

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 20, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.

EXPO CENTER

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
 2 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE
 3 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE
 4 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
 5 SENATOR MANDY DAWSON
 6 SENATOR BUDDY DYER
 7 SENATOR BETTY S. HOLZENDORF
 8 SENATOR JAMES E. KING, JR.
 9 SENATOR RON KLEIN
 10 SENATOR JACK LATVALA
 11 SENATOR JOHN F. LAURENT
 12 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.
 13 SENATOR BILL POSEY
 14 SENATOR RONALD A. SILVER
 15 SENATOR J. ALEX VILLALOBOS
 16 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ
 17 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
 18 REPRESENTATIVE BOB ALLEN
 19 REPRESENTATIVE CAREY BAKER
 20 REPRESENTATIVE GUS MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
 21 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY BALL
 22 REPRESENTATIVE MARSHA L. BOWEN
 23 REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK C. BRUMMER
 24 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE B. BYRD, JR.
 25 REPRESENTATIVE FRANK ATTKISSON

1 REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN TROVILLION
 2 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN
 3 REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICA S. WILSON
 4 REPRESENTATIVE ROGER B. WISHNER
 5
 6
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROW
 2 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK
 3 REPRESENTATIVE DON DAVIS
 4 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART
 5 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY
 6 REPRESENTATIVE TOM FEENEY
 7 REPRESENTATIVE TERRY L. FIELDS
 8 REPRESENTATIVE MARK G. FLANAGAN
 9 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA
 10 REPRESENTATIVE ANDY GARDINER
 11 REPRESENTATIVE RON GREENSTEIN
 12 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HOGAN
 13 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.
 14 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHNSON
 15 REPRESENTATIVE JIM KALLINGER
 16 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER
 17 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE
 18 REPRESENTATIVE DENISE E. LEE
 19 REPRESENTATIVE CONNIE MACK
 20 REPRESENTATIVE SANDY MURMAN
 21 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
 22 REPRESENTATIVE STACY J. RITTER
 23 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY M. RYAN
 24 REPRESENTATIVE DAVIS SIMMONS
 25 REPRESENTATIVE GARY SIPLIN

1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: The Joint Legislative Committee
 3 meeting will now come to order. Thank you, ladies and
 4 gentlemen, for coming to this meeting. Thank you, Senators
 5 and Representatives. My name is Johnnie Byrd and I'm the
 6 chairman of the Procedural and Redistricting Council for
 7 the Florida House.
 8 Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Before we get
 9 started, I would like to recognize Tom FeENEY, Speaker of
 10 the Florida House of Representatives, for a few comments
 11 welcoming you and the members and Senators here today. So
 12 with that said, Speaker of the House Tom FeENEY, we
 13 recognize you for a welcome message. Speaker FeENEY.
 14 SPEAKER FEENEY: Thank you, Chairman Byrd and Chairman
 15 Webster and all of my legislative colleagues in the House
 16 and Senate. Welcome to central Florida for those of you
 17 from outside of the central Florida area. I want to say
 18 hello to all our friends in the audience. I'm glad we've
 19 got an overflowed crowd tonight. We know that we'll have
 20 lots of valuable interesting input.
 21 This is the fourth in a series of statewide hearings
 22 around Florida. And you'll find the members of the
 23 redistricting committees in both the House and Senate
 24 attending. The purpose of these meetings, I think you'll
 25 hear more about later. But essentially they are to educate

1 the public but also educate the members who will be dealing
2 with the very fascinating but sensitive task of drawing
3 redistricting boundaries for the Florida House, the Florida
4 Senate, and the United States Congress.

5 I'm delighted to say that because of this traveling
6 road show, this listening and learning tour, people from
7 one end of Florida to the other will have the opportunity
8 to participate. I think the committee will tell you
9 they've already gotten some outstanding feedback from the
10 first four hearings. They look forward to 20 more.

11 After these hearings are completed, we expect to start
12 the heavy task of redrawing the Congressional, Senate, and
13 House boundaries for the next ten years. This year's
14 session is designed to start in January which is early so
15 we can hopefully tackle this challenging task in a
16 responsible and timely manner. I want to leave all of you
17 here tonight, whether you decide to talk to the committee
18 for a period or not, with the notion that you have every
19 opportunity for the next several months at least to have
20 every chance of input.

21 You can E-mail the committee, you can fax the
22 committee, you can write to the committee. At some point,
23 you will be able to design your own proposed plans and send
24 them to committee. We would suggest you take every
25 opportunity to participate whether it's tonight or in the

1 future.

2 And finally, I'd like to congratulate both Chairman
3 Byrd and Chairman Webster for the notion and the goal of
4 having the most fair, open, and publicly accessible
5 redistricting process in Florida's history and I appreciate
6 the opportunity to say hello. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, good
8 evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Johnnie Byrd. I
9 am the chairman of the Procedural and Redistricting Council
10 for the Florida House of Representatives. My district is
11 in Plant City, Florida and I'm a state representative from
12 House District 62.

13 Today Representatives and Senators are here to listen
14 to the residents of this area and to consider your input to
15 this very important process. Since these are joint
16 hearings, we have divided our responsibilities throughout
17 the many public hearings that will be held around the
18 state.

19 The public hearing today will be chaired by the
20 Senate, Senator Dan Webster, who is the chairman of the
21 Senate Redistricting Committee. As many of you may know,
22 we have experienced some advertising challenges for this
23 meeting and so we made a commitment not to begin the actual
24 presentation by the staff until 6:20. And I think that
25 we're about there.

1 So at this time, what I'll do is turn over the meeting
2 to Senator Webster and have him make some introductory
3 comments. Senator Webster, you're recognized.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Chairman Byrd. I figure
5 if I talk slow – can you hear me? If I talk slow, by the
6 time I'm through with my opening remarks it should be 20
7 after. I don't think we could get everyone seated and
8 quiet again if we recessed for four or five minutes. I
9 think the 20 minutes that we agreed to, to wait for those
10 who might have gone to the other location has almost
11 expired. And given the number of applicants to speak, they
12 will certainly have plenty of time to get here. We got
13 enough until about 10:30 tonight. So we'll get started as
14 quick as we can.

15 I'm Daniel Webster. I'm the chairman of the Senate
16 Redistricting Committee. And it's my pleasure to welcome
17 you here tonight for this one of many meetings that we'll
18 be holding through the summer and fall. Let me first
19 explain the procedure we will use throughout these public
20 hearings.

21 This is a public hearing and the sole purpose of which
22 is to hear from the public on matters of redistricting.
23 This is not a committee meeting. We will not be taking
24 legislative action in this or subsequent public hearings.
25 Instead, this is a public forum where we have the

1 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral
2 district. It's not time for legislative debate, all
3 Representatives and Senators will have numerous
4 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and floor
5 debate to address the members and the public of their
6 concerns.

7 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not
8 diminish their vote by taking up valuable time today in
9 debate. Following my brief remarks counsel will give a
10 general overview of legal considerations in redistricting.
11 Staff will then provide some specific information about the
12 census results in this region and the state. The rest is
13 reserved for you the citizens.

14 Every ten years after completion of the updated
15 national census the Constitution requires that the Florida
16 Legislature redraw boundaries of the districts of the
17 Florida House of Representatives, the state Senate, Florida
18 Senate, and Florida's Congressional district.

19 This legislative action will be taken up in the next
20 legislative session which will begin January 22nd, 2002 and
21 will end March 22nd, 2002. The districts we draw will
22 first be used in the November 2002 election. Redistricting
23 is the essential element of our representative democracy.
24 We take this on with humility and regard for the importance
25 of the difficulty of the job.

1 We are also committed that the process will be fair,
2 open, and inclusive. These public hearings represent the
3 first critical step in this process. We appreciate that we
4 are doing the work of the people. We want to hear from you
5 and we want to help you participate in a meaningful way.
6 To encourage public participation, Senate President John
7 McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled many
8 hearings throughout the state.

9 All the members of the Legislature redistricting
10 committee as well as the local delegation members have been
11 invited to participate in these public hearings. This
12 hearing will be taped and shown. It will be taped and
13 available on the Internet if you don't get to stay for the
14 whole thing. All of them are and they're available for
15 each subsequent opportunity if you want to listen to them.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear back here.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: The web address for the House and
18 Senate legislative redistricting are available on the
19 information table. The link also will be available from
20 the Florida Legislature's web site. The redistricting
21 plans for the State House and State Senate will be passed
22 in the form of a joint resolution which will not be subject
23 to the Governor's veto -- approval or veto -- but will be
24 reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan
25 determining congressional districts will not be reviewed by

1 the Supreme Court but will be subject to the Governor's
2 approval or veto.

3 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000
4 census. It is the essential building block on which
5 Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The United
6 States Census web site is available at the sign-in table.
7 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We
8 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us
9 craft your legislative districts. We also encourage
10 written submissions in addition to the testimony during the
11 public hearing.

12 Everyone who wishes to speak must make sure they fill
13 out a speaker's card which are available at the sign-in
14 table. This is the only way we will know who wishes to
15 speak and after the hearing who actually spoke. Speaker
16 cards are available and they are also numbered. So the
17 number you get will be the number we call when it's your
18 turn to speak.

19 In addition, because we want to hear from as many
20 people as possible, we must limit your comments to four
21 minutes. On behalf of the Senate President John McKay,
22 House Speaker Tom Feeney, and the members of the Florida
23 Legislature, I look forward to working with all of you on
24 this historic and important task.

25 At this time, I recognize former Senator Jim Scott who

1 served during the previous reapportionment process and is
2 the Senate lead counsel on reapportionment and
3 redistricting. Senator Scott.

4 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the
5 chairman indicated, I'm special counsel to the Florida
6 Senate for redistricting and reapportionment matters. I'm
7 here with my colleague Miguel DeGrandy who's behind the
8 chair there, counsel for the Florida House. Pursuant to
9 our protocol tonight, I'm going to make a short
10 presentation.

11 What we want to do is give, especially the members of
12 the public and the members of this committee, an overview
13 of the law on redistricting and reapportionment. By no
14 means is this intended to be a comprehensive or complete
15 review of all the issues but just an introduction of the
16 basic principles.

17 As the chairman stated, the task of redistricting and
18 reapportionment comes along every ten years, required by
19 the Constitution of the United States and Florida. And
20 this is a process by which we divide the state into House,
21 Senate, and Congressional districts. This year because of
22 Florida's population increase over the last ten years,
23 Florida will have two additional members of the United
24 States Congress, a total of 25 seats. The State
25 Legislature, therefore, will need to create 25 separate,

1 contiguous districts that cover the entire state, one for
2 each member of Congress.

3 The Legislature will also need to divide the state
4 into 40 state Senate districts and 120 House of
5 Representative districts. Although, as we pointed out at
6 the prior hearings, the Constitution does allow the
7 Legislature to reduce the number of State, Senate districts
8 to as low as 30 and House districts to as low as 80
9 respectively.

10 The Florida Constitution also requires that the
11 districts be consecutively numbered and either contiguous,
12 overlapping, or identical territory. In Florida, of
13 course, the Legislature is entrusted with this. And as the
14 chairman has pointed out, the session begins in January and
15 ends in March of 2002. During this session, it's
16 anticipated that the Legislature will accomplish its task.

17 If, however, at the end of the session there is not a
18 redistricting plan, the Governor would reconvene the
19 Legislature in a special session which would not exceed 30
20 days. If the special session ends without the adoption of
21 a plan, then the Florida Supreme Court commences
22 deliberations on a plan and the Florida Supreme Court would
23 draw the districts.

24 If during the session plans are adopted, then as the
25 chairman also pointed out, the Congressional plan is

1 reviewed by the Governor and it's subject to the Governor's
2 veto; however, the legislative plan does not go to the
3 Governor but it is instead reviewed by the Florida Supreme
4 Court for a determination of its validity. And if the
5 Supreme Court declared the plan invalid then, within five
6 days, the Governor would reconvene the Legislature for an
7 extraordinary session to attempt to adopt the plan.

8 We have, in adopting the plan, the Legislature will be
9 guided by several factors. Some of the main ones include
10 the principle of one person, one vote and the requirements
11 of the Florida Constitution that we talked about. The one
12 person, one vote -- and I know most of the members know
13 this -- but it will refresh you and for the members of the
14 public, it stands for the proposition that each Floridian,
15 that each person's vote counts the same as another.

16 In the 1960s this was not the case in Florida and in
17 many other states. For example, an urban district, a House
18 district for one of these members might have had 250,000
19 people. And another one in a more rural area might have
20 only had 75,000 people. The U.S. Supreme Court concluded
21 in the 1960s that these types of differences in population
22 resulted in -- in people's votes being unequal. However,
23 we don't have to have, as you know, an exact mathematical
24 preciseness.

25 As a rule of thumb, in the Congressional districts,

1 process is known as preclearance.

2 In Florida the covered jurisdictions include Collier,
3 Hardy, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe Counties. The vast
4 majority of these requests will be made to the Attorney
5 General for preclearance after the plan is approved and
6 final on a state level by the Florida Supreme Court. The
7 test there, the covered jurisdiction bears the burden of
8 demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not have
9 the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or
10 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or
11 membership in a language minority group. This is entitled
12 42 United States Code, Section 1973.

13 In conclusion, I'm going to say the legal rules are
14 somewhat complicated. This is a short presentation to
15 really sort of scratch the surface. Mr. Chairman and
16 members, with my house colleague, Miguel DeGrandy, we're
17 ready to provide you with any assistance you might need
18 throughout this hearing and throughout the process. Thank
19 you.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott. At this
21 time, I'd like to have recognized John Guthrie who is the
22 technical staff director of the Senate redistricting
23 committee to give us an update on not only this region but
24 on the actual numbers of the census. Mr. Guthrie, you are
25 recognized.

1 the courts have a stricter standard. That standard is less
2 than 1 percent. And in many cases where the federal courts
3 have drawn plans there has been like zero deviation.
4 However, in the state legislative districts under certain
5 circumstances the boards have committed a larger deviation
6 of up to 10 percent, plus or minus 10 percent, as a total
7 deviation.

8 Also, as you know, the Voting Rights Act of 1964 and
9 the Equal Protection clause of the Constitution have become
10 important elements over the years in any legislative
11 deliberation on redistricting. We have Section 2 of the
12 Voting Rights Act, prohibits any practice or procedure
13 including certain redistricting practices that impair the
14 ability of a minority community to elect candidates of
15 choice on an equal basis with nonminority voters. Florida
16 is also one of the states that contains jurisdictions that
17 are subject to review under Section 5 of the Voting Rights
18 Act.

19 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act requires a covered
20 jurisdiction submit, prior to implementation, any proposed
21 change to their practices or procedures affecting voting
22 including changes to election districts resulting from the
23 redistricting process. And this has to be approved either
24 by the Attorney General of the United States and or the
25 Federal District Court in the District of Columbia. This

1 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Chairman Webster, Chairman
2 Byrd, Speaker Feeney, and members of the committee. In
3 order to provide a contextual framework for our hearing
4 tonight, I'd like to briefly review some facts and figures
5 from the 2000 census.

6 The first thing that we need to know in Florida is
7 that Florida is a rapidly growing state. Between 1990 and
8 2000 Florida's population increased by more than 3 million
9 people or 23.5 percent, the population of the state growing
10 from approximately 13 million people to almost 16 million
11 people in April of 2000. As a result, Florida's delegation
12 in the United States House of Representatives will increase
13 by two to 25.

14 The other factor that we need to observe in looking at
15 Florida's growth during the decade is that it was not
16 uniform. Different areas of the state experienced
17 different rates of population growth. For instance,
18 Flagler County grew at a rate of 73.6 percent as did
19 Sumpter, Collier, and Wakulla Counties all grew faster than
20 60 percent. At the other end -- and as did Osceola County.

21 At the other end of the spectrum, Monroe County grew
22 at a rate of only 2 percent. Pinellas County grew at a
23 rate of 8 percent as did Putnam County. And Gadsden County
24 grew at 9.7 percent. Bringing this to a local view in
25 Orange County, the population increased by 32 percent to

1 896,344 people. This ranks Orlando or Orange County sixth
2 among Florida's 67 counties.

3 Seminole County, the population increased by
4 27 percent to 365,196. This ranks Seminole County 12th
5 among Florida counties. Lake County, the population
6 increased by 38 percent to 210,528 ranking Lake County 21st
7 among Florida counties. And Osceola County, as I
8 mentioned, grew at a rate of 60 percent, one of the most
9 rapidly growing areas of the state. The population in
10 Osceola County as of April 2000 is 172,493, ranking it 23rd
11 among Florida's counties.

12 As Senator Scott mentioned, the Article I of the
13 United States Constitution provides for a decennial census
14 for the purpose of apportioning seats among the several
15 states. The pictures from the census also are used for
16 adjusting boundaries for Congressional, Senate, and House
17 districts in Florida.

18 Districts that have grown faster than the state
19 average and have substantially too many people based on the
20 2000 census will become smaller after redistricting. On
21 the other hand, districts that are substantially
22 underpopulated will need to gain territory.

23 The average district's population, based on the
24 '90 census for Congressional districts was 562,519. Based
25 on the 2000 census, this will increase by 14 percent to

1 rate. Now what is the effect of this in terms of
2 districts? This map shows that Florida Congressional
3 districts and Congressional District 3 which includes parts
4 of Orange, Seminole, and Lake and Volusia Counties as well
5 as counties to the north is underpopulated based on the
6 current census. Whereas Districts 7 and 15 are slightly
7 overpopulated. And Districts 8 and 6 are substantially
8 overpopulated. These same figures are on the handouts that
9 were provided to the public at the meeting this evening and
10 are also available on the web.

11 The next graphic shows the same pattern for Florida
12 Senate districts. And our final graphic here shows the
13 same pattern yet again for Florida House districts with the
14 urban districts growing less quickly than the State
15 average. And some of the suburban districts growing much
16 more rapidly than the state's average.

17 This concludes my presentation. All of the
18 information that I have covered this evening plus a lot
19 more is available through the House and Senate's
20 redistricting web sites. And I would encourage the members
21 and the public to equate yourselves with that, the wealth
22 of information that is available there.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie. Ladies and
24 gentlemen, as I stated earlier we'll be using speaker
25 cards. If you want to speak, you need to fill one out.

1 639,295. For House and Senate districts the average
2 population in 1990 was 23,000 and 107,000 respectively.
3 These will grow by 23.5 percent to almost 400,000 and
4 133,000 with the census.

5 This graphic shows the population per district for
6 Congressional, Senate, and House districts in Florida. And
7 what we can conclude from this picture is, number one,
8 Congressional districts have more people than Senate or
9 House districts. And also that the growth of Congressional
10 districts is not quite as large. That is, the average
11 growth of Congressional districts over the decade was
12 14 percent because of the state being apportioned, the two
13 additional Congressional districts, while the growth of the
14 House and Senate districts will be 23.5 percent. Which
15 means if your district did not grow by that amount, it's
16 going to get more people.

17 This graphic shows the change in density in central
18 Florida counties. What we can conclude from this is the
19 downtown areas of Orlando, Ocala, and Daytona, the change
20 of density grew substantially less than the state average
21 indicated in red. Whereas areas outside of the urban areas
22 and surrounding the urban areas indicated in blue grew
23 substantially faster than the state population.

24 This graphic shows the same information except instead
25 of being based on density is based on the population growth

1 They are available at the back table. Staff can help you
2 do that. They're also numbered. As you'll see, on the
3 bottom right there is a number and we're going to call by
4 number. So if you see us getting close to your number,
5 move towards the front and we can move as quickly as
6 possible.

7 Like I said, we have quite a few speakers. It takes
8 us -- it has in the past -- taken about two hours to get
9 through 40 speakers, we have 108. So you can do the math
10 and understand it will take awhile to get through this. So
11 when we call you by number, we encourage your participation
12 with great force. You also can participate in writing if
13 you want to do that too. And you're also going to have to
14 be as quiet as you can because just the roar of the air
15 conditioners is huge. And we can barely hear up here. I'm
16 sure you're having trouble hearing out there. So try to be
17 as quiet as you can tonight. If you have a conversation,
18 maybe take it out to the foyer. All right. We'll start
19 with number one. You are recognized.

20 SENATOR KING: Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Senator King.

22 SENATOR KING: Mr. Chairman, will you ask the speakers
23 that when they do identify themselves not only identify
24 themselves, but if they represent an organization or a
25 community or whatever, to let us know that as well. It

1 will be helpful as we formulate questions for later.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you.

3 MS. PATTERSON: Chairman Webster, distinguished
4 members of the Senate, Florida House and members of the
5 studio audience. I'm Nancy Patterson. Do you want our
6 address?

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: No, we don't need your address.

8 MS. PATTERSON: Okay. Nancy Patterson. In the
9 interest of time, unfortunately I will read my speech.
10 Recent history has shown us that when people are strangely
11 divided by government it doesn't work. Citizens don't
12 understand why districts are oddly shaped rather than
13 compact.

14 Congressional District 3 looks like a snake. Florida
15 Senate District 14, as Senator Dyer can attest to, looks
16 like a dog with a long skinny neck, very long legs and
17 weblike ducked feet. And odd-shaped districts created by a
18 sliver of land such as a railroad, stream, or unpopulated
19 street once neighbor across the sliver of whatever has four
20 citizens to look to other members of Congress or leadership
21 other than the locally-elected representative for help and
22 assistance since they aren't part of a true, cohesive
23 community of representation. People want and need
24 Congressional and Florida districts formed around a
25 cohesive neighborhood and community under the principles

1 set forth in Shaw versus Reno, 509 U.S. 630, et cetera.

2 The redrawing of lines should be based on the
3 traditional redistricting principles such as compactness,
4 communities and with respect to county and cities' current
5 political boundaries. Those boundaries that also form make
6 a cohesive community of arrangement and interest. The
7 objective of this community -- of this committee should be
8 to draw the lines more fairly to serve all in one of the
9 fastest-growing states as well as keeping in mind we are
10 one people.

