

Exhibit C



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Transcript of Press Conference

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WORLDWIDE COURT REPORTING & LITIGATION TECHNOLOGY

1 TRANSCRIPT OF VIDEO-RECORDED

2 STATE OF UTAH LEGISLATURE

3 PRESS CONFERENCE

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5 FEBRUARY 27, 2020

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19 Pages: 1 - 24

20 Transcribed by: Christian Naaden

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 SEN. BRAMBLE: And we believe that this will
3 be stronger and better than what we started with. So,
4 thank you all for coming.

5 Next up is Representative Francis Gibson. This
6 would not have happened without the unwavering support
7 of leadership. Representative Gibson is House Majority
8 Leader has been directly involved in -- in this has as
9 Senator -- well, President Adams, Speaker Wilson,
10 Senator Vickers is our Senator Majority Leader.

11 So, Representative Gibson.

12 REP. GIBSON: Thanks for coming. When
13 Representative Chavez-Houck was announced as executive
14 director, she's a great friend. We worked many years in
15 the legislature together and so it was nice to see her
16 as we've done this.

17 Over the last year we began conversations with
18 Better Boundaries to establish a framework to address
19 some of the constitutional concerns that were in Prop
20 4.

21 In this bill much of the original intent and
22 language of Prop 4 is still intact and it will provide

1 legal clarity and still reflecting the will of the
2 people and having an independent commission.

3 In June of last year the Supreme Court ruled
4 that redistricting and responsibilities for the sole --
5 were laid entirely within the purview of the
6 legislature.

7 As legal issues arose, when the proposition
8 re- -- was presented they put in the statute -- we put
9 st- -- standards and statues and began to work with
10 Better Boundaries to find solutions to those issues
11 that we found were unconstitutional.

12 Throughout the discussions Better Boundaries
13 proponents it became clear the independent commission
14 will need to determine their own rules. The legislative
15 committee --redistrict committee will make its own
16 rules as well as the Better Boundaries' redistricting
17 committee.

18 This agreement has insured that we're honoring
19 the will of the people and will still make the
20 necessary amendments to put more on this -- this will
21 be on solid ground. It has been many, many discussions
22 back to last year.

1 I think we've met every other day this session
2 until about a week ago. And so there was -- it just --
3 it was a standard meeting, okay, we'd go back and think
4 about it and we'd come back the next day. And, so, lots
5 of different meetings, lots of coordination with
6 various people and various stakeholders but I think
7 what you'll see is a good compromise between both
8 sides.

9 I do also want to recognize Representative Val
10 Peterson who actually started the discussions a year
11 ago and has continued those with me as well as my
12 colleague. And so for House leadership it was both he
13 and I.

14 And I think now we'll hear from Jeff Wright,
15 co-chair of Better Boundaries.

16 MR. WRIGHT: Politics is the art of the
17 possible. Better Boundaries is satisfied that through
18 negotiations we have a compromise and a legislative
19 partner that together will make the process of
20 redistricting more transparent, fair and accountable.

21 This is a good compromise that will give the
22 voters of Utah greater confidence in the redistricting

1 process. This has not been an easy process. Democracy
2 is oftentimes messy but it has been a good process.

3 And I want to thank Senator Evan Vickers. I
4 want to thank Curt Bramble, Senator Kirk Bramble. I had
5 a lot of late night phone calls and a lot of weekend
6 phone calls that I begin - my wife began to ask like
7 who are you talking to. He's an honorable person, he's
8 a good faith negotiator and really enjoyed working with
9 him.

10 Senator Gene Davis, Representative Francis
11 Gibso- -- Gibson, Representative Carol Spackman Moss,
12 Representative Val Peterson, Stokes' strategy, Spencer
13 Stokes and Adam Kolowich, Peter Watkins, Noah
14 Rosenberg.

15 Over 500,000 Utahans who voted for Prop 4, the
16 bipartisan and community coalition that makes up Better
17 Boundaries. This was the group that got together and
18 made this happen. And I very much appreciate -- we very
19 much appreciate the process.

20 To those who were skeptical, criticism is
21 easy, achievement is hard. This has been a multi-year
22 process and in the end we have moved public opinion,

1 changed how we do re-districting, created an
2 independent commission that only a handful of other
3 states have achieved. And partnered with the Utah
4 legislature in good faith. This is a win for the
5 citizens of Utah.

