

# EX. 13

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
PUBLIC HEARING CONCLUSION - FAYETTEVILLE SATELLITE SITE

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

Worley Reporting  
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. SZOKA: Ladies and gentlemen,  
6 because some of the other sites are having  
7 difficulty with their audio and their video, a  
8 decision has been made to disconnect all the remote  
9 sites. And we're going to continue this public  
10 hearing here today just within the site where we  
11 are right now.

12 So we have been recording everything that  
13 we've been doing so far. Everything that has been  
14 said here and everything that will be said here  
15 will become a part of the permanent record, will be  
16 transcribed by a court reporter when the tape of  
17 this, which -- as I said, it's been recorded from  
18 the beginning until now and will be through the  
19 end, is sent out to Raleigh. So any questions  
20 about that? Yes. Yes, ma'am?

21 FEMALE SPEAKER: So is this over with  
22 now?

23 SEN. JACKSON: No, ma'am.

24 REP. SZOKA: Well, it's not over right  
25 now. No, ma'am. We're going to continue this --

1 we had a committee that was distributed over the  
2 state. Now we're -- we're going to continue with  
3 myself and Senator Jackson as the chair here to run  
4 the committee for the public hearing right here,  
5 right now. And if you were signed up on the list  
6 by 6:30, you'll still have your opportunity to be  
7 heard. All of your comments will be transcribed by  
8 the court reporter and will be entered into the  
9 permanent record. So --

10 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: John, if everyone's  
11 still here, we have 15 speakers.

12 REP. SZOKA: Okay. So let me go through  
13 the list here to make sure that you're here. And  
14 if you are here, would you just raise your hand?  
15 If somebody isn't here -- is out in the parking lot  
16 on a smoke break and comes back in -- when they're  
17 called, the rules say that they'll be allowed to  
18 speak after everybody else is here.

19 So the next two minutes or so, we'll get  
20 Mr. Buxton up, then Linda Devore, Hiram Reynolds,  
21 Ray Hudson, James Baker, Harold Mendel son, I'm  
22 sorry if I butcher your name, Amari che Hawkins,  
23 Lel ia Harrington, Maude Gibbs, Susan Mills, Michael  
24 Mills, Al McSurely, O' Linda Watkins, Dennis Biddle  
25 and Mitch Colvin.

1                   So you'll still have three minutes to  
2                   speak, and when you come up to the microphone,  
3                   please identify yourself. And if you choose to say  
4                   what group you're representing if you're  
5                   representing something, however you choose to do  
6                   it, say that for the record. And the  
7                   Sergeant-at-Arms here will keep time as he's been  
8                   doing. He flashes up the one-minute warning. When  
9                   he puts up to stop, that means stop.

10                   So any -- any questions on that? It's  
11                   really the same thing we're doing -- we've just  
12                   been doing here. So -- you're ready now?

13                   MR. BUXTON: Yes, sir.

14                   REP. SZOKA: Please identify yourself for  
15                   the record, and you have three minutes.

16                   MALE SPEAKER: If you feel comfortable  
17                   about picking that thing up out of the microphone  
18                   stand, go ahead and talk into it that way. Either  
19                   way.

20                   MR. BUXTON: I'm Jimmy Buxton, President  
21                   of the Fayetteville branch of the NAACP, here in  
22                   Fayetteville, North Carolina. I'm really  
23                   disappointed to stand here as I did back in 2011 in  
24                   Raleigh in the same manner that this is the  
25                   comments about redistricting and actually having

1 people to tell the representatives at that time  
2 that they were drawing racial gerrymandering  
3 districts.

4 I'm also disappointed that when I went to  
5 my state representative, who I thought maybe could  
6 give me some information on the maps that were  
7 drawn this past Friday and Sunday night, they were  
8 put out at that time, that he could give me some  
9 information on it. At that time, he told me he  
10 didn't have any information, mainly because he was  
11 not called to sit in on this redistricting, which  
12 means that's a sham. If he sits on this  
13 redistricting committee and was not allowed to have  
14 input for this map drawing, it's a sham.

