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PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS :
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REDISTRICTING :
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PUBLIC HEARING :
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MARCH 31, 2011

ROANOKE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

7:30 P.M.

CENTRAL VIRGINIA REPORTERS
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APPEARANCES:

Senator Roscoe Reynolds
Senator Ralph Smith

Delegate Rob Bell
Delegate Todd Gilbert
Delegate Lacey Putney

SPEAKERS: PAGE:

Dana Oliver	6
Sara Bohn	7
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Mary Hernich	16
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Pete Huber	31
Aaron Houchens	32

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1 (7:30 P.M.)

2

3 SENATOR REYNOLDS: This meeting will
4 come to order. This is a meeting of
5 subcommittees of the House and Senate
6 committees on privilege and election.

7 My name is Roscoe Reynolds. I
8 represent the 20th Senatorial district, and I
9 will ask our other legislators at the table
10 to introduce themselves. Start on the end
11 with Delegate Gilbert.

12 DELEGATE GILBERT: Delegate Todd
13 Gilbert from the 15th District, the
14 Shenandoah Valley.

15 DELEGATE BELL: Delegate Rob Bell --

16 THE PEOPLE: Could you all speak up a
17 little bit? We can't hear.

18 DELEGATE GILBERT: Todd Gilbert.

19 DELEGATE BELL: My name is Delegate Rob
20 Bell. I'm the Delegate from the from the
21 58th District, which is Albemarle County,
22 Orange, Fluvanna, and Greene.

23 DELEGATE PUTNEY: I'm Delegate Lacey
24 Putney from Bedford County, 19th District,

1 Botetourt and Bedford.

2 DELEGATE SMITH: Ralph Smith. Most
3 faces look familiar to me here. I represent
4 Botetourt County, Roanoke County, Salem,
5 Montgomery County, and City of Radford. That
6 is today.

7 SENATOR REYNOLDS: I am Roscoe
8 Reynolds. I represent Martinsville, Henry,
9 Patrick, Floyd, Carroll, Grayson, Galax, and
10 Wythe in the Senate.

11 We have two other guests here tonight.
12 Delegate Habeeb is here. Delegate Habeeb, we
13 are glad that you are with us.

14 DELEGATE HABEEB: Thank you, sir.

15 SENATOR REYNOLDS: And Former Senator
16 Granger MacFarlane is here. Granger, it's
17 nice to see you, sir.

18 FORMER SENATOR MACFARLANE: Thank you.

19 SENATOR REYNOLDS: The Chairman of the
20 Committee has asked me to make the following
21 remarks:

22 Number one, we want to thank you for
23 coming and participating in this public
24 hearing. Over the last year the committees

1 have conducted public hearings across the
2 state to hear from the public about the
3 redistricting process that we are now about.

4 In addition, eight public hearings on
5 redistricting are scheduled across the
6 Commonwealth before the General Assembly
7 convenes next week on April 4. During these
8 hearings, those of us on subcommittees and
9 committee will be in listening mode. We
10 welcome public comment which has been and
11 continues to be received and will be
12 considered.

13 These hearings are an opportunity for
14 those of us in the General Assembly to hear
15 from the public and to receive your input.
16 We are under significant time constraints,
17 because elections take place this year, where
18 most states have them in 2012. The
19 redistricting timetable is short.

20 It has only been one month since we
21 have received correct census numbers. There
22 have been dramatic population shifts in
23 Virginia. These shifts require changes in
24 district lines. Some districts were grossly

1 overpopulated. Others were significantly
2 underpopulated.

3 Plans have been presented to
4 legislative services. These plans will be
5 considered and they may be changed. Your
6 comments tonight may be very helpful in
7 seeing that the correct changes are made.

8 We would ask that when you make your
9 remarks if you would limit them. We give
10 special stars for brevity. We would ask you
11 if you could possibly limit your remarks to
12 no more than three minutes.

13 Any other members of the panel wish to
14 add anything to that? Our first presenter is
15 Dana Oliver. Dana? And Dana will be
16 followed by Sarah Bohn. I hope I have said
17 that correctly. I apologize. If Sara could
18 come on up to the front.

