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REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2001 - 6:00 P.M.

NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL
NAPLES, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

MONA L. WHIDDON
COURT REPORTER

Division of Administrative Hearings
DeSoto Building
1230 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, Florida

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1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE
 2 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE
 3 SENATOR RON KLEIN
 4 SENATOR JACK LATVALA
 5 SENATOR LESLEY MILLER, JR.
 6 SENATOR DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA
 7 SENATOR DEBBY P. SANDERSON
 8 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS
 9 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ
 10 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER
 11 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY JOHN BALL
 12 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE B. BYRD, JR.
 13 REPRESENTATIVE DONNA CLARKE
 14 REPRESENTATIVE DUDLEY J. GOODLETTE
 15 REPRESENTATIVE KENNETH ALLAN GOTTLIEB
 16 REPRESENTATIVE CAROLE GREENE
 17 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY D. KOTTKAMP
 18 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE
 19 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY G. MELVIN
 20 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA L. MURMAN
 21 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN
 22 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS B. RICHARDSON
 23 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN
 24
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1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 CHAIRMAN BYRD: We would like to thank all of you for
 3 coming tonight. If we could have order. Let's stand and
 4 say the pledge.
 5 (Pledge of Allegiance.)
 6 CHAIRMAN BYRD: Thank you again. And good evening,
 7 ladies and gentlemen. My name is Johnny Byrd. I'm the
 8 State Representative from District 62, Plant City, and I am
 9 the chairman of the House Procedural and Redistricting
 10 Council. It's my pleasure to welcome all of you today to
 11 this public hearing. The Senators and Representatives are
 12 here to listen to the residents of this area and to
 13 consider your input into this very important process.
 14 Since these are joint meetings between the House and the
 15 Senate, we have divided our responsibilities throughout the
 16 many public hearings that have been held around the state.
 17 Now it's my pleasure at this time to introduce Senator
 18 Dan Webster who is chairman of the Senate Reapportionment
 19 Committee. Senator Webster will preside over the meeting
 20 today. Senator Webster, you are recognized.
 21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Chairman Byrd. It's
 22 also my pleasure to welcome you to these public hearings,
 23 one of many we are holding throughout the summer and fall
 24 around the state of Florida. First let me explain the
 25 procedure which we will use throughout these public
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1 hearings.
 2 This is a public hearing, the sole purpose of which is
 3 to hear from you, the public, on matters of redistricting.
 4 This is not a committee meeting; we are not taking
 5 legislative action in any of these or subsequent -- in this
 6 or subsequent public hearings. Instead, this is the
 7 public's forum where we have the opportunity to receive
 8 citizen input about their electoral districts. It's not
 9 time for legislative debate, all Representatives and
 10 Senators will have numerous opportunities in the subsequent
 11 committee hearings and floor debates to address all of the
 12 member's concerns and wishes.
 13 Today, however, is for constituents. We must not
 14 diminish their voice by taking up valuable time today in
 15 debate. Following my brief remarks, counsel will give a
 16 general overview of legal considerations in redistricting.
 17 Staff will then provide some specific information about
 18 census results in this region and the state. The rest is
 19 reserved for you, the citizens.
 20 Every ten years, after the completion of the updated
 21 national census, the Constitution requires that the Florida
 22 Legislature redraw the boundaries for the districts for the
 23 Florida House of Representatives, the Florida Senate, and
 24 the United States Congress. The Legislature will take up
 25 this task during the legislative session, which will begin
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1 January 22nd, 2002, and will end March 22nd, 2002. The
 2 district lines that we draw will be used in the
 3 November 2002 elections.
 4 Redistricting is the central element of our
 5 representative democracy. We take this on with humility
 6 and due regard for the importance and difficulty of the
 7 job. We are committed that the process will be fair and
 8 open and inclusive. These public hearings represent a
 9 crucial first step in this process. We appreciate that we
 10 are doing the work of the people. We want to hear from you
 11 and help you to participate in a meaningful way.
 12 To encourage public participation, Senate President
 13 John McKay and House Speaker Tom Feeney have scheduled
 14 these 22 public hearings throughout the state. All members
 15 of the Legislature's redistricting committees as well as
 16 the local delegation members have been invited to these
 17 public hearings.
 18 The House and Senate have designed web sites as a tool
 19 for public input and will broadcast select hearings on
 20 Florida's public television stations. The web addresses
 21 for the House and Senate redistricting are available at the
 22 information table as you come in the doors. A link also is
 23 available from the Florida legislative web site.
 24 A redistricting plan for the State House and State
 25 Senate will be cast in the form of a joint resolution which
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1 will not be subject to the Governor's approval or veto, but
 2 will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. The plan
 3 for determining Congressional districts will not be
 4 reviewed by the Supreme Court, but will be subject to the
 5 Governor's approval or veto.

6 I encourage everyone to carefully review the 2000
 7 census, it is the essential building block on which
 8 Florida's redistricting plans will be built. The address
 9 for the United States Census web site is available also at
 10 the sign-in table. We are hear to listen and consider your
 11 voice. We would encourage each member of the public to
 12 testify and help us create your legislative districts. We
 13 also encourage written submissions in addition to public
 14 testimony that you give.

15 Everyone who wishes to speak must fill out a speaker's
 16 card which are available at the sign-in table. We want to
 17 hear from as many people as possible; therefore, we must
 18 limit comments to four minutes. On behalf of the House
 19 Speaker Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay and
 20 members of the Florida Legislature, I look forward to
 21 working with all of you on this historic and important
 22 task.

23 At this time, I will recognize former Senator Jim
 24 Scott who is our lead counsel on Senate redistricting to
 25 give us a legal overview.

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1 SENATOR SCOTT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members.
 2 Together with my colleague for the House, Miguel DeGrandy,
 3 we are here to assist you tonight. My job is to give you
 4 an overview of the law regarding redistricting and
 5 reapportionment and it's not by any means intended to be
 6 exhaustive or in detail.

7 The duty, as the Chairman says, falls on the
 8 Legislature every ten years. This year, because of
 9 Florida's population increase, we will now have a total of
 10 25 Congressional seats instead of the current 23. And the
 11 duty regarding that will be to divide the state into 25
 12 contiguous districts of equal population.

13 In addition, the Legislature will divide the state
 14 into 40 State Senate districts and 120 House districts,
 15 although the Constitution does allow a lower number, down
 16 to 30 State Senators and 80 House members. If -- as the
 17 chairman stated, the sessions will start in January and
 18 will end in March. If somehow the Legislature did not, and
 19 we hope that doesn't happen, have a redistricting plan,
 20 then the Governor nor will call them back for a period of
 21 30 days.

22 If the special sessions should end without a plan, at
 23 that point, then the Attorney General would petition the
 24 Supreme Court for the Court to commence deliberations on a
 25 redistricting plan, and within 60 days they would file a

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1 plan. If a plan is adopted during the session on the
 2 legislative reapportionment, it goes to the Supreme Court
 3 for review. The Congressional plan, it goes to the
 4 Governor for his veto or approval.

5 We have a couple of important redistricting
 6 principles, the first of which is the principle of one
 7 person, one vote. And the other is the requirements of the
 8 U.S. Constitution and the Federal statutes. The principle
 9 of one person, one vote, as I'm sure you know, developed
 10 from some cases in the 1960s in the U.S. Supreme Court.

11 Prior to that time, in many instances, including in
 12 Florida and other states, there were unequal
 13 representation. By that, we mean one State House district
 14 might have 50,000 people in a more rural area, whereas in
 15 an urban area, there might be up to 250,000 people in a
 16 House district. The U.S. Supreme Court concluded that
 17 these types of differences resulted in each person's vote
 18 not being counted equally and so they outlawed all of this
 19 type of district.

20 However, neither the Supreme Court or our requirements
 21 require exact population numbers. The staff, in a few
 22 moments, will show you the ideal numbers and discuss some
 23 of the other population changes. But in general, for
 24 Congressional districts, the rule of thumb is a deviation
 25 as close to zero as possible, and not more than one

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1 percent. And the courts have been pretty unanimous in
 2 holding that in Congressional reapportionment you cannot
 3 have a deviation.

4 However, under certain circumstances, in the
 5 legislative reapportionment for the House and Senate, the
 6 courts have permitted greater deviations, up to 10 percent
 7 from the ideal number, under certain circumstances.

8 The Voting Rights Act of 1964, and the Equal
 9 Protection Clause of the United States Constitution are
 10 very important factors in redistricting over the last 30
 11 years. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any
 12 practice or procedure, including certain redistricting
 13 practices, that impairs the ability of a minority community
 14 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with
 15 non-minority voters.

16 Florida is also one of the states that contain
 17 jurisdictions that are subject to review under Section 5 of
 18 the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act
 19 requires that covered jurisdictions submit, prior to
 20 implementation, any proposed change in their redistricting
 21 practices and other voting practices for approval by the
 22 Attorney General or by the Federal District Court for the
 23 District of Columbia. This is process is known as
 24 preclearance.

25 In Florida, the covered jurisdictions include Collier,
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1 Hardy, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties. The vast
 2 majority of preclearance requests, and this is what we
 3 anticipate in Florida, are made to the Attorney General's
 4 office and they have 60 days to act on them. We hope that
 5 they don't take that long. But if they don't object at the
 6 end of 60 days, then the plan is approved. And if they
 7 have objections, then that's transmitted back and the
 8 Legislature will have to deal with that, or courts.

9 The covered jurisdictions, our covered jurisdictions
 10 and our plans which cover the state including them, bear
 11 the burden of demonstrating that the proposed voting change
 12 does not have the purpose and will not have the effect of
 13 either denying or abridging the right to vote on account of
 14 race, or color or membership in a language minority group.

15 The rules on redistricting are somewhat complicated;
 16 this is a short presentation which really only scratches
 17 the surface for some pretty delicate legal issues, some of
 18 which have not been fully decided by the courts. However,
 19 with my House colleague, we will be available to assist you
 20 throughout this process. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Senator Scott. And now
 22 I would like to recognize Mr. John Guthrie who is the staff
 23 director on technical portions of the Senate Redistricting
 24 Committee. And he will give us an overview of the 2000
 25 Census and how it affects this area. Mr. Guthrie.

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1 MR. GUTHRIE: Thank you chairman Webster, Chairman
 2 Byrd, members of the House and Senate. Over the next few
 3 minutes, what I'm going to do is briefly review how the
 4 2000 Census and the facts and figures from the 2000 census
 5 may impact redistricting in 2001 and 2002.

6 The first fact that we need to recognize in looking at
 7 population growth in Florida over the past ten years is
 8 that Florida was a very rapidly growing state. The state
 9 population increased by 3 million people to almost
 10 16 million by April 1st of 2000. As a result, Florida's
 11 Congressional delegation will increase by two to a total of
 12 25 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

13 The other key fact that we need to observe in looking
 14 at Florida's population growth over the decade is that the
 15 growth has not been uniform. Some areas have grown very
 16 rapidly. Some areas have grown more slowly. For instance,
 17 Flagler County grew at a rate of the 73.6 percent. Sumter
 18 County at a rate of 69 percent. Collier County, where we
 19 are today, at a rate of 65.3 percent. Wakulla at 61
 20 percent. And Osceola County at a rate of 60 percent.

21 At the other end of the spectrum, the slowest growing
 22 county in the state during the past ten years was Monroe
 23 County with a growth rate of only 2 percent. Pinellas and
 24 Putnam Counties grew at a rate of 8.2 percent. And Gadsden
 25 County in the Panhandle grew at a rate of 9.7. All of the

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1 other counties in Florida grew at rate over the ten-year
 2 period of 10 percent or more.

