

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

TRANSCRIPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
PUBLIC HEARING - RALEIGH SITE

In Raleigh, North Carolina
Tuesday, August 22, 2017
Reported by Robbie W. Worley

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**Plaintiffs'
Exhibit
607**

1 REP. LEWIS: The public hearing on
2 redistricting is called to order. I'd like to
3 begin by welcoming all of you that are here. Like
4 to ask your indulgence. We do have remote sites
5 that are hooked up. I've been asked by the
6 technical staff to please ask our members to be as
7 quiet as they can. It aids in the other locations
8 being able to hear what's being said and aids us in
9 being able to hear what's being said at the other
10 locations. I'd like to recognize the House and
11 Senate Sergeant at Arms that we have located
12 throughout the state and thank them for their help
13 in making today a success.

14 In a moment, I'm going to recognize the
15 Sergeant at Arms and the members that are present
16 at Raleigh. We're then going to go to each remote
17 site as a test and ask the presiding chair at each
18 remote site to please introduce the members and
19 Sergeant at Arms that are at your site as well. So
20 with that in Raleigh, for the House Sergeant at
21 Arms we have Garland Shephard, Reggie Sills,
22 Marvin Lee, Terry McCraw and Thomas Terry. For the
23 Senate, we have Larry Hancock, Charles Marsalis and
24 Becky Myrick. I'd also would point out that our
25 court reporter is here, Robbie Worley of Raleigh,

1 and we appreciate her continued dedicated service.
2 Again, I welcome everyone to this public hearing on
3 redistricting.

4 I am Representative David Lewis, the
5 Senior Chairman of the House Select Committee on
6 Redistricting. With me today are Chairman Senator
7 Ralph Hise of the Senate Redistricting Committee
8 and also Chairman Representative Nelson Dollar of
9 the House Committee. With me in Raleigh are
10 Representatives Jackson, Dixon, Farmer-Butterfield,
11 Garrison, Gill, Grange, Davis, Howard, Hunter,
12 Hurley, Michaux, Malone, Willingham, Wray and also
13 Senators Blue, Lee, Newton, Harrington, Gunn and
14 McKissick.

15 At the Raleigh site, did I miss any
16 member of the committee? The Chair would also
17 point out there are several members who are here
18 who are not members of the committee. We certainly
19 welcome them and thank them for their attendance.
20 We're going to go now to Beaufort Community
21 College -- to Beaufort Community College. I'd like
22 for the Chair to introduce himself and the members
23 that are there with him at this time.

24 SEN. BROWN: Thank you. Hi, my name's
25 Harry Brown. I'm in the Senate. I represent

1 District 6, which is Onslow and Jones County. Mike
2 Speciale in the House. Mike -- sorry, now I have
3 to get it right. Mike -- Mike, you represent the
4 Beaufort and --

5 REP. SPECIALE: Craven County.

6 SEN. BROWN: -- Craven and Pamlico
7 County. Then Norm Sanderson, who's in the Senate,
8 he represents District 3 -- 2, which is Carteret,
9 Craven and Pamlico County. Our Sergeant at Arms on
10 the House side is Bill Bass, Jim Moran and Jim
11 Hamilton from the Senate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 REP. LEWIS: Thank you, Senator Brown.
13 Next, we'd like to go to Halifax Community College.
14 Would the chairman at Halifax Community College
15 recognize themselves and their members and their
16 support staff, please?

17 REP. J. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
18 I'm Representative John Bell. Oh, thank you, Mr.
19 Chairman. Representative John Bell, Halifax
20 Community College. With us today is Sergeant at
21 Arms from the House, Bill Moore and Doug Harris,
22 Sergeant at Arms from the Senate, Tom Burroughs and
23 Frances Patterson. We also have in attendance
24 Representative Bobbie Richardson and staff from
25 Senator Angela Bryant's office. Thank you, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 REP. LEWIS: Thank you, Representative
3 Bell. We'd now like to test and introduce our
4 Fayetteville site. Fayetteville Community
5 College -- Fayetteville Technical Community
6 College, I guess it would be. If the chairman
7 there could introduce themselves and members.

8 REP. SZOKA: All right. Mr. Chairman,
9 I'm here. This is Representative John Szoka. My
10 co-chair is Senator Brent Jackson. Other
11 representatives here --

12 REP. LEWIS: Representative Szoka, if you
13 could hold just a minute. We're having trouble
14 with Fayetteville. Let's try it again.

15 REP. SZOKA: Is this better?

16 REP. LEWIS: Yes, sir.

17 REP. SZOKA: All right. Thank you, Mr.
18 Chair. My name is Representative John Szoka. The
19 co-chair here is Senator Brent Jackson.
20 Representatives in attendance are Representative
21 Billy Richardson, Representative Floyd,
22 Representative Lucas and Representative Pierce.
23 Our House Sergeant at Arms are Jonas Cherry and
24 David Leighton and our Senate Sergeant at Arms are
25 Giles Jeffreys and Terry Edmondson. Thank you.

1 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. I'm going to go
2 now to the Guilford County Community College, our
3 site at Guilford County. If the chairman there
4 could identify themselves and their members.

5 REP. STEVENS: Hi. We can't hear you
6 yet. Can you hear me yet?

7 REP. LEWIS: Yes, ma'am. We can hear
8 you.

9 REP. STEVENS: Representative Sarah
10 Stevens. I'm chairing this committee along with
11 Senator Trudy Wade. Our Sergeant at Arms from the
12 House side are Warren Hawkins and Malachi
13 McCullough. And we have Hal Roach from the Senate.
14 In addition, we have two other members present. We
15 have Representative Evelyn Terry and Senator Gladys
16 Robinson. Did I leave anyone out? Yep, we're
17 good.

18 REP. LEWIS: Thank you, ma'am. We'll now
19 go to Central Piedmont Community College in
20 Charlotte. If the presiding chairman could sign in
21 and introduce himself and -- or herself and the
22 members that are present.

23 REP. TORBETT: Good evening, Chairman
24 Lewis. John Torbett, member of North Carolina
25 House District 8. With us tonight is Senator

1 Waddell, Representative Dulin, Secretary --
2 Secretary -- Senator Bishop, Representative
3 Cunningham, Representative Carney, Representative
4 Bell and Representative Pittman. Our Sergeant at
5 Arms from the House side, Joe Crook, Russell
6 Salisbury. For the Senate, Linda Matthews and
7 Billy Fritscher. We're ready to go.

8 REP. LEWIS: Thank you, Representative
9 Torbett. And Caldwell Community College. If we
10 could sign in to Caldwell Community College.

11 SEN. DANIEL: Thank you. I'm Senator
12 Warren Daniel. With me from the list of the
13 delegations tonight are Representative Jonathan
14 Jordan from Watauga County, Representative Hugh
15 Blackwell from Burke County and Representative
16 Destin Hall from Caldwell County. Sergeants at
17 Arms, if you would raise your hands. Here from the
18 House, is Bill Riley, Barry Moore, Terry Barnhardt
19 and John Enloe. And we also have Officer Kane from
20 the General Assembly Police in Raleigh.

21 REP. LEWIS: Very good. We welcome you
22 all. Ladies and gentlemen, today's hearing is an
23 effort on the part of the two committees to hear
24 public comments on the proposed 2017 House and
25 Senate plans to comply with the court's order in

1 Covington versus the State of North Carolina.
2 Besides this location here Raleigh in Room 643 of
3 the Legislative Office Buildings, we have
4 identified and recognized six satellite locations.
5 They are Central Piedmont Community College in
6 Charlotte, Fayetteville Technical Community College
7 in Fayetteville, Caldwell Community College in
8 Hudson, Guilford Technical Community College in
9 Jamestown, the Halifax Community College in Weldon
10 and Beaufort Community College in -- in Washington.

11 I'd like to remind members of the public
12 that we are also accepting comment online at the
13 General Assembly website and via physical e-mail as
14 well as anyone. We are accepting comment in those
15 forms if there is someone who would like to offer
16 input but was not able to be here today. Members
17 of the committee do have and will have ability to
18 review and view the submitted written comments.
19 Now that the introductions and the sound checks are
20 out of the way, I'd like to thank the members of
21 the public for being here today and for
22 participating in the democratic process.

23 As you may be aware, the General Assembly
24 has a deadline of September 1st for approving new
25 districts. The committee released maps over the

1 weekend for review. Those maps are online. I'm
2 also told that there are hard copies at each site.
3 Our hearing tonight is so that we can hear from you
4 and your input on the districts themselves. You
5 should have noticed an opportunity to sign up with
6 the Sergeant at Arms as you walked in the room.

7 The Chair will also pause and point out
8 that there are members of the public that are in
9 Room 544, which is also in the Legislative Office
10 Building, who are able to hear what is being said
11 in here. Many of those have signed up to speak,
12 and we will certainly have staff coordinating back
13 and forth to welcome them into this room when it's
14 their turn to speak.

15 Each speaker, when recognized, will have
16 three minutes to speak. The Sergeant at Arms will
17 have a yellow card that he will flash when your
18 three minutes are nearing a close. He will -- he
19 or she will hold up a red card when your time has
20 expired. You may comment on whatever aspects of
21 the map you would like to. This is a free country,
22 and this is an open hearing.

23 It is helpful if your comments focus on
24 the maps that have been presented or alternative
25 ideas you have for complying with the court order.

1 I want to emphasize that the committee has adopted
2 criteria after its first meeting and that criteria
3 has been public for weeks now. Those criteria are
4 equal population, congruity, abiding by the
5 mandatory county groupings, trying to keep towns,
6 cities and precincts whole where possible,
7 incumbency protection, consideration of election
8 data, and drawing districts without regards to race
9 or ethnicity.

10 What we'd like to hear from the public,
11 specifically, is how to better meet our goals in
12 complying with those criteria. Addressing comments
13 towards a specific House or Senate district and
14 referencing a specific criteria that could be
15 better met would help this committee and its work.
16 Reading off prepared talking points or sending form
17 e-mails is also an accepted way to go on record.
18 However, when those comments stray from the
19 objective of the day, which is to comply with the
20 court order to redraw the maps, they may not be the
21 most constructive help. You are, of course, free
22 to do so anyway. With that -- do we have the
23 printed copies?

24 FEMALE SPEAKER: We're working on that.

25 REP. LEWIS: Do we have Raleigh?

1 FEMALE SPEAKER: Yes.

2 REP. LEWIS: So with that, we're going to
3 move now to -- what? Did you want to say anything,
4 Senator Hise?

5 SEN. HISE: Briefly.

6 REP. LEWIS: I'd like to recognize
7 Senator Hise, the Chairman of the Senate
8 Redistricting Committee, for some comments.

9 SEN. HISE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
10 Just a moment to clear up any confusion. We do
11 have -- one of the interest groups in the state has
12 been sending out information today that there were
13 public hearings today and tomorrow, and listed
14 sites for tomorrow hearing. Today is the only
15 hearings for this committee, only public hearings
16 for this committee. Therein, I just wanted to make
17 sure to clear up that confusion.

18 REP. LEWIS: All we're going to do in an
19 effort to try to facilitate moving around and
20 getting as many people to speak in as timely a
21 fashion as possible, we're going to start in
22 Raleigh. And then we're going to go to Jamestown
23 and then to Caldwell, based on the list I have. In
24 Raleigh -- and the Chair will apologize if there
25 are names that are mispronounced. The Chair would

1 ask, when you speak, if you would please pronounce
2 your name, so that the court reporter could record
3 it. The Chair is going to call three names at a
4 time in Raleigh, and then move to the next location
5 where we will take two at that location.

6 So the first three in Raleigh -- the
7 Chair, again, apologizes for any
8 mispronunciations -- Tawana Revels or Nevels, I
9 apologize for the handwriting -- Eva F. Lee and
10 Julie Tomkovic, if you would please approach the
11 microphone in the rear. You see our Sergeant at
12 Arms is standing there. He will help you speak.

13 We can turn the camera now from the Chair
14 to the public. And to prepare, in Jamestown, the
15 first two are Janice Siebert and Allen Megginson.
16 So if the Chairman there could prepare for that.
17 But again, Tawana Revels or Nevels, I apologize if
18 I misspoken the name, we welcome you. And you
19 have -- if you would, please state your name, and
20 then you have three minutes.

21 MS. LEE: My name is Eva F. Lee. Ladies
22 and gentlemen of the Joint Committee and everyone
23 at all the satellite locations and on live stream,
24 I come to you today as a mom. I'm a Raleigh
25 resident, who was, on March 21st of this year, hit

1 head on while parked in the carpool lane at West
2 Millbrook Middle School on Strickland, a school
3 that has been passed over for rebuilding many
4 times. A school where my son's art teacher has a
5 budget of roughly \$300 for 150 students and 180
6 school days. A school with a building that
7 occasionally smells like swamp gas when it is hot.
8 The carpool lane would be moved off Strickland if
9 the school was rebuilt.

10 The North Carolina General Assembly
11 controls our state. I am greatly disheartened,
12 even embarrassed, by the label that North Carolina
13 is no longer a democracy. Politicians should not
14 select their voters. You used the same consultant
15 whose work was well-known and ruled
16 unconstitutional. How is this different? This
17 committee is reflective of the supermajority
18 created by the gerrymandering. It feels like a
19 sham. I think it is time in clear view of
20 Charlottesville to call this process what it is; it
21 feels like computerized apartheid. We do not want
22 to be remembered as the folks who did their best
23 Jim Crow impersonation to disenfranchise
24 minorities, and continue to disenfranchise with
25 judicial gerrymandering. Do not give the label of

1 racists to your children.

2 This committee, or rather the
3 supermajority in control, needs to listen to the
4 hearts and souls of the generations who fought for
5 liberty and justice for all and not be remembered
6 as the epitome of evil. Don't act like Nazis. I'm
7 Jewish; I can say that. Stop gerrymandering now.
8 Let me be clear; gerrymandering is white supremacy.
9 We deserve reparations for the last seven years of
10 litigation. Give us automatic voter registration
11 at age 18 as a reparation. We deserve reparations
12 for the past seven years. Thank you.

13 REP. LEWIS: As the next speaker is
14 coming up, we will welcome you. The Chair would --
15 the Chair would again remind the people, the
16 members and the people that are present to please
17 be quiet so that the comments can be heard. Would
18 you please state your name? And you have three
19 minutes.

20 MS. TOMKOVIC: Hi, my name is Julie
21 Tomkovic, and I wish these maps were a little bit
22 more detailed so I could address them specifically.
23 But my comments are going to be about the value of
24 balanced and competitive districts. If competition
25 is good for business and for consumers, then it

1 should be equally good for government and for
2 citizens. Gerrymandered districts hurt North
3 Carolina citizens of all political stripes, because
4 they stack the decks so heavily in favor of one
5 party or another. But there is no true competition
6 of ideas, values and candidates in the general
7 election. This pushes the more competition to
8 primaries, where candidates are encouraged to
9 become more and more extreme in order to interest a
10 smaller pool of voters.

11 As we all know, extremists can certainly
12 win elections. They just don't govern well. For
13 example, a small group of extremists can -- can
14 hijack a legislature and make them vote for
15 ridiculous things, like if we can use what
16 bathroom, as well as serious things, like who can
17 sue for discrimination and who cannot. I vote for
18 balanced, competitive districts, that -- to produce
19 the best government. And I hope that you will also
20 vote for balanced, competitive districts as well.

21 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. Thank you. Is
22 Tawana Revels or Nevels here? Not seeing that
23 person, the Chair would like to enter for the
24 record. The Chair was handed public comment on
25 redistricting core messages to share. This is

1 produced and handed out by Democracy North
2 Carolina. The Chair wants to make this a part of
3 the permanent record of this committee. And copies
4 will be provided to all of the members. Now, going
5 to go to the Jamestown site.

6 REP. STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Can
7 you hear us?

8 REP. LEWIS: We can.

9 REP. STEVENS: Okay. It's Representative
10 Stevens. I just wanted to let you know that we had
11 three more legislative members to join us. Senator
12 Lowe, I believe he stepped out already again for a
13 moment. We have Representative Pricey Harrison,
14 and Representative Cecil Brockman. Wanted to let
15 you know that we are ready for our other speakers.
16 Take the floor.

17 MS. SIEBERT: Thanks. I'm Janice
18 Siebert, a mother in Guilford County since 2006.
19 What's the cost of gerrymandering? The cost is so
20 many of us are lacking representation on the
21 ballot. My representative and senator do not
22 listen to me, because they don't have to. They
23 listen only to those who vote for them and to their
24 big money donors. They do not represent my
25 positions, my vote does not count in my district,

1 because it is structured to keep the current party
2 in power.

3 What is the cost of gerrymandering? The
4 cost of laws passed that benefit so few. Laws that
5 hurt our state in the long run. Laws that damage
6 our environment. Laws that limit public
7 educations. Laws that limit full access to the
8 polls. Laws that transfer control of local
9 government to the people to Raleigh. Laws that
10 limit access to healthcare for thousands of North
11 Carolinians. They've passed these laws, because
12 they can. Because they have gerrymandered the same
13 districts, they guarantee their power in Raleigh.

14 What is the cost of gerrymandering? The
15 cost of defending the unconstitutional districts
16 and the unconstitutional laws that the General
17 Assembly has passed. It is our tax dollars that
18 pay the attorneys, our tax dollars that could be
19 better spent on something else. That should be
20 spent on anything else that would benefit the
21 people in North Carolina. We do not see that the
22 current process and the current maps hold any
23 promise to be any different from the past. We are
24 tired of paying for gerrymandering.

25 MR. BEGGINS: Good day. My name is Alan

1 Megginson. I live in Winston-Salem, and I'd first
2 like to thank you for holding these hearings
3 regarding the creation of fair, bipartisan election
4 maps for our state, and for all of the citizens
5 that have come out today to voice their concerns.
6 Thank you as well. My biggest fear, quite frankly,
7 is that the comments made here today from across
8 the state will fall on deaf ears, and the citizens
9 of this great state would once again go unheard.

10 I'm here today because the issue of fair
11 voting maps is one that concerns me as a citizen.
12 This issue concerns me not for my own
13 individualized impact, but for the thousands of
14 North Carolina citizens whose voices are muted
15 through rigged and unfair elections. I look at
16 these proposed -- proposed maps, and I see little
17 to no changes of the way they rigged their system
18 for one side. I see no bipartisan effort to create
19 fair maps that hear the voices of each and every
20 citizen in this state. Instead, I see districts
21 like my own that are whittled out with small
22 slivers of the community set aside for the minority
23 party, as if this somehow creates the illusion that
24 these maps are fair.

25 There are many solutions to this issue

1 that would result in fair elections in this state.
2 I've heard suggestions of different districting by
3 ZIP codes. I've heard of districting by county.
4 Population setting the number of representatives
5 and senators. In fact, most of the suggestions I
6 have heard have been far more plausible and fair
7 than what you have presented to the citizens as
8 your fix. I use that pun intentionally as all you
9 have done with these maps is continue to fix the
10 system.

11 Clearly these maps represent the level of
12 concern our Assembly members have for their
13 constituents. This is not myth, this is fact.
14 Across the state, our citizens are dealing with
15 issues for solutions that either get been dismissed
16 or being ignored, simply because it doesn't fit the
17 agenda. This needs to stop. If you want to be an
18 assembly member and represent the people of this
19 state in a manner that is beneficial for all
20 citizens, if you cannot or will not do so, then
21 expunge and get out of the way to allow someone
22 else to create fair election maps so that you might
23 be released of your burdens.

24 In closing, our state's motto is esse
25 quam videri, to be rather than to seem. However,

1 the current state of affairs in the General
2 Assembly, perhaps along with new maps, we adopt new
3 order. [Inaudible] democracy laws. Thank you.

4 REP. LEWIS: We're now going to move to
5 the Caldwell site, and then followed by the
6 Washington site. I think it may actually go
7 smoother if we do three from each site. So if the
8 Chairman can hear me, we're going to do three from
9 each site. We're going to go to Caldwell. We're
10 going to do Todd Scott, Debra Moore, and Pastor
11 Keith or Keit. And then we're going to Washington,
12 and we're going to do Raynor James, Hal James and
13 Carl Mischka. So we'll go to the Caldwell site
14 next.

15 MR. SCOTT: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Todd Scott. I'm the first vice-president of
17 Statesville NAACP branch. In August of 2016, a
18 three-judge panel ruled that 28 of 170 North
19 Carolina House and Senate districts were drawn in
20 the second rate and weakened the power of the
21 African-American voters. They were illegal racial
22 gerrymanders. The public and lawmakers appeal to
23 the U.S. Supreme Court, but it agreed with the
24 panel.

25 On August the 1st, 2017, that panel gave

1 Legislators a new deadline. Present new district,
2 redraw district maps to the judges by September 1st
3 for the use of 2018 legislative elections. This is
4 all a sham. All these maps we got is a sham. This
5 is like going to school on the first day of school
6 and your teacher tell you, we having the end of the
7 year test today, end of discussion.

8 Legislative leaders continue to stall and
9 avoid fixing their unconstitutional maps. Federal
10 judges have rebuked them for not taking it
11 seriously. [Inaudible] of correcting their legal
12 matters, the public lawmakers say they are serious,
13 but they have hired the same consultant, Thomas
14 Hofeller, who drew the current legal maps. He is
15 nationally known for rigging maps to help his
16 Republican clients. Declared that he would -- that
17 they will not consider the race of the voters, as
18 if that would stop them from drawing bias maps. In
19 fact, that approach ignored the directive of the
20 courts to say, well, the black voters have a fairer
21 chance to elect candidates of their choice in their
22 districts.

23 They have declared they want to see the
24 past election outcomes and the ability of their
25 party to win elections in the district. They admit

1 they redraw the districts for partisan advantage.
2 They have refused to review -- reveal the new map
3 Hofeller has already drawn, which would give North
4 Carolinians time to provide informed input through
5 a public hearing. We should have been in a bigger
6 area than we are today, but who found out about
7 this? They didn't want everybody to know about it.
8 How can the public trust legislators elected from
9 illegal districts to draw fair maps, especially
10 when they use the same mapmaker and highly partisan
11 voters.

12 North Carolina lawmakers have used
13 unlawful gerrymandering to win elections in 2012,
14 2014, and 2016. Then in the past, [unintelligible]
15 illegitimate General Assembly. The legal maps are
16 protecting legislators from being held accountable
17 by voters. About 90 percent of us think
18 legislators now have seats with no or little vote
19 partisan competition. General Senate -- General
20 Assembly leaders have spent \$4.8 million of
21 taxpayers' monies to defend their maps in court.
22 And they got beat every time. I would like to
23 leave this to all the legislators, Matthew 25:40;
24 "The king will reply, truly I tell you, whatever
25 you did for one of the least of these brothers and

1 sisters of mine, you did it for me." You did it to
2 me.

3 MS. MOORE: Hi. My name is Debra Moore.
4 I'm with the Statesville branch of the NAACP.
5 North Carolinians demands -- demand reform. North
6 Carolinians are tired of gerrymandering and
7 politicians --

8 MALE SPEAKER: Can we get a mic for the
9 speaker? This is ridiculous. Get her a mic so we
10 can hear her.

11 MS. MOORE: A new poll shows that four
12 out of five voters, so 80 percent, say that it is
13 not fair for politicians to draw their own
14 districts. That includes 85 percent of the
15 democracy -- Democrats, 74 percent of the
16 Republicans, 80 percent of the independents as well
17 as 70 percent of [inaudible] --

18 REP. LEWIS: Ms. Moore?

19 MS. MOORE: -- and 80 percent of African
20 Americans.

21 REP. LEWIS: Ms. Moore?

22 MS. MOORE: [Inaudible.]

23 REP. LEWIS: Ms. Moore. We're going to
24 add -- we're going to add a minute to your time.
25 If you could, please speak a little bit closer to

1 the mic and perhaps a little bit slower. There's
2 a -- there's a delay --

3 MS. MOORE: The redistricting practice
4 must be open. Avoid racial and constant --
5 gerrymandering allows [inaudible] pick their own
6 political representatives, not the other way
7 around. We should research practices in other
8 states that adopt principles that encourage deep
9 community involvement. Fair redistricting should
10 follow these basic principles. [Inaudible] is the
11 key. Map drawers must ensure that it is possible
12 for black voters to elect their own candidate of
13 choice as declared by voting acts rights. One
14 person, one vote must be equal population and obey
15 all the laws.

16 Map drawers must create compact districts
17 without [inaudible]. Districts must be -- not be
18 stacked and joined into one -- and joined into one
19 block of current lawmakers. Voting district or
20 voters of the data [inaudible]. Respect
21 communities of interest. Map drawers must avoid
22 dividing the community's assembly [inaudible]
23 effort and local government districts. Respect
24 boundaries. Maps must show effort to keep counties
25 whole. Before it is approved, a map must equal and

1 overri de basi cs. We need the children to recognize
2 that i mportant message of fairness.

3 SEN. DANIEL: We do not bring equipment
4 with us. This equipment is provided for us. I
5 apologize for any inconvenience. This is the best
6 that we have at this point.

7 REP. LEWIS: If we're not able to get
8 order at the Caldwell site, we're going to move to
9 another site. We're going to move to the
10 Washing ton site -- Washing ton site. The Chair
11 regrets that a person lost their opportunity to
12 speak because of the actions of the folks there.
13 We're moving to the Washing ton site.

14 MR. KEITH: I'll be very brief about
15 this.

16 REP. LEWIS: We're moving to the
17 Washing ton site.

18 MR. KEITH: How many city limits were
19 [i naudi bl e] --

20 REP. LEWIS: We don't seem to have any
21 control in Raleigh, either.

22 MR. KEITH: Now, anytime you divide a
23 city limit, you're going to have two different
24 state senators representing you. The city is
25 collecting taxes. The state's collecting taxes and

1 the county's collecting taxes. Any time you set
2 [inaudible], the city [inaudible], you've done the
3 same exact thing as moving an unwanted relative
4 into your house to share it with them because
5 you're going to have to come to a consensus on all
6 these different issues.

7 That's basically all I got to say. But
8 anytime you divide a city limit or encroach on a
9 city limit to meet your quota, that's where the
10 problem comes in. But it is not fair for residents
11 to live in a municipality anywhere and have you
12 voting for this district on one side and this
13 district on the other and pay taxes to that city
14 and that county. If all these could be -- all
15 these municipalities need to be under one city's
16 district. That's all I've got to say, and thank
17 you very much.

18 REP. LEWIS: Is it possible to go to the
19 Washington site now? (Pause.) Is this the
20 Washington site? The Chairman there could please
21 recognize Raynor James, Hal James and Carl -- Carl
22 Mi schka.

23 CHAIRMAN BROWN: Raynor James and Hal
24 James and Carl --

25 CHAIRMAN MI SCHKA: Mi schka.

1 MS. JAMES: I'm Raynor James. Ladies and
2 gentleman of the legislature, I come from a
3 different perspective, but no [inaudible] approval.
4 I, too, although I'm a constitutional conservative,
5 speak in this?

6 SEN. BROWN: You may. You're fine.
7 You're fine.

8 MS. JAMES: Although I'm a constitutional
9 conservative, I, too, dislike having communities
10 divided, if it's a city or county, whatever. I
11 think that we should be able to try harder to keep
12 them contiguous. There is another concern I have
13 that is much stronger than that. Yes, Republicans
14 do have control. The Republican platform is very,
15 very well aligned with my platform; however, there
16 is only a small percentage of people in the
17 legislature, ladies and gentlemen, who truly adhere
18 to that platform.

