

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 27, 2001 - 9:30 A.M.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBERS

TAMPA, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings

DeSoto Building

1230 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- 1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
- 2 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE
- 3 SENATOR WALTER G. CAMPBELL, JR.
- 4 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN
- 5 SENATOR VICTOR D. CRIST
- 6 SENATOR RON KLEIN
- 7 SENATOR JACK LATVALA
- 8 SENATOR TOM LEE
- 9 SENATOR LESLEY MILLER, JR.
- 10 SENATOR KEN PRUITT
- 11 SENATOR JIM SEBESTA
- 12 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
- 13 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL
- 15 REPRESENTATIVE GUS MICHAEL BILIRAKIS
- 16 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE B. BYRD, JR.
- 17 REPRESENTATIVE DONNA CLARKE
- 18 REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROW
- 19 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK
- 20 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART
- 21 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY
- 22 REPRESENTATIVE MARK FLANAGAN
- 23 REPRESENTATIVE RENE GARCIA
- 24 REPRESENTATIVE ANDY GARDINER
- 25 REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS HART, IV

- 1 REPRESENTATIVE BOB HENRIQUEZ
- 2 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD L. JENNINGS, JR.
- 3 REPRESENTATIVE ARTHENIA L. JOYNER
- 4 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE
- 5 REPRESENTATIVE KENNETH W. LITTLEFIELD
- 6 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN
- 7 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
- 8 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS RICHARDSON
- 9 REPRESENTATIVE SARA ROMEO
- 10 REPRESENTATIVE TIMOTHY M. RYAN
- 11 REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR SOBEL
- 12 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN
- 13 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES
- 14 REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICA S. WILSON
- 15 REPRESENTATIVE ROGER B. WISHNER
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25

PROCEEDINGS

- 1 PROCEEDINGS
- 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Good morning. My name is Daniel
- 3 Webster and I'm a Senator from District 12 and chairman of
- 4 the Senate Reapportionment Committee. It's my pleasure to
- 5 welcome you-all here this morning to this public hearing.
- 6 Representatives and Senators are here to listen to the
- 7 residents of this area and consider their input in this
- 8 very important matter.
- 9 Since these are joint meetings, we have divided the
- 10 responsibilities throughout the many public hearings we'll
- 11 be holding throughout the next several months. It's my
- 12 pleasure at this time to introduce Representative Johnnie
- 13 Byrd who is chairman of the House Procedural Redistricting
- 14 Council. Chairman Byrd will preside over today's meeting.
- 15 Chairman Byrd.
- 16 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Johnnie
- 17 Byrd and I'm a Representative from State House District 62,
- 18 Plant City, Brandon and Seffner and everything else in
- 19 between east of Hillsborough County. And I'm also chairman
- 20 of the Procedural and Redistricting Council. It's my
- 21 pleasure to welcome you to this public hearing, one of over
- 22 20 to be held throughout Florida this summer and fall. Let
- 23 me first explain the procedures that we will use throughout
- 24 the public hearings today.
- 25 This is a public hearing, the sole and only purpose of

- 1 which is to hear from the public on matters of
- 2 redistricting. It's not a committee meeting. We will not
- 3 be taking up any legislative action in this or any
- 4 subsequent public hearings. Instead, this is the public's
- 5 forum where we have the opportunity to receive citizen
- 6 input about their electoral districts.
- 7 It's not the time for legislative debate. All
- 8 Representatives and Senators will have numerous
- 9 opportunities in the subsequent committee hearings and the
- 10 floor debates in Tallahassee to express their concerns and
- 11 wishes. Today, however, is for our constituents. We must
- 12 not diminish their role or their voice by taking up their
- 13 valuable time today with legislative debate. Following my
- 14 remarks legal counsel will give a general overview of the
- 15 legal considerations in redistricting. Staff will then
- 16 provide some specific information about the census results
- 17 in this region and the state of Florida. The rest of the
- 18 time is reserved for you, the citizens.
- 19 Every ten years after the completion of the updated
- 20 national census the Constitution requires that the Florida
- 21 Legislature redraw boundaries of all the districts of the
- 22 Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate and
- 23 Florida's Congressional districts. The Legislature will
- 24 take up this task in the next legislative session beginning
- 25 on January the 22nd, 2002 and ending on March 22nd, 2002.

Page 6

1 The districts we draw will first be used in the
2 November 2002 election.

3 Redistricting is an essential element of our
4 representative democracy. We take this on with humility
5 and due regard for the importance and difficulty of the
6 job. We're also committed to the process that will be
7 fair, open, and inclusive. These public hearings represent
8 a crucial first step in this process. We appreciate that
9 we are doing the work of the people. We want to hear from
10 you and help you participate in a meaningful way. To
11 encourage public participation, House Speaker Tom Feeny
12 and President John McKay of the Senate have scheduled these
13 public hearings throughout the state.

14 All the members of the Legislature's redistricting
15 committees as well as local delegation members have been
16 invited to these public hearings. These hearings will be
17 tapes so that they can also be made available to all
18 members of the Legislature. The House and Senate have
19 designed web sites as a tool for public input also and we
20 will broadcast select hearings on Florida's public
21 television stations.

22 The web addresses for the House and Senate legislative
23 redistricting are available at the table in the back. A
24 link will also be available from the Florida legislative
25 web site on the Internet. The redistricting plan for the

Page 7

1 State House and Senate will be passed in the form of a
2 joint resolution which will not be subject to the
3 Governor's approval or veto but will be reviewed by the
4 Florida Supreme Court.

5 The plan determining Congressional districts will not
6 be reviewed by the Supreme Court of Florida but will also
7 be subject to the veto of the Governor. I encourage
8 everyone to carefully review the 2000 census. It is an
9 essential building block on which Florida's redistricting
10 plans will be built. The United States census web site is
11 also available in the information in the back.

12 We are here to listen and to consider your voice. We
13 encourage each member of the public to testify and to help
14 us craft your legislative districts. We also encourage
15 written submissions in addition to the testimony during
16 today's public hearing. Everyone who wishes to speak must
17 make sure to fill out a speaker's card located on the table
18 in the back, that's the only way we know who wishes to
19 speak and after the hearing who actually spoke.

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

Page 8

1 this historic and important task.

2 At this time, I would like to recognize County
3 Commissioner Pat Frank, chairman of the Hillsborough County
4 Commission for a few words of welcome. Welcome. You are
5 recognized.

6 COMMISSIONER FRANK: Thank you very much,
7 Representative Byrd, and Senator Webster, good to see you
8 again. And all Senators and House members who are here and
9 staff for this very important launching of your
10 redistricting process. Twenty years ago I went through
11 this process in the Florida Legislature and only a few -- a
12 month ago we went through the same process locally. Our
13 charter requires a faster timetable than you have for
14 redistricting because we are required within 160 days
15 following the census to redistrict. So we know the
16 enormity of the task in front of you and we want to say
17 thank you for being in our county which is the home of
18 1 million citizens of Florida and for participating in this
19 at the outset by launching a public hearing.

20 I want to say that we did establish criteria which
21 were based upon the criteria in our redistricting process
22 for the county commission. It's written out in our charter
23 as well as community interest in terms of what was needed.
24 And I've given that criteria to you along with the map
25 which we ultimately adopted for your consideration.

Page 9

1 Let me say that the one message that we heard over and
2 over again was in addition to making certain that you had
3 one person, one vote recognized that you also kept
4 communities intact. That was a very important part of our
5 redistricting process. And too -- I know you know that
6 that is something people want. They want to feel as though
7 they are part of the community and you are not dividing the
8 community by the redistricting process.

9 Our team is available for you for any assistance that
10 you might need. And let me say good luck and Godspeed. I
11 know it's going to be a meaningful journey and you'll learn
12 much about this rich and diverse state and its people in
13 the process. Thank you for being here today.

14 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Chairman Frank, and thank
15 you to the Hillsborough County Commission for your
16 hospitality. Also, I'd like to recognize Supervisor Pam
17 Iorio, Supervisor of Elections for Hillsborough County to
18 welcome us also. You're recognized.

19 MS. IORIO: Good morning. Thank you for having me.
20 I'd like to say welcome but also say a few words about the
21 redistricting process and how it might affect election
22 administration. First of all, welcome to Hillsborough
23 County. It's good to see you and thank you for coming from
24 all over the state to participate in this public hearing.
25 There is a direct correlation between your work and

Page 10

1 election administration and the redrawing of precinct lines
 2 and how those precinct lines ultimately affect the voters
 3 in your specific communities. Many people, and I think
 4 it's sometimes difficult to draw this connection, people
 5 often will ask, Why do some precincts have only 20 voters?
 6 Why do some precincts have zero voters while others have
 7 3,000 or 4,000 voters?
 8 It all goes back to the work you do. Because when you
 9 draw your district lines, then those lines are given to
 10 your local Supervisor of Elections and we draw precinct
 11 lines based on unique ballot styles. Your precincts in
 12 Plant City, for example, your ballot style in Plant City is
 13 different than my precinct in Beach Park because we have a
 14 different Congressional race. There's State House and
 15 Senate or city council or whatever the political
 16 jurisdiction might be.
 17 So when lines are drawn in a haphazard fashion, then
 18 what you end up with are certain geographical areas that
 19 have no relationship to other areas in terms of their
 20 balance style on election day. And thus you end up with
 21 some precincts that might only have a handful of voters.
 22 This doesn't make sense in election administration and it's
 23 costly to the taxpayers to have a system like this.
 24 So I think that the job you have before you is not
 25 just to look at the new census data and create new lines

Page 11

1 from it, but to fix the mess that was created in 1992. I
 2 think you have to start by looking at some of those
 3 district lines created in 1992 and say they are not good
 4 lines, these are not well thought-out districts. And I can
 5 give you some specific examples in Hillsborough County
 6 where a district line was drawn through the middle of a
 7 trailer park. Where we have an apartment complex divided
 8 by a House line. In Plant City it's chopped up into two
 9 House districts. We have three House districts that are
 10 only portions of Hillsborough County.
 11 The worst example though are the two people who live
 12 on Egmont Key, the park ranger and his wife. Egmont Key
 13 was put in House District 55. They are the only two voters
 14 in Hillsborough County who vote in House District 55. They
 15 do not have a secret ballot. Okay. So if you could fix
 16 that, and I would suggest you put that at the top of your
 17 list in terms of what you'd like to fix in 2001/2002.
 18 And so I would make the following suggestions to you
 19 as you go through this process. Number one, keep
 20 communities of interest together. I know that you will
 21 hear this over and over again but it is so important to the
 22 voters that communities of interest be kept together
 23 because that's how people mobilize. That's how community
 24 activists get together and bring about change. They bring
 25 about change through their neighborhoods. And if their

Page 12

1 neighborhoods are represented by a single Representative,
 2 then they can be more effective in bringing about change.
 3 You create voter apathy when you divide communities of
 4 interest and you say, On this side of the street you have
 5 this Representative and, On this side of the street you
 6 have another. I'm sorry, but your trailer park is not all
 7 represented by the same person. You bring about apathy.
 8 People give up. They say, Who created such lines? So you
 9 really have to keep communities of interest together.
 10 Secondly, where possible, follow the single-member
 11 county commission and school board district lines that are
 12 already in place in your communities. Look at that
 13 information. Why not have a State Senator or State House
 14 or Congressional line follow those same lines? Nest those
 15 districts together. State House follows State Senate and
 16 they also follow county commission lines where possible.
 17 It's going to make much more sense in terms of election
 18 administration. It's going to mean fewer precincts.
 19 And thirdly, share versions of your maps with the
 20 supervisors of elections in your counties and ask them, Are
 21 there any problems in these maps that are going to create
 22 difficulties in election administration? One key
 23 difference between 1992 and 2002 is that all of the urban
 24 supervisors' offices now have state-of-the-art mapping
 25 capabilities. We are able now to look and to participate

Page 13

1 and to make changes on a very, very specific level just as
 2 you are with the Legislature. And so please share that
 3 information with the supervisors before you reach your
 4 final decisions to see are we making life difficult for
 5 voters in your county through some of the lines drawn.
 6 I would also finally remind and I know, Representative
 7 Byrd, you went through the timeline of January to March.
 8 You have 41 counties in the state of Florida changing
 9 election technology. It is a massive change for these
 10 counties. You have every urban county in the state except
 11 Orange County changing voting technology, many for the
 12 first time in a generation.
 13 If redistricting does not go smoothly, it's going to
 14 collide with this change in voting technology. Supervisors
 15 need the new lines early enough and without problems,
 16 problems in the courts, so that we can redraw lines, redraw
 17 the precinct lines, send the new voter ID cards out to the
 18 voters to alert them to their new districts, precincts and
 19 polling sites. And at the same time, we need to introduce
 20 new voting technology to the voters so that we can have a
 21 good election. I stand ready to help you in any way and
 22 appreciate the work you have ahead of you. And I hope we
 23 can ultimately have a final product that we can all be
 24 proud of. Thank you very much.
 25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Supervisor Iorio. Now we

Page 14

1 will begin the public testimony. The first speaker --
2 we'll start first with our legal counsel, Former
3 Representative Miguel DeGrandy. You are recognized.
4 REPRESENTATIVE DEGRANDY: Should I testify or be a
5 lawyer, Mr. Chairman? (Laughter.) Thank you, Mr.
6 Chairman. For the record, my name is Miguel DeGrandy. I
7 am counsel to the Florida House of Representatives for
8 reapportionment and redistricting matters.
9 I'm here together with Jim Scott who is counsel for
10 the Florida Senate. And this morning I will be giving you
11 a brief overview of the law regarding reapportionment and
12 redistricting for the benefit of the members as well as for
13 those who will testifying from the public. This
14 presentation is by no means intended to be a comprehensive
15 or a complete review of the issues related to the topic but
16 it is intended to give you an introduction to the basic
17 principles and constraints that will guide the
18 decision-making of our State Legislature as it proceeds
19 with this very important task.
20 The task of reapportionment and redistricting is a
21 process of dividing residents of a jurisdiction. In this
22 case, the residents of the entire state of Florida into
23 different electoral seats or districts. Reapportionment
24 and redistricting are Constitutional requirements and both
25 the Florida Constitution and the United States Constitution

Page 15

1 require this process to commence every ten years after the
2 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. Therefore in
6 regards to Congressional redistricting, the State
7 Legislature will need to create 25 separate, contiguous
8 districts to cover the entire state, one for each of those
9 members of Congress. The Legislature will also need to
10 divide the state into 40 State Senate districts and 120 new
11 House of Representative districts although the Legislature
12 may, if they chose, reduce the number of State Senate and
13 House districts to as low as 30 and 80 respectively.
14 The Florida Constitution also requires State House and
15 State Senate districts be consecutively numbered in either
16 contiguous, overlapping, or identical territory.
17 Commencing with this public hearing process the State
18 Legislature will begin considering the opinion of Florida
19 citizens and then legislative committees will convene this
20 fall and beginning in January the full Legislature will
21 begin the process of developing and considering different
22 districting plans.
23 The regular session ends in March 2002. Although the
24 legislative process can be concluded in the regular session
25 for redistricting, the Constitution does provide for

Page 16

1 additional sessions in the event that the work of the
2 Legislature on redistricting is not completed within the
3 regular session. The Florida Constitution, in fact,
4 requires the Governor to reconvene the Legislature in a
5 special session in the event that these plans are not
6 adopted in a regular session. That special session on
7 redistricting cannot exceed 30 consecutive days.
8 From there, depending on Congressional or State, the
9 process becomes a little more tedious and technical. But
10 let me attempt to explain by talking about the
11 Congressional process first and then the State legislative
12 process. If during the regular or the special session
13 reapportionment plans are adopted by the Legislature for
14 Congress, as the chairman said, the Governor has the
15 opportunity to approve or veto the adopted plans. Under
16 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act that we will discuss in
17 a minute, the Justice Department of the United States
18 Federal District Court for the District of Columbia must
19 also review certain parts of the plan in a process known as
20 preclearance.
21 Hillsborough is one of these preclearance counties.
22 Now with respect to the State House and Senate seats, if
23 the Legislature adopts redistricting plans then 15 days
24 after passage the Florida Attorney General is required to
25 petition the Florida Supreme Court for a determination of

Page 17

1 the validity of the Legislature's plan.
2 If the Florida Supreme Court declares the
3 Legislature's plan to be invalid, then the Constitution
4 mandates that within five days of such determination the
5 Governor must reconvene the Legislature in an extraordinary
6 session of no more than 15 days at which session the
7 Legislature adopts a joint resolution conforming to the
8 judgment of the Florida Supreme Court.
9 Assuming the regular and special sessions end without
10 the adoption of redistricting plans for the State
11 Legislature, the Attorney General must petition the Florida
12 Supreme Court to commence deliberations on the
13 establishment of a redistricting plan. Within 60 days of
14 this petition the Florida Supreme Court must file an order
15 setting forth such a plan.
16 As with Congressional redistricting, there must also
17 be a preclearance analysis on selected portions of
18 Florida's plan. In effect, to recap, the two different
19 processes with respect to Congressional redistricting,
20 again, the Governor is empowered by the Constitution to
21 sign or veto the bill. And with respect to State
22 redistricting, it's the State Supreme Court and not the
23 Governor that will review the plan to determine its
24 validity.
25 Now let's talk a little bit about redistricting

1 principles. In adopting a redistricting plan, the
2 Legislature will be guided by several factors including, as
3 was mentioned here before, the principle of one person, one
4 vote and the requirements of the United States Constitution
5 and Federal statutes.

6 The principle commonly referred to as one person, one
7 vote developed from a series of landmark United States
8 Supreme Court cases from the 1960s. And generally, this
9 principle stands for the proposition that each person's
10 vote should count as much as anyone else's vote. And in
11 the context of redistricting, this principle was used to
12 defeat the practice of several states in maintaining
13 districts for legislative offices that were substantially
14 different in population.

15 The Supreme Court in those cases concluded that
16 significant disparities in district populations resulted in
17 each vote in the district with a smaller population
18 actually carrying more weight than the vote in the larger
19 district. In effect, the one person, one vote standard
20 prevents major disparities in creation of Congressional and
21 state legislative districts. The Courts have given some
22 guidance in that regard for Congressional districts that
23 courts have instituted the strictest standard.

24 As a rule of thumb, population among different
25 districts in one state for Congressional seats should be

1 jurisdictions are required to submit any proposed changes
2 to their practices or procedures affecting voting including
3 any changes to legislative districts resulting from
4 redistricting for approval by either the Attorney General
5 or the United States Federal District Court for the
6 District of Columbia. This has to be done prior to
7 implementation. This process is also known as
8 preclearance.

9 And in Florida, the covered jurisdictions include
10 Collier, Hardy, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties.
11 The vast majority of preclearance requests are made
12 directly to the United States Attorney General's Office.
13 Preclearance is obtained if the Attorney General
14 effectively indicates that the office has no objection to
15 the change or if at the expiration of 60 days from
16 submission no objection to the submitted change has been
17 made by the Attorney General. Whether it's through the
18 court proceeding or the administrative process through the
19 Attorney General's Office, the covered jurisdiction is the
20 one who bears the burden of demonstrating that the proposed
21 voting change, quote, does not have the purpose and will
22 not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to
23 vote on account of race or color or membership in a
24 language minority group. The analysis performed under
25 Section 5 is also at times called a retrogression analysis.

1 substantially less than a 1 percent overall deviation.
2 Deviation is analyzed based on the concept of the ideal
3 district size. For example, in the case of Florida, if you
4 take the state's population and divide it by 25
5 congressional districts, the resulting number would be the
6 ideal side for each district in the state. Congressional
7 districts should then be drawn to be well within this
8 1 percent of the ideal number. For state legislative
9 districts the courts have permitted a greater deviation
10 among districts and courts have accepted differences
11 between districts of up to 10 percent total deviation in
12 certain circumstances.