3 Now, looking at the local area, again, Collier County
 4 grew at a rate of the 65.3 percent. The population in
 5 Collier County is now more than 250,000 people. That ranks
 6 Collier County 18th among Florida's 67 counties. Lee
 7 County, to the north, the population increased by
 8 32 percent to 441,000 people which puts Lee County 11th
 9 among Florida's 67 counties.

10 Senator Scott mentioned earlier that the foundation
 11 for redistricting is the U.S. Constitution. In fact,
 12 article -- and the U.S. census. In fact, Article 1 of the
 13 U.S. Constitution provides for a decennial census for the
 14 expressed purpose of providing for equal representation.
 15 Congressional, Senate, and House districts will be adjusted
 16 in 2002 based on the 2000 Census.

17 Districts that now have substantially too many people
 18 based on the 2000 Census and the growth rates that have
 19 occurred during the past ten years will become smaller.
 20 Districts that are substantially underpopulated will gain
 21 territory.

22 Now, back in 1990 when the population of the state was
 23 less than 13 million people, the average size of a
 24 Congressional district was 562,519 people. Based on the
 25 2000 Census, this is going to increase by 14 percent. So a

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1 Congressional district in the next election will have a
 2 population of about 640 people, again, based on the 2000
 3 Census.

4 By the same token, based on the 90 census, the average
 5 population for a Senate District was 323,000 people, and
 6 the average population for a House district was 108 people.
 7 Based on the 2000 Census, these will increase to 400,000
 8 and 133,000 respectively.

9 The next graphic shows the relative size of
 10 Congressional, Senate, and House districts in 1990 and
 11 2000. The green color is district size in the 1990s, the
 12 blue color is district size based on the 2000 Census. And
 13 what we can gather from this graphic is that the
 14 proportionate increase in district size for Senate and
 15 House districts will be slightly larger for the simple
 16 reason that the Senate and House delegations will be the
 17 same size or cannot be any larger than the 40 and 120
 18 members currently provided in the state, whereas the
 19 Congressional delegation will increase from 23 to 25.

20 Looking at the change in population density that's
 21 occurred in South Florida during the decade, what we see is
 22 that the urban areas of Fort Myers and Cape Coral and
 23 downtown Naples indicated in red here, have actually lost
 24 density. But the areas west and outside of the urban areas
 25 have grown fairly rapidly.

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1 When we look at the relative population growth rather
2 than density, we see that not only the urban areas, but
3 also rural areas in southwest Florida have been growing at
4 a very rapid rate. Now, what is the effect of this on
5 Congressional, Senate, and House districts? The handouts
6 that are provided for members and the public in the back of
7 the room show the overcount or undercount of Congressional,
8 Senate, and House districts based on the 2000 Census.

9 For instance, we see that Congressional District 14 in
10 this area is overpopulated by 151,557. That is in order to
11 come to the ideal average population for a Congressional
12 district, Congressional District 14 would have to lose that
13 number of people. By the same token, Congressional
14 District 25, along the coast in Collier and Lee Counties,
15 is overpopulated at present by 96,000 people. And we see
16 the same pattern with House districts as well.

17 All of this demographic information and a lot more is
18 available on the House and Senate web sites. And I would
19 encourage members and the public to avail yourself of those
20 resources in preparing for redistricting over the next
21 several months.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Guthrie. As I
23 stated earlier, if you want to speak, you need to fill out
24 a speaker's card. We are calling on people by number. If
25 you look in the right-hand corner, there is a number,
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1 except for one exception. And if there's anyone else who
2 wants to speak, you must fill out one of these cards and
3 you can see the staff at the entry of the building and they
4 can help you sign in.

5 Please remember that in order to ensure everyone has
6 an opportunity to speak, we will be limiting remarks to
7 four minutes per speaker. Of course we also welcome any
8 written submissions that you would wish to present now or
9 at a later date. If there are any handouts, be sure that
10 staff receives a copy so we all will be copied at a later
11 date.

12 With that, Senator Sanderson wanted to recognize
13 someone who is a friend of mine and a friend of hers. You
14 can do that.

15 SENATOR SANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
16 wanted, since we do have a number of freshman here on the
17 committee, to let them have the opportunity and also to
18 recognize a very special friend of mine, a former colleague
19 Mary Ellen Hawkins (phonetic) who served honorably in this
20 area and most opportune since she's from this area. Mary
21 Ellen Hawkins, please stand.

22 Mary Ellen served 20 years in the Florida House and
23 taught me a great number of things. And for the freshmen
24 that didn't get a chance to know her, you really missed
25 someone very special. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Here's my exception,
2 the Board of County Commission chairman, Collier County,
3 needs to go to a meeting and he has a resolution to present
4 to us from the Collier County Board of County
5 Commissioners. Therefore, I'm going to allow him to go
6 ahead and read that resolution before he leaves.

7 MR. CARTER: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
8 appreciate this opportunity and I thank the members of the
9 audience for indulging me in this opportunity. This
10 resolution was passed on September 11th by the Board of
11 County Commissioners, because what we wanted to do was be
12 sure that we remained in alignment with the other west
13 county counties during this appointment process.

14 The proclamation reads as follows: Whereas Article 1,
15 Section 2, the United States Constitution defines the
16 obligation to reapportion the United States House of
17 Representatives following the decennial census according to
18 their respective numbers, which shall be determined by
19 adding to the whole number of free persons, and, whereas,
20 Article 10, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution enables
21 that each decennial census of the state taken by the United
22 States shall be the official census of the state, whereas
23 the primary Federal statutes which must be considered in
24 redistricting are the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 United
25 States Code, 1973, Public Law 94-171, providing for the
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1 uses of decennial census population data in reapportioning
2 and redistricting the United States House of
3 Representatives, and, whereas the Florida Legislature, has
4 been in receipt of Public Law 94-171 population data from
5 the 2000 United States Census since March 27, 2001, and has
6 begun the process of drawing new boundaries for Florida's
7 25 U.S. House Congressional districts, and, whereas since
8 1992, Collier and neighboring Lee Counties have been
9 included in Congressional District 14, and have been well
10 served by Congressman Porter Goss, a Representative
11 familiar with the common needs and economic interests of
12 both counties, and, whereas, Congressional District 14 has
13 demonstrated that it's geographically compact, economically
14 and politically cohesive with no history of the thwarting
15 minority group interest, and, whereas existing District 14
16 represents existing political boundaries and shared
17 topographical features, designed with strict adherence of
18 equal population, one person, one vote rule, and, whereas
19 Collier and Lee Counties are located in southwest Florida
20 with communities of interest shared commonly and with
21 neighboring west coast counties, and, whereas including
22 Collier County's new Congressional district with southwest
23 Florida's Broward, or southeast -- correction, southeast
24 Florida's Broward, Miami-Dade, and/or Monroe Counties,
25 would create an asymmetric district inconsistent with the
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1 standards important to the existing district citizens and
 2 whereas the citizens for fair redistricting, a political
 3 action committee comprised of both major political parties
 4 was established for the purpose of supporting efforts to
 5 ensure that Collier and Lee Counties remain aligned with
 6 neighboring west coast counties following the completion of
 7 the redistricting process initiated by the Florida
 8 Legislature, and, whereas, at a regularly-scheduled meeting
 9 of the Collier County Board of Commissioners on July 31,
 10 2001, Citizens For Fair Redistricting appealed to the Board
 11 of county Commissioners to support these efforts, now
 12 therefore, be it proclaimed by the Board of County
 13 Commissioners of the Collier County, Florida that on behalf
 14 of the citizens of Collier County, we support Citizens For
 15 Fair Redistricting and their efforts to ensure that during
 16 the redistricting process, Collier County be aligned with
 17 its contiguous west coast counties and communities of
 18 interest and not be included in Congressional districts
 19 included in Florida's southeast counties of Broward,
 20 Miami-Dade or Monroe. Don and ordered this 11th day of
 21 September, 2001, Board of County Commissioners, Collier
 22 County Florida, James D. Carter, Ph.D., Chairman. Thank
 23 you, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Number 1,
 25 you are recognized.
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1 MR. CARR: My name is Mike Carr, I am the chairman of
 2 the local Republican party. My Democratic counterpart,
 3 Chuck Mohlke, you will hear from him soon. Chuck and I are
 4 the good create -- along with Fred Hart, the bipartisan
 5 citizen for fair redistricting, which you just heard about.
 6 And let me show you what we've got. We created a map with
 7 the help, I want to say with a lot of help with a lot of
 8 people. Wilson Miller, one of our local contracting firms
 9 started out with local maps; we took their input. We went
 10 to the County Commission, they were trying to provide staff
 11 support, Supervisor of Elections did a great job to help us
 12 out. And we drafted a proposed map for our district.

13 It really wasn't that hard other than the endless
 14 hours we spent doing it because we did a couple of things.
 15 One, the 18 people in Congress were not consulted in how to
 16 draw the lines, and that really solved a tremendous
 17 problem. If you eliminate everybody that wants to fill
 18 Porter Goss' seat from consideration in drawing a map, the
 19 maps about draw themselves.

20 Now, we started with a couple of promises, which you
 21 can share or not share. As you already know from the
 22 excellent legal presentation, Florida has five counties
 23 that are preclearance counties. As you may recall, Collier
 24 County is one of them. Now there are some things involved
 25 in preclearance. And we have made this visually easy for
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1 you, and this is by the way, I'll submit as an exhibit.
 2 And we have a color-coded map.

3 And each of these little dots represents a different
 4 minority group. And as you can see, we have a number of
 5 minority groups clustered in Collier County on the outside.
 6 If you take a district and start carving up Collier County,
 7 you won't be carving up minority groups. I can promise you
 8 if you do carve up minority groups of Collier County you
 9 will be in court. We don't want you to be in court. We
 10 want a nice, fair district that will represent our
 11 interest. We'll have a local representative. We don't
 12 want this to go to court.

13 For those of you that remember, last time Judge Atkins
 14 did the redistricting for us. Well you are all talented
 15 ladies and gentlemen; we would like you guys to do the
 16 redistricting and we want to help you and that's what we
 17 are trying to do here. If you start with that, Collier
 18 County stays intact because of the legal problems which are
 19 real, then the only question is, Where do you find 51,000
 20 votes to keep Collier with Lee in the same Congressional
 21 district.

22 There's only two ways to do it. One is you can do a
 23 line here on Lehigh Acres -- let me show this to the guys
 24 here. This is what we're talking about. There's only two
 25 ways to do this map. One is Lehigh Acres, to draw a line,
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1 which Chuck will explain in detail. And the other is you
 2 start trying to carve out around Cape Coral. There's
 3 100,000 people in the Cape Coral. We talked to a lot of
 4 folks in Lee County and they raised holy hell.

5 There's no way to try and cut Cape Coral without
 6 having mutiny. It's one community of interest. They are
 7 one group. They want to stay intact. They belong in this
 8 district. And the only other way I can see to draw this
 9 map, and we spent a lot of time, is to draw a line we have
 10 here. We got a detail -- and, again, Chuck will go over
 11 some of this stuff I hope. Here is a map with details --
 12 you can see that we followed --

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: 30 seconds.