19 Some of those are being put into
20 districts that are not hospitable to them and that
21 is an absolute tragedy. Larry Pittman, Cabarrus
22 County, is one of those examples. Cabarrus County
23 will have three different districts in it. We will
24 be with another conservative Republican. There is
25 someone who's less conservative right next door.

1 One of the conservatives will go. This is not
2 good.

3 There are Republicans all around the
4 state that are writing resolutions that they will
5 not support Republicans just because they have an R
6 after their name if that Republican does not record
7 his support for the Republican platform. Please
8 don't make the mistake you appear to be headed for.
9 Please take corrective action and make this right.

10 MR. JAMES: I'm Hal James. I live at 305
11 [unintelligible] in Craven County. I belong to the
12 Coastal Carolina Taxpayers Association, an
13 organization that advocates minimum government and
14 maximum freedom, the preservation of free
15 enterprise in the United States Constitution. We
16 have two champions of, air quote, the General
17 Assembly. The districts are reorganized by these
18 new district maps in such a way as to separate them
19 from their base supporters. They're stacked --
20 they're hooked as District 1 surrender the
21 [inaudible]. Districts 82 and maybe a part of 83,
22 unless your [inaudible] both of these gentlemen
23 have been very supportive of our cause.

24 I selected five bills that had been
25 considered by the present legislature to help

1 determine the support of our cause by members of
2 the General Assembly. They are, one, the
3 [inaudible] bill, House Bill 746, two, the national
4 [inaudible] North Carolina [inaudible]
5 constitutional regulation of concealed weapons,
6 HB145, the actually get rid of common core bill,
7 HB417, the bill to exempt ocular surgery from the
8 certificate of need bill or HB344, and the marine
9 fisheries regulation bill, the HB867. That wasn't
10 a random selection. At the beginning of the
11 session those were the -- the issues that we wanted
12 addressed by this assembly. Due to Pittman has not
13 been able to vote on any of these bills, but he's
14 tried hard.

15 Representative Pittman has been a primary
16 sponsor on three of the four bills and the fifth
17 bill, marine fisheries regulation, he do not want
18 passed. Representative Pittman has strongly
19 supported our position. Please reject these
20 proposed district maps until these deficiencies are
21 corrected. Thank you.

22 MR. MISCHKA: My name is Carl Mischka.
23 I'm the chairman of the Third District GOP and a
24 past chairman of Craven County GOP. I'd like to
25 defer my time to my vice-chair. Is that possible?

1 He's on your list to a point that we'll never get
2 to and -- and he has some very constructive
3 redistricting comments to make.

4 REP. LEWIS: What's the name, Mr.
5 Mi schka?

6 MR. MISCHKA: [Inaudible.]

7 MR. JAMES: Oh, I think we will get to
8 him eventually. We're going to go through this
9 whole list so --

10 MR. MISCHKA: If you're going to do that,
11 thank you.

12 REP. LEWIS: We're going to now go to the
13 Charlotte site and the first three speakers, Jacob
14 Hunt, Sarah Fellman and Henry Martinat. Go to the
15 Charlotte site and recognize those three speakers,
16 please.

17 MR. HUNT: Good afternoon. My name is
18 Jacob Hunt. I'm a resident of Huntersville, North
19 Carolina. I must admit that I am not adept at the
20 complex demographics of our state to know whether
21 the new districts are gerrymandered or not.
22 Perhaps -- perhaps if it fixes the racial
23 gerrymandering, well, then, if so, that is a
24 victory indeed, but seeing that it was made
25 primarily by one political party, I'm still

1 skeptical of its innovation.

2 So I'm here to call upon the General
3 Assembly of North Carolina to end political
4 gerrymandering, which undermines our democracy.
5 After the election in 2016, Governor Cooper
6 narrowly won by just 0.2 percent. Now, in a
7 politically blind system, this would naturally be
8 coupled with a near 50-50 split among the parties
9 in the General Assembly. Yet Republicans hold a
10 two-thirds majority in both chambers. Clearly
11 something is awry.

12 I recognize that political gerrymandering
13 is not illegal, but that does not mean it's right.
14 The process greatly diminishes the voice of the
15 people and undermines our will.

16 I am generally annoyed when the
17 government is compared to a business, because they
18 serve two wholly different purposes. However,
19 there are some similarities. When a business has
20 an inferior or unpopular product, the consumers can
21 reject it. It's now up to the business to improve
22 the product, give the consumers what they want or
23 face the effects of the free market. When voting
24 districts are designed by the legislatures, they do
25 not have to face the consequences of unpopular

1 policy. This, of course, leads them to pursue
2 policy that serves not the collective good, but
3 rather the good of the few.

4 I understand that when the Democrats
5 controlled the General Assembly they too drew
6 districts along politically favorable lines, but
7 how many times must we repeat the same mistakes?
8 How hyper-partisan must we become before this cycle
9 is finally broken?

10 So again, on the general -- I call upon
11 the General Assembly to uphold democracy and allow
12 voters to choose their policymakers, not allow
13 policymakers to choose their voters. Thank you.

14 MS. FELLMAN: Good afternoon. My name is
15 Sarah Fellman. I'm from Charlotte. I'm a proud
16 2014 graduate of Providence High. Go Panthers.

17 And I'm here today to talk about racial
18 and partisan gerrymandering. As we all know, the
19 courts declared many of our legislative districts
20 unconstitutional racial gerrymandered. Now you,
21 members of the Joint Redistricting Committee, are
22 tasked with remedying this violation of the
23 Constitution.

24 But what do good districts look like?
25 First of all, good districts must follow the court

1 directi ve to consider race to ensure that minority
2 voters have a fair chance to elect candidates of
3 their choice. In the court case the State actually
4 argued that it considered race in the 2011
5 redistricting process to comply with the Voting
6 Rights Act that mandates that minority voters
7 should have this opportunity. However, the State
8 could not prove that it used race for such
9 benevolent reasons, and instead the Court ruled
10 that the use of race unconstitutionally violated
11 minority voters' rights.

12 Fortunately this is your opportunity to
13 make amends and truly empower minority voices. So
14 how are you doing? Well, the other day
15 Representative Lewis tweeted that race was not
16 considered in the drawing of the new proposed maps,
17 but not considering race is not enough. The Court
18 was very clear that race should be considered in
19 the drawing of legislative maps, but that it should
20 be used to empower minority voters, not silence
21 their voices by shoving them into as few districts
22 as possible. But empowering minority voters to
23 have the opportunity to elect candidates goes
24 beyond a just consideration of race. In a state
25 like North Carolina where race -- where voting is

1 racially polarized and where, as you are well
2 aware, upwards of 90 percent of black voters
3 consistently support Democrats, only a legislative
4 map drawn without partisan bias can be an
5 appropriate remedy to an unconstitutional racial
6 gerrymander.

7 But instead, as Representative Lewis has
8 admitted and as newly-released voting data show,
9 these maps were drawn with an aim to cement the
10 Republican majority in Raleigh, even if Democrats
11 overwhelmingly win the popular vote. The problem
12 is that in North Carolina partisanship is racism.
13 Partisan bias in districting prevents minority
14 voters and those that agree with them from having
15 their voices heard in Raleigh in proportion to
16 their vote share. Concentrating Democrats, often
17 synonymous with minorities, into a small number of
18 districts is wrong whether it's for Republicans'
19 advantage, whites' advantage or both. And with
20 that, I urge you, members of the redistricting
21 committee, to do the right thing by creating new
22 maps that ensure that minority voices are heard in
23 Raleigh and that let voters choose their
24 politicians without stacking the deck against one
25 political party before a single ballot is cast.

1 REP. LEWIS: I believe we had one more in
2 Charlotte.

3 MR. MARTINAT: If you look on your map
4 and look at the Southwest up to Pineville,
5 around -- down to Pineville up to Huntersville,
6 Cornelius, that's my district. My name's Henry
7 Martinat, and I'm a taxpayer in Mecklenburg County.
8 I pay a daggone lot of taxes and I'm a property
9 owner. And I have to drive up 77 all the time and
10 it's really -- takes about an hour and a half to
11 two hours to get to get to down here to go all the
12 way up there. Now, that district represents
13 Pineville, Charlotte, Davidson, Huntersville --

14 REP. LEWIS: Mr. Martinat, if you could
15 possibly speak into the microphone so the rest of
16 us could hear you.

17 MR. MARTINET: I'm sorry. Davidson,
18 Huntersville, Cornelius, Pineville and Charlotte,
19 okay? So how does this -- how does this one
20 senator represent all of these distinct
21 municipalities, you know, faithfully and
22 effectively?

23 It's my -- it's my -- I'm -- I'm saying
24 that any senator, Democrat or Republican, can't
25 effectively represent the way -- this district the

1 way it's drawn. So it's -- it's going to be a
2 problem for whoever has to represent this
3 particular district, and I think it should be
4 redrawn. That's all I have to say.

5 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. We're going to
6 now move to the Fayetteville location, and after
7 Fayetteville we'll go to Weldon. In Fayetteville,
8 Bobbie R. Shaffer, Jerry Reinohl and Minister --
9 apologize, Eronomy, I believe, is the last name.
10 So Representative Szoka or Senator Jackson.

11 MS. SHAFFER: My name is Bobbie Shaffer.
12 I'm -- and I am a citizen -- I'm a citizen of the
13 United States, and I wasn't planning on coming here
14 today. I been -- I watch the political arena on
15 TV, on the paper -- in the paper and stuff, but
16 today when I saw this map of existing North
17 Carolina senate district, it reminded me of when my
18 little kids were small and they were coloring and I
19 would look and I'd say, you're coloring out of the
20 line. Looked like whoever drew this map was
21 certainly coloring out of the line and -- and the
22 proposed district is not a whole lot better.

23 But I just have one thing to say, that
24 God said that a house divided could not stand, and
25 it seems like we're getting more divided as the

1 days go by. And it -- to me, my answer is, it's
2 greed. It's not wanting to help the fellow person
3 that's less privileged than you are. I built my
4 life on helping people that's less fortunate than I
5 am, and I -- I guarantee you, you people that don't
6 do that is missing a blessing.

7 I just wanted to see the ones that drew
8 these maps. If you need any help I'll be glad to
9 help you. 'Cause I think I can do a better job and
10 I do have the people at heart and not my next run
11 to see if I'm going to be re-elected. And, you
12 know, that aggravates me when the politicians is
13 always saying, I can't do this because -- oh, no, I
14 can't do that because I might not get elected next
15 year. Well, who do you think you're up there for,
16 yourself? You're up there for us. You're working
17 for us and -- and we expect you to work for
18 everybody's betterment, not for just Republicans or
19 Democrats.

20 I never liked that anyway. I like to --
21 people to work together for the good of everybody
22 and I hope that y'all will do better next time.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. REINOEHL: Mr. Chairman, good
25 afternoon. My name is Jerry Reinohl. 516

1 Deerpath Drive, Fayetteville, North Carolina.

2 I support the House redistricting plan
3 for Cumberland County, my county of residence, for
4 the following reasons. First, the number of split
5 VTD's between two or more districts in Cumberland
6 County under the current 2011 plan will be reduced
7 from 31 of the 77 precincts to six of the 77
8 precincts for the proposed plan. The plan confines
9 the splits between only two House districts, while
10 the current plan includes several VTD's split
11 between three House districts. The boundaries of
12 House District 43, my district, is tightened up
13 considerably to look more like an ink spot rather
14 than ink splatter.

15 I believe the benefit of these changes to
16 Cumberland County will result in the following.
17 First, fewer ballot types may be -- reduce the cost
18 of elections. Secondly, it will reduce
19 opportunities for poll workers to make errors in
20 selecting the current ballot. It should result in
21 fewer spoiled ballots and more accurate contest
22 results, with more voters using the correct ballot
23 type. Next, it may provide better constituent
24 representative with a tight voting district
25 boundaries. And finally, it will benefit

1 candidates for the House of Representatives by
2 reducing the number of precincts and perhaps
3 enticing additional citizens to run for elections,
4 because it would also reduce, then, the cost of
5 campaigning -- a competitive campaign. And with
6 the fewer number of precincts it will enable better
7 get-out-to-vote campaigns in terms of knocking
8 doors and doing other things. Thank you.

9 MINISTER ERONOMY: By the name of God,
10 the beneficent and the merciful, the all-wise, true
11 and living God, I give you all the greetings of
12 As-salamu alaikum, which is heard around the world.
13 That's my introduction when I go the North Carolina
14 state legislature for the past 35 years, with deans
15 for Fayetteville State University to see my team,
16 which is Marvin Lucas and the Legislative Black
17 Caucus. I have been going before Marvin Lucas went
18 up there.

19 Greetings, everyone. Fayetteville has a
20 solution for the rest of the country. We must
21 realize who we are. The other lady before, like
22 myself, we see Fayetteville as a shining light on
23 the hill. Others see it differently.

24 Now, God says in scripture, "The devil's
25 strategy is secretive meetings." Secretive

1 meetings. The secret meeting that took place last
2 weekend, I saw Angela, from the Legislative Black
3 Caucus, on television, and she was jumping up and
4 down. As spokesperson for Legislative Black Caucus,
5 where are the maps? They should have given those
6 maps to her and the Legislative Black Caucus and
7 rest of the Democrats especially, last Friday.

8 Now, here we are in Fayetteville. We
9 have great growth and development. We have the
10 baseball stadium's coming. We have Fort Bragg, the
11 largest military base in the world and the second
12 Pentagon in the world. More generals and officers
13 than any other place in America except Washington
14 D.C. Pentagon. Part of my work includes that.

15 Now, in terms of, where do we go from
16 here, let's look the history. The Fayetteville
17 Observer used to have monument on the front of the
18 paper, a picture of the Market House, or the slave
19 house. As part of my work with Clinton Harris, a
20 lot of y'all know him around the state, we forced
21 the Fayetteville Observer to take that picture off.
22 That was about 20 years ago.

23 So, really, we're out front. Thank you.
24 We're really out front. The other thing I was --
25 the other thing we want [inaudible] in, I think

1 it's Harnett County, come out and be seen and be
2 heard. He's one of our good friends. We are glad
3 that -- we are very elated to see our Legislative
4 Black Caucus, Marvin Lucas, Garland Pierce and,
5 yes, Billy Richardson finally showed up. We are
6 not going to mention the other one, though.

7 Okay. Now, clearly understand this is
8 the 150th of Fayetteville University's anniversary,
9 the second oldest university in the state. We want
10 everybody in the country to come to our
11 celebration. My time has run out, but I want to
12 thank you for the American experience, which is the
13 greatest country in the world, and we are going to
14 show the rest of the country how to follow
15 Fayetteville. Thank you very much.

16 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. And we're now
17 going to go to Weldon with Marques Thompson,
18 William Hodge and Kim Eng Koo. And then we will be
19 returning to Raleigh with M. Eisenberg, Tony
20 Quartararo, Gina Cruz, in that order. So we will
21 go to Weldon now. Or we could just stay in
22 Fayetteville. Ladies and gentlemen, I apologize.
23 We're doing the best we can to coordinate with the
24 off-site switch.

25 MR. THOMPSON: [Inaudible] North Carolina

1 that many other southern states don't have. And so
2 when we have a good process we get good results for
3 our democracy. So in order to have good results
4 from a democracy, we need fair maps. Fair maps --
5 it's key to that.

6 So let's look at the process that went
7 into making these maps. We have -- the maps were
8 drawn by someone that was known for rigging systems
9 across the nation. This -- the process of making
10 these maps were -- was -- said that they would
11 discount or not consider race, which was the whole
12 reason why the -- the maps were unconstitutional in
13 the first place. But yet they would consider who
14 won in the past and that would be a consideration
15 for drawing the maps. And the last thing is
16 that -- talking about this process of drawing these
17 fair maps, we just got the maps just recently. I
18 mean, we've known about this process for a while.
19 These were just given to us Friday and today and
20 the -- a lot of the data, we still don't have.

21 So it's been a bad process. And when you
22 have bad processes, you get bad results, right? So
23 we already had a legislature that was elected by
24 unconstitutional districts, so that's a bad
25 process. Well, we're trying to get that process

1 fixed. And in order to do that, we -- we need due
2 processes, and so I urge this legislature to do
3 this for democracy. We're not talking about left
4 or right here. We -- want the best results for
5 North Carolina. And that means the best process in
6 our democracy. So let's go back to the drawing
7 board, get someone that everyone can agree on as a
8 fair arbiter and let's draw these maps so we can
9 get this competitive advantage that only democracy
10 gives us.

11 MR. HODGE: My name is William Hodge, and
12 I'm a 35-year Halifax County native. I didn't
13 understand the need for a statewide public hearing
14 on voter suppression issues, especially because we
15 didn't have the appropriate data to study before we
16 could come make our comments. I have some general
17 comments today, but I will agree with the last
18 speaker, bad process.

19 The topic is not new. The nation's
20 Supreme Court and our state court have ruled often
21 about the use of racism, unacceptable parameter for
22 establishing voter districts. The legislature has
23 purposely dragged their feet for three state
24 election cycles where racist -- where race was used
25 as an illegal factor in establishing voting

1 districts. This resulted in a Republican,
2 veto-proof control of state government. And that's
3 never a good situation.

4 Why is race an issue in 2017? In 2012,
5 nationwide, only 16 percent of African-Americans
6 were registered Republicans and only six percent
7 voted for the Republican presidential candidate.
8 This small percentage is shrinking daily,
9 especially after the last two weeks of news from
10 Charlottesville, Virginia. Race is an issue,
11 especially in northeastern North Carolina.
12 According to the 2013 Census data, neighboring
13 Bertie County had the highest percentage of blacks
14 population in North Carolina, 62 percent. Halifax
15 County's 53 percent was the fifth-highest.

16 Seven counties in North Carolina were
17 above 50 percent black population, all Halifax
18 County neighbors. Contrarily, 34 mostly western
19 counties have black populations under 10 percent
20 and 23 of these counties were under five percent.
21 The Republicans used their legislative powers to
22 diminish the majority/minority voting black
23 population in eastern North Carolina by assigning
24 black voters into as few voting districts as
25 possible.

1 From my perspective, other critical
2 issues have been left unattended by the General
3 Assembly. Eastern North Carolina has a history of
4 underfunding and unperforming public education, a
5 majority government responsibility. This has
6 resulted in unacceptable academic performance in
7 public schools in eastern Northern -- North
8 Carolina. Six of the -- six of the bottom nine
9 academic deficiency school districts are in Halifax
10 and neighboring counties.

11 Without sufficiently-funded education,
12 the area has been unable to recruit employees to
13 represent textile jobs. Halifax County's seven
14 percent June unemployment rate was the fourth
15 highest in the state. Neighboring counties
16 experienced five highest jobless rates. North
17 Carolina lawmakers' recklessly gerrymandering
18 practices has led to cost litigation and put our
19 state in the national spotlight.

20 Our legislators must enact House Bill
21 200, which will establish a nonpartisan
22 redistricting process. The bill has overwhelming
23 public -- public support with both red and blue
24 legislative support. Thank you.

25 DR. KOO: My name is Kim Eng Koo, and I'm

1 a retired neurosurgeon. I live in Rocky Mount,
2 North Carolina, in Nash County and I'm a member of
3 the Rocky Mount Racial Justice Group.

4 Last year, the redistricting plans had
5 been judged to illegal and legal and guilty of
6 racial gerrymandering by the highest legal
7 structure of the land, the US Supreme Court. You
8 are tasked to redraw new district maps for public
9 review by September the 1st in preparation for the
10 2018 elections.

11 First, I want to point out that releasing
12 the maps and information on the redrawn district
13 maps so late and so last-minute on the day before
14 public hearings is an act of disrespect to all the
15 people of this state. We need time to study and
16 respond to them. You're not giving us our due.
17 This last-minute release maneuver smacks of
18 dishonesty and secrecy, a lack of openness, which
19 is a disgraceful act for public officials, paid for
20 with public dollars.

21 Second, when I look at the new maps, I'm
22 amazed by the contortions and variegated shapes of
23 many areas. It looks like a collage and a
24 distortion of reality. It's so twisted. It takes
25 a lot of work and conscious thought to come up with

1 such a map. The persons or persons involved must
2 have some direct purpose for coming up with such a
3 contorted picture. And not to mention getting paid
4 with millions of our tax money add insult to
5 injury, indeed. It represents to me a combination
6 of the attempt by the current party in power to
7 hold onto their power at the expense of electoral
8 freedom and it is all racist and divisist.

9 The North Carolina Legislature has
10 already acquired quite a bit of notoriety for its
11 electoral shenanigans. Some examples we have
12 encountered at the last elections include limited
13 early voting times, changing voting places to be
14 less accessible to people of color and poor people,
15 photo ID requirement and decreasing the number of
16 places where new and unregistered voters can sign
17 up. The electoral freedom of poor people and
18 people of color keeps getting narrower and more
19 hemmed in. Now you're dictating to us where to
20 vote with this new map. Of course, it also impacts
21 on who is running for that district, so we have few
22 choices, less voices and no power.

23 Do you not think that this will -- that
24 we will just allow this without a fight. This
25 country is already -- already is in uproar over the

1 many racist and divisive moves by the central
2 government. Already both black and white people of
3 conscience are standing firm and standing together
4 to beat this reactionary tide, like the event in
5 Charlottesville and the recent events here to
6 remove icons of oppression.

7 I respectfully submit that you redraw
8 your redistricting map to reflect the diversity of
9 our people here and to not target minority people,
10 people of color or poor people. It will go far to
11 reflect decency and some moral integrity among you
12 guys.

13 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. We're now going
14 to move to the Raleigh site here, and we're going
15 to increase the number of each speakers at each
16 site to four before we move to the next speaker
17 coming in, in the interest of the time that it's
18 going. I will also take this opportunity to remind
19 people that kind of the midpoint at 6:30 will be --
20 we will be closing the sign-up list. So if you
21 have not yet signed up, you would need to do so by
22 that time period, if you wish to speak. We'll
23 begin with M, period, Eisenberg -- is how he signed
24 up and you're recognized for three minutes.

25 MR. EISENBERG: My name is Michael

1 Eisenberg. I live in Raleigh, North Carolina. I
2 had no intention of speaking today.

3 I have been to every one of these
4 meetings and listened to the public issue very
5 thoughtful and intelligent suggestions on this
6 matter. I have listened to Representative Lewis
7 tell us time after time how he wants to listen to
8 the public and work with Democrats and abide by the
9 decisions of the Court. After reading the N&O this
10 morning regarding the political data rebuild on the
11 maps, I knew I must speak out.

12 Representative Lewis was either not
13 listening or he was lying when he made the above
14 comments. These maps are -- these maps are as bad
15 or worse than the ones we -- that were drawn in
16 2011. Probably not as bad in regards to race, but
17 I'll defer my opinion on that until I hear Reverend
18 Barber's comments. In regards to partisanship and
19 the spirit of public opinion and listening to the
20 citizens, please, our 50-50 state is now more -- is
21 now going to be more gerrymandered than before.

22 The Republicans showed in the meeting to
23 decide the -- the Republicans showed in the meeting
24 to decide the criteria that they had no interest in
25 working with Democrats when they voted unanimously

1 to turn down sensible amendments they offered. You
2 have once again showed your true colors. You do
3 not care about the vast majority of the people in
4 North Carolina. You don't care about their well-
5 being, because if you did, you would -- you would
6 be for the health of the state's environment and
7 the health of the people, but you said no to
8 Medicaid expansion and yes to an 18-month
9 moratorium on new projects.

10 You don't care about the children or you
11 would not be attempting to destroy the public
12 education that serve -- served the state so well.
13 You don't care about women because you have
14 continuously attempted to pass laws that would take
15 away their healthcare. You don't care about the
16 people of color because you have passed
17 voter-suppression laws. You don't care about the
18 poor or you would not have eliminated the income
19 tax credit for the working poor.

20 But you do care about the wealthy because
21 you did take away -- you did eliminate the estate
22 tax for 223 families. We do know who you care
23 about as you continuously work to cut taxes for --
24 that favor the wealthy and businesses by lowering
25 the rate to the lowest in the South. You care

1 about the wealthiest and the businesses as -- as
2 you have continuously brought about deregulation.

3 They are the winners with the maps were
4 drawn. The people have called for fair maps and
5 you've turned your backs on them. Your -- your
6 ideas are morally bankrupt and the -- and the
7 people confirmed that by electing Roy Cooper for
8 governor.

9 I was taught you don't hate the player,
10 you hate the game. In this game, you must hate
11 both, as the game was rigged and it's not rigged in
12 the favor of the people. I heard a 19-year-old at
13 one of these meetings eloquently tell you that when
14 his age group takes over this body, that tactics
15 like these will never take place again.

16 I will leave you the words of my father,
17 who so eloquently said to me when I was a young man
18 and had guided me through my life. One word for me
19 and you do exactly as you please. So all I can is
20 I hope that if you do not redraw these maps, the
21 courts take these maps and throw them in the
22 dustbin where they belong and appoint a special
23 council to redraw the maps. Shame on you.

24 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. A few things
25 that -- for the other sites that we believe will

1 help with this transition between sites. We've
2 been asked to change the order. So after the three
3 more speakers in Raleigh, we'll go to Central
4 Piedmont, then to Caldwell, then Guilford Tech,
5 then Halifax, then Beaufort, then Fayetteville
6 Tech. We've also, when making a change been asked
7 to reference them by the community college. So we
8 hope that with the technical issues that we'll
9 address them. Given that, we'll move on to our
10 second speaker here in Raleigh. Tony Quartararo.

11 MR. QUARTARARO: Hi, my name is Tony
12 Quartararo. When my family and I moved to North
13 Carolina 11 years ago, we fell in love with a place
14 we believed was the heart of the New South, a place
15 of progress, where people valued education, the
16 planet, civil rights, racial and social justice and
17 a collaborative open exchange of thoughts for the
18 good of all the people. Sadly, we subsequently
19 feared that we moved to the Tar Heel version of the
20 Hatfields and the McCoys. Why? Because of what
21 one grandfather did to another grandfather 40 years
22 ago, one political party felt entitled, because
23 they can, to crush the very soul of North Carolina
24 and return to the ways of the Old South with its
25 implicit and if not explicit white supremacy.

1 In the December special session, this
2 fear was confirmed as I watched the supermajority
3 immorally and unethically getting even and more for
4 their grandfathers as they used phrases such as
5 "it's constitutional, it's legal and it's what you
6 did before." But I never heard -- I never heard
7 "this will help the people; this will make our
8 state better."

9 I'm disgusted with both parties. North
10 Carolina has devolved to a Lord of the Flies
11 scenario with the supermajority picking on the weak
12 and marginalized. I'm disgusted with
13 gerrymandering and voter suppression that allows an
14 illegal and immorally skewed supermajority to exist
15 which steamrolls anyone and anything that stands in
16 the way of their special interest supporters.
17 Whatever happened to the idea of public service for
18 the public good?

19 I am sure many of you remember the movie
20 Karate Kid. In the competition at the end of the
21 movie, the evil sensei tells the students to
22 deliver an illegal strike that injures the kid.
23 When the kid meets the bully in the finals, the
24 sensei once again tells his student, the bully, to
25 unethically attack the kid's damaged leg.

1 Ul timately, the kid wins against the bullies.

2 Even now, in the North Carolina
3 legislature, there's also a sensei and his two
4 henchmen who have created these God-forsaken,
5 immoral and unethical maps. And the people in this
6 room know who they are. But the people of North
7 Carolina, especially the poor and the people of
8 color, are like The Karate Kid. They will overcome
9 illegal, unethical and immoral legislative behavior
10 which continues even today, since these maps will
11 only have Confederate racism 17 percent of the
12 districts.