13 Other important factors to consider are set forth in
14 the Voting Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Protection
15 Clause of the United States Constitution. Section 2 of the
16 Voting Rights Act prohibits any practice or procedure
17 including certain redistricting practices that impair the
18 ability of minority communities to elect candidates of
19 choice on an equal basis with nonminority voters.

20 Under Section -- another section of the Voting Rights
21 Act, Section 5, applies to certain jurisdictions such as
22 Hillsborough County that have previously met the criteria
23 for this type of review. The courts have stated that
24 Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act entail a
25 different process of analysis. Under Section 5 covered

1 In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, as some of us well know
2 the legal rules regarding the redistricting and
3 reapportionment processes are indeed complex and this short
4 presentation can only provide very general guidance on some
5 of the delicate legal issues that will apply to the
6 process, some which have not been fully decided by the
7 courts. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of my Senate colleague Jim
8 Scott and the House legal team, we thank you for the
9 opportunity to make this presentation and stand ready to
10 assist you.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Attorney DeGrandy. Now we
12 will hear from Todd Thomson, the staff director of the
13 House redistricting committee. You're recognized,
14 Mr. Thomson.

15 MR. THOMSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: Mr. Chairman, while we're
17 waiting for this thing to come on, do we have access to the
18 counsel's remarks, are they on-line or can we --

19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Representative Richardson, we will
20 provide those directly to you if they are not on-line
21 already. Let's stand in informal recess for just a moment
22 until we get the Powerpoint going.

23 (Pause.)

24 CHAIRMAN BYRD: We'll come back to order and we'll
25 recognize Todd Thomson, the director of the House

1 Redistricting Council, for his presentation of the 2000
2 census. You're recognized, Mr. Thomson.

3 MR. THOMSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I apologize
4 for the technical glitch. I'll be very brief. I just want
5 to give a quick overview of the Florida census and some
6 census numbers for the Tampa Bay area. Florida's
7 population has grown over the past ten years to about
8 16 million people. This is growth of just over 3 million
9 people or roughly 23.5 percent between 1990 and the
10 year 2000. As a result of this growth, Florida now has 25
11 Congressional seats, a net gain of two over 1990.

12 Miami-Dade County is Florida's most populous county.
13 As you see there, the five most populous counties are
14 listed including Hillsborough County at number four.
15 Flagler County was the fastest-growing county in the state
16 of Florida between 1990 and the year 2000 with a
17 73.6 percent rate of growth. Top five counties in terms of
18 rate of growth are Flagler, Sumpter, Collier, Wakulla, and
19 Osceola. Jacksonville remains Florida's most populous
20 city. Tampa, as you see, comes in at number three and
21 St. Petersburg at number four.

22 Minority population in the state of Florida has grown
23 over the past ten years between 1990 and 2000.
24 African-American population, as percent of the population,
25 grew by 1 percent. And the Hispanic population has

1 actually surpassed the African-American population, is the
2 largest minority in the state of Florida, is now
3 16.8 percent of Florida's population.

4 The median age in the state of Florida has risen from
5 36.3 years in 1990 to 38.7 years in the year 2000. Age
6 65-plus seniors are an important group in the state of
7 Florida. There are now about 2.8 million Floridians age 65
8 and above. While this is an increase of about 440,000
9 since 1990, the overall percentage of population age 65 and
10 above has decreased from 18.3 percent to 17.6 percent.

11 And as Miguel DeGrandy touched on earlier, talking
12 about deviation and size of State House, State Senate, and
13 Congressional districts, the average State House district
14 for redistricting this time will have about 133,000 people
15 in it. The average State Senate district will have about
16 400,000. And a Congressional district will contain just
17 over 639,000 residents.

18 Let me give you a quick overview for the Tampa Bay
19 area in terms of census. The city of Tampa has a
20 population of just over 300,000. It's an 8.4 percent
21 increase over the 1990 population and Tampa is the third
22 most populous city in the state of Florida. Hillsborough
23 County, just under a million people according to the 2000
24 census, almost 20 percent growth since 1990 Hillsborough
25 County, now ranks number four in terms of the population

1 for Florida's counties.

2 St. Petersburg, the largest city in Pinellas County,
3 just under a quarter of a million people in St. Petersburg
4 according to the 2000 census. A 4 percent increase over
5 1990, and St. Petersburg is Florida's fourth most populous
6 city. Pinellas County, about 920,000 people according to
7 the 1990 census, 8.2 percent increase -- or, excuse me,
8 according to 2000 census, an 8.2 increase over 1990 and
9 Pinellas County ranks fifth in population for Florida's
10 counties.

11 Pasco County to our north, population according to
12 2000 census 344,765, 22.6 percent increase over 1990.
13 Hernando County, population 130,802, a 29.4 percent
14 increase over 1990. Polk County, according to the 2000
15 census, has a population of 483,924, a 19.4 percent
16 increase over 1990. Citrus County, according to 2000
17 census, has a population of 118,085, a 26.3 percent
18 increase over 1990.

19 Manatee County, a population just over 264,000. It's
20 a 24.7 percent increase. You can find all this information
21 and more on our web sites. The House web site is
22 Floridaredistricting.org and the Senate redistricting site
23 is leg.state.fl.us/senateredistricting. Thank you,
24 Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Director Thomson. Now

1 we'll move to the public testimony. Again, if you wish to
2 testify, there are appearance records or cards to be
3 completed on the back table and we will limit the testimony
4 to four minutes per speaker. We'll give you some advance
5 warning of when your time is about to expire. So we'll
6 start with former Senator Helen Gordon-Davis. You are
7 recognized. Welcome to the public hearing.

8 SENATOR GORDON-DAVIS: Thank you so very much,
9 Representative Byrd, and Senator Webster. Good to see all
10 my old colleagues again. Thank you very much for allowing
11 me to testify. I'd like for a moment to talk about what
12 used to be and what it is now. When I was first elected in
13 1974 the Legislature had provided single-member districts,
14 Hillsborough County had three Representatives and one
15 Senator. We could run from any part of the county, didn't
16 matter where we lived, we just picked a number and ran for
17 that seat but were responsible to all the citizens in the
18 county of Hillsborough, every one of them.

19 After the reapportionment of 1980 the Legislature
20 adopted single-member districts as opposed to the
21 multi-member districts that we had before and therefore we
22 were responsible to only the citizens within the district
23 in which we lived. However, in the 1990 reapportionment
24 there were two more considerations creating districts for
25 minorities and creating districts for Republicans. I'll

1 talk about that later, about Democrats.
 2 Counties were no longer represented by legislators who
 3 lived within those counties but on pieces of many counties
 4 without regard to integrity, about political subdivision
 5 which are the counties. Also, by extrapolating all the
 6 minorities from outlying counties and placing them in their
 7 own enclaves without regard to their communities of
 8 interest, the Legislature did indeed create more minority
 9 seats but by bleaching all the counties and segregating
 10 them more than ever before they eroded the responsibility
 11 of the remaining white legislators to vote for issues
 12 relating to issues of diversity or race.

13 How many times have I heard my fellow legislators
 14 exclaim, Thank goodness. I'll never have to vote for
 15 another sickle cell bill in my life. Thank goodness I'll
 16 never vote for another affirmative action bill in my life.
 17 Because they know by bleaching all the districts they no
 18 longer have the responsibility of working for
 19 African-Americans in those districts. The best example
 20 of -- to Hillsborough County is in the 1990 census there
 21 were 347,000 registered voters and we were entitled to
 22 three Representatives and one Senator. This is not what
 23 happened.

24 The Legislature created 12 Representatives and four
 25 Senators, all but a few were pieces of Hillsborough County,

1 but not necessarily a majority of their constituents in the
 2 county. Is that equal representation? According to your
 3 current census figures each Representative will be entitled
 4 to 133,000 votes and each Senator 399,000 as we have
 5 already heard.

6 Hillsborough County with almost 500,000 registered
 7 voters will then be entitled to four Representatives and
 8 one and a third or one and a fourth Senators. We ask you
 9 in the name of fairness and equity to give all the major
 10 counties -- particularly we're talking about Dade, Broward,
 11 Duval, Monroe, Lee, and Hillsborough -- with the two
 12 components of legislators within their own counties not
 13 take pieces of small counties in an amalgam of dissimilar
 14 communities of interest and put them together.

15 Now, I'm not saying if the Democrats had been in power
 16 they would not have tried to gerrymander the districts
 17 but -- I have one more sentence. But perhaps not in such a
 18 great dismanner. But whoever is responsible should at
 19 least be accountable to the welfare of our political
 20 subdivisions and the communities of interest. Thank you
 21 very much.

22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Senator, for appearing
 23 today and thank you for your service to your community.
 24 Now we'll start with appearance card number one. If you'll
 25 notice on your card there is a stamped or written number.

1 So is speaker Number 1 ready? And if speaker Number 2
 2 would get ready to come next, we'd appreciate that.
 3 Number 1, you are recognized.

4 MS. GARMS: Good morning. My first name is Aldyce.
 5 My last name is Garms. I live at 8420 Sims Road in
 6 Gibsonton, Florida. I'd like to welcome the
 7 reapportionment and redistricting committee to Hillsborough
 8 County. On behalf of the citizens of the south county
 9 area -- now, I'm speaking as an individual, but I attend
 10 many meetings and I'm aware of many needs in the south
 11 county area.

12 I would like to speak about our current Representative
 13 Sandy Murman. She has represented the Gibsonton area in
 14 many different ways but her heart has been with the schools
 15 and with the children. The district that she has now goes
 16 from the Carrollwood area down to our Big Bend Road. And
 17 what I would like to request is that she have the rest of
 18 south county and down to the Manatee line and I have a
 19 reason for asking that. And that is that we have children
 20 who need to have help being prepared for school. There is
 21 a program and it's called Success by Six. And we need our
 22 Representative Murman to be involved in that to shepherd it
 23 through and get it implemented.

24 It is children that desperately need to have
 25 preschooling that will get them prepared for learning. So

1 therefore, my request to you today and I know you have all
 2 your guidelines to follow, but it is to allow
 3 Representative Murman to be involved with all of the south
 4 county area. Because it means a great deal to many, many,
 5 many citizens and a great number of young children that
 6 need to have a good start. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 2.
 8 Number 2. You're recognized. Welcome to the committee.

9 MR. MORANA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, good morning and
 10 good morning members of the committee. Welcome to Tampa.
 11 Nice to see one familiar face in the group. That makes us
 12 feel welcome. My name is Nicholas Morana. I've lived in
 13 Hernando County for 20 years, part of the 5th Congressional
 14 District. And I made the trip here today to talk to you
 15 about the importance of maintaining the 5th Congressional
 16 District as it is currently configured.

17 The counties of Hernando and Pasco have been part of
 18 the 5th District for 20 years and they've been ably
 19 represented for nearly two decades by Karen Thurman, first
 20 when she was in the State Senate and now in Congress.

21 A strong community of interest exists between Pasco,
 22 Hernando, Citrus and Levy Counties. We're all on the post,
 23 we're all a part of one community. You should not divide
 24 us or pull us apart simply to achieve a partisan political
 25 objective. In addition, this region, and in particular the

Page 30

1 5th Congressional District is home to one of the largest
2 communities of military retirees in the country.
3 I represent the local chapters of the Retired
4 Officers' Association, the Reserved Officers' Association,
5 and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees.
6 Karen Thurman handles hundreds of cases each year for our
7 members. She knows where to go and where to get the
8 action. She has an outstanding record for helping our
9 veterans and former Federal and postal service employees.
10 Our nation's veterans have always tried to live up to
11 the ideals of sacrifice and service and that is why we
12 cherish those community leaders who have honored our
13 sacrifice and our service. Congresswoman Karen Thurman is
14 one such leader. She knows her constituents and they in
15 turn know they can depend on her when important decisions
16 are to be made in Congress. For example, she initiated a
17 measure that was signed into law last year to make
18 prescription drug benefits available to Medicare-eligible
19 military retirees. That's the type of leadership that the
20 people in Hernando County have come to rely upon.
21 If you chop us up or separate us from our elected
22 Representative, you will be doing us a tremendous
23 disservice. This is a plea to save our districts so that
24 we can retain Karen Thurman as our Representative. These
25 issues are enormously important to the people of our

Page 31

1 Congressional district. I ask that you not divide the
2 community of interest that has benefited greatly from the
3 current configuration of the district. Thank you for your
4 time.
5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 3. You're
6 recognized. Welcome to the public hearing.
7 MR. KEMPLE: Chairman Byrd, Senators, members of the
8 House, thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is
9 Terry Kemple. And I'm here as executive director of
10 Florida Right to Life to address you on behalf of our board
11 of directors, our staff and our thousands of members in
12 every county in Florida. First, please allow me to thank
13 you for giving up your personal time to hold these
14 hearings. We really appreciate the opportunity that you
15 give us to tell you how we think you should do the
16 redistricting process.
17 America was founded on a three-part government,
18 executive, legislative, and judicial. The Legislature
19 makes the laws, the judicial passes judgment based upon the
20 laws and the executive enforces the laws. Florida's
21 government was founded in the same mold. An additional
22 responsibility of each branch is to ensure that the other
23 two branches don't exceed their Constitutional areas of
24 responsibility. America's founders recognized that if any
25 of the three branches overstepped its boundaries and was

Page 32

1 unrestrained by the other two, our freedom and our liberty
2 would be imperiled.
3 In 1989, the Florida Supreme Court decided that the
4 Florida Constitution said that the parental consent law
5 that was passed by the Florida Legislature was
6 unconstitutional and that parents don't have the right to
7 be involved in a minor daughter's decision to have an
8 abortion. This is in a state where minors have to have
9 parental permission to get their ears pierced. No one even
10 attempted to overturn this travesty.
11 Last year the U.S. Supreme Court said that a law
12 banning a procedure that kills a living infant in the very
13 act of birth was unconstitutional. The U.S. Congress
14 remained silent as a few members of the Supreme Court
15 rewrote the Constitution to suit their own personal
16 agendas. In November the Florida Supreme Court usurped the
17 authority of Florida's Legislature and said that the vote
18 count needed to continue. They usurped the authority of
19 the executive branch and said that Secretary of State
20 Harris couldn't certify the vote as required by existing
21 law.
22 Florida Right to Life wants to commend Speaker Feeney
23 and the Florida House for their courageous defense of our
24 system of government. It's only through that type of bold
25 exercise of Constitutional authority that we can avoid

Page 33

1 despotism by any one branch. We exhort all of you to make
2 the most of this unique opportunity to bring our state and
3 our country back to the original design that made America
4 great. And by doing that, to ensure our future freedom.
5 Districts should be redrawn so that every elected
6 member of the Florida House and Senate and every elected
7 member of the Florida delegation to Congress are people who
8 will vow to uphold the Constitutional mandates of the
9 Separation of Powers Doctrine which have made Florida and
10 America great. On behalf of Florida Right to Life, thanks
11 again for your attention and for the opportunity to speak
12 this morning.
13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 4. Welcome
14 to the public hearing.
15 MR. BRAUN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman,
16 and members of the committee, I'm Richard Braun. I'm a
17 long-time resident of Hernando County, Spring Hill and part
18 of the 5th Congressional District and I'm speaking about
19 redistricting of the 5th Congressional District. I hope
20 the reapportionment process will be guided by our President
21 George Bush's message of bipartisanship. We all know that
22 one party controls the Legislature in the Governor's
23 Office. But in keeping with the President's message, the
24 people of Florida do not want this process to be a hidden
25 partisan exercise. This hearing is part of a process meant

1 to be about citizen participation in the political system.
2 I submit that the process has not been living up to this
3 ideal.

4 Ten years ago when I was on the AARP State Legislature
5 Committee, there were 32 statewide hearings. This year, we
6 have only two-thirds as many despite the fact that the
7 state has a huge population increase of 25 percent. The
8 hearings are at times when most Floridians are at work and
9 can't participate. Last week's hearing in Daytona Beach
10 was at 10:00 in the morning and on a Tuesday. This hearing
11 is at 9:30 followed by one at 5:00 in Clearwater.

12 There is not one single hearing scheduled in my 5th
13 Congressional District made up of seven counties. Why make
14 it so difficult for the people in the 5th District to
15 participate in the process? It took me over two hours to
16 get here and I'm bereft of the essential information. The
17 State did not release the redistricting software until the
18 day of the first hearing and last month it was learned that
19 the software does not work and it might crash one's
20 computer.

21 I notice in the lobby a truncated map that cuts off
22 half of the 5th Congressional District. We have no access
23 to maps comparing present and proposed districts. How is
24 the public supposed to participate in the process if we do
25 not have access to the data and maps that drive this

1 you can contact him directly.

2 You're recognized. Welcome to the public hearing.

3 MR. WILSON: Thank you, sir. Mr. Chairman, members of
4 the committee, my name is Stu Wilson. I'm a member of the
5 legislative committee of the Federation of Manufactured
6 Home Owners. My Senator is Ginny Brown-Waite who I'm very
7 proud of.

8 What I want to say is simply please keep the
9 convenience of your constituents in mind as to
10 accessibility to their Representatives. As far as -- I'm
11 from Winterview. I was a snowbird but I have been a
12 registered voter for 12 years now here. So I've been into
13 the process awhile. But in Polk County I have a
14 Representative -- I had one, Lorry Edwards, whose office
15 was only 15 minutes at the most to drive over to. And now
16 Marty Bowen has exceeded her and her office is about 15
17 minutes away.

18 Senator Laurent's office is very little further than
19 that. But my Senator is Ginny. And she represents us
20 beautifully, no question about the person. It's the
21 district size. And it's a lot further to drive to
22 Brooksville -- she knows because she's driven to our place
23 a lot of times. But if possible keep the accessibility so
24 that you have a compact area that people not only read in
25 the paper about their Representatives but they can go down

1 process? If you're serious about wanting the public's
2 input hearings need to be held after a proposed plan is on
3 the table and made public. Citizens cannot be expected to
4 comment on something they have not seen and a plan that
5 does not exist. And so I ask you if and when maps and
6 proposed plans have been developed may we, the public, be
7 allowed to see them?

8 If this committee is serious about citizen input in
9 keeping with our President's theme of bipartisanship, it
10 will hold hearings after the majority's proposed
11 redistricting plan is introduced. Please do not cut people
12 out of the process. You are custodians of the public trust
13 and I pray that you will not abuse that trust. Thank you
14 for your time and your attention.

15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 5.

16 SENATOR MILLER: Mr. Chairman?

17 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Speaker Number 5.

18 SENATOR MILLER: Mr. Chairman, can I ask a question of
19 you?

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Senator Miller.

21 SENATOR MILLER: If at all possible, that gentleman
22 had some very important points. If we can't answer his
23 questions now, can we in some way between now and whenever,
24 get some answers to those particular questions?

25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: We'll give you his name and address so

1 to their Representative's local office and go in. And as I
2 do, I can walk in and say, Hi, Vonnie, is Eddie in? Is
3 Marty going to be in town? So you know these people and
4 you can speak with them and discuss the things that are of
5 concern. I couldn't do that with Senator Brown-Waite
6 because of the distance. And I realize there are many
7 problems and I do not envy you, your task. I wish you
8 well. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 6.
10 Number 6. Welcome to the public hearing.

11 MR. STEARNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm Dave
12 Stearns. I'm vice president of the statewide organization
13 of Manufactured Home Owners and I'm chairman of the
14 legislative committee. I want to thank you all for what I
15 thought was a great session that you completed previously.
16 And I'm glad to hear you're going back to work again in a
17 couple of months. We're going to have the advantage of
18 having you work almost around the clock this year. So we
19 look forward to much more successful things going on.

