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House Governmental Affairs - Audio
Transcription

January 18, 2024

Phillip Callais, et al.

vs.

Nancy Landry

**PLAINTIFFS'
EXHIBIT**

PE26

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CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Good morning. Today is Thursday, January 18th, 2024. You're in the Committee of House and Governmental Affairs. We ask everyone to please silence your cell phones. If you need to take a call, please step out. There's witness cards that are maintained in committee records. Red is in -- in -- opposed. Green is in favor. If you plan on testifying, please fill out one of those cards. Ms. Baker, would you please call the roll?

MS. BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Beaulieu.

CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Here.

MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Billings.

REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS: Here.

MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Boyd.

REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Present.

MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Carlson.

REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Present.

MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Carter.
Representative Carver.

REPRESENTATIVE CARVER: Here.

MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Farnum.
Representative Gadberry.

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Here.

MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Johnson.

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<p>1 Representative Larvadain. Vice Chair Lyons. 2 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Present. 3 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Marcelle. 4 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Here. 5 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Newell. 6 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Here. 7 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative 8 Schamerhorn. 9 REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN: Here. 10 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Thomas. 11 REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Here. 12 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Wright. 13 Representative Wyble. 14 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: Here. 15 MS. BAKER: Present. We have 12 members in a 16 quorum. 17 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Ms. Baker. 18 Members, we have one item on the agenda today. It's 19 Senate Bill 8 by Senator Womack. Senator Womack is -- 20 is delayed this morning, so what we're going to do -- 21 until I hear back from Senator Womack, we're going to 22 stand at ease until then. So we just ask you all to 23 kind of stay nearby. 24 We'll give you all some time to -- to be able 25 to get back, but until we hear back from Senator Womack,</p>	<p>1 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Johnson. 2 Representative Larvadain. 3 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Here. 4 MS. BAKER: Present. Vice Chair Lyons. 5 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Present. 6 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Marcelle. 7 Representative Newell. 8 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Here. 9 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative 10 Schamerhorn. 11 REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN: Here. 12 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Thomas. 13 REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Here. 14 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Wright. 15 Representative Wyble. 16 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: Here. 17 MS. BAKER: Present. We have 13 in a quorum. 18 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Ms. Baker. 19 Members, we have one item on our agenda today. That's 20 Senate Bill 8 by Senator Womack. Ms. Lowery, would you 21 please read-in the bill? 22 MS. LOWERY: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. 23 Members, Senator Womack brings Senate Bill Number 8 to 24 provide relative to the redistricting of Louisiana's 25 Congressional District, to provide with respect to</p>
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<p>1 we're going to go ahead and stand at ease. And so just 2 viewer -- members that are listening online or watching 3 online, just kind of be aware. We are hoping to come 4 back in at some time later this morning. Thank you all. 5 (Pause.) 6 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Good afternoon, members, 7 viewing audience. Thank you for your patience. We are 8 ready to resume our House and Governmental Affairs 9 Committee. Today is Thursday, January 18th, 2024. Ms. 10 Baker, can you give me an updated roll call, please? 11 MS. BAKER: Chairman Beaulieu. 12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Here. 13 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Billings. 14 REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS: Here. 15 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Boyd. 16 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Present. 17 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Carlson. 18 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Present. 19 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Carter. 20 Representative Carver. 21 REPRESENTATIVE CARVER: Here. 22 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Farnum. 23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Here. 24 MS. BAKER: Present. Representative Gadberry. 25 REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Here.</p>	<p>1 positions and offices other than congressional based 2 upon congressional districts, and to provide related 3 matters. 4 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Senior Womack, on your 5 bill. 6 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 7 Committee members, good evening. Thank you for letting 8 me come in today and present this bill. As you know, 9 Louisiana Congressional Districts must be redrawn, given 10 the Federal Voting Rights Act litigation that is still 11 ongoing in the US District Court for the Middle District 12 of Louisiana. The map and the bill that I'm 13 introducing, which is the product of a long, detailed 14 process, achieves several goals. 15 First, as you all are aware, Congresswoman 16 Julia Letlow is my representative in Washington, DC. 17 The boundaries in this bill I'm proposing, ensure that 18 Congresswoman Letlow remains both unpaired with any 19 other incumbents, and in the congressional district that 20 should continue to elect a Republican to Congress for 21 the remainder of this decade. 22 I have great pride in the work that 23 Congresswoman Letlow has accomplished, and this map will 24 ensure that Louisianans will continue to benefit from 25 her presence in the halls of Congress for as long as she</p>

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 decides and continues to serve our great state. As you 2 know, Congresswoman Letlow sits on appropriations. She 3 sits on ag, which is a big part of my district. 4 Second, the Louisiana 6th Congressional 5 District. The map and the proposed bill ensures that 6 four are safe Republican seats. Louisiana's Republican 7 present in the United States Congress has contributed 8 tremendously to the national discourse, and I'm very 9 proud that both Speaker of the US House of 10 Representatives, Mike Johnson, and US House Majority 11 Leader Steve Scalise are both from our great state. 12 This map ensures that the two of them will 13 have solidly Republican districts at home, so they can 14 focus on the national leadership that we need in 15 Washington, DC. The map proposed in this bill ensures 16 that the Conservative principles retained by the 17 majority of those in Louisiana will continue to extend 18 past our boundaries to our nation's capital. 19 Third, the map that I've presented is -- goes 20 along the Red River. It's the I-49 corridor. We have 21 commerce through there. We have a college through 22 there. We have a lot of ag cattlemen as well as farm 23 row crop, and a lot of people up through that corridor 24 comes back to Alexandria using that corridor for their 25 healthcare. Finally, these maps in the proposed bill</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 Constitution one person, one vote requirement. That is 2 the reason why District 2 is drawn around the Orleans 3 Parish and why District 6 includes the Black population 4 of East Baton Rouge Parish and travels up I-49 corridor 5 to include Black population in Shreveport. 6 While this is a different map than the 7 plaintiffs' litigation have proposed, this is the only 8 map I reviewed that accomplishes the political goals I 9 believe are important for my district, for Louisiana, 10 and for the country. 11 While I did not draw these boundaries myself, 12 I carefully considered a number of different map 13 options, and I firmly submit the congressional voting 14 boundaries represented in this bill best achieve the 15 goals for protecting Congressman Letlow's seat, 16 maintaining strong districts for Speaker Johnson and 17 Majority Leader Scalise, ensuring four Republican 18 districts, and adhering to the command of the Federal 19 Court in the Middle District of Louisiana. I'd be happy 20 to answer any questions. 21 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Senator 22 Womack. Representative Marcelle for a question. 23 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you, Senator 24 Womack, for presenting this bill. Were -- did you have 25 the opportunity to view the map that I filed?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 respond appropriate to the ongoing Federal Voting Rights 2 Act case in the Middle District of Louisiana. 3 For those who are unaware, the congressional 4 maps that we enacted in March 2022 have been the subject 5 of litigation, roughly since the day the 2022 6 Congressional Redistricting Bill went into effect and 7 even before we enacted it. After a substantial amount 8 of prolonged litigation, the Federal District Court has 9 adhered to its view that the federal law requires that 10 the state have two congressional districts with a 11 majority of Black voters. 12 Our secretary of state, attorney general, and 13 our prior legislative leadership appealed, but have yet 14 to succeed, and we are now here because of the Federal 15 Court's order that we have a first opportunity to act. 16 The District Court's order that we must have two 17 majority Black voting age population districts, combined 18 with the political imperative I just described, have 19 largely driven the boundaries for District 2 and 20 District 6, both of which are over 50 percent Black 21 voting age population. 22 Given the state's current demographics, there 23 is not enough high -- high enough Black population in 24 the southeast portion of this -- Louisiana to create two 25 majority Black districts, and to also comply with the US</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 SENATOR WOMACK: I -- I reviewed several maps, 2 Representative Marcelle. 3 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: HB5. 4 SENATOR WOMACK: HB5. I didn't -- I didn't 5 look at the HB5 -- 6 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Did not. 7 SENATOR WOMACK: -- per se. I looked at 8 several maps. One of them could have been that. 9 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Because I 10 heard you say that you thought that your map was the 11 best possible route. A pathway to get to what we needed 12 to, first of all, make sure that we get out of the 13 litigation, apply with Section 2, and go about the 14 deviations and the compactness and all of those 15 different things that we needed to do in order to create 16 a second Black seat -- congressional seat. Is that what 17 I heard you say? 18 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, ma'am. 19 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Well, I -- I 20 certainly want to thank you, and I know -- I spoke to 21 you yesterday about putting an amendment on your bill to 22 make sure that we could reduce the parish splits and 23 that we had some conversations, and it's a short period 24 of time. Certainly, I don't know when the amendments 25 are going to be offered up, but I certainly want to go</p>

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 down those same lines of -- since I could not get my map 2 through, which I thought was the best path, that I -- I 3 would support this map, with some cleanup done to it. 4 So I -- I just want to make sure that I go on 5 the record of saying that I spoke to you. The things 6 that my amendment would do would certainly be to add Red 7 River Parish to Congressional District 6, and preserving 8 the things in Red River community as well. So I want to 9 go on the record of saying that I -- I believe that we 10 have had several maps that would have gotten us there, 11 but I think because of political reasons, we are here 12 where we are today. 13 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Marcelle, 14 just if I can chime in for a second, so I can let the 15 viewing members know that online there are two different 16 amendments that -- that will likely be proposed today, 17 and both of those are available online for the -- for 18 the viewing public. If we could hold off on those 19 amendments for -- we have a -- a handful of questions on 20 the board, Representative Marcelle, and then we'll come 21 back. Is that okay with you? 22 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Yes. I just -- 23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. Good. 24 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I just wanted to -- 25 to make mention to that why -- why I was asking him some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 very much and thank you for your work. 2 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you. 3 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 4 Marcelle. Representative Boyd. 5 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Good afternoon, Senator. 6 How are you? 7 SENATOR WOMACK: Fine, thank you. 8 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: So I agree with Rep 9 Marcelle. This is not, in my opinion, the best map that 10 I've seen, but I do understand what it took to get here, 11 and my congressman seems to also be in support of the 12 map. Therefore, I do plan on supporting the map, 13 hopefully with some amendments. Are you open to an 14 amendment on this? 15 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, ma'am, once -- once I 16 see some amendments. 17 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Okay. 18 SENATOR WOMACK: You know, we'll look at 19 amendments. 20 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: And then she mentioned 21 the parish splits. How many parish splits are they; do 22 you know? 23 SENATOR WOMACK: I think we're 16 at the -- at 24 the present time. 25 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: And do you know the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 of the questions. So when you did this map, you -- you 2 considered the population deviation. 3 SENATOR WOMACK: Well, we had -- had to -- to 4 create the two districts, we had to think about the 5 population. 6 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And the parish 7 splits as well? 8 SENATOR WOMACK: The parish splits as well. 9 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So you felt like 10 this was the best pathway after you viewed those areas 11 that we certainly had to do to enact this map. 12 SENATOR WOMACK: Representative Marcelle, I -- 13 I -- I want to be -- and -- and I -- I was hoping that 14 it -- that covered that in my opening statement, but it 15 -- it -- my map is politically drawn to protect our 16 members of Congress as it stands, as well as create the 17 two districts, minority district, Black districts. 18 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So in your opinion, 19 your map does two things. It satisfies the Court, and 20 it also protects the politics, or our congressional 21 members. Is that -- is that -- 22 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, ma'am. 23 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: -- accurate to say? 24 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, ma'am. 25 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Thank you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 BVAPs for 2 and 6? 2 SENATOR WOMACK: I'm sorry? 3 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: The BVAPs for 2 and 6, 4 do you know what they are right now? 5 SENATOR WOMACK: No, I don't. 6 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Okay. Did you have any 7 communication with anybody from -- with community 8 influences on this? Have you met with other groups? 9 Who did you meet with to come up with this map? 10 SENATOR WOMACK: I've had several meetings 11 over the period of time with several groups. 12 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: With community of 13 interest as well? 14 SENATOR WOMACK: It -- it was hard to -- to 15 create communities of interest with this map and -- and 16 -- and still achieve some of the goals that we were 17 trying to achieve from the congressional, political 18 standpoint. 19 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Okay. Again, based on 20 the map and my conversation with our congressman, if we 21 can get some things cleared up and straightened up on 22 it, I would be in support of the bill as well. 23 SENATOR WOMACK: Okay. Thank you. 24 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 25 Boyd. Representative Newell.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Thank you very much, 2 Mr. Chairman. Senator Womack, thank you for the time 3 that you've spent because I know myself, we've been in 4 this redistricting process for almost three years now, 5 so I -- I knew the time it took for me just to try to 6 redraw my house district because of the growth in 7 Orleans Parish. So I do understand when you're looking 8 at congressional districts. So again, I want to thank 9 you for the time that you dedicated to -- to doing -- to 10 -- to redrawing this map and submitting this bill, but I 11 must say that I am along the lines of my two colleagues 12 that just spoke.</p> <p>13 That although this is a good map, this isn't 14 the best map that has come before us. It does meet the 15 -- it does meet the Court requirements. It does meet -- 16 meet the statute and the -- the -- the jurisprudence 17 that is before us that guides us as to what needs to be 18 to satisfy congressional districts. I did look at your 19 numbers, the BVAP in 2 and 6, as well as the total 20 population for the -- these two minority-majority 21 districts.</p> <p>22 However, there were two that were -- two other 23 maps that were presented that were stronger for those 24 two minority-majority districts and didn't do as many 25 splits. That's House Bill 5 and Senate Bill 4.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 probably press my button again.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 4 Newell. Representative Marcelle would like to just make 5 a clarification for the Committee.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you. Senator 7 Womack, we keep using the term BVAP, and we know that 8 there are many people in the audience who may not 9 understand that terminology. So do you want to tell 10 them what BVAP means, or you want me to do it?</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: Go ahead. You got the mic.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I got -- okay, sir. 13 I didn't want to take over your bill. It's the Black 14 voting age population for those that are -- that are 15 looking online, and maybe across the state. We -- 16 because we keep using those terms, and I want to make 17 sure that everybody understands what BVAP means. Thank 18 you, Senator Womack.</p> <p>19 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you. When she -- when 20 she asked that question, I started running through my 21 mind. It's got to be voting age population. And -- and 22 I hadn't heard the term BVAP. It's voting age 23 population, which does meet the -- I don't know exactly, 24 but it's in a high percentage, 50 percentile on that -- 25 on voting age population.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 However, the politics of those two individuals that 2 submitted those two maps, I guess, have led us to having 3 to work with yours. And -- and -- and it's -- it's 4 disheartening that we do have so much politics that are 5 guiding our maps instead of the policy, and the people 6 helping us to guide our maps and our decisions.</p> <p>7 Because your map gives us what we're -- what 8 we're wanting, I am going to support your map. And 9 again, I'm going to say it's not because it's the best 10 map, but it is because it -- it -- it looks that -- it 11 looks as though it's giving what we -- what we need. It 12 does not reflect what the African Americans that we've 13 heard from across the state during the road shows in 14 2021 asked for. It does not reflect all of what the 15 Black Caucus and the Democratic Caucus has asked for 16 these past three years.</p> <p>17 But it's the closest that we've gotten thus 18 far, and it seems like it's the closest one that we're 19 going to get that we could possibly get support from my 20 other Republican colleagues on. But I just wanted to 21 make that clear, that it is not all that we asked for, 22 and there have been better ones that were submitted by 23 Democrats. But this is the best one that we've seen 24 that's been submitted by you, sir. And again, I thank 25 you. That's all I have for now, Mr. Chair. I'll</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Senator 2 Womack. And look, for the -- again, the viewing 3 audience, those numbers are all on the bill. They're 4 part of the bill that's been filed. So if you -- if 5 you're listening online and you want to scroll through 6 and -- and look at different statistics on the maps and 7 on the amendments, they're all there for you. Vice 8 Chairman Lyons.</p> <p>9 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Thank -- thank you, Mr. 10 Chairman. Thank you, Senator Womack, for -- for -- for 11 bringing this like that, even though we're looking at 12 this piece, and I'm studying it as -- as it is there. 13 And you mentioned in your opening statement about the -- 14 the plaintiffs and -- and the cause of -- of why you're 15 doing this, but my question is: did you do any -- any 16 comparisons to the -- the plaintiffs' map or the first 17 map that was -- that was issued, drawn on this piece 18 with your map?</p> <p>19 SENATOR WOMACK: Representative Lyons, I've 20 looked at so many maps in the last three days till -- 21 till -- to say I did or didn't would be -- be -- I 22 couldn't answer that. I'm sorry, but -- but I've looked 23 at so many maps from what -- even through our roadshow. 24 But in the last two or three days to -- to say that -- 25 that my map and how it compares to another map, I'm kind</p>

