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5 ALABAMA PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT
6 AND REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING
7

8 HELD ON
9 THURSDAY, JULY 13TH, 2023
10

11
12 LOCATION:
13 ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
14 11 SOUTH UNION STREET
15 MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104
16 AND
17 ONLINE VIA ZOOM
18

19
20 TRANSCRIBED REMOTELY BY:
21 ANNA RUFFIN, CCR
22 COURT REPORTER
23
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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: We're going to 2 get started here. If I could ask the clerk to call 3 the role, please. 4 THE CLERK: Senator Barfoot? 5 SENATOR BARFOOT: Here. 6 THE CLERK: Senator Bell? 7 SENATOR BELL: Here. 8 THE CLERK: Senator Chesteen? 9 SENATOR CHESTEEN: Here. 10 THE CLERK: Senator Figures? 11 (No response.) 12 THE CLERK? Senator Livingston? 13 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: Here. 14 THE CLERK: Senator Orr? 15 (No response.) 16 THE CLERK: Senator Roberts? 17 (No response.) 18 THE CLERK: Senator Scofield? 19 (No response.) 20 THE CLERK: Senator Singleton? 21 SENATOR SINGLETON: Here. 22 THE CLERK: Senator Smitherman? 23 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Here. 24 THE CLERK: Senator Williams? 25 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Here.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 approve the meetings from the last meeting, which are 2 in your packets. 3 SENATOR ORR: Mr. President? 4 Mr. Chairman? 5 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: Senator Orr. 6 SENATOR ORR: I move we approve the 7 minutes from the previous meeting. 8 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: There's a 9 motion from Senator Orr. Is there a second. 10 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Second. Second. 11 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: Mr. Smitherman 12 seconded. 13 All in favor of approving the minutes 14 say Aye. 15 (A collective Aye was heard throughout 16 the room.) 17 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: Like signed 18 Aye and minutes are approved. 19 Mr. Pringle? 20 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: May the question 21 now before the Bodies' adoption of the guidelines, do 22 we have a motion? Do we have a motion for moving 23 adoption. 24 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Mr. Chair? 25 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Ms. Hall, do you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 THE CLERK: Representative Almond? 2 REPRESENTATIVE ALMOND: Here. 3 THE CLERK: Representative Boyd? 4 (No response.) 5 THE CLERK: Representative Carns. 6 REPRESENTATIVE CARNs: Here. 7 THE CLERK: Representative Clouse? 8 (No response.) 9 THE CLERK: Representative Ellis? 10 REPRESENTATIVE ELLIS: Here. 11 THE CLERK: Representative England? 12 (No response.) 13 THE CLERK: Representative Hall? 14 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Here. 15 THE CLERK: Representative Jones? 16 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: Here. 17 THE CLERK: Representative Lovvorn? 18 REPRESENTATIVE LOVVORN: Here. 19 THE CLERK: Representative Reynolds? 20 (No response.) 21 THE CLERK: I have 17 present. You 22 have the quorum -- oh, 18 present. 23 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: 18 present. 24 With 18 being present and the quorum being called, 25 next order of business would be the review and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 second it. 2 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Yes. And I 3 would like to speak when you finish. 4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I second, 5 Mr. Chairman. 6 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We have a motion 7 and we have a second -- 8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Role call voting 9 at the present time, Mr. Chairman, whenever -- 10 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: If the clerk will 11 call the roll. 12 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Mr. Chair, 13 that's why I was asking. We have a proposed 14 amendment to the guideline plan, so when you plan to 15 consider those -- 16 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: If Mr. England's 17 here, do you have an amendment. 18 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: Yeah, I have the 19 amendment. It should be in everybody's folder. 20 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Would you like to 21 present the amendment, Ms. Hall. 22 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: I'll be happy 23 too. 24 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you. 25 REPRESENTATIVE HALL: The amendment</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 that you have is -- is -- for each one of the members 2 that is in the folders. And these -- just for 3 clarification for those that did not have a copy of 4 that. 5 "Because the U.S. District Court in 6 Milligan v. Allen has ordered the State to enact a 7 new congressional map that remedies the violations of 8 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, the 9 Reapportionment Committee shall prioritize all plans 10 that follow the U.S. District Court's guidance. 11 Accordingly, all proposals shall include at least two 12 of seven congressional districts in which members of 13 the plaintiff class identified in Milligan have an 14 equal opportunity to elect candidates of choice. In 15 assessing compliance with the Court order, this 16 committee shall consider the court's fact findings on 17 communities of interest, racially polarized voting, 18 and other factors that inform its conclusion that the 19 congressional current map with a single 20 majority-black district illegally dilutes black 21 voting strength. 