14 MR. CARR: Okay. It is a good detail map, look at it.
 15 By the way, this map is done with 96 votes which is a
 16 perfect number. You can't draw a map closer to the ideal
 17 number. We would like you to consider it. I'd like to now
 18 move this in as an exhibit. And hopefully Chuck, my
 19 Democratic counterpart, will talk about this. All we want
 20 is a fair redistricting. One that gives us our own
 21 representative. Thanks.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number two.

23 MR. MOHLKE: For the record, my name is Chuck Mohlke.
 24 And if it please this honorable panel, I appear here as the
 25 co-chair with Mike Carr for Citizens for Fair
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1 Redistricting. This is a serious effort on the part of
 2 both political parties to present for your consideration,
 3 Mr. Chairman, a unified view regarding the importance of
 4 maintaining the compact and cohesive core of District 14 in
 5 any redistricting which this panel and your legislative
 6 colleagues will consider.

7 To reinforce the community's views about this, we
 8 provide a supplement to this record in the two boxes which
 9 you see appearing on the stage, which includes not only the
 10 resolution passed by the Board of County Commissioners that
 11 you heard read into the record by Commissioner Carter but
 12 includes complementary resolutions passed unanimously by
 13 the city councils of Naples and Bonita Springs.

14 The other thing that we want to add to the record
 15 before I conclude with a brief remark about the maps that
 16 Chairman Carr presented for your consideration is to
 17 provide you as a separate exhibit with the very scheme, and
 18 I use that word advisedly, that was presented by
 19 Legislature in the form of House Bill 2217 in the 1992
 20 session of the Legislature that caused the adjustments made
 21 by the court system later that year. That map, which you
 22 will see when you peruse the record, did, in fact, divide
 23 Collier County significantly into a district which had at
 24 its easternmost point about one and a-half miles from
 25 Biscayne Bay.

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1 And the consequence of that led to the court, through
 2 Judge Atkins' decision, making a major adjustment in the
 3 boundaries as a consequence of that. That map will speak
 4 for itself and doesn't need further comment from me. The
 5 material which Chairman Carr presented for your
 6 consideration does include this supplementary map, which it
 7 appeared to us that you would want the confidence that we
 8 had employed, the very useful techniques of the FREDs
 9 program in designing a map which followed scrupulously the
 10 boundaries of census block groups in order to draw the map
 11 presented for your consideration.

12 Mr. Chairman, we will be able to comment at whatever
 13 length you suggest we should in providing exhibits and
 14 supplementary materials for the consideration by you and
 15 your staff, but I think I'll just adjourn my comments at
 16 this particular time. We'll look forward to my colleague,
 17 Fred Hart, who is the treasurer of our group in presenting
 18 additional information about Judge Atkins' ruling. We
 19 thank you very much for the opportunity to present this for
 20 your consideration. And, Mr. Chairman, thank you for the
 21 courtesy in permitting me this opportunity to speak.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 3.

23 MS. McCLENAGHAN: Mr. Chairman and members of the
 24 Senate and House Redistricting Committees, my name is Liza
 25 McClenaghan and I currently serve as the vice-chair of the
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1 Collier County Democratic Executive Committee. And at this
 2 time, I would like to ask the other members of the
 3 Democratic Executive Committee, the Collier County
 4 Democratic Club, and the Democratic Women's Club in Collier
 5 County to stand as we extend to you a welcome to Naples,
 6 Collier County, and Southwest Florida. Thank you for your
 7 willingness to listen to the citizens of the State of
 8 Florida as we express our concerns about future
 9 Congressional and legislative representation.

10 We come here tonight as warm bodies and not a lot of
 11 hot air, to support bipartisan efforts of the Citizens for
 12 Fair Redistricting, the Economic Development Council and
 13 the Southwest Florida Chamber of Commerce and others who
 14 seek the recognition of Southwest Florida separate from the
 15 east coast in its congressional and legislative
 16 representation.

17 As these organizations will and have expressed in
 18 detail, we want compact and contiguous districts that
 19 respect political boundaries and are statutory and
 20 judicially recognize minority communities of interest as
 21 well as economic diversity of this area. Thank you for
 22 your time this evening. We look forward to seeing your
 23 work in progress as you work through this complex process
 24 and we would like to add additional comments at that time.
 25 Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 4.

2 MR. REYNOLDS: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,
 3 distinguished Representatives, I am Alan Reynolds. I'm
 4 speaking today as chairman of the Economic Development
 5 Council of Collier County and on behalf of its Board of
 6 Directors and its members. I would like to submit our
 7 strongest possible support for a Southwest Florida-based
 8 Congressional district and equally strong opposition to any
 9 proposal that would seek to combine portions of the
 10 Southwest Florida to southeast Florida.

11 Presently the 14th Congressional district includes
 12 Collier, Lee, and southern Charlotte Counties. Our current
 13 Congressional district is geographically compact,
 14 economically and politically cohesive. And it is well
 15 represented with minority interest. We enjoy strong
 16 elected representation in Southwest Florida that
 17 understands the unique needs of our citizens and
 18 appreciates its defining attributes.

19 Our elected and State and Federal Representatives who
 20 live in our region do an outstanding job and are well known
 21 to all of us. They participate in our community
 22 institutions. They are highly visible in our communities.
 23 Over the last decade, Collier County has experienced a
 24 dramatic growth, 65 percent over the last decade in
 25 Collier, 32 percent in Lee County. With our significant
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1 rate of population growth, Southwest Florida has earned
2 more federal and state representation, not less.

3 In fact, the population of the Collier and Lee alone
4 exceed the size of a new Congressional district. Southwest
5 Florida is also achieving great progress in coming together
6 as a region, with historic levels of cooperation among its
7 citizens and its institutions. We work collaboratively in
8 areas such as economic development workforce training,
9 transportation funding, water management, the list goes on.

10 We have created partnerships voluntarily, which
11 reflect a commitment to the regional alliances to address
12 the region's unique, fast-growing challenges and
13 opportunities. Our community of common interest shares
14 many institutions of education, governance and commerce,
15 including Florida Gulf Coast University, the Southwest
16 Florida Regional Planning Council, the Southwest Florida
17 International Airport, and on. The message is very clear.
18 Southwest Florida is a region of community interest.

19 The severing of any part of the Southwest Florida
20 region so as to include it with the east coast of Florida
21 would result in disenfranchised voters who may not be
22 represented by people who live, work, and provide community
23 service or leadership in our region. Given the high rate
24 of the growth, unique attributes of our region and the
25 common interests, now more than ever we need the strongest
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1 possible leadership from our local regional representation.

2 If you examine the 23 Congressional districts in
3 Florida, only one district today shares both the Atlantic
4 and the Gulf coast, District 20. It shares two coasts
5 because Monroe County is the only county in Florida that
6 shares two coasts. However, Monroe county has no
7 population center on the Gulf coast. Its population
8 centers are all on the east coast. The population centers
9 of southeast and Southwest Florida are further physically
10 and geographically separated by one of the largest
11 contiguous public wilderness in the eastern part of the
12 United States. I have an exhibit that I'll submit into the
13 record --

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: 30 seconds.

15 MR. MOHLKE: -- which shows that existing district.
16 And you will see that the combination of the Big Cypress
17 National Preserve and Everglades National Park is 3,483
18 square miles of geopolitical separation between the east
19 coast and the west coast of Florida. In fact, that area is
20 larger than two states. On behalf of the Economic
21 Development Council of Collier County and its members, I
22 respectfully request that the Florida Legislature assure
23 that Southwest Florida's communities and its citizens
24 remain united in a Southwest Florida Congressional district
25 with boundaries that are logical, compact, contiguous, and
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1 representative of our region's shared interest. Thank you
2 very much.

3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number five.

4 MR. DOUCET: Good evening. My name is Joe Doucet and
5 I'm from Naples. I'm an employee of the city of Naples and
6 the president of Local 2017, American Federation of State,
7 County, and Municipal Employees. Thank you very much for
8 coming to Naples and for holding this hearing this evening.
9 I think the turnout here this evening says that it is a
10 good decision. I hope that you will use the best data
11 available. We all know that the census misses hundreds of
12 thousands of people in a state as big as Florida. Since
13 Southwest Florida is growing so fast, I want to be sure
14 that we use the adjusted census numbers to get the best
15 count possible.

16 I would also like to ask that you not include parts of
17 the Gulf coast with east coast districts. If you throw
18 parts of our counties in with Miami, we will not be heard
19 and will not have good access to our Representatives.
20 Finally, please let me and others come back after you have
21 drafted maps and we can have more detailed input. Thank
22 you for listening and good luck.

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 6.

24 MR. LONGANO: Senators, Representatives, and the
25 redistricting committees, welcome to Naples. My name is
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1 Art Longano and I live in State House District 102. Are
2 you aware that District 102 extends all the way across the
3 state from Naples to Miami? That is 100 miles. To me,
4 this is ridiculous. It is not fair and it defies the
5 purpose of drawing district lines. Districts are supposed
6 to group residents together in small geographic areas. Not
7 only does our district stretch across the state, but
8 greater Naples is spread into two districts. Why can't all
9 of the residents of greater Naples be in the same district?
10 Doesn't this make sense? What do we and Naples have in
11 common with those who live in Miami? We have different
12 problems, different interests, and different concerns.

13 Why should our Representative live 100 miles away? We
14 need someone who lives much closer and is aware of our
15 needs. I know you members of the redistricting committees
16 have a difficult and highly important job to do. All I ask
17 is that you reflect on the meaning of your decisions and
18 try to be as fair as possible. Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 7.

20 MS. CANTOR: Good evening to the chairman and the
21 Senate and Representatives of the Redistricting Committee.
22 My name is Ellie Cantor and I am the Collier County state
23 committee woman, Democratic state committee woman. Left
24 out an important word there, sorry.

25 I think redistricting is based on a lot of common
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1 sense. And I would say that there are probably two basic
 2 approaches here. One would be the approach of the
 3 candidates, of potential candidates, who would like to see
 4 this arranged in a very self-serving and politically
 5 motivated style. They may need a chunk of our voters to
 6 help ensure their election. So that type of line drawing
 7 would appeal to them.

8 The other approach, and the one that I hope is the one
 9 that will prevail, is the nonpartisan approach. And I know
 10 that you can see that reflected in the cooperation and the
 11 maps that have been presented and the words that have been
 12 spoken quite uniquely by the coalition that has brought
 13 together the Republican and Democratic leaders in Southwest
 14 Florida. They have done this does because it is for the
 15 good of all and they are interested in keeping us
 16 politically intact.

17 The elected officials who represent our county will
 18 have a voice in Tallahassee and Washington for the next ten
 19 years. And the best Representative of Collier County must
 20 certainly be someone who knows his constituency, his
 21 Congressional District, his legislative district, and
 22 understands our unique needs because he lives in Southwest
 23 Florida.

24 I think the loud and clear message that needs to go on
 25 record is that our concerns are different than on the east
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1 coast, and that when the legislative committee meets and
 2 votes in January, they will consider redistricting in a
 3 fair manner and keep our political districts intact. Thank
 4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 8.

6 MS. WOOLEY: Hi, I am fighting a cold, so I apologize.
 7 I'm Sheryl Wooley. Actually, the staff to Congressman
 8 Goss, Porter had hoped to be here today, but unfortunately
 9 an event on September 11th has kept him in Washington,
 10 spending nonstop time in briefings, strategy sessions, and
 11 hearings. The only thing that's not been part of his day
 12 is sleep.