20 We're here today because we didn't know there would be
21 assigned a hearing in Polk County. This is the second
22 largest geographic county in the state of Florida. We
23 weren't going to have a hearing until a week or so ago so
24 we were scheduled to come here and speak very briefly. We
25 have no problem with the Congressional -- with

1 redistricting in the congressional. We think our new
 2 Congressman, the youngest man in the Congress of the United
 3 States, Adam Putnam, has a proper redistricting situation.
 4 We feel that we have no problem particularly in the House
 5 where we have some very fine -- the Florida House, where we
 6 have some very fine young people.

7 But we do see a little problem that Stuart Wilson had
 8 mentioned, Ginny Brown-Waite, I see that your district has
 9 gained considerably in population. You may lose a little
 10 territory because John Laurent, I see his district has lost
 11 a little bit. Maybe we can swap those and as Stuart has
 12 suggested, bring our Senators' offices a little closer to
 13 home. But we do appreciate very much the service that you
 14 have given in our area up there in Tallahassee. Thank you
 15 very much. Appreciate the chance to speak briefly to you.
 16 We thank two sponsors you had last year, Bruce Kyle and
 17 John Deckenbown (phonetic). Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 7.
 19 Welcome. You're recognized.

20 MS. EDGEWOOD: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, and members
 21 of the committee. I'm Doretha Edgewood. I'm a retired
 22 educator and citizen of Hillsborough County. My comments
 23 this morning are related to three factors: One, the number
 24 of districts. Two, the fragmentation. And of course the
 25 implementation -- and implementations for the diminishing

1 the number of residents.

2 This would serve a couple of interests and comply with
 3 traditional redistricting principles. One, it would better
 4 honor county lines by keeping the residents of Hillsborough
 5 County together in as few districts as possible. And
 6 secondly, keeping Hillsborough County residents together
 7 would honor our communities of interest. Thank you for the
 8 opportunity to share my concerns and the concerns of many
 9 citizens of our district. And thank you for your
 10 leadership in this tedious and hard process. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 8.

12 MS. THOMAS: My name is Dee Thomas and I'm a
 13 registered physical therapist and president of Ewing and
 14 Thomas, the only 100 percent employee-owned physical
 15 therapy company in America through an ESOP, an employee
 16 stock ownership plan. I also have the honor of being the
 17 immediate and past chair of the ESOP association and I
 18 represent 11 million Americans that have employee
 19 ownership.

20 Our office is located in New Port Richey, Florida,
 21 Congressional 5th District. It is a privilege to be here
 22 today and offer opinion and concern as Florida prepares to
 23 add two new seats to the United States House of
 24 Representatives in 2002. The concern of many Floridians is
 25 that the lines of any new districts do not violate the

1 of the communities of interest.

2 Currently State House districts are drawn in
 3 Hillsborough County in such a way that they are divided
 4 into 12 different districts. Far too many voters of our
 5 county. It fragments Hillsborough County's population and
 6 it renders segments of our community into small parts of
 7 other districts. As you may be aware, only half of the 12
 8 House districts into which Hillsborough County is divided
 9 consists entirely of Hillsborough County residents.

10 Those House districts are Districts 56, 57, 58, 59,
 11 60, and 62. The other six districts includes parts of
 12 surrounding counties. Further, five of the six districts
 13 that consist entirely of Hillsborough County residents need
 14 to add populations to reach ideal voters or ideal size of
 15 voters. These districts are 57, 58, 59, 60, and 62.
 16 Interestingly, five of the six districts are parts of
 17 Hillsborough County as well as other parts of other
 18 counties need to lose population to make them an ideal size
 19 House district. These are House Districts 47, 48, 61, 66,
 20 and 67.

21 To this end, we, the many citizens of Hillsborough
 22 County, are requesting that the Hillsborough population of
 23 those districts that need to lose populations be placed in
 24 those House districts which currently only have
 25 Hillsborough County residents and which need to increase

1 nation's voting rights laws, that all minorities are fairly
 2 represented and that this process is not in any way
 3 construed to be politically driven. Thomas Jefferson once
 4 said that government is the strongest of which every man
 5 feels himself a part. That thought ought to drive this
 6 committee forward as we look to achieve representation for
 7 all that is legally and politically fair.

8 Florida's 5th District comprised of parts of Alachua,
 9 Levy, Columbia, Marion, Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco
 10 Counties has seen integration of its residents and
 11 businesses for the past 20 years. The recent census shows
 12 a growth of 50,000 people over the ideal. While the
 13 district covering the mid and southern parts of Florida
 14 have grown three times that amount, no doubt Florida's
 15 voters should be pleased over its added status in the House
 16 of Representatives with its two new seats.

17 But let's make sure the new districts are carved where
 18 the population expansion requires this additional
 19 representation. The worse thing this committee can do is
 20 to use its power to design districts for the hidden
 21 partisan purpose of serving some of its members or
 22 acquaintances. This will not sit well with the residents
 23 in Florida's 5th District where community and trust in all
 24 aspects is now represented. We are proud of the pivotal
 25 seat we have on the all-important House Ways and Means

Page 42

1 Committee. Even the tiniest prospect of break a part this
2 district for partisan interest flies in the face of reason.
3 I work every day in an industry very much controlled
4 by government policies. One of the most intricate of
5 these, the Star Clause, is specific, it is illegal for
6 medical providers to profit from self-referral schemes. It
7 is not in the best interest for Floridians to be exposed to
8 these health care practices. The same standards should
9 exist for a self-serving, self-referral political system.
10 Florida's voters can appreciate the difficult task placed
11 before this committee. But above all else, the committee's
12 core purpose must be the protection of community interest
13 ensuring confidence in the voters that this has been
14 handled fairly and with voters' rights upheld. Great
15 leaders mold public opinion but wise leaders listen to it.
16 Thank you.
17 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 9.
18 Number 9. You're recognized.
19 MR. JOSKO: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, members of the
20 committee, good morning. My name is Todd Josko. I am a
21 public affairs consultant, president of Josko Associates
22 here in Hillsborough County. And I wanted to speak briefly
23 this morning about the benefits of regional, Congressional,
24 and State Senate districts particularly to the Tampa Bay
25 area. As the name implies, Tampa Bay extends far beyond

Page 43

1 the city of Tampa. Beyond Hillsborough County. It
2 comprises many counties where independents are interrelated
3 in the fact that they are not only in close proximity to
4 itself but share major aspects such as infrastructure,
5 airports, the same media market, the list goes on. And
6 thus with this interrelation is the need for cooperation
7 between government bodies.
8 We see examples of this probably best on the local
9 level. Groups such as Tampa Bay Partnership, the Tampa Bay
10 Regional Planning Council, Tampa Bay Water, that are
11 designed for elected officials to better put aside
12 parochial interests particularly to a city or district and
13 concentrate on issues that affect things on a regional
14 level.
15 This corporation also is mirrored on the state and
16 federal level through regional districts both on the State
17 Senate and Congressional level. And we're going to see the
18 need for such cooperation, I believe, expand in the future
19 as we see growth expand rapidly in the Tampa Bay area. And
20 we see that issues that are decided by public policy don't
21 stop at city or county borders, issues such as economic
22 development, environmental issues, growth management, all
23 need the perspective of a regional approach.
24 I believe many legislators and members of Congress
25 from the Tampa Bay area represent two or more counties and

Page 44

1 I don't think it's any coincidence that many of these same
2 legislators are considered to be leaders by their peers in
3 Tallahassee or Washington. I think that's because they are
4 very able to understand things from a big perspective on
5 how issues affect Florida and the region as a whole because
6 they represent two or more counties. We'll ask you to
7 please afford the same opportunity to the next generation
8 of legislators and members of Congress by keeping these
9 regional congressional districts. Thank you very much for
10 your time.
11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 10.
12 Number 10. Welcome to the hearing.
13 MR. SINGER: Good morning. What an honor it is to
14 speak before this committee. To the local Representatives
15 and Senators, good morning. To those who are not local,
16 welcome to Tampa, home of the Super Bowl-bound Tampa Bay
17 Buccaneers. (Laughter.) It's Monday morning.
18 My name is Gil Singer. I'm an attorney here in Tampa
19 in private practice and I also reside in Tampa. Members of
20 the committee, you have a truly awesome responsibility to
21 fulfill in redrawing the voting districts of our
22 legislative and Congressional lines. The legislative
23 branches of government are the heart of our democracy. As
24 conceived by the Founding Fathers and modeled in our
25 Constitution of the state of Florida, the legislative

Page 45

1 branch is the people's voice in government.
2 Accordingly, I find it kind of ironic there are
3 several groups, well-intentioned, mind you, like the League
4 of Women Voters and other groups, that are championing a
5 cause called People Over Politics. This is an initiative
6 to create a reapportionment board to, quote, Return
7 Florida's government to the people. The movement toward a
8 reapportionment board, ladies and gentlemen, does the
9 opposite. It takes the power away from the people by
10 placing this responsibility, this awesome responsibility,
11 of redrawing our voting districts in the hands of an
12 unelected, unaccountable board.
13 The Legislature is Constitutionally, politically,
14 ethnically, and racially well representative of the people
15 of the state of Florida and there is no better body to
16 handle the job. In addition, you're being asked by many to
17 respect municipal boundaries, keep communities of interest
18 intact and have districts that are compact and squared.
19 This is, of course, a laudable goal but it's of course
20 harder to accomplish than many believe.
21 For example, here in Hillsborough County we have three
22 incorporated municipalities; Tampa, Temple Terrace, and
23 Plant City. An example would be Temple Terrace and I could
24 hold up the map, but I think you-all get the idea. Temple
25 Terrace itself, the municipality looks like a strange

Page 46

1 gerrymandered community of sorts. So the municipalities
 2 themselves are not squared and compact. We have residents
 3 also living around our municipalities with city addresses
 4 but they live outside the city limits.

5 Lastly, we have dozens of unincorporated communities
 6 in our county such as Brandon Town and Country, Dover,
 7 Seffner, and Lutz, to name a few. None have legal
 8 boundaries defining them. And this makes it hard to keep
 9 them intact or unite with other communities to form
 10 legislative districts. Therefore, I would urge this group
 11 to draw compact districts defined by the major roadways and
 12 natural boundaries.

13 Also, for the sake of the public trust and confidence
 14 of the people, don't fall victims to the mistakes of the
 15 past. Please complete your work on time. A process that
 16 is fair, open, legal and on time will do much to reinforce
 17 the people's confidence that the Legislature is the best
 18 body to handle this task now and in the future. Thank
 19 you-all for your time.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Speaker Number 11.
 21 Welcome.

22 MR. TANENBAUM: Thank you. Good morning. My name is
 23 Adam Tanenbaum. I'm a lawyer here in Tampa. I also reside
 24 in south Tampa. Members of the Legislature have pledged to
 25 make this a fair, open, and legal process. I believe that

Page 47

1 your actions in holding many hearings throughout the state,
 2 including this one, using modern technology and the
 3 Internet to communicate with the public and listening to
 4 the people before drawing maps are good-faith efforts to be
 5 fair and open. I would just like to make a couple of
 6 comments for those who question or criticize this
 7 redistricting process.

8 You've been criticized by some because of a so-called
 9 lack of explicit standards. As has already been explained
 10 by counsel, the Legislature will not be drawing in a
 11 political and legal vacuum. In fact, there are a number of
 12 legal requirements coming from the Federal and Florida
 13 Constitutions, Federal statutes, and current case law that
 14 must be adhered to in order to make this a legal process.

15 The Florida Constitution tells us that districts must
 16 be contiguous and consecutively numbered. And from the
 17 case of Shaw versus Reno, the Supreme Court has told us
 18 that racial gerrymandering or districts drawn with race as
 19 the predominant factor violate the 14th Amendment.

20 At the same time, the Supreme Court this past session
 21 gave its imprimatur to express, deliver partisan line
 22 drawing. Over the history of the United States,
 23 redistricting has always been a political process
 24 regardless of the party in power so don't be fooled. As
 25 some of the speakers have demonstrated today, in fact, this

Page 48

1 process would be no less political if done under the guise
 2 of a nonpartisan commission which no doubt would have an
 3 agenda of its own. Furthermore, the Supreme Court tells us
 4 to respect the traditional redistricting criteria of
 5 contiguity, compactness, preservation of counties and other
 6 political subdivisions, preservation of communities of
 7 interest, protection of incumbents and the preservation of
 8 the courts of prior districts. I trust that you will do
 9 the same this session. I thank you for coming here to
 10 Tampa today and wish you the very best on what can only be
 11 a very difficult job but which you have been
 12 Constitutionally designated to do. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 12. (Pause.)
 14 Number 12. Number 13. (Pause.) Number 13.

15 Good morning. You're 13?

16 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm Number 13.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Welcome.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Some of the worst and best things in my
 19 life happen to me on the 13th. Ladies and gentlemen of
 20 this committee, I want to thank you for coming to the Tampa
 21 Bay area to listen to our input with respect to
 22 reapportionment. I'm Dee Williams. I live at 1925
 23 Wallflower Drive in Sun City Center. I promise to be
 24 brief. Therefore, I'll read my statement.
 25 Sun City Center is a retirement community in

Page 49

1 Hillsborough County midway between Tampa and Bradenton,
 2 2 miles east of I-75, bisected by State Road 674. We along
 3 with our neighbors, Ruskin, Apollo Beach, Riverview,
 4 Gibsonton, Summer Field Crossing and Rubonia are often
 5 referred to as south Hillsborough County. We are not
 6 heavily urbanized; however, we have experienced some heavy
 7 growth over the last ten years.

8 Along with growth, agriculture, environment, and
 9 education are some of our major issues. From 1982 until
 10 '92 we had a nice compact House district uniting all the
 11 communities I just mentioned. It was House District 62 as
 12 shown on Map 1 which I just handed you. In 1990 Mr. Chris
 13 Corr, a young energetic Republican, defeated a 10-year
 14 incumbent Democrat to become the only House Republican in
 15 the Hillsborough County legislative delegation.

16 In the 1992 redistricting, District 62 paid the price.
 17 Our areas was torn apart. District 62 was carved up into
 18 six other districts and no longer did south Hillsborough
 19 have a local Representative in the Florida House as shown
 20 on Map No. 2 two which you have. Sun City Center was
 21 divided between Bradenton District 67, now represented by
 22 Mike Bennett. And Polk County District 66 now represented
 23 by JD Alexander. And both of these Representatives pay a
 24 great deal of attention to our area as did their
 25 predecessors, Mark Ogles (phonetic) and Senator John

1 Laurent.

2 And it would not be bad if they continued to represent
3 us. Congressionally, we were moved into the
4 Manatee/Sarasota District 13. However, it would seem
5 logical to place us in the county to which we spend several
6 million dollars in ad valorem taxes annually. But the most
7 important thing I want to say to this committee today is
8 that you do not play the same games that were played ten
9 years ago whereby the Democrats in control engaged in
10 reckless partisan gerrymandering.

11 Republicans, this is your first opportunity ever to
12 redraw the boundaries of Florida and all of you have an
13 awesome responsibility and you must remember that you are
14 dealing with people, the residents and the voters of this
15 great state. Now I'm not naive enough to think that
16 politics will not enter into this redistricting but I hope
17 it will not become the overriding factor. I implore you to
18 leave all that behind you and do the best to act in a
19 mature manner that will make us very proud of you and proud
20 of your work. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 15. Number 14 has
22 withdrawn their request.

23 MS. MCCLURE: Good morning, Representative Byrd,
24 Senator Webster. My name is Patricia McClure and I'm a
25 lifetime resident of Hillsborough County. I'm just a home

1 My problem is he clumps together his District 66,
2 Hillsborough, Polk, and Highlands Counties. In order to
3 call him on the phone, I have to make a long distance
4 telephone call. In order to drive to his office to share
5 with him my concerns I have to drive almost an hour. Now I
6 mean almost an hour away from the traffic. It takes me an
7 hour to get here and I live only 23 miles. I'm talking
8 almost an hour where I should be able to -- you know.

9 My representation, I wish, lived at least close enough
10 to where when I want to get ahold of you and shake your
11 hands and talk to you and say, Why in the world did you
12 vote like that, we can. So if you would consider that, I
13 would love to come and let you guys know what I think about
14 you. Also, to everyone out there, if you haven't been to
15 the capitol when it's in session, please go because that's
16 one of the greatest places in the state of Florida. I love
17 to watch you-all work. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 16.

19 MR. BUNKLEY: Mr. Chairman, that's a tough act to
20 follow, I tell you. At any rate, good morning. My name is
21 Bill Bunkley and I reside here at 3202 Coldwell Avenue here
22 in Tampa, Florida. And welcome to all of our out-of-town
23 legislators here today. Glad to see you here.

24 As a lifelong resident who was born just blocks from
25 this building, I really want to thank you for coming here

1 school mommy. I don't represent a big group of people.
2 But as a lifetime citizen of Hillsborough County I have
3 seen an incredible amount of growth in the state of
4 Florida. I remember when most of our malls were orange
5 groves or cow pastures and I can't imagine thinking about
6 this task and trying to cure the growing pangs that we have
7 encountered in the state of Florida in this amount of time
8 with all that you have to consider. So I'm really glad I
9 don't have your job, number one.

10 Maintaining communities I believe is very important.
11 But equally as important is maintaining the community
12 concerns. Continuity and community concerns, you know, I
13 understand that part of Hillsborough goes along with part
14 of Polk. That makes sense because the farmers in that area
15 of Polk and the farmers in that area of Hillsborough have
16 something in common just like the people that live on the
17 beach in Hillsborough County and the people that live along
18 the coastline down in Manatee County have something in
19 common.

20 So if you guys would remember our commonness when you
21 encompass this altogether that would be great. Also, I'm
22 in District 66, House District 66. JD Alexander is my
23 Representative and I'm really enjoying Mr. Alexander. He
24 usually responds to my E-mails. And anybody who responds
25 to my E-mails I appreciate.

1 today so we, the citizens of Hillsborough County, the
2 cities of Temple Terrace, Plant City, and Tampa can express
3 our opinion on the 2002 redrawing of the legislative and
4 congressional districts here in our area.

5 This is the first time in modern history that the
6 Republican party has been charged by the citizens of
7 Florida with the responsibility of redistricting the state
8 of Florida. And so far I have been impressed with what
9 I've seen. I think it is important to know that the
10 Florida Legislature is making software available to all
11 citizens and all interested parties so that everyone can
12 evaluate the data and submit their own plans for
13 consideration.

14 I personally can remember back ten years ago when the
15 Democratic majority was very possessive of the technology
16 that they had to redraw the districts and the severely
17 limited Republican as well as public participation here in
18 this area. When you begin the process of redrawing the
19 lines I hope that you will adhere to the ideas of
20 contiguity, compactness, and most of all the preservation
21 of our local communities of interest.

22 Again, ten years ago, the Democratic majority held 31
23 public hearings around the state and devised a plan that
24 was nothing more than political gerrymandering mostly
25 ignoring the testimony of the public that did participate.

1 As an example of that, here in Hillsborough County I would
2 like this committee to look at the current districts,
3 Districts 56 and 47.

4 If you'll notice District 56, it starts way down in
5 the south, southern portion of Hillsborough County. And by
6 the most meandering of lines you see that small orange line
7 as we move forward, takes you up pretty much paralleling
8 I-275 it. Then ends up in the northwest Hillsborough
9 County. If you lived in our community you would probably
10 know that the folks in southwest Hillsborough County have
11 very little in common with the folks in northwest
12 Hillsborough County because it's two diverse areas.

13 The second example would be District 47. As you can
14 see, that's primarily Hillsborough County and we have some
15 folks along the I-75 corridor over there. And, again, that
16 particular district goes from Hillsborough County, all the
17 way to the residents of Pinellas County on the Gulf. As
18 you can see, the only thing legal about these seats are
19 that they were drawn with the rough requirement of 107,000
20 people within the district. In many places they are barely
21 contiguous and they clearly divided our communities of
22 interest and did not unite them.