15 The three-judge panel has already deemed  
16 that these maps that were drawn before 2011 were  
17 unconstitutional. After reviewing the redrawn  
18 maps, I feel that they are unconstitutional. These  
19 maps were drawn to benefit those who are set in  
20 their mind to not give Medicaid to thousands of  
21 people, to cut education, to take away the power of  
22 the duly elected governor.

23 Gerrymandering is a way of forcing the  
24 outcome of the elections in their favor. I hope  
25 and I pray that this three-judge panel will hold

1 every legislator that is responsible for this in  
2 contempt and have these maps redrawn again and that  
3 can be fair to elect people that -- and will  
4 elect -- to elect and to reject those people that  
5 are duly running for the election. Thank you.

6 REP. SZOKA: Thank you, sir. Next is Ms.  
7 Linda Devore. Please approach the mic, identify  
8 yourself and you'll have three minutes when you  
9 start talking. Thank you.

10 MS. DEVORE: My name is Linda Devore.  
11 I'm not here to represent any organization. These  
12 are my own remarks. I've lived in Fayetteville for  
13 37 years. And my ideas and my thoughts on not only  
14 the 2011 districts, the 2001 districts, the 1991  
15 districts, the 1981 districts and the districts  
16 we're looking at today may not reflect any  
17 particular group's perspective other than my own.

18 First of all, I want to thank our members  
19 in the legislature for the good work they've done.  
20 Because as I look at the new districts, the ones  
21 that are proposed here tonight, I realize that for  
22 a very long time, we've been -- this -- that these  
23 districts go a long ways towards correcting a wrong  
24 that's existed in our state for a very long time.  
25 You don't have to look back very far. Just go back

1 to the 2001 districts if you want to.

2 You know, in -- in the 1970s, the Supreme  
3 Court of the United States made what I consider to  
4 be a very unfortunate decision. They decided  
5 that -- that in spite of -- of the bad rap that  
6 gerrymandering deserved and had gotten over the  
7 years, that political gerrymandering would be  
8 allowed in this country. So as a result of that,  
9 in the 1980s, the 1990s, the early 2000s and after  
10 the Census of 2010, states across the country,  
11 whether they be Republican or Democratic  
12 legislatures, have increasingly engaged in  
13 gerrymandering for political whim because the  
14 Supreme Court said that that was constitutional in  
15 this country.

16 There is a case before the Supreme Court  
17 which will be heard this fall, which comes out of  
18 Wisconsin. The case is Gill versus Whitford, which  
19 may reverse that. And that will be for the benefit  
20 of all of us. But what I want to tell you is that  
21 the maps we're looking at tonight are by far, on  
22 their face, the least gerrymandered districts we've  
23 had in the State of North Carolina in the 37 years  
24 that I have lived here.

25 I was one of the first to speak out in

1           early 2012 and 2013 about the designer districts  
2           that were created in 2011. You know, it wasn't  
3           just here in North Carolina. Software got to the  
4           point by 2011 that either party could design  
5           districts to benefit their partisan interests.  
6           There were irregular boundaries in our districts,  
7           there were land bridges joining largely contiguous  
8           areas, split precincts, split communities. And if  
9           you look at the line, the line in our county  
10          between the Senate 19 and 21 District, the boundary  
11          was an embarrassment to fairness. I don't see how  
12          anybody could see a different way, no matter which  
13          side of the aisle you're on.

14                        We need a reset. And here's the thing;  
15                        these nine districts that we're looking at tonight,  
16                        they are a reset. We are looking at compact  
17                        districts, regular boundaries. They bring together  
18                        communities of common interest. There are nine  
19                        municipalities in Cumberland County. Eight of them  
20                        are -- eight of them are unsplit. The ninth -- the  
21                        ninth municipality, which is Fayetteville, is too  
22                        large to be within one district.

23                        Y'all, we're looking at the best job I've  
24                        seen in Cumberland in the state of North Carolina  
25                        in the 37 years I've been here. Thank you.

1 REP. SZOKA: Please finish up. Thank  
2 you. All right. Hold your applause, please.  
3 Hi ram Reynolds. Hi ram Reynolds. Hi ram Reynolds.  
4 All right. We'll go on. If Mr. Reynolds shows up,  
5 he'll be able to finish speaking then. Ray Hudson.  
6 Sir, please identify yourself for the record, and  
7 then you have three minutes.