19 And Dana, thank you. Good to see you.
20 Thank you for being here tonight.

21 MS. OLIVER: On behalf of the
22 Montgomery County Registrar, he asked me to
23 bring this before you-all. He has a precinct
24 that is only three people in the Blacksburg

1 area that is in a 12th House District, and
2 the remainder is in his 7th House District.
3 So may I step to bring you a copy of this?

4 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Surely. Thank you.
5 I am going to put a circle around it. Is
6 that this area here?

7 MS. OLIVER: Yes.

8 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Dana, thank you.
9 Next we will hear from Sara and followed by
10 John Snidow.

11 MS. BOHN: Good evening, gentlemen. My
12 name is Sara Bohn. I am with the Chamber of
13 Montgomery County, and the packet that's
14 being handed out summarizes our position of
15 how we feel we would be a community of
16 interest in all cases.

17 If you turn to Page 7, you will see
18 that Montgomery County would comprise
19 approximately the right size for a delegate
20 district.

21 Right now, if you turn to the next
22 page, you will see how the proposed
23 redistricting divides up the county. We
24 would go from two delegates to three

1 delegates. It would split Blacksburg and
2 Christiansburg.

3 We feel that Blacksburg and
4 Christiansburg are a key community of
5 interest, especially because of Virginia Tech
6 and its impact in our community. We would
7 love you to consider keeping those two towns
8 together, as well as the immediate
9 surrounding district. And that is what Page
10 7 illustrates, if you would be so kind to
11 consider that.

12 Turning to Page -- bear with me -- 11,
13 you will see our proposed Senatorial district
14 includes the New River Valley. The New River
15 Valley is an important economic engine for
16 Southwest Virginia. It includes Montgomery
17 County as the heart.

18 But if we include part of Roanoke
19 County and the New River Valley, we will
20 comprise about the right population count for
21 a Senatorial district, so we ask you to take
22 into consideration the businesses that are
23 represented on each of these pages on the
24 left-hand side that are in support of this

1 proposal, as well as the math on the
2 right-hand side that supports -- that this
3 redistricting could happen with your
4 consideration.

5 The next page is what is proposed.
6 What is proposed is that -- at least the
7 Senatorial proposal on the table does include
8 Blacksburg and Christiansburg. We are very
9 happy about that. We would hope that the
10 Riner area could be included, also, and that
11 is what shows up on my Page -- on our Page
12 11.

13 Lastly, on Page 13. We feel that the
14 Blacksburg, Montgomery County, New River
15 Valley, Roanoke Valley, and Lynchburg, are a
16 community of interest of similar commercial,
17 educational, and recreational interests. And
18 we propose that these areas be a
19 congressional district, and the pink
20 highlighted areas be another congressional
21 district since they are rural, of rural
22 interest -- of coal, textile, and lump timber
23 interest -- and the Congressman who would
24 represent that would have a similar interest

1 to represent.

2 The information on the last page
3 basically supports all of that documentation,
4 and we ask that you consider that as you move
5 forward with your decision making.

6 Thank you very much.

7 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. John
8 Snidow followed by Kay Chitwood.

9 MR. SNIDOW: Good evening. I am John
10 Snidow from Hardy. I confess right off the
11 bat I don't have the paperwork I really need
12 to understand what's happening.

13 I talked to Bill Stanley this
14 afternoon. Senator Stanley informed me that
15 it looked like the 5th Congressional District
16 was going to run from the North Carolina
17 border, as it presently does, all the way
18 to -- nearly to Warrenton. And my comment on
19 that is that it's so long and so difficult to
20 service, I can't imagine any politician or
21 any candidate able to truly service that.
22 From the traffic pattern in the airport at
23 Warrenton, in a little airplane, you can see
24 West Virginia, D.C., and Maryland, and so I

1 think it would under serve an awful lot of
2 people by doing that.

3 I was also told that there was at least
4 one precinct -- and that may have been in the
5 state senate -- somewhere in Franklin County,
6 I believe, that would only have 12 voters in
7 it, and I hope we can avoid that.