13 The committee's choice is simple. Do
14 what is right, moral and ethical for all of North
15 Carolina's people. Create full and equitable
16 voting districts or face the inevitable turning of
17 the tide and the historical ignominy. The choice
18 is yours. Do not be a Tar Heel version of the
19 disgrace who sits in the White House and always
20 remember. All political power comes from the
21 people.

22 REP. LEWIS: Gina Cruz. You're
23 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

24 MS. CRUZ: Hello. My name is Gina Cruz.
25 I am the North Carolina state director for

1 Progressive Turnout Project. I'm also a concerned
2 North Carolinian who lives here in Raleigh.

3 Progressive Turnout Project has been
4 working tirelessly to fight for fair maps for
5 myself and my fellow North Carolinians. We deserve
6 fair voting maps that are drawn by a nonpartisan
7 redistricting commission. We deserve maps that are
8 drawn without the use of any partisan voter data.
9 We deserve maps that comply with the Voting Rights
10 Act. We deserve maps that don't protect incumbents
11 who won based on maps that were ruled racially
12 gerrymandered. We deserve access to the
13 map-drawing process.

14 We deserve ample time to both review the
15 maps and plan to attend these public comment
16 periods. Four days is not sufficient time for new
17 maps to be reviewed. It cuts the public out of the
18 process. Holding these meetings at 4:00 p.m. on a
19 Tuesday afternoon is unfair to the working class
20 families that you represent. Look at how many
21 people are here and across the state with four
22 days' notice. Had we had ample time, we would have
23 filled 20 more rooms at least.

24 We deserve representatives who actually
25 represent North Carolinians. This committee needs

1 to do better.

2 REP. LEWIS: Melva Fager Okun? You're
3 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

4 MS. OKUN: Good evening and thank you so
5 much for this opportunity to comment. My name is
6 Melva Fager Okun, and I've lived in Carrboro for
7 over 40 years. During that time, I've regularly
8 walked these halls, speaking to senators and
9 representatives about environmental and health
10 protections. These include making our schools,
11 restaurants and bars and hospitals tobacco-free, of
12 which I am very proud. I never thought someday I'd
13 return to ask for protection of the vote.

14 We desperately need new, fair and legal
15 voting districts. I've waited a year for new maps
16 and instead got them the day before this public
17 hearing. That immediately tells me how much you
18 value the public's input.

19 I wondered how a group with leaders from
20 28 illegally-drawn voting districts could possibly
21 be charged with drawing the new maps. And I was
22 shocked to hear that the same company that drew the
23 illegal maps was rehired to draw the new maps.
24 Your actions are stunning and memorial --
25 memorable. You are creating and solidifying your

1 Legacy.

2 I am currently reading a book about the
3 fight for the right to vote by African-American
4 leaders returning from World War II. The top
5 leaders, such as Medgar Evers, ruled that they risk
6 their lives in doing so and too many were murdered
7 fighting for this right. Instead of denying the
8 right to vote, you are engaged in something also
9 horri fic. You've worked ti relessly to make
10 people's votes meaningless while also making it
11 harder to vote. This is your legacy. You are the
12 equivalent of whi te supremaci sts.

13 But I, and millions of North Carolini ans,
14 are paying attention. Some of us are here today to
15 let you know we will do everything we can to stop
16 you from your ill -intended deeds. We see this as a
17 vital issue, the keystone to a democracy. I expect
18 this will finally be decided by the courts. I
19 attended the -- the judicial hearing a few weeks
20 ago of the US District Court where this issue of
21 the voting maps was discussed. I applaud the
22 courts for their action.

23 I conclude my comments by saying I've
24 heard the former US Attorney General Eric Holder
25 state that North Carolina is the worst state in the

1 nation, the worst, regarding gerrymandering. That
2 may be okay for the current leadership of the
3 General Assembly and the officials from the 28
4 officially -- illegally-drawn voting districts, but
5 it's not okay for the people of the state.

6 I am not worn down. I am not
7 discouraged. In my work for public health
8 protections that you all benefit from, I learned
9 the basic truths. Where the greatest need is, the
10 greatest -- hello? Where the greatest need is
11 found -- where the greatest need is, the greatest
12 cure can be found. That is my hope for you, me,
13 your families, your grandchildren -- is that one
14 day soon, we will have the most fair and just
15 voting districts for the good of the whole. May it
16 be so. Let's go.

17 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. We will now move
18 for four speakers to the Central Piedmont site.
19 After four speakers, we will move to the Caldwell
20 Site.

21 MS. GARCIA: Thank you for allowing me to
22 speak. My name is Tricia Garcia. I live in
23 Mecklenburg County, and I lived here for 28 years.
24 I'm in a room with a max capacity of 70 people for
25 the largest population center of the state. This

1 public-forum platform is decreasing public input
2 because of its inefficiency. Having microphones
3 not muted at all of the sites while people are
4 speaking, including the Chair of the whole
5 committee's mic not muted, is very frustrating for
6 people who want to listen and actually get input.
7 But I do thank you for the opportunity to -- to
8 speak.

9 We appreciate the committee's work to
10 produce maps to improve upon the current map, but
11 there is a long way to go, as we've heard a lot of
12 people say. Real public participation requires
13 time. Citizens have had only three days to look at
14 the House map and two days for the Senate and just
15 a day for the data. This severely limits the
16 amount of time and has denied voters the real
17 chance to have their say.

18 Some of the committee's nine criteria
19 such as more compactness and less precinct
20 splitting were welcome improvements, while others
21 have no place in drawing fair districts. For some
22 criteria, the committee gave us yardsticks without
23 numbers on them, making it impossible to measure
24 the fairness. For example, the criteria called for
25 splitting fewer precincts, but no data was provided

1 on how or when to split a precinct.

2 So what about the maps? The committee
3 made the right choice in adopting county groupings
4 that conform to the North Carolina Constitution,
5 producing a map that improves on the current one,
6 even if that does not itself guarantee that the
7 districts also comply. We also see some progress
8 on compactness, with some better average scores
9 than previous Senate maps. The House districts are
10 less squiggly, but the new maps apparently don't
11 score any better on all of the measures. This
12 suggests that we are still falling short of fair
13 districts. The promise to split fewer precincts
14 came without a target, but we're glad to see that
15 the new maps split far fewer precincts. The House
16 map still splits 49, but there are a lot less than
17 394 split precincts in 2011.

18 The committee attempted to avoid pitting
19 incumbents against each other. This criteria
20 simply has no place in a fair process. Elections
21 should be to protect voters' ability to have
22 their say, not protect incumbents. We haven't been
23 able to assess how the use of political
24 considerations in election results affected the
25 maps, but misuse -- I guess my time's up. Sorry.

1 MS. BLEIWEIS: When I run for state
2 legislature, I'm going to mandate that every
3 microphone be lowered a foot. That's going to be
4 the new law.

5 My name is Barbara Bleiweis. I am the --
6 my name is Barbara Bleiweis. I am the Fair
7 Elections Chair for the League of Women Voters of
8 Charlotte, Mecklenburg. The League was formed in
9 1920 that secured -- it was part of a movement that
10 secured the right to vote for women. The 100th
11 anniversary of that movement is coming soon and yet
12 we still continue to fight for fair elections. I
13 represent one of over 2,000 chapters of the League
14 throughout the US and one of 18 here in North
15 Carolina. We educate voters on election processes
16 and issues, including gerrymandering and how it
17 rigs elections.

18 Today, our fight continues to end
19 gerrymandering and to reform the redistricting
20 process to create fair maps. Our position on
21 gerrymandering is well-documented and indeed, to a
22 large extent, has been validated by the Supreme
23 Court on June 5th, when they upheld the lower
24 Court's ruling that the existing district maps
25 violated the constitutional rights of North

1 Carolina voters. And at that time, new maps were
2 ordered and due September 1st.

3 Since that time, the League has watched
4 legislators and -- continue to manipulate the
5 process, and we were appalled. We received notice
6 on 17 August to have public comments on 22 August
7 on maps that we got on 19 and 20 August, using
8 and -- creating maps that use criteria that -- then
9 that the net effect of it is disenfranchisement of
10 groups of voters using partisanship as a veiled
11 cover for race. The decision to limit time for
12 response, as well as limiting room for seating,
13 only underscores the fact that you might have no
14 interest in what we have to say [inaudible].

15 The effort to be transparent is
16 disingenuous. It erodes public trust in you and
17 undermines the democratic process. These hearings
18 lack the authenticity that we need and the
19 accountability that we demand of elected officials.

20 This isn't about Republican. It's not
21 about Democrat. It's not about retribution for
22 what happened in the past. It is about integrity
23 and fairness to the voters, to we the people.

24 The good news is, you have a chance to
25 fix this. So on behalf of the League of Women

1 Voters, we ask you, find a way to make maps fair.
2 Find a way that it will respect voter laws and
3 ensure that all our votes will count. Thank you.

4 MR. READY: Are we still working? Hi,
5 I'm Dan Ready. I'm a relative newcomer to North
6 Carolina. Hi, I'm Dan Ready. I'm a relative
7 newcomer to the state. I've only been here about
8 eight years, but I have grandchildren who are
9 going to grow up here and that brings me to this
10 process -- this arcane process of redistricting our
11 state.

12 Also, I was raised to have -- to believe
13 that democracy is something sacred. I've never in
14 my life, since the time I was eligible to vote,
15 missed an election. The only time I -- my vote
16 might not have been counted was when I was on
17 active duty, and I don't think my absentee ballot
18 got back on time. That's why I'm so appalled at
19 what I've seen in the last few years to try to
20 steal the right to vote from people, their sacred
21 right to vote, simply because they might not vote
22 the right way.

23 And this redistricting process -- I'm not
24 naive -- I know has always been a partisan process.
25 But there are certain lines you don't cross. There

1 are certain extremes you go to. And other people
2 have spoken eloquently already to this process that
3 we're going through now. And the excuse obviously
4 is that we're under the gun because the Court said
5 something has to happen by September 1st. But
6 we're under the gun on this process because of the
7 previous actions of the legislature. And you have
8 a responsibility to something other than political
9 power. And I wish you would recognize it.

10 However, the bottom line at this point
11 is, I don't think there's any way to have a proper
12 prospect -- process, excuse me, in the limited time
13 between now and September 1st. So rather than
14 speak to a committee of the legislature who has
15 failed in their responsibilities and now doesn't
16 have time to properly execute them and clearly
17 doesn't respect this sacred thing called democracy,
18 I'd like to speak directly to the courts involved.
19 Please, see these maps for what they are.

20 I personally think one of the political
21 branches, the legislature, should conduct this
22 process. But the legislature, through its own
23 actions, has made this impossible through their
24 negligence, through their lack of taking the
25 responsibilities to us citizens seriously. And so

1 I would implore the Court. See the maps for what
2 they are. Throw them out. This is one time when I
3 think we would all be better served, regardless of
4 our political stripe, by the courts writing the
5 district. This is one time we need the courts to
6 draw the districts and take our legislature out
7 because they have proven that they deserve to be
8 taken out of the process this time.

9 Please, I hope to God the courts will
10 throw these maps out and give us a map that is true
11 to that sacred ideal of democracy that we should
12 all believe in. Thank you so much.

13 REP. LEWIS: I have that it is three
14 speakers, and we're doing four speakers at Central
15 Piedmont. Next on the list in Central Piedmont I
16 have David Taylor for the fourth speaker.

17 MR. TAYLOR: Good afternoon. My name is
18 David Taylor. I'm a resident here in Charlotte.

19 So many -- so many speakers before me
20 have spoken so more eloquently than I'm able to,
21 including Mr. Ready. I would remind the people
22 assembled that the state constitution guarantees
23 that our power is derived from the people and is
24 instituted solely for the good of the whole. I'm
25 sorry. If you can't hear -- our constitution

1 guarantees that the power is derived from the
2 people and is instituted solely for the good of the
3 whole, but over the last four years, most of our
4 discourse has been about health -- about bathrooms,
5 monuments and campus speech codes rather than about
6 healthcare, schools, roads and jobs.

7 Most of this is due to the partisan
8 nature of our politics where 80 percent of
9 districts of this state are safely held by one
10 party or the other with no chance for competition.
11 This puts the hands -- the power in the hands of
12 the most extreme members of either party and pretty
13 much disenfranchises 75 percent of our voters
14 because they don't participate in the primary
15 process and don't have a legitimate choice in the
16 general election.

17 Please, please, let's try to end the
18 partisanship in our state's politics. It's
19 destroying the state. Thank you.

20 REP. LEWIS: We will now move to Caldwell
21 for four speakers. First speaker I have on the
22 list is Cotton Johnson. If we could transfer to
23 the Caldwell site.

24 MR. JOHNSON: I'm Cotton Johnson. I'm a
25 Republican. I was the [inaudible] since 1905. I

1 later moved on to become the youngest state
2 [inaudible] special assistant for governor in the
3 history of the state and that record has not been
4 broken. I've examined the districts, at least our
5 district, and I give an opinion that our district
6 is not gerrymandered whatsoever. Other districts
7 may. I have not addressed them. [Inaudible] the
8 Raleigh News & Observer, which is a [inaudible]
9 that it's not favorable to the Republican Party at
10 all. However, [inaudible] the detail or
11 [inaudible] the process [inaudible] in talking
12 about the districts here I said [inaudible] Burke
13 County more than anything else. I think another
14 thing that indicates that our district was not
15 gerrymandered is that Senator [inaudible] Randl eman
16 and Wilkes. Senator [inaudible] have never
17 indicated that she understands the needs of our
18 district. During the course of her time, Caldwell
19 is 64th per capita income. Watauga is 49th. Ashe
20 is 60th. Allegheny is 73rd. She wants to dismiss
21 all this and vote with the high-income districts.
22 She also wants to talk about tax issues and middle
23 class tax reduction which is a lie. She supported
24 a bill in the legislature last session that
25 resulted in [inaudible] a year to get a \$19,000 tax

1 reduction. [Inaudible] I rest my case. That's
2 all the time I get. I'll give it to someone else.

3 MS. HUFFMAN: Good evening. My name is
4 Sarah Huffman, and I live in Hickory. I'm under --
5 I can be under many umbrellas and I'm not going to
6 take up a lot of time. I was in the League of
7 Women Voters for 38 years. I proudly served on the
8 Board of Hickory [inaudible]. So I'm here today to
9 make it very brief.

10 I want to address the General Assembly
11 with a few facts. There's a recent poll, very
12 recent, shows that four out of five North
13 Carolinian voters, that is 80 percent, say there's
14 say it's not fair for politicians to draw their own
15 districts. The poll includes 85 percent Democrats,
16 74 percent Republicans and 80 percent of
17 Independents. The redistricting process must be
18 open over racial or partisan gerrymandering and
19 allow voters to pick their own political
20 representatives and not the other way around.

21 Now, do you -- in these new maps, you
22 could still pick the same consultant, Thomas
23 Hofeller who drew the current illegal maps and how
24 on earth can you expect to come out with a new map
25 that is representative of every voter in North

1 Carolina? These new maps -- now I've had a short
2 time, very, very short time to study them -- only
3 corrects about 10 percent.

4 What's happened to the other 90 percent?
5 Well, we need to redo them. The General Assembly
6 Leaders have spent \$8,000,000 of -- of taxpayers'
7 money to defend their maps in court, and they keep
8 losing. I want to end my little speech by saying,
9 stop wasting our money and get a nonpartisan
10 committee to draw new maps. Thank you.

11 MS. MORETZ: I'm Mary Moretz, and I am
12 from Boone. That is in Watauga County for those of
13 you who might not know. Hearing what Russians or
14 other alien nations might do -- might do to cause
15 Americans to lose faith in our election process
16 pales in comparison to what we have done to
17 ourselves. How are we to have a legitimate
18 democracy, when the Constitution is willfully
19 manipulated to take away the principle of one
20 person, one vote via gerrymandering?

21 Both parties are guilty. I'm old so I
22 know it's both parties. Oh, how you must
23 congratulate yourselves or have a letter, maybe.
24 You have manipulated the system. It is only a
25 matter of time until the present minority party

1 will exchange places with the majority party and
2 play the payback game. And perhaps with a
3 vengeance.

4 Let's end that now, let's resolve to pass
5 a North Carolina constitutional amendment that
6 reforms the process of redistricting, so that it's
7 fair for all citizens now and in the future. In
8 order to accomplish such a change, what we need are
9 legislators who are statesmen and not politicians.
10 What we need are legislators who believe that
11 equality and democracy are more important than
12 party.

13 What we need are legislators who rise
14 above the petty of gotcha, and rise to the
15 challenge of integrity, honesty and fairness. What
16 we need are legislators who reflect the moral code
17 upon which our nation was built. And not
18 politicians who are full of themselves for their
19 clever exploitation. Yes, Democrats, I am giving
20 you a tongue lashing. And, yes, Republicans I am
21 giving you a tongue lashing, too. Don't make me
22 have to come to Raleigh.

23 You call me an unconstitutional liar when
24 I talk government to my high school students. I
25 told them that, indeed, America is the shining the

1 city on the hill that models for all nations and
2 all peoples. That our democracy harbors all people
3 of all races, colors, and creeds through its
4 practice of one person, one vote. You have made a
5 mockery of our ideals.

6 I'm calling on you now to repent and
7 clean up your act. I'd like to suggest a
8 [inaudible] for redistricting. One, in accordance
9 with the Constitution of the United States, each
10 district shall have populations, equal populations.
11 Two, the creation of each district shall protect
12 the rights -- the ethnic voting rights in
13 accordance of Shaw versus Reno. Three, districts
14 shall be compact. Four, districts shall follow
15 established political boundaries such as cities and
16 counties. Thank you, the overwriting concept of
17 promoting one person, one vote should and must be
18 our mission. Thank you.

19 REP. LEWIS: Waiting for the fourth
20 speaker, Caldwell. I have --

21 MS. WENGERD: [Inaudible] Hi, my name is
22 Carolyn Wengerd. My name is Carolyn Wengerd. I'm
23 a student of mathematics. I'm also a teacher of
24 mathematics. Okay. And when I came in today I got
25 handed these pretty maps. Somebody had to use

1 eight crayons to color them. Now, if you know
2 anything about mathematics it should not take eight
3 crayons, it should take far fewer. And there's no
4 data behind this. I -- I look at these and see the
5 big picture, but without data they're meaningless.

6 Now, one person I heard say, that some
7 they came out today, that's nice. I was looking
8 for a [inaudible]; I couldn't find any. But I
9 really would wish you guys would come into the 21st
10 century. There's software out there, unbiased
11 software. We don't need a biased consultant,
12 Republican or Democrat. Software does this no
13 matter what your state, no matter what county
14 you're in. Finish your games [inaudible]. Thank
15 you.

16 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. I will remind
17 all sites that these outbursts of applause will not
18 be tolerated and are unhelpful when transitioning
19 between sites and only serve to slow down the
20 process. We are now going to move onto the
21 Guilford Tech site, for four speakers.

22 REP. STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
23 Representative Stevens, here again. We've had one
24 more representative join to us. Representative
25 [inaudible] joins this facility, I wanted to

1 announce that. We are prepared with our four
2 speakers. We have Michael Owens, Derick Smith,
3 Betsy Price and Chanelle James. We are ready.

4 MR. OWENS: I'd like to start by thanking
5 the General Assembly for holding this forum. I
6 don't envy the work you have ahead of you. My name
7 is Michael Owens. I am honored to serve as the
8 vice-chair for the Forsyth County Republican Party.

9 I'd also like to take a moment in time to
10 thank the General Assembly for the work they've
11 done in the last few years. They repaid roughly \$3
12 billion to the federal government a year ahead of
13 schedule. With increase in teacher pay more than
14 once and then established a rainy-day fund with
15 hundreds of millions of dollars, to be used in the
16 event of an emergency or natural disaster. They've
17 done all of this while lowering personal and
18 business income taxes for building North Carolina
19 to one of the best states in the country to do
20 business.

21 In regards to the maps, whatever the
22 outcome of this process, there's going to be a
23 lawsuit. You can take race into account, there is
24 going to be a lawsuit. You cannot take race into
25 account, there is going to be a lawsuit. I know it

1 and you know it.

2 To accentuate that, there is someone in
3 the room with me today, who assumed for sake of the
4 voter ID, I doubt it's a coincidence that they are
5 here today. I wonder if those -- those
6 organizations were included at all in this process.
7 If not, why not? If for no other reason than to
8 have them at least partially accountable for the
9 outcome. And I'll leave with this so those in the
10 minority party who have talked so much about
11 gerrymandering. I wonder if you considered your
12 district's gerrymander when you were, in fact, the
13 majority party for well over a century. Thank you.

14 REP. STEVENS: Here, here, go ahead.

15 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, North
16 Carolina. My name is Derick Smith. I am the
17 political actions chair for the Greensboro Chapter
18 of the NAACP. I'm also the political action chair
19 for the state congress of Chapters of the NAACP.
20 And I stand here with my president, Rev. Cardes
21 Brown, from the Greensboro Chapter of the NAACP.

22 And I want to get right off the bat to
23 this whole deal about Mr. Thomas Hofeller. Let's
24 think about these cases that we've had to deal
25 with, here in North Carolina. The list is long;

1 Dickson versus Rucho, City of Greensboro versus
2 Guilford County Board of Elections, Senator Wade.
3 We've had to deal with the Harris-Cooper case.
4 The -- the list is -- is quite long and of course
5 the famous Covington case with Supreme Court.
6 Ruled nine to zero, even with Clarence Thomas on
7 board, ruling these are unconstitutionally
8 constituted districts. Yet somehow, in their
9 infinite wisdom, this General Assembly believes
10 that it must continue to pay Thomas Hofeller to
11 continue to do this to the taxpayers of the state
12 of North Carolina.

13 So the message that they are sending is,
14 either they like what he's doing and they're -- or
15 they're just are rewarding incompetence. I believe
16 they like what he's doing, because they can
17 maintain power to keep the system all locked up in
18 the legal process, while they maintain power. So,
19 number one, Thomas Hofeller got to go.

20 Number two, let's talk about race. One
21 of the criteria that the General Assembly believes
22 that it needs to show [inaudible] is that it needs
23 to take race completely off the table. As though
24 there is no equal protection clause, as though
25 there is no Voting Rights Act Section 2. 'Cause

1 they got in trouble with race by packing black
2 votes into specific districts to maintain their
3 power illegally. Now they just want to do away
4 with it. Don't even consider race, as though the
5 Voting Rights Act doesn't apply. We're not going
6 to let them do it.

7 And the third thing I want to talk about
8 is don't let this General Assembly hoodwink you
9 into believing that incumbency is about incumbents.
10 First of all, it is, in the fact that's what they
11 are trying to protect, which is not in the
12 interest of anybody in the state of North Carolina.
13 It's only in the interest of people who are
14 incumbents. But here's the issue, the incumbency
15 that there's -- that they're protecting is illegal.
16 It's been illegal since all these courts have ruled
17 that's illegal. So what they are trying to
18 protect --

19 REP. LEWIS: One minute, okay. Time is
20 up.

21 MR. SMITH: Oh, time is up. But you know
22 what they are trying to protect. Don't let them do
23 it, North Carolina.

24 REP. STEVENS: Betsy Price and then
25 Chanelle James.

1 MS. PRICE: Hello, my name is Betsy
2 Price. I stand here tired. I'm tired of it being
3 [inaudible] or seeing it on the news, a new law
4 passed that I disagree with. I'm tired of a
5 legislature of Raleigh that passes laws that
6 discriminate. And I'm tired of them passing them
7 in the middle of the night. And I'm tired of a
8 legislature that fights our governor and Attorney
9 General at every turn. These, I believe, are the
10 results of gerrymandering.

11 And I'm also confused. Confused that the
12 Republicans in Raleigh chose the same guy to redraw
13 the maps that were drawn wrong the first time. And
14 confused that they used my tax money to do it,
15 \$50,000. And I'm also confused why the ruling
16 party gets to choose to redraw the maps. That rule
17 needs to go.

18 So I propose to the good people of North
19 Carolina that we appoint an independent council,
20 chosen by the people to draw these maps. Use ZIP
21 codes to draw them, so that people that live
22 together, work together and play together, can
23 choose who they to represent them.

24 Gerrymanders sounds a lot like
25 jerry-rigged to me. First it was lizards, then

1 snakes, I wonder what creature lurks out there this
2 time. So I say no to the new maps, draw them and
3 make them fair.

4 MS. JAMES: Hello, my name is Chanelle
5 Beverly James, and I am a citizen of Greensboro.
6 I'm also a Plaintiff in the Covington case, that
7 federal lawsuit in which three-judge court
8 invalidated 28 states -- state House and state
9 districts as unconstitutional racial, gender --
10 gerrymanders.

11 I'm here today to discuss my concerns
12 about the criteria this committee is using to draw
13 its proposed maps. First, your criteria is flawed
14 because three of the committee's criteria use the
15 2011 plans as a starting point for measuring
16 success. But these plans have been ruled
17 unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. The proper
18 benchmark to use would be the last constitutional
19 plans, those that came before 2011 plans. Instead,
20 the committee is officially tying its current maps
21 to the unconstitutional maps, perhaps its criteria
22 on compactness, split precinct and incumbency
23 protection.

24 On election data, the committee's
25 decision to allow drawing maps based on political

1 consideration is simply a repeat of the process
2 that followed to ensure partisan advantages when
3 you re-draw -- re-drew congressional districts in
4 2016. This use of political power is improper.
5 Data on incumbents' addresses and past election
6 terms should be used only to ensure that the
7 districts do not unruly favor any party or
8 individual, while complying with federal laws not
9 to ensure partisan outcomes. We believe this
10 improper use of political data likely exposes the
11 legislature for liability for partisan
12 gerrymandering, just as with the [inaudible] plans.

13 Second, with respect to compactness, it
14 seems funny to us, even having had the maps for
15 such a small amount of time, that the legislature
16 has -- prioritizing incumbency protection over the
17 facts. The North Carolina Supreme Court has
18 explained that compliance with the state
19 constitutional whole county provision requires that
20 districts must be compact. Incumbency protection,
21 while perhaps an acceptable consideration, if
22 applied evenly to incumbents of both parties,
23 should not supersede requirements of the state
24 constitution. That's your failure to establish
25 criteria that are openly [inaudible] state

1 constitutional criteria, above other criteria is
2 [inaudible] problematic.

3 Finally, this committee's decision to
4 altogether equal or race is a problem and it defies
5 the directional support. The use of race in
6 redistricting is not an all-or-nothing approach.
7 Issues of race are a nuance and not just in
8 redistricting. The law reflects is explained at
9 length by the Covington Court and is reiterated by
10 this committee on some of your members, although
11 they were ignored. This Court has instructed the
12 General Assembly that a one-size-fits-all racial
13 classification violates the Constitution and hurts
14 voters like me.

15 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. Having had four
16 speakers, we'll move to the Halifax Community
17 College site that's coming in and for four
18 speakers.

19 REP. J. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 We had Speaker Number 4, Janet Hoy, and Speaker
21 Number 5, Richard Siat, withdraw their names.
22 We'll start with Speaker Number 6, Edith Braginton,
23 and then move to Speakers Number 7, 8 and 9.

24 MS. BRAGINTON: Thank you. My name is,
25 Edith Braginton, and I live in Halifax. This is

1 the first time that I have ever felt moved to come
2 to any kind of a meeting like this. And it is
3 because I feel the maps, the gerrymandered maps,
4 are so bad. It is very important that people speak
5 up when they see these things.

