[AUDIO GAP: 00:00:00 - 00:36:57]

DR. BLAIR: -- on a relative growth rate at this time in 2020. We kept all of our six congressional members. The second number you see there, this 4,657,757 is our resident population data. This is the data hat removes that overseas military population. This is the population used for state-wide redistricting plan such as congress and the state legislator. [INDISCERNIBLE 00:37:28] determine the ideal to population for each district and state life plan. This concept will be explained in great detail later on in this presentation. So how's our personal data compared to the rest of the country? Not favorably. We grew from 2010 to 2020 in a 2.74% rate, 12 below the 7.35% that the country grew as. And by the way, that is an 80-year low for growth rate for the country and we are much less -- growing much less fast than our southern compatriots in the region growing growth at 10.22%. So let's talk about redistricting data. This is the substate data that we will be using to redistrict state. This data is called the PL 94-171 Redistricting Data named after the federal law that enacted at standards. This is the population by race and ethnicity that jurisdictions around the state will use to conduct

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the redistricting. This is again your perch[PH 00:38:44], precinct census block level data. This data is used by everyone from congress to your local municipal city councils to conduct the redistricting efforts. This particular data was released in two different formats; the first on August 12 and then later on September 16, a user-friendly version which is available at that website data.census.gov. This is where you can actually go to the Census Bureau, download, examine the same exact data that will be used in our redistributing efforts in allegedly an easy-to-use format. Now, let's turn to Louisiana's population and composition change. This map shows us the change in population of the past decade in 2010 to 2020 in the state. This would be the first of very many color-coded maps you will see using in this presentation. If you're red or orange, it reflects population decline. Greens reflect population growth and yellows are kind of in the middle.

[00:40:04]

The main takeaway you should take from this map for the growth the last decade, population declines in the northeast to northwest, population gains along the I10, I12 corridor from St. Tammany Parish to Calcasieu Parish and population gains in suburban

areas. This pattern would look very familiar as we move to our next slide. Here we have the four-year trend for the State of Louisiana from 1980 to 2020 and there are lots of similarities between each of these decades but there are some unique experiences in several decades such as a hurricane Katrina effect in the southeast in the 2000s from the bottom left and an overall higher growth rate for the state in the 1990's from the top right. But despite these particular differences, the overall patterns are similar across the decades. At the end, population declines in the northeast to northwest, population gains along the I10-I12 corridor from St. Tammany to Calcasieu and population gains along the suburban areas. So let's have a look at our individual parish data per 2020 census. Here are the 12 parishes with the largest population declines over the past decade. These declines are fairly evenly distributed around the state with the notable exception of Southeast Louisiana as we will see on the next slide. Here are top 12 parishes with the largest population decreases over the decade. The growth is concentrated again on the record along the I10-I12 corridor simply where the growth from the state is. And finally, these are largest 12 municipalities and their growth or decline

rates over the past decade, again, following the same general trend. So let's move on to our population composition over the last 10 years. Before I talk about the particulars of this data, two points we need to make clear. First point, we advise that the Census Bureau reports raise and ethnicity separately. Ethnicity is recorded in two categories, being Hispanic or Latino or not. Race is categorized into one of six categories broad categories: White, Black or African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander or some other race. Now, people are able to indicate multiple races when they respond to the census which can lead to hundreds of different combinations of race. The data you see in this chart represents the aggregation of all of those categories into something we consider to be useable. A complete description of the legislatures aggregation decisions is available on our redistricting website with a document titled 'Allocation of 2020 Census Population for Database Recording.' The second point to be made, be aware that the Census Bureau made changes to the questions on race and ethnicity for the 2020 census that Census Bureau believes these changes producing more thorough and accurate depiction of race and ethnicity self-

identification. Now that we know those two things, let's talk about the chart. The first two sections on this table show the ration on ethnic composition in our state in 2010 and 2020. Third section at the bottom shows the change over the decade. The most interesting thing to draw from this table are (1) the 6.3 drop in white alone population, the relative increases in other groups proportions of our population and the very large increase in those self-identifying in the other category. This other category captures anyone who is not part of our data aggregation. More specifically, it is anyone that is not white alone or a multiple race category that does not include Black, Asian, or American Indian. So what does this tell us? All of this.

[00:45:00]

Essentially, Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, has become more diverse. Now, I turn over the presentation to Michelle Fontano[PH 00:45:10], the clerk of the house to discussion of redistributing terms and concepts.

MICHELLE FONTANO: Good evening. So what is redistricting? You'll hear these terms for districting and apportionment. Sometimes they are used interchangeably but they are two distinct terms.

1 So reapportionment or apportionment is the process of
2 allocating seats in a legislator. For example, in the
3 US House of Representatives in the State of Louisiana
4 is currently entitled to six congressmen in
5 accordance with the US constitution and a formula
6 established in the federal law called the method of
7 equal proportions. We have been apportioned six seats
8 following the 2020 census and now the legislator must
9 draw those district lines or redistrict in accordance
10 with the 2020 census. So districting is the process
11 of drawing the lines of those districts with
12 districts being the geographical territories from
13 which officials are elected. Why do we redistrict? We
14 do so because where the constitution another law is
15 required to be done. Article 3 Section 6 of the
16 Louisiana Constitution provides for us those duties
17 and the deadline to redistrict which this year will
18 be December 31, 2022. There are also many other areas
19 of the law that contain redistricting duties and
20 deadlines that are applicable to local governmental
21 bodies including parish governing authorities, school
22 boards, municipal governing authorities. And then
23 further, there are two general legal requirements
24 that must be taken into consideration those being
25 equal protection and voting rights act which will be