6 MS. CHAVEZ-HOUCK: Thanks everyone for being
7 here. As our GOP co-chair of Better Boundaries Jeff
8 Wright just mentioned, there's been a lot of time and
9 effort and experience and expertise and back and forth
10 over the past few weeks and even through beginning as
11 of last year.

12 Before I go much further, I do want to point
13 out that former Senator Repre- -- slash-Representative
14 Karen Morgan is here.

15 As I sit here -- I stand here before you I'm
16 reflecting on the fact that she along with the late
17 Representative Roz McGee were standard barriers for
18 moving for the concept of an independent advisory
19 redistricting commission for many years before I picked
20 up the vanguard in 2009.

21 And at the end of the day when I'm inviting
22 people to consider is the fact that the commission that

1 we have in this bill moving forward is so much more
2 rigorous, so much more accountable, does more than
3 anything that I think that Karen and I or Roz could
4 have ever hoped for. So, it is -- it is going to be
5 contingent on the public to hold the commission
6 accountable.

7 We have given them the guidelines, we have
8 given them the standards to which they need to account.
9 They may evaluate how they will implement those
10 standards but they will be accountable to those.

11 I can't overstate how much of what Jeff said
12 is true about this commission. And the passage of this
13 bill does protect the core concept of Prop 4 and its
14 add Utah to a handful states like our neighboring
15 states of Idaho and Arizona. A lot of people don't
16 realize Idaho has an independent redistricting
17 commission as well as Montana, who utilized some form
18 of redistricting commission to draw maps.

19 Our theme for the past few months of Better
20 Boundaries has been to envision the commission. As
21 Utahans prepare to respond to the 2020 census, and
22 think about what makes their neighborhoods and their

1 communities unique, this sets the stage for the work of
2 redistricting next year.

3 We invite the public to consider the
4 opportunity for their participation as far as the
5 commission is concerned. Not only can they reach out to
6 legislative leadership, if they're interested in
7 serving on the commission but they will have many
8 opportunities to weigh in as part of the public meeting
9 process to see the work on the commission -- of the
10 commission on its website and to attend meetings as the
11 maps are presented to the legislature.

12 This is not Better Boundaries' commission.
13 This is the people's commission. And the public should
14 hold it to account but also be an active member in this
15 process. Better Boundaries has always stood for a fair
16 and transparent redistricting process.

17 But we can't do it alone. It's a partnership
18 among all stakeholders. This will be a step in the
19 right direction to ultimately end to remembering for a
20 better Utah and for a better America.

21 Thanks so much for your time.

22 MALE: Who's next?

1 SEN. BRAMBLE: Let's see. Well, one thing in
2 my comments, I -- I didn't specifically give a shoutout
3 to the minority party. Gene Davis -- Senator Gene
4 Davis, Representative Carol Spackman-Moss, our minority
5 leader in the Senate, the minority leader in the House,
6 Senator Mayne and Representative King, we could not
7 have done this without our partners from the other side
8 of the aisle and they were with us at the table as we
9 negotiated this.

10 So, Senator Davis.

11 SEN. DAVIS: Thank you, Senator Bramble.

12 It's been my pleasure to serve on this.
13 Negotiating team, I can tell you, it's been a tough,
14 hard fight all the way from the time back, I guess it
15 was a year ago -- two years ago last January.

16 Right after the referendum passed Senator
17 Bramble and I bumped into each other at an NCSL meeting
18 and we began discussion on this that then moved forward
19 into January and then ses- -- last session and we began
20 the discussion not to do away with Prop 4 but to make
21 it work.

22 Some of the problems that we faced with the

1 Prop 4 proposition was the fact that some of it in
2 process of the legislature didn't fit and we've been
3 able to negotiate that out so it does fit with the
4 legislative process.

5 We've been able to give the independent
6 commission the ability to appear and present their maps
7 in a public forum with the amount of time that they
8 need and that'll -- that's part of the law. And, so,
9 they will have that, that independence and that
10 presentation ability.

11 So it truly is former Representative Houch
12 just pointed out is the fact that this is the people's
13 commission. It's an independent commission. And very
14 important that we as legislators listen to the people
15 and what their presentations are and legally they're a
16 representative of the people in this process.