6 I think the maps should be free from
7 partisan politics, first of all. I think that they
8 should comply with the Civil Rights Act. I think
9 that the maps should be fair. Gerrymandering hurts
10 all of us. We have to get rid of it now. I
11 understand that politicians currently in power
12 would like to stay in power. I understand that
13 politicians want to win. You don't have to be
14 scared. All you have to do is represent all of us.
15 You can win if you represent all of us.
16 Gerrymandering equals voter suppression. Don't do
17 that.

18 REP. J. BELL: Mr. Chairman, we also had,
19 for the record, Senator Smith-Ingram join us.

20 MS. CLAYTON: I'm Eva Clayton, the former
21 member of Congress. I speak today because I want
22 to be on record so I'll be clear that the right to
23 vote is the most precious right we have as an
24 American. And indeed, redistricting is one way to
25 deny that. I, for one, know the value of

1 redistricting was part of the challenge that indeed
2 created the two congressional districts in North
3 Carolina. This is no more than a sham.

4 If the process is flawed, the product is
5 flawed. And to the extent that this hearing is
6 being called at the last minute, very limited
7 information, to the extent we use the same system
8 that created the illegal system in the very
9 beginning. The audacity to think that the system
10 would be so naive to think that you could do this
11 to Americans.

12 We are just coming from the whole
13 celebration of the accident of Charlottesville.
14 Indeed, we understand what it is to be American or
15 not to be American pushing on statutes. Well, the
16 statute that created the civil rights law is
17 essential to being in America, so North Carolinian
18 delegates or members of the Senate, General
19 Assembly or the House, to the extent that you say
20 that all Americans, indeed, should be free, all
21 Americans are equal -- to the extent that you say
22 that and believe that, this redistricting plan has,
23 indeed, to be redrawn. Thank you.

24 MS. ROSS-HOLMES: Good afternoon. My
25 name is Carolyn Ross-Holmes, and I'm a resident of

1 Weldon. My message to all of the legislators
2 assembled: candidates must be electing by all of
3 the diverse groups that are located in
4 jurisdictions. Gerrymandering is not necessary when
5 candidates campaign and learn the people for which
6 you represent in all shades and beliefs abide by
7 the law.

8 I agree with many of the comments made
9 earlier by my fellow citizens in this room. It's
10 all about the process, such as -- including paying
11 attention to the crowd in your respective rooms to
12 gain insight of those assembled here and noticing
13 what they agree to or not. So in the spirit of
14 ensuring our vote is not suppressed neither shall
15 our show of support for comments made that I think
16 would be helpful in your report of public feelings
17 using -- by using sign language. I think that's
18 what we've been reduced to do. This is another
19 example of how one must seek and gain understanding
20 of the people you are elected to serve. Thank you.

21 MR. HERTZENRATER: I don't know how
22 the -- how the rooms are set up in other places
23 here. My name is Warren Hertenrater. I'm the
24 pastor of Jackson Baptist Church. I don't know how
25 the other rooms are set up in other places; it

1 appears that people are talking to a crowd of
2 people. Here we speak to a camera, a wall and
3 three guys in suits. And I've certainly spoken to
4 three guys in suits before when we have low
5 attendance on a Sunday, but I prefer to speak to a
6 crowd, and there's a crowd here. So I'm going to
7 turn around and get a timer going so hopefully I
8 won't go over the three minutes.

9 I -- I wonder, I'm not asking for a vote,
10 but how well we're able to hear what's going on in
11 other places. I've struggled to hear the comments
12 going on and -- and it seems to me that people who
13 have prepared things to say are being disrespected
14 by the fact that their words get jumbled and --
15 and -- and messed up so that people across the
16 state, in what's supposed to be a public hearing are
17 not able to be heard. It would appear that in the
18 process of creating these districts we have found
19 another way to suppress people's voices.

20 There's lots of ways to silence people's
21 voices. One is to deny them the vote, which we
22 have done this in this state. We have a long
23 history of doing that, even after suffrage, even
24 after the Voting Rights Act; even after 2017 we
25 still find ways to do it. Another way to silence

1 people is to place them in districts by drawing
2 lines around and through counties and through
3 neighborhoods. Another way to do it is to threaten
4 people with expulsion as they choose to express
5 their appreciation for a speaker as the person
6 before me has just said.

7 Another way which seems trivial by
8 comparison is to use technology and equipment that
9 is inadequate to the task of spreading a public
10 hearing across the public, across the state. And I
11 realize it's a tiny thing. I'm no expert at doing
12 this kind of thing but I've been involved in
13 webcasts before, and this is probably the worst one
14 I've ever seen. It -- it -- I just -- you know, I
15 think there's glass fiber going all over the state
16 between community colleges. I can't understand why
17 it works this way.

18 Why, if this is so important, are there
19 such inadequate resources are brought into play to
20 accomplish, or to fail to accomplish? The
21 technology makes voices sound like Mr. Ed and Fred
22 Munster and Mickey Mouse stuck down in a well. And
23 that's disrespectful and it disregards the
24 importance of what's going on here. It seems like
25 it's just another little tiny thing, just like

1 another little tiny vote, just like another little
2 percentage difference that it makes when you move a
3 congressional line. But all these just things make
4 things unjust.

5 A man I know named Tex Sample once
6 told -- talked with us about the problem he had
7 with his two sons who had a hard time sharing the
8 task of mowing the lawn. The old one would always
9 take the easy part, leaving the hard part for the
10 younger one. Tex drew a map of the room and he --
11 or a map of the yard and he said -- the older
12 one -- said to the older one divide the yard up any
13 way you want and said to the younger one, you pick
14 which side you want to mow. I wish we could do
15 voting that way.

16 REP. LEWIS: That will then move us on to
17 Beaufort Community College -- four speakers.

18 MR. WICKERSHAM: My name is Dave
19 Wickersham. I live at 838 Sunshine Drive in
20 Arapahoe, North Carolina. I am the chairman of the
21 Republican Party of Pamlico County. My comments
22 today specifically address Pamlico County.

23 On February the 8th, 1872, the General
24 Assembly of North Carolina ratified, quote, "an act
25 to lay off and establish a new county by the name

1 of Pamlico," end quote. This new county was made
2 up of land from the existing counties of Craven and
3 Beaufort and we have formed a close relationship
4 with them over the last 145 years.

5 A computer line drawn on a map does not
6 recognize the people, the lives or their daily
7 activities. We are an inland county, we are not a
8 coastal county. We are not connected in any way to
9 the other counties in this proposed redistricting.
10 Pamlico County is not contiguous with Dare, Hyde or
11 Carteret counties. The only connection is a long
12 drive through Beaufort County via Washington or a
13 tedious ferry ride. On the other hand, Craven and
14 Carteret County are accessible by a four-lane
15 highway or a very short, convenient, 20-minute
16 ferry ride.

17 We do banking, air travel, car buying,
18 shopping and enjoy dining and entertainment in our
19 neighboring counties. Our retired military are
20 constantly commuting back and forth to Cherry
21 Point. Our children take bus trips to the North
22 Carolina Aquarium and other points of interest in
23 our neighboring counties. The closest hospital and
24 other much-needed medical services are only 25
25 miles away. There is a significant flow of people

1 between our three counties.

2 Our inland coastal location on the Neuse
3 and Pamlico rivers have resulted in very special
4 state regulations that Dare, Hyde and Currituck
5 don't have. Of course they have their own set of
6 burdensome regulations to deal with. To be blunt,
7 our modest population of 13,000 means the much
8 larger counties to our north will mean that we
9 simply will be lost in the shuffle. It is hard to
10 imagine anyone elected in this proposed new
11 district would spend much time with us or, more
12 importantly, represent our needs and concerns in
13 the legislature. I implore you to reconsider this
14 alignment and leave Pamlico County with neighbors
15 with whom we work, live, recreate and worship as a
16 community of shared interests. Please examine
17 again not only your responsibility to comply with a
18 court order, but your human responsibility of doing
19 the right thing instead of just taking yet another
20 political expedient action.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
22 I can only hope and pray my words are heard.
23 Please let us stay as we are with our neighbors and
24 shared communities in Craven, Beaufort and
25 Carteret. Because in the case of Pamlico County,

1 as far as the redistricting goes, it is not fair,
2 it is not contiguous, it is not more compact and it
3 is not respectful of community and shared
4 interests. Thank you.

5 REP. J. BELL: Ray Leary.

6 MR. LEARY: Thank you. Good evening, my
7 name is Ray Leary. I reside in Chocowinity, North
8 Carolina, and I'm here representing the Citizens of
9 Better Government of Beaufort County. We do not
10 understand why this committee has chosen to include
11 Beaufort County in a North Carolina senatorial
12 district that has no commonality with coastal
13 communities. Beaufort County has approximately 80
14 statute miles of estuary and waters, and Beaufort
15 County is connected by this association and
16 historically to the coastal counties of Hyde and
17 Dare counties. We --

18 MALE SPEAKER: Can't hear -- no
19 broadcast -- all we can hear [inaudible] -- turn it
20 up.

21 MR. LEARY: Well, it says it's on. I'll
22 just talk louder. We have nothing in common with
23 Vance, Northampton and Warren counties. We do not
24 know why anyone would suggest this plan. It makes
25 no sense. If there is a plausible explanation for

1 this gerrymandering, we would certainly like to
2 hear why that is from this committee. We do not
3 need this, we do not want this, and we do not
4 deserve to be shut out in Raleigh. It is -- is it
5 not sufficiently corrupt that Beaufort County has
6 to endure limited voting for county
7 representatives? And now this new Senate district
8 map was conjured up to deprive us of representation
9 in the North Carolina Senate.

10 The redistricting committee has been
11 provided with an acceptable modification to the new
12 maps by the Beaufort County Republican Party
13 Executive committee. The Beaufort County Citizens
14 for Better Government supports this revision and
15 respectfully requests you correct this rather
16 egregious redistricting plan. Such a change will
17 actually better comply with the published criteria
18 for redistricting than the current proposed map
19 does. Thank you for allowing the citizens to
20 provide you with these recommendations and we
21 sincerely hope you will honor not only our request,
22 but others who have proposed this same
23 modification. Thank you very much.

24 MR. SEIGHMAN: My name is Gerald
25 Seighman. I'm a Beaufort County resident, and I

1 did not intend to come to this meeting, but the
2 more I thought about it, the more upset I am.
3 Holding a meeting at 4 o'clock is not a public
4 meeting because in Beaufort County we're a Tier 1
5 community. And a lot of the people that are
6 working, they cannot afford to take off the
7 half-day and lose those wages to come make
8 comments, so I thought I would just come. If you
9 look at Beaufort County, fishing, crabbing,
10 shrimping, that's what we do. We're a coastal
11 community.

12 And I look at the map, but I see we are
13 with Vance, Warren and Northampton. They're --
14 they're landlocked, they don't have any water. So
15 if we have political representation from someone
16 that wins the election up in those counties, they
17 have no clue what Beaufort County does. We should
18 be put back into the coastal community where the
19 representation will have some knowledge of at least
20 what we do in this county. Thank you.

21 MS. JONES: My name is Mary Jones, and
22 I'm from Washington County and I don't like
23 speaking in public. But addressing the topic of
24 how our neighborhoods and counties have been so
25 split up before, these new districts are more

1 compact than the current ones that we are now
2 under. These districts respect our community and
3 our shared interest with our neighbors. These
4 districts respect the principle of contiguity with
5 means -- which means being close or drawn together,
6 with all parts of each district being connected.
7 It is this way for our county; it may not be said
8 for some of you others. But I endorse these maps.
9 There are -- there are less split-up counties than
10 before.

11 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. I will announce,
12 it looks like we have about nine minutes if any
13 more individuals are wishing to sign up to speak.
14 Tonight in about nine minutes, at 6:30, the sign-up
15 list will close. If nothing else, we'll move on to
16 Fayetteville Tech for four speakers.

17 REP. SZOKA: That's Ana Blackburn,
18 Deandrea Newsome, Lynn Hanka, Roberta Waddle --
19 that's four, and if they go to five, Mr. Buxton.

20 MS. BLACKBURN: Good evening, I'm Ana
21 Blackburn. I'm the state's Latino liaison for the
22 North Carolina NAACP. Democracy is once again at
23 stake because it is being stolen by an illegitimate
24 General Assembly. This is not just my opinion but
25 that of the court system. The Supreme Court found

1 the North Carolina white supermajority rigged the
2 election by using racist gerrymandering to win
3 their seats. I am personally tired about hearing
4 that the Republicans gerrymandered as well. We are
5 talking about the here and the now. Two wrongs
6 don't make a right.

7 Here we go again. With all that in mind,
8 and after being found guilty by the Supreme Court,
9 nine to zero, of racist gerrymandering, you would
10 think that at least a logical person would take
11 steps to admit and attempt to remedy the situation
12 honestly, but no, not our North Carolina
13 supermajority. They turned around and hired the
14 very consultant who drew the previous racist,
15 gerrymandered maps and, to add insult to injury,
16 gave him a raise.

17 Public records show that Mr. Hofeller has
18 received 50,000 of public funds to redraw the map
19 once again. Yet, whenever we exercise our right to
20 protest and rally, the rhetoric we hear from the
21 supermajority is, the people elected us, they have
22 spoken, stop your whining.

23 Well, I'm here to tell you, the people
24 haven't spoken, because you saw to that by rigging
25 the maps, which is exactly what you are attempting

1 to once again do. The public, this public hearing,
2 is a sham. And what a total disrespect to the
3 people of North Carolina, the hard-working voters
4 of this state that you will hold seven hearings, at
5 this time when so many people cannot get here and
6 call that you are honest leadership and trying to
7 do the right thing by the people. It would be a
8 bigger crisis to democracy if I would not stand up
9 to the injustice that this General Assembly is
10 trying to do by silence the people of North
11 Carolina. (Comments in Spanish.) Forward
12 together, not one step back.

13 MS. NEWSOME: Hello, my name is
14 Resistance, and I'm a resident of Cumberland
15 County. And so I have a message to Chairman Lewis
16 and also Vice-Chairman Szoka. Stop insulting the
17 intelligence of the residents of our great state.
18 It is about time that you all become representative
19 of who you represent. It has been way too long
20 that you think that this is the best that you can
21 do. Are you serious? I am infuriated,
22 disrespected, upset that this is why we're here
23 today.

24 And to think that -- when you look at our
25 Cumberland County as it -- as it comes down to the

1 House district, that it's a conflict of interest as
2 our vice chairman's district gets larger, if you
3 look at the maps. The definition of insanity is to
4 do the same thing over and over and over again and
5 expect different results. So the members of the
6 redistricting committee, maybe you're a little
7 insane and it's time for you to come home.

8 REP. LEWIS: Representative Szoka, could
9 you have the speaker repeat her name?

10 MS. NEWSOME: Resistance.

11 REP. SZOKA: Resistance.

12 MS. HANKA: My name is Lynn Hanka. I'm
13 a --

14 REP. LEWIS: Representative Szoka --

15 MS. HANKA: -- I'm a relative newcomer to
16 North Carolina, and I chose to stay here because I
17 love this state. And the more that I learn about
18 the antics of gerrymandering and voter suppression
19 by the legislature the more horrified I am. I
20 would remind you that a core tenet of democracy is
21 that a healthy democracy requires a principled
22 opposition. A healthy democracy requires a
23 principled opposition because a plurality of
24 perspectives is how we progress as a society and
25 support everyone, from the most privileged to the

1 most vulnerable.

2 The legislative super-majority has lost
3 sight of this requirement of a principled
4 opposition, doing everything they can to stamp out
5 any opposition. And so we have a sick democracy in
6 our state that's infected with partisanship,
7 disenfranchisement and cruelty to the most
8 vulnerable people.

9 These new maps show intent to protect the
10 illegal supermajority. And so the sickness that
11 infects our democracy will continue if these maps
12 are adopted.

13 For us to heal our democracy, we must
14 have a truly open process that allows voters to
15 choose their representatives. End the partisan and
16 racial gerrymandering now, so that our
17 representatives truly represent all of us. Thank
18 you.

19 REP. LEWIS: Representative Szoka, could
20 you please read the speakers' names so far?

21 MS. WADDLE: Good evening. I am Roberta
22 Waddle --

23 REP. LEWIS: Ma'am, you can hear me?

24 MS. WADDLE: I'm chair of the Cumberland
25 County Democratic Party. Every legislative

1 district in Cumberland has been redrawn. While the
2 lines in the districts do appear to be more
3 compact, I have no data on the results of these
4 changes. I don't know whether these districts help
5 or hinder our party; they probably don't. I don't
6 know if redistrict will meet justice department
7 approval regarding racial distribution. I cannot
8 determine if they are fair.

9 I would very much like to comment on the
10 proposed redistricting maps presented here today.
11 However, the process has been so secret and the
12 hearings scheduled without sufficient time to
13 evaluate them, it is very hard to do so.

14 The reason we are so rushed at this time
15 is because the legislators in charge have delayed
16 redrawing of the districts as long as they could,
17 and they have not allowed for public input. Courts
18 have ruled that the current maps are gerrymandered
19 with surgical precision. Considering that the new
20 maps have been drawn under the same legislative
21 direction and done by the same technical services,
22 it seems likely that we would have a very similar
23 outcome.

24 I call for an independent commission to
25 draw maps that allow fair representation for all.

1 Meaning that minorities would have a fair chance to
2 be represented in the legislature, that the parties
3 would be proportionally represented and that there
4 would be fair, safe districts for all. Thank you.

5 REP. LEWIS: Ms. Waddle, please state
6 your name.

7 MS. WADDLE: I did. Oh, okay. I am
8 Roberta Waddle. Chair of the Cumberland County
9 Democratic Party.

10 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. Could you give
11 me the previous two speakers. I -- someone's name
12 was not what I had on the list. Could you give me
13 the name for the previous two speakers?

14 REP. SZOKA: Mr. Chair, the second
15 speaker was Deandrea Newsome of Advance Carolina
16 and the third speaker was Lynn Halka of Cape Fear
17 Indivisible.

18 REP. LEWIS: Thank you very much. We
19 will now move on. We're going to go to -- we will
20 increase the number of speakers on each site to
21 five as that does seem to expedite it slightly.
22 And there was one change, but we're coming back
23 here to Raleigh. We will begin with Rosalie
24 Dominik, then Bobo Ayres, then Rachel Lichte, Corey
25 Williams and Aylett Colston.

1 So in that order we'll begin with Rosalie
2 Dominik.

3 MS. DOMINIK: Hi, I'm Rosalie Dominik of
4 Durham. And I think the message you've been
5 hearing is very clear. We need an approach to
6 redistricting that is transparent, acceptable to
7 both parties and enduring. This is the only way to
8 ensure a true democracy. Plus, as long -- until we
9 have a long-term solution to drawing districts, we
10 won't have the opportunity for our officials to
11 spend all the time they need to spend and the --
12 and the funds that are available on education,
13 health care and infrastructure development.

14 They'll be distracted by the
15 redistricting problem, until it's truly solved in
16 a -- in a nonpartisan way. So the process used to
17 draw the proposed maps, you know, lacks
18 transparency and appears to have, once again
19 resulted in maps that are rigged in favor in one
20 party -- of one party. The citizens of North
21 Carolina truly deserve better. And this is a
22 problem you can fix. You have that power. It's --
23 it's one of the things that you can fix pretty
24 easily. So I hope that you will do the right
25 thing. Thank you.

1 SEN. HISE: Bobo Ayres, you're recognized
2 for time not to exceed three minutes.

3 MS. AYRES: Hi, my name is Bobo Ayres. I
4 am a fiscal conservative, a stay-at-home mom, so
5 I'm literally nobody. I'm sure you guys all have
6 families. And if your children misbehave, you
7 would reprimand them. And if they did it again,
8 you would probably reprimand them again, right?

9 So in this case, I'm not sure why we're
10 going back to the same guy to draw the same maps.
11 And I'm not sure why you would expect the people to
12 encourage it. To say, yay, you made the same
13 mistake again. So I'm just asking you to stop
14 wasting your time and our money on unnecessary
15 lawsuits. Lawsuits come because an injustice has
16 been done. Thank you for hearing me.

17 SEN. HISE: Thank you. We'll now move to
18 Rachel Lichte for a time period not exceed three
19 minutes. Is Rachel not here? Okay. Moving on,
20 Corey Williams. Come to order. Recognizing Corey
21 Williams for a time not to exceed three minutes.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi there. If it helps
23 you, I was Number 9. I am a mom from House
24 District 56 and Senate District 23. And I brought
25 my very expensive visual aids with me today. In

1 November of last year I had no idea what Senate
2 district I lived in or House District.

3 I was at the PTA. I was volunteering,
4 but I wasn't really watching what was going on
5 here. The special sessions turned that around for
6 me, and I really began to pay attention. I came
7 down. Some of you, I recognize because I sit in
8 your office and don't leave until you talk to me.
9 But I wanted to know what was going on in this
10 state. And I wanted to find the dedicated civil
11 servants who set aside their interest and serve for
12 \$14,000 a year and do this. So clearly you care.
13 And I've met some thoughtful, capable, dedicated,
14 North Carolinians.

15 I've had lunch with you, and I respect
16 you. I've also seen some of the most contemptible
17 stunts, the likes of which would land these two
18 guys in the naughty corner. This set of maps,
19 naughty corner.

20 I sat in the Greensboro courtroom and
21 listened to Mr. Starch -- I'm going to get his name
22 wrong -- his very thin argument. They were not
23 delaying the process for partisan reasons. They
24 were instead dedicated to ensuring that the public
25 comment is heard and taken under advisement. And

1 these people clearly care. We've heard great
2 comments from North Carolinians around this state.
3 I'm glad to hear that you want public comment and
4 I'm hoping that this time Mr. Hofeller hears all of
5 these public comments.

6 So we're not at the pool today. They put
7 on their suits to come see you, so I could let you
8 know what I think. These maps don't just fail the
9 efficiency gap test, they fail the chuckle test.
10 And while I realize it's still legal, it's not
11 ethical, it's not right and it's not long for this
12 world. We're all waiting for the Wisconsin Supreme
13 Court decision and we're all tired of the
14 they-did-it-first argument. I don't want them to
15 do it, and you guys shouldn't be doing it, either.

16 In terms of racial gerrymandering,
17 releasing these maps on Saturday has not given me
18 adequate chance to really assess whether a remedy
19 has been achieved here. But I'll tell you, as a
20 black woman, I have listened over and over to
21 protestations that the people -- the members of
22 this body are not racist. All I can say to you at
23 this moment, with no data, is that I hope that when
24 we look hard at the work that you've done, it won't
25 be found wanting. Because mamas will come to the

1 ballot box and we're going to send everybody who
2 is -- is not providing effective remedy to the
3 naughty corner.

4 There are some bill sponsors who are to
5 be commended. We saw House Bill 200. We saw
6 Representative Brust's computer redistricting be
7 proposed this session. This isn't -- those are all
8 Republicans. This isn't really an issue of
9 partisanship. It's an issue of incumbency.

10 So when you go home tonight and you look
11 at your little people, and you tuck them in and
12 you brush your teeth and look at yourself in the
13 mirror -- just like I'm going to do -- ask
14 yourselves, do I feel good about this? Am I happy
15 with these maps? Is this fair to North Carolina?
16 Thanks.

17 SEN. HISE: Aylett Colston. You're
18 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
19 minutes.

20 MS. COLSTON: Hi. My name's Aylett
21 Colston. I live here in Wake County. I'm speaking
22 to you today as a North Carolinian and as the
23 mother, wife, sister and daughter of North
24 Carolinians.

25 At the beginning of this meeting today,

1 if you guys can remember back that long ago -- been
2 here awhile already, it feels like -- you asked for
3 the public's help in complying with the court
4 order, and I am so happy to hear that. It's great
5 to ask for help when you need it.

6 I always think it's helpful to go back
7 and think about the basics. To remind ourselves of
8 the basics. Why do we have voting districts to
9 begin with? It is so that people have a
10 representative. Someone to look out for them and
11 the interest of their community when it comes to
12 writing the laws and making the decisions that
13 affect all of our everyday lives.

14 I've already written to you and have
15 outlined the reasons that voting districts should
16 be drawn with the purpose of ensuring that every
17 person in North Carolina has a voice, and every
18 person in North Carolina has the opportunity to
19 elect someone to represent them. They should not
20 be drawn for making it easier for politicians to
21 keep their jobs.

22 I have heard a lot of reasons given for
23 why the maps were drawn the way they were, both
24 back in 2011 and also the new proposed ones. What
25 I have not heard is anybody say they drew these

1 maps because they thought it was in the best
2 interest of North Carolinians to draw them this
3 way.

4 I have not heard one person involved in
5 drawing the maps say we drew them that way because
6 we thought that was what would ensure the best
7 future for North Carolina. What I would really
8 like to hear is somebody involved in -- when you're
9 drawing the maps, is for you to say and then for
10 you to follow through. And when you're making
11 these decisions in drawing the maps, think about --
12 ask yourselves these questions, two questions.
13 Will this help the people of North Carolina?
14 Number two, will this improve North Carolina's
15 future?

16 You guys asked for help in complying with
17 the court order -- I only have three minutes, so if
18 it's possible to incorporate things by reference,
19 I'd point you to this handy dandy little guide to
20 redistricting that your own staff did a great job
21 on. It's in your public website. Anyone can
22 download it. The only thing that's changed is
23 there are now fewer protections for historically
24 disenfranchised communities. I'd also like to
25 mention the actual court opinion that kind of takes

1 you through all the law and kind of how you got
2 here. It's not too late to do the right thing.
3 Thank you.

4 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Next we'll have
5 Claudia Koonz and then Andrea George, as we had one
6 not present. Claudia Koonz, you're recognized for
7 a time period not to exceed three minutes.

8 MS. KOONZ: Thank you very much. My name
9 is Claudia Koonz, and I'm speaking as a citizen of
10 North Carolina who's worried about our state in a
11 time of polarized politics. I'm also here as a
12 historian from Duke University. I'm a historian of
13 Germany in the 20th century. And I particularly am
14 interested in what happens when polarized party
15 politics takes the place of national concern.

16 Nonpartisan electoral maps are a first
17 step towards restoring the trust that is the
18 bedrock of democracy. That kind of trust is what
19 we need here. I have to say, I have never done
20 this before. I've never even come to a meeting
21 like this, but I have been horrified by the amount
22 of cynicism and apathy I feel among -- just people
23 I run into every day. So let's step back from our
24 situation today. What can we learn from the past?
25 The textbooks tell us that Hitler destroyed

1 democracy in 1933. That's wrong.

2 German politicians killed off German
3 democracies, starting in the late twenties, by
4 putting their partisan political self-interest
5 above the common good. Even after the Great
6 Depression, with one-third unemployment. Action
7 was urgent. What did politicians do? Nothing.
8 Major bills died for want of the majority.

9 Five national elections in four years
10 produced no workable coalitions, only more
11 gridlock. Humorists laughed. They said politics
12 looked like a barbell. All the weight at either
13 end, but the outcome wasn't funny. The more
14 politicians fought, the more rigid they became. A
15 dangerous spiral set in.

16 Voter cynicism and politicians' partisan
17 rigidity grew neck and neck. So what's happening
18 here today? I think Eva Clayton said this more
19 eloquently than I can possibly say it. But we have
20 been waiting all summer for these maps and now, at
21 the 11th hour -- when it is too late -- I suggest
22 we need a fresh start. We need to ask for an
23 incomplete. Take a -- get rid of the deadline.

24 Do not trust the firm that drew these
25 maps. Pass House Bill 200. Appoint a panel of

1 experts -- mathematicians, demographers and
2 geometrists -- to redraw nonpartisan districts.
3 Make both sides equally unhappy.