8 I understand redistricting and all of
9 the attendant problems, but I hope we can do
10 better. Thank you.

11 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Kay
12 Chitwood. I notice that we have been joined
13 by Senator Stanley who was just mentioned.
14 Good to have you with us tonight, Bill.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. CHITWOOD: Good evening, gentlemen.
17 I am Kay from Franklin County, and I have
18 some concerns with the town proposal for the
19 Senate that looks like it's going to be
20 splitting eight of our precincts, some that
21 only have like 17 people in some of those
22 districts. And I don't have a copy for you,
23 but I can leave you a copy of what I have
24 here, and then Mr. Austin said I could send

1 you anything else that we needed to do that
2 with.

3 The other thing would be the Jones
4 proposal for the House where there is -- it
5 looks like they followed the current precinct
6 lines, and our precinct lines for that area,
7 because Franklin County grew
8 18-point-something percent, we have had to
9 change some of those. So I would just like
10 for you-all to see if there is some way we
11 could follow more of the precinct lines than
12 cutting into all of those different
13 communities in the precinct.

14 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Ron Adkins. Thank
15 you.

16 MS. CHITWOOD: Do you want me to leave
17 this with you?

18 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Yeah, if you could
19 give that to...

20 MR. ADKINS: I am Ron Adkins. I'm
21 sorry I can't get over there, but I am Ron
22 Adkins. I live at 3057 Timberlane Avenue in
23 Roanoke County, and I am the secretary of the
24 Roanoke County Electoral Board.

1 I want to -- what little bit I have
2 seen, gentlemen, quite frankly, I think we
3 have totally got one Senatorial seat taken
4 away from us and it's hid up north. I mean,
5 the audacity of and -- I hate to say it --
6 stupidity of what I am seeing here by whoever
7 is drawing these boundary lines, after
8 listening to the Governor and the House and
9 the Senate say we are going to do this to
10 have people in an integrity area to -- where
11 all things should be together.

12 Well, I haven't seen anything. This is
13 my third hearing I have been to. My third
14 hearing that I have spoke to the committee,
15 and, quite frankly, I don't think whoever is
16 doing this -- and I am looking at some of you
17 people that are doing it right now -- in the
18 House don't give a hoot about the citizens of
19 Virginia about keeping it in a compact area
20 that has relationship to one location or
21 another to the cities and the counties within
22 each boundary.

23 Plus, Roanoke County appears to be the
24 whipping boy of drawing lines in Southwestern

1 Virginia. Quite frankly, gentlemen, it's
2 going to cost Roanoke County right now
3 probably anywhere from 35,000 to 50,000 just
4 to do the mailings to take care of notifying
5 our citizens of where they are going to have
6 to go to to vote at different locations.

7 Plus, whoever drew these lines we are
8 looking at, at least two split precincts. I
9 am talking about split precincts. Now, it
10 don't take a rocket scientist to figure out
11 if you folks are telling us you could do this
12 on a computer that you would even have the
13 intelligence to split a precinct. And not
14 only in this area, it's all over the state.
15 With the computerization that we have
16 available today, we shouldn't have one split
17 precinct.

18 This is something I think you people
19 need to understand, and I appreciate you
20 letting me speak. Thank you.

21 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you,
22 Mr. Adkins. David Helms is next. I hope I
23 pronounced that right. It may be Holmes. I
24 apologize if I messed up on it.

1 MR. HELMER: Thank you, sir. My name
2 is David Helmer. I am from Roanoke County,
3 and I work as an election official in Glenvar
4 for the Roanoke County, but I actually live
5 in Hollins Magisterial District, which I have
6 for over 40 years.

7 So I want to focus my quick attention
8 upon Roanoke County, which I am familiar
9 with, and particularly the Hollins
10 Magisterial District, which is the north and
11 the east part of Roanoke County.

12 The Senate plan for Mr. Watkins versus
13 the Senate Plan for Mr. -- from Senator
14 Howell, I think the principal that should be
15 used for anyplace, not just Roanoke County,
16 is having the communities to be together,
17 pretty close -- don't try to break up the
18 common logical economic communities.

