

# EX. 12

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUSION - CHARLOTTE SATELLITE SITE

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In Raleigh, North Carolina  
Tuesday, August 22, 2017  
Transcribed by Brad Worley

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P.O. Box 99169  
Raleigh, NC 27624  
919-870-8070

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 REP. TORBETT: Well, we're going to move  
6 on. Are y'all ready? All right, the same rules  
7 apply. The same rules apply; you get three  
8 minutes. We have a gentleman right here, Sergeant  
9 at Arms, that's going to give you the one-minute  
10 warning and tell you when time is up. We can, if  
11 it's more effective, also have people if you would,  
12 on deck -- even though I'm using a baseball analogy  
13 over here.

14 So now we're going to jump ahead.  
15 Remember y'all voted for this. We're going to let  
16 Abby Connors, if she hadn't gone to sleep yet.  
17 Abby, come up here, young lady.

18 (Pause in proceedings; audio from Raleigh  
19 feed plays.)

20 REP. TORBETT: What Ralph is telling you  
21 is that we have devices up here that are recording  
22 this for this evening, okay? So all that will be  
23 heard by the court reporter --

24 (Pause in proceedings; audio from Raleigh  
25 feed plays.)

1 REP. TORBETT: And so -- so your words  
2 will be captured, they will be recorded onto the  
3 court document, if you would, just as if we were  
4 all in Raleigh, for example. Okay? So I just  
5 wanted to let you know that.

6 We're going to move forward with this.  
7 Abby, you made some people mad at me, because I let  
8 you go first, but I don't care. Are you good? I'm  
9 a granddad, I told them a minute ago. Abby  
10 Connors, tell us what you'd like for us to hear.

11 MS. CONNORS: My name is --

12 REP. TORBETT: It's all good.

13 MS. CONNORS: My name is -- oh --

14 REP. TORBETT: It's okay, hon.

15 MS. CONNORS: I'm so sorry, I get really  
16 nervous.

17 REP. TORBETT: You're doing great.  
18 You're doing great. Take your time.

19 MS. CONNORS: My name is Abigail Connors,  
20 and I am nine years old, and I live in Charlotte.  
21 I came here with my mom because the decisions being  
22 made to redistrict will even impact my first  
23 elections. Oops, I mean my first election.  
24 Districts should be fair -- everyone -- for  
25 everyone. Elections should be about what all

1 people want. We should pick who we want to speak  
2 for us in Congress. They should not speak -- be  
3 picking us. Thank you.

4 REP. TORBETT: Now back to the list.  
5 Who -- who's on deck? Casey Throneburg, Beth  
6 Henry, Anne Clifford, Sally Kneidel. All right.  
7 Hang on one second. Let me ask a question here.  
8 Sergeant at Arms, do we need to still use this  
9 microphone, or was it for -- only for thing?

10 SERGEANT AT ARMS: It's only for that,  
11 yes.

12 REP. TORBETT: So if they stand actually  
13 closer to here, you'll hear them more easier for  
14 the recording; is that correct?

15 SERGEANT AT ARMS: Okay.

16 REP. TORBETT: Y'all get that? When you  
17 speak, disregard the microphone; come to this area  
18 right here right here so you can be picked up by  
19 these microphones. Thank you.

20 MR. THORNBURG: Hello, my name is Casey  
21 Throneburg. Thank you for holding these hearings,  
22 but I'm not particularly optimistic, given that we  
23 have -- since we haven't been given time to fully  
24 analyze these maps and they were drawn by the same  
25 consultants who drew the previous maps which we

1           wasted \$4.8 million defending, and the Supreme  
2           Court unanimously upheld the decision that those  
3           maps were racially gerrymandered.

4                       Although this hearing isn't about  
5           Congressional districts, since those already had to  
6           be redrawn, I do think our 2012 Congressional  
7           election illustrates the severe impact of  
8           gerrymandering. That year 81,000 more North  
9           Carolinians chose Democratic representatives for  
10          Congress than Republicans, but we elected three  
11          Democratic representatives and ten Republicans.  
12          Republicans won 76.92 percent of the seats, with  
13          only 48.75 percent of the votes.

14                      Before those 2012 maps were unveiled,  
15          Congressman Patrick McHenry bragged to Politico  
16          about packing black voters into a new  
17          majority-minority district. State Representative  
18          and Redistricting Chair David Lewis, tried to  
19          explain the motivations were partisan instead of  
20          racial. Lewis stated, "We want to make clear that  
21          we are going to use political data in drawing this  
22          map. It is to gain partisan advantage." Lewis  
23          also stated they were drawing districts to elect  
24          ten Republicans and three democrats because, quote,  
25          "I do not believe it's possible to draw a map with

1 11 Republicans and two Democrats. "

2 Courts have not said partisan  
3 gerrymandering is legal, but instead that it is  
4 difficult to measure. The best method may -- may  
5 be with the efficiency gap. And an analysis by  
6 Professor Simon Jackson counted out of 512 US  
7 elections, dating back to 1976, North Carolina's  
8 past three elections were -- had the seventh,  
9 eighth, and 13th most pro-Republican efficiency  
10 gaps. Last year, Republicans won 64 percent of the  
11 General Assembly with only 53 percent of the votes.  
12 That doesn't even account for unchallenged  
13 districts, where safe incumbents must pander to  
14 party extremes to survive primaries. This lack of  
15 accountability leads to extreme partisanship.  
16 Under fair maps, the Republicans wouldn't have a  
17 supermajority, and unconstitutional legislation  
18 such as the Voter Identification Verification Act  
19 would not have become law.

20 While white nationalists like those in  
21 Charlottesville deserve vehement condemnation, they  
22 have not systematically undermined the will of  
23 African Americans in a way comparable to the North  
24 Carolina legislature. Gerrymandering and  
25 disenfranchising voters is less overt, but has a

1 greater impact. Courts ruled North Carolina's  
2 voter ID laws targeted black voters with surgical  
3 precision, but an Election Board audit found only  
4 one instance in 2016 where a photo ID would have  
5 prevented an impersonation attempt.

6 Gerrymandering, however, essentially nullifies  
7 hundreds of thousands of votes.

8 Politicians should not draw districts  
9 based on partisanship, predicted outcomes, or  
10 incumbency protection. 80 percent of North  
11 Carolinians agree voters should be able to choose  
12 their representatives instead of politicians  
13 choosing their voters. Districts should adhere to  
14 geographic boundaries, be compact, and not split  
15 communities or precincts like the proposed maps do,  
16 such as like with the districts of Senators Ford  
17 and Tarte, here in Mecklenburg.