13 Redistricting was a really big priority of his, as you
 14 know; he's retiring and it was very important to keep the
 15 integrity of Southwest Florida together. The events of
 16 September 11th have kind of pushed it down a little bit on
 17 the priority list. I have given a copy of his testimony to
 18 Mr. Goodlette, who I would hope would be able to read it
 19 into the record for him. Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE GOODLETTE: Thank you. Mr. Chairman,
 21 this a letter addressed to the committee members from
 22 Congressman Goss: For the past 30 some years, Southwest
 23 Florida has been my home. In that time, the area has seen
 24 amazing growth. While Florida experienced a 23 percent
 25 growth rate in the last census, Charlotte County has grown
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1 by 27 plus percent; Lee County, by 31 plus percent; and
 2 Collier County by 65 plus percent. Making it the second
 3 fastest growing county in the United States. As you
 4 probably know, this makes the 14th Congressional District
 5 the second fast growing in the state.

6 The rapid growth in the west coast of Florida dictates
 7 that there will need to be some minor shifting of
 8 Congressional boundaries. However, it's imperative that
 9 you retain the integrity of the Southwest Florida. I
 10 believe that you well understand that Southwest Florida is
 11 a community with regional networks in the areas of
 12 transportation, economics, education, and planning.

13 Florida's newest university, Florida Gulf Coast
 14 University, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council,
 15 and Southwest Florida International Airport are just a few
 16 examples of initiatives around which the area has
 17 coalesced. When I first moved here, Southwest Florida was
 18 fractioned among many separate entities. Serving in local
 19 government as a mayor and a county commissioner before
 20 representing this area in Washington D.C., I have watched
 21 the development of regional purpose through cooperation.

22 I am proud of southwest Floridians for living and
 23 working together to achieve common goals. This
 24 achievement, coupled with the significant growth should be
 25 rewarded with strong west coast Congressional
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1 representation. On another note, my congressional office
 2 handles between 5,000 and 6,000 cases each year, which is
 3 significantly higher than many offices in Florida and
 4 throughout the United States. Of these cases,
 5 approximately 57 percent are walk-ins, and 30 percent are
 6 received by mail, with the remainder being a combination of
 7 phone, E-mail, and fax.

8 Regardless of how the cases arrive in our offices,
 9 many of the individuals eventually sit down with me or my
 10 staff during the duration of the case. It would be
 11 tremendously unfair to deprive my constituents of this
 12 face-to-face contact and impose on them a far-reaching
 13 district that would necessitate additional time and money
 14 for travel and long distance telephone calls in order to
 15 reach out to their congressional office.

16 Further, as I'm sure you know, Collier County is one
 17 of the five counties named in the Voter's Rights Act of
 18 1965. This puts an additional burden on you to be sure
 19 that nothing is done to disenfranchise those who do not
 20 consider English their first language. Many of the cases,
 21 grants and special projects handled by my office, serve
 22 these groups and it would be unfortunate for them to be put
 23 in a position of unfair competition in order to be heard
 24 and get their fair share.

25 It is definitely a challenge for you and the other
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1 committee members to be mindful of our sense of community
2 and resist the temptation to develop districts that run
3 east and west across the state. Southwest Florida has too
4 long been the stepchild of our state. We have grown up.
5 So attempting to assimilate us into the east coast of
6 Florida would be a travesty and would destroy the identity
7 we have worked so hard to achieve. Therefore, I implore
8 you to do what is necessary to keep Southwest Florida's
9 identity intact. Thank you for your consideration of these
10 issues. I wish you well in your most difficult
11 undertaking. Kindest regards, member of Congress, Porter
12 Goss.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 9.

14 MR. WILES: Mr. Chairman, members of the House and
15 Senate, I have two points that I would like to make.
16 Number one is that after decisions have been made and maps
17 have been drawn and before there's any legislative
18 adoption, it's very important that the local areas have
19 further input. This is an extremely important thing I
20 believe and it's something that can be done through many
21 means, hearings, forums made available, electronic media,
22 whatever.

23 My second point is that I feel very strongly that west
24 to east coast redistricting of a contiguous nature is not
25 in the best interest of either area and should be very
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1 strongly discouraged. The issues that would be involved,
2 are, one, would be accessibility. This is very important.
3 Obviously it would have to be on one coast or the other. I
4 have been in Florida for eight years, I know it won't be in
5 the middle. There are definitely very different local and
6 area needs. And I also feel that environmental concerns
7 are quite different, extremely important, and they really
8 require different levels of attention. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 10.

10 MS. MORGAN: I'm Mary Morgan. I would like to impress
11 upon you that I think the single most important thing you
12 have to do in the next session of the Legislature is to
13 adopt these boundaries by the end of the term so you don't
14 have to go into special session. You don't want a repeat
15 of what you had 1992, where qualifying had to be extended
16 for the members who wanted to seek election to House
17 District 102.

18 Also, we have nothing in common with the east coast
19 counties except our county lines. So please do not include
20 us with any of those districts.

21 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 11.

22 MS. EDWARDS: Good evening, Chairman and members of
23 the House and Senate. My name is Jennifer Edwards and I am
24 the Supervisor of Elections for Collier County. As you
25 know, Collier County in the last census in redistricting
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1 was carved into four House districts and two Senate
2 districts.

3 House Districts 75, 77, and 102 all back into the
4 county, taking portions of communities with little regard
5 to neighbors or communities of interest. In fact, in
6 District 102, it forms a bizarre shape west of Collier
7 Boulevard. It actually passes through the middle of a
8 condominium unit that is only a few hundred yards from the
9 Collier County Courthouse. This is because the original
10 stream bed that was used many years ago has now been
11 relocated and there's a condo unit built in that area.

12 To avoid these kinds of situations in the impending
13 redistricting, I make the following recommendations:
14 Minimize the number of House districts that contain limited
15 portions of Collier County. Do not connect Collier with an
16 east coast district; there's simply no community of
17 interest across Alligator Alley. Use our existing
18 precincts as the building blocks for your maps. They do
19 not cut through neighborhoods or developments. Use major
20 roads for geographic features to create your boundaries.

21 And please respect our designated communities of
22 interest. Those communities of interest include the three
23 municipalities, the city of Naples, the city of Marco
24 Island, and the city of Everglades as well as five
25 communities of interest, Immokalee, Golden Gate Estates,
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1 Golden Gate City, east Naples, and north Naples.

2 I have submitted a package of information that
3 includes the precincts that fall within these communities
4 of interest. Immokalee is an agriculture and business area
5 that includes a high percentage of minority residents. The
6 community includes an airport facility with a satellite
7 free trade zone and a substantial and active redevelopment
8 district as well as an independent fire district.

9 Golden Gate Estates is a unique area zoned for
10 single-family homes. This -- the area has unique concerns
11 with conservation and wetland areas. Residents in this
12 area have held cityhood discussions. These residents tend
13 to identify strongly with their community. Golden Gate
14 Estates has its own very active civic association. Golden
15 Gate City is a well-established community that contains its
16 own business district and has its own civic association.
17 It is one of the oldest subdivided areas in Collier County.

18 East Naples is a community that is serviced by its own
19 independent fire district and the county's oldest civic
20 association. It contains both commercial and residential
21 developments with a substantial minority component. The
22 county has recently established a major redevelopment --

23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: 30 seconds.

24 MS. EDWARDS: -- in this area. North Naples also has
25 very unique characteristics. These communities of
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1 interest, although not municipalities, have identified
 2 themselves historically as real communities. As such, we
 3 believe that they merit the consideration of the
 4 redistricting committee and we ask for that consideration.
 5 Thank you very much.
 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 12.
 7 MR. CALABRESE: Hello. It's more important than ever
 8 that with the growth of population in Southwest Florida,
 9 that we have home-rule, access to, and influence with our
 10 elected Representatives and yet there is a movement afoot
 11 to take pieces of our districts and have them dominated by
 12 the east coast. That would mean that we will be
 13 represented by people who neither live in our area or will
 14 have no knowledge of our needs, which means no
 15 representation at all. And that would bring us back 225
 16 years to where we started, taxation without representation.
 17 Thank you.
 18 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 13.
 19 MR. KOREST: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the
 20 committee. I'm Alan Korest. And in the last few days and
 21 weeks, we have seen in this country a coming-together of
 22 all political groups. We have seen it in the House, the
 23 Senate, on the national level. We certainly have seen it
 24 on the local level with Chairman Carr and Chairman Mohlke
 25 coming together all in the interest of doing what is the
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1 right thing for the people.
 2 I think you have heard a lot today about the unified
 3 interest in Southwest Florida between Lee and Collier
 4 County. There is no question that this area is very, very
 5 close and becoming much closer. And probably the most
 6 single important reason for it is Florida Gulf Coast
 7 University of which Dudley Goodlette has served as a member
 8 of the foundation, Board of Directors, and I'm serving
 9 presently. But this educational focus in our community is
 10 terribly important and it illustrates the need to keep this
 11 community as one. Do the right thing. Thank you.
 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 14.
 13 MR. ALBION: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, members of
 14 the Redistricting Committee. First, let me tell you that
 15 I'm a Lee County Commissioner, John Albion, and I'm about
 16 to bias my remarks by stating to you that I am and have
 17 filed papers to be a candidate for Congress, so I had
 18 nothing to do with the Mike Carr and Chuck Mohlke's map. I
 19 am living proof of one of the 18 apparently.
 20 I want to thank you, first of all, for taking the time
 21 in coming through Southwest Florida. Yes, we understand
 22 the requirements. But to see so many tables filled with so
 23 many interested Representatives is also very important to
 24 this area. And I particularly want to impart our
 25 delegation for showing such a strong presence here tonight
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1 as well as to everyone else.
 2 The heart of the process, however, is representation.
 3 And therefore, we also need to applaud the citizens that
 4 have all shown up here tonight because indeed they have
 5 taken time out of their busy schedule and you can tell by
 6 how packed this room is, indeed how important to Southwest
 7 Florida the representation in Tallahassee and Washington
 8 really means.
 9 I'm here to show support for Southwest Florida to make
 10 sure that we have adequate representation and not be split
 11 to an east coast district. I will confess to you, and I
 12 say this with innocent innocence, if you will, that I can't
 13 name the members of the east coast Representatives in
 14 Tallahassee. As a matter of fact, there's only a few that
 15 me and many could probably name even in Washington.
 16 And the reason why is because we don't have a lot of
 17 discourse with the east coast. And the reason why is
 18 because we don't share the same concerns for the most part
 19 as the east coast. And I think that's important for both
 20 the state and the Federal level that that be understood.
 21 That, in my opinion, is why the Everglades was drained to
 22 build the southeast part at the state at the expense of the
 23 southwest part of the state that's being paid for now by
 24 the entire nation.
 25 As a matter of fact, Southwest Florida used to be a
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1 part of Monroe County and I believe was split up because it
 2 needed to be split up by numbers, but also because the
 3 differences were so important. I will tell you why I
 4 personally fought for environmental streamlining to get
 5 permits for roadways like Daniel's extension that does go
 6 up to Lee County up to the Lehigh Acres from our airport.
 7 We had to fight Federal agencies to get that down.
 8 We also are fighting Federal agencies in terms of
 9 water quality, in terms of water storage, panther habitat,
 10 as well as what we need for economic development with our
 11 airport as well as we're going through educational
 12 opportunities in our area as has already been mentioned by
 13 so many people here tonight.
 14 The commonality is obvious. I will tell you that I do
 15 not share the same feelings as Southwest Florida with
 16 regards to many issues having to do with how we had to
 17 fight to get our state university here, for example, which
 18 many of you, I'm sure, were involved. Of course, there
 19 have been arguments about airport funding, which certainly
 20 affects us at all levels. But, again, I want to point out
 21 that what we have to deal with with Federal agencies is
 22 critical to making sure that we are together on roads,
 23 environmental quality, growth management, and making sure
 24 that those compatible interests stays together.
 25 There's one other point I'd like to relay to you from
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1 personal experience from my nine years on the board. That
 2 face-to-face representation is no small -- is not something
 3 of small importance. It's very important. Just like you
 4 being here tonight providing this opportunity. It's
 5 something that needs to take place on a regular basis and
 6 miles prevents that from happening.

