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**2011 REDISTRICTING PUBLIC HEARING
HOUSE AND SENATE PRIVILEGES
AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEES**

DATE: March 31, 2011

LOCATION: Hampton University
135 Marshall Avenue
Hampton, Virginia

PRESENT: Delegate S. Chris Jones, Acting Chairman
Delegate Algie T. Howell, Jr.
Delegate John A. Cosgrove
Delegate Johnny S. Joannou
Delegate Kenneth C. Alexander
Delegate Lionell Spruill, Sr.
Senator Harry B. Blevins
Senator Ralph S. Northam
Senator Stephen H. Martin

1 DELEGATE JONES: I would like to welcome
2 each and every one of you here this evening on a rainy
3 Thursday evening in Hampton Roads. We apologize for
4 the weather, but we couldn't do a whole lot about that.
5 So we're thankful that we have such a big crowd in the
6 audience this evening.

7 Before we begin our public hearing, I'd
8 like to make a couple -- I'd like to make -- I'd like
9 to make a couple of remarks prior to beginning.
10 Tonight this is a joint public hearing that is being
11 held by the House and the Senate Committees on
12 Privileges and Elections.

13 This is a process that we're very engaged
14 in that happens every ten years. And it's my pleasure
15 to welcome everyone here this evening to the first of
16 eight public hearings on redistricting plans and maps
17 that have been introduced in the Virginia House of
18 Delegates and the Senate of Virginia.

19 Tonight's public hearing, as I just
20 mentioned, is being sponsored by both the Committees on
21 P&E by the House and the Senate. We want this to be an
22 open -- we are committed to an open, fair process and
23 want to be absolutely straightforward. Tonight we're
24 here to hear from you. There are maps that have been
25 posted several days ago. Hopefully, most of you had a

1 chance to look at those maps, so we want to listen to
2 you this evening and receive your input.

3 We're here, as I said, to seek input from
4 experts -- I'm sure there's some in the audience --
5 advocates, and the people of Virginia about new
6 boundaries for state legislative districts. We want to
7 know what's important to you in redistricting.

8 The General Assembly and the Governor are
9 the officials who submit to the voters at elections,
10 and therefore, are directly accountable to the public
11 and responsible for drawing legislative boundaries.
12 That mandate is clearly spelled out in the Virginia
13 Constitution, which each of us takes an oath to uphold.
14 It's one of the most important duties we have as
15 elected government officials.

16 The time-tested process of updating
17 legislative boundaries every ten years ensures that
18 every Virginian has a voice in redistricting since
19 every Virginian is represented in the General Assembly
20 by a delegate and a state senator.

21 Last fall, the House and the Senate P&E
22 Committees collectively sought to foster greater
23 citizen engagement and involvement through six public
24 hearings across Virginia. This unprecedented action
25 then underscored our desire to encourage greater civic

1 awareness and facilitate more active participation by
2 the public in the Virginia 2011 process, and that
3 commitment continues tonight. Now, our committee will
4 be holding similar public hearings, three tonight, four
5 on Saturday, and one next Monday in Richmond, eight
6 more hearings in all. More information on them and
7 redistricting overall is available online at
8 redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/2010 website.

9 The primary difference between last year's
10 six and this year's eight public hearings is that we
11 now have actual bills and maps before us. We have at
12 least three so far, one introduced by myself, Delegate
13 Chris Jones, in the House, and two others taken in the
14 Senate by Senators Janet Howell and Senator John
15 Watkins. All were made available to the public on this
16 last Tuesday.

17 The redistricting plans and maps are
18 actually pieces of legislation, like so many the
19 General Assembly considers each year. That means
20 amendments in the committee or on the floor are likely
21 as it's normally a give-and-take legislative process.
22 Both the House and the Senate introduced redistricting
23 plans to draw districts of equal population as nearly
24 as practical.

25 In accordance with the constitutional

1 principle of one person, one vote, the House plan
2 deviates from its ideal district size of 80,010
3 residents by one percent, plus or minus one percent.
4 The House -- the Senate plan introduced by Senator
5 Howell deviates from its ideal district size of about
6 200,000 by no more than plus or minus two percent, the
7 other introduced by Senator Watkins by one-half of one
8 percent.

9 The introduced plans also maintain other
10 traditional redistricting principles, such as
11 compactness, contiguity, prospective community
12 interest, and political subdivision boundaries in full
13 compliance with the voting rights and all other
14 applicable federal and state law, as well as the court
15 decisions applying them.

16 As this is enough from the -- from the
17 dais, we would like now, at the onset of the public
18 hearing, to hear from you. I'd like to set out a few
19 logistical requests so we can ensure each and every
20 person here this evening has an opportunity to provide
21 their input.

22 In order to respect the time of all in
23 attendance, I would like for each of you to try to
24 limit your remarks to four minutes each. And as a
25 courtesy to others, if they have -- your point has

1 already been stated by a previous speaker, if you feel
2 compelled to come and speak, please maybe echo the
3 comments of the speaker before you and then add any
4 other comments you would like.

5 And because we want to maximize
6 participation by citizens, we are here this evening to
7 listen. We're not here to answer questions, and we
8 will not engage in discussion. Again, we're here to
9 listen.

10 I have a sign-up sheet. I think there's
11 another sheet down in the back.

12 John Sherlock.

13 Mr. Sherlock, welcome.

14 MR. SHERLOCK: Thank you.

15 DELEGATE JONES: I'm sorry. Before we get
16 started, I would like for the panel to introduce
17 themselves so everyone in the audience will know where
18 we're from. Starting from my right, your left.

19 SENATOR BLEVINS: I'm Harry Blevins. I
20 represent the 14th Senate District, which consists of
21 Chesapeake, a part of it, and a small part of Virginia
22 Beach.

23 SENATOR NORTHAM: Good evening. I'm Ralph
24 Northam. I represent the 6th Senate District, which is
25 the Eastern Shore of Virginia, the low part of Virginia

1 Beach, the northern part of Norfolk, and Mathews
2 County.

3 SENATOR MARTIN: I'm Steve Martin, the
4 11th Senate District, which is the majority of
5 Chesterfield and all of the City of Colonial Heights at
6 this moment.

7 DELEGATE COSGROVE: I'm Delegate John
8 Cosgrove. I represent the 78th House District, which
9 is a large part of the City of Chesapeake.

10 DELEGATE HOWELL: Good afternoon. My name
11 is Delegate Algie Howell. I represent the 90th
12 District, which currently covers part of Norfolk, part
13 of Chesapeake, and part of Virginia Beach.

14 DELEGATE JONES: And I'm Delegate Chris
15 Jones, and I serve the 76th District, which is Suffolk
16 and Chesapeake.

17 And at the risk of getting into trouble, I
18 see several of our colleagues in the audience. I'm
19 sure I'm going to miss one, and they will correct me
20 when I do.