22 The committee shall also obtain an 23 written report by an independent expert (a generally 24 recognized authority on the Voting Rights Act) that 25 analyzes any plan submitted to a committee vote.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 Constitution necessarily means complying with court 2 decisions that interpret those provisions. 3 The committee cannot feasibly amend 4 the guidelines every time a court interprets these 5 provisions, and it would be unwise to start picking 6 and choosing among court decisions to include some of 7 them and guidelines and leave others out. 8 The proposed amendment is also subject 9 to different interpretations. The first paragraph 10 mentions congressional districts in which members of 11 the plaintiffs class identified and, Milligan have an 12 equal opportunity to elect candidates of their 13 choice. But even among plaintiff suing the State, 14 the meaning of an equal opportunity to elect 15 candidates of choice is in dispute. 16 And Milligan plans apparently argued 17 this means districts with over 50% black voting age 18 population, but the single complainers have advocated 19 remedial districts would be the APs and low to mid 20 40s, which incidentally, the Milligan plan is 21 repeatedly endorsed until just recently. 22 We should not include the guidelines 23 language that is at best unclear and at worst 24 incorporates an unproven argument of one set of 25 plaintiffs. The proposed amendment would require the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 Such report should specifically deliver an opinion 2 and supporting analysis as to whether and how the 3 proposed plan satisfies the U.S. District Court's 4 directives in Milligan. All reports should become 5 part of the record for legislative consideration and 6 shared with the public." 7 This is the amendment I move that we 8 adopt at this time. 9 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Ladies and 10 gentlemen of the committee, the proposed amendment 11 would embedded -- embedded in the guidelines 12 arguments by counsel for the Milligan and Caster 13 plans about the US Supreme Court's recent decision in 14 Allen versus Milligan. And for that reason alone, it 15 should be rejected. Guidelines are no place for a 16 party's legal arguments. 17 Moreover, the proposed amendment is 18 unnecessary and is not good practice. The first 19 paragraph was a proposed amendment that will require 20 the committee to comply with Section Two the Voting 21 Rights Act. The guidelines already require the 22 committee to comply with the Voting Rights Act, as 23 well as the US Constitution, which the proposed 24 amendment does not mention, to comply under Section 25 Two of the Voting Rights Act and what the US</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 committee to consider the courts fact finding of 2 communities of interest. Whatever the trial court 3 found about the Gulf Coast, being a community of 4 interest, was a preliminary finding based on limited 5 record compiled in an expedited hearing. It's not a 6 final judicial determination and does not preempt the 7 committee's ability and responsibility under the 8 guidelines to identify and respect communities of 9 interest, including the Gulf Coast and the black belt 10 when it trolls to those remedial districts. 11 One purpose of the hearing, the 12 committee is considering is to receive public comment 13 and communities of interest, and we should be open to 14 that evidence and not instead default to the 15 arguments of the Milligan, plaintiff's lawyers. The 16 second paragraph that the proposed amendment would 17 require the committee to receive and review a report 18 by an independent expert upon whether the proposed 19 plan complies with the trial court's directives and 20 Milligan, which directives this language refers to is 21 unclear or whatever directives are intended or 22 preliminary finding the conclusion of love, made in a 23 hurry record. 24 They do not reflect what the court 25 will say after it has had the opportunity to review a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 complete record. Moreover, no such report has been 2 submitted by Milligan and Caster plaintiffs and 3 supported their VRA plaintiffs' remedial plan that 4 was presented and discussed in the last hearing. 5 That said, I anticipate that when the 6 House of Senate leadership submits a plan for the 7 Committee's review will be supported by one more -- 8 one of more functionality reports. In short, the 9 proposed amendment is not needed and would 10 incorporate into our guidelines, the arguments of the 11 Milligan plaintiffs lawyers, and for these reasons, 12 the motion to amend the guidelines should be denied. 13 REPRESENTATIVE FIGURES: Mr. Chairman? 14 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes. 15 SENATOR FIGURES: In light of the fact 16 that Representative Hall's, amendment did not get a 17 second, let it go on the record showing -- 18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I will -- 19 SENATOR FIGURES: You would -- 20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No, I will. 21 SENATOR FIGURES: No. I was just 22 going to let the record show that I second it. 23 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you, 24 Senator Figures. 