[OVERLAY 00:00:00-00:18:48]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Members, if you can please find your seats, we are going to get started in a few minutes.

[OVERLAY/CROSSTALK 00:18:51-00:21:23]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: I'm going to call this Joint Committee of House and Governmental Affairs and Senate Government -- Governmental Affairs to Order. I want to welcome everybody for coming out tonight at the UL Student Union. We're excited to be here, the purpose of this meeting primarily is to get your participation. So thank you for being here. My name is John Stefanski, I'm the Chairman of House and Governmental Affairs along with my Co-Chairwoman Senator Sharon Hewitt, who is the Chairwoman of Senate and Governmental Affairs. With that said I will have Madam Secretary call the House roll first.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chairman Stefanski?

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Vice Chairman Duplessis? Representative Bouie?

REPRESENTATIVE BOUIE: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Wilford Carter? Representative Duplessis? Representative Deshotel? Representative Farnum?

Hearing Exhibit
PR-40
3:22-cv-00211-SDD-RLB

REPRESENTATIVE FARNUM: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Gadberry?

REPRESENTATIVE GADBERRY: Ma'am!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Hodges? Representative Horton?

REPRESENTATIVE HORTON: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Ivey? Representative Jenkins?

REPRESENTATIVE JENKINS: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Mike Johnson?

REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative LaCombe? Representative Lyons?

REPRESENTATIVE LYONS: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative Magee? Representative Newell? Representative Thomas?

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Representative White?

REPRESENTATIVE WHITE: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. The House has 10 in a quorum.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: The Senate roll please.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chairwoman Hewitt?

CHAIRWOMAN HEWITT: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Vice Chairman Milligan?

VICE CHAIRMAN MILLIGAN: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Allain?

SENATOR ALLAIN: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Foil? Senator Harris?

SENATOR HARRIS: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Price?

SENATOR PRICE: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Reese?

SENATOR REESE: Here!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. Senator Tarver? Senator Womack?

SENATOR WOMACK: Present!

MADAM SECRETARY: Present. The Senate has seven in a quorum.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Wonderful. I also want to recognize some non-committee house members who are also present today. I see Representative Blake Miguez is in the crowd. We have Representative Mack Cormier. We have Representative Mike Huval. We have Representative Ryan Bourriaque. We have Representative Troy Romero, and I also see we have a

former member, former Representative Melissa Flournoy who is here as well. If there is some -- if there is anyone else I missed, please let me know, I'd be happy to recognize you. Also helping us today we have several members of House staff, we have our Clerk of the House Michelle Fontenot. We have our House and Governmental Affairs Senior Analyst, Patricia Lowrey-Dufour. We have our House and Governmental Affairs Staff Attorney Ms. Lorri Lucas. We have our Judiciary Staff Attorney Ms. Claire Stevenson. We have our Administrative Assistant Rosie Ammersbach. And we have our Committee Clerk for HNGA Mr. John Harrington. We have our Sergeant at Arms of the House, Clarence Russ. And we have our Assistant Sergeant at Aarms Danny Leming. Also we have our Demographer Dr. Bill Blair.

[00:25:00]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Setting up all of our acoustics and video is our communications team led by Cory Stewart who's our Chief Communications Officer. We have Guillermo Cordon, Jeremy Hall, Anthony Long, Stephen Mo, Eric Schiele and Jason Young. With that I will turn it over to my counterpart, Senator Sharon Hewitt.

SENATOR SHARON HEWITT: Thank you Mr. Chairman! It's so great to be here with all of you in Lafayette. Thank you for making us feel so welcomed and we appreciate all of you being here. We have, you know, kind of brought the capital to you all and the Senate has done their part, I want to first introduce our staff. We have Secretary of the Senate Yolanda Dixon, here on the front row, First Assistant J.W. Wiley, J.W., Second Assistant, Sue Morans, our Committee Attorney Matt Deville, here at the table. Committee Secretary Angela Bizette, you all saw her at the table. We have our senior counsel with us, thanks for being here Lord Gail Sullivan and we have our Sergeant at Arms John Keller, and working with him our other Sergeant at Arms Lewis Carroll. Did I miss any of our Senate staff? Our Demographer Mr. William Bailey and you'll hear from him in a few minutes. We also have some former Legislators that are with us, former Senator Mike Michaud, Mike and Former Senator Ed Murray, over here in the corner. Thanks Ed! Any other former senators with us tonight? All right, and then we have members of our Legislature that are currently sitting senators, Mr. Bob Hensgens, these will be folks that you'll recognize from your area, Mr. Bob Hensgens, Mr.

Freddie Mills, Mr. Gerald Boudreaux and our Senate President Page Cortez, and Mr. President, while we're here and we're in your area, would you like to say a few words to welcome everyone?

SENATE PRESIDENT PAGE CORTEZ: Well, yeah, thank you Madam Chair and Chairman Stefanski. First of all to the two committees, thank you for -- I know it's been a road show that you all have been hidden around the State and it's not finished yet and it's the first step in this process that we call redistricting, but thank you for your hard work and so to the Chairpersons who I know are having to be at all of these, you know, you're getting a lot of input and I know that you all are working hard. So thank you for that. To the people that have showed up, this is every ten years, you know, that this is the process of redistricting and it's not an easy process, it's driven by the numbers, it's driven by the Constitution, and so for all of you that are here to give your testimony on the record, we thank you for that, very important to have a citizen input in a democracy, and so with that thank you for being here and taking time out of your life to come and help with the process. So we appreciate you being here, and Madam Chair, thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. President! I also noticed a couple of members walked in, I see Representative Marcus Bryant. We have Representative Vincent St. Blanc and we have Representative Dustin Miller, and also see Representative Vincent Pierre. Oh, and Representative Candace Newell. Okay, with that said I'm going to echo the Senate President Sentiment, this is an opportunity for you to give your voice, that's what we're here. We are here to listen. The process is going to start like this where staff is going to give a presentation. They're going to talk about the law, they're going to talk about the numbers, they're going to talk about the 2020 census population and population trends, they're talking about redistricting terms, concepts and law. They're going to talk about redistricting criteria, they're going to talk about the malapportionment statistics and maps, and then finally, we're going to get to the timeline. Again, thank you for being here. After we're done with the staff's presentation, you will have an opportunity to talk as well. If you would like to talk, please fill out one of these white cards so that we can have -- we can announce you and

also have you on record. With that said I will turn it over to Dr. Bill Blair to get us started.

[00:30:00]

JOHN STEFANSKI: With that said, I will turn it over to Dr. Bill Blair to get us started.

DR. BILL BLAIR: Good evening, legislative members and the public. It's my job tonight to give you a broad outline of Louisiana's census data and its demographic trends. Now in normal times, historically the Census Bureau releases, makes two releases of our population every decennial census. One is the apportionment data, which you can see on that slide, that's typically released on December 31 of the Census Year, which would be December 31, 2020. And then subsequently will release what we call the P.L. 94-171 data which is what is used to accomplish redistricting and State jurisdictions. That's typically released around February of the year after the census. Now, as this is clear to everyone in this room this is not a normal year or normal decade, as such the 2020 Census, the apportionment data was not released until April 26 of 2021, and the P.L. 94-171 data was not of this year. So let's have a look at our population data. Here's a State Population Data for 2020. The aforementioned apportionment data, now

1 recall this is the data that is used to apportion
2 seats of Congress nationally, and it includes 3,711
3 overseas military and civilian personnel and just so
4 you're aware because of our growth rate, this decade
5 we kept six congressional districts, whereas in the
6 2010 Census, we actually lost a congressional
7 district. Not this decade. Next you'll see the
8 Louisiana Resident Population, the 4,657,757. This is
9 the population number used for State and local
10 redistricting. You'll hear a lot more about ideal
11 numbers later in this presentation, but this is the
12 number we use as the ideal population when drawing
13 Statewide districts. So, how does Louisiana compare
14 to the rest of the country? As you see on this slide,
15 Louisiana grew its 2.74% from 2010 to 2020. This is
16 lower than the National Growth Rate of 7.35%. And
17 just so you're aware, that 7.35% is actually the
18 lowest growth rate since 1940, so Louisiana was even
19 lagging behind that percentage increase. This is also
20 compared to the Southern Average Growth of over 10%
21 and these numbers you see in front of you bear a
22 great resemblance to the numbers we've seen for the
23 last 40 years of slow growth in Louisiana, being
24 outpaced by our Southern States and even below the
25 national average. So, let's also discuss the

Louisiana's redistricting data. Now, this data is called the P.L. 94-171 data because it's named after the Federal Law which enacted it standards. This is the population by race and ethnicity that jurisdictions around the State will use to conduct the redistricting. Thank your precincts Census blocks the lower level data used to draw everything from Congress to Municipal Districts. It's this decade it was released in two forms as mentioned before. On August 12, a legacy format was released. This usually involves some sort of data manipulation to use the data released on August 12, and then subsequently released data on September 16 in an easier-to-use format so that you yourself could go to the Census Bureau's website, which is listed on the slide at data.census.gov and look at the same data the Legislature will be using to redistrict your city councils, your police juries, your school boards. You have direct access to the same sort of information in easy-to-use format this decade from that website. So now, let's talk about Louisiana's population composition change. This is the first of many color-coded maps you're going to see tonight. Generally speaking, if it's red or orange, you've lost population, if it's green, you have gained

population. And if it's somewhere among yellow, then you stayed about the same. This slide shows you the population change for last decade in Louisiana.

[00:35:05]

DR. BILL BLAIR: There are three main trends. One, population declines in Northeast and Northwest Louisiana. Population gains along the I-10, I-12 corridor from St. Tammany Parish to Calcasieu Parish. And also population gains in Suburban areas. Now, this is the last decade. The next slide we are going to see shows you these trends for the last 40 years. And so, there are some differences in these slides, but generally speaking, they show you a trend that's been in existence for the last four decades. Now, there are some unique decades, most particularly the bottom right -- I'm sorry, bottom left, showing the effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 during that census decade, and then a more widespread growth in the State between 1990 and 2000 in the top right quadrant. But, despite these unique differences to those decades, the general story remains the same; population declines in Northwest and Northeast, population gains on the I-10, I-12 corridor, and gains in suburban areas. Now, let's have a more detailed look at some specific parishes and places.

These are the largest numerical population loss parishes from 2010 to 2020. These declines are fairly well-distributed around the State except for one notable exception, which is Southeast Louisiana. As you see on the next slide, Southeast Louisiana is here represented very broadly by numerical parish gains. Again, this is that I-10, I-12 corridor, this is where all the growth is in our State this past decade. Finally, you can see the top 12 municipalities in population and their growth or decline from 2010 to 2020. Now, I have two points to make before I talk about the data you see in the last slide I'm responsible for tonight. First be advised that the Census Bureau reports race and ethnicity separately. Ethnicity is reported in two categories, either being Hispanic or Latino origin or not. Then race is categorized by one of six broad categories, either White, Black or African-American, American-Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander or some other race. Now, the census allows multiple categories be recorded for race. So this can lead to hundreds of combinations of race data and the census data. The data you see on the chart in front of you on the slide though is an aggregation of those categories, and we have a

complete description of the Legislature's aggregation methodology on our legislative website. There's a document titled "Allocation of 2020 Census Population for Database and Reporting" which mirrors the data you see in front of you. My second point, be aware that the Census Bureau refined their questions on race and ethnicity for the 2020 Census to allow more detailed responses from people responding to the census. The Census Bureau believes these changes produced a more thorough and accurate depiction of race and ethnicity self-identification among respondents. So what do we have? The top row is the 2010 census data that's been aggregated, the second row is the 2020 census population as aggregated, and the third, which is the most interesting, is the change in the decade. I think three most interesting changes we see in this State from 2010 to 2020 are one, a fairly significant drop in those individuals reporting themselves as White alone, a 6.30% decline. Two, there's been significant increase in other groups' proportions of our population in the last decade.

[00:40:00]

DR. BILL BLAIR: And finally, when you look at that Other category at the bottom, that is anybody's

reported themselves be White plus another race that is not Black, Asian or American-Indian, and that is seen significant increases. So this is self-reporting of multiple race categories has increased dramatically in the State in the last decade. So in conclusion, it appears that Louisiana like the rest of the nation has become a bit more diverse. Now I will turn over to Matt Deville to begin the discussion of redistricting terms and concepts.

JOHN STEFANSKI: Madam, I would jump in real quick. I just want to recognize a couple of local Legislators who showed up. Chairman Stuart Bishop, sitting next to me. I also have Chairman Jean-Paul Coussan in the back. Thank you!