8 MR. HUDSON: Certainly. Yes, I have --  
9 if you're the gentleman I want to speak to, do you  
10 mind if I turn this mic around?

11 REP. SZOKA: Either way. Whatever makes  
12 you comfortable.

13 MR. HUDSON: My name is Ray Hudson. I'm  
14 from Montgomery County, a rural county. Somebody  
15 said you live in the sticks --

16 REP. SZOKA: Would you -- excuse me,  
17 would you get closer to the mic, so that you it  
18 gets picked up.

19 MR. HUDSON: Certainly. My name is Ray  
20 Hudson. I live in Montgomery County, it's a rural  
21 county, close from -- is this good? Well, someone  
22 said, do you live in the sticks? I have to drive  
23 five miles to get to the sticks to buy gas. That's  
24 how far out I live. And something I was told in  
25 that community is you don't use harsh words,

1           particularly in mixed groups like this when we just  
2           don't know anybody. But to be perfectly blunt, my  
3           parents told me that, my teachers. But frankly,  
4           they never encountered the legislature we've got  
5           now. And I'm going to have to use some blunt  
6           words.

7                         North Carolina used to be known for  
8           intelligent, progressive leadership. We have a  
9           little bounce in our step. We saw somebody from  
10          South Carolina be blunt, we go hmm. Well, folks,  
11          we can't do that anymore. North Carolina is not  
12          that intelligent, progressive leadership anymore.  
13          We're about bathrooms, gerrymandered districts and  
14          voter suppression. And I'm ashamed of it. There's  
15          no excuse for it.

16                        Now, this -- I used to teach. I've done  
17          a number of things and I told those children, you  
18          be proud you're American. And I still tell people  
19          that. That the political system works, it's fair,  
20          you have to keep fighting. That's a lie now. It's  
21          a flat out lie. You have disenfranchised people.

22                        You got a man -- and I'm going to use --  
23          I'm going to say a -- well, scoundrel crook,  
24          whatever to draw those first districts. And then,  
25          lord, you give them the job a second time. That's

1           I like the crook got repelled the first time, so  
2           we're going to let him have another crack at  
3           breaking into the house. Don't tell me that's  
4           fair. It's simply not. And here's what's so bad  
5           about that.

6                            You probably figured out I am a staunch  
7           Democrat, and I am, and a proud one. But I want  
8           two strong, competitive parties that we can  
9           respect. Going to be blunt with you.  
10          Conservative -- heard that first word when what it  
11          meant was, we didn't want the blacks in the  
12          schools. It was a code word for a bigot. If I'm  
13          insulting somebody, I'm sorry. But y'all can fix  
14          that. You can have Eisenhower-type conservatives  
15          where we can respect you and disagree with you.  
16          You start by coming up with a fair commission to  
17          put together the districts. And I thank you for  
18          your time and have a good day.

19                        REP. SZOKA: Thank you for your comments,  
20          sir. Next up is Mr. James Baker.

21                        MR. BAKER: My name is James Baker from  
22          Cumberland County. First of all, thank you for the  
23          opportunity to comment on the proposed  
24          redistricting for the North Carolina Senate and  
25          House. I have two points I'd like to make.

1                   First, from what I've seen in the  
2 preliminary maps, both those presented here today  
3 and those presented in other settings and from what  
4 I've read about the redistricting plans in various  
5 media outlets, the new districts apparently respect  
6 the principle of contiguity; all the parts of each  
7 districts seem to be connected. Along with this,  
8 the new districts seem a good bit more compact than  
9 some of the ones we presently have.

10                   As a former elections worker myself, I'm  
11 encouraged when we don't have a lot of voting  
12 precincts that are split by district lines. I'm  
13 also encouraged that the new district boundaries,  
14 for the most part, don't seem to violate municipal  
15 boundaries very often. For the most part, district  
16 lines should hopefully allow citizens to vote with  
17 the same neighbors they work and shop and play and  
18 worship and go to school with. Wherever possible,  
19 district lines should respect communities and  
20 neighborhoods. And as far as I can tell, most of  
21 these do. That's my first point.

