements made by the people here. And it is
12 truly regrettable that we are unable to share our
13 views with the other people at the other sites, as
14 they have been able to hear ours. If this
15 testimony is in fact written down, it should be
16 read by each and every member of the committee.
17 And I hope the three-judge panel that is looking
18 over this reads it as well. Thank you.

19 SEN. BROWN: Thank you. Next I have Beth
20 Bucksot?

21 MS. BUCKSOT: Bucksot. Ever so close.
22 I've been called much worse.

23 Good evening. Thank you for bearing with
24 us in the public, including this -- this
25 opportunity to speak. I live in Pamlico County,

1 North Carolina. My name is Beth Bucksot and I'm on
2 the Chamber of Commerce board, I'm secretary for
3 that, and also past president. And I'm the
4 Director of Economic Development for Pamlico
5 County. My boss, Tim Buck, was here a little while
6 ago. He had to leave to attend another meeting,
7 but I can tell you that our County Commissioners
8 passed a resolution opposing the House District.

9 One of the reasons would be is that we
10 would lose our representatives, who happens to be a
11 Republican representative, Special e. So you look
12 at this map, showing it to you, the big area in
13 blue is the new House District for Pamlico County.
14 And it looks like it's a contiguous area, but it's
15 not. That big area, blue, is apropos, because most
16 of what you see there is water. There is no land
17 mass connecting Pamlico County to Hyde, Dare or
18 Currituck Counties. So that's just the opening on
19 there.

20 I have here with me a letter from the
21 Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce executive that I
22 would like to read to you. It says, [inaudible]
23 We thank you for taking the time to gather input
24 from local towns, counties, individuals, agencies
25 that would be impacted by the proposed House

1 district laws. This is a very important matter
2 that impacts every citizen in the State of North
3 Carolina. We request that due to the inadequacies
4 listed below that you reconsider the proposed
5 redistricting plan and leave our district as is or
6 at the very least leave Pamlico County in a
7 district with Craven County.

8 We understand that the parameters you've
9 been given to set new districts are extremely
10 difficult to meet. However, we have citizens and
11 businesses in Pamlico County, as well as many of
12 our surrounding neighbors, have great concerns
13 regarding the current House redistricting proposal.
14 and its impact on the historic, economic, social
15 and civic well-being of our communities. If you
16 move forward with this proposed district, which
17 includes our county, there will be severe impact on
18 small, rural, economically distressed communities,
19 including minority communities in the county and
20 surrounding counties. Many of these communities
21 already lack adequate electoral -- electoral voice
22 due to low population counts. They would, as a
23 result of access issues created by this district,
24 suffer the loss of what little representation, the
25 combined interagency and nonprofit resources they

1 have available to them.

2 In addition, contiguous counties within
3 current districts have longstanding interagency
4 agreements in place that affect shared workforce,
5 kindergarten through 12th, and community college
6 education. Social service agencies, economic
7 development organizations, nonprofits, shelters for
8 people, animal shelters, chambers of commerce,
9 councils of government and regional transportation,
10 this is just to name a few. This new plan would
11 decimate many of these collaborative efforts and
12 detrimentally -- detrimentally impact distressed
13 populations by creating new barriers to access
14 services.

15 We recognize that those who drew the new
16 districts did not understand the transportation
17 demographics created by considering counties as
18 contiguous that only have large bodies of water
19 that touch and not land masses. The state map used
20 by the House is a perfect example of this. It
21 looks as though Pamlico and Hyde County are
22 connected, but it does not show why.

23 Thank you.

24 SEN. BROWN: Thank you. Next I have R. J.
25 Hemby. Mr. Hickman? Patricia, I think it's

1 Garri son?

2 MS. GARRI SON: Yes.

3 Good evening. Patrici a Garri son,
4 Guil fford County. I had the opportunity to meet
5 with one of the North Carolina Senators, and they
6 were explaining to me how the redistricting
7 actually occurred. You' ll be happy to know we get
8 to do this again in 2020. I wonder how many people
9 will be happy then. ' Cause the redistricting
10 occurs when the Census occurs.