7 And, therefore, if there is a separation at the
 8 Federal or the State level on such a magnitude as having
 9 part of Southwest Florida on the east coast, clearly
 10 representation will be diminished. Frankly, and I'll tell
 11 you, as I am a Republican, that we should not be punished
 12 in Southwest Florida for having so much success and having
 13 so many folks actually sign up to be Republicans. And I
 14 believe that's what is driving a lot of the discussion to
 15 take some of Southwest Florida and put it in southeast
 16 Florida.

17 Instead, we need to make sure that we are properly
 18 represented because of the offshore oil drilling. One last
 19 question to make it easy on everybody. Is there anybody in
 20 this audience tonight that would like to see any part of
 21 Southwest Florida be part of southeast Florida? Let's get
 22 on the table right now. Please stand if you would like to
 23 see any part of Southwest Florida be a part of southeast
 24 Florida. I think that's your answer and maybe that will
 25 cut to the chase for many of the other speakers. Thank you
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1 for spending the time and we look forward to seeing you in
 2 Lee County tomorrow. We appreciate it.

3 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 15.

4 MS. BRISKEY: I'm Dodie Briskey from Naples. I'll let
 5 all of them go ahead of me so I can just say a couple of
 6 things. One is all of you were elected because you were
 7 active in your own community. You got to know the people,
 8 they got to respect you and they voted for you. That's all
 9 that we are saying. Let's keep it over here. Let the
 10 people over here who have worked in our community to
 11 represent us and been a part of our daily lives, work
 12 lives, represent us here, and let the people who do the
 13 same thing for the people over on the east coast represent
 14 the people on the east coast.

15 The other thing is I think we may turn out to be a
 16 rubber band, if this thing goes away, but it's possible.
 17 What happens when we continue to grow, Lee County continues
 18 to grow? Are you going to take more of us and put us over
 19 there? Or are you going to jerk apart the part that's been
 20 pulled apart back over there. And then there will be
 21 people toting their representation back and forth? So just
 22 think about it and give us a chance and follow what they
 23 are saying, we want to stay together.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Number 16 will be up as soon
 25 as we finish our break which is five minutes for our court
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1 reporter who, from time to time, needs a little bit of a
 2 break. So we'll be back in five minutes. Don't anybody go
 3 anywhere.

4 (Brief recess.)

5 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: If everyone will take their seat.
 6 We are ready to start with Number 16.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 16, you are recognized.

8 MS. SCHMELZ: Thank you. Welcome to Collier County,
 9 Mr. Chairman, Senators, and Representatives. As a 30-year
 10 resident plus of Collier County, I'm here to reiterate the
 11 message of many of the speakers, this evening, all of them,
 12 I gather, from the last question. I believe that the
 13 current Congressional district has represented us well and
 14 we respectfully recommend that you preserve the existing
 15 core of Congressional District 14, specifically, Southwest
 16 Florida including all of Collier County and a portion of
 17 Lee.

18 We have communities of common interest as it relates
 19 to demographics, economics, lifestyle and educational
 20 interests. Moving Collier or a portion of it into the east
 21 coast will potentially jeopardize our voice. Southwest
 22 Florida and southeast Florida are significantly different
 23 communities. And although we do share contiguous county
 24 lines, we are separated as has been noted earlier this
 25 evening by significant geography, that of the Everglades
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1 and the Big Cypress Preserve. As you've heard, our local
 2 political community has demonstrated, by partisan agreement
 3 the importance of maintaining the continuity of Southwest
 4 Florida Congressional District, which says a great deal for
 5 how important this is to our community. Thank you for
 6 allowing me to speak.

7 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 17.

8 MR. PENNINGTON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, Senators,
 9 and Representatives of the committee. I'm Ron Pennington,
 10 a resident of the city of Naples. I am very concerned as
 11 to how we, of Southwest Florida, may be impacted with
 12 redistricting. With some discussion of gerrymandering for
 13 the benefit of some of the east coast politicians, my concern
 14 becomes alarmed.

15 We frequently hear the phrase, Here, don't east coast
 16 the west coast, and this certainly also applies
 17 politically. The east coast has historically been
 18 populated by people from the Northeast and others along the
 19 I-95 corridor. Those of us in Southwest Florida primarily
 20 have our origins from along I-75 and spreading out through
 21 the Midwest. Although it is only a 100 miles across the
 22 Everglades to Fort Lauderdale, it may as well be 1,000 as
 23 we look at our social, philosophic and political
 24 differences, and we didn't have a problem with punch-card
 25 ballots.
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1 Should the east coast people prevail in acquiring
 2 Collier into their district, there would undoubtedly be a
 3 backlash in which voters would stay home. Conversely, we
 4 in Collier County are quite homogenous with our Lee County
 5 neighbors and share the same concerns in our day-to-day
 6 living. Many of the citizens in Lee County are employed in
 7 Collier and vice versa and major commercial activity occurs
 8 back and forth across the county line. In short, we are
 9 compatible, cohesive and a natural to be grouped together
 10 in Congressional and legislative districts. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 18.

12 MR. HART: Mr. Chairman, and distinguished Senators
 13 and Representatives, welcome to Southwest Florida. My name
 14 is Fred Hart and I am the Republican State Committee man
 15 for Collier County. I am also the chairman of the 14th
 16 Congressional District Caucus for the Republican Party of
 17 Florida, so, I have particular interest in the 14th
 18 Congressional District. And as chairman of that caucus, I
 19 also serve on the executive board of the Republican Party
 20 of Florida.

21 You are all familiar with the DeGrandy case, I'm sure.
 22 In fact, some of you here were participants in that
 23 litigation. Senator, I know I saw your name in the
 24 opinion. That case recognized some standards regarding
 25 creating districts, including contiguity, compactness,
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1 every Republican leader in Southwest Florida, Lee County,
 2 and Collier County, believe that we need to maintain those
 3 qualities of contiguity, compactness, respect for
 4 traditional boundaries, and maintaining a community of
 5 interest.

6 And I think the most important factor of all of those,
 7 and as you have heard here tonight from all of these
 8 eloquent speakers is the community of interest. We are a
 9 community of interest. We are the community of Southwest
 10 Florida. And we want to keep it that way with our
 11 representation in Congress and in the Legislature. Thank
 12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 19.

14 MS. MACKENZIE: Good evening, I was Number 16. I am
 15 now Number 18 and moving on to Number 19. My name is
 16 Bonnie MacKenzie. As mayor of the city of Naples, it is a
 17 distinct honor and pleasure to welcome you to our fair city
 18 officially and to thank you for visiting us. Once upon a
 19 time, the Democrats controlled the Florida Legislature.
 20 They voted to redistrict Southwest Florida in an east/west
 21 configuration. For many reasons the courts ruled that did
 22 not follow our county tenet of one person, one vote.
 23 Today, the Republicans control the Legislature.

24 I know you appreciate how important it is for any
 25 Representative to live in the same local geographical area
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1 respect for traditional boundaries, and maintaining
 2 communities of interest.

3 A later case, which I commend you is the Johnson
 4 versus Morton case, which I'm sure you will be familiar
 5 with if not already, at 926 Federal Supplement, 1460, a
 6 1996 decision from the northern district, three-judge
 7 panel. And the Court in that case went to length to
 8 criticize the Congressional District 3 which runs, as you
 9 know, from Jacksonville down toward Orlando.

10 The Court described it as looking like a Rorschach
 11 test, that it was wandering web-like south of Orlando
 12 throughout northeast Florida. And Judge Vinson noted,
 13 these odd-shaped districts will present administrative
 14 difficulties. The census tracts utilizing in drawing the
 15 districts overlap established voting precincts and will not
 16 easily jive with other state and local district boundaries.
 17 They are disconnected from the traditional way that we view
 18 the formation of such districts. They will undoubtedly
 19 present campaign problems for the candidates within those
 20 districts.

21 Perhaps, most importantly, I do not believe that these
 22 districts will make sense among the public. They appear to
 23 be something created by Governor Elbridge Gerry. We have
 24 been blessed in Southwest Florida to have a Congressional
 25 district, the 14th, which meets all of those criteria. And
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1 as the people he or she represents. When we share the same
 2 water supply, when we drive the same roads. When our
 3 Representatives truly understand our interests and our
 4 concerns, they are better prepared to serve us to the best
 5 of their abilities. We in Southwest Florida are blessed
 6 with an excellent Florida legislative delegation and
 7 Congressional representation. We want only to continue
 8 what we already have and to continue to send you the best
 9 and the brightest of Lee and Collier Counties to
 10 Tallahassee and to Washington D.C., to work with you to
 11 serve all of us ably, honorably, and well. I support the
 12 boundary map as submitted by Chairman Carr and Chairman
 13 Mohlke and respectfully request that your favorable
 14 consideration be given to it as well. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 20. (No
 16 response.) Number 21.

17 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members
 18 of the Senate and House Redistricting Committee. I'm Betty
 19 Williams, the economic development manager for Charlotte
 20 County. This afternoon I'm here before you as a member of
 21 the Board of Directors of the Charlotte County Chamber of
 22 Commerce, representing 1,170 businesses and over 15,000
 23 employees in Charlotte County. The Chamber's Board of
 24 Directors in its August 25th meeting unanimously voted to
 25 request that you consider redistricting plans that assure
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1 that Southwest Florida Representatives to the Florida
2 Legislature and to the U.S. Congress reside in Southwest
3 Florida. These Representatives can effectively represent
4 the interest of our residents.

5 Southwest Florida is a unique community. Our
6 demographics indicate that we are a homogeneous region
7 encompassing a large population of the senior citizens,
8 that we will continue to grow with the aging of the baby
9 boomers.

10 Over the years, communities in Southwest Florida have
11 developed a cooperative approach to reviewing and solving
12 issues within our region. We work very well together on
13 economic development issues, tourism, and transportation
14 initiatives. We believe that this cooperation can only be
15 enhanced by preserving the local representation in the
16 legislative bodies. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 22.

18 MS. ABBOTT: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of
19 our Florida House and Senate. Thank you for giving us this
20 opportunity for you to listen to our concerns. I have
21 worked with Representative Arza and he's worked very hard
22 on serving both sides of our state. And that's not easy
23 when we are concentrating our focus in one place. We all
24 know that we can do a better job of serving that area.

25 I'm on the Collier County School Board. I serve all
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1 of Collier County. I try my best to get to every part of
2 Collier County which is only a part of what you are dealing
3 with. And I finally just started that to make sure that
4 I'm representing every person in the community. We have
5 minorities. We have very wealthy people. We have --
6 45 percent of our students are on free and reduced lunch,
7 which indicates that they are on a very low economic level.
8 So, we have a diverse group in our own county and we need
9 to concentrate on that.