23 You have heard and you will undoubtedly hear again
24 today that this process is flawed because there are a few
25 less hearings than there were ten years ago. I would like

1 inside that area. They read those similar instruments and
2 they tend to be influenced and shaped by those media
3 instruments as well. So there are folks in a particular
4 area that are exposed to that type of input.

5 A second one is one that I'm familiar with. I'm a
6 member of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and that
7 bureaucracy for a lack of a better term, or that authority,
8 is a group that spans a four-county area from Pasco,
9 Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee County. There are
10 representatives of every city and county on that authority
11 and they represent what I consider to be in that sense a
12 homogeneous population that extends beyond a typical
13 topographical or geographical boundary.

14 So I would present those two items to you. And again
15 I do appreciate having four minutes of the attention of
16 outstanding elected officials in Hillsborough -- or
17 throughout the state of Florida. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 18.

19 MS. TAMARGO: Good morning. My name is Deborah
20 Tamargo and I reside at 10401 Oakbrook Drive in Tampa,
21 Florida. Thank you--all for being here today. You have
22 agreed to take on an awesome responsibility and for that
23 you are to be commended. Representative Byrd, and Senator
24 Webster, you add such dignity and sunshine to this process.
25 I thank you. Today I hope in my brief comments to bring

1 to know what the previous Democratic majority heard in
2 those 31 public hearings some ten years ago today which led
3 them to draw districts as you see before us today. What
4 communities of interest did these districts preserve the
5 last go-around?

6 In closing, I want to conclude that if 31 hearings
7 produced districts like 56 and 47 that I've shown you
8 today, then perhaps the old adage of quality over quantity
9 might be the wiser rule of today. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 17.

11 MR. PRESSMAN: Mr. Chairman, and legislators, my name
12 is Todd Pressman. I'm a citizen of Pinellas County. I
13 can't remember the last time that there were this many
14 elected officials in one room all sitting quietly listening
15 to me and I relish the opportunity. Thank you.

16 I have two quick points to make if I may. The first
17 is that there are, of course, many different boundaries and
18 border lines that are just as effective as the typical
19 topographical or geographical districts that are so easy to
20 look at. One of those would be media markets. And I think
21 when you look at media markets they are in a sense a
22 community of interest. And I think it can be said that
23 residents inside a media market, whether it be radio, TV,
24 or newspaper, share that type of community interest.

25 Residents are obviously informed about the happenings

1 you an understanding of my hundred years-plus in
2 Hillsborough County. Yes, my family came here when Tampa
3 was country and we have farmed it to date for over 101
4 years.

5 In our latest census we know that we have over
6 1 million citizens in Tampa today. You will be drawing
7 lines which I hope will be sensible and suitable to
8 redistrict in the year 2002 so that we have responsible and
9 the best representation we can have for all people. Yes,
10 Hillsborough County is now large and diverse. It is urban,
11 rural, suburban and innercity. We are ethnically and we
12 are racially mixed. Our Hispanic population is now
13 18 percent and our African-American, 15 percent.

14 In Hillsborough County we have three incorporated
15 areas: Tampa, Temple Terrace and Plant City. We have many
16 unincorporated areas from Fort Lonesome (phonetic) in the
17 southeast to Odessa in the northeast. Many of these
18 unincorporated areas are quite well known such as Brandon
19 and Sun City. Others such as Dover, Thonotosassa, and
20 Mango are less known.

21 When drawing district lines it may be difficult for
22 you to realize where one of the unincorporated areas of
23 communities ends and another begins yet it is pretty easy
24 for those of us that are in the middle of one. Because our
25 county is so large many of our communities don't

1 necessarily feel a strong kinship to the city of Tampa.
 2 Residents in Plant City have stronger ties to Polk County.
 3 Residents in Lutz and Land O' Lakes and Pasco County share
 4 much in common as a bedroom community, while our south
 5 Hillsborough communities of Sun City, Apollo Beach and
 6 Ruskin share a strong independence as a district between
 7 Tampa and Bradenton.

8 As you know, Hillsborough residents currently dominate
 9 seven House seats, three Senate seats and one Congressional
 10 seat. Going strictly by the numbers we can potentially
 11 dominate another House and Congressional seat. I believe
 12 it is your task to be mindful of providing adequate
 13 representation to all people by adequately representing the
 14 diversity of our county including the drawing of lines to
 15 give minorities the opportunity to elect their choice of
 16 candidates. Dividing up well-defined minority communities
 17 would be a step backwards.

18 I urge this committee and all members of the Florida
 19 Legislature to be respectful and mindful of the people, our
 20 neighborhoods, and our communities when redrawing the
 21 political boundaries for representation. Don't engage in
 22 the kind of games that marred the process ten years ago.
 23 It left our county divided in districts that are illogical
 24 and bizarre.

25 In closing, I ask you to remember that in our form of

1 Now I'd like to speak about being a voter in Senate
 2 District 20. When I first started thinking about
 3 reapportionment I thought, We need our own district in
 4 Tampa, District 20. But when I stepped out of the box I
 5 realized that the Bay area has so many things in common
 6 that we really should have someone at least in one of the
 7 districts representing us in both areas. We have water
 8 issues that certainly affect us all, transportation needs,
 9 economic development, thousands of people go back and forth
 10 each day between Pinellas County and Hillsborough and vice
 11 versa.

12 So I hope that you will take into consideration
 13 keeping this Senate district in both counties. And I would
 14 like to just end by saying Senator Sebesta has done a
 15 wonderful job of listening to all of us, those people that
 16 he represents. And once again, thank you for these
 17 hearings.

18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 21 is apparently
 19 missing. So we go to 22. Twenty-three was Pam Iorio. So
 20 Number 24. Welcome to the public hearing.

21 MR. BLISS: Good morning. Thank you for the
 22 opportunity of being here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the
 23 rest of the redistricting committee. My name is Charles
 24 Bliss and I live in a place called Freedom Plaza and my
 25 address is Sun City Center. I could also be living in

1 representative government that we are the servants of the
 2 people and we, the people, are best served by districts
 3 that we can understand. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Former Representative
 5 Deborah Tamargo, thank you for your service to your
 6 community and the state of Florida.

7 Number 19 has withdrawn their request. So we're now
 8 at Number 20. Number 20.

9 MS. VOSS: Good morning. I am Anne Voss and my
 10 address is 5020 Bayshore Boulevard here in Tampa. I want
 11 to applaud this committee first for listening to the
 12 people, for having these meetings at various times so that
 13 people no matter where they work or not can attend the
 14 meetings. I also thank you for not having maps drawn up
 15 because I really feel how -- you need to listen to
 16 everyone's concerns and then draw the maps and the
 17 decisions be made.

18 I understand that some members of the Legislature
 19 would prefer maps be drawn up and that's fine but I applaud
 20 you for what you're doing. And also I've heard today in
 21 this meeting that there is some concern because you're not
 22 having meetings in every congressional district. They
 23 didn't ten years ago, that would be almost an impossibility
 24 for you to fulfill. And so thank you for the way you are
 25 conducting these meetings.

1 Ashton Gardens or I could be a member of the community
 2 association and my address would still be Sun City Center
 3 and I would be north of Highway 674. Additionally I could
 4 be a resident of Kings Point or living in the Towers or in
 5 the Courtyards or in St. Andrews and my address would still
 6 be Sun City Center.

7 Sun City Center is a community that came into being
 8 approximately 40 years ago and it has grown, it's grown a
 9 lot. And these places that I've mentioned are all parts of
 10 the growth that have come along and not everybody that
 11 lives there was in total agreement of the way it developed.
 12 So we've had decisiveness and I think that it has settled
 13 to the point that this decisiveness is less than it's been
 14 before and we're more comfortable with the way it's been
 15 developed and the way we are living in Sun City Center
 16 today.

17 Each of these places has their place and serves well
 18 the people that reside in them. There's a proposal to draw
 19 a line down 674 and the result of this, of course, would be
 20 to cut Sun City Center in half, put the south half in one
 21 district and the other half, of course, would remain as is.
 22 We have been served well by Senator Tom Lee. We would like
 23 for this situation to continue and see no reason to cut
 24 these -- the Sun City Center community in half.

25 This also would affect our neighbors to the west in

1 Ruskin. It also would affect our neighbors to the east in
2 Wimauma. So we would ask that this line be erased. There
3 has got to be another way to the south somewhere where you
4 could draw that line and leave our communities intact so
5 that we could continue to grow and continue to appreciate
6 each other for what we have. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 25.

8 MR. CHUNN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the
9 committee, my name is Bob Chunn and I reside at 3903
10 Kristen Place in Valrico.

11 I'm here this morning on behalf of the 1800 members of
12 the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce and on behalf of
13 the constituents of the Greater Brandon area, the area in
14 Hillsborough County that our chamber serves. Specifically,
15 I'm here to echo the contents of a letter that's been sent
16 to members of your committees by the chair of the Greater
17 Brandon Chamber of Commerce, Kim Boyle. In the letter our
18 chair requests that as you pursue the arduous task of
19 redistricting that you do so in a manner that will allow
20 the Greater Brandon area to remain intact as a local
21 community of like interest.

22 Also, our chair requests in the letter and offers you
23 in the letter the services and support of the Greater
24 Brandon Chamber of Commerce to the extent that it will
25 support you and assist you in representing the interest of

1 the Greater Brandon area. I want to extend to you on
2 behalf of the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce our best
3 wishes in this endeavor and I appreciate the opportunity of
4 addressing you this morning. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 27. Twenty-seven.

6 DR. TRIBBLE: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee,
7 welcome to Tampa. My name is Israel Tribble, Jr. I'm a
8 resident of the 11th Congressional District. I'm probably
9 happier to see you than you are to see me. I just had a
10 stem cell transplant in February and it has changed my
11 appearance somewhat, 25 pounds lighter and no hair. But
12 we're going to correct that in the next couple of months.

13 I want to speak on behalf of the 11th Congressional
14 District. We have a tradition in the 11th Congressional
15 district where we've had balance and steady leadership for
16 a long period of time. Most of you remember Congressman
17 Gibbons and now we've got Congressman Jim Davis and there
18 isn't a meeting that I've attended over the last 16 years
19 that I haven't seen Republicans and Democrats come together
20 to speak on behalf of interest of the 11th Congressional
21 District. I don't hear the kind of chicanery and the kind
22 of name-calling and so forth.

23 And I would implore you to do your best to hold this
24 Congressional district together. It covers most of Tampa
25 and Hillsborough County. It is a good district. I am told

1 that we will add about 11,000 new voters. If so -- I get
2 dry. It's a little bit of my after-effects. I would ask
3 that you try to hold that district together if at all
4 possible.

5 Secondly, there is an issue of fairness. And
6 sometimes we see things differently. I would like to say
7 that I was the first in 1997, the first African-American
8 ever to chair the Hillsborough Greater Tampa Chamber of
9 Commerce and the Hillsborough Association of Chambers of
10 Commerce which says something about my ability to look
11 beyond just partisan issues and to deal with things that
12 are meaningful to the total community.

13 My sense is that you have to have that same kind of
14 vision and that same kind of judgment to make sure that you
15 don't misconstrue your perception of fairness to what other
16 people see as real fairness. You've heard from a number of
17 folks to testify that we don't want to get into that kind
18 of name-calling and so forth and so on. I think it's
19 extremely important.

20 The Voting Rights Act has also been mentioned. There
21 are three points about the Voting Rights Act. One, you
22 can't dilute minority participation. But one of the things
23 that has to be taken into consideration is that all
24 minorities don't come and live in the same district
25 anymore. The people like myself who came to this community

1 in 1984 do not live in what would be defined as minority
2 communities. And therefore, when you speak to issues of
3 the Voting Rights Act, you need to know that we're out
4 there in places where we weren't 15, 20 years ago. And so
5 the districts that you configure have to take into account
6 that there are people like myself who look like myself,
7 maybe with more hair, but who are also thinking and voting
8 and looking for your --

9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds.

10 DR. TRIBBLE: -- representation. You can't fragment
11 minority voters. You may not result in less political
12 power than minorities currently have today.

13 In conclusion, the 11th Congressional District has
14 served this community well and I think you ought to try to
15 hold it together as best as you can. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 28. Welcome.

17 MR. NUCCIO: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, members of the
18 committee, good morning. My name is Vince Nuccio. I'm a
19 resident of Tampa, having lived here all my life. I live
20 in the 11th Congressional District and I have come here
21 today to express my belief that every effort should be made
22 to maintain that district in as close a configuration as
23 possible to its current configuration.

24 Insofar as the 11th Congressional District is
25 concerned, it is, in my view, presently a well-designed

Page 66

1 district. It works well for the people of the city of
2 Tampa and the people of the surrounding parts of the
3 unincorporated Hillsborough County which consider
4 themselves to be part of Tampa.

5 There is within the district a strong community of
6 interest. This is an urban area which has always had its
7 own unique character and its own unique concerns. The
8 people of this district won't be served as well if they are
9 divided and placed in districts with rural communities or
10 with other suburban or district communities. I believe our
11 interests can be most effectively represented in Congress
12 if we remain in basically the district that we are
13 presently included.

14 Please do not undermine our voice in Congress by
15 making unnecessary changes to this district. In short, our
16 district is configured in a way which helps maximize
17 Tampa's voice on the issues that are most important to
18 Tampa. You hopefully will not change that. Thank you for
19 your time.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 29. Number 29.

21 MR. GARDNER: Good morning, Chairman, members of the
22 committee. My name is Truett Gardner. I'm also here to
23 reflect my sentiments on the 11th Congressional District
24 and to request that the lines be maintained as currently
25 configured.

Page 67

1 As expressed before, the current lines are well
2 focussed and serve the needs of Tampa. And so, again, I'd
3 like to request that those lines be maintained. And
4 secondly, I'd just like to request fairness overall in this
5 process, especially on the wake of last year's election.
6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 30. Number 30.
8 Welcome to the public hearing.

9 MR. ZELEDON: Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.
10 Thank you, members of this committee. My name is Steve
11 Zeledon. I'm a resident of Ridge Manor, Florida in
12 Hernando County and I had to travel a good way to get here.

13 Most of the things I wanted to say have already been
14 said very eloquently by other people before I came. So I
15 will spare you a repetition. I have five specific points
16 to make. I could begin with glittering generalities about
17 fairness, you know all that. You've heard it before. I'm
18 a recent retiree. A year ago when I was 65 I would not
19 have been able to attend this meeting because I was
20 working. I think it's important that you schedule these
21 meetings at a time when working people can attend. I think
22 it's important that you schedule these meetings in my
23 Congressional district, which you have not, District 5.

24 The third point is that I think it's important in
25 order for us to have meaningful input to know where you're

Page 68

1 going, what sort of plans do you contemplate. These
2 meetings would be meaningful to me if I could comment on
3 some sort of a map, some sort of a plan. I think it's
4 important that you hold these meetings after these plans
5 are made or at least the beginning of a draft is made.

6 And I'd like to conclude by repeating what other
7 people have said about the very able representation of
8 Karen Thurman in our district. She has done more in
9 District 5 than anyone in my memory. She has worked for
10 veterans' groups; she's worked for education; and she's a
11 great asset to our district. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 31.

13 MR. WELLS: Good morning. My name is Gene Wells. I
14 reside at 6205 Sanders Drive in south Tampa. Senators, and
15 Representatives, welcome to Tampa. Tampa Bay legislators,
16 we're always glad to see you here at home. Today is such a
17 contrast from ten years ago when the Legislature was
18 cloaked in a process of secrecy and exclusion to not allow
19 participation of fellow legislators back then, much less
20 the public.

21 In fact, they made such a mess of it the courts had to
22 step in and ultimately resolve the ridiculous districts
23 they drew. We've been stuck with this mismatch of
24 districts for ten years. Thank God the law requires this
25 review. There would be no other way to undo the hacking up

Page 69

1 of regions, counties, cities and neighborhoods that was
2 done without regard to the impact on local communities and
3 voters. In 1992 it was not done for the voters but done as
4 a case study for gerrymandering and political partisanship.

5 You've already begun to correct those problems that
6 occurred in 1992. You opened the process, the level of
7 public information and input today is remarkable and
8 commendable. You have even made software available for
9 anyone to draw their own proposed lines. You've opened
10 your ears and your minds to the opposition and more
11 importantly to the public.

12 In '92 no one asked if we cared or what the voters had
13 to say as evidenced by the districts that were drawn. The
14 leadership of '92 is no longer in power because ultimately
15 the will and the wrath of the voters were felt -- was felt.

16 Tampa Bay is one of Florida's most diverse regions.
17 The glass skyscrapers of Tampa and St. Petersburg are
18 surrounded by tourist destinations, industrial and
19 manufacturing centers, educational centers, and
20 agriculture. This is why structuring districts that keep
21 like communities and neighborhoods together is so
22 important.

23 In Senate District 20, south Tampa is just a small
24 part, less than 20 percent of that district. The only
25 silver lining that we have is that Senator Jim Sebesta is

1 our Senator. The benefit to that in our community of south
2 Tampa would be to balance the population or give south
3 Tampa part of the Hillsborough County district.

4 I believe your efforts in redistricting are a step in
5 the right direction. You've let the sunshine in and not
6 only involved the minority party but every citizen in the
7 state. The challenge for you is to deliver districts that
8 reflect all the information you have received that keep
9 like communities together and that try to provide a balance
10 within the districts that cross county lines.

11 Having 20 percent of one Senate district in one county
12 and 80 percent in another dilutes and reduces the voting
13 voice of that 20 percent minority. Again, thank you for
14 your extraordinary work and efforts. This is an enormous
15 undertaking. Please deliver to us districts that are fair
16 and accurately represent the communities which they exist.
17 More importantly give us districts that we can live with
18 and live together with for the next ten years. Thank you
19 very much and come and visit us anytime.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 32. Number 32.

21 MR. HORTON: My name is Sam Horton. I represent the
22 Hillsborough County branch of the NAACP this morning. That
23 is a community of interest. Since you'll be wrestling with
24 that thought and those parameters from time to time, What
25 is an appropriate community of interest, since there is no

1 finite definition, there are lots of interpretations as
2 well as the word "contiguous." It all means something
3 different to whomever is listening at that time. So what
4 you're going to wrestle with is how to put some meat, so to
5 speak, on those two terms.

6 We are concerned, of course, about the Voting Rights
7 Act that you heard cited, 2 and 5 as being the appropriate
8 sections that you need to address at this time. When
9 talking about redistricting to us, it does not mean party
10 line because we are nonpartisan. What it means to us is
11 that you look at those communities and the bigger issues
12 and how we can solve those larger issues. We feel those
13 larger issues can be served by diversity by having
14 diversity of thought at the table.

15 There are some things that you can't change or you can
16 change or can't change. We can change political parties no
17 matter if you draw a line around Democrats or Republican or
18 Libertarians, what have you. Over time, that's going to
19 change because ideology is subject to charge.

20 If the biographers are correct, in the year 2050 there
21 will be a browning of America. So we have to look at this
22 as a transitioning period between these ten years and that
23 we begin to look at redistricting again. So how can we get
24 the diverse voices at the table to address the larger
25 issues of economics of jobs, of judicial and other things

1 within this community and the community of Florida? How
2 can we get those voices at the table? I feel very good
3 this morning when I look around the table. You ought to
4 take a picture of the diversity that has been created by
5 the census during the last ten years. That needs to
6 continue. Because if you get a unilateral thought,
7 unilateral addressing of the issues, you do not address all
8 of the problems.