18 Our elected officials are to represent  
19 and serve the people, so let's have fair maps and a  
20 battle of ideas. Cheating by gerrymandering and  
21 disenfranchising voters is unpatriotic, disgusting  
22 and not sustainable. Thank you to those who fight  
23 gerrymandering, like Democracy NC and Common Cause.  
24 I urge the legislature to draw fair maps and give  
25 us all a voice. Thank you.

1 REP. TORBETT: Thank you. Beth Henry.

2 MS. HENRY: I'm Beth Henry, a lifelong  
3 North Carolinian. I am horrified to see our state  
4 still in the national news for anti-voter laws and  
5 unfair legislative maps that target African  
6 Americans with almost surgical precision. As  
7 recent events in Charlottesville reminded us, our  
8 country and our state need racial reconciliation  
9 and healing, but instead of healing, gerrymandering  
10 promotes racial divisions and resentment. Racial  
11 gerrymandering robs African Americans of their  
12 constitutional right to one person, one vote. This  
13 is wrong.

14 Most North Carolinians understand that we  
15 are all better off when all people are treated with  
16 fairness and respect, when all are encouraged to  
17 participate in our democracy, when all votes have  
18 meaning. I urge the Committee and the Legislature  
19 to reject maps that have the impact of  
20 disenfranchising African Americans. Please, at  
21 this critical time, recognize how important it is  
22 to make these maps fair.

23 I'm also concerned that when districts  
24 are not competitive, lawmakers do not listen to the  
25 people. The maps and inadequate data just came

1 out, and there hasn't been time to analyze them  
2 thoroughly, but initial reviews suggest that the  
3 maps are only slightly better than the court  
4 reject -- those the court rejected that's racist.  
5 90 percent of the districts seem solidly tilted to  
6 one side or the other. This lack of competition  
7 leads to unaccountable legislators, whatever their  
8 part. Unaccountability amounts to taxation without  
9 representation. Unaccountability means money  
10 replaces the vote. I urge the Committee not to  
11 approve any districts that lack partisan  
12 competitiveness or show racial bias.

13 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, Beth. All  
14 right. Anne Clifford. By the way, while Anne's  
15 coming up here, I'm going to tell y'all have been  
16 great. We've been hearing about complaints from  
17 other places; y'all have been great. Thank y'all  
18 for that. Anne Clifford.

19 MS. CLIFFORD: Yes, Anne Clifford from  
20 Mecklenburg County. And based on the reaction that  
21 I've heard that you've had for other speakers, I'm  
22 counting on your Southern hospitality and your  
23 concern for my feelings. Feelings are a big thing  
24 now, right?

25 So I'll begin by saying that hopefully

1 the judiciary will respect the constitutional duty  
2 of the legislature to draw district lines. The  
3 maps as drawn are fair and legal. There are more  
4 compact districts following the whole county  
5 provision. There are fewer precincts split, and  
6 city and state boundaries are respected to the best  
7 of the ability to do so.

8 Gerrymandering? Look no further than the  
9 historical Congressional 12th. The gerrymandering  
10 is only a rallying cry when Democrats are in the  
11 minority. When they were in the majority, it was a  
12 non-issue. Disenfranchised? Look no further than  
13 the Charlotte City Council and the Mecklenburg  
14 County Board of Commissioners.

15 Maps cannot give the Democrats victories  
16 they fail to gain on their own in elections. I can  
17 go through elections the Democrats have recently  
18 failed to win in greater detail, quote percentages  
19 or data, but simply put, the Democrats have lost  
20 nine out of ten Presidential elections, three  
21 straight Senate elections, 14 out of the last 18  
22 partisan statewide elections. Drawing district  
23 lines don't guarantee outcome, but better policies  
24 that reflect the will of the voters do.

25 REP. TORBETT: Sally Kneidel. Next up,

1           Debbie Snowdon, William Brice, Austin Miller  
2           Orteneau. Did I do that okay?

3                       MS. KNEIDEL: I'm Sally Kneidel. I'm a  
4           retired teacher and writer. I've been in Charlotte  
5           all my life. I've been thinking about the  
6           difference between gerrymandering and the  
7           strategies of the KKK and the neo-Nazis. Most  
8           Americans oppose the KKK and the neo-Nazis,  
9           especially their violence and their hatred.  
10          Gerrymandering is different from that. It's  
11          inconspicuous, almost invisible. It's carried out  
12          mostly by polite, white men in expensive suits,  
13          doing their prestigious jobs.

14                       Most Americans don't even know what  
15          gerrymandering means, and yet the violence of the  
16          neo-Nazis and the gerrymandering of the elite are  
17          very similar in their effects. Both are white  
18          supremacist tactics to put down and disconnect  
19          people of color. Both can be effective, but in the  
20          end, gerry -- gerrymandering is much more effective  
21          and more dangerous.

22                       Gerrymandering is killing our democracy.  
23          Not only does it leave a large portion of our  
24          population without representation, it moves us  
25          closer to a repressive, totalitarian government

1 owned by the ultra-rich. It says -- gerrymandering  
2 says loud and clear, quote, you don't count, you  
3 have no voice, you are other. We will knock you  
4 off the playing field. We are in control. We now  
5 own the government, and we have rigged it so we  
6 will stay in control.

7 I heard on NBC that North Carolina is  
8 ground zero for voter suppression largely because  
9 of gerrymandering. We are the state most tainted  
10 by racist politics, most dishonored. I used to  
11 love this state where I was born, where my dad was  
12 a politician back in the day. Now, I feel ashamed  
13 to live here in this madness. I'm glad my dad  
14 can't see it.

15 To the legislators, please honor our  
16 democracy and our Constitution. Please act like  
17 you have principles. If you don't, we are going to  
18 wind up in a very ugly future that is a far cry  
19 from what the Founding Fathers intended.

20 REP. TORBETT: Debbie Snowdon.

21 MS. SNOWDON: My name's Debbie Snowdon.  
22 I'm from Denver, North Carolina, and I don't know  
23 about you all, but I'm tired of being told that  
24 this system is okay because it was done to us, so  
25 now we can do it to you. That's a kindergartener's

1           excuse, and we need to grow up.