MATT DEVILLE: All right. Good evening everybody! My name is Matt Deville. I am the Staff Attorney for the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee. Now that Dr. Blair has given you a bunch of numbers to look at, I'm going to give you a few words to go over some key concepts, terms and law that pertained to redistricting. So to get started, what is redistricting? It's an umbrella term and under that umbrella are two distinct terms that are sometimes used interchangeably, but are different and those are Apportionment and Districting. Apportionment is

1 simply the process of allocating seats in a
2 Legislature. For example, in the United States
3 Congress, Louisiana has been apportioned six seats,
4 which as Dr. Blair just mentioned is the same number
5 that we went into the 2020 census with. So, we didn't
6 gain or lose any representation in Congress. So now
7 that those representatives have been allocated to
8 Louisiana through a Federally established program
9 methodology called the Method of Equal Proportions,
10 the Legislature is tasked with redrawing those lines
11 for those districts. And so districting is that
12 process of drawing the lines for each district, and a
13 district is the geographical area, the territory from
14 which officials are elected. So why do we redistrict?
15 Simply put the law says we have to. There are
16 specific requirements that apply based on which sort
17 of office is being redistricted. So for example,
18 there are different requirements that apply to State
19 level offices, as well as local and municipal level
20 ones. For example, in Article III, Section 6 of our
21 State Constitution, it establishes the timeline that
22 we have to do in order to get those redistricting of
23 local, of Statewide elected offices done, and that
24 has to be done by the end of 2022, the calendar year
25 following from which the data was received. There's

1 also various statutes that govern local districting
2 bodies that contain deadlines for offices such as
3 school board, police jury, city council, etc., things
4 of that nature. Furthermore, there are some general
5 legal requirements that my colleagues will touch on
6 later that sort of have overarching impact on this
7 process. And that's the Equal Protection Clause of
8 the Fourteenth Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of
9 1965. So who gets redistricted, the State
10 Legislature, the House and the Senate, Congress, the
11 Public Service Commission or PSC as you'll hear it
12 referred to later in this presentation, the State
13 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or the
14 BESE Board, as well as our court system, including
15 the Supreme Court. So what does this process look
16 like? It is enacted by the State Legislature as a
17 law, and so as a law, it is -- starts with a bill
18 like anything else. It's introduced in either House
19 of the Senate. It goes through the committee process.
20 It is ultimately passed in accordance with
21 constitutionally established legislative procedure.
22 Those local governmental entities such as Parish
23 governing authorities that are not redistricted
24 directly by the Legislature responsible for
25 redistricting themselves in accordance with the law.

As I touched on a moment ago, the State Constitution has several requirements relative to redistricting, most significantly in Article III, Section 1 establishes requirement that all districts be single-member districts, which simply means only one person represents that District. Section 3 provides with a maximum number of members of each chamber of the State Legislature for the Senate, that's 39 senators, and for the House of Representative, that's 105 members. Article VI establishes that timeline I mentioned a moment ago, this process has to be completed by December 31 of 2022 and it must use that P.L. 94-171 data collected by the Census Bureau.

[00:45:03]

MATT DEVILLE: And with that, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, Claire Stevenson of the House Judiciary Committee to discuss population requirements based upon Federal Law.

CLAIRE STEVENSON: Good Evening! My name is Claire Stevenson and I will be going over the concept of Equal Population. One Person, One Vote. The starting point of the One Person, One Vote concept is the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which states, "No State shall deny to any person equal protection of the laws." The concept was

1 further developed through a series of court cases in
2 the 1960s, in which the courts held that there must
3 be substantially equal legislative representation of
4 all citizens of the State, therefore a State must
5 have legislative districts of roughly equal
6 population. Population equality, how is it measured?
7 It's measured by determining the ideal population,
8 which is equal to the total population of the area
9 being redistricted divided by the number of
10 districts. Deviation is the amount by which the
11 district's population differs from the ideal. There
12 are different standards for equal population
13 regarding Congress and State Legislative districts.
14 The standards are based on different legal
15 provisions. For Congress, the standard is as nearly
16 equal in population as practicable. Again, that is
17 based on Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution in
18 the 14th Amendment; that says, "Representatives shall
19 be apportioned among the states according to their
20 respective numbers. The deviation for congressional
21 seats must be as close to zero as possible and again,
22 as nearly equal in population as practicable. States
23 must make a good faith effort to avoid deviation and
24 be able to provide a legally acceptable non-
25 discriminatory justification for any deviation. The

1 standard for State and local legislative districts is
2 different. The standard is substantially equal as
3 possible and overall deviations of 10% or less is
4 generally not enough to make a prima facie case of
5 discrimination. But this is not a safe harbor.
6 States must be able to support the need for deviation
7 with a justification showing significant State
8 interest. In Louisiana we try to keep that deviation
9 to a plus or minus 5%. So again, talking about equal
10 population, equality of population must be the
11 overriding objective of districting, and any
12 deviation from this principle is permissible only if
13 incident to the effectuation of a rational State
14 policy. We provided some examples of State policies
15 that have been referenced in court cases and those
16 include allowing representation to political
17 subdivisions, compactness, preserving cores of prior
18 districts, and avoiding contest between incumbents.
19 With respect to the courts, the One Man, One Standard
20 does not apply and although the concept of One Man,
21 One Vote does not apply to Judicial Districts,
22 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act still applies. And
23 now, I will turn it over to my colleague Lorri Lucas
24 to discuss the Voting Rights Act.
25

1 LORRI LUCAS: Good evening! My name is Lorri
2 Lucas and I'll be discussing discrimination against
3 minorities and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In
4 discussing discrimination against minorities, there
5 are several legal considerations involved with
6 redistricting that one should be aware of. The
7 Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendment, the Voting Rights
8 Act of 1965 and vote dilution issues in regards to
9 racial gerrymandering. First, some background leading
10 up to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Equal
11 Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment
12 prohibits states from purposefully discriminating
13 between individuals on the basis of race. The
14 Fifteenth Amendment adopted in 1870, declares that
15 the right of a citizen to vote shall not be denied or
16 abridged by the United States or the states on the
17 account of race, color or previous condition of
18 servitude. The Amendment was ineffectual after
19 adoption and eliminating the problem of voting
20 discrimination and the Voting Rights Act was enacted
21 in 1965 as a means to ensure that all citizens have
22 the right to vote regardless of their race, color or
23 membership in a language minority group. Specifically
24 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any
25 State or political subdivision from imposing any

voting qualification; standard, practice, or procedure that results in a denial or abridgement of any U.S. citizen's right to vote on account of race, color or status.

[00:49:58]

LORRI LUCAS: Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act was amended in 1982. To clarify that a violation of Section 2 is established if based on the totality of circumstances, it is shown that the election processes are not equally open to participation by members of the protected class and that its members have less opportunity than others of the electorate to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice. The extent to which members ever protected class have been elected to office is one circumstance, which may be considered; however, nothing establishes a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion and the population. In 1986, those amendments were reviewed by the Supreme Court in Thornburg v. Gingles. The court imposed three preconditions that a plaintiff must prove before court proceeds to a detailed analysis of the redistricting plan and to establish a prima facie case. Those three preconditions are, the minority

population is sufficiently large and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district, the minority population is politically cohesive and that the absence of a special circumstance bloc voting by majority defeats the minority's preferred candidate. Once those preconditions are established, the court will then proceed to consider several objective factors in determining the totality of circumstances, including but not limited to the extent of history of official discrimination, touching on the class participation in the democratic process, racially polarized voting, the extent to which a State or political subdivision has used unusually large election districts, majority vote requirements or other voting practices to enhance the opportunity for discrimination. Denials of access to a candidate's selecting process for members of the class, extent to which members of the minority group bears effects of discrimination in areas like education, employment and health, whether political campaigns have been characterized by racial appeals. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected, whether there is a significant lack of responsiveness of elected officials to particularize needs of the group and

1 whether the policy underlying the use of voting
2 qualification standard, practice or procedure is
3 tenuous. The plaintiff must show that the totality of
4 circumstances will support a court's finding, that
5 the contested voting scheme is dilutive of the
6 minority's electoral power. In these cases a minority
7 -- a language minority group is considered American-
8 Indian, Asian, Alaska native or persons of Spanish
9 heritage. In discussing the challenges of racial
10 gerrymandering, you have to take a look at when
11 drawing a minority district, avoiding a violation of
12 the second section of the Voting Rights Act. The line
13 draw must take care to not create a racial
14 gerrymander that runs afoul of the Equal Protection
15 Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. As stated
16 earlier, the Equal Protection Clause of the
17 Fourteenth Amendment prohibits states from
18 purposefully discriminating between individuals on
19 the basis of race. A racial gerrymander is the
20 deliberate or arbitrary distortion of District
21 boundaries for racial purposes. A redistricting plan
22 that expressly distinguishes among citizens because
23 of race must be narrowly tailored to further or
24 compelling governmental interests. What is a
25 compelling governmental interest? It would be

1 considered remedying past discrimination, avoiding
2 retrogression or avoiding a violation of Section 2 of
3 the Voting Rights Act. These interests must be
4 strongly supported in evidence. This applies not only
5 to plans that expressly distinguished citizens
6 because of race, but also plans that although race-
7 neutral are on their face inexplicable on other
8 grounds outside of race. Courts have said that the
9 Legislature is aware of race when drawing district
10 lines, just as it is aware of age, economic status,
11 religion or variety of other demographic factors.
12 [00:54:55]
13 LORRI LUCAS: That sort of race consciousness or
14 race awareness is not inevitably lead to
15 impermissible race discrimination. So race can be
16 considered; however, it cannot be a predominant
17 factor in drawing district dines. Critical to
18 determining the factors involved will be the shape of
19 the district, the regard giving to traditional
20 districting principles and the motivations that drive
21 the line drawing decisions. When a majority/minority
22 district is created, it must be given due regard to
23 traditional districting principles, otherwise the
24 district will be subject to strict scrutiny. To avoid
25 pitfalls of gerrymandering, you must consider being

aware of bizarre shapes, drawing districts that are reasonably compact, not making race your dominant motivation and following traditional principles. Such principles include compactness, contiguity, respect for political subdivisions, respect for communities of interest, maintaining traditional boundaries, maintaining core districts and protecting incumbents from contest with each other. I will now turn it over to my colleague. Ms. Michelle Fontenot, the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

MICHELLE FONTENOT: Good Evening! Tonight, I'll be discussing the criteria for Redistricting Plan submitted to the Legislature for consideration. These criteria were adopted by the Legislature during the 2021 regular session of the Legislature and can be found in Joint Rule No. 21 again on our legislative website. Some of the criteria that we will discuss, apply to all plan types, whether it be the House, Senate, Congress, BESE, the PSC or the courts. Another criteria are plan-specific and I'll point those out as we go. So all Redistricting Plan shall comply with all Federal State and Laws are applicable including the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, the Fifteenth Amendment and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 were just

1 presented tonight. All redistricting plan shall be
2 composed of contiguous geography within a district.
3 All redistricting plan shall contain whole election
4 precincts to the extent practicable. And if a
5 precinct must be divided, shall be divided and it's
6 few as districts as practicable using a visible
7 senses tabulation boundary or boundaries. All plans
8 submitted shall respect established boundaries of
9 political subdivisions, which include parishes,
10 municipalities and natural geography of the State to
11 the extent practicable. This criterion is subordinate
12 to and shall not be used to undermine the maintenance
13 of communities of interest again to the extent
14 practicable. All redistricting plans shall use the
15 most recent P.L. 94-171 data, again, that Dr. Blair
16 alluded to earlier, and that data which was released
17 by the U.S. Census Bureau as validated by our Data
18 Verification Program of the House and the Senate.
19 That validated data can also again be accessed by the
20 public on our redistricting website. Any
21 redistricting plan that is submitted by the public to
22 the Legislature shall be submitted electronically in
23 a comma-delimited block equivalency file, which is a
24 typical export format on publicly available
25 redistricting websites. And if you do submit, we

1 encourage you to include any additional information
2 that could assist in the consideration of your plan,
3 including rationales for decision that you made in
4 your plan, maps and shape files. As for plan-specific
5 criteria, each House, Senate, PSC, BESE and Supreme
6 Court plan, shall be a whole plan that assigns all
7 the geography of the State. It's relatively easy to
8 draw a single perfect district. However, the
9 challenge comes in when you need to assign all the
10 surrounding districts to accommodate that one perfect
11 district, so the plan must include the whole State of
12 Louisiana. Each redistricting plan for the House,
13 Senate, PSC, and BESE shall contain single-member
14 districts, contain districts which are essentially
15 equal in population, which for our purposes means
16 within that plus or minus 5% of the ideal district
17 population. And each plan provided shall give due
18 consideration to traditional district alignments to
19 the extent practicable. Each redistricting plan for
20 Congress shall contain single-member districts,
21 contain districts with nearly equal population to the
22 ideal as practicable. And again, as we discussed
23 earlier, this is a much more stringent standard than
24 that required for State plans.
25 [01:00:01]

MICHELLE FONTENOT: And as example during a 2010 redistricting cycle, congressional plan deviation from the smallest district to the largest district was only 0.03% or 162 people. By comparison the 2010 House plan deviation was 9.89%, which was about 4268 people. And now I will turn it over to J.W. Wiley, the First Assistant Secretary of the Senate. He will begin the presentation on malapportionment data.