21 We have Senator Locke. I believe we're on
22 your home territory here.

23 We have Senator Miller as well or
24 Delegate. We have Senator John Miller in the back, I
25 believe.

1 John, good evening.

2 And we have Delegate Mamyé BaCote.

3 And I hope I didn't miss anyone else. And
4 if I did, I'm sure they will raise their hand.

5 With that, Mr. Sherlock, I thank you for
6 your patience.

7 MR. SHERLOCK: Thank you, sir.

8 Well, I think, from the audience, we thank
9 you all for coming and being here with us tonight. I'm
10 representing nobody but myself, and I live on Shore
11 Drive in Virginia Beach.

12 Senator Northam, I'm not quite in your
13 district, but --

14 One of the -- the important elements of
15 republican form of governments are, is that
16 community -- that voting districts are organized in
17 communities of interest, that there is some continuity
18 to the interest of those folks so they -- and that they
19 can let their officials represent them in their
20 interest in these legislative bodies.

21 When I looked at -- I have no brief for
22 the existing legislative districts. They have some
23 problems, as far as I'm concerned as well. But I
24 looked at Shore Drive. Shore Drive's only, for those
25 of you that are not over there, maybe 25 miles long

1 end-to-end in Virginia Beach and Norfolk, but it runs
2 along the southern -- the southern end of the
3 Chesapeake Bay.

4 Well, this Senate district -- not picking
5 on the Senate -- but the Senate districts have some of
6 my neighbors in that short stretch voting with their
7 neighbors in Virginia Beach, some of them voting with
8 their neighbors on the Eastern Shore, and some of them
9 voting with their neighbors in York County. Okay? You
10 cannot make a case that that is the intent of a
11 representative democracy. It cannot. It's
12 disgraceful.

13 DELEGATE JONES: I want to ask that there
14 not be any demonstrations this evening -- I certainly
15 appreciate your enthusiasm -- just so we can give
16 everyone an opportunity to speak.

17 MR. SHERLOCK: I understand the University
18 of Virginia and William and Mary have both offered
19 versions of redistricting, but I think all of us know
20 generally how it should be done, and there are some
21 obvious political boundaries that I think should be
22 honored, the cities and the counties, where possible.

23 There is the communities of interest, some
24 rural, some suburban, some urban, that within those
25 political boundaries, should be organized in

1 communities of interest. There is the requirement for
2 majority-minority districts, which need to be honored,
3 but that's about it.

4 And I think -- I think that there's no one
5 up there that could say and none of us here could say
6 that the way this has been done took into account what
7 the needs of a representative democracy are. They
8 can't. It can't have been on the table when these
9 boundaries on Shore Drive were drawn.

10 Thank you.

11 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

12 Next we have Ken Longo -- I believe that's
13 correct -- from Virginia Beach.

14 Good evening.

15 MR. LONGO: Chairman, thank you.

16 If I heard you correctly, you said that
17 you just want to hear statements from us, but you don't
18 want to field any questions, correct?

19 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, sir, that's correct.

20 MR. LONGO: Okay. With that, I did have a
21 question. So I'm going to kind of stand back on this
22 and let the next person come up.

23 Thank you.

24 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

25 Next we have Carole Garrison, I believe,

1 from Virginia Peninsula.

2 MS. GARRISON: Yes. My name is Carole
3 Garrison. I'm the President of the Virginia Peninsula
4 League of Women Voters.

5 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

6 MS. GARRISON: Part of that got cut off.
7 Our local chapter of the League of Women
8 Voters works to teach students in our area about
9 legislative government. We help them register. We
10 show them to watch government activities in the state
11 and local governments as well as the federal. We also
12 teach them to pay attention and not just at election
13 time. When asked if it matters if they vote, my answer
14 is always "Of course."

15 We have the best government in the world.
16 People get a voice. That is not always -- that was not
17 always the case as our ancestors did not have that
18 right, and it was only won with the Revolutionary War,
19 the Civil War, or the suffragist movement. So we try
20 to remind them of the importance of voicing their
21 opinion.

22 I attended the House, the Senate, the
23 Governor's redistricting hearings. I am pleased -- I
24 was pleased to see speakers from the Republican and the
25 Democratic Parties as well as the neighborhood

1 associations and civic groups, including the League of
2 Women Voters, speaking out at all these events. They
3 stress letting the voters choose their representatives
4 and not the representatives choosing the voters. Now
5 we're coming to the end of this process.

6 We have heard elected officials tell us
7 this is to save an incumbent process and not a
8 political process. We have heard an elected official
9 tell us that this is an agreement that one side won't
10 mess with other maps and vice versa.

11 When future students look back in 10, 15,
12 or 90 years, what will they say about this process?
13 Whose interest were the current elected officials
14 looking out for? If the vote goes as expected, it will
15 be obviously the most important, worthy incumbent.
16 Next, elected officials were looking out for
17 themselves, and lastly, the public.

18 Well, the citizens were allowed to speak
19 at the House and Senate committees, and there was a
20 Governor's committee that had no authority, which we
21 were allowed to speak at. The citizens were allowed to
22 speak, but they were not listened to. Their
23 overwhelming request for non-partisan redistricting was
24 ignored. The college studies competed to show possible
25 options of redistricting. However, the partisan

1 redistricting plan came out as an exception.

2 So when I tell the students in the next
3 decade what is important, it's simple: to stop
4 gerrymander. The League of Women Voters is over 90
5 years old. It may take people from all groups 90 years
6 to succeed in getting rid of gerrymandering, but I hope
7 someday they will. And I can assure you the League of
8 Women Voters will still be there supporting the voters
9 and watching the process. The only question is, how do
10 you wish to have your participation in the process
11 remembered? I sincerely ask you to consider the
12 student map.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

15 Next we have Mr. David Redmond.

16 Mr. Redmond, good evening.

17 MR. REDMOND: Thank you, Mr. Jones. Thank
18 you. I appreciate the opportunity, all of you, to have
19 us here tonight to express our views. It's obviously a
20 very important issue.

21 I don't begrudge that redistricting is a
22 political process. I don't want unelected hobbyists
23 making decisions as critical and important as this. In
24 my view, political processes require decision-makers to
25 actually decide and then to bear the consequences of

1 their decision. I think that's how the system works.
2 But political processes need not be vindictive,
3 mean-spirited, wrong.

4 I'm here tonight to oppose Senator
5 Howell's redistricting plan for the Virginia Senate.
6 And simply put, this plan disenfranchises the City of
7 Virginia Beach, my hometown. At 438,000 residents, the
8 largest city in the Commonwealth clearly and obviously
9 supports two senators who represent Virginia Beach and
10 only Virginia Beach, and then some. Under this plan,
11 we would have only one with portions of people parceled
12 out to other Senate districts. There is no reason for
13 this. No good and decent reason for this. It's
14 unnecessary, unwarranted, insulting, and very possibly
15 illegal.

16 And while I won't pose a question, I would
17 say, Senator Northam, I hope you'll take the
18 opportunity tonight to clearly indicate whether you
19 intend to support Senator Howell's plan, which so
20 obviously disenfranchises some of your very own
21 constituents in Virginia Beach and throughout Hampton
22 Roads.