9 I want to close. I was a high school principle and I
10 had a black girl come to me once and we were trying to do
11 some things that would eliminate some of the racial
12 conflicts at the schools at that time, this is 1964 for you
13 older people. And she said to me, You know, we don't want
14 you to give us anything but we want you to make it fair.
15 That's a profound statement. We don't want you to give us,
16 the people, the citizens, anything, but make it fair. Use
17 diversity to solve the bigger problems which are larger
18 than any political entity. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Members, let's take about
20 a five-minute break and start back about 11:37. And we
21 have another 36 speakers so that would, at maximum time,
22 put us to about 2:00 p.m. So we'll start back at 11:37.

23 (Brief recess.)

24 CHAIRMAN BYRD: We'll come back to order and begin
25 with Number 33. Welcome to the public hearing. You're

1 recognized.

2 MS. LAYNE: Thank you, Representative. I'm Denise
3 Layne and I'm here today as a community activist. My
4 community is Hillsborough County but specifically I've been
5 the president of Lutz Civic Association for six years. Let
6 me tell you what redistricting has done to my community.
7 We have three Representatives and one Senator. Four fine
8 people, no doubt about it. But we can't get diddly-squat
9 done in our community because we have three Representatives
10 that I don't know if they talk to each other or not, I
11 would hope so. But I don't know how far that goes, that is
12 a problem.

13 One of the things you've got in Hillsborough County
14 that you may not have in the rest of the state, we have
15 actually community organizations in our Hillsborough County
16 and our city of Tampa office of neighborhood relations.
17 The lines to those communities are there. You can use
18 those lines so you don't have to guess where Lutz's
19 boundaries are. You don't have to guess where Plant City's
20 boundaries -- Thonotosassa, Mango, they are there. You can
21 keep communities together because our county has gone above
22 and beyond what counties normally do and we've actually
23 identified ourselves as communities, who we are and where
24 we are. Please keep our communities of like together.

25 One of your biggest challenges in this redistricting

1 is going to be the minority placement or displacement,
2 however you want to look at it. Because of redevelopment
3 going on in the city of Tampa, this Last Hopes Project
4 displaced a lot of people from where they normally lived
5 and were generally recognized as minority communities, half
6 of us went up to the U.S.F. area.

7 And that U.S.F. area right now, I can tell you, I'm
8 involved with my own church trying to get help to those
9 people in that community because there's no services up
10 there and you've got to be very careful with the lines
11 where those people are represented, they are now all over
12 the place. They are not centralized any longer. There is
13 a large population of minorities that went down to south
14 county out of the city limits.

15 So please be careful not to be winding -- you've got a
16 tough job and I'm not really going to tell you how to do
17 your job because to keep communities together and to
18 address the minority situation so it's fair is going to be
19 very difficult. But utilize the tools that you do have in
20 this county. Get those community maps. That's where we
21 started with our redistricting. I'm not going to say 100
22 percent I was real excited but it did focus on communities,
23 trying to keep them together. They didn't succeed totally
24 but probably was a real good start.

25 And last but not least, I saw a lot of you, if not

1 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 36. Welcome to the
2 public hearing.

3 MR. NEWTON: Thank you. Good morning. Bill Newton.
4 I'm the interim executive director of the Florida Consumer
5 Action Network. We have 40,000 members throughout the
6 state of Florida. And we're one of the groups that has
7 signed on to the statement on fairness. What that means is
8 we're in favor of more public participation in this
9 process. For instance, there are only four evening
10 hearings scheduled out of 20, so we'd like to see more so
11 that more working folks could get out and you could hear
12 their opinions.

13 And we'd like to see an opportunity for public comment
14 after the maps are drawn. We think that's a very important
15 part of the process. As I speak to our members throughout
16 the state, the perception is that their process is very
17 political and there is a great deal of apathy, I think
18 you're aware, and doubt about this process and there is
19 very little confidence in the fairness of what's going to
20 happen. So this is an opportunity for you-all to increase
21 the credibility with the voting public.

22 This time you can focus on communities and boundaries
23 that fairly represent those communities and increase public
24 participation and restore credibility in this process.
25 This will help increase public confidence. New lines

1 most of you during session on behalf of Sierra Club and I
2 want to thank you for the time that you spent with me and
3 listening to the issues. The ASR issue, guys, is not gone.
4 But I also want to tell you that Sierra Club has joined on
5 a fairness document. We do want fairness to all races, to
6 all creeds, to the Democrats, to the Republicans, because
7 the issues that you've got in Tallahassee coming up in the
8 next session are nonpartisan issues. I'm telling you
9 they're nonpartisan. It is very important to keep
10 community and listen to community very carefully because
11 our life and our future is going to depend on it. The next
12 ten years of your guidance is going to make or break this
13 state. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 34. Thirty-four.
15 Number 35.

16 MS. McALARNEY: Good morning, Chairman Byrd, and
17 redistricting committee. I am Mary McAlarney, a member of
18 Pasco County executive board. I feel that we in Pasco,
19 especially myself, like having Mike Bilirakis representing
20 the tri-county Pasco, Pinellas and Clearwater because he
21 does a very good job for the vets, for health, for
22 education, for all his constituents. He is always
23 available to them at all times. I would suggest keeping
24 Mike Bilirakis in these districts when you are considering
25 redistricting. Thank you.

1 should respect voting rights of minorities and the cultural
2 diversity of our state. Political subdivision of the
3 cities and counties should be taken into account. I would
4 ask you to try to understand areas of concern based on
5 environmental and social issues. And above all, let's
6 increase the sense of community and let people know that
7 the lines are drawn with their interests in mind not just
8 politics. Thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 37. Welcome to the
10 committee.

11 MR. MADDEN: Thank you. Good morning, members. My
12 name is David Madden. I reside in Ruskin which is in the
13 south part of this county. It's a very rural area. The
14 economy is based on agriculture, both land and agra alike,
15 history and tourism. We've all heard about gerrymandering,
16 a wondrous and beautiful animal that comes about and is
17 reborn every ten years after a short and frantic feeding
18 frenzy at all levels in government.

19 You've also heard about fairness, being equitable,
20 representing the people and listening to the will of the
21 people. Ruskin is a small community when compared with
22 Hillsborough, almost a million people. We have a very
23 small voice but we like to be heard. Unfortunately Ruskin
24 is also the poster child for what can happen when
25 redistricting goes wrong. We used to belong to a district

1 where we had commonality with everybody in that area, now
2 we do not.

3 Ruskin has been torn in two. The eastern part of
4 Ruskin is now in the same district as before. The western
5 where I live is now with Tampa. I hate to say it, but we
6 don't have that much in common with north of Tampa. Our
7 voice has been diluted so much that we fear we'll never be
8 heard, therefore, we ask you when looking at the districts
9 we only ask a few things. One, the individual who
10 represents us lives in that area. Two, they are available.
11 Three, they listen to our concerns and are responsive to
12 our concerns. That is all we ask about our elected
13 Representatives. Thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 38.

15 MR. CABRIELE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One caveat,
16 my name is Dom Cabriele and I'm chairman of the Hernando
17 County Democratic executive committee. I'm here to touch
18 on your consciences and your courage. I'm not here to tell
19 you what you are required to do regarding redistricting.
20 I'm not an expert. But I truly believe most of us in
21 either party strive to do what's best for all the people in
22 Florida.

23 John Adams and Alexander Hamilton did not believe in
24 political parties. Each believed political parties would
25 be divisive. Others prevailed believing that each party

1 could discuss and deliberate on their respective
2 differences and come together to compromise or accept the
3 best solution to any situation or problem for the benefit
4 of all the people. However, they also warn that if the
5 parties remained intent on divisiveness then the whole
6 process would become theater. I hope we don't have a
7 theater syndrome within the hearts and minds of this
8 required political committee.

9 This committee can continue to play the malevolent
10 gerrymandering part of this decennial redistricting as
11 badly illustrated in the past or it can obviate the
12 political theater of the past and devote its collective
13 intelligence and its courage and beliefs so that the people
14 can be served in such a way that any political partisan
15 innuendos or personal agendas is set aside in the trash
16 heap of political chicanery.

17 In the last election Florida received one big black
18 eye from the pounding it took and still takes from the
19 media and political consultants. Here with redistricting
20 you personally can offer a remedy to that black eye by
21 putting partisan political agendas aside and do what is
22 best in your redistricting recommendations to mirror the
23 true intent of all the people in Florida.

24 I leave you with a quote from Shakespeare's The
25 Winter's Tale, Act II, For courage mounts with occasion.

1 As an example of rising to an occasion, former President
2 Gerald Ford, Republican, had the courage to pardon Richard
3 Nixon because he thought it was best for the country as a
4 whole. Now 27 years later we see he was voted and received
5 the prestigious Profiles in Courage Award sponsored by the
6 Kennedy family, a Democratic family to say the least. Your
7 conscience, your courage, and your collective intelligence
8 is needed in this endeavor to raise the standards of our
9 unique characteristics called American politics. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 39.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning and -- Mr. Chairman.
13 Honorable members of the redistricting committee. I thank
14 you for the opportunity of speaking to you. My name is
15 Gilbert Williams from Spring Hill in Hernando County. I'm
16 a proud native of Marblehead, Massachusetts. Birth place
17 of the American Navy. Birth town of the -- where the men
18 who rode General George Washington across the Delaware
19 River came from back in 1776. It is also the town of a
20 signer of the Declaration of Independence who was elected
21 to the vice presidency in 1812, Elbridge Gerry.

22 Gerry was a great patriot who committed one grave
23 error in my way of thinking. What error, you ask. Well in
24 1810 and 1811 he was elected Governor of Massachusetts and
25 redistricted the state to the advantage of its own party.

1 He redrew the district lines so that they formed a shape
2 which greatly reassembled a salamander and thus was born
3 the term, garymander (sic), or as it is now pronounced,
4 gerrymander.

5 Along with the new word came a bad habit which most
6 politicians are completely unable to resist, carving up
7 districts for personal and partisan gain. I come before
8 you today to ask that you not follow in the footsteps of my
9 long-ago fellow townsman Elbridge Gerry but rather that you
10 follow the guidelines of the redistricting law which says
11 the districts should be contiguous, compact, and have
12 common interests.

13 I ask that you take care not to dilute the votes of
14 our minority citizens and to treat all citizens fairly.
15 The 5th Congressional District as it is now drawn is one
16 which is served by a great public servant, Congresswoman
17 Karen Thurman. Representative Thurman has assembled a
18 fantastic group of people to serve her constituents. And I
19 dare say that there is not another officeholder who works
20 harder for all of us here in Florida whether we are
21 Democrats or Republicans and she votes for the good of the
22 whole nation.

23 I urge you to leave the 5th Congressional District
24 essentially as it is currently configured so that we may
25 continue to be served by our outstanding Congresswoman,

1 Representative Karen Thurman. Thank you very much.
 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 40.
 3 MS. SMITH: Good morning, just barely. Marilyn Smith,
 4 braggartor at large, People's water coalition, P.O. BOX 66,
 5 Sidney, Eastern Hillsborough County 33587. Well, I can't
 6 tell you that I think you did all that wonderful work last
 7 year, but, you know, be that as it may, it got done. Not
 8 the best but you've got to have some lumps in there.
 9 I want to refer to something that happened earlier
 10 this year that we ought to be really ashamed of, I'm not
 11 ashamed of. There should be some people who should be very
 12 ashamed of this. While at a public rally for the current
 13 president, three American citizens were arrested under
 14 direction of someone who thought he was G. Gordon Liddy
 15 with a little cell phone. It was on tape. That man should
 16 have been arrested for impersonating a law enforcement
 17 person. Got a big thrill out of it I guess. Mr. Bunkley,
 18 that's his big deal I guess. Maybe he'll have me arrested
 19 for bringing it up, fat chance.
 20 Now I want to move on from there. That's an outright
 21 political abuse, what he did, outright. Keeping with the
 22 theme of neighborhoods, I live in Hillsborough County and
 23 as you know, I interact quite effectively on occasion.
 24 There has to be cohesiveness for any neighborhood to
 25 survive. Everyone has an agenda of what they want, from

1 health care to child care to age.
 2 But when you start dividing up neighborhoods, then you
 3 have a problem because you have no coast (sic). What we
 4 have right now I think is a pretty good situation. We
 5 tried to follow -- I know Ms. Frank -- a lot of the school
 6 lines, looking at what was done. I personally think she
 7 did a good job. You know, you're not going to please
 8 everybody ever. You know that, listen to what they are
 9 saying, it can't be done. But I think you ought to take
 10 what our commissioner did say, our Chair did say, because
 11 she does care dearly about this county. Has lived here for
 12 years and has worked very, very hard for it.
 13 But I will tell you I have my druthers about one area
 14 that I think we need to come back to. If Hillsborough
 15 County, as big as it is, and is growing as it is, and we
 16 have a lot of young folks in here, some are aging, well
 17 getting there, I think it needs to be represented by a
 18 Senator from Hillsborough County, not a guy that lives in
 19 Pinellas County -- and I don't really care if it's a man or
 20 woman -- I'm just telling you when the majority of the
 21 district is over here, it better be represented by this
 22 county, a resident of this county.
 23 Other than that, I think we could do better as a
 24 Senate president. I think Mr. Tom Lee would make a fine
 25 president in my Senate. Thank you very much.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEE: Let the record reflect I'm
 2 blushing.
 3 (Laughter.)
 4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 41.
 5 MS. CLARK: Good morning. Thank you for being here
 6 and thank you for letting me speak this morning. My name
 7 is Grace Clark. I'm a lifetime resident of Tampa, Florida,
 8 living in Hillsborough County. I live in a section of the
 9 city called east Tampa. This is a section of working poor
 10 and some retirees. We are interested in knowing what is
 11 being said at these public hearings and therefore I only
 12 have a brief question and a request of you.
 13 The public is being told that you will broadcast
 14 select hearings on Florida public television stations. Can
 15 you tell us, Mr. Chair, which hearings will be broadcast
 16 and why these particular hearings were selected rather than
 17 all the hearings that's being broadcast?
 18 Also, Mr. Chair, I would just like to request that the
 19 list of these hearings which are to be broadcast be
 20 published on both the Senate's and the House's web sites
 21 along with the identifying information for the TV stations
 22 and a schedule of the broadcast so that people who are not
 23 able to attend these hearings such as this one that's being
 24 held at 9:00 a.m. on a Monday morning can at least find out
 25 what they missed by not being able to be here or watching

1 on a rebroadcast of these hearings. Thank you very much.
 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 42.
 3 SENATOR MILLER: Mr. Chairman, while Number 42 is
 4 coming up, I would ask that we please have staff get
 5 Ms. Clark's answers to those questions.
 6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Senator. Our staff is
 7 obviously taking notes and we will address those issues.
 8 We appreciate -- that's exactly why we're here today is to
 9 get good public input like the previous speaker. You're
 10 recognized.
 11 MR. SHEPP: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members
 12 of the redistricting committee. My name is David Shepp and
 13 I'm from Polk County and I'm here on behalf of Congressman
 14 Adam Putnam. He is the Representative for the 12th
 15 Congressional District here in Florida and was elected in
 16 November 2000.
 17 The 12th Congressional District encompasses all or
 18 parts of six counties. They include all of DeSoto and
 19 Hardy Counties, eastern Hillsborough, eastern Pasco, all of
 20 Polk County except for the northeast corner, and the north
 21 portion of Highlands County. This large district is
 22 historically agricultural in nature as well. Today I'd
 23 like to briefly discuss the Hillsborough portion of the
 24 12th Congressional District. This district contains the
 25 communities of Bloomingdale, Plant City, Riverview, and

Page 86

1 Valrico as well as a large portion of incorporated eastern
 2 Hillsborough County.
 3 Congressman Putnam has been very active in eastern
 4 Hillsborough during his election -- or since his election
 5 conducting several Town Hall meetings during the
 6 Congressional recesses when he is at home. He has also
 7 actively worked on behalf of the strawberry industry which
 8 is primarily located in this area.
 9 A citrus and cattle grower by trade, Congressman
 10 Putnam served four years in the State House, the last two
 11 of which he was the chairman of the agriculture committee.
 12 Currently in D.C., he is Florida's lone voice on the
 13 agricultural committee.
 14 As you've heard many times during these public
 15 hearings, it is important to maintain contiguous, compact
 16 districts. Due to the fact that Congressional districts
 17 must contain a minimum of 639,000 individuals, it is
 18 impossible to strictly have a district that is contained
 19 within Polk County. I would like to ask you today on
 20 behalf of Adam Putnam that we maintain eastern Hillsborough
 21 County in the 12th Congressional District.
 22 It is important to keep the agricultural communities
 23 of central Florida together represented by a true advocate
 24 of the industry. Thank you very much for the work you are
 25 doing in this next year. Thank you also for the

Page 87

1 opportunity to speak today and we look forward to welcoming
 2 you to Lakeland tomorrow.
 3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 43. (Pause.)
 4 Forty-four.
 5 MS. TALLEY: Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ruth
 6 Talley. I'm from Lutz, Florida. A native Floridian and
 7 I'm in my 25th year in Lutz. I understand that the
 8 software that the State has developed and used in drawing
 9 maps has a wealth of information. But quite frankly, it is
 10 not that easy to use especially for the average Floridian
 11 like myself who is not that computer literate. While many
 12 people may be able to use a word processing program and
 13 E-mail, most people are not that skilled at using a
 14 complicated software especially those of us who did not
 15 grow up with computers like our kids did.
 16 Since you have the State's technical staff attending
 17 these hearings, I am respectfully requesting that you use
 18 these public hearings as an opportunity to teach people how
 19 to use the FREDS software. You could set up a couple of
 20 computers and have your technical people available for an
 21 hour before each hearing starts to help people learn how to
 22 use the software. Your software may be a good product but
 23 it doesn't do the average noncomputer-literate Floridian
 24 any good if they don't know how to use it.
 25 I hope you'll take my suggestion to heart because I

Page 88

1 think that the benefit to those in the public who would be
 2 able to take advantage of it would far outweigh the cost.
 3 Thank you.
 4 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 45.
 5 MS. FAGAN: Good morning, Mr. Chairman, members of the
 6 committee. My name is Jane Fagan. I'm here today on
 7 behalf of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
 8 to share the League's position on the upcoming
 9 redistricting process.
 10 We at the League believe that the Florida Legislature
 11 is currently faced with the unique opportunity to restore
 12 trust in our electoral process and to make each voter feel
 13 that their individual vote truly counts. The key to
 14 accomplishing these goals is the methodology the
 15 Legislature chooses to use to accomplish redistricting.
 16 The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County is
 17 part of a statewide petition drive called People Over
 18 Politics which seeks to put two amendments on the
 19 November 2000 ballot for the people of Florida to vote on.
 20 These amendments reflect positions which the Florida League
 21 has held for over 30 years. One of the amendments would
 22 create a process for the Legislature to put an independent
 23 17-member, nonpartisan commission to draw the lines of
 24 Congressional and legislative districts every ten years
 25 following the census.

Page 89

1 The majority and minority members of the Florida House
 2 and Senate would each appoint eight members with a 17th
 3 member selected from a party other than Republican and
 4 Democratic parties. The commission members could not be
 5 elected officials, paid lobbyists or party officials and
 6 would be precluded from seeking office or being a paid
 7 lobbyist for four years following the plan adoption.
 8 All commission meetings would be open to the public
 9 and the final resulting plan would have to be approved by
 10 the State Supreme Court to ensure compliance with the
 11 Voting Rights Act and other applicable laws. The other
 12 amendment under consideration would set reasonable
 13 standards for creating districts and to ensure fairness in
 14 the reapportionment plan.
 15 Under this amendment, legislative and congressional
 16 districts would be contiguous and compact and would respect
 17 county and municipal boundaries to the best extent
 18 possible. It would also prohibit redistricting decisions
 19 based on incumbency or party affiliation. Finally, this
 20 amendment would forbid the creation of districts that would
 21 dilute the voting strength of any group based on race,
 22 religion or natural origin.
 23 In the past, a special session of the Florida
 24 Legislature has been devoted to this process. The League
 25 has monitored these sessions and has seen the division and

1 animosity which can impact the deliberations in the final
2 plans. The self interest of some incumbents and the
3 partisan maneuvering can further complicate this process.
4 Sometimes these problems cannot be resolved. Agreements
5 cannot be reached and the plan has to be finally determined
6 by the courts at great expense to the taxpaying citizens of
7 Florida.