J.W. WILEY: Good evening! Now that we've had a lot of words, we are going to go back to color pictures and numbers. Okay, we will first begin the discussion with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, also known as BESE. This is a map illustrating the current eight BESE districts that were enacted by the Louisiana Legislature and pre-cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice after the 2010 census. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal population of a BESE District was 566,671. The new ideal population for each BESE District following the 2020 Census is 582,219. This reflects an increase of 15,548 in the ideal which is due to the population growth of the State. This chart shows the current population in each BESE District and the difference from the ideal population. As you can see, districts 3 and 8 are in red, meaning

they're under-populated, districts 6 and 7 are in green, meaning they're overpopulated. As Dr. Blair mentioned earlier, the red and the orange, and the green, this map illustrates the population deviations with the dark red and dark orange colors representing population below the acceptable range. The orange representing the low side of the acceptable range, the light yellow representing the high side of the acceptable range and the light and dark green representing overpopulation. Okay. Now, we will turn and discuss the Public Service Commission also known as PSC. This is a map illustrating the current five PSC districts that were enacted by the Louisiana Legislature and pre-cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice after the 2010 census. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal population for each district was 906,674, the new ideal population for each PSC District following the 2020 census is 931,551 reflecting an increase of 24,877 in the ideal due to the population growth of the State. This chart here shows the current population in each PSC District and the difference from the ideal population. As you can see from this one, there is only one in green, which meaning it is overpopulated and that being District 1. There's none in red. This

map illustrates the population deviations with the orange representing the low side of the acceptable range. The light yellow representing the high side of the acceptable range, and the light green representing overpopulation. Now, I will turn it over to Patricia Lowrey-Dufour with the House to present the Malapportionment of Congress.

PATRICIA LOWREY-DUFOUR: Hi everybody! My name is Patricia Lowrey-Dufour, and it's my pleasure to join you this evening to discuss Malapportionment of Congress. The map you see in front of you, is the current districts that were enacted by the Legislature following the 2010 census and these districts were pre-cleared by the United States Department of Justice. When the Legislature drew these districts in 2011 following the 2010 census, the ideal population of a congressional district was 755,562. The new ideal based on the 2020 census is 776,292 or an increase in 20,730 per district. This chart, which we have not color-coded because as you remember from the earlier discussion regarding congressional districts, each congressional district must be as close to that ideal as possible and I will tell you that none of the current congressional districts meet that standard.

[01:05:06]

PATRICIA LOWREY-DUFOUR: As you can see here, all of the congressional districts deviate from the ideal district population. This map illustrates how those districts deviate from that ideal district population. And again, the colors mean the same thing that you've heard all night, the darker color you are as far as orange and the yellow, that means that you are below the ideal, and the green means that you are above the ideal. Now I'm going to move to the State Supreme Court. This is a map showing the current Supreme Court Districts. What you need to understand is that the Supreme Court Districts have not been redrawn every decade. The last time the Legislature redrew the Supreme Court Districts was in 1997, following litigation that was pending in Federal Court. This map shows those districts, the current seven Supreme Court districts. When the Legislature drew these districts in 1997, it was based on the 1990 Federal Decennial Census. At the time, the State population was only 4.219 million, so the ideal population was 602,853. As you remember from the earlier discussion Supreme Court districts and other judicial districts are not subject to the equal protection requirement of the One Man, One Vote. So

they're not to that substantially equal population requirement. However, the Legislature, when they drew these districts in 1997, did draw these districts substantially equal in population with a deviation of less than 2% between the districts. If we had redrawn the districts in 2010 following the 2010 census, the ideal population would have been 647,624. According to the 2020 census, the ideal Supreme Court district would be populated at 665,393. Again, we did not color-code this chart that you see before you because the Supreme Court Districts are not subject to that One Man, One Vote requirement. However, as you can see, the population of each district varies considerably from a low of 476,554 in District No. 7 to a high of 838,610 in District No. 5, more than 362 people different in population. This map again illustrates the deviations of those districts from the ideal that again, the dark red, meaning that they have the lowest populations in the State. The dark orange, the next low, the lighter orange or as I can see on the screen it looks yellow. They are still below the ideal and then the green meaning they're overpopulated. And as you can see here, the district in your area would be overpopulated. Now, I'm going to move to the malapportionment of the Louisiana

House of Representatives. This map illustrates the 105 current House of Representative districts that were enacted by the Legislature and pre-cleared by the United States Department of Justice following the 2010 census. When the Legislature drew these districts following the 2010 census the Ideal House District population was 43,174. According to the 2020 census the Ideal House District population will be 44,359, or an increase of 1,185. So in order to maintain status quo and do not change any districts, every district would have had evenly grow about 1,185 across the State. However, as you can see you can see from this chart that did not happen. We have 29 House districts across the State that have deviations that are above the acceptable plus or minus 5%. We have 39 House districts across the State that have districts that are within the plus or minus 5% of that Ideal District Population, and we have 37 House districts across the State that have deviations that are below the Ideal House Population, in acceptable range of plus or minus five.

[01:10:09]

PATRICIA LOWREY-DUFOUR: The relative overall range of the current House districts is over 53.66%. From a low of 35,887 people in the lowest populated

1 district to a high of 59,689 in the highest populated
2 district. This map illustrates the deviations of the
3 105 House districts across the State. And again, the
4 colors mean the same; the dark red and the dark
5 orange are outside of the acceptable range. The
6 darker yellow, on my screen it's a light orange.
7 Those are below the ideal population but within the
8 range, the yellow and it could be a white color on
9 the screen is districts that are on the high side of
10 the acceptable range. The light green is above the
11 acceptable range and the dark green are the farthest
12 above the acceptable range. Now I'm going to move a
13 little bit more detail into the House districts in
14 your immediate area. Now, I do understand, you may
15 not consider all of these districts to be within your
16 immediate area, and it does go outside the
17 traditional Acadiana Triangle, but I want to drive
18 home the point that redistricting decisions made
19 elsewhere in the State and particularly in this area
20 of the State can drastically affect how the districts
21 look in your area of the State. And this map actually
22 allows me to point out some very specific examples to
23 you. Following the 1990 census, District 18, which
24 you see here, centered in Pointe Coupée and parts of
25 West Baton Rouge and Iberville, used to be nestled in

1 the northeast corner of the State. But if you
2 remember the discussion from Dr. Blair earlier, the
3 trend over the decades has been at the Northeast
4 portion of the State has been losing in population
5 and District 18 following the 1990 census was taken
6 from the Northeast and placed where you see it
7 centered in the Pointe Coupée area following the 2000
8 Census. And if you all remember, during the 1990s,
9 the Federal Government had passed some legislation to
10 do some military base reductions. And one of those
11 bases that was affected was Fort Polk in the
12 Leesville area and this area used to have multiple
13 districts, including District 31. Following the 2000
14 census, District 31 was taken out of that Vernon and
15 Beauregard area, it was really centered in DeRidder
16 and it was placed in South Lafayette to recognize the
17 growth here in Lafayette. So, of the 28 districts
18 that you see, and I'm sorry, we had to put them on
19 two pages -- of the 28 districts that you see
20 included on the map and in this chart, 14 of these
21 districts have populations that are below the
22 acceptable range. Most of these are in the immediate
23 surrounding area including those based in Acadia
24 Parish, Evangeline Parish, St. Landry Parish, St.
25 Martin Parish, Iberia, Vermillion, and two in

Lafayette. Three are on the low side of the acceptable range and two are on the high side of the acceptable range. Nine are overpopulated outside of the acceptable range, including all of the districts located in Lake Charles, so there's four. The district that's based in Jefferson Davis Parish and three districts that include parts of South Lafayette and then the district that includes the Scott and Carencro areas of Lafayette. And this is just a close-up of those districts with some boundaries labeled so that you can see about where they are in your area. And this again is the malapportionment map illustrating those deviations from the ideal. And now, I'm going to turn it over to my colleague, the Secretary of the Senate, Yolanda Dixon, to discuss the malapportionment of the Senate.

[01:14:53]

SECRETARY YOLANDA DIXON: Good Evening! First, we'll show our map illustrating, the current configurations of the current Senate districts that were enacted by the Legislature in 2011 and pre-cleared by the U.S. Department of Justice after the 2010 census. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal population of the Senate District was 116,240 and after the 2020 census, the Senate ideal

population for a district is 119,429 reflecting a change of 3,189.

So we have 10 districts that are above the current deviation of plus or minus 5%. There are 14 Senate districts whose current population is within plus or minus 5% of the ideal population and 15 districts in which the current population is more than 5% below the ideal deviation. The next map illustrates the population deviations, with the dark red, the dark orange colors representing population below the acceptable range, the orange representing population on the low side of the acceptable range. The light-yellow representing population on the high side of the acceptable range and the light green and dark green representing population above the acceptable range. And I want to point out all of the dark red, dark orange in North Louisiana, in Central Louisiana because all of those districts are under-populated. Since they are under-populated, those districts will have to go and move around to find population so that they are within the equal population within the deviation that we've been talking about. Next slide. As we move focusing in on the Acadiana region of the State, here are the districts from the map perspective. And again, we

1 included a larger amount of districts that you would
2 consider to be traditionally in the Acadiana region,
3 but again, mentioning that the district surrounding
4 you are going to affect how the districts that are in
5 the Acadiana region proper will be formulated. So,
6 here are the population numbers from the district
7 just shown on the map, and as you can see, five of
8 the 12 districts; 17, 28, 30, 31, 32, are under-
9 populated and under the ideal. District 23 is heavily
10 overpopulated, but is also with outside the
11 deviation. Three of the districts, 21, 22, 24 and 26
12 are within the plus or minus 5% deviation, but again,
13 what is important to remember is that from the slide
14 shown earlier with the dark red and dark orange and
15 that the Senate districts in the north are all under-
16 populated that those districts have to find
17 population from somewhere. And you can see on this
18 slide that Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, all of
19 those districts from the top of the State all the way
20 down are under-populated. Focusing that on the
21 Lafayette area, this slide is just showing you the
22 districts so that you can place them with the cities
23 and some place names. Next slide. And in the
24 Lafayette area, here are the districts color-coded
25 for the Lafayette area. District 23 is the dark green

showing the most growth, but it is over the ideal and we will have to lose some population. District 25 in the light green, also over the ideal, showing growth, but in a smaller amount. Districts 22, 24 and 26 in the yellow showing small population growth, but within the ideal. District 21 in the light orange showing population loss, but the district is still within the ideal. And again, all of these districts are surrounded by districts having population loss in the dark orange. So, this concludes my presentation and I will now turn it over to Chairman Stefanski to discuss the timeline.

[01:19:55]

JOHN STEFANSKI: Yeah, absolutely. I want to thank staff for that, members, I mean rather -- members of the public, members of the committee, as you can see, we're on stop three of our Road Show. We've traveled to Monroe, Shreveport, and now we are here in Lafayette, and you could see the other dates that we have. All of this information can be found on our House website, all of the information that's been presented to you today including the PowerPoints could be found here, all of the numbers and we encourage you to seek that out which will put that -- we will put that web address up there in a little bit

as well. Members now, we're going to turn to the public participation portion of this. Also, I do want to recognize, I saw a couple members came in late. Representative Jeremy LaCombe walked in a little bit later. I want to recognize him and then a local representative, representative Jonathan Guido, I see in the back, Jonathan is here as well and we want to recognize him as well. Also, I saw Dr. [INDISCERNIBLE 01:20:50] who was here. I do want to thank him for giving us, allowing us use of the venue and for being our host here today. Thank you, Doctor. With that said, we're going to start members -- I'm going to start with one of our committee members Senator Fred Mills who would like to speak and I'm going to invite him up at this time to do that.

SENATOR FRED MILLS: Thank you Mr. Chairman, and Madam Chairman! Thank you both. And ladies and gentlemen, would you give the staff a huge round of applause because they've done a tremendous job.

[APPLAUSE]

We want to thank you so much. Before I get started, I don't want to talk too long because I'm scared T Joe checks my transcripts at UL and finds out I really didn't graduate from here. So I'm going to be -- I'm going to be real quick. I'm just want to

set the table real quickly, especially for Senate District 22, Iberia and St. Martin. Just with a show of hands, how many from St. Martin and Iberia here tonight? Okay. So -- yeah, please give them a big round of applause.

[APPLAUSE]

So for these ladies and gentlemen, this is extremely important today and I've been in a series of meetings with folks in St. Martin and I've been in meetings with folks from Iberia and they really, really want to keep the district. If you see the deviation, the deviation is maybe 500 people. They want to keep this district intact. They do realize that there may be some changes, but from a cultural standpoint, a tourism standpoint, an economic standpoint, the assets that are in this parish and the opportunities that they have, it's just a perfect fit. I will tell you so many of you don't know us, but I see our two Parish presidents, Parish President Cedars and Mr. Larry Richard, when they're talking about drainage issues, and they are talking about Public Works issues, they do it together. They have cooperative endeavor agreements. They've contractor relationships, we go after funding together. So we are truly, truly linked together. So, I just wanted

to start the discussions that would Iberian, St. Martin is saying is, we one big family. We may not always get along and if a few House guests have to come to the family, we are okay, but we want to stay a family. So that's why I'm here today to just say that.