17 Thank you.

18 SEN. BRAMBLE: Next we'll hear from Senator
19 Evan Vickers.

20 SEN. VICKERS: Thank you. It's obviously
21 really nice to be here today and having had a so- --
22 found a solution. Let me give you a few insights into

1 how things have worked through the last year and a half
2 or so.

3 Francis and I have come to realize that if we
4 look at our phone and mine says Stewart Adams or his
5 says Brad Wilson, that means, uh-oh, we got a new
6 assignment. And that's kind of what happened here.

7 And so I would -- on our side, you know,
8 Senator Bramble, Senator Davis, who's been a rockstar
9 in this, you know, Representative Peterson,
10 Representative Gibson, Representative Spackman-Moss,
11 it's been a real corroborative process. This isn't a
12 republican, solution, this isn't a democrat solution,
13 this is a, you know, bipartisan solution.

14 Some of the -- you know, the meetings were
15 very civil. They're -- obviously, we had difference of
16 opinion, but let me just tell you how -- how things
17 have worked. A year ago during the session we met
18 almost daily for a number of days trying to figure out
19 some solutions. We made a -- up a lot of ground to
20 covered a lot of bases, but we really just didn't get
21 to a point where we felt comfortable.

22 And so we said, okay, we're going to push the

1 pause button. And we both agreed that we were going to
2 kind of go into silence mode, step back and -- and
3 pause. And to everybody's credit, that's what --
4 exactly what happened. You know, then with this
5 session, ki- -- you know, starting up and a little more
6 urgency let's get after it, you know, and we move
7 forward.

8 And I don't want to steal her line but Carol -
9 - Carol told me one time, we were sitting next to each
10 other and she says, you know, if we could kick these
11 attorneys out of the room and -- I think a school
12 teacher and a pharmacist could figure this out. But,
13 you know, it's just -- it's -- it's been a -- it's been
14 a difficult journey, it's been a -- it's been a good
15 positive journey and it's been a rewarding journey.

16 So, for me personally, I really -- I'm really
17 glad that I've had the opportunity to be part of it and
18 I'm really glad for the solution. I give credit to
19 Senator Bramble on our side for being the negotiator he
20 is and the ability to think outside the box and I think
21 that's helped lead to the solution we have.

22 So thank you.

1 REP. MOSS: It's been a real honor to be on
2 this committee, this ad hoc committee because people
3 didn't really know there was a committee but this
4 negotiating team. I would just add one word to what
5 Senator Vickers said about the meetings being civil.
6 I'd say heated but civil and I -- I think this exchange
7 was necessary and it brought us to a -- a solution and
8 a compromise we had today.

9 And if there's anything I've learned in my 20
10 years in the legislature is that in order to accomplish
11 almost anything, there has to be compromise. And that's
12 exactly what we did. And I'll -- I'll call it a
13 goodwill compromise because it wasn't ne- -- a week
14 ago, we had nothing. We ended negotiations, it was not
15 a happy time.

16 But then we came back together and this is the
17 solution. And I'll say on -- with goodwill on both
18 sides we've reached something that still honors the
19 public's desire to have an independent commission for
20 redistricting.

21 And then I just like to conclude with this
22 insight. This will be -- coming up will be the third

1 redistricting process that I've been through.

2 The first one came just a year after I was
3 elected and I have to tell you, it was not anywhere as
4 good as the last one. There were funny little lines
5 drawn and I was in at -- my particular home was called
6 the Moss keyhole, a little line that looped out to
7 satisfy an incumbent.

8 Now that didn't happen last time because we
9 had software, we have programs that you can do it in a
10 much better way but I predict that this will be the
11 best one so far.

12 And if you can add perspective from other
13 points of view as this commission will do and the maps
14 they present, I hope that the legislature will look
15 closely at those maps and they can learn from those and
16 get ideas from those and make it better for everyone.

17 So, I'm looking forward to the best
18 redistricting process that we've had in 20 years. And I
19 will -- I can go back to my constituents and honestly
20 say, this is a good compromise and you can be pleased
21 that your voices were heard and if you hadn't spoken up
22 and if you hadn't voted in large numbers we wouldn't be

1 here today.