25 SENATOR FIGURES: Also, Mr. Chairman,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 this: As I heard the response, I kind of heard 2 something like this and I'll stand corrected. But it 3 said that -- when we were talking -- you were talking 4 about the taking the directions that -- that this 5 amendment was trying to take us. It was something to 6 the effect that this would be carrying furthering the 7 ruling of the Court, it was something of that nature. 8 I want to set the record straight. This is a 9 two-part situation. This is not a continuation from 10 the first ruling on the merits that the Court did on 11 the initial complaint. 12 There is two phases to this. The 13 first phase is them ruling what they're ruling. This 14 phase -- and if you look in the orders, when he 15 talked to orders at the -- when he talked about that 16 they were going to use strict scrutiny in the 17 principles of coming up with the remedy. The end of 18 phase two is that the remedy now has to meet what the 19 Court says and has to meet the procedural -- 20 substantive procedures that is -- that is used by 21 those have to meet those standards that they have. 22 So it would make to me only common sense to take that 23 part right there because the Court has said, that's 24 the flaw. And we got to go from here to try to 25 correct this and would you present us back if there's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 can we get a copy of the statement you just read? 2 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: It's in the 3 record, and I'll be glad to share it with you. 4 SENATOR FIGURES: Thank you. 5 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Senator 6 Smitherman. 7 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: To listen to 8 report that the co-chair gave, I think that I feel 9 duly noted, based on my opinion and my own 10 interpretation to make a few corrections. One is 11 that in this -- in this proposed amendment, if you 12 look at this from the middle part on down, it says, 13 "In asserting compliance with the Court's order. 14 This committee shall consider the Court's fact 15 findings on community interest, racially polarized 16 voting, and other factors that inform its conclusion 17 that the congressional current map with a single 18 majority black district, it legally dilutes black 19 voting strength." 20 I think that's, I think that's why 21 we're here in the first place. I think that's how we 22 got here by the courts, saying this is what -- the 23 map wasn't right. So I think that it makes only 24 common sense to follow directives from the Court. 25 The second thing I want to say is</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 going to be acceptable? So I want to make that very 2 clear to everybody in here that this is not one 3 carryover from the ruling. There's two parts to it. 4 Now we in the remedy phase, and the remedy phase is 5 totally independent, as it relates to the ruling that 6 we have to come up with another remedy. Thank you, 7 Mr. Chairman. 8 SENATOR ORR: Mr. Chairman? 9 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Mr. Orr. 10 SENATOR ORR: In light of Chairman 11 Pringle's comments, I would move to table the 12 amendment. 13 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: There's a motion 14 to table. Is there a second. 15 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Second. 16 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Second by Senator 17 -- 18 (Cross-talk.) 19 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Roll-call vote. 20 THE CLERK: Senator Barfoot. 21 SENATOR BARFOOT: Aye. 22 THE CLERK: Senator Bell? 23 SENATOR BELL: Aye. 24 THE CLERK: Senator Chesteen? 25 SENATOR CHESTEEN: Aye.</p>

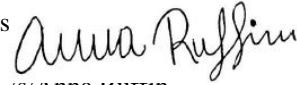
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 THE CLERK: Senator Figures? 2 SENATOR FIGURES: No. 3 THE CLERK? Senator Livingston? 4 (No response.) 5 THE CLERK: Senator Orr? 6 SENATOR ORR: Aye. 7 THE CLERK: Senator Roberts? 8 (No response.) 9 THE CLERK: Senator Scofield? 10 (No response.) 11 THE CLERK: Senator Singleton? 12 SENATOR SINGLETON: No. No, no, no. 13 THE CLERK: Senator Smitherman? 14 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Aye. 15 THE CLERK: Senator Williams? 16 SENATOR WILLIAMS: Aye. 17 THE CLERK: Representative Almond? 18 (No response.) 19 THE CLERK: Representative Boyd? 20 (No response.) 21 THE CLERK: Representative Carns. 22 REPRESENTATIVE CARNS: Aye. 23 THE CLERK: Representative Clouse? 24 (No response.) 25 THE CLERK: Representative Ellis?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 recognize you. This is for people here to talk about 2 general communities of interest. Then we're going to 3 have you -- if you want to talk about a specific 4 plan, there's a sign up sheet for each specific plan, 5 and we'll be glad to call you up and let you talk 6 about each plan. 7 And you can sign up for multiple -- 8 multiple plans. It doesn't bother me. But we just 9 want to make sure when we call you, you're going to 10 talk about the plan that we have before us. 11 SENATOR FIGURES: Mr. Chair? 12 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, Senator 13 Figures? 14 SENATOR FIGURES: I understand that 15 plans -- were the -- the deadline for plan 16 submittal was July 7, how many plans have been 17 submitted? And how will we know which plan -- 18 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We're actively 19 processing plans as fast as possible, but there was 20 an overwhelming number sent into the committee. From 21 all over, from France, from New Zealand and all over 22 out of state. Right now, we're trying to consolidate 23 and get our plans from Alabama residents to you as 24 fast as possible. We're just -- to be frank, we're 25 just overwhelmed. We are working as diligently as</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE ELLIS: Aye. 2 THE CLERK: Representative England? 