

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 21, 2001 - 10:00 A.M.

DAYTONA BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BERGENGREN BUILDING

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- 1
- 2 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR.
- 3 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE
- 4 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
- 5 SENATOR MANDY DAWSON
- 6 SENATOR BETTY S. HOLZENDORF
- 7 SENATOR JAMES E. KING, JR.
- 8 SENATOR RON KLEIN
- 9 SENATOR DURELL PEADEN, JR.
- 10 SENATOR RONALD A. SILVER
- 11 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ
- 12 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
- 13 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK
- 15 REPRESENTATIVE DON DAVIS
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART
- 17 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY
- 18 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FASANO
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE TERRY L. FIELDS
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA
- 21 REPRESENTATIVE ANDY GARDINER
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HOGAN
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER
- 25 REPRESENTATIVE SUZANNE M. KOSMAS

- 1 REPRESENTATIVE DICK KRAVITZ
- 2 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE
- 3 REPRESENTATIVE EVELYN J. LYNN
- 4 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN
- 5 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
- 6 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

PROCEEDINGS

- 1
- 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Could everyone take their seat.
- 3 I'm going to first call on Dr. Ken Sharpels to come and
- 4 make a few remarks. Dr. Sharpels is the Daytona Beach
- 5 Community College president. Dr. Sharpels, you're
- 6 recognized.
- 7 DR. SHARPELS: Thank you, Senator Webster, and let me
- 8 extend a very warm and cordial welcome to this joint
- 9 committee. It's always a pleasure for those of us at DBCC
- 10 to host our delegation. It's particularly a privilege and
- 11 an honor to host this distinguished body today whose
- 12 deliberations over this next several months will have
- 13 historic impact on the future of the great state of
- 14 Florida. So we are very pleased that you are here and hope
- 15 that you found a reasonable place to park. This is our
- 16 second day of classes. We're kind of excited about that.
- 17 It looks like our enrollment is up by 10 percent which is
- 18 always good news, Suzanne, and Joyce. Nice to have you
- 19 with us as well.
- 20 And we also want to tell you that we are opening this
- 21 week the Advanced Technology Center, which with new
- 22 legislation was created in '98 that you helped us fund,
- 23 about a \$30 million project. It is in its second day of
- 24 classes as well. And any of you who have some interest in
- 25 what we are doing with that joint initiative between

- 1 Volusia and Flagler Counties at DBCC, we'd be happy to
- 2 arrange a tour to show you what's going on in that exciting
- 3 new opportunity provided by the Florida Legislature. So we
- 4 thank you for that.
- 5 I'd like to introduce Don Thigpin and Jackie Vankirk
- 6 who are principally responsible for this event, for
- 7 planning all of that. Thanks to the two of them. And if
- 8 there is anything that we can do during the day to make
- 9 your stay more enjoyable or more productive, please let us
- 10 know. Thank you, Senator Webster.
- 11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Dr. Sharpels. I am
- 12 Daniel Webster. I'm Chairman of the Senate Redistricting
- 13 Committee. This is a shared responsibility between myself
- 14 and Chairman Johnnie Byrd who chairs the committee in the
- 15 House that will be handling redistricting.
- 16 It's my pleasure to welcome each of you to the public
- 17 hearing, one of many we are holding throughout the state of
- 18 Florida this summer and fall. Let me first explain the
- 19 procedure which will be in use throughout these public
- 20 hearings.
- 21 This is a public hearing, the sole purpose of which is
- 22 to hear from the public on matters of redistricting. This
- 23 is not a committee meeting, we will not be taking
- 24 legislative action in this or subsequent public hearings.
- 25 Instead, this is the public's forum where we have the

Page 6

1 opportunity to receive citizen input about their electoral
2 district. It is not the time for legislative debate. All
3 Representatives and Senators will have numerous
4 opportunities in subsequent committee meetings and hearings
5 for debates and address all the members with their concerns
6 and wishes.

7 Today, however, is for our constituents. We must not
8 diminish their voice by taking up their valuable time today
9 in 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
12 census results in this region and in the state.

13 The rest is reserved for you, the citizens. Every ten
14 years upon the completion and update of the national census
15 the Constitution requires that the Florida Legislature
16 redraw boundaries for all districts of the Florida House of
17 Representatives, the Florida Senate and the United States
18 Congress. The Legislature is to take up this task next
19 session, which will begin January 22nd, 2002 and will end
20 March 22nd, 2002. The districts we draw will first be used
21 in the November 2002 election.

22 Redistricting is a central element of our
23 representative democracy. We take this opportunity and
24 important issue on with humility and due regard for how
25 difficult this job will be. We are also committed to the

Page 7

1 process, and that that process will be fair and open and
2 inclusive. These public hearings represent a crucial first
3 step in this process. We appreciate that we are doing the
4 work of the people and we want to hear from you and help
5 you participate in a meaningful way.

6 To encourage public participation, Senate President
7 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled many
8 meetings throughout the state for the summer and fall. All
9 members of the legislative redistricting committee as well
10 as the local delegation members have been invited to
11 participate in these public hearings. This hearing will be
12 taped and will be available to be on the Internet from the
13 audio and many other ways. We'll be explaining later how
14 you can get information of what happened here even after
15 it's happened, and then also what will be happening in the
16 future. And also ways to participate through the Internet
17 as well as this public hearing today.

18 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool
19 for public input and will broadcast select hearings on
20 Florida's public television stations. The web address for
21 the House and Senate legislative redistricting are
22 available at the information table. A link also is
23 available from the legislative web site.

24 The redistricting plan for the State, the House and
25 Senate will be passed in the form of a joint resolution

Page 8

1 which will not be subject to the Governor's approval or
2 veto, but will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court.
3 The plan determining Congressional districts will not be
4 reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court, but will be subject
5 to the Governor's approval or veto.

6 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000
7 census. It is the essential building block on which
8 Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The United
9 States census web site is available at the sign-in table.

10 We are here to listen and consider your voice. We
11 encourage each member of the public to testify and help us
12 craft your legislative districts. We also encourage
13 written submissions in addition to the testimony during the
14 public hearing. Everyone who wishes to speak must fill out
15 a speaker's card. This is the only way we will know who
16 wishes to speak and after the hearing who actually spoke.
17 Speaker cards are available at the sign-in table.

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

24 At this time I would like to represent Ed Pozzuoli, of
25 the law firm of Tripp, Scott. He is the law partner of

Page 9

1 former Senator Jim Scott and he served in the previous
2 reapportionment process and is Senate lead counsel on
3 redistricting. You are recognized.

4 MR. POZZUOLI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the
5 committee.

6 As the Chairman indicated, I'm Ed Pozzuoli with Tripp,
7 Scott and along with my partner Senator Jim Scott am
8 special counsel to the Florida Senate for redistricting and
9 reapportionment matters. I'm here together with our
10 colleague Miguel DeGrandy, who is counsel to the Florida
11 House. And pursuant to the protocol that we have
12 established, I will make a short presentation.

13 My job today is to give you and the members of the
14 public an overview of the law regarding redistricting and
15 reapportionment. This presentation is by no means intended
16 to be a comprehensive or a complete review of all the
17 issues related to the topic, but is intended to give you an
18 introduction to the basic principles and constraints that
19 will guide the decision making of our State Legislature as
20 it proceeds in this very important task.

21 The task of redistricting and reapportionment is the
22 process of dividing the residents of a jurisdiction, in
23 this case the residents of the entire state of Florida,
24 into different electoral seats or districts. Redistricting
25 is a constitutional requirement. Both the Florida

1 Constitution and the United States Constitution require
 2 redistricting commencing every ten years after the census.
 3 Because of Florida's population increase over the last
 4 ten years, Florida will have two additional members in the
 5 United States Congress, a total of 25 seats. The State
 6 Legislature therefore will need to create 25 separate,
 7 contiguous districts to cover the entire state, one for
 8 each of those members of Congress.
 9 The Legislature will also need to divide the state
 10 into 40 State Senate districts and 120 State House of
 11 Representatives districts; although the Legislature may, if
 12 they choose, reduce the number of State Senate and House
 13 districts to as low as 30 and 80, respectively.
 14 The Florida Constitution also requires that the State
 15 House and Senate districts be consecutively numbered and of
 16 either contiguous, overlapping or identical territory.
 17 In Florida, as we have already discussed, the task of
 18 redistricting is entrusted to the State Legislature.
 19 Commencing with the public hearing process, the State
 20 Legislature will begin considering the opinion of Florida's
 21 citizens. Legislative committees will convene this fall.
 22 And beginning in January the full Legislature will begin
 23 the process of developing and considering different
 24 redistricting plans. The regular session ends March of
 25 2002.

1 If the regular legislative session ends without a
 2 redistricting plan, the Governor is required by the Florida
 3 Constitution to reconvene the Legislature in a special
 4 session, which session shall not exceed 30 consecutive
 5 days. If the special session ends without the adoption of
 6 a redistricting plan for the State Legislature, the
 7 Attorney General must petition the Florida Supreme Court to
 8 commence deliberations on the establishment of a
 9 redistricting plan. Within 60 days of this petition the
 10 Florida Supreme Court must file an order setting forth such
 11 plan.
 12 If during the regular session or the special session
 13 reapportionment plans are adopted by the Legislature for
 14 Congress, then the Governor has an opportunity to approve
 15 or veto the adopted plans. If the Legislature adopts
 16 redistricting plans for the State House and Senate
 17 districts, then 15 days after passage the Florida Attorney
 18 General is required to petition the Florida Supreme Court
 19 for determination of validity of the Legislature's plan.
 20 If the Florida Supreme Court declares invalid the
 21 Legislature's plan, within five days of such a
 22 determination the Governor must reconvene the Legislature
 23 in extraordinary session of no more than 15 days at which
 24 session the Legislature adopts a joint resolution
 25 confirming to the judgment of the Florida Supreme Court.

1 In adopting a redistricting plan the Legislature will
 2 be guided by several factors including the principle of one
 3 person, one vote, and the requirements of the Florida
 4 Constitution, the United States Constitution and Federal
 5 statutes. The principle or idea commonly referred to as
 6 one person, one vote developed from a series of landmark
 7 United States Supreme Court cases in the 1960s. Generally
 8 this principle stands for the proposition that each
 9 person's vote should count as much as anyone else's vote.
 10 These cases embody a reaction against the practice in
 11 several states of maintaining districts for state
 12 legislative offices that were substantially different in
 13 population. For example, an urban district containing
 14 250,000 people electing one Representative to the State
 15 House of Representatives, and a rural district in the same
 16 state containing 75,000 people also electing one
 17 Representative to the State House of Representatives.
 18 The Supreme Court concluded that these types of
 19 differences in district populations resulted in each vote
 20 in the district with a smaller population carrying more
 21 weight than a vote in a larger district. The one person,
 22 one vote cases forbid these discrepancies in the creation
 23 of districts. However, neither the Constitution nor the
 24 Supreme Court requires exact, precise, mathematical
 25 equality amongst congressional districts or among state

1 legislative districts.
 2 For congressional districts, the Courts have
 3 instituted the strictest standard. As a general rule the
 4 population among different districts in one state will be
 5 substantially less than 1 percent. In other words, if you
 6 take the state's total population and divide it by the
 7 number of congressional districts, in our case 25, the
 8 result will give you an ideal size for each congressional
 9 district in that state. And typically congressional
 10 districts in any given state will be well within 1 percent
 11 of this ideal number.
 12 For the legislative districts the Courts have
 13 permitted a greater deviation among the districts. The
 14 Courts will accept differences between districts of up to
 15 10 percent in certain circumstances.
 16 Another consideration is the Florida -- I mean, excuse
 17 me, the Voters Rights Act of 1964 and the equal protection
 18 clause of the United States Constitution. Over the course
 19 of 30 years these have become important elements of any
 20 Legislature's deliberations regarding redistricting.
 21 Section 2 of the Voters Rights Act prohibits any
 22 practice or procedure, including certain redistricting
 23 practices, that impair the ability of a minority community
 24 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with
 25 nonminority voters.

1 Florida is one of those states containing certain
 2 jurisdictions that are subject to review under Section 5 of
 3 the Voters Rights Act. Section 5 of the Voters Rights Act
 4 requires that the covered jurisdiction submit prior to
 5 implementation any proposed change to their practice or
 6 procedures affecting voting, including any changes to
 7 election districts resulting from the redistricting
 8 process, for approval by either the Attorney General of the
 9 United States or the Federal District Court for the
 10 District of Columbia. This process is known as
 11 preclearance. In Florida the covered jurisdictions include
 12 Collier, Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough and Monroe Counties.

13 The vast majority of preclearance requests are made to
 14 the Attorney General's Office. Preclearance is obtained if
 15 the Attorney General affirmatively indicates that the
 16 office has no objection to the change, or at the expiration
 17 of 60 days no objection to the submitted change has been
 18 made by the Attorney General. Either through the court
 19 proceeding or the administrative process with the Attorney
 20 General's Office, the covered jurisdiction bears the burden
 21 of demonstrating that the proposed voting change does not
 22 have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or
 23 abridging the right to vote on account of race or color or
 24 membership in a language minority group.