[APPLAUSE]

And the last thing I will say is, I have to -- we have to laugh a little bit before we go to something else, but I do have to tell you is I received a call from a constituent and he was so riled up, and he was so mad, and he said, T Fred. He said, "Are you fighting for us?" I said, "I'm trying." He said, 'Well, I've been watching C-SPAN and I don't see you talking to Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi and all those people. So I'm watching you every day on C-SPAN and you better talk. So if all don't mind, put this on C-SPAN to see we can figure I'm talking. Thank you all!

[APPLAUSE]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Senator Mills! Next, I'm going to invite up Representative Blake Miguez who's in the crowd, he would like to say something as well. Blake, you might have turned it on.

BLAKE MIGUEZ: The chairlady for the opportunity to speak tonight also want to thank all of the committee members. I have great admiration and I appreciate all the work that you do in traveling the State, understanding with how unique every district is, and what makes up the great State of Louisiana. Like Fred, I'm here to also speak about Senate District 22, which encompasses Iberia and St. Martin Parish. We've had a Senator there for 50 years now. Our voice in Baton Rouge now is Senator Fred Mills, Fred, T. Fred you do a great job. We really appreciate and thank you for the work that you do there. The next comments I'm going to make no offense to my House colleagues, but senators in Baton Rouge are one of the most powerful positions and one of the most important voices. They're one of 39. They get the last look at all legislation, and most importantly funding legislation, and you simply said, "you can't – "your area can't survive without its own senator." Right now we have two senators from Lafayette. We have one from St. Mary. We have one from Iberia and St. Martin. That's fair and equal representation, just like our government was supposed to be set out to do.

[01:24:59]

BLAKE MIGUEZ: There's proposed discussions about cutting up Iberia and St. Martin Parish, chopping up to the east, St. Mary Parish to the West Lafayette Parish, what are the reasons for this? Population. It's just part of the political process. Well, I can tell you the population Iberia and St. Martin Parish is a 120,000 people, ideally and perfectly suited for a Senate District. "Why change it?" "Just part of the political process." "Well, I can tell you, it's not -- it's not politics for me, it's personal. It's personal for all the people here in this room that drove 45 minutes to be here for a meeting that was held in Lafayette, Louisiana." "Have you checked the price of gas lately?" "It's expensive. They didn't get per diem, they didn't get mileage pay." And I can tell you, if we had the meeting in New Iberia, Louisiana, we'd have enough people to show up to pack the caging though, because that's how important this issue is. Their voice is important. They don't want to lose their voice in Baton Rouge. I said it was personal for me. The reason why it's personal for me is because I grew up in the hometown of Loreauville. My parents are here as well. They raised me there. As I stand here, I can still feel the mud in between my toes from growing up along the Bayou Teche. I can

still feel the cuts on my face from running through the cane fields as a kid. It's upsetting to understand that there's a possibility that the people of Loreauville may be represented by a Senator in Terrebonne Parish. It's an hour and 45-minute drive to Houma, Louisiana from Loreauville. The St. Mary Parish Morgan City, it's a 45-minute drive. It's upsetting. I can tell you from travel around the State you're going to learn. There's a difference between growing up along the Bayou, on the Bayou, up the Bayou, and down the Bayou, they all have unique places and they're totally different, they have unique needs. I said it was personal, not politics. There's plenty of senators to go around. There's no reason why we should be pitting Iberia Parish and the good folks in St. Martin Parish against the folks in St. Mary and Lafayette. We love our neighboring parishes in District 22, but we have specific needs that require specific voice. You're going to hear more testimony tonight for some folks that came from District 22, they're going to talk about how unique and cohesive our district is. Ask the committee don't piss against one another and consider the facts presented. And I'll leave you with this. What if it was your hometown being cut out of your Senate

1 District? Sharon, what if it was the City of Slidell,
2 how would you feel? John, the City of Crowley, if it
3 was being cut out of your Senate District, would you
4 be here standing next to me in my stead, fighting for
5 your people? Melinda, Bogalusa, you'd be sitting down
6 here screaming at the top of your lungs, protecting
7 your hometown, I know you. It's that important for
8 the people of District 22. I wanted to all the
9 committee members consider what if it was your
10 District? We don't want to lose our voice in Baton
11 Rouge. Members, I'm keeping you in my thoughts and
12 prayers. I know you have a tough job ahead, and I
13 hope you'll make the right decision; I'll be there
14 right next to you. Thank you so much for the
15 opportunity to speak tonight.
16 [APPLAUSE]
17 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you
18 Representative Miguez! I'm going to make this
19 announcement right now. We are going to -- and I
20 should have made it at the beginning, but we're going
21 to put everybody on a five-minute time clock, we have
22 a ton of cards, I have a stack of cards in front of
23 me and in an effort to get to everyone's comments,
24 I'm going to ask that we keep our comments to five
25

minutes. Next up, we have Representative Mike Kimbell.

MIKE KIMBELL: Thank you, Blake! You could have put the mic down for me. Chairman Stefanski and Madam Chair Sharon Hewitt, I want to thank you and all the members of the Committee that will be traveling through around the State to hear from the public and as my friend Senator Mills and my friend Blake Miguez says, probably the most important thing that we are here tonight for as far as those three, is to try to retain the current how -- I'm sorry, Senate District, as it currently is. As I understand for the past 50 years, it's been basically, not exactly, basically, it's been a district that's encompassed in both Iberia and St. Martin Parish. And what's good about the district is, it's basically people of common backgrounds, there's sugarcane in both places, there's cattle in both places. There are towns, but for the most part you still feel like you're in rural Louisiana.

[01:30:08]

MIKE KIMBELL: And that's a good thing because when you are like Fred and you serve that, it's easier for him to relate to the people, whether you're from down south of Iberia or as far north as

1 Krotz Springs. They're not maybe related, but they
2 have a lot of the same backgrounds. So there is a
3 process and I know you have to face it. We've seen
4 there have been population changes. We've seen that
5 unfortunately in the northeast and the northwest of
6 our state, population continues to dwindle. We've
7 seen where around the Orleans area population is
8 coming back home and that's a good thing. And I know
9 you have a tough job, because as they were saying
10 that you'll have to find ways to fill in the gap
11 here, take away from there, but through all the --
12 through the process that you're getting ready to go
13 through, just use your best judgment to try to retain
14 what Blake was saying, to where people feel that
15 whether my senator is from Iberia or St. Martin, I
16 still feel like he is part of the area where I live.
17 So on behalf of Senator Mills, I ask you to please do
18 that. Again, I know you have a tough job, and you
19 have a job that you have to do, it's not an option.
20 So best of luck to you and thank you for coming to
21 Acadiana, as the delegation chairman, I welcome you
22 here. For those of you that are from here, welcome
23 home. Those of you who are traveling from wherever,
24 welcome to Acadiana and enjoy yourself. Thank you
25 very much.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Representative Huval. Next we also have Representative -- Senator Hewitt would like to make a recognition.

SENATOR HEWITT: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We do I think have former Senator Craig Romero here in the room, I just wanted to recognize you sir; there you are, thank you, thank you for being here.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you senator. And next up we have Representative Beaullieu. Members of the audience, I would ask that you please try to refrain from applauding. I understand you may very much agree with what they're saying, just in the effort to keep civility in here, good or bad, I just ask that we try to refrain from applauding or booing or any of that. Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVE GERALD "BEAU" BEAULLIEU, IV: You had to say booing right before I got up Chairman Stefanski? Thank you all. Thank you for all the members of the community that came out, members of the committee, thank you all for traveling to Acadiana to hear all of our delegation. I am not going to go back through the passionate mentions that Representatives Miguez and Representative Mills mentioned, but just as a member of the committee, I

want to just point out a couple of things from a technical standpoint that the committee needs to realize also with regards to Senate District 22. And as far as the Joint Rule 21 that we just went over, if you take your pencil when you go down each of the items in Joint Rule 21, it complies with keeping the district in a similar geographic function that it is, complies with every rule that we have already adopted. It's composed of contiguous geography, we contain whole precincts, we are respecting the established boundaries of our political subdivisions and even the existing senate district. We are also containing all the single-member districts. The current population is well within less than 5%; I think it was 0.4% of the deviation as given, the traditional -- the 50 years of tradition to the continued -- the existing district. So based on what I think the committee is going to hear today, based on the rules that we have already adopted, I think there is a lot of reason and a lot of faith on us being able to keep senate district in a similar fashion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you representative Beaullieu. Next up from the audience

we have Sam [INDISCERNIBLE 01:34:17] who filled out a card. You would like to speak?

[01:35:00]

MALE 1: One booking, you have 141 years. Senator Mills from St. Martin Parish is serving in 2021. That's 141 years. Now, I may I mean research this, but that is the fact, relationships are very important. I think they complement St. Martin Parish and Iberia, the agriculture, we're one of the very few parishes that join together, that have two sugarcane refineries running. Economically to all the industry at the time that Martin Mills was open in St. Martin Parish, most of those employees were from Iberia and St. Martin Parish. Currently right now I am the Human Resources Manager at Louisiana Sugarcane Cooperative. Most of the employees that we have there are from St. Martin and Iberia Parish, those that are on work visas that we welcome them for the economic hardships that they find in their countries. But my main point is it's about relationships, you have relationships, most of you have never would have met if you would not have served as public service members and I think you treasure those type of relationships. Iberia and St. Martin, we hit I think

the medium of over 120,000, I don't see any reason to change those relationships that we have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. [INDISCERNIBLE 01:36:21]. Next up we have Sally Donlin who filled out a card. Ms. Donlin? She is still here? No, I don't see her. Next we have Kathryn Sadasivan; I hope I came close.

KATHRYN SADASIVAN: It's Sadasivan, but you were very close.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Sadasivan, I apologize. Yes ma'am.

KATHRYN SADASIVAN: Good evening members and thank you for the opportunity to testify tonight. My name is Kathryn Sadasivan and I am a Redistricting Counsel at the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund. I was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana. I swam for the City of Shreveport swim team and I attended and received a Bachelor's degree from Tulane University in New Orleans. As an attorney for LDF, I am now based in New York but it's been my great pleasure to come home and to collaborate with a coalition of civil rights, racial justice and social justice organizations to fight for Fair Maps in Louisiana and a meaningful opportunity to participate in the political process for Black Louisianians. Last

1 week you received a letter from LDF and 16 of our
2 partner organizations explaining that you have
3 affirmative obligation to ensure that the electoral
4 maps that you enact are in compliance with Section 2
5 of the Voting Rights Act, which based on 2020 census
6 data will likely require you to draw two majority-
7 minority opportunity districts for Louisiana's US
8 congressional map. We offered seven different ways to
9 do this, showing how readily a map creating two
10 majority-minority districts in Louisiana's
11 congressional map truly is well complying with the
12 Constitution's mandate of One Person, One Vote as
13 well as traditional districting principles. As you
14 know, a key purpose of Section 2 is to prohibit
15 minority vote dilution at all levels of government.
16 In Louisiana's congressional delegation currently
17 Black voters are packed into District 2, the state's
18 only majority-minority opportunity district while
19 Black communities are packed among the state's five
20 majority White districts; Districts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
21 Although District 2 has elected Black candidates in
22 all but one congressional race over the past 30
23 years, none, none of the other districts ever have.
24 Under the current maps, Lafayette is contained in the
25 3rd congressional district. Black voters in the

district, including right here in Lafayette, are consistently outvoted by the White majority and as a result have never had an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice to Congress. Each of the seven maps in our letter include at least part of Lafayette and one of the two majority-minority districts. If one of these maps is enacted Black voters in Lafayette will finally have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Like the congressional map we presented, you are similarly obligated to honor the requirements of the US Constitution and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in every electoral map you enact. Section 2 is particularly important consideration in Louisiana, a state with a long and well-documented history of discrimination against Black and Brown residents of the state in all aspects of life, from education to interaction with the criminal legal system and incarceration, to health care and of course access to the ballot. In order for sorely needed progress to be made on any of these issues, maps must be drawn so that Black voters have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

[01:39:48]

1 KATHRYN SADASIVAN: Just two years ago, on May
2 19, 2019, Ronald Greene, an unarmed 49-year-old
3 African-American man died after being arrested by
4 Louisiana State Police following a high-speed chase
5 right outside of Monroe, that was at least what Mr.
6 Greene's family was told. What the long withheld body
7 camera footage showed though was that during the
8 arrest he was stunned, punched, placed in a
9 chokehold, he was dragged face down while handcuffed
10 and shackled and he was left face down for at least
11 nine minutes. At least six White troopers were
12 involved in this lynching. Notes from Louisiana State
13 Police's investigation into Mr. Greene's lynching
14 show that prosecutors were blocked from charging one
15 of the officers who brutally beat Greene and later
16 bragged about it during the May 2019 lynching by the
17 department's leadership, including Superintendent
18 Colonel Reeves and elected officials from all levels
19 of Louisiana government. Louisiana is a great state,
20 a beautiful state full of unique flair and vibrancy,
21 but as the lynching of Ronald Greene brutally
22 highlights, it is not a state that on its own has
23 been able to grapple with and address systemic,
24 intentional and pervasive discrimination against
25 Black and Brown people of the state. Fair political

representation is a necessary prerequisite for any meaningful work to begin and that work is desperately needed. We urge you to carefully consider the requirements of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in all electoral maps to propose or enact, and in so doing that you consider the political, social and historical conditions in Louisiana that have led to this requirement. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Could I ask you one question? I have the packet and the maps that were submitted, do you know whether or not your group or groups intends to submit it as a block equivalency file?