2 So, thanks to all of who were on the
3 negotiating com-- -- committee, thank you for including
4 me and thank you all for being here today.

5 SEN. BRAMBLE: Now we'll just -- we'll open it
6 up for questions. I -- I will point out that staff, it
7 takes a CPA to get a number wrong. It's Senate Bill
8 200, not 2000.

9 So, I apologize. I -- I know Spencer's already
10 had a call out. This really started with Spencer
11 Stokes, Jean Davis and I right after the -- the
12 referendum.

13 And for those of us that represent districts
14 where the referendum failed, and for those of us that
15 represent districts where the referendum passed, we can
16 all hold our heads high, say this is better for the
17 state of Utah.

18 So, let's open it for questions to any of the
19 -- the group here. You guys are easy.

20 MALE: That's easy.

21 [talking in background, inaudible]

22 FEMALE: [inaudible] about guidance for the

1 rules of the commission shall adopt. Is that where --

2 SEN. BRAMBLE: Well, the -- the phraseology
3 that broke the -- the -- the -- the gridlock was that
4 the commission shall define and adopt the standards
5 that they believe are -- well, the standards and the
6 standards are articulated, there's six of them. And
7 then they shall use those standards as defined for
8 purposes of drawing the maps.

9 The challenge that we have an initiative can't
10 change the -- the State constitution regarding the
11 legislative responsibility in the redistricting.

12 The initiative itself, Proposition 4, at the
13 end of the day was still advisory although there was
14 some -- some concerns about some of the -- the
15 challenges on -- and some risks on some of the
16 unconstitutional or what we would believe would be held
17 unconstitutional provisions.

18 So, we -- we moved beyond that and we put in a
19 statute that the commission will be able to define
20 those specific standards of communities of interests
21 and core of previous existing boun- -- districts.

22 And no undue protection of a candidate, an

1 office holder or a political party. Those -- those six
2 are -- are articulated and they will be applied as
3 defined by the commission, just as the legislature will
4 adopt standards in a legislative committee that they
5 will then abide by.

6 And many of those standards that are in
7 statute that are going to be defined by the commission
8 are the same standards that our committee will adopt as
9 a legislative committee and have adopted each time
10 we've done redistricting.

11 I've been involved in three: 2001 faced the
12 redistricting in 2001 and 2011. Then many of you may
13 remember the redistricting in the event that Washington
14 D.C. was going to get a fourth seat before we did. And
15 we had one in 2007 or '08. So, yes, that's right,
16 they'll -- they'll define those standards.

17 FEMALE: The governor for -- for the
18 [inaudible] said that you had [inaudible] you would
19 include guidance on it.

20 MR. BRAMBLE: The governor claimed that I had
21 an epiphany?

22 FEMALE: Yes, he did.

1 MR. BRAMBLE: Did he tell you that it was a 3
2 a.m. epiphany? That -- that is accurate. We had -- we
3 had to find a way -- look, I credit Better Boundaries
4 for bringing the issue forward and being passionate
5 about their -- their vision. We can't -- we stalled on
6 a shall versus may.

7 And -- and what could be imposed upon on the
8 legislature in the context of the constitutional
9 framework as opposed to what the commission -- the
10 independent commission would have and we found a break
11 through and that was -- and I'm sorry the governor
12 defined it as a an epiphany at 3:00 a.m. but that's
13 what it was.

14 FEMALE: So is that -- so I -- I'm sure you
15 don't know the [inaudible] the commission may adopt
16 standards that prohibit [inaudible] any of the
17 following and then it lists [inaudible]. Is that what
18 you're talking about, the shall --

19 MR. BRAMBLE: No.

20 FEMALE: -- being in there. No.

21 MR. BRAMBLE: No.

22 FEMALE: That's why I asked.

1 MR. BRAMBLE: Where's Tom. I don't have a copy
2 of the bill here. Have you got one Tom?

3 FEMALE: The section before. Section 5 --

4 MR. BRAMBLE: Yeah. In Section --

5 FEMALE: -- [inaudible] --

6 MR. BRAMBLE: -- Section 5 --

7 FEMALE: Got it. Thank you.

8 MR. BRAMBLE: -- and you'll see there where it
9 says the commission shall define and adopt the
10 standards etcetera.

11 FEMALE: Okay. Thank you.

12 MALE: For the Better Boundaries so what --
13 what stops this then essentially when you get down to
14 the nitty-gritty of -- of redistricting that you create
15 these maps, you take them to the legislature and say,
16 hey, these are great maps, we think we should do it.