25 In conclusion, the legal rules regarding the

1 people. That's an increase of 23.5 percent. As a result,
 2 Florida's delegation in the United States House of
 3 Representatives will increase by two to 25.

4 The other major factor that we need to note about
 5 Florida's population growth over the past ten years is that
 6 it has not been uniform. Some areas have grown quickly
 7 while others have grown more slowly.

8 For instance, Flagler County just to the north grew at
 9 a rate of 73.6 percent. Sumpter County grew at a rate of
 10 almost 70 percent, Collier County, 65 percent, Wakulla
 11 County, 61 percent, and Osceola County, approximately
 12 60 percent.

13 At the other end of the spectrum, Monroe County grew
 14 at a rate of only 2 percent during the previous ten years.
 15 Pinellas County and Putnam County to our west grew by a
 16 rate of about 8.2 percent. And Gadsden County in the
 17 Panhandle grew at a rate of 9.7 percent.

18 Bringing it home to Volusia County, the population
 19 increased here by 20 percent to 443,343 people. This ranks
 20 Volusia County tenth among Florida's 67 counties. As
 21 Mr. Pozzuoli was explaining, the decennial census is set
 22 out in Article I of the United States Constitution for the
 23 purposes of apportioning congressional districts among the
 24 states.

25 It is also used for the purpose of equalizing the

1 redistricting and reapportionment process are somewhat
 2 complicated. And, unfortunately, this short presentation
 3 only scratches the surface of some rather delicate legal
 4 issues, some of which have not been fully decided by the
 5 courts.

6 Mr. Chairman, I together with my House colleague stand
 7 ready to provide you with any assistance you might need
 8 throughout this hearing. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We'd like to now recognize John
 10 Guthrie who is the staff director for our technical
 11 reapportionment portion of our committee. And he is going
 12 to give a brief presentation on some of the information of
 13 the 2000 census regarding this area of the state.

14 Mr. Guthrie, you are recognized.

15 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you, Chairman Webster. And for
 16 the benefit of the public I am going to ask them to dim the
 17 lights in the front just for the period of this brief
 18 presentation.

19 In order to further set the context for today's public
 20 hearing, I will briefly review some census facts and
 21 figures for this area and for the state of Florida. The
 22 overriding fact that we need to recognize is that Florida
 23 is a very rapidly-growing state. Between 1990 and 2000 the
 24 state's total population increased by 3 million from
 25 approximately 13 million people to almost 16 million

1 population of Congressional, Senate and House districts
 2 within the state. Districts that now have substantially
 3 too many people; that is, districts that grew faster than
 4 the state average during the past ten years, will need to
 5 become a little bit smaller. And districts that are
 6 substantially underpopulated will need to gain additional
 7 territory in order to come up to equal population.

8 The average district population in Florida for
 9 congressional districts, based on the 1990 census, was
 10 562,519 people. Based on the 2000 census, this will
 11 increase by 14 percent to 640,000 or 639,295 people.

12 What that means is if your particular congressional
 13 district grew at a rate of 14 percent, then no change would
 14 necessarily be required, except to deal with population
 15 growth in other districts. If it grew slower than that
 16 rate, you're going to need to add population. If it grew
 17 faster than that rate, then your district will have too
 18 much population.

19 Looking at Senate and House districts based on the
 20 '90 census, the population per Senate district was 323,000.
 21 The population per House district was approximately
 22 108,000. Based on the 2000 census these will increase by
 23 approximately 23.5 percent to 400,000 and 133,000,
 24 respectively.

25 This graphic depicts the number of people per district

1 in the state; the aqua color showing the district
2 populations in 1990, the blue showing what the population
3 will be, the average population in 2000.

4 What we can infer from this graph is that the
5 difference, the relative difference for congressional
6 districts is not quite as large as it is for Senate and
7 House districts, and also that congressional districts, as
8 we are aware, have more people per district than do Senate
9 districts or House districts.

10 Looking at Volusia County and surrounding counties,
11 this particular map depicts the change in population
12 density or people per square mile between the 1990 census
13 and the 2000 census. What it shows us is that the urban
14 areas in Orlando and downtown Daytona, indicated in red,
15 grew slower than the state average, or the population
16 density was -- actually declined; whereas, areas west of
17 Daytona and east and west and southwest of Orlando grew
18 much more rapidly than the state average.

19 This graphic shows the same sort of information,
20 except instead of looking at density it looks at the
21 proportionate growth; that is, the percentage change in
22 population between 1990 and 2000. Again, the red areas
23 indicating areas that grew slower than the state average,
24 blue indicating areas that grew more rapidly than the state
25 average.

1 videos, and a copy of this presentation all will be
2 available subsequent to the hearing through the Senate and
3 House redistricting web sites. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you very much.

5 Okay, ladies and gentlemen, as I stated earlier, we'll
6 be using speaker cards. If you fill one of these out, then
7 you have the opportunity of speaking. If you will notice
8 in the bottom right there is a number. That is the number
9 that you received when you signed up, they were done in
10 order. So whoever came first gets to be number one.

11 We also have reserved three seats in the front. And
12 if you are within three of your number being called, if you
13 would like, you could move to the front and be closer when
14 your number is called. So, for instance, the first four,
15 1, 2, 3 and 4, if 2, 3 and 4 want to take those seats,
16 fine; if not, that's okay, too. It just would help move
17 the process along a little better and faster.

18 If you want to sign up, you can go to the sign-in
19 table and the staff there will help you get signed up. So
20 the first four we are going to take is 1, 2, 3 and 4. And,
21 No. 1, if you're ready to go, come forward.

22 And when you come, if you would state your name. And
23 if you're representing yourself or some organization you
24 can state that also. So No. 1.

25 MR. KINSLEY: Senator Webster, distinguished panel, I

1 We have a map here that shows the current
2 congressional districts in the northeast central Florida
3 area, and the population deviation based on the new census.
4 This same information is included in a handout that is in
5 the member packets and has been provided to the public. It
6 shows that Congressional District 3 actually is about
7 50,000 persons short of what the average district
8 population will be based on the new census. District 7 is
9 approximately 80,000 overpopulated, 83,000 overpopulated.
10 And District 6, way to our west, is 117,000 overpopulated.

11 We see a similar pattern with Florida Senate
12 districts. District 8 represented by Senator King is
13 56,000 overpopulated; District 16 represented by Senator
14 Burt is approximately 16,000 below what the average
15 district population will be based on the new census. And
16 you can see the figures for the surrounding Senate
17 districts as well.

18 And, finally, the same pattern is apparent as well for
19 Florida House districts.

20 All of the information that I've covered this morning
21 is available on the Senate and the House redistricting web
22 sites. Some of it has been provided as handouts as well.
23 And as Speaker -- Senator Webster previously announced, the
24 results of these public hearings, the transcripts, the
25 videos where available, or audiotapes where we don't have

1 only wish my wife were here to reinforce that I'm No. 1.
2 (Laughter.)

3 Thank you for permitting us to represent the West
4 Volusia Republican Club and our 246 members. We are
5 requesting that gerrymandering, as an example and not
6 necessarily limited to District No. 2, be kept to a minimum
7 in the new reapportionment. We in our organization, and
8 Congressman Mica (Check) is a member of our club, have had
9 an excellent working relationship with the Congressman.
10 And we urge you to keep District 7 in De Land if at all
11 possible. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
13 Number 2.

14 MR. SMITH: Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, I'm
15 very sorry that Jerry Melvin isn't here today. Jerry and I
16 served with Andrew Jackson. And Jerry is still here. You
17 folks tell him about term limits; would you?

18 The theme or the thesis of what I want to talk about
19 is protecting the integrity of the county lines so that
20 people know who their legislator is, who their congressman
21 is, who their House representative member is, who their
22 Senator is. I just talked a few moments ago to someone
23 from another county, this is Flagler County, Honorable
24 Corrine, and they didn't even know that you represented
25 them up there because of the gerrymandering of the

1 districts.

2 And in Representative Cusack's district, she has five
3 precincts over in Lake County. I know you know where Lake
4 County is because it's west of Volusia, but the people over
5 there don't know, we in Volusia sure do, but the people
6 over there don't know and a lot of legislators. I can
7 remember banging on doors of legislators around the
8 country, knocking on doors, I like to do that, and I find
9 out sometimes I'm on the wrong side of the street. I'm not
10 in your district.

11 So protect the integrity of the county line. That
12 should be your first thing. Protect it. I know last night
13 you-all caught a little bad stuff from the supporters of
14 Corrine Brown, but Corrine Brown has, in the Congress, has
15 the most gerrymandered -- it starts off, I think Nassau
16 County goes from Jacksonville, my old hometown, all the way
17 down to Orlando. That's ridiculous. No one knows who she
18 represents and I'm not too sure she does.

19 So I'm just asking you to put in your forefront of
20 your mind protect the county integrity where you possibly
21 can. Now I'm going to take up my whole four hours (sic).
22 I'm just going to say one more time incidentally Volusia
23 County, Suzanne Kosmas is the only person who really knows
24 where she is running from and got elected from and the
25 constituents know who she is because she is all in Volusia

1 County. But the rest of them, they don't know where they
2 are or where they're going or who the people are they vote
3 for. So please, please, please protect the integrity of
4 the county borders and county lines wherever possible.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 3.

7 MS. SLOAN-JONES: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
8 I worked with Dave Smith down in Broward County years ago
9 and now we're both in Flagler and still a hard act to
10 follow. I either have to get taller or the mike has to get
11 lower.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to speak briefly. On a
13 matter of utmost importance to us all, I'm Pat Sloan-Jones,
14 Republican chairman of Flagler County. But I'm not here
15 today as partisan, I'm here today as are all of us, as a
16 concerned citizen. As you've already heard this morning,
17 Flagler County is the fastest-growing county in our state.
18 And based upon the most recent census figures, we have had
19 an over 73 percent population growth in the past ten years.

20 In actuality, our population has nearly doubled every
21 ten years since 1970, with the highest growth occurring on
22 the eastern side of the county. Palm Coast, our newest
23 city, represents 70 percent of the county's residents, a
24 politically imperative figure when it comes to winning
25 elections county-wide. One of the results of such an

1 explosive growth rate is the rapid expansion of the
2 registered voter base.

3 Long before the next census is taken Flagler County
4 will become a truly powerful force within the political
5 structure of our state. It behooves you who will be making
6 the decisions about our district boundaries to realize the
7 importance of Flagler's representation at both state and
8 national levels. We need it, we deserve it. As time
9 passes, we will increasingly become a political bug with
10 which to be reckoned. We're going forward, we're moving
11 upward and we're asking you to assist us in this endeavor.
12 Thank you.

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

14 MS. GILMAN: Good morning, my name is Candy Gilman and
15 I wish to take this opportunity to speak to this panel.
16 The Republican-led Legislature is making a more open
17 process for this public hearing than was done ten years
18 ago. Hearings are being held in all areas of Florida as it
19 should be. Ten years ago our computer access was limited
20 to the majority at the capital and many Republican
21 legislators were not even allowed access to their
22 computers.

23 I wish to applaud the Republican party for being more
24 open. We need to ensure districts remaining compact,
25 keeping communities together, cities compact, and cities

1 and counties where the Representative can do a better job
2 for us.

3 As a concerned citizen, I've been able to get on the
4 Internet and pull down maps and everything that's been
5 going on and I've been able to stay up with it so that I
6 could be better informed. For this, I thank you very much
7 in what you plan to do in the future because everything you
8 do in Tallahassee and in Washington affects us in our own
9 home and I mean house intact, our own home, not just our
10 backyards. So what you do, no matter how you vote or what
11 you do with redistricting, keep in mind that you are
12 dealing with people's lives. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Number five. Actually five,
14 six and seven, eight.

15 MS. SMITH: Good morning. I am Ann Smith. I live in
16 Ormond Beach. And I am speaking to you on behalf of the
17 League of Women Voters of Volusia County. As you-all know,
18 the League is a nonpartisan grassroots organization that
19 works very hard to educate the public about good
20 government.

21 Our position is very clear and concise. Districts
22 should be compact. They should be composed of contiguous
23 territory and they should respect county and municipal
24 boundaries as much as possible. At one time, Volusia
25 County's districts were more compact and obviously

1 population has a great deal to do with that.

2 Presently three congressional representatives who have
3 portions of Volusia also have large portions of other
4 districts to represent. This dilutes any individual's
5 ability to truly espouse the needs and wishes of a district
6 well. Florida is a very diverse state. So the more
7 compact the districts within the state, the easier it will
8 be for an individual to represent his or her constituency
9 fairly.