2                       There are people's lives at stake.  
3           Peoples' quality of life suck because of this  
4           gerrymandering. It is so unconscionable that  
5           Raleigh continues this madness. Sorry, I'm not  
6           shaking because I'm nervous; I'm shaking because  
7           I'm mad.

8                       The new maps are just crazy. They're  
9           submitted this late just because gerrymandering  
10          lets you do that because you don't have to listen  
11          to us. As we've heard, 90 percent of these  
12          districts are still completely locked up. And you  
13          can call it racial gerrymandering, you can call it  
14          partisan gerrymandering; it all comes down to the  
15          same thing. It's racial. We know that in North  
16          Carolina, there is no difference between the two.

17                      This just simply means the extreme  
18          partisanship and the polarization in this state  
19          will continue. That less than 80 percent of the  
20          electorate will still continue to determine who  
21          gets in office and what policies are going to be  
22          heard, which is why, of course, we got HB2. So  
23          again, you're using the exact same company whose  
24          maps were illegally drawn, and we get to pay for  
25          it. Thank you very much.

1                   Now, I want to share some really  
2                   frightening results and they were frightening for  
3                   me, anyway. This is a 2012 Electoral Integrity  
4                   Project study. This assessed the integrity of  
5                   electoral processes throughout the world. Within  
6                   the United States, North Carolina ranked last of  
7                   all the 50 states. And some of the quotes from the  
8                   findings of this report are -- I'll keep it short.

9                   "North Carolina is a deeply flawed,  
10                  partly-free democracy that is only slightly ahead  
11                  of the failed democracies that constitute much of  
12                  the Third World." And "North Carolina can no  
13                  longer be considered as a full-functioning  
14                  democracy." And also, "North Carolina is the worst  
15                  entity in the world ever analyzed by the Electoral  
16                  Integrity Project."

17                  I was so alarmed by these findings that I  
18                  went up to Raleigh and I made appointments with my  
19                  two legislators, who are, of course, Republican.  
20                  There's Representative Saine and there's Senator  
21                  Curtis. Both of them said to me, "Hey, you did it  
22                  to us." That's -- that -- that was what I got in  
23                  return. They were very frank about it. Screw you.  
24                  You did it to us.

25                  These results have been brought to

1           your -- these results have been brought to the  
2           legislators' attention many times, but they just  
3           brush them aside in favor of maintaining a status  
4           quo. Well, this might make their lives  
5           comfortable, and it might make their seats secure,  
6           but I've got to tell you. It's leaving many of our  
7           citizens stranded on the outside of this system and  
8           we're waving worthless ballots. Thank you.

9                       REP. TORBETT: William Brice? William  
10           Brice? Is William in the room? I don't -- I  
11           apologize on first name. Austin or Anston Miller  
12           Orteneau? Nancy Wiggins?

13                      MS. WIGGINS: Good afternoon. I'm Nancy  
14           Wiggins. I've been a voter in Mecklenburg County  
15           since 1977. The purpose of my testimony is to  
16           implore the state legislature to finally make the  
17           most equitable districts that are fair-minded  
18           regarding the citizens, giving them competitive  
19           choice for their representation.

20                      Since Gomillion v. Lightfoot, Baker v.  
21           Carr and Reynolds v. Sims, the directive of the  
22           U.S. Supreme Court has been to have equitable  
23           proportional representative districts regarding  
24           population and socioeconomic demographic factors of  
25           citizens. For far too long, the legislative agenda

1 on this matter has been to satisfy and maintain  
2 the -- the dominating partisan representatives in  
3 the legislature. Totally ignoring the needs of the  
4 citizens of the -- that they represent.

5 North Carolina -- North Carolinians,  
6 excuse me, and Americans are practical people, and  
7 their structure of government reflects their desire  
8 to have practical policies that serve the greater  
9 needs. Currently, we are operating under an  
10 erroneous assumption that these citizens and  
11 constituents are better served by an  
12 artificially -- artificial district representation  
13 system that does not fit their needs or beliefs.  
14 Let's please live up to our commitment as Americans  
15 and as North Carolinians to live by our motto.

16 In Mecklenburg County, the most egregious  
17 of these senatorial -- of the districts that I have  
18 noticed under the brief amount of time I've been  
19 given to look at them, is the State Senate District  
20 41. It needs to be more geographical --  
21 geographically relevant to the citizens -- for the  
22 citizens' representation of this county. Thank  
23 you.

24 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, ma'am. Martin  
25 Doherty? Have I pronounced your name wrong?

1 Martin? Martin? Mary Degree? Mary? You're next,  
2 dear. Rachel Campbell? Is Rachel in the room?  
3 Jay Leach? Jay, you're going to be right after  
4 Mary. Ronnie Long? Ronnie, you're going to be  
5 right after Jay.

6 MS. DEGREE: My name is Mary Degree, and  
7 I'm a state officer of the NAACP. The right to  
8 vote is not a game. It is a sacred right won both  
9 through the blood, sweat and tears of our ancestors  
10 and it's -- you know what? It's a low-down, dirty  
11 shame that we're here today in the 21st century,  
12 going through maps. Despite having come to power  
13 by using racism for the -- their partisan gain, the  
14 GOP -- GOP caucus is unrepentant. There has been  
15 no acknowledgement or apology to the people of  
16 North Carolina, particularly to African Americans  
17 and other people of color, whose voting power was  
18 suppressed by the GOP's unconstitutional and  
19 racial, unjust maps for six years.

20 To the contrary, the all-white leadership  
21 of the General Assembly has played, and continues  
22 to play, the same game of putting their own  
23 interests and discriminatory agenda above the will  
24 of the people. We do not trust these maps which  
25 were driven -- drawn by the same hired helper --

1            helper who drew the 2011 racially-gerrymandered  
2            maps, and which was commissioned by an illegal  
3            legislature that has failed at every turn to act  
4            with integrity.

5                            Instead, an independent special master  
6            should be tasked with drawing new maps to ensure  
7            that the law is followed and not the directives of  
8            an illegal legislature that the federal courts have  
9            already found guilty of intentionally acting to  
10           suppress the votes of African Americans, and that  
11           numerous federal and state courts have been found  
12           guilty of passing legislation that flaunts the  
13           federal and state constitution and the will of the  
14           people.