KATHRYN SADASIVAN: Yes, it will be submitted as a block equivalency in the comma-delimited format, if not this week, on Monday.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you very much. That's all I need.

KATHRYN SADASIVAN: Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Absolutely. Thank you. Next we have Troy Wayman with One Acadiana.

TROY WAYMAN: I am Troy Wayman, One Acadiana, President and CEO. One Acadiana represents nine parishes across Acadiana; we're the regional economic

development entity. We represent a little over 600 businesses across the region and we stand as the voice of the business community. I am here today because Lafayette and Lake Charles metros and several surrounding parishes, we were going to all kind of come up together; we've got Amy Thibodeaux here, George Swift, Creed Romano from Jeff Davis Parish, we've banded together and formed a super region; it's the Acadiana Southwest Louisiana super region. And if you can see my pen; if you can't see my pen then you need to have your eyes checked because you need a bigger lapel to wear this pin, if the print on here was as big as the pen, then I wouldn't need my glasses. But I know that many of you, especially Chairman Stefanski and Chairwoman Hewitt, you've heard us talk about this several times and we appreciate your time and appreciate you listening to us. We appreciate the opportunity to introduce this Super Region to the full joint committee today. In concept, the Super Region includes 13 parishes served by One Acadiana and the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance; Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Cameron, Calcasieu, Evangeline, Iberia, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary and Vermilion. Together these parishes are home to one

1 million Louisianans whose shared values and culture
2 make this a great community to live in, to work in
3 and to raise a family. As economic developers One
4 Acadiana also understands the collective assets that
5 are woven together in our Super Region. Our
6 infrastructure network encompasses Interstates 10 and
7 49, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, 13 ports, 13 airports
8 and 25 certified sites. This network supports trade
9 and industry throughout the entire country. We are
10 incredibly proud that our higher education network
11 includes UL Lafayette, LSU Eunice, McNeese State
12 University, SOWELA Technical Community College and
13 SLCC. These institutions are leading research and
14 workforce development programs that are better
15 positioning our state to meet employment and
16 innovation needs of the future. And our Super Region
17 is also home to the core components of Louisiana's
18 oil and gas industry and our agriculture industries.
19 Our robust networks of ports and interstate serves as
20 crucial hub for oil and gas producers and service
21 companies, and you can't drive through our region
22 here without seeing rice fields and cane fields and
23 my personal favorite, crawfish farms. So those all
24 represent -- are all representative of the
25 agricultural communities that we have. We understand

that you have a difficult job, we understand that populations shift and that the joint committee is tasked with meeting many requirements in the redistricting and reapportionment process. Our Super Region is here to ask that we remain unified with the 3rd congressional district boundaries remaining as close to its existing footprint as possible. Thank you guys for your leadership. We really, really appreciate your leadership and we really appreciate you being with us here tonight.

[01:45:13]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. Wayman. Next we have Chester Cedars and is it Larry Richard, sorry about that?

CHESTER CEDARS: Do you want me to go first Mr. Richard?

LARRY RICHARD: Yes.

CHESTER CEDARS: I knew he was going to say that. For the record, I am Chester Cedars, Parish President, St. Martin Parish. With me is Parish President Larry Richard from Iberia Parish. I think Senator Mills, Mr. [INDISCERNIBLE 01:45:47], Representative Huval, Representative Miguez pretty much said what Mr. Richard and I are here to say. Senate District 22 is very important and critical we

1 believe to the ability of St. Martin and Iberia
2 Parish to continue to function as a team, as we've
3 been doing so for 57 plus years since this district's
4 been intact. There is a commonality that's been
5 touched upon between our two parishes. About the only
6 difference between the two parishes is that the
7 Parish President of St. Martin is better looking than
8 the Parish President in Iberia, and many people would
9 say a lot smarter too, but I will let the voters
10 decide that. But in all candor, we heard Mr. Wayman
11 talk about a Super Region; well, let me tell you, we
12 got a super senate district, and one of the reasons
13 we have a super senate district is we recognized our
14 commonality and that's from a pragmatic perspective.
15 I didn't do a lot of research tonight but I did pay a
16 lot of attention to the factors and the data that was
17 presented and I think Representative Beaullieu
18 touched upon it very well. We meet all the factors to
19 remain intact, 0.4% deviation only. We're compact,
20 we're contiguous, we meet all the Gingles factors in
21 that court case that was referenced. So I believe and
22 I implore you to look at the law, look at the
23 pragmatics associated with the law, apply them in a
24 commonsense fashion and I believe that we will
25 maintain our super district, our super district

Senate Number 22. And if I could just briefly conclude, I am kind of reminded of the words of Woodrow Wilson when he said, we should never be separated in interest or divided in purpose, therefore we should stand united, and I think that's what we talk about when we address Senate District Number 22, a united Iberia and a united St. Martin Parish. Look at the number of people here, they prove that from our parish. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you sir.

LARRY RICHARD: Okay, thank you Chester, I appreciate that, especially since you look so much better than I do. With that said, I would like to thank all of the honorables for being here today. A lot was said about Iberia Parish and St. Martin Parish. We work extremely, extremely close together. I guess you guys can maybe tell by the relationship that Parish President Cedars have and myself. Iberia Parish and St. Martin Parish have been together for the most part for 57 years. We do a lot together. We work together. Most of the things that I wanted to say was said by either our great senator, our State Representative Beau Beaullieu, our senator right here, excuse me, representative right here, Mr. Miguez, but Iberia Parish want to stay together, in

my opinion, with St. Martin Parish. We want to remain like we are. We're doing very well together. We have a lot of common things that we do. We have a lot that we're trying to do to benefit both of the parishes. We have a region that we work toward trying to develop, but at the end of the day Iberia Parish and St. Martin Parish is one of the same. We have 120,000 people between the two. We have a district. We have enough people for our own senate district, District 22. I can talk for a minute, but I don't want to do that, I know you guys are in a hurry -- not necessarily in a hurry, but I know you have a lot of other people to talk, but I want my words to be heard that we want Senate 22 to remain the same as close as possible. Thank all of you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. Cedars and Mr. Richard. I appreciate you being here. Next we have Amy Thibodeaux with the Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce, my home chamber, so.

[01:49:49]

AMY THIBODEAUX: Good evening members. Thank you so much for taking the time to truly listen to constituents and hear our thoughts and our wishes as this process goes on. I am Amy Thibodeaux, President and CEO of the Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce. We

1 serve our parish as both Chamber of Commerce and
2 Economic Development Organization. We're a rural
3 agricultural community along Interstate 10. And
4 whether it's our industries or our vibrant cultures,
5 Acadiana and Southwest Louisiana have so much in
6 common that many people are not even aware of. Since
7 early 2020 our leaders have been gathering, talking
8 about these commonalities and why it's important for
9 us to stay together and I appreciate both Chairman
10 Stefanski and Chairwoman Hewitt for listening to some
11 of those conversations with us. We understand the
12 challenges that are ahead of you as we turn to spring
13 of 2020, it's not going to be an easy process, but we
14 do request that you keep the 3rd congressional
15 district intact as much as possible. That big
16 interstate that lines both of our communities is
17 truly important to our economies and our industries
18 along the way. So thank you so much and I appreciate
19 you all.
20 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Ms.
21 Thibodeaux. Next we have Raymond, I hope I am saying
22 this right, "Shoe-do" Lewis. Mr. Lewis.
23 RAYMOND "SHOE-DO" LEWIS: Cómo se va. Thank you.
24 I am Raymond "Shoe-do" Lewis. I live, breathe and
25 want to see no changes to District 22. I am an

Iberian Parish school board member. Unfortunately maybe you all might remember two years ago I lost my son tragically to gun violence, that was my son, but I still love the city and the parish that I live in and I am not going anywhere. Thank you for putting this event on. I would like to tell you all first, I am part Creole and part Coonass. Secondly, the talent of the design or the census of our district is telling. We need no changes in our district because the number speaks for itself. Give you some other information that you don't know. Currently our district is 60% Caucasian and 40% minority. I like to look at that anywhere a majority Caucasian district that's going on throughout the state, if they can be 40% minority representation. Both Iberia and St. Martinville, we have sugarcane industry, both of us. We both have the crawfish and shrimping industry in our two parishes. We buy groceries from one another. We can go to Joyces, Price Savers in St. Martinville or you can come to New Iberia, to Super 1, Bi-Lo and Seminoles. We both have festivals; Creole, Mardi Gras, Sugarcane, Halloween, and you know in Louisiana, all of you up there, they say we are the partying state, so we can have a holiday -- we can raise -- we can have a party on any given day. What

else do we have in common? We both have natural salt mines in our committee, in our two parishes. We have world renowned pepper factories; Mcilhenny Tabasco and Cajun Chef located in St. Martin Parish. We all enjoy the Boudin and holy Cracklin, and you know if you're suffering from blood pressure just drink your little cider vinegar, that's going to help bring it down. We also have our beloved Bayou Teche that connects us, that keeps us together and look like more and more activities between St. Martin and Iberia are being done on the Bayou. We love our Bayou Teche.

[01:54:53]

RAYMOND "SHOE-DO" LEWIS: Again, as the census showed, I will end again with this. Our numbers, our District 22 doesn't need to be touched. Look somewhere else. We're perfect, we're right in place, and we will not -- this will not be our last assembly with you guys on this subject. So you know where we're coming from. We want to keep it like it is, we love our people. Fred Mills, our Senator, Mr. Beaullieu, Mr. Miguez, let me tell you something, they may not deal with the things that you deal with, they deal with people that needs healthcare. They come home and they deal with people that's displaced,

they deal with that kind of stuff because at the end of the day former Senator Troy Hebert said it like this, all that ordinary people want is good government to work on their behalf. Thank you. We're 60/40.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. Lewis. Next up we have Carlton Jones.

CARLTON JONES: I don't know how to follow that up. But again, good evening Mr. Chairman, Madam Chairman and thank you for the opportunity to have us out here today and to listen to our voices, so [INDISCERNIBLE 01:56:32] and I am happy to participate in that. My name is Carlton Jones and I am a resident of Southeast Louisiana and on behalf of the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice. In a state where one-third of the population is Black and there are increasing populations of people of color we must draw districts that reflect our population and give all communities the opportunity to elect people that will represent their interests. Power Coalition and our partners have been following this road show across the state to make it clear that we expect maps and political districts that are competitive and ensure that minority communities have the opportunity to elect a candidate of choice. In

April and May of 2021 Power Coalition and partners conducted a representative survey of about 1,500 people of all demographics in Louisiana and found that 69% of the survey respondents support redrawing congressional districts in a fair and transparent way so that every person has equal representation, including 70% White respondents. Drawing fair and equitable maps that return power to minority communities it has been taken away from is not a radical act but is a necessary step towards creating a fair Louisiana. I am concerned that in a state that has historically not submitted maps that uphold racial equity standards that with the Shelby Court decision our minority communities are at a further risk of having their voting power and voices diluted. I ask that when you are drawing these districts, you uphold standards of equity and do everything in your power to keep communities together and not draw districts that crack or pack minority voting power. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. Jones. Next we have Kelly Garrett. Ms. Garrett.