8 Computers have also now impacted this process.
9 Demographic and political data can be adjusted in an
10 infinite variety of ways thus creating a variety of
11 districts. Some of these variations potentially reflect
12 special interest more than the needs of constituents and
13 the greater common good.

14 Further complicating this matter this time is the
15 effect of term limits. Eleven of the 40 Senators and 55 of
16 the 120 House members will be newly elected replacing 66
17 current members whose terms expire 2000.

18 The League believes that the independent nonpartisan
19 commission it is proposing is fair to all concerned.
20 Legislative and Congressional representation should not
21 depend on what party will be in power in 2002, 2012 or any
22 time thereafter. Nor does it seem fair to ask the public
23 to vote districts which have been drawn in a way to
24 preclude the outcome of election even before the people
25 have a chance to vote.

1 The League strongly feels that a nonpartisan
2 reapportionment process would help end gerrymandering,
3 restore public confidence, and strengthen the electoral
4 process. Your help in getting these amendments on the
5 November ballot for the people of Florida to decide for
6 themselves on how reapportionment should be handled can
7 only help to restore faith among the voters in the
8 existence of fair and representative elections. Thank you
9 very much for your time. I've also submitted a copy of my
10 remarks as part of the record. Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 46.

12 MR. BERSTEIN: Good afternoon. My name is Dave
13 Bernstein. I live at 2616 South Toronto Street in south
14 Tampa. And I'm here representing the American Postal
15 Workers Union and other legislative people.

16 Let me just say we need a redistricting plan that
17 looks out for working families, that's the first time I've
18 heard anybody talk about real, honest, blue-color working
19 families here. And we need a district that would not be a
20 one-party deal. The demographics (sic) changes -- the
21 demographic changes need to reflect roughly the same
22 population in each of the districts and we wish it to be
23 distributed evenly.

24 I am sure that many of these map changes will go to
25 court and redistricting won't be settled for a long time.

1 Let's go then and do it right the first time and hold the
2 line in the 1 or 2 percent of tolerance for all our sakes.
3 Also, I'd like to say I live in Jim Sebesta's district and
4 to me it's ridiculous to go across that great Gandy Bridge
5 which would make a beautiful boundary line to cut it off
6 there and for south Tampa to go into another State Senate
7 district. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 47.

9 MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. My name is Jim Johnson.
10 I reside at 11125 Happy Acres Lane in Riverview, Florida.
11 That's what is sometimes referred to as south Hillsborough
12 County. And I'm speaking to you today, I'm president of
13 the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce and chairman of
14 the South County Round Table, a coalition of folks in south
15 county that are trying to cause some planning and some good
16 things to happen with south Hillsborough County.

17 I have a real fear today and it's a fear that we've
18 realized since -- well, for four years now. And pretty
19 soon it will be six I imagine. But the reputation of our
20 State Representative, Sandra Murman, shines around her and
21 what has happened since she has taken office in her
22 district. And I think if you'll look at District 56, what
23 worries me is the repair of the gerrymandering because
24 gerrymandering is what brought her to Riverview I believe.

25 And if you look at where her district is squeezed

1 between 58 and 59 on the map that you passed out today, I
2 don't think you can see where the line goes. And so if you
3 repair the gerrymandering and give her to the north side of
4 the county, some of us in the south are going to be upset.

5 We have found someone that works with us. Found
6 someone that attends functions in our community. She has
7 been the most visible person that we've had in a long time.
8 And in the House that's very important and also for Senator
9 Lee who has made his part of south county very well known
10 that he's there and he's there to help. So these things
11 are important to us.

12 We appreciate what you're going to have to go through.
13 It's not going to be easy, I don't think. I don't think
14 there would be any of you here that were here ten years
15 ago. If you are, then you had a little taste of what
16 happened then.

17 So the desires that we're looking at are desires of
18 keeping working people working with us. Because at one
19 time I was asked to help make a presentation at a reception
20 we had for Representation Murman. And the only thing I
21 could think to talk about at that reception in giving her
22 the little award that we gave her for her work was that we
23 didn't consider her to be a politician.

24 That may be kind of dangerous to say in the political
25 forum. But we considered her to be a working person who

1 worked in politics. And that is the way that we see the
2 people that we have helping us today in south county. With
3 Representative Murman, with Senator Lee, we have these
4 kinds of relationships and it's very important to us.
5 Appreciate your time today and we thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 49.

7 MR. WOLFE: Chairman Byrd, distinguished committee
8 members, I'm Ron Wolfe. I reside at 1414 Diedre Drive in
9 Ruskin, Florida. Presently I'm wearing several hats within
10 the community. I happen to be president of the Ruskin
11 Civic Association serving as vice president of economic
12 development for the Ruskin Chamber of Commerce. I'm a
13 voting member of the South County Round Table and also a
14 cofounder of FAAR which is an acronym for Fair Action And
15 Representation.

16 We've heard a lot of words here today but I think the
17 most outstanding word that I've heard is the word "fair"
18 and I like to think that's why we came into being about 18
19 months ago. FAAR is made up of a group of community
20 leaders who 18 months ago began to conduct a study review
21 of the Hillsborough County home rule charter.

22 As Chairman Pat Frank shared with you earlier, in
23 Hillsborough County, 1 million people, we operate under a
24 home rule charter which is essentially our county
25 Constitution. So we've engaged in detailed review and as a

1 result came up with recommendations for change or at least
2 a review of our current structure of county government.

3 I'm aware that the main purpose of this get-together
4 is to get our arms around reapportionment and redistricting
5 with a state perspective and Senator Tom Lee very
6 eloquently outlined this mission in the local media, The
7 Observer News, and other media which appeared for two
8 consecutive weeks. And I came away after reviewing that to
9 understand that redistricting is both a technical and a
10 political process.

11 I also want to, before I get into the main
12 presentation to echo the comments made by Speakers 1 and 47
13 regarding the excellent work being done by Representative
14 Sandra Murman in the district and also the eagerness and
15 keen interest in the part of south county residents in
16 benefitting from her outstanding services. We've had an
17 event take place here in Hillsborough County which I wanted
18 to share with this committee. I think it's important as
19 you move forward with your responsibility.

20 I refer to it as the bait and switch event. Now the
21 actions of the Hillsborough County Board of County
22 Commissioners at their July 12th redistricting meeting is a
23 classic example of bait and switch and a disservice of the
24 citizens of Hillsborough County, especially south
25 Hillsborough County. By moving the communities of Apollo

1 Beach, Gibsonton, Ruskin and Sun City Center from
2 District 4 to south Tampa District 1, the criteria for
3 developing commission districts to allow representation of
4 general areas of the county having similar or common
5 interests or affinities has been violated.

6 Now the citizens who attended this meeting at this
7 very county center came prepared to comment on
8 redistricting Options 1 and 2 as advertised in the Tampa
9 Tribune. When they arrived they were confronted with
10 Options 3 and 4 which had not been advertised.

11 The Hillsborough County home rule charter Section 4.06
12 states that within 120 days after certification of the
13 Federal decennial census the Board of County Commissioners
14 shall reapportion Districts 1 and 4 but before doing so the
15 Board of County Commissioners shall cause an accurate
16 description of the proposed new boundaries of such
17 districts to be entered into its minutes and a certified
18 copy thereof to be published each week for four consecutive
19 weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. WOLFE: Now by approving Option 4 and failing to
22 advertise Option 4 to the general public so citizens could
23 assess the impact on their communities, citizens affected
24 were unable to voice their concerns and were denied an
25 opportunity to participate in the redistricting process.

1 Further, by approving district -- or Option 4, the BOC
2 disregarded the public input and we feel --

3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Your time has expired. Thank you.

4 MR. WOLFE: Thank you. I'm sorry I didn't have a
5 couple more minutes. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 51. I think there is no
7 Number 50. So we'll go to 51. We might say that while 51
8 is coming up, if anyone wants to submit their written
9 comments with the staff, we'd certainly be able to take
10 that. Welcome to the committee.

11 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I've been waiting
12 ten years for this opportunity. My name is Gerald White.
13 I'm 38 years of age. And I'd like to talk to you about the
14 African-American progress in the Tampa Bay area. We have a
15 black on the Tampa City Council. We have a black on the
16 Hillsborough County School Board. We have a black on the
17 Hillsborough County Commission. We have an
18 African-American Representative, Arthenia Joyner, and we
19 have an African-American Senator in Les Miller. We want to
20 keep that.

21 We are proud of the progress of the African-Americans
22 in political power in Tampa and Hillsborough County. But
23 something that I want as an African-American, as a young
24 man and living out the American dream in Tampa, in
25 Hillsborough County, where my family is, where my children

1 is, I was born in Florida, raised in Florida, I want an
2 African-American Congressional seat in Tampa Bay.

3 I've been waiting ten years to say that. They have
4 three throughout the state and it's just a shame that we
5 didn't get one 10 years ago in Tampa Bay. That's why I'm
6 here today to request that this committee produce out of
7 your work a seat for Congress with a likelihood an
8 African-American, a minority, could be elected to the
9 United States Congress.

10 It's been troubling that the black seat in the Florida
11 House and the Florida seat in the Florida Senate might be
12 in jeopardy because of the majority Republican rule. You
13 know, the first speaker, Senator Helen Gordon-Davis, said
14 that the white elected officials do not care or won't care
15 about the issues of the Hispanic community and the black
16 people of this state. I don't believe that to be so. I do
17 not believe that the elected officials that run this state
18 want to take the minority community backwards.

19 And I'm asking you to look at the true numbers, the
20 millions of minority people and the millions that will be
21 coming to this state over the next ten years and continue
22 the political progress for the minority community in this
23 state. You-all have done well by having these meetings, by
24 having these hearings. It's been said that the plan is
25 already in place. It's been said that this is just a

1 (Laughter.) And my Representative is here, Ms. Romeo.
2 Very happy to see you.

3 My name is Pauline Larry Grant. I am a native
4 Thonotosassaian, born on the land wherein I live in
5 Hillsborough County. Been here all my life. Don't plan to
6 go anywhere. I want you to know though that I am very
7 upset -- also I'm president of the Thonotosassa, Seffner,
8 Mango Civic Association that was chartered in 1961 and I
9 serve on some other organizations.

10 I want you to know that I am very, very upset. I'm
11 angry. And I wish Commissioner Frank had stayed to hear my
12 statements. She know that I am. The whole board know that
13 I am upset about it. I had planned, I attended most of the
14 redistricting meetings in Hillsborough County. I plan to
15 be at the last one although I had already voiced my opinion
16 about the ones that had been advertised and displayed. And
17 I got sicker and more crippled and had to go home that
18 evening.

19 But if somebody had called me and said they got a
20 brand new map I would have gotten out of the bed and come
21 down here to talk about that map. They voted on it, four
22 of them I guess thought it was the best thing since sliced
23 bread. I don't, I didn't, I won't ever think that.

24 It moved Thonotosassa, where I live, out of District 3
25 into District 2, completely, not part of it, all of it. I

1 parade, a show, an oil that the Republican majority can do
2 what it wants to do. I'm asking you if that's true to
3 truly take heed to what the people have said in this state
4 and carry out the will of the people and the will of this
5 resident is to produce a Congressional seat for an
6 African-American in Tampa Bay.

7 One million residents in Hillsborough County,
8 1 million. We are a good community. We are a community
9 that's striving for the Olympics. Diversity is important
10 to keep and to hold and I would just ask in my closing
11 comments that you make my American dream become a reality
12 for my children can say they can go as high as they want
13 with the likelihood of an opportunity to get elected to
14 Congress. Please do that for me. May God bless you. May
15 God bless your work. And may God keep you-all. Thank you
16 very much.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 52. (Pause.)
18 Number 53. Welcome to the public hearing.

19 MS. GRANT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I anticipated to
20 be able to get up and exercise this arthritis in my knee a
21 little bit before coming up here and 52 was not here. So I
22 had to limp.

23 I thank you for being in Hillsborough County today and
24 I want to welcome you. My Senator is here, Senator Miller,
25 and a good Representative -- stop pointing -- Joiner.

1 didn't get an opportunity to even voice my opposition.
2 They robbed me. I hope you don't do that. I hope you
3 consider and I want to caution you, I heard this statement
4 made, Follow the Hillsborough County school district lines.
5 Be careful. They drew a line down Joe Ebert Road that I
6 live on and the children on the north side went to one
7 school and the children on the south side went to another
8 school. And guess what? The mother lived on the north
9 side and the grandmother lived on the south side and that's
10 who took care of the children and picked them up from
11 school and saw that they went to school when mother had to
12 work.

13 They didn't consider that. They didn't take the whole
14 street. They went right down the middle. So please don't
15 do that. Look at it. Don't think that the Hillsborough
16 County school system has something glamorous over there,
17 they don't.

18 I live in Thonotosassa but if you wanted to come to my
19 door -- I gave you a post office box here -- you would have
20 to go to Seffner and I've seen the emergency crew riding up
21 and down the road to find somebody having a heart attack
22 and I run out and say, Who you looking for? And I told
23 them exactly where to go. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 54.

25 MS. KOVACH: Good afternoon, everybody. My name is

1 Janet Kovach and I reside at 8214 Rubbles Road in
 2 Riverview. And I just want to thank you for having this
 3 meeting. I see a lot of people here I know. I've been a
 4 Hillsborough County resident my entire life. I used to
 5 live in Lutz until three years ago in Congressman
 6 Bilirakis' district and actually walked in the northern
 7 part of Hillsborough with Representative Gus Bilirakis
 8 who's doing a wonderful job up there for northern
 9 Hillsborough.

10 But since then I've moved to Riverview and I've come
 11 to really love this community. It's a wonderful community.
 12 I also serve on the Southwest Florida Water Management
 13 District Governing Board. And I'm kind of here today to
 14 talk on the environmental aspect of south county.

15 We live in an area called SWUCA, which is the
 16 Southwest User Caution Area, which has to do with saltwater
 17 intrusion. By the way, before I forget, I want to thank
 18 you for your zero scaping (phonetic) bill. I wish Senator
 19 Brown-Waite was here as well because conservation is key to
 20 me. I serve on an initiative task force for water
 21 conservation.

22 I just want to talk about south county real quickly.
 23 I want to thank -- Senator Lee is very responsible to his
 24 constituents and when they raise a question he goes to bat
 25 for them. And he's been dealing with a reservoir issue in

1 our area, I commend him for that letter after letter. And
 2 he wants answers. And he's going to make sure his
 3 constituents get answers as well. Senator Murman is just a
 4 wonderful person, I think everybody has talked about. You
 5 see her everywhere. It's almost like she has a clone.
 6 She's out and about for Riverview, Gibsonton, Ruskin,
 7 Apollo Beach. And I think what I heard here today is south
 8 county has unique problems.

9 I came from the north county which is pretty much
 10 built out. But where we are, we're going through
 11 exponential growth. We have water issues like saltwater
 12 intrusion. So we're looking at redistricting the lines. I
 13 would recommend that you keep south county together. And
 14 one final thing. I just want to thank my representation
 15 where I live. Senator Lee and Representative Murman thank
 16 you for doing such a wonderful job.

17 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 55.

18 MR. BELOTE: Good morning. My name is Monte Belote.
 19 I live in north Tampa, Forest Hills. And I am very glad to
 20 see you here in Tampa, in Hillsborough County, in the Tampa
 21 Bay area over the next 24 hours. I wanted to speak this
 22 morning specifically on principles now that you've kind of
 23 gotten your feet wet about how the process is going to be
 24 over the rest of the hearings across the state. And
 25 specifically I wanted to speak about the problems that we

1 have in Hillsborough County with redistricting from 1992 so
 2 that we don't repeat any of those mistakes for 2002.

3 I brought with me a very simple map. The problem is
 4 is all this color. What we're looking for is a
 5 Hillsborough legislative delegation that is compact and
 6 effective. But what we have is something that is
 7 fractured. The overwhelming majority of this actually is
 8 in the colored areas. And these colored areas actually
 9 extend for many other counties. Counties up into Pasco,
 10 Manatee, Sarasota and Polk.

11 What we get ultimately is a lack of accountability for
 12 our legislative leaders. We're here tonight and I'm here
 13 this morning specifically to ask you to do a few basic
 14 principal things before you start drawing lines. Number
 15 one, to avoid splitting communities. Please don't split
 16 Plant City the way that it was done in 1992. Don't split
 17 Sun City Center which you heard this morning. Don't split
 18 south Tampa the way it was done in 1992.

19 Compact districts will kill any snakes which were also
 20 done back in 1992. And interestingly enough Mr. Buckley
 21 brought in better props than I did to point out the
 22 mistakes of House District 56 and House District 47. Those
 23 are mistakes that never should have happened and I
 24 encourage you to not do it again, to stay within county
 25 boundaries first and foremost.

1 As a result, you would elect or you would draw seven
 2 and a half House district seats, two and a half Senate
 3 district seats and a full congressional district and then
 4 some within the boundaries of Hillsborough County. Please
 5 do that, not 16 legislators instead.

6 And specific recommendations, as a candidate who lost
 7 in House District 47, I did get to spend a fair amount of
 8 time talking to people in that district. There is no
 9 community of interest between Tarpon Springs and downtown
 10 Tampa the way that district does now, any more than you
 11 probably find walking through Carrollwood Village getting
 12 down to Baum (phonetic). South Tampa needs to stay intact.

13 In 1992 two Representatives lived in adjoining
 14 precincts. And as a result we wound up with that
 15 meandering District 56. And we encourage you to resist the
 16 temptation of using bridges as a way to try and redistrict.
 17 Senate District 20, trying to bridge Hillsborough to
 18 Pinellas doesn't provide good accountability for people in
 19 south Tampa perhaps any more than those who lived in old
 20 St. Pete.

21 That being said, two more things. One, once you've
 22 drafted a map, please come back to the public and plan to
 23 hold at least nine public hearings, one for each major
 24 media market. That's not a whole lot although it is a task
 25 at a time where you've got a lot of things to do. And,

1 second, please, no last-minute surprises as you've just
2 heard from the last two or three speakers what the
3 Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners did with
4 their redistricting process. Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 56.

6 MR. CAMOUCCI: Good afternoon, Chairman Byrd, and
7 honorable state elected officials. My name is Mark
8 Camoucci. I live in the Bloomingdale section of what's
9 generally called eastern -- or more eastern Hillsborough
10 County. You've heard a lot of speeches in terms of pleas
11 and things like that. I was one of the founders of Fair
12 Representation. I don't really call myself an activist,
13 although I guess I fit the bill right now, because I've
14 been pushing for fair representation and that means --
15 maybe I'm just old fashioned enough to believe that
16 idealistically Republicans and Democrats can put their
17 heads in the sand and look upon these different districts
18 not politically but for the good of the community.

19 It's time we start looking out for our communities.
20 And we just recently had a redistricting in Hillsborough
21 County. And I'm only going to talk about Hillsborough
22 County because I don't have the presumption to tell you or
23 advise you what I think you ought to do elsewhere. No more
24 do I believe the people in the city of Tampa should have
25 the presumption to tell the people in unincorporated what

1 they should do.

2 We believe very strongly that we should have fair
3 representation. What does that exactly mean? It means
4 keep the communities, as you've heard many times, intact.
5 These honorable people who are put together to do the
6 redistricting in Hillsborough County, honorable like you,
7 started out with all good intentions and ended up with a
8 map that went from northern west Hillsborough County right
9 up to the county line, all the way down through south
10 Tampa, all the way down the beach in Ruskin.