10 In addition, I'm going tonight, to something that's on
11 a very different level and it is the redistricting of the
12 school. And I looked at the analogy and I saw, that it's
13 not easy and you won't please everybody. But I see parents
14 who want the best for their children. We have the
15 obligation and the responsibility to serve those parents
16 and the students best in making sure that when we
17 redistrict a school that we are serving them by not only
18 being efficient in making sure that they are bussed to the
19 school properly and making decisions for those geographical
20 areas, but that those students who live across the street
21 from one another, play with one another, go to school
22 together.

23 And I just found it an interesting analogy that I'm
24 going there tonight for my first. And I see it also as
25 your duty and your responsibility and obligation in order
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1 to serve the people of Florida best, that you focus your
2 concentration on areas that are similar. Thank you very
3 much.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 23. (Pause.)
5 Number 23. Number 24.

6 MR. HOOLEY: Good evening. I'm here on behalf of the
7 people who live and work in East Naples. I'm president of
8 the East Naples Civic Association and I've lived here since
9 1977. I've known Representative Goodlette and Senator
10 Saunders for years. But I represent people who live and
11 work in East Naples. In District 102, 88 percent of 102 is
12 in Hialeah.

13 I have known Representative Arza, who I see can't be
14 here tonight. I knew Luis Rojas when he was our
15 Representative. But all of you know that these people
16 can't do an effective job of representing the west coast of
17 Florida from Hialeah and you need to take that into
18 consideration. Basically, you have disenfranchised East
19 Naples and one of these days I would like the privilege and
20 honor of being able to vote for Representative Goodlette
21 and Senator Saunders in the same election. Thanks.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 25.

23 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening, my name is Bruce Anderson
24 and I am an attorney with the firm of the Young,
25 Vanassenderp with offices in Naples and Tallahassee. I
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1 speak only for myself.

2 I have been a resident of the State of Florida since
3 1978 and a resident of Collier County since 1982. Since
4 the time that I have been in Collier County, I have seen
5 our population more than double. And with such growth,
6 there are accompanying benefits and burdens. And I'm here
7 tonight to ask you to recognize and afford us some of the
8 benefits of our region's growth, when you redraw the
9 Congressional and legislative district boundaries and
10 apportion our Representatives to represent the Southwest
11 Florida area alone in accord with the population increases
12 that we have had.

13 Don't split us up and make Southwest Florida a series
14 of ineffective political appendages to the east coast. We
15 deserve our own Representatives. In support thereof, I
16 want to address myself to one of the seven criteria that
17 the courts have established in reviewing the validity of
18 reapportionment plans. That criteria being, to preserve,
19 whenever possible, communities of continuing interest.
20 Historically, philosophically and geographically, Lee and
21 Collier Counties are communities of continuing interest.

22 From the historical perspective, when Collier County
23 was first established in 1926, the county was largely
24 carved out of what was then a much larger Lee County and a
25 portion of Monroe. Until each county has a sufficient
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1 population to justify its own congressional seat, Collier
 2 County should remain with its historical parent county of
 3 Lee.
 4 Philosophically, the citizens of Collier and Lee
 5 County share similar political viewpoints. Most of the
 6 growth that has occurred in Collier and Lee is the result
 7 of Midwestern migration. And those that moved here from
 8 the Midwestern states, brought with us our practical
 9 conservative values and viewpoints. This to be contrasted
 10 with the counties on Florida's east coast whose residents
 11 primarily migrated from the Northeast and which tend to
 12 have a little more liberal vantage.
 13 And lastly, there are significant geographical
 14 differences between Collier and Lee Counties and Dade and
 15 Broward Counties. The east coast and west coast
 16 populations are physically separated from each other by
 17 vast expanses of the federally unpreserved lands,
 18 Everglades National Park and Big Cypress National Preserve.
 19 Additionally, we border and have a greater interest in
 20 protecting the Gulf of Mexico than the Atlantic Ocean
 21 although we care about both.
 22 Collier and Lee Counties are more dissimilar from Dade
 23 and Broward. Aside from being South Floridians, the only
 24 thing we share in common with Dade and Broward Counties are
 25 vast expanses of swamp land that also serve to separate us
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1 from each other in more ways than one. As you redraw the
 2 boundaries to reflect the growing population of the
 3 southern peninsula of our state, please respect and keep
 4 intact the Southwest Florida communities of continuing
 5 interest, we can stand on our own.
 6 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 26.
 7 MR. RANKIN: Yes. My name is Douglas Rankin. I'm
 8 vice-chairman of the Republican Party here. And as my
 9 Democratic counterpart did, would all members of various
 10 Republic organizations and clubs please stand up who are
 11 with us today. We all take the position, as you noticed,
 12 this is an area where we work together. I do not see any
 13 substantial evidence that can be relied upon that's been
 14 presented to you here or that can be presented to you that
 15 there's any other division viewpoint than what's been
 16 presented by my chairman, Mr. Carr. All of the Democrats
 17 and Republicans that have spoke to you are agreeing on this
 18 subject.
 19 Further, you're looking at the seven items that make
 20 up what the courts have determined is a proper
 21 consideration. I have lived in Southwest Florida for my
 22 entire life, 45 years. I've been in Collier County since
 23 1982. There is nothing we have in common with the east
 24 coast that would justify this situation. I'm sorry to say
 25 that, it is a nice place to visit, but I wouldn't want to
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1 live there. And I think that is an opinion shared by most
 2 people on this side of the state.
 3 Economically, Collier County has the highest mean
 4 income in the State of Florida. Economically, from a land
 5 standpoint, Collier County has the highest mean housing
 6 cost in the State of Florida by either a third or a quarter
 7 over the next highest county which is West Palm Beach, or
 8 after the election, West Whine Beach.
 9 But we are a compact area. We have these interests.
 10 And as a member of this party, I have consistently listened
 11 to complaints of people that have been disenfranchised.
 12 This has been occurring for years. It's been occurring for
 13 the entire time I've been down here in Collier County.
 14 It's thankfully not something we didn't have to suffer with
 15 in Bradenton and Sarasota where I came from or at least not
 16 very much. And that area prospers because of it.
 17 There's no justification for comparing us with these
 18 other expanses. And while the Representatives you've heard
 19 mentioned from the east coast have tried, we seldom see
 20 them except for election time or things of that nature.
 21 Whereas, on the other hand, everybody here, I think, from
 22 the richest to the poorest knows our Representatives and
 23 they do a fine job to represent all of the people of this
 24 area and I hope that we can continue to have that happen
 25 here. Thank you.
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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 27.
 2 MR. PRITCHARD: Good evening, all. My name is Neal
 3 Pritchard. I am wearing this cap because 50 years ago
 4 today, I was in Korea sleeping with M-1 Grand rifle.
 5 Second division is still there facing live fire today. My
 6 message is very simple, I live a mile east of the
 7 courthouse and for ten years, I felt resentful that the
 8 people that represent me in Tallahassee don't read the same
 9 newspaper with the letters to the editor and that's my
 10 message. I want my representative to read the letters that
 11 I read in my newspaper.
 12 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 28.
 13 MR. THOMPSON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and
 14 Representatives and State Senators. My name is John
 15 Thompson and my family and I have enjoyed Naples over the
 16 last 30 years and we very much want to maintain a
 17 contiguous Lee County and Collier County close
 18 representation that we receive from Representative
 19 Goodlette as well as Senator Porter Goss who has done a
 20 fantastic job. When we contact or call our Representative,
 21 we get a response, it is immediate. If there's
 22 representation that transfers over to the east coast, that
 23 representation won't be as responsive. I very much want to
 24 maintain our continuous Collier County, Lee County
 25 representation. Thank you very much.
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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 29.
 2 MR. MERCER: Good evening, my name is Dan Mercer. I
 3 live here in Collier County. Been in Florida all my life.
 4 Of course, you can't hear it by my accent, but I have been.
 5 I'm not going to stand up here and bore you. You-all look
 6 like a very smart group of folks. I appreciate you being
 7 here in Southwest Florida. You've heard all of the people
 8 speak tonight. It's been 100 percent unanimous to this
 9 point. We want to stay Southwest Florida, it's that
 10 simple.

11 The second reason is, I didn't bring my glasses so I
 12 don't have my notes, so I'm not going to bore you. But my
 13 sentiments are the same. Keep us separate. We have great
 14 representation here. Speak loudly, carry a big stick, and
 15 don't let us down.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 30.

17 MS. MACNIVEN: Good evening, my name is Donna
 18 MacNiven. I have been in Naples for over 27 years. I am a
 19 graduate of Leadership Collier and past president of the
 20 United Way and I'm just representing myself tonight. And I
 21 am also with State Farm Insurance as an executive for Lee
 22 and Collier County.

23 I just wanted to go on the record and I appreciate the
 24 opportunity to say, I would like to keep Southwest
 25 Florida's representation intact. Thank you very much.
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1 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 31.
 2 MR. NEALE: Good evening, members of the panel. My
 3 name is Patrick Neale. I am the president elect of the
 4 Marco Island Chamber of Commerce and also the chairman of
 5 its governmental affairs committee. At our governmental
 6 affairs and economic development committee meeting on
 7 September 7th, Representative Goodlette came down and gave
 8 us an excellent presentation; Senator Saunders' staff was
 9 there also to assist and gave us an excellent presentation
 10 on the whys and wherefores of redistricting. At that
 11 meeting, those joint committees made a recommendation to
 12 our board which recommendation was adopted on September
 13 21st.

14 And just by way of background, for those of you who
 15 aren't necessarily familiar with this area, the Marco
 16 Island Area Chamber of Commerce has in excess of 500
 17 business members that represent something in excess of
 18 7,000 employees. So, it is a fairly significant body.

19 The resolution that was adopted by our board
 20 unanimously on September 21st stated that the Chamber of
 21 Commerce of Marco Island supports redistricting, which
 22 preserves the integrity of the logical, compact, and
 23 contiguous north/south districts for Southwest Florida and
 24 recommends rejecting redistricting which would incorporate
 25 all or part of Collier County into southeast Florida
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1 counties such as Dade and Broward. Thank you very much.
 2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 32.
 3 MR. SHIRK: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, committee
 4 members. My name is Gary Shirk. I'm the president of the
 5 Collier County Democratic Committee -- I'm sorry, Club.
 6 That's not why I'm here. I'm here because I'm a resident
 7 of Collier County and I have neighbors in northern Collier
 8 County, Golden Gate Estates, in the more northern part of
 9 Golden Gates Estates. Less than a mile away I have
 10 neighbors in two separate House districts, all live in
 11 Collier County.

12 I used to live in East Naples, was in 102. So I know
 13 a little bit about how that representation works. And my
 14 office is probably less than a mile from 102, although they
 15 are not that far apart. I, along with everyone else,
 16 support what you have heard over and over again. We are a
 17 community, we're a tight community. We have different
 18 interests than other communities. Southwest Florida is no
 19 better, no worse. And east coast communities and no better
 20 and no worse, but we are all different and we need, as one
 21 speaker said, home-rule. We need folks who know our roads,
 22 know our needs, and can represent us well in our bodies.
 23 And that's why I'm here, to support that.

24 What I would say is, you have a unique opportunity
 25 here. And this goes more toward House district
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1 redistricting. And, that is, we are here -- in Collier
 2 County, we have one, that I'm aware of, one district that
 3 sits entirely in Collier County. We have three others that
 4 come into Collier county. Now as we've heard all along, we
 5 like our Lee County friends and we feel very close to them.
 6 But there's still a little district in there, a little tail
 7 if you will and two other tails. You've heard a lot of
 8 folks talking about 102, not so many talking about 77. But
 9 I know, if I have a problem, I can go right where I live,
 10 right where I work, and go and see the offices of my
 11 Representative in 76, here in Collier County.