3 (No response.) 4 THE CLERK: Representative Hall? 5 (No response.) 6 THE CLERK: Representative Jones? 7 REPRESENTATIVE JONES: No. 8 THE CLERK: Representative Lovvorn? 9 REPRESENTATIVE LOVVORN: Aye. 10 THE CLERK: Representative Reynolds? 11 (No response.) 12 THE CLERK: I have Aye as 13 and No to 13 6. 14 COCHAIRMAN LIVINGSTON: The guidelines 15 have been adopted in a 13-6 vote. Chairman Pringle? 16 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Ladies and 17 gentlemen, we're going to now move to a discussion of 18 a couple of things. We're gonna talk about some of 19 the plans that are pending before the committee. But 20 I'd like to get started. If you would like to speak, 21 in general terms, about different issues, communities 22 of interest or historical sights, not specifically on 23 a plan, there's a signup sheet. There's a sign up 24 sheet right over here. 25 If you'll come sign up, we'll</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 possible to do -- 2 SENATOR FIGURES: How do we have a 3 public hearing on the plans that were submitted, if 4 we don't have the plans before us? 5 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I got some plans 6 that have been submitted that are run through our 7 computers. And we can put numbers on the screen for 8 you. We just haven't got to all of them. I'm doing 9 the best I can, Senator in a very, very, very 10 time-compressed -- 11 SENATOR FIGURES: I'm not complaining. 12 I'm just saying it makes sense if we're having a 13 public hearing about plans submitted, we need the 14 plans. 15 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yeah. We've got 16 numerous plans we're gonna put up before -- 17 Will -- will they be bringing us copies of the plan 18 -- we'll turn everything over to you as fast as we 19 can get it. 20 One of the problems is, some of the 21 plans are not compatible with Maptitude. So we have 22 to get the plans we have to get them in loaded in our 23 computer into Maptitude. And then process them so we 24 can run them. 25 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Mr. Chairman?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Mr. Smitherman?</p> <p>2 MR. SMITHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I don't</p> <p>3 mind yielding -- outspoken -- I like to be recognized</p> <p>4 after that.</p> <p>5 SENATOR ENGLAND: Yes, Mr. Chairman,</p> <p>6 as a member of this permanent legislative committee,</p> <p>7 and as part of the minority of this committee, we</p> <p>8 have not been privy to any maps drawn by this</p> <p>9 committee itself. And we're talking about going into</p> <p>10 session on next week. I wrote a letter titled to</p> <p>11 Chairman Livingston, yourself, and Attorney Dorman</p> <p>12 Walker, asking for any maps or other functionality</p> <p>13 reports that can that this committee already has</p> <p>14 drawn, and we have not received anything.</p> <p>15 Could you please respond to that in</p> <p>16 terms of maps, that this committee and where we are,</p> <p>17 and while we as the minority has not been a part of</p> <p>18 that process?</p> <p>19 SENATOR FIGURES: That's drawn by the</p> <p>20 majority -- not by this committee that you're</p> <p>21 referring to.</p> <p>22 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: And, Senator, as</p> <p>23 I told you, we just adopted guidelines a few minutes</p> <p>24 ago. I don't know how I can present plans to a</p> <p>25 committee when I haven't guidelines to guide me</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 that. But my statement is to give more to the fact</p> <p>2 we have already functionality reports.</p> <p>3 I'm not -- I'm not putting them out</p> <p>4 map -- the map that we're talking about that we're</p> <p>5 gonna try to put together as a group. I'm saying on</p> <p>6 all these other maps, not all of them, but we have</p> <p>7 many of these other maps, we have functionality</p> <p>8 reports. And I mean, I'm not saying that's anybody's</p> <p>9 keeping me from it. But anything that's spread in</p> <p>10 that office, in this committee, to be a member you</p> <p>11 should have -- all of us should have access to. So I</p> <p>12 think it's very important and critical, that whatever</p> <p>13 we do have now, if that that'd be presented an</p> <p>14 opportunity for every member on this committee to be</p> <p>15 able to get it. So as we go through this meeting,</p> <p>16 and as we get ready to go through the next --</p> <p>17 whatever next step it is, we will have a chance to</p> <p>18 review some of that information and be able to</p> <p>19 discuss it as we go through this process here.</p> <p>20 That's why I had asked about the</p> <p>21 meeting a little bit before the meeting up until</p> <p>22 today. So if it can be produced, I still would like</p> <p>23 to get it. And I don't mind looking at it as we go</p> <p>24 through this process. But I need whatever we have.</p> <p>25 Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 drawn.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Why don't we</p> <p>3 sit down together and draw our map?</p> <p>4 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: We are working on</p> <p>5 that as fast as we can. I've got nothing to hide,</p> <p>6 Senator, and I'm ready to get started on that plan.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Will I be</p> <p>8 involved with that plan?</p> <p>9 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes.</p> <p>10 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>11 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: I understand and</p> <p>12 we're working as diligently as possible. We have --</p> <p>13 committee staff has been completely overwhelmed. We</p> <p>14 are working as diligently as possible to produce all</p> <p>15 of the information.