23 Thank you again for having us.

24 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

25 The next speaker is Gary Byler. And as

1 he's making his way up, I'd like to -- we've just had
2 two more of our colleagues come in. I think they got
3 caught up in traffic.

4 A SPEAKER: A parking lot.

5 DELEGATE JONES: We have -- just arrived,
6 I see Senator Wagner's in the back.

7 Good evening, Frank.

8 And then we have Delegates Ken Alexander,
9 Lionell Spruill, and Johnny Joannou who have just
10 joined us. And Mr. Oder just came in as well.

11 Gary, thank you for your patience.

12 MR. BYLER: Of course. Thank you,
13 Delegate, and thank you for so many members showing up
14 today. I know it's a long drive for some of you, and
15 it's kind of bitter weather out there, but obviously,
16 this crowd in this room tonight indicates how important
17 it is.

18 My name is Gary Byler. I have a home on
19 the Eastern Shore, but currently vote in Virginia
20 Beach. And as a matter of disclosure, I think it's
21 known that I'm the Second District Republican Party
22 chairman.

23 This dance of democracy that we do every
24 decade is a -- is always an interesting and intriguing
25 process. It's the fourth process that I've been

1 through. And, of course, there's going to be some
2 partisan configuration into it. And I agree with the
3 last speaker, Mr. Redmond, that that's appropriate in a
4 democracy, but, of course, that is to be within bounds.

5 Chesapeake, being the perfect size for a
6 state Senate -- like most speakers here today, I'm just
7 speaking strictly to Senator Howell's state Senate
8 redistricting plan. The congressional districts, the
9 House plans, I will leave for others.

10 But as a citizen of Virginia Beach and
11 mostly a life-long resident, it pains us to see the
12 dismemberment, the disenfranchisement of the state
13 Senate district in Virginia Beach. Chesapeake, I know,
14 feels kind of the same way. They're exactly one-state
15 Senate size. Virginia Beach is two-state Senate size.
16 Sometimes you have to be playing with the lines, but
17 not in this case. This is a pretty open-and-shut
18 process when you look at the size of the cities.

19 And when you talk about community of
20 interest, that's why we've got our cities and counties.
21 So partisan jostling within boundaries, absolutely,
22 positively to be expected. But when you've taken the
23 steps -- the obvious steps that have been done in this
24 plan as affecting Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, I
25 think it goes beyond the line.

1 I call on the members of the Senate to set
2 aside some of their partisan differences. I appreciate
3 the civil nature of this, but, please, let's rethink
4 the state Senate lines so that Virginia Beach can be
5 properly represented. I understand there are other
6 plans that have been submitted that would allow that.
7 So I appreciate the civil nature of tonight's
8 proceedings.

9 By all means, we expect there to be some
10 incumbent protection. But, ladies and gentlemen, what
11 has happened to the City of Virginia Beach is not
12 protecting any incumbent. It is dismembering Virginia
13 Beach for the sake of dismembering it themselves.
14 There is no incumbent who is being protected by that
15 process. Whether or not other folks are targeted, I'll
16 leave for others. But we expect a little incumbent
17 protection. That's not what's going on with these
18 lines.

19 I will last leave you all with some of the
20 folks here during the '90 process of this, and I know
21 that at that point, one party was completely in
22 control. I would -- I would tell you, be careful of
23 the law of unintended consequences. There was a very
24 aggressive young congressman that the folks in the
25 other party wanted to get rid of, so they put him in

1 the district with Tom Bliley. Rather than going
2 quietly in the night, that young congressman became
3 Governor George Allen of the Commonwealth of Virginia.
4 There are sometimes unintended consequences of these
5 lines you draw.

6 I encourage you to go back to the drawing
7 board as it affects the state Senate districts, and
8 please allow Chesapeake and Virginia Beach to retain
9 their structural and boundary integrities.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you, Gary.

12 Next we have Dawn Chabrol -- did I
13 mispronounce that -- from Virginia Beach.

14 Good evening.

15 MS. CHABROL: Hello. The sheet from which
16 you read my name, I thought was a sign-in sheet. But I
17 came tonight, and so I'm glad to talk about Virginia
18 Beach.

19 I love Virginia Beach very, very much, and
20 I love Chesapeake and the whole seven-city area. But
21 what I want to say is in Virginia Beach, we have grown.
22 We have 230,000 -- 430,000 people, and that is way too
23 many people to just have one particular person
24 governing us or one particular person solely interested
25 in us. I think when you have that many people, and

1 it's the second largest -- competing almost to be the
2 first largest -- this city should have at least two
3 people purely interested in what governs the city.

4 Now, I, as a citizen, would like to see
5 that. I would like to look at the United States of
6 America and think that we can do better than just have
7 such partisan politics that we are not considering the
8 interest of a huge citizen group.

9 So I just want to agree with the two
10 speakers before me, that you all consider -- I'm just a
11 simple citizen, but I look at this thing, and I say we
12 want full representation for Virginia Beach. We bring
13 in a lot of money, a lot of resources, a lot of energy,
14 a lot of good things for the State of Virginia, and
15 that needs to be recognized.

16 Thank you very much.

17 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

18 Next we have G. Davis from Virginia Beach,
19 just the first initial G.

20 Oh, Glenn. I'm sorry.

21 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, if I may speak?

22 DELEGATE JONES: Yes, please.

23 MR. DAVIS: Mr. Chairman, my name is Glenn
24 Davis. I'm the representative of the Virginia Beach
25 City Council and the Non-Partisan Council in the State

1 of Virginia.

2 And what you have before you is a letter
3 that was adopted, signed last Tuesday, that you may
4 have gotten electronically. It's signed by all the
5 members of the Virginia Beach City Council, expressing
6 the concerns that we have with this plan that we're
7 talking about here this evening and requesting that you
8 reconsider it in lieu of a plan that allows us to still
9 have two dedicated senators for the City of Virginia
10 Beach.

11 Virginia Beach today is the largest city
12 in the state with a population of over 435,000
13 citizens, which is currently served by two dedicated
14 senators. The city council is very concerned that we
15 will -- that we'll be reduced to only having one
16 dedicated senator, and the concern is from two sides.

17 The first is by design. Looking at the
18 way the districts are drawn, we're concerned that
19 they're not truly of a contiguous nature. They don't
20 demonstrate communities of interest, and they're not
21 compact. And the concern being that this design flaw
22 is going to impact the representative's ability to
23 truly understand the unique nature and unique needs of
24 the city that they're representing. It almost makes it
25 unfair to require them to do so, to understand the

1 unique needs of Virginia Beach and Chesapeake or
2 Norfolk and Chesapeake so as to actually be able to
3 discuss the needs of going forward.

4 And the second concern is the continued
5 ability of the City of Virginia Beach, through its
6 senators, to adequately represent the needs of the four
7 large naval bases that we presently have housed in
8 Virginia Beach. Obviously, the economic impact of
9 naval bases in Virginia Beach is felt statewide. And
10 right now, we have two dedicated senators to allow us
11 to represent and preserve these military institutions,
12 arguably much better than can be done with one
13 representative sharing that representation across other
14 city lines.