11 Kate Santage's (phonetic) article in the Orlando
12 Sentinel titled, I For Will Give Birth to a Megalopolis,
13 points out that the area of the state along the I-4
14 corridor between Tampa and Orlando should be called
15 Tamplando or Orlampa. The U.S. census figures also confirm
16 that the seven counties considered the interior of the I-4
17 corridor has added 700,000 residents, which I'm sure has
18 changed since this article.

19 Also, a proposed bullet train's first leg would
20 connect Orlando and Tampa. These two cities are working
21 together currently on an Olympic bid. Lakeland's
22 University of South Florida and Orlando's University of
23 Central Florida are the anchors of an emergency -- emerging
24 technological corridor. Through Enterprise, Florida's
25 efforts contiguous counties are cooperating and developing

1 their economic growth plans.

2 If counties such as Lake, Orange, Seminole, Osceola
3 and Polk are working together, then why should you not make
4 the Congressional and state lines also those lines that
5 work and reflect the joint cooperating efforts of those
6 communities? It is time now to look to the future.
7 Central Florida's future. It is time to stop splitting
8 people, splitting communities, splitting neighborhoods and
9 splitting neighbors. It is time we pulled together as one
10 people and move forward in a fast-growing state into the
11 next decade. Thank you so much.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 2. Number 2. Number 3.

13 MS. LYNUM: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
14 and members of the House and -- the Senate and House and
15 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Daisy Lynum. I'm a city
16 commissioner here in the city of Orlando representing
17 District 5. You're in the district which I represent. So
18 I welcome you here to my district. It's a real honor for
19 me to appear before you tonight and I do come on behalf of
20 the citizens of Orlando and particularly those in
21 District 5 who are keenly interested in the redistricting
22 process.

23 As a representative of our local government, I need to
24 work with our legislators in Tallahassee and our members of
25 Congress in D.C. And I do work with you and many of you

1 know just how closely we work together. It is critical to
2 the citizens to have effective representation in both
3 capitals. Our city government has been effectively served
4 by the representatives we have. Because our jurisdiction
5 is currently in the Third Congressional District, I've come
6 to talk to you just briefly about that.

7 We have the benefit of having our voices heard and our
8 concerns considered by dynamic advocate Congresswoman
9 Corrine Brown. Of course here in the House we have State
10 Representative Gary Siplin after many good years of former
11 Representative Also Reddic (phonetic) and of course our own
12 Senator Buddy Dyer.

13 Tonight I come to ask you to keep that part of the
14 Third Congressional District that is in Congresswoman
15 Brown's district, keep it there because it's a very serious
16 blow to our community to be taken out of this district, to
17 not have this dynamic voice to speak on our behalf. There
18 are numerous issues of concern for us. Education, public
19 safety and adequate services, mental health and veterans'
20 affairs. And most of you know how diligently we work with
21 her regarding the federal courthouse that has just taken
22 off. And we're celebrating that feat.

23 These issues have a real champion in Congresswoman
24 Brown and our city is better off for it. If you chop up
25 the district any more than it is you may want to hurt her

1 and I know how people are about trying to hurt other public
2 elected officials. But what we end up doing usually when
3 we're reaching out to hurt one another is we hurt a whole
4 group of other people, we hurt our community.

5 So my purpose of being here is to appeal to your sense
6 of dignity and morality and ethics to keep us in this
7 district, to have us represented by a very strong voice of
8 a woman we've come to trust and love. And we want to say a
9 little special thanks for you being here tonight, giving us
10 an opportunity to speak about the issues that concern us in
11 redistricting. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 4.

13 MR. WOODWARD: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members
14 of the committee. I am Dr. Maurice Woodward, Lieutenant
15 Colonel, United States Air Force, retired. But more
16 importantly, I'm a native Floridian. In fact, I was born
17 here in Orlando and would like to welcome you to our
18 community.

19 I am concerned about your plans for the Third
20 Congressional District. In my allotted time, I will stress
21 that a narrowed decision based strictly on political/legal
22 guidelines can undermine the basic foundation of our
23 Founding Forefathers, namely fair representation. You have
24 to understand that we view our district differently than
25 you do, as you probably are not aware of a historical and

1 near spiritual connection among the inhabitants of Orlando
2 and Jacksonville's Third Congressional District. However,
3 Congresswoman Corrine Brown is aware of this relationship.
4 In fact, she has elevated this association by strengthening
5 the economic, civic, and social bonds within this extended
6 community.

7 From a global perspective, redistricting recreated
8 bitter enemies as new boundaries pitted Serbs against
9 ethnic Albanians. Daily we see the outcome of the Middle
10 East conflict between Palestinians and Israelis. Of course
11 our immediate concerns are here at home, as our Governor
12 using his political power, right, wrong, left, right, or
13 whatever, has dismantled affirmative action and Florida
14 remains under the spotlight because of the voting
15 disparities of the recent presidential election.

16 The fact that Congresswoman Corrine Brown still
17 represents this community is proof of the importance of
18 maintaining this political safety net. If you view earth
19 from space, you see no boundaries. You can't even tell
20 where Florida ends and Georgia begins. It is because man,
21 not God, establishes boundaries be they geographical,
22 political, or racial. Albeit, as a consequence of history,
23 I understand the present need for boundaries.

24 I only ask that as you review your chart that you
25 remember that good fences make good neighbors. The Third

1 Congressional District is a good neighborhood. Please
2 protect this fence. Protect this good neighborhood. I
3 thank you for listening. But more importantly, I pray that
4 you've heard and will continue to hear our concerns and our
5 requirements that you not only use your political/legal
6 empowerment but also embrace the spirit of our Founding
7 Fathers along with the history of this community and
8 maintain the present good boundaries of this good and
9 patriotic community.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 5,
11 you're recognized.

12 MS. CLARK: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and committee
13 members. I'm Mercerdeze Clark, a native of Orlando,
14 Florida. I'm here to speak for myself and the Orlando
15 Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
16 as our cornerstone of existence is public service. We
17 would like to lend our collective voices and welcome you to
18 central Florida. But most importantly applaud you for
19 holding one of the hearings in one of the fastest-growing,
20 diverse regions in the nation, central Florida.

21 As you deliberate to make informed and proactive
22 decisions that affect each of us, we call your attention to
23 the 2000 census report where it points out that four states
24 generating the most cultural language and diverse growth
25 shows that the state of Florida is among them. And then

1 becoming imperative that we do our part in providing venues
2 of legislative opportunities to the redistricting process
3 that promotes gender, racial and social class equity where
4 all voices can be heard.

5 We know that reapportionment is a political process.
6 But public trust is vital. We cannot place partisanship
7 politics over basic principles of justice and integrity.
8 We believe that the Third Congressional District has given
9 the minority population representation and a voice in the
10 correct process and we plead with you not to tamper with
11 it.

12 We are very happy with our current Congressional
13 leadership and we request that the present district lines
14 remain the same or give us more of an area which has common
15 interests and concern. We stand ready to join you in this
16 effort and we look forward to seeing all of you during
17 Delta Days at the capitol. I thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 6.

19 MR. BROOKS: Good evening, distinguished members of
20 the committee. I am Byron Brooks, executive director of
21 the central Florida Regional Transportation Authority known
22 locally as LYNX. I'd like to briefly mention the
23 importance of transportation and diverse representation as
24 a consideration in the upcoming Congressional
25 redistricting. We certainly are pleased and proud to

Page 30

1 receive the representation at the state and federal level
 2 that we have enjoyed. I want to focus this evening on the
 3 Congressional district because of its unique status and
 4 consideration in this upcoming redistricting process.
 5 Public transportation, especially transit, has direct
 6 funding linkage with the federal transportation or
 7 appropriations process under the Transportation Equity Act
 8 of the 21st century known as T21. Funds were designated
 9 that can only be used for transit. And our ability to
 10 bring those dollars home to this community and benefit the
 11 residents of our area rests with our representation at the
 12 Congressional level.
 13 Our community has been well served by Congressional
 14 leadership but also by other linkage, our transportation
 15 linkage to other regional cities, particularly Daytona
 16 Beach and Jacksonville. To have a connection between
 17 Jacksonville and Orlando represents a strong common
 18 interest and common concerns, shared concerns. This has
 19 fostered economic development by enhancing transit needs
 20 and business opportunities of the broader region. This
 21 linkage has expanded business opportunities between folks
 22 of common interest and allowed us to identify and better
 23 serve those needs and articulate those concerns as well.
 24 This is what makes the Third Congressional Districts
 25 not only unique but vital, as a vital element of our unique

Page 31

1 community interests and concerns. So we hope you consider
 2 the benefits of the Third Congressional District as you
 3 undertake this important decision for our community.
 4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
 5 Number 7.
 6 MR. WATSON: To the committee, Chair, members, good
 7 afternoon. My name is Sheldon Watson. I'm the project
 8 manager for the Central Florida Regional Transportation
 9 Authority dealing with community relations in the area. As
 10 you know, as my executive director has mentioned, our
 11 agency covers a tri-county area and it's very unique in its
 12 workings in that we have to take a regional approach
 13 whenever we are planning transit, mass transit for the
 14 area.
 15 I'm here to just briefly mention that the
 16 transportation issue that the central Florida area does
 17 face is a regional one. The Third Congressional District
 18 has a representative there currently that knows the
 19 regional concept and is very cognizant of the very crux of
 20 what goes on dealing with mass transit. Councilman Corrine
 21 Brown has been there when not only transit needs were there
 22 but also for the communities -- all the communities that
 23 she represents in that the Third Congressional, although it
 24 is a long meandering from Jacksonville down to Orlando, it
 25 serves a very concept in the representation that we have

Page 32

1 here now has shown that it can be done and it has been done
 2 very good. I'd like to, Chair, if I might, to yield the
 3 rest of my time to Mayor Scott Vandergrift, the mayor of
 4 Ocoee who also signed up.
 5 MR. VANDERGRIFT: Thank you. I'm Mayor Scott
 6 Vandergrift from the city of Ocoee and I won't take any
 7 more than the time allotted to my friend who works for the
 8 greatest, best system in all of central Florida. Thank you
 9 very much.
 10 I want to talk to you about something entirely
 11 different. You've got your hands full deciding lines,
 12 deciding politics and what have you. Here in Orange County
 13 40 to 60 percent of the voters are disenfranchised from
 14 voting in November under what we consider the election day.
 15 Our superintendent of voters back about eight years ago
 16 decided that we had to scramble for ourselves and find
 17 other places to vote. Right now we're voting in March.
 18 This is about the third time in the eight years that we've
 19 changed our voter's place and time of voting. In a good
 20 year, they could vote as many as eight times in that year.
 21 I know the State Legislature made the motor voter bill
 22 effective and at the same time we have a local elected
 23 official making it ineffective in Orange County. We had
 24 the mayor of Orlando get elected by less than 6 percent in
 25 one off-year election because it was not in November and

Page 33

1 the people could not come out to vote.
 2 You and the -- Bill Couse (phonetic) said to me that
 3 one of the problems they have is that the district lines
 4 don't match. Congressional districts, state legislative
 5 districts, Senate districts, school board districts, our
 6 districts and you are the bulk of all of that. And if you
 7 put that in the back of your mind that we could get that 40
 8 to 60 percent of voters re-enfranchised it would go a long
 9 way toward helping our voters out. So thank you very much
 10 for your time. I'd like to extend my remarks. I'll be
 11 E-mailing you more.
 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 8, you're recognized.
 13 MS. NATHIRI: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,
 14 my name is N.Y. Nathiri and I'm the executive director of
 15 the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community,
 16 Incorporated. We are located in Eatonville, the oldest
 17 incorporated African-American municipality in the United
 18 States and the hometown of that great Floridian Zora Neale
 19 Hurston and I am here to speak on behalf of your doing
 20 whatever it is that needs to be done to keep Eatonville in
 21 the Third Congressional District.
 22 I've come this evening despite the political pundits
 23 who I heard recently on WMFE, Channel 90.7, the esteemed
 24 Dick Bachelor and Lou Fry who really said that this was
 25 just an exercise to make certain that certain people got a

1 Congressional seat. Of course that's not true and so I
2 want to appeal to your more -- how should we say -- to your
3 greater sensibilities and your greater proclivities. And
4 that is to say that what keeps this country together is
5 allegiance.

6 I remember the bad old days when the Congressional
7 lines were drawn more cohesively and more coherently and
8 our Congressional representative was located on Lee Road.
9 For those of you who know central Florida, you know that
10 Eatonville is not more than 30 seconds away from Lee Road.
11 We had no representation. We had no constituent
12 representation. And I'm here to say to you tonight that
13 Congresswoman Corrine Brown has made those of us in the
14 Third Congressional District feel as if we are a part, a
15 real part of this government, of this great democracy. And
16 so ten years ago I came before a redistricting committee
17 and said, Do whatever it takes to keep Congresswoman
18 Corrine Brown Eatonville's representative. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 9.

20 MS. GORDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
21 distinguished members of this great committee. Should I
22 say prestigious committee, it's the only one in the state.
23 I would like to say to you I'm Kat Gordon, I'm an elected
24 official of the school board. And you are right now in my
25 district. If this was a high school it would be Expo High

1 and you would be sitting in your seats.

2 But I did not come to speak as a member of the
3 District 5 School Board. I came to speak to you, most
4 learned committee members, as a senior citizen, a member of
5 Congressional District Number 3 in which I'm very proud to
6 reside. Number one, consider the diversity of not just
7 District 3 but all of the districts. When you draw the
8 lines, you're going to be drawing for everybody. I want
9 you to consider the diversity of that.

10 Next, I want you to respect our communities when you
11 are putting these lines together. The communities of
12 interest mean so much and especially the community in which
13 I reside. Number three, the point that I would like to
14 make here is to schedule locations. This is really rough
15 if you look around, to have this many people here and not
16 be able to get a voice. I would not want to be speaker
17 Number 108.

18 We need planned hearings in central Florida as well as
19 throughout the state of Florida. And I know that's going
20 to be difficult for you, but I want you to use infinite
21 wisdom and guide yourselves to putting that together. We
22 need hearings after the lines are drawn. As a member of
23 the school board, I would not want to make a decision
24 without having a public hearing and hearing from the
25 committee that put us together. Please give us sufficient

1 time to consider these lines which are developed before you
2 vote.

3 Another thing, we know what happened and the United
4 States Civil Rights Commission found that Florida
5 procedures and practice during the last election did not
6 allow all Floridians to participate in the political
7 process. This reapportionment process should not repeat
8 those mistakes. We should go out of our way and I heard
9 you say that you want to be fair and that you want to be
10 inclusive. Include me. I want to leave with you as a
11 senior citizen and gratefully appreciate my age of 57,
12 consider me, look at my face. I may have to remind some of
13 you that I am black and we do need black representation.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
15 10. Number 10. Number 11.

16 MS. KELLY: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,
17 good evening and welcome to Orlando. The business
18 community here in Orlando where I have my business -- my
19 name is Lavern Kelly -- owes a great deal to the community
20 leadership, particularly those of you who have helped us
21 create and build the political and legal environment in
22 which our businesses flourish, creating jobs and economic
23 opportunity for thousands in the region.

24 One particular initiative that I would like to speak
25 to and make mention of because it bears reference on this

1 redistricting task ahead of you is the initiative that took
2 place by the Congresswoman Corrine Brown for District 3.
3 That initiative was to bring information here to Orlando
4 about the better Jacksonville plan which represented \$2
5 billion worth of business opportunities.

6 The Congresswoman set up an outreach meeting here at
7 the chamber where over 200 small businesses, minority and
8 women-owned businesses, came out to hear about that
9 opportunity in Jacksonville. She had the various
10 departments from the city of Jacksonville here to explain
11 what opportunities would take place.

12 As a result of that meeting a very strong commercial
13 business relationship has developed between Jacksonville
14 and Orlando. In other words, there are businesses here in
15 Orlando because of Congresswoman Corrine Brown's initiative
16 that are doing business in Orlando. Vice versa, there are
17 businesses, small and women-owned minority businesses that
18 are doing business here in Orlando.

19 This partnership is well served by having the two
20 communities represented by one member of Congress, by
21 sharing a Congressional district knowledge and interest of
22 those two cities as closely as aligned. We continue to
23 build economic partnerships for the betterment of both
24 communities here in Florida. For that reason as a small
25 woman-owned business and minority owned business, I ask

1 that you maintain Orlando as part of this district
2 represented by Congresswoman Corrine Brown. And I ask that
3 you refrain from drawing any district that would break the
4 community or deprive us of the leadership that has brought
5 us together.

6 During my 15 years of being here in Orlando she has
7 been the first and the only Congressperson that I'm aware
8 of that holds these types of forums here in the Chamber of
9 Commerce and throughout the district informing the business
10 owners of the opportunities that are going on in her
11 district. I thank you again for your attention.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
13 12, you're recognized.

14 MR. BROWN: Mr. Chairman, before I speak, I do believe
15 when you started this hearing you requested that the
16 audience remain quiet so that everyone could be heard. And
17 I think it's very disrespectful to see members of the
18 committee commencing talking amongst themselves. I think
19 the same respect needs to be shown.

20 Now you may start my time. My name is Mr. Rico L.
21 Brown. I'm a resident of Orange County, Orlando and also
22 the great state of Florida. I'm here this evening to read
23 a letter to you-all from the Honorable Commissioner Mabel
24 Butler, retired Orange County Commissioner District 6.

25 At its heart, redistricting is about the allocation of

1 political power. Those that control the lines on the map
2 control a great deal. You control who has access to power
3 and who does not. You control who is represented and who
4 is not. You control whether historically disadvantaged
5 communities will continue to face obstacles and barriers or
6 whether they will enjoy the same rights and representation
7 to which every person is entitled.

8 You control whether minority communities can choose
9 the candidate of their choice or whether they will be
10 rendered politically insignificant. Ladies and gentlemen,
11 you control those lines and you have that awesome power.

12 I want the record to reflect a few core principles.
13 First, the African-American community has worked hard to
14 achieve a level of influence in Orlando, Tallahassee and in
15 Washington, D.C. And it is my hope that influence will not
16 be diluted. I want to continue going forward and not
17 backwards.

18 Second, I will be watching to ensure that
19 redistricting plans comply with the Voting Rights Act which
20 means that these plans will not and may not dilute minority
21 votes. They may not pack or fragment minority voters.
22 They may not result in less political power than we have
23 today and they must allow our communities to elect a
24 candidate of our choice.

25 The sad reality is that there is racially polarized

1 voting particularly around here in central Florida. Whites
2 vote for whites and blacks vote for blacks. It is a fact
3 of life and it reflects the feeling that many have that
4 only the people who look like them will represent their
5 interest. We all wish it were different but it is not.

6 As a result, unless the lines are drawn in a way to
7 protect the rights of minority communities, we will not
8 have the opportunity to elect a representative who gives us
9 adequate representation and access to political power. For
10 example, we have benefitted by linking our community here
11 in Orlando with other communities in Congressional
12 District 3, communities that were never given access and
13 opportunities until we elected Congresswoman Corrine Brown.
14 It is these benefits that come with true and equal
15 representation.

16 I ask that you heed the concerns of this community and
17 draw the lines in accordance with the principles of
18 fairness, justice, and equality. Respectfully, Mabel
19 Butler. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you for appearing. Number 13.

21 MR. GRANT: Good evening, Committee. Thank you, Mr.
22 Chairman. My name is Mayor Anthony Grant. I'm proud to
23 serve my community and I believe that I'm especially
24 excited about the fact that we're the oldest
25 African-American community in the United States of America.

1 It is indeed a high honor to be here this evening to speak
2 on behalf of an outstanding Congresswoman that represents
3 the town of Eatonville. I had some bullet points but I
4 think I need to speak from my heart and it just needs to
5 come off from what I know about Congresswoman Corrine
6 Brown.

7 Before Congresswoman Corrine Brown was elected it was
8 almost an unknown fact that we had any representation on
9 the federal level. But I'll tell you that Congresswoman
10 Corrine Brown has been a real champion for the causes of
11 people, individuals inside and outside of the political
12 spectrum, inside and outside of the who you know, not what
13 you know or do you know.

14 Congresswoman Corrine Brown is a true advocate for
15 people and I think it would be a disservice to draw any
16 lines that would take the town of Eatonville out of the
17 Third District. Congresswoman Corrine Brown has been there
18 from day one and continues to be there until this very
19 night. I am proud to tell you that Congresswoman Corrine
20 Brown has not only fought for our residents, but our
21 municipality as a whole.

22 You know, we have only 2500 residents. And to tell
23 you that you have access, access to a Congressional
24 representative for a community of 2500, you-all are elected
25 officials and I'm an elected official and we know the power

1 of the vote. We tend to favor the heavy, the heavy, heavy
2 voter districts. Those are the people that we tend to lend
3 favors to or lend our ear to, but I tell you, it's only the
4 fitting of a champion that reaches out to a small
5 municipality that sits in the heart of central Florida to
6 treat us as equals to her constituents in Jacksonville. To
7 treat us as equal as her constituents in the city of
8 Orlando.

9 I am proud and I think it would be a disservice not
10 only to the town of Eatonville but this district to redraw
11 the lines that would take Congresswoman Corrine Brown out
12 of that loop of representing the heart and soul of
13 individuals. She fights for transportation. She is an
14 advocate for veteran affairs. She's an advocate for social
15 programs. She's an advocate for youth and families. And I
16 plead to you and I implore you tonight to really think
17 about what disservice we will be doing to the American
18 people, the people of Orange County, the residents of the
19 town of Eatonville to remove an outstanding champion for
20 people and individual causes, senior citizens, public
21 safety.

22 You know, we could call many elected officials. Some
23 respond, some don't respond. You could write a myriad of
24 letters. Some respond, some don't respond. Sometimes you
25 get aides, sometimes you get staff members. But it's a

1 true pleasure to get the Congresswoman on the phone to
2 resolve issues. I think that's a true commitment -- a
3 testament of her heart and her desire to serve the American
4 people and I'm proud and I hope and I pray that you
5 reconsider or consider the outstanding things that she has
6 done in central Florida to keep the town of Eatonville in
7 the Third District and keep Congresswoman Brown as a
8 champion to serve our community. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
10 14. Number 15.