1 discussed later by my colleagues. So who is
2 redistricted by the legislature? State legislature
3 will redistrict house in senate, congress, public
4 service commission, board of elementary and secondary
5 education and the courts. How is redistricting
6 accomplished? It's accomplished through legislation.
7 So like any other legislation begins with a bill. It
8 can be introduced in either of the house or the
9 senate and generally speaking will follow the same
10 constitutional procedural requirements like other
11 pieces of legislation do. Your local governmental
12 entities such as parish governing authorities,
13 municipal governing authorities and school boards are
14 not redistricted by the legislature but each of those
15 bodies is responsible for redistricting themselves.
16 Constitution of Louisiana also contains several
17 requirements relative to legislative redistricting.
18 Article 3 Section 1 requires single-member districts.
19 Article 3 Section 3 provides for maximum number of
20 members. So for the house that maximum number is 105
21 and for the senate that maximum is 35. Article 3
22 section 6 provides for the deadline again for the
23 legislature to complete legislative redistricting
24 which in this decade is December 31, 2022 and also
25 requires the use of the census population data for

that redistricting purpose and that data is the PL 94-171 data that was previously mentioned by Dr. Blair. So the next issue that we'll cover is equal population. So the starting point of the one person one vote concept is the equal protection clause of the14th Amendment which states that no person shall deny to any person equal protection of the laws. This concept has been further developed through a series of court cases in the 1960's in which the courts held that there must be substantially equal legislative representation for all citizens of a state therefore state must have legislative districts of roughly equal population. How is population equality measured? It's measured by determining the ideal population and to find the ideal population you take the total population of the jurisdiction an divide that number by the number of districts. Deviation is the term used to refer to the amount by which that single district's population differs from an ideal. In congress, the standards for deviation is essentially as nearly equal as practicable. And that is based on Article 1 Section 2 of the US Constitution and the 14th Amendment which states that representatives shall be apportioned among the states according to their respective numbers which means

that deviation must be as close to zero as possible and if there is some deviation there must be a good faith effort to avoid deviation and provide for a legally acceptable non-discriminatory justification for that deviation.

[00:50:12]

So in terms of the standard for state statures, that standard has been deemed to be substantially quality of population among the various districts which again means that standard is substantially as equal as possible. Overall, deviation of 10% or less is generally not enough to make a prima facie case of discrimination but this is not a safe harbor and states must be able to support the need for that deviation with a justification so showing significant state interest. In Louisiana, we try to keep that standard of deviation plus or minus 5%. So equality of population must be the overriding objective of districting and deviations from this principle are permissible only if incidental to the effectuation of a rational state policy. And some state policies that have been referenced by court cases include allowing representation to political subdivisions, compactness, preserving courts[PH 00:51:22] prior districts, avoiding contest between incumbents.

1 Regarding the courts, the concept of one person one
2 vote standard does not apply to judicial districts
3 and although it doesn't apply Section 2 of the Voting
4 Rights Act, it still does apply. And now, I'll turn
5 it over to Lori Lucas, attorney for the House and
6 Governmental Affairs Committee to discuss voting
7 rights act.
8 LORRIANNE LUCAS: In discussing discrimination
9 against minorities in the Voting Rights Act, there
10 are several legal considerations involved in
11 redistricting that one must be aware of. The 14th and
12 15th Amendment the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in vote
13 dilution issues in regards to racial gerrymandering.
14 First, I'll discuss some of the background leading up
15 to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The equal
16 protection clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits
17 states from purposefully discriminating between
18 individuals on the basis of race. The 15th Amendment
19 adopted in 1870 declares that that the right of a
20 citizen to vote shall not be denied or bridged by the
21 United States or the states on account of race, color
22 or previous condition of servitude. The amendment was
23 ineffectual after adoption in illuminating the
24 problem of voting discrimination. The Voting Rights
25 Act, it was enacted in 1965 as a means to ensure that

all citizens have the right to vote regardless of their race, color, or membership in a language minority group. Specifically, Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any state or political subdivision from imposing in any voting qualification, standard, practice or procedure that denies or bridges any of the US citizen's rights to vote on account of race, color or status. 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 in that its members have less opportunity than other members of the electorate to participate in the political process and elect representation of their choice. The extent to which members of a protected class have been elected to two 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 in 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 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 count in pseudo-majority in a single member district. The minority population is politically cohesive and that in absence of special circumstances black voting by the majority defeats the minority's preferred candidate.

[00:55:00]

Once the preconditions are established, the court will then proceed to consider several other objective factors in determining the totality of circumstances including but not limited to the extent of the history or of official discrimination searching[PH 00:55:17] on the class participation in the democratic process, racially polarized voting, the extent to which the state or political subdivision has used unusually large election districts majority of vote requirements or other voting practices to enhance the opportunity for discrimination, denials of access to a candidate selecting[PH 00:55:39] process for members of the class extent to which members of the minority group bear the 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 the protected class have been elected, whether there is a significant lack of responsiveness by the elected officials to a particularized needs of the group and whether the policy underline the use of voting qualification, standards, practice or procedures [INDISCERNIBLE 00:56:19]. The plaintiff must show that the totality of circumstances will support a court's finding that the contested voting scheme is [INDISCERNIBLE 00:56:28] of the minority's electoral power. When drawing a minority district to avoid a violation of Section 2, the line drawer must take care not to create a racial gerrymander that runs the foul of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. As stated earlier, the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment prohibits states from purposefully discriminating against individuals no the basis of race. A racial gerrymander is the deliberate and arbitrary distortion of district boundaries for racial purposes. A redistricting plan that expressly distinguishes among citizens because of race must be narrowly tailored to further a compelling governmental interest. That means that the plan or

individual district were drawn nearly to satisfy the compelling governmental interest. What is a compelling governmental interest? It would be remedying past discrimination, avoiding retrogression or avoiding a violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. This interest must be strongly supported and evidenced. This applies not only to plans that expressly distinguish citizens because of race but also plans that although area race neutral on their face are inexplicable on grounds other than race. Courts have said that the legislature is always aware of race when drawing district lines just as it is aware of age, economic status, religion and a variety of other demographic factors. That sort of race consciousness or race awareness does not inevitably lead to impermissible race discrimination. So race can be considered however race cannot be a predominant factor in drawing a district. Critical to determine the factors involved will be the shape of the district, the regard given to traditional districting principles and the motivations that drive the line drawing decisions. When a majority minority district is created, it must be created given due regard to traditional districting principles, otherwise, the district will be subject to strict

scrutiny. To avoid pitfalls of gerrymandering, one must be aware of bizarre shapes, drawing district lines that are reasonably compact, not making race the dominant motivation and following traditional districting principles. Principles mentioned in previous court cases on this issue 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 Matt DeVille, Senate and Governmental Affairs Attorney, and he will discuss redistricting criteria.

MATTHEW DEVILLE: Good evening, everyone. My name is Matt DeVille, I'm the Senate and Governmental Affairs Staff Attorney and I'll be discussing the criteria for all redistricting plans submitted to the legislature for consideration.