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: I'm not a</p> <p>17 part of that "we" though.</p> <p>18 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Yes, Senator</p> <p>19 Smitherman?</p> <p>20 MR. SMITHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I --</p> <p>21 you know I wrote a letter requesting the same</p> <p>22 information, and I like that to be, you know, kind of</p> <p>23 spread over out minutes. It's a letter. At some</p> <p>24 point in time, I'm going to hand it back to -- it's</p> <p>25 evident that I actually sent in a letter requesting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: And I understand</p> <p>2 we are processing the maps. We've processed the</p> <p>3 remedial maps we have been reviewing and running the</p> <p>4 analysis on it. As fast as we can possibly do it.</p> <p>5 We've processed the DRA plans for remedial map, which</p> <p>6 we'll have today. We've processed the CLC Map 1. We</p> <p>7 processed a Singleton Congressional Map Plan 3, and</p> <p>8 we processed the Hatcher Remedial Congressional Plan</p> <p>9 1.</p> <p>10 We had been reviewing the maps,</p> <p>11 putting them into computer and running the analysis</p> <p>12 on them, as fast as we can possibly do. We just got</p> <p>13 completely overwhelmed with the number of maps sent</p> <p>14 in. And so we picked y'all's maps first, and we ran</p> <p>15 those in length. We picked Senator Singleton's maps</p> <p>16 and the plaintiffs' maps. We've picked the maps that</p> <p>17 come in from Senator Singleton. That -- that -- the</p> <p>18 Singleton Congressional Plan Number three is -- does</p> <p>19 not -- is that your map?</p> <p>20 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: No, I'm the</p> <p>21 sponsor of that one.</p> <p>22 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Oh, you're the</p> <p>23 sponsor for the Singleton Map? I'm sorry, Senator</p> <p>24 Smitherman.</p> <p>25 But anyway, again, we are -- we are</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 processing it as fast as possible. And we're going 2 to get you the information as soon as we can. We 3 just have a horribly compressed timeframe, yet again 4 in this committee. I wish we could go back to the 5 days when we had a year to do this, but we've never 6 been given that length of time to -- to draw these 7 maps has always been very late.</p> <p>8 SENATOR FIGURES: We didn't have an 9 opportunity for a long time before.</p> <p>10 SENATOR PRINGLE: Yes, Representative 11 England?</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE ENGLAND: Thank you for 13 the recognition. There's something interesting that 14 you said it kind of struck me, and please forgive me 15 him, no disrespect about this at all. But I wasn't 16 aware that this was like a y'all process. And I 17 thought that we had a court order where we were 18 trying to build a map that we were all supposed to be 19 working on to a certain degree.</p> <p>20 And also since we have a public 21 hearing today, it's not since just a y'all situation 22 for us to present maps but everybody to present maps 23 so we can actually get a better idea of what, you 24 know, I guess for lack of a better term "public 25 communities of interest" are -- or what other</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 Thank you.</p> <p>2 And with that, I like to recognize 3 Frank Schmitz, former mayor Dothan, currently serving 4 as civilian aid to Secretary of the Army.</p> <p>5 When you get to the microphone, please 6 speak into the microphone and state your name and 7 where you're from there because there are people 8 listening to us. It was very difficult last time to 9 people that are listening to. The clerk is in the 10 back room to hear you, so speak into your microphone.</p> <p>11 And, Members, if you'll turn your mics off, I 12 understand we had a problem with back feed last time. 13 Thank you so much.</p> <p>14 MR. SCHMITZ: Thank you so much. 15 Well, good afternoon. First of all, thank you for 16 this opportunity. My name is Mike Schmitz. I'm from 17 the great City of Dothan, Alabama. I'm in the 18 automobile business there for 35 years. I sell 19 Hyundai's and Mercedes made in Alabama, by Alabama 20 folks. So I'm proud of that. I also had the honor 21 of being mayor of the city and the privilege of being 22 mayor from 2009 to October 2017 in Dothan, and then I 23 stepped down from there after two terms into our 24 public school system became chairman of the board, 25 COVID hit. So it was an exciting, interesting four</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 perception you have of the court order so we can 2 actually look at opposing maps and have a public 3 hearing where everybody's here as input on not only, 4 I guess, y'all's maps, but everybody else's maps too.</p> <p>5 So it kind of puts us as members of 6 the committee and the public at a disadvantage 7 because they will not have an opportunity to provide 8 any public input on maps that y'all present. So 9 again -- I echo the sentiments of Senator Singleton 10 and Senator Figures when, I mean, I would prefer that 11 this is a process where we're all kind of building a 12 resolution to satisfy a court order that we all got 13 to look at everybody's proposal when we're not just 14 seeing it on Monday when we -- when we arrive at the 15 State House for a special session and then be 16 expected to vote on it within five days.</p> <p>17 So I'll yield but that's just -- 18 that's just interesting to me.</p> <p>19 SENATOR SMITHERMAN: Mr. Chairman, I 20 would like to present this to the community.