11 Now anyone who knows anything about demographics knows
12 there's nothing common about that area. That's about as
13 gerrymandering as anything I could ever see. I now found
14 out it's from salamander. And we have enough of those in
15 this area as you know.

16 Another thing you should know is this county has
17 1 million people. 296,000 live in the declining Tampa
18 market. 27,000 in a small community, Plant City. And
19 20,000 in a smaller community called Temple Terrace. God
20 bless the people in that area because they were smart
21 enough to incorporate. We belong to 650,000 people in
22 Hillsborough County, two-thirds of the county, and you go
23 look for our representation. Please do. You're going to
24 have difficulty.

25 When you talk about state maps, county maps, school

1 maps, I don't care what maps you talk about, go look for
2 your representation for 650,000 people. When you talk
3 about fairness, you look at the minority group which we've
4 all talked about and I'm extremely close to one of you who
5 said the Bay wanted seven districts.

6 So what did we do? We had 125,000 people in a
7 district and in order to keep the 37 percent minority, we
8 went to 250,000 people and bleached the other three
9 districts. Is that what you really want to do? That's not
10 fair representation. How about that 18 percent of the
11 Hispanic who also belongs to our fair organization? Where
12 is the representation for them? And I'm not suggesting you
13 rip apart Tampa because God forbid they are going to be
14 10 percent of our county some day and we still want them
15 represented.

16 So we say parochial. Let's talk about the word
17 parochial. Five of the seven commissioners live in the
18 city of Tampa. Not even under the rules they generated.
19 I'm saying to you when you look at this, don't allow four,
20 five, three Representatives in the state to be locally
21 living residents so that they can represent the --

22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Twenty seconds.

23 MR. CAMOUCCI: Thank you, Chair. And all I'd like to
24 say is a few final remarks. Don't end up with the script
25 of your terms as Shakespeare would script it and become a

1 comedy of errors like we have here in Hillsborough County.
2 Thank you and all for listening.

3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 57.

4 MS. O'REILLY: Good afternoon. My name is Lona
5 O'Reilly. I'm the Republican state committee woman for
6 Pasco County. And I too sit on the Tampa Bay Regional
7 Planning Commission. I'm here to simply ask that Pasco
8 County not be left behind again.

9 We in Pasco do not have our own State Senate district.
10 We share our State Senators with other counties. With the
11 present growth of 22.6 percent since 1999 and with the
12 proposed growth, this is a necessity that must be
13 considered. The people of Pasco don't want to lose a State
14 Representative district either. The new Tampa area has
15 come out and meshed with central Pasco via State Road 581
16 and now the new State Road 56.

17 Pasco County needs to be united with common-minded
18 neighbors. I ask that the district of 61 be extended to
19 include all of Dade City up through 41 and also Lacochee.
20 Plant City, I would ask you to do something about. We are
21 not common-minded there and the representation is not going
22 to be given fairly there to those people. It is a
23 completely different geographic area and I hope you take
24 that into consideration. Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 58.

1 MS. KECKLER: Good afternoon and welcome, Mr. Chair,
2 and the members of the committee to Tampa; however, I wish
3 I was welcoming you to the 5th Congressional District. All
4 I'm hearing today is about Hillsborough. We are a huge
5 district of the 5th Congressional District and it would
6 have been nice if you could have been up towards Alachua or
7 Citrus County which is kind of centrally located for us to
8 go.

9 But since we are not and we are here in Tampa, again,
10 welcome. My name is Maryanne Keckler. I'm from Hernando
11 County, Spring Hill area. That is a viable part of the 5th
12 Congressional District. However, I do travel through the
13 5th Congressional District and I find it very easy to
14 motivate myself through Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Alachua,
15 Columbia, Levy where I do a lot of volunteer work. I am a
16 veteran. I am involved in a lot of the veterans'
17 organizations in that area.

18 I help a lot of people who do not know which way to
19 turn when they have to get their benefits or their rights
20 through the VA. I help people who are interested in
21 getting their Social Security, the disabled. I have helped
22 people who didn't know which way to turn, they didn't know
23 where their next meal was coming from. They didn't know
24 how to get food stamps. They had children that they had to
25 take care of. They lost their jobs. They didn't know

1 where to go, who to turn to, what organization would help
2 them and who would help them.

3 Fortunately, I have the expertise. I am presently
4 doing service officer work with the D.A.V. I have the
5 expertise and the knowledge. I am myself disabled and
6 because of it I have learned, I have learned where to turn.
7 The 5th Congressional District which is represented by
8 Karen Thurman and her staff have helped me and helped me
9 along the way. I have been able to go through the office
10 and get -- and have the knowledge to be able to help these
11 people, get them in the right direction, turn them into
12 that office, turn them into an office in Hernando County
13 that could help them, turn them to an office in Citrus or
14 Pasco County.

15 Today I am here to please ask you, Do not take the 5th
16 Congressional District and redistrict. We are really
17 configured there where it is easy and accessible for us to
18 motivate. We don't have a problem with our redistricting.
19 We have our Senate district which is a wonderful Senate
20 district. We have had a wonderful State Senator in Ginny
21 Brown-Waite. We have a wonderful Representative in David
22 Russell. We would like to keep it that way. We would like
23 to keep our area the way it was established ten years ago.

24 I am not going to bother you with the fairness and the
25 principles and the gerrymandering that you have already

1 heard because you're going to go to bed tonight dreaming
2 about it. So I am going to make this short. I am going to
3 ask you to please keep our 5th Congressional District the
4 way it is. It makes it much easier for me and this is a
5 selfish entity on my part for volunteering and helping
6 other people. I have made my way through there. I even
7 work outside the 5th Congressional District and I help
8 people outside and I go through Karen Thurman's office.
9 And what do I hear? I wish I could vote for Karen Thurman
10 for what she has done for me. But I thank you very much
11 for your time and effort.

12 Again, I wish you had come up to the 5th Congressional
13 District so more of us could have attended this meeting.
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 59.

16 MR. LIVELY: Hello to all of you. My name is Dan
17 Lively. I too live in Hernando County in Spring Hill. I
18 think that in your deliberations that if you'll think of
19 the commonality of interest you'll realize that Hernando
20 County, Citrus County, and northern Pasco County, the way
21 they are configured now, should stay together. And for my
22 personal reasons, I like knowing Representative Thurman. I
23 like knowing her staff and I enjoy working with her staff.
24 They have helped me out on an important problem for my wife
25 and I the district can be configured -- stay configured the

1 way it is. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Number 60. Number 60.

3 MR. GREEN: Good afternoon. My name is Hugh Green and
4 I live in the 5th Congressional District in Spring Hill in
5 Hernando County. I sincerely hope that you are guided by
6 the one principle in this process of redistricting and
7 that's fairness.

8 In the spirit of fairness we want you to consider what
9 is best for the 5th district. Our community is primarily
10 concerned with education, veterans' issues, seniors, health
11 care, minority issues and urban concerns. We feel that
12 we've been well represented by Congresswoman Karen Thurman
13 who understands the concerns of the people of the 5th
14 district. In short, our district is configured in a way
15 that has effective representation of our district's most
16 important issues should you not do anything to change that.
17 Thank you for your time.

18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 61.

19 MS. TOKLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Joanna Tokley
20 and I represent the Tampa/Hillsborough Urban League and I
21 would like to thank the entire committee as well as the
22 entire Hillsborough County legislative delegation for the
23 work that they do and particularly for the district that I
24 live in, Senator Miller and Representative Joyner.

25 I'm here as a resident of Hillsborough County and a

1 representative of some of my family members and friends who
2 could not be here today because they work during this time.
3 I also represent an organization that advocates for the
4 best interests of African-Americans and other minorities,
5 the majority of whom do not own nor can they afford or have
6 access to computers to download the software that I heard
7 this morning doesn't work.

8 Those of you who are from Hillsborough County are
9 aware that Hillsborough County has already completed its
10 redistricting process and adopted new districts for the
11 county commission. One of the things that our county
12 commission did do right was at the beginning of the
13 process. Before public hearings were held they adopted a
14 set of criteria to guide citizens in that process. We were
15 able to review, compare and measure for redistricting
16 options that were developed using that criteria as a guide.

17 I also support Speakers, former Senator Helen
18 Gordon-Davis, Speaker Numbers 4, 27, 29 and the League of
19 Women Voters and some of their comments, to hold public
20 hearings to review any redistricting plans that are
21 developed after today. I have here a copy of the
22 Hillsborough County criteria for redistricting that I would
23 like to have entered in the record today. You will see
24 that there are seven criteria listed. While all the
25 criteria are important, there are two criteria that were of

1 particular interest to the significant minority population
2 that we have here in Hillsborough County.

3 The Hillsborough County Commission adopted criteria
4 that included, one, maintaining a district that would
5 maximize the opportunity for a minority candidate to be
6 elected. And, two, drawing districts without decreasing
7 the minority composition.

8 Since the Commission appears not to be answering
9 questions today, I would like to place eight questions on
10 the record for answering in some form, hopefully in the
11 news media so everyone can have a response to those
12 questions. One is, Has the State Redistricting Committee
13 adopted any set of criteria to guide this redistricting
14 process on a state level?

15 Two, If so, what are those criteria? Three, Where can
16 I and other citizens get a copy of them? Four, Will the
17 criteria be published in the media for citizens to review
18 the criteria -- are yet to be developed? Five, Why haven't
19 you done so? Six, When will you be adopting the criteria?

20 Three, (sic) What am I and other members of the public
21 who want to consider drawing our own maps to submit? What
22 are we supposed to do in the meantime? And, four, when
23 will you make the criteria available so that we in the
24 public know what they are and can use them accordingly to
25 prepare our own maps or at least review, compare, and

1 measure redistricting options that are yet to be developed?

2 I urge you to establish criteria for the public
3 information and review and to eliminate the perception or
4 reality of partisan politics in redrawing the districts.
5 And the citizens will have a sense of fairness in the
6 process. I will provide a written copy of my remarks to
7 Senator Miller so that he can make sure members of the
8 committee receive them. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 62.

10 MR. TOKLEY: I commend you but I do not envy you.
11 Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, redistricting committee. It's
12 an honor but even more so, it is my constitutional duty to
13 speak to you today. My name is James Tokley, Sr. I'm a
14 citizen of Tampa, Florida, Hillsborough County. I'm a
15 private citizen. And Joanna Tokley's husband.

16 Mr. Chair, as I understand it, you have taken this
17 position or taken the position that the purpose of these
18 public hearings is to get input from the public. While
19 that is a laudable and obviously very important goal, I
20 would submit to you, Mr. Chair, that part of your purpose
21 here and as you travel around the state should be to
22 educate the public about the redistricting process as you
23 would agree people cannot speak to an issue that they know
24 little or nothing about and do not understand.

25 Redistricting is not something we hear or read about

1 on the general -- on a regular basis. It happens only once
2 a decade. Therefore, it would be of great public service
3 which would inspire people's confidence in the openness and
4 fairness of this process if you also used these hearings as
5 an opportunity to educate the public about the
6 redistricting process.

7 One good way to do that is to respond to the questions
8 that people bring with them to a meeting of this nature.
9 Understanding that participation is a two-way street, it is
10 incumbent upon you and upon us all to share information
11 that might allow us to make more meaningful and beneficial
12 decisions for all concerned. We realize your time
13 constraints, of course we do, but being students of history
14 we also realize that no lasting decisions can be made
15 without an open and knowledgeable dialog between you, the
16 appointed public, and us, the general public you represent.

17 In summary, on the issue of redistricting, we ask for
18 clarification, patience, and cooperation. But most of all,
19 this afternoon we ask that you listen with your hearts as
20 well as your ears. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
21 before you.

22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 63.

23 MR. EMMANUELL: Thank you for the opportunity to be
24 here this morning and for your time. My name is Ralph Alex
25 Emmanuell. And I'm here representing -- my union asked me.

1 And also, I'm executive director of Una (phonetic)
2 Federation Community Services and also we are affiliated
3 with the Rassa (phonetic) National Council of Rassa and we
4 the lulik (phonetic) as well.

5 I want to thank the committee for all these public
6 hearings. I will note, however, that these hearings like
7 the vast majority of your hearings is being held in the
8 middle of the workday when it's not convenient for the
9 working public to attend and causing -- to have here so far
10 when it's not convenient for the working public and others
11 as well.

12 Further, I'm lucky that this hearing is taking place
13 in Hillsborough County when AFSCME members and other
14 workers in Seminole and Pasco Counties may be affected by
15 this process thus far haven't had an opportunity to
16 participate in a public hearing. I would ask that as this
17 process moves forward you try to make it more open and more
18 accessible and that all information is easily available to
19 the public.

20 Posting all information on the Legislature's web site,
21 God bless computers, would help a lot including any maps
22 made available to the legislative leadership would be very
23 helpful. I'm also concerned that the most accurate census
24 data be used for the redistricting process. News reports
25 indicate that over 200,000 Floridians were missed by the

1 2000 census and we know that minority groups are especially
2 representing this undercount and this is our experience in
3 Pinellas County as well.

4 Florida was one of only four states not to provide
5 distinct data to the Census Bureau. I would suggest to
6 compensate for these possible attendance problems the
7 Legislature consider utilizing just the census data which
8 is more representative of minority populations.

9 I would hope that as the Legislature begins the
10 redrawing process that you would honor traditional
11 redistricting principles such as keeping together
12 communities of interest, that is very, very important to
13 us. A case in point is Congressional District 11.
14 Congressman Jim Davis has done an excellent job
15 representing the diverse yet linked communities of interest
16 that makes all District 11. The makeup of this district
17 not only holds together communities of interest in the
18 Tampa area but also meets the test of being contiguous and
19 compact and it respects political lines by being contained
20 only within Hillsborough County.

21 The bottom line has been the communities in
22 Congressional District 11 have had representation that
23 reflects their interest. I would urge you to keep these
24 basic communities of interest together in Congressional 11
25 by ensuring that downtown Tampa remains intact and within

1 the district and when drawing lines this district stay with
2 Hillsborough County. I thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 64. (Pause.)
4 Number 65.

5 MS. LAWHEAD: Good afternoon. My name is Clara
6 Lawhead. I'm a public health nutritionist. I'm a public
7 health nutrition director in the Pasco County Health
8 Department and I come to you today to speak on behalf of
9 some of the public health issues and how this redistricting
10 will affect public health.

11 I'd like to say that I am first a native of the Tampa
12 Bay area. I was born in Tampa General Hospital. I spent
13 my first five years in Riverview. Moved up to Pasco
14 County, attended the University of Florida, Florida State
15 University, and University of South Florida. That makes me
16 either politically correct or schizophrenic and I haven't
17 figured out which one.

18 Having said that, my heart lies in Pasco County where
19 I serve as a nutrition director and have since 1979 and
20 I've watched the community grow up. I've watched the
21 community change and I've found a community that can give
22 to the citizens a great deal of self-respect, honor, and
23 growth.

24 Having said that, I'd like to say first on the
25 Congressional level for the redistributing plans that you

1 must face, we are served very well by both Congressman Mike
2 Bilirakis and Congresswoman Karen Thurman. Together they
3 bring a bipartisan support to a community that so sorely
4 needs that national identification and that national
5 support.

6 If Pasco County can't have its own U.S. Congressional
7 seat, then I think the distribution, the way it is lined
8 today, makes a lot of sense and it follows a boundary of
9 U.S. 19 and it follows the community integrity.

10 On the state level, however, I'd like to reinforce
11 some concepts to you. Public health knows no boundaries.
12 When we talk about the West Nile Virus, it has no county
13 boundaries, it pays no mind to what part of the county,
14 what part of the state, and what side of the highway you
15 live on.

16 But public health funding does follow boundaries.
17 Public health funding unfortunately in Pasco County,
18 Hillsborough County, Pinellas County, and Hernando County
19 are about as diverse as the population could be. Our
20 funding in the various communities is slowly very
21 drastically different. And how in the world can a person
22 who serves as a Representative or a Senator on the state
23 level help its citizenry and its constituents if they don't
24 have a solid understanding by living in that community or
25 living next door to the neighbors who don't have access to

1 or do have access to various services.

2 So I'd like to say in keeping with the integrity of
3 the community's theme that seems to be going on, I feel the
4 community integrity should hold far more weight than
5 creating of boundaries that might influence a political
6 outcome. I think communities that hold themselves together
7 have community interests and those community interests need
8 to be very carefully guarded.

9 There will be a lot of communities that are going to
10 be affected by this. And if you don't know the communities
11 that you are getting ready to consider a division, or
12 cutoff or inclusion, I would behoove you -- it would be
13 wise for you to get to know those communities, to get an
14 opportunity to know what communities are within those
15 boundaries. The needs of each community is going to be
16 remarkably different.

17 I would like to say lastly that in Pasco County we
18 have a House District of 46, 45, and 61. And we have a
19 Florida Senate District of 19, 13, and 10. If we can't
20 have a complete district within a county, at least try to
21 make those geographies make sense. So I implore you to use
22 logic and not political outcomes to make these
23 determinations. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 65. Mr. Chairman.

25 MR. NILES: I'm blessed, Mr. Chair, and members of the

1 committee, because I have a job that allows me the
2 flexibility to be here from 9:00 in the morning until 1:00
3 in the afternoon. This is not the case for most working
4 Floridians. I am concerned. I am concerned because the
5 question I would raise cannot, should not wait until the
6 end of all your hearings to have you respond to me in
7 writing.

8 My question is merely, Do you intend, Mr. Chairman, to
9 allow working people the opportunity to come to these
10 hearings and to hear them as well as the people who come,
11 who can get away from their jobs during the day? I
12 understand that you scheduled only four of your hearings to
13 begin at 6:00, four of 20. On last week you added a
14 hearing to take place in Lakeland and that hearing starts
15 at 1:30. I would ask when do you intend to have people who
16 are working, a majority of us who are working, to be heard
17 at these hearings.

18 Any member of the committee can answer that if you're
19 uncomfortable with that. It reeks of disinterest in the
20 popular opinion.

21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 66. (Pause.)
22 Number 67. Number 67. (Pause.) Number 68.

23 MS. COLLINS: The numbers are moving. Good afternoon
24 and thank you for the opportunity and welcome to
25 Hillsborough County, Tampa, Florida. To all of the

1 legislators, to the committee chairs, to the black caucus
2 members that I've had the opportunity to work with and
3 certainly to the Hillsborough County legislative
4 delegation, particularly Senator Miller and Representative
5 Joyner, I'm Carolyn Collins. I'm the national alumni
6 president for Florida A & M University and I want to just
7 say a couple of brief words that's for, of, and by the
8 people.

9 In pursuant of fairness, justice, equality to all of
10 the citizens of the state of Florida, looking in the areas
11 particularly of education, health care, social/economical
12 issues, economics, civil rights, in any capacity that I
13 might serve, I just want to briefly say that this is indeed
14 an opportunity for me to stand before you to ask you to
15 allow me to stand before you again in the future for some
16 very specific comments and recommendations after you have
17 determined where you will go from here.

18 It is important to me to be able to, as other citizens
19 of this state, to be able to know exactly where you're
20 going and exactly what your plans are in relationship to
21 our reapportionment. I'm hoping that this affords us an
22 opportunity now to say to you what we want, be it in
23 principles, and then you will come back and give us an
24 opportunity to see exactly what you're going to do and then
25 we can make specific comments in that regard.

1 So for brevity, as you assume your responsibility, I
2 again implore you for fairness. I ask that in your due
3 diligence you do what's best for the people of the state of
4 Florida. That partisan issues be laid aside and that you
5 address the community interests that have been mandated by
6 the laws that we need not repeat. That you think of the
7 future of our state, our young people. And particularly my
8 main interest today, in the area of education. And that
9 you consider to avoid purposefully gerrymandering in any
10 way, form, or fashion.