[01:00:00]

MATT DEVILLE: These criteria was adopted by the legislature during the 2021 regular session that wrapped up in June, and it's contained in Joint Rule Number 21, which establishes the parameters for any submitted plan. Some criteria apply to all types of plans, whether it be for the State House or the

Senate, Congress, the Board of elementary and Secondary Education, the Public Service Commission, or the courts. Other criteria are plan specific, and I'll point those out as we go. We'll start off by looking at requirements that every plan has to meet. All redistricting plans have to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, including the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as Section II of the Voting Rights Act 1965 which were just presented. All redistricting plans have to be composed of contiguous geography within the district, meaning that if you were to trace it with a pencil you would start at one end and you wouldn't pick your pencil up until you reach the other terminal. You can't have an island over here and a mainland over here, so to speak. All redistricting plans have to contain whole election precincts to the extent practicable. If a precinct does have to be divided, it must be divided into as few districts as practicable using a visible census tabulation boundary or boundaries, which can be something geographic like a river or drilled down to the granular level which is known as the census block. That's the smallest redistricting building

block available. All plans have to respect established boundaries of existing political subdivisions, which includes parishes and municipalities, and the national geography of the state to the extent practicable. However, this criterion is subordinate to, and shall not be used to undermine the maintenance of communities of interest within the same district to the extent practicable. Continuing with requirements that all plans have to meet, all registering plans must utilize the most recent PL 94-171 data released by the U.S. Census Bureau as validated through the Data Verification Program of the house and the senate. That validated data can be accessed by the public on the redistricting website, so be at length to at the end of the presentation. Anyone is free to use that data to submit a proposed plan, but it has to be submitted in a specific format which is called a comma delimited block equivalency file, and that's a typical export format on publicly available redistricting websites. If you do choose to submit a plan, we encourage you to include any additional information that could assist in consideration of that plan, including the rationale. So, decisions made in the plan, the maps, shared files, et cetera.

As for some plan specific criteria, each state house in senate, Public Service Commission, BESE Board and Supreme Court plan has to be a whole plan that assigns all the geography of the state. It's easy to draw a single perfect district. The challenge comes in and you have to assign the surrounding ones to accommodate that perfect district. If you think of it like a puzzle, if you change one piece then the border pieces have to shift as well. So the whole plan has to be considered statewide. Continuing to focus on some specifics, each redistricting plan for the house and senate, the Public Service Commission and the BESE Board has to contain single member districts. It has to contain districts that are substantially equal in population which our purposes mean, they must be within plus or minus 5% of the ideal district population figure and they have to give due consideration to traditional district alignments to the extent practicable. Now let's talk about congress which is subject to a different standard. It also has to contain single member districts but those districts have to have as nearly equal population to the ideal district population as practicable. This is a much more stringent standard than for the state plans. We're talking about

fractions over percentage as opposed to that plus or minus five figures. That wraps up my portion and now we'll turn things over to my colleague JW Wiley, assistant secretary of the senate who will begin the presentation on malapportionment.

JW WILEY: Thank you, Matt. Now as part of the presentation we're going to shift over from words back to the color coordinated graphs. And as Dr. Blair mentioned remember the red and the orange shows a population decline and the green shows a growth. First, we will discuss the state board of elementary and secondary education also known as BESE. This graph illustrates the current eight BESE districts that were enacted by the Louisiana legislature and precleared by the U.S. Department of Justice the after the 2010 census. When these districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal population of a BESE district was 566,671.

[01:05:00]

The new ideal population for each BESE district following the 2020 census is 582,219. This reflects a change in 15,548 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 three and

eight, which are in red, are under populated and districts six and seven in green are overpopulated. This color-coded graph 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. Now we will discuss the Public Service Commission, also known as PSC. This is a color-coded graph illustrating the current five PSE 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 PSE district was 906,674. In 2020, the ideal population is 931,551 which reflects a change of 24, 877. This chart shows the current population in each PSE district and the difference from the ideal population. As you can see, district one, which is in green, is overpopulated. This graph illustrates the population deviations within those districts. With the yellow representing the low side of the acceptable range, the light yellow representing the high side of the acceptable range,

and the light green representing over population. Now I will turn it over to Patricia Lowry Duford to present the malapportionment of congress.

PATRICIA: Good evening everyone. It's a pleasure to be with you. I noticed several of you are taking pictures and I want to promise you that this PowerPoint is available online at the redistricting website and all of these slides are available associated with this meeting here in Lake Charles today. Now we're going to talk about the malapportionment of the congress. This map illustrates the six congressional districts as they were enacted by the legislature and precleared by the United States Department of Justice following the 2010 census. When the districts were drawn in 2010, the ideal congressional district population was 755,562. Under the 2020 census, the new ideal population for congressional district will be $776,292 reflecting an increase of 20,730 per district. So, in order for there to be no changes in the congressional districts, every district would have had to equally grow by about that 20,730 range. As this chart illustrates, that did not happen, and while most of the congressional districts are close within that plus or minus five, if you recall from

the previous discussion, congressional districts are subject to that much more stringent standard of being as close to perfect as possible. And none of the congressional districts, including district two, which is only 1,000 people short from being perfect, meets that standard. This map illustrates those deviations of each congressional district from the ideal district population again with those warmer colors of orange and lighter orange or dark yellow indicating populations that are below the ideal population, the light yellow indicating populations that are slightly above the ideal with the green indicating growth well above the ideal. Now we're going to move to the Supreme Court. And again, I will remind you that the Supreme Court as well as other judicial districts are not subject to that equal population required that we discussed earlier because, as the court found in that court case that was discussed, judges serve people. They do not represent people.

[01:10:00]

However, when the legislature redrew the seven Supreme Court districts in 1997 using the 1990 census figures, the legislature did draw districts that were substantially equal in population at about 602,000.