10 I have just completed the task of serving as the
11 League representative on our local redistricting committee.
12 We made every effort to give the people of Volusia County
13 as much information as we possibly could through our web
14 site. This included sample district maps as well as
15 testimony. And I may have missed something, but I noticed
16 on your web site that you said you would be posting
17 testimony from your hearings following the hearing dates,
18 but I couldn't find the testimony from either Tallahassee
19 or Jacksonville. And having listened to the previous
20 speaker, maybe I wasn't looking in the right place. But if
21 I wasn't, then it wasn't easy to find.

22 It is imperative that this process be as open as you
23 can make it. And one way to do that is post all testimony
24 on the web site so that those who cannot make these
25 hearings can read the input and know what is going on.

1 This must be an open process that allows all citizens every
2 opportunity to have input and keep abreast of the process.

3 We encourage you to have full disclosure of the
4 redistricting process available to the public at all times.
5 I strongly encourage this body to put aside political
6 affiliations and scientifically draw the new district lines
7 based on total numbers, not party registration or voting
8 pattern, nor incumbent advantage. I believe that you are
9 duty bound as representatives of the people to continue to
10 affect the healing process of fair representative
11 government by not allowing partisanship to enter into this
12 debate and this decision in any measure.

13 We have been through a trying time in the state of
14 Florida this past year. And you the members of this 2002
15 redistricting committee can help bring back to the people
16 the trust in government that is so desperately needed. You
17 must show the people of the state of Florida that you will
18 draw lines that do not intentionally favor or disfavor any
19 group, race, or religion. And even though this may not sit
20 well with some, it is the only fair and just way.

21 I am sure you heard much of what I said before and
22 hopefully you will hear it again and again. As a retired
23 educator of 33 years in the Volusia County public school
24 system, I learned that repetition of subject matter was one
25 of the most successful methods of teaching. Fairness,

1 openness, and a willingness to not only listen to us, your
2 public, but to act favorably on what you hear will help to
3 restore our trust in our electoral process and strengthen
4 representative government. What a refreshing idea. Thank
5 you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 6. Number 6.
7 Number 7.

8 MR. HUGER: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the
9 committee, ladies and gentlemen. I am James E. Huger,
10 former business manager of Bethune-Cookman College and
11 director of the Department of Community Development for the
12 city of Daytona Beach. I am now retired. Thank you for
13 the opportunity to say a few words on the subject before us
14 this morning.

15 I'm sure all of you are aware that Daytona Beach is
16 the home of Bethune-Cookman College founded by Dr. Mary
17 McLeod Bethune in 1904. This institution has grown from
18 the five little girls, a dollar and a half that she started
19 with, to an institution now that has more than 2500
20 students from throughout the world. And a multimillion
21 dollar budget against the dollar and a half that she
22 started. And as many of you know, Bethune-Cookman College
23 is considered one of the finest institutions in the
24 country.

25 By having Bethune-Cookman College within the Third

1 Congressional District we have been able to provide
2 educational opportunities to thousands of young people who
3 are now making their contributions to making this a better
4 world in which all of us can live. We have been blessed to
5 have Congresswoman Brown in Washington. For she has been a
6 champion not only of Bethune-Cookman College but the entire
7 city of Daytona Beach. Not only has she been involved in
8 housing for citizens who never experienced homeownership,
9 health care for those who had not been available in the
10 field of health, and her commitment to the economic status
11 of minorities along with the entire community. Her
12 leadership in the field of substance abuse has been most
13 outstanding.

14 It is our hope that you would realize the special
15 significance of the Third Congressional District and will
16 not let other forces cause you to change the makeup that
17 now exists. For if you do, it is quite possible that the
18 progress we have made so far will have been in vain. In
19 light of the unfavorable publicity which was indicated a
20 few moments ago, that the state of Florida suffered through
21 in the last election, I would hope that the committee will
22 be certain that this unfavorable experience will not be
23 repeated.

24 I would hope a full explanation will be given to the
25 citizens as to the procedure that will be followed in this

1 redistricting. I as a citizen of this district, a worker
2 for the betterment of all people, urge you not to change
3 the setup of this present makeup. Please know that there
4 are many of us that stand ready to do whatever you need
5 done to make this a better community.

6 Again, we are grateful for the opportunity to express
7 our thoughts and hope that you will have the strength of
8 your conviction. Thank you and may that unknown being who
9 guides the destiny of us all will walk before you to guide
10 you, behind you to protect you, and beside you to ever be
11 your friend. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 7.

13 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm Frederick Williams, a retired
14 college professor. I work with Intracoastal Democratic
15 clubs. Last year's election proved how groups of voters
16 can be systematically denied the right to participate at
17 the high price of our community and indeed our entire state
18 paid for that. This reapportionment process should not
19 make this mistake. We should go out of our way to be fair
20 and inclusive.

21 I urge the committee to set forth public criterias of
22 how districts should be drawn. For example, do not take
23 Susie Kosmas' district from her. Leave it as it is. Leave
24 Joyce Cusack's and add on east of the St. Johns River.
25 Leave Corrine's. Do anything you want to do to John

1 Mica's. I don't even know him and I'm supposed to vote for
2 him.

3 Now that was all I wanted to say. But the paper this
4 morning says that the Democrats in Volusia County should
5 lick their wounds. We should have a lollipop. We don't
6 need a lollipop, we got a life and we're going to prove
7 that we don't need lollipops to get a life. So thank you
8 very kindly.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 8.

10 MS. DENYS: Good morning. I am Deborah Denys. I'm
11 from New Smyrna Beach and I am one person, one vote and I
12 help make up part of we the people. In redistricting and
13 reapportionment for new districts we should take into
14 consideration of keeping our communities intact of similar
15 interests, regional interests, economic interests,
16 industry, tourism and agriculture.

17 District boundaries need not be dramatically changed,
18 only that which is necessary to balance the new population
19 requirements and satisfy the statutory requirements,
20 ensuring that districts remain compact and keeping our
21 communities together, our cities intact and contiguous to
22 other cities and counties. Our Congressman John Mica has
23 served his district well over the past decade and we would
24 like to see him continue serving this area.

25 Our Congressman John Mica has well represented our

1 interests, has achieved seniority and key transportation
2 infrastructure committees as well as chairman of the
3 subcommittee on aviation. And he has worked hard in our
4 area to meet our future transportation needs by promoting a
5 much needed regional commuter rail system to serve our
6 residents.

7 A change in representation now would result in serious
8 setbacks to these projects. We need continuity of
9 representation such as Congressman Mica has demonstrated
10 through service to all of his constituents and to see
11 completion of these efforts. And in closing, I appreciate
12 and I like this open process to we the people.

13 I appreciate your time, your attention, your concerns
14 of listening to the citizens before the Legislature draws
15 the map. I also like the software for folks like me
16 because I understand it's user friendly. It allows
17 citizens to be part of an active part of this process, a
18 continuing part of the process. Never before in the
19 history of the state of Florida has the process of
20 redistricting and reapportionment been so continually
21 accessible and open to we the people and I thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 9.

23 MR. KRITZER: I'm John Kritzer from Daytona Beach. I
24 represent CHAIN, Communication Health Action Information
25 Network. I'm a commissioner on the Daytona Beach Housing

1 Authority and live in zip code 32114 in Volusia County.
2 It's a privilege -- I have the privilege to be retired so I
3 could be here this morning at 10:00. Because, Mr. Chair,
4 most of the residents in my area, in this area, work. They
5 cannot afford to take off time to come to these
6 redistricting hearings. Why are they not held in the
7 evenings where more working people and working class people
8 could be here?

9 You only have four meetings in the whole state listed
10 in the evenings. You done did two of them, you only got
11 two left for the rest of this state. Why don't you have
12 the meetings in the evenings when they are equal to
13 everybody to have a chance to come? So -- everybody is not
14 as fortunate, as many people here are retired, can come
15 out. And the hearing times have been changed.

16 Another thing I'd like to ask about, Are you going to
17 have any public meetings after you draw the districts
18 before you go into legislation? If not, why? So people
19 can see and make comments on the districts you draw. I'd
20 like you-all to take a serious consideration about
21 rescheduling some of the other district meetings in the
22 evening to give a fair chance to everybody having a chance
23 to speak before you. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 10.

25 MR. McNATT: Are you asking for 10?

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Yes.

2 MR. McNATT: You know, our friend Frank Kinsley said
3 he was sorry his wife wasn't here to actually testify that
4 he is number one, I'm a perfect ten. (Laughter.)

5 I do appreciate all of you coming here today to listen
6 to people from Volusia County and hear their opinions
7 regarding reapportionment. We've heard of John Mica's
8 excellent representation of his district. In fact, we have
9 three members of Congress representing Volusia County. In
10 one respect that gives Volusia County more representation
11 than we might have if we had only one representative. So
12 there are some good points in -- to maintain the present
13 lines as best they may be.

14 I happen to live in John Mica's district. I certainly
15 hope that his district is not substantially changed. I
16 recognize that some changes must be made because it's
17 overpopulated. However, if that can be maintained, that's
18 excellent. Insofar as the Senate and Legislative lines, I
19 agree with my friend Dave Smith, county boundaries, other
20 good dividing lines such as rivers or streams are important
21 and should be maintained so that our citizens and our
22 legislators know where their constituency is. Again, I
23 appreciate your listening to us. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 11.

25 MS. MUNGEN: Good morning. I'm Juanita Mungen. I

1 represent the resident initiative and I'm also a member of
2 the chain. Have a few concerns I would like to share with
3 you today. We want to urge you to consider adopting
4 standards of fairness before you begin the process of
5 redrawing the political lines to determine our elected
6 state in Congress leadership for the next ten years. Such
7 standards should include, at the very least interest, meet
8 all legal and constitutional requirements and be as intact
9 as possible. Protect the voting rights from minorities
10 throughout the state and in our community. The district
11 lines should respect the interests of the community and not
12 divide up neighborhoods that represents special needs and
13 cultures.

14 Citizen access to the redistricting process is so
15 important and that is why we are grateful for you being
16 here today. However, it is hard for working people to
17 attend daytime hearings. Will there be transcripts or
18 reports following the public hearing for the citizens and
19 will we be able to see the maps that you decide on and
20 comment on them? Do you plan on scheduling more hearings
21 throughout the state? Will there be forms after the maps
22 are drawn to allow citizens' response.

23 It would be difficult for most of us to travel to
24 Tallahassee so we hope you will schedule these public
25 meetings in different regions of the state.

1 Finally, the redistricting process is one of the most
2 important responsibility of the Legislature. We trust you
3 will abide by standards of fairness and pay attention to
4 the people who live in communities that will be the least
5 informed and their community of interest. It is how they
6 will be affected by the new political boundaries. Thank
7 you for your interest and we hope to see the final maps.
8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 12 is a
10 duplicate. Number 13. Thirteen. Number 14.

11 MR. COFFIELD: Hi, I'm Jim Coffield and thank you very
12 much for coming today and listening to us. I spent 23
13 years in the Air Force and serving my country and thank you
14 very much for serving our county, our state and our United
15 States.

16 I got a ditto on just about what everybody else said
17 here. And I know you're probably going to hear this and
18 hear this and hear this. All I'm asking for is fairness.
19 Fairness means a lot to all of us because we elected you,
20 voted for a lot of you. So all we expect out of you is to
21 be very, very fair when this all happens. Some of it may
22 have already happened. I know you go around and you listen
23 to all your citizens. We appreciate your time, your
24 effort. And welcome to the world's most famous beach here
25 and New Smyrna, the safest beach, sort of. (Laughter.)

1 Well, we have a little feeding problem down there. Sorry
2 to bring that up, Suzanne.

3 But we do thank you for coming by and visiting with us
4 today. And when you meet and decide on what you want to
5 do, just think about us here in Volusia County and we thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 15.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: Members of the committee, friends,
9 neighbors, my name is Richard Martinez and I'm from
10 Edgewater in Volusia County and I'm very disappointed in
11 the format of this process. The public is in the dark
12 regarding the Legislature's leadership plans on
13 redistricting. I'm told a Republican on the committee has
14 seen a draft of the redistricting plan but three Democrats
15 I've talked to on the committee say they have not.

16 We can only hope that once the new maps are released
17 we can again meet with you here in Daytona Beach where the
18 public will have an opportunity to comment. Let me comment
19 on the process our county used to achieve its
20 redistricting. During the process of public hearings the
21 county committee, through an iterative process, created
22 several maps, the number of which kept increasing as the
23 process worked its way.

24 Finally these maps were distilled to two or three
25 competing but consensus choices. The council finally voted

1 six to one for the plan which is being adopted. I see none
2 of that consensus building or iterative process which is so
3 vital to the public's well-being and trust.

4 I suggest you consider our county's model otherwise
5 we've missed an opportunity to have a dialog with the
6 committee today. Instead, it's going to be a monologue by
7 the public. I hope the committee will consider some of our
8 needs in Volusia County. First, Volusia County has been
9 dissected into three congressional districts. None of
10 these districts have any real community of interest with
11 Volusia. Volusia County by virtue of its population
12 deserves its own congressional district. We have more in
13 common with Flagler and Brevard than we have with Nassau or
14 Duval or even Seminole Counties.