19 The current plan under the Senator
20 Watkins breaks the Hollins district into
21 three districts, three senators, dumb, stupid
22 and illogical, best I can describe. It
23 doesn't make any sense to take it out and
24 break it up into three different parts.

1 That's what it does.

2 The Howell proposal does a much better
3 job of abiding to that principal. Thank you.

4 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Next
5 presenter and Marcy Hernich, I think. Am I
6 close? I apologize.

7 MS. HERNICH: Yes, that's good. Hi,
8 I'm Marcy Hernich. I am from Montgomery
9 County. I just have a couple of points that
10 I want to make.

11 The first was it didn't seem like with
12 some of the lines that were drawn, especially
13 on the Howell Senate Plan that any of the
14 counties were consulted about what they
15 considered communities of interest, because
16 some of the lines that were drawn don't
17 really seem to reflect what we felt were
18 communities of interest in the county.

19 I will just mention that with regards
20 to the particular senate plan, I know
21 Montgomery County has come out with their
22 proposed redistricting plans, and we spent a
23 lot of time trying to get rid of and actually
24 eliminated all of the precincts that were

1 split between having people in town and
2 county to avoid a lot of the problems on
3 election day.

4 With the Howell plan that's proposed,
5 eight precincts in Montgomery County will be
6 split. I mean, that's over 36 percent of our
7 precincts. That represents, I feel, a huge
8 problem for us.

9 Another thing I will mention is that
10 with the changes in the Howell plan versus
11 the current Senate districts, it seemed like
12 the movement of the district is actually the
13 opposite of how the county justified --
14 basically redistricted and defined the
15 communities of interest. And so I thought
16 that the Watkins plan was better in that it
17 splits fewer precincts in Montgomery County
18 and more closely follows what the county
19 identifies as its communities of interest.

20 My last point is with regards to the
21 House of Delegates Redistricting Plan, and
22 just one point would be that if you look at
23 the 8th House of Delegate District as
24 proposed, there seems to be one precinct that

1 just sticks out and doesn't seem to really
2 take place very well, and that would be the
3 C4 precinct. It seemed like the C4 precinct
4 would be a better fit in line with the rest
5 of the House of Delegates 7 District rather
6 than the House of Delegates 8.

7 That's it. Thank you.

8 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Next is
9 Steve Mabry. Steve, I apologize if I said
10 that wrong.

11 MR. MABRY: You said it just perfect.
12 My name is Steve Mabry, and I am from the
13 City of Roanoke.

14 A couple of weeks ago we had a chance
15 to meet with the nonpartisan panel that was
16 set up to present some alternatives and to
17 explain the concept of redistricting to us
18 over at Virginia Western. A lot of the faces
19 that are here tonight were present then. It
20 was also a pretty multi-partisan audience at
21 that meeting.

22 And one of the things that was made
23 abundantly clear from all sides of the
24 political spectrum was that we were pretty

1 unanimous in supporting developing the
2 redistricting to reflect the communities of
3 interest. Economic interest, geographic
4 interest, and the like.

5 One of the speakers at that meeting
6 cautioned us to be sure that we didn't get
7 into a sausage-making situation here, and I
8 would say that, obviously, some of those
9 concerns were not heard.

10 In looking at the Senate -- the Senate
11 redistricting, I would submit that when you
12 see all of the jagged lines that are running
13 back and forth like you see in the Howell
14 plan there is a lot of sausage being made
15 there, and I think giving praise where
16 recognition is due, I think the Howell plan
17 is a absolute magnificent example of sausage
18 making and would cite a couple of indications
19 to that effect.

20 Looking at -- pick the 22nd Senate
21 District. It's not my district, but it
22 happens to be one that is close to us here.
23 The old 22nd as reflected now in the Howell
24 plan stretches from West Virginia to

1 Lynchburg, from Southwest Roanoke County to
2 Wytheville on to Carroll County, from Radford
3 to Kentucky. Now, this is all the community
4 of interest that was formally the 22nd
5 District.