17 And they say nice maps we're going to go with
18 our own thing. What's -- what stopped that from being
19 [inaudible].

20 MS. CHAVEZ-HOUCK: So that's in part why we
21 were so adamant about having the standards be required
22 for the commission, is there is that what -- that --

1 that test that they have to take their maps through.

2 And, so, we are going to be con- -- it's going
3 to be contingent on the people of Utah and the public
4 to evaluate how the process moves forward.

5 That's why I keep saying the commission has to
6 be held accountable and in -- in evaluating those maps
7 and presenting those maps they will have had to run it
8 -- run it through the test that they will utilize to
9 determine whether it's -- it has -- it has literacy
10 partial [ph] or not.

11 So, it's more about the public holding -- it's
12 about the public holding the commission to account. And
13 then the contrast that could be made related to what
14 moves forward and what does not.

15 MALE 1: So, you're confident that without say
16 public pressure the legislature might adopted your maps
17 versus their own maps.

18 MS. CHAVEZ-HOUCK: Right. And I think there
19 are people in the public. We know some wonderful watch
20 dogs that will be keeping an eye on that process as it
21 goes forward who are very familiar with the processes
22 and will weigh in during the commission hearings and

1 the meetings.

2 So, yes, I -- I mean that is what we have. It
3 wasn't -- it is an advisory commission. So, we have --
4 we have to look at it through that prism too.

5 MALE: Because they have a legal right. It's
6 their legal authority to draw these maps and half --

7 MALE: It was the same thing that happened
8 four years ago --

9 SEN. BRAMBLE: If -- if I could. This -- Prop
10 4 even if we didn't amend it with Senate Bill 2000
11 [sic] at the end of the day --

12 MALE: [inaudible] --

13 SEN. BRAMBLE: -- 2- -- 200. I'll get it --

14 MALE: It's a long session, I understand.

15 SEN. BRAMBLE: -- no, no, no. It was a tax
16 bill that was 2000. Hopefully this will have a better
17 conclusion.

18 No, Senate -- Senate Bill 200 even without
19 those amendments the -- the initiative did not change
20 the constitution and the Prop 4, the legislature, there
21 were issues about that -- that we -- we've amended. But
22 it's always been advisory.

1 MALE: But there's always been a check and
2 balance to this process and it has always been advisory
3 and the public will play a part of this.

4 The legislature has agreed to be a partner in
5 this. So, you know, we think this is a good check and
6 balance. This is a good, more transparent process. So,
7 we're -- we're very happy that it's maintained that
8 transparency, that accountability.

9 SEN. VICKERS: So let me interject. We do have
10 some floor time we've got to get back to, so let me
11 finish up here. But let me just say this, I -- I look
12 at it a little different perspective.

13 I think that there's -- it puts really some
14 heavy responsibility on the independent commission and
15 I've said this numerous times through the -- through
16 the debate and through the negotiation process, I hope
17 they come up with some great maps.

18 I hope they come up with some maps that we can
19 use and -- and the legislature can adopt and I think
20 there's a little bit of pressure on them to do that.
21 And I think they will. I think you'll find good people
22 appointed to that, that commission, and I think they'll

1 do a great job and I think it'll be a really good
2 balancing act.

3 Hopefully we'll be coordinating between the
4 two commissions as far as like cities going to and that
5 because we don't want to duplicate those processes.

6 I think there's really an opportunity going --
7 moving forward to have a very cooperative process. So,
8 I appreciate everyone being here again and apologize,
9 we've got to take off and do some other legislative
10 work.

11 Thanks.

12 MALE: Thank you.

13 MALE: Thank you.

14 [applause]

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, Chris Naaden, a transcriber, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that to the best of my ability from the audio recordings and supporting information; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this case and have no interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome, the above 23 pages contain a full, true and correct transcription of the tape-recording that I received regarding the event listed on the caption on page 1.

I further declare that I have no interest in the event of the action.

October 22, 2024

Chris Naaden

(558256, Utah Redistricting Press Conference, 2-27-20)



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Conducted on February 27, 2020

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