11 Number 1, popul ation. Popul ation is
12 Number 1 in determining how the maps are drawn.
13 You get a county, and that popul ation is
14 cal cul ated. So all the one counties who get their
15 popul ation cal cul ated, they' re Number 2 -- Number
16 1. Then you get two counties, then you get three
17 counties, and it' s all done according to
18 popul ation.

19 So when you get to smaller counties, with
20 a less-dense popul ation, you have to combine these
21 counties. That' s how it' s done. Okay? Beaufort
22 County, okay, will change in its senatorial
23 di strict. I don' t agree with it. I would rather
24 Beaufort County had stayed as it is so that their
25 [i naudi ble] and economic, recreation, et cetera,

1 would all be represented by our senator. That's
2 not how it's drawn, and it's according to
3 populati on.

4 I have sat here and I have listened to
5 people in the audience call people names and
6 insinuate that these people that drew these maps
7 are not honorable people. I know some of these
8 people personally, and they are honorable, and they
9 have tried to do a good job. And they did not draw
10 these maps according to racial bias.

11 I'm proud to live in North Carolina. My
12 family has lived in North Carolina ever since my
13 ancestors came here from Germany 100 years ago.
14 I'm proud to be in North Carolina. I'm not ashamed
15 of it. Do we have things to improve upon? We
16 certainly do. A little history lesson. In 2012
17 was the first time that the Republican Party became
18 the supermajority in 150 years. That's a history
19 lesson.

20 I think it's time that we come together
21 and we try to have a conversation and we respect
22 each other in the conversation.

23 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Ms. Garrison.
24 Next I have Noel Cayton. Next is Jim Kohr.

25 MR. KOHR: Kohr.

1 SEN. BROWN: Okay. Jim.

2 MR. KOHR: Thank you. I'm Jim Kohr,
3 Craven County. I pastor Freedom Baptist Church.
4 I'm happy with my district, because it doesn't
5 appear as though much is going to change, but I do
6 have several things I'd like to state. First of
7 all, I agree with the gentleman from Beaufort
8 County, and thank you so much. We live in a
9 representative republic, not a democracy.

10 With that being said, I'd like to address
11 our legislators and say thank you. Thank you,
12 number one, for this site that you provided for us.
13 I know some have said, you know, complained about
14 the size and whatnot, but otherwise we would've had
15 to drive all the way to Raleigh, so thank you.
16 Also thank you for drawing these maps. And while I
17 don't agree with everything, I appreciate your
18 effort in the maps.

19 One thing that I -- does concern me is
20 Pamlico County. I'm not from there, but they
21 always have been closely associated with us and
22 Craven County. And if you look at the -- as been
23 said many times, the -- the other counties
24 connected by water, we're actually connected by
25 land. And I think it'd be detrimental to those

1 peopl e.

2 Many times throughout the evening, it has
3 been said about -- that the -- it appears as though
4 the districts are trying to protect incumbents.
5 But a quick glance over the House redistricting
6 shows 83, 24, 61, 51, and 91 have two
7 representatives already in those districts. So
8 somebody's going to get -- not be there. And it
9 appears as though some of these actually have two
10 very strong conservatives in the same district, so
11 I don't understand that -- and I try to stick to
12 facts, not feelings.

13 Going back to the fact that we are a
14 republic, I'd also like to address the courts, and
15 have -- remind them that we do have three equal
16 branches of government. It is the legislators'
17 responsibility to determine law. It is their
18 responsibility to determine the constitutionality,
19 and I hope they'd go back to the Constitution and
20 not their political agenda when they determine the
21 constitutionality of these maps. Thank you.

22 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Kohr. Next I
23 have Steven Rader.