1 Again, using the state population as it was reflected
2 in the 1990 census. If the legislature had redrawn
3 the Supreme Court districts following the 2010
4 census, the ideal for Supreme Court district would
5 have been 647,624. According to the 2020 census,
6 should the legislature choose to redraw those too
7 close to that ideal population. The ideal population
8 would be 665,393. This is a chart that shows you the
9 deviations of each of the seven Supreme Court
10 districts from that ideal district population. And
11 again, those districts are substantially unequal in
12 population as you can see here by that map with
13 districts four and seven being the most underneath
14 the ideal, and the districts one, five, and three
15 being the furthest above that ideal population. Now,
16 we're going to move to the malapportionment of the
17 Louisiana House of Representatives. This map
18 illustrates the 105 house of representative districts
19 as they were redrawn by the legislature following the
20 2010 census and precleared by the United States
21 Department of Justice. When these districts were
22 drawn in 2010, the ideal house district was 43,174.
23 According to the 2020 census, the new ideal
24 population for a house district is 44,359 reflecting
25 an increase of 1,185, and again for none of the house

1 districts that have to change, they would have all
2 had to grow equally by about that number. As you can
3 see by this chart, that did not happen. We have 29
4 house districts across the state that are well above
5 the plus 5% above the ideal. We have 39 house
6 districts in the state that are within the plus or
7 minus 5% from that ideal district population, and we
8 have 37 house districts that are below 5% of the
9 ideal district population. This map illustrates the
10 differences of each of the 105 house districts from
11 that ideal district population again with the dark
12 orange and the dark reds representing those districts
13 of the furthest from the ideal. The light yellows
14 indicating districts that are slightly above the
15 ideal district population, with the greens
16 representing those districts with the population the
17 furthest above the ideal. Now we're going to move and
18 talk a little bit more about southwest Louisiana and
19 the house districts there. So, as you can see here,
20 this is the map of the current house districts that
21 are in southwest Louisiana and the immediate
22 surrounding area. Of the 14 districts that were
23 reflected in that map, 6 are seriously
24 underpopulated, including Districts 24 and 30 that
25 are within Vernon Parish. Districts 38 and 42 that

include Evangelion and Acadia Parish. District 49, which is to your east that includes parts of O'Neill Parish, and then two other districts are underpopulated about more than 2,000 people, but within the 5% range, and they include district 32 that encompasses Allen Boregard and part of Calcasieu, and district 47 that includes Vermilion, Cameron and part of Calcasieu. Nearby district 25 and Rapides are slightly overpopulated while all the districts based in Calcasieu are overpopulated, including district 33 based in Sulphur, districts 34 and 36 based in Lake Charles, district 35 based in Moss Bluff and district 37 that includes Jeff Davis and part of Calcasieu. And this map illustrates the deviations of those districts from the ideal district population. Now I'm going to turn it over to my colleague Yolanda Dixon, Secretary of the Senate to discuss the malapportionment of the senate on it.

YOLANDA DIXON: Thank you, Patricia. So, this is the map of the configuration of the current senate districts that were enacted by the legislature and precleared by the U.S. Department of Justice after the 2010 census.

[01:15:05]

When these districts were drawn in 2011, the ideal population of a senate district was 116,240 and in 2020, the ideal population is 119,429 which is a difference of 3,189 due to the population growth in the state. So, this chart shows that there are ten Senate districts in which the current population exceeds 5% above the ideal population. There are 14 senate districts whose current population is within plus or minus 5% of the ideal population, and there are 15 senate districts in which the current population is more than 5% below the ideal population. Now, this map illustrates the population deviations with again the dark red and 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 and dark green representing population above the acceptable range. And as you can see, for these senate districts, almost all of the senate districts in the north have lost population. Now, I'll discuss more specifics about the senate districts in the southwest region of the state. And these are the senate districts which comprise the southwest region in the state, districts

25, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 31. And here are the population numbers from the districts just shown on the map. Only one of the districts, which is district 26, is within the acceptable population and deviation range to the districts. Districts 25 and 27 have population in excess of the deviation range and will need to lose population. Three of the districts, districts 28, 30, and 31 are under populated and will have to gain population. And this is important to note because, as you saw in the previous statewide senate district maps that all of the districts in the north are underpopulated and will have to gain population from somewhere. So, here are the districts in the color-coded format shown earlier. Note that the districts in dark green and districts in light green are those showing the most population growth, district in yellow showing modest growth, and the districts in dark red above orange and red showing a loss in population. So, districts 31, 30, and 28, as well as the districts above them, are showing a loss in population, whereas districts 25, 26, and 27 are showing growth. This concludes my presentation, and I will now turn it over to the chair who will discuss our redistricting timeline.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. I want to thank staff for doing that. This is the seventh time they've done this. So, they're getting very good at it though. Look, as you can see from our timeline, we have a couple more road show hearings to go. We have to go to New Orleans, and we have to go to the Bayou region in Thibodaux. And then we'll finish it all up with a wrap up hearing in Baton Rouge. So with that said, it is now time to hear from you and so again if you would like to speak, please fill out a card I have a number of cards in front of me but if you would like to speak or if you'd like to give written comment please make sure you fill out that card. I'm going to ask that we keep all of our comments to five minutes so that I have an opportunity to let everyone speak and we always seem to get a couple of extra cards as people begin speaking. So I'm going to put a timer on everyone for five minutes. The first speaker that we have is J. Frankie Hire or Jefferson Parish, I'm sorry that I said Jeff Davis. Yes, Sir. Jeff Davis. Frank Hire, Jefferson Parish name for the country's first secretary of state. Here to spark a little curiosity and away we go. Confidence in man for 17 decades plus might as well have gone with Hamilton and his shenanigans. He had reasons and

there'd be process and your provisions they were pursued, the fractions they're just remainders and our members of residue. Aggregately what doesn't this even mean particularly it would infer a dozen that times that hack named Hamilton to a third person.