12 My neighbors and friends, less than a mile away, where
 13 are they going to go? Well maybe they have to go to La
 14 Belle or on a bad day, Sebring. Folks near my office, a
 15 couple of blocks away, where do they have to go? Hialeah.
 16 It is not right, it's not fair. You have a chance here.

17 I heard your folks talking at earlier when we first
 18 started and they said our census tells us we have somewhere
 19 around 255, 260. I also heard them say House districts are
 20 looking at, roughly speaking, 133,000. Let's do the math
 21 folks. We can fit two here and do our county and Southwest
 22 Florida. Lee County I'm sure can say the same thing. We
 23 can fit three or four in there as well. This is where our
 24 Representative is, should come from. They should speak for
 25 us. They should live with us. They should work with us.
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1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 33.

3 MR. WESTON: Good evening. My name is Dave Weston,
4 Mr. Chairman, Senators, Representatives. I am a member of
5 many civic and business organizations here, but tonight I'm
6 here to speak to you as a small businessman. I have a lot
7 of people here in the room that are far more technical than
8 I am in terms of how to break up maps and some of the laws
9 that precede us. I don't know a lot about that stuff. I
10 am a little more logic-based.

11 I run a business with 40 employees. We have four in
12 Charlotte, 12 in Lee County, 24 in Collier. They don't
13 live where they work, necessarily. Some in Collier work in
14 Lee. Some in Collier work in Collier. And frankly, I'm
15 not really sure where they all live in there because they
16 move back and forth. It is one pot from my viewpoint and
17 one from theirs. It is a practical reality every day of
18 our lives that Lee and Collier County are one. We don't
19 look at it as a different place. It is a community of
20 continuing interest, to use that phrase.

21 I am proud to be on a first-name basis with
22 Representative Goodlette and Senator Saunders. I think
23 while it is a privilege to address this group, it is also a
24 little intimidating as a small business person that doesn't
25 get this opportunity very often. And so, having that
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1 one-on-one relationship, seeing them with their children at
2 the same ball clubs after school, being involved in civic
3 and humanitarian activities, this is all that makes us a
4 community. And that is something that have we live every
5 day and I would hope that you would support, as I do, the
6 boundaries that are recommended here by Chairman Mohlke and
7 Chairman Hart. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 34.

9 MR. STEINWAND: Good evening. I am John Steinwand. I
10 represent the 2400 members of the Naples area Board of
11 Realtors and I am delivering to you tonight a few hundred
12 letters from our members and some of you have received
13 others I'm sure. I would just like to quote a couple of
14 pertinent paragraphs.

15 As the process of Congressional redistricting proceeds
16 in Florida, the Naples area Board of Realtors wishes to add
17 their strong support for a compact, contiguous and truly
18 representative district in Southwest Florida comprised of
19 Collier and Lee Counties. Such an alignment promulgates
20 political fairness and acknowledges that these communities
21 are already integrated by joint regional representation in
22 agencies, educational facilities, economic needs and
23 similarities in geography.

24 This assignment -- this alignment will respect the
25 existing core of Congressional District 14 which has
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1 demonstrated that it is geographically compact and
2 politically cohesive. Thank you very much for the
3 opportunity to speak to you this evening. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 35.

5 MS. BROOKS: My name is Kelly Brooks. I am with the
6 law firm of the Lay, Vargas and Griner (phonetic) and
7 tonight I'm speaking on behalf of Miccosukee Tribe of
8 Indians. Their members have lived in the heart of
9 Everglades for many generations. The Miccosukee tribe
10 wants to stress that the current Congressional District No.
11 20 should be reconfigured to include only Broward County
12 and not extend west to tribal lands located in the
13 Everglades in Collier County. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 36.

15 MS. COX: Hi. Good evening. My name is Pam Cox and I
16 am here tonight to officially represent the Collier County
17 School Board. Last Thursday, September 20th, the School
18 Board took action to support preserving existing core of
19 District 14. And I'm not going to go into my whole
20 four-minute speech, and I don't know if it would have been
21 four minutes, because you have heard just about everything
22 that I think you can hear tonight. And I'm not going to
23 repeat everything what everyone said. I'm also the
24 legislative liaison for the School Board and so I certainly
25 have worked with many of you over the last year or so and I
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1 really appreciate the opportunity that we have been
2 afforded tonight to bring our concerns to you and I thank
3 you very much for traveling to Collier County and listening
4 to us.

5 And I'm going to step out on a limb a little bit. I
6 think if the school board had seen the map that you saw
7 tonight from Chairman Carr and Mohlke, we would support
8 that map. But I don't have that as an official vote, but
9 that would be my guess. Thank you very much. It has been
10 a pleasure to speak to you.

11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 38.

12 MS. BOGAN-CANNADY: Good evening. My name is Kathy
13 Bogan-Cannady. And I want to tell you why I selected
14 Southwest Florida. I was born and raised and lived most of
15 my life in Washington D.C. Yes, I'm one of those rare
16 Washingtonian. Now I also lived in Montgomery County there
17 where I had very good access to Connie Morale (phonetic),
18 who was our Congressperson. So, when I was reading that
19 there was concern about or thoughts about putting us into
20 southeastern Florida, I panicked.

21 And I want to tell you why I panicked. Even though I
22 am a native Washingtonian and have lived there most of my
23 life, I have been coming to Florida since about 1980. And
24 when in 1990, my husband and I decided to pack and move to
25 Florida, we did some serious studying. Naturally coming
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1 from the east coast, we tended to go to the east coast of
 2 Florida. When we got serious, we ended up developing a
 3 37-point checklist as to where we wanted to locate in
 4 Florida. Very soon it become obvious to us the east coast
 5 of Florida is like the east coast of America. And it is
 6 very similar and philosophical even to the Washington D.C.
 7 area, believe it or not.

8 So we chose the west coast. Obviously from being here
 9 tonight, we settled in Naples. So when I did read about
 10 this situation, I became very concerned. I think Collier
 11 and Lee should be kept together for several reasons. I am
 12 in the real estate business and I get a lot of this
 13 firsthand. Collier County and Lee County have very similar
 14 patterns related to growth, similar problems and economic
 15 situations that are very complementary to each other.

16 I do not want to see these counties gerrymandered to
 17 suit the process and philosophies of the east coast. And I
 18 am here just to mention that that is why I am very
 19 concerned about us being affiliated with the southeast part
 20 of Florida. We are southwest, we have our own
 21 philosophical bouts and it is a little different from the
 22 east coast and I would like to see it kept that way. Thank
 23 you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 39. (Pause.)
 25 Number 40 has withdrawn. Number 41.
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1 MS. TAYLOR: Apparently I did come at the right time.
 2 I'm Peggy Taylor and I'm a new resident of this county. My
 3 husband and I lived in Palm Beach County for 25 years.
 4 While Clay Shaw is a very honorable man and happened to be
 5 our Representative for a number of those years, to connect
 6 Southwest Florida with southeast Florida is ridiculous. It
 7 makes no sense. We have nothing in common. A contiguous
 8 district is most important. Thanks.

9 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Are you 41?
 10 MR. CONRECOVE: Yes, sir.
 11 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: You are recognized.
 12 MR. CONRECOVE: Hi to the members of the House and the
 13 Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to speak and welcome
 14 to Southwest Florida. I would like to speak to you about
 15 Southwest Florida as a region of the state. And it would
 16 include Collier, Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, Glades Counties
 17 and potentially portions of Highlands, De Soto, and
 18 Sarasota Counties based on the community of interest, the
 19 common interest of those regions.

20 It's important that you look at all of these parts or
 21 all of these counties together in one for a number of
 22 reasons. One, the rapid pace of growth found in this area
 23 over the last decade. Its geographic contiguity with
 24 respect to Okeechobee and the Everglades to the east, the
 25 Gulf of Mexico to the west. The pace of growth, although
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1 sometimes painful over the last decade is also deserving of
 2 some reward. We, the business and community leaders in
 3 Southwest Florida have enjoyed the economic prosperity that
 4 that growth has brought. And we think that it's important
 5 that we also recognize the benefit of proper representation
 6 in both Washington D.C. and Tallahassee as a result of that
 7 growth.

8 This region, based on its population, can support
 9 nearly two full Congressional seats. And although you have
 10 heard a lot of talk tonight about preserving District 14,
 11 which is critically important, if you preserve District 14
 12 and sacrifice the rest of the population to the east coast,
 13 there will still be a disservice provided to Southwest
 14 Florida. So it's important that you recognize the
 15 population here and those counties that I have described
 16 can support nearly two full Congressional seats.

17 In addition, the region should gain at least one State
 18 Senate seat based on population and several additional
 19 House seats in the Florida House. Geographically,
 20 Southwest Florida is cut off from the east coast by the
 21 Everglades and Lake Okeechobee as I've described. But it's
 22 uniquely integrated as well as a community of common
 23 interest based on its regional economy which is based on
 24 agriculture and tourism.

25 In addition to that, Southwest Florida has represented
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1 a regional approach to addressing its problems, such as
 2 transportation, education, health care, and regional
 3 planning.

4 Since 1982, Southwest Florida has enjoyed the benefit
 5 of compact and contiguous Congressional districts in
 6 District 14. And it's really represented the region well.
 7 This, after the courts became involved in the redistricting
 8 process a decade ago and said this is the way that it needs
 9 to be.

10 Our state seats have not fared nearly as well. We are
 11 currently served by three cross-state districts, two in the
 12 Senate and one in the House. And these are the only three
 13 districts in the State Legislature that cut from coast to
 14 coast. All three of them affect Southwest Florida.

15 These elected representatives are regularly challenged
 16 to properly represent their constituents in two
 17 geographically separate regions with competing interests.
 18 And if you need examples, I can provide plenty. Southwest
 19 Florida nearly always loses when a represents lives on the
 20 east coast and has to decide between those competing
 21 interests.

22 Lastly, let me comment on the two voter's rights
 23 counties in Southwest Florida and ask that you give special
 24 consideration to both Hendry and Collier and their unique
 25 populations of black, Hispanic, and tribal minorities which
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1 are important for your consideration. We have looked at
 2 several different scenarios that slice and dice Southwest
 3 Florida to feed the needs of the special interests on the
 4 east coast and regions to our north. And we respectfully
 5 request that you help us find compact, continuous, and fair
 6 representation for all of Southwest Florida. Thank you
 7 very much.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. That was Number 41
 9 which I stated. Number 42 spoke before Number 41 just
 10 before. Number 43 withdrew. Number 44 withdrew.

11 Now, we are on Number 45.

12 MS. DAVENPORT: Good evening. Thank you for your
 13 patience and YOUR wonderful attention to each speaker. My
 14 name is Claudia Davenport. I'm a life-long resident of the
 15 state of Florida and I've been in Everglade City for 17
 16 years.

17 After the 1990 census, when Everglade City became a
 18 part of 102, it was somewhat of a shock to realize that it
 19 had happened. It was also a shock to realize that 102
 20 almost got the other courthouse. So the original
 21 courthouse of Collier County and Everglade City and the
 22 current courthouse in Collier County were almost both
 23 victims of this same redistricting ten years ago.