4 From a historian's perspective, I close
5 with just this thought. Voter disgust can lead to
6 apathy. It can produce low turnouts and declining
7 pride, but disgust can also produce rage, a potent
8 force to be considered by every legislature
9 concerned with his or her reelection. Think of
10 where we were yesterday, all of us at 2:45 in the
11 afternoon. We all felt together watching an
12 incredible eclipse. That's the kind of feeling of
13 community and togetherness I hope you will help us
14 achieve in our political lives. Thank you.

15 SEN. HISE: Next up is Andrea George. I
16 recognize for a time period not to exceed three
17 minutes.

18 MS. GEORGE: Hi, hello, my name is Andrea
19 George. First of all I just want to say I -- thank
20 you for the privilege of being in this country.
21 And thank you for the privilege of being able to
22 vote. And I just want to give a reminder that
23 there are places in this world where people will
24 walk for a week to vote. And making voting as easy
25 as possible for everybody is -- I can't see that as

1 a priority. It's a privilege. It's a privilege
2 that people died for and -- and we need to respect
3 that.

4 Secondly, I've heard a lot about
5 division. As I've sat here most of what I've heard
6 about is division. I've heard [inaudible] but one
7 speaker earlier comment about the devil's tactics.
8 The devil's tactics are division. And we keep
9 dividing ourselves by race and color and creed,
10 division gives [inaudible] to division. We will
11 never come together.

12 Secondly, I'm pleased, personally, to see
13 a map that's brought about without racial
14 considerations with more racial data. I am
15 thrilled because that's where we want to be.
16 That's where our future, I hope, will be one day.
17 And as far as I understand, it follows the Voting
18 Rights Acts.

19 The communities are contiguous for the
20 most part. I heard maybe one -- one coastal
21 community complaining about that, but for the most
22 part the precincts and the -- and the -- the --
23 the -- the districts are contiguous. And -- and
24 that's important. People living together sharing
25 common leaders, maybe we will unite instead of

1 di vi de. Thank you.

2 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Members of the
3 committee as well as members of the public, we're
4 going to need to suspend for a few minutes to give
5 our -- ask questions about our court reporter and
6 give her a few moments to catch her breath, as we
7 may say, in this process. So our committee will
8 suspend.

9 (Recess.)

10 REP. LEWIS: Come back to order, please.
11 Come back to order, please. Ladies and gentlemen,
12 the public -- going to announce to you that on the
13 current signups we have here at the central
14 location in Raleigh, we have a total of 221
15 speakers left to speak. That would require, at the
16 pace we are moving, approximately 11 hours. That
17 is in excess of what a court reporter would be able
18 to deal with in making the transcripts.
19 Fortunately, in case of technology issues, we took
20 each site in the state and it is prepared to record
21 on its own as an individual hearing.

22 There are actually two recordings at each
23 site, one for the House and one for the Senate,
24 which can be delivered to court reporters to create
25 a transcript. And that is what we are going to do.

1 The seven sites now will operate independently of
2 each other. And we will move through and be able
3 to get through the public comment in a much more
4 time-efficient manner.

5 That being said, I know that the other
6 sites that are out there that can still hear me.
7 We've also had some technical issues transitioning
8 back and forth. If you have any issues or others,
9 please feel free to contact us. We still have tech
10 support and others available, but the Sergeant at
11 Arms that are adept on how to operate the recording
12 equipment to make sure that we have the multiple
13 recordings for each of the public hearing sites.

14 We will then be able to have multiple
15 court reporters compile one record that would be
16 available for the members of the committee as we
17 move forward in this process.

18 We will then continue here in Raleigh
19 with the list of speakers that we have. Next up on
20 the list, I have -- I'll go through the list I have
21 in front of me, William Smith, Gloria Faley. I
22 have an Octavia Rainey, but it has been removed.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: No.

24 REP. LEWIS: Okay. Octavia Rainey, then
25 Susan, handwriting is always interesting, McClana

1 and Linda Duda.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: McClanahan.

3 McClanahan.

4 REP. LEWIS: Okay. Begin with William
5 Smith. We will be called -- William Smith will be
6 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
7 minutes. Is William Smith here?

8 (Pause in proceedings; audio from remote
9 feed plays.)

10 REP. LEWIS: If we could silence the
11 audio at the other sites.

12 (Pause in proceedings; audio from remote
13 feed plays.)

14 SEN. HISE: We'll call again for a
15 William Smith. Seeing no William Smith, we'll move
16 to Gloria Faley.

17 MS. FALEY: My name is Gloria Faley. I
18 live in Orange County. I was born and raised in
19 North Carolina. As a matter of fact my teenage job
20 was topping tobacco, for those of you that can
21 remember those days. So I've been here a long
22 time.

23 I am horrified at this process. I am --
24 I got here at 1 o'clock. The rules were to make
25 sure that you got your name on the list. If you

1 got your name by the list you were going down one
2 by one. That's not happened. I've also noted of
3 all the folks that are here exactly what party --
4 what party is not here very much. That party that
5 has actually left since these proceedings have
6 started. It tells me something about the process.
7 Your decision is already made. It's a sham.

8 Let's talk a little bit more about the
9 process, shall we? The law -- lines were drawn,
10 Tom Hofeller. He's a California software guy.
11 He's one by -- according to Atlantic Monthly, one
12 of the members of the League of dangerous
13 mapmakers. A California native that has never
14 lived in North Carolina. He doesn't even know
15 about people like me, a North Carolinian. Why was
16 not an independent group -- nonpartisan, of North
17 Carolina voters, appointed by you and the
18 legislature and the governor? Why? Again, it's a
19 sham.

20 Now, let's talk about the voters for a
21 minute. The maps themselves for a minute. The
22 voters in Robeson proposed district, which covers
23 most of Greensboro, supports -- supported Clinton
24 over Trump 78 percent to 19 percent. In Wade
25 proposed district Trump received 52 percent of the

1 vote to 44 percent for Clinton.

2 It looks like that if three of the
3 Guilford County four senators would be Republicans,
4 two of them live in other districts. This is
5 beyond racial profiling. This is making sure that
6 Guilford County, which is heavily Democrat, gets
7 cut out of the process. In fact, the public
8 hearing only had 20 to 30 seats. How little do you
9 care about Guilford County?

10 The maps should be free of partisan
11 politics, ignoring voting registration data and
12 past election results. They must also ignore
13 incumbent addresses, avoid intentionally double-
14 bunking incumbents in order to focus on getting one
15 of them out of office. These maps were be -- drawn
16 behind closed doors and voters have not been given
17 sufficient time to review any of the proposed maps
18 before the public hearing. I want to be clear.
19 I'm almost done. The push for the fair districts
20 is not about getting more Democrats elected. It is
21 about --

22 SEN. HISE: Speaker's time has expired.

23 MS. FALEY: You know, I will --

24 REP. LEWIS: Octavia Rainey, you're
25 recognized for a time period --

1 MS. FALEY: People are frustrated enough
2 that this will --

3 REP. LEWIS: Octavia Rainey, you're
4 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
5 minutes.

6 MS. RAINEY: Good afternoon. My name is
7 Octavia Rainey, and I would like to thank you for
8 the opportunity to speak today. I'm here because I
9 am very concerned that I'm a firm believer in
10 anything you do that there should be transparency,
11 fairness and equity in any process. That is how we
12 engage. And we listen to other people's opinion
13 whether we want to hear them or not. But listening
14 to differences of opinion only make you a better
15 and a stronger person that will also enable you to
16 make better decisions.

17 I have concerns that leaders offered
18 inadequate time to review and -- and analyze the
19 proposed maps. I have strong concerns about the
20 time in which the maps was released at one time and
21 then the data at another time. And this was for
22 the House and the Senate.

23 It truly concerned me that when the data
24 was released at two different, separate times, it
25 was hard to analyze what was actually going on,

1 what was being presented before us. And it also
2 gave an air, a feel, of something was wrong with
3 this process. And this General Assembly should not
4 be about that. This General Assembly should be
5 about transparency. We all know what happened to
6 the last map. We know the last map was wrong. The
7 Court said that the last map was wrong.

8 My concern is why will we go to the same
9 individual to help us draw another map and use that
10 as a benchmark? That is completely wrong. We
11 should begin to look at bringing in an independent
12 body to help us draw the maps. We should all want
13 fair maps. We should all want to increase
14 everyone's right to vote, but we should always want
15 to make sure that everyone, regardless of race,
16 creed, color or national origin, would have an
17 opportunity to run for office, not a gerrymandering
18 running for office. Thank you.

19 SEN. HISE: Susan McClanahan, you're
20 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
21 minutes.

22 MR. SMITH: My name is William Smith.

23 SEN. HISE: Susan McClanahan, you're
24 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
25 minutes.

1 MS. MCCLANAHAN: Thank you for this time.
2 My name is Susan B. McClanahan. I am from Orange
3 County. I'm speaking as a North Carolina citizen,
4 voter and taxpayer. When you entered the North
5 Carolina General Assembly, you placed your left
6 hand on the Bible and raised your right hand in the
7 air to swear to an oath to support the Constitution
8 of the United States.

9 One year ago, a federal three-judge panel
10 ruled that you had violated that oath by using
11 illegal, illegitimate, unconstitutional,
12 racially-discriminatory voting maps in three
13 different North Carolina elections. Republican
14 lawmakers appealed to the US Supreme Court. On
15 August 1, 2017, all nine members of the US Supreme
16 Court unanimously agreed that your maps were
17 unconstitutional, yet you have continued to use
18 those illegal maps as the basis for these new maps
19 for 2018. Plus you have used the very same
20 consultant, Thomas Hofeller, who drew those illegal
21 maps.

22 In your repeatedly failed attempts to
23 litigate and defend these illegal and racially
24 discriminatory maps, you have wasted millions of
25 taxpayer dollars. You have continued to drag your

1 feet, to delay and obstruct the process by which
2 voting maps are drawn. You have excluded other
3 lawmakers and North Carolina citizens from the
4 process. You have been secretive and have waited
5 until the last minute to disclose the new proposed
6 maps and the data that was used to draw them.

7 Because of your repeated
8 racially-discriminatory actions, the people of
9 North Carolina have no confidence that you will
10 live up to your oath to create constitutional and
11 nondiscriminatory voting maps. Put simply, you
12 have shown that you cannot be trusted with this
13 very important task. Before you once again violate
14 your solemn oath and before you waste further
15 taxpayer dollars, I urge you to reject these maps
16 and allow an independent, nonpartisan commission to
17 draw fair, legal, nondiscriminatory and
18 constitutional maps so that neither party will be
19 guilty of violating their oath when future voting
20 maps are prepared. Thank you.

21 SEN. HISE: Linda Duda?

22 REP. LEWIS: She didn't show.

23 SEN. HISE: All right. Linda Duda? Not
24 here. We'll return now to William Smith, who was
25 not here when previously called.

1 MR. SMITH: Thank you very much for
2 allowing me to speak. I was out of the room. I
3 did not know that there was a time to come back in.
4 Hello, my name is William Smith, a concerned
5 citizen living here in Raleigh. Our founding
6 fathers establish -- established our democracy such
7 with the First Amendment. Our nation would be
8 built on the ability of all to express their ideas
9 and that the best ideas would prevail. Here we are
10 now, again, with the free market of ideas that is
11 our democracy being ground under the heel of big
12 government interference.

13 The government has no business telling me
14 and mine and my community who should represent us.
15 I don't want my tax dollars wasted on propping up
16 this system of political welfare. A system that is
17 creating a generation of politicians who have lost
18 the ability to stand on their own and be successful
19 because they have become dependent on the state to
20 keep their elected offices. The spirit of
21 political entrepreneurship should be allowed to
22 thrive without any government regulations that
23 place limits on how much value a person's vote has.

24 The free market of ideas should not be
25 weighed down by such burdensome government

1 regulations. I do not wish to be your enemy. I
2 would very much prefer that we all stand united to
3 conserve and protect our great democracy. Thank
4 you, and God bless the United States.

5 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. The next
6 speakers I have on the list in order: Gary George,
7 Silva Shaperio, Lloyd Chambliss, Larry Reid, and at
8 best we can attempt to decipher is Jean Prinsor.
9 Any of those individuals present? As they may be
10 in the other room, we will call in a moment.

11 SERGEANT AT ARMS: It's my understanding
12 where the people in the other room will be advised
13 to come up here. I don't know that that's been
14 done yet. Someone's going back.

15 REP. LEWIS: That's okay. It's entire
16 list numbered 14 to 18, so we'll continue to move
17 through the list. Are you one of those
18 individuals?

19 MR. GEORGE: I was the first one you
20 called. Gary George.

21 SEN. HISE: Gary George, you're
22 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
23 minutes.

24 MR. GEORGE: Thank you, sir. The first
25 thing I'd like to say is I'm from Raleigh, North

1 Carolina. And I've only been here about five
2 years, but I really like North Carolina and I -- I
3 feel like a -- an established North Carolinian. I
4 served in the -- in the military and worked for the
5 military for 42 years. So I learned something from
6 that and that's be brief, be bright and be gone and
7 I'll try to do exactly that.

8 Thank you for your service. I hear a lot
9 of people throwing innuendos and statements and --
10 and things that you -- \$14,000 a year is a small
11 civil-service stipend. And each and every one of
12 you deserve our thank yous. Whether we agree with
13 what you're doing or not, you're here working for
14 us, and I appreciate that. That's the first thing
15 I wanted to say.

16 The second thing I wanted to say was, my
17 wife stood up here and said, "Let's not be so
18 divisive." And I've got to go along with that.
19 And the third thing -- a friend of mine wrote a
20 book. It's called The -- The Hebrew Guy Who Has No
21 Names. And in it he talks about two Jewish men
22 getting together and discussing the subject and
23 having three opinions. Now, this is not
24 anti-Semitic. What he's saying is they have strong
25 feelings and they're discussing those strong

1 feelings, but they're going to come together. Look
2 in the Scripture and find out what God says and do
3 that. That's the third opinion. That's the one
4 that counts and that's what I'd like to see more of
5 in -- in this -- in this group.

6 I looked at that map and I think it -- an
7 honest attempt was made at -- at the rules of -- of
8 the law. Whether or not it satisfies what the --
9 the Court said, whether or not it satisfies what
10 people feel has been injustice in the past, I can't
11 honestly say. But I'm asking y'all to work at
12 unity. Don't be so divisive. Thank you.

13 SEN. HISE: Thank you. I'll also
14 announce that as many individuals have left, the
15 overflow room in 544 is now closed. There's no one
16 waiting there. Siva Shaperio? No one responding.
17 Lloyd Chambliss? No one responding. Larry Reid?
18 No one responding, and Jean Prinsor, I'm going to
19 guess. No one responding. One, two -- Ontario
20 Parney or possibly Octario? Okay. Max Poteat;
21 P-O-T-E-A-T? Tyler Swanson? Sorry, are you Max?

22 MR. POTEAT: Yes, sir.

23 REP. LEWIS: Okay. Max Poteat, you're
24 recognized for a time period not to exceed three
25 minutes.

1 MR. POTEAT: Good evening. My name is
2 Max Poteat, and I'm currently a rising sophomore
3 from Orange County. I would like to thank the
4 Committee for the opportunity for public comment.
5 I would like to offer my opinion that the new maps
6 are such a clear example of partisan gerrymandering
7 that even young people like me can see.

8 You spent millions of North Carolinian --
9 North Carolinian taxpayer dollars defending your
10 maps in the racial gerrymandering case. And now
11 there's a partisan gerrymandering case pending. I
12 really hope that you don't plan to spend millions
13 of NC tax dollars trying to defend these maps, too.
14 I understand that the Democrats played an equal
15 role, when they were empowered, with having unfair
16 maps.

17 It's time they give the constituents that
18 you represent, the people who elected you, a fair,
19 democratic election and representation. Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair, and the members of the Committee.

21 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. Next, Tyler
22 Swanson, with the NC -- N -- NAACP?

23 MR. SWANSON: Good evening. Thank you
24 for this opportunity to address this Committee.
25 Again, my name is Tyler Swanson. I want to, for

1 the record, put out an official North Carolina
2 NAACP statement in regards to these maps. I want
3 to address this with y'all.

4 As we all know, the right to vote is not
5 a game. It's a sacred right that is warranted of
6 blood and sweat and tears of many of our ancestors.
7 This General Assembly did not stop adopt --
8 adopting unjust -- unjust and unlawful criteria
9 when it was disingenuous in applying this criteria
10 to adopt it.

11 The same body -- which is an illegal
12 body, by the way, said it would not consider race
13 at all when it -- in its proposed maps. And the
14 proposed maps appear to contain districts that are
15 very similar to the illegal ones that was drawn in
16 2011. And continues to stack black and brown
17 voters into non-compacted districts.

18 For example, from our preliminary --
19 excuse me -- analysis, House District 21
20 continues -- as it did in the illegal 2011 plans --
21 to sprawl into Sampson County and Wayne Counties to
22 maximize the black votes, populations in the
23 district and limit the power of those black voters
24 who vote -- who votes would have a greater impact
25 on the very drawn -- in a fairly drawn district,

1 excuse me.

2 That's same for this district's -- that's
3 true for North Carolina District 19. Which is
4 nearly entirely located in Hoke County except for
5 the piece that I'm -- except -- I'm sorry, excuse
6 me. I can't see my own handwriting here. Yes, let
7 me just re-say that again. This is true for Senate
8 District 19 which is entirely located in Hoke
9 County. Which the illegal 2011 plan disfigures the
10 district borders by reaching into Cumberland County
11 to grab black voters, who would otherwise be
12 casting their ballots in the Senate District 20.

13 What we want and what the people want are
14 fair maps. Maps that really represent the people.
15 Maps that give people a people's voice and
16 opportunity. And what you all have done by hiring
17 the same individual -- thank you sir, the same
18 individual who's drawn these illegal maps, you all
19 are continuing the same process. And as one of our
20 fellow North Carolinians said, insanity is doing
21 the same thing over and over again, expecting to
22 get the same results.

23 Well, we're here to let you all know that
24 these maps are -- do not represent the people.
25 These maps are unjust and the people of North

1 Carolina deserve a government that is of, for and
2 by the people. And one thing since this body is
3 constituted by the North Carolina Constitution, let
4 me just remind you all that all political power
5 derives from the people. I'm going to say that one
6 more time. All political power derives from the
7 people. And please allow the people to have a
8 voice. Thank you.

9 REP. LEWIS: Thank you. Jane Pinsky,
10 North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying and
11 Government Reform. You're recognized for a time
12 not to exceed three minutes.

13 MS. PINSKY: Thank you. Thank you very
14 much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity
15 to speak. I have some prepared remarks and I'm
16 happy -- oh, I'm sorry. I'm Jane Pinsky, and I'm
17 with the North Carolina Coalition for Lobbying and
18 Government Reform. And I will be happy to give you
19 copies of my remarks for the Committee members.

20 Before I start those remarks, I have a
21 brief story to tell. As many of you know, I've
22 been working on this issue for ten years. And a
23 lot of people, including some of my family members,
24 think I'm crazy. And they say why do you keep
25 doing this? Well, the answer is very simple. My

1 paternal grandfather snuck out of a penal colony in
2 Siberia in the late 19th century; hitchhiked,
3 walked and rode trains across Russia. Got to his
4 hometown and was told that the Cossacks were
5 looking for him and he couldn't stay there.

6 He came to the United States as a young
7 man under 20 and made his way, raised four children
8 and 12 grandchildren. And one of the things he
9 always told us was that he made that trek across
10 Russia because he was fighting for his voice in his
11 government. And he couldn't have that in Russia,
12 but he came to the United States. And he reminded
13 every one of us that it was our responsibility to
14 speak up and to have a voice. Gerrymandering takes
15 away that voice.

16 The Coalition which I represent is made
17 up of groups spanning the political and ideological
18 spectrum, including the John Locke Foundation and
19 Common Cause. Two groups that don't often even
20 come into the same room.

21 Since its creation in 2005, the Coalition
22 has pushed for nonpartisan redistricting in our
23 state. We strongly believe that the people of
24 North Carolina are best served when voters get to
25 choose their elected officials, not when elected

1 officials choose their voters. Redistricting must
2 be free of partisan influence. And in this case
3 that is incumbent protection.

4 Former representative Ric Killian, who is
5 a Republican from Mecklenburg County, says North
6 Carolina and every other state should adopt a
7 nonpartisan redistricting plan to ensure citizens
8 can choose their elected officials rather than
9 elected officials choosing their constituents.

10 People across North Carolina agree; 80
11 percent of North Carolinians think we should have a
12 change. More than 250 local elected officials
13 agree. There are present and former members of the
14 North Carolina General Assembly who agree. Many
15 other Republican leaders, including municipal mayor
16 Mark Stohlman, who helped his town adopt a
17 nonpartisan process for their -- drawing their town
18 council thinks -- their town -- town council
19 districts also agree.

20 Mayor Stohlman says when the town of
21 Morrisville carried out a special redistricting
22 earlier this year, we considered only major
23 geographic boundaries and getting each district
24 population count as close as possible. That made
25 the difference and made it easy for Morrisville.

1 We urge you to adopt their criteria and to move
2 forward. Thank you.

3 REP. LEWIS: Russ Stephenson, Raleigh
4 City Council. You're recognized. Russ Stephenson,
5 not present? Alan Longman, Progressive Democratic
6 Caucus of Harnett County?

7 MR. LONGMAN: Hello and good evening.
8 The reason that I'm here -- well, my name is Alan
9 Longman. I'm from the Progressive Democratic
10 Caucus of Harnett County. The reason I am here is
11 that many things today, a long day, which you
12 brought up many, many points. Mainly racism is a
13 concern; segregation is a concern. And
14 non-representation of many groups is a concern
15 everyone has had.

16 The reason is that if you really, really
17 want the people to judge you at -- at your job. In
18 companies where managers, our people, our boss
19 judges us. And we expect to cater to them and be
20 judged by them. When we are sitting here not
21 representing everybody and we're not representing
22 what's -- what's right and what -- what we believe
23 in and what the people are representative. We are
24 afraid of what the people are going to say about
25 us. So we cut them out. We end their

1 representation. We become centered on one or two
2 beliefs.

3 Gerrymandering has been a problem. It's
4 not just a party problem. It's not a GOP problem.
5 It's -- it has been a democratic problem. As far
6 back as you go, you have gerrymandering. The
7 problem isn't -- has to do with human nature and
8 the fact that it's a conflict of interest for the
9 legislature to be making the laws. Otherwise you'd
10 have at least one year which you did not have it.
11 There isn't.

12 So you have to remove the human element
13 out of it. There are programs -- software
14 programs, that are known and never used, that would
15 remove the human element out of it. And therefore
16 you would have very accountable -- you could use
17 the same data, people could check it from all over
18 academia. And you could sit there and say this was
19 done right, properly, and could answer to the
20 people in full representation according to the law.
21 Right now you don't have that.

22 To go out there and build your own
23 software and have certain limits and conditions put
24 into it isn't -- isn't where it's at. Don't
25 reinvent the wheel. The software is already there.

1 What I'm looking forward to is that everybody has
2 problems with extremists in their -- in their
3 politics and when you have gerrymandering, they
4 dominate what the programs are for that -- for that
5 party. And nobody likes doing or being forced to
6 do what they don't believe in.

7 That leaves good people within each party
8 unable to do their job, or the reason why they came
9 there to be a politician in the first place was to
10 better things. They're not able to do that with
11 gerrymandering. We can end gerrymandering by
12 sitting here and putting the software programs that
13 are already in there instead of reinventing the
14 wheel. And end this ridiculousness and be leaders
15 in North Carolina, setting the pace for the nation.

16 It's not right, now that we're doing the
17 software program, it's the future of what it's
18 going to be for us from here on out. And that's
19 what we should be looking for, not to keeping one
20 party in, but to end this problem for good. Thank
21 you.

22 REP. LEWIS: Dianna Wynn. After that, I
23 have Paul Jennings and Bonnie Wright. Dianna
24 Wynn, you are recognized for a time not to exceed
25 three minutes.

1 MS. WYNN: Good evening. My name is
2 Dianna Wynn and I'm an unaffiliated voter in Wake
3 County. I spoke before you less than three weeks
4 ago regarding recommended criteria for
5 redistricting and today I'll be brief. I
6 appreciate that this committee adopted some
7 elements of the criteria I recommended. However, I
8 ask you to recall the numerous members of the
9 public who spoke passionately earlier this month.

10 I, along with the overwhelming majority
11 of those speaking, called for politically neutral
12 criteria. We want voting maps that do not consider
13 incumbents' addresses or residents' voting
14 histories and party affiliations. The majority of
15 those speaking at this hearing today and earlier
16 this month request politically neutral criteria.
17 And polling shows that a majority of North
18 Carolinians support a nonpartisan approach to
19 redistricting.

20 We certainly did not ask for an incumbent
21 protection plan. You asked for public input, and
22 the voters spoke. But it's as if our politicians
23 are wearing noise-cancelling headphones and
24 willfully ignoring the voters. It is my sincere
25 hope that our legislators will stop engaging in

1 redistricting designed to protect themselves and
2 will truly listen to the voters. Thank you for the
3 opportunity to again speak before you here today.

4 REP. LEWIS: Paul a Jennings. You are
5 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

6 MS. JENNINGS: Hello. My name is Paula
7 Jennings. I'm from Cary, North Carolina. I spoke
8 at the last hearing advocating for transparency and
9 for fair districts so that my vote and every vote
10 counts in North Carolina. You did allow me to
11 speak, but unfortunately, I don't think you really
12 heard me. I'm a grandmother. I have grandchildren
13 that come to my home, and we have rules at my home.
14 One of them is you have to put your listening ears
15 on, and, believe me, we've had a few time-outs when
16 that did not happen.

17 I am saddened today that my vote and
18 other votes do not count the same. I am saddened
19 today that the patriots in my family, who taught me
20 when I was knee-high to a grasshopper some rules,
21 which I would like to reiterate today. One was to
22 be honest. One was to have integrity. The other
23 was to treat others as you would like to be
24 treated. Have I always done those things? No.
25 Have you? No.

1 But I was also taught that when I do
2 wrong, when I make a mistake, that I own up to it.
3 That I ask for forgiveness and ask to do it right,
4 to give me another chance. I'm asking today that
5 you acknowledge your mistake in this partisan,
6 gerrymandering process and that you make it right.
7 That is the right thing to do. Thank you.

8 SEN. HISE: Bonnie Wright? Seeing none,
9 we'll move to Marshall Botonovic? Not there. Lee
10 Brian? Lee Brian? Paula -- Bonnie Wright,
11 Marshall Botonovic, Lee Brian. Okay. Suzanne
12 Miller. You're recognized for a time not to exceed
13 three minutes.

14 MS. MILLER: Hello. My name is Suzanne
15 Miller, and thank you for taking the time to listen
16 to my concerns. I came here today representing two
17 separate things. First off, I am a resident of
18 Apex, North Carolina, here in Wake County. And in
19 looking at the way that the maps were drawn, it
20 slices up Apex in four, five different directions.
21 And the saddest part of it, taking the party
22 politics out of it, is that there's nobody totally
23 representing the needs of Apex, North Carolina, at
24 this point, the way that the maps are drawn.

25 And that, of course, is a huge concern to

1 me as a resident of North Carolina, with a daughter
2 in a public elementary school in Apex, North
3 Carolina, to not feel as though there is somebody
4 representing our city.

5 I also come to you as an educator. I am
6 a teacher in Chapel Hill, and we actually did a
7 unit not too long ago on the Voting Rights Act. And
8 we looked at the Voting Acts Right then and now.
9 And we actually studied gerrymandering and voter
10 suppression quite a bit, but it was an
11 argumentative unit where students got to see both
12 sides. They had to address one side and also
13 address the counterargument.