15 It's for these reasons that the city
16 council of Virginia Beach asks you to please reconsider
17 the plan in front of us we have this evening and adopt
18 a plan that allows Virginia Beach to continue to be
19 represented by two dedicated senators.

20 Thank you very much for your time in
21 listening here.

22 DELEGATE JONES: You're certainly welcome.
23 Next we have Jimmy Frost from Virginia
24 Beach.

25 Mr. Frost, good evening.

1 MR. FROST: Good evening, sir.

2 I'm from Virginia Beach, and I will not
3 speak to any other district except Virginia Beach.

4 I've looked at both maps for the House of
5 Delegates and the Senate, and I've got to ask, did you
6 guys wake up and have a bowl of crack for breakfast?
7 You just said not ten minutes ago that the formula is
8 200,000 people per senator. Virginia Beach has twice
9 that number, and you're going to strip a senator away
10 from us. If you tried to do that anywhere else, I
11 think you'd have a visit from the Justice Department,
12 and it wouldn't be very pleasant.

13 Now, you know, we've had a rough time in
14 this economy, and we've had more unemployment than any
15 other point in our history since the Great Depression.
16 And I think we've weathered the storm pretty well in
17 this area compared to other areas, and that has much to
18 do with the strong presence right here in Hampton Roads
19 of our military. Of course, now that we're losing
20 JFCOM, and if the carrier moves to Mayport, that story
21 will change.

22 For the past ten years, our area has been
23 a donor district to the Commonwealth of Virginia,
24 watching a good portion of our tax dollars sent off to
25 build projects in other parts of the state while our

1 own roads crumble beneath our car wheels. And I find
2 it ironic that you're having a meeting regarding
3 stealing a senator from Virginia Beach and Hampton.

4 And you've got to go through the Hampton
5 Roads Tunnel. Has anybody talked about widening that?
6 It's been five years now.

7 I will tell you that if Virginia Beach
8 does lose a Senate seat, this will affect everyone in
9 the region. And the reason we've gotten a good deal of
10 highway funding this year is because of the effect of
11 representation our entire area shares. Like it or not,
12 the Hampton Roads area, we are all tied together, and
13 we are in this together. And if you share your
14 lawmakers with other representatives from other cities,
15 it's going to dilute how you are served in your own
16 city.

17 I think this is going to be a real bad
18 thing if you think we're going to forget. Because if
19 you strip a senator from us, we're going to remember
20 that in November, and we will be back.

21 Thank you.

22 DELEGATE JONES: Next, we have Lynn Gordon
23 from the League of Women Voters.

24 Ms. Gordon, good evening.

25 MS. GORDON: Good evening. I do want to

1 apologize for standing before you in sneakers.
2 Unfortunately, I have severely sprained my ankle, so
3 this is the best I've been able to do.

4 DELEGATE JONES: I'm partial to sneakers,
5 by the way.

6 MS. GORDON: Good. Good evening, Chairman
7 and committee members. My name is Lynn Gordon, and I'm
8 a resident of Virginia Beach. I am also vice president
9 of the League of Women Voters of Virginia and speak
10 tonight on behalf of the League.

11 Thank you for holding the public hearings
12 that you are holding around the state tonight and the
13 next few days. Over the past several months, citizens
14 took the time to come out and attend public hearings
15 held by the House P&E Committee, the Senate P&E
16 Committee, and the redistricting commission.

17 I attended each one of these meetings and
18 heard time after time people asking for districts that
19 do not split up towns, neighborhoods, and precincts,
20 districts that are compact, understandable, and
21 competitive, that preserve the community of interest,
22 and that follow natural geographic and jurisdictional
23 boundaries.

24 It seems that in looking at maps that you
25 all have presented to us in the past couple of days and

1 this evening, that what citizens have had to say have
2 been ignored. It's not too late. The student maps and
3 the Bipartisan Advisory Commission maps show that more
4 sensible, understanding, non-gerrymandered maps are
5 possible within all the legal guidelines. The maps
6 encourage participation by citizens. They reinforce
7 legislators' accountability to citizens.

8 Please, don't just tweak the distorted
9 district boundaries as they currently exist. It's time
10 for a fresh start. Basic district boundaries go back
11 several rounds of redistricting. Adjustments every ten
12 years have made it a very confusing patchwork with
13 odd-shaped districts that split cities, counties, and
14 even precincts. It's time to start over rather than
15 put on more patches.

16 We, in Virginia, have the opportunity to
17 be the model for the -- can you hear me?

18 DELEGATE JONES: Yes.

19 MS. GORDON: We, in Virginia, have the
20 opportunity to be the model for the country if you have
21 the courage to put the people ahead of party needs.
22 Please take the time in the next few days to reconsider
23 the maps you have drawn so far. Take the time to look
24 at the student maps and those of the Bipartisan
25 Redistricting Commission and put forth new proposals to

1 take into account what the citizens want.

2 Thank you very much.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

4 Next we have Patrick Sally -- is that
5 correct -- of Virginia Beach? Salyer?

6 MR. SALYER: Sally or Salyer. Call me
7 whatever you want.

8 DELEGATE JONES: Is it --

9 MR. SALYER: Just don't call me late for
10 dinner.

11 DELEGATE JONES: Is it S-a-l-y-e --

12 MR. SALYER: R.

13 DELEGATE JONES: You're like me. You
14 didn't close your R.

15 MR. SALYER: Yes, sir.

16 DELEGATE JONES: All right.

17 MR. SALYER: Yes, sir. Got ya.

18 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming
19 down.

20 MR. SALYER: Good evening. Thank you.

21 Thank you all for coming down. I'm Patrick Salyer.

22 I'm an elected member of the School Board of the City
23 of Virginia Beach.

24 I know the process that you're engaged in
25 is painful. I feel your pain. We're engaged in budget

1 hearings right now, budget season in Virginia Beach,
2 and it's not a very pleasant experience. But what I'm
3 here to talk to you about is please look at the
4 citizens here who have come from near and far to come
5 here and talk to you about this process.

6 It's a citizen-involved process. And it's
7 not unusual for an elected to sit at a dais or to sit
8 at a committee in the presence of the public and have
9 them stand up and talk to them honestly and purely from
10 their heart about things that concern them. And they
11 talk to you about things that they never talked to --
12 they probably won't talk to you again, but they're
13 concerned about this. And they came to talk to you
14 about keeping our communities together. And I know
15 this is hard, but working together, I know you'll solve
16 it. You've got the representations. You've got the
17 horsepower to make this happen.

18 All that -- I think the sense that I get
19 here is that folks want you to apply the rules that --
20 and the guidance that you already have. Apply common
21 sense to the process. We know that there's
22 partisanship. We know what's going on. You know, it's
23 not a secret. But the bottom line is, is when folks
24 come out like this, and they want to talk to you about
25 these things, please listen. I know I do when I sit on

1 the dais and talk to my constituents.