24 MR. RADER: Steven Rader, Beaufort County
25 Republican Party. First thing I'd like to do is to

1 thank the legislature for the hard work they've
2 done on putting these maps together. I know
3 they've heard -- had a hard job, because the law
4 has changed dramatically. In 2011 you had one set
5 of laws where they had to include race and consider
6 that very heavily. And now the Courts have said
7 you can't include race. So they've -- they've been
8 bounced back and forth by these ward heelers in
9 black robes. And they've had a tough job. And we
10 don't need any more of the court interference power
11 grabs of the legislature's power. We need to --
12 they need to respect the separation of powers.

13 Now, some people have mentioned these
14 non-partisan commissions. They sound good on
15 paper, but the experience of California and Arizona
16 shows that they often are -- end up being more
17 partisan in their mapmaking than legislators, so
18 that that's really not a good way to go. Sounds
19 good on surface, not good in reality.

20 People talk about fair elections; voter
21 ID is the key to that. International best practice
22 on fair elections. And we have, again, ward
23 heelers in black robes that are blocking that in
24 North Carolina. There's much good in these maps.
25 But there are some things, particularly that we in

1 Beaufort County are very concerned about, and that
2 is our Senate district.

3 We're placed in a district that we have
4 no chance of electing a senator, and a senator
5 that's going to be responsive to the northern end
6 of the district where all the population is and can
7 get elected without giving us diddly-squat, in
8 terms of time or consideration. That's not a good
9 district to be in. For decades, under both
10 Democrat and Republican redistricting, we have been
11 grouped with the counties on the coast. We have a
12 lot in common with them.

13 Now, one of the issues that's come out in
14 all of this with these pods that were drawn, is
15 they say that, well, if you end up in a one-member
16 pod that we can't do anything, those lines are
17 sacrosanct. But if you're in a multi-member pod,
18 there're all sorts of ways you can rejigger the
19 lines. The problem here is the line between the
20 First and Third Senatorial District. And we've put
21 forward three proposals of ways that could be
22 redrawn to combine communities of interest, to
23 reduce the -- the deviation in population to
24 equalize that better, and also to make them more
25 compact, 'cause one of these districts is now 11

1 counties.

2 What's been done has put form over
3 substance. And we think that by saying it works
4 one way for single-member pods and another way for
5 multi-member pods is deny us equal protection of
6 the laws. And so we have the committee, and if
7 necessary, the courts look at that.

8 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Rader.
9 Patricia did you put your -- Garrison, name down
10 twice by chance?

11 MS. GARRISON: No.

12 SEN. BROWN: Okay. Well, then very
13 similar name. He'll -- here, looks like a
14 Patricia -- and it looks like Garrison again. I --

15 MR. BARKER: No, I did not write my name
16 twice.

17 SEN. BROWN: Okay. Anybody with a name
18 close to that that I may be messing up here? Next
19 up, VCR parts, it looks like the sign is -- okay.
20 Judy -- Judy Merik?

21 MS. MERIK: Julie.

22 SEN. BROWN: Okay. Julie Merik. You can
23 use the mic.

24 MS. MERIK: Thank you. My name is Julie
25 Merik. I'm from Pitt County. It's really hard to

1 speak about the map that we've been given on such
2 short notice. However, I believe that this map and
3 really any map that has created under this -- the
4 current process is -- is unacceptable. It seems to
5 me, as a resident of North Carolina, that the way
6 that we draw our voting districts is fundamentally
7 broken and has been for a long time.

8 We, in North Carolina, have world-class
9 institutions. Our state university system, our
10 community college systems, private colleges,
11 universities, experts in our state government, in
12 private citizen groups and just among our citizens.
13 We have demographers, legal scholars. We have
14 ethicists, people who think and have thought long
15 and hard about redistricting, and who have the
16 skills to draw law-abiding, fair maps. All of
17 these resources right here in our state, and yet
18 the members of the General Assembly responsible for
19 drawing our voting maps, and this map, insist on
20 using out-of-state consultants.