[01:20:05]

He would defer oh Hamilton's shenanigans. Oh Hamilton's shenanigans. But perhaps there's just a little, oh, just a little cause for some hope you might establish some principles upon which to guide for future apportionment. Oh, future apportionment, but does anybody have a clue about apportionment? Could we muster just a little concern for apportionment? Well, this is a tale of apportionment. Your very first apportionment is April 1792 and from the first secretary of state to the first president GW that's George Washington for the kids in the room. The constitutions declared that representatives and direct taxes put a pin on the ladder. Oh, they shall be apportioned among the several states according to their respective numbers. According to their respective numbers. The above is express. The above is express. The above is express. Representative shall be apportioned among the several parishes according to their respective numbers. And Jefferson,

1 Thomas Jefferson, please wake these folks up. Thomas
2 Jefferson. Oh, Jefferson, please wake these folks up.
3 Well, that is to say. That is to say they shall have
4 a ratio and common to all for apportion and ratio are
5 equivalent. Words, apportion and ratio are equivalent
6 words. Well, that is to say. Ratio have ratio a ratio
7 common to all or in other words, in other words, a
8 common divisor. Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson, wake
9 these folks up. Mr. Jefferson, oh, Jefferson, could
10 you help wake these folks up? While viewing this as a
11 violation of the constitution or as giving an
12 inconvenient exposition to its words? Why is it a
13 case where the people ought to interpose their
14 negative. Oh I think it is. Oh I think it is. Yeah, I
15 think it is. Oh I think it is. The application of one
16 ratio. Why that's intelligible to them? And will
17 therefore, oh therefore be approved. While the
18 complex operations of this thing you call
19 redistricting, it will never, no never be
20 comprehended by them. And though they may acquiesce,
21 they cannot approve what they do not, what they could
22 not, what will never understand. No, you cannot
23 approve. No, you cannot approve what you do not
24 understand. No, invasions of the constitution are so
25 fundamentally dangerous as the tricks played upon

1 their own numbers, apportionment and redistricting
2 and their legal qualifications to legislate. Oh
3 legislate for the onion. Oh, Jefferson, please wake
4 these folks up. Mr. Jefferson, Thomas Jefferson,
5 please wake these folks up. You know, one of these
6 things is in the constitution, and it is not
7 redistricting. Apportionment is. Thank you, sir. Next
8 up, we have Samson Poncho LeJeune from the town of
9 Lake Arthur.
10 SAMSON PONCHO LEJEUNE: Yeah, thanks for coming
11 out on it as part of the state to listen to our
12 comments. I'm the Mayor Pro-Tem of town of Lake
13 Arthur, and we're currently in house representative
14 district 37, which encompasses Jeff Davis Parish in
15 the far eastern part of Calcasieu Parish. I would
16 just like to encourage you all right now, the eastern
17 border is the Mermentau River, and I just would like
18 to encourage you all to keep Jeff Davis Parish as a
19 whole and not break it up. I think we are better
20 represented that way as a whole, as being separated
21 and thrown into Vermilion District, Calcasieu
22 District. Like I said, I just think it'd be much
23 better served that way. Thank you.
24 CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you for your comments,
25 sir. Next, we have Dustin Granger.

DUSTIN GRANGER: Good evening.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Good evening.

DUSTIN GRANGER: Thank you Madam Chairwoman Hewitt and Chairman Stefanski and the members of the legislature here tonight. I am Dustin Granger, a recent candidate for state senate district 27 here in Southwest Louisiana. I want to thank all the members of the committee and the house and the senate staff who have participated in these meetings. The regional meetings are important step in promoting transparency and accountability. We appreciate that you're taking the time to hear from citizens in each region of the state. Each part of the state faces similar and different challenges. I'm grateful for the opportunity to address some of these challenges facing Southwest Louisiana.

[01:25:03]

First, I want to talk a little bit about fairness. None of the six Louisiana congressional seats are even remotely competitive between political parties, with five of the seats being safe republican and one of the seats being safe democrat. African-American and democratic voters only have 17% of the representation in congress when we consistently have 40% to 50% of the voting population. Democratic

1 voters have only 31% to 32% of the representation in
2 the Louisiana House and Senate with over 40% of the
3 voting population, like I said, and African Americans
4 and minorities only have 23% of the representation,
5 but 33% to 40% of the population is undemocratic, is
6 unamerican, and it's morally wrong. We need
7 competitive districts by party and racial
8 proportionality. When we have uncompetitive
9 elections, we have unchallenged seats so back in 2019
10 with the legislative elections, 31% of the senate
11 seats went unchallenged, 38% of the house seats went
12 unchallenged. How is that democratic? This leads to
13 more ideologically extreme candidates because they
14 only have to compete with one party. Of course, I'm
15 not talking about you all. This also causes a lot of
16 resentment towards leaders and government for people
17 that are left out and it also causes voter apathy. It
18 leads to low participation and the feeling of voters
19 feeling that their vote doesn't matter and that's a
20 big problem we have here in the State of Louisiana.
21 So, I recommend for the congressional districts to
22 please divide up Baton Rouge, in New Orleans,
23 African-Americans it's considered one of the most
24 racially gerrymandered districts in the entire nation
25 to pack them all in one area it's just wrong. And

also, I asked to keep North Louisiana in one district as well. In my opinion, South Louisiana and Southwest Louisiana, we differ in many different ways from North Louisiana culturally and economically. So in the state of legislature, I just ask that you focus on competition and racial proportionality. And these redistricting issues are complicated and I want to recommend to the legislators and all the constituents listening, there's a report that I came across from Louisiana progress, which supports a fair and transparent and accountable redistricting process. The report is called Make Every Vote Count, and it's available at the Louisiana progress website, so I hope everybody checks it out. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have Donald Fondel. I hope I pronounced that right, sir.

DONALD FONDEL: Fondel.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Fondel. I apologize.

DONALD FONDEL: I just like to speak that like Dustin just said, they don't even have to compete in my district for congress. My vote don't matter. They don't even come in my neighborhood because our vote really just don't matter. And it's hard to encourage people to vote when your vote really just don't matter. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, sir. Next, we have and I'm going to please ask that the audience doesn't applause or I'll say the other side or boo. We're just we're trying to keep it civil and make sure we hear everybody. Thank you. Next, we have Megan Duhon with the Acadia Paris Chamber of Commerce.

MEGAN DUHON: Good evening. My name is Megan Duhon and I'm the president and CEO of the Acadia Parish Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development and I work proudly alongside our regional partner, One Acadiana to create and foster a vibrant business community. First, thank you, Madam Chairwoman Hewitt, Chairman Stefanski and committee members. We appreciate you taking the time to hear constituents on this critical matter. So, you may be wondering what does an Acadia and a cowboy have in common? It's a lot more than you think. The regions of Acadia and Southwest Louisiana are bound by obvious connections like Interstate 10.