11 MS. MARSHALL: Good evening, Mr. Chairman and the
12 esteemed committee. I actually was supposed to be on an
13 airplane on my way to Africa. I'm Bonnie Marshall and I'm
14 the president of the global initiative on AIDS. But when I
15 heard about this hearing, I thought I needed to reschedule
16 that flight and be here because I wanted to talk to you
17 about my feelings with the redistricting.

18 I left my glasses in the car so that's good news for
19 you-all because it means I can't read all this so I see
20 that as a sign to speak from my heart as well. I don't
21 want you to be offended by the passionate attitudes of the
22 people that come here. It's not a reflection towards you,
23 it is a reflection of our commitment and love for
24 Congresswoman Brown. And our fear of all of the things
25 that she has accomplished in this district being tampered

1 with or destroyed as a result of the lines you may draw
2 when you vote.

3 I have to be very candid with you, I didn't have a lot
4 of confidence in the political process and in politicians
5 until I met Congresswoman Brown. And working with HIV/AIDS
6 in Orlando, in the state of Florida, and throughout the
7 United States and the world, it's not an easy job. HIV
8 AIDS is devastating the African-American community. It is
9 devastating us here in Orlando. Its impact on District 3
10 is unimaginable. And I cannot imagine how we would survive
11 unless we have someone who cares about us the way that
12 Congresswoman Corrine Brown does and cares about this
13 issue.

14 When I approached her about this issue and called her
15 office, you could imagine my shock. I really didn't think
16 I'd hear back from anyone, let alone the Congresswoman
17 herself. But to have her respond personally, it was
18 surreal to me. But more so to have her say, Whatever it is
19 I can do, let me know because I'm concerned about this
20 issue as well, and she has been involved in supporting the
21 global initiative and our efforts ever since.

22 We called the Congresswoman in March and asked her to
23 come to Geneva, Switzerland as a keynote speaker to speak
24 to women of African descent from around the world. Because
25 as you may or may not know, HIV is impacting us around the

1 world more than any other group in the world. And that
2 even exists here in central Florida in District 3.

3 And the Congresswoman, without hesitation, came to
4 Geneva and she really had an impact on the women and she
5 gave us all hope and really let us know that politicians
6 aren't just people that you can't approach. But that you
7 can actually approach them, that you-all are real. And she
8 has really brought together -- I probably met more
9 Republicans, good Republicans, through Congresswoman
10 Corrine Brown then I ever have in my life.

11 She has the ability to bring people together across
12 color lines, across party lines. And so I just want you to
13 know that I think it would be -- unless there is someone
14 that you have in mind that when you draw those lines and
15 you can guarantee us that they are going to care like
16 Congresswoman Corrine Brown cares for us, I ask you to
17 please leave District 3 the way it is. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
19 Number 16.

20 MR. MCGILL: Mr. Chairman, and distinguished members
21 of this committee, I'm Reginald B. McGill, a native of
22 Orlando, Florida, An individual who has associated with
23 about 38 organizations holding office in about 20 of them.
24 And I think that's only to say that I believe one person
25 can really make the difference and that's why I stand here

1 today asking you to be very, very considerate of having a
2 diversified delegation for central Florida. A delegation that
3 represents all the people. And in my opinion, with the
4 three persons that represent Orange County, we have that
5 diversification because Orange County, Central Florida is
6 diverse. They have different issues. And with the
7 delegation that we have currently, I think all of those
8 issues are being addressed.

9 I heard persons talk about the district, the shape of
10 the district. I've never in my life seen a square box.
11 Every district, be it state, school board, city, all of
12 them have sizes that could be questioned in terms of how
13 they physically look. The issue is, Are the districts
14 working. Are they really meeting the needs of the public
15 people. And to me, that is critically important. I think
16 it's very, very interesting when you look at a
17 Congressional district that goes from Panama City to Lake
18 City. Another district that goes from West Palm Beach all
19 the way down to Key West. And we're talking about a
20 district that goes from Jacksonville to Orlando which is
21 only two-and-a-half hours.

22 So for me, the distance is not the issue. The issue
23 is the service. And I think the three persons that
24 represent Orange County, central Florida gives us that
25 diversity. But if I could be more candid, it has been my

1 pleasure to work with two members of Congress, one who
2 represents the east side, a large Hispanic district.
3 Another who represents the west side, right where we are
4 now. And what I tell you is -- those needs, when we're
5 talking about working-class people, individuals who care,
6 we have persons who are concerned who has to make a
7 decision, Do I buy my medicine or do I pay my rent, and we
8 need someone who is sensitive to those issues. It's not
9 about getting a person who has the same color, but who has
10 the same values. And I think we have representation in our
11 central Florida delegation that represents that.

12 Now most of you are sitting around this table, and
13 particularly in this audience knows that I worked for
14 Congresswoman Brown at one time. So for me to pretend that
15 I'm not concerned about District 3, particularly in Orange
16 County -- and quite candidly it is my hope because we
17 recognize that that district needs to be increased that you
18 would be sensitive when you look at not only bringing the
19 district all the way down to include Orlando but that you
20 will look at communities that are diverse, that have like
21 things in common with District 3, coming obviously from
22 District 8 and from District 7 making a district that
23 really has a whole lot of things in common.

24 I paused and I looked because I want, when it's your
25 house, when it's your neighborhood it hits here. And for

1 many of us who have spoken, that's exactly where it hits
2 and ask you to be sensitive to what we have said and act
3 accordingly. Thank you so much.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
5 17. Number 17.

6 MR. MOUNT: Good evening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
7 come in support of Corrine Brown, Congresswoman Corrine
8 Brown, someone who represents us. I'm from the small town
9 of Eatonville. Before that it was hard to get in touch.
10 The Congresswoman is only a phone call away. I have never
11 been closer to a Congresswoman where you can call and get
12 results. As Mr. McGill says, it hits home, it hits home.
13 And if it is not broken, don't fix it. Keep the district.
14 Thanks.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
16 18. Number 18. Number 19. Number 20.

17 MR. DEAN: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen of the
18 committee. My name is Billie Dean. I am the city
19 commissioner for the second largest city in Orange County
20 which is Apopka. If this process is about citizen
21 participation in the political process, I respectfully do
22 not think that this reapportionment process has lived up to
23 my ideal.

24 Ten years ago we had 32 statewide hearings. This year
25 we have only two-thirds as many. Despite the fact that the

1 state has had one of the largest increases in population in
2 the country, the hearings are in the middle of the week, at
3 a time when most Floridians are working. This hearing is
4 at 6:00 p.m. but others are at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.

5 The first hearing in Tallahassee, for example, was at
6 10:00 a.m. on a Thursday morning. Most of the people in
7 attendance were capitol staff who can go to the hearing at
8 10:00 a.m. on a Thursday. Now who can go at 10:00 a.m. on
9 a Thursday if he's working?

10 There is no hearing in the Fifth Congressional
11 District or the Nineteenth Congressional District. There
12 is only one hearing for all of Broward County. In one case
13 there are two hearings on the same day, one for Miami and
14 one in Key West. How you are going to get from one to the
15 other is a mystery to me. Moreover, the State did not
16 release the redistricting software to the public until the
17 day of the first hearing. Last month we learned that
18 software does not work and that it might crash your
19 computers.

20 So there is no software. We have no maps. How is the
21 public supposed to participate in the process if it does
22 not have access to the data and to the maps that drive this
23 process? Finally, I object to the fact that the hearings
24 are taking place only -- before a plan is on the table.
25 How should the public react to or comment on a plan that

1 does not exist?

2 Lastly, if this committee was serious about input it
3 would hold hearings before and after the majority plan is
4 introduced. Please do not cut people out of this process.
5 You are the custodians of the public trust and we expect
6 that you will not abuse that trust. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
8 Number 21.

9 MS. WYNN: Good evening, Members of the committee.
10 I'm honored to be here and thank you. My name is Dottie
11 Wynn. I am president of Wynn Consulting Group here in
12 Orlando. As a member of the committee, I am certain that
13 you are aware of this -- that this community faces several
14 policy challenges. The uncertainty in the labor market,
15 the difficulty of earning a living wage, the lack of health
16 benefits for all, the problems in our schools, and I can go
17 on and on with these such problems.

18 But the issue today is redistricting. Let me say that
19 where the lines are drawn, if they are drawn differently
20 from the way they are today, will ultimately impact this
21 community. Congresswoman Corrine Brown, I've known her for
22 quite a while -- by the way, I am a Republican. I've
23 always been one. I'm going to stay one. But I don't
24 always vote party lines. I vote for the person that's best
25 qualified for the position. And I think that Congresswoman

1 Corrine Brown is. She has demonstrated that to you, to me,
2 and her constituents. She crosses party lines when it
3 comes to doing the right thing. She may not do everything
4 the way you want it, but no one else does. She may not
5 vote the way you would like her to vote all the time, but
6 neither do you. There are difficulties.

7 My personal opinion is it is best that this District 3
8 remains as it is today. The voters of Congressional
9 District Number 3 have spoken on four different occasions.
10 They spoke at the polls. Not among themselves, but at the
11 polls. And I am certain all the votes that she received
12 were not just Democratic votes. However, she did get
13 65 percent of that vote, give or take one or two points,
14 but she did win.

15 There are more registered Democrats and minorities in
16 District 3 than Republicans. This is why this seat has not
17 been won and I don't think it can be won by anybody other
18 than Congresswoman Corrine Brown. The lines were redrawn
19 in 1996 but she won then and she won after that. In this
20 district --

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.

22 MS. WYNN: Thank you. All I want to say to you, I
23 think the district should remain as it is and go to another
24 district that's more evenly divided by Republicans and
25 Democrats to conquer two more seats. But this one I don't

1 think we can do. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
3 Number 22.

4 MR. HALBRET: Good evening, Mr. Speaker, members of
5 the committee and Representatives. My name is Stanley
6 Halbret. I'm the chairperson of the Orlando Housing
7 Authority but I am here today as a private citizen to speak
8 with you regarding the redistricting issues. I would
9 preface my remarks by agreeing with many of the previous
10 statements, that we've had a very experienced and competent
11 and passionate advocate in Senator -- I'm sorry
12 Representative Corrine Brown.

13 But in dealing with the redistricting process as a
14 whole, I would like you-all to realize and look at the fact
15 that despite this as being a political process, the initial
16 goal should be of justice, of making sure that each vote
17 counts as near as possible for the same, to make sure that
18 minority voting representation is not diluted in the
19 redistricting process.

20 In doing that, you have the ability to, for the lines
21 that you draw, either strengthen or divide communities.
22 And I hope in making these recommendations, the drawing of
23 these lines, you do so in a manner that strengthens the
24 communities and the ties that we have existing at this
25 time. In closing, I would ask -- I would remind this body

1 that one person, one vote has been a preeminent principal
2 of the American way of living for quite awhile. I'd like
3 to make sure that one vote means one vote. I'd like to,
4 with the chairman's permission, waive the remainder of my
5 time to the resident commissioner from the Orlando Housing
6 Authority who is present, Ms. Doris Lane-Stoutworth. Thank
7 you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
9 Number 23.

10 MS. LANE-STOUTWORTH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
11 members of the committee. My name is Doris Lane-Stoutworth
12 (phonetic). I'm a resident commissioner and a resident of
13 a low income complex known as Ivy Lane. I come to you
14 today to beg you to please reconsider your suggestion. As
15 a Florida African-American voter here in Orlando and aware
16 of what's happening, when the doors of political power get
17 shut in your face my community has well been blessed to
18 have the political leadership of Congresswoman Brown. We
19 have today a complex that we're proud to say you can walk
20 into and you can walk out.

21 To Congresswoman Corrine Brown, I would like to extend
22 thanks from Ivy Lane for coming out and taking her time to
23 listen to a low income area which we never thought that
24 would happen. We share so many of the same issues and
25 concerns and we have been benefitted by this leadership of

1 Congresswoman Brown. I would like to thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for coming. Number 24.

3 MS. HARRIS: Good evening. My name is Christine
4 Harris and I'm a resident of Mount Dora, Florida which is
5 part of the Third District represented by Congresswoman
6 Corrine Brown. To the committee chair and to all of those
7 who are within our earshot today, I hope that you will
8 understand the passion that the residents and the people of
9 these different communities bring with them as they speak.

10 It sounds as if we are campaigning for Congresswoman
11 Corrine Brown, but it is just that she is such a strong
12 representative that you cannot talk about District 3, you
13 cannot talk about the Democratic party, you cannot talk
14 about the glue, the voter empowerment, the affirmative
15 action, you can't talk about much in politics today without
16 talking about Congresswoman Corrine Brown.

17 So it's not a campaign for her but it's just an
18 accolade to her dedicated service. Congresswoman Brown has
19 been to Mount Dora on numerous occasions. When we had the
20 storm of the century she was there walking the streets.
21 When I asked her about coming and representing our
22 community in our black heritage festival, something that
23 was a well-needed thing that would bring our community
24 together, Congresswoman Brown has been there more than
25 once. She's brought in information regarding

1 grantsmanship, contracting opportunities, helping to get
2 minorities certified, that's one of her strong points right
3 now.

4 She's pushing that information and it's just at the
5 threshold of getting over so that people are beginning to
6 understand the idea of collaboration, and coalition and
7 partnership. Congresswoman Corrine Brown has done some
8 mind-changing things. She's been able to cross the party
9 lines, not only the party lines, but she's been able to
10 cross the religious lines. She's crossed the racial lines.
11 And she's even looked back and reflected on some of us who
12 are black like she is and told us we were wrong. And she's
13 stood in our faces and said that, You need to change
14 because you're not working on behalf of this community.

15 The gerrymandering that took place ten years ago was
16 an opportunity to fail for a black Congresswoman. But our
17 representative took it on as a challenge and she made it
18 work. It's been challenged several times and it's amazing
19 to me how out of all the districts District 3 is always
20 looked at because it was done wrong to start with and I
21 know about that because I represented a northeast district
22 in my community that was done pretty much the same way. It
23 was set up to fail but we made it work and this is the same
24 thing that Congresswoman Brown has done. She has taken
25 nothing and made something. She's been willing to think

1 outside of the box. She didn't let the box keep her held
2 within.

3 She was willing to go outside the box to touch hands
4 with all types of people, to look beyond just her own
5 physical limitations and she also brought in inclusiveness.
6 She included all types of people. She went to people who
7 were not well educated but she made them feel like they
8 could be someone. She brought in information to people who
9 otherwise would not have been able to get to schools or to
10 the military --

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Fifteen seconds.

12 MS. HARRIS: -- so the lines that we're talking about,
13 it's not so much that we're campaigning for Congresswoman
14 Corrine Brown but it is the impact of what a district like
15 this can have. We ask that you don't change the district.
16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
18 Number 25.

19 MR. MAXWELL: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and to this
20 very distinguished committee. My name is Freddie L.
21 Maxwell, founder and president of Grant Avenue Economic
22 Community Development Corporation opening doors of
23 opportunity for down, troubled people. I'm proud to be
24 here this afternoon speaking on behalf of Congresswoman
25 Corrine Brown. I'm a native of Florida, born in Levy

1 County, a little place they call Williston, just 94 years
2 ago.

3 I heard someone give a description of the shape of
4 Congressional District Number 3. They described it as
5 crooked as a snake. Well, it may be, but let me tell you
6 the representative of that district is as straight as a
7 pin. I moved to Orlando in the year 1947 and have been a
8 resident in Orlando ever since. And let me tell you,
9 historically speaking, and I wish to recognize my
10 legislator, Gary Siplin, and my state Senator, Buddy Dyer
11 and my Congresswoman Corrine Brown.

12 When I came to Orlando certain people -- and I was
13 among those people -- drew in political darkness,
14 Congressionalwise, political darkness. When Congresswoman
15 Corrine Brown was elected for District 3, let me tell you,
16 a beautiful golden sun of Congressional benefits rose upon
17 the area in which we live. Congresswoman Corrine Brown
18 turned the light of life benefits on Congressional District
19 Number 3.

20 So now you politicians, I'm a registered Republican,
21 I'm a registered Republican but I tell you what, being a
22 gospel minister for 55 years, pastor of one church for 36
23 years, I esteem the word of God above politics. So what I
24 look for in a political candidate is character, that's what
25 I look for. If it's a Republican candidate and I don't

1 discover character in him, I don't vote for him. And I
2 registered Republican back in the days of Franklin Delano
3 Roosevelt in the year of 1938. And I've been a Republican
4 ever since. But let me tell you there's a few times I vote
5 Republican and I didn't do it this last time because I'm
6 just telling you like I feel about it. This 2000
7 election -- now someone talking about Congressional
8 districts as crooked as a black snake, let me tell you,
9 this election here in Florida last year was as crooked as a
10 bunch of black snakes.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Reverend Maxwell, your time has
12 expired.

13 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you. Let me, please,
14 Mr. Chairman, let me say this. Congresswoman Brown came to
15 me in 1992 when I was struggling with a vision that God
16 Almighty gave me to establish -- help homeless people to
17 find a shelter and she has carried my application to HUD
18 and they awarded me the grant. And as a result, 202 people
19 who were homeless, tonight they have shelter over their
20 heads as a result of Congresswoman Brown.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
22 Number 26.

23 THE WITNESS: Mr. Chairman, members of the
24 committee --

25 MR. FERNANDEZ: I'm Number 24.

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We had a 24 speak. Did we have a
2 person out of turn? You're recognized then.

3 MR. FERNANDEZ: Thank you. Last month I testified in
4 Tallahassee and I am back now here in Orlando because of
5 the growth and importance of this area, to our mission at
6 Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. My name is
7 Alvaro Fernandez and I am the Florida director for this
8 national non-partisan organization established more than 25
9 years ago which has registered more than two-and-a-half
10 million voters around the country.

11 Our mission, to achieve full political and economic
12 empowerment of Latinos and other underserved communities.
13 Our Latino vote 2001/2002 campaign is taking shape in
14 many Florida communities. In the Orange County area the
15 Latino population of more than 168,000 persons, more than
16 half being of Puerto Rican descent, is of the utmost
17 importance to us.

18 Together with PRLDEF, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense
19 and Education Fund, who is involved in the legal end of
20 redistricting with us, we would like to make sure that the
21 hundreds of thousands of Latinos and other minorities who
22 populate this area and other communities bordering the I-4
23 corridor are not forgotten during this new map-drawing
24 process now underway.

25 I will repeat what I briefly said in Tallahassee where

1 I informed you we are working with many ethnic communities
2 that now call Florida home. We are Puerto Ricans, Cubans,
3 Mexicans, Dominicans, Haitians, Columbians and many others.
4 And, yes, African-Americans too, and we are all working
5 together towards one common goal, fair and equitable
6 opportunities to have our votes count and our voices heard
7 in Florida's civic and political life.

8 I would like to once again thank you, thank the
9 committee for this opportunity and we continue to look
10 forward to working with all of you both Democrats and
11 Republicans to ensure that this process is carried out in a
12 just and fair manner where all of Florida will benefit.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thanks for appearing. Number 26.

15 MS. DUPEE: Good evening. Welcome to our beautiful
16 central Florida. When I came here 34 years ago, it was
17 rolling hills over in the beautiful city of Clermont,
18 rolling hills of Springfield, lakes and orange trees. The
19 freezes of '85 and '89 changed the landscapes of west
20 Orange and south Lake County for all time.

21 I'm proud to say that through our representation,
22 particularly with the House of Representatives ten years
23 ago, we had a representative, now Senator Webster, and now
24 have Randy Johnson and they have forged together our two
25 communities. And we have the Orange County Commission

1 working with the Lake County Commission on a transportation
2 issue of State Road 50 which is a major east/west highway
3 from east to west of our coast.

4 These things are important. We hope that you will
5 consider communities of interest. Clermont just last
6 Saturday opened the USA Triathlon National Training Center.
7 There will be athletes coming from all around our area.
8 This spring we opened the western campus of the University
9 of Central Florida. We will certainly see our neighbors
10 from the west Orange community coming to attend college on
11 that campus.

12 We believe also in Tallahassee, I was able to get to
13 Tallahassee, a lot was spoken about doing things by county
14 lines and they were concerned there. And we found that
15 this has been important. Senator Cowin has kept us
16 cohesive. Lake County is a long county. I was there in
17 Tallahassee and shared with you that our south Lake Chamber
18 of Commerce who is meeting tonight -- so the rest of the
19 board is not here -- they sent me over again. But they
20 reiterated again to please think of communities of
21 interest.

22 We have a great thing going and think that you'll look
23 all around and we invite you to come to Clermont and see
24 the training center and take a dip in the new 70-meter
25 swimming pool. It is awesome. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
2 Number 27.

3 MS. EDWARDS: Good evening. My name is Monique
4 Edwards. I'm an attorney here in central Florida from the
5 great state of Louisiana but now a Florida native.

6 One of the things that concerns me is the process. I
7 currently serve as vice chair of the reapportionment
8 committee for Orange County Public Schools. And to give
9 deference to this auspicious body, we decided not to meet
10 as our usual Monday nights and defer to you and have our
11 first public hearing tomorrow evening whereby we will
12 present to those citizens of Orange County five proposed
13 maps from which they will be able to give us comment.

14 I find as an attorney it's a bit disconcerting to me
15 that we are here just getting a public listening project,
16 for lack of a better word, instead of giving us something
17 from which to comment on. I would hope that if you hear
18 nothing else that when you go back to Tallahassee and you
19 start dealing with these maps that you do come back out to
20 the public because after all, we are the government of the
21 people. And when you do not involve the people, we may
22 find ourselves as the Romans did many centuries ago. They
23 were not conquered from outside forces, they were conquered
24 from within. So thank you and good evening.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.