KELLY GARRETT: Good evening Chair, Madam Chair, Committee Members, I want to echo the appreciation for performing these road shows. I think it's very

1 important for constituents to voice their concerns.
2 With that, my name is Kelly Garrett and I am
3 representing VOTE - Voice of the Experienced which is
4 an organization that advocates for individuals that
5 are impacted by incarceration here in Louisiana. And
6 with that said, it would be very remiss of the
7 organization to not address the issue of prison
8 gerrymandering. The census bureau currently counts
9 incarcerated people as residents of the wrong
10 location. The prison where they are confined on
11 census day instead of counting incarcerated people as
12 residents of the right location, which is their home
13 communities where they lived prior to incarceration
14 and where they return post incarceration. However,
15 the census bureau provides all the information that
16 redistricting bodies such as yourself need to remedy
17 the first half of the problem, that is to avoid
18 counting incarcerated people in the wrong location.
19 The census bureau identifies the number of
20 incarcerated people in each census block for the
21 express purpose of making it easier for map drawers
22 to subtract the number from a district's population
23 count. Many jurisdictions however simply fail to take
24 this extra step. So what exactly is prison
25 gerrymandering? The practice of padding political

1 districts with incarcerated people who are counted as
2 residents of their prison cells rather than their
3 home communities but are not represented by the
4 elected officials in the districts where they're
5 incarcerated is known as prison gerrymandering.
6 [01:59:54]
7 KELLY GARRETT: The problem with this is that it
8 dilutes the representation of people living in
9 districts without prisons. Conversely, it gives
10 greater representation to people who live in
11 districts with prisons. Prison gerrymandering allows
12 districts containing prisons to inflate their
13 population count with incarcerated people even though
14 people convicted of felonies here in Louisiana cannot
15 vote while they are incarcerated and people who are
16 incarcerated for misdemeanors are while awaiting
17 trial vote absentee in their home districts.
18 Louisiana law states that a prison cell is not a
19 residence. It specifically quotes for purposes of the
20 laws governing voter registration and voting a
21 "resident" means a citizen who resides in this state
22 and in the parish, municipality, if any, and precinct
23 in which he offers to register and vote, with an
24 intention to reside there indefinitely. So how can
25 this be fixed? Well, the complete solution is that we

can adopt future legislation requiring that incarcerated people be counted in the right location which is their home communities for redistricting purposes. In the interim Louisiana can adopt legislation prohibiting governmental bodies from counting incarcerated people in the wrong locations which are the districts where they're incarcerated for redistricting purposes. Alternatively, even without legislation the legislature, which is you guys, could take incarcerated populations into account when drawing district lines to both number one, ensure that facilities are not clustered in a few districts; and number two, use allowable deviations to overpopulate districts with prisons to account for the residents from other parts of the state that are counted there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you madam. Next we have Keith Boudin.

KEITH BODIN: My name is Keith Bodin. I am a lifelong resident of St. Martin Parish and I am a constituent of District 22. I would like to thank Senator Hewitt, Representative Stefanski, all of your staff and everyone here putting on this road show to allow us this opportunity to voice our opinion. You know, redistricting follows the US census as a method

1 to ensure that no matter where the population moves,
2 everyone will be equally represented, that
3 representation goes federal, state and local.
4 Redistricting should only move district lines as
5 needed to accommodate the population movement. The
6 district line moves should be as minimal as possible,
7 with the focus always, always being that of
8 representing the people equally. What should never
9 happen is a manipulation of the redistricting process
10 to gerrymander districts for political powers to
11 advance their personal political careers. The
12 gerrymandering of political districts for the advance
13 of personal political careers is the exact opposite
14 of what the redistricting process is about. That
15 process should always be about representing the
16 people equally. That being said, it's come to my
17 attention through the local media and backed up by
18 local officials, elected officials that I've been in
19 contact with that there is a movement underway in the
20 House and Senate leadership to basically destroy
21 Senate District 22. They want to do so by
22 gerrymandering St. Martin Parish into a new Lafayette
23 Parish Senate District. If this occurs Lafayette
24 Parish will have three Senate seats and St. Martin
25 and Iberia Parish residents will have zero, leaving

the citizens of St. Martin and Iberia Parish without a voice in the Louisiana Senate. Currently District 22 is a community of interests comprised of parts of St. Landry, St. Martin and Iberia Parishes. These three parishes are comprised mostly of rural communities made up of a large section of people that live off of the land, such as farmers, fishermen, crawfish fishermen, while Lafayette Parish is more of an urban community. Lafayette Parish and District 22 are made up of two distinctly different demographics and we each need our own -- we each have our own and different needs. I truly believe District 22 needs to remain intact in St. Martin, Iberia and St. Landry Parish. Another reason to leave District 22 as is, is because there is no legal reason to change it. According to the Louisiana legislature's website, Senate districts are required to have 120,000 residents, give or take.

[02:04:54]

KEITH BODIN: Also according to the Louisiana legislature's website and the information we saw here tonight, District 22 has the required 120,000 residents to maintain it as is, so why should 120,000 Louisiana residents lose their Senate seat so three Lafayette politicians can advance their personal

1 political careers. You know, the people of St.
2 Martin, Iberia and St. Landry Parish will fight to
3 make sure that St. Martin -- that District 22 is not
4 gerrymandered and we will not give up our voice
5 without a fight. We deserve a Senate seat and we want
6 our Senate seat. And I am going to close with this,
7 whether you guys realize it or not, the American
8 people are getting really fed up with our elected
9 officials and it's especially true right here at
10 home, enough is enough, we need our elected officials
11 to do what's right for the people and stop only
12 working to advance their own personal political
13 careers. I thank you for letting me speak and may God
14 bless the United States of America and the great
15 State of Louisiana. Thank you.
16 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you sir. Next we
17 have George Swift with the Southwest Louisiana
18 Chamber.
19 GEORGE SWIFT: I will try this. Chairwoman
20 Hewitt, Chairman Stefanski and members of the
21 committee, thank you so much for the opportunity to
22 conduct these hearings around the state. You are
23 really doing a great job and we appreciate it. I am
24 George Swift of the Chamber Southwest and the
25 Economic Development Alliance. We represent Allen,

Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron and Jeff Davis. Our chamber has over 1,200 members and we're joining with One Acadiana, the Acadiana Chamber and the Jeff Davis Chamber in working together as a Super Region. And the reason for that is we have so many common interests and one of the things that we want to emphasize is in the congressional districts in particular is what we're talking about tonight is that we think the congressional districts need to be comprised of areas that have things in common. And in our particular district, District 3, we have of course the I-10 corridor, we have all of the things that have been talked about earlier. So we would ask that you consider keeping the congressional districts as much intact as possible with common areas and particularly we think in District 3 that that would mean that basically the metros of Lafayette and Lake Charles would stay together in the same district. Again, thank you for the opportunity to be here tonight.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mr. Swift. Next we have Freddie DeCourt.

FREDDIE DECOURT: Good evening. I am the Mayor of the City of New Iberia. So I am here to represent our community and District 22. We like everyone else who

have spoken feel that we would like the district to stay together, to stay as a whole. People have done a great job from our Baton Rouge Delegation to all the people who spoke before me of talking about the commonality, but it is certainly there and it's the teamwork, it's that long formed relationship. When I needed to learn how to form an economic development district, I was in the Parish President of St. Martin Parish's office. When St. Martinville needed some help with a grant recently; my background is construction and design, I did all the background numbers for the grant and then found them an architect to handle a project. We work together in so many ways. We're looking at how because our communities both were founded in the 1700s because of that common connection of Bayou Teche that we are spending millions of dollars to develop at present. We're looking at tourist opportunities. We're starting to look at how we could market together because we are the same people. We have that -- just that bond. So I'll be brief because so many other people have spoke, but to keep us together that's what we request and I want to take a second to thank the state and to thank you all for the road show. This is awesome to touch and feel and see our elected

1 officials on a state level come to all the various
2 communities, so welcome to Acadiana and it's nice to
3 see Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Thank you.
4 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mayor. Next
5 we have Jessie Bellard.
6 JESSIE BELLARD: Good evening. Jessie Bellard,
7 Parish President of St. Landry Parish. Again, thank
8 you all for coming like everybody else is saying. The
9 main thing here is the law says you have to do a
10 certain thing and it's based on numbers, okay? So
11 what I am asking is this, we have five
12 representatives in my parish, we have four senate
13 districts, we have three congresswomen, it's entirely
14 too much. I mean we have one representative who takes
15 care of our parish, I mean one that's in our parish,
16 the rest of them are separated across the whole
17 parish.
18 [02:10:12]
19 JESSIE BELLARD: Let's make a deal people, if you
20 don't have 10% of your voters in my parish, go
21 somewhere else, leave some meat in the bone for
22 somebody else, because we get end of the barrel,
23 okay? So it's just -- this is commonsense and I know
24 you all have a job to do and I know it's a hard job
25 to do, but it's difficult on our level, on a local

level to get things done in our parish whenever you have a representative who takes this little bit of a precinct because it needs to meet the numbers for that parish. I mean Senator Fred Mills takes care of District 22, which is part of our parish on the Krotz Springs area. Fortunately right now the way we have it set up, me and Chester and Larry work great together, okay? So I can call on Fred and we can join forces together and make some things happen. But what if we don't get along? Fred has a little piece of my parish. It's not fair to my parish by having all these little pieces cut out. All I am asking you all, give him 10% of the votes, then at least 10%, they might want to come in my parish and help. Thank you all.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next we have, is it Christian Green? Christian Green? I apologize if that's not the first name.

M. CHRISTIAN GREEN: Thank you and thank you for coming here. I've testified before many of you before at the State Capitol. I am M. Christian Green, Christy Green. I wear a number of hats. I am currently the Vice President for the League of Women Voters of Louisiana. I am on the Leadership Committee of the League of Women Voters of Lafayette, and I am

1 part of the Coalition and you've already heard other
2 voices from the NAACP and Power Coalition, one of 17
3 organizations that has requested that the 3rd
4 congressional district potentially be divided up a
5 little bit. So I want to talk about this and what
6 this means for the purposes of our letter and locally
7 and how I feel about it personally. I just want to
8 tell you a little bit about the process of how the
9 League came to sign on to this letter because it
10 wasn't an immediate thing. When I saw that there was
11 a proposal to create a majority-minority district, I
12 thought wow, that's a big deal. I think Chairman
13 Stefanski himself called it a shot across the bow. So
14 the first thing we had to do was actually escalate it
15 to our national organization to two different
16 divisions, legal and state advocacy and get their
17 opinion on it, because the way we do things at the
18 League is that every couple of years there is a book
19 called Impact on Issues that's published. This is
20 basically our Bible, we're almost fundamentalist
21 about it, and I am very familiar with the voting
22 rights provision since I am also our voting rights
23 chair committee head and I did not remember anything
24 being said about majority-minority districts. I had
25 to find out whether the League had any position on it

because what position we take in Louisiana could have an effect on other states and how they do this. So what we were told, the directive we were given was that the League of course supports the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and State Leagues are given latitude to support any measure -- any necessary and proper measures to achieve the goals of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. So that's how we ended up getting the approval from national. Then it had to go to a vote of our board, which I will say was unanimous and came in just before the deadline, but we were able to sign on to this letter. So I say we were proud to sign on to this at the state level, but as someone who lives in Lafayette, when I looked at the maps that you'll be getting, all seven of them, I noticed that in all of them Lafayette gets carved up a little bit, often with parts of Iberia and St. Martin Parish, which we've heard a lot about. And from a Lafayette perspective it's a little bit poignant because what you see is basically the predominantly Black north side of Lafayette being carved off and in some maps shipped over to Troy Carter's district, District 2 or a new majority-minority district in 5. As you may know, Lafayette is having some troubles right now. We had the police killing of Trayford Pellerin last

year. We've had five different police chiefs including interims under our current mayor. There is even a call for a boycott of -- shopping boycott of Lafayette Parish between Thanksgiving and Christmas. So things are a little sensitive and a little tense right now. So when you see the entire population of voters of color being shifted off somewhere, it raises some questions. But I just want to conclude by saying, I've listened to the other road shows, I've heard people share their histories, I've heard people share their family histories tonight, my family history in Louisiana is a little difficult.