22                   My second is this. Elected  
23 legislature -- elected legislators have a  
24 constitutional role in drawing district lines. We  
25 do not have a parliamentary system. Statewide

1 election results have never been expected to  
2 determine the precise percentage of legislative  
3 seats won or lost. To the best of my knowledge, it  
4 has never been constitutionally required of the  
5 executive branch or the judicial branch, or for  
6 that matter the legislative majority that they  
7 should compensate for weak performance at the  
8 ballot box on the part of the current legislative  
9 minority. Now, policy differences exist, but  
10 that's not the same thing as legality. It's easy  
11 to call something unethical or immoral or unfair,  
12 but that's not the same thing as legality, either.

13 And finally, it's easy to charge that  
14 something is illegal; but just saying it's that way  
15 doesn't make it so. As long as the proposed  
16 districts comply with the one man, one vote  
17 requirement; as long as they contain approximately  
18 equal populations under the 2010 Census; as long as  
19 they comply with the Voting Rights Act; as long as  
20 they follow the law as it's currently understood;  
21 specifically, yes, to include court precedents and  
22 rulings now in effect; then these maps are legal,  
23 and they deserve our support. Thank you.

24 REP. SZOKA: Thank you, sir. Next  
25 speaker is Mr. Harold Mendelson. Sir, please

1 identify yourself for the record, and you have  
2 three minutes.

3 MR. MENDELSON: My name is Harold  
4 Mendelson. I am from Moore County, and I  
5 appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight. I  
6 would like to say that the purpose of the  
7 redistricting is based on the ruling of the Fourth  
8 District Court of Appeals which stated that they  
9 felt the existing maps were racially biased. The  
10 redistricting as shown in the new maps did not use  
11 race as a determining factor in forming the new  
12 districts. It is in compliance with the court's  
13 mandate.

14 Other comments would have the  
15 redistricting ignore party affiliation. While this  
16 could be a better than -- better than the current  
17 methods, it is not the purpose of the  
18 redistricting. And this issue has no bearing on  
19 requirements of the federal court's requirements at  
20 this time.

21 In 1965, the Voting Rights Act  
22 established the rules to determine the -- the rules  
23 of establishing voting districts. Up until 2010,  
24 the Democrats determined the districts and used  
25 party affiliation and population in determining the

1 districts. When the Republicans came to power in  
2 2008 in spite of the Democrat gerrymandering and  
3 maintaining control in 2010, this was the first  
4 time that the Republicans had an opportunity to  
5 create these maps.

6 In 2011, the Department of Justice  
7 approved these voting maps. And then in 2016,  
8 there were number of lawsuits that were instigated  
9 against the maps being racially biased. And  
10 eventually the -- the Department of Justice joined  
11 in on these suits. This brings to light that the  
12 real reason behind the lawsuits -- and the reason  
13 was to -- and that reason was to reduce the power  
14 of Republicans. When the Democrats were in power,  
15 why didn't they remove political affiliation from  
16 the districts?

17 The comments here was that an outside  
18 company created maps. That's not correct. The  
19 outside company supplied the software, and the  
20 legislators supplied the limitations or -- or the  
21 actual specific areas for that -- redrawing the  
22 maps.

23 All right. Now, these new districts  
24 comply with the federal courts; at least,  
25 apparently so. It would obviously be up to them to

1 make the final determination. If the -- if the  
2 public wants to remove party affiliation from --  
3 from determining districts, then they should ask  
4 their representatives to create bills that will do  
5 so. If the representatives don't respond to the  
6 voters, then they have absolutely -- that can be  
7 resolved in the elections.

8 REP. SZOKA: Sir, if you could finish up?

9 MR. MENDELSON: I'm done.

10 REP. SZOKA: Thank you very much. Our  
11 next speaker -- and again, I apologize if I butcher  
12 your name -- is Amariche Hawkins. Is -- is there  
13 anybody with the last name of Hawkins here?  
14 Hawkins, one more time? All right. We'll hold  
15 that to the end as well. Next speaker would be  
16 Lelia Harrington or Harringbon.