24 When you look to the east, you go across Big Cypress
 25 National Preserve and Indian land and finally you get to
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1 the Dade County border. And when Everglade City, in
 2 particular, lost some of its important political allies, it
 3 was a real blow. We had Hurricane Andrew which destroyed a
 4 significant part of the city's infrastructure. And our old
 5 political allies had to come up with a plan for us to get a
 6 certain portion of the Hurricane Andrew rebuilding and
 7 redevelopment money to replace our waste water treatment
 8 plant.

9 And when the Dade County delegation was informed of
 10 this, they were somewhat upset. So, what ultimately
 11 happened was Everglade City got one-fifth of the original
 12 amount. Four-fifths of the money went to buy tarpaulins to
 13 put in storage in Dade County for the next storm.

14 So our worst fears of no representation at that time
 15 were brought home to us, and nothing has changed since 1992
 16 to make us feel that we are part of a represented district.
 17 Southwest Florida needs to be intact and represented by
 18 southwest Floridians not only to deal with the emergencies,
 19 but to maintain our way of life. We have different
 20 priorities and dreams for our future than our east coast
 21 neighbors. We need your recognition and consideration of
 22 our individuality.

23 The public has a lot to put up with with the
 24 redistricting, but not as much as you do, I'm sure. We are
 25 getting three new sets of boundaries potentially. So, it
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1 is a little difficult for some of us in the public sector
 2 to understand it fully. However, what we do understand is
 3 that those of us in eastern Collier County want to come
 4 home.

5 House District 102 should stop on the other side of
 6 Indian lands. And we want to be again a part of Southwest
 7 Florida. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. It is again time for
 9 our court reporter to take a short break. Five minutes and
 10 then we should be able to finish up when we come back with
 11 the rest of the testimony.

12 (Brief recess.)

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, we are
 14 ready to do it again. Okay. Our next speaker will be
 15 Number 46.

16 MS. DAILEY: Good evening. And welcome to Collier
 17 County. Florida leaders, Representative Goodlette, good to
 18 see you, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Saunders. My name is
 19 Maury Dailey, I am the president-elect of the Marco Island
 20 Area Association of Realtors and representing some 500
 21 members. And I have with me some 74 letters to present to
 22 you from our membership.

23 The following is typical of the letter. The Board of
 24 Directors in the Marco Island Area Association of Realtors
 25 voted unanimously on August 30th, 2001, to strongly support
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1 redistricting plans that assure its Representatives in the
 2 Florida Legislature and U.S. Congress reside in Southwest
 3 Florida.

4 This association supports cohesive districts whose
 5 geographic boundaries reflect the demographics of Southwest
 6 Florida. This association specifically rejects
 7 redistricting plans that may link Southwest Florida with
 8 any political districts on the east coast of Florida. As
 9 members of our association, we support the position of the
 10 Board that the Representative for the 14th Congressional
 11 District shall be a resident of Southwest Florida for fear
 12 of being disenfranchised. Thank you for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 47.

14 MR. DOYLE: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and
 15 distinguished members. I am Robin Doyle. I am a
 16 sixth-generation Floridian. I have lived in Naples for 25
 17 years, and I serve as the chairman-elect of the Collier
 18 County Economic Development Council.

19 I want to add my comments to chairman Allen Reynolds
 20 without repeating what he said. We urge you to heed what
 21 has been unanimous here tonight and to in all of your
 22 redistricting efforts, make sure that our Representatives
 23 represent the continuity of interest of the people in
 24 Southwest Florida by keeping our district boundaries in
 25 Southwest Florida.
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1 Many of us have previously recognized the need for
2 this. Many years ago when there was an attempt to change
3 the district court of appeal boundaries, it was recognized
4 that there was a need to keep Collier County in the
5 district that includes all of Southwest Florida. A few
6 years later when the Federal district courts were changed,
7 realigned their districts, Collier was moved from the
8 southern district of Florida which included east coast
9 counties to the district that includes all of Southwest
10 Florida.

11 Just this morning on Florida Gulf Coast University's
12 radio station, I heard your former colleague Senator Vernon
13 Peoples speaking. Senator Peoples has become the historian
14 of Southwest Florida, although he's only a fifth-generation
15 Floridian. He said that back in the 1950s there was
16 already this recognition that there was a distinction of
17 interest between the east and the west coast of Florida and
18 that, in fact, in those days, they looked at the west coast
19 just a place for the old folks and the east coast a place
20 for the younger people.

21 Now, the characterization would change, but still the
22 interests are different from the east to the west coast.
23 So, we ask that you assure that our interests are
24 represented both in Florida Legislature and in Congress by
25 assuring that our Representatives come from Southwest
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1 that it benefits them. Immokalee's interests lie in
2 staying with Collier County in one district. Immokalee
3 does not want to see itself fighting for attention over the
4 next ten years and the future with a Representative who is
5 100 miles away.

6 Dade and Broward are very urbanized communities. We
7 need a top-of-the-rock Representative who understands rural
8 poverty and who will provide to the needs of our community.
9 It is difficult to think of our community being diluted
10 with voting blocks of Dade and Broward Counties. When we
11 had a Congress member who represented all of Collier
12 County, Immokalee was able to expand rural housing such as
13 farm worker's village.

14 Immokalee is a minority area. It would be a terrible
15 idea to lose its voice as voters by being carved up. We
16 want to stay with Collier County. And we need a strong
17 voice in Congress, who, for example, can assure us if we
18 were to get a freeze, and our farm workers are out of work,
19 we get a prompt response from FEMA. We need Federal
20 dollars for our migrant farmworker needs, for our clinics,
21 and for our migrant education. Thank you for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 51.
23 MS. JANTSH: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'm
24 Dawn Jantsh, president of the Naples Area Chamber of
25 Commerce. I want to thank you for being here tonight and I
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1 Florida.

2 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 48. (Pause.)
3 Number 49.

4 MR. RICHTEL: Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and
5 distinguished committee members. I bring you good news, if
6 everybody talks four minutes, we are done in 16. There are
7 53 total speakers, I am Number 49. I understand that in
8 1933 there were seven components to fair redistricting.
9 Those seven components, you know well: Compact,
10 contiguous, preserve county and other political
11 subdivisions, communities of continuing existence, core of
12 existing districts, protecting incumbents and being
13 politically fair. And implore you tonight to just add an
14 eighth component and take the bold step to add common
15 sense. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Number 50.

17 MS. VASQUEZ-QUINLAN: Members of the Senate and House
18 Redistricting Committee and local delegation members, good
19 evening and welcome. My name is Lupita Vasquez-Quinlan. I
20 was born in Naples and grew up in Immokalee and graduated
21 from Immokalee High School. I'm here to speak on behalf of
22 the Immokalee area and its need to be integrated as a whole
23 in this Southwest Florida Congressional District.

24 I'm here because I have heard that Representatives
25 from Dade and Broward Counties want a piece of our area so
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1 also want to say that I hope, I do hope, that you are not
2 bored. Now, Dudley, I didn't look at you like that just
3 because you are always making short jokes when you are
4 before the podium raising this up and down.

5 (Laughter.)

6 I do hope that you are not bored by hearing the same
7 thought over and over again tonight. It is obvious to
8 everyone in this room even though our sentences have been
9 somewhat different how important this issue is to us.
10 Again, concise, cohesive districts for Southwest Florida.
11 I can't tell you how to draw them, that is your job in a
12 few months. But what I do ask is that you remember that
13 the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce, representing 1500
14 businesses in this area, is asking that you look at the
15 districts to be Southwest Florida. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. Number 52 was
17 withdrawn. Number 53.

18 MS. FRANKLIN: Good evening. My name is Laverne
19 Franklin. I am the president of the NAACP of Collier
20 County. And I'm last, but I'm not least. And I'm not
21 going to say anything profound, I'm just here to ask you to
22 keep us together. Southwest Florida needs to stay
23 Southwest Florida. We don't need to go to Miami or any
24 other place, we need our Representatives right here at our
25 fingertips. It is a diverse community, we have special
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1 interests, and we love our Representatives, they need to be
 2 responsive and they need to be accountable to us and we
 3 need them here in Southwest Florida. Thank you very much.
 4 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Thank you. That is the last card
 5 we have for public testimony. We have allowed at the other
 6 meetings for the members to address the public.
 7 First of all, we have started with those members who
 8 want to speak who are a part of the local delegation from
 9 this area. So, if any of them would like to speak, let me
 10 just -- Senator Saunders, you are recognized.
 11 SENATOR SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I
 12 want to thank all of the people that were here this
 13 evening. Obviously, this is a very important issue for
 14 those of us who live in Southwest Florida. I think your
 15 message has been received by this committee. And certainly
 16 the record of this hearing will be a very important part of
 17 the deliberations that occur over the coming months.
 18 Mr. Chairman, I have a half a dozen letters that I
 19 have received. I would like to introduce those in the
 20 record. And also, I would like to thank all of the members
 21 of this panel for traveling to Southwest Florida. It's
 22 been a long evening, we will all be together tomorrow, and
 23 I look forward to seeing you all then. Thank you.
 24 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Goodlette.
 25 REPRESENTATIVE GOODLETTE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
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1 And likewise, I would like to echo the comments of Senator
 2 Saunders by thanking my friends and colleagues from the
 3 House and the Senate for coming to Naples and to Southwest
 4 Florida, La Belle earlier today, and Fort Myers, Florida,
 5 Gulf Coast University tomorrow.
 6 Obviously, there is a clear message that you have
 7 imparted. I know that that's been received. I want to
 8 thank you for taking the time out of your schedules this
 9 evening to come and to make your thoughts known. It is
 10 important. This is an evolving process, and I appreciate
 11 the time that you have taken.
 12 I looked at the audience and I saw so many of my older
 13 friends who went to Naples High School when this was the
 14 only high school in Naples. And this auditorium is where I
 15 graduated along with about 172 other people. I won't tell
 16 you where I was in the class. But some of my new friends
 17 may be surprised to know that I did finish in just four
 18 years. So I thought that was worth noting. I do want to
 19 express my appreciation and I'm sure the appreciation of
 20 all of the people here for you-all taking the time to be
 21 with us this evening. Thanks.
 22 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Representative Greene, you are
 23 recognized.
 24 REPRESENTATIVE GREENE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I
 25 appreciate that. Thank you-all so much for being here this
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1 evening. It is indeed a pleasure. I'm very honored to
 2 serve in Collier County. I'm one of the Representatives
 3 that has a very small portion of this great county and I do
 4 enjoy having an opportunity to get to serve along with
 5 Senator Saunders and Representative Goodlette in making
 6 sure that Southwest Florida is heard in Tallahassee. I'd
 7 also like to thank all of my colleagues who are here today
 8 who traveled a long distance away from their families at a
 9 time when they needed to be with their families, especially
 10 given the circumstances that we are faced with as a nation.
 11 So it's very nice for them to be here this evening and have
 12 a chance to hear some of the things that we have had a
 13 chance to talk to you about over the last few months. So
 14 thank you-all and I hope you have a great evening.
 15 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Any other members? Representative
 16 Kottkamp, you are recognized.
 17 MR. KOTTKAMP: I just wanted to tell you-all, I think
 18 you should feel very proud tonight. You came and told your
 19 government how you wanted your districts drawn and you were
 20 intelligent, thoughtful, and articulate. And I really
 21 think the finest presentations from citizens that we have
 22 seen anywhere in this state. So you should be very proud.
 23 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: Anyone else?
 24 (No audible response.)
 25 CHAIRMAN WEBSTER: The meeting is adjourned.
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1 (Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA:

3 COUNTY OF LEON:

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

8 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.

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