[02:14:58]

M. CHRISTIAN GREEN: My first French relative was Paul Augustad Delahoussaye, who settled on the Bayou Teche which was part of Atakapa territory and at the League of Women Voters we always like to acknowledge when we're standing on Native American land that belonged to someone else before we came here. So he came here in the 1760s, but actually the member of my family that I am said to most resemble is someone who is called Mardell, Martha Delahoussaye, Martha Foster Delahoussaye; she was the niece of the first Governor, Murphy Foster. And if you look in Wikipedia, as I chanced to do one time when I was

1 teaching the case Plessy v. Ferguson at Harvard
2 Divinity School in 2005, I saw that date, 1896, and I
3 thought, that sounds familiar, I think I know
4 something that happened to my family in 1896. Well,
5 that was when Governor Foster was in office and he of
6 course presided over the 1890 Constitution that
7 disenfranchised Black voters in the state, the very
8 issue that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 sought to
9 correct. So I have a very considerable personal
10 interest in overcoming some of that history. There is
11 a little temporary issue as Lafayette lends some of
12 its voters to another district, I think we can cope
13 with it, I think we have resources here in Lafayette
14 to pull ourselves together, but it may be -- I am
15 sympathetic to Mr. Bellard because I remote poll
16 monitored in St. Landry just in the November
17 elections and it was only then that I heard that St.
18 Landry Parish had been divided into three, and I
19 thought what did they do to deserve that. So I guess
20 my final recommendation when you get those maps, it's
21 three, four, and five that are most problematic,
22 three and four I think are the ones that split
23 Lafayette three ways, five kind of carves a little --
24 the little heart out of Lafayette. So that's a little
25 strange. But I think we could let St. Landry be

1 united and integral for a while, for a decade as we
2 do some work toward justice in Lafayette in
3 supporting the second majority-minority district.
4 Thank you.
5 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you ma'am. Next
6 we have Chris Tauzin with the St. Martin Parish
7 Council.
8 CHRIS TAUZIN: Thank you members from the House,
9 members from the Senate Committee for giving us the
10 time to speak. I just want to give a little bit of --
11 tell you a little bit about myself and where I've
12 been and what I was able to see. I served Senate 22,
13 District 22 as a Legislative Assistant. I currently
14 serve in my second term as a St. Martin Parish
15 Council Chairman and I serve District 5 of St. Martin
16 Parish. I was able to travel the state and see a lot
17 of things. I just recently served on the Governor's
18 Task Force for Atchafalaya Basin, so I served and I
19 met different people from different areas. The bond
20 we have between St. Martin and Iberia, a lot of
21 people have spoken about the sugarcane industry, the
22 crawfish industry, all this is true and everything,
23 but the one thing that we share together is that
24 Atchafalaya Basin, that Atchafalaya Basin is tilting
25 up, is blocking up, it's our natural floodway, and we

worked very, very hard with the past two senators with Senator [INDISCERNIBLE 02:18:18] and Senator Fred Mills to get things done there. We've accomplished a lot. We worked in great detail to get things done. Our parish is divided by Iberia Parish. We have an upper St. Martin and Lower St. Martin. We're the only parish in the State of Louisiana that has two different areas. If you separate us and you take away Iberia, you divide upper and lower St. Martin Parish. The one thing that bonds us together is Iberia Parish. We share a judicial system. We all serve in the 16th Judicial. We've been fortunate as far back as I can remember many of our senators came from Iberia or St. Martin Parish, we've always had good equal representation and a good voice. All we're asking is look, we're the same people, we have the same interests, we have the same culture, everything joins us together, from the Bayou Teche to the Atchafalaya Basin, if there is any way that we can leave our district intact, we ask that you do. I want to thank Fred Mills tonight, Senator Mills for the job he has done. I would like to thank Craig Romero and the representative we have in here tonight are representatives from Iberia and St. Martin, we have good representation, we have good people, all we're

1 trying to do is keep good representation with good
2 people in our communities. Thank you.
3 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you sir. Next we
4 have Consuela Gaines.
5 [02:19:45]
6 CONSUELA GAINES: Good evening. I just would like
7 to continue the topic about prison gerrymandering as
8 my co-worker Kelly Garrett spoke about earlier.
9 Prison gerrymandering, the process of counting
10 incarcerated people where they are detained instead
11 of communities where they are from for the purpose of
12 redistricting, is an unfair practice that
13 disproportionately affects urban communities of color
14 by diluting and diverting political power to rural
15 and often wider parts of the state where prisons are
16 built. A political framework that includes prison
17 gerrymandering can never be fair. Legislators can and
18 should end the practice of prison gerrymandering this
19 redistricting cycle. People who are incarcerated are
20 housed in prisons that are typically isolated to
21 rural parts of the state. The census counts
22 incarcerated people as residents of their prisons
23 instead of their home communities where their
24 families and loved ones still live. Districts drawn
25 using these numbers give an unfair representation of

1 the eligible voting population. Incarcerated people
2 are represented by leaders whose interests are in
3 direct conflict of their own. Counting incarcerated
4 people in the prisons where they are detained shifts
5 their political power away from the communities that
6 they come from and where many of their families and
7 loved ones still live. Why should you care? Prison
8 gerrymandering is another type of voter suppression
9 that influences which people get elected. Building
10 their fake districts gives more money and influence
11 to the prisons and strips legislative representation
12 from under-resourced largely Black communities where
13 incarcerated people are from. Mass incarceration
14 disproportionately targets Black communities. Prison
15 gerrymandering further serves to diminish the power
16 of minority communities and in practice usually gives
17 unfair advantage to White people. Louisiana is the
18 most incarcerated place in this world. Most
19 incarcerated Louisianans come from Black communities
20 in the urban, more populated parts of the state. By
21 allowing prison gerrymandering to continue, we are
22 diverting economic and political power from the
23 communities that need it most and handing it to
24 elected officials who do not have any incentive to
25 represent the interest of their incarcerated

1 constituents that can't even vote for them. Many of
2 the people incarcerated in Louisiana were sent to
3 prison on unfair, non-unanimous verdicts, a system
4 that was explicitly designed to uphold White
5 supremacy. Prison gerrymandering further compounds
6 the racist impacts and legacy of this [INDISCERNIBLE
7 02:23:14] practice. And you may be wondering why this
8 is important to me. I am a formerly incarcerated
9 person who served 22 years in prison and I probably
10 was counted at that prison at least twice and I
11 strongly believe that those men and women who are
12 incarcerated should be counted where they live, where
13 it really matters, because as you see, we come home
14 and that funding that is directed to those
15 communities should be there when these men and women
16 are released. It should be where they are and not
17 where they were. Thank you.
18 CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next we have
19 Mayor Jan-Scott Richard.
20 MAYOR JAN-SCOTT RICHARD: Good evening. I was
21 wondering if I was ever going to get a chance to come
22 up. But thank you Madam Chair and Chairman Stefanski,
23 I appreciate it. I do want to say thank you for your
24 commitment to community service. I think people
25 sometimes forget what you guys battle day in and day

1 out, I see it and so I am appreciative to all of you,
2 specifically the Acadiana Delegation, Senator
3 Hensgens, Representative Pierre, Senator Boudreaux,
4 Senator Cortez, Mr. Beaullieu, Mr. Stefanski, for
5 what you do for our area. I think in the back we had
6 Representative Coussan, so on my behalf I want to
7 thank you for what you do and for your dedication to
8 public service.
9 [02:24:57]
10 MAYOR JAN-SCOTT RICHARD: But I am here to speak
11 about an industry that no one talked about tonight,
12 which is the Boudin. I don't understand why it wasn't
13 mentioned by anybody from Iberia and St. Martin, but
14 if you are looking for Boudin, you would want to come
15 to Scott, Louisiana and see what the Boudin capital
16 of the world is doing, we're flourishing there. But
17 not to throw Senator Hensgens under the bus, we did
18 speak before the meeting tonight and I think he would
19 prefer Boudin over duck anyway, but he does represent
20 Gueydan and we are asking in the City of Scott, in
21 the western portion of Lafayette Parish to get
22 representation in Lafayette from a Lafayette Senator.
23 The growth numbers in the presentation tonight show
24 that, that we have a significant growth. We're seeing
25 a large, large residential growth currently as we sit

here today. So I am asking when you look at these lines and you look at redistricting, and I know how difficult that task will be that you consider giving Duson and the City of Scott a representation in Lafayette Parish from a Lafayette Senator. If you want to move Senator Boudreaux down, we'll be glad to take him; if you want to move Senator Cortez together, we'll be glad to take those guys so that they can fight for our needs, not that Senator Hensgens hasn't, and all the representatives that have represented our community have done a tremendous job in fighting for dollars at the state level, but I think we're at that point where we could use some Lafayette representation and I think we deserve it. So again, thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. God bless all of you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Mayor. Next we have Chad Hardy. He stepped out. If he comes back just make sure you let me know. Then we have Melissa Flournoy. Oh yeah, I will read a statement he did -- Mr. Hardy did write, please keep Senate District 22 along its current lines, the population justifies that current lines have been intact since 1960. That might fulfill his request. Ms. Flournoy.

MELISSA FLOURNOY: Okay, great, thank you. Good evening. Thank you Madam Chair Hewitt and Chairman Stefanski and all the members of the legislature here tonight. We appreciate you taking the time to hear from the citizens in each region of the state and each part of the state faces similar and yet different challenges. We've heard a great deal tonight about Senate District 22 and the challenges they face in desiring to want to stay together. I am Melissa Flournoy. I am the Board Chair of Louisiana Progress and I appreciate the opportunity to speak tonight about these challenges in drawing fair and equitable districts to reflect the interest of all Louisiana citizens. Louisiana Progress supports a fair, transparent and accountable redistricting process and we want all of our citizens to understand the complexity. You did a wonderful presentation today. Louisiana Progress has completed a redistricting guide that explains all of the terms and other information that's on our website; it's called Make Every Vote Count. We're pleased to be here tonight with other advocacy groups like the ACLU and VOTE and the NAACP and the Power Coalition because many advocacy organizations across the state are really focused on an effort to ensure that this

1 process works, that the important functions of the
2 legislature make wise decisions that will affect our
3 elected officials and our regions for the next
4 decade. And so we think that it's important to really
5 focus on the issues around competitive districts,
6 drawn on the principles of proportionality,
7 competitiveness and minority rights. In the past many
8 districts were drawn in an effort to protect
9 incumbents minimize the voting power of ethnic
10 minorities or protect incumbent elected officials in
11 Congress and in the legislature. Almost all of the
12 current political maps at the federal, state or local
13 level fall short of two metrics that we are using to
14 talk about fair and equitable districts;
15 competitiveness and racial proportionality. You've
16 heard others mention that the most obvious example of
17 where our maps lack competitiveness and racial
18 proportionality is at the congressional level. None
19 of the six Louisiana congressional seats is even
20 remotely competitive between political parties, with
21 five of those districts being safe Republican seats,
22 one seat being a safe Democratic seat. And while the
23 state's population is roughly 33% African-American
24 and 40% minority, only one congressional district
25 seat is majority-minority.

[02:29:51]

MELISSA FLOURNOY: We believe that some of the maps that you've seen that would create a second minority district are appropriate to consider, because when we look at our congressional districts there are examples of clear racial disproportionality and a lack of competitiveness and we believe that citizens in the State of Louisiana deserve better. There are similar challenges in the Supreme Court maps, the public service maps, and even when we get to talk about local parish councils and school boards. So we believe these concepts of fair and equitable are essential and important. We also know that it's difficult to quantify these and so we've looked at metrics that we can use to measure the competitiveness by looking at past election results and the shifting demographics to objectively determine whether a district will be competitive or not. This competitive analysis, and there are many ways in which we've talked about it tonight, are important as you consider the new maps. The competitive analysis is mainly looking at local demographics and voting patterns. For instance, the state legislature districts usually need to be at least 33% of a district's residence to be non-White

1 to be considered that that district is competitive.
2 For local parishes and local councils and school
3 boards, that calculation might need to even be higher
4 at 40%. We know that election results are also
5 instructive in analyzing voting trends but they are
6 hardly definitive since those results are strongly
7 influenced by the relative strengths and weaknesses
8 of particular candidates. So when we look at the
9 election cycles and if we look at the challenges
10 facing the State of Louisiana and if we look at the
11 challenges you face in trying to draw competitive
12 maps, there are several takeaways. One of which is
13 understanding that during this round of redistricting
14 the decisions you make will affect Louisiana for the
15 next decade. We know these challenges are difficult
16 and important, but I really want to say thank you for
17 listening to the residents of this region, the
18 passion for Senate District 22. I just wish that Fred
19 Mills wasn't facing term limits; it sounds like he
20 has done a good job for your district. Everyone wants
21 to make sure that their voices are heard, that their
22 vote counts, that people respect and value the voices
23 of local citizens and so we know that this --
24
25

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: If you could wrap it up Ms. Flournoy, I apologize.

MELISSA FLOURNOY: That's quite all right. So I just want to end by saying we know that politics and passion will make these decisions difficult and we appreciate your efforts for a fair and equitable process. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you ma'am. Next we have Joseph Pearson.

JOSEPH PEARSON: Thank you for letting me speak tonight. I am a transplant. I am not from Louisiana, I am from Illinois. I have seen Illinois tear itself up; redistricting was the start of it. I understand the laws and I understand what you have to do, but District 22 maintained their population to keep a senator. I have been here since 1991. I am not here because I have family here, although I do have a wife, but I don't -- I am not here because I have to be here. I am here because I chose to be here. I've been here since 1991 and I've seen a lot of stuff. I've been very active. I've been a non-paid legislative lobbyist. I've been on the Republican Central Committee for eight years. I've been the Chairman of the Breaux Bridge Chamber of Commerce for two years and before that two years as the Vice

President. Breaux Bridge, St. Martin Parish, Iberia Parish, St. Landry Parish, they have a lot to offer. If they haven't grown it's because Lafayette has prevented it from growing. We used to have -- it's my understanding that Stuller Jewelry wanted to locate to St. Martin Parish, the brewery, Budweiser Brewery wanted to locate to St. Martin Parish. There was -- one of those strip malls, outlet malls wanted to locate to St. Martin Parish. They were all killed by Lafayette Parish.