15                            These games must stop. The GOP  
16           leadership of the General Assembly has repeatedly  
17           argued before the courts that it is impossible to  
18           quickly remedy their unconstitutional maps. But  
19           now that they have lost their Supreme Court appeal,  
20           we see the truth, that maps can be created in days  
21           when the General Assembly decides it has to. We  
22           deserve an apology for the inexcusable games that  
23           people have played. Justice delayed is justice  
24           denied. Thank you.

25                            REP. TORBETT: Jay Leach? Jay Leach?

1 MR. LEACH: I don't know about you, but I  
2 look forward to the day when the economic miracle  
3 in North Carolina is so miraculous that the County  
4 of Mecklenburg can afford a microphone that  
5 amplifies voices. I understand they're making them  
6 now.

7 I'm Jay Leach, and I'm minister of the  
8 Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte. Here  
9 and around our state today, many have asserted and  
10 will assert that Republican redistricting is a  
11 regressive, irresponsible, racially-biased offense  
12 of a system steeped in white supremacy. I don't  
13 disagree with that assessment. Regrettably, it is  
14 insufficient.

15 Yes, Republicans are the problem now, but  
16 they are following a cynically crass course invoked  
17 by North Carolina's Democrats to their own biased  
18 ends. Ever since Governor Gerry of Massachusetts  
19 used this political sleight of hand to create his  
20 salamander-shaped district, the status quo has used  
21 gerrymandering to protect and defend its own  
22 interests. Nothing I or anyone could say today  
23 will change this. You will keep on with surgical  
24 precision cynically trying to defend your own  
25 power. While Democrats -- when Democrats are back

1 in the majority, they will do the same thing.

2 If you wonder why the fastest-growing  
3 political affiliation is unaffiliated and why many  
4 opt not to participate at all, look no further than  
5 this practice. Your shared cynicism has not only  
6 fueled the raging fire of political animosity and  
7 encouraged the mass exodus from party politics, it  
8 has sown the seeds of social unrest. You have  
9 colluded to create the kind of mistrust we saw in  
10 our streets last September and which we will surely  
11 see again. When people cannot trust the political  
12 process, they will look for and find ways outside  
13 of it to give deepest expression to their concerns,  
14 complaints, aspirations and ideals. It is  
15 abundantly clear today. We do not, we cannot and  
16 we should not trust this long-practiced process.

17 REP. TORBETT: Ronnie Long? Next up,  
18 Ralph Geddes or Geltes. Ralph here? Mary, I  
19 apologize for the last name -- Hasmart [phonetic]?  
20 Mary? Mary? Louise Woods? All right. You'll be  
21 next. Bueller? Bueller? Yvonne F. Rhines? Is it  
22 Ms. Rhines, or is it Devonne? I'm sorry if I'm  
23 mispronouncing. Is she here? Okay. Go ahead,  
24 sir.

25 MR. LONG: Good evening, ladies and

1 gentlemen, and to the Chairman of the Committee,  
2 Mr. Lewis. I appreciate the opportunity to speak  
3 here. My name's Ronnie Long. I'm a -- been  
4 elected as an at-large member for the North  
5 Carolina 8th District Republican Party. I'm also a  
6 business owner in Cabarrus County, a father,  
7 grandfather and a great-grandfather. Don't let the  
8 gray hair fool you; I'm only 47.

9 A word to our members of the House and  
10 the Senate that are here. You guys have caught  
11 hell tonight. One thing that some of the public  
12 may not know is that they had planned to have a  
13 longer time to work on this situation. They were  
14 supposed to be going to Raleigh on September 6th  
15 and work on this through November 15th. My  
16 understanding is it was what -- within the last  
17 three weeks, the courts have come back and said,  
18 you got until -- and then they shut us down quite a  
19 bit.

20 I am not in favor of the maps that we  
21 have drawn. Now, the Committee has done as good a  
22 job as possibly they could with what they had to  
23 work with. I have to tell you, I'm very  
24 disappointed in the people that they hired to do  
25 this work. I think anybody with any kind of common

1 sense could have sat down, thrown darts at a map  
2 over their shoulder and done a better job than our  
3 quote, hired map drawer has done.

4 The gerrymandering has got to stop. We  
5 can't use that as an excuse anymore, though. We  
6 have got to set up a system here in North Carolina  
7 that represents all of the voters. I don't care if  
8 you're pink, green with purple polka dots. Doesn't  
9 matter whether you've got an R, a D, a U, or a  
10 whatever behind your name. We all need to have  
11 fair representation.

12 These folks that we have elected to  
13 represent us need to know that we're standing  
14 behind them, but they also need to know that they  
15 work for us. We remind them of that, and we ask  
16 them to please go back to Raleigh, take this  
17 information that we've given them in public  
18 hearing. And I have to say, this has been one of  
19 the worst episodes of a public hearing I have ever  
20 seen. Learn from it, put us together a map that  
21 will pass Superior Court or Supreme Court final  
22 say-so and get us back on track like we need to be.  
23 Enough of this he said, she said, the Democrats did  
24 it, the Republicans did it.

25 Look, let's get it right, folks. We got

1 a very short time to do it in. The Committee's  
2 done as good a job, I guess, as they feel like they  
3 could in a short period of time, but quite frankly,  
4 I think they left us woefully short. Thank you for  
5 your time.

6 REP. TORBETT: Thank you. Louise?  
7 Louise Woods? James Doermann?

8 MR. DOERMANN: Yeah?

9 REP. TORBETT: James, you're next. Steve  
10 Abraham? Steve Abraham? Carl Gandel? You're next  
11 after James. Bob Diamond? Not here. Chris  
12 Turner?

13 MS. WOODS: I thank for the opportunity  
14 to speak to you today -- tonight. I'm Louise  
15 Woods. I am a resident now of Mecklenburg County  
16 for the last 50 years, but I grew up in eastern  
17 North Carolina in the Farmville area. And my  
18 family for generations and generations has lived  
19 there, since before the Revolution, as a matter of  
20 fact. And so I have a heritage, my heart -- is as  
21 a North Carolinian and my heart breaks right now.  
22 My heart breaks when I feel like that the ideal  
23 that I was taught in public school, the ideal that  
24 I felt that North Carolinians believe -- North  
25 Carolinians believed in and were working toward has

1           been destroyed. And that is one man, one woman,  
2           one vote. My heart breaks because I'm -- I am --  
3           for the last seven years voted, and my vote hasn't  
4           counted.