15 Second, House District 26 not only has the contiguity
16 required but also has a historic association that has no
17 association beyond the St. Johns River. It also has
18 virtually no deviation which would dictate that it be left
19 intact. It should be left intact. Many of our citizens
20 would be disturbed if this district were changed.

21 Last but not least, Senate District 16 needs to be
22 expanded. I hope this expansion will be to include more
23 Volusians and not dissect other counties and cause loss of
24 compactness and community interest. Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 16.

1 MS. COOPER: Good morning, everyone, thank you for
2 coming and welcome to Volusia County. I appreciate the
3 opportunity to speak with you. My name is Karla Cooper. I
4 have to say Karla with a K. Longtime resident of southeast
5 Volusia County. I'm the Republican state committee woman
6 and I'm also Southeast Volusia Chamber of Commerce
7 Ambassador.

8 We need to commend all of you for the fact that you
9 are here to listen to the people before you start drawing
10 any maps. Thank you for that. I believe that's true and I
11 know it's true. I believe we can best be represented by
12 the redistricting process using county lines as borders,
13 keeping intact communities and cities and regions of
14 similar interests such as tourism, and agriculture and
15 industrial and economical. An elected representative
16 should not be severely handicapped by an extreme variety of
17 counties and interests in their district because these
18 discrepancies handicap citizens who deserve full
19 representation. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 17.

21 MS. GLUZ: Good morning. I'm Dory Gluz and I started
22 the United Parents for Kids. I also am a part of many,
23 many different organizations here including CIAC. I speak
24 mostly for myself on this but I think it's really important
25 that we begin to look at what happened in the election

1 time. We were laughed at. We're still being laughed at.
2 I heard a joke this morning about the election. It's time
3 Florida stopped being laughed at.

4 I really think that we have an opportunity with the
5 redistricting to make us to be -- say, Hey, we're really
6 progressive. We are going to draw lines that are fair.
7 We're going to make sure that our districts represent
8 everyone, everybody is equally represented and have the
9 ability to vote. One of the problems that -- you know, I'm
10 looking for work now and when I'm looking, I'm told, you
11 have to put down -- you don't have to, they ask that you do
12 it -- your race. So we can have equal representation if
13 we're getting Federal money so that we have -- minorities
14 are equally represented just as well as Caucasians are and
15 I applaud that.

16 It may bother me sometimes and I may not get a job but
17 I think that's the way it should be. Why shouldn't our
18 elections and our Congress and legislations be the same? I
19 think that's one of the important things we need to do. I
20 think we all need to have that chance to vote. We all have
21 to be represented by people that understand where we are
22 coming from.

23 As an advocate for parents with children with mental,
24 emotional, behavioral disorders, I know what it's like when
25 I try to talk to somebody that's not been there. And I

1 think you have to remember that in your districts and when
2 you're drawing your lines. And as an individual, there is
3 a fairness statement out that I've seen which is drawn up
4 by a number of coalitions and it's the bipartisan effort to
5 promote standards and fairness in redrawing of lines and I
6 support that as an individual. And I think that's one of
7 the main things that we need to do. Let's bring Florida
8 and give Florida the name it deserves and be proud of it.
9 I am proud to be a Floridian. I moved down here in 1980
10 and I love this state and I hope that we can change the
11 dynamics and the stories that are going on about our state.
12 So thank you very much for your kind attention.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 18.

14 MR. PARM: Good morning. My name is Bill Parm and I
15 live in Fort Orange and I'm a member of the American
16 Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. I
17 want to thank this committee for holding this public
18 hearing. I would note however that you are holding the
19 vast majority of your hearings during the middle of the
20 workday which is not convenient for the working public to
21 attend. I would ask as this process moves forward you
22 strive to make it more open and more accessible and that
23 all information is easily available to the public.

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

1 leadership will be helpful. I'm also concerned that most
2 accurate census data be used during the redistricting
3 process. News reports indicate that over 200,000
4 Floridians were missed by the 2000 census and we know that
5 minority groups are disproportionately represented in the
6 undercount.

7 Since Florida was one of only four states to not
8 provide precinct level data to the Census Bureau, I would
9 suggest that to compensate for these possible attendant
10 problems, the Legislature consider utilizing adjusted
11 census data which is more representative of the minority
12 populations. I would hope that as legislation begins the
13 redrawing process, that you would honor traditionally
14 redistricting principles such as keeping together
15 communities of interest.

16 A case in point is Congressional District 3. Many of
17 us in the Daytona Beach area have come to the understanding
18 that this linking with a proportion of the Jacksonville and
19 Orlando communities not only gives a minority/majority
20 voice but also connects communities that have historical,
21 cultural, and educational connections.

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

1 communities united in their interests.

2 We hope that you will not attempt to pack minorities
3 into a few districts thus reducing the ability to have an
4 influence on other districts or basically fragment minority
5 communities in a way that slices them up and alienate them
6 from their potential power.

7 The Supreme Court had explicitly held that the State
8 may not draw lines based on race. What data will the
9 committee rely on in drawing its redistricting plan? If
10 you rely only on census block data then the only
11 information is the race of the voter. Precinct levels --
12 the precinct level data to the Census Bureau will -- who
13 will be checking on this process to be sure the decision
14 will follow the law and not be in violation of the 1963
15 Civil Rights Act?

16 It's great that you have scheduled these hearings
17 throughout the state. Personally, I've known many others
18 that would have liked to come here today, but could not
19 have gotten off work. Will they have access to testimony
20 of the hearing? Also, will the public have opportunities
21 to respond to the map after they are drawn? We did not see
22 any hearings scheduled after you decide on a final map. If
23 you only allow comments during the comment session it will
24 restrict most of the citizens who are working and can't
25 afford to travel. And thank you for coming to Daytona

1 reflects their interest. We would urge you to keep these
2 basic communities of interest together, Congressional
3 District 3. Workers recognize this need for a voice. And
4 as you heard in your Jacksonville hearing, business
5 interests also recognize the connection, acknowledge
6 economic growth as a byproduct. Thank you for the
7 opportunity to testify.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 19.

9 MR. ADAMS: Good morning. My name is Larry Adams.
10 I'm a civil rights activist -- my name is Larry Adams. I'm
11 a civil rights activist. I'm also known as the guy who
12 started the use of DNA in a criminal case, first guy ever
13 to use it. Okay. A lot of you know me. I won't call your
14 names. Representative Brown and Representative Cusak and
15 Senator Locke Burt I've been to your offices quite a few
16 times. And it's no wonder I haven't been charged with
17 stalking or something.

18 Anyway, Mr. Chairman, and members of the joint
19 redistricting committee thank you for the opportunity to
20 speak today. Along with many others, I support the need
21 for the committee to adopt standards that will ensure that
22 a fair and just redistricting will guide drawings of the
23 final map. Standards of fairness in this process shall
24 honor political subdivisions such as cities, counties, and
25 neighborhoods and be as compact as possible to keep the

1 Beach. We hope to have another chance to speak after the
2 maps are drawn.

3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 20.

4 MS. MACON-ADAMS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
5 My name is Katherine Macon. In 1960 -- good morning. My
6 name is Katherine Macon. Gerrymandering is illegal.
7 Drawing lines and putting peoples in sections where there
8 are voters here and voters there is illegal. We don't need
9 these lines, we just need to be treated fairly. Because
10 one thing about it, if we voted you in, we can vote you
11 out. But we want you to be fair. And I have a lot of
12 friends in here, some that is on the Legislature and some
13 that is not. We just want you to treat us fair. And after
14 the lines are drawn, we still have the right to vote.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 21.

16 MR. OUTTERSON: He's going to fix this where you can
17 hear me. I'm John Outterson from De Land, Florida. Let me
18 just say this to start with, my comments will be very
19 biased. All right? I make no apology for it. You know I
20 have so many Democratic friends here. I have to recognize
21 them. And I see Senator King you're between two of them.
22 (Laughter.)

23 I have to say and give you some background. The fact
24 that I'm a Republican, a registered Republican in the state
25 of Florida in 1940s. I've never changed my position but I

1 see so many of you finally seeing the light and I really do
2 appreciate that. And hope some day to see more of you
3 joining in our ranks. And so as a result, when I say I'm
4 going to be biased here, you understand.

5 There is no question that the reconfiguration of the
6 congressional districts presents a number of concerns that
7 are difficult to evaluate. They are the basic
8 considerations, and I'm sure you are aware, such as keeping
9 communities intact and maintaining areas with similar
10 economic and other regional interests together in the same
11 district. Getting elected to high places by some is
12 perceived as a power trip and an opportunity to advance a
13 parochial agenda. Rarely do these elected officials ever
14 return to listen to the people and seek their advice or
15 directions except at election time.

16 When a district is blessed with an individual who has
17 accepted the altruistic role of truly serving people, his
18 constituents want him retained as their representative.
19 Our congressman John L. Mica is such a person. This is why
20 the people of the current Seventh Congressional District
21 want to retain John as their representative. John L. Mica
22 was reelected by nearly 70 percent of the voters in Volusia
23 County during the last election.

24 John, a Republican, has wide and overwhelming support
25 of the people of Volusia County which is quite an

1 MS. CORNETT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.
2 Thank you for coming. I'm Joan Cornett. I'm president of
3 the De Land area Chamber of Commerce and we welcome you to
4 Volusia County. On a personal note, I too am in support of
5 John Mica's district. In his representation for the
6 transportation system it has been paramount in the economic
7 development of our area and the rail system that he's
8 trying to propose through Washington will only help us with
9 our development needs more. So we thank you for your time.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 23.

12 MS. HOLT: Hi, I'm Elaine Holt. I want to make sure
13 I'm in the sunshine. Can you hear me back there? How
14 about this because we haven't been able to hear some of
15 this. I voted in Volusia County for nearly 50 years, seen
16 all manner of reapportionment and I was a little bit
17 confused by Senator Webster's explanation on TV the other
18 night. Although it was good, he didn't really go into
19 whether or not there would be an opportunity for public
20 input after the tentative lines are drawn.

21 This is something I think you really need to look at
22 if you're actually wanting all the public input this time.
23 So I thank you very much. I also represent the statement
24 on fairness which I'm sure you-all will have a copy of
25 later. Thank you.

1 endorsement when you think of the fact that the Democrats
2 are in the majority in Volusia County. This is something
3 of the quality of his representation. John Mica has
4 assembled a staff that is very responsive to all who ask
5 for help.

6 Besides the fine quality of services his office
7 provides, John Mica has a high visibility in the district,
8 looking, asking questions and listening to the people. He
9 seems to be in constant contact with the people. He sends
10 out information sheets, holding town meetings and just
11 being available to us. John has provided the leadership
12 for the cities of east central Florida to work together in
13 developing and supporting a much needed commuter rail
14 system.

15 Mr. Mica exhibits those characteristics that every
16 community wants in their congressional representative:
17 Community leadership, personal assistance, ability to
18 listen and sincerity of purpose. I know that your
19 committee has a difficult task and I know that the district
20 adjustments must be made, but please try to maintain as
21 nearly as possible the current configuration of the Seventh
22 Congressional District so its people will continue to have
23 John L. Mica representing them in Congress. Thank you so
24 much.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 22.

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 24 was withdrawn.
2 Number 25.

3 MS. SWIDERSKI: On my way up here this morning on the
4 3-mile walk from the parking lot, I looked up in the sky
5 and I said, What a beautiful day this is. And, you know,
6 this is how it is every day in Volusia County and thank you
7 for joining us on one of our beautiful days.

8 My name is Mary Swiderski. I'm a commissioner with
9 the city of De Land and I am so pleased to be before this
10 esteemed body because it's very rare that I get to see so
11 many of you in one spot and get to say the same thing to so
12 many of you at the same time. Usually I'm going door to
13 door during session and although you may not see my face,
14 your aides do. And while I'm there, I'm fighting for our
15 city De Land and that's why I'm here today.

16 To be brief about this, De Land asked that when you do
17 the new redistricting that the lines combine the city of
18 De Land, Lake Helen and Cassadaga. These cities are
19 already together in the existing maps. In addition, it
20 would be nice if you included the northwest Volusia. These
21 areas have a common thread about them and it's called
22 history. We have a common sense of community. And we
23 would like that common thought process as our
24 representative.

25 We have been truly blessed by the representation that

1 we have had in both Houses at the state and the national
2 level. Representative Cusack, thank you. Locke Burt has
3 done a wonderful job for us. Mica has come through every
4 time we have asked. And now with Nelson as our Senate
5 representative, he too has come to our beck and call. De
6 Land has been blessed and that is the most important thing,
7 is we don't want to lose that kind of representation and --
8 because those people do understand the quality of life that
9 we want to retain.