6 Also cite a good look at the 15th and
7 the 20th Senate Districts as reflected in the
8 Howell plan. It's just unbelievable the
9 amount of effort that was gone to to
10 gerrymander, I will say the word, the
11 populations and the districts that are there.

12 Again, I would like to encourage
13 you-all to take the message back to the
14 General Assembly that we spoke very loudly
15 endorsing developing the redistricting plan
16 to reflect communities of interest, and I
17 would say that what is here, as evident in
18 the Howell plan, does not reflect those
19 concerns.

20 So I would ask your understanding and
21 your action to bring that in line with those
22 concerns from our citizens. Thank you.

23 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. The next
24 name is Jim Crosby, I think. I may be --

1 MR. CROSBY: I'm going to pass.

2 SENATOR REYNOLDS: The next is Judy
3 Stokes. If there is anyone else who wishes
4 to speak, please identify yourself to our
5 clerk here, Nathan, coming up here this way.

6 Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. STOKES: Thank you, Senators and
8 Delegates. I appreciate the opportunity to
9 have you-all listen to us and to hear our
10 concerns and our comments. I know you have
11 got a tough job to do. It's hard enough
12 doing it at a local level. I can't imagine
13 at a state level.

14 In Roanoke County, the House plan
15 splits one of our precincts and puts 1,911
16 people in part of it and 417 people in
17 another part of it. 417 people is not enough
18 to set up another precinct, and it's hard
19 when you have got a split precinct for the
20 people coming into vote not to be confused.
21 We have to have two sets of officers of
22 elections, we have to have two sets of
23 machines, we have to have two sets of
24 electronic poll books, so it causes a lot of

1 confusion.

2 Senator Howell's plan splits our north
3 side precinct, again, 1,605 in the 19th
4 Senate District and 436 in the 21st. Here
5 again, we have got less than 500 people, so
6 it's not enough to set up a whole another
7 precinct, so would ask you if you could
8 please take a look at that. Thank you.

9 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Next,
10 Brenda Hale.

11 MS. HALE: Thank you. I am glad I
12 didn't use my three minutes to get up here.
13 Good evening to everyone. I am President of
14 the Roanoke Branch NAACP.

15 The Roanoke Valley is unique. One of
16 the most precious commodities that we have in
17 the Roanoke Valley is our children. A
18 textbook example of legislators working
19 together was the mission of sending Roanoke
20 City children and Roanoke County children and
21 Salem children all together to school in
22 August. They worked tirelessly together to
23 do this.

24 And what I want you to glean from that

1 is the togetherness of the legislators
2 working together, because we believe if they
3 can do it one time they can do it again.

4 We are asking you to bear in mind not
5 to fracture the legislators and we are asking
6 you not to fracture the minority vote. And
7 we believe that if we can keep this together,
8 the lines congruent with the needs of the
9 citizens being served equitably and fairly,
10 then everyone wins. I thank you.

11 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Judge
12 Pattisall. I think you have --

13 JUDGE PATTISALL: May I stand over
14 here?

15 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Yes, sir.

16 JUDGE PATTISALL: I hate having my back
17 to people when I speak. I have looked at the
18 population figures.

19 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Would you identify
20 yourself for the record, please?

21 JUDGE PATTISALL: I am Richard
22 Pattisall. I'm a citizen of the Roanoke
23 County.

24 I have looked at the population

1 figures. I have looked at the traditional
2 redistricting principals as laid down by the
3 U.S. Supreme Court, and those principals of
4 seven factors. Compactness, continuity,
5 preservation of political subdivisions,
6 preservations of communities of interest,
7 preservations of the core of prior districts,
8 and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

9 In looking at this, I have not had the
10 benefit of a computer, nor have I had census
11 tracks, nor past political votes in districts
12 and so forth and so on. I am coming at this
13 strictly from a legal point of view of what
14 is required to do the redistricting.

15 There are 55 House districts that have
16 enough population to have a Delegate from
17 that 80,010 people that live there. Within
18 the borders of a county or city, there are 55
19 qualified districts. At the present there
20 are only about 24, somewhere along there.