</p> <p>21 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Senator 22 Smitherman has presented it to me, and if you don't 23 mind, I like to change your memorandum to read 24 Cochairman Livingston and Cochairman Pringle. I'm 25 not Vice Chairman.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 years. I learned a lot. And then after I stepped 2 out of that, I got appointed by the Secretary of the 3 Army. It's a volunteer position. I represent 4 Alabama South. I represent Fort Novosel Army 5 Reserve, and anything to do with the military JROTC, 6 Army National Guard and report directly to the 7 Pentagon and to the Secretary of the Army.</p> <p>8 I'm here as a concerned -- not a 9 concerned -- I am a concerned citizen, involved 10 citizen. As someone who's been involved with 11 economic development with partnerships with southeast 12 Alabama, I'm very protective of us. Because we stand 13 alone, most of us are small communities. And as we 14 stand alone, we can't succeed. So we have created 15 partnerships that have lasted 50 and 100 years that 16 have helped all our communities grow, and my purpose 17 today is simply ask you, I don't have a map. I don't 18 know what maps you have. But I would love to see 19 those in Houston County stay in line with Montgomery 20 and all the communities that were involved going out 21 to southeast edge of Alabama.</p> <p>22 We have many partnerships. One is 23 southeast Alabama gas, we're 14 municipalities from 24 Dothan up to Greenville -- southeast Alabama gas and 25 that creates profits or benefits for -- for each</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 community and helps them grow. The 14 mayors sit 2 down every month, and we work together and see how we 3 can help each other because we don't have anyone 4 else. And so we work together. We have prospered. 5 We are booming, and I hate to see that change. We 6 other -- we also have an education Troy, Troy 7 University and Troy Dothan, the medical school we 8 have in Dothan in economic development. We, as City 9 of Dothan, go out -- not out of our way, but we try 10 to partner with all these smaller communities and 11 help them create jobs because we know floats all 12 boats, right? 13 We know it helps Geneva, helps us what 14 helps Enterprise helps us or Greenville, so we worked 15 really, really hard together to do that. We also 16 have -- the biggest purpose I have today for this is 17 we -- the world is changing and with Fort Novosel -- 18 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: One minute. 19 MR. SCHMITZ: Okay. Fort Novosel and, 20 and Maxwell Air Force Base. We got to be careful. 21 We got to protect the values. We got to stay 22 together to make sure they are benefited. And they 23 continue to grow to protect our country. And we have 24 incredible amount of partnership to help protect 25 that. We cannot lose this. We also -- if you move</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 different counties that we're all focused on making 2 sure that everyone has access to excellent health 3 care in our community, and I don't think that we 4 should shy away from being very proud of that. 5 Certainly, he mentioned the medical 6 school. My hospital alone is about to stand up 7 internal medical permanency program. I can just say 8 this from a personal perspective, not just from 9 personal -- from a professional perspective, but I'm 10 six generations living in this particular district. 11 My children have been educated in this district and 12 continue to live and work in this area. 13 I'm very blessed to see my seven 14 grandchildren and my two great-grandchildren on a 15 regular basis. I'm very proud of all the things that 16 they've accomplished, as well as continuing to see 17 people in our community to grow and thrive. I think 18 again -- that's our main reason for being here today, 19 again, is to talk about what's good, what's right, 20 what's worked, and we want to continue to support 21 that. We certainly be open to hear from others as 22 well, but I think that's what makes our community 23 strong is the fact that I mentioned those three C's: 24 Communication, collaboration, and cooperation. Want 25 to continue see that happen.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 us West, I believe Houston and Dothan County will 2 lose our voice and lose our vote. Thank you very 3 much. God bless you. 4 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 5 much. 6 The Chair now recognized Jeff Brandon, 7 CEO of Flowers Hospital in Dothan. 8 MR. BRANDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 9 My name is Jeff Brandon. I -- thank you -- I'll be 10 happy to do that. I am the CEO of Flowers Hospital. 11 I have lived in this district all my life. I'll be 12 65 years old in September of this year. My dad is 13 93. He served in the Military, Alabama National 14 Guard, Civil Service, and we are very -- as Mayor 15 Schmitz just said. I'm here today as a concerned 16 citizen as someone that realizes the benefit of 17 collaboration, cooperation communication, all of 18 those things that he just referenced that are 19 critically important for us not to forget. 20 I believe that our economy is strong 21 today because of the things that Mayor Schmitz just 22 mention. I can tell you that our health care 23 community is stronger than it's ever been in our 24 district. We have a Southeast Alabama Hospital 25 Council that met yesterday that goes over five</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 Thank you very much for allowing me to 2 speak and appreciate all the hard work that everyone 3 sitting up there does each and everyday. Very 4 appreciative of all of your service. Thank you. 5 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you so 6 much. 7 And let me -- for people that are 8 watching us on live stream, if you would like to 9 comment, send your emails to district@alsenate.gov, 10 district@alsenate.gov. We'll be glad to take your 11 comments, and we'll be glad to take your comments and 12 we'll read them from the podium. 