5 (Pages 14 to 17)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 of where I'm at right now, and I -- I can -- I know what 2 my map looks like now.</p> <p>3 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Well, the reason why I 4 asked that question was I wanted to know if you did any 5 type of analysis to see how it would perform. I mean, 6 it looks, in particular, according to certain criteria, 7 that it is a -- a -- a workable map of some sort, but 8 how does it perform in comparison to the plaintiffs' map 9 that was out there, that existing map? I -- I would 10 think that you would compare it to that one because that 11 was the map of -- not of choice, but that was the map in 12 litigation. How would your map perform along with that 13 one?</p> <p>14 SENATOR WOMACK: I -- I didn't look at a map. 15 I looked at a performance chart --</p> <p>16 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Performance. Yes.</p> <p>17 SENATOR WOMACK: -- and it -- it -- right. 18 That was printed. It's online. That -- that we --</p> <p>19 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Okay.</p> <p>20 SENATOR WOMACK: -- pull, and it does -- it 21 does perform very well. It does in the election. It -- 22 it performs.</p> <p>23 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Okay. And --</p> <p>24 SENATOR WOMACK: I -- I don't have that map in 25 front of me, I'm sorry. I thought -- I'm looking for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 question. Representative Larvadain.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Thank you, Senator 3 Womack. I want to thank you for -- for trying to make 4 an effort to comply with the federal judge. But when I 5 look at your map - and you have a copy in front of you - 6 it goes from East Baton Rouge to West Baton Rouge to 7 Pointe Coupee to Saint Landry, some of Avoyelles, some 8 of Rapides, all of Natchitoches, DeSoto, and then some 9 of Caddo; is that correct? Am I right? We're looking 10 at the right map?</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: Which district are you going 12 through, 2 --</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yeah. District 2.</p> <p>14 SENATOR WOMACK: -- or 5 -- 6? 2?</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: 6.</p> <p>16 SENATOR WOMACK: Right.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: 6.</p> <p>18 SENATOR WOMACK: You're right.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Now, when 20 you look at the community of interest -- I'm in Rapides. 21 I've got -- my district is cut up two -- two spots. 22 I'm in District 4 and District 6. I know in the 23 community of interest, you've got Rapides and 24 Natchitoches, and I think that you've got the Creole 25 Nation. You've got Northwestern State University. A</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 it. But I thought it was here, but it's not. But I did 2 have -- I did have that with me.</p> <p>3 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Okay.</p> <p>4 SENATOR WOMACK: But it's not with me, but I 5 -- I do remember us looking at that.</p> <p>6 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Okay. Okay. I want -- 7 I just wanted to know if you did analysis and it was 8 done and how it compared. I know it could perform. 9 Basically, as I'm looking at it now, I would think it 10 does. And I don't think it would perform better -- 11 better than the original map of -- of the plaintiff, but 12 it does perform. I kind of want to see if something at 13 least close to that performance measures there, but this 14 is a performing map. Thank you for answering my 15 questions.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Vice Chairman 17 Lyons. Representative Farnum for a question.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. 19 Speaker. If it's the proper time, I'd like to offer an 20 amendment.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Do we have any other 22 questions before we go into the amendments? Because we 23 do have -- we have two amendments. No other button's 24 pushed. So give me two seconds, and we'll -- we'll come 25 right back to you. Give me -- we've got one more</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 lot of my students in my district attend those, so 2 that's the community of interest; would you agree?</p> <p>3 SENATOR WOMACK: I agree.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: When you look at 5 Natchitoches, there's a community of interest with 6 Natchitoches and Caddo. You've got a lot of -- you've 7 got lumber companies in the Natchitoches area. A lot of 8 people work. RoyOMartin has a big -- big plant in 9 Natchitoches --</p> <p>10 SENATOR WOMACK: Right.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: -- and a lot of 12 folks in my area work there. RoyOMartin from 13 Alexandria. And a lot of folks work in DeSoto where you 14 have a lot of timber. And would you agree with that?</p> <p>15 SENATOR WOMACK: I agree.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: You look at Saint 17 Landry. Saint Landry has -- Opelousas has a nice-sized, 18 medium-sized hospital. So those folks in Pointe Coupee, 19 they will go to Saint Landry to get their medical care 20 and so forth in the Opelousas area. Would you agree 21 with that?</p> <p>22 SENATOR WOMACK: I agree.</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And you look at 24 West Baton Rouge-East Baton Rouge Parish. Is East Baton 25 Rouge Parish cut in one district or two districts in</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 your map? Because I'm having problems seeing it. Is it</p> <p>2 two?</p> <p>3 SENATOR WOMACK: I would have to look at the</p> <p>4 --</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Two. Okay. I've</p> <p>6 seen maps to infinitum. So I think East Baton Rouge is</p> <p>7 divided into two.</p> <p>8 SENATOR WOMACK: It's --</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Is that two? It's</p> <p>10 yellow, and I guess a white piece.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: Yeah. Right. Two.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. And it goes</p> <p>13 all the way to the great city of Shreveport.</p> <p>14 SENATOR WOMACK: Right. Where our LSU</p> <p>15 hospital is.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And the hospital is</p> <p>17 vital because in Alexandria, we had a HOEPA loan.</p> <p>18 You're familiar with that. And Jindal shut my HOEPA</p> <p>19 loan. So my folks --</p> <p>20 SENATOR WOMACK: Right.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: -- in Rapides have</p> <p>22 to go to LSU. So that's a community of interest. Now,</p> <p>23 with your hospital, with your district, it goes from</p> <p>24 East Baton Rouge all the way to Caddo, which is probably</p> <p>25 about a two-hour ride, give or take, because I take that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: But his prior map</p> <p>2 was just one continuous area. Now he has to leave one</p> <p>3 district and go to another area, which is -- which he'll</p> <p>4 be representing; is that correct?</p> <p>5 SENATOR WOMACK: Yeah, that.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Have you had</p> <p>7 a chance to talk to -- to Congressman Johnson about this</p> <p>8 map?</p> <p>9 SENATOR WOMACK: Not directly to him.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Is he</p> <p>11 content with this map?</p> <p>12 SENATOR WOMACK: He's content.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Even though it</p> <p>14 slashes right through the middle of his district.</p> <p>15 SENATOR WOMACK: Yeah. It -- it --</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Now, Ed Price and</p> <p>17 Denise Marcelle. Let's go to District 5. Let's go the</p> <p>18 District 5 area. Their map, they were looking at</p> <p>19 District 5, which is the eastern part of Louisiana. And</p> <p>20 their map, they had that as the minority --</p> <p>21 majority-minority district, I think, but you kept that</p> <p>22 map so you can help your friend, Congressman Letlow; is</p> <p>23 that correct?</p> <p>24 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes. Yes, sir.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: So this is more of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 ride a lot going up to Meyer in Alexandria. There was a</p> <p>2 -- a different map that was heard in the Senate, but it</p> <p>3 was a much cleaner map. That map didn't get out of the</p> <p>4 Senate, and it didn't get out of this area. The map I'm</p> <p>5 talking about is Ed Price's. I think Ed Price had a</p> <p>6 map.</p> <p>7 FEMALE SPEAKER 1: It was Price and Marcelle.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Price-Marcelle map.</p> <p>9 I'm sorry. Did you get a chance to look at that map?</p> <p>10 That map was heard on the Senate side.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Those districts</p> <p>13 were a lot closer, a lot compact, but you're presenting</p> <p>14 this district. When you look at District 4, that's --</p> <p>15 that is the district for the Speaker, Mr. Johnson; is</p> <p>16 that correct?</p> <p>17 SENATOR WOMACK: Right.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Does he have a</p> <p>19 problem with his district being cut in -- in half like</p> <p>20 that? If you look at Winnfield, if he's in Winnfield</p> <p>21 and he goes to Sabine, he has to go through</p> <p>22 Natchitoches, which is not (inaudible 0:26:54) district.</p> <p>23 Yet you think he has a problem with that?</p> <p>24 SENATOR WOMACK: No. It looks like the</p> <p>25 shortest route would be through Natchitoches.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 a political map.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WOMACK: Exactly.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: So our objective is</p> <p>4 to get two majority-minority districts, but you have</p> <p>5 presented us a political map; isn't that correct?</p> <p>6 SENATOR WOMACK: The influence is political.</p> <p>7 I created -- we created two minority Black districts.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: But you also said</p> <p>9 earlier that you were trying to do your best to protect</p> <p>10 Congressman Scalise.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: That was -- that -- that --</p> <p>12 Scalise, as well as Johnson, Letlow, which is my</p> <p>13 representative, and Higgins.</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: You were trying to</p> <p>15 protect your Republican team.</p> <p>16 SENATOR WOMACK: That was a primary driver.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: So this is a</p> <p>18 political matter. But the judge wanted you to make sure</p> <p>19 that you presented two --</p> <p>20 SENATOR WOMACK: Two Black.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: --</p> <p>22 majority-minority districts.</p> <p>23 SENATOR WOMACK: And I've done that.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: I don't know if</p> <p>25 you've done -- you've -- you've made an effort at it, but</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 there was another map. There's a lot cleaner map</p> <p>2 because the map that I see goes from Shreveport to Baton</p> <p>3 Rouge, which you're just zigzagging. And you picked up</p> <p>4 Alexandria, you picked up Natchitoches, you picked up</p> <p>5 DeSoto, but it's more of a political map. The map that</p> <p>6 the Democrats pursued, it was a map that we agreed on</p> <p>7 two majority-minority districts, and this is more of a</p> <p>8 political map.</p> <p>9 SENATOR WOMACK: Yeah, I know.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Senator Womack, why are</p> <p>13 we here today? What -- what brought us all to this</p> <p>14 special session as it -- as it relates to, you know,</p> <p>15 what we're discussing here today?</p> <p>16 SENATOR WOMACK: The middle courts of the</p> <p>17 district courts brought us here from the Middle</p> <p>18 District, and said, "Draw a map, or I'll draw a map."</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay.</p> <p>20 SENATOR WOMACK: So that's what we've done.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: And -- and were you --</p> <p>22 does -- does this map achieve that middle court's</p> <p>23 orders?</p> <p>24 SENATOR WOMACK: It does.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. When you were</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. That's what --</p> <p>2 that's what I was thinking. That's what I've learned</p> <p>3 through the process, and I just wanted to make sure that</p> <p>4 your map achieved that. Yeah.</p> <p>5 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: All right. Senator, the</p> <p>7 board's cleared. We're going to go ahead, if you don't</p> <p>8 mind, and -- and take up the amendments right now. Bear</p> <p>9 with me for two seconds. Senator Marcelle, and -- and</p> <p>10 -- excuse me. Sorry about that promotion,</p> <p>11 Representative Marcelle.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: That's okay.</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: And -- and Representative</p> <p>14 Farnum both have amendments.</p> <p>15 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: Here. This card's in</p> <p>16 Marcelle's name.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. Hold that -- hold</p> <p>18 that for me. Bear with me. So the first amendment is</p> <p>19 how -- is Amendment 68. That is Amendment 60. Give me</p> <p>20 a second while it's loading. What amendment is 68?</p> <p>21 MS. LOWERY: That is the one offered by</p> <p>22 Representative Farnum.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Farnum,</p> <p>24 we're going to take up your amendment first.</p> <p>25 Representative Farnum, on your amendment.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 drawing the maps, you also took into consideration</p> <p>2 incumbency, correct?</p> <p>3 SENATOR WOMACK: Right.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. To protect not</p> <p>5 just our state, but our national interest as well.</p> <p>6 SENATOR WOMACK: Our national.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Is that correct?</p> <p>8 SENATOR WOMACK: Right.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: This is -- this is bigger</p> <p>10 than just us.</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: It's bigger than just us, and</p> <p>12 Louisiana has never been sitting in the poor position</p> <p>13 that they are today.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: What -- what position</p> <p>15 does Congressman Mike Johnson have in the United States</p> <p>16 House of Representatives?</p> <p>17 SENATOR WOMACK: He's a speaker of the house.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. And what about</p> <p>19 Congressman Steve Scalise?</p> <p>20 SENATOR WOMACK: Majority leader of the house.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. So if we've been</p> <p>22 able to accomplish what the judge has ordered through</p> <p>23 your map, and also been able to protect the political</p> <p>24 interest, that is kosher, correct?</p> <p>25 SENATOR WOMACK: That's exactly.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Thank you, Mr.</p> <p>2 Speaker. So I offer -- does -- do we need to read it</p> <p>3 in?</p> <p>4 MS. LOWERY: Certainly.</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Ms. Lowery, please</p> <p>6 read-in the amendment.</p> <p>7 MS. LOWERY: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>8 Representative Farnum is offering up HCASBA-36268. And</p> <p>9 on page 1, it's going to delete lines 13 through 17, and</p> <p>10 delete pages 2 through 6, and we'll be inserting a new</p> <p>11 district configuration for the congressional districts</p> <p>12 for the State of Louisiana. This amendment is available</p> <p>13 online and is available in your packets, members, and</p> <p>14 contains maps and statistics relevant to the plan.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Ms. Lowery.</p> <p>16 Representative Farnum, on your amendment.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Thank you, Mr.</p> <p>18 Chairman. So in the -- in the beginning of this</p> <p>19 process, me and my colleagues from Southwest Louisiana</p> <p>20 set out to accomplish making Calcasieu whole. In the</p> <p>21 history of -- of our -- our great parish, we've always</p> <p>22 had one congressman that represented us. And -- and --</p> <p>23 and with the current map as presented from Senator</p> <p>24 Womack, it -- it split Calcasieu Parish basically in</p> <p>25 half in population. And -- and with the community of</p>