1 Number 28.

2 MS. LANGLEY: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members
3 of the committee. Thank you for taking the time to hold
4 these public hearings. I am Angie Langley, one of the few
5 born and raised in Orlando. I now reside in Clermont which
6 is located in growing south Lake County. This is the third
7 public hearing I have attended. I work full time and have
8 found a way to attend the 10:00 a.m. hearing in Tallahassee
9 and the 1:30 p.m. hearing in Ocala.

10 Many attendees have asked for their districts to be
11 draw by county lines. I'm asking you to consider
12 communities of interest which often cross county lines.
13 Our south Lake Community is directly connected with the
14 West Orange community east to Ocoee. Plans for
15 transportation improvements are moving forward because our
16 state House district keeps us together.

17 We are very proud of our UCF campus which is currently
18 under construction and plan to begin classes next year.
19 The opening of this campus is going to have a huge impact
20 on the traffic flowing into our county from Orange County.
21 Many of our residents in South Lake commute into Orlando.
22 You can see that transportation is a main concern and
23 common interest for this area which crosses county lines,
24 the villages of the community and Lady Lake within north
25 Lake County. The Villages retirement community is made up

1 of three counties. Their community needs to share the same
2 representation because they have similar interests.
3 Certainly there are more communities across our great state
4 which have shared interests like ours which cross county
5 lines. I'd ask you to please keep these communities in
6 line while selecting the districts for our state and not
7 only look at county lines. Thank you for your time and
8 attention.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
10 Number 29.

11 MS. CLAYTON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,
12 Mr. Chair, members of the Florida Redistricting
13 Reapportionment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity
14 to appear before you and speak my presentation into your
15 records. I am Turner Clayton, Jr., president of the
16 Seminole County branch NAACP and also a member of the
17 Florida State Conference NAACP executive board.

18 The NAACP believes that the redistricting process must
19 preserve the concept of minority representation. Here an
20 effort must be made to ensure that voters who reside in
21 predominantly minority communities have a full and real
22 opportunity to elect candidates of their choice to office.
23 The redistricting process must adhere to the concept of no
24 regression from the current level of representation it has.

25 The Legislature has the responsibility to protect the

1 level of representation of Florida to minority communities,
2 in previous redistricting sessions. It also has a
3 responsibility to enhance the opportunity for minority
4 communities wherever possible.

5 As the Legislature goes through this process it must
6 keep this concept afforded at all times. This process must
7 place the concept of providing every voter with the
8 opportunity to elect candidates of their choice ahead of
9 all efforts to obtain any partisan advantage during the
10 redistricting process. Above all else, the process must
11 provide every Florida voter a real opportunity to benefit
12 from the Democratic process. Every voter must be
13 guaranteed that his or her vote will count.

14 They also must be convinced that the power is in their
15 vote. This means that they must be able to influence the
16 election of those people who have made public policy in
17 their communities. Again, I want to express my thanks and
18 appreciation to the distinguished committee for the
19 opportunity afforded me on behalf of citizens and the
20 community I advocate for in Seminole County.

21 Also, Mr. Chair, as I stand, District 2, Sanford city
22 commissioner, Dr. Thelma Hayze-Williams could not be here
23 tonight so she asked me if you would kindly respect her
24 wish to allow me to speak on her behalf in saying that she
25 supports the presentation that the NAACP is presenting here

1 tonight. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
3 Number 30.

4 MR. FRANCIS: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of
5 the committee. My name is Greg Francis. I stand before
6 you as president of the Paul C. Perkins Bar Association
7 whose membership consists of African-American attorneys
8 here in Orlando and in the surrounding areas.

9 In the interest of time, I will keep my comments
10 brief. However, we as an organization pride ourselves in
11 the representation of the least of these are very concerned
12 with this process. The rumors are abound, you can hear
13 them in the hallways, you hear them at the water cooler,
14 that there are a number of plans to split up Congressional
15 District 3. No one, I'm sure, on this committee or in a
16 position of authority will admit to any of these plans.

17 As an attorney, as a member of the legal community
18 here in Orlando and as a citizen, this calls into question
19 the process of due process. If, in fact, there are plans,
20 let us know. How can we vote on something, comment on, or
21 provide our opinions on things we don't know? Another
22 concern of the members of the African-American legal
23 community in central Florida is the issue of retrogression.

24 One of the things that needs to be considered by this
25 committee is that there is not a diminution in the minority

1 Board. I attend all of the meetings of the Orange County
2 Redistricting Board. And I'm about to attend all the
3 meetings of the school board of Orange County's
4 redistricting board. And contrary to what some of the
5 speakers have indicated, I think you are to be
6 complimented. One of the differences between the process
7 in which I've been involved and the process in which you
8 are involved is that all the boards I just spoke of consist
9 of delegated individuals, not elected officials.

10 You guys, each and every one of you here, are elected
11 officials. This room is virtually full. You have a
12 tremendous representation here. Are you the guys who are
13 actually going to be making the decisions? And for all of
14 you to go around this entire state at 25 completely
15 different hearings from one side of the state to the other
16 as part-time elected officials and to listen to this entire
17 process from the beginning to the end is a matter for
18 compliments, not criticism.

19 This is very much unlike the process that's occurred
20 elsewhere in the state and you are to be congratulated. I
21 also followed this process ten years ago and understand
22 that at the time the Democrat-controlled Legislature had a
23 very, very much smaller group of individuals on the
24 redistricting committees. The representation was not
25 nearly as great as it is here tonight. So in terms of

1 representation of the community here in central Florida.
2 On behalf of Paul C. Perkins and African-American lawyers,
3 I admonish you to consider not diminishing the minority
4 representation of Congressional District 3.

5 And lastly, one issue that has not been commented on
6 but we also believe, in fact, we implore this committee to
7 consider in redrawing the lines is the issue of incumbency.
8 The rules of this committee allow consideration. In fact,
9 give some deference to the issue of incumbency. We ask
10 that in that interest the lines of Congressional District 3
11 not be redrawn and consistent with the principle of one
12 person, one vote, keep it as it is, let the people decide.
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
15 Number 31.

16 MR. OLIVER: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of
17 the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this
18 evening. I'm a resident of Orange County. My name is Lew
19 Oliver. I have the privilege of knowing a number of you
20 and I want to welcome you to our community. I'd like to
21 say a couple of things I don't think have been said before.
22 You've heard a couple of comments, critical, about this
23 process. And I would like, on the other hand, to
24 compliment the process.

25 I have served on the City of Orlando Redistricting

1 number of people listening to the numbers of hours to the
2 number of public comments, this process compared to the
3 process in the state of Florida in the 1990/92 cycle is
4 probably four to five times greater in terms of the amount
5 of public comment that you are receiving. And as a
6 practical matter, to have maps at this early stage without
7 first hearing from the public, without first hearing these
8 comments strikes me as impractical. So my compliments to
9 you for that process. Extraordinary compliment for going
10 all over the state and gathering these comments and staying
11 as long as these individuals are here.

12 On a more parochial note, I'd like to ask you to
13 consider a couple of things. We in Orange County are
14 delighted with our representation at the State and
15 Congressional level. We are fortunate to have ten state
16 Representatives and three state Senators that occupy some
17 or all of Orange County. I would like to tell you that
18 perhaps unlike other counties that would like to have
19 exclusive districts located entirely within the county, we
20 are pleased to have districts that represent other portions
21 of the metropolitan area including Seminole County, Osceola
22 County, Lake County, Brevard County, and Volusia County.
23 And we would like for you to consider maintaining our
24 incumbents wherever and whenever possible.

25 Our link with Volusia County is critical through

1 several offices. Our links with Lake County, which is very
2 much a part of our metropolitan area, Seminole County, very
3 much a part of the metropolitan area. The same thing true
4 of Osceola. We have a representative, Representative Bob
5 Allen, from Volusia County with which we share an
6 extraordinary interest in the high-tech and aerospace
7 areas, it's critical that we keep that together.

8 We have a terrific congressman in John Mica in
9 Congressional District 7. We would very much like to have
10 Congressional District 7 remain at least part of Orange
11 County as well. Those are considerations we'd urge you to
12 take into hand, please.

13 And finally a moment about diversity. Many of you
14 know, probably a lot of the folks in the audience, know
15 that I'm the chairman of the Republican party for Orange
16 County. Having said that, we are a county that we believe
17 will compete in the 21st century because of diversity, the
18 diversity of our community. We are proud to have a
19 powerful and vibrant African-American community. We are
20 proud to have a very large and very much growing Hispanic
21 community. This enables us to compete in the world. It
22 presents a wonderful face to the world.

23 And I as the chairman of the Republican party, want to
24 urge you to consider maintaining that diversity. We would
25 like to see representation in the African-American

1 community. We would like to see representation in the
2 Hispanic community. And we would appreciate if you would
3 take that into consideration as you draw the lines. Thank
4 you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Right now we're going to take, for
6 our court reporter and others, we're going to take a
7 seven-minute break. We'll be right back. You don't have
8 to leave.

9 (Brief recess.)

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 32. If you'll come forward
11 please.

12 MS. HEALEY: I'm going to speak over this din; is that
13 what you're telling me? Is that -- thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is
15 Maribeth Healey and I live here in Orlando. I'm very happy
16 actually that you have selected Orlando as one of the
17 cities for your hearings.

18 I'm very active in my community both with my
19 daughter's school and other neighborhood organizations.
20 But I am here tonight as the state director for the Service
21 Employees International Union. And I'm here really to join
22 with others who are speaking to urge the committee to
23 establish standards that incorporate basic elements of
24 fairness to this redistricting process.

25 It is a very important and a difficult process that

1 you-all are engaged in right now. Citizen access to the
2 maps and information from the hearings are very important
3 particularly if citizens are to have ownership over the
4 process. So that begs the question to me why then only
5 four of the 20 meetings are in the evening. I'm very happy
6 the one in Orlando was. But why aren't more of the
7 meetings in the evening so that the public may have more
8 access to be able to contribute to this dialog?

9 The other piece too is although there is a web site
10 and there is software that's available, the last time I
11 checked there was still many bugs with the FREDs software
12 and I really would like to know maybe when that might be
13 available in un-buglike form. And then once the districts
14 are drawn and you go through that tedious process, I would
15 encourage you to have an additional round of public
16 hearings so that folks, as many have said here tonight,
17 then have something to look at when making a decision and
18 have some say in what those district boundaries might be
19 after you-all have done your work in drawing them.

20 And in closing again, I would just encourage the
21 committee to hold more hearings in the evening. It is
22 important for the public input and I would actually like to
23 yield my time, in the essence of time, yield the rest of my
24 time to one of our local leaders, Mr. Van Church.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Did you sign up with a card?

1 MR. CHURCH: Yes, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. You're recognized for a
3 minute and 30 seconds.

4 MR. CHURCH: Thank you, sir. My name is Van Church.
5 I'm a native of Orlando, lifetime Republican and active
6 president of SEU, Local 362, Service Employees
7 International Union. As the members of the committee are
8 well aware, this community faces several policy challenges.
9 The increasing uncertainty of the labor market, difficulty
10 of earning a living wage, lack of health benefits for all
11 and the problems in our schools. The way you go about this
12 redistricting will have a tremendous impact on these
13 issues.

14 Here in Orlando we've been fortunate that we have an
15 excellent representation in our State House and in
16 Congress. We gained a great deal from sharing a
17 Congressional district with others to our north. We share
18 many of their concerns and they share ours. We're a
19 community of interest and our interests are heard and
20 represented by our legislators.

21 My message is simple, if you chop us up, if you chop
22 us up in a way that separates us from our legislators, much
23 of the progress we've made will evaporate. Our working
24 families, most of them don't pay attention to politics on a
25 daily basis, have enough trouble getting to know who their

1 legislators are. Don't make it even harder for them by
2 switching districts around particularly if it's just to
3 achieve some political objective. And on that note, I ask
4 you, please, not to use this redistricting power as just a
5 mechanism to increase your political power. You are doing
6 the people's business. Thanks.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 33.

8 REPRESENTATIVE LEE: Mr. Chairman, if I could ask the
9 gentleman what Congressional district he was in. He said
10 he supported it but did not mention the others. If you
11 could tell me the number please is possible I could ask
12 him. Mr. Van Church, what is your Congressional district?

13 MR. GRAJALES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is
14 Luis Grajales and tonight I'm with Amy Smith and I will
15 speak on behalf of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Coalition for
16 fair representation here in central Florida.

17 I would like to keep -- I would like to talk to a
18 minimum, but I would like to bring at least two concerns
19 that I -- and I would like to articulate for you to hear.
20 Concern number one, most of the existing House of
21 Representative's districts in central Florida is split or
22 fragmented or dilutes most of our communities. We request
23 that our Hispanic voting influence be increased under these
24 new delineations that you plan to do.

25 Concern number two, we need contacts so we can be kept

1 brief or to keep up to speed on all the proposed changes
2 and we at the same time can give you some input -- so we
3 can provide some input. This single public hearing is not
4 enough to count our concerns. We would like to participate
5 now and not have to wait until there is a start of -- the
6 use of legal resources. I want to thank you for your
7 attention.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thanks for speaking. Number 34,
9 you are recognized.

10 MS. GEORGE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members
11 of the reapportionment committee. I am Vanessa George,
12 political action chair of the Orange County branch NAACP.
13 First I would like to thank you for the opportunity to
14 express the position of the NAACP as it relates to
15 reapportionment and redistricting in 2001.

16 In America's recent history violence, intimidation,
17 poll taxes, literacy tests, and a host of other devices
18 were used to prevent African-Americans from voting. After
19 these barriers were largely eliminated and large numbers of
20 minority voters began to register and vote, additional
21 barriers were constructed which eliminated African-American
22 voting power.

23 For example, election and district lines were
24 rationally gerrymandered. A principle law protecting
25 voting rights is the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which has

1 been subsequently reenacted and amended. The Voting Rights
2 Act does not guarantee the election of African-Americans.
3 Instead, it is designed to ensure that the ability of
4 African-American voters to select the candidates of their
5 choice is not impaired by racially discriminatory
6 procedures.

7 Election procedures violate the Voting Rights Act when
8 they have the effect of diluting minority voting strength
9 even if they are not adopted with the intent to
10 discriminate. The goal of the NAACP is to accept nothing
11 less than full empowerment for African-American
12 communities. The NAACP acts as a nonpartisan good
13 government organization which believes in fairness and
14 democracy.

15 As such, some of our redistricting principles are as
16 follows: Number one, it is our goal to maintain all
17 existing majority, minority districts. Number two,
18 communities of common interest should be preserved.
19 District lines should be drawn so that an area of
20 concentrated African-American population will not be
21 divided among several predominantly white districts
22 minimizing African-American voting strength.

23 District lines should not be drawn to create districts
24 that are 70, 80, or 90 percent African-American. Generally
25 African-American voters in a district which exceeds 60 to

1 65 percent should be included with other African-American
2 or minority voters to create a realistic possibility of
3 electing another minority candidate or minority voters
4 having a significant impact on the electoral process.

5 Finally, in closing, Florida's African-American voters
6 here in Orlando and around the state are painfully aware of
7 what happens with the doors to political power are shut in
8 our face. Last year's election proved how groups of voters
9 can be systematically denied the right to participate and
10 how that high price of our community will be paid for the
11 entire state. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission has found
12 that Florida's procedures and practices during the last
13 election did not allow all Floridians to participate in the
14 political process.

15 This reapportionment process should not repeat those
16 mistakes. We should go out of our way to be fair and
17 inclusive. I urge the committee to set forth public
18 criteria for how districts will be drawn. Many of these
19 criteria directly impact racial minorities. For example,
20 what type of data will you rely on? Will you rely on
21 census block data which only tells you the race of the
22 voters and therefore unlawfully draws lines based on race
23 only? Mr. Chairman, the issue again is fairness. We
24 request a fair and inclusive approach. Thank you for your
25 time.

CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 35.

MR. PADRINO: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Blas Padrino. I'm a resident of the county and I wanted to thank you for having come to Orlando, for having provided us with the opportunity to let you know what our thoughts are and to provide our opinions and for making this process as open as possible.

It doesn't escape me, the fact that for the first time in our lifetime a Republican majority Legislature will be redistricting, will be drawing the new district boundaries. And I am quite hopeful that this time we'll get it right. Now, I heard earlier, I heard it said, that good fences make good neighbors. And I thought about the source of that line, which was a poem by Robert Frost.

And I remembered that what Robert Frost said there was, Something there is that does not love a wall. That there is something that once a wall is torn down and that does not, in effect, there is a process that ones a fence is removed as it should be. Our communities should not be fenced in and our people should not be divided by artificial barriers. We should all participate as a community in the process and the districts that are drawn should be done on the basis of true communities, of true neighborhoods, not on the basis of artificial communities.

Now, finally, I just wanted to mention that although

we may be quite happy with our current representation, our current Congressional districts, the purpose of this committee, while it may take into consideration incumbency, the purpose of the committee is not to guarantee anybody that they are going to be reelected, whether it be Mr. Michael, whether it be Mr. Keller, whether it be Ms. Brown, that is not the purpose of this committee and that is not the task of redistricting.

The task of redistricting is drawing fair boundaries that are logical, that make sense, and that take into consideration the different communities, and that brings together communities, not that separate communities.

Now, again, this is not to say that we would not want to have representation from everybody, from every aspect from minorities of all kinds, but the purpose of the committee is not, once again, to guarantee anybody's incumbency. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 36, you are recognized.

MR. HALL: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen of the committee. My name is Steve Hall. I reside at 2619 Corrine Drive in Orlando. And no coincidence. And I'm representing the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades here today.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that you have taken the

position that the purpose of these public hearings is to get input from the public. While that is a laudable and obviously a very important goal, I would submit to you, Mr. Chairman, that part of your purpose here and as you travel around this state should be to educate the public about the redistricting process.

People cannot speak to an issue that they do not know anything about and do not understand. This meeting here was a little foggy and unclear as to where it was going to be, what time it was going to be held, and the details of it. Making people feel that if the voters don't know, then the voters won't show. Redistricting happens only once a decade and a lot has happened both with respect to the governing law and the demographics of our state in the last decade.

Redistricting is not something we hear or read about on a regular basis. Not only does the public not know much if anything about redistricting, I don't think it would be presumptuous of me to say with the advent of term limits most of you sitting on this committee and in the Legislature have not been through redistricting before and don't know much about this process. And even for those of you who do, since a different party is in power today than was in power the last time, the mechanics of how the state is working through the process is different from the last

time.

My point, Mr. Chairman, is that I believe it would be a great public service which would engender people's confidence in the openness and fairness of this process if you also use these hearings as an opportunity to educate the public and perhaps educate some of our elected officials about this redistricting process. You have the State's technical staff here, you have private lawyers that you have hired to help guide you through this process.

I am respectfully requesting that you use these public hearings to educate the public by doing two things. One, bring a couple of computers to the hearings and at least one hour before the hearings are scheduled to start, have technical people on hand to teach people how to use the State's FREDs software. While the software apparently has lots of wonderful information in it, it doesn't do the average noncomputer, illiterate Floridian any good if they don't know how to use the software.

You have technical staff here already and they have at least one laptop computer that they bring with them. It would be relatively inexpensive to either bring a couple of desktop units as well or simply borrow them from one of the local governments where the hearing is taking place. The benefit to the public would certainly far outweigh the costs.

1 The other thing that I'm requesting that you do is
2 respond to the questions that people are asking. It does
3 us no good for you to sit here and listen to us but not
4 respond to us. If people have legal questions, the lawyers
5 who are here should be able to answer them. If there are
6 procedural or process questions, you, Mr. Chair, or someone
7 on the State's staff should be able to answer those
8 questions. Participation is a two-way street. It is very
9 frustrating and frankly disrespectful for you to ask people
10 to come here to participate and then people cannot get
11 responses from you as to what are the very basic questions.

12 Along those lines, you should allow your fellow
13 committee members to ask questions at any point during the
14 process while people are still here because that is another
15 way the public could be informed rather than waiting to the
16 end of the three or four hours when most people have left.
17 While I understand you need to --

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Your time has expired and we need
19 to stick to the four-minute rule. If you could wrap it up.

20 MR. HALL: Thank you, Senator Webster.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 37. Which is really 85.

22 MR. SMITH: Hello. My name is Ayme Rodriguez-Smith.
23 I represent the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Coalition for fair
24 representation. Fair, open and inclusive is what you
25 profess this process to be. In fact, confusing and

1 distracting is how it seems from this end. As Mr. Hall
2 mentioned, this meeting time and location has been changed
3 a number of times. And some of you may not be aware, but
4 as recently as last Thursday, an ad in the Orlando Sentinel
5 had wrong information. And a phone number provided in the
6 ad for clarification only added to the confusion.

7 But having persevered through adversity, I really
8 appreciate being here tonight and I value the opportunity
9 to share my thoughts with you especially since with the
10 current public hearing schedule as it stands, this may well
11 be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me.

12 As a Cuban-American citizen and a resident of Orange
13 County, I ask for sincere consideration of the growing
14 diverse populations in central Florida. These new and
15 historical communities of Hispanics and African-Americans
16 need specific representation from legislators who
17 intimately understand our cultural and spiritual needs.
18 These legislators are not -- cannot only be able to
19 represent our communities but also to effectively serve our
20 communities.

21 I ask tonight that you acknowledge that as a
22 complexion of constituency changes so too will their
23 representation change. I implore you to respect your
24 pledge to be fair, open, and inclusive by upholding the
25 principle of one person, one vote and redrawing boundaries

1 with the citizens' best interest in mind and not the best
2 interest of the incumbent legislator. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
4 Number 38.

5 MR. SUREZ: Good morning, Mr. Chairman -- good
6 evening, actually. Good evening to everyone. Thank you
7 for joining us in Orlando. And I came here, Tony Surez, to
8 just address you as Tony Surez, an attorney, a community
9 activist. I don't pretend to represent all the Hispanics.
10 I don't pretend to represent everyone in central Florida.