2 Thank you, and I thank all of you for what
3 you do for the citizens of Virginia. And please, once
4 again, just look at the rules, and take a step back and
5 take a deep breath, please, and look at the rules and
6 apply common sense to the process.

7 Thank you.

8 DELEGATE JONES: Appreciate you coming
9 out.

10 Next we have Ashley McLeod. She's with
11 the Virginia Beach School Board as well.

12 Good evening.

13 MS. MCLEOD: Good evening. How are you
14 all doing tonight?

15 I am Ashley McLeod, elected member of the
16 Virginia Beach School Board and a resident of Senate
17 District 7. Thank you for allowing everyone the
18 opportunity to speak tonight about redistricting and
19 the loss of a Virginia Beach Senate seat.

20 With a population of 435,000, it should
21 come as no surprise that the Virginia Beach community
22 is adamantly opposed to losing a Senate seat because we
23 recognize the necessity of having two dedicated
24 senators to represent our citizens and the municipality
25 as a whole. Not only is it what's best for Virginia

1 Beach, it's what's best for Norfolk. It's what's best
2 for Chesapeake. It's what's best for Suffolk and
3 Hampton.

4 By stretching the areas, you are creating
5 a situation where the representation will not be as
6 efficient in representing Hampton Roads as a community.
7 Our current delegates and senators work well together,
8 keeping each informed of the workload required in a
9 diverse area as Hampton Roads.

10 Virginia Beach and all of the other cities
11 around us continue to grow and build, which is a great
12 thing. And the decisions that you are recommending
13 today will affect our community for the next ten years.
14 We can't afford to lack adequate representation until a
15 further census is done.

16 The Norfolk, Chesapeake, Hampton, and
17 Virginia Beach areas are diverse, not only in
18 population and culture, but economically, in our
19 development, in our needs in schools and universities,
20 in our tourism, in our military, not to mention our
21 various modes of transportation.

22 To limit the representation or
23 overextending our current senators' ability to serve
24 efficiently and effectively in Hampton Roads is not
25 looking forward. It's not in the interest of what's

1 good for the Hampton Roads community, which ultimately
2 means it's not what's best for Virginia.

3 Thank you.

4 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

5 Next we have Pixie Killebrew.

6 MS. KILLEBREW: Good evening.

7 DELEGATE JONES: Good evening.

8 MS. KILLEBREW: My name is Pixie
9 Killebrew, and I'm an independent voter, and I'd like
10 to speak for those of us who are not committed to a
11 party.

12 I do appreciate your holding the public
13 hearings. I've been to several, and every time I've
14 been, I've heard the same thing. And it is -- we would
15 like, as citizens of Virginia, to have contiguous
16 districts for our representation, compact districts for
17 our representation, communities of interest represented
18 clearly, and if possible, non-partisan divisions made.

19 I think if we were to have our divisions
20 made in a non-partisan manner, we would have a much
21 larger turnout of voters because an awful lot of the
22 citizens of this state consider themselves to be
23 independent and vote across party lines because we vote
24 for the good representatives that we have, both Senate
25 and House of Delegates.

1 If we were to have more compact districts,
2 it would make campaigning much more easily done because
3 a campaigner wouldn't have to drive 150 miles to get
4 from one end of the district to another. It would not
5 be quite so expensive, and that representative might be
6 more likely to know the people that they represent, and
7 the people might know their representative a little bit
8 better and feel free to call him and talk and actually
9 share some of the fun things that actually occur, you
10 know, on a -- on a friendly basis.

11 I would like to see, in making our
12 decision, that the nation -- that the state would
13 consider the good work that was done by that
14 competition among the universities. I'd like to see us
15 use this committee on redistricting to put out a really
16 good map.

17 The ones that I've seen don't fit the
18 criteria, don't appear to fit the criteria of
19 contiguous, more compact. The partisan or
20 non-partisan, I can't speak to because I would like to
21 be able to vote as an independent and will continue to
22 do so.

23 I thank you for giving me time to speak.

24 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming out.

25 It's Robert Vanderveen, I believe.

1 Good evening.

2 MR. VANDERVEEN: Good evening. I signed
3 up, I guess, the sheet -- I wasn't prepared to speak,
4 but I will second just about everything that's been
5 said about the City of Virginia Beach.

6 I am from Virginia Beach. I'm also a
7 member of the Republican Party, and I also (inaudible)
8 as a Tea Party member. So I'm very concerned. As the
9 last speaker, I am the second, because I know a lot of
10 the Tea Party members are not interested so much in
11 politics, but the issues that come before us. So we'd
12 like a fair process, and I'm speaking for the -- you
13 know, for the Tea Party. I'm sure, you'll give our
14 party a fair process and one that makes common sense.

15 So I'm going to lay my speech there. I
16 like the idea of our elected officials putting politics
17 aside and start thinking common sense to represent the
18 people.

19 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming,
20 sir.

21 Mr. Will Andrews.

22 MR. ANDREWS: Good evening, Delegate
23 Jones, and members of the committee.

24 DELEGATE JONES: Good evening.

25 MR. ANDREWS: Thank you for coming

1 tonight. William Andrews, IV. I reside here in
2 Hampton, the downtown section of the city, not far from
3 here.

4 A SPEAKER: Speak into the mike.

5 MR. ANDREWS: I apologize.

6 I'm here as a concerned citizen, not as a
7 member of a political party. And I've had the chance
8 to take a look at these districts, and I'm --
9 especially as to how they affect the City of Hampton
10 and the Virginia Peninsula, there was some small
11 concerns with some of House district lines, but
12 overall, I was not too dissatisfied there.

13 I was quite concerned, however, with some
14 of the things that went on in the Senate districts,
15 specifically, that the proposal introduced by Senator
16 Howell split the City of Hampton into three different
17 districts.

18 We're a city of 137,000 people,
19 approximately, which is considerably less than the size
20 of one Senate district, and I would like to see us be
21 in no more than two Senate districts, if that is
22 possible.

23 My other concern had to do with here on
24 the Peninsula, the 3rd Senate District in particular.
25 It just seems that going from Suffolk through Isle of

1 Wight to James City County, back around the eastern
2 side of York County to Hampton, then up to Gloucester
3 and the Middle Peninsula, it seems a little -- it looks
4 a little bit like a horseshoe that's been bent pretty
5 bad and has a bolt sticking out of the side of it.

6 But that being said, I did some research
7 into this yesterday, spent several hours on it and came
8 up with a proposal that -- or not a proposal, but a map
9 that shows the Hampton Roads area districts somewhat
10 more compact. I understand there are significant
11 constraints with which you must work. But I have --
12 I've done that. It keeps the City of Hampton in two
13 districts, which allows Virginia Beach two full
14 districts and preserves the three majority-minority
15 districts, and I will give a copy of that to the clerk
16 of the committee, if it has an interest.