14 And the interesting thing was,
15 overwhelmingly, my students -- and that's across
16 all races, genders -- all of them advocated for
17 fair maps. You know, they learned about Rosanel
18 Eaton, they learned about Fenni ng Himner
19 [phonetic], they learned about, you know, so much
20 history about gerrymandering. And all of them
21 consistently wrote arguments that promoted the idea
22 of fair maps. And I ask that you consider that,
23 when and if you decide to reexamine the maps.

24 And if it does not happen, I would like
25 to hope that Wisconsin does something right and

1 gets us independent councils in every state in the
2 United States. Thank you.

3 SEN. HISE: Lee Rafal ow? Lee Rafal ow?
4 Okay. Sarah Brady Wagner? Sarah Brady Wagner?
5 Okay. Becky Winders? You're recognized for a time
6 not to exceed three minutes.

7 MS. WINDERS: Good evening. My name is
8 Becky Winders, and I live in Durham Precinct 35.3,
9 Parkwood Fire Station, House District 30 and Senate
10 District 20. Both have declared by -- have been
11 declared by the Court to be illegally drawn, and my
12 precinct has been split up many ways. So I have
13 been personally damaged by the unfair partisan
14 redistricting in 2011.

15 Though I have been happy enough with the
16 quality of my legislators and may -- may even have
17 voted for some of them, if they had opposition, my
18 vote had zero impact on the election because I had
19 no choice about who to vote for. The 2011 process,
20 which was dominated by the Republican majority,
21 also benefitted my Democratic incumbent legislators
22 while disenfranchising me and the other citizens.

23 And I have little hope that the -- that
24 the maps that will be produced through this current
25 redistricting process will be more fair because

1 they've been drawn by the same mapmaker under the
2 leadership of the same committee chairs that the
3 2011 maps were -- that were done. They have
4 drawn -- been drawn without consideration of
5 whether African American voters have a fair chance
6 to elect candidates of their choice as the Voting
7 Rights Act requires.

8 They have been drawn to protect
9 incumbents and for partisan advantage. And
10 legislative leaders have stalled until the last
11 minute, failing to allow enough time for the public
12 to have informed input on the maps and data for the
13 Committee to incorporate -- maps and data -- or --
14 or for the Committee to incorporate public comments
15 into the final maps. With respect to the
16 Committee, I believe that our best chance for this
17 redistricting to be fair is for the Court to reject
18 these maps and have maps drawn by an independent
19 individual or group.

20 Now, I call on -- on the Committee and
21 the General Assembly to do better in a
22 redistricting that will take place after the 2020
23 census. The people of North Carolina are tired of
24 gerrymandering. It is not fair for politicians to
25 draw their own districts. We need an independent

1 commissi on to do it in a transparent participatory
2 process. If that requires a constitutional
3 amendment, please put it on the 2018 ballot. And
4 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

5 SEN. HISE: W. David Austin. You're
6 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

7 MR. AUSTIN: Hi. My name is Dave Austin.
8 I'm a Durham resident. A lot of my attention over
9 the past legislative session was focused in other
10 places, specifically farm worker health and safety.
11 But I thought I remembered, in looking at or trying
12 to remember headlines, that there seemed to be a
13 lot of promise in this particular issue of how we
14 could vote more fairly. Because it seemed like --
15 I thought I remembered -- that nonpartisan district
16 creation had a lot of benefits that were described
17 in the press and even a lot of support.

18 So I had hopes that this legislative
19 redistricting commission would acknowledge those
20 benefits. And it seemed like it might do that.
21 But the analysis in The News and Observer this
22 morning sort of dashed those hopes, documenting so
23 many non-competitive races, both in the House and
24 in the Senate. So I thought to myself well, maybe
25 I was just misremembering and those headlines were

1 somehow in my imagination. So I went back and
2 tried to find out where I'd gotten that impression.

3 Who supports nonpartisan voting districts
4 in North Carolina? Well, there was a poll that
5 says 59 percent of North Carolina voters do so,
6 with just 15 percent opposed. Who supports
7 nonpartisan voting districts? A nonpartisan panel
8 of 10 retired North Carolina judges and justices,
9 including two former Supreme Court justices. Who
10 supports nonpartisan voting districts? Two of
11 North Carolina's most prominent Republicans: former
12 Governor Jim Martin and Charlotte's former mayor,
13 Richard Vinroot. Who supports nonpartisan voting
14 districts? 240 civic leaders across North
15 Carolina, who had signed a petition calling on the
16 legislature. A dozen towns and cities across the
17 state. More than 100 North Carolina business
18 leaders. A bipartisan group of North Carolina
19 legislators through their House Bill 200. 68
20 percent of North Carolina independent voters in 13
21 states.

22 If I was a legislator, I would have said
23 maybe this is not a bad position. We can wait and
24 be number 49 or 50 of those states that implement
25 this idea whose time has come or we can, once

1 again, be leaders in the South. The opportunity is
2 still there and I hope you'll take it.

3 SEN. HISE: Linda Gunnels? Linda
4 Gunnels? Lavaria Blum? Lavaria Blum? Okay.
5 David Meeker, or a small business owner? David
6 Meeker? Anne Robotti -- R-O-B-O-T-T-I? Recognized
7 for a time not to exceed three minutes.

8 MS. ROBOTTI: Hi, everybody. My name is
9 Anne Robotti. I am a North Carolina resident for
10 the past four years. My husband did his -- served
11 his country at Camp Lejeune here. And I have two
12 children attending North Carolina's fine
13 universities and two other children attending its
14 fine public schools. Having said that, I have five
15 children and a full-time job and a part-time job,
16 and the machinations that I had to go through to
17 get here at 4 o'clock on a Wednesday afternoon and
18 stay until 8 o'clock would defy description.

19 I feel that truly open public comment --
20 do you need me to pause while you read whatever
21 you're reading?

22 REP. LEWIS: No, ma'am. I was trying to
23 take notes on what you were saying. You're more
24 than welcome --

25 MS. ROBOTTI: Okay.

1 REP. LEWIS: -- to continue. I would
2 point out that sign-up was open 'til 6:30.

3 MS. ROBOTTI: Thank you. I feel that
4 truly open public comment should take place over
5 the course of several days, different time periods.
6 I feel there should be at least one weekend day.
7 And I feel that there should be time during the
8 day, also during the week and nights -- evenings.

9 So why am I here? I'm here to say that
10 if you need to gerrymander your district to get
11 reelected, then you have lost the hearts and the
12 minds of your constituents. And I'm here because
13 I'm just not jaded enough to think that that
14 doesn't matter. I think that it should matter and
15 I think that to some of you that it does matter.
16 And I want to encourage you to keep fighting for
17 the fair districts that people of North Carolina
18 deserve.

19 A lot of you that are still here I
20 recognize as Democrats. And I also want to say to
21 you that as a life-long Democrat, I am so tired.
22 And I had actually never heard the word
23 gerrymandering until I moved to North Carolina.
24 But do not make me come back here in 2020 and
25 remind you all that I will not tolerate this from

1 anyone. Thank you very much. Have a nice evening.

2 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Amy Cox, FLIP NC.

3 You have three minutes.

4 MS. COX: Amy Cox from Durham. And less
5 than 36 hours ago, the data for these maps were
6 finally released; the maps themselves, just two
7 days earlier. The goal was clear, for the people
8 of North Carolina to have as little time as
9 possible to understand what you've done before our
10 only opportunity for public comment. But what
11 you've done is clear. You shamelessly used the
12 court order requiring you to redraw the illegally,
13 racially-gerrymandered districts to shore up
14 Republican-held districts and further limit
15 competition.

16 Of the 16 most competitive
17 Republican-held House districts, 11 have been
18 slanted more heavily for Republicans while only two
19 were drawn more favorably for Democrats based on
20 2016 Presidential election results. This is a
21 flagrant attempt to benefit from the order to
22 redraw illegal, racially-biased maps and a blatant
23 disregard for the spirit of the order and the
24 people of North Carolina.

25 Many of the redrawn districts lie well

1 beyond the areas affected by racially-gerrymandered
2 districts. These maps used the most recent
3 election results and data on demographic changes to
4 try to preserve as many Republican-held districts
5 as possible.

6 The proposed House map moves districts
7 lines as far away as Alleghany County and Burke
8 County near Boone, over 100 miles from the nearest
9 racially-gerrymandered district ordered to be
10 redrawn near Guilford County. The lack of respect
11 for democracy and the will of the people of North
12 Carolina is appalling. You've shown what happens
13 to democracy in this state with these maps in your
14 hands. It's time for the court to take them out of
15 your hands and order independent redistricting.
16 Thank you.

17 SEN. HISE: Julian Pridgen;
18 P-R-I-D-G-E-N. You have a time period not to
19 exceed three minutes.

20 MR. PRIDGEN: Good evening. My name is
21 Reverend Julian Pridgen, and I am a plaintiff in
22 Covington versus North Carolina, the federal
23 lawsuit in which a three judge court invalidated 28
24 state House and Senate districts as
25 unconstitutional racial gerrymanders. First, your

1 delay in release of the data supporting your
2 proposed maps has undermined our ability to prepare
3 meaningful input for this public hearing. It is
4 clear to us that you continue to not take this
5 remedial process seriously and that you have no
6 intention of enacting fair and legal maps.

7 Second, we do not believe these maps
8 remedy the racial gerrymandering the court found.
9 For example, in Cumberland County, the proposed
10 Senate districts do the same things as those in the
11 2011 plans. Black voters are packed into Senate
12 District 21 by use of a non-compact district arm
13 that reaches into Cumberland County. Similarly,
14 State District 28 and House District 57, both in
15 Guilford County, are greater than 50 percent black
16 in voting age population and failed to remedy the
17 racial gerrymanders the federal court hailed were
18 unconstitutional. There are other examples.

19 Thirdly, what we have identified in the
20 little time available for us to analyze your maps
21 is that your configurations of House Districts in
22 Wake and Mecklenburg County violate the state
23 constitutional prohibition on mid-decade
24 redistricting. House Districts 36, 37, 40 and 41
25 in Wake County were not declared unconstitutional

1 and do not touch a district that was ruled
2 unconstitutional. The same is true for House
3 District 105 in Mecklenburg County. As such,
4 Article 2, Sections 3 and 5, do not allow you to
5 redraw those districts until after the next
6 decennial census.

7 We have drawn various -- I'm sorry,
8 variations, rather -- or versions, rather -- of the
9 House districts in Wake and Mecklenburg County that
10 correct the unconstitutional racial gerrymanders
11 identified by the court: House 33, 38 -- House
12 Districts 33, 38, 99, 102 and 107 -- and do not
13 change districts that have been or are unaffected
14 by these constitutional flaws. Thus, our Wake and
15 Mecklenburg County configurations comply with both
16 the state and federal Constitution. I have brought
17 paper copies of both county maps and our attorneys
18 will be happy to supply you with any additional
19 data on these maps you -- if you would like it.

20 We urge you to take seriously the need to
21 draw redistricting maps that will comply with state
22 and federal constitutions and will be fair to
23 voters of North Carolina. Thank you for your time.

24 SEN. HISE: Gerald Givens, Jr., the
25 Raleigh-Apex NAACP. You have a -- you have a time

1 period not to exceed three minutes.

2 MR. GIVENS: In 2003, I served in the
3 332nd -- [inaudible]?

4 FEMALE SPEAKER: What is your name?

5 MR. GIVENS: My name? Gerald Givens,
6 Jr., first vice-president, Raleigh-Apex NAACP. In
7 2003, I served in the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing,
8 Tallil Air Base, Iraq, providing combat support to
9 approximately 26,000 coalition service members and
10 civilians. The 332nd is a direct descendant of an
11 organization of the World War II 332nd Fighter
12 Group, known as the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of
13 African-American military heroes who served with
14 honor and distinction in a racially-segregated
15 unit, even though most of them couldn't vote in
16 their own country.

17 In 2005, when Iraqis held up their index
18 finger marked with purple indelible ink and a
19 security bar to prevent double voting, I knew that
20 every Tuskegee Airman's life was not in vain
21 because black men, like myself, helped to make that
22 possible. I'm Gerald Givens, Jr., the first
23 vice-president of the Raleigh-Apex NAACP, a 20-year
24 United States Air Force honorably retired veteran.

25 Since 1790 until today, the North

1 Carolina Legislature has viewed a free black man as
2 a problem. I chose the year 1790 because before
3 that time, it's extremely difficult to get any
4 records about free black people. However, starting
5 that year, it's clear that North Carolina viewed a
6 free black man as a dilemma, according to the law.
7 Today, it's safe to say that the more things
8 change, the more things stay the same.

9 Here it is, 230 years later and this body
10 continues to legislate with the view that the free
11 black man is a problem. Racial gerrymandering,
12 voter suppression, voter ID laws being followed out
13 with racial, surgical precision. The oath taken by
14 legislators in this state is not for white
15 supremacy. However, it is for the good of the
16 whole as written in our state Constitution.

17 Draw the map of North Carolina House and
18 Senate districts that honor the North Carolina
19 soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who died for
20 the free elections at home and abroad. Draw the
21 map of the North Carolina House and Senate
22 districts that give the free black man his voice.
23 And quit trying to regulate through the law how
24 blacks and whites relate in our state according to
25 an acceptable and unacceptable racist beliefs.

1 The white supremacy in our state breaks
2 my heart. But no matter how many times that this
3 body uses the law to give white men an unfair
4 advantage, free black men like my grandfather, who
5 fought in World War II, grandfather who fought in
6 the Korean War, father who fought in the Vietnam
7 War, we will fight back at the ballot box, we will
8 fight at the court right along with the NAACP and
9 our coalition partners. Forward together and not
10 one step back.

11 SEN. HISE: Jerry Coleman. Jerry
12 Coleman; then I have Brenda Brough for Erin Trager
13 that's for -- coming in. And James Holcomb. Any
14 of those three present? Robert Aldrich. Okay.
15 You are --

16 MS. BROUGH: Breana Brough.

17 REP. LEWIS: Breana Brough for Erin
18 Trager?

19 MS. BROUGH: She signed up for me
20 earlier. Is that okay?

21 REP. LEWIS: Okay. That's --

22 MS. BROUGH: Okay. Couldn't get here
23 'til I got off work. My name is Breana Brough.
24 I'm a lifelong North Carolina resident, and I live
25 in Durham. I appreciate you all taking the time to

1 listen to these comments today and I hope you will
2 really listen and truly consider what your
3 constituents are telling you.

4 The current legislature was elected under
5 unconstitutional racially-gerrymandered legislative
6 maps. This body's refusal to draw fair maps
7 despite being court ordered to do so now represents
8 a breach of trust and a blatant and cynical attempt
9 to hold onto power acquired through illegal means.
10 While these new proposed maps may not utilize the
11 same surgical precision to disenfranchise
12 African-American voters as the old maps, it is also
13 plain that these new maps do not cure all the
14 constitutional problems identified in the 2011
15 plans. There are still districts where it appears
16 that race predominated in the construction of the
17 district without any justification; Senate
18 Districts 21 and 28 and House District 57, for
19 example.

20 I have read the argument that these maps
21 are excusable because in the past, Democrats have
22 been guilty of gerrymandering districts in their
23 favor. I find this argument to be petty and
24 frankly, ridiculous. Our government doesn't have
25 to work this way. We can do better. You can do

1 better. If you care about the best interests of
2 the people of North Carolina, you will do the right
3 thing and allow an independent commission to draw
4 fair, nonpartisan maps so that all North
5 Carolinians can be confident that their voice
6 matters and their interests are represented in the
7 NCGA. Thank you for your time.

8 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Robert Aldrich?
9 Then I have Karen Daniels and Erik Raudsep;
10 R-A-U-D-S-E-P. Any of those three individuals
11 present? Robert Aldrich?

12 MR. RAUDSEP: Erik Raudsep.

13 REP. LEWIS: Erik Raudsep. Okay. You're
14 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

15 MR. RAUDSEP: My name is Erik Raudsep,
16 and I am from Durham County; District 31, one of
17 the districts to be found unfair. I'm also a
18 member of the Libertarian Party. Seeing the
19 monitors, we have great attendance around the state
20 and I also applaud all involved citizens throughout
21 the state of North Carolina. And over the many
22 years that I have been working with the Libertarian
23 Party, I've gotten to know several of the esteemed
24 individuals who sit before me. And it's good to
25 see you again.

1 Seeing this process being played out
2 through a local, state and even unfortunately, once
3 again, the national level, this process is not a
4 cheap one. Wisconsin, it cost in excess of 2
5 million; in Arizona, in excess of 3.6. And with
6 all of the legal battles that are ensued here in
7 North Carolina regarding this redistricting, I am
8 sure far more. There is no reason that North
9 Carolina would be any different when this process
10 is done. The Republicans are at fault in this
11 round, but both political parties must be held
12 accountable for this dilemma.

13 This should be a call to action to create
14 real solutions to ensure this never happens again.
15 We must draft and enact fair plans for this and
16 future redistricting by a non-biased -- a
17 nonpartisan process so the evils of gerrymandering
18 districts can never happen again.

19 In conclusion, you must remember when the
20 term gerrymandering was coined in 1812 by the
21 newspapers of Massachusetts, it was made as a word
22 of warning and unfairness; not a goal to aspire to.
23 Just because it is legal does not make it right. I
24 implore that this esteemed body bring back common
25 sense and fairness to the state of North Carolina.

1 Thank you.

2 SEN. HISE: Lekha Shupeck? You're
3 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

4 MS. SHUPECK: My name is Lekha Shupeck.
5 I live in Chapel Hill, but I grew up in Moore
6 County. I have looked over these maps. I have
7 read about them in many different publications and
8 on many different mediums. I have downloaded the
9 PDFs full of statistics that were released just
10 yesterday. And what I have to say to Republicans
11 on the redistricting committee is this. The people
12 of North Carolina are not stupid. You need to try
13 harder.

14 In the first place, I'm thinking about
15 this ruse that Republicans have carried on, that
16 they've been scrambling to draw these maps over the
17 last two weeks. That is why the public couldn't
18 see the maps until a couple of days ago; why the
19 statistical analyses weren't released until
20 yesterday, barely 24 hours before this hearing.
21 And yet right there on the map posted online that
22 you can look up -- moved from District 34 to
23 District 31 is Senator Andrew Brock, who resigned
24 in June. And I am told that the maps also do not
25 reflect changes made to precincts in Wake County

1 way back in April.

2 So what I would like to know is, what
3 dusty drawer in Mr. Hofeller's office have these
4 maps been sitting in for the past six, eight, 10 or
5 12 months? Like I said, we are not stupid. Try
6 harder.

7 Furthermore, we all know that North
8 Carolina is a purple state. Every time there is a
9 statewide election, the vote is split roughly 50-50
10 between Democrats and Republicans. And yet these
11 maps have been designed so that Republicans retain
12 not just a majority, but a supermajority in the
13 legislature. This is after you received an
14 avalanche of public comments stating that North
15 Carolina voters want fair, impartial districts that
16 represent voters, not parties.

17 Instead of listening to these public
18 comments, which the court ordered you to do,
19 Republicans in the legislature have decided to
20 protect their oligarchy and continue to
21 disenfranchise North Carolina citizens who want to
22 have an equal voice in their government. And we
23 know that you are playing these disgraceful
24 political games with our votes rather than creating
25 an equitable democracy.

1 We know that you are more interested in
2 making North Carolina a billionaire's paradise
3 where the rich no longer contribute to society and
4 the poor go without health care and basic services
5 while our homes are sprayed with garbage juice and
6 their water is polluted by coal ash.

7 We know this because we are not stupid.
8 And so I'm telling you on behalf of my fellow
9 citizens, you need to try harder. Also, if you
10 want targeted criticism, your polls v. popular
11 scores suck.

12 REP. HISE: Madison Roberts. Madison
13 Roberts, you are recognized for a time not to
14 exceed three minutes.

15 MS. ROBERTS: Hi. My name is Madison
16 Roberts, and I live in Raleigh. One of the things
17 that most concerns me about the new maps is the
18 lack of transparency and assurance of good faith.
19 Very little has been done to reassure me that I can
20 trust the intent and process of maps directed by a
21 legislature that already utilized illegal,
22 racially-motivated districts in the first place.
23 My trust in your ability to do this was further
24 eroded when you hired Thomas Hofeller, the same
25 consultant who directed the current illegal maps,

1 to lead this project. How can I believe that this
2 isn't going to be a repeat of the 2011 maps when
3 you yourselves are on the record stating that the
4 previous election data will be used to draw the
5 maps with political considerations in mind?

6 Where is the statistical justification of
7 how this will improve fairness? With maps drawn
8 without transparency, let alone fairness, how can I
9 trust that I and others will be fairly represented?
10 Illegal, racially and politically-gerrymandered
11 maps remove our ability to hold you, our elected
12 officials, accountable for the direction of our
13 state.

14 I call for more transparency and
15 evaluation of the statistical rationale used to
16 draw any proposed maps to ensure that they have
17 been created fairly and without extreme racial and
18 political bias. I don't believe you have executed
19 the current redistricting project in good faith and
20 you have not earned my confidence. Thank you.

21 SEN. HISE: Carol Rist with Common Cause
22 and Democracy NC.

23 MS. RIST: I'm sure I can walk. Okay.
24 My name is Carol Rist. I'm a resident of Durham
25 County. I'm not a native of North Carolina, but I

1 am the descendant of North Carolinians who took up
2 arms to fight for government which was fair to all
3 the residents. My fourth great-grandfather,
4 William Hinson and his father, Charles Hinson, were
5 regulators. They fought the colonial government.
6 Not to change the form of their government, but
7 simply to make the colony's political process more
8 equal. They wanted better economic conditions for
9 everyone instead of a system that benefitted
10 colonial officials.

11 I stand with my ancestors, demanding that
12 the state's political process be more equal. We
13 have lived under unconstitutional districting for
14 all too long. The General Assembly has spent \$4.8
15 million of taxpayer money to defend their maps in
16 court. My ancestors would have understood my anger
17 and stood by me in asking why have you spent \$4.8
18 million of North Carolina taxpayer's money
19 defending unconstitutional maps?

20 It is well past time to produce maps for
21 North Carolina following the practices used in
22 those states whose districts have been declared
23 legal. Since you waited so long to release your
24 maps, I haven't been able to learn whether or not
25 they follow those practices. If the maps which you

1 have produced don't follow the practices of the
2 states whose districts have been declared legal,
3 then throw the maps out and start all over again.
4 I demand what my regulator ancestors demanded; to
5 make the state's political process more equal.
6 Thank you.

7 SEN. HISE: Dean Morgan with You Can
8 Vote? And then I would have Isabel Geffner. Dean
9 Morgan is not present? Okay.

10 MS. GEFFNER: Thank you very much. My
11 name is Isabel Geffner. And I am a resident and
12 taxpayer here in North Carolina. I have been just
13 enormously humbled by the wisdom and passion of my
14 fellow state residents and citizens, both here in
15 Raleigh and in the various areas that we were able
16 to see earlier. And the thing that really
17 resonates with me most is that what we are -- what
18 I am experiencing and I think what I am sharing
19 with others is that there has been an erosion of
20 trust among the citizens of this state. And -- and
21 the very fiber and fabric of community and society
22 is based on trust.

23 And there are people who have been way
24 more articulate than I can be about the statistics
25 and facts that have led us to this moment. What I

1 feel most resonant about and -- and what I feel
2 that I need to express most is that what we need to
3 do in our state is to rebuild the trust between the
4 people and our government. And it is exceedingly
5 difficult to do that when the person who is hired
6 to redraw those maps is someone who has drawn maps
7 that have been found to be illegal and
8 unconstitutional.

9 When the very people who have hired that
10 organization come from districts which have been
11 determined to be illegal and unconstitutional, how
12 can we, the citizens and voters and taxpayers of
13 this state, trust that you are representing us in a
14 way that is fair, honest and that holds integrity?
15 I would like to cede the remaining 50 seconds of my
16 time to the committee and to ask you to tell us how
17 are you going to use this loud cry of public
18 response in the days that follow before the vote.
19 Thank you.

20 SEN. HISE: Charles Upchurch with the
21 Wendell/Wake NAACP. You are recognized for a time
22 not to exceed three minutes.

23 MR. UPCHURCH: Good evening. My name is
24 Charles Upchurch. I'm with the Wendell/Wake County
25 NAACP. I represent east of Raleigh, Knightdale,

1 Wendell, Zebulon, Rolesville, Wake Forest. Now, I
2 heard someone say a while ago that gerrymandering
3 is equal to white supremacy. If it's not
4 completely true, then it's leaning in that
5 direction. I want the same things all of you want.
6 The very same things. I've got children. I've got
7 18 grandchildren. I want them all to get what they
8 are supposed to have.

9 And we talk about voting. We talk about
10 voting in our family. And I hear it all the time;
11 my vote ain't going to count. And I called them a
12 lie 'cause that's one thing I believe, is you've
13 got to do what you've got to do. Now, voting gets
14 you some of these things that I say I want for my
15 children. I want them to get a good education. I
16 want them to have a decent life. Most of that
17 comes from being able to vote. And if they can't
18 get to the ballot box and do what they need to do,
19 then they don't have a voice to do that.

20 The courts say that the maps are illegal.
21 Then you go and get somebody to draw them. And
22 then you turn around and use my money again to pay
23 them again to do the same thing. Would you do that
24 if somebody come and -- to work on your roof in
25 your house and -- and you weren't satisfied? Would

1 you call them back to -- to redo the job? You
2 would say no. You were going to get you somebody.
3 And I implore you to get an independent council.
4 Thank you.

5 SEN. HISE: Rick Wynn with Common Cause.

6 MALE SPEAKER: No. That's not mine.

7 SEN. HISE: Rick Wynn with Common Cause.
8 Andrea Cash with Indivisible and FLIP NC. Andrea
9 Cash. Phyllis Demko, Common Cause. I don't think
10 that's Phyllis. Phyllis Demko, Common Cause. Sara
11 Ferguson. You're recognized for a time not to
12 exceed three minutes.

13 MS. FERGUSON: Thank you. Good evening.
14 My name is Sara Ferguson. I'm here as an
15 independent citizen of North Carolina. It saddens
16 me that North Carolina has become a nationally
17 recognized example of blatant gerrymandering. This
18 new redistricting map was created by the same
19 people with the same self-serving ideals as the map
20 that the Supreme Court ruled illegal.

21 The purpose of this new map is to protect
22 incumbent legislatures. It does not serve the
23 voters and the voters do not support this. This
24 process has to change. Our voting districts should
25 be drawn by a nonpartisan commission with citizen

1 oversight. Incumbency protection and previous
2 election results should not be considered in the
3 drawing of district boundaries.

4 You'll need to earn your re-elections.
5 It's not right to hold a free ticket. My message
6 to the committee and legislature today is this.
7 Give up your redistricting power and start
8 respecting the voters. Thank you.

9 SEN. HI SE Amanda Howell.

10 MS. HOWELL: My name is Amanda Howell. I
11 grew up in rural North Carolina in northern Gaston
12 County. I went to college in Boone and taught
13 there, and I came to Wake County to ironically
14 teach Civics and Economics at Garner Senior High.

15 I'm here because partisan redistricting
16 is hurting our state. It has gone on for too long
17 and is costing taxpayer dollars to continue to
18 litigate, defend and redraw maps. I know that this
19 has happened on both sides. However, I also know
20 that pointing a finger and saying he started it is
21 not a good excuse for children. And it is
22 certainly not a good excuse for adults who are
23 representing our state.