17 MS. HARRINGTON: Harrington.

18 REP. SZOKA: Sorry. Again, I apologize.

19 MS. HARRINGTON: It's okay. You said  
20 Lelia.

21 REP. SZOKA: Lelia, okay. I was never a  
22 good speller. So --

23 MS. HARRINGTON: Hi --

24 REP. SZOKA: If you'd approach the mic,  
25 identify yourself for the record, please. And you

1 have three minutes. Thank you.

2 MS. HARRINGTON: Hi. Hi. My name is  
3 Lelia Harrington. I'm a retired veteran. And I'm  
4 speaking here on behalf of myself and on the  
5 veterans. Now, I had a look at that map. You have  
6 76 districts for the Republicans on that map and 52  
7 for the Democrats. And I'm not even familiar with  
8 this map because I haven't had a chance to really  
9 study it. I just briefed over it.

10 Now, my vote should count. Now, you all  
11 can get up here and you can -- like the young --  
12 like the man before me and you can talk about oh,  
13 this map is great. But you don't know this map is  
14 great. This map is crap. I fought 21 years. I  
15 served 21 years in the American Armed Forces.  
16 Army. For the First Amendment. The Second  
17 Amendment. Every damn amendment on the  
18 Constitution. How many of you all have served?  
19 And here I stand. Every day I have to fight for my  
20 rights as a woman that served and you all have not.  
21 I have to fight for my right for me to vote.

22 My son was kicked off voter  
23 registration -- who served in the Armed Forces.  
24 Why is that? And you going to tell me this is  
25 fair? No, it's not fair. It's a piece of crap. I

1 counted, and I don't even know that much about this  
2 map yet. Okay. You are going to win. You fear my  
3 vote. But instead of you reaching across the aisle  
4 getting to know me, you would rather suppress my  
5 voice. You can reach across the aisle and get to  
6 know me. Hi, my name is Lelia Harrington. This is  
7 who I am. Oh, you don't want to shake my hand?  
8 Okay. I -- this is what I'm talking about. This  
9 man don't want to shake the hand of a black woman  
10 who served in the Armed Forces, but he wants to  
11 tell you he's fair. What, is my hand too dark for  
12 you? Am I too dark for you? See, you fear my vote  
13 because you don't like me. But my vote is going to  
14 count. This is crap, and it will be turned down.  
15 And this time the courts will do it. Said all I  
16 had to say.

17 REP. SZOKA: Thank you for your comments.  
18 And just for the record, three of the four  
19 legislators up here are veterans. Next is Maude  
20 Gibbs.

21 MS. HARRINGTON: You served 21 years? I  
22 don't think so. And if you couldn't shake my hand  
23 you shouldn't be called --

24 REP. SZOKA: Ma'am, your time is up,  
25 please. Is Maude Gibbs here?

1 MS. GIBBS: Yes, I'm here.

2 REP. SZOKA: Yes, ma'am. Please approach  
3 the mic. Identify yourself for the record, and you  
4 have three minutes. Thank you.

5 MS. GIBBS: Yes, sir. Thank you. My  
6 name is Maude Gibbs. A lot of the stuff I've seen  
7 here today is ridiculous. The disrespect I've seen  
8 to one of our legislators. Whether you like him or  
9 not, I know he served this country. I know this  
10 for a fact. My family -- I have a third of my  
11 family are veterans. My ex-husband's a veteran.  
12 And let me tell you one thing. Half my family are  
13 officers. Army, Air Force and Navy, all three  
14 branches. I have several first cousins who are  
15 [inaudible].

16 This is craziness, is what's going on in  
17 this country right now. This gerrymandering been  
18 going on forever; definitely in the Democrat party.  
19 Let's keep it real, missy. So when -- when  
20 Republican got a chance to do it, now you want to  
21 cry it's not fair. It was fair all the other time.  
22 Might as well continue being fair now. Sitting in  
23 these churches, telling lies. Knowing you're  
24 lying, not telling the truth. You know what's in  
25 your heart.