5                           How long do we have to wait? How long is  
6           justice denied? How long when we know that my  
7           senatorial -- state senatorial district, for  
8           example, is like this in a little circle and got a  
9           big table that goes across Independence Boulevard  
10          on North Independence -- goes across Independence  
11          Boulevard down to Monroe Road, all the way down to  
12          Villa Heights.

13                           Now, it doesn't take any -- it really  
14          doesn't take anything but a little logic to know  
15          that that was gerrymandering and that that took  
16          away the rights of African Americans. It took away  
17          the rights of everyone who lived in that district,  
18          and that's happened all over the state. In seven  
19          years, nothing. We still don't have our right to  
20          vote. And I'm angry about that. I'm frustrated.

21                           I want to tell you that -- that any  
22          public school -- excuse me, student in North  
23          Carolina could tell you that if half of the people  
24          vote -- it's Democrats, approximately. If half of  
25          the people that vote as Republicans, and if

1 two-thirds of the legislature is in either party  
2 and one-third in the other party, something's  
3 wrong. It doesn't take a judge to figure that out.  
4 Anybody in the legislature knows it. You know it's  
5 wrong, and you need to do something about it, and  
6 you need to do it now.

7 One other thing that I don't understand.  
8 Republicans -- many Republicans, I believe, really  
9 would like to have non-partisan maps. I know every  
10 Democrat I've talked to now, since the Democrats  
11 are not in charge, but every Democrat now is saying  
12 they want non-partisan maps. So why don't you get  
13 together? Why is House Bill 200 not even allowed  
14 to be put up for a vote? Why doesn't every  
15 representative demand that your leader put it up  
16 for a vote and then take it to the Senate? Give  
17 people a chance. Give our -- give our -- at least  
18 give our leaders a chance to vote on a non-partisan  
19 plan. Thank you.

20 REP. TORBETT: Thank you. Thank you for  
21 coming out. James Doermann. How do you pronounce  
22 the last name?

23 MR. DOERMANN: Doermann.

24 REP. TORBETT: Doermann.

25 MR. DOERMANN: Yep.

1 REP. TORBETT: Excellent. Thank you.

2 MR. DOERMANN: Good evening. My name's  
3 Jim Doermann; I live here in Charlotte. In 2005,  
4 in December, I was part of the force of Marines  
5 that was occupying a part of Iraq. And we were  
6 encouraging the voters of Iraq to participate in  
7 the first free and fair elections that the nation  
8 of Iraq had had since 1958.

9 And now 12 years later, I'm in my own  
10 state watching my fellow citizens have to fight to  
11 have free and fair elections in their own state,  
12 here in the United States of America? You can't  
13 understand how upsetting that is to me to know that  
14 we'll send people overseas and dump trillions of  
15 dollars into wars overseas to spread democracy, and  
16 then we have officials in our own cities and states  
17 that fight against letting us have fair and free  
18 representation in our own country. It's disgusting  
19 and it's anti-American.

20 There have been a lot of really great  
21 points that have been made here tonight. And I  
22 don't want to rehash a lot of the same ones  
23 because -- you know, whether it's been coming from  
24 Republicans or Democrats, the overwhelming message  
25 coming from everyone is that these maps don't work.

1           These maps are terrible.

2                       The solution coming from both sides of  
3           your constituency is set up a system, a  
4           non-partisan committee or some non-partisan form of  
5           creating voting districts that don't create such  
6           partisan divides. Everyone's pointed this out.  
7           It's the Democrats did it, the Republicans did it.  
8           You know, like, we've heard this time and again  
9           tonight, and it's time to put a stop to that. You  
10          can do that. Be the representatives who stand up  
11          to the -- you know, the House majority whips or  
12          whoever it is that's -- that's forcing this to  
13          continue. Stand up to them and vote for your  
14          constituents. Thank you.

15                      REP. TORBETT: Thank you, James. Carl  
16          Gandel, then Chris Turner. Gavin Edwards? Gavin  
17          Edwards? Gavin Edwards? Robin Taylor? Robin  
18          Taylor? Susan Harden? Susan Harden? I'm sorry,  
19          Carl, go right ahead.

20                      MR. GANDEL: My God. My fellow North  
21          Carol inians. Oh, look it's 2017, it's 2017 and  
22          we're still talking about race. Are you kidding?  
23          Are you kidding? Unbelievable. 2017 and we still  
24          have a racism problem. It's never been a race  
25          problem. Notice I said it's a racism problem. We

1 still have a racism problem. It has always been a  
2 racism problem; never a race problem.

3 And thanks to the hate rhetoric of our  
4 divider in chief, it's only getting worse. So I  
5 say to our fine representatives in Raleigh, who are  
6 tasked with getting these maps right, to get  
7 colorblind. Get it right. Get on the right side  
8 of -- of history. Get woke. Country over party.  
9 Country over party. Do it right.

10 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, Carl. Chris  
11 Turner.

12 MR. TURNER: Thank you very much. I come  
13 before you as the elected official for the  
14 Mecklenburg County Republican Party. I am a  
15 millennial. I have been here for about eight  
16 years. I work for a company here in Charlotte.  
17 I'm raising my family here in Charlotte.

18 First of all, I want to thank our  
19 representatives. It is disappointing to hear from  
20 grown adults terms like white supremacist, Nazis,  
21 neo-Nazis for people who are drawing maps. There's  
22 a big difference. I'm a history major. I'm a  
23 religion major. I might have been out of class for  
24 a while, but there's a big difference between that  
25 and drawing maps.

1                   That being said, as the representative  
2                   for Mecklenburg County and speaking about the  
3                   county, let's get past platitudes. Let's get past  
4                   the talking points. Let's look at the statistics.  
5                   In 2016, Hillary Clinton won Mecklenburg County by  
6                   294,000 votes to 150,000 votes against Donald  
7                   Trump. That is two-to-one. Two-to-one. In our  
8                   State House, we have eight Democrats and four  
9                   Republicans. Two-to-one. Sounds like the maps  
10                  that they drew work just fine.

11                  In the Senate, it's three-to-two.  
12                  Democrats to Republicans. The maps got it right.  
13                  Am I disappointed in that? Do I wish Mecklenburg  
14                  County would be more Republican? Absolutely.  
15                  That's why I ran for office, and that's why I'm  
16                  going to continue to work to turn that around.  
17                  Because in Raleigh since 2010, Republicans have  
18                  proven that the Carolina comeback is real.