24 This is money that is wasted. It could
25 be used for schools, senior citizens,

1 transportation and other things that our state
2 desperately needs. Non-partisan redistricting is
3 supported on both sides. We have bills that have
4 been proposed by both sides. It is time for our
5 state to listen to the people and move to
6 nonpartisan redistricting. Nonpartisan district
7 commissions have worked better in other states to
8 support voters and operate with more public support
9 and acceptance. It allows everyone to feel
10 confident in the integrity and the results of our
11 elections.

12 Failure to do so with so much public
13 support on both sides represents partisanship and
14 an unwillingness to truly represent the people of
15 our state. You have bipartisan bills that have
16 already been presented. You have the ability to
17 follow through with these bills. The question is,
18 do you have the will? Thank you.

19 SEN. HISE: Alison Mahaley. You're
20 recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

21 MS. MAHALEY: Thank you. My name is
22 Allison Mahaley, and I'm the local president of a
23 chapter of the Americans United for the Separation
24 of Church and State. I'm here today to call out
25 the ruling party for perpetrating fraud and deceit

1 on the good people of North Carolina.

2 I want to remind you that just because
3 you can do something doesn't mean that you should.
4 I am fearful of what you have done to our
5 democracy. The entire electoral process has been
6 exposed as racist and you, the North Carolina
7 General Assembly, hold your offices illegally. I
8 have seen you use your ill-begotten power to try
9 and ruin our public schools. And that is what
10 drove me out of the classroom and into activism.

11 You used your power to siphon money from
12 public schools and send it to religious schools
13 that are not accountable. These schools
14 indoctrinate children to a fear of hell, to bigotry
15 against gay people and who knows what else because
16 these schools are exempt from oversight. You did
17 this because you had the power to do it, not
18 because the people of North Carolina wanted you to.

19 The overwhelming majority of North
20 Carolinians do not support vouchers. And yet, you
21 got re-elected because of the way your districts
22 are drawn. The Supreme Court ruled these districts
23 are unconstitutional. Politicians choosing their
24 voters instead of voters choosing their politicians
25 have made checking your power impossible. And yet

1 you keep bringing legislation to limit voting
2 rights and delete the power of African-Americans.

3 All of this is enough to cause so many to
4 lose faith in our democracy. Some have already
5 sought alternative means of justice, but those of
6 us who have seen this obscenity before have a
7 better plan. And let me tell you, we are getting
8 organized. We are organizing to take our power
9 back. We are in the streets. We are going
10 door-to-door. We are talking to Democrats,
11 Republicans and Independents, and all of them want
12 fair maps. All of them want a nonpartisan
13 commission to redraw the maps and give the power
14 back to the people. Thank you.

15 SEN. HISE: Dennis Burns -- Burns with
16 Common Cause? You're recognized for a time not to
17 exceed three minutes.

18 MR. BURNS: Good evening. Dennis Burns,
19 board chair of Common Cause. I'm speaking on
20 behalf of our 10,000 members and allies around the
21 state. And there have been so many great comments,
22 I think what I will do is just spend a few minutes
23 with a little bit of history.

24 For 20 years -- 20 years, we have
25 objected to the closed door partisan process in

1 which Democratic and Republican politicians pick
2 their own voters to guarantee in gerrymandered
3 districts the incumbency. In 2011, with the new
4 GOP majority, most of whom were allies of ours, the
5 House overwhelmingly passed our bipartisan,
6 nonpartisan process. What happened? There it
7 goes. And a fair districts bill so we hoped for
8 improvement, but the Senate ignored it. In -- when
9 reform bills, again, introduced by bipartisan
10 supporters, were introduced in 2013 and then in
11 2015, we again saw no progress.

12 So in 2016, we had to go to the federal
13 courts in Common Cause versus Rucho to get a
14 hearing to start talking about the damage that this
15 process in these noncompetitive districts are doing
16 to our democracy in the state. And thank you for
17 the historian telling us about Europe in the 1920s
18 and '30s. So now, even orders from the federal
19 judiciary and the Supreme Court cannot seem to
20 change things in a growing and changing North
21 Carolina.

22 Please, give our citizens a nonpartisan
23 process like in House Bill 200, with 45 sponsors,
24 didn't even get a hearing this year. Please, our
25 fair map bill. Our 10,000 members and the hundreds

1 who came out today are going to keep trying because
2 three out of four North Carolina voters want us to
3 get rid of this outdated, partisan redistricting
4 process and move into the 21st century. Thank you
5 very much.

6 SEN. HISE: Bob Hall, Democracy NC?

7 MR. HALL: Good evening. I am Bob Hall,
8 Executive Director of Democracy North Carolina.
9 And you've heard a lot of criticism about this
10 public hearing process, how disrespectful it is to
11 the public. You also didn't give us the public
12 maps. The maps that were for the public to -- to
13 see. And you didn't give us the data until very
14 late. Also very disrespectful. And you didn't
15 give us the registration of the voters in these
16 districts or the race of the voters. You said you
17 were not going to look at the race of the voters in
18 drawing the maps, as though that would protect you
19 from being accused of drawing racially-biased
20 districts. But it's clear that the practice has
21 continued.

22 You've heard illustrations here -- named
23 districts, House District 57, Senate Districts 21
24 and 28, where you're packing more African-Americans
25 into the districts. Because of your fetish for

1 protecting elephants, you voted to use partisan
2 election outcomes. That was your priority;
3 partisan election outcomes to protect incumbents,
4 to draw the new maps to protect the incumbents.
5 And so many of these districts are rigged to make
6 them less competitive than they are now.

7 In a few cases, your eagerness is even
8 pushing beyond the state constitution and you've
9 heard that, in drawing districts that are not
10 ordered, you don't need to redraw these districts,
11 that you're violating the state constitution ban
12 against causing redistricting in the middle of the
13 decade. The bottom line is, the new maps are
14 partisan gerrymandering in the extreme and here's
15 two ways to see this.

16 First, over 90 percent of the new
17 districts are not competitive based on the data
18 that you furnished us here a day or so ago. You
19 look at the five statewide elections where
20 candidates won by two percentage points. These are
21 very competitive elections; Tillis versus Hagan,
22 Cooper versus McCrory. Five competitive districts
23 with less than two percent differences, but in most
24 all of the districts -- the legislative districts
25 you've drawn, the gap between those candidates is

1 more than 10 percent. In fact, there's only 15 out
2 of the 170 House and Senate districts where
3 candidates win by less than 10 percentage points in
4 at least four of those five elections. That is to
5 say in a 155 of the 170 districts, 90 percent --
6 that's 90 percent of the districts, you and I know
7 who the winner is going to be.

8 The second way to look at this is in a
9 partisan gerrymandering -- through the partisan
10 gerrymandering tool called the efficiency gap that
11 measures partisan gerrymandering. The plan that
12 has an efficiency gap of over seven percent is
13 highly partisan. The Campaign Legal Center in the
14 last 24 hours has examined the Senate and the House
15 plans. And they find, looking at those plans, that
16 the efficiency gap is over 11 percent, illustrating
17 extreme partisan gerrymandering. Please take a
18 look at that and draw new lines. Thank you.

19 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Marcia Everett?
20 Recognized for a time not to exceed three minutes.

21 MS. EVERETT: Hi. My name is Marcia
22 Everett. I'm from Harnett County. I really came
23 to talk to all of y'all. The most important thing
24 in our country is our self-governance, our -- our
25 ability to vote. It gives us our liberty and

1 without it, we'd be fighting in the streets. Our
2 forefathers wrote a pretty good law and it's no
3 shame to make some adjustments. They made some and
4 fortunately, we can too.

5 Even though we disagree on many things, I
6 know we all agree on playing fairly. So what do
7 you do when you get a new game and you open it up?
8 The first thing you do is you take out the rules to
9 figure out who's going -- how the game is played.
10 And those rules apply to everybody playing the
11 game. It applies to the black people, to the white
12 people, to the men, to the women and most
13 importantly, it should apply to the rich and poor.

14 Voting has a lot of problems, but our
15 forefathers wrote a great law in that they let that
16 law be a living document. Now there are many
17 groups working on ways to fix voting and I think
18 you all should avail yourselves to their ideas.
19 You should study them. Imagine living with them.
20 The idea that I like for gerrymandering is called
21 choice of representation. And you can look that up
22 and you'll probably find direct representation.

23 You can also go to the Facebook page and
24 you'll find that choice of representation was
25 written by Jim Mueller, but he pronounces it --

1 it's spelled like Mueller, M-U-E-L-L-E-R. And he
2 ran for office in Wisconsin and when he didn't win,
3 he wondered why all the people who voted for him
4 would not get him as a representative? He thinks
5 that should be a right; that you should have the
6 right to be represented by the person that you
7 choose.

8 So how it works, or how it would work
9 with only two parties, is that after an election
10 on -- you would count the votes. And say somebody
11 got 400,000 and the other one got 400,100.
12 Usually, the 100 would win, but he says that they
13 both should go and then when the bills come through
14 their office, they would put 400,000 towards the
15 vote and 400,100 against the vote -- 400,100.
16 Anyway, you get what I'm saying. You use the votes
17 to put towards the bills for and against. All
18 right? This would eliminate districts entirely.

19 Now, I guess my thing is more than three
20 minutes, so basically what I'm saying is, there's
21 lots of things we can do to fix all kinds of
22 problems with voting. You guys need to not take
23 bills based on who's in the majority. The bills
24 need to be addressed in order. These bills have
25 our lives on them. We don't have two years to wait

1 for another election and another election before
2 you work on these -- these issues. Thank you.

3 REP. LEWIS: Mary Lucas? Victoria Shick?
4 Victoria Shick? Nan Friedman? Nan Friedman?
5 Taylor Cook? Ma'am, you are?

6 MR. COOK: Hi there. I am Taylor Cook.
7 I am from Durham, North Carolina. Thank you for
8 the time and the opportunity to speak this evening.
9 And most importantly, thank you everyone for coming
10 out. Let's give yourselves a round of applause and
11 maybe some spirit fingers like we've been doing
12 tonight.

13 I wasn't surprised at all, really, to --
14 in the new maps that were recently drawn in
15 response to a request by the courts. I expected
16 them to be unfair and not representative of our
17 population since the author of them is the same
18 author who drew illegal and unfair maps in 2011.
19 Would you be surprised by a thief who steals or a
20 liar who lies? Of course not. The main problem
21 sits with those who choose to put the thief in
22 charge of protecting the bank.

23 My disappointment lies with those who
24 gave the responsibility of drawing a fair map to
25 those who have proven incapable of doing so. North

1 Carolina Republicans are not interested in fair
2 maps. They're not interested in a representative
3 democracy. They are surely interested in taking
4 and retaining power. Their interests are not
5 shared by their constituents. As our nation's
6 courts have repeatedly confirmed, North Carolina
7 Republicans consistently draw unfair and illegal
8 maps. For some reason they continue to be involved
9 in the process of redrawing the maps, despite the
10 fact that they can't stop breaking the law when
11 they do it. Why would we ask them to do something
12 they don't have the capacity to do and clearly
13 aren't interested in doing?

14 We are a so-called purple state. In the
15 past 10 years, we voted for senators, governors and
16 presidents from each major party. Yet Republicans
17 currently hold supermajorities in both houses of
18 our General Assembly. The only explanation is
19 illegal and unfair maps drawn by our current crop
20 of Republicans. What's more, since the maps are
21 illegal, it's fair to say that many of our state
22 representatives should not even in office, much
23 less have any say in how the maps are drawn. But
24 here we are, letting the thieves choose how the
25 bank is guarded yet again. Why do we continue to

1 Let the fox guard the henhouse?

2 Our state will not progress and solve
3 problems if we don't have fairly selected
4 representatives working on our behalf. Unfair maps
5 have a long history not only in our state, but also
6 in our country. While the origins elsewhere may
7 differ, one common theme persists when looking at
8 the history of illegal maps in North Carolina --
9 race. These very lawmakers have already been found
10 guilty of identifying every voting [inaudible] and
11 then motivated high voter turnout among black
12 voters and then eliminated them, targeting black
13 people with almost surgical precision. They're
14 clearly in the business of suppressing minority
15 votes. The intent and motivator is clear --
16 racism. Racist mapmaking has no place in North
17 Carolina.

18 There are several different constructive
19 solutions for more fair maps. And I'm not going to
20 go into the details of all the options now.
21 They're well-documented and I'm sure you know where
22 to find them if you can go look. But rest assured,
23 none of them involve asking the illegally-selected
24 party in power put a partisan mapmaker who
25 previously drew illegal maps. Thank you very much.

1 SEN. HI SE: Ladies and gentlemen, we
2 have -- of speakers who are left to -- signed up to
3 speak, we have 47 individuals who are left signed
4 up to speak. It is obvious to the chairman that
5 that exceeds the number of people in the room who
6 are listening at this point. So at the advice of
7 the other chairs, if members just -- if you have
8 previously signed up to speak and you would just
9 like to line up to speak, we'll be able to move
10 this a little more quickly than 47 individuals
11 called through the ranks of the system.

12 But it will be exceptionally important
13 that you begin by stating your name and the
14 organization you represent. And if you've already
15 spoken, you have already spoken to the committee.

16 MR. OJUTIKU: Good evening.

17 SEN. HI SE: Good evening.

18 MR. OJUTIKU: Question. My name is
19 Adeniya Ojuti ku. I represent the interests of over
20 3,000 registered black Republicans in North -- Wake
21 County and also members of the African-American
22 Faith-Based Organization of the -- of the
23 Carolinas. Lived in Raleigh for the past nearly
24 eight years. I'm a US citizen, a legal
25 immigrant -- not illegal, legal immigrant and my

1 world view of self is not -- is -- is racially
2 neutral. Okay? So I empathize with so many here
3 that may not be so privileged.

4 I would like to submit that your
5 redistricted map plan, whether led by Republicans
6 or Democrats, had been able to adequately fix the
7 issues confronting blacks and minority issues.
8 Only fair and equitable legislation as well as some
9 policies that carry everybody along can. Possible
10 gerrymandering by either party may have in the past
11 been a strategy to manipulate and the enforcement
12 of inclusion or exclusion of minority groups as
13 accused and should not be a guiding principle for
14 any legislative redistricting map. This is because
15 it employs and exploits our crudest instincts of
16 racial prejudices.

17 If as an effort in good faith, then we
18 support the redistricting plan put forth by the
19 criteria that is given to the General Assembly
20 because they confirm with the stipulated guidelines
21 and criteria given to the joint redistricting
22 committee. The new districts herein outlined are
23 also more compact than current ones through the
24 maps, splitting only few precincts. We are pleased
25 that the General Assembly has drawn these maps

1 w i t h o u t r e c o u r s e t o r a c i a l d a t a , b i a s e s o r
2 p r e j u d i c e s .

3 H o w e v e r , i n c o n c l u s i o n , w e d e m a n d t h a t
4 e a c h p o l i t i c a l p a r t y r e c o g n i z e s t h e n e e d f o r r a c i a l
5 i n c l u s i o n , e l i m i n a t i n g c a n d i d a t e s f o r a l l e l e c t i o n s
6 s o t h a t e v e r y o n e s h a l l [i n a u d i b l e] a k e e n s e n s e o f
7 b e l o n g i n g a n d a n e n d u r i n g n e e d f o r s i n c e r e
8 c o n t r i b u t i o n s t o m a k i n g o u r s t a t e a g r e a t o n e .
9 T h a n k y o u .

10 D R . S P E A R M A N : G o o d e v e n i n g . I a m T .
11 A n t h o n y S p e a r m a n , t h e t h i r d v i c e p r e s i d e n t , h e r e t o
12 f u r t h e r p u s h t h e o f f i c i a l p o s i t i o n o f t h e N o r t h
13 C a r o l i n a N A A C P a n d t h e R e v e r e n d D r . W i l l i a m J .
14 B a r b e r o n t o t h e r e c o r d .

15 M a p s s h o u l d h a v e c o n s i d e r e d r a c e a n d
16 s h o u l d r e f l e c t f a i r d i s t r i c t s . W e w i l l s t a n d u p
17 f o r o u r s h a r e d d e m o c r a t i c p r i n c i p l e s o f f a i r n e s s .
18 T h e G r a n d O l d P a r t y c a u c u s a d m i t s t h a t t h e y
19 c o n s i d e r e d , o n e , p a s t e l e c t i o n o u t c o m e s , a n d t w o ,
20 t h e a b i l i t y o f t h e R e p u b l i c a n P a r t y t o w i n i n t h e s e
21 d i s t r i c t s a n d t h a t t h e y a r e d r a w i n g t h e s e m a p s f o r
22 p a r t i s a n a d v a n t a g e .

23 H o u s e D i s t r i c t s 1 0 , 3 6 a n d S e n a t e
24 D i s t r i c t 4 1 , f o r e x a m p l e , c o m b i n e d i f f e r e n t
25 c o m m u n i t i e s a n d f r a c t u r e d c o m m u n i t i e s o f i n t e r e s t

1 and appear to serve only the purpose of creating a
2 Republican advantage in those districts.
3 Substituting party for race for the purpose of
4 achieving that same racially discriminatory
5 election outcome and limiting the voting power of
6 people of color is a cynical strategy that
7 undermines our democracy and fails to remedy the
8 illegal maps.

9 These maps are not the answer. We do not
10 trust these maps, which were drawn by the same
11 hired helper who drew the 2011 racially-
12 gerrymandered maps and which were commissioned by
13 an illegal legislature that has failed at every
14 turn to act with integrity. Instead, an
15 independent special master should be tasked with
16 drawing new maps to ensure that it is the law that
17 is followed and not the directives of an illegal
18 legislature that the federal courts have already
19 found guilty of intentionally acting to suppress
20 the votes of African-Americans and that numerous
21 federal and state courts have been found guilty of
22 passing legislation that flouts the federal and
23 state constitutions and the will of the people.

24 These games must stop. At least one
25 federal court has enjoined an unconstitutionally

1 constituted legislature from taking any further
2 actions until the redistricting process could be
3 completed. See Butterworth versus Dempsey, the
4 Federal District Court decision from Connecticut.
5 And in addition, Costner and Dalton ought to be
6 considered because citizens have a right to vote as
7 soon as possible for their representative under
8 constitutional apportionment plans. Federal courts
9 have also shortened the terms of those legislators
10 who had been elected under illegal maps.

11 If there's ever been a time that the
12 preamble of the United States Constitution ought to
13 be considered and to prevail, that time is right
14 now. "We the People of the United States, in order
15 to form a more perfect union, establish justice,
16 insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common
17 defense, promote the general welfare, and secure
18 the blessings of liberty," that time is now. These
19 maps are not the answer.

20 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Please state your
21 name for the record, and you're recognized for a
22 time not to exceed three minutes.

23 MS. SMALLEY-MCMAHAN: Good evening. I'm
24 Barbara Smalley-McMahan. I'm here tonight in
25 the -- in my capacity as the Political Action Chair

1 with Raleigh-Apex NAACP. And I want to give a
2 shoutout to the North Carolina NAACP and Bob Hall
3 and Democracy North Carolina for the hard work
4 they've done to point out the flaws in the
5 redistricting plan that -- that you are presenting.

6 As I make my own comments tonight on
7 behalf of our branch, I want to acknowledge that
8 the racialized maps you drew in 2011 were sadly a
9 major, if unintended, victory for many in our state
10 who make up hate groups. My understanding is that
11 the Nazis, the KKK and white supremacists who
12 recently went to Charlottesville didn't go there
13 because of the statue. They chose Charlottesville
14 as their location specifically because that city is
15 known for taking a strong stance on dismantling
16 systemic racism. I'd love to tell you some of the
17 things they've implemented. We could use a little
18 bit of that around here.

19 In response to our President's defense of
20 these hate groups, people on all sides of the
21 political aisle are coming together to say we will
22 no longer tolerate those who want to dominate and
23 continue to promote racialized systems -- that
24 includes our voting system. If you doubt that
25 we're coming together, I want to share a news

1 report with you that I heard yesterday as my
2 husband and I drove to Greenville, South Carolina,
3 to see the eclipse.

4 According to that news report, the alumni
5 from the conservative Liberty University was
6 mailing in their -- y'all know what I want to
7 say -- they're mailing in their diplomas because
8 they do not agree with Jerry Falwell coming out
9 and -- and not denouncing the racism in our
10 President. And they are starting a strong moral
11 movement for others to follow suit. The antidote
12 to racism is democracy -- of, by and for the
13 people. Where everyone has equal access to the
14 polls to cast their vote in favor of their
15 interest, and that includes their interest in
16 healthcare, public schools, livable wages --

17 SEN. HISE: Thank you.

18 MS. SMALLEY-MCMAHAN: -- and reform of
19 the criminal justice system. Thank you.

20 SEN. HISE: Next speaker is recognized.
21 Please state your name and you're recognized not to
22 exceed three minutes.

23 MR. SFEIR: My name is Mark Sfeir. I'm
24 from Durham. One moment, please. As we know,
25 gerrymandering across America has inevitably led to

1 unresponsive governments as politicians
2 representing both major parties have embraced
3 districts where they face no serious electoral
4 challenges, wanting incentives for legislators to
5 meet their constituent's needs.

6 As it relates to alternatives to the
7 previous districts, mathematical techniques to
8 randomize the political profile of a given district
9 and thus make elections fair, such as computational
10 geometry and Monte Carlo simulations, exist, are
11 well-established, and are prepared to take into
12 account considerations of population, zoning and
13 topography if needed and as deemed constitutional.
14 Amidst this talk of technical solutions to
15 gerrymandering, however, I want to say that almost
16 anything is preferable to a system where the ruling
17 parties draw their own lines.

18 It is time to consider mathematical
19 methods for generating districts, which could be
20 amply used by nonpartisan transparency, open source
21 commission of elected experts in order to move our
22 state in a radically new and better direction,
23 setting a new standard even among states for
24 fairness of elections. California was able to
25 effectively counter gerrymandering under the --

1 under the direction of Arnold Schwarzenegger, and
2 so can we. And -- thank you, that's all I have.

3 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Next speaker,
4 please state your name. You're recognized for
5 three minutes.

6 MR. WEEKS: Eugene Weeks, I'm a member of
7 the Wake County Voting Coalition and a former
8 member of the Raleigh City Council for
9 five-and-a-half years. As a 20-year Air Force
10 veteran, serving my country, it amazed me that I'm
11 here tonight talking about voter rights.

12 I did not see this during the time that I
13 was serving my country, and I don't think I need to
14 be seeing this now. I'm going -- we've heard many
15 comments tonight and I'm going to just reiterate
16 probably -- of all the comments we've had, I just
17 want to reiterate what I thought the courts passed
18 down for you to do and not to do. And I think
19 this'll be what I call a lesson; a plan that you
20 can go by.

21 First, three months ago the courts
22 plainly ruled that race cannot be used to obtain
23 partisan advantages. In order to be fair, new maps
24 must be compact, contiguous and must comply with
25 the Voting Rights Act to give minority voters an

1 Unfortunately, this new redistricting is
2 simply another part of the assault on democracy.
3 We need to stop it now. As we stated in the
4 military, do the right thing because it's the right
5 thing to do. Throw these maps into File 13. Thank
6 you.

7 SEN. HISE: Next. State your name.
8 You're recognized not to exceed three minutes.

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Hi. My name is Maryclare
10 Griffin. I came here from Durham. I'm a North
11 Carolina resident. So just also, there was some
12 confusion earlier about how this process works on
13 your end, so many of us signed up very early in the
14 day, some as early as 4:00. So earlier you advised
15 a woman that if she'd just come at 6:30, she
16 could've spent less time here. I don't think
17 that's very clear.

18 Anyway, moving on. So a lot of people
19 have said a lot of things that I wanted to say up
20 here already and they've said it very well. So we
21 know that the maps are still racially
22 gerrymandered, I think you know that too. And we
23 also know that this hearing is really a farce. I
24 also think those of you who made these maps know
25 that. That said, I did want to make one point that

1 I don't think I heard people make, which is that I
2 think you're probably feeling pretty comfortable
3 today and this year.

4 As we all know, when it comes down to it,
5 we can't really distinguish partisan gerrymandering
6 from racial gerrymandering. And the fact is, in
7 states like North Carolina, where racial
8 gerrymandering is highly -- where race has
9 correlated with political party, you can keep
10 trying to hide racial gerrymandering behind
11 partisan gerrymandering. And honestly, for now you
12 will probably succeed.

13 But I'm here today to look you in the eye
14 and actually thank you, because of your arrogance
15 and the maps you made in 2011, the Supreme Court
16 not only struck them down, but Clarence Thomas
17 joined in a decision, that among other things,
18 legal scholars agree set a precedent that we may
19 not be able to distinguish racial gerrymandering
20 from partisan gerrymandering, and that does not
21 mean that we'll just have to be okay with racial
22 gerrymandering; that means that you have laid the
23 groundwork to eradicate partisan gerrymandering
24 al together.

25 Now, today, you could make a decision.

1 You could move forward and make better maps --
2 listen to the people here. I don't think you'll go
3 do that, and in the meantime, I just hope that this
4 will be worth it to you. As you move forward with
5 these racial maps, you will expedite the process of
6 eradicating partisan gerrymandering and you will be
7 remembered as having done things that are very
8 undemocratic and shameful. That is all I have to
9 say on this matter. I will also comment, I very
10 much appreciate those who have listened very
11 sincerely to the speakers. I've also seen many
12 people staring at their phones and their computers
13 and through notes that could not possibly be
14 urgent. This is your job. Take it seriously.

15 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
16 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
17 exceed three minutes.

18 MS. DONALYN: Hi. My name is Stacy
19 Donalyn [phonetic]. I live in Chatham County,
20 North Carolina, for the last four years. During
21 the '90s, I lived here in Chatham County and Orange
22 County for six years, and really if this was two
23 weeks ago, I probably won't be here speaking, but
24 it's not. It's -- it's two weeks later, and in the
25 10 years that I lived -- for 10 years before I live

1 here, again, in Chatham County, I lived in
2 Charlottesville, Virginia, and, you know, people
3 could go there and lose their lives by standing in
4 for justice, then I can get through my jitters and
5 come here and speak on a microphone.

6 Thing to know about me is I'm actually a
7 Pollyanna, and I'm a little bit more jaded this
8 year than last, but I still believe in the basic
9 goodness in people and the fairness of our system.
10 I'm still really hopeful that we can win the day by
11 goodness and fairness. However, witnessing, sort
12 of, this messy process in the last couple of years
13 with these different maps, made me wonder a few
14 things about the Committee and the assembly in
15 general. Why did you get into politics? I would
16 hope that you saw an injustice and you wanted to go
17 and fight it and said how can I do it; I know, I'll
18 get elected and I'll make change.

19 Hopefully, you were thinking of the good
20 of all North Carolina and by extension our country,
21 but if you didn't do that, what were you thinking?
22 Was it just for greed? For power-grabbing? Did
23 you just want power and self-advancement? I think
24 all the people here and all the people in -- in the
25 other venues tonight are saying that's not the way

1 to go. You need to think about us. Think of
2 yourselves as North Carolinas, but remember that
3 you're representing the entire state.

4 The distinguishing by the first round of
5 district maps and now this new one, the same
6 committee working on it, the same analyst working
7 on it, shows me that you're not quite on board yet
8 with goodness and fairness. Thank you. I don't
9 know about these colorful maps; they look a lot
10 like the other colorful maps -- a couple less
11 squiggly lines. I just think that -- you know,
12 think about it more -- less political terms and
13 more product terms. If you send out, you know, our
14 Olympic athletes and you want them to compete
15 fairly and win the day, you don't want the other
16 side doping. You're -- you're doping our
17 government and you need to stop.