17 Once again -- once again, thank you for
18 coming. I understand that there are significant
19 constraints in which you must work. And I really think
20 that we, as a community and the Commonwealth, can do
21 better, and I have lot of confidence in you guys.

22 Thank you.

23 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

24 Next we have, it looks like Bill and Jo
25 Wilson Muehleib. I might have mispronounced that. If

1 I did, I apologize. If they would please come forward.

2 MR. MUEHLEIB: Good evening. As the old
3 saw goes, I guess you're wondering why I invited you
4 all here tonight. Basically, I don't know how my name
5 got on the schedule. I will just say that the
6 statements made as it concerns the Senate in Virginia
7 Beach were well-made. Nothing I could say could add to
8 the importance that you people have in your power to
9 make it happen.

10 Thank you.

11 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

12 Next we have Ellis W. James.

13 Mr. James, good evening.

14 MR. JAMES: Thank you, Delegate Jones. I
15 appreciate it. And members of the committee.

16 My name is Ellis W. James. I reside in
17 Norfolk, and among many other things, I am a proud
18 member of the Norfolk City Democratic Committee. I
19 wanted to tell you that because -- excuse me,
20 Mr. Chairman. I'll wait.

21 I apologize. But we citizens are entitled
22 to have the full attention of the committee when we're
23 trying to make a point.

24 DELEGATE JONES: Please continue.

25 MR. JAMES: I think that history is

1 important. And don't anybody panic or leave. It will
2 be a very thumbnail sketch and brief history. About
3 four decades ago, I, as a proud independent Democrat,
4 broke ranks with my party and went to campaign for
5 Governor Holton and that was a very smart choice that I
6 made.

7 And the reason I mention that is because
8 Governor Holton was the first governor to break the
9 good-old-boy system. No disrespect to you guys sitting
10 on the podium. I hope the ladies in the audience
11 notice it's all the guys, no ladies. The fact of the
12 matter is that in those days, we finally got both
13 minorities, as well as women, appointed to our
14 government in Virginia. Fast-forward. End of your
15 history lesson.

16 Suddenly, on March 31st of 2011, I wake up
17 to what I clearly, as you must understand by now,
18 believe is a full-frontal attack on women's
19 representation in the General Assembly. And although I
20 am not targeting the Senate at this point, I would
21 suggest to you gentlemen in the House, you have taken
22 and killed my delegate in the 87. I really don't
23 appreciate that, but be patient. Robin Wright has also
24 been targeted for elimination.

25 So we're dealing with approximately close

1 to a million people on the Southside and the Peninsula
2 who are going to lose representation from one of the
3 under-represented groups in the House.

4 Nobody seems to want to talk about this,
5 and I have attended others of the redistricting
6 hearings, and I waited patiently to hear whether the
7 League of Women Voters or somebody would come forward
8 and take this on.

9 I've decided tonight to take it on simply
10 because I don't have a death wish politically, but I do
11 wish to call attention to the fact that the plan that's
12 being put forward ignores the independent commission of
13 the Governor and the young people who have gone to
14 great lengths to draw maps and districts that you guys
15 really need to pay attention to. It is a well-designed
16 project from everything that I've been able to see, and
17 they deserve, as our future representatives and
18 leaders, to be paid attention to.

19 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 DELEGATE JONES: You're so welcome. Thank
21 you for coming up.

22 Next we have Laura and David Irby.

23 MS. IRBY: No, no. No, no.

24 DELEGATE JONES: No, no. I got the
25 signal.

1 MR. IRBY: You don't want to hear what I
2 have to say.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Okay. Pete Burkheimer,
4 Chesapeake Republican Party.

5 Good evening, Pete.

6 MR. BURKHIMER: Good evening, Delegate
7 Jones, and members of the group on the dais tonight.
8 I'll try to move a little closer so you can hear me.

9 I am the current chairman of the
10 Republican Party in the City of Chesapeake. As many
11 speakers have noted, I, too, was at the December
12 hearing of the Senate and the September hearing of the
13 House. A few of those were poor investments on my part
14 and the part of the other attendees. They were all
15 very civil matters. They had the appearance of bodies
16 actually wanting the input from the citizenry as if
17 they were going to take it into consideration, and I
18 think to some extent it was.

19 And I'll focus on the redistricting plan
20 for the city districts as crafted by the Senate
21 Democratic Caucus. It's nothing less than an
22 abomination as it affects the Hampton Roads area.

23 Unlike some of the previous speakers, I'm
24 not under the illusion that because Chesapeake has
25 almost exactly ten percent more population than the

1 magic number for the Senate seat that we're going to
2 get exactly one senator covering exactly 200,000 and
3 change folks, and then the other 20,000 and some will
4 go someplace else. Nor that Virginia Beach will get
5 two in the same manner because it has almost exactly
6 ten percent more than what it would need to deserve,
7 quote, unquote, two senators.

8 But for the life of me, I can find no good
9 reason why Chesapeake couldn't have one senator whose
10 district encompasses about 80 percent of our
11 population, and why Virginia Beach couldn't have two
12 senators, each of whose districts comprised about 80
13 percent of the population of Virginia Beach.

14 Our good friend, Senator Miller, could get
15 some part of one or the other of our two cities,
16 Virginia Beach and Chesapeake, and Senator Lucas. And
17 that's all fine and understandable.

18 Nor am I under any illusion that there
19 wouldn't be some advantage taken by the party in power
20 in the Senate to try to create a little advantage for
21 their side. We understand how politics works. But
22 what part of subtlety did the Democrats who drew that
23 plan not understand?

24 When something is as flagrantly abusive of
25 the standard principles of district drawing that have

1 been so eloquently spoken tonight as, for example, the
2 proposed new lines for the 14 Senate districts, it
3 makes a mockery out of any attempt to pretend to seek
4 the public input. It's just abusive. It's absurd.
5 And I have to say, I mean, it's absurd on its face.

6 If you draw an outline of the 14 districts
7 as proposed and hold it up by itself, not on the whole
8 map of Virginia, it looks like the profile of Homer
9 Simpson having had the previous speaker's bowl of crack
10 for breakfast and with a maniacal smile on his face. I
11 mean, to have a district that goes from Lake Drummond
12 almost to Fort Story is patently absurd. It just is
13 ridiculous.

14 And I appreciate those of you from the
15 Democratic Party being here to look at this because you
16 had to know this was coming. And it didn't have to be
17 that much. You could work for a little advantage
18 without going to such an extent that it will actually
19 make my personal job easier in a way, because my job as
20 chairman of the Republicans in Chesapeake is to elect
21 Republicans and to rally our folks to get out and work
22 the polls and raise funds and run for office and do the
23 things that try to keep my party in power.

24 My good friend, Mr. Hayes, does the same
25 thing for his side of Chesapeake. That's what we do.

1 When things are normal and routine and within limits,
2 sometimes we can lull ourselves to sleep and not be as
3 aggressive or as energized as we might be. But you
4 have clamped battery cables, jumper cables to us and
5 attached it to a very large battery.