[02:35:01]

JOSEPH PEARSON: We have so much to offer, we have land, we have access to I-10. New Iberia has access to I-49, and St. Landry Parish, they have 90. This area, District 22 could offer so much to this area, but everything is trying -- Lafayette wants everything to move west to Lake Charles. Now, Fred Mills and our Representative Mike Huval, they are -- since I've been here they have called -- I call, they always return my call. [INDISCERNIBLE 02:35:54], first person I met when I moved here. And I just tell you, I am not here because I have to be. My dad wanted to know when I was coming home. When I come down here I told him dad, I am home. So I just want to accentuate that District 22 could grow. It is

still a district and meets all the qualifications to keep our senator and if people would get out of our way, we could grow and then you could take away from us. If you have a population of some place around us, you can add if you have to, but District 22 needs to stay in place. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you sir. Next we have Casey Scott.

CASEY SCOTT: Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Casey Scott. I grew up in Baldwin, Louisiana and I've been a resident in Lafayette for the last 20 years. I am also a supporter of the ACLU. I really appreciate being able to provide input and hope this process will continue to be transparent and fair.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Could you pull the mic down a little bit? It's kind of hard to hear you. I apologize.

CASEY SCOTT: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you.

CASEY SCOTT: We deserve maps that allow us to choose our elected leaders and not ones that allow politicians to choose their voters. There are currently opportunities to make districts more competitive and create more racially equitable maps

in Louisiana. As mentioned throughout the evening, the federal government stipulates that districts must have nearly equal populations and must not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity. Louisiana's population as also mentioned earlier is roughly 32% African-American, but only one of our six congressional seats or 17% is majority-minority. Our maps lack competitiveness, with none of these six congressional seats being competitive between political parties. I support creating more racially equitable maps including an additional majority-minority district, making more districts competitive and transparently sharing criteria used to draw maps and also giving public opportunity to provide feedback before any final decisions are made. And after hearing testimony tonight, I very much support counting persons who are currently incarcerated in the districts they actually have residence and not where they are imprisoned as detailed in the thoughtful testimony given earlier on this topic. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you very much. Next we have Dr. Jordan Landry. And I will say I was going to announce, we do have some submittals for the

1 committee; Mr. Landry is one of the ones that were
2 submitted. Thank you. Go ahead sir.
3 DR. JORDAN LANDRY: Thank you for the
4 opportunity. For those who haven't met me already, I
5 am Jordan Landry, recently finished up my PhD in Poli
6 Sci at LSU, UL alum; nice to see you Dr.
7 [INDISCERNIBLE 02:39:17], wherever he went and most
8 of my life resident of Kaplan in Senator Hensgens'
9 district. As mentioned, I did put in a submission
10 with various possibilities for the maps which I am
11 willing to give additional files if the committees
12 would like that later, but for now I would like to
13 focus further on what I put on the last slide of that
14 presentation, which if anyone is interested, you can
15 find on the website on your screen.
16 [02:39:55]
17 DR. JORDAN LANDRY: First of all, even if there
18 is a least change map, if the committees and the
19 legislature decide that we're going to stick with two
20 vertical northern districts, one minority district,
21 etc., etc., I can say as someone who was paying
22 attention last time that even within that limited
23 universe of options, it was not the best of the maps
24 that could have come out as far as splitting
25 parishes, splitting communities, crimes against

1 geometry basically, etc. I think someone -- I mean
2 St. Landry got split in that map as well, I think the
3 Parish President was complaining about that in other
4 maps as well. I could give plenty of other options,
5 but I have only five minutes so I'll leave it at
6 that. Second thing, we talk about compactness in the
7 Gingles preconditions and traditional redistricting
8 criteria, etc. I think what the legislature needs to
9 figure out before they decide what map they're going
10 to draw is how compact is compact anyway. And this is
11 big especially when we're -- I mean if there is going
12 to be decision on do we draw the second minority
13 district or not. When we tried to draw that second
14 district back in the 90s as some people may remember,
15 that's exactly when we ran into a problem to. The
16 Zorro District wasn't compact enough, the Red River
17 District wasn't compact enough. Are the various
18 proposals including mine compact enough if you draw
19 say a Baton Rouge to Opelousas to North Lafayette
20 district or Baton Rouge to the Black Parishes in the
21 northeast map? I don't know and I don't know if it
22 would pass strict scrutiny. So the metrics exist, as
23 has been mentioned earlier. I think those need to be
24 used in one form or another. Following on that,
25 especially when it comes to drawing -- whether or not

to draw that second majority-minority district or not, there's a question of whether, and I am going to use some academia terms here, whether there needs to be more of a focus on descriptive representation, minorities representing minorities or substantive representation, whether they're going to get people who are going to do what those minority populations want or need even if they don't necessarily have one or two of their own. One of the dangers if this second minority-majority district is drawn for Congress is that you can end up taking racial bloc voting that's been mentioned by several of the people in here and in the Gingles preconditions and you would merely transfer that to -- from the ballot box to the legislature and the minority populations still get the wrong end of the deal and it's even more uncompetitive at the ballot box. Finally, getting off the whole part of the second minority-majority district, there are various discussions that come up about the two northern districts, the 4th and the 5th and as has been repeatedly mentioned in the presentations, even if something happens somewhere else, it's going to have a knock on effect on what you see here. I would suggest that the committees draw the 4th and 5th in an east-west manner instead

of the current north-south. One, the northern districts simply don't have the numbers anymore, I am sorry, any further down -- well, any further growth, they have to go into Acadiana, that violates cultural geography among other things. I mean the cultural arrangements go east-west --

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: I am afraid you will have to wrap up Mr. Landry.

DR. JORDAN LANDRY: The districts should go east-west as well. So much more I could say, but even so, thank you for the opportunity.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: In order for us to consider those maps that you've submitted, they do need to be submitted in a block equivalency file so that we can analyze them. Thank you sir. Next we have Patrick Norris, Acadiana Regional Airport.

[02:45:10]

PATRICK NORRIS: Good evening. With so many speakers ahead of me right here, it sounds like everything I am going to say is going to be repetitive, but I waited this long so I am going to give you my two cents. To our Honorable Senator and House Chairpersons and all Governmental Affairs Committee Members that are present, thank you all for being here and putting on this road show. Like you

said, my name is Patrick Norris and I am a lifelong resident of Iberia Parish and a business owner, but most importantly as Chairman and Representative of the Iberia Parish Airport Authority for the Acadiana Regional Airport, which is located in New Iberia. I am here to express our request and concerns on the forthcoming redistricting process for the state, but more importantly to our Senate District 22. It's our understanding there would be some reduction in some districts in the form of moving district lines. The District 22 currently includes the majority of Iberia Parish, all of St. Martin, small sections of St. Landry and St. Mary Parishes. According to the 2020 census data from the legislative website, it shows a population between both parishes of approximately 121,000 people, more in line of what it needs to be to be held as a senate seat. We feel this is sufficient in size for the senate district. Our demographic ratio is very similar. Our agriculture and business environment mirror each other .The Acadiana Regional Airport and the Port of Iberia can complement each other with different business opportunities, another main reason to keep this as one district and not to have different senators representing these two entities in the same parish.

The Acadiana Minority House District spans both Iberia and St. Martin Parishes as it stands today. For over 50 years that same period the district has had senators reside from both parishes in which we have had -- never had any major issues. The reduction of this district in any way can have a negative effect on our close relationship between parishes. In fact, we feel all of Iberia Parish should be included in District 22. We know both committees are challenged with a very difficult task in this process, but hope to have our request honored in keeping Senate District 22 without any reduction in size. Thank you for your time.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you sir. Next we have Craig Romero representing the Port of Iberia.

CRAIG ROMERO: Thank you very much. I am honored to be before you all. It takes a lot to do what you do, that was the best 16 years of my life, and I guess while there I guess the only shortfall I had was my staff, Jeff Landry, Blake Miguez and Stuart Bishop, that was my legislative staff, but luckily I had people like Fred back home that kept them all. He would come often enough and keep it straight. But I want you all to know, if I could just keep Fred until the end of time, you all can do what you all want

with the district because he can get it done. And look, you've all been nice. I started in Parish Government, Gerald Boudreaux was in recreation, I was Parish President, Gerald and I got to work, we had a good working relationship and he deserves to be where he is at and he represents his people very well. I mean this is -- all of you all come from you all areas and you all have a lot to be thankful for, Bob [INDISCERNIBLE 02:48:42], everybody loves you over there, Vincent Pierre, I mean I could go on and on, it makes me feel to come here. But everything you heard, I wish the Mayor of Scott would have been here, but I think he left. I guess he could have summed it up, the Boudin Capital of the world. Senate District 22 does not want the Boudin, if you can take it for what it means. Senator District 22, I was Parish President and I had a good senator and a good legislative delegation way back when and I never thought I'd run for the legislature, but the first day of qualifying, no offense, but four trial attorneys qualified. First four people to qualify were trial attorneys and I am spending 50% of my time as Parish President in the courtroom defending lawsuits, drunk drivers getting into wrecks on parish roads, charged with DWI and collecting from parish

government insurance policies. So that's what prompted me to run for the legislature. So we're all here for a different reason, but Senate District 22 works well. It's been there for 57 years, you've heard everything that needed to be said, I don't want to repeat it. But thank you all, thank you all for being so kind to me when I go over there. I try not to go often because every time I go there they figure I am going to see Jeff, Blake or Stewart and they think I am up to no good so I try not to go as often. But again, I've got a super legislative delegation and thank you all for all you all do to help us with Senate District 22. Thank you all.

[02:50:07]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you Senator. We also had a written submittal by Dr. Chris Williams and I am going to read it. Redistricting community conversation held last evening on the north side of Lafayette, these are their requests, fair districts representative maps that reflect one-third African-American population in the State of Louisiana and a second majority Black congressional seat, more Black representation on the Louisiana Supreme Court, [INDISCERNIBLE 02:50:40], etc., you know. We also have a written submittal from Landon Boudreaux.

Youngsville has been the fastest growing city in the state for two decades. It would make sense to have at least a state rep district based in Youngsville/Broussard instead of Lafayette/New Iberia, which is the current situation. Thank you. Also we have a written submittal from Rachel Como. Deviation 500.049% deviation, Senate District 22, Joint Rule 21, respect existing district Iberia, St. Martin are part of the 16th Judicial District. And then our last card of the evening, Rhonda Kim Gleason, who would like to speak.

RHONDA KIM GLEASON: Good evening. Thank you all for being here. I guess I am the show closer unless someone submits a card. My name is Rhonda Gleason. I am jealous. I wish I was on the dais with you because I did run for the legislative seat in my district; Jean-Paul I think left, but I am here now so I get to say what I want to say. Also, Jan Richard and I both graduated from Acadiana High School and I think he left to go make some more Boudin; love Boudin, love duck, it's all good stuff. But what I don't like is looking at these maps, looking at the pragmatics and seeing that there is absolutely a disparity when it comes to our 64 parishes, especially here in Acadiana. I see disparities in our Acadiana

Legislative Committees, I see disparities as a teacher in the classroom, and I've had relatives who were working in Iberia Parish at the Frito-Lay factory and they were let go and that's devastating to a family, but like Melissa Flournoy said, we are very different in the way we were constituted among our parishes, but we have the same essential issues. We have economic issues. We are evolving in our identity as contemporary Louisianans and we have to start to embrace these issues. I am not going to make any assumptions because it's not my job, but as an advocate I get to make my -- I get to speak and say what my wish list is. My wish list is that we look at those pragmatics. We consider the realities of people who a lot of us are saying we're all one community, you're looking left and right, but you're seeing people who look like you, you're not seeing all of Acadiana here unfortunately. We hear people saying, yeah, everybody is saying pretty much the same thing, I think our heart is in the same place, but we are not saying the same things and I don't want you to leave tonight thinking that there is a consensus here. The only consensus that I see as a constituent and an advocate with the League of Women Voters, with Louisiana Progress, with American Association of

University Women, the only consensus is that we rely on you to pull us through, to make our districts actually represent our voters and to take us to the future. Unfortunately we are stuck in a rut, but we need to move forward, and that means progress, nonpartisan, straight line progress. I appreciate your time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Also we did receive submittals from Chris Kaiser from the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana. We also received a submittal from Iberia Parish Airport Authority. We received a submittal from Amelia Dizzormo [ph]. We received a submittal from Mr. Landry, like I discussed earlier, Jordan Landry. And then we received a submittal from Melissa Flournoy with Louisiana Progress. That concludes all the cards that we have.

[02:55:07]

CHAIRMAN JOHN STEFANSKI: Again, I want to thank everyone for participating today. I want to thank you for coming out, for the testimony that was given. I promise you it has been heard and it will be taken into consideration. With that said, Senator Hewitt makes a motion that we adjourn without objection.

[02:55:48]

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I, Anders Nelson, hereby certify that the document "F847001-louisiana-redistricting-2021-lafayette" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate transcription from English to English.

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