1                   Everybody gets an opportunity to get the  
2                   upper hand, you going to take advantage of the  
3                   upper hand. They got the upper hand now, and the  
4                   only reason they got the upper hand is because the  
5                   people voted for them. If the citizens walking  
6                   around didn't want them, they wouldn't be up there.  
7                   That's just setting; one, two, three. Whether  
8                   you're black or white, it doesn't matter -- an eye  
9                   for God. Let's keep it real. Let's call it like  
10                  it is. What's goose -- what's good for the goose  
11                  is good -- is good for the gander, my grandmother  
12                  always used to say. That's what I got to say.

13                  Anybody don't like it -- don't care if  
14                  you're black or white. I don't look at color. I  
15                  look at -- I vote according to what you -- what you  
16                  stand for. What you believe in your hearts. And  
17                  for HB2, let me tell you one thing. I supported  
18                  the ex-governor on HB2 because I'm going to stand  
19                  on my true Christian values. I'm not selling out  
20                  for 30 pieces of -- of gold -- of silver. Thank  
21                  you.

22                  REP. SZOKA: Thank you for your comments,  
23                  ma'am. Next speaker is Susan Mills. Please  
24                  approach the mic, identify yourself for the record,  
25                  and you'll have three minutes. Thank you.

1 MS. MILLS: Thank you. My name is Susan  
2 Mills. I am from Cumberland County, and I am a  
3 school teacher. And I want to thank you all for the  
4 pay raise that we got. We really do appreciate it,  
5 and it's something that we hadn't seen under the  
6 Democrats. So thank you very much.

7 I'm very pleased the General Assembly has  
8 drawn the maps in a color-blind way with no use of  
9 racial data. These maps are fair and they're  
10 legal. Excuse me, we've all given everybody else  
11 courtesy, so if we could please do that, too.  
12 These maps are fair and legal. They follow the  
13 letter of the law as understood today. The  
14 districts are fair and compact. They split fewer  
15 precincts. City and town boundaries are respected  
16 where possible.

17 And I would like to say it's great to be  
18 able now that I'm going to be able to look out my  
19 window and see that my neighbors have the same sign  
20 that I have in my yard because across the street,  
21 we didn't have that. So now with the districts  
22 being redrawn we're going have that. So the towns  
23 and cities are all going be more compact and much  
24 more in common than other places.

25 Let's face it: there's no way to please

1           everybody. However, I really do believe that these  
2           districts are fair to all and comply with the one  
3           man, one vote law. I thank you all for your time.  
4           Thank you for all that you do. And hopefully we'll  
5           keep these districts. Thank you.

6                         REP. SZOKA: Thank you for your comments.  
7           The next speaker is Michael Mills. Sir, please  
8           approach the mic, identify yourself for the record,  
9           and you'll have three minutes to speak.

10                        MR. MILLS: Michael Mills, Cumberland  
11           County. I want to thank you guys for this  
12           opportunity to come and speak. I actually support  
13           the new districts. I also recognize that when the  
14           Democrats were in control, they did the same thing.  
15           So, you know, we -- we can't now all of a sudden  
16           choose sides and direction.

17                        These new districts will not solve the  
18           Democrats' problems. They need a new -- they need  
19           to change their policies. For example, Democrats  
20           lost nine out of the ten presidential elections.  
21           They've lost three straight US Senate elections and  
22           14 out of the last 18 partisan statewide elections.  
23           So clearly, the Republicans have gained  
24           approximately 125,000 state -- elector -- citizens  
25           and the Democrats have lost about that same amount.

1           So you guys are still running for election the next  
2           go-round, the Democrats need to get candidates and  
3           run against you guys. Thank you.

4                     REP. SZOKA: Thank you for your comments,  
5           sir. Next speaker is Al McSurely. Sir, please  
6           approach the microphone, identify yourself for the  
7           record, and you'll have three minutes.

8                     MR. MCSURELY: My name is Al McSurely, 81  
9           years old. Been a lawyer for 29 years. Worked  
10          with the NAACP for every part of my life -- for 60  
11          years, fighting against racism. I just want to try  
12          to clarify a few very bad mistakes that some of the  
13          speakers have been made.