[01:30:01]

A thriving rail system, and endless cultural similarities. Our agricultural assets like rice and sugar and crawfish can all be found as you travel through the regions. Rice grown and milled in the

heart of Acadia Parish, leave the Port of Lake Charles on a regular basis. I guess what I'm really trying to say is a Acadiana and Southwest Louisiana just simply go better together. We understand that the population shifts. We also understand that you as a committee are balancing several considerations and requests during this process. As you'll hear tonight from several of my regional partners, which we've been meeting for months on this very issue, many things tie us together, and we believe having a single Congressman representing our region is beneficial to the people and the economy. So, on behalf of Acadiana and the Southwest Louisiana, I humbly request for you to consider keeping Congressional District III as close to its current format as possible. Additionally, Acadia Parish has experienced substantial economic growth over the last several years. Our Parish is currently split into three different senate districts. On behalf of Acadia Parish, we are requesting consideration of a single senate district that would wholly represent the constituents of Acadia. Thank you for your leadership and your service, and thank you for your time tonight.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, Lea. Next, we have Creed Romano with Jeff Davis Parish Economic Development.

CREED ROMANO: Good evening, honorable members of this committee, and thank you for your time. I know that at this time of year, everyone's patience is getting -- and we're ready for the holiday, but I do thank you for your service to our State and for your valuable time. As Mr. Yon eloquently stated, I'm here sorry. Let me just say that my name is Creed Romano. I am here representing Jeff Davis Parish. I am just here to voice our support to keep our Acadiana and Southwest region together. There's a lot of synergy and a lot of momentum that we're making. So, I know that this is a very difficult task, and I thank you for undertaking this on behalf of our citizens. And I ask that I know that change is something we try to -- something that we're not very accustomed to, but I know that it has to happen. So, we ask that you please just keep the Acadiana and Southwest region together and Jeff Davis Parish a whole as possibly as much or in whole as you can, and have a nice holiday. Happy New Year.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, Mr. Romano. Next, we have Keely Mc --I'm going to -- it. I apologize.

1 McGibney, McGibney. It's not bad for One Acadiana. I
2 apologize.
3 KELLY MCGIBNEY: Look, you know, it's fine.
4 Everybody does it. It's my parent's fault. They
5 shouldn't have given me the family name. So, my name
6 is Kelly McGibney. I'm director of policy,
7 initiatives and governmental affairs at One Acadiana.
8 We represent more than 600 businesses and individuals
9 in the nine Parish Acadiana region, and we proudly
10 serve as the voice of Acadiana's regional business
11 community. And I'm here today to echo what my
12 colleagues Megan Duhon with Acadia Parish Chamber,
13 Creed Romano with Jeff Davis Economic Development and
14 George Swift I know with Southwest Economic
15 Development is here to speak on as well. We joined as
16 the Acadiana Southwest Louisiana super-region. Many
17 of you have heard from us several times this year and
18 maybe for the past two or three years. At this point,
19 I should probably start by thanking you for putting
20 up with us. We really appreciate you always listening
21 and we appreciate the opportunity to address the
22 joint committee again this evening. So, our super
23 region includes 13 parishes that are served by One
24 Acadiana and Southwest Economic Development in our
25 economic development efforts and the nearly 1 million

1 residents that call our super-region home enjoy our
2 shared culture, our values, many of the things that
3 Megan and Creek spoke about and they make this a
4 great place to live, work and raise families. And as
5 economic developers, we are also keenly aware of the
6 collective assets that our region boasts that are
7 woven together here. Our infrastructure network
8 encompasses interstate 10 and 49, the Gulf
9 Intercoastal Waterway, 13 ports, 13 airports, more
10 than 25 certified sites. This is a network that
11 supports trade and industry throughout the entire
12 country and throughout the world. This network also
13 serves as a crucial hub for our oil and gas industry
14 or agricultural industry. This are enterprises that
15 our super-region is known for throughout the entire
16 world. We're also incredibly proud that our higher
17 education partners which include UL Lafayette, LSU
18 units, McNeese State University where we're proud to
19 be here tonight. SOWELA Technical Community College
20 and South Louisiana Community College.
21 [01:35:02]
22 These institutions are leading research and workforce
23 development programs that are better positioning
24 Louisiana to meet workforce needs and innovation
25 needs of the future. Our infrastructure, industry and

education networks are just some of the ties that bind us. And we understand that population shift that you're tasked with an incredibly difficult job over the next several weeks, and you've been working on this for realistically a couple of years already. These processes are very difficult. We care deeply about our community. We know that you care deeply about your communities and the state and so, our super-region is just here to ask that we remain unified with the Third Congressional District boundary remaining as close to its existing footprint as possible and just want to thank you again for your leadership and your time this evening. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have Eric Broussard-Bueno.

ERIC BROUSSARD-BUENO: Good evening. We're here because we have a constitutional obligation to count the masses in an official census every decade and use those updated numbers to properly make redistricting adjustments. The great challenge here is that redistricting is vulnerable to Gerrymandering. It's the intentional manipulation of the redistricting process by which the people in political power are able to keep or change that political power. To give an example of the partisan distortions and

1 politically drawn plans, in 2011, Republican
2 lawmakers drew new district lines in North Carolina
3 and in Pennsylvania. The following year in 2012, the
4 Democratic U.S. House candidates effectively won more
5 votes than the Republican candidates in both of those
6 States, but Democrats only won 9 out of 31 seats.
7 Senator Reverend Warnock, the first black Senator
8 ever elected in the State of Georgia dedicated his
9 first words on the U.S. Senate floor to this subject
10 by stating, "We are witnessing right now a massive
11 and unabashed assault on voting rights unlike
12 anything we've seen since the Jim Crow era. This is
13 Jim Crow in new clothes," Senator Warnock said. Since
14 January 2021 alone, the United States has seen over
15 400 voter suppression bills introduced all over the
16 country in our state legislatures. Jim Crow killed
17 voting rights for generations. Gerrymandering is
18 repeating history. We must protect minority groups
19 and communities of interest, which are the most
20 vulnerable to arbitrary line drawing in the
21 redistricting process that happens by the
22 constitution every 10 years. Unfair maps are a major
23 form of structural racism hiding in plain sight. In
24 recent redistricting plans Gerrymander districts have
25 packed and cracked black communities to secure the