6 And this is -- you run out of adjectives:
7 absurd, abomination, egregious. Abomination was a
8 noun. But you run out of terms to describe how
9 obvious -- how obviously inconsistent with all the
10 principles of good districting practice of the 14
11 districts. It's unfair to Virginia Beach. It's unfair
12 to Chesapeake. Chesapeake would be left without a
13 single senator that really had a majority of
14 Chesapeake, and the damage to Virginia Beach has been
15 eloquently and adequately spoken to.

16 So again, I don't know what to do because
17 this is just another hearing like the ones we had in
18 September and December. And I have very, very little
19 confidence that my statements or those of anybody
20 arguing on merit will do any good whatsoever. I would
21 hope that some of the drafters, the persons in power to
22 draft that, certainly the people who have written up
23 the document, the redistricting plan, would at least
24 consider the law of unintended consequences spoken to
25 by somebody before me. Gosh, did you really mean to go

1 that far? Did you really mean to go so far beyond any
2 boundary of reason?

3 Thank you.

4 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

5 Next we have Debbie Ritter.

6 Good evening.

7 MS. RITTER: Good evening. It's not great
8 to be from Chesapeake because you have to -- I can't
9 keep up with Pete. My name is Debbie Ritter. I'm a
10 member of the Chesapeake City Council. I'd like to
11 note that two members are with me tonight. Mr. Hayes
12 is also here from our council, Rick West, and Suzy
13 Kelly.

14 Thank you very much for holding these
15 hearings. And I would note that Chesapeake is
16 represented in some form or fashion by all but two of
17 you sitting at the dais, and we appreciate the work you
18 do for us. We think we have a great delegation, and we
19 work well with each and every one of you and appreciate
20 what you do for our city. I also cannot believe and
21 know that none of you sitting at the dais were part and
22 parcel of crafting the Senate district in our area of
23 Hampton Roads.

24 I'm going to take a little bit of a step
25 back and tell you that when you take 75 percent of the

1 voters -- and maybe it's not 75, maybe it's 60, I
2 don't -- 60, 75, doesn't matter that much to me -- from
3 the resident senator and move it to another city, I
4 don't know who crafted that plan, but they obviously
5 cared nothing for the voters and citizens of the City
6 of Chesapeake. Apparently, we can lump Virginia Beach
7 into that.

8 We feel that we are good citizens of the
9 Commonwealth, and there's not much reason that this
10 should happen to our resident senator. And all of
11 you -- and there's a lot of discussion about politics
12 tonight, and there's a cold, hard reality of politics.
13 Someone who represents the majority of citizens in a
14 district from one city is certainly going to run for a
15 seat for that city and really completely disenfranchise
16 Chesapeake of having a senator who lives within our
17 boundary. That is so patently unfair to every person
18 in our city.

19 Our representatives, again, Delegate
20 Cosgrove, Delegate Spruill, both live in the City of
21 Chesapeake, but the rest of you know who you are. We
22 work well together. We have a delegation that helps
23 each other out. Please do not take our city and throw
24 us into the trash heap of not having a senator who
25 lives in the third largest city in Virginia.

1 Thank you so much. I'd love to have my
2 colleagues get up. They think you all might want to go
3 home tonight in the rain. But thank you again for
4 being here.

5 And if you could take a message to those
6 who crafted the Senate plan, please tell -- please tell
7 them it is not acceptable --

8 A SPEAKER: At all.

9 MS. RITTER: Delegate Jones, pardon me.

10 A SPEAKER: At all.

11 MS. RITTER: And we know there may be some
12 tweaking in the House plan. I'm going to take a page
13 from your delegates' role. We love you all. We're
14 happy to have you all, but we're real happy that John
15 and Lionell keep a majority of their district in our
16 city.

17 Thank you.

18 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

19 And I think you wanted members of the City
20 Council to stand.

21 MS. RITTER: Oh, could they?

22 DELEGATE JONES: Do you want to stand if
23 you're from Chesapeake City Council?

24 MS. RITTER: Oh, the Mayor just came in.

25 DELEGATE JONES: And the Mayor.

1 MS. RITTER: Would you allow him to say a
2 word? I don't know if he signed up. We promise we'll
3 get the hook.

4 DELEGATE JONES: Mr. Hayes is the next
5 one. I guess the Mayor could trump him if he would
6 allow that.

7 I have Teresa, and I can't read the last
8 name. G-l-r-d-y or G-l-r-c-h. I do apologize. I read
9 doctors' writings all day long, but I can't make out
10 the last name. But I apologize. I know you're from
11 Virginia Beach, and I thank you for coming out. If
12 you'll help me with your last name, I'd really
13 appreciate it.

14 MS. GLADY: Good evening. My name is
15 Teresa Gladly, and I'm a resident of Virginia Beach.
16 And I first want to thank you all -- I first want to
17 thank you for your service. I also want to thank you
18 for exposing Hampton University students to the
19 political process.

20 As mentioned by the delegates -- as
21 mentioned by the delegates earlier, redistricting
22 should reflect compactness, contiguity, preservation of
23 political subdivisions, preservation of
24 community-shared interest, and be in compliance with
25 Section 2 of the Voters' Rights Act.

1 To avoid unfairness, I believe an
2 independent commission should use a computer database
3 program that includes an interactive protocol that
4 would draw the boundaries. And it would be like
5 dividing a cookie, and each side would determine which
6 side they would like. For example, if one side wants
7 more chocolate chips, and the other side wants more of
8 the cookie, then I think that would help resolve a lot
9 of the problems.

10 Thank you.

11 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming out.

12 Mr. Hayes, good evening. I've got you
13 signed up. Would you like to speak? If not, I think
14 the Mayor would like to take your place.

15 MR. HAYES: Well, I'll be brief because I
16 was signing up just as an attendee.

17 DELEGATE JONES: We'd love to hear from
18 you.

19 MR. HAYES: Since you called on me, good
20 evening, Mr. Chairman, and members of the dais. We do
21 appreciate the fact that you take the time to come and
22 to listen and to hear out the wishes of the people.
23 It's very important.

24 In trying to follow the plans that have
25 been introduced, whether it's been the House, Senate,

1 or even the independent or bipartisan commission that's
2 been appointed by the Governor, most recently the House
3 and the Senate plans that have been placed online, they
4 continue to change, as I understand, and evolve. As
5 recent as this afternoon, a couple of versions of the
6 Senate plan have been unfolding. So it would be my
7 assumption that you all would continue to listen to all
8 this information as you get together and decide on what
9 proposal you're going to present to the Governor.

10 And while I won't speak to too much
11 specificity with regards to the plans, I will say, just
12 keep in mind certain fundamental principles. One,
13 accountability, transparency, and the fact that we need
14 to feel empowered as citizens.

15 Accountability in the fact that not only
16 do we, as citizens, want to hold our elected officials
17 accountable, but I think in large measure, the elected
18 officials themselves want to be held accountable. What
19 I mean by that is, please consider some of the these
20 districts, in particular, the Senate side, are
21 stretching so far that it's virtually impossible for
22 one to perform at their best and to get around and to
23 know their district as best as possible.