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<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 interest in our industrial sector down there, we thought</p> <p>2 that was not just for our area.</p> <p>3 We -- we have -- we're -- we're probably one</p> <p>4 of the top two or three economic engines for the State</p> <p>5 of Louisiana with our oil and gas industries and our LNG</p> <p>6 industry that's going on in -- in our region. So we</p> <p>7 thought it would be -- be great to make an effort to get</p> <p>8 back to one congressman.</p> <p>9 We have issues with -- with all sorts of</p> <p>10 natural disasters in our area, and we have a hard enough</p> <p>11 time getting -- getting the -- the adequate supplies and</p> <p>12 -- and resources to our region in those situations with</p> <p>13 one congressman, and I -- I can imagine it might be a</p> <p>14 little more difficult with two. So in that effort, we</p> <p>15 set out to make -- make ourselves whole. And in the</p> <p>16 process, a lot of folks in -- in other areas wanted to</p> <p>17 come along and -- and get -- be a part of this to -- to</p> <p>18 correct little -- little tweaks in their area.</p> <p>19 So last night a group of senators and</p> <p>20 representatives got together. I wasn't able to attend</p> <p>21 that meeting. So this is the product of that meeting.</p> <p>22 At the end of the day, we -- we accomplished a few</p> <p>23 things. We -- we kept the, the basic intent of what</p> <p>24 Senator Womack's bill is in place, and with a -- a --</p> <p>25 kind of a counterclockwise shift that would -- but the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 accomplished that, but it -- it actually increases the</p> <p>2 -- the viability of the two minority districts.</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. And what about</p> <p>4 incumbency, are the -- the current members protected?</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Protects all the</p> <p>6 current incumbencies. I think it -- it -- it meets all</p> <p>7 the -- all the checkboxes.</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>9 Representative Marcelle. Again, give me a second,</p> <p>10 Representative Marcelle, because I'm going to get</p> <p>11 Representative Farnum added back on. Bear with me.</p> <p>12 (Pause.)</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: You ready? Thank</p> <p>14 you. Representative Farnum.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: You said that some</p> <p>17 senators and some representatives met last night, but</p> <p>18 you weren't able to be there. Is that -- is that what</p> <p>19 you said?</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So whose map is</p> <p>22 this?</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: This is Senator</p> <p>24 Womack's map.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: No, no, no, no. The</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 process has to happen that way to increase some areas in</p> <p>2 -- in Northeast Louisiana to help that district to make</p> <p>3 Congressman Johnson come down some.</p> <p>4 That inherently makes Congressman Higgins have</p> <p>5 to shift to the east, and so on and so forth. In the</p> <p>6 process, we increase the -- the -- both the Black</p> <p>7 population and the voting population of both of the</p> <p>8 minority districts by almost a percent each in most</p> <p>9 cases.</p> <p>10 So it helps -- it helps the -- the workability</p> <p>11 of the two new districts and -- and what they're trying</p> <p>12 to accomplish, and it accomplished the -- the -- making</p> <p>13 more -- more parishes whole. I think we -- we only --</p> <p>14 we're down to 15 split parishes with this map, and so I</p> <p>15 think we've accomplished several things in the process.</p> <p>16 And -- and with that, we can answer questions or ask for</p> <p>17 your passage.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Farnum,</p> <p>19 does your -- does your amendment meet the judge's order?</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Absolutely.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. And so we have two</p> <p>22 majority-minority districts, or two Black districts that</p> <p>23 have a voting -- a majority voting age population over</p> <p>24 50 percent?</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I -- I think it</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 amendment.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: The amendment. I'm</p> <p>3 the author because --</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Because if senator</p> <p>5 -- I don't mean --</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- it has -- it has to</p> <p>7 have an author from this committee, and -- and I'm --</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. It has to</p> <p>9 have an author from this committee, so that's why. Who</p> <p>10 asked you to carry it is my question.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I started it myself</p> <p>12 without anybody asking me. Now, I -- I allowed input</p> <p>13 from other members of this body to -- to better my</p> <p>14 amendment because it -- mine was -- mine was from my</p> <p>15 region's perspective.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: It's Calcasieu.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Calcasieu's</p> <p>18 perspective.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And so let me -- let</p> <p>20 me see -- let -- let me walk down this really quick. In</p> <p>21 Calcasieu, you said that you wanted to make your parish</p> <p>22 whole. Did I understand that correctly?</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Correct.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So instead of having</p> <p>25 two congressional representatives, you wanted to make</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 sure you were whole, and you just wanted one; is that</p> <p>2 accurate?</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Correct. That's</p> <p>4 correct.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. But over in</p> <p>6 East Baton Rouge, if I'm reading it correctly, we now</p> <p>7 have three congressional districts; is that accurate?</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's accurate.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: That's accurate.</p> <p>10 Okay. Good. So on the one hand, you want to make</p> <p>11 yourself whole, and you want to split us three ways in</p> <p>12 East Baton Rouge Parish.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's the net result.</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: That's the net</p> <p>15 result. Okay. Got it. So are you aware of the</p> <p>16 population shift in Louisiana? You know, we had these</p> <p>17 hearings a year and a half ago, two, whatever. It was</p> <p>18 two years ago. Whenever it was. Are you aware --</p> <p>19 because I think you were on this committee.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. So are you</p> <p>22 aware of the growth, the largest growth in the state?</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yes.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Where was that?</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Northshore.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: -- and she picked up</p> <p>3 some more, right?</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: His map -- Womack's</p> <p>6 map didn't do that. So you added back Lincoln, Jackson,</p> <p>7 and you made her whole in Ouachita.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Ouachita.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Ouachita. Ouachita.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Ouachita whole.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Ouachita, right?</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Correct.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Is that right?</p> <p>14 Okay.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I -- I want to make</p> <p>17 sure I -- I got that straight. So it -- are you aware</p> <p>18 that this map that you're proposing has less compact</p> <p>19 overall than Womack's map or the enacting map? Are you</p> <p>20 aware of that? It has less compactness.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: No.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I know you didn't</p> <p>23 have a whole lot of time to study it because it was last</p> <p>24 minute.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yeah. I don't know if</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Where? Northshore.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Northshore.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And where was Baton</p> <p>4 Rouge in that?</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: It's probably middle</p> <p>6 of the road.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Middle of the road.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yeah.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Would you say that</p> <p>10 Baton Rouge had more growth than Calcasieu?</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I don't know if that's</p> <p>12 accurate. I -- I couldn't speak to that.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: They did. My -- my</p> <p>14 point to you is that there was growth in -- in Baton</p> <p>15 Rouge. They lost population in North Louisiana. Is</p> <p>16 that accurate?</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: They did lose</p> <p>19 population, and I'm just trying to --</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: -- refresh my</p> <p>22 memory. In North Louisiana, so, but you wanted to make</p> <p>23 sure that North Louisiana -- because it looks like --</p> <p>24 I'm looking at his map and your map, and it looks like</p> <p>25 you shift Letlow back over --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 I agree with that.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: You don't know if</p> <p>3 you agree with it.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: No.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Well, it</p> <p>6 does. In fact, it's the lowest compactness of all of</p> <p>7 the maps. That's A. The district level in Congressional</p> <p>8 District 6 is less compact than Womack's map, and the</p> <p>9 Congressional District 2 is half as compact as Womack's</p> <p>10 map. Are you aware of that?</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: So what I do know is</p> <p>12 that the -- the BVAP increased.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I'm not asking about</p> <p>14 the BVAP.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: The population</p> <p>16 increased, and it helps those -- the electability of</p> <p>17 those minority candidates in those areas.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I -- I guess that's</p> <p>19 your opinion, but what I'm asking you for right now is</p> <p>20 facts in -- in -- in -- in terms of the compactness of</p> <p>21 the districts. So let me go to another one. Are you</p> <p>22 aware that it splits more municipalities than Womack's</p> <p>23 and almost twice as many as the -- the bill that I</p> <p>24 brought?</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I'm not familiar --</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Are you aware of 2 that? 3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I'm not familiar with 4 your bill. 5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Was HB5 up? 6 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: We didn't -- we didn't 7 have a chance to hear that. 8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I presented it in 9 here. You were -- you were here. 10 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: You -- you voluntarily 11 withdrew it. 12 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Pardon me? 13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: You voluntarily 14 withdrew it. 15 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: But I presented it. 16 But you had an opportunity to get it on your laptop and 17 see it like we get all bills, right, because you're on 18 this committee. 19 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yes. 20 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. So this map, 21 the -- well, not map, the amendments. If these 22 amendments get on this bill, it will split more 23 municipalities than Womack's. The deviation on these 24 amendments that go to this map is a 129, which is both 25 higher than Womack's bill, which is almost twice as much</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 That would mean that Clay Higgins would 2 represent the people on Lakeshore Drive in Baton Rouge. 3 That's what that would mean. 4 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: So -- so in -- in my 5 area, Clay Higgins represents my house, and if I drive 6 10 houses down the road, Congressman Johnson represents 7 those people -- 8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I guess -- 9 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- 10 houses away from 10 my house. 11 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I imagine because 12 you're on the line. But what I'm saying is that's a far 13 distance from where his district starts, to bring him 14 down to Baton Rouge, and I'm just trying to -- it's 15 unclear to me what the motivation of offering this 16 amendment is, other than political reasons. It -- it -- 17 it certainly doesn't help us in Baton Rouge. 18 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Well, all -- all I can 19 say is my constituents at home expressed a strong desire 20 to remain whole. Now, whether we were in District 3 -- 21 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So do mine. 22 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- or District 4 -- I 23 -- I can appreciate that. I really can appreciate that, 24 and that's why we all get a vote here. And so it's -- 25 this is -- this is my attempt to -- to help my citizens</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 as the enacted map at 65. I -- I think what I'm saying 2 is there were more than one goal to meet when we were 3 told to draw these maps. 4 It was more than one thing that we had to 5 consider: compactness, communities of interest, not 6 splitting municipalities. And it appears that this map 7 -- or these amendments, if we were to vote on this, does 8 far more harm than good. 9 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: So -- so it's my 10 opinion that -- that we -- we addressed all of the 11 issues that we were set out to do. We've accomplished 12 all the goals that we were mandated by the Court to do. 13 We have the -- the two minority districts were very, 14 very lightly touched, and -- and mostly White population 15 was pulled out of those districts. 16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Well, let -- let me 17 just say this, Representative Farnum, with all due 18 respect. If you were just trying to make Calcasieu 19 whole and that was your parish and you were trying to do 20 that, I might have a little bit more respect for this 21 amendment. But since you are trying to make yourself 22 whole, and East Baton Rouge Parish split between three 23 congressional districts, that would mean that for the 24 public that's watching -- because you can't see the map, 25 or you may not be able to understand it.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 in my area. 2 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I get that. 3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: And in the process, I 4 included -- a lot of other people from a lot of other 5 regions were included in the conversation. I can't 6 speak to who all was included that night because I 7 wasn't able to attend that. So it -- it was people from 8 New Orleans. I think Senator Womack was in the room 9 when -- when it was discussed, and -- and feel free to 10 jump in any time. 11 SENATOR WOMACK: Okay. I -- I was in that 12 meeting, and -- and the -- back to the BVAP. And in the 13 districts, District 2 and District 6 went up -- up as 14 far as Black voter age population. Senator Gary Carter 15 was in the room with us looking at this and -- and 16 working on this to -- to try to come up with the best 17 outcome. We did -- 18 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: That would be -- 19 SENATOR WOMACK: -- include -- 20 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I'm sorry. That -- 21 you said Senator Carter. 22 SENATOR WOMACK: Carter. Gary Carter. 23 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And that we be 24 Congressional District 2, right? 25 SENATOR WOMACK: He was in the room.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WOMACK: He was in the room, and --</p> <p>3 and -- and looking at these districts with us. This</p> <p>4 wasn't -- this wasn't -- this was several senators</p> <p>5 trying to work to -- to try to accomplish, I guess, a</p> <p>6 lot of maybe concerns from different ones, but I know</p> <p>7 Red River Parish was put in.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Well, the -- the</p> <p>9 only one that could have been concerned about</p> <p>10 Congressional District 2 would be Congressman Troy</p> <p>11 Carter; is that accurate? Who -- did he have a concern</p> <p>12 about your map?</p> <p>13 SENATOR WOMACK: I -- I would think that</p> <p>14 Congressman -- Senator Carter would -- would be speaking</p> <p>15 in -- in that capacity, as to watching the -- the -- the</p> <p>16 VAP, the -- the -- the -- the voting age population. He</p> <p>17 was watching that. He was working with us to try to</p> <p>18 best fit everything that we -- that -- that people was</p> <p>19 wanting and -- and -- and concerns from each side that</p> <p>20 we're asking for and -- and to still maintain the -- the</p> <p>21 fact that -- that we -- we got a map to draw. And we</p> <p>22 had to draw this map to get --</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So let me -- let me</p> <p>24 ask you, Senator. Was somebody from Baton Rouge asking</p> <p>25 to be split three ways in that room? Because I want to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 SENATOR WOMACK: I'm sorry.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: It's not your</p> <p>3 amendment.</p> <p>4 SENATOR WOMACK: Yeah. I'm sorry.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I'm just making a</p> <p>6 statement.</p> <p>7 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And I'm not voting</p> <p>9 for any map that has Baton Rouge split three ways</p> <p>10 because that's insane. It's insane. And so for</p> <p>11 whatever motive that they had, I believe that they threw</p> <p>12 a monkey wrench in a bill that I think would have gotten</p> <p>13 out of here without any opposition, which is your bill.</p> <p>14 So I don't -- I don't know if you realize it --</p> <p>15 SENATOR WOMACK: Yeah. Yeah.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: -- but, I mean, I</p> <p>17 don't think what they have done has helped your bill.</p> <p>18 And if Farnum wanted to protect Calcasieu, that's</p> <p>19 Calcasieu. It ain't got nothing to do with Baton Rouge.</p> <p>20 So he should have put amendment on this bill that</p> <p>21 protects Calcasieu, not Baton Rouge. Not change</p> <p>22 anything in Baton Rouge. And that's just my honest</p> <p>23 opinion. So I -- I -- I could not -- so I would object.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I -- I -- I could</p> <p>25 not -- so I would object to this amendment being added.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 know who that was.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WOMACK: I -- I -- I don't know where</p> <p>3 these people -- all the people live.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Don't know where the</p> <p>5 --</p> <p>6 SENATOR WOMACK: I -- I think Carter lives</p> <p>7 back toward New Orleans.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Yeah. That's what I</p> <p>9 said.</p> <p>10 SENATOR WOMACK: Okay. All right.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Right. That's what</p> <p>12 I said. And this is --</p> <p>13 SENATOR WOMACK: And -- and -- and that's --</p> <p>14 and I can't say he's been on the phone, but he was in</p> <p>15 the room and worked with us on this.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Let -- let -- let me</p> <p>17 say this, and I'll -- I'll leave it alone at this. I --</p> <p>18 I respect you, Senator Womack. That's why when I</p> <p>19 proposed a cleanup amendment to your bill, I came over</p> <p>20 to talk to you about exactly what I was going to propose</p> <p>21 on your bill. I think it's disingenuous that we sit</p> <p>22 here, and we drop maps that changes Baton Rouge because</p> <p>23 some senators got in a room and decided to change my</p> <p>24 district. This is what I represent. I -- I -- I don't</p> <p>25 mean -- I'm -- and you --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 And I want everybody in Baton Rouge who's listening to</p> <p>2 please call your senators and the people that represent</p> <p>3 you and tell them we do not want to be split in three</p> <p>4 ways in Baton Rouge. Thank you.</p> <p>5 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you. Just for</p> <p>6 correction, Senator Fields was in the room with us. So</p> <p>7 that -- that -- I appreciate Senator Kathy reminding me</p> <p>8 of that. He was in the room as well.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you. Ms. --</p> <p>10 Representative Marcelle. Representative Johnson.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr.</p> <p>12 Chairman. Senator Womack, you represent Senate District</p> <p>13 -- what's the number?</p> <p>14 SENATOR WOMACK: 32.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: 32. You're my</p> <p>16 senator, and we share a lot of people, a lot of</p> <p>17 population. You have spent a lot of time on this map;</p> <p>18 haven't you?</p> <p>19 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, sir.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: And you've tried to</p> <p>21 do it as best you can and to make it legal and to make</p> <p>22 it -- to adjust the population shift that has occurred</p> <p>23 in our state; is that right?</p> <p>24 SENATOR WOMACK: That's right.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: And it -- you're not</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 doing it in a vacuum. It's affecting people that are in 2 your district. 3 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes, sir. That's exactly 4 right. 5 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: And you are catching 6 a lot of heat because of that; aren't you? 7 SENATOR WOMACK: That's right. 8 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: You take your 9 responsibility seriously; don't you? 10 SENATOR WOMACK: I do. 11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: Even when it hurts 12 you politically? 13 SENATOR WOMACK: I do. 14 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: It hurts me 15 politically. 16 SENATOR WOMACK: It does. And I've 17 apologized. 18 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: I know you to be a 19 good and honest man who tries to do the right thing. 20 Does this map, as amended by -- by Representative 21 Farnum, my good friend from Southwest Louisiana -- well, 22 let me back up. You believe that you have presented a 23 map that achieves all the necessary requirements and 24 provides us with the best instrument that you could come 25 up with?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 consider this -- this -- how critical it is for everyone 2 to have these -- this information and these documents in 3 time that those of us who are sitting right here and 4 about to vote on this -- and Senator, I'm sorry. I'm 5 looking directly at you, but you -- you right there. 6 But this is -- no -- no slight against you. 7 This was not enough time to digest everything 8 that is in this amendment. We went at ease at about 9 10:15, 10:20, whatever time it was in the 10 o'clock 10 hour. We just got these maps before we sat down. When 11 y'all saw us sit down and pick up these papers, that's 12 why we were shuffling because we just got these 13 amendments. And I just needed to say this is too 14 sensitive of a issue, too sensitive of a topic to rush 15 through it and to be thrown a set of amendments. 16 There's probably more splits that we -- than 17 -- than what we're noticing. Rep Marcelle saw Baton 18 Rouge because that's where she lives. So that's what's 19 kind of jumped out at her first. But I'm sure there's 20 some other members that might feel slighted. There 21 might be some other populations or communities of 22 interest that feel that they are not being listened to 23 or heard. 24 We -- we -- I would have appreciated more time 25 to understand this since I was not given the benefit of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 SENATOR WOMACK: I do. 2 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: Do you believe that 3 Representative Farnum's amendment makes your bill 4 better? 5 SENATOR WOMACK: Yes. 6 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: And would you support 7 your bill and your map and all of your time and all your 8 political pain that you and I are feeling if he presents 9 that amendment? 10 SENATOR WOMACK: I do. I would. 11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, 12 Senator. 13 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 14 Johnson. Representative Newell. 15 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Thank you very much, 16 Mr. Chairman. And Representative Farnum, I appreciate 17 your attempt at drawing this map. But what I don't 18 appreciate -- and I do understand that this is a 19 compressed session. And let me pause right quick and 20 say thank you to our staff because our staff is truly 21 overworked and underpaid. So I -- I -- I -- I 22 understand how swiftly they work to try to get bills 23 prepared, amendments prepared so that we can have them 24 in order to get to committee. 25 But I -- with all of that, we also need to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 being in the room. Rep Farnum's name is on this map, 2 and he wasn't in the room. You mentioned a lot of 3 senators in the room talking about something that 4 representatives are now sitting here trying to pour 5 over, talk about, discuss, and understand in a shorter 6 period of time. 7 Most of us can't really pay attention to the 8 discussions because we're looking and trying to 9 understand these 15 pages that we've just been given. 10 And I just needed to put that out there, Mr. Pro Tem, 11 that we should need to give each other more 12 consideration in our futures, that we give each other 13 more time to digest things that are this sensitive of a 14 issue and of a topic. And I'm still not satisfied with 15 this map. Thank you. 16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 17 Newell. Representative Mark Wright. 18 REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Pro 19 Tem. I didn't expect to get called on so soon I thought 20 there'd be a line. I -- I don't know. I'm going to 21 upset somebody with this statement, but I'm just going 22 to say it. I don't understand the idea of wanting just 23 one rep for a parish. 24 I think if you got two, you got two people to 25 go to. I don't think congressmen sit there and say,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 "Oh, you know, St. Tammany, 50 percent is there. I'm 2 only going to give it 25 percent of my time." I think 3 if you got three, I think it's possible you get three 4 congressmen working for your parish. 5 So I don't know what that does, but I just -- 6 I've been hearing this all week, heard it the last time 7 we did this, and to me, it's just not something I think 8 matters. So I'll leave it there. 9 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you. 10 Representative Wright. Representative Boyd. 11 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker 12 Pro Tem. I think what the problem is is that, again, 13 following up on Candace -- on Rep Newell, we just were 14 presented with these amendments and your map as a matter 15 of fact. 16 I do understand, Rep Marcelle, that Senator 17 Fields was in the room with this. But that's Senator 18 Fields and Senator Carter in the room. We were not 19 privy to that conversation, so we had no idea what we 20 were expecting to see the -- today. And now we're 21 shuffling through pages and pages of a bill as well as 22 an amendment. 23 So I don't think anything was done 24 intentionally, but the frustration comes from us not 25 having this ourselves to actually digest it and meet</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. But your 2 parish is only single; is that correct? 3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct. 4 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: I think Avoyelles 5 Parish is -- is divided into two areas; is that correct? 6 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Excuse me? 7 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Avoyelles Parish is 8 divided in District 5 and 4. 9 MALE SPEAKER 1: 5 and 10. 10 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: 5 and -- 11 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yes, and they're -- 12 they're -- 13 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: 5 and 6? 14 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- split in the 15 current map. 16 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Now, we had 17 a better map that we think we proposed. But once again, 18 with your map, you're dipping and diving, and you're 19 going through -- you've got a -- how many split 20 districts do you have in that area; do you know? 21 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: How many what? 22 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Split parishes you 23 have in -- just in District 6. 24 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: So in -- in this map, 25 there are 15 split parishes. And -- and in the original</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 with our people, our community of interest, and speak 2 about what's being presented. So I think -- 3 MALE SPEAKER 1: (inaudible 0:57:16). 4 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Exactly. So I think 5 that that's the -- the main issue here. We know who was 6 in the -- well, we know now who were in the room when 7 this was being discussed, but we weren't, if that makes 8 any sense. Thank you. 9 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 10 Boyd. Representative Larvadain. 11 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Thank you, Mr. 12 Chair. Rep Farnum, thank you for making an effort to 13 try to comply with the judge's wishes, but I'm still 14 confused with your map. In the great parish of Rapides, 15 we've divided three ways; is that correct? 16 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Two or three. 17 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: I -- three -- I see 18 pink, green, and yellow in the great -- is that correct? 19 Am I seeing something right? Yes. Look at Rapides, 20 the real parish, where I'm from and Mike Johnson. 21 Rapides is -- on the east side, it's in the yellow, 22 which is Clay Higgins. In the middle, it'll be in 23 District 6, and then it has a portion of District 5. So 24 it's three in the -- is that correct? 25 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 map, if I counted it right, there's 32 split parishes. 2 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: If I told you it 3 was 16 original, would that be correct? Where would you 4 get 36? 5 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's not the count 6 that I came up -- but I -- I don't know. I might be 7 wrong, but I -- I think the asterisk -- 8 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: 16. 9 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- the asterisk beside 10 the parishes mean that they're split. 11 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Let -- let 12 me correct then -- 13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: There's 32 of them. 14 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yeah. And -- and 15 Senator Womack's map, it was 16 split; is that correct? 16 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I don't believe that's 17 correct. I think there's 32 in the original map. Help 18 -- help me with that Ms. Lowery. 19 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: I think it's 16. 20 MS. LOWERY: Members, I think what 21 Representative Farnum is counting the number of 22 asterisks, but the asterisk in front of a parish on the 23 report -- on the split parish report means it is split, 24 but there are 16 split parishes -- 25 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Okay.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 MS. LOWERY: -- in the plan, so.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Okay. So we reduced</p> <p>3 that by one.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Those 15?</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I think. If I -- if</p> <p>6 I'm adding right.</p> <p>7 MS. LOWERY: 15 in his original --</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: 15 in the original?</p> <p>9 MS. LOWERY: -- and 16 in your amendment,</p> <p>10 Representative.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Okay. So we increase</p> <p>12 it by one.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yeah. You added</p> <p>14 one to it, okay. What about -- where does Congressman</p> <p>15 Graves live? Is he in District 6 or he's in District 5?</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I have no idea where</p> <p>17 Congressman Graves lives.</p> <p>18 FEMALE SPEAKER 3: I think Baton Rouge.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: I think he's in --</p> <p>20 I think he's in East Baton Rouge Parish.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I -- I have no --</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: If I told you --</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- no idea where he</p> <p>24 lives.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Would he -- would</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: He -- he -- he would</p> <p>3 like to retain part of Calcasieu if possible. And --</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Blame him. That's</p> <p>5 a big city.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: -- and we -- we</p> <p>7 disagreed with that.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yeah, I don't -- I</p> <p>9 don't blame him. I know he wants to control --</p> <p>10 represent Lake Charles.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: And I'm -- I'm</p> <p>12 perfectly fine having Congressman Higgins or Congressman</p> <p>13 Johnson. I like both of them. We just want to have</p> <p>14 one.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And it's not</p> <p>16 Representative -- Congressman Higgins. It's -- you'd</p> <p>17 rather have --</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: No. It's -- it's --</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yeah.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's -- that's the</p> <p>21 rotation that's possible.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay.</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Is -- is a</p> <p>24 counterclockwise rotation is the only one that's</p> <p>25 possible.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 he be a part of District 5, that district, or you don't</p> <p>2 know?</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I don't know. I don't</p> <p>4 know where any of the congressmen live other than the</p> <p>5 regions that they come from.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. Okay. Did</p> <p>7 you get a chance to talk to Congressman Mike Johnson</p> <p>8 about his district?</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Huh? I have not. I</p> <p>10 talked to Congressman Higgins about his.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. And what did</p> <p>12 Congressman Higgins say about his district?</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: He -- he -- he thought</p> <p>14 it was a good idea that we were okay to be split. I</p> <p>15 disagreed with him. Very -- very civil conversation.</p> <p>16 He was disappointed that we would rather push -- push to</p> <p>17 the -- a single member. But, you know, I'm -- I'm</p> <p>18 listening to my constituents, and that's -- that's who I</p> <p>19 have to answer to.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Does Congressman</p> <p>21 Higgins have -- have a problem with going all the way</p> <p>22 from Cameron to Baton Rouge Parish? Is that ideal for</p> <p>23 him?</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That wasn't an issue</p> <p>25 that he -- that he expressed to me.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And I know with</p> <p>2 Congressman Mike Johnson, the Caddo Parish, they wanted</p> <p>3 to make sure Bossier -- they wanted to make sure</p> <p>4 Barksdale and Fort Johnson were in the same district; is</p> <p>5 that correct?</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I believe so.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And this map does</p> <p>8 that?</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I believe so.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Now, what about</p> <p>11 Congressman Scalise? Did he have a problem with his</p> <p>12 district?</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I don't think -- I</p> <p>14 haven't spoke with him. I haven't spoke with any of his</p> <p>15 staff. I couldn't answer that question.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: What about</p> <p>17 Congressman Letlow? Does she have a problem with her</p> <p>18 district?</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I think she very happy</p> <p>20 with the fact that she made Ouachita whole, which was</p> <p>21 one of her desires, and gained more northern population</p> <p>22 to -- for -- for her district. People that she's</p> <p>23 represented in the past, she wanted to retain those</p> <p>24 people.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And you had a good</p>