1 advantage of their power. By rigging the system to
2 reduce the democratic representation and keep
3 incumbents in office, Gerrymandered maps dilute the
4 voting power of people of color and their neighbors.
5 Those voters have little recourse when lawmakers pass
6 or refuse to overturn state level policies that in
7 turn hurt people of color. For decades, loud racist
8 campaign rhetoric and behind the scenes
9 Gerrymandering plans have worked hand in glove stump
10 speeches about law and order or immigrant stealing
11 jobs, get candidates elected. Gerrymandering
12 incentivizes appealing to the most polarized voters
13 and all but guarantees an incumbent will be able to
14 stay in office. The incumbent's presence in the
15 legislature allows the state to enact increasingly
16 extreme legislation on issues ranging from guns, to
17 health care, to climate change, to prisons, to
18 policing and of course, voting. We often hear racism
19 hurts white people too. That always seemed like a
20 line of justification to me. White supremacy in all
21 of its many forms has of course, protected and
22 glorified white people. But we can see through
23 decades of proof as long as one major political party
24 is simultaneously the party of overt racist rhetoric
25 and disenfranchising voters and eroding public health

and stalling action on climate change, then racism will indeed actually threaten us all, black, white, Latino, Asian or otherwise.

[01:40:12]

Gerrymandering works against people, particularly Louisiana residents, that need the most assistance in making this great human experiment work in the first place. Senator Warnock's final words in his historic first floor speech went on to say, the four most powerful words in a democracy are the people have spoken. Therefore, we must ensure that all of the people can speak. Thank you. I'm grateful for this opportunity for the public record.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, sir. Next, we have Carolyn Woosley with [INDISCERNIBLE 01:40:50].

CAROLYN WOOSLEY: Thank you all for coming to Southwest Louisiana. I represent my own ideas and opinions, not [INDISCERNIBLE 01:41:07], but I am a proud member. This era is when the rubber meets the road for Louisiana. Louisiana needs to up its game. We're going to get left behind, and proof is in the numbers of the other southern states, and nationally meanwhile, there is momentum to divide districts along partisan lines. When we have so much at stake that seems almost high schoolish, how will you divide

1 Louisiana so that the people's needs, the people's
2 interests and not the special interests are
3 represented. We know well how special interests have
4 worked for decades in Louisiana being the great
5 extraction economy that we are with few white-collar
6 jobs to represent those corporate offices. While
7 placing party first address the issues of building
8 strong jobs, families, a strong workforce. We're as
9 strong as our weakest link. We need a resilient land
10 mass, and we need resilience for these astonishing
11 storms that we face. Examples of where we stand in
12 our weakest link. We are number one in the nation
13 that is in the world for incarceration. A great deal
14 of our workforce there's some talent. It's seriously
15 interesting and dynamic inside of our prisons. But we
16 have a prison economy as well. Can we build an
17 economy that diversifies away from prisons? We
18 certainly need jobs, but we're high in infant
19 mortality. There are opportunities there for
20 improving yet more our medical economy. The auto
21 insurance rates, I understand in Louisiana are quite
22 remarkable, and I believe we have quite a few
23 uninsured motorists on the road. We have a third to
24 more than that by far on Medicaid. Medicaid has an
25 annual income limit below $19,000 a year. Only 12% to

15% of us itemize. That's telling. We're devoted to 20th century industries to a remarkable extent, and that speaks to our educational muscularity. We love our 20th century industry. We need natural gas for another 50 years or so. But the writing is on the wall and we need an educational standard that is high and more widespread across the state. And back to our ultimate resilience we're losing a football field of land an hour on a good day and we have saltwater intrusion in our Aquifers. The rice field is down, go talk to LSU Ag. So, we do not have time for partisan bickering and big money deals in back rooms. They happen. They've been happening for 100 years and we all know it. We need to put us first. Thank you.

[01:45:01]

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have Adam Moore.

ADAM MOORE: Good evening. My name is Adam Moore and I'm born in Cameron [INDISCERNIBLE 01:45:21]. What hurt me when I came here? I thank God for all of you here today than all our representatives. But this country, I mean, this Parish, Louisiana. I'm born and raised here. We didn't even open up with a prayer. God help us and a lot of us in here go to Church, but we don't even -- God help us. But we sitting here and

we're talking and we're saying, do you care that the population is derailing after we had Rita, Katrina, Laura, Delta? Do we care about Jerry Manton? Man, hey, let's isolate these people over here. Do you care? Man, God help us. I had a man in the Bible and I'm going to sit down after I say this, [INDISCERNIBLE 01:46:26], in the book of Daniel. God told him, he said, "I want you. I know you are all powerful Neza Caneza [PH 01:46:35]. I want you to help the poor. He went on for nine months. And after that, he said, forget that, I'm going to be a King. And God had to put him in the field eating like a cow. Do anyone care about? Hey, it's not my fault that I'm black. I'm born this way. If you're upset about it, go to God. But I love y'all and I hope and pray to God that all of us here say something to touch your heart, not to isolate people. Help us. And I'm not talking about -- hear your mom and say, "Oh, money don't grow on trees." That's right. Money don't fall out of the sky, either that is right, too. Money come from the ground up. That's how you get your money from the ground up. Love you all.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you, sir. Next, we have George Swift with SWLA Economic Development Alliance.

GEORGE SWIFT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator Hutt and members of the committee, we really appreciate you taking the time to come to Southwest Louisiana. Many of you are here today for our legislature luncheon, and we hope that you've enjoyed being in Southwest Louisiana. I'm George Smith of the Chamber Southwest. We represent over 1200 businesses. Most of them are small businesses. We've been working with One Acadiana, as you've heard in the Jeff Davis Chamber and Acadia Chamber, working together as a super region. On several issues, we have a lot of things in common, and one of the things that we've come together about is on the redistricting. And as you've heard, we think it makes good sense to keep our two regions together in the same congressional district. We have so much in common. We have a lot of family connections between Acadiana and Southwest Louisiana. We have our industry and economy and the ITIN card that ties us all together. And we would urge you, as we know, as difficult as the job is to try to keep our district as much intact as possible, and we would appreciate your support on this idea. And again, we thank you for being in Southwest Louisiana today and we look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have I think -- I believe it's Brianne Robinson with the 337 Vote Project.