11 I came to make a simple statement because I was very
12 concerned of a report that I read in the Orlando Sentinel
13 that says Representative Randy Johnson was interested in
14 creating a Hispanic seat for central Florida. And to me,
15 that's American apartheid. I do not believe that we need
16 to have a district where you group all the Hispanics in the
17 district and create a district from them.

18 Since I left the Legislature I have been teaching at
19 Barry University and I am a professor of law and I know
20 Shaw versus Reno and I know the Voting Rights Act. And I
21 am advising you that if you are here for input, it is my
22 personal, individual concern that any district that has a
23 super-packed majority, which would be 65 percent, or even
24 near 65 percent, if it's anywhere more than 40 percent, I'm
25 going to file a lawsuit.

1 So I believe the Latinos' influence is diluted by
2 having us packed into one district rather than having four
3 or five legislators having to listen to us, we are diluted
4 if we're packed into one district.

5 So gentlemen, that's all I wanted to say. I want to
6 say this one last little thing that perhaps you can
7 appreciate. When I was elected to the Florida House, my
8 district was only 17 percent minority and yet every one of
9 you saw me as a minority legislator. It was really
10 offensive to be thought that I could only represent the
11 Hispanics. I can represent white people too and I can
12 represent black people. I can represent any American
13 because I'm articulate, I know the issues. So know that in
14 your policy decisions and when you decide to draw these
15 lines that anything that goes beyond 30 percent is going to
16 be looking at a lawsuit. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for coming. Number 39
18 which used to be 107.

19 MS. YOUNG: I am here as an invited guest of the
20 Florida State Constitution who mandates to this committee
21 that individuals such as myself, Sylvia Jean Young, known
22 as the Great Sylvia Young in the city of Orlando, must have
23 an opportunity to express my concerns and tell you how I
24 feel. It is only because I was raised by an old woman that
25 I am filled with what is called mother wit.

1 Now some of you may have to ask someone afterwards
2 what mother wit is. But I can assure you that you are at a
3 disadvantage because you've got to get up mighty early in
4 the morning to keep me from knowing what's going on. And
5 God has blessed me with greatness so I'm an innovator and
6 an imaginer and I have vision that others may not have.

7 In my neighborhood which is predominantly
8 African-American, is a part of Washington Shores, the word
9 on the street about this committee is the decisions have
10 already been made, the damn maps have already been drawn,
11 they don't resemble those that are placed in the front of
12 this building. So I'm not here to welcome you today, I'm
13 here to get you straight. There are individuals in this
14 town who understand that regardless of what you decide
15 knowing that the decision is already made, it doesn't
16 matter what you decide because the federal government has
17 to look over what you decide because of your past, because
18 of your past complacency as far as it concerns
19 African-American people.

20 I have no sympathy for those who think this is the
21 Corrine Brown rah, rah, rah rally. But Corrine Brown and I
22 know more than most represents the recipient of that
23 district when those funny crazy-ass lines were drawn. And
24 they were merely drawn out of a need to put enough people
25 there because the federal government said it then and will

1 say again without the political overtone, that taxation
2 without representation is illegal.

3 It just so happened that that was directed to
4 African-American people. That law proved that black folks
5 would vote for white folks. But the Supreme Court said
6 that white folks would not vote for black folks. So I'm
7 not here to beg for a damn thing. I'm here to tell you
8 that the Congressional District 3 should, can, must, and
9 will remain the same.

10 You don't understand what it's like, but you will.
11 You took this dirty job and this is a dirty job. Grandma
12 said, If you got bad feet don't take a foot-standing job.
13 You accepted the responsibility of this job, you may be a
14 neophyte but whoever put you there is not a neophyte. You
15 have maps right now showing new district lines that you've
16 drawn and you have not even thought enough of us to show it
17 to us. I'll be in Daytona tomorrow. I watched you on
18 C-SPAN and I got pissed. You're damn right we love Corrine
19 Brown and I probably have given her more hell than anybody
20 and I was her original campaign manager. I don't like
21 everything she does. But don't come up in here and think
22 somebody is going to beg you to stay in a district that the
23 federal government said you had to create because you got
24 to be approved by them again.

25 And to limit anybody to four minutes is ridiculous.

1 You took the job. It's a foot-standing job but you took
2 it. Don't try to put size 10 feet in size 6 shoes next
3 time.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You're time has expired.

5 MS. YOUNG: We will have Congressional District 3
6 intact and I can assure you if I have to walk to
7 Washington. And if you don't believe I'm capable of doing
8 it, ask people in this area. And, Mr. Webster, I don't
9 want to disrespect you. I met you some time ago and you're
10 a religious man, but God is not pleased with this horse and
11 pony show.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 40, you're recognized.

13 MS. WILSON: Hi, my name is Mary Wilson. I'm from
14 Orlando. Would Mr. Feeney please raise his hands? Is he
15 out doing dishe swa (phonetic) or does he not want to hear
16 me?

17 Let me say first I'm not going to tell you how many
18 years I've been alive like that other fellow. And I'm not
19 going to say to you I'm a registered Republican. But I
20 live in a community that was represented by Mr. Posey.
21 Mr. Posey is over in Rockledge and there might as well be
22 the continental rift in the middle of the -- from the ocean
23 over here to Orlando because, not that it's his fault, but
24 he sure didn't understand us.

25 It made no sense to have this district take up all of

1 this area of Orlando and go all the way over to Rockledge.
2 And I would like some sense in this drawing of the lines.
3 And it would make no sense for -- if next time someone from
4 my area, se ebla espagnol, and we are all mixed up. We are
5 black and white and Hispanic and it's wonderful.

6 It wouldn't make any sense for a person who
7 understands our area, this that I feel is my community, to
8 be representing Rockledge. It just isn't the same. We
9 don't communicate, we don't understand. Mr. Posey did not
10 understand me or our issues. And I would like to see that
11 there is some sense put into community and area. We have
12 such a wonderful -- the southern Orlando and Kissimmee area
13 has got a wonderful mix of diverse people and goals and
14 cultures. And that over on the other side over there is
15 just different. So I would like to see some effort put
16 into community, in drawing of the lines.

17 I also represent the National Organization for Women.
18 And Mr. Posey couldn't understand my position there either.
19 And I know that -- and I know that perhaps someone from our
20 area will not understand Mr. Posey's area on our issues.
21 That's all. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
23 Number 41.

24 MR. HARRIS: I'm Number 40. They've been going out of
25 order.

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. What was her number?
 2 MS. WILSON: Forty.
 3 MR. HARRIS: Right here is 40.
 4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Well, let me do 41 and we'll
 5 figure it out.
 6 MS. HARRIS: I hope this doesn't take away from my
 7 four minutes. My name is Ezell Harris and I am a common
 8 person. I'm here to say that I do not speak out of both
 9 sides of my mouth. I'm a registered Democrat but I have
 10 crossed party lines. When I lived in Volusia County I
 11 voted for the Honorable Senator Jim King. In the past
 12 election I voted for Republican Dorothy Dukes who ran for
 13 District 39 who I feel is still the best candidate for that
 14 job.
 15 I want to say what's gone on earlier, some of the
 16 things that were mentioned in the Orlando Sentinel. I do
 17 not believe everything I read in the Orlando Slantinel.
 18 And let me just say good evening to everyone. And the
 19 reason I say it like that is because we are all equal.
 20 Now, to the Florida Legislature, I wish that you would do a
 21 better job in educating people about redistricting and I'm
 22 sure that if you would do a better job in funding public
 23 education, especially in Orange County, instead of duping
 24 people with the Florida Lottery, it would go a long way in
 25 proving Florida's academic standing in the country.

1 Before I mention about what I came to speak about,
 2 Congressional District 3, I wanted to say what Corrine
 3 Brown had done for me. I came to Orlando in 1994. I was
 4 part of that nearly 900,000 people that came to central
 5 Florida from 1990 to 2000. And, yes, I came from New York.
 6 And the only reason I came was because it was cold in New
 7 York. But I will say the people in New York, they are
 8 better fighters. Florida is just not controversial enough
 9 for me. We need more controversy here.
 10 In a way, I feel a native to Florida because my father
 11 was born here 77 years ago. So I was here before I knew
 12 it. Now, about Corrine Brown. When I -- I'm a disabled
 13 veteran. And when I was trying to get my veterans'
 14 benefits under a vocational rehabilitation, I wanted to go
 15 to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach
 16 but the veterans' department wouldn't pay for tuition. So
 17 I sought the help of Corrine Brown. And because of her
 18 help, I was able to go to that school.
 19 There I studied human factors and aviation safety.
 20 And I'll tell you one thing, because of going to Embry
 21 Riddle and studying airplane crashes, I won't get into an
 22 airplane now. But I will say that this morning I spoke to
 23 Congressman Rick Keller on the Doug Guslo (phonetic) Show.
 24 And the question I posed to him was on District 3. And I
 25 said to him what was his position on District 3

1 gerrymandering from Jacksonville to Orlando encompassing
 2 nine counties. And this is what he said. His response was
 3 that her district actually helps Republicans. It keeps the
 4 Democrats there and it keeps a district like Congressman
 5 Mica's and mine Republican. Well, hell, if that's good
 6 enough for Congressman Keller, it should be good enough for
 7 you. And if you want me to provide a tape for you, I can.
 8 The Republicans had their chance and I'm going to tell
 9 you, I did vote for Bill Randal a couple of years ago and I
 10 voted for Jennifer Carol. So I tell it like it is. So I
 11 do speak the truth on that. And although she's helped me,
 12 at that time I felt that they were best.
 13 The people in District 3 have spoken and I would hope
 14 that you had not made up all your minds as far as the
 15 redistricting concerns and didn't put the right maps up. I
 16 don't believe that you did that. But please keep in mind
 17 the population changes that have taken place among the
 18 Hispanics as well as the blacks and do keep District 3 the
 19 way it is or try to improve upon it. Thank you for your
 20 time.
 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
 22 Number 41.
 23 MS. GOAD: Chairman Webster, my name is Sherry Goad
 24 and I'm here to represent several different organizations.
 25 The Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, the

1 Osceola County School Board, the city of Kissimmee, the
 2 city of St. Cloud, the Chamber of Commerce of Kissimmee,
 3 Osceola County and the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce as
 4 well as the Osceola County Republican party. And all I'm
 5 going to do is read to you one of the resolutions that was
 6 passed because it is a unified message from all those
 7 organizations.
 8 We believe it is important to preserve the integrity
 9 of Osceola County's borders and legislative redistricting
 10 process. And Senator Daniel Webster, a resident of the
 11 city of Ocoee in Orange County, has effectively and
 12 conscientiously served Osceola County both in the House and
 13 Senate for over 11 years. And Representative Randy
 14 Johnson, a resident of the town of Celebration in Osceola
 15 County, has provided superb representation for the people
 16 in Osceola County as -- and as an Osceola resident. Is
 17 well informed on the needs of our community.
 18 And Representative Frank Attkisson, a resident of the
 19 City of Kissimmee and Osceola County, has provided
 20 excellent representation for the people of Osceola County
 21 and as an Osceola resident, is well informed on the needs
 22 of our community. Osceola County should have no more than
 23 two State Senate districts within its borders. And, yes,
 24 Mr. Webster, we'd like to keep you there.
 25 The Senate district encompassing the city of Ocoee

1 should continue to include Osceola County. Osceola County
 2 should have no fewer than two and no more than three State
 3 House districts within its borders. The town of
 4 Celebration and the city of Kissimmee should be placed in
 5 two separate House districts. Also, we would like to
 6 continue to have Congressman Ric Keller and Congressman
 7 Dave Weldon to represent us in Washington. Thank you.
 8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
 9 Number 42.
 10 MR. HARTAGE: Good evening, Representatives,
 11 Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, to my State Senator, Buddy Dyre,
 12 my state Rep, Mr. Gary Siplin, to this distinguished
 13 committee and to all those that have come out to speak.
 14 But especially pay honor to this great body. We all share
 15 something in common -- my name is Homer Hartage and I'm an
 16 elected official just like you.
 17 We share something special that other members of this
 18 group don't share. This great system that we have has put
 19 together an organism called elected officials. And we are
 20 the only ones in this country that have the authority and
 21 the power to set public policy. The courts, of course, can
 22 overlook what we do but have a special responsibility. We
 23 are called policy-makers. So it is our responsibility and
 24 our duty to do what is best in the interest of the people
 25 that are chosen to come today.

1 As an elected official, I'm also going through a
 2 redistricting process in my county and I've been somewhat
 3 disillusioned over what I heard from both Republic
 4 leadership in this group and Democratic leadership in this
 5 group. The people should not be subject to the whims of
 6 either party. This group has to be about doing what's best
 7 and what's just and what's right for all those involved,
 8 not just for the interest of either party.
 9 I particularly support the districts that we have here
 10 in Orange County. We have a particularly unique position.
 11 As an elected official, I enjoy the benefits of having
 12 lines for various Congressional districts, various House
 13 seats and various U.S. House seats come through my county.
 14 It provides a great deal of power and authority to address
 15 some of the major issues that we have here. And you know
 16 what they are so I won't go through a litany of them. But
 17 it's a special benefit. It's a benefit that for the people
 18 of this county I'm not willing to relinquish.
 19 So my request there is that we protect incumbency,
 20 that we protect the existing boundaries that we currently
 21 have. And also, and particularly in Districts 39 in the
 22 House, District 14 in the Senate, and U.S. House seat
 23 number 3. Those seats have a particular interest to the
 24 residents of this particular county.
 25 Most of you may have noticed that I'm an

1 African-American, that's an important consideration here.
 2 The reason we have these districts is because the federal
 3 government, the state and the counties decided that it was
 4 best that all people have the opportunity to be represented
 5 by people that look like them. It's fair for all the
 6 taxpayers to have their representation, equal
 7 representation and that's what I stand for.
 8 I love all the people that are currently elected, but
 9 my call to you now is not for any one of them but that we
 10 protect these seats that have given so many people access
 11 that they've never had. I was only the second person
 12 elected to the Orange County Commission. I was elected in
 13 1998. Prior to that, Commissioner Mabel Butler was
 14 elected. But prior to her, it was 144 years before there
 15 was an African-American representative here in Orange
 16 County.
 17 In District 39, out of all the seats that we have in
 18 Orange County the only one that we have is represented by
 19 an African-American, Representative Siplin. So these are
 20 things that are tremendously important. I ask that we
 21 protect incumbency, that we protect communities of interest
 22 because the law allows for you to consider communities of
 23 interest when drawing lines.
 24 I ask that you consider compacting. We would not want
 25 to be part of either party when it comes to compacting, but

1 we do ask that you maintain the integrity of existing
 2 districts that we have. That you follow the existing law
 3 which says that we should not, when we draw districts, get
 4 involved in diluting or diminishing or denigrating current
 5 voting power of ethnic minorities in this county.
 6 So I ask you as policy-makers to do the right and just
 7 thing. And I ask you to consider the strong commitments
 8 that each of us take when we take the oath of office and
 9 say that we will represent all the people and we will do it
 10 fairly and we will do it equally. And that's what I ask
 11 you to do. Thank you-all very much. I welcome you to
 12 Orange County, I welcome you to my district, District 6,
 13 the best district in the entire state and we thank you.
 14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
 15 Number 43.
 16 MS. DIXON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members of
 17 the committee. My name is Regina Dixon. And it is a
 18 pleasure to be here today and add my voice to others in
 19 expressing my appreciation for the platform to have input
 20 in the redistricting process. The principle, I hope, that
 21 guides this committee is fairness. Although the State's
 22 Legislature and government is controlled by one party, this
 23 forum shows, I believe, that the process will not be just a
 24 partisan exercise. Indeed we expect the general debate to
 25 be a fair process that leaves a fair outcome.

1 This community is primarily concerned with minority
 2 issues, education, church issues and other urban concerns
 3 and also our veterans. In this respect we share
 4 communities of interests with others that share these
 5 concerns also. By this, I say residents that live in
 6 Eatonville, attend church in Orlando and vice versa. And
 7 our children in Eatonville go to school in Orlando and we
 8 would like to keep our district lines together so that we
 9 can always help one another in our community of interest.

10 The school board in our area has eliminated our
 11 courtesy bussing and our children just turning five, from
 12 four years old, have to walk almost 2 miles to school
 13 across highways that haven't even been designated areas for
 14 school crossings. Our churches have to come together with
 15 these diverse communities to pull together vans to take our
 16 children to school. We want to be able to always fill the
 17 concerns of our districts because of our common interests.

18 Our district is currently configured in a way that has
 19 resulted in being effectively represented in Tallahassee
 20 and in Washington, D.C. I would not know what to say or
 21 represent my community at this meeting today if it weren't
 22 for one of our Representatives, Gary Siplin, had a
 23 wonderful workshop and I learned a little about the land
 24 that sounds so complicated to people. And it didn't seem
 25 as scary to them when I was able to bring some information

1 back to the local community. We are happily reaping the
 2 benefits of his representation as others, as being
 3 officials we want elected. Please do not let partisan
 4 politics silence the voices of the people who you as our
 5 Representatives have sworn to uphold. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
 7 Number 44.

8 MS. MENDEZ: Before I begin, please be advised that
 9 Number 44 has yielded her time to me. My name is Anna
 10 Marie Mendez and I'm Number 89. Good evening,
 11 Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the House and
 12 Senate. First of all, I'm not going to stand here and
 13 speak eloquently, that's not in my nature. I'm not going
 14 to throw at you numbers and statistics and I don't have
 15 facts on titles and codes and process and proceedings. I
 16 think you guys have that.

17 However, I'm here as a private citizen and I represent
 18 a minority. I'm Puerto Rican. I'm a female and a single
 19 parent. And we're all here to express to you our concerns
 20 on how you're going to do this redistricting and how it's
 21 going to impact. I think that all of you heard our other
 22 public speakers, how they feel it's going to impact them
 23 once you do this job. And we have a saying in Spanish,
 24 (inaudible - spanish dialect). And what that means is what
 25 you do fairly will not be a disadvantage for anyone.

1 As an Osceola County citizen I want to let you know
 2 that we feel in Osceola County we need three
 3 Representatives. We would like to continue to have two
 4 senate seats and we want to keep Dan Webster. And we also
 5 would like to continue to maintain the Congressional seats
 6 with Keller and Weldon. Thank you so much.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 45.

8 MR. PARKER: Good evening. My name is Tom Parker and
 9 I'm from the beautiful city of Clermont and I'm sure that
 10 most of you've heard that tonight. Again, I can reiterate
 11 on the wonderful things that Clermont has, the beautiful
 12 lakes, the thriving community and the strong attachment to
 13 Orange County, not only Orange County but all the
 14 surrounding counties. I had hoped to get up here tonight
 15 and just kind of touch on those things and not get deeply
 16 involved in the issue. But unfortunately I feel a need to
 17 go ahead and speak on it.

18 Lake County, if you look at it on a map, is in a very
 19 small portion of District 3. As a matter of fact, if you
 20 look at Lake County, it's the attaching leg or the pawn of
 21 District 3. It attaches District 3 to Orange County. And
 22 we've heard a lot of comment tonight on Corrine Brown in
 23 District 3. And there's no doubt in my mind that
 24 Ms. Corrine Brown has done one heck of a job in bringing a
 25 district together.

1 But we all know that things must change. We don't
 2 have a choice but to redraw these lines. And guess what,
 3 you've heard a very strong voice here tonight. You've
 4 heard what Corine Brown has done for a lot of people in
 5 Orange County. And if Corine Brown were to disappear from
 6 District 3, that's not going to change that voice. Those
 7 people know what they know and they have a knowledge of
 8 what's going on.

9 What we need to do is come together as communities,
 10 Lake County, Orange County, and use what we've learned from
 11 Representatives and Congresswomen such as Corine Brown and
 12 grow as a group. What some people need to consider is the
 13 fact that Corine Brown will change areas, she may possibly
 14 change areas. And when she does, she will help other
 15 people. And those people will also be grateful for what
 16 she's done. So I encourage you tonight to take a look at
 17 communities, to take a look at what we can do as people,
 18 what we can do together in a localized area and not as what
 19 we can do in representing -- or with certain
 20 representatives. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 46. Number 47. Number 48.