10 Thank you very much for your time. And, yes, I am
11 talking about lines and I just hope that you'll appreciate
12 how we want to keep the quality of life in our community by
13 connecting these three plus adding northwest Volusia.
14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 26.

16 MR. BLAKE: Good morning. My name is Weldon Blake and
17 I'm the director of the Political Action Task Force at
18 Bethune-Cookman College. You've heard the presentation by
19 Dr. Jimmy Huger. I will not repeat that. I don't have
20 enough time anyway. What I would like to do though is
21 support what Mr. Huger has said. District 3 has been well
22 represented by Congresswoman Brown. We hope you continue
23 that. We hope the principles of fairness, of one man and
24 one vote finds precedence in your deliberations and that
25 Bethune-Cookman College can continue to have the fine

1 representation it has always enjoyed. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 27.

3 MR. ASHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Bud Asher,
4 mayor of the city of Daytona Beach. I want to take this
5 opportunity to welcome you to our city and thank you for
6 coming in and having your meetings here. And I want to
7 thank all of the members of the Legislature here today for
8 the wonderful support you gave us during the last session
9 on several matters that were vitally important to the
10 future of this city. And of course, as of next session
11 around the corner, you'll see me again and I hope we can
12 count on everybody's support as we move to bring Amtrack
13 back to all the cities on the east coast of Florida without
14 train transportation.

15 So I'll be over there and we appreciate all the
16 courtesies you've extended me over the years. Today I want
17 to talk just a little bit about how the city of Daytona
18 Beach City Commission feels about this issue as far as
19 congressional representation is concerned. We have three
20 people in the House side of Congress representing us. It's
21 a bipartisan group and they have all been extremely
22 responsive to everything I've ever taken to Washington.
23 They have been free with their time. They've arranged
24 meetings. They've arranged breakfast luncheons always to
25 hear what our needs are and they've always been supportive

1 of everything that's taken place here.

2 We have the ability to have several different matters
3 that come before the House handled by the fact that we have
4 three people representing us there and not just one. So
5 the Daytona Beach City Commission is unanimous in feeling
6 we don't want to change that. We feel like we do about you
7 people who represents us in the Legislature. We like what
8 we got there, with a great bipartisan representation we
9 have there, with the support, and certainly the attention
10 we get with all the matters affecting the city of Daytona
11 Beach.

12 When we had the matter affecting the armed services'
13 committee, Representative Crenshaw was right there to help
14 us. When we had a redeveloping issue talking place in his
15 district, he's there to help us. We have two major
16 transportation issues that are being handled both by
17 Representative Brown and Representative Mica. We had major
18 transportation and airport issues that have been handled
19 very effectively by Representative Mica. When we had Storm
20 Gordon here, Representative Brown was right there walking
21 through the water up to our knees looking at ways to solve
22 that problem and help those people.

23 And all these people have been helpful on everything
24 from the Atlantic Ocean to the western boundary of Volusia
25 County, not just any particular part of it, they've all

1 worked to help us do things that were better for the city.
2 Do we want the community to representing us? Without
3 question. We all want you to work for fairness and I have
4 great faith that you will do that. However, as elected
5 officials, I think it's always important for us to look at
6 that good piece of advice that we all need to follow in
7 representing the people. If it's not broke, don't fix it.
8 Thank you so very, very much.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 28.

10 MR. WILDER: I tell you, that Bud Asher and Jimmy
11 Huger are always two hard acts to follow anywhere you go to
12 talk. I remember when Bud Asher came to New Smyrna Beach
13 back in the early '70s he took those losing Barracoutas of
14 ours down there and turned them into champion teams for
15 about three years including West Chandler, big all-star
16 University of Florida Gators and on into the New Orleans
17 Saints and all.

18 Anyway, I want to thank all of you. Senator Webster,
19 my own representative, Suzanne Kosmas, all of you here from
20 Tallahassee, for coming on our home turf today to give us a
21 chance of having input and feelings as you begin to
22 deliberate on this reapportionment period coming up. It's
23 going to be difficult for you in a lot of ways, I know.
24 This population growth and shift, try to set it over. And
25 when you're through, and always, you'll never please all of

1 us, we know that.

2 But anyway, for the record, I'm going to read a
3 letter. This, what I say today, I'm going to follow up to
4 both the House and the Senate committees. I'll mail this
5 to you up in Tallahassee so you'll have it as I'm giving it
6 today.

7 For the record, my name is T.C. Wilder, Jr. I'm a
8 resident of New Smyrna Beach, county of Volusia. A
9 graduate of New Smyrna Beach High School, class of 1948.
10 Involved with the Barracoutas, in that period. And I've
11 been very active in southeast Volusia activities throughout
12 most of my adult life down there in many ways.

13 While president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1965,
14 the chamber on the recommendation incorporation of East
15 Central Florida Regional Planning Council initiated a
16 strong effort to establish a national seashore to the beach
17 area south of New Smyrna Beach. After ten years, Canaveral
18 National Seashore became a reality in January 1975 when
19 then president Gerald Ford signed the act creating the
20 seashore. It covers over 57,000 acres of land and is being
21 preserved in a natural pristine, undeveloped state along
22 with the numerous and historic values of the seashore.

23 I'm leading up to something involving -- I'm here as
24 Jimmy Huger talked for Corine Brown, I'm a Democrat but
25 I'm talking of Congressman Mica because he's been such a

1 help to us in many ways you heard today. And one of the
2 values it will have down there is what we call the State
3 House pictorial museum within the seashore. It's located
4 in the former turn-of-the-century riverboat community known
5 as Eldora which is located on a barrier separating the
6 Atlantic Ocean with Ski Lagoon (phonetic) just south, if
7 you know a landmark, from the 1500 to Turtle Mount.

8 In 1989, a group of southeast Volusia people organized
9 Friends of Canaveral which I represent in this presentation
10 today as well as myself of course. The Friends are joining
11 the National Park Service in a cooperative effort to
12 renovate one of our homes into a history museum for park
13 visitors. After securing several grants and local fund
14 raising efforts we found we were still short close to
15 \$200,000 for our \$400,000 plus project.

16 This was soon solved when brought to the attention of
17 our Congressman John Mica in the Seventh District. He was
18 able to get a congressional budget appropriation for the
19 Park Service budget back in 1998. And today park visitors
20 in many parts of the nation and world have visited this
21 site and we have to give him credit because we'd probably
22 still be trying to raise funds if he didn't come to help
23 because we had been doing that for close to ten years and
24 had just reached the halfway mark.

25 Another historic site within --

1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Twenty seconds. If you'll wrap up.

2 MR. WILDER: Let me do it quickly. I'll read it
3 quick. You'll have to give me 30. Among the historic
4 sites --

5 THE COURT REPORTER: You have to slow down. I can't
6 understand you.

7 MR. WILDER: -- plan to renovate and preserve two
8 historic buildings on Indian Mound and Seminole Rest. He's
9 also got \$600,000 coming up with us right now. And I want
10 to -- I'll move right quick there. I'll talk real quick.

11 We're tied in so much with -- our part of the county
12 now with Seminole County. Those people since the early
13 1900s have beach cottages have lived with us and worked
14 with us and on down into Orlando in many ways. And
15 Orlando's Sanford airport is a growing airport. And a lot
16 of park tourists, European tourists are coming in from
17 Germany, France, England, and they'll also come to New
18 Smyrna Beach. And it's worthwhile to us that we remain a
19 part and you see that we stay within the part of
20 Congressman Mica's Seventh District. We've been hearing
21 rumors we're going to be transferred early part of the
22 years to Titusville's district down there. And locally
23 I'll say this just is not kosher. We don't want it. All
24 our values are tied up to this area. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: We're going to take a five minute

1 break for our court reporter to have a little rest.

2 (Brief recess.)

3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. We're ready. Number 29,
4 you're recognized.

5 MR. STAED: Good morning. Can you hear me in the
6 back? Can you hear me back there? I'm Tom Staed. I'm a
7 businessman in the community, try to be active in the city,
8 in the county, and the state. And as shown earlier,
9 Volusia County has slightly over 440,000 people, citizens
10 and registration -- try it again.

11 Volusia has slightly over 440,000 citizens.
12 Registration shows slightly more Democrats than Republicans
13 with independent voters growing rapidly. We presently have
14 three House members and one Senator plus some small parts
15 represented by various other legislators. All of the House
16 seats have bounced around from Democratic officeholders to
17 Republican in the past 20 years as has our primary Senate
18 seat. Sounds somewhat like my voting record and party
19 registration over that time.

20 Our county political registration is fairly even,
21 growing number of Independents. So an Independent
22 legislator is not out of the question which is sort of an
23 interesting possibility. Seems to be very logical that
24 Volusia should continue to have a Senator primarily
25 representing Volusia County. Logic also indicates that we

1 should have three House seats. Presently we have excellent
2 people like Senator King and Representative Wiles and
3 others representing small portions of our county.

4 With the skill and vigor that they have shown in the
5 past, they have been very helpful to our citizens as has
6 Representative Mica on the congressional scene. It seems
7 imminently fair and equitable to keep three House seats in
8 Volusia. All these seats really need is tweaking for
9 population changes. Basically they are working and
10 shouldn't be really changed.

11 It also seems fair and equitable to have one Senate
12 seat entirely based in Volusia County representing most of
13 our county. This will come closest to one person, one vote
14 in our county and that's what we think will best serve the
15 citizens and voters in Volusia. And that's all voters, the
16 Democrats, the Republicans and the Independents. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 30.

19 MR. HARPER: It's a little low, but we'll work with
20 it. That's fine. Good morning still. My name is James
21 Harper and I represent so many people. Obviously I'm black
22 and I'm 30-something, closer to 40 but who's counting. But
23 what you don't see is that -- and I'm also a graduate of
24 the University of Florida, class of '84. I worked in the
25 media for about 20 years but I also know what it's like to

1 be dealing with an addiction. I also know what it's like
2 being caught up in the system. Having said all that, I
3 still represent so many people but today I represent
4 myself.

5 Discrimination is alive and well in Tallahassee,
6 blacks against whites, white against black, Republican
7 against Democrat, and Democrat against Republican. What
8 does this have to do with redistricting? It appears that
9 once again legislators will be drawing districts,
10 predominantly Republican or predominantly Democratic.
11 They're also drawing them mostly white or mostly black.

12 The predominantly, notice I didn't say "majority,"
13 Republican and Democratic zones have been going on probably
14 since the creation of the two parties. But these mostly
15 black and white zones are becoming increasingly the
16 standard. I can see that ten years ago this was probably a
17 necessary evil, that is the black and white majority zones.

18 There are not enough minorities being elected to go to
19 Tallahassee. Now, what does this say? Does it say whites
20 will not vote for the most qualified candidate because he
21 or she is not white? That blacks will only vote for
22 blacks? Or even worse, that blacks choose not to vote?
23 Unfortunately there is a little truth in all of the above.

24 In 2001, should you have to continue drawing districts
25 that are dominated by one race or one way of thinking,

1 districts should be drawn representative of the state.
2 Last year's presidential election showed that approximately
3 50 percent supported the Democratic candidate and
4 50 percent the Republican candidate. Admittedly said, it
5 is obvious to tell who will vote Republican or Democratic
6 according to the racial makeup of the zones you draw.

7 Blacks and other minorities supported these
8 predominantly black districts ten years ago. Ten years
9 later you should not. Elected officials should be
10 accountable to all, blacks, whites, Democrats and
11 Republicans. If only one group of folks is voting in a
12 certain zone, only that group will benefit. As you move
13 forward into the new millennium, I would like to see the
14 day happen that candidates are voted on not by the color of
15 their skin or their political persuasion.

16 I would like to see candidates not always vote along
17 party lines. Blacks and Hispanics need a voice in all
18 districts. We should not all be lumped into one. Black
19 and white candidates should represent their constituents,
20 not their parties. To continue designing districts along
21 party lines and according to race benefits no one.
22 Democrats, wake up, you are still the minority in both
23 houses. Republicans, be fair. Draw districts not to your
24 advantage but to the advantage of all, I say all
25 Floridians.

1 The road may be rough at first for new politicians
2 regardless of their race or party. The time has come for
3 elected officials to earn their seat. Representative
4 Cusack proved it can be done, winning in a seat that has
5 always been held by a white male and recently by one who is
6 Republican. She is a Democrat. Others can do it in
7 districts with a similar makeup with the help of their
8 parties and an effort put out to win by the candidate.

9 A postscript: We learned how important one vote can
10 make a difference in an election. The time is now for you
11 to stop discriminating against those who should have the
12 right to vote but don't. I'm talking about ex-fellows.
13 Ex-fellows deserve their right to vote. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 31.

15 MR. DANLEN: Good morning. My name is Bob Danlen. I
16 live in Ormond by the Sea. And I come as an individual to
17 talk about one specific thing. You've heard a lot of
18 generalities. And if you don't mind, I'm going to speak
19 about one very specific situation because that's what I'm
20 concerned about. I'm talking about Florida House District
21 No. 27 and I'm talking specifically about the northeast
22 boundary of that district.

