

1/19/2022

Common Cause, et al. v. Cord Byrd

Audio Transcription

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Common Cause, et al.)
) 4:22-cv-109
v.)
)
Cord Byrd)

)

Transcription of Audio File
Press Availability with
Senate President Wilton Simpson
and Senate Committee on
Reapportionment Chair Ray Rodrigues

January 19, 2022

DIGITAL EVIDENCE GROUP
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 812
Washington, D.C. 20036
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1 (Recording begins.)

2 SENATE PRESIDENT SIMPSON: Good afternoon.

3 It's good to be here this afternoon. We -- obviously
4 nice to get our first floor session behind us. We're
5 prepared to take questions. If there's anything
6 dealing with the redistricting area, Senator Rodrigues
7 is here to try and answer those questions.

8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible.)

9 SENATOR RODRIGUES: What I would say is I
10 didn't learn of the governor's map till this week.
11 I've been focused on the map we passed out of committee
12 and that we were bringing to the floor today. This is
13 a legislative process. We passed our map. We're going
14 to wait for the House to bring forth the map, and then
15 the two of us are going to have to get together and
16 reconcile. We'll see what that looks like, and we'll
17 take it one day at a time.

18 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: (Indiscernible.) Under
19 the existing congressional map, there's only one
20 protected district with a majority of black voters.
21 Our map keeps a majority black district. Both the
22 Senate and House map, by contrast, contain no majority
23 black districts. I'd like you to respond to that and
24 also respond to this statement. She said that
25 Congressional District 5 is, quote, "an

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1 unconstitutional gerrymandering I think the existing
2 map that the Senate and the House approved in 2015."

3 SENATOR RODRIGUES: Well, what I would begin
4 with is I'm not going to get into a debate with the
5 governor's office through the media acting as a proxy.
6 What I would refer you to is -- what I said at the
7 outset was we were operating under the parameters that
8 the court offered in the legislation -- the lawsuits.
9 Excuse me -- in the lawsuits that occurred after the
10 last round of reapportionment. And it is clear from
11 those lawsuits that our responsibility in creating
12 these maps is to ensure there's no retrogression. We
13 are a hundred percent confident that there is no
14 retrogression with the map that we have passed off the
15 floor today. And we are prepared to defend that map in
16 court if necessary.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible.) It
18 passed the U.S. Supreme Court, federal courts. But the
19 governor said, (indiscernible) pointed out, that it's
20 gerrymandering and unconstitutional. I'm not asking
21 you to necessarily respond to the governor because
22 (indiscernible). But philosophically, do you have any
23 concerns about CD 5 (indiscernible) is somehow
24 unconstitutional? Or do you have any concerns about
25 the east and west configuration?

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1 SENATOR RODRIGUES: The operating premise
2 that the Senate operated under was that which was
3 ordered by the court was in and of itself
4 constitutional.

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible.)

6 SENATE PRESIDENT SIMPSON: What I would say
7 is that, if a constitutional carry bill gets to the
8 Senate floor and it's heard on the Senate floor, then I
9 will vote yes. I would support that on the floor.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible.)

11 SENATE PRESIDENT SIMPSON: As all other
12 bills, I do not get involved until they get to the
13 floor. And those senators are working bills through
14 the committee today as you heard. And if the bill gets
15 to the floor, then I would be -- I would vote in the
16 affirmative. Thank you. Thank you, guys.

17 (Recording ends.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF MECKLENBURG)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true
and correct transcript of the electronically recorded
proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

This, the 10th day of March, 2023.



MEREDITH R. SCHRAMEK
Notary Public in and for
County of Mecklenburg
State of North Carolina
Notary Number 200814200186

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