19                  We have lower taxes, we have better  
20                  business, we owe less debt to the government and we  
21                  all as citizens have more opportunity. That being  
22                  said, look at the city council. Nine-to-two;  
23                  Democrats to Republicans. You don't hear me  
24                  complaining about districts. We've got more work  
25                  to do in Mecklenburg County as Republicans. The

1 county commission, I think, is seven-to-two. You  
2 don't hear me complaining about district drawings.

3 I'm going to work harder and bring better  
4 policies in these local races to win the way we  
5 have done on the state and national level. This is  
6 not about districting. Donald Trump, whether you  
7 like him or not, he won 76 counties out of our  
8 state. Our state has rejected Democratic policies,  
9 and we are seeing that countless times in  
10 non-partisan and partisan races across our state.

11 As soon as people realize that the  
12 Republican values that are being led through our  
13 Raleigh leaders are what's best for our county and  
14 for our state, then the better we'll be able to  
15 move past this absolutely ridiculous statement that  
16 our maps are what's holding Democrats down. It's  
17 their policy. Thank you very much.

18 REP. TORBETT: Thank you. Dan Steele.  
19 Dan, you're next. Laura McNamara. Okay. Sarah  
20 Cassie -- Casey? Sarah Casey? I'm sorry, but  
21 Dimple Shah? Is that right? Okay. Did I do your  
22 name okay? Excellent. Thank you. Abbey Dunn.  
23 Joanna Hollingsworth? Joanna Hollingsworth?  
24 Elliott Willingham? Elliott Willingham? Steve  
25 Rundle? Steve Rundle? Jay Moore? Jay Moore?

1 Lenise Mel ton? Okay. So we have Dan, right?

2 MR. STEELE: Yes, sir.

3 REP. TORBETT: We have Dan Steele, Laura  
4 McNamara, Dimple Shah, Steve Rundle, Lenise Mel ton  
5 and Mary Bowman. Is that correct? Thank you.  
6 Dan, sorry.

7 MR. STEELE: It's all right. My name is  
8 Dan Steele, and I was born just a few blocks from  
9 this spot, grew up on Rea Road, graduated from  
10 Myers Park High School, and I've spent a combined  
11 total of seven years on two degrees from UNC Chapel  
12 Hill. I say all that simply to provide a  
13 background as to how much of a personal, vested  
14 interest I have in the future of my state.

15 I'm also a healthcare professional. And  
16 so directly serving the citizens of this state is  
17 my professional mission, as well as my personal  
18 conviction. Every doctoral program including the  
19 clinical doctorates like the one I recently  
20 completed, involves training in research methods  
21 and principles.

22 One of the most basic concepts in  
23 research is that of bias. Much attention is paid  
24 in peer-reviewed settings to conflict of interest  
25 and how those can cast doubt on the validity of all

1 findings that follow them. It's important to  
2 remember that bias does not require malicious  
3 intent in order to negatively affect the outcome of  
4 any scientific undertaking. This is a basic and  
5 uncontested principle known to every first-year PhD  
6 student.

7 I will not use this public forum to  
8 express my personal opinions on the -- on the  
9 intent of the GOP lawmakers who drew our current  
10 legislative maps. What I will say to the  
11 Republican legislators is that if you wish to be  
12 taken seriously in your assertions, that your  
13 intentions are to have fairly represented elections  
14 in North Carolina, then prove it by appointing an  
15 independent non-partisan committee to draw  
16 legislative maps using scientific statistical  
17 methods to ensure as fair a system of  
18 representation as possible.

19 The current method of politicians  
20 choosing their own voters is a glaring red flag  
21 that would immediately fail peer -- fail to pass  
22 peer review in any respected research journal. I  
23 understand that politics is not a laboratory  
24 science. But the impact of what happens in the  
25 legislature tangibly effects the lives of millions

1 of vulnerable citizens like the patients I treat  
2 every day. So surely any honest public servant  
3 owes his or her constituents the most fair and  
4 systematic way possible to determine their  
5 representatives. Take this decision out of the  
6 hands of both Republicans and Democrats.  
7 Demonstrate your willingness to eliminate even the  
8 appearance of a conflict of interest and take the  
9 first step towards restoring shattered voter trust  
10 in our democratic system. Thank you.

11 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, Dan. Laura  
12 McNamara.

13 MS. MCNAMARA: Hello. Thank you for  
14 being here. Thank you for staying so late. I'm  
15 Laura McNamara. I'm from Charlotte, North  
16 Carolina. I'm 27 years old, and I know a lot of  
17 people my age would like to voice their opinions  
18 here today, but they couldn't be here at the four  
19 o'clock start time. So I do feel I'm speaking on  
20 behalf of many like-minded folks; that I'm ashamed  
21 to be part of a state that is called the worst  
22 efforts of gerrymandering in the United States.  
23 It -- it ashes me and it's why I'm here today  
24 because I just felt like I needed to say something.  
25 I needed to protest. I needed people to hear that

1 we are not okay with this.

2 The new maps are not fair. They are  
3 still unfairly divided by race and income  
4 throughout party lines that were designed by  
5 legislators that are interested in their own  
6 benefit. I understand it has happened in the past,  
7 and I just want it to stop. I want non-partisan  
8 efforts to re-draw the maps. I want new maps. The  
9 current maps are -- I echo other speakers in saying  
10 that we need the courts to throw them out and we  
11 need non-partisan people to create a new map in  
12 order to create a fair voting system that respects  
13 democracy. We need maps that are free from  
14 partisan politics, that ignore voter registration  
15 data, past election results, and incumbent  
16 addresses that are used to draw the lines that  
17 benefit the people in power.

18 The new maps must comply with the Voting  
19 Rights Act to give minority voters, whose voices in  
20 North Carolina have been suppressed for decades,  
21 the chance to elect candidates of their choice.  
22 This is an issue that is imperative to upholding a  
23 democracy, and we cannot expect a fair  
24 representation of our citizens until these maps are  
25 fairly drawn. Again, thank you for being here and

1 staying 'til the end, and thank you for listening.