18 So let's call for fairness. Let's -- I'm
19 asking you to act in good conscience. Not in more
20 greed, not in moral greed and power grabbing and to
21 fashion fair and nonpartisan district maps, like
22 the HB200 calls for. Fairing maps -- if you map
23 the districts according to partisan affiliations,
24 then make it 50/50 -- go Republicans and Democrat
25 50/50 and just see where the elections stand out.

1 We can't have good dialogue if we don't
2 have people who can speak on both sides and work
3 together. And if you believe in the power of your
4 convictions, your stances, then you'll suddenly run
5 out. If not, then the other one will, and we can
6 talk and move forward. Thank you very much.

7 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Next speaker,
8 please state your name. You're recognized for a
9 time not to exceed three minutes.

10 MS. MATHIS: My name is Kirsten Mathis.
11 My husband and I live in Wake County. Thank you
12 very much for holding this hearing, and I look
13 forward to many more.

14 When my husband and I moved to North
15 Carolina two years ago, we had always paid
16 attention to politics and voted, but never in our
17 lives have we been so shocked and appalled by the
18 actions of our legislators that we felt compelled
19 to attend a town hall meeting. Because these
20 meetings were scheduled so last minute, he could
21 not get away from work, so I am also speaking on
22 his behalf. His name is Mike.

23 It may seem apparent that we usually lean
24 progressive, but we have on many occasions voted
25 across party lines for the right candidate. I

1 shoul dn' t have to expl ain that to conv ince mysel f
2 that you might care, but your actions as
3 Legi slators prove otherwi se. You clearly need
4 every last vote you can get. Unless these new maps
5 prove to be innocent of racist and partisan
6 gerrymandering, you won' t have a snowball' s chance
7 in a North Carolina August of getting our votes.

8 Our state' s history of excell ing at
9 racist and partisan gerrymandering should have
10 disqual ified the very poli ticians who drew the
11 unconsti tutional maps in the first place from
12 hiring the same partisan consul tants, Thomas
13 Hofeller, to redraw the new maps. This is
14 tantamount to allowing a person who has been
15 convicted of burglary to wire the new securi ty
16 system.

17 If you showed as much dedicati on to
18 representing the constituents who pay you as you do
19 toward rigging the elections in your favor, your
20 jobs as Legi slators -- Legi slators will be secure.
21 Until that day comes, you have inspired my husband
22 and I to be more poli tically active than ever and
23 to do everything in our power to make sure each
24 vote counts. Thank you very much.

25 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state

1 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
2 exceed three minutes.

3 MR. BOTTS: Dewey Botts, number 58, from
4 North Carolina. I feel like I'm in a third-world
5 authoritarian country, not a democracy where we the
6 people have a right to vote. Because these maps
7 are racially discriminating and more elusive than
8 the last maps, and because these maps are clearly
9 more politically biased, and because these maps are
10 blatantly unfair, I request the three-judge panel
11 immediately ditch this fiasco and appoint their
12 map master to draw nonpartisan maps for all the
13 people of North Carolina -- House Bill 2 would do
14 that.

15 My experience over here taught me not to
16 close this way, but I have to say this. In my last
17 years of my second career, I was in this building
18 many times and must say this drawn out process is
19 an embarrassment to me, to our state and is sadly
20 mean-spirited.

21 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
22 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
23 exceed three minutes.

24 MS. CAMERON: Good evening. My name is
25 Chris Cameron, and I'm from Durham County. The

1 current legislators were elected based on
2 unconstituti onal , raci ally-gerrymandered maps. Our
3 courts have mandated that North Carolina di stricts
4 be redrawn. To be fair, the di stricts must be
5 compact, contiguous and must comply with the Voting
6 Rights Act to give mi nority voters an opportuni ty
7 to elect the candi dates of their choice.

8 These maps were drawn in defiance of the
9 court orders. On top of that, the public was given
10 very little time to review the new maps that were
11 released, begi nning Saturday, while public comment
12 was scheduled to be held today. We need a process
13 that will produce nonpartisan maps. Since the same
14 North Carolina Republ ican GOP lawmakers have been
15 unable to provide nonpartisan maps, we must have
16 the maps drawn by a nonpartisan group to produce
17 more fair maps that restore our ability to
18 successfully elect representatives that have our
19 own interest at heart. The redistricting
20 Commi ttee, along with these maps that have been
21 produced, are despicabl e. Shame on you. I urge
22 the General Assembly to go back and give the
23 consti tuents of this great state nonpartisan maps.
24 We want our democracy back. Thank you.

25 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state

1 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
2 exceed three minutes.

3 MS. COLE: Good evening. My name is
4 Susan Perry Cole. I'm from Edgecombe County, and
5 I'm speaking as a concerned citizen tonight.

6 I think it's worth noting that after the
7 lengthy court battles, the North Carolina General
8 Assembly had the golden opportunity to propose a
9 redistricting plan that would include fair,
10 constitutional, un-gerrymandered new districts.
11 Sadly -- very sadly, that is not the route the
12 legislative leadership chose to take. Instead it
13 is plain that extreme partisanship drove the
14 construct of the district lines, extreme
15 partisanship giving an unfair advantage to
16 Republican voters. That strategy has no place in a
17 meaningful democracy.

18 Many districts are uncompetitive, so said
19 the Raleigh News & Observer in a front-page article
20 today. Just 10 of 50 Senate districts will likely
21 be competitive, and just 19 of 120 House districts
22 are competitive.

23 Let me take a moment to comment on the
24 fact that the legislative leadership offered
25 inadequate time to review and analyze the proposed

1 remedial maps. It appears that the legislative
2 leaders purposely refrained from releasing the data
3 files in order to impede a full analysis before the
4 public hearing. This is a very cynical and
5 insulting move to the citizens of this state.

6 It's also plain that the enacted map did
7 not cure all the constitutional problems identified
8 in the 2011 plan. There are still districts where
9 it appears that race predominated in the
10 construction of the district. Examples of that
11 would be Senate District 21, 28 and House District
12 57. The proposed House plan does not remedy all
13 the racial gerrymandering in the 2011 plan. The
14 House plan perpetuates the same strategies of
15 racial gerrymandering, unnecessarily packing black
16 voters in districts and limiting their political
17 statewide power.

18 So let me conclude by just urging this
19 body to reject the plan that's on the table. Go
20 back to the drawing boards. Respect the citizens
21 of this state and draw a fair plan. Thank you.

22 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
23 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
24 exceed three minutes.

25 MS. BREMER: Thank you. My name is

1 Jennifer Bremer, and I live in Orange County. I'm
2 here representing the League of Women Voters. I
3 want to thank you very much for this opportunity to
4 comment on the draft maps. We appreciate the
5 Committee's work to produce maps that improve on
6 the current maps, but it still -- seems we still
7 have ways to go.

8 We would like to emphasize that while we
9 don't see the Committee members as foxes and we
10 certainly do not see ourselves as hens, we're still
11 letting the foxes guard the henhouse. We need to
12 put the voters, not the politicians in the drivers'
13 seat. Voter participation in drawing the maps is
14 key to making this happen. The real public
15 participation requires time and citizens have had
16 only three days to look at the House map, two days
17 for the Senate map and just a day for the data.

18 By putting off the map drawing to the
19 last minute, the legislature has denied voters a
20 real chance to have their say. Some of the
21 Committee's nine criteria, such as more compactness
22 and less precinct splitting, were welcome, but
23 others have no place in drawing fair districts.
24 But even for the appropriate criteria, the
25 Committee gave us yardsticks that don't have any

1 numbers on them. This makes it pretty hard to say
2 how the new districts really measure up. For
3 example, the criteria called for splitting fewer
4 precincts, but didn't set a target or say how to
5 decide which ones to split.

6 So what about the maps themselves? We
7 appreciate the Committee's reporting of at least
8 some data on how to propose maps perform against
9 their criteria, and we've used this information to
10 attempt to assess them ourselves.

11 Since time is short, I'm just going to
12 hit the highlights. The Committee clearly made the
13 right choice in adopting county groupings that
14 conform to the North Carolina Constitution,
15 producing a map that improves on the current one in
16 that respect, even if it does not by itself
17 guarantee that the district also complied. We also
18 see some progress on compactness with somewhat
19 better average scores than last time for the Senate
20 maps on both majors. The House districts have much
21 less squiggly boundaries, but the new maps
22 apparently don't score much better on either
23 measure.

24 This suggests we're still falling short
25 of fair districts. The promise to split fewer

1 precincts came without a target, but we're glad to
2 see that the new maps split far fewer precincts --
3 in the House just 49, which is still a lot less
4 than the 394 split in 2011. The Committee decided
5 to avoid pitting incumbents against each other.
6 This criterion simply has no place in a fair
7 process. Elections should be all about protecting
8 voters' ability to have their say, not protecting
9 incumbents.

10 We hadn't been able to assess how the
11 political considerations and election results
12 affected the maps, but misuse of this data to
13 determine election outcomes is really what
14 gerrymandering is all about.

15 Exclusion of racial data also makes it
16 impossible to say whether in all cases, minority
17 voters have a reasonable chance to elect their
18 preferred candidate, so we can't say whether the
19 maps meet this core requirement in the Voting
20 Rights Act. Overall, given that more data are
21 needed for a full assessment, for now we'll just
22 also, like a previous speaker, grade the
23 Committee's work as incomplete. However the Court
24 responds to the maps that the General Assembly
25 submits, let's work together for a truly fair

1 participate -- participatory and transparent
2 process. Thank you.

3 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please identify
4 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
5 exceed three minutes.

6 MR. MCALLISTER: Good evening, Chairman
7 Lewis and members of the Committee. My name is
8 Stephen McAllister. I'm an unaffiliated voter, and
9 I live here in Raleigh. I'm grateful for the
10 opportunity to be heard tonight. There are a
11 couple of things that I wanted to address.

12 First, and reference was made to this a
13 little earlier, today the Campaign Legal Center
14 released an analysis examining the efficiency gap
15 of the current maps, and they're just shy of 12
16 percent for both the House, which was 11.98
17 percent, and the Senate, which is 11.87 percent.
18 My understanding is that the author of this, Ruth
19 Greenwood, addressed this in the form of a memo to
20 this Committee, and I just wanted to ask that you
21 make sure that this memo be included as part of the
22 record if it isn't already. It can be found at
23 campaignlegalcenter.org.

24 I would note that her conclusion about
25 the maps were that this 12 -- roughly 12 percent

1 efficiency gap was an extraordinarily large
2 efficiency gap that she concluded would give an
3 enormous Republican edge in the coming two
4 elections, and so the concern is that racial
5 gerrymandering has been supplanted with just pure
6 partisan gerrymandering.

7 The other thing I wanted to share with
8 you was an analogy and -- and we're talking about
9 efficiency gaps, and the concept of gerrymandering
10 can be fairly complex. I think sometimes it's
11 helpful to think of things in more simplistic
12 terms, and at the risk of oversimplifying, I'd like
13 you to imagine the following hypothetical.

14 Imagine that you invite your neighbors
15 over for a pizza party. Your neighbor, his wife
16 and their two kids join you, your wife and your two
17 kids around your dinner table. You take the pizza
18 out of the oven, you bring it over to the table and
19 you slice it up into eight pieces -- one for
20 everybody. You dish out a piece to everyone, you
21 say grace, and then an awkward silence falls over
22 the table. As folks looked down at their plates,
23 they look around the table and then they look back
24 at you, because the slices aren't equal. Your
25 slice and your wife's slice and your kids' slices

1 are all significantly bigger than the slices you
2 gave to your neighbor and his family. In fact, you
3 gave your family two-thirds of the pizza, and you
4 gave your neighbor and his family only a third of
5 the pizza.

6 Now, this is sort of silly, because no
7 one would treat their neighbors that way. In fact,
8 you'd never even think about doing this, but just
9 imagine that you did do this. Just indulge the
10 hypothetical. Imagine that your pizza had a
11 roughly 12 percent efficiency gap in its slicing.
12 How do explain this to your wife and your neighbor
13 and the children sitting around the table?

14 Would you say well, my own family is more
15 important to me than yours, so I decided to give
16 them most of the pizza? In fact, I would have
17 given my family even bigger slices if I could have,
18 but I couldn't figure out a way to make those
19 slices any bigger. You wouldn't do that, but
20 that's what you're doing with these maps. I'd ask
21 you to reconsider and be better versions of
22 yourself. Thank you.

23 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
24 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
25 exceed three minutes.

1 MS. FANSLAU: Thank you. I'm Reverend
2 Cathy Fanslau, and I live in Raleigh. Mr.
3 Chairman, I appreciate the House and Senate working
4 to get these maps ready, however long it took.
5 Being asked to do this task again is surely
6 burdened -- burdensome and tedious.

7 Our state legislators have faithfully,
8 again, done their best to prepare these maps in a
9 fair and colorblind manner. It is my hope that the
10 Courts accept the work that has been done in these
11 maps and refrain from making changes. Based on the
12 2010 Census, these districts align with the one
13 man, one vote goals, and you did a good job of
14 keeping precincts together. My precinct changes.

15 However, I am still in the same district,
16 and you respected city and town boundaries the best
17 you could. I live in the diverse community by
18 choice and I'm thankful that you've showed respect
19 in at least keeping me in the same district, even
20 though not the same precinct, but in my opinions,
21 segregating such populations only creates more
22 tension. It's not your job to create a partisan
23 war.

24 If the state is moving to become more
25 Republican, it's the responsibility of the

1 Democrats to change that. You surely can't
2 accomplish creating more Democratic districts by
3 how you draw lines. These maps are fair and legal.
4 They follow the letter of the law, as understood
5 today. Better policies in our state can make a
6 difference on both sides of the aisle. Maps enable
7 North Carolina to be fair and respectful of all
8 people.

9 Thank you for all of the hard work in
10 preparing these maps, and it is my prayer that
11 somehow, someday we do find ourselves in unity.
12 Thank you.

13 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Next speaker,
14 please state your name. You'll be recognized for a
15 time not to exceed three minutes.

16 MS. SALZER: Thank you, sir. My name is
17 Grace Salzer. I'm a native of North Carolina and
18 four years a resident of Wake County.

19 Right now, I am so proud of my state and
20 everybody here who has taken the time out of their
21 busy schedules to come to this hearing. I know
22 many of you have been here for hours.

23 What I'm not proud of right now is the
24 North Carolina General Assembly and its
25 unconstituti onal machinations -- most especially

1 from the North Carolina GOP. Y'all are acting not
2 just like losers, but sore losers. You're changing
3 the rules of the game because you are afraid to
4 fight fair. And don't get me wrong, gerrymandering
5 is wrong regardless of party, which is why the only
6 proper solution is going to emerge from an
7 independent voting commission.

8 The NCGOP used unconstitutional means to
9 get their way last time, and now they're putting
10 lipstick on a pig and trying to convince me that
11 it's not a pig. Y'all, this is North Carolina.
12 I've been to enough pig pickings that I know what
13 one looks like. Give us an independent voting
14 commission or stop pretending you actually give a
15 damn about party over people or people over party.
16 I want the people of this great state to only have
17 to worry about fighting over things like eastern
18 versus western barbeque, or Duke versus Carolina
19 basketball, not their fundamental right to have a
20 voice in the democratic process.

21 Look to make it easier to vote, not
22 harder. Consider race only inasmuch as you can
23 make sure that the votes of people of color count,
24 not to unconstitutionally redraw districts. Resist
25 your baser urges and the silence on the power and

1 Let an unbiased, outside party redraw these maps.
2 You can do better; you know you can do better. So
3 please, for the sake of our citizens, start acting
4 better.

5 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
6 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
7 exceed three minutes.

8 MS. DITTMER: Ladies and gentlemen, thank
9 you for allowing me to speak today. My name is
10 Melissa Dittmer, and I have been a Raleigh resident
11 for nearly 30 years. I'm also a mom.

12 I have been hearing members of the NCGOP
13 whining that Democrats gerrymandered the state for
14 years. It's honestly like listening to my
15 seven-year-old son. It's time to grow up. If the
16 GOP is not ready to do that, it's time for all of
17 you to step aside. We are disgusted with the
18 childishness, and frankly with the plantation owner
19 mentality. North Carolina deserves equality and
20 justice. We also deserve legislators who are
21 picked by the constituents, not illegally gerry --
22 gerrymandered districts, which were deliberately
23 created to allow legislatures to pick voters who
24 will vote them in. It is time to put this in the
25 hands of a nonpartisan committee, so the very

1 people who created the unconstitutional maps are
2 not involved in redrawing them. Let's see what
3 happens when the districts are drawn in a non-
4 partisan manner. Thank you.

5 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
6 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
7 exceed three minutes.

8 MR. COOK: Hello. My name is Mitchell
9 Cook. First of all, I'd like to say that I just
10 graduated from NC State, and usually on the first
11 day of class -- some of us stay, the Professor
12 says; I don't want to see any cell phones in class
13 on the first day, and after that it's not an issue,
14 so with that -- anyway. I'd like to just ask --
15 ask you what are we doing? Does it help democracy?
16 Does it forward the principles of democracy, which
17 you were all elected to uphold?

18 We all know why the districts are drawn
19 the way they are. Everyone in the room knows why
20 gerrymandering happening -- is happening and we
21 know that it has happened.

22 I just want all the lawmakers in the room
23 to ask themselves; do my own political aspirations,
24 do aspirations of my party really deserve to
25 supersede the will of the people and the principles

1 of democracy? I think everyone in the room knows
2 in their heart what is the right answer, and
3 whether or not the lawmakers will choose to act on
4 the right answer -- what is just and what is fair
5 and not necessarily what is just illegal, is up to
6 their own will, but I really hope you can find in
7 yourself to do that, because ultimately you have to
8 look in the mirror at night and live with
9 yourselves and ask yourself, did I do something to
10 just help myself, or was I really working for the
11 good of the people and really helping everybody and
12 all the North Carolinians. Because we're North
13 Carolinians first. We're not Democrats or
14 Republicans. We're all North Carolinians. Thank
15 you.

16 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
17 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
18 exceed three minutes.

19 MS. GOLDSHLAG: My name is Marni
20 Goldshlag. I am from Durham. I'm a volunteer with
21 Democracy North Carolina, and I'm an indivisible.
22 I'm here today because I feel strongly
23 that the legislature which was elected from
24 gerrymandered districts which the courts have
25 declared illegal, should not be the body redrawing

1 the districts. I don't believe that this
2 legislature will draw maps which are any more fair
3 than the old ones.

4 This is especially true because they're
5 using the same mapmaker and clearly have partisan
6 goals in mind. These legislatures have --
7 legislators have used unlawful gerrymandered maps
8 to win elections in 2012, 2014 and 2016. They have
9 spent millions of taxpayers' dollars defending
10 these bad maps in court, while writing terrible
11 laws and being totally unaccountable for their
12 actions.

13 Enough is enough. It's time that North
14 Carolina have districts which are drawn fairly
15 without racial or partisan bias. It's time for our
16 districts to allow competition for the legislative
17 seats. It's time for the legislature to stop
18 playing these games and for the courts to take the
19 process over. Ultimately, it's time for a
20 nonpartisan commission to be the entity to draw
21 legislative maps. Thank you.

22 SEN. HISE: Next speaker, please state
23 your name. You're recognized for a time not to
24 exceed three minutes.

25 MS. FOSTER: Thank you, I appreciate your

1 time. My name is Caroline Foster. I'm from
2 Durham, North Carolina, but I grew up in Davidson
3 County. So I appreciate, again, the time for those
4 of you that have stayed, it means a lot to us as
5 citizens.

6 So you've heard a lot of people saying
7 the same thing over and over again today. The
8 courts and the people of North Carolinas are in
9 near-unanimous agreement. We demand a nonpartisan
10 districting process. Despite the guidance of the
11 courts and popular opinion, the North Carolina
12 legislature has acted to obstruct and subvert the
13 creation of their voting districts yet again.

14 In the context of the racially polarized
15 population, which we have in North Carolina,
16 partisan gerrymandering is the same as a racial
17 gerrymandering. You have unapologetically,
18 unabashedly announced that partisan gerrymandering
19 is in fact your objective, and that you will
20 grossly ignore data that would help you service
21 minority communities. This de facto embrace of the
22 old, shameful Jim Crow playbook makes the actions
23 of this legislative -- legislature especially
24 troubling.

25 These are not the actions of true public

1 servants. These actions are motivated by
2 selfishness and fear. Each of you has, in this
3 moment, the opportunity to do better, to be better.
4 A true public servant finding their districts
5 rejected by the Courts and their voters would go
6 above and beyond to make their districts and to be
7 open about the process that produced them. I am
8 certain such a public servant would not re-hire the
9 same consultant who produced the flawed maps to
10 begin with.

11 For North Carolinians to have confidence
12 in our government, we demand better and open
13 compliance with the law and not secretive processes
14 designed to protect an illegal, unconstitutionally,
15 unconstitutional supermajority.

16 Nonpartisan redistricting is very clearly
17 a popular issue. Embrace it and then get to work.
18 Winning in the voting booth, rather than try to
19 cling to power through backroom machinations. If
20 you are too afraid to fight a fair fight at the
21 polls, what does that say about your ability to
22 faithfully represent the people of North Carolina?

23 Thank you again for your time. I
24 appreciate you staying, and I hope that you use
25 this as an opportunity to reconsider your actions

1 and do the right thing. Thank you again.

2 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Next speaker,
3 please state your name. You're recognized for a
4 time not to exceed three minutes.

5 MS. FULCHER: Good evening. My name is
6 Nan Fulcher, and I'm from Hillsborough, and I'd
7 like to speak to two issues.

8 One is considering the maps. These maps
9 appear to have all the criteria that the
10 redistricting committee has agreed to -- equal
11 population, contiguity, county grouping, municipal
12 boundaries, incumbency protection, compactness, and
13 fewer split districts. Compared to the 2011 maps,
14 the new ones are a huge improvement. The districts
15 are built exclusively on intact voter tabulation
16 districts, at least from the resolution of the
17 urban areas that I could see, and you can tell at
18 the glance they -- they look compact. They look
19 better without any fancy calculations, and they
20 don't have all the squiggly lines that people hate.
21 The maps, then, are a great success because they
22 prove you can meet the Committee criterion and
23 still achieve extreme partisan gerrymandering,
24 nonetheless.

25 Congratulations; you've achieved the goal

1 on the very first try. Things should be wrapping
2 up more quickly than the public even suspected. It
3 is time, also, for the public and all people
4 involved in redistricting to understand these
5 criteria can be used as smoke screens for more
6 partisan, extreme boundary drawing. A long time
7 ago, they were developed to help the process to
8 make things look better and less gerrymandered, but
9 now they're working against us. People need to see
10 this.

11 The second issue is transparency of the
12 redistricting process. The redistricting committee
13 should provide a list of the technicians that are
14 assisting Dr. Hofeller and whether they're staff or
15 contractors, a list of legal counsel, and to
16 specify the location of the mapping process. The
17 reason these issues are important is they relate to
18 what happened in the 2001 mapping process.

19 Testimony from the Dickson versus Rucho -- the
20 redistricting case has the following information.
21 Several lawyers were co-counsel, including former
22 Republican Representative and Budget Director Art
23 Pope, who directly influenced the boundaries of the
24 districts. Some staff were hired four months prior
25 to the release of Census data to work on the

1 groupings and the last point is the Republican
2 Party Headquarters contain the redistricting data
3 base, and those sorts of things should not be
4 repeated.

5 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Next speaker,
6 please state your name. You're recognized for a
7 time not to exceed three minutes.

8 MR. PHILLIPS: Good evening. I'm Bob
9 Phillips with Common Cause North Carolina, and not
10 my intention to have been to be the last speaker,
11 but here I am -- I guess even my board chair has
12 left the building. But I will say this, I've been
13 very impressed with the number of people who've
14 come here and at all the other the satellite sites.
15 They've come with a lot of emotion and a lot of
16 passion. You all may not have agreed with
17 everything that has been said today and this
18 evening, but I hope that it does give you a
19 representation that a lot of folks are upset, and a
20 lot of folks do feel like we need to change the way
21 we do redistricting and you all -- many of you know
22 me, I'm a lobbyist. I've had the opportunity to
23 come to your offices and talk to you directly about
24 the cause of redistricting reform.

25 And when I look up from the dais and I

1 look around the room, I see a lot of allies for
2 redistricting reform. Some of you former
3 champions, some of you current champions, that
4 elusive goal of getting everyone together at the
5 same time doesn't have to be elusive. We're not
6 going to give up on that. But what I will say and
7 you know that when I've talked to you all in your
8 offices, is we need a new process. We need
9 fairness. We simply need to take the politics out
10 of the process.

11 I remember 15 years ago, when I've stood
12 shoulder to shoulder with other folks -- with the
13 late Senator Ham Horton, a Republican who was the
14 champion in this body for redistricting reform.
15 And we stand shoulder to shoulder with the
16 bipartisan group of lawmakers who also are
17 supportive of redistricting reform. And Senator
18 Horton's bill and the House Bill 200 and all the
19 bills that have been filed in between have the same
20 thing in common; it had fairness. It had a sense
21 of taking politics out of the process. It was an
22 independence to it as well as more transparency.

23 I know that you all do know what the
24 right thing to do, and I know that a lot of you all
25 have heard that tonight, and I know that some

1 people will say, well, there's no such thing as a
2 nonpartisan process, and I say that's a bit of a
3 cynical view. You have rules that you have to
4 follow -- equal population, whole county, abiding
5 by the Voting Rights Act. The rule to take
6 politics out of the process can also be a rule you
7 follow. It's an insurance policy for both parties,
8 so that when you're in the minority, you know that
9 you're not going to be gerrymandered into
10 irrelevance.

11 I don't really know whether the maps are
12 fair and legal; the Courts will decide that. But I
13 do know that the paths to a fair and legal map is
14 reform, and I know that a majority of North
15 Carolinians want you to take that path. So again,
16 thank you for your service to the state.

17 SEN. HISE: Thank you. Any other
18 speakers which signed up prior the 6:30 deadline,
19 wishing to speak at this point? Seeing none, the
20 chair will recognize Chairman Lewis for a
21 statement.

22 REP. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
23 want to thank all the members and the public that
24 are here tonight. I want to thank you for
25 participating. I would like to say one of the

1 speakers who spoke earlier before she left early,
2 commented on the number of empty chairs that were
3 in this room. I did want to state for the record
4 that we have 10 members of the Committee who were
5 presiding at the satellite sites, and by my count
6 at least six members of the minority party who are
7 also present at the satellite sites. I think the
8 characterization that the Committee was not present
9 is certainly not a fair one.

10 We will work to continue to comply with
11 the order of the Court, which states, for the
12 record, that 14 days after -- 14 work days after
13 receipt of the order of the Court is when the House
14 map was released -- 19 total days. So, again, I
15 appreciate everyone for their time tonight. We
16 will -- it's our intention to continue this
17 discussion on Thursday after we've reviewed the
18 comment from tonight, and again, I do hope everyone
19 travels home safely.

20 SEN. HISE: Having exhausted the list of
21 speakers wishing to give public comment, this
22 public comment meeting is adjourned.

23 (End of proceedings.)

24
25

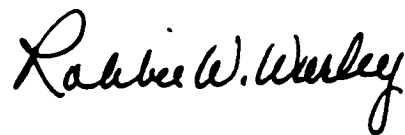
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF GRANVILLE

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript of proceedings held on August 22, 2017, is a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings as transcribed by me or under my supervision. I further certify that I am not related to any party or attorney, nor do I have any interest whatsoever in the outcome of this action.

This 28th day of August, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robbie W. Worley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.