15 (Pages 54 to 57)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 idea of what Congressman Carter wanted in District --</p> <p>2 District 2?</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I have no idea.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. And let me</p> <p>5 make sure in -- in District 6, the new district, the VAP</p> <p>6 -- the VAP map is 54.342; is that correct? I'm looking</p> <p>7 at it.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I'll take your word</p> <p>9 for it. It -- they went up.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yeah. BVAP. Okay.</p> <p>11 And we know that that district will perform at that</p> <p>12 capacity?</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: We feel like it'll</p> <p>14 perform better because the population -- the -- the BVAP</p> <p>15 has increased.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: And what about the</p> <p>17 BVAP for District 2 at 51.7? Will that increase?</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: It -- it increased as</p> <p>19 well.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: So your -- your map</p> <p>21 will produce two majority-minority districts; is that</p> <p>22 correct?</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: That's correct.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: But you've got</p> <p>25 several districts in District 6 where you have my</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 That's what I was being told.</p> <p>2 That's A. And B, we do have another senator in</p> <p>3 Baton Rouge. Her name is Senator Regina Barrow. She is</p> <p>4 the Pro Tem. So I'm wondering why she wasn't in the</p> <p>5 room. We're a metropolitan area. So I want to clear</p> <p>6 that up. I guess she wasn't invited to the party. I --</p> <p>7 I don't know.</p> <p>8 But I -- I do want to ask our chairman if the</p> <p>9 Legal Defense Fund can come up and help to clear up some</p> <p>10 of the questions that we may have about these map and</p> <p>11 the performance because we have the public who's</p> <p>12 listening, and they should know what's going on. I</p> <p>13 believe that these are the people who could perhaps</p> <p>14 answer some of the questions that we have.</p> <p>15 And I certainly have some questions for them</p> <p>16 myself, since I can't get a clear answer on performance</p> <p>17 or compactness. All of these issues that we're talking</p> <p>18 about: the deviation, how many splits it is. I have an</p> <p>19 attorney right here by me, Mr. Larvadain. And he's --</p> <p>20 because we were given this information a few minutes</p> <p>21 ago, as legislators, many of us can't decipher through</p> <p>22 it.</p> <p>23 So I would ask that LDF, the Legal Defense</p> <p>24 Fund, would be able to come up to the table to answer</p> <p>25 some questions as it relates to these amendments, if you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 district, Rapides, is split three ways, and also East</p> <p>2 Baton Rouge Parish is split three ways.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: I -- I think in order</p> <p>4 to accomplish the shift in population, I think some of</p> <p>5 the white population was extracted from -- from that</p> <p>6 minority district in order to increase their -- their</p> <p>7 BVAP.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Okay. That's it.</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Thank you.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>12 Larvadain. Representative Marcelle.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you. Let --</p> <p>14 let -- let me start out by saying I'm not personally</p> <p>15 attacking any senator, particularly Gary Carter, who I</p> <p>16 like and have served with. I believe that you said that</p> <p>17 Senator Carter was in the room. And I believe that you</p> <p>18 said that he probably was protecting the interest or</p> <p>19 speaking on behalf of Senator -- I mean, Congressman</p> <p>20 Carter.</p> <p>21 So I -- I asked a question was anybody in</p> <p>22 there from Baton Rouge? What I'm being told by my</p> <p>23 senator or one of my senators, which is Cleo Fields,</p> <p>24 that he was handed the finished product - he did not</p> <p>25 work on the product - after the product was finished.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 don't mind. Mr. Beaulieu -- Chairman Beaulieu. Thank</p> <p>2 you.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: Someone here present</p> <p>4 from the Legal Defense Fund like to come to the table?</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Ms. Lowery on a</p> <p>6 clarification.</p> <p>7 MS. LOWERY: I just wanted to correct. Hey,</p> <p>8 Members - I'm sorry - in the audience, I want to correct</p> <p>9 something I said earlier. Senator Womack's Bill</p> <p>10 presently has 16 split parishes as well as</p> <p>11 Representative Farnum's amendment at 16 split parishes.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you. Ms. Lowery,</p> <p>13 Rep Marcelle. And we have -- if y'all wouldn't mind,</p> <p>14 please introduce yourselves. And y'all filled out</p> <p>15 cards?</p> <p>16 MS. WENGER: We did not, but we can.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Please do. Thank you.</p> <p>18 MS. WENGER: My name is Victoria Wenger. I'm</p> <p>19 an attorney with the Legal Defense Fund.</p> <p>20 MR. EVANS: Jared Evans, attorney with the</p> <p>21 Legal Defense Fund.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you all for</p> <p>23 coming to the table, and thank you for your work on this</p> <p>24 matter. Can you please -- first of all, let me -- let</p> <p>25 me ask you a question because perhaps you all got this</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 map a lot sooner than us. You all have been working for</p> <p>2 how many years on getting this done?</p> <p>3 MS. WENGER: We filed our litigation,</p> <p>4 Robinson, now, v. Landry - at the time it was Robinson</p> <p>5 v. Ardoin - the day that the legislature overrode the</p> <p>6 governor's veto. I believe it was March 30th, 2022.</p> <p>7 MR. EVANS: But the work started around the</p> <p>8 first roadshow in October 2021 -- September 2021.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. So can you</p> <p>10 all please tell me, in your opinion, what adding -- if</p> <p>11 this amendment get on, what does it do to Womack's bill?</p> <p>12 Does it make it better? Does it make it worse? Is it</p> <p>13 more compactness? Is it more split parishes? Does it</p> <p>14 make sense?</p> <p>15 Help me and help walk us through it because</p> <p>16 the public really needs to know what's going on. And I</p> <p>17 know they can't know because we just got hit with it</p> <p>18 today.</p> <p>19 MS. WENGER: Representative Marcelle, we're in</p> <p>20 a similar posture to you. The map that we advocated for</p> <p>21 was presented here in the legislature as SB4 which died</p> <p>22 in committee, and HB5, sponsored by you. That exact map</p> <p>23 has been in public discourse since the roadshow, as my</p> <p>24 colleague mentioned, at least a similar version. Our</p> <p>25 attempt was to create a new Black-majority district in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 members and -- and just trying to figure out exactly</p> <p>2 what putting this amendment -- and I know you hadn't had</p> <p>3 a long time to digest it. What is -- what is your</p> <p>4 opinion about adding this amendment to Senator Womack's</p> <p>5 bill?</p> <p>6 MS. WENGER: Sure. So I think I heard</p> <p>7 recently - and, again, we're processing this information</p> <p>8 as quickly as you all are - that there was 16 parish</p> <p>9 splits. Am I accurate in that?</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Yeah.</p> <p>11 MS. WENGER: Okay.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: That's what I</p> <p>13 counted.</p> <p>14 MS. WENGER: So the enacted map that is</p> <p>15 currently in place has 15 parish splits. The remedial</p> <p>16 map that we proposed in litigation and that been vetted</p> <p>17 by the courts --</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: 11.</p> <p>19 MS. WENGER: -- has 11 parish splits.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Yeah. That's what I</p> <p>21 thought.</p> <p>22 MS. WENGER: Representative Marcelle, I think</p> <p>23 you also have an amendment that -- I don't know if it</p> <p>24 has this beat, but it's certainly closer to that. And,</p> <p>25 again, I know that there's been different opinions</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 District 5, uniting north Baton Rouge with the Delta</p> <p>2 parishes.</p> <p>3 We have also seen in the public domain other</p> <p>4 versions of maps, like HB12 in 2022, that run along the</p> <p>5 Red River and the I-49 corridor. But we, for a variety</p> <p>6 of different reasons, had really coalesced around</p> <p>7 another -- another option here, and that's because it</p> <p>8 has been held up to court scrutiny for years now.</p> <p>9 It has made its way before the District Court,</p> <p>10 but also before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.</p> <p>11 We've had to show that it's possible to reduce parish</p> <p>12 splits in line with Joint Rule 21, which was passed by</p> <p>13 this legislature in 2021.</p> <p>14 So I guess our journey started earlier than we</p> <p>15 represented. We've been following redistricting since,</p> <p>16 perhaps, the census and since you all made the rules.</p> <p>17 So --</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: So -- so I guess my</p> <p>19 question is: does this amendment make more splits than</p> <p>20 -- because I think it has 16 in it.</p> <p>21 MS. WENGER: So you'll put us on the spot. So</p> <p>22 let me pull out my notebook and -- and talk a little bit</p> <p>23 about the other maps we've seen in this process.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Well, I'm</p> <p>25 just trying to get a little clarity for myself and other</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 shared here about parish splits. But that's coming not</p> <p>2 only directly from doctrine around redistricting, but</p> <p>3 also Joint Rule 21. We have been abiding by the rules</p> <p>4 that this legislature put in place for yourselves.</p> <p>5 So that is the rubric that we are guided by,</p> <p>6 that the courts are referring to, that our map drawer is</p> <p>7 accountable to. So that's why parish splits are</p> <p>8 emphasized.</p> <p>9 There's also a logic to it. There's a lot of</p> <p>10 governing that's done at the parish level here. There's</p> <p>11 election administration, school boards, other elements</p> <p>12 of civic life that have been recognized in your</p> <p>13 politics, in your policy, in Joint Rule 21, and by the</p> <p>14 federal courts. So that's why that principle is so</p> <p>15 important. I think there's many other things.</p> <p>16 And, again, I -- I don't even have a copy of</p> <p>17 the amendment in front of me here, but we have had to</p> <p>18 comply with principles like deviation, trying to get</p> <p>19 that as close to zero as possible, certainly trying to</p> <p>20 keep important places.</p> <p>21 We've heard really compelling testimony about</p> <p>22 the importance of keeping military bases whole or the</p> <p>23 communities that serve those areas, whether it's, you</p> <p>24 know, housing or other communities of interest. We have</p> <p>25 tried to comply with that over the course of the -- the</p>