14                    There's [inaudible] suits; I think the  
15          two people -- two people that mentioned. One  
16          they're talking about, of course, the voter  
17          suppression suit, that was Fourth Circuit. And  
18          Supreme Court upheld that for just the Fourth  
19          Circuit. That has nothing to do with this hearing  
20          today. The hearing today is about a three-judge  
21          federal court that ruled that these -- the same  
22          maps that are hanging up there are  
23          unconstitutional -- they didn't change them at all.  
24          And this -- this case has been decided nine to  
25          nothing by Neil Gorsuch, by Clarence Thomas and

1 all -- all nine of the Supreme Court. So there's  
2 no appeal to this. People are kind of upset,  
3 there's going to be some kind of appeals on this.  
4 This case is not appealable. This case has been  
5 decided by nine Supreme Court judges.

6 The three judges that heard it -- and  
7 those of you who are here that were up in  
8 Greensboro, went up there and saw the three judges.  
9 Margaret Eagles, Jim Wynn and Schroeder -- I mean  
10 Schroeder who heard the first part of the -- of the  
11 big case. And they ruled three to nothing, a  
12 narrow three to nothing ruling stood up in the  
13 Supreme Court. That was what was adopted. So  
14 there's no more appeals. This is it.

15 So when the all-white Republican caucus  
16 that will be in Raleigh gets that case -- last  
17 August, the -- 12 months ago and had it for 12  
18 months and decided not to do -- to sit on their  
19 hands for 12 months, and now are waiting until last  
20 night to tell us how they designed these new maps,  
21 they presented what lawyers call a bad faith and  
22 what the Old Testament calls unclean hands. So  
23 they've come to the court with unclean hands of  
24 sitting on something for 12 months, being in  
25 contempt both of the federal court here and of the

1 Supreme Court now by not recognizing any of the law  
2 that they have to go by.

3 So what is obviously going to happen and  
4 I -- I hope the reason I get up to talk is that the  
5 three-judge court -- this will go back to them next  
6 week in September. And they will look at it to see  
7 whether these maps meet what the Supreme Court said  
8 is the law of the case. There is no other law.  
9 And they -- and they will argue that this -- this  
10 all-white supermajority caucus that has been  
11 running our state for the last six and a half  
12 years --

13 REP. SZOKA: Sir, would you finish up,  
14 please?

15 MR. MCSURELY: -- come to court with  
16 unclean hands. And I'm hoping that the judges get  
17 a sense of how these bogus hearings were put  
18 together. Not talking about how you run this, but  
19 I'm just talking about -- general.

20 REP. SZOKA: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. MCSURELY: Gentlemen, I thank you  
22 for your courtesy. Thank you.

23 REP. SZOKA: Thank you, sir, for your  
24 comments. Is O' Linda Watkins here? Yes, ma'am.  
25 Please identify yourself for the official record,

1 and you'll have three minutes. Thank you.

2 MS. WATKINS: Thank you. My name is  
3 O'Linda Watkins. I'm President of Moore County  
4 NAACP. Our preliminary analysis shows House  
5 District 21 continues as it did in the illegal 2011  
6 plans to sprawl into Sampson and Wayne Counties to  
7 maximize the black voter population in the district  
8 and limit the power of those black voters whose  
9 votes would have greater impact in fairly-drawn  
10 districts.

11 The same is true in Senate District 19,  
12 which is nearly entirely located in Hoke County  
13 itself except for a protrusion that is in the  
14 illegal 2011 plans. The biggest addition to the  
15 border are reaching into Cumberland County to grab  
16 black voters who would otherwise be casting their  
17 ballots in Senate District 20. Likewise, Senate  
18 District 28 in Guilford County retains -- retains  
19 the same irregular shape it did in the illegal 2011  
20 plans and similar packing black voters into its  
21 odd [inaudible] shape.

22 These maps also grandfather in race  
23 discrimination by protecting incumbents who were  
24 elected in under the 2011 racially-gerrymandered  
25 maps. Instead of protecting those incumbents who

1           were elected under unconstitutional maps, the  
2           proper comparison would be to the -- to the last  
3           constitutional maps for General Assembly seeks  
4           prior -- and to the 2011 were drawn.