22 MS. LEVREAU: Forty-seven? I didn't hear that. My
 23 name is Rita Levreault. And I'm not here to talk about
 24 District 3. I'm a resident of Osceola County and I have
 25 residents within the district that I am very concerned

1 about as district lines begin in Brevard County and extends
 2 all the way into western Osceola, which is a long way, and
 3 it also enters a little bit of Polk County.
 4 Now this is the U.S. House district. And what I want
 5 to bring as a resident of that area, that I'm very
 6 concerned about the outcome of such a long, stretched-out
 7 U.S. House district. A large growing population within
 8 south and western Osceola attached to Polk County has a
 9 development of 47,000 acres and that's called Poinceanna
 10 (phonetic). It has just gotten underway, close to 20,000
 11 population in the near future and it needs representation.
 12 What it has now is some, you know, a larger population than
 13 Osceola over there in Brevard. Nothing in common with
 14 Poinceanna, nothing in common with that portion of Polk
 15 County.
 16 Brevard County never had anything in common with
 17 western Osceola but it's going to show now because that
 18 47,000 acres is all platted with housing. It has a very
 19 diverse population, many minorities. It doesn't get
 20 representation. And the area that I am talking to you
 21 about needs representation, if not now, it's going to have
 22 a growing and growing voice in opposition because it has
 23 nothing that ties itself to the space coast. It doesn't
 24 even tie itself to Kissimmee in a sense. We do drive to
 25 Kissimmee but we do not have the issues at heart that

1 to make up these lines based on a minority or a majority
 2 population solely, not taking into effect the economics,
 3 parties and everything else that needs to be considered,
 4 you are doing a disservice.
 5 When you haphazardly exclude the community, you are
 6 doing a disservice. You are not living up to your
 7 responsibility as a public servant. I am disappointed and
 8 enraged at the way this has happened. The changing of the
 9 meeting, the lack of communication to the public to let
 10 them know the time change, the place change. And look at
 11 this, here it is three hours later. People are leaving and
 12 tired, giving up because they feel their voice is not
 13 important. Representatives leaving, Senators leaving
 14 because they are tired, this was your job. If you realized
 15 it was going to be this long, you should have taken two
 16 days instead of one.
 17 Putting things in the middle of the day when you know
 18 a majority of the community cannot attend because they have
 19 to work and provide food for their families is
 20 inconsiderate. When I go back to my classroom and I have
 21 to speak to my students who are ESAW students coming from
 22 other countries, coming here thinking democracy is the way
 23 and then looking at the example placed before them to show
 24 the favoritism of a select few takes precedence, does a
 25 disservice to them. It undermines me as an educator, it

1 Kissimmee has.
 2 Now, I wanted to say in connection with this, the
 3 district lines that are drawn from that western part of
 4 Osceola is well represented through the State House. The
 5 State House section does know what Osceola County in that
 6 area requires. So if you will redraw the district U.S.
 7 representative portion of it in the same manner that the
 8 district of the State House is drawn, I think you will be
 9 doing us a service. Thank you.
 10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Okay. Number 48.
 11 MS. WILLIAMS: Good evening. My name is Angela
 12 Williams. I'm speaking as a citizen. I'm speaking as an
 13 educator. I'm speaking as an individual. There are a
 14 couple of issues I'd like to address to you. It is now
 15 9:10, 9:05. I look here, it's sparse. I look in the
 16 crowd, these are the diehards that have true concerns they
 17 want to voice to you so I ask for your undivided attention.
 18 I stand here to let you know you are making history.
 19 And once it's made, our children will look back and look at
 20 the reality and truth of what you do and the decisions you
 21 make. So any disparities that you do will come to light
 22 and it will show, it will affect our next generation. When
 23 you decide to make party lines due to party reasons, change
 24 the lines for party reasons to ensure your reelection, you
 25 are doing a disservice to the communities. When you decide

1 undermines the people when they elect you to a job. Please
 2 understand that. It is unfair, it is unright, it is wrong
 3 to make the decisions without including the community in
 4 all steps.
 5 You decided to do this. If you're part-time or full
 6 time, you should be including the community because you
 7 answer to us, we are the constituents. We put you in
 8 office to represent us. We put you there because we wanted
 9 our voices to be heard. You wanted our input. We are
 10 growing here as a state. We are making history every year
 11 that we continue to grow. The nation looks at us.
 12 And to say this has become a party issue, it has
 13 become a race issue. It has become a self-serving agenda.
 14 It's appalling. You need to go back and self-reflect and
 15 decide what you're going to do because everything you do
 16 affects the next generation and it lets them know that all
 17 they need to worry about is me. And remember at one point
 18 in time, you will be old and they will be the ones taking
 19 care of you and making the decisions. You're not
 20 considering your constituents. You're not considering your
 21 constituents when you put meetings at 10:00 a.m. in the
 22 morning.
 23 You're not considering your consultants, your
 24 constituents when you don't put them on the weekends when
 25 people can be off and attend or make it two days instead of

1 one day three or four hours. I am sacrificing my time and
 2 I will be up until 1:00 and 2:00 in the morning to make
 3 sure I'm prepared for my job. People are standing here to
 4 make sure their voices are heard and you don't have the
 5 decency to stay here. Redistricting will affect this
 6 state, this community especially because of our growth. I
 7 ask you not to make decisions until you have heard from the
 8 community, before and after. Please do not bamboozle the
 9 community. This is not a self-serving issue. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
 11 49. Number 51.

12 MR. LOVELADY: Good evening. I'm William Lovelady. I
 13 live in Zellwood in northwest Orange County. I don't live
 14 in District 3. What I'd like to speak about is Florida
 15 House District 38 which covers most of northwest Orange
 16 County and the fact it covers the city of Apopka except for
 17 a smaller area on the east side of Apopka which I believe
 18 should be included in District 38, that area of east Apopka
 19 that is now in another Florida House district, should be
 20 included in Florida House District 38. That's all I have
 21 to say. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
 23 Number 52.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Good evening. My name is Lonnie
 25 Thompson. I'm a resident of Orlando in Orange County. I

1 want to welcome all of you here. I want to speak to a
 2 couple of issues mainly regarding fairness and the
 3 sunshine.

4 Fairness is important in this process of
 5 redistricting, letting the public know what the process is
 6 that you will use to redraw districts. Making sure that
 7 you abide by the state's sunshine law requirements and
 8 making the map-drawing process open to the public is
 9 paramount. Nowhere on your time line is there a public
 10 comment for your map proposals once they are finished
 11 during the next session. I would hope that you take into
 12 account the testimony of the public when you go back to
 13 draw your districts.

14 Please take into consideration the concerns of the
 15 state's diverse ethnic communities, the African-American,
 16 Haitian, Asian and Hispanic communities. Please respect
 17 those communities. I appreciate the opportunity to have
 18 elected officials who represent my views such as
 19 Representative Siplin, Senator Dyer, Congresswoman Corrine
 20 Brown. I'm sure that others who think as I do, members of
 21 the Democratic party, the party that is the majority of
 22 Orange County, would appreciate the opportunity to have
 23 someone represent them who thinks the same way that they
 24 do. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.

1 Number 53.

2 MR. STELLING: Representative Byrd, Senator Webster,
 3 distinguished Representatives and Senators, thank you for
 4 being here. Thank you for the process. My name is Jim
 5 Stelling. I'm the chairman of the Republican party in
 6 Seminole County and I'm the vice chairman of the Republican
 7 party of Florida.

8 This is the first time to my knowledge that the
 9 Republican party, the Republican leadership, has had the
 10 opportunity to draw new district lines. You gentlemen and
 11 ladies are doing a wonderful job. It's a wonderful
 12 process. It's open, more open than it's ever been before.
 13 My God, you're even giving software to anybody that wants
 14 it, they can draw their own lines. The process couldn't be
 15 more open or more fair. And I just want you to know that I
 16 as a Republican official appreciate what you're doing very,
 17 very much and I assure you that the silent majority that's
 18 not here tonight appreciates the process and all of your
 19 efforts.

20 And I also appreciate being included in the Corrine
 21 Brown reelection meeting. I would like to say that
 22 Seminole County's representation with our four Senators and
 23 our multiple State Representatives, it couldn't work
 24 better. We're happy with all of them. We're happy with
 25 our Democrat. We like multiple districts. We like the

1 synergy that it creates between the counties, between
 2 Orange and Seminole, Orange and Lake. It's working very
 3 well. Seminole County, or at least from my perspective, is
 4 not interested in having one Senator or two. We like
 5 multiple Senators and multiple Representatives. And,
 6 ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here at this late
 7 hour, for being attentive and for the fairness and openness
 8 of this process.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
 10 54. Number 54. Number 55.

11 MS. FERRIS: Good evening, Senator Webster and all of
 12 you. I want to thank you very, very much for the
 13 opportunity to speak with you. As a native Floridian and a
 14 citizen of Orange County for 30 years, my name is Dr. Gerry
 15 Ferris. I am very proud of this process and what I see and
 16 I'm proud of all of you. And I think central Florida has
 17 been very well represented by the districts that we have
 18 and the representatives we have.

19 We have been very fortunate to be able to have the
 20 leadership both in the Senate and the House and that
 21 represents all of central Florida. You bring back benefits
 22 not just to one party or the other or one group or the
 23 other. You bring honor and benefits to all of central
 24 Florida and I thank you.

25 As was said to us when we first started this hearing,

1 there has been an enormous growth in central Florida.
2 We've had a tremendous population growth. And if you look
3 and count the districts and the numbers of people, we truly
4 deserve more districts and that's what I'd like to
5 recommend to you. I think we need another House and
6 another Senate district. We know how central Florida is
7 going. We must prepare for today and the future so please
8 keep that in mind.

9 Vis-a-vis District 3, I personally don't believe in
10 separating a district off or an individual group, otherwise
11 I'd be asking for an Arab-American district or maybe an
12 all-women's district. I don't think that would work
13 either. I think we have to be very inclusive and I see you
14 doing that.

15 And finally, I have to say to you, I am very proud of
16 the process that you're doing. 1992, I was here living in
17 Orange County and I know of some of the difficulties we
18 had. And at that time it was a Democratic controlled House
19 and Senate. I know that we ultimately had to draw the
20 Congressional seats in the courts because it could not be
21 handled by the committee. Also, there were some Republican
22 incumbents whose seats were abolished during that
23 redistricting. I don't see that happening.

24 This list is very inclusive. It's all over the state,
25 it's all over the day. It's in every way making it

1 possible for individuals and I appreciate that and I
2 appreciate what you are doing. I know you're going to do
3 an honest, open, and very legal job. And thank you very
4 much for representing us so well. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
6 Number 56.

7 MS. WARD: Good evening, Mr. Chair, and members of the
8 jury. I'm Margaret Ward from Lake County. I live in
9 Leesburg, Florida. 401 Mills Street. I'm here
10 representing the African-American Episcopal Church which
11 I'm the international chair of social justice.

12 Here in the state of Florida we have 470 churches. We
13 are happy about that. I'm here representing the church on
14 behalf of Corrine Brown who the African-American Episcopal
15 Church has supported her since the beginning. We were with
16 her when she was in Lake City in that area, Gainesville,
17 Jacksonville. And then the next go-around you sent her to
18 this district. And we were with her at that time.

19 We want you to know she's been a great Congresswoman
20 and we appreciate the service that she has rendered to all
21 people, not just black people but all races of people and
22 that's what we need, someone to represent us. She's been a
23 strong voice and an advocate like I said for all people
24 even in our little county. She went out to Lake Sumpter
25 Community College, had a great program in the reach-out

1 program there for the youth.

2 The children were mentored by Walt Disney professional
3 people, their administrators. Those poor little children,
4 they weren't just black children, they were all races of
5 children that had the opportunity to go and view
6 professional people. Maybe a small thing to you but it was
7 a small big thing for our children in that county.

8 So we are saying to you be fair, be straight. It's
9 time to look, listen and pray. This is praying time. I
10 know you don't want to hear that, but it's praying time
11 now. Praying for the right thing to do. Draw your lines
12 and be sure you draw them right. Stay with us, be with us
13 and we are asking for Corrine at least to stay another time
14 in this district. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
16 Number 57.

17 MS. STEWART: Good evening. I feel like I won the
18 Lottery here. I'm Linda Stewart -- oh, Chairman, and all
19 the honorees here, thanks for having us tonight. I'm Linda
20 Stewart in the Conway area, that's in southeast Orange
21 County, and I'm here regarding House seat 32. For 20 years
22 we've been a finger to Brevard County. We look like we're
23 pointing at them. I think we should be removed.
24 Representative Bob Allen, he is wonderful. He's very, very
25 clever also because he, in the last 20 years, he's the only

1 one that's actually put a office in Conway. So I'm not
2 here to complain about my Representative, I like him quite
3 well.

4 I've personally spoken to Representative Allen. He
5 understands what my concerns are about the little finger
6 thing and he said he understood also that he had to lose
7 20,000 people anyway. So I'm here tonight to tell you that
8 he said that to me so that you keep that in your mind as
9 you're redrawing your lines. Term limits just don't give
10 me a lot of confidence when we find a Representative like
11 Representative Allen. I don't know that we'd be able to
12 continue to have our neighborhood's needs met with maybe
13 another Representative and we are now term limited.

14 There is not enough of us in Conway to warrant a
15 Representative, a candidate for our area. We're not big
16 enough. Brevard and Indian River makeup the majority of
17 the population and like I said, we are a little finger. So
18 we'd like to remove our finger from Brevard County. And
19 we'd like to place all of us together but in a central
20 Florida district with common interests. And thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
22 58, you're recognized.

23 MS. EVANS: Good evening. I'm certainly glad that we
24 do have a few of you left. I'm Valarie Evans. And I don't
25 know that I can follow all my notes as I changed this

1 speech over and over and over again tonight. But one thing
2 did occur to me that we do need just a little bit of
3 self-education in this process. One of the most political
4 of all the decisions is this redistricting decision. The
5 people's direct Representatives, you, are the best ones to
6 decide how representation will be accomplished for the next
7 ten years and the people want that to happen.

8 The year 2001 begins the end of the process. It's not
9 the beginning of the process. When we went to the polls in
10 1998 and 2000 we knew that you would be the ones to
11 redistrict and we elected you with that purpose in mind.
12 We know that our participation in this process and that our
13 self-education about this issue must have begun far sooner
14 than today or we have no right to complain about and only
15 ourselves to blame for our current ignorance.

16 Thus far in the process you have demonstrated that you
17 do not want to repeat the mean-spirited nature of the 1991
18 process. You are allowing the people to have input. You
19 are communicating with the people and you have more of the
20 people's Representatives in both the House and Senate
21 serving on the redistricting committees than the 1991
22 Legislature did. Although I personally have not had my
23 ideas represented by my State Senator for the past ten
24 years in District 14, I realize that we do not have a
25 democracy where each person has a vote on every idea and

1 every issue.

2 I understand that our government is a representative
3 republic and as such the people's Representatives elected
4 by the majority make the decisions. Therefore we now call
5 on you, our direct Representatives, to be mature, honorable
6 and wise in your decisions. You do not have to come back
7 to us over and over again to the point that the process
8 cannot be completed. We call on you to represent us, the
9 people who elected you as our government as has been
10 designed and as we elected you to do. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
12 59. Number 60. Number 61.

13 MS. OWENS: Good evening. I personally thank you-all
14 very much for hanging in there with us and hearing us out.
15 I am not a constituent of Corrine Brown. My name is Lynne
16 Owens. I'm a resident in Orlando and I speak as a
17 resident.

18 In this year when the world is in shock at what
19 happened or what may have happened here with the election
20 last fall, were I in your positions, I would want to be
21 extremely cautious of whatever changes I were making
22 regarding redistricting. I am new in Orlando. Most of my
23 life has been lived literally in the neighborhood of the
24 Birth of Liberty of America. I lived practically next door
25 to the grave of Ben Franklin in Philly. Every day I walked

1 by the room and the bedroom where our forefathers planned
2 and executed the American Revolution. Hundreds of
3 thousands of lives have been lost for the principle of
4 equal representation. The tea went in the harbor because
5 of taxation without representation. It is the most basic
6 American principle on which so many millions of people have
7 given life and limb. No taxation without equal
8 representation. I was born into a -- call it a Republic or
9 a Democracy. My father enlisted in World War II for the
10 preservation of -- call it a Republic or a Democracy. When
11 I die I want it to be in a Republic, slash, Democracy.
12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
14 62. Number 63. Number 64. Number 65. Number 66.

15 MR. GUTHRIE: Good evening. Welcome to Clinton
16 territory for those of you who are Republicans, Orange
17 County. One of the great things about appearing before
18 this body is the opportunity to tell you that I think you
19 really are doing a good job and that's speaking as a
20 Democrat. I'm pleased that all of you have sat here all
21 night and listened to all the commentary and I'm also
22 amazed at the number of people who came out tonight and it
23 demonstrates some of the interest in the process in Orange
24 County.

25 Orange County has been particularly afflicted by the

1 redistricting process in the past in one sentence. And
2 that is as a distinguished Senator in the last districting
3 process reminded us, we were the belly button in Florida
4 where everything came together. As a result, Orange County
5 ended up with ten districts. I was a participant in
6 carving some of those districts, chiefly Speaker Feeney's
7 and we carved some really strange districts.

8 I'm here to advocate that this body not engage in the
9 process that we engaged in ten years ago and that was a
10 process which led to mandering, strangely shaped and
11 gerrymandered districts. However, I think that there are
12 some significant aspects to the process that we did engage
13 in which you ought to consider. Number one, don't do what
14 we did in terms of long, strung out and crazy districts.
15 Make them compact. It's helpful to the sense of community,
16 it's helpful to the representation of the people involved
17 and I think you'll hear it over and over and over again
18 from the well-meaning citizens throughout the county and
19 throughout the state.

20 But, I think that you also have an opportunity to do
21 the other thing that a lot of people have talked about
22 tonight and that is to represent ethnic diversity which is
23 a constantly growing factor in Orange County in particular
24 and in all of the state of Florida. It is possible, in my
25 view, to go with the following rule of thumb as you look at

1 redistricting in Orange County. Congresswoman Brown has
2 served us superbly in her district, District 3, which I
3 think should be maintained.

4 Additionally, I think that there is an obligation to
5 the new and growing Hispanic minority in Orange County to
6 empower them equally. Empowering that minority will
7 require combining Hispanic voters all the way from Deltona
8 in Volusia County to Kissimmee east of Congresswoman
9 Brown's district in a concentrated district so they too
10 have a voice. That minority is too significant to ignore.
11 And I would suggest that the Republican leadership has made
12 it very evident that they want to reach out to that
13 minority and I would suggest that if you can't figure out
14 how to do it, I'll be happy to show you how to do it.

15 Second thing, with regard to the House of
16 Representatives, Orange County is overserved. I know that
17 the gentleman from Orange County indicated that he liked
18 having lots of different Representatives. But I think
19 having ten Representatives in a county in which there
20 really is justifiably seven Representatives deserves the
21 surrounding counties and that we ought to try to figure out
22 how to put seven districts that are majority Orange County,
23 not ten districts that are majority other county minority,
24 Orange County. So I'll be happy to show you how to do that
25 too if you can't figure out how to do it.

1 The third principle that I would suggest with regard
2 to the House districts is that it is entirely possible to
3 carve two districts in which African-Americans can be
4 assured a representation in Orange County and it is
5 entirely possible to carve two districts in which
6 Hispanic-Americans can be assured representation in Orange
7 County, i.e., being elected. I urge you to go in that
8 direction. Think of it this way. A Hispanic and a black
9 Congressman, a Hispanic and a black Senator, two Hispanic
10 and two black State Representatives. It can be done in
11 Orange County, do it.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 67, you're recognized.

13 MS. WILLIS: Hello. My name is Beverly Willis and I'm
14 here representing the Orange County Supervisor of Elections
15 office. We've come here before you to ask for a few things
16 for you to consider as you're drawing the districts that
17 help us do our job a little easier.

18 First, we right now in Orange County are in the
19 process of redrawing our county commission districts, our
20 school board districts, and two of our cities are also
21 redrawing their districts. These are all single-member
22 districts. We would like you, when you come to Orange
23 County when you're beginning your drawing that you look at
24 these lines and you use these lines in your consideration.
25 As the election office liaison between all of these

1 redistricting groups I am prepared at any time to prepare
2 to your staff, which I hope would be John Guthrie's staff,
3 the district's bi-census blocks so that you will know in
4 Orange County exactly where the new county commission, the
5 new school board, the new city of Orlando, the new city of
6 Winter Garden and eventually the new city of Ocoee district
7 lines are.

8 One of our biggest problems that we have with the
9 districts the way they are now and what causes a lot of
10 confusion for voters is that the districts are not nested.
11 That is a concept that I wish was a law. It would really
12 help in administering the elections. I would ask you,
13 please, when you complete your House, Senate, and
14 Representative districts that you put the three together.
15 You can do it on the computer I know because I do it. You
16 put the three together and you look to see is there
17 anywhere where a line could be moved maybe just over one
18 census block which enables us to have all the districts
19 lined up together.

20 I have one precinct right now in Orange County that is
21 a rural precinct that doesn't have that many people or that
22 many voters but it is divided seven different ways between
23 Congress, Senate, and House, that's absurd. We have seven
24 different divisions. We might have had seven different
25 ballots for one small rural precinct.

1 If you add the cities to that, which an earlier person
2 spoke why the cities aren't on our election with us, if you
3 add the cities to this one precinct, you will then create
4 13 divisions in one small rural precinct. That is just a
5 very difficult way to administer an election. It's a
6 difficult thing to explain to a voter.

7 So I ask you to please nest the lines, to please use
8 the lines that are going to be presented to you and I will
9 gladly present them to you as soon as all of our
10 redistricting groups are done that will keep, at least when
11 you get to Orange County, our county commission and our
12 school board lines in some sort of relationship.

13 Also, I want to know if there is -- well, first I
14 would like to know who is the contact for this. When I was
15 working -- I've been with the elections office for 14
16 years. I went through this process with you ten years ago.
17 Some of you may know me from then. And at that time it was
18 kind of confusing at the end of the process who is the
19 contact during the time. Because the Senate was doing
20 their thing and the House was doing their thing.

21 I would like to know who is my contact. Is there one
22 contact for staff support and also how are you going to
23 handle any corrections? If you find that there is a place,
24 and we found several in Orange County already in our
25 redistricting efforts locally, when the census has made

1 mistakes. It is a big job and the Census Bureau has to do
2 the entire country. Orange County is growing by leaps and
3 bounds. They can't keep up with all the new roads. And we
4 already found many areas where we know there are major
5 problems about where subdivision is completely on the wrong
6 side of the road.

7 I would like to know how can we handle those
8 corrections. If you can't do them, what is the mechanism
9 that we can at least report them to you so that you know
10 what the problem is. Because I can tell you, the voters
11 will be where they belong, not where the census says if
12 there is a mistake. We're going to put the voters where
13 they belong in the real world. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
15 Number 68.

16 MR. DANFORTH: I tell you, I'm not represented by
17 anybody out here at all. My neighborhood, if anybody runs
18 a computer check, I'm in Corrine Brown's neighborhood, but
19 I'm not in Corrine Brown's neighborhood, I've been
20 gerrymandered out. Because in my neighborhood, they figure
21 there may be white folks there. We got a lot of black
22 folks, we got a lot of Hispanic folks. We got all kinds of
23 folks in there.

24 My Representative is a national embarrassment. I
25 called my Senator, Constantine, over this national world

1 embarrassment at the last election, disagreed completely
2 with me and I have no representation there. I would like
3 to see actual, real representation.