21 In the Senate there are 16 counties or
22 cities that have enough population to have a
23 Senator from within its own boundaries. Now,
24 you have talked about not splitting

1 precincts, not splitting Magisterial
2 districts, not splitting counties, not
3 splitting cities.

4 I submit to you that the law requires
5 that as many of these compact contiguous
6 districts that serve a community of interest
7 that preserve political subdivisions that do
8 away with the unnecessary splitting and
9 dividing of Magisterial districts, precincts,
10 and the like, should be the goal, not the
11 exception.

12 I have here a list of the Senate
13 districts. Fairfax County with 1,104,000 and
14 few odds is entitled to five Senatorial
15 districts within the boundaries of Fairfax
16 County. Not Fairfax County, part of that,
17 part of Arlington, part of Alexandria, part
18 of Loudoun County, part of Prince William,
19 but five within Fairfax County.

20 Loudoun one, Arlington one, Prince
21 William two, Richmond one, Henrico one,
22 Chesterfield one, Virginia Beach two,
23 Chesapeake one, and Norfolk one.

24 In the House districts, Fairfax County

1 has the population for 13 districts of 80,010
2 people within the district. Compact,
3 contiguous, preservation of political
4 subdivision, preservation of community
5 interest, all of the requirements are met.

6 Arlington County has two, Loudoun
7 County three, Prince William five, Alexandria
8 one, Stafford County one, Spotsylvania County
9 one, Hanover County one, Richmond two,
10 Henrico County three, Chesterfield County
11 three, Newport News two, Hampton one, Norfolk
12 three, Portsmouth one, Virginia Beach five,
13 Chesapeake two, Suffolk one, Albemarle County
14 one, Roanoke County -- Roanoke County one,
15 City of Roanoke one, Montgomery County one
16 district on its own.

17 80,010 people deserve to be represented
18 by one of their own. Thank you.

19 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Next Brown Burton
20 followed by Charles Jordan.

21 MR. BURTON: Would you bring up the
22 Howell plan for the whole state, please.

23 I'm Brown Burton from Roanoke County.
24 I appreciate you taking your time to listen

1 to your constituents and hear what we have
2 to say.

3 I haven't looked at anything other than
4 the Howell plan for the Senate, so my
5 comments are directed to that.

6 The Constitution of the Commonwealth of
7 Virginia says, Article 2 Section 6, Every
8 electoral district shall be composed of
9 contiguous and compact territory.

10 I don't think you have reached that
11 within more than half the districts in this
12 plan. I think what we have here is
13 representatives picking their voters, not
14 voters picking their representatives.

15 When I opened this up this morning, I
16 looked at it. I said this looks like
17 somebody on drugs did this with an Etch A
18 Sketch. This is a shame, what we have done
19 here, but I know people will say, Well, it's
20 difficult to do when you have to take this
21 into consideration and you have to take that
22 into consideration.

23 And just looking around on the
24 internet -- you know, there was a contest

1 among the college students. It was the
2 Virginia College and University of
3 Legislative Redistricting Competition. I
4 encourage you to go in there and look at that
5 and see how they divided it up. There is not
6 all these snaky lines and there's not all
7 these districts.

8 There is districts on here that are
9 less than a quarter of a mile wide in a lot
10 of places. We need to do something better
11 than that, and we need to look at what
12 options are available to us. I would
13 appreciate you-all going back to Richmond and
14 reconsidering this thing and looking at it
15 and looking at what these college students
16 did and see how they came up with it and see
17 if we can come up with something a little
18 better than what we have got there behind
19 you.

20 Thank you very much.

21 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Charles Jordan.
22 Kristin Peckman.

23 MS. PECKMAN: I am Kristin Peckman from
24 Roanoke County. I am with the Virginia

1 League of Conservation Voters.

2 Our concern is that we can come as a
3 nonpartisan group and speak to our
4 legislators representing communities of
5 interest.

6 We have had a competition among the
7 colleges and law schools which has gone into
8 great detail to come up with good plans, and
9 I was kind of blindsided tonight to find that
10 we have a couple of Senate district plans
11 already in the works and a couple of -- and
12 one House district, which I haven't had a
13 chance to look at in detail, although I do --
14 did notice that the Howell plan has got a lot
15 of appendages on the map which don't appear
16 very useful.