23 There is a narrow little sliver of land between the
24 Intracoastal and the ocean. For whatever reason, ten years
25 ago that line was drawn, that northeastern boundary line,

1 was drawn down in Ormond Beach which leaves a sliver of
2 land, a lot of people crammed into that sliver of land, but
3 we who live there are almost disenfranchised. So I come to
4 appeal to logic and common sense. Those of us who live
5 there have no relationship in demographics or in probably
6 most any other way with those who are in, to the north,
7 District 20, in Flagler County.

8 So logic and common sense would say why take -- why
9 keep this sliver of land which is in Volusia, we shop in
10 Volusia, we work in Volusia, we do everything in Volusia,
11 we do nothing in Flagler. In fact, to the north of us, is
12 about 10 miles of scrubland where there is lot of scrub
13 jays and a lot of small critters, but there is no people.

14 So why logically and with an appeal to common sense
15 should you want to keep that sliver of land up in Flagler
16 County which is completely separated from that area. So I
17 ask that you consider moving that line, the northeast
18 section, the northeast line of House District 27. Common
19 sense and logic would say, Move it to the county line and
20 that would enable us then to be with our friends and
21 neighbors and everyone whom we know in eastern Volusia
22 County which is where we belong. So thank you very much.
23 Thank you for coming.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 32. Number 33.
25 MS. SCARLETT-GOLDEN: Good morning. My name is Yvonne

1 Scarlett-Golden. I'm a city commissioner in Daytona Beach,
2 Florida. I'm a retired educator of 38 years and I'm a
3 voter. That's the most important thing and someone would
4 say, Well, isn't that redundant. If you're a commissioner,
5 I'm sure you're a voter. Sometimes I wonder.

6 I'm here to speak and to highlight the needs of
7 Volusia County and more specifically Daytona Beach,
8 Florida. The minority community in and around Daytona
9 Beach is extremely concerned about the upcoming
10 redistricting process. First, we want to ensure that we
11 will have an opportunity to provide input after a plan is
12 on the table. I commend you for coming today but then I
13 question you about the reversal developmental level of this
14 process. We are speaking to a plan that we don't know
15 anything about and that plan has not been discussed.

16 I challenge you, I encourage you to kindly come back,
17 come back after a plan has been put on the table to give
18 the voters and give the people an opportunity to speak to
19 that plan. When you redraw the political lines you are
20 really determining the balance of political power in the
21 state. You control the lines on the map and therefore you
22 control who has access to power and who does not.

23 The African-American community has had to overcome
24 numerous obstacles to get to the point where we are.
25 Certainly we don't want to engage in anything in the

1 reverse of that. We must continue to be able to choose a
2 candidate of our choice. We should not be rendered
3 political insignificant. You control those lines, ladies
4 and gentlemen. You must get the numbers to place them
5 where they belong. You have that awesome power and that
6 awesome responsibility.

7 We would like to set forth a few key principles.
8 First, the African-American community and the community in
9 Daytona, Volusia County has worked hard to achieve a level
10 of power and influence in Daytona, in Tallahassee, and in
11 Washington, D.C. and that power must not be diluted.

12 Second, your redistricting plan must comply with the
13 Voting Rights Act which means that these plans may not
14 reduce our influence, may not pack or fragment minority
15 workers, may not result in less political power than we
16 have today. And must allow our community to elect the
17 candidate of our choice. Unless the lines are drawn in a
18 way to protect the rights of community -- minority
19 communities and communities with similar interests, they
20 will not have access to power. I speak very strongly that
21 you consider not to touch Districts 26 and 28.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thirty seconds.
23 MS. SCARLETT-GOLDEN: Thank you, sir. The Third
24 Congressional District is another important district that
25 we are concerned about. Congresswoman Brown has been a

1 dynamic advocate for the needs and concerns of communities
2 and citizens throughout District 3. Congresswoman Brown is
3 competent, she is productive and effective, always being
4 visible, accessible, and responsive in all of her workings
5 with us in the county. I thank you very much for the time
6 and I encourage you to be as fair as possible. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 34.
8 MR. ACOSTA: My name is Jesse Acosta. I live in Port
9 Orange. I'm a registered Republican as you can see and I
10 vote. And I also send nasty E-mail to the politicians who
11 don't -- I don't do it just to my Representative, I do it
12 statewide and I do it nationwide. Redistricting I see was
13 done for Volusia County as basically a protection for the
14 existing politicians. I suggest then to use where the
15 population is concentrated and the natural barriers to
16 determine the districts. However, this is the same thing
17 I'm suggesting to you because it's a fair way of doing it.
18 Usually population becomes homogenous in the areas where
19 they concentrate and the Representatives come from those
20 areas. That's all I've got to say.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 35.
22 MS. SLATER: Good morning. My name is Cynthia Slater
23 and I'm president of the Daytona Beach/Volusia County
24 branch of the NAACP. I'm here for two reasons this
25 morning. First and foremost, to address the rights of all

1 citizens to be actively involved in the redistricting
2 process. And second to make sure the process of
3 redistricting is fair.

4 The NAACP is committed to a redistricting process that
5 ensures that all Floridians have an opportunity to elect
6 candidates of their choice to legislative bodies. We
7 believe that the legislative and congressional
8 redistricting process must be open to full participation by
9 representatives of all groups reflected in the demographic
10 makeup of the Legislature and the State. By having this
11 hearing at 10:00 a.m. this morning does not give most
12 people that work between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. an
13 opportunity to participate in this process.

14 As stated in a report from the Advancement Project,
15 drawing the lines giving minority communities a voice in
16 redistricting, the purpose of redistricting should be to
17 ensure equal representation for all Americans, that means
18 every American should have an opportunity to elect someone
19 they feel represents them and their community. The right
20 to vote should not be a matter of simply casting a ballot
21 at election time. It should be an opportunity for
22 communities to have their voices heard in the election
23 process and to elect that individual who they feel will
24 best represent the needs of their community.

25 It should provide an opportunity to recognize

1 traditional, underrepresented communities by drawing
2 district lines in a way that keeps these communities
3 together and gives them a voice. We do not want to see
4 entire communities or areas of this state cut out of this
5 process. Throughout history, people that make up rural and
6 urban communities' minorities and the poor have been
7 controlled due to outright racial discrimination or efforts
8 to protect various partisan interests.

9 Electoral districts are mis-shaped to either exploit
10 or deny minority voters an opportunity to elect the
11 representatives of their choice. The huge price paid for
12 these political tactics has been decades of denying
13 minority communities the chance to have our voices heard
14 and to make our voices count. This past election proved
15 how groups of voters can be systemically denied the right
16 to participate in the election process. The truth is that
17 unfair district lines are often drawn to disenfranchise
18 minority voters. We want to be assured that the
19 redistricting effort gives us an opportunity to put the
20 needs of our community before the political ambitions of
21 partisan groups.

22 Also, we will not allow partisan strategies to dilute
23 minority voting strength in any way by packing minorities
24 into a single district or by packing minority voters among
25 several districts. This would take away our voices and

1 render us politically impotent. It is our hope that this
2 committee's concern is not how the district looks but if
3 the districts are fair, do they meet the needs of the
4 community and do they provide equal representation for all
5 Americans.

6 There is a diverse group of advocacy organizations
7 from various political viewpoints and from various
8 geographical areas who demand fairness in the redistricting
9 process. We believe that Congresswoman Corrine Brown has
10 served the needs of all in Daytona Beach and we want to
11 keep her as our representative. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for coming. Number 36.

13 MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Honorable Chairman,
14 committee on districting, I'm Carl Reynolds, 1630 North
15 Stone Street, De Land, Florida. I'm an 81-year veteran
16 here in the county of Volusia. First I want to thank
17 you-all for taking your time, making the effort to bring
18 this to the public. I also want to thank every citizen
19 that attended this today because it tells me that there's
20 great concern for government. Who is government? Look in
21 the mirror. It's your government. You pay for it, so take
22 an interest in it.

23 On the redistricting, I repeat again, I'm here on the
24 interest of public interest for redistricting. I've seen a
25 lot of them come and go, we like that. Some good, one bad

1 now and then. But I can tell you and I say to you that I
2 have the confidence and the respect for the state of
3 Florida. I'll support the state of Florida, the Sunshine
4 State, defend it in all of its deference. We have to get
5 out and get them by the apple of the neck once in awhile,
6 but the public does that and that's what these hearings are
7 for.

8 In this district redistricting I toured the central
9 Florida area about three times in the last six months. I
10 see Putnam County, I see St. Johns and Flagler progressing
11 very, very rapidly, lots of increase in population. On
12 across into Marion County, Marion County on into Sumpter,
13 Jessup, Hernando, Lake County. Talked to Ed Halver
14 (phonetic) the other day who said he's going to have to put
15 on some extra employees for new homes, new condos, and what
16 have you. It's all progressing.

17 They are all coming to Florida just as fast as they
18 can throw their snowplow and snow shovel in the junkyard.
19 They want to come to Florida and I'm not opposed to them
20 coming to Florida but it's important that we redistrict in
21 an area in a way that we can secure and protect all
22 Floridians, all Floridians. John Mica, I'm going to say an
23 extra word for John Mica. I've known John Mica for 35
24 years and I'm hopeful and prayerful that this committee and
25 the state of Florida as well as the Federal government will

1 use the guideline and the direction to keep John Mica in
2 there.

3 I'm not going to ask anybody or tell anybody where to
4 throw your net, but when you throw the net, throw your net
5 and stretch it a little here and draw it a little there but
6 keep Mica in his district he now has. Also cultivate a
7 proper addition of the two new congressmen to do the job
8 with justice, with ethics and equitable on behalf of all
9 Floridians. I thank you very much and God bless you.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing.
11 Number 37. Number 38. Number 39.

12 MR. BAILEY: Good morning, my name is Wayne Bailey.
13 I'm a professor of political science at Stetson University
14 in De Land and one who is very interested in this process.
15 It goes back to the 1960s when my mentor, Menning Dyre,
16 (phonetic) of the University of Florida was mandated by the
17 three-judge Federal district court to draw the legislative
18 boundaries that really have brought you here today. He
19 took an old Texaco road map and a Publix box and pasted it
20 on the living room floor of his home and out of that came
21 the modern Florida House and Senate which again has spawn
22 all that has brought us here today.

23 What I'm here to do is to say a couple of things
24 mainly to want to be a part of the process and to record my
25 excitement at what's happening. One is to recognize that

1 we have decided at least at this point that this is a
2 political process. Some of us would like to change to a
3 reapportionment commission or some other form but we are
4 not in that. We know that you will make political
5 decisions you will have to make. We know that you are
6 caught between the cross pressures of incumbents, of
7 regions, of race, of ethnicity, of party. And you will
8 have to balance that.

9 We know that the Supreme Court has worked out some of
10 this. We don't argue about numbers as we did in the '60s.
11 Now it's all about gerrymandering. And I guess the
12 challenge for us who are really citizens is to ask you
13 since it's political, to seek a maximum transparency. I've
14 heard that said numerous ways this morning. In order to
15 win the public trust -- we're not going to all agree on it,
16 but the public trust and acceptance of the outcome, it
17 needs to be transparent. Regardless of where you are,
18 please be transparent to the maximum.

19 It would be a great tragedy if the Federal courts of
20 the United States had to decide all or most of the critical
21 elements of our Florida state reapportionment as has
22 happened at times in the past. I hope whatever our
23 disagreements that all of us could say that we will, as
24 Floridians in the state governmental process, do our thing
25 politically, make it happen and make it happen in a highly

1 transparent fashion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 40.

3 MS. MERRELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of
4 the distinguished committee. And, yes, you've seen me in
5 Ocala, in Tallahassee and in Jacksonville and Orlando last
6 night. My name is Linda Merrell and I reside in Ormond
7 Beach at 599 John Anderson Drive.

8 We shared with you in the past a statement of fairness
9 that you've heard many people here today reference. And at
10 each of the hearings we've been monitoring and listening to
11 the same dialog that you've been hearing -- a monologue I
12 might say. And I think the message is very clear. I
13 wanted to speak to you today briefly about what I heard
14 last night in Orlando. And if I could just pass this to my
15 representative, Evelyn Lynn, who has not been here before.

16 Volusia County was no exception. We did have a
17 redistricting committee and I was hoping that somebody was
18 here today from the committee to speak to the criteria that
19 they established beforehand, not the model that you are
20 choosing to do to take the testimony first and decide on
21 the criteria. But, in fact, they put out criteria first to
22 work from. And although I respect, Mr. Chairman, the fact
23 that we are listening first and establishing that criteria
24 later, it would seem to me we are inviting the public to
25 engage in the map-drawing process and have access to that

1 information but we can't play the game of chess or checkers
2 until we know what the parameters are.