2 REP. TORBETT: Thank you.

3 MS. MCNAMARA: Thank you.

4 REP. TORBETT: Dimple Shah. Thank you.

5 MS. SHAH: Thank you. Thanks for having  
6 me. My name is Dimple Shah. I live in Matthews,  
7 North Carolina. These maps are still being  
8 gerrymandered. Less than 36 hours before the only  
9 opportunity for public comment on the proposed new  
10 legislative maps, the NCGOP finally released the  
11 correlating election data. We see why they don't  
12 want the public to have time to see and understand  
13 these new maps.

14 We compared the proposed maps to the  
15 current unconstitutional ones. Of the 16 GOP-held  
16 NC District House Districts Flip NC has identified  
17 as the most flippable based on past election  
18 results, 11 have been slanted more heavily for the  
19 GOP while only two were drawn more favorably for  
20 Democrats. The other three were unchanged.

21 Make no mistake; the NCGOP is actually  
22 trying to benefit from having drawn illegal  
23 racially-biased maps in the first place and the  
24 court order to redraw them. These lawmakers were  
25 elected under unconstitutional maps, and now

1           they've used the most recent election results of  
2           data on demographic changes to try to preserve as  
3           many Republican-held districts as possible and  
4           limit competition. This is what racism looks like.

5                         Though the GOP can, and will, technically  
6           argue that they fixed the problem of overt racial  
7           gerrymandering, they have simply returned to a  
8           model of precise partisan gerrymandering no fairer  
9           than the model used to draw the illegal maps in the  
10          first place. This is an arrogant, cynical attempt  
11         to adhere to the court's ruling while blatantly  
12         disregarding the spirit of the order to draw  
13         districts that would result in fair representation  
14         for all NC -- North Carolina citizens.

15                        These new proposed maps are actually more  
16          favorable to the GOP than the current ones, and  
17          they do nothing to address the fact that the  
18          current legislature was elected based on  
19          unconstitutional maps. This is a clear attempt by  
20          the NCGOP to cement their illegal super-majority,  
21          and one that the court should reject for a number  
22          of reasons.

23                        Most flagrantly, they've reached well  
24          beyond the areas affected by racial gerrymandering  
25          and redrawn many districts that were completely

1 unaffected by the court ruling. The court ordered  
2 the NCGOP to address a narrow set of districts it  
3 determined had been racially gerrymandered with  
4 near-surgical precision, and the NCGOP has used the  
5 court order as a chance to redraw much of the  
6 legislative map in its favor.

7 Historically, Democrats and Republicans  
8 have both been responsible for gerrymandering.  
9 Now, the GOP is showing that they have no interest  
10 in drawing fair maps. The future of North  
11 Carolina's democracy depends on all of its citizens  
12 to make their voices heard and demand the power to  
13 draw legislative maps be removed from the  
14 legislature. And they should be drawn  
15 independently, and we should have fair maps. I  
16 tell my children that they must play fairly, and  
17 it's not too much to ask for our legislature to  
18 play fairly as well. Thank you.

19 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, Dimple. Steve  
20 Rundle.

21 MR. RUNDLE: Bless your all's hearts for  
22 being here so late. Good God. I'm - I'm going to  
23 be brief and not rehash too much, but I do want to  
24 point out that one of the fundamental things at --  
25 at work here is a racial bias and a discriminatory

1           intent. What we -- we have to look at what  
2           happened back in 2013 when the Supreme Court  
3           removed the shackles off North Carolina and were --  
4           and they no longer had to submit their voting plans  
5           to the Justice Department. It -- Katie, bar the  
6           door. We -- we got voter ID laws. You know, voter  
7           suppression measures. Things to make it harder for  
8           those of -- in our communities of color and those,  
9           you know, who are -- they would be biased against  
10          due to race or party to get out to vote. Plain and  
11          simple.

12                           And what we have here, just to look at  
13          the maps that we have coming out or look at the  
14          process that is keeping all of us here for hours on  
15          end, essentially a process that -- that gives you  
16          only a fifth of the voice because you're taking the  
17          entire state at one time as in a -- in a commentary  
18          period. And -- and a process that doesn't give you  
19          the data backing up the maps to really be able to  
20          evaluate in time.

21                           So when we have had a legislature that --  
22          that has tried -- tried to get away with stuff,  
23          been found by the courts to have discriminatory  
24          intent in what -- in what they have tried to get --  
25          get away with in the past. This -- this map is --

1 is supposedly a correction of that. It's clearly  
2 not. It's just the latest example, exactly, of -  
3 of the egregious way this -- this legislature has  
4 tried to suppress the vote and -- and, you know,  
5 have a racially biased intent in the way they are  
6 doing things.

7 So bless your hearts. I -- I -- I would  
8 also support a non-partisan way of doing this. You  
9 know, it's simply become too refined with -- with  
10 the -- with the electronics and the way they can  
11 literally gerrymander things right down the middle  
12 of the street these days, you know, based -- based  
13 on voter things. You know, for years and years you  
14 could never get it that -- that fine. Now, both  
15 parties have the technologies, so we have to move  
16 to a non-partisan way of doing this.

17 But I -- I just have to point out,  
18 tonight with the process that's taking this long,  
19 keeping us all here, and -- and suppressing  
20 comments from a lot of people because of the  
21 cumbersomeness of the process. You know, it is  
22 just the -- the latest example of, you know, a  
23 legislature that doesn't want to open this up to  
24 comment, that doesn't want to pay attention to the  
25 courts and does -- doesn't want to -- and we will

1 see you in court again. Thank you.

2 REP. TORBETT: Lenise -- Lenise Melton.  
3 Did I do your name -- first name right?

4 MS. MELTON: Yes, that is correct.

5 REP. TORBETT: Thank you. And then Mary  
6 Bowman. Thank you, Mary.

7 MS. MELTON: My name is Lenise Melton.  
8 I'm a resident of Gaston County. I work here in  
9 Charlotte. All of my voting life has taken place  
10 in North Carolina. I grew up in South Carolina.  
11 I'm just really discouraged about this whole thing.  
12 I'm going to say that it feels like theater to me.  
13 Like, nobody really cares what the citizens want.  
14 I'm sort of like the voting process; I've got an  
15 appeal, but I'll do my best.

16 In a democracy, the voters are supposed  
17 to pick the representatives. The representatives  
18 are not supposed to pick the voters, but both sides  
19 do. It doesn't really have a lot of sway with me.  
20 When Democrats were doing it, they weren't nearly  
21 as good at it, and two wrongs do not make a right.  
22 I'm pretty sure my parents taught me that. I'm  
23 pretty sure all your parents taught you that. They  
24 taught you that. I like to see the best in people.  
25 I like to think that whatever's in their heart,

1           it's for the good of all of us. And it's just  
2           really getting hard to always think that.