5                       The GOP caucus admits that they  
6           considered one, past election outcomes and two, the  
7           ability of the Republican Party to win these  
8           districts, and that they have drawn these maps for  
9           partisan advantages. House District 10 and 36 and  
10          Senate District 41, for example, combines different  
11          communities and fractured communities of interest  
12          and appear to serve only the purpose of creating a  
13          Republican advantage in those districts.

14                      We do not trust these maps, which were  
15          drawn by the same odd helper who drew the 2011  
16          racially-gerrymandered maps and which were  
17          commissioned by an illegal legislature that has  
18          failed at every turn to act with integrity.  
19          Instead, an independent special master could be  
20          tasked with drawing new maps to ensure that it is  
21          the law that is followed and not the directions of  
22          an illegal legislature that the federal courts have  
23          already found guilty and intentionally -- of  
24          intentionally acting to suppress the votes of  
25          African-Americans, and that numerous federal and

1 state courts have found guilty of passing  
2 legislators that ignores the federal and the state  
3 constitution and the will of the people. The --  
4 these games must stop. Thank you.

5 REP. SZOKA: Thank you for your comments,  
6 ma'am. The next speaker is Dennis Biddle or  
7 Biddell. Yes, sir. Please approach the microphone,  
8 identify yourself for the record, and you'll have  
9 three minutes to speak.

10 MR. BIDDLE: Good evening. My name is  
11 Dennis Biddle. I'm a Cumberland County resident.  
12 After carefully listening to all these different  
13 comments and statements over the last two hours  
14 regarding the reconstruction or realignment of the  
15 matter at hand -- the reconstruction, realigning of  
16 mapping to me personally is nothing more than an  
17 underlying attempt to camouflage its efforts to  
18 continue the economic control for the few.

19 It reminds me of the 1835 treaty in which  
20 the Supreme Court found it that it was legal to  
21 remove a nation of people to a -- a prison in  
22 Oklahoma, to take through political process -- and  
23 states -- Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas -- from a  
24 people. From my ancestors, that -- I'm a -- a --  
25 think it's like a one percent blood of -- my

1 great-great grandmother was Caddo Indian from  
2 Arkansas. And they had to move. But the only  
3 expense is to a prison. And other folk came in.  
4 It -- this ploy is nothing more than another  
5 repeated attempt to control the distribution of the  
6 wealth generated by middle America.

7 I must move personally towards the  
8 recommendation that was made by the Reverend Dr.  
9 Martin Luther King. He spoke about the  
10 disproportion of the land and -- and the  
11 disproportion of loans given to only certain people  
12 in this country to allow them to economically grow  
13 financially. He recommended that if those that  
14 stand behind these -- these ruthless and deplorable  
15 decisions to control and manipulate wealth, that we  
16 move to our other agenda. And that other agenda is  
17 nothing more than we will mobilize and we will  
18 control the support that we make in this American  
19 economy. And for those that -- those companies  
20 that represent these officials in these offices,  
21 they will feel the economic pinch in reference to  
22 their behaviors. Thank you.

23 REP. SZOKA: The last speaker we have is  
24 Mitch Colvin. Is he still here? Again, is Mitch  
25 Colvin here? According with the rules that were

1 established, I'll go back and repeat the names of  
2 the folks who didn't respond the first time,  
3 because we are at the end. Hiram Reynolds?  
4 Amari che Hawkins? Or Mitch Colvin? Seeing no one  
5 respond, we have gone through the list of everyone  
6 who signed up here at Fayetteville for this public  
7 hearing.

8 Before we adjourn the public hearing, I  
9 would just like to thank the -- Senator Brent  
10 Jackson and my fellow House members, Representative  
11 Floyd and Representative Lucas, for being here, as  
12 well as all the members who signed up to give -- or  
13 all the members of the public, that is, who signed  
14 up to give testimony today. We appreciate your  
15 comments, whether you submitted them today verbally  
16 or in writing. I'd also like to thank our staff,  
17 the Sergeant-at-Arms and the local law enforcement  
18 folks who supplemented our Sergeant-at-Arms. There  
19 being no further testimony, this public hearing in  
20 Fayetteville is adjourned.

21 (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*

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