21 They've created maps through less than
22 transparent processes. They've dragged their feet,
23 and here we are, mere days after a map has been
24 released, having our public hearing. So why? Why
25 are we ignoring our best people? Why are we

1 ignoring the requests of so many people in this
2 room and across the -- the state? Of many of our
3 representatives in the General Assembly that we
4 change the way that we do this redistricting? We'd
5 move to a better system. Why are we allowing
6 representatives elected by and who wrote a
7 discriminatory maps to try again?

8 I ask these questions, but I feel most of
9 us know why. It's not that the people that drew
10 these maps are worried that the people living in
11 North Carolina -- be it by a bipartisan commission
12 cannot draw a fair map, they're worried that they
13 can. And they're afraid of that map. And they're
14 afraid of that map, because that map would not
15 allow them, as Representative David Lewis said,
16 gaining partisan advantage. And that's the goal of
17 this map, possibly. We don't know; we haven't had
18 time to look at it, right? But that the goal of --
19 of -- that has been the goal of the way that
20 they've drawn these maps.

21 And that's not serving us. That's not
22 creating a map that represents us well. And so I
23 say, just go back to the drawing board. Consider
24 carefully your ethical and moral obligations to us,
25 the people of North Carolina. Fix the process, and

1 then give us a good map. And then we'll come back
2 here, and we can talk about that map. I'd love to.
3 But we can't do that until we fix the process. So
4 thank you.

5 SEN. BROWN: Thank you. Next I have John
6 Haywood.

7 MR. HAYWOOD: Okay. Well, first I want
8 to thank William Barber for streaming this live on
9 Facebook, or I would've missed more than half the
10 hearing. I know he's not here, but at least he'll
11 be in the record there.

12 Most of what I've heard tonight about
13 problems with the process, I agree with. And I
14 want to reiterate that a hearing three days after
15 the maps have been released and a day after the
16 data is released is just ridiculous. And we really
17 need to improve on this process and come up with
18 something that's fair.

19 There's not much left to say that hasn't
20 been said. But I would also like to make the point
21 that these maps, just like the previous maps, seem
22 to be symptomatic of a larger problem. Our
23 democracy, I think, is in the process of breaking
24 down. And if -- I think if we let this happen, the
25 future will not judge us kindly at all.

1 Now, I -- I truly believe that all
2 members of the legislature are doing what they
3 believe is best for our state. But I really think
4 they need to think about what -- how the process
5 works, and is it fair? I know we're in a republic,
6 but our republic should be representative of the
7 voters. And right now, with the maps we have, it
8 will not be representative of the voters.

9 Finally, these maps are going to also --
10 the -- everybody knows the big problem with them is
11 they favor extremism over moderation. And I think
12 moderation's what we all need, not more extremism.

13 I hate to sound cynical, but after just
14 observing this, I have the feeling that the
15 majority party who's been drawing these maps has
16 just been doing the bare minimum. And I think
17 they're trying to draw this out as long as
18 possible, and they're going to try and keep this in
19 the courts through 2018 and possible -- possibly
20 2020. At this point, I think probably our best
21 hope is that the courts throw these maps out. And
22 that's about all I have to say, thank you.

23 SEN. BROWN: Thank you, Mr. Haywood.
24 That's all I have on the list. Is there anyone
25 else that would like to speak? All right. If not,

1 I just want to thank y'all for coming this
2 afternoon. I know it's been a long afternoon. We
3 appreciate this input. This is -- this is not an
4 easy job, as -- as you may know, I promise. And
5 the input that you've given us, we're going to take
6 back, and I promise we'll take a look at this
7 input. And again, I just want to thank you for
8 being here, and -- and sharing your ideas on what
9 we could.

10 (End of proceedings.)

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF WAKE

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings held on August 22, 2017, is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as transcribed by me or under my supervision. I further certify that I am not related to any party or attorney, nor do I have any interest whatsoever in the outcome of this action.

This 28th day of August, 2017.

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