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<p>1 process. Even SB4 and HB5, we have alternative options</p> <p>2 that we could pursue to keep some of the military</p> <p>3 districts that have been -- or military bases that have</p> <p>4 been mentioned whole.</p> <p>5 We'd be happy to work on that with you all.</p> <p>6 We would be happy to end this litigation with a map that</p> <p>7 complies with Section 2 and also can achieve other</p> <p>8 political ends. We understand for any type of politics</p> <p>9 that our bill was not successful here.</p> <p>10 We do, however, know based off of the</p> <p>11 amendment that Representative Marcelle has presented</p> <p>12 here, based off of record from prior bills filed in this</p> <p>13 process or presented by the civil rights community that</p> <p>14 follow the Red River and I-49, that there could be ways</p> <p>15 to clean up this amendment to otherwise perfect it that,</p> <p>16 maybe, maybe, could get us further towards resolution in</p> <p>17 this litigation but none that could do that as</p> <p>18 efficiently and cost-effectively for years and years of</p> <p>19 expensive litigation with folks far above my -- my</p> <p>20 bracket to get it over with and to finally just be</p> <p>21 resolved.</p> <p>22 There is a path forward there. It is in</p> <p>23 grasp. We would love -- and on behalf of our clients,</p> <p>24 we would love to see that resolution.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Well, thank you. I</p>	<p>1 any genuine effort to resolve this Section 2 violation</p> <p>2 or just honor a principle of fairness.</p> <p>3 So there might be a path forward here. We</p> <p>4 tried to give a much easier one to get this litigation</p> <p>5 over with. I cannot speak to whether this is that path</p> <p>6 forward. I can speak to ways to do this better by</p> <p>7 redistricting criteria and, hopefully, give people some</p> <p>8 fairness and give you all some reprieve from federal</p> <p>9 court litigation.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>11 I'm -- I'm just wondering if there's a risk that the</p> <p>12 judge would say that this is -- she would go ahead and</p> <p>13 draw it herself because instead of reducing it, we</p> <p>14 increased it, and so -- the splits. And I -- and I --</p> <p>15 I'm just curious.</p> <p>16 And -- and we keep talking about the political</p> <p>17 motivations. And I heard and I respect Senator Womack</p> <p>18 who talked about he wanted to -- to make Scalise -- he</p> <p>19 checked with Scalise. He checked with Letlow. I heard</p> <p>20 every person's name except Gary Graves, and that's one</p> <p>21 of my congressmen. I was wondering if y'all had a</p> <p>22 conversation with him as well. But --</p> <p>23 MR. EVANS: Hope you're not asking us that.</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Pardon me?</p> <p>25 MR. EVANS: I was talking -- yeah. You</p>
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<p>1 -- I just was wondering, Rapides and East Baton Rouge</p> <p>2 are heavily populated by minorities, right?</p> <p>3 MS. WENGER: That's correct.</p> <p>4 MR. EVANS: That's correct.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Would you agree with</p> <p>6 that?</p> <p>7 MR. EVANS: That's correct.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And I'm just</p> <p>9 wondering how would the Court view that, that we split</p> <p>10 it three ways, both of them?</p> <p>11 MS. WENGER: I think the Court would have a</p> <p>12 lot of questions about what are the politics guiding</p> <p>13 this. And I think my question is: why, for three years</p> <p>14 or more, are we not listening to Black people who came</p> <p>15 here? We had young people who drove here overnight in</p> <p>16 the snow and back roads from my colleague's alma mater</p> <p>17 up north at Grambling University just to have their</p> <p>18 voices heard in the process.</p> <p>19 We had people who were here when the whole</p> <p>20 state was closed down, were here on Martin Luther King</p> <p>21 Day when the nation is closed down. And they came to</p> <p>22 advocate for SB4. And they still, after years, have</p> <p>23 never gotten a floor debate.</p> <p>24 They've never been able to see this</p> <p>25 conversation happen or to have their grievances met with</p>	<p>1 weren't asking that to me, right?</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: No, no, no, no, no</p> <p>3 --</p> <p>4 MR. EVANS: Yeah.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: -- no, no, no. I</p> <p>6 was just making a statement because I'm -- I'm -- I'm</p> <p>7 about to be quiet.</p> <p>8 But I -- I just want to make sure that</p> <p>9 everybody understand when you start talking about -- and</p> <p>10 I said this the other day when I was at the table. If</p> <p>11 we could remove all of the people who represent the</p> <p>12 districts away from it and give it to somebody and allow</p> <p>13 them to draw it fairly, then we would get the best</p> <p>14 product because it's not impossible to draw two Black</p> <p>15 congressional districts.</p> <p>16 But if everybody -- nobody wants to give up</p> <p>17 any portion of anything, you're going to have the same</p> <p>18 problem over and over again. And -- and I do respect</p> <p>19 that Senator Womack says he's -- you know, his district</p> <p>20 is -- is getting hit as well. But everybody has to give</p> <p>21 up something to do what is right. And nobody wants to</p> <p>22 do that.</p> <p>23 Some people want to make sure that they have,</p> <p>24 you know, a certain number of a certain population to</p> <p>25 win. And it's just not right. It is not right. It is</p>