3 And so I would urge you to reconsider that decision
4 and think about adopting some of the criteria. Now last
5 night I did hear people from the county, the city and the
6 school board talk about the criteria they established and
7 invited you to use that data. The fact that they have
8 spent an extraordinary amount of time really looking at the
9 very nuances of each neighborhood and community it would
10 seem to me it would behoove you in your process to really
11 consider and look at the minutes and look at the plans that
12 have come from all the work that's gone on all over the
13 state of Florida not just in Volusia County but in Orange
14 County and others.

15 And apparently some staff in Tallahassee have
16 indicated you'd be willing to look at that. It would be
17 much more direct of what is happening in those communities
18 of interest if you would take that testimony and take those
19 minutes and study them and continue to look at them as you
20 draw the plans. So I wish you the best. And I want to
21 know who is winning the odometer award for driving the most
22 in this committee. Because I think it may be Senator King.
23 He's everywhere and he's in his car.

24 So I wish you the best in your endeavor. It's a
25 challenge. And to follow a distinguished professor,

1 Dr. Bailey, I think he reflects on the history and I hope
2 you will rise to the challenge with integrity to do what is
3 the right thing for the citizens of Florida. Thanks so
4 much.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 41.

6 MR. STEPHENS: Good afternoon. Can everyone hear me?

7 How about that? Good afternoon again. My name is Larry
8 Stephens. I'm a resident of Daytona Beach. I represent
9 Beyond the Walls, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization
10 that's designed to assist persons especially who are
11 residents of low-income communities such as the housing
12 developments here in Daytona Beach. I'm also an MBA and
13 I'm the chief executive officer and chairman of New Regions
14 Management Group, a management consulting firm.

15 What I wanted to share with you is just a few comments
16 regarding fundamental principles and criteria for
17 establishing a fair and just process for redistricting that
18 has probably been repeated throughout your visits to
19 various other communities and also at this forum. What I
20 want to emphasize is we need to protect the rights of
21 minorities and respect the communities -- their communities
22 of interest and preserve the integrity of political
23 subdivisions such as cities, counties, and neighborhoods.
24 And that is what we are basically addressing when we're
25 talking about redistricting.

1 I'd like to focus also for a moment on the use of
2 accurate data and the Price Waterhouse report that, as one
3 of the speakers said previously, that indicates over
4 200,000 people in the state of Florida were undercounted.
5 We know that minority groups were included in that
6 undercount and the census -- which essentially means that
7 areas that are mostly populated by minorities were
8 misrepresented or will be misrepresented. So keep that in
9 mind when you consider your redistricting throughout this
10 process.

11 I would like to ask with that in mind how will the
12 State compensate for this inherent undercount of
13 minorities. Keep in mind that possibly over 200,000
14 minorities were undercounted when the census was taken in
15 the year 2000. And will the Legislature attempt to get the
16 access to the adjusted census data that exists which is
17 more representative of those missed minority populations.

18 And I would also like to suggest the use of precinct
19 data and criteria from the redistricting committee which
20 was used by the county of Volusia to help develop a fair
21 and reasonable plan for this district. As you go forward
22 in this process, keep those things in mind. I hope you
23 also will keep in mind the comments of every person who has
24 come before me and those that will come after me. I thank
25 you for your time. Again, my name is Larry Stephens,

1 S-T-E-P-H-E-N-S. And I thank you for your indulgence.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 42. Number 43.

3 MR. STITCH: I'm a little shorter than the other guy.
4 Chairman Webster, members of the committee. I would like
5 to address something that has not been brought forth at
6 this particular moment and I'm not sure whether or not it's
7 something that you have considered, and that is
8 environmental boundaries. What I'm talking about is the
9 concept of boundaries that go across county lines, go
10 across state lines, and that have an adverse affect, I
11 believe, on the community.

12 Now there are good things that can be happening with
13 the environmental programs. Congressman Mica, in reference
14 to the Seminole Rest, I think is a good thing for the
15 community down there and I'm glad he pulled it off and got
16 it through. But we have something here in Volusia County
17 called Echo that had people now have a tax on their home to
18 buy land that will go across the Volusia County border. It
19 will go across the Florida state boarder. And what happens
20 is that you have communities that are divided.

21 In Volusia County right now with the corridors that
22 are coming down through the center of Volusia County, it
23 will separate the population between the east and the west
24 side of Volusia County just as sure as I'm sitting here.

25 The populations will be concentrated because no

1 development will be allowed outside these environmental
2 boundaries and when you're considering what's going to be
3 the population of a particular county ten years down the
4 road, if you don't take into account the beltway project
5 that goes on in Florida or the covert implementation, if
6 you will, of the wildlands project here in Florida which is
7 funneling populations into very small areas of the state.
8 And those areas will be concentrated with population. And
9 those areas will then be involved in redistricting as well.
10 It will be based on a population situation. And I think
11 that you'd be remiss if you didn't consider the effect of
12 these environmental boundaries on your political boundaries
13 as well.

14 And as a closing comment, I keep hearing the comment
15 about, It's not fair. It's not fair. Well, the world is
16 not fair. But I think we have an obligation to be
17 practical. And practicality does require somebody being
18 upset about something. So personally, my two cents' worth
19 on that. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 44.

21 MR. WARE: Well first off, I'd like to thank everybody
22 for coming out and listening to everything that everybody
23 has to say today. My name is Richard Ware and I'm a
24 resident of Deltona. Deltona has recently become the
25 fourth largest city in east central Florida. It's behind

1 Orlando, Palm Bay, and Melbourne. It is the largest
2 grouping of people in Volusia County. And presently it
3 shares interest, politically with Deltona, De Bary, Orange
4 City and also De Land to some extent.

5 It is also -- that general area is also split between
6 three House districts. The majority of the district is
7 District 26. Then there are a total of 18 precincts which
8 are not within District 26 that are within southwest
9 Volusia County. What we really need to have happen is
10 those precincts be put into the district that presently
11 dominates the area so that those people have a chance to
12 have representation on a whole instead of being lumped in
13 with people from Seminole County or Lake County who have
14 different interests and different needs.

15 I am a, somewhat of a transplanted resident, into
16 Volusia County in that I've only been there about five
17 years. I was living in Seminole County for awhile before
18 that. And I was born and raised in Orange County. And so
19 I understand the differences in what Seminole County needs
20 and what Volusia County needs and I understand the
21 differences in the way the communities and the social inner
22 structures are made up in these communities.

23 And way the districts are laid out now, it doesn't
24 properly represent Deltona, De Bary, Orange City, and
25 De Land when you have the people that live there having to

1 politically try and get things out of someone who has a
2 larger population and a larger number of voters having to
3 answer to them in Seminole County or somewhere else. And
4 that's about all I have to say.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 45.

6 MR. NICHOLSON: My name is John Nicholson. I live in
7 Daytona Beach, Sea Breeze which is on the coast. I'm just
8 a resident. I want to thank you-all for coming in or at
9 least attempting to listen to people and perhaps think
10 outside the box and redraw the districts for the 21st
11 century.

12 Yes, there is a lot of baggage coming from behind, but
13 you really should look at the future. Everybody is aware
14 of the physics changing. The quote, unquote, white male
15 dominance of the past. You may look at me and think of me
16 as a white male but I'm not. White male always represented
17 WAP, White Anglo-Saxon Protestant. They are a minority and
18 right now we are getting away from that concept.

19 I grew up Roman rite. There are 1 billion of us in
20 the nation but yet I'm a minority here. We are
21 discriminated against. Everybody is discriminated against.
22 If you think of it that way, think of the poor Jewish
23 people. They've been going on forever but there's no
24 districts for them.

25 So when you think about it, we are a conglomerate

1 here. I grew up in a neighborhood that was a white
2 neighborhood and virtually nobody was white in the
3 neighborhood. They came from Cairo, Egypt. There were
4 Hindus, there were Muslims and that's 50 years ago in
5 Miami. It was a very diverse neighborhood. The only thing
6 we did not have was African-Americans. But that's okay, we
7 didn't have anybody from Tibet either.

8 So when you draw this, I would rather you draw it from
9 northeast, southwest in large continuous groupings rather
10 than this gerrymandering to make sure everybody is happy.
11 I don't know you-all from a hole in the wall. I know two
12 people here, Evelyn Lynn because she pops up all over the
13 place so I know she represents me. The other is from
14 Jacksonville and she represents only the blacks in our
15 city. Then we were supposed to have some guy from Orlando
16 and then there was another person somewhere in Miami or
17 Tampa or somewhere, because we are divided so far up that
18 we have no idea who we represent. And I go to meetings
19 occasionally but the average person does not know who
20 you-all are or who represents them, especially in Volusia
21 County.

22 So I would ask that when you redraw your districts,
23 think of a couple of things that affect us particularly not
24 necessarily white, black, green, orange, rich or poor. But
25 when you redraw it -- we're having a problem, as the

1 gentleman before me spoke, we had a corridor right down the
2 middle and we have a particular problem with east/west.
3 Deltona is now considered east Orlando. It's not part of
4 Volusia County anymore. And if you redraw us correctly, it
5 will further the problems that we have in our east/west
6 divides.

7 Secondly, I would like you to think in terms of the
8 gerrymandering and taking out the blacks in our area and
9 have them represented by somebody a two-hour drive away.
10 She comes down often but I think it's more divisive than it
11 is helpful.

12 And, third, I would like you to consider at one time
13 Volusia was a very strong diplomatic area. They are
14 politically astute in Florida. It is no longer. The City
15 of Daytona Beach will someday, not too far in the future,
16 will be the seventh smallest city in Volusia County, it's
17 shrinking. Everything around us is growing. And that's
18 part to do with gerrymandering and the way everything is
19 fixed. So think very carefully when you do this about
20 keeping us intact. And instead of dividing us and
21 shrinking us, helping us to grow. Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 46.

23 MS. MOBLEY: Good morning. I'm sorry I kept you
24 waiting for a second. My name is Frances Anne Mobley. I'm
25 the director of the Mary McLeod Bethune Community Center

1 located in Bethune Village which is a low-income housing
2 development.

3 Corrine Brown, Suzanne Kosmas, Joyce Cusack makes a
4 difference here in our community. I want to say this
5 morning that I need people that I can talk to on a regular
6 basis. I need people that can come down to my level and
7 listen to what I'm saying that can make things happen and
8 this has happened over the years. This morning there are
9 quite a few people that could not be here because maybe
10 they are working. I know a lot are working in the
11 community I am.

12 I think consideration or maybe if you could have had
13 these hearings in the mornings and in the afternoon you
14 would have gotten a lot more people out. I think you would
15 have. One of my main concerns this morning is ten years
16 ago as legislators you must have known that this day was
17 going to come, that you'd have the redistricting lines.
18 Again, this meeting today. And my concern is we don't have
19 anything out there to look at. Now I'm not all up on what
20 redistricting is about. I'm not going to claim I am,
21 because I'm not. But I do know there is nothing out there
22 to tell me what you-all want. So that concerns me that I'm
23 talking this morning but you're going to draw the lines,
24 you're going to take the maps and do whatever you do with
25 them.

1 Now I heard this morning and I heard last night
2 there's ten maps already floating around. I heard that in
3 Orlando, Florida Corrine Brown is not even listed. I'm not
4 saying it's true, you understand. This is what came to me
5 this morning and last night. I hope that's not happening
6 in Daytona because there truly would be a fight.

7 Corrine Brown, I represent. I'm here because I care
8 about her and the other two ladies. I hope that we will
9 have an opportunity to come back and speak to you after you
10 finish drawing these lines because it's important and we
11 are for the people. We want everyone to have the
12 opportunity to speak, everyone to feel and say what they
13 have to say. We say we are for the people, let us not
14 forget last year. Let us never forget the election that
15 happened. That's a bitter taste that will go down in
16 history when we die as to what happened to the election
17 last year.

18 So give everybody a fair opportunity. Give everybody
19 a fair chance to have their say. And hopefully when you do
20 come back, hopefully you do, let us speak again once you
21 get these lines drawn and what you want. Please have a
22 morning and afternoon so everyone will have an opportunity
23 and every voice will be heard. Good morning -- good
24 afternoon. Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 47.

1 MS. BURSON: Good morning or afternoon now. My name
2 is Loretta Burson. I'm the executive assistant at Mary
3 McLeod Bethune. Good morning, Senator. I'm here before
4 you today to express the importance of us keeping the
5 district lines as they are. Congresswoman Brown has done a
6 remarkable job. We have someone who listens. Not only
7 listens, she hears and she acts upon it. She doesn't come
8 around and listen to be seen but she actually acts upon it.
9 We have someone that we can relate to.

10 To reiterate what was said before, I would hate that
11 there was a Plan B being planned to redistrict where we
12 won't be represented. Because at this time we have the
13 voice. The redistricting will put us back and like this is
14 why we keep bringing up the election. This is what we'll
15 fight against. We need representation. Corrine Brown
16 represents senior citizens. She loves the senior citizens.
17 The HMOs, health care, we have a lot of senior citizens.
18 Purchasing medicine is very difficult for them. Some of
19 them have to go without food just to purchase medicine.