3                       I really like this gerrymandering map. I  
4           don't know if anybody else has showed it to you.  
5           How you take a representative population, and  
6           there's four ways to do it. There's straight line.  
7           There is perfect, so that it comes out equally.  
8           There's compact, but completely unfair. And  
9           there's neither compact nor fair. And it feels  
10          like North Carolina picks winner number four. And  
11          the entire -- and we're leading the way. Other  
12          people are going yeah, let's do that. We're  
13          setting a terrible example.

14                      And my other chart that I brought -- and  
15          it's not about the state legislature, because I  
16          have a full-time job. I'm not an activist. I'm  
17          not representing anybody, so I don't have time to  
18          dig through all these maps and figure this out for  
19          the state legislature. But I don't think -- that  
20          guy that was just quoting statistics about how it's  
21          exactly right because of Hillary's vote? I don't  
22          really think that's a good representative example.

23                      This is a New York Times thing that lines  
24          up nine states. North Carolina comes in third  
25          behind West Virginia and South Carolina for the

1 most unrepresentative legislative nationally. I  
2 think in '12, we were 44 percent Democrat votes and  
3 got three out of 13 seats, for 23 percent. And  
4 then it got worse. It got to 44 percent and we  
5 still have the same, you know, terrible 23 percent  
6 of our, you know, national seats. And you know,  
7 when are you going to be ashamed? When it's 51  
8 percent, and we still only get 23 percent of the  
9 seats?

10 I just would beg you to be the bigger  
11 party. Be noble. Show us all in North Carolina  
12 and the country that we can do this non-partisan  
13 and we can win on ideas. We're a purple state. We  
14 need purple representatives. Thank you.

15 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, Lenise. Mary  
16 Bowman?

17 MS. BOWMAN: My name is Mary Bowman, and  
18 I am a minister here in Charlotte, North Carolina.  
19 I just really wanted to weigh in, in a general way,  
20 about just the importance that every voice really  
21 matters in North Carolina. That I think  
22 gerrymandering we've seen so often that we're  
23 seeing our elections determined at the primary  
24 stages. That we're really not allowing full votes  
25 to be cast and to be heard. And it's just

1 something that's so important.

2 Many others have pointed out that both  
3 parties are certainly guilty of this. I'm right in  
4 the middle of reading about Alexander Hamilton and  
5 the forming of our country. And we simply are  
6 asking for true, sort of, leadership in terms of  
7 allowing the process to really benefit all voices.  
8 And just really encourage that the current  
9 legislature would -- would take leadership. That  
10 they would allow that neither party has done this  
11 process very well and that it's really time to turn  
12 it over to an independent and bipartisan commission  
13 that can really analyze and get things to a more  
14 fair value. So thank you.

15 REP. TORBETT: Thank you, Mary. Ladies  
16 and gentlemen, wow. We started out, the room was  
17 just absolutely burning up. We had to turn the AC  
18 up as high as it would go. Thank you all so very  
19 much for attending. Very much, from the bottom of  
20 my heart. This is -- this means a whole lot when  
21 you participate, and we need more of that across  
22 our state and -- and country.

23 MR. WILLINGHAM: I thought I was on as  
24 well.

25 REP. TORBETT: What's your name, sir?

1 MR. WILLINGHAM: Elliott Willingham.

2 REP. TORBETT: I'm sorry. I called your  
3 name earlier, and I marked you off for some reason.

4 MR. WILLINGHAM: I didn't hear you,  
5 obviously.

6 REP. TORBETT: I'm sorry. We have one  
7 more. Elliott Willingham.

8 MR. WILLINGHAM: Thank you. I'm coming  
9 here from work. As a teacher, I'm always good  
10 about showing this like -- what this looks like to  
11 me. And also as a lifelong Presbyterian, my  
12 grandmother -- go back to my grandmothers of elder,  
13 many, many years. And she always went back to  
14 Micah. Love justice, show mercy and walk humbly in  
15 the eyes of God.

16 So when I looked at the map the other day  
17 for the district that I'm assigned to according to  
18 the new representative map, that's a combination of  
19 67 and 99. To me, it kind of looks like this.  
20 Forgive me, I'm not -- not the best drawer. There.  
21 All right. Kind of like a fat cat, if you may,  
22 with the tail that's been cut off. Kind of what  
23 my -- my neighbor's cat used to look like when some  
24 relatives got a hold of the -- the tail here.

25 In any case, you have a -- a district

1 here where you have one representative,  
2 Representative Moore, who lives in Charlotte. Now,  
3 coming against Representative Burr, who lives in  
4 Al bemarle down here. With fully about 50 miles  
5 between them, correct? Okay. Well, not 50  
6 miles -- I'm sorry. About 50 minutes in terms of  
7 driving distance between you.

8 Now, how is -- when I looked at the map,  
9 how is this going to best benefit those families  
10 and constituents that live in Charlotte versus  
11 those that live in -- I guess this is fast-growing  
12 suburban Cabarrus County, rural Cabarrus County  
13 going into Stanly County which is mostly rural as  
14 well? It doesn't make sense. It's not showing  
15 that basic common-sense principle about, you know,  
16 love and justice, showing mercy -- mercy, and being  
17 humble in the way that we utilize our -- our --  
18 our -- our -- ideas in terms of democracy.

19 Again, being a lifelong Presbyterian,  
20 we're supposed to believe in representative  
21 government. We're supposed to believe in making  
22 sure the people are represented fairly. This, in  
23 this particular case, isn't showing that to me.  
24 And that's beyond all the other historical issues  
25 that happened with our redistricting efforts here.

1           Please keep this in mind. There's got to be  
2           something better here. There's got to be. The fat  
3           cat really ain't working.

4                         REP. TORBETT: Thank you very much. Let  
5           me start by announcing that I'm not seeing anybody  
6           else that was here to speak and I did not call your  
7           name. I do apologize again, Elliott. All right.  
8           That -- that is all I have. Thank you all for  
9           being here. Thank you all for participating and  
10          this meeting is -- unless anyone has any last --  
11          adjourned.

12                         (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.

*Brad Worley*

Brad Worley, transcriptionist

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