13 From that now, the Chair recognizes 14 Ronald Jackson from Birmingham, for three minutes. 15 MR. JACKSON: Good morning, 16 Legislatures and my fellow citizens of Alabama. I'm 17 Ronald Jackson. I'm a formal member of the Alabama 18 legislature. I'm hear to speak today on behalf of 19 citizens of better schools and sustainable 20 communities, and legal evaluations, and action 21 project. We are here to support the Blackshear the 22 plan -- everything is going be on the Internet. But 23 we're here to tell you that -- I'm from Birmingham, 24 Jefferson County, Alabama. 25 But these plans, these proposals that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 have been put out, that I have seen thus far. They 2 are unfair, inequitable, noncompliant with the recent 3 decision by the United States Supreme Court and -- 4 for Jefferson County, which if you all will go back 5 to that original Singleton decision that created this 6 one person, one vote.</p> <p>7 And I want everybody to understand 8 this, what this legislature must do when they adopt 9 what they're going to adopt. That -- that 10 preservation of one person, one vote, must be active, 11 that's the euphemism they use about continuity, 12 making sure your vote count.</p> <p>13 We want to say to you today, and let 14 you be placed on public notice, that citizens with 15 better schools and sustainable communities, with 16 legal evaluation and action project, we have counsel. 17 And we are prepared that we will respond to a special 18 master, and if you don't keep Jefferson County 19 together and not split it off anywhere to pull up 20 some votes that you think you need to have, just 21 think about what Attorney Blackshear has written to 22 you.</p> <p>23 In conclusion, Jefferson County is the 24 economic engine of this State. Those of you that 25 talk about the automobile industry, no, you really</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 Democrats. I demand representation. I have a reason 2 for it. I'm going to present it to you. It involves 3 technology, advanced aerospace applications for land, 4 air, sea, and space. And this will contribute to 5 national security in both economic and military 6 applications.</p> <p>7 It's been overlooked. I went to my 8 representatives, starting with Riley back in '99 9 before he began governor. I talked to multiple 10 representative and attempted to talk to others, such 11 as Mike Rogers -- as recently as 2018 before the last 12 state election Whatley, Joe Lovvorn. I don't know if 13 that's the same person. I have never spoken to him 14 in person. But I made multiple phone calls and 15 Whatley was the only that I caught actually in 16 session with aid, quote on quote.</p> <p>17 Now, I moved down to Alabama 25 years 18 ago. I gave up an inheritant house that was given to 19 me from my grandparents raised me as a child --</p> <p>20 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: One minute.</p> <p>21 MR. BOWHALL: -- all right? I gave 22 that up to come down to bring -- to try to establish 23 jobs and bring technology to this state when you 24 needed it. I've been ignored ever since. My life's 25 been turned upside down. I've been forced into low</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 got it. Mayor Richard Arrington, Governor Polson, 2 when out of Birmingham we gave you the money to get 3 the Mercedes plan, and you think we going to let you 4 split us up? You got another funk coming.</p> <p>5 All I wanted say to you is this, we 6 stand on this cardinal principle, autonomous -- 7 defendere. If you don't know what that means, I'll 8 tell you in Alabama language: We dare defend our 9 rights, and I leave you with one other Latin 10 expression: "Illegitimus non carborundum" because 11 what I see on these plans is that. Now, you look it 12 up. I'm not going to say what it means, because it's 13 a language I would not say, with children listening. 14 Support the Blackshear Plan. Thank you.</p> <p>15 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Thank you, 16 Mr. Jackson.</p> <p>17 The Chair now recognizes William Bowan 18 from Opelika. Did I say that correctly?</p> <p>19 MR. BOWHALL: The name is William 20 Bowhall of Opelika, Alabama. I'm here to talk to 21 this member body and the public about some overlooked 22 issues that this State needs to take care of. 23 Because I've been a citizen of this state and 24 resident for 25 years. And my needs have not yet 25 been observed or tended to by the Republicans or</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 income, 9, \$10-hour-job, which I used to do some 2 research for my needs of this technology, industry 3 never got establish. This state needs to bring a 4 crap-load of money into this state to establish this 5 technology because it's not individual applications 6 that we're speaking of the way you would establish an 7 auto industry or an aircraft industry.</p> <p>8 This is cross-over technology. I need 9 to get all phases established, so it makes it more 10 economically to manufacture, and the fact -- the 11 technology I'm about to show you, just a child --</p> <p>12 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Your time is 13 expired, sir.