4 Now if you can take and draw the lines in such a way
5 that there is not any consideration. I mean, you had
6 machines do all the vote counting, decide whether or not it
7 was a vote. You could certainly have machines do the
8 figuring out how to divide out the things and not decide
9 who lived there, just how many people there were.

10 You could even really totally flabbergast everybody
11 and actually have Representatives that represented all the
12 people. It would not be a really difficult thing to have
13 an election of whoever you felt really represented you.
14 And have those people put together a vote, each vote gets a
15 point. You get a million points, you get a seat on the
16 election. Everybody would be represented, not a little
17 less than half. And those represented by the people they
18 like the least or dislike the least perhaps if there is a
19 majority. Why can't we have democracy in this country?
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
22 Number 69.

23 MR. MARTINEZ: Sixty-nine, sir. Alfredo Martinez,
24 Representative of el pueblo. I love that number. I
25 wouldn't trade it with anybody. I would love for you to

1 look at my face and my name, listen to my name. Let it
2 stay in your mind. Look at that woman over here, her brown
3 skin and her face. This man over here with his white face.
4 This is the face of Orange County. I am multicultural,
5 multi-ethnic, little bit of black, a little bit of white, a
6 little bit of indigence. But today I'm here to ask for a
7 Hispanic district. Our numbers are growing and growing and
8 growing and you can't ignore us. This country was found on
9 a little thing called taxation without representation and
10 you-all white folks threw a whole bunch of tea into Boston
11 Bay.

12 If we do not get our districts, we know who you are
13 and some of you are very nervous about your next election.
14 And when you hear about a crazy Cuban-American, that's me
15 working feverishly to overthrow your offices, working for
16 anyone without any money, that's me because we want
17 representation for the taxation that we do.

18 (Response in Spanish.)

19 Thank you very much. Adios. Oh, excuse me, lastly,
20 the only snake -- I heard a reference to, a crooked snake
21 in the state of Florida, the only thing I could see that
22 would resemble a snake was the thing that slithered out of
23 there with a permanent on his hair, Feeney. Shouldn't have
24 done that. That's disrespectful. We stayed over here to
25 listen to everybody. He should have never walked out of

1 here. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 70. Number 70. Number 71.

3 MR. MACE: Mr. Chairman, distinguished committee
4 members, my name is Ron Mace and I'm a resident of Orange
5 County. I was raised in Tampa and moved to Orlando in '67
6 when I was in the military. And during that time I've seen
7 a lot of changes in Orange County. We have gone from a
8 predominantly white community to one that's very diverse.
9 I think if you look at your census figures now you will
10 find that roughly 45 percent of the population in Orange
11 County is white, 29 percent is black, 21 and a half percent
12 is Hispanic, and the rest are made up of about 4 and a half
13 percent.

14 I'm here to tell you that the strength of our
15 community lies with the north. I haven't seen a lot of
16 problems within present organization of our districts. I
17 think that probably perhaps there needs to be a little
18 tweaking here and there. But overall the comments that
19 have been made tonight and I think shared by the majority
20 of what you heard are telling you if it isn't broke don't
21 fix it.

22 We have the community of Clermont out west that has a
23 lot in common with Winter Garden and Ocoee. It would be a
24 shame to draw the lines to move those communities away from
25 one another. I think they should be kept together. Yeah,

1 there are some problems that need to be addressed and I'm
2 glad I'm not sitting in your shoes.

3 But I think when you sit down and look at the whole
4 picture and listen to the things that have been said here
5 this evening, you will find that there isn't really a whole
6 lot wrong with the central Florida area. We've had a
7 county commission chairman elected who was a Hispanic.
8 We've got a lot of people here who are represented by
9 Ms. Corine Brown. We don't need to make a lot of changes.
10 So be careful when you draw the map. Remember the
11 Democrats did it before and look who makes up the Senate
12 and House of Representatives now. So that's all I have to
13 say. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 72. Number 73 actually was
15 a duplicate. Number 74.

16 MR. THOMPSON: How you doing. I'm Mark Thompson. I'm
17 with Dads Against Discrimination. I'm not going to talk
18 about that today though. What I want to talk about is, I'd
19 like to have Jim Kallinger my Representative of
20 District 35, I'd like his district to be more inclusive of
21 Winter Park.

22 I think it would be good for our community of Winter
23 Park if Mr. Kallinger basically represented that whole
24 city. And his district right now as it's drawn
25 incorporates part of Winter Park. And basically what I

1 rights of the Latino community since our establishment in
2 the early 1970s with our national office located in New
3 York City. This is a process that our organization is
4 undertaking in seven other states via the Latino Voters
5 Project and the Latino Voting Rights Network that is
6 composed of statewide and local Latino voting rights
7 committees including national Latino organizations such as
8 the Hispanic National Bar, the Southwest Voter Registration
9 and Education Project, the National Puerto Rican Coalition
10 and other such organizations.

11 With a dramatic growth in Florida's voter population
12 by over 3 million, it's no surprise that one-third of that
13 increase is attributed to the over 1 million Latinos that
14 now call la Florida their home. This 70 percent increase
15 in this decade now makes Latinos 17 percent of the state's
16 population. The big question is how the redistricting
17 process and the work of your Legislative committee will
18 effect this traumatic growth and the diversity of the
19 Latino population in terms of our communities that needs to
20 elect Representatives of our choice.

21 Unlike many other states we work in where the battle
22 is who will lose their Congressional seat, their jobs, in
23 Florida, you're fortunate to see an increase of two seats.
24 The decision of where these seats will be created is one
25 that will have an impact on the voting rights and civil

1 want to do is just kind of move it so it incorporates the
2 whole of Winter Park. And I think that would be fantastic
3 for our community of Winter Park, if we got one
4 Representative, Jim Kallinger, and not two different ones.

5 And also I'd like to congratulate him on -- nobody
6 said this yet -- but he got, and I was very impressed with
7 this, he was voted the freshman GOP Representative of the
8 year. And I was very impressed with that and I'm sure some
9 of you in the Florida House and Senate are also. And also
10 I'd like to say hello to Lee Constantine who was at my
11 graduation at the University of Central Florida. And he
12 said, All you graduates, you need to get out there and get
13 involved with politics. Well, here I am. I'm trying my
14 best. But anyway, that's basically what I'm here to say.
15 I'd like Jim Kallinger to be the one Representative of
16 Winter Park and congratulations. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Seventy-five. Number 76.

18 MS. GOMEZ: Good evening. My name is Lucia Gomez.
19 I'm with the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund
20 in New York City. And I would have to say that I've been
21 to public hearings starting from Massachusetts all the way
22 to Florida and this has been the most entertaining one as
23 of yet. So continue doing what you're doing because these
24 people are coming out and testifying.

25 PRLDEF has been involved in protecting the voting

1 rights of the Latino community and therefore an important
2 situation.

3 In order to avoid the unforeseen possibility of
4 diluting a community's vote either in drawing state or
5 federal districts it is important to establish two
6 important redistricting principals that have been -- by the
7 U.S. Supreme Court in both Cramadi (phonetic) vs. Hunt and
8 Shaw v. Reno. One, race can be a factor in redistricting.
9 And, two, states can create and in fact may be required to
10 create majority/minority districts or districts that
11 provide citizens to have Representatives of their choice.

12 The courts have acknowledged that it is a reality that
13 those districts know where people live and what their race
14 and ethnicity are. Therefore, the election process has
15 always involved race, for example, in racial polarized
16 voting. The consciousness of race in redistricting is not
17 necessarily a violation of the law. In fact, it is only
18 when, and I quote, Traditional districting criteria are
19 neglected and that neglect is predominantly due to the
20 misuse of race that strict scrutiny would apply, closed
21 quote.

22 Consequently, race can be one of the many factors that
23 can be considered when drawing the districts for the
24 purpose of redistricting. The avoidance of any dilution of
25 minority voter strength permits and may require the states

1 to draw majority/minority districts under Section 2 of the
2 Voting Rights Act of 1965, not '64 that was previously
3 stated in the beginning.

4 The Supreme Court assumed in Shaw vs. Hunt that
5 Section 2 could justify a districting plan drawn on a
6 predominantly racially -- it stated in Bush v. Vera
7 (phonetic) that strict scrutiny does not apply nearly
8 because redistricting is performed with consciousness of
9 race nor does it apply to all cases of intentional creation
10 of majority/minority districts. Justice O'Connor made the
11 point in Bush v. Vera that neither Shaw nor Cramadi should
12 be interpreted as undercutting compliance of Section 2 of
13 the Voting Rights Act. Therefore, states are permitted to
14 create majority/minority districts and influence districts
15 and should do so in order to avoid dilution of minority
16 voter strength. That was the case a decade ago.

17 Our interest is in assuring that the Latino community
18 can fully participate in the redistricting process and that
19 their voting rights are protected to the final plans. So
20 we see the need for a process that is open, transparent,
21 and representative to assure fairness. And I thank you and
22 I wish you continue this very enjoyable (sic) evening.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
24 Seventy-eight.

25 MR. CALLAHAN: I appreciate you being here. My name

1 I point out that I haven't seen our other two
2 Congressional Representatives here tonight or their staff.
3 Perhaps I overlooked them, but I don't see them. I'm also
4 a constituent of Florida House District 38. For
5 identification purposes, Florida House District 38 is
6 immediately north of House District 39 and is currently
7 represented by Representative Brunner who is immediately in
8 front of me right now.

9 Back in 1991 District 38 was promised as a minority
10 influence district uniting the African-American communities
11 of South Apopka, Pine Hills, Eatonville, west Winter Park
12 and east Winter Garden. Ironically, for a minority
13 influence district, District 38 also spans the historic
14 territories of the Apopka, Winter Garden, and Ocoee
15 chapters of the Ku Klux Klan.

16 Here in Central Florida voting has both a violent and
17 litigious history that includes both the Ocoee riot with
18 the lynching of July Perry on election day in 1920 and the
19 assassination of Harry T. Moore on Christmas Day in 1951.
20 There's recently been a book published about Harry T.
21 Moore. Resulting FBI investigation in 1951 documented an
22 extensive plan infiltration of government including the
23 Orange County Sheriff Dave Starr.

24 It is with this background, that's why some of these
25 districts were created, District 39, as a majority/minority

1 is James P. Callahan and I'm a resident of District 3 and
2 Florida House District 38. I appreciate your being here on
3 election eve. There is a special election going on this
4 evening or tomorrow in Osceola County in District 18. So
5 you won't get as much representation from Osceola County at
6 these hearings and I'd just like to point that out. Of
7 course people could go to Daytona Beach tomorrow, that
8 would be election day.

9 There's been vast growth in the Hispanic community in
10 Osceola County as well as in Orange County and I'm glad to
11 see the Puerto Rican Legal Defense Education Fund is here.
12 What I actually came to speak to you about, I want to thank
13 you-all for the FREDs software. I asked for it in
14 Tallahassee and I appreciate receiving it even if there are
15 still difficulties printing.

16 Briefly I want to comment about District 3. I
17 appreciate Corrine Brown and her staff being here this
18 evening. She's been a terrific Representative for us and
19 I'd like to see that continue, that would be my first
20 choice. If it's not possible to continue with that
21 district for some reason, then I'd like to see two
22 districts entered on Orange County. But I certainly think
23 that Corrine Brown has been a terrific Representative and I
24 really appreciate her staff being here tonight and her
25 being here in person.

1 district, and District 38 as an influence district, why
2 District 3 is inclusive of part of Orange County.

3 But there has been a remarkable turnaround. Legal
4 action referendums during the 1980s and 1990s have resulted
5 in single-member districts first in the City of Orlando and
6 then in Orange County and recently at the Orange County
7 School Board. Single-member districts brought back true
8 African-American representation, often for the first time
9 such representation. And specifically in District 38
10 Representative Brummer faced a challenge --

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

12 MR. CALLAHAN: -- from an African-American Democrat
13 who received 48.5 percent of the district. Representative
14 Brummer won it fair and square but the minority influence
15 district worked. Here this territory voted 48.5 percent
16 for an African-American Democrat. With this success story
17 in mind, I'm concerned there is talk of dismantling
18 District 38. There's talk of moving the community of Pine
19 Hills from District 38 and taking its African-American
20 population and packing it into District 39.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: If you'll sum up in the next ten
22 seconds, please.

23 MR. CALLAHAN: I oppose the packing because I believe
24 it hurts the African-American voters in District 38, the
25 Hispanic voters in District 38 and Democrats like myself

1 who are left behind in District 38. Packing helps the
2 district that is packed but hurts the surrounding
3 districts. Packing acts to suck the political oxygen out
4 of the surrounding districts. So I hope you will keep that
5 in mind and keep District 38 as a minority influence
6 district. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
8 Number 79.

9 MR. MITCHELL: Seven/nine must be good omen because I
10 was born 7/9. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, distinguished
11 members, ladies and gentlemen, I am James Q. Mitchell and a
12 retiree for six years. So eat your heart out.

13 My address is 526 South Darlens Avenue in Orlando.
14 Redistricting is the allocation of political power and I
15 want to keep my share of the political power, Congresswoman
16 Corrine Brown, in District 3. Ten years ago I participated
17 in the redistricting process. Fourteen of us made the trip
18 to Tallahassee because one said that if you want something
19 done for yourself, you have to go out and do it yourself.

20 I was -- we were able to get an increase in the State
21 Senate district as well as our own State Representative's
22 district. I hope I won't have to make that long trip and
23 that I can rely on you. Orange County, particularly the
24 black community, has been strengthened because of
25 Congresswoman Corrine Brown. And because of her presence

1 in Orange County we have never, never been the beneficiary
2 of so many policy programs coming into Orange County. She
3 is a leader and she is a team player when it comes to
4 federal programs coming to Orange County.

5 From Jacksonville to Orlando our school districts,
6 business community, transportation and the environment to
7 name a few have prospered. Many have criticized the
8 configuration of District 3 unfairly. Districts 2, 4, 5,
9 16 and 20 have received low or no comment. Since we are
10 talking redistricting, we should have seven minority black
11 districts in the state of Florida. The population is
12 there, 2.7, 2.3 million is there.

13 And we're not saying 699,000 for each district. We're
14 saying half of that plus one but give us seven minority
15 black districts. It's there but I'm wondering are you
16 ready and willing to give us seven minority black districts
17 in the state of Florida. We should look at this number
18 because if we are to progress, we must have a diverse
19 Congress, a diverse State Senate and a State House. And
20 opportunity does not guarantee a victory at the polls. The
21 opportunity guarantees a victory for diversity. This
22 redistricting process is based on the 2000 census data, one
23 person, one vote standard.

24 In closing, Corrine Brown is our voice for the present
25 and the future. Corrine Brown is our check and balance for

1 federal programs. Corrine Brown carries our banner and
2 your banner for justice and equality and civil rights.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 80. After this, we'll take
5 a break for the court reporter.

6 MS. WARREN: Thank you. Senator Webster and members
7 of the committee, I want to thank you for this opportunity
8 to speak. My name is Debbie Warren and I want to first off
9 tell you I've been very encouraged by the process that I've
10 seen here. You've had a lot of comments made to you
11 tonight and you've been very kind and respectful and
12 accepting the comments that have been made to you. And I
13 have been, for one, encouraged as a citizen of this
14 county -- I'm not here representing anyone else -- but by
15 the process itself.

16 I've been in Orange County for over ten years and I've
17 seen the process before in the past. I don't believe in
18 the past that software has been made available for the
19 public. And I want to thank you-all for that, opening up
20 the process to us as just citizens. Also, I know there are
21 more members now on this committee than have been in the
22 past. That opens up the process to more members to
23 participate and that makes it better for us as citizens and
24 I appreciate that change in the process.

25 Also, while the meetings have been held some during

1 the day, others have been held in the evening. But the
2 access that we all have to the E-mail system has made the
3 input and the comments of citizens who have not been able
4 to attend the meeting to have that access to you as
5 committee members. And I appreciate that too. That's
6 another move towards openness in the process. And I do
7 appreciate those things.

8 However, I would like to urge the Legislature to make
9 as few changes as possible to the districts in central
10 Florida. We were -- ten years ago major changes were made
11 in this area and the people are comfortable with the
12 changes that are made and I realize comfort is not the
13 primary goal but the less intimidating and the less
14 confusing you can make the process for people, the more
15 participation you will have by the citizens in the voting
16 process.

17 If we can leave them alone for maybe ten more years,
18 that would be wonderful for the average citizens. And any
19 changes that do have to be made, it would be very
20 encouraging to the people of Orange County if they could be
21 made along logical boundaries -- citizens in central
22 Florida, not just Orange County -- along logical
23 boundaries, whether they follow natural boundaries or
24 communities, that we can understand and see the process
25 working on our behalf.

1 I also would like to encourage this Legislature to be
2 fair and not show the partisanship that has been shown in
3 the past when districts have been drawn. Ten years ago
4 legislators, members, and incumbents were drawn out of
5 their districts. It happened to my Representative at the
6 time and it's happened to others too over the years.

7 Also I would like to urge the Legislature to put aside
8 partisanship and work diligently to get this job done and
9 not have a need for a special session. So many times in
10 the past there have been special sessions called. It would
11 be exciting to see this committee work -- put aside
12 partisanship and work together as a team to accomplish this
13 in a speedy manner and get it done on time. I just want to
14 thank you again for the opportunity to speak and I
15 appreciate your time and effort you've put into it.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. As I
17 said, we'll take a seven minute break. Be back in seven
18 minutes.

19 (Brief recess.)

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 81. Is 81 ready to testify?
21 You're recognized.

22 MR. ALVARADO: My name is Victor Alvarado. I'm a
23 resident of Seminole County and I come here today -- in
24 fact, I was kidding with the people in the back, if this
25 were a cheese line, I was yelling in the back, Move up. So

1 and by some person in the back room deciding, Well, this is
2 what it should look like.

3 Now, do we want to do that again? And go through that
4 embarrassment that Florida went through last time or should
5 we make the attempt to move forward on this issue? I feel
6 very proud to be a resident to the state of Florida. I
7 think the state of Florida has grown enormously but that
8 growth has been because of the fact that the contributions
9 that are being brought into the state are of a diverse
10 nature.

11 People from all over the world are making Florida
12 their home but yet we're not looking at those people as
13 though they were residents. We're looking at them as they
14 were foreigners. We need to be inclusive. Now you will
15 travel throughout the states and you will listen to all of
16 this over and over and over again. But the bottom line, we
17 make -- the voters make the final determination. You may
18 not do it this time, but we promise you, you will do it
19 next time.

20 I ask you to please consider giving us what the
21 community needs. We need right now a Hispanic district or
22 two to represent the interest of our communities. We are
23 not saying we are different, we are saying we have the same
24 needs you do. Some say they will represent us differently.
25 I think they do because when I call the legislators,

1 I was kind of upset. I was number 81. But I'm here today
2 to ask, being of Puerto Rican background and a former
3 member of the Florida State Commission on Hispanic Affairs
4 where we no longer have the representation that we needed.
5 I'm here to be very clear to ask for a Hispanic district.
6 We are very proud of the fact that Corrine Brown is our
7 legislator and we continue to support her but we want our
8 own.

9 We want a district that represents the interest of our
10 community. When I first came to Orlando we walked the
11 streets and we heard the words, you know, N words and the S
12 words, being spoken about us. And that continues to happen
13 because we do not have the representation that we need. We
14 know, in fact, that if we had an election here today as
15 you, the members of the House and the Senate, you would all
16 be there to protect your interest, so would I. I would
17 vote to protect my district.

18 But the fact of it is that we must look beyond what
19 our needs are and look towards tomorrow as what the state
20 of Florida needs. The diversity that we have should be the
21 pride that we take forward and we move on that pride. But
22 what's going to happen if we do not work on this issue is
23 we're going to have the same issue that happened in the
24 election. We're going to wind up in the courts. And this
25 issue will be decided in the courts, not by you, by a judge

1 sometimes they respond differently. Each legislator is
2 different. And we are all different individuals, how we
3 respond to our community. The reason why I got involved
4 was because of the same issue. When I called the
5 legislator, he did not want to talk to me or put on a
6 Hispanic person. I want to thank you and I think you have
7 a tough job but you chose this job and I think that we have
8 to work together and see how we can get there. Thank you
9 and I wish you well.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
11 Number 82. Number 83. Number 84. Number 85. Number 86.

12 MR. HAAG: Thank you very much. It's been a very
13 enjoyable night. Thank you for your patience for listening
14 to the voice of the people. My name is Rocky Haag. I live
15 in Orange County. I'd like to voice somewhat of a contrary
16 opinion tonight.

17 First of all, I'm against specialized districts. I
18 think by the time -- if you really look at it, I think the
19 forces behind the formation of these areas, our special
20 interests are literally, although they do have some good
21 intentions, I think they are putting forth their interest
22 and they're actually using the racist passion in order to
23 draw these lines. I think the formation of special member
24 districts equals the vulcanization of American politics.

25 I once interned for Representative McCullum about 20

1 years ago. The first thing I did was I had to answer the
2 phone. And as we answered those phones and as I would --
3 if someone had a medical issue, it went to a medical
4 caseworker. If someone had a Social Security issue, it
5 went to a Social Security caseworker. I did not ask if
6 that person was black or white. If they were speaking
7 Spanish, we had someone in the office who could speak
8 Spanish.

9 Again, I think the special member districts will lead
10 to us working against each other. Look at this meeting
11 tonight. I see the tension. I think primarily the
12 districts should be drawn for efficiencies and service to
13 constituents and the efficiencies on their tax dollar, at
14 all levels of government, municipal up to federal. That
15 being said, as a member of District 8, I think District 8
16 could better serve some constituents now in Lake County and
17 Clermont. I can see a shift there out to the west.

18 And, again, primarily I see special member districts
19 also insulting from the standpoint as I as a white person,
20 I think it's insulting to think if I was elected or even
21 you, I know most of you, in fact, all of you I know would
22 represent everyone to the best of your ability so help you
23 God. So I find it insulting that you are not representing
24 all the members of your district.