11 And I suggest that you consider the universities and
12 our state university system and perhaps get some of the
13 students that are there, certainly Florida A & M University
14 would love to lend itself to the community -- the CIS, or
15 Computer Information Students, and allow them to put some
16 of the things that are required, some of the natural
17 boundaries and some of the guidelines in drawing principles
18 so that you would have something to work with assuming then
19 that we are here with these initial hearings just to allow
20 you to hear from us initially as you go back to deliberate
21 your plans.

22 I ask also that you entertain as many public meetings
23 as deemed necessary at the best time and the best day of
24 the week to reach the most of your constituencies that are
25 the citizens in the state of Florida. And as you continue

1 to do this in the sense of affordability, accessibility,
2 and availability, we at the Florida A & M University family
3 in Florida will say thank you. And those of us in
4 Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa will be most
5 appreciative of you as well. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 69.

7 MS. KNIGHT: Good afternoon, members of the Joint
8 Committee on Reapportionment. My name is Jackie Knight and
9 I reside in Tampa, Florida. I'd like to make a few brief
10 points which I hope you'll consider when you're doing your
11 redistricting. First, I appreciate the fact that you're
12 allowing the people of Tampa and other counties and cities
13 to speak before you draw plans. Otherwise, what would be
14 the need for public hearings?

15 I would like to remind everyone that the Republican
16 Legislature is making software available so that anyone
17 here, both public and private citizens, and anybody on the
18 this committee can draw their own plans. So I appreciate
19 the fact that we're able to come before you and offer our
20 opinions in this.

21 Ten years ago I arrived in Tampa and it was during
22 your last redistricting. And from an outsider's point of
23 view, I witnessed a messy process and a messy aftermath.
24 With respect to the times of the meetings, I suspect that
25 you couldn't satisfy everyone in the state of Florida no

1 matter what time you made it. Therefore, I'd also like to
2 remind you that ten years ago 70 percent of these meetings
3 were held before 5:00 and 100 percent of the people were
4 unhappy then. So I'm not personally concerned. If I want
5 to make this meeting, I'll make the time to make it.

6 I know that everybody can't take off from work but I
7 doubt that everybody would even if they could. So the
8 people that want to be here will be here. And there are
9 other meetings going on at other times.

10 My only concern here is fairness. I was not in
11 Florida prior to ten years ago so I didn't know this data.
12 But I did arrive with the redistricting and I read the
13 newspapers and I was involved in politicking and
14 campaigning back then and I did notice the mess. I saw
15 neighborhoods that were split. If you were to go back ten
16 years ago and put them back together, there would be people
17 unhappy with that.

18 I trust the Legislature, the way that it stands, will
19 be fair. I'm a member of the Republican party and I don't
20 make any apologies for that. I believe that it's going to
21 be fair. I watched the unfairness and I think the steps
22 that you're taking now are satisfactory to me. I will keep
23 an eye on every one of you because that's my privilege.
24 I'm glad to have the opportunity to come up and give my
25 opinion. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 70.

2 MR. FERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, members of the
3 committee, one more time, I'd like to thank you for this
4 opportunity. My name is Alvaro Fernandez. And I'm the
5 Florida director of the Southwest Voter Registration
6 Education Project. And I'm here today to remind you of our
7 mission, which is to empower Latino and other underserved
8 communities. And based on that, I would also like to
9 remind you to please not forget the Latino communities, the
10 minority communities when you are drawing the map.

11 Before leaving, also, I'd like to entice you to look
12 back on the Orlando meeting and -- which was a 6:00 p.m.
13 meeting and a huge turnout that you had of people, regular
14 working people. As the lady previous to me said, They will
15 come out if they want to. Some people just can't at these
16 times.

17 So I'd ask you to please consider in the future the
18 times that are during the day, if you can, to change them
19 to 6 p.m. or even later where you will have a better idea
20 of what regular working people think about this process.

21 Again, thank you very much. And, again, I want to
22 remind you, please don't forget the Latino and other
23 minority communities when you are drawing these maps.
24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 71. Welcome to the

1 public hearing.

2 MS. LASHER: Thank you. And you thought you'd be out
3 of here by 12:00 or 12:30. I think there's ten more people
4 signing up outside. I went out on the street and told them
5 to come on in, you're missing a good time. (Laughter.)

6 I'm Denise Lasher and I live in Lutz which is in
7 Hillsborough County and that's just west of the new Tampa
8 area which is in the northern part of Hillsborough County.
9 And what you see happening in the new Tampa area, I'm in
10 contact, I go to church over there. I have a lot of
11 friends over there. And they're very unhappy with the fact
12 that their community is divided between two House
13 districts.

14 A majority of that area is in with Pasco County and
15 they love their Representative, Representative Littlefield,
16 but they are actually, a majority of that community is in
17 the city of Tampa. And they feel like they have much more
18 in common with Hillsborough County than they do with, say,
19 Dade City. So my friends in that area feel like they would
20 like their area to be included in that district to the
21 south which is District 60 at this time. So, please, I'd
22 like you to keep that in mind. I don't know if anybody
23 from that area has come to speak to you today or not but to
24 my friends over there, that's a big issue that's come up
25 with them.

1 By adding that to District 60, then you could take the
2 southern part of District 60 and that area west of U.S.F.
3 which has a large number of African-Americans and I believe
4 also Hispanics and you could add that to District 59 which
5 would then help the racial representation of District 59
6 which I think is very, very important that we try to keep
7 that racial representation in District 59. And I think
8 that would work out very nicely for you.

9 Again, it's not about who we currently have
10 representing us. Like I said, Representative Littlefield
11 does a great job in that area. But it's more about keeping
12 like geographical areas and demographic areas together,
13 population centers together. Keeping communities together.
14 When you look at what happened ten years ago, there was no
15 sense to it. No sense whatsoever.

16 Obviously there was some reason why they drew their
17 lines the way they did. District 56, Representative
18 Murman's district, I felt like it was follow the dots all
19 around Hillsborough County. I mean, there was just little
20 streets touching each other. And that's the district, all
21 through from the north almost to the south. And they love
22 Representative Murman out in Carrollwood. But it just
23 doesn't make any sense for her to go all the way to
24 Gibsonton and all the way up into Carrollwood.

25 So please, I'm sure you'll be much more sensible when

1 was my obligation to come down here and contribute to this
2 exercise.

3 As I indicated -- well, bottom line is, What is this
4 exercise about? It's about fairness, I think, or the
5 perception of fairness. You can take it one way or the
6 other. I'd like to think we're looking at fairness here
7 not just a perception. And fairness in recognizing that
8 communities differ in many ways as some of my predecessors
9 here today have also stated. Each individual community may
10 be -- the citizens by nature have consistencies amongst
11 their citizens, similarities, similar levels of employment,
12 et cetera. But the bottom line is the more affluent
13 communities have more pull by nature of resources and
14 wherewithal both politically and financially to access
15 their government officials and Representatives.

16 So what I think we're talking about generally here,
17 those from more affluent communities, those from less
18 affluent communities and not just talking about racial
19 differences and everything because it really comes down to,
20 I think, today more or less it's about the affluence versus
21 less affluence in communities. I mean, whites and blacks
22 in a given community that's not so well oriented
23 financially, these people have some more concerns.

24 And their concerns are the same as the people in more
25 affluent communities for education for their children,

1 you draw these lines and keep communities together. At the
2 same time as remembering that we need to try to make sure
3 that we do have racial diversity and representation in
4 drawing these lines. I know a lot of people before me here
5 have talked about Congressional districts and I looked at
6 that one district that a lot of people seemed to be talking
7 about in the adjoining districts, and I looked at the
8 northern part of Clearwater is in the same district as
9 Nazaric Town (phonetic). Now I don't know if you-all have
10 ever been to Nazaric Town, but I don't see a lot in common
11 with Nazaric and Clearwater.

12 So to me, I traveled that area a lot over the years
13 and I see that part of Pasco County and Hernando County
14 having a lot in common. And I think we need to keep that
15 in mind looking at demographics. Keeping communities
16 together, keeping population centers together. So thank
17 you for the opportunity to speak this afternoon to you and
18 I'll go downstairs and make sure those other ten people
19 come up. Okay?

20 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 72.

21 MR. RUSSELL: Good afternoon. My name is John
22 Russell. I'm from Dade City. As you can see, I hadn't
23 planned on coming down here today but I suddenly had a
24 little bit of a, I don't know, little bee in my head when I
25 was driving down to Tampa to do some errands and decided it

1 access to quality health care, safety of their children, et
2 cetera, et cetera, et cetera. But the bottom line is who
3 is able to more effectively fulfill their goals. And so
4 with these concerns in mind, I think when decisions are
5 made with regard to redistricting, that the thought should
6 be when a cost is to be imposed on a community -- and I'm
7 totally new to this as you can see -- the bottom line is
8 the people who are most able to bear the cost because of
9 their significant resources at their command should be the
10 ones that more often made to bear the cost.

11 Again, addressing the -- addressing meeting times. I
12 think once you get the critical pathway winnowed down
13 somewhat, I think it's more than appropriate, especially
14 given the mess that was our election in November in the
15 state of Florida, that we do what we can to cut off public
16 cynicism by affording full and open disclosure and ability
17 of people to question. Okay. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Number 73.

19 MR. TRIBOU: I guess I get the dubious distinction of
20 being last today. Make everybody happy.

21 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Welcome to the committee.

22 MR. TRIBOU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and honorable
23 members, and good afternoon. My name is Kevin Tribou and I
24 am a resident of the north Brandon area along Interstate 4.
25 My employer is based here in Tampa. And I like thousands

1 of others spend the majority of my drive time traversing
2 along Interstate 4 between my office and my home. Doing
3 so, I cannot help but notice the vast number of people
4 including many of my coworkers that live along this area
5 who travel each morning and return each night again. Some
6 even as far as Orlando.

7 A recent article, which I will submit to the record
8 entitled, I-4 Will Give Birth to a Megalopolis, recently
9 ran in the Orlando Sentinel predicting that eventually
10 Tampa and Orlando will collide at a point in between and
11 another megalopolis will be born. In fact, U.S. Census
12 figures confirm the growth has already begun. In the past
13 decade alone the seven counties along the I-4 corridor have
14 added over 700,000 residents. And in the last ten years
15 more than 2,700 new high-tech companies have set up shop
16 along the I-4 corridor employing roughly over 100,000
17 people.

18 My company, like many others, relies on this I-4
19 corridor as the transportation hub for our business and
20 thousands of workers rely on it as a transportation
21 lifeline between home and work. The future of the
22 Tampa/Orlando area and all communities along the I-4
23 corridor will rely on many factors, securing Federal funds
24 for the construction of the bullet train, cooperation
25 between state, local, and Federal governments to speed up

1 the widening of I-4 to address the congestion problem. And
2 maintaining the I-4 corridor as a transportation and
3 business hub.

4 But most importantly, the continued pursuit of
5 high-tech business and high-tech job growth along the I-4
6 corridor. I believe that these factors and the continued
7 positive growth for the area will rely heavily on
8 knowledgeable, strong, regional leadership that can only
9 come from regional representation. The future of the
10 people, the communities, business, and the environment
11 along the I-4 corridor will best be served by regional
12 representation at the Congressional level, the State Senate
13 level, and the State House level.

14 Our future will depend on the ability to be
15 represented as a strong, active region. Also with the
16 addition of two new Congressional seats to Florida, it is
17 my belief that this I-4 corridor should be represented as a
18 region by being awarded one of these new districts.

19 I strongly urge the committee to recognize that the
20 I-4 corridor is a unique and important region and to
21 recognize our need for regional representation in
22 Washington and in Tallahassee. Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you. Now members, this is the
24 time that we allow the Senators and members of the House to
25 make any comments that they would like to put in the record

1 at this hearing. And what we have done so far is to begin
2 with the local delegation members. So we'll start with
3 Hillsborough County Senate and House delegation members.
4 Representative Miller, you are recognized.

5 SENATOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a
6 couple of points that were raised today. Number one, there
7 was a gentleman, I think his name was Dr. Braun from Spring
8 Hill, brought up some very significant points about what he
9 would like to see and he had some very important questions.
10 And, Mr. Chairman, you asked me to be the one to answer
11 those questions. I don't think I have the authority to
12 answer those questions of that gentleman. I think that
13 either you as the Chair who has the authority to do that or
14 defer it to the staff, should have the staff answer
15 Mr. Braun's questions and get back with him on that.

16 I would have the information he asked for in my hand.
17 So if staff wants that, I think they should be the ones to
18 answer that, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the authority to do
19 that or not the expertise either to answer those questions.
20 So if the staff would do that, I'd appreciate it.

21 The second thing is I think that someone talked about
22 having a training or a demonstration of the computers and
23 FREDS before each one of these public hearings. I think
24 it's vitally important that we have the opportunity an hour
25 before these public hearings to have FREDS demonstrated to

1 the public, an opportunity to utilize this very cumbersome,
2 per se, if you're not a computer expert and how to utilize
3 FREDS.

4 One hour might not be enough for someone to understand
5 or learn this instrument but I think it will give the
6 opportunity to do that. And I would suggest that we have
7 the opportunity to allow them to understand that.

8 The third thing, Mr. Chairman, is someone -- I think
9 it was Ms. Clark -- asked a question as to why were we only
10 going to broadcast a select few of these hearings on the
11 Florida channel and how are they being selected, why not
12 all of them. I think we need to get those questions
13 answered for Ms. Clark. Ms. Clark represented a very large
14 segment of Hillsborough County. I think those questions
15 should be answered to the entire state as to why certain
16 ones are selected and why certain ones are not selected and
17 get those answers back to her and any other constituent
18 that has those questions.

19 And fourth, I think we owe an answer to the questions
20 brought forth by Ms. Tokley, Mr. Tokley and Mr. Niles. I
21 think Mr. Niles stood there waiting for an answer. And
22 actually some others around the state that I've seen, they
23 stand there waiting for an answer from someone of the
24 committee or from staff and no one answers those questions.
25 I think we need to take into consideration possibly even

1 giving them some answers while they stand at the podium.

2 So I would hope that we could answer those three
3 persons' questions while we're here or at least get back to
4 them some answers to the questions they have. They are on
5 the record and I think those things need to happen.

6 And I think we need to give the court reporter a hand.
7 I don't know if we're paying her enough but I think she
8 took a little break and came right back and got to work.
9 (Applause.) So thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Senator Miller.
11 Representative Bilirakis.

12 REPRESENTATIVE BILIRAKIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
13 wanted to say briefly that I think the public did an
14 excellent job. Very well informed, extremely informative.
15 And I was pleased to hear and I know we'll consider your
16 views and your suggestions when we draft these districts.
17 I see the general theme has to do with communities of
18 interest, accessibility to your Representative. As far as
19 I'm concerned it was the most important and also the
20 compact districts. So I know we'll take your views into
21 consideration. And thank you, Mr. Chairman, appreciate it.

22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative. Other
23 members? Senator Crist.

24 SENATOR CRIST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to
25 compliment the chairman and the staff on how well they've

1 organized these meetings. They number of meetings that
2 they've put together, the regions, and the areas, and
3 multiple time slots that were selected so that folks would
4 be able to access us and be able to come and speak to us
5 and share their feelings. And I know there is a lot of
6 work that goes on behind the scenes and I'd like to thank
7 you and the staff for your work. I'd also like to say that
8 I heard the underlying theme today and that was, Don't bust
9 up our communities. Let's try to keep like areas together
10 so that we can have effective, cohesive leadership and I'll
11 be working with my colleagues to help hopefully bring that
12 to fruition.

13 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Senator. Representative
14 Joyner.

15 REPRESENTATIVE JOYNER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. First,
16 I'd like to welcome my colleagues from the other areas of
17 the state of Florida to the jewel of the state, the Tampa
18 Bay area. We received a lot of testimony today which came
19 from a cross-section of citizens from Hillsborough, Pasco,
20 Hernando and some from Polk County. And the underlying
21 theme that I gleaned was that we make this process fair and
22 equitable. And I think that's the challenge given to us by
23 the citizenry and I know that we will and we must meet that
24 challenge.

25 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative.

1 Representative Romeo.

2 REPRESENTATIVE ROMEO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's
3 a pleasure to be here today and listen to what the
4 community has to say. One of the questions that I have as
5 a member of the Redistricting Committee is my office is
6 receiving correspondence on a daily basis with
7 constituents' feelings about redistricting. Are these
8 letters to be on file somewhere? Is there a certain place
9 that we should be sending these letters to the attention of
10 the committee members or would that be to your attention,
11 sir?

12 CHAIRMAN BYRD: If you could send them to the House
13 Redistricting Committee staff, that would be a good place
14 to send them. Thank you. Any other members?
15 Representative Littlefield? Representative Jennings?

16 REPRESENTATIVE LITTLEFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 I find it appropriate for me to say something at this
18 meeting because my family is from College Hill in Tampa,
19 Florida. My dad is one of 14 and I feel like I'm a product
20 of this community. So I find it an honor to be in this
21 position in this community to say something and to say
22 welcome home to myself and allowing me to represent the
23 state of Florida. And Representative Joyner's district and
24 Senator Miller's districts are where my family comes from.
25 And as we continue to have these hearings, I hope that

1 we will continue to keep the idea of accessibility more
2 important. If I look at the meetings I've been to, I did
3 not get a chance to attend the meeting in Tallahassee, but
4 the meetings that have been after 1:00 and particularly the
5 ones in the evening have been very different than those
6 that came at 9:00, we had many more speakers and better
7 attendance. And people not only of color, but people whose
8 means are not as strong as some of ours don't get a chance
9 and the numbers that we'd like.

10 So I know it has been the philosophy of this committee
11 to have it open and accessible and to listen to people's
12 comments. But many people don't have an opportunity to
13 come if the meetings are so early in the morning. So I'm
14 looking at the list. I know there is a 9:00 meeting in
15 Vero Beach. Hopefully we can entertain the concept of
16 having that in the afternoon at least.

17 I hope that the staff and, Mr. Chairman, you and
18 Senator Webster will think about that concept as we travel
19 around the state for the rest of the meetings and keep that
20 on the record. And thank you for allowing me to make some
21 remarks.

22 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative. Other
23 members? You're recognized.

24 REPRESENTATIVE SOBEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. It's an
25 honor to be here in Tampa and good to hear you welcome us.

1 I'm glad to be here. I think this was a well-run meeting
 2 by my colleagues and staff. It ran very efficiently and
 3 smoothly. And I think the citizens had some really, really
 4 good questions which I would like to see addressed. And
 5 one of them is the computer issue. There were questions
 6 about whether the computers are working or not.
 7 Also, prior to the hearings, I think it's a really
 8 good idea to have those computers on display. We're doing
 9 something like that with voting machines throughout the
 10 state. People get a chance to touch the machines and see
 11 which voting machines they'd like to have. So maybe we can
 12 do the same thing with the FREDs system and make people
 13 feel more familiar with the kind of program that we are
 14 offering.
 15 Second, will there be public hearings after the maps
 16 are drawn? And if there are, this is what one of the
 17 citizens said, how many and where? And another question
 18 that was brought up was the undercount of 200,000. Will
 19 that be addressed? The hearings noticed on television, on
 20 cable, I have to get a phone call to say, Hey, the hearings
 21 are going to be on C-Span today, but nobody knows when they
 22 are on. So maybe we need some sort of information network
 23 about when the hearings will be televised. Maybe the
 24 newspapers can help us with that.
 25 And then there are some hearings that are being added

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 in and we need a little bit more time to be noticed about
 2 them so we can make travel arrangements. I hope that those
 3 questions will be addressed and thank you for
 4 consideration.
 5 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you, Representative Sobel. Any
 6 other members? All right. The public hearing will be
 7 adjourned.
 8 (Hearing adjourned at 1:35 p.m.)
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25