</p> <p>14 MR. BOWHALL: Well, let me do this 15 because this is why I came here, and the public needs 16 to know about it because the mapping does not cover 17 the contingency of third party independent 18 representation and that's an absolute must to see 19 that this technology is protected, that the labor 20 force gets established, the future needs of 21 infrastructure get established to support its gross.</p> <p>22 This hasn't been done in this state, 23 and you put millions of dollars in road work, 24 refurbishing in Birmingham. Now y'all see me take 25 this that can be manufactured over and over again.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 This is just a basic application of an air foil --</p> <p>2 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: You need to speak</p> <p>3 into the microphone.</p> <p>4 MR. BOWHALL: You got in manufacture</p> <p>5 now. It has nothing you have in manufacture now that</p> <p>6 can provide a safer needs for transportation for</p> <p>7 land, air, sea, and space. And I can't go into</p> <p>8 additional components that would be added to it, but</p> <p>9 it supports it's own -- own means of flight. And</p> <p>10 with attachable and re-attachable units, compartment</p> <p>11 to be saved --</p> <p>12 SENATOR FIGURES: Mr. Chair?</p> <p>13 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Sir, your time's</p> <p>14 expired, sir. We're here to talk about congressional</p> <p>15 redistricting, not technology. So your time is</p> <p>16 expired, sir. I'm sorry. I gave you three minutes</p> <p>17 to talk about congressional redistricting, and I</p> <p>18 yielded extra time to you. You're here talking about</p> <p>19 technology.</p> <p>20 MR. BOWHALL: But the redistricting</p> <p>21 refers to the black community.</p> <p>22 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Well, we're here</p> <p>23 to talk about, sir --</p> <p>24 MR. BOWHALL: You can't --</p> <p>25 COCHAIRMAN PRINGLE: Sir, I'm going to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 no state that can get their act together. Everything</p> <p>2 starts here in Alabama. When we become like the</p> <p>3 University of Alabama football team, then we will</p> <p>4 begin to look upon a different perspective. When</p> <p>5 Nick Saban puts his players out there, he puts his</p> <p>6 players out to win. He doesn't put his players on</p> <p>7 the field, saying that this player is a republican,</p> <p>8 this player is a democrat, this player is black, this</p> <p>9 player is white. He puts players on the field to win</p> <p>10 and that's what we should start off at the beginning.</p> <p>11 You started off in the wrong area by not selecting a</p> <p>12 vice chair.</p> <p>13 I'm hoping that when the legislature</p> <p>14 go in session on the 17th, that we can formulate a</p> <p>15 football team. We formulate a football that we going</p> <p>16 to win for the State of Alabama. This is two-black</p> <p>17 districts. Now, Blackshear's maps, which I was kind</p> <p>18 of concerned about, but it's not about me, it's</p> <p>19 what's best for the State of Alabama. I think this</p> <p>20 is what we need to start doing looking for the State</p> <p>21 of Alabama. Thank you.</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 ask you to sit down, and if you don't sit down, that</p> <p>2 gentleman will remove you.</p> <p>3 Now, the next one is David -- is it</p> <p>4 L-U-S-S-E-U from Birmingham? I can't read the</p> <p>5 handwriting. David Lusseau or -- okay. I'm sorry. I</p> <p>6 can't read your handwriting. Thank you. Come</p> <p>7 forward. I'm going to hold you to three minutes.</p> <p>8 MR. LUSSEU: It won't take three</p> <p>9 minutes. I'm David Lusseau. I was here last week,</p> <p>10 and my mind still hasn't wrapped around the</p> <p>11 chairperson and vice chair. You know, when I left</p> <p>12 out of here last week, they told me there were two</p> <p>13 professors up there on the -- one of them is not he</p> <p>14 today, but one of them had a PHD from the University</p> <p>15 of Alabama, and we had two attorneys and one of them</p> <p>16 attorneys was from the prestige University of</p> <p>17 Montevallo, and then we got a former mayor over</p> <p>18 there, was the major of the third largest city.</p> <p>19 Now, out of all of that qualification,</p> <p>20 and we could not any much find to get vice chair from</p> <p>21 that group. You know, it seem kind of obvious that,</p> <p>22 you know, this is a two-black district and with all</p> <p>23 of that qualification, and we could not pull out a</p> <p>24 vice chair out of that community. It was kind of</p> <p>25 hard -- until Alabama get they act together, there's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE</p> <p>2 STATE OF ALABAMA</p> <p>3 ETOWAH COUNTY</p> <p>4 I, Anna Ruffin, Certified Court Reporter and</p> <p>5 Commissioner for the State of Alabama at Large,</p> <p>6 hereby certify that on July 13, 2023, the above and</p> <p>7 foregoing proceeding was taken down by me in</p> <p>8 stenotype and the questions, answers, and statements</p> <p>9 thereto were transcribed by means of computer-aided</p> <p>10 transcription and that the foregoing, page 1 to 37,</p> <p>11 represents a true and correct transcript of the said</p> <p>12 proceeding.</p> <p>13 I further certify that I am neither of</p> <p>14 counsel, nor of kin to the parties to the action, nor</p> <p>15 am I in anvwise interested in the result of said</p> <p>16 caus </p> <p>17 /S/Anna Ruffin</p> <p>18 Anna Ruffin, CCR</p> <p>19 Commissioner for the</p> <p>20 State of Alabama at Large</p> <p>21 CCR# 694, Expires 09/30/2023</p> <p>22 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 10/21/24</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>

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