25 And, again, you have a tough job. I would urge you to

1 resist the call of the special interests who are trying to
2 in their minds do us a favor. And they will divide us, the
3 people. And where will it end? We'll draw ourselves into
4 boxes and we will not communicate with each other. Thank
5 you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
7 Number 87. Number 89.

8 MR. COLLINS: Hey, everybody. My name is Lawrence
9 Collins. I'm the president of the Orange County Young
10 Republicans and I appreciate you bearing with us so far. I
11 must say at this point I'm very impressed so far with the
12 process. The fact that you-all have spent this time to
13 listen to us from Orange County, give our opinions on this
14 matter, it's impressive and we appreciate it. Some of us
15 might not voice it in that term but the fact you give us an
16 ear at this point in the process is something that we will
17 remember later on hopefully when voting day comes.

18 Most of the people up here today have expressed an
19 interest in making sure that your process is reasonable, is
20 just, and is fair above all. In other words, they are
21 advocating a radical departure from the last 100 years or
22 so that this process has undergone. I think that's a good
23 idea. There are people who say what goes around comes
24 around. There are people that talk about chickens coming
25 home to roost. But I think -- at least I speak to my

1 fellow Republicans -- I think it's a good idea that
2 forbearance is exercised in a moment that we have an
3 opportunity to make a good change for the state of Florida.

4 Let me speak briefly about the Third District.
5 Ultimately I believe that divisive districts are bad for
6 Florida and are bad for America. Separating people based
7 on race or ethnicity is not conducive to an integrated
8 American democracy. However, at least with respect to
9 black Americans, the history is such that I think
10 District 3 and districts like District 3 are appropriate at
11 this time.

12 Keep in mind that black Floridians have been a
13 significant force culturally in Florida for at least 300
14 years, longer in fact. But as far as participating in the
15 political process for all practical purposes, black
16 Americans in Florida have only had a real opportunity for
17 the past 30 years. And a proper, effective, complete
18 integration where every person considers themselves an
19 American first and foremost requires a process where we
20 have District 3s and other districts which recognize the
21 fact that black Americans have been discriminated against
22 by the political process, the social process, the economic
23 process for numerous years.

24 A hundred years from now I hope there will be no
25 District 3 or districts like it. But for the moment, black

1 political empowerment is an important part of the
2 integration process and I hope you take that into
3 consideration when you redraw your districts.

4 As far as the Orlando area, I'm from Ocala. I'm a
5 transplant to Orlando. I was born and raised in Florida.
6 I understand that we have two new Congressional seats.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

8 MR. COLLINS: I think Orlando would be a good place
9 for one of them. As you see from the people that have
10 spoken to you tonight, we are a good cross-section of the
11 people of Florida. And having a new Representative in the
12 greater Orlando area I think would do well to properly
13 represent the state of Florida and Washington, D.C. The
14 last issue would be just to open your history books when
15 you think about redistricting and relating urban areas to
16 rural areas.

17 And keep in mind that Rome fell because the
18 entitlement demands in the city outstripped the means of
19 the rural areas to support them. So make sure the
20 political power is fairly distributed to the rural areas
21 and don't just lump all the power in the metropolitan
22 areas. Thank you for your attention.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
24 Number 90.

25 MS. FITZGIBBONS: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members

1 of the committee, ladies and gentlemen. My name is
2 Marybeth Fitzgibbons and I'm here tonight as a private
3 citizen and a resident of Orange County. I have great
4 confidence that the Florida Legislature under Republican
5 leadership especially that of the central Florida
6 delegation and Speaker Tom Feeney will set a new standard
7 of fairness in the redistricting process.

8 There has been a lot of discussion this evening about
9 the redrawing of the boundaries of Congressional
10 District 3. And if the Legislature considers this
11 question, they may want to look closely at the fairness and
12 feasibility of extending the district from Orlando to
13 Tampa. At present the district extends from Orlando to
14 Jacksonville.

15 Extending Congressional District 3 to connect Orlando
16 and Tampa will unite many central Florida communities along
17 the I-4 corridor that have common interests. So long as
18 fair representation is protected, focusing District 3 on
19 central Florida might benefit the whole community. At the
20 state level we have a lot of legislative talent in central
21 Florida. There's Speaker Tom Feeney, Senator Dan Webster,
22 Senator Lee Constantine, Representative Jim Kallinger,
23 Representative Andy Gardiner, Representative Frank
24 Attkisson, Representative Randy Johnson, Representative
25 Allen Trovillion, Representative David Simmons and

1 in the end, Lord, when did I see you hungry and didn't feed
2 you. When I saw you naked and didn't clothe you. And we
3 forget those things because we become our own gods. And
4 this is the thing that disturbs us.

5 And I want to come back to that District 3.
6 District 3, prior to, we were represented in the
7 Congressional district known as District 8. And before
8 that another district. I came here 41 years ago. And to
9 these people who don't know the history, you got to
10 understand, we were totally excluded from everything. Even
11 begging District 8 to come out to give us some information,
12 to come in the community and talk to us, never showed up in
13 over 14 years.

14 Our community knew nothing about Congressional work.
15 Until we got the other district we had no representation
16 from anyone. But we're not only asking you to keep
17 District 3, we're asking you about keeping District 39.
18 But not only 39, we're also asking about 38. Because as a
19 lifelong and a dying Democrat we honored one of your
20 Republicans the other week and I had to go home and cry and
21 pray but we did. We hugged each other for the tremendous
22 work he had done in the black community in Orange County.
23 He did his job. District 14, the Senate. Buddy Dyer, if
24 he's black, he turned out with us this morning. So we're
25 talking about people who did a good job.

1 Representative David Meador, just to name a few.

2 And I know that all of you will work hard and work
3 together to give fair consideration to the interests of
4 central Florida in the redistricting and the issues we have
5 discussed this evening. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
7 Number 91. Number 92.

8 MR. BROOKS: Mr. Chairman, and committee, my name is
9 Rufus Brooks. I am representing the public life and policy
10 subcommittee on the -- the Presbyterian Church USA. And
11 I'm coming tonight bringing two specific terms I'd like for
12 you to think about throughout this process. And I'm
13 usually with NAACP. I'm with the church tonight because we
14 need prayer more than anything else.

15 See, in our process, we put the dollar first and God
16 second. And I'm trying to get you to turn that around some
17 kind of way and let us get it straight for our society.
18 But we're coming tonight because two things worry me and
19 disturb us tremendously. Ten years ago we came in and you
20 left. When you left this area, we gave you something that
21 looked like a horse and you went back and sent us a little
22 picture back that looked like a cow. And we still don't
23 know what happened to politics.

24 People always say, Why don't you run for politics.
25 Not me because you lose that part that you have to answer

1 Corrine has done more than her share of what she's
2 supposed to do. She's done the work of two or three
3 persons here and she has it and she has the right because
4 she was the first person ever to come to us and to react to
5 us and to work with our needs. And we need to stop playing
6 politics because this morning I went across 13 different
7 districts in the county here. And there are little
8 children crossing the streets and all of you are
9 responsible. We're going to bring a suit against you for
10 every child that dies trying to cross these streets when
11 you cut off that money for those kids trying to get to the
12 schools. And these little kids right now are crossing
13 Highway 50 and 436 and every one of you know those two
14 streets.

15 And this is the key thing that we're deeply concerned
16 about. When you're coming in, think about people and using
17 my theory, we call it the Brooks theory, and let's remember
18 this. All of my friends are not black and all my enemies
19 are not white. So carry that theory with you. But let's
20 get in and think about the needs of the people. And your
21 first need now, these little children, black and white,
22 crossing these highways. Because we took -- remember we
23 took that money from the Lotto. We took the money for
24 Lotto and put it in education but we took the education
25 money and put it somewhere else.

1 We are not doing our path but you're going to have to
2 answer to God in final part. That's the key thing we got
3 to know. Whatever you accumulate here, a lot of you are
4 millionaires, but when you die, you won't be no longer
5 millionaires. So we got to think of what we're trying to
6 do with our people. Race is not a race -- there's nothing
7 such as race. That's environment adaptations. I have a
8 lot of a little chemical in my body called melanin. And
9 that is to block out the sun rays. The medical doctors are
10 here, they can tell you that.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You need to wrap up in ten seconds
12 here.

13 MR. BROOKS: Okay. So the key thing we're saying, You
14 better watch what God is going to do to you if you don't do
15 the right thing to people. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
17 93. Ninety-three. Ninety-four. Ninety-five.

18 MS. CHISHOLM: Good evening, Chair and committee. My
19 name is Shirley Chisholm, St. Felix. I reside here in
20 Orlando, Florida. I was raised here in Orlando. I
21 purposely planned to live my life here and also planned my
22 business here in Orlando. I feel I can testify from
23 various angles. My parents migrated here from the
24 Caribbean and also the Panama Canal zone.

25 While growing up in Orlando, I've had the opportunity

1 to watch the great diversity of this state rise. Let me
2 elaborate. While my mother was a teacher here, she had her
3 Spanish culture on which she was able to respond to. My
4 father had the same exact situation being from the
5 Caribbean, which that Caribbean community is growing by
6 leaps and bounds. As a child and adult, I would see the
7 need for economic development, community participation, and
8 awareness.

9 So I would ask for your careful consideration of the
10 diversity and to be careful of the diversity in Orange
11 County. The fact that there are nine Anglo-Saxon male
12 Republicans and only one black Democrat speaks shamelessly
13 about the area as a melting pot of diversity.

14 Keep District 3, 14, and 39 the way that it is. In
15 closing, please keep in mind the respect earned by our
16 community. Keep us informed of this process. We want to
17 be included all the way through. This is a two-way street.
18 Please carefully take into consideration our unincorporated
19 areas and our deviation levels. Also, please locate a way
20 that the community can view each proposal as it is
21 submitted, the FREDS software available to our
22 constituents. And to take into consideration the history
23 of our great district. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
25 96. Number 97. Number 98. Number 99. Number 100.

1 MR. DOTY: Finally made the triple digits. My name is
2 Alan Doty. There is an axiom in politics that all politics
3 is local and tonight nobody has talked about what is local
4 to central Florida. And I think that's a mistake.

5 Central Florida in the next ten years is going to grow
6 east only to the St. Johns River. When we get to the
7 St. Johns River, we have a natural barrier that we will not
8 be able to cross. We have wetlands there. We have a lack
9 of bridges. We're not going to be able to cross it.

10 We have the same problem to the north. St. Johns
11 River makes a 90-degree bend at the bridge there on the
12 east side of Sanford. And the only other bridge across is
13 the I-4 corridor. Anybody that's been following the news
14 at all knows that the I-4 corridor is going to be mostly
15 tore up in the next ten years.

16 So we have two natural barriers there. So local is
17 going to go down the I-4 corridor, it's going to expand to
18 the south past Kissimmee and St. Cloud and to the west out
19 to Highway 27. For us, that is local. Our problems are
20 going to fall in that square.

21 It seems to me as I'm listening to what people have
22 said, we are now in that square authorized four
23 Congressional Representatives of Congress. I would
24 encourage you to give us four. I think morally and legally
25 you have to make one of those a minority seat, a real

1 minority seat. Now it may have to go past Highway 27 down
2 toward Tampa a little further than Highway 27 but those are
3 going to be where the problems are going to be.

4 We need four people in Congress that are worried about
5 what is local to central Florida. Now Corrine Brown may
6 represent Jacksonville and Florida now but our local
7 problems end at that bridge up there at the St. Johns
8 River. And if you create a real minority district down
9 here, she may be forced to decide really if she wants to
10 represent either local in Orlando or local in Jacksonville.
11 But it is not going to prevent her from running anywhere.

12 And if she chooses Jacksonville, I have faith in our
13 minority community that they can bring us very good
14 candidates that will justifiably represent us in that
15 minority district as long as you do your job and for the
16 next ten years give us four districts that will recommend
17 what is local for central Florida. That to me is the key
18 issue. All other issues everybody has talked about tonight
19 would be nice but they're really not key to what we need.

20 Once you get beyond what is local at the Congressional
21 level, I think you have to look at the cities. Orlando is
22 the center of central Florida but it is going to have the
23 least number of problems, it's land-locked. We have mayors
24 surrounding Orlando that are going to have to have, excuse
25 me, all the growth occur in their areas. Orlando already

1 has its streets and roads. But does Kissimmee, Saint
2 Cloud, Sanford, Fern Park, Ocoee, Winter Garden, Clermont?
3 So those people are going to need to have representation
4 for them at the state level on what is local. Okay. And
5 that's all I have to say. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
7 101. Number 102.

8 MS. RYAN: Good evening. My name is Deborah Ryan and
9 I live in Orlando, just a few miles from here and I'm the
10 state vice president for the American Federation of State
11 County and Municipal Employees. I want to thank the
12 committee for holding this public hearing. I will note,
13 however, you are holding the vast majority of these
14 hearings during the middle of the workday which is not
15 convenient for many of Florida's citizens.

16 Further, I am lucky that this hearing is taking place
17 in Orange County where I live. Citizens in Polk, Brevard,
18 Seminole and Pasco Counties, which might well be affected
19 by this process thus far have had no opportunity to
20 participate in public hearings. I would ask that as this
21 process moves forward you strive to make it more open and
22 more accessible and that all information is more easily
23 available to the public.

24 Posting all information on the Legislature's web site,
25 including any maps made available to the legislative

1 leadership, would also be very helpful. That be it as it
2 may, I am concerned that the most accurate census data be
3 used during the redistricting process. News reports
4 indicate that over 200,000 Floridians were missed by the
5 2000 census and we know that minority groups are
6 disproportionately represented in this undercount. Since
7 Florida was one of only four states to not provide precinct
8 level data to the Census Bureau, I would suggest that to
9 compensate for these possible attendant problems the
10 Legislature consider utilizing adjusted census data which
11 is more representative of minority populations.

12 I would hope that as the Legislature begins the
13 redrawing process that you would honor traditional
14 redistricting principles such as keeping together
15 communities of interest. A case in point is Congressional
16 District 3 and I'd like to mention that I don't live there.
17 Many of us in the Orlando area have come to understand that
18 linking portions of Jacksonville in the Daytona community
19 not only gives a minority/majority voice but also connects
20 communities that have historical, cultural and educational
21 connections.

22 The Congresswoman Corine Brown has done much to keep
23 these connections even through various challenges. The
24 bottom line has been communities in Congressional
25 District 3 have had representation that reflects their

1 interest. I would urge you to keep these basic communities
2 of interest together in Congressional District 3. Citizens
3 recognize this need for a voice. And as I believe you
4 heard at the Jacksonville hearing, business interests also
5 recognize the connection and acknowledge economic growth as
6 a by-product. Thank you for this opportunity and thank you
7 for your service to our citizens.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for coming. Number 103.

9 MR. PFISTER: Thank you. My name is Gary Pfister and
10 I'm an attorney in Orlando and I'm a Republican. First of
11 all, I want to thank you for moving the meeting to this
12 larger room. I can't imagine what it would have been like
13 if it had been at City Hall.

14 First I'd like to ask that the committee draw a state
15 Representative district that would include all of Winter
16 Park, nest it within the Winter Park area as the voter
17 office's terminology has used, to allow all Winter Park to
18 be in one district.

19 Secondly, I would ask that the 8th Congressional
20 District map design move the Osceola portion back into the
21 15th District and to have that 8th District drawn to the
22 west to the communities that – of commuters that live to
23 that western part in Lake County. Third, whether or not an
24 ethnically contiguous district is drawn from Orange County
25 up to Jacksonville or from Orlando over to Tampa, I believe

1 that it is important to include the Orlando community that
2 has spoken here tonight in that district.

3 And, finally, I would ask somewhat different than a
4 lot of opinions that an overarching philosophy be adopted,
5 to have as many Republican districts as can be drawn,
6 drawn. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
8 Number 104. Number 105. Number 106. 110.

9 MS. MATHIS: I like you, am in it for the long haul.
10 Senator Webster, honorable members of the redistricting
11 committee and the Procedural Redistricting Council, my name
12 is Jacinta Mathis, I'm an attorney here in Orlando, Florida
13 and a professor at Rollins College teaching ethics and
14 corporate responsibilities for business.

15 I also recently served on the Constitution Revision
16 Commission, the same commission that rejected delegating
17 this reapportionment responsibility to an appointed
18 commission. I appreciate that you are elected officials
19 and you are elected to serve the best interest of
20 Floridians. And we appreciate and support your role in
21 reapportionment.

22 I want to encourage the committee to give deference to
23 communities of interest, not county boundaries. You are
24 not limited to small local communities of interest. In
25 central Florida there are established and well-defined

1 regional communities of interest. The growth in the
2 minority population compels expanding that representational
3 opportunity, not compacting but expanding the
4 representation and expanding the access. Thank you for the
5 opportunity to be heard.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number
7 111. Number 112. Number 113.

8 MR. MORENO: Mr. Chairman, and members of this
9 committee and Orange County delegation, my name is Tirso
10 Moreno and I represent the Farmworker's Association of
11 Florida and I live in Apopka here in Orange County.

12 Along with many others who have come tonight, I want
13 to ask that you respect the very different communities of
14 interest that we have here particularly with the vastly
15 growing number of members of the Hispanic communities. We
16 will caution you to not fragment the Hispanic community
17 into several different districts. If you do so, it will
18 really weaken the political unified voice of the Hispanic
19 community that have very unique and specific needs.

20 Your obligation to the citizens of Florida is to be
21 sure that the district boundaries would meet certain legal
22 requirements and protect the voting rights for minorities
23 and communities of interest. Also, if the middle district
24 lines divide constituents from the people who have done a
25 good job of representing them in the past, the Legislature

1 officials here when it wasn't voting time. So I want to
2 thank you for that.

3 I'm here, as you might suspect, to speak on behalf of
4 District 3. Now, I know so many folks look at that crazy
5 line and wonder why it is so. I'm here to tell you that I
6 just thank God that somewhere in the past someone had the
7 courage to make that line happen. For because of that
8 line, we were able to elect Corrine Brown to represent our
9 district. Prior to that time, we had no representation.

10 Let me tell you who I am first of all. I'm Ray
11 McCleece, I'm retired military. I'm retired from Florida
12 Department of Corrections. And in two weeks I'll be
13 retired from Orange County government where I work at the
14 Orange County Jail. Like you probably right now, I'm also
15 tired. This has been a long night. But I thought it was
16 important to let you know how important District 3 is to
17 the African-American community. It is as important to us
18 as your district is to you.

19 If you look around your district and you look at your
20 constituents and you look at who voted you in office, you
21 will find two-thirds probably of the folks who voted for
22 you look like you. We're only asking for the same thing.
23 And it's unfortunate we had to create a crazy line like we
24 had to create in order for that to happen. But we thank
25 God that we were able to do that and we just ask you to be

1 then reduces the political power of certain small or
2 historically disadvantaged communities like rural farming,
3 RES (phonetic) farmer needs Orange County has adopted for
4 its registering -- for the demographics of the county.

5 The geography of the neighborhoods, existing present
6 lines and community interest. The Board of County
7 Commissioners adopted those certainly in Section 3 of
8 County Resolution Number 101, 2001 and 206. And the City
9 of Orlando adopted the following criteria. The
10 demographics of the city, the geography of the
11 neighborhoods represented lines and minority population
12 interest. The school board had similar criteria. All of
13 our local jurisdictions have adopted registered criteria.
14 Mr. Chairman, they did so before they had public
15 hearings --

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds.

17 MR. MORENO: -- so we ask you to take this into
18 consideration and not, you know, not take away the chance
19 of our people to keep their voices united. Thank you very
20 much.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 115. Number 116.

22 MR. McCLEECE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and members
23 of this fine committee. I want to first thank you for
24 hanging in there as long as you have. I don't know how
25 many times I've seen in our community so many elected

1 fair, recognize we want representation. We think we've got
2 good representation. But it is not really about Corrine
3 Brown even though we all love her.

4 What is more important is those Corrine Browns who
5 will come after her. Those Joe Browns that will come after
6 Corine Brown. We're talking about a long-term
7 representation for the African-American community.
8 District 3 provides us that opportunity. We ask you do not
9 take that away from us. Do not put us in a situation where
10 we are forced to vote for someone we don't want. Thank
11 you.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Okay.
13 Call upon the members of the delegation here from central
14 Florida who would like to make remarks. I would tell you,
15 you don't have to. (Laughter.) You can, but you don't
16 have to. So why don't we see if there is an interest among
17 any member of the delegation to speak. Representative
18 Brummer, you're recognized.

19 REPRESENTATIVE BRUMMER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've
20 got some letters from the community regarding
21 reapportionment issues, a copy for you and for
22 Representative Byrd for the record. Thank you, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Anyone else? Representative Allen.

24 REPRESENTATIVE ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, at the risk of
25 being insulted by the group, I wanted also to enter into

1 the record for the House District 32, letters from Chairman
2 Richard Crotty, Mayor Glinda Hood, Mayor William Brooks,
3 Mr. Jeff Huquay of the Orlando International Airport
4 Authority. Mr. Randolph Lion of the Lake Yona (phonetic)
5 Community. Mr. Marcos Marchana of the Valencia Community
6 College Board of Trustees and Mr. Lou Oliver, chairman of
7 the Orange County Republican executive committee, letters
8 in the record for this hearing. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Any other members of the
10 delegation, central Florida delegation? Are there any
11 members of the general committee that would like to make a
12 comment? Okay. Meeting is adjourned.

13 (Meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.)
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 CERTIFICATE
2 STATE OF FLORIDA:
3 COUNTY OF LEON:

4 I, KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, Court Reporter, certify that I
5 was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing
6 proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete
7 record of my stenographic notes.

8 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.

9 _____
10 KRISTEN L. BENTLEY
11 Court Reporter
12 Division of Administrative Hearings
13 The DeSoto Building
14 1230 Apalachee Parkway
15 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060
16 (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675
17 Fax Filing (850) 921-6847
18 www.doah.state.fl.us
19
20
21
22
23
24
25