18 (Pages 66 to 69)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 far too long that Louisiana has done things wrong. And 2 it's about time that we do something that's right and 3 get us out of the courts. 4 And I want to thank you guys for your work. I 5 don't know if anybody else has any questions for you, 6 but I -- I see this as strictly politics, last minute, 7 let's throw in something and confuse the whole issue. 8 But I will not vote for this bill with that amendment on 9 it. Thank you. 10 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Also -- have -- have -- 11 have y'all filled out cards. If not, would you please 12 do it? 13 MR. EVANS: We going to fill them out. 14 MS. WENGER: We will. Thank you. 15 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you. 16 Representative Wyble. 17 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: Yes. Thank you. If 18 you could remain just for a minute, please. Sorry. I'm 19 sorry. I didn't catch your name. 20 MS. WENGER: Sorry. I'm Victoria Wenger. 21 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: Oh, thank you both for 22 being here. I appreciate it. You mentioned in -- in 23 your remarks, you connected splitting parishes with 24 local politics and, like, school board elections. So 25 just connect for me, where's the voter confusion if a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 the time, and we represent groups that are trying to get 2 folks engaged in this process, excited, and knowing that 3 their vote's going to matter. So it's perhaps a way to 4 reduce some confusion or to have, again, the lines line 5 up. 6 But, again, I think the legislature and the 7 folks behind Joint Rule 21, many of y'all, colleagues, 8 or folks that, you know, have moved along to the Senate 9 but were part of that process, can speak best to why 10 that matters specifically to them. 11 But it is something that's been dignified in 12 the courts, that's been recognized both at a very 13 Louisiana-specific level. Most other places, we're 14 calling them counties instead of parishes. So it means 15 something here. It really matters. 16 So I think that's why, perhaps, it was 17 involved in Joint Rule 21. Perhaps it's mattered to the 18 courts. But parish splits is -- is something you can 19 quantify. You can look at how many times the parishes 20 are split overall. There's this other quantitative 21 metric we talk about called fracking, which is, like, 22 where multiple districts or different non-contiguous 23 parts of a district are coming into a parish. 24 We're just really looking at what are those 25 metrics where it's fair to put one map side by side and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 parish is split with a school board election? Make that 2 connection for me, because you mentioned school board 3 particularly -- 4 MS. WENGER: So -- 5 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: -- specifically. 6 MS. WENGER: Yeah, this could vary based off 7 -- parish to parish, based off where -- what types of 8 elections are happening, whether they're a district, at 9 large, whether -- you know, how many folks are on a 10 school board, if there's someone elected at large and 11 another position. It can happen a lot of different 12 ways. 13 Again, what -- what I was speaking to, again, 14 is Joint Rule 21, which signified the fact that this 15 legislature and the prior legislature that enacted it, 16 wanted to keep in consideration how current lines, 17 political lines, like parishes -- that's probably the 18 most significant one you could think of here. 19 But another thing that our map drawer 20 considered and that Joint Rule 21 is considering is 21 municipalities or unincorporated areas. And so you're 22 thinking about how are ballots drawn around that. How 23 are people conceptualizing? 24 And, you know, we -- we don't just work on 25 redistricting or litigating. We do civic education all</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 make some observations about how they compare, where you 2 can take politics or you can take other subjective 3 measures out of the equation for a moment just to do 4 that side by side. So I was mentioning that as one of 5 those quantitative measures that's codified for this 6 legislature in Joint Rule 21. 7 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: I -- I was just curious 8 where the correlation was because, I'm not sure if 9 you're aware, but we actually have parishes in Louisiana 10 that have multiple public school districts. 11 MS. WENGER: Absolutely. 12 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: So in some of those 13 parishes, they're already voting for different school 14 board members and -- and there are splits, if you want 15 to call it that. And I just -- you -- you -- you caught 16 my attention when you mentioned school boards. And I 17 was trying to figure out the correlation to that and 18 splitting a parish in a congressional district. 19 MS. WENGER: Yeah. And it really depends 20 parish by parish, and those are -- those are the types 21 of lines. Or, like, you could halve the districts, 22 those school districts. That's one of the things that 23 map drawers can actually have on the screen and can use 24 as a measure of how to look at that. 25 So you can also look at what's called landmark</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 or COI landmark. So thinking of school districts or</p> <p>2 hospitals, airports, everything else when you're looking</p> <p>3 at that metric, all I can speak to -- I can't speak to</p> <p>4 this amendment. I just saw it. But in terms of</p> <p>5 landmark place splits, the map that we had proposed had</p> <p>6 the exact same amount as the enacted map.</p> <p>7 So that was another metric that, in our</p> <p>8 process, we were able to hold ourselves accountable to,</p> <p>9 to making sure our map was as good as or, in most of the</p> <p>10 instances, better than the enacted map.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: So, Representative Wyble,</p> <p>12 what we can do -- I know you're a big school board guy.</p> <p>13 Why don't we get you with them afterwards, and y'all can</p> <p>14 talk in some details on that?</p> <p>15 MS. WENGER: We've got slide decks on this.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Right. No. They have --</p> <p>17 they have -- they have tons of information.</p> <p>18 MS. WENGER: I'd be happy to provide it for us</p> <p>19 anytime.</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: Thank -- thank you so</p> <p>21 much.</p> <p>22 MS. WENGER: Thank you.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>24 Wyble. Members, that clears the board. Representative</p> <p>25 Farnum has a motion on the table to adopt Amendment Set</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 to create two majority-Black districts. And performance</p> <p>2 of those maps that we saw earlier, some that didn't make</p> <p>3 it through, some that were here, including yours,</p> <p>4 Senator Womack, some of them perform. Some perform</p> <p>5 better than others.</p> <p>6 But we have to look at the -- the -- the</p> <p>7 center of this piece, and that is to create those</p> <p>8 districts that perform. And some of that's going to be</p> <p>9 for debate and some that's going to be for the -- the</p> <p>10 clearing pieces to happen as we go forward.</p> <p>11 But I just want to put on the record, you</p> <p>12 know, that I know the senators worked hard on this</p> <p>13 piece. And that goal is what was in mind, to create</p> <p>14 these two majority-Black districts and to do it with as</p> <p>15 much of the criteria as possible to be done to -- to</p> <p>16 make sure that it -- it -- it is conforming.</p> <p>17 And -- and with that being said, I wanted to</p> <p>18 get that clear of what that message is and what we're</p> <p>19 doing here, which you remember before we -- we go with</p> <p>20 this piece. And I wanted to say that, Mr. Chairman, as</p> <p>21 we go forward in this opportunity. Thank you.</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Vice Chairman</p> <p>23 Lyons. Members, back on the motion, we have a -- a</p> <p>24 motion by Representative Foreman to adopt -- Farnum to</p> <p>25 adopt Amendment Set 68. Is there any objections to the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 68. And objection -- what's that?</p> <p>2 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: (inaudible 1:22:44).</p> <p>3 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Oh, oh. One second,</p> <p>4 Members. Vice Chairman Lyons.</p> <p>5 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>6 And I was going to address this -- this to</p> <p>7 Representative Farnum on -- on your amendment. And</p> <p>8 after the table was just -- was clear with that</p> <p>9 information, now, I -- I just want to say that the past</p> <p>10 two years, I've been through every roadshow throughout</p> <p>11 this state.</p> <p>12 I was in Calcasieu, and I heard the testimony</p> <p>13 there. And I -- I sympathize in it with the individual</p> <p>14 residents there as they talked about being whole as</p> <p>15 other communities of interest throughout the state.</p> <p>16 That was the most impacting testimony that we received</p> <p>17 throughout this process. And it went on for not only</p> <p>18 from our community to your community, everywhere else.</p> <p>19 And the question remains always - and we don't</p> <p>20 have an answer for - is: can we draw the perfect map? I</p> <p>21 don't think we ever can draw the perfect map. I don't</p> <p>22 think that there's ever going to be a situation where</p> <p>23 everybody's going to be happy or even whole.</p> <p>24 But I'm looking at the mission that we have</p> <p>25 here. And the mission that we have here is that we have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 adoption of that amendment set? Hearing no -- no</p> <p>2 objection, Amendment Set 68 is -- is hereby adopted.</p> <p>3 On to the next amendment. We have Amendment</p> <p>4 Set 70, I believe, Representative Marcelle.</p> <p>5 Representative Marcelle, on -- on your amendment.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: That's amendment</p> <p>7 (inaudible 1:25:52).</p> <p>8 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Or Ms. Lowery, would you</p> <p>9 mind reading that in?</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I just missed my</p> <p>11 objection -- amendment.</p> <p>12 MS. LOWERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>13 Representative Marcelle brings Amendment Set HCASB-8362,</p> <p>14 number 70. This is available, Members, in front of you,</p> <p>15 and also for members of the public, it's available</p> <p>16 online.</p> <p>17 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Marcelle,</p> <p>18 on your amendment.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you.</p> <p>20 Amendment Number 3 adds River -- the Red River Parish to</p> <p>21 Congressional District 6, better preserving the Red</p> <p>22 River community of interest and the community of</p> <p>23 interest formed by Red River, Natchitoches, and DeSoto</p> <p>24 Parishes. It also makes Ouachita Parish whole in</p> <p>25 Congressional District 5.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 It keeps all the Delta parishes whole and</p> <p>2 together. It reduces the parish splits to 11. It</p> <p>3 reduces the deviation to 22. It keeps more of</p> <p>4 Shreveport together in Congressional District 6 - I did</p> <p>5 that for Representative Phelps - substantially improves</p> <p>6 compactness of Congressional District 6, performs as</p> <p>7 well for Black voters as Senate Bill 8 with a lower</p> <p>8 Black voting-age population.</p> <p>9 And that's what it does. And I ask for your</p> <p>10 favorable passes. This is actually a cleanup bill. It</p> <p>11 doesn't change Senator Womack's bill a whole lot. It's</p> <p>12 just a cleanup bill, and it gives us fewer splits. And</p> <p>13 I'd ask for your favorable passage.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>15 Marcelle. Members, just as a clarification, the way</p> <p>16 these amendments are drafted, they are drafted in a --</p> <p>17 in a -- in a fashion that -- it's the whole plan. It's</p> <p>18 not -- we're not taking a precinct here or there and --</p> <p>19 and adding them. And so it's a -- it's a whole plan.</p> <p>20 So the amendment set that we just adopted,</p> <p>21 Representative Farnum, is currently the whole plan.</p> <p>22 What Representative Marcelle is proposing is that we</p> <p>23 abandon Representative Farnum's plan and we adopt</p> <p>24 Amendment Set 70, which would be another -- which would</p> <p>25 be a separate whole plan. And should this amendment</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 you.</p> <p>2 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Marcelle,</p> <p>5 we do have some -- some green cards. All of them</p> <p>6 present and do not wish to speak, but all in favor of</p> <p>7 this amendment set: Ms. Martha Davis (phonetic), Mr.</p> <p>8 Jared Evans, Ms. Ashley Shelton (phonetic), and Ms.</p> <p>9 Victoria Wenger. So all those green cards in favor.</p> <p>10 There are no questions for you, Representative</p> <p>11 Marcelle. Members, Representative Marcelle has offered</p> <p>12 up Amendment Set 70 --</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Objection.</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: -- for your</p> <p>15 consideration. Representative Farnum has objected. Ms.</p> <p>16 Baker, would you please call -- so look -- an -- a --</p> <p>17 vote yes replaces Representative Farnum's amendment with</p> <p>18 Representative Marcelle's amendment. A vote of no keeps</p> <p>19 Representative Farnum's amendment as your -- your</p> <p>20 primary maps. Ms. Baker.</p> <p>21 MS. BAKER: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>22 Chairman Beaulieu?</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: No.</p> <p>24 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Billings?</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS: No.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 pass, it would replace the Representative Farnum</p> <p>2 amendment that -- that just passed.</p> <p>3 I just want to make sure we have a</p> <p>4 clarification on there. Do we have any questions on the</p> <p>5 amendment? Okay. There are no questions at this time.</p> <p>6 If you give me a second, I believe we have some -- I got</p> <p>7 a bunch of cards up here, and we might have some cards</p> <p>8 on the amendment set. Bear with me for a second while I</p> <p>9 start through some of these.</p> <p>10 (Pause.)</p> <p>11 SENATOR WOMACK: Mr. Chairman, if I might --</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Yeah. Go ahead, Senator.</p> <p>13 SENATOR WOMACK: -- have the mic. I just want</p> <p>14 to clarify that Senator Fields did come in with the plan</p> <p>15 -- on the plan, but he was not for splitting up Baton</p> <p>16 Rouge. I want to clarify that.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I -- I certainly</p> <p>18 thank you for that, because I was going to vote against</p> <p>19 Senator Fields the next time he ran if you told me he</p> <p>20 was splitting up Baton Rouge three ways. And I -- and I</p> <p>21 like him, but he -- he was going to have to go if he did</p> <p>22 that.</p> <p>23 SENATOR WOMACK: Well, I just wanted to --</p> <p>24 wanted to put that on the record.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Yes, sir. Thank</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Boyd?</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Yes.</p> <p>3 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Carlson?</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: No.</p> <p>5 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Carter --</p> <p>6 Representative Carver?</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE CARTER: No.</p> <p>8 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Farnum?</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: No.</p> <p>10 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Gadberry?</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: No.</p> <p>12 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Johnson?</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON: No.</p> <p>14 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Larvadain?</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE LARVADAIN: Yes.</p> <p>16 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative -- Vice Chair</p> <p>17 Lyons?</p> <p>18 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Yes.</p> <p>19 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Marcelle?</p> <p>20 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Yes.</p> <p>21 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Newell?</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Yes.</p> <p>23 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Schamerhorn?</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN: No.</p> <p>25 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Thomas?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: No.</p> <p>2 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Wright?</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT: No.</p> <p>4 MS. BAKER: No. Representative Wyble?</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE WYBLE: No.</p> <p>6 MS. BAKER: No. There are 5 yeas and 11 nays.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Members, Amendment Set 70</p> <p>8 has failed to pass. So we're back on the bill, which is</p> <p>9 the Amendment Set of 68, which we have just adopted.</p> <p>10 We're going to go ahead and -- and -- and read in some</p> <p>11 cards present in support and not wishing to speak.</p> <p>12 We have Ms. Brianna Robillard (phonetic),</p> <p>13 present in support and not wishing to speak; Deborah</p> <p>14 Hebert (phonetic); Gary Hebert as well; Elise Blade</p> <p>15 (phonetic), present, in support, not wishing to speak.</p> <p>16 All of these are present in support, not</p> <p>17 wishing to speak. Ashley Duly (phonetic), Heather Trice</p> <p>18 (phonetic), Catherine Mays (phonetic), Gail Baralt</p> <p>19 (phonetic), Julia Harris, Joyce LaCour, Lucille Harris</p> <p>20 (phonetic), Kristy Robinson (phonetic), Kathleen --</p> <p>21 maybe, Matharms.</p> <p>22 MS. FARMS: Farms.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Form?</p> <p>24 MS. FARMS: F-A-R-M-S.</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Oh, Farms. Okay, yeah.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 -- so the bill now is the amendment. So as -- as the --</p> <p>2 the red cards come up, if they have a clarification to</p> <p>3 where they -- this is -- they're not in opposition</p> <p>4 anymore, they can waive and -- or -- or -- or correct</p> <p>5 it. And we can -- we can waive these red cards if -- if</p> <p>6 they are in favor of this amendment. So they could --</p> <p>7 we give the liberty of those who turned in the red card</p> <p>8 to be able to clarify that. I don't want to speak for</p> <p>9 them.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Okay. So we listening</p> <p>11 to these red cards before we do the final vote on</p> <p>12 passing --</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: -- the bill as</p> <p>15 amended.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Okay. Thank you for</p> <p>18 that clarification, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: No. I'm -- thank you for</p> <p>20 asking. Mr. Alexander.</p> <p>21 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>22 Beaulieu. Thank you, members of the committee. My</p> <p>23 name is Chris Alexander. I'm here simply on behalf of</p> <p>24 the Louisiana Citizen Advocacy Group.</p> <p>25 As each of you know, conservatives in the US</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 Thank you. Farms, Tisha -- and Tisha Lathan.</p> <p>2 We have a couple of red cards present and not</p> <p>3 wishing to speak, in opposition. Christine Robinson,</p> <p>4 Gail Paralt. And then we have some red cards present</p> <p>5 and would like to speak. We'll start with Chris</p> <p>6 Alexander. So if you'll give the floor, please,</p> <p>7 Senator.</p> <p>8 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you.</p> <p>9 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Mr. Alexander, if you</p> <p>10 would please introduce yourself for the committee?</p> <p>11 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure. My name is Chris.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Give me -- give me one</p> <p>13 second, Mr. Alexander.</p> <p>14 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Newell, do</p> <p>16 you have a question?</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Newell.</p> <p>18 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Newell.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: We're back --</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: I get it right most of</p> <p>21 the time.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Sometimes you do</p> <p>23 (inaudible 1:33:36). These red cards are on the</p> <p>24 amendment that we just voted on or back on the bill?</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: So they can -- so that's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 House of Representatives now have a two-vote majority,</p> <p>2 razor-thin Republican majority. This is a</p> <p>3 super-majority Republican legislature. And it's that</p> <p>4 for a reason because 70 percent of the citizens of</p> <p>5 Louisiana are conservative. And, actually, in the US</p> <p>6 House of Representatives, at this second, there's --</p> <p>7 there's a one-vote majority -- Republican majority</p> <p>8 because Representative Scalise is on medical leave now.</p> <p>9 So we're one vote away in our country right</p> <p>10 now, in the US Congress, from having the Biden-Schumer</p> <p>11 agenda essentially unleashed on the country. Some</p> <p>12 people may say it's already been. But there is some</p> <p>13 protection in the US Congress right now because of that</p> <p>14 razor-thin majority.</p> <p>15 By voting for this bill, creating an</p> <p>16 additional minority district in Louisiana, it's our view</p> <p>17 that you are giving that majority away. And you're</p> <p>18 putting the very delicate balance of power in the US</p> <p>19 Congress in very grave jeopardy on matters of profound</p> <p>20 consequence to citizens of Louisiana and citizens across</p> <p>21 the country. Everything is at risk here.</p> <p>22 Now, the argument that we've heard from a lot</p> <p>23 of Republican members here is that if you don't pass a</p> <p>24 new plan creating an additional minority district in</p> <p>25 Louisiana, then the Federal Court judge will make that</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 decision.</p> <p>2 Well, her actual order says that the</p> <p>3 plaintiffs, when they went into Court for a preliminary</p> <p>4 injunction, never tried on the merits, just a summary</p> <p>5 proceeding, said that they had carried their burden of</p> <p>6 showing that the current map violates Section 2 of the</p> <p>7 Voting Rights Act and that the plaintiffs had a</p> <p>8 substantial likelihood of making their claim successful,</p> <p>9 which is that we'll have a second minority district in</p> <p>10 Louisiana.</p> <p>11 But there was no trial on the merits. But the</p> <p>12 judge essentially said, if we have a trial on the</p> <p>13 merits, I'm going to rule in favor of the plaintiffs,</p> <p>14 and I'm going to create a second majority-minority</p> <p>15 district in Louisiana. That's exactly what this bill is</p> <p>16 doing right now.</p> <p>17 And if our current map goes -- if you do</p> <p>18 nothing and our current map goes back before Judge Dick,</p> <p>19 she's going to probably end up doing the same thing.</p> <p>20 But at least we have a chance to fight for the current</p> <p>21 map in our state. And no matter how she rules, we have</p> <p>22 the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, and we have the US</p> <p>23 Supreme Court.</p> <p>24 And, again, everything is at stake, and it</p> <p>25 seems like we're simply giving it all away right now.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 And if six months or a year from now, the</p> <p>2 United States Congress is controlled by Democrats, it</p> <p>3 started in this house, it started and ended in this</p> <p>4 capital, and that's what will have made it possible.</p> <p>5 And the citizens of Louisiana, I can tell you, will have</p> <p>6 a very, very good memory if that occurs. I would</p> <p>7 respectfully submit that your responsibility is to</p> <p>8 represent the interests of the substantial majority of</p> <p>9 Louisiana citizens and not to cave to political</p> <p>10 pressure. And we're asking you to defeat this</p> <p>11 legislation. Thank you.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Mr. Alexander.</p> <p>13 And look just to -- to -- and -- and you got a couple</p> <p>14 of questions. But just from -- from my standpoint, I</p> <p>15 sat on the committee when we drew the other maps that we</p> <p>16 all believe were fair, and we believe is representative</p> <p>17 of the state of Louisiana. The Fifth Circuit sent it</p> <p>18 back to the federal judge and basically held us hostage</p> <p>19 that if -- if we don't do it, she's going to do it. And</p> <p>20 so none of us like the position we're in.</p> <p>21 But -- you know, and -- and a little bit to</p> <p>22 your point, we were elected to serve, and we feel that</p> <p>23 -- that we would prefer to have the lines drawn in this</p> <p>24 committee than have some Obama-appointed judge drawing</p> <p>25 the lines for us. And so we don't like it. It's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 We believe that this is worth fighting for. We believe</p> <p>2 that that balance of power is worth fighting for.</p> <p>3 And I would remind the members of this panel</p> <p>4 that I know, some of whom we helped get elected, along</p> <p>5 with Governor Landry whom we worked very hard for and</p> <p>6 who we respect and think he's going to be a great</p> <p>7 governor, that the citizens of Louisiana worked very</p> <p>8 tirelessly to get you elected to come here, not to cave</p> <p>9 in to political pressure, which is it appears to</p> <p>10 hundreds and hundreds of citizens across the state that</p> <p>11 that's what you're doing. You're caving in to political</p> <p>12 pressure, and you're giving in without a fight.</p> <p>13 Speaker Mike Johnson has weighed in on this.</p> <p>14 We heard some testimony earlier that Congressman Johnson</p> <p>15 apparently was okay with this proposed legislation.</p> <p>16 That's not our legislation. That's not our</p> <p>17 understanding at all. In fact, Congressman Johnson</p> <p>18 specifically said that our current map from 2022 needs a</p> <p>19 full trial on the merits, with appellate review all the</p> <p>20 way to the Supreme Court, if necessary, because the</p> <p>21 issue is so profoundly important to the future of this</p> <p>22 republic. I will -- I want to reiterate before I close,</p> <p>23 as I said, people all over the state are watching this</p> <p>24 right now, many of whom voted for you to come here, some</p> <p>25 of you who were just elected very recently.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 painful to do. And so I feel your sentiment, and -- and</p> <p>2 I don't -- I'm not disagreeing with most of what you</p> <p>3 said. I mean, it's -- it's -- it's -- it's what goes on</p> <p>4 in a lot of our minds. So I -- I appreciate your</p> <p>5 comments. Thank you. And you do have -- you do have a</p> <p>6 question. Representative Newell.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Thank you very much,</p> <p>8 Mr. Chairman. I'm troubled by your statements because</p> <p>9 this is not a process by which one party is losing</p> <p>10 power, caving into another party. This is a process by</p> <p>11 which the other 30 percent of the people in this state</p> <p>12 are trying to get the representation that their</p> <p>13 population and numbers deserve in Congress. This isn't</p> <p>14 a caving in or power grab or giving away of power or</p> <p>15 losing of power of the Republican Party.</p> <p>16 It's an opportunity for this body to represent</p> <p>17 all of the people that they supposed to represent in</p> <p>18 their district, listening to them and giving them the</p> <p>19 opportunity to vote for someone of their choice, whether</p> <p>20 that person of their choice is a Black Republican or</p> <p>21 White Democrat. It's an opportunity for Black people,</p> <p>22 as some of my colleagues would prefer to be said, but a</p> <p>23 minority-majority district to have the opportunity to</p> <p>24 vote for their candidate of choice. And I'm troubled by</p> <p>25 the way you said your statement. You're very</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 respectful, but I listen to the words.</p> <p>2 This is not supposed to be a process that is</p> <p>3 this contentious and this divisive, but it is a very</p> <p>4 difficult process. And we have been fighting this for</p> <p>5 three years now, and I've been on this committee since</p> <p>6 the very start. Went to Utah with the rest of the</p> <p>7 people from across this country that had the same job</p> <p>8 that we all have here to learn what we're doing.</p> <p>9 Traveled this state from north to south, east to west,</p> <p>10 to listen to what all of the people in this state</p> <p>11 wanted. The White citizens in this state, their issue</p> <p>12 was keeping their -- their communities together.</p> <p>13 You know what Black people wanted? Just an</p> <p>14 opportunity to have a voice in a room. And that is what</p> <p>15 we're trying to do. It is not to -- it's not a power</p> <p>16 grab. It's not to say that Republicans rule or that if</p> <p>17 that -- if there's another chance where Democrats are</p> <p>18 ruling, that that's a problem. We should not see one</p> <p>19 party as a problem. We should not see another person</p> <p>20 that has a different letter behind the name as the</p> <p>21 enemy. I like him. He's not the enemy because he's a</p> <p>22 Republican. We just have a different way of looking at</p> <p>23 things, and that's how we should see it. We both</p> <p>24 observing the same problem.</p> <p>25 We just have different ways as -- different</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 forever. And we're just -- I just want to see African</p> <p>2 Americans across the state have the same privileges</p> <p>3 you've had all your life, and that is voting in someone</p> <p>4 that they know or believe will have their best interest</p> <p>5 at heart, whether it's in this building or whether it's</p> <p>6 in our United States Capitol.</p> <p>7 It's not a caving-in. Because if it was a</p> <p>8 caving-in, this process would have been over a long time</p> <p>9 ago. And I just needed to say, I don't have any</p> <p>10 questions for you, but your statement kind of disturbed</p> <p>11 me a little bit --</p> <p>12 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: -- because I don't</p> <p>14 want you to think that it's a caving-in of any party.</p> <p>15 MR. ALEXANDER: Well, I respect you,</p> <p>16 Representative Newell, and I respect your right to</p> <p>17 speak.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Newell.</p> <p>19 MR. ALEXANDER: And I would always -- Newell.</p> <p>20 And I would always protect your right to speak, but we</p> <p>21 do live in a democracy here. And when a majority with a</p> <p>22 particular ideology is in power and control, policy</p> <p>23 should reflect that ideology. Our position here is very</p> <p>24 simple, that Congressman Mike Johnson, the Speaker of</p> <p>25 the House, represents a conservative ideology. Many</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 ways as how we gets to the solution. And we cannot</p> <p>2 continue to have this rhetoric on -- out in the -- in</p> <p>3 the world like it's a problem to be of another party, or</p> <p>4 it's a problem for another party to be in -- in</p> <p>5 leadership. We're not giving away power. The</p> <p>6 Republicans are not caving in because they're helping</p> <p>7 African Americans have an opportunity to vote for a</p> <p>8 candidate of their choice.</p> <p>9 That is what we're doing here because -- and</p> <p>10 we're going through this fight because, as I've said</p> <p>11 many times before, this is the first time that this</p> <p>12 country has gone through redistricting where -- after</p> <p>13 the expiration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.</p> <p>14 Section 5 required all states that had a history of</p> <p>15 racism that any bills -- any laws that were passed that</p> <p>16 would affect people's access and rights to voting had to</p> <p>17 be overseen and approved by the Department of Justice.</p> <p>18 This is our first time doing this where we no longer</p> <p>19 have that supervision.</p> <p>20 And God knows, I wish we still had that</p> <p>21 supervision because, clearly, we can't do this on our</p> <p>22 own, because, clearly, somewhere along the lines, the</p> <p>23 message is getting construed that this is a giving up of</p> <p>24 power. Instead, this is an opportunity to let other</p> <p>25 people enjoy the benefits that another group has had for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 citizens across Louisiana are very proud and happy that</p> <p>2 he's there, and this legislation threatens the authority</p> <p>3 that conservatives have in the United States Congress.</p> <p>4 He has said very clearly that our current map</p> <p>5 is constitutional and that we should fight for it in</p> <p>6 federal court in order to reflect the interests of a</p> <p>7 majority of Louisiana citizens. And democracy and a</p> <p>8 republic means something. But I would always fight, by</p> <p>9 the way, for your right to speak, and I -- I value it</p> <p>10 greatly, as much as I value mine.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Thank you for giving</p> <p>12 me my right for letting me know I have a right to speak.</p> <p>13 I also have a right to vote. And I also have had a</p> <p>14 right all my life, coming from Orleans Parish as having</p> <p>15 an opportunity to vote for a representative of my</p> <p>16 choosing that I believe represented my interests. And</p> <p>17 this democracy, we need to make sure that it enables</p> <p>18 other people across this state to also have a voice and</p> <p>19 a right to vote for a candidate of choice that could</p> <p>20 also be their voices in rooms that they're not able to</p> <p>21 be in. That is what this process is, sir.</p> <p>22 So I appreciate you reminding me of my right</p> <p>23 to speak because I'm going to do it anyway.</p> <p>24 MR. ALEXANDER: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: But it also is my</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 right to ensure that others have their right to speak 2 and their right to vote and keep their access to voting 3 intact. And while they have that right in that access, 4 that they also have the ability to vote for a person of 5 their choice. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. 6 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative 7 Newell. We have a handful of representatives that want 8 to exercise their right to speak. Representative 9 Carlson. 10 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 11 Mr. Alexander, I appreciate your comments. 12 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure. 13 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: I really do. I'm -- 14 MR. ALEXANDER: And congratulations on your 15 election. 16 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Thank you very much. 17 I appreciate that. Look, I'm -- certainly wish that 18 we're in a different position in the House of 19 Representatives with more than just a one-vote majority 20 -- 21 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure. 22 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: -- and that this 23 wasn't looked at as a "we're going to lose the majority 24 or not" kind of decision. But unfortunately, that's the 25 position that we find ourselves in. I can assure you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: And, you know, I 2 would rather put this decision in the hands of elected 3 representatives than in -- in the hands of an unelected 4 judge. 5 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you for that 6 (inaudible 1:48:43). 7 MR. ALEXANDER: And I very much appreciate 8 that, Representative Carlson. And I would simply argue, 9 I'm consistent with Speaker Johnson's position that our 10 current map is constitutional, and it's worth fighting 11 for when you consider what is so profoundly at stake. 