20 If any of you-all have individual seniors in your
21 family that can't afford or don't have insurance, you see
22 the difficulty that they have in purchasing the medicine.
23 Corrine Brown, as far as day care, she's up on that.
24 Strengthening the family, this is another problem we have
25 in America today, family, divorces. She's up on programs

1 now targeting strengthening the family, something we really
2 need. We don't want to lose what we have going in a
3 positive direction. And I just want you to reconsider
4 redrawing the line and leave them as they are. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 48.

6 MS. CALSTON: Good morning -- afternoon. My name is
7 Amelia Calston and I represent Ms. Mobley, the community
8 center, Bethune Community Center. Right off the bat, I am
9 for Ms. Corrine Brown. I don't know about the rest of you,
10 but I hope you're standing that way too. Ms. Corrine
11 Brown -- I'm in the day care, after school program. And
12 for years I've been in the after-school program with the
13 children. That's what we need today, somebody that is
14 strong and will fight for the children not just talk. Let
15 them have a place to go after-school. Let them be able to
16 do something constructive instead of destructive, that's
17 what we need and that's why we need Ms. Corrine Brown. She
18 fights for the children. Some of these children, they
19 don't have nothing to do after school. Some go to bed
20 without eating and that's pretty hard. But I'm sure
21 Ms. Corrine Brown will be the one and that's what we're
22 going to do. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 49.

24 MS. CAPERS: Good morning. My name is Natasha Capers.
25 I'm the secretary of the Mary McLeod Bethune Community

1 Center and I just wanted to say this morning if something
2 isn't broken then there is no reason to try to fix it. We
3 have representatives like Congresswoman Corinne Brown who
4 understands our community and cares for our community.
5 District lines need to stay the same. We have other
6 representatives like Joyce Cusack and Suzanne Kosmas who
7 are positively impacting our communities. They are
8 concerned with our communities and are putting issues like
9 adequate child care for our children, effective
10 after-school programs for our children and the lives of our
11 senior citizens as a priority in the community. And I want
12 to reiterate, as I said, if something isn't broken, then
13 there is no reason to fix it.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Let me – first of all, do you want
15 to recognize someone? Senator Dawson, you are recognized
16 to pay tribute.

17 REPRESENTATIVE DAWSON: Some of you know probably that
18 I grew up here in Daytona Beach even though I was born in
19 Fort Lauderdale and do most of my work there. So it's real
20 good to be home. And I just kind of wondered if she's
21 still here, my third grade teacher, members, is in the
22 audience. So all that I am and all that I hope to be,
23 Ms. Prior is responsible for what I'm doing right now. If
24 you could stand up, Ms. Prior, are you there?

25 REPRESENTATIVE LEE: She didn't want to claim you.

1 (Laughter.)

2 REPRESENTATIVE DAWSON: And for those of you, while
3 you're here, members, you can always go enjoy our beaches
4 these days. So thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to
5 recognize her. And also, I have a city commissioner out
6 here that helped raise me as well, that's Commissioner
7 Golden who is sitting out there as well. I don't know if
8 she spoke earlier. So I have a lot of family and friends
9 here and just appreciate the opportunity.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: As we give the opportunity for the
11 delegation to address, these are their constituents and
12 we'll give them a chance. We'll begin with Representative
13 Wiles if you'd like to say – you don't have to, but if you
14 want to, you can.

15 REPRESENTATIVE WILES: It's working. Well I feel a
16 little compelled to. Let me tell you that I personally
17 appreciate all that have taken the time this afternoon,
18 this morning, to come and make a presentation to the
19 committee. It means a great deal for those of us up here
20 to see many of you out there take an interest in your
21 government and certainly we appreciate and value the
22 remarks that you've made.

23 I do want to make one comment because I think there
24 have been several key issues. One of those have been the
25 number of Representatives, Senators, and Congresspersons

1 that represent Volusia County. Like the League of Women
2 Voters and many of you, I subscribe to creating districts
3 that are compact, that recognize communities of interest
4 and most importantly are fair.

5 But I also want to suggest that those of you in
6 Volusia County be careful of what you're asking for. I
7 will tell you in my particular case I represent
8 District 20, which is about 7 percent of the northern land
9 mass of Volusia County but the two local bills I've
10 sponsored have had a direct influence on the development of
11 Daytona Beach and redevelopment of that very important
12 area. And that many of the projects I've advocated for
13 have benefitted those outside my district more than they
14 have benefitted those within the district.

15 Currently you have three Congresspersons, you have
16 three Senators and you have six House members. Under the
17 current form, which none of us had very much interest in
18 developing, you also are represented by the Speaker of the
19 House and it is very likely that if we do not change any
20 districts, you will also be next year represented by the
21 President of the Senate, it is very likely.

22 So with having said that, I think it is important to
23 recognize that in the Congress, in the House, and in the
24 Senate we are a collegial body. And sometimes the more
25 voices that you have working on your behalf, the better off

1 you are. I want to thank you again for all taking the time
2 to come and I appreciate the opportunity to visit with you
3 and a few comments.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Cusack, you are
5 recognized.

6 REPRESENTATIVE CUSACK: Thank you. You know, it's
7 very few times in your life that you have the sheer
8 pleasure of seeing friends and acquaintances. And I want
9 to say to you this morning, this afternoon, it's been a
10 pleasure to have you here in Volusia County, Daytona Beach
11 area. I'm a native of Volusia County. So I welcome you to
12 the greatest county in the world, Volusia County.

13 I want to first thank you for coming as participants.
14 It's important that you be active participants in this
15 process. For without your participation then we are not
16 successful as legislators. I want you to know that what
17 you have said is important to me as a legislator. I hope
18 that this process will be fair. I'm hoping that we will
19 have criteria that will be inclusive of all of our
20 constituents and that you will have the opportunity to see
21 some maps after they have been drawn. I thank you kindly
22 for being here today and I wish you Godspeed as you go
23 about your day's activities. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Kosmas.

25 REPRESENTATIVE KOSMAS: Thank you. Like my

1 colleagues, I welcome you-all to this opportunity for
2 public input into this very important process. If I can be
3 indulged in the same way Senator Dawson was. I'd like to
4 acknowledge one of my teachers also, Dr. T. Wayne Bailey
5 who was my mentor in my political science career. I
6 graduated from Stetson in 1998 as a sitting member of the
7 Legislature after studying for about 37 years to get a
8 college degree. (Laughter.) Dr. Bailey pushed me over the
9 hump and I do appreciate it.

10 I think his comment was well taken. We recognize that
11 this is a politicized process and that politics plays a
12 major part in what is going to happen here as people look
13 to protect their territories and their constituencies but
14 at the same time hoping that it will be a transparent
15 process.

16 I think the theme that's run through today's process
17 has been maintaining the integrity of communities and of
18 interests. And while that is interpreted by different
19 people in different ways, it seems to be the underlying
20 theme that everybody is searching for here. So I hope that
21 as we do move forward we will be able to adhere to that.

22 The major criticism I heard today is this is a
23 monologue rather than a dialog. That perhaps is the nature
24 of a public hearing. But had we had in advance some maps
25 that people could reference in making their comments, it

1 may have been both a more transparent and a more equitable
2 process. I don't know whether there is any likelihood that
3 is going to change as you move through the public hearings
4 in the state, but that would probably be my number one
5 recommendation.

6 Again, I appreciate the opportunity to be and to visit
7 with many old friends and I appreciate your willingness to
8 share your time and energy to share with us your thoughts
9 about the process.

10 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Lynn.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LYNN: Thank you very much. First of
12 all, I would like to welcome all the legislators to the
13 heart of my district. It's not often we get legislators
14 from every part of the state here and I only wish you could
15 stay longer and really understand Volusia County, its
16 makeup and all the tremendous opportunities for
17 environmental, cultural, and beaches. I mean, it goes on
18 and on. But we are so happy you are here today and
19 allowing us here to share.

20 Thank you-all for coming. Those of you who have
21 stayed through the entire time, those of you who came early
22 and left, those of you who were willing to get up and
23 speak, doesn't matter, Republican or Democrat, we do need
24 input from everyone. You talked about fairness and I think
25 that is what this whole process is about. Yet I will have

1 to tell you when I look at my friend Corrine Brown and
2 others, Scarlett-Golden in the audience, we all know that
3 this is a political process as well.

4 It is a challenging process. It doesn't matter if
5 Democrats or Republicans are doing it, it is a very
6 challenging process. It has been that way through the
7 years and will, I know, be that way even as we are working
8 through it now. But the fact that you have stressed so
9 many important issues I think is essential to this process.
10 When you talk about, If we could see what you are planning
11 and so forth, I haven't a clue what's being planned yet.
12 But I do know, starting with this, input from you, that's
13 the most important part, for you to give input before plans
14 are drawn so that people can work intelligently in terms of
15 what the public is saying.

16 I've heard loud and clear that minorities want to be
17 recognized as an entity. Very important, don't take our
18 power away from us. That has been loud and clear and I
19 know this committee has heard that. I have heard the east
20 side and the west side, don't divide us further than we
21 already are. I have heard the benefits of both single
22 Congressional representation as well as having three
23 representatives from Volusia County to fight our battles
24 and get benefits for us. And that's something I know that
25 will have to be taken into consideration.

1 But certainly I have also heard that we have in
2 different areas of Volusia interests, community interests,
3 that tie various communities together whether it is
4 historical, whether it is business, whether it is
5 environmental, whatever it is, we have pockets of interest
6 groups and I'm hearing you say, Don't divide us up in such
7 a way that we cannot continue to work together and thrive
8 and have those interests grow and have those interests
9 strengthen our community. And that's what I think this
10 process is all about. Strengthening our community and
11 allowing the voters to make sure they can elect the people
12 they would like to elect in the process. So I thank
13 you-all for being here, both those who contributed and
14 those who are legislators and have sat through listening
15 very patiently. And I thank you for your efforts and I
16 wish you Godspeed because this is a challenge.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: That's it, right? Okay.
18 Members – Senator Wasserman-Schultz.

19 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
20 At the risk of – with all this harmony and appearing as
21 though I'm a wet blanket, I do want to refer you back to
22 the public hearing in Ocala and ask, Mr. Chairman, there
23 was a letter that you received, that was submitted into the
24 record from Senator Rossin and Representative Frankel that
25 asked a series of multipart questions on the procedure that

1 we've been going through and the procedures we've been
 2 conducting, things like the deviations and other issues
 3 that both are important for the public to know but also
 4 important for the members of the Legislature to have at
 5 hand when we go through that process. To date we have not
 6 received -- neither Senator Rossin nor Representative
 7 Frankel have received answers to those written questions
 8 and I'm just wondering when those will be forthcoming.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Like I said, I'm not going to be at
 10 these public hearings answering a bunch of questions but I
 11 will be glad to state a policy. That policy is, it's been
 12 that way for five, six years, you should be aware of it.
 13 Any letter I get that's sent to the press also I don't
 14 answer. It is partisan in nature. It came from the
 15 partisan leaders and I give that to the majority office to
 16 answer.

17 I'm not a partisan. I'm not the Republican answer.
 18 I'm the chairman of the Senate committee. I'm the chairman
 19 of all of the Senators. I was appointed by a President who
 20 is elected by unanimous consent of all of the Senators.
 21 And therefore, I don't answer partisan letters. I'm not in
 22 a partisan position. That's the majority office's job to
 23 deal with the minority office. That's the way it worked
 24 when I was a minority leader. That's the way it works now
 25 that I'm not a majority leader or a minority leader.

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
 9 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.
 10
 11 _____
 12 KRISTEN L. BENTLEY
 13 Court Reporter
 14 Division of Administrative Hearings
 15 The DeSoto Building
 16 1230 Apalachee Parkway
 17 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060
 18 (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675
 19 Fax Filing (850) 921-6847
 20 www.doah.state.fl.us
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 That's someone else's job.
 2 So I assume that those will come from the majority
 3 office when they see fit.

4 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Mr. Chairman, can I just
 5 ask you a quick follow-up? Because I wasn't implying that
 6 you were at all partisan and I'm not asking a partisan
 7 question. It wasn't my understanding and if I'm incorrect,
 8 then I apologize, but it wasn't my understanding that that
 9 letter was released in the form of a press release or
 10 released to the press. If it was, then I stand corrected.

11 But those questions are legitimate questions. They
 12 weren't asked in a partisan nature. They were purely, if
 13 you review the letter again, procedural questions. If they
 14 were released to the press and you would like them
 15 submitted again in a separate form -- regardless of how
 16 they are submitted, we still need answers to those
 17 questions.

18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Well, I gave you my answer. Are
 19 there other members with comments? I too am a member of
 20 the Volusia County delegation and on behalf of myself as a
 21 member of the Volusia County delegation and this chairman,
 22 thank you for coming and the meeting is adjourned.
 23 (Hearing adjourned at 12:45 p.m.)
 24
 25