17 But looking at the competitions, which
18 I have looked at in some detail, for the
19 State Senate, the second place in the
20 competition division which was William and
21 Mary Law School did have only 68 counties
22 split up, which is a low number compared to
23 most of the others, and it had 14 competitive
24 districts. Competitive districts are the

1 most important, because then there can
2 actually be a discussion of the issues and
3 not simply one candidate running against
4 nobody else.

5 I notice that you haven't discussed the
6 Congressional districts at all, but I would
7 like to recommend both of the first place
8 teams, William and Mary Law School and the
9 UVa team won in the governor/commission
10 division because they have kept Roanoke
11 County pretty much in the same district.

12 Also, going back to the Senate
13 districts, another reason why I like William
14 and Mary Law School's plan is that most of
15 Roanoke County is with Roanoke City. The
16 fact that we have a city in the middle of a
17 county makes no sense, and they should be
18 combined in the same Congressional district,
19 or in this case the same Senate district.

20 So just to sum up, having the districts
21 compact and congruent and creating as many
22 competitive districts as possible should be
23 your -- among your key requirements. Thank
24 you.

1 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. RoxAnne
2 Christley? I hope I have said that right.

3 MS. CHRISTLEY: They have said what I
4 want to say.

5 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Other names? Next
6 is -- I'm sorry, I can't read it. Huber,
7 County of Pulaski. Is it Pete Huber? I beg
8 your pardon. It took me a second to figure
9 it out, Mr. Huber. I apologize.

10 MR. HUBER: As long as it's got more
11 than four letters, I am happy. My name is
12 Pete Huber, County Administer. My specific
13 job is not to be political, so this is really
14 a process suggestion, and that would be if
15 you give -- my understanding is the deadline
16 for the localities is the end of this month,
17 29th of April, to have our local
18 redistricting plans submitted.

19 If you need to speed that process up
20 some, willing to do that, if you could just
21 use the precincts that are picked by the
22 locality as the basis for what's done by the
23 state it would eliminate all the split
24 precinct issues, I believe, and that would

1 certainly help us out from an administrative
2 standpoint.

3 There is a concern of cost and such
4 with split precincts, and this would be one
5 way you could certainly help the partnership
6 between local and state governments to
7 consider that. Thank you.

8 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Next --
9 I'm sorry -- Aaron, and it looks like
10 Houchens, and I apologize.

11 MR. HOUCHENS: My name is Aaron
12 Houchens. I'm originally from Franklin
13 County, now living in Roanoke. I don't know
14 where I will end up in this district.
15 Probably in someone's new.

16 I have a strong concern when we are
17 splitting so many precincts. We have to
18 worry about the local impact it's going to
19 have on our registrars and the cost to them.
20 For example, when we look at the 20th
21 District, I think we are going to split 25
22 precincts -- 25 precincts -- and it's clear
23 that it's going to have an impact on not only
24 our communities of interest, but also on our

1 registrars, and it's going to have an impact
2 on how people function in these communities.

3 We need to take that into consideration
4 before we start drawing lines and cherry
5 picking voters into the districts that fit
6 our political preferences. Thank you.

7 SENATOR REYNOLDS: Thank you. Is there
8 anyone else who wishes to speak that hasn't
9 had a chance?

10 Anyone here on the panel have anything
11 to say? If not, declare the meeting ended.

12 Thank you very much for your
13 participation.

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15 (8:04 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY OF ROANOKE

I, Mary J. Butenschoen, RPR, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia, at Large, do hereby certify that the proceedings were by me reduced to machine shorthand, afterwards transcribed by me by means of computer, and that to the best of my ability the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings as aforesaid.

I further certify that these proceedings were taken at the time and place specified in the foregoing caption.

I further certify that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney for either party, or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Roanoke, Virginia, on the 13th day of April, 2011.

MARY J. BUTENSCHOEN, RPR
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires May 31, 2012
Number 228402

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