[01:50:00]

BRIAN ROBINSON: Hello. So, I'm speaking on a congressional-terms. I'm kind of for splitting up District II - District III where Lafayette and Lake Charles is especially with our last year what we dealt with natural disasters and everything like that. I feel that because just in a sense, I feel like we deserve better representation when it comes on all levels of government. So, I am for that and even if it doesn't get to the point where we can split that congressional district up, just stepping forth and having better representation not just for the plants economic wise, but also for the people. So, thank you.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have Michael Pernick with NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

MICHAEL PERNICK: Good evening, committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is Michael Pernick. I'm a redistricting council with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, or LDF. Back in October, LDF and a coalition of 16 civil and human rights organizations submitted a

letter to this committee presenting seven different configurations for potential congressional maps, all of which had two majority black districts. In our submission, we reminded this committee of your affirmative obligation to ensure compliance with section two of the Voting Rights Act, which we believe likely requires the drawing of two majority black congressional districts. Over the last two months, you've heard from countless community members and civic leaders from across the state urging you to adopt a map with two majority black congressional districts. There have recently been some concerns expressed in the media in response to our submission, and I want to briefly respond to a couple of those concerns. First, we understand there is some interest from members in generally preserving the current configuration and tweaking around the edges, because back in 2011, the United States Department of Justice precleared the current map under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Now, this is critical to understand, just because the map was precleared under Section 5 does not mean that it complies with Section 2. Section 5 and Section 2 tackle very different problems and impose different legal obligations on this committee. The United States Supreme Court has

1 made this abundantly clear, stating, and "We refuse
2 to equate a Section 2 vote dilution inquiry with the
3 Section 5 retrogression standard and there are
4 federal courts across the country, including here in
5 Louisiana, that have actually struck down maps for
6 violating Section 2, even though those very same maps
7 had been precleared by Section 5 by DOJ, rather under
8 Section 5. So, if courts at some point in this
9 process end up evaluating the maps that are enacted
10 by the legislature, those courts will look to the
11 requirements under Section 2, which are set forth in
12 the United States Supreme Court opinion, Thornburg v.
13 Gingles. Those courts will not rely on a preclearance
14 termination made for 10 years previously. So, in
15 short, the notion that a proposed map would be legal
16 in compliance with Section 2 simply because it's
17 similar to a map that had been enacted ten years ago
18 that was pre cleared by DOJ. That idea is not
19 consistent with black letter law. Second, we
20 understand that there are some concerns that have
21 been raised that the maps that we had introduced are
22 somewhat reminiscent of maps that have been struck
23 down by courts in Louisiana back in the 1990s. That
24 is not the case. The maps that were at issue in the
25 Hayes cases back in the 1990s were criticized by

courts for a variety of reasons, mostly because they didn't make any effort to respect traditional districting principles, they weren't compact, they split too many parishes. Unlike those maps that were struck down, the maps that we and our 16 partner coalition organizations submitted did take those principles into account. Our maps demonstrate that it is possible to draw a congressional map with two majority black districts that is more compact and splits fewer precincts than either the current map or the maps that were struck down back in the 1990s. And the seven maps that we submitted are just a few of the many configurations that are possible that do a better job of honoring traditional districting principles while also providing black voters with an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in two districts.

[01:55:14]

So, in closing, in the current congressional map, it severely underrepresents Louisiana's black community. Although one-third of Louisiana's residents are black, only one out of six congressional districts is represented by a person who had the support of black voters. The time has come for a second majority black congressional district so that Louisiana's black

voters will finally be fairly represented in the congressional delegation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have Mark Ifland with Beauregard Parish Deepak.

MARK IFLAND: Good evening, members of the committee. I am representing the Democratic Party Executive Committee in Beauregard Parish. I just want to make a couple of requests that specific to our Parish. First of all, we in Beauregard Parish, we consider ourselves to be part of Southwest Louisiana. In addressing the U.S. Congressional Districts that's not recognized in the way the current districts are drawn. For the past decade, we've been in the fourth district, which is centered -- population centers in Shreveport-Bossier area. As Mr. Granger pointed out earlier, we in Southwest Louisiana don't have many connections with the Northern part of the state. Our connections in Beauregard Parish are here in Calcasieu Parish. Many of our residents are employed here. We come and do our shopping here. We have our entertainment here. We have many connections with Calcasieu Parish. We have very few with Shreveport. And so, we would like the committee to consider as far as U.S. Congressional districts, including Beauregard Parish, within the Southwest Louisiana

Congressional District. Our other request has to do with the state house districts. Currently, Beauregard Parish is split up into three different house districts, and we do not have the majority of voters in any of those three districts. So, as it currently stands, we have very little chance of having a resident of Beauregard Parish in the state legislature. So, our request is that in redistricting the house districts in the state that the Beauregard Parish be split up into no more than two separate house districts so that we have more of an opportunity to have a Beauregard Parish resident representing us in the state legislature. Thank you. I know that you have an incredibly difficult job and that it is very hard to draw maps that everyone will think is fair. These are a couple of requests that we have from Beauregard Parish. Thank you.

CHAIRMAAN STEFANSKI: Thank you. Next, we have Jake Shaheen.

JAKE SHAHEEN: Who's got my time.

CHAIRMAAN STEFANSKI: Start.

JAKE SHAHEEN: All right. I wasn't aware that I just filled out the piece of paper. You'll just let anybody walk up in here and sign a piece of paper and let them talk? It's crazy. I don't think what I've

1 got to say is going to be as eloquent or as moving as
2 anybody who's already spoken, but I do want to
3 reiterate that. Well, first of all, my name is Jake
4 Shaheen. I'm a citizen of Lake Charles. I'm alumni
5 from McNeese right here. I'm also a math teacher and
6 I think based on the proportions of our state that
7 are white compared to the black and minority
8 percentages -- excuse me, I'm sorry. We need to have
9 at least two majority-minority districts because
10 that's just math. I also want to advocate for some of
11 you here who are representing the state that rank
12 choice voting would kind of eliminate the concerns of
13 Gerrymandering because we would have a wider field of
14 candidates. It would increase democracy and allow for
15 more minority philosophies to kind of get in and
16 smaller candidates to make it to actually be
17 candidates. It also would reduce costs in elections.
18 So, for example, Mr. Stein was in -- his race
19 recently where he had three candidates and had he
20 failed to secure 51% of the vote in the primary.
21 [02:00:04]
22
23
24
25

TRANSPERFECT

I, Anders Nelson, hereby certify that the document "F865557-louisiana-redistricting-2021-lake-charles" is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true and accurate transcription from English to English.

Anders Nelson
Project Manager

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