12 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: I understand, but 13 there is no position to fight at this time. It is 14 either Judge Dick draw a map or we create a map. There 15 is no continue -- 16 MR. ALEXANDER: Right. That's true. 17 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: The -- the fight 18 cannot continue on beyond that until we draw a map or we 19 don't draw a map. 20 MR. ALEXANDER: But if you don't draw a map, 21 you're -- or do draw a map, either way, you end up with 22 a one -- 23 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: If we don't draw -- 24 MR. ALEXANDER: -- majority-minority increase. 25 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: If we don't draw a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 this: that we are not -- that we're not here today 2 because we're caving to any kind of political pressure. 3 The fact of the matter is, like it or not, Judge Dick 4 has said, "Either you do your job and draw the map, or 5 I'll draw the map for you," period. We've argued this 6 case before the Fifth Circuit twice. 7 We've asked the Supreme Court to hear it. 8 They've said, "You need to go and do your job first," 9 which our job is to draw these maps. 10 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure. 11 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: I don't like this 12 position. I wish we were not in this position. I like 13 the maps that the legislature a few years ago voted on 14 and approved, but here we are. And so we -- if I -- as 15 I look at it today, I can -- I'm a -- I'm a realist, 16 right? I don't -- I -- I could say I wish things were 17 different. But today, what is presented in front of me 18 is either Judge Dick draw the map or we draw the maps. 19 I feel like this legislative body is going to draw a 20 better map than Judge Dick will, period. 21 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah. 22 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: And that's why we're 23 here. That's why we're going to vote on the map that we 24 think is the best. 25 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 map, we end up with the map that Judge Dick draws, which 2 will be a map with two majority Black districts. But if 3 you say worse than that is -- 4 MR. ALEXANDER: Exactly what we're going to 5 have as a result of this legislation. 6 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: But it will not be as 7 good as the senator's map. 8 MR. ALEXANDER: Well, in the net effect, I 9 would respectfully submit, would be the same. 10 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: It -- it certainly 11 is. And, look, I -- I -- I think there is a legal basis 12 for it. Look, I'm glad that we are having this 13 conversation. In -- in all fairness and all honesty, I 14 think all of these maps look crazy because -- 15 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah. 16 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: -- the truth is that 17 every -- the overarching argument that I've heard from 18 nearly everyone over the last four days has been race 19 first. I wish it weren't that. This is the first 20 argument today that said, "I'm basing a -- a map on 21 political reasons, not on race." And I -- I think it's 22 a shame that we are having a conversation where race 23 seems to be, at least based on the conversations, the 24 driving force, when we do not live in a -- a -- a -- a 25 segregated society or nearly as segregated as it once</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 was 40, 50 years ago.</p> <p>2 And so the reason why this is so difficult is</p> <p>3 because we are moving in the right direction. We don't</p> <p>4 have concentrated populations of -- of certain</p> <p>5 minorities or populations of White folks in certain</p> <p>6 areas. It is spread out throughout the state. Compared</p> <p>7 to Alabama, Alabama has 17 counties that are</p> <p>8 minority-majority, and they're all contiguous.</p> <p>9 Louisiana has seven parishes that are minority-majority</p> <p>10 and only three are contiguous. That's why this process</p> <p>11 is so difficult, but here we are without any other</p> <p>12 options to move forward.</p> <p>13 And so I -- I hear what you're saying. I</p> <p>14 respectfully disagree with the characterization that</p> <p>15 it's bending to political pressure.</p> <p>16 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: I -- I -- you know</p> <p>18 me, and you know that I wouldn't do that. But I don't</p> <p>19 see any other path forward. This is the best of two bad</p> <p>20 options, and I'm going to always do my job --</p> <p>21 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: -- that's before me.</p> <p>23 MR. ALEXANDER: And I understand that.</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you.</p> <p>25 MR. ALEXANDER: Is there -- is -- is there --</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Representative Marcelle.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Thank you. Mr.</p> <p>3 Alexander, I guess it's disheartening for me to sit here</p> <p>4 in 2024 and hear that we certainly need to keep the</p> <p>5 power. And if you all do what's right in Louisiana,</p> <p>6 we're going to lose our thin majority. If we would have</p> <p>7 done what was right long time ago, you probably wouldn't</p> <p>8 be in a majority. If Alabama passes what they need to</p> <p>9 pass and we pass what we need to pass, then, perhaps, we</p> <p>10 will have a fair and balanced Congress.</p> <p>11 MR. ALEXANDER: And you'll be in the majority.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Well -- and -- and</p> <p>13 what's the problem with that, sir?</p> <p>14 MR. ALEXANDER: Well, there's millions of</p> <p>15 Americans who have a problem with that.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And guess what, it's</p> <p>17 millions of people who have not had an opportunity to</p> <p>18 have a seat at the table. We have a problem with voter</p> <p>19 suppression. We have a problem with people thinking</p> <p>20 that we can't make decisions. And let me say this: on</p> <p>21 the other side of the aisle -- on the other side of the</p> <p>22 chamber in the Senate, I have colleagues that have some</p> <p>23 of the same beliefs that some of you have, right? And</p> <p>24 they believe in pro-life. They are African Americans.</p> <p>25 I believe in pro-choice. So to say that everybody's</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 do you think there's anything that would be -- an option</p> <p>2 would be to allow our attorney general to argue the</p> <p>3 constitutionality of our current map in Federal Court,</p> <p>4 Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court?</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Already been done</p> <p>6 twice in the Fifth Circuit and asked of the Supreme</p> <p>7 Court, and they've refused to do that. And here we lie</p> <p>8 today.</p> <p>9 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: There's never even been a</p> <p>11 trial on the merits, Representative Carlson, on this map</p> <p>12 --</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: That's not our</p> <p>14 decision.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: -- even in district</p> <p>16 court.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: That -- that is the</p> <p>18 judge's decision, unfortunately.</p> <p>19 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: And if you don't do</p> <p>20 anything, they'll have one.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: And if we don't do</p> <p>22 anything, we'll have a worse map. Thank you, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you.</p> <p>24 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you, sir. I appreciate</p> <p>25 the interchange.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 ideology because they are Black is one way, is certainly</p> <p>2 crazy, number one.</p> <p>3 And number two, I really agree with you with</p> <p>4 something, and that is, send it back to the courts and</p> <p>5 let Judge Shelly Dick draw the maps. We could then</p> <p>6 remove --</p> <p>7 MR. ALEXANDER: But you -- you agree with me.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I -- I do agree with</p> <p>9 that because then we could remove all of these different</p> <p>10 people and these moving parts that everybody -- these</p> <p>11 political interests because we do deserve two Black</p> <p>12 congressional seats because where I went to school - it</p> <p>13 was a Black school, though, Capitol High School - when</p> <p>14 you divide six into a third, a third into sixth, you get</p> <p>15 two. And so we deserve two seats, and that's what we</p> <p>16 deserve. We didn't -- we're not begging for something</p> <p>17 that we don't deserve. That's what we deserve.</p> <p>18 And -- and God forbid, maybe somebody will get</p> <p>19 elected that feels like you, have the same ideologies as</p> <p>20 you, but perhaps they won't. People need an opportunity</p> <p>21 to have their voices heard.</p> <p>22 MR. ALEXANDER: I respect that.</p> <p>23 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: And when I send</p> <p>24 somebody to Congress that feels like you that represents</p> <p>25 my district, then you do not represent what I believe.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 And that's called community --</p> <p>2 MR. ALEXANDER: But what about representing</p> <p>3 majority of the people in your district?</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: What -- what?</p> <p>5 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Look, let's let --</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I'm -- I'm just --</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: The questions come from</p> <p>8 this way to you.</p> <p>9 MR. ALEXANDER: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: So we don't go the other</p> <p>11 way.</p> <p>12 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank -- thank you. I</p> <p>13 appreciate that.</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: All I'm saying to</p> <p>15 you is -- is --</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: And we keep this</p> <p>17 timeline.</p> <p>18 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah. Absolutely.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: I think it's -- it's</p> <p>20 -- it's disingenuous to sit here and say -- and look at</p> <p>21 us in 2024 and say, "Black people in Louisiana, you</p> <p>22 might be a third. You could be 40 percent, but we do</p> <p>23 not want you at the table making decisions as it relates</p> <p>24 to what you want or your constituents want." And that's</p> <p>25 what I'm hearing. And it's really, really sad.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 end up. But if we continue along this path, I feel this</p> <p>2 -- the state as a whole will suffer. The reality of it</p> <p>3 is, is that Mike Johnson is the Speaker of the House.</p> <p>4 They still have four Republicans representing</p> <p>5 Louisiana. We're here trying to stop just one</p> <p>6 additional African American seat. What does that say</p> <p>7 for us? We have my chairman referring to the judge as</p> <p>8 an Obama-judge. We cannot continue to divide the city</p> <p>9 -- the state and expect to survive. It won't happen.</p> <p>10 We have to learn to coexist, appreciate our differences,</p> <p>11 appreciate the culture and differences. There are</p> <p>12 things that you cannot possibly understand in African</p> <p>13 American life because you're not one. We cannot</p> <p>14 continue to throw out and spew divisive words and think</p> <p>15 that we can survive as a state. It won't happen.</p> <p>16 MR. ALEXANDER: Yeah.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. ALEXANDER: Representative Boyd, in what</p> <p>19 you're saying, it just -- it makes me think of what</p> <p>20 Thomas Jefferson said as one of the founders of our</p> <p>21 country. He said, "In matters of taste and culture,</p> <p>22 swim like a fish. In matters of principle, stand like a</p> <p>23 rock." And that's what I'm asking this committee to do,</p> <p>24 is stand like a rock and allow our country to not argue</p> <p>25 the constitutionality.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 MR. ALEXANDER: Representative Marcelle, I</p> <p>2 hear you.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: It's really -- it's</p> <p>4 about -- it's about control. It's about power. And it</p> <p>5 is really fundamentally wrong. And I -- I said this</p> <p>6 last year, and I -- I was hoping not to get upset, but</p> <p>7 we -- we meet afterwards. We barbeque. We go across</p> <p>8 the street. We hang out. We cool. I love you. You</p> <p>9 love me. We go up to the bible study and we pray</p> <p>10 together, but we do not feel like we are equal, and that</p> <p>11 is wrong.</p> <p>12 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>13 Marcelle. Representative Boyd.</p> <p>14 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>15 Marcelle. I appreciate that.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>17 Sitting here today, thinking about the fact that we are</p> <p>18 literally fighting for an opportunity. It's not given</p> <p>19 because people still have to vote. An opportunity to</p> <p>20 have two Black representation of African Americans in</p> <p>21 DC. The opportunity, nothing is guaranteed. We're here</p> <p>22 fighting for the last three years just for the</p> <p>23 opportunity. And with voter apathy, we really don't</p> <p>24 know where that's going to end up. The closed</p> <p>25 primaries, we really don't know where that's going to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: I repeat, that makes no</p> <p>2 sense. So you're looking to further divide the state.</p> <p>3 MR. ALEXANDER: I'm not here to divide anyone.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: That's exactly what</p> <p>5 you're doing. Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you.</p> <p>7 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you. Mr.</p> <p>8 Alexander, that clears the board.</p> <p>9 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank you. Appreciate your</p> <p>10 time.</p> <p>11 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you.</p> <p>12 FEMALE SPEAKER 4: Mr. Chairman, it's possible</p> <p>13 to have a --</p> <p>14 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: We -- we have three</p> <p>15 witnesses left. Let's -- let's hold tight on that.</p> <p>16 Let's try and get through these three -- three</p> <p>17 witnesses. If y'all could just be respectful of --</p> <p>18 everyone be respectful of time. Ms. -- Ms. Suzie</p> <p>19 Labrie. What's that?</p> <p>20 MS. LABRIE: Labrie.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Ms. Suzie Labrie, would</p> <p>22 you --</p> <p>23 MS. LABRIE: Yes, (inaudible 1:58:09).</p> <p>24 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: -- would like to speak in</p> <p>25 opposition.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 MS. LABRIE: Let me pull it up. 2 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Ms. Labrie, you're ready 3 to go. 4 MS. LABRIE: Okay. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chair, 5 and all the state representatives and US 6 representatives, I'm Suzie Labrie, appropriate 7 situational individuals who takes one issue at a time 8 and represent -- represent myself against this bill 9 because I'm in support of J. Hill Harmon's for 10 proposals, really the Speaker of the House, Mike 11 Johnson, and Congressman Steve Scalise and the power, 12 where they sit in Congress. First, gerrymandering is 13 illegal. Number two, I'm for integration, not 14 segregation. Number three, individualism is better in a 15 collective class approach. One-size-fit-all fails by 16 hiding different individuals within a large class fall 17 between the cracks. 18 This causes -- number four, this causes 19 interdivision, which we're seeing now within the 20 political, ethnic, and cultural areas causing conflict 21 and confusion, chopping up and pulverizing once 22 contented and happy integrated districts when more 23 important deeper issues than just color. Small 24 businesses of both colors, working people of both races, 25 disabled of both races, economics and taxation streaks</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 circumstances. I want to thank you and to keep up the 2 good work and thank you for rejecting the rest of the 3 bills calling for minority districts. It's been a 4 pleasure coming to you -- before you. 5 Representatives, please keep up the good work 6 and God bless you, God bless Louisiana, God bless the 7 USA, and God bless our great Speaker Mike Johnson and 8 Congressman Steve Scalise. Thank you. 9 MR. ALEXANDER: Thank -- thank you, Ms. 10 Labrie. 11 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: I have a Bert Callais 12 (phonetic), and that also says you're with Chris 13 Alexander. Is there something additional that you 14 wanted to add to -- to Chris's comments? 15 MR. CALLAIS: I don't know if it's so much in 16 addition right now. What -- what was going on is 17 Christopher had a conflict of meeting. He had to make 18 another meeting with Congressman Higgins. So he 19 couldn't be here at the time, but the recess -- or at 20 least the at ease went long enough to where he had a 21 chance to make it and speak for himself. So I'm here on 22 my own behalf. 23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you. 24 MR. CALLAIS: My name is Bert Callais. I'm 25 West Baton Rouge Parish, RPAC chairman, and I'm speaking</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 introductory to all races, schools, et cetera. I'm 2 going to skip number five. Well, it -- I want to leave 3 room for other maps to be proposed by J.C. Harmon, 4 which we had emailed to you last night. And I hope that 5 y'all have seen. It's called Harmon 2. 6 Number six, Louisiana is in a better and 7 higher position of power nationally due to Speaker Mike 8 Johnson and Majority Leader Steve Scalise and the 9 different chairs and seniority we enjoy. If we have 10 minority districts, we will -- if we have two majority 11 districts -- no. If we have two minority districts, we 12 will be short two votes in the US House of 13 Representative. Most of the state is conservative, as 14 you see here, and we don't want the House going back to 15 the left. With the present map or with J.C. Harmon's 16 map, we would beat the cost of time, effort, and money 17 in the courts and other activities. 18 Number seven, I'm either for the present map 19 or J.C. Harmon's maps, which we had emailed to you last 20 night. Eight, most everyone I have heard from in 21 Louisiana are against two or any minority districts. 22 Number nine, opening it would be other cans worms, 23 opening Pandora's box of suits, and other descriptions. 24 I love Senator Womack, who is doing well and his best to 25 serve his constituents in his district under restrictive</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 for basically my constituency. And they had some 2 concerns, and I wanted to convey that to you all. 3 They're wondering where they're -- the courage is to 4 stand up to a federal judge. Basically, this federal 5 judge, they feel is ignoring the Constitution. The 6 Constitution supersedes any act of Congress, such as the 7 Voting Rights Act. And the Constitution places 8 determining congressional districts solely on the state 9 legislatures. And we feel that it's an overreach of the 10 federal government. 11 And this is what we're having enough of being 12 dictated to by the federal government on state and local 13 issues, especially our own personal sovereignty. The 14 past two, three years, you know, is -- is -- it really 15 -- it really brought all that to light how far the 16 federal government will go to trample on individual 17 rights. So somewhere we got to stop and draw the line. 18 So, again -- and I -- I -- I grew up -- I was young when 19 -- when -- and naive, whatever you might want to call 20 it, but I was a person who supported desegregation when 21 my grandparents and my parents didn't exactly do so, 22 given the time of the '60s, early '70s. 23 I don't understand why we seem to be wanting 24 to segregate ourselves again, because all I hear -- and 25 from what I understand, gerrymandering is illegal when</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 110</p> <p>1 it comes to prioritizing race. And they said, "Well, 2 then it's not a priority." But that's all I hear and as 3 far as the argument. And I understand having a seat at 4 the table. Trust me, I do. I served in the military 5 and swore to defend the Constitution. I sit on the 6 board of election supervisors. We've had these same 7 kind of arguments and disagreements. 8 But when I brought up the fact that if we 9 refer to the law and follow the law, no one can really 10 be upset with us, unless they're ready to change the 11 law. And -- and that is to go ahead and draw the -- the 12 -- the balls, right, with the numbers on it so that 13 there's no picking and choosing in favoritism. It's -- 14 it's a blank slate. So if we follow the Constitution, 15 the basics of the Constitution, the -- the -- the core 16 of it, we really don't have this issue, other than we're 17 having to fight a judge that is trying to dictate what 18 we must do. 19 So, again, if -- if -- as one of them stated, 20 "If Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela had been as -- 21 not as strong-willed and -- and cowed to it," I'm not 22 going to -- I don't like the word cowardly in this case. 23 As our current leadership, then apartheid and Jim Crow 24 would still be in place. A country is not lost in an 25 invasion. It's lost to the cowardice on the part of its</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 112</p> <p>1 MR. HURD: All right. We good? 2 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Yes, sir. 3 MR. HURD: All right. I apologize. Here's 4 where we are with Section 2 voting -- voting rights 5 claims. It is not unconstitutional to use race to draw 6 districts. It is presumptively unconstitutional, okay? 7 What does that mean? How can I use race to draw a 8 district? I can use race provided that there is a 9 compelling governmental interest, compliance with 10 Section 2. There's a compelling governmental interest. 11 Judge Dick has more or less signaled she's that far down 12 the process, okay? The second step -- and this is where 13 you're missing the opportunity of a proud vote of your 14 life. 15 And that is this: the second requirement of 16 Section 2 is whatever remedy there is going to be, it 17 must be racially narrow-tailored. What that means is 18 you take a traditional districting plan before you start 19 fixing a Section 2 remedy. And what makes it 20 constitutional is when you have an opportunity to draw a 21 majority-minority district based upon communities of 22 interest, whole parishes, whole cities. The points 23 being made today are excellent, but what I'm going to 24 tell you is you've made the full point that what you're 25 considering is a racial gerrymander. This slash -- and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 111</p> <p>1 leadership. So that's why we're not in favor of this. 2 Thank you very much. 3 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Mr. Callais. 4 Mr. -- Mr. Hurd, the floor is yours. Would you please 5 introduce yourself? Pick one. 6 MR. HURD: My name's Paul -- Paul Hurd. I am 7 an attorney. I was lead counsel when we set this 8 foolishness aside 30 years ago. The district -- and -- 9 and what I'm going to do is this: I have never 10 represented anyone but voters. I believe in compact 11 contiguous districts for White, Black, Asian voters that 12 live together, work together, go to school together. We 13 have successfully defended that right in Louisiana. 14 We've -- we've done it -- I've done it in Texas. I've 15 done it in Virginia. The point is this, you're being 16 misled, and you politicians don't get misled. It's the 17 cover. Here's where we are with the Section 2 claim. 18 It is not -- 19 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: I think you might have 20 pushed your own button there. You're trying to tell us 21 something? 22 MR. HURD: Even my wife can't mute me, so. 23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Like, leave your -- you 24 -- you leave the button alone. We'll control it for 25 you; how's that?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 113</p> <p>1 it's even worse than that. 2 If you don't -- I -- I don't -- I -- I don't 3 know who was here in the '90s, but Ms. -- Ms. -- Ms. 4 Lowery and I were. And what -- two things happened. 5 The Zorro district was set aside. It went all the way 6 from Caddo -- does this ring a bell? Caddo, all the way 7 down to Baton Rouge, all the way over to Lafayette, all 8 the way a little bit east. And it was held to be a 9 gross racial gerrymander, unconstitutional, under 10 Section 2. Why? The reason it was held as 11 unconstitutional is because the use of race that is 12 apparent in that district and apparent in the -- this 13 district was not narrowly tailored to meet the 14 requirements of -- of Section 2. 15 Race was overused to the subordination of 16 other districting principles, or as Justice O'Connor 17 said, "When race predominates, it's unconstitutional." 18 If you can -- why can we draw a compact minority 19 district out of Orleans up the river? The reason why is 20 it's otherwise lots of community interests. It doesn't 21 violate commonalities of interest. 22 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Mr. Hurd, would you -- 23 would you entertain a question? I think something may 24 have just come back, sparked a question. Would you 25 entertain a question?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 MR. HURD: Yeah. If I can just get --</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. HURD: Wait. Once I -- I've spent all day</p> <p>4 and I'll spend all night. I'll be glad to help anyone.</p> <p>5 But what you have done now, after we voided the -- the</p> <p>6 Zorro district, the Z district, they enacted what was</p> <p>7 called by the federal judge "the slash." This district</p> <p>8 that you're considering is 90 percent of "the slash."</p> <p>9 If you will look at Hays v. Louisiana, 839 F. Supp.</p> <p>10 1188, and then that's the Zorro district, Judge Jacques</p> <p>11 Wiener, who is still on the Fifth Circuit, went through</p> <p>12 racial gerrymandering community by community and said</p> <p>13 why it was excessive.</p> <p>14 He asked the question to start the opinion,</p> <p>15 "Can we use race in districting?" And he said the</p> <p>16 answer is yes, "We -- we can use it to comply with a</p> <p>17 compelling governmental interest." He said that this</p> <p>18 body -- two things, and I'll be glad to go anywhere that</p> <p>19 a member would like to ask. He said two things. One,</p> <p>20 this was excessive. He said the same thing about "the</p> <p>21 slash" that did exactly what you all are about to do</p> <p>22 that went up to East Baton Rouge goes to Avoyelles, then</p> <p>23 goes up the river taking minority districts.</p> <p>24 He said they're both racial gerrymanders</p> <p>25 because they subordinate all interest. This district</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 Representative Carlson for a question. Representative</p> <p>2 Carlson.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>4 Mr. Hurd, after the Zorro district was eliminated and</p> <p>5 the -- "the slash" district, as you represented, was --</p> <p>6 was enacted, who created that district?</p> <p>7 MR. HURD: The legislature.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: And who did away with</p> <p>9 that district, or who said that that was</p> <p>10 unconstitutional or -- or -- or not -- could not stand?</p> <p>11 MR. HURD: Judge Jacques Wiener wrote the</p> <p>12 opinion.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Okay. And then we</p> <p>14 went back to the districts that we had up until</p> <p>15 recently, right, that we were --</p> <p>16 MR. HURD: That's correct.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: So as I hear that --</p> <p>18 I see one major difference between then and now. I know</p> <p>19 you stated that the district that we're looking at</p> <p>20 creating through the senator's -- the senator's bill</p> <p>21 looks very similar. You said about 90 percent the same</p> <p>22 as -- as that "slash" district.</p> <p>23 MR. HURD: I will reserve because y'all have</p> <p>24 done (inaudible 2:15:30) since you've made unavailable</p> <p>25 to the public, okay?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 will hand -- I got good news for the plaintiffs. This</p> <p>2 district, if enacted, will hand them and Judge Dick</p> <p>3 unrestrained power to redraw your district because you</p> <p>4 just did it again. And it -- it started -- it ends in</p> <p>5 --</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: All right. Mr. Hurd,</p> <p>7 let's -- let's get to the question. Just --</p> <p>8 MR. HURD: The last point -- the last point is</p> <p>9 what Judge Wiener said, and this is what's equally</p> <p>10 important for you. He said, "The federal government --"</p> <p>11 this point was Section 5. "The -- the federal</p> <p>12 government, one, has no authority to impose on a state</p> <p>13 the violation of the Fourteenth Amendment." So the idea</p> <p>14 that we're afraid of Judge Dick may be more demanding of</p> <p>15 the district, just like the DOJ was under pre-Clarence.</p> <p>16 It is of no concern. That's why our system gives us the</p> <p>17 Fifth Circuit in the supremes.</p> <p>18 This court -- I mean, this body should</p> <p>19 consider either giving Judge Dick an opportunity to</p> <p>20 judge it, then submit a remedy plan if you lose, or</p> <p>21 enact a remedy. Now, I've handed in material --</p> <p>22 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: We've -- we've gotten all</p> <p>23 that.</p> <p>24 MR. HURD: I --</p> <p>25 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: So I'm going to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Like, the -- the -- the</p> <p>2 --</p> <p>3 MR. HURD: But the district isn't --</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: The minutes are public,</p> <p>5 and they -- they are online and public, (inaudible</p> <p>6 2:15:38).</p> <p>7 MR. HURD: You put them online ten minutes</p> <p>8 before we started the meeting six hours late. That's</p> <p>9 not available for the public.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Mr. Hurd, I</p> <p>11 appreciate that, and I understand. I wish we had more</p> <p>12 time to -- to review those. That's when those were made</p> <p>13 available, but they are there for the public. I think</p> <p>14 there's one difference. We are being mandated by the</p> <p>15 judge to create a second Black district, period. In</p> <p>16 your example, it's complete opposite.</p> <p>17 MR. HURD: No, it's not.</p> <p>18 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: The legislature tried</p> <p>19 to create a district that followed this similar route,</p> <p>20 and it was ruled unconstitutional. We're being told by</p> <p>21 the judge, by Shelly Dick, that we must do this, period.</p> <p>22 It's complete opposite. We must do it or she will.</p> <p>23 It's a complete opposite scenario than it was 20 years</p> <p>24 ago.</p> <p>25 MR. HURD: Can I -- can I respond?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Absolutely. And</p> <p>2 thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm done.</p> <p>3 MR. HURD: It's absolutely the same. What</p> <p>4 they held was in the '90s, the federal agency that was</p> <p>5 telling you, "You had to do it," was the DOJ under</p> <p>6 Section 5, which itself was later held unconstitutional.</p> <p>7 The answer is they were wrong. They were</p> <p>8 unconstitutionally demanding racial districting beyond</p> <p>9 what the federal courts now recognize as the permissible</p> <p>10 range of remedy. We may be -- we don't -- I -- I --</p> <p>11 look, I'll give Judge Dick an opportunity. It's not</p> <p>12 that she's hailed Section 2 applies.</p> <p>13 The question is whether or not Section 2 has a</p> <p>14 constitutional remedy, i.e., I believe that my</p> <p>15 districting plan that I've handed in and I did it for an</p> <p>16 -- an example is as close as you can get to a</p> <p>17 non-racially gerrymandered district and get to two</p> <p>18 majority-minority districts, and it does. The</p> <p>19 plaintiff's remedy, Senate Bill 4 and 5, they're both</p> <p>20 racial gerrymanders and will not stand up to the Fifth</p> <p>21 Circuit. There are abilities to draw a compact</p> <p>22 contiguous majority-minority district, second one, in</p> <p>23 Louisiana. What you're going to do, you're going to</p> <p>24 enact this.</p> <p>25 If I was Judge Dick, I'd look at it and go,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 applies on why this is a -- a -- a ineffective remedy,</p> <p>2 and I hope -- I hope your good judgment finds another</p> <p>3 solution.</p> <p>4 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you.</p> <p>5 Representative Phelps, you failed to call, but you</p> <p>6 didn't say you wanted to speak. Are you trying to speak</p> <p>7 now?</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Yes, (inaudible</p> <p>9 2:19:39).</p> <p>10 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: I know you're not on the</p> <p>11 committee, but you want -- all right. Come on. Let's</p> <p>12 -- all right. All right. So let's fill this out that</p> <p>13 says she does want to speak. She's providing</p> <p>14 information only, not a green card or a red card. So</p> <p>15 Representative Phelps?</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE PHELPS: Thank you for the</p> <p>17 opportunity to speak. I -- I just wanted to mention to</p> <p>18 maybe some of our new colleagues here when we talk about</p> <p>19 why we're here. This started from an increase of the</p> <p>20 population from our census. So I -- and I think that's</p> <p>21 not -- we haven't heard a lot of that with the audience</p> <p>22 on the outside. It just was not a mandate to draw a</p> <p>23 map. So this does go with the 2020, the Census results</p> <p>24 that resulted in a population increase of African</p> <p>25 Americans across the state.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 "I'm sorry. I've got -- already got the judge that</p> <p>2 wrote the opinion on the Fifth Circuit that says what</p> <p>3 y'all are about to do is a constitutional gerrymander.</p> <p>4 Therefore, I can disregard it." Disregard it. It is</p> <p>5 null and void. And she's going to draw the plan if you</p> <p>6 want to remedy an actual remedy. That's why it's</p> <p>7 exactly the same. You read the opinion, and you'll see</p> <p>8 they said, "The federal power does not override or force</p> <p>9 you to violate the Constitution." Stand up for the</p> <p>10 Constitution.</p> <p>11 Stand up if you want a compact district. Draw</p> <p>12 the one that makes sense with our traditional</p> <p>13 districting principles because you can do it. The --</p> <p>14 the -- the -- the -- the answer is, this is an</p> <p>15 unconstitutional alternative.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Okay. Thank you, Mr.</p> <p>17 Hurd. You -- you -- I think you've been very, very</p> <p>18 clear on it. The board is clear. We have no more</p> <p>19 witnesses. Senator Womack, we're going to go ahead and</p> <p>20 -- and call you back up to -- to close.</p> <p>21 MR. HURD: Your Honor, if -- I mean, Your</p> <p>22 Honor. I apologize. I'd like to -- I've got a copy of</p> <p>23 that opinion that outlines all the reasons that what</p> <p>24 you've got is a racial gerrymander. I had an outline of</p> <p>25 what it -- of -- of the -- each criteria that the judge</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 Secondly, I hope that there is some passion</p> <p>2 here about if there were a different population, a White</p> <p>3 population, and there was so much pushback about</p> <p>4 creating a district so that everyone would be</p> <p>5 represented, how that may feel. Just a thought.</p> <p>6 Thirdly, when I heard Judge Dick's name reference to</p> <p>7 Obama's judge, I don't know if I've ever heard someone</p> <p>8 say Trump's judge or Carter's judge or Reagan's judge or</p> <p>9 whomever. I don't know if we're going to start</p> <p>10 referencing judges that way, but I hope that we do not</p> <p>11 do that in this body.</p> <p>12 I think we should give all of our elected</p> <p>13 officials a little bit more respect in that, regardless</p> <p>14 of what president they were appointed to or from. Thank</p> <p>15 you for your time.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Representative</p> <p>17 Phelps. The board is clear. Senator Womack, would you</p> <p>18 come up and close on your bill?</p> <p>19 SENATOR WOMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>20 Members of the committee, we all know why we're here.</p> <p>21 We were ordered to -- to draw a new Black district, and</p> <p>22 that's what I've done. At the same time, I tried to</p> <p>23 protect Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Scalise, and my</p> <p>24 representative, Congresswoman Letlow. I'm agreeable to</p> <p>25 the amendment, and we complied with everything the judge</p>

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<p>1 has asked. And I just ask for favorable passage.</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Thank you, Senator --</p> <p>3 Senator Womack. Representative Farnum has made a motion</p> <p>4 that we adopt Senate Bill 8 as amended. Is there any</p> <p>5 objection? Representative Marcell objects. Ms. Baker</p> <p>6 -- listen, do we have anybody in an anteroom needs to</p> <p>7 come in real quick? We have everyone here? Looks like</p> <p>8 everyone's here. Okay. Ms. Baker, would you please</p> <p>9 call the role? So let me clarify the vote. A vote of</p> <p>10 yes moves Senator Womack's bill as amended by</p> <p>11 Representative Farnum forward. A vote of no leaves it</p> <p>12 here in the committee. Ms. Baker?</p> <p>13 MS. BAKER: Thank you. Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>14 Chairman Beaulieu?</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Yes.</p> <p>16 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Billings?</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE BILLINGS: Yes.</p> <p>18 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Boyd?</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE BOYD: Yes.</p> <p>20 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Carlson?</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE CARLSON: Yes.</p> <p>22 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Carter?</p> <p>23 Representative Carver?</p> <p>24 REPRESENTATIVE CARVER: Yes.</p> <p>25 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Farnum?</p>	<p>1 matters before this committee. Representative Thomas</p> <p>2 had made a motion that we adjourn. Look, and -- as we</p> <p>3 adjourn, thank you everyone for your patience. Thank</p> <p>4 you everyone for your time. It's been a -- a great</p> <p>5 debate and -- and we appreciate you. Meeting adjourned.</p> <p>6 Thank you all.</p> <p>7 (Meeting adjourned.)</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
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<p>1 REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Yes.</p> <p>2 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Gadberry?</p> <p>3 Yes. Representative Johnson? Representative Larvadain?</p> <p>4 Yes. Representative Lyons?</p> <p>5 VICE CHAIRMAN LYONS: Yes.</p> <p>6 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Marcelle?</p> <p>7 Representative Newell?</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: Not as amended. No,</p> <p>9 as amended.</p> <p>10 MS. BAKER: No for Representative Marcelle.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE MARCELLE: No.</p> <p>12 MS. BAKER: Representative Newell?</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE NEWELL: Yes.</p> <p>14 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Schamerhorn?</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN: Yes.</p> <p>16 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Thomas?</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Yes.</p> <p>18 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Wright?</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE WRIGHT: Yes.</p> <p>20 MS. BAKER: Yes. Representative Wybel?</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE WYBEL: Yes.</p> <p>22 MS. BAKER: Yes. There are 14 yeas and 1 nay.</p> <p>23 CHAIRMAN BEAULLIEU: Members -- members have a</p> <p>24 vote of 14 yeas, 1 nay. Senate Bill 8 is hereby adopted</p> <p>25 as amended. Reported as amended. There are no other</p>	<p>1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION</p> <p>2 I, Nathan Pikover, COO of TranscribeMe, Inc.,</p> <p>3 do hereby certify that</p> <p>4 291001-Audio-COMBINE-1-18-24_HG_p1-p2.MP3</p> <p>5 was transcribed utilizing computer aided means and the</p> <p>6 TranscribeMe transcription team.</p> <p>7 The transcript of the audio mentioned above,</p> <p>8 having been transcribed and reviewed by TranscribeMe,</p> <p>9 Inc. to the best of the company's ability, is a full,</p> <p>10 true, and correct transcription.</p> <p>11 I further certify that neither I, nor the</p> <p>12 TranscribeMe, Inc. transcription team, have any personal</p> <p>13 association with the parties involved or are in any way</p> <p>14 interested in the outcome thereof.</p> <p>15 Dated this 12th of March, 2024.</p> <p>16 _____</p> <p>17 Nathan Pikover, COO TranscribeMe, Inc.</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>

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