24 The other thing with regard to
25 transparency, please do all that you can to make sure

1 that you listen and hear what the people are saying and
2 not to ignore that.

3 In terms of empowerment, as has already
4 been stated, we've had students work on plans. We had
5 the independent commission. We had the House and the
6 Senate plans to come. Please take into consideration
7 all of the information that's been presented to you as
8 it's submitted. Please don't give the appearance that
9 this is just an exercise in futility. Please take into
10 consideration the information that's been submitted to
11 you.

12 It's been said earlier, someone pointed to
13 this issue of voter turnout. We all would want as much
14 participation in this process as possible when it comes
15 to our election. I think a great number of people
16 watch this process to see what happens, and in a way of
17 apathy, many people don't participate because they feel
18 like their voice won't be heard, or no matter what they
19 do, those folks will just do what it is that they want
20 to do, and my work won't matter.

21 So please do everything you can to take
22 into consideration all the information that has been
23 presented to you, whether it's the House, the Senate
24 side, the bipartisan commission, as well as the plans
25 that the students have.

1 Thank you.

2 DELEGATE JONES: And before the next
3 speaker comes up, I'd just like to make a comment on
4 that point.

5 Ten years ago, I carried the bill in the
6 House. We had public hearings, and out of those public
7 hearings came some very good suggestions. And there
8 was an amendment to that bill before it got to final
9 passage. And so we do consider and welcome all input
10 from the community because we cannot go to every corner
11 of the Commonwealth.

12 We can try to adhere one person, one vote,
13 and I'm just so impressed. We have over 170 people
14 here this evening, elected officials, students, and
15 private citizens taking the time out of their busy day
16 and fighting traffic and awful weather to come out to
17 express to us what you would like for us to do on your
18 behalf as your elected representatives. So I do thank
19 you for those comments.

20 Next we have Pam Southall, I believe, from
21 Chesapeake.

22 MS. SOUTHALL: I'm sorry. I did sign the
23 wrong list tonight because it said signup sheet in the
24 back, and I'm just here to listen, and I'm a concerned
25 citizen. But I will yield to my Mayor, if he would

1 like to say something.

2 Mayor Krasnoff.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Mr. Mayor, I think you've
4 been had. Mayor Krasnoff, good evening. Thank you for
5 coming.

6 MAYOR KRASNOFF: Delegate Jones, it is so
7 good to see your face indeed, and all of you are my
8 friends. I appreciate being here.

9 Senator Martin, it's good to see you.

10 I got to tell you, I hope, Mr. Howell,
11 you're doing well. You have my condolences with
12 respect to your family.

13 It's good seeing many of you. What is
14 this, open home week with all of you up here?
15 Fantastic. But I will be brief. And again, I know --
16 I understand Mr. Pete Burkheimer spoke, and I also know
17 that one of my council colleagues spoke, Debbie Ritter.
18 And I want to thank Ms. Southall for the opportunity.

19 You are indeed beautiful.

20 She is. Indeed.

21 Okay. Now, to get to the most important
22 thing of looking at the Senate district is when we talk
23 about commonality. And I do know when it comes to
24 commonality, if you look at Chesapeake and you expand,
25 you can appreciate Chesapeake is a growing city. It's

1 222,000 people. It's a city that continues to grow.
2 In fact, Virginia Beach is a city of, I believe,
3 436,000. Granted, it's the largest in the
4 Commonwealth. However, it is leveling off.

5 And it's important that the commonality --
6 if you continue going south in Chesapeake, you'll
7 appreciate the openness and the amount of growth that's
8 still needed and going on there. But more importantly,
9 as you go north, as you go into Virginia Beach, there
10 is no more commonality to look at it. And I think
11 that's extremely important when we look at the plan.
12 The one thing you always talk about is commonality of
13 interest. I hope that you look at Chesapeake in that
14 respect.

15 I think it's extremely important, and I
16 can't over-emphasize the fact that Chesapeake is
17 continuing to grow. It is a growing city of great
18 dimensions, of proportions, and we appreciate the fact
19 that all and what you do. And we care about the fact
20 that you keep Chesapeake whole as much as you possibly
21 can because of that commonality of interest.

22 I thank you so much for allowing me just a
23 few moments and the opportunity to share with you, and
24 God bless.

25 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming out,

1 Mr. Mayor.

2 MAYOR KRASNOFF: Thank you.

3 DELEGATE JONES: Next we have Mr. Walt
4 Latham, who is the York County Voter Registrar.

5 MR. LATHAM: Yes, I am. I am really
6 appreciative of being able to come here and speak
7 before you all.

8 We've been going through a little bit of
9 redistricting in our own locality, and so I know that
10 you do not have an easy task. I am, like Delegate
11 Jones said, the Voter Registrar for York County. I'm
12 also the Regional Director for the Hampton Roads and
13 Tidewater Registrars' Association. Excuse me. And we
14 work very hard with our electoral boards to try to make
15 sure that elections are administered fairly and as
16 efficiently as possible.

17 And we would ask that over the next few
18 days as these plans are debated and your registrars or
19 board members contact you, you take into account the
20 possibility of maybe not splitting some precincts.
21 That would really be nice because it increases our
22 costs.

23 With the current Senate and House plans
24 that have been proposed, we go in York County from
25 seven ballots styles to 13 ballot styles, and that

1 really makes the administration of an absentee precinct
2 more difficult. And one of our precincts will probably
3 have three ballot styles just in that precinct. So we
4 would really appreciate you listening to us. You do
5 when we come up for legislative day and other times of
6 the year.

7 The way you draw the districts is a policy
8 decision. We will do whatever you vote on and the
9 Department of Justice pre-clears. But we ask that you
10 consider the efficiency of your splits and the way that
11 those splits are drawn and take into account what your
12 registrars and board members tell you.

13 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for coming out.
14 Thank you for your service.

15 Next, Jason Miyares.

16 Good evening, Jason.

17 MR. MIYARES: Good evening.

18 I just want to point out to the citizens
19 of Virginia Beach -- it's been touched on a little bit.
20 But Virginia Beach has the highest concentration of
21 military personnel and veterans of any locality in
22 Virginia, and if you look at the Hampton Roads area,
23 the highest concentration of military personnel in the
24 country.

25 Over 20 percent of Virginia Beach

1 residents are either active duty military or veterans.
2 These are the men that are going over and defending our
3 country overseas. And it's really disturbing to see
4 the fact that this locality is having its
5 representation basically cut in half. So many of these
6 are men and women that are serving our country.
7 They're having their representation in the Commonwealth
8 of Virginia cut in half. But that's really what this
9 plan is.

10 So I'm a little disappointed that Senator
11 Howell and Senator Saslaw weren't here today to see
12 some of this. But I have great concern of the fact
13 that it almost seems like this plan -- it's almost a
14 slap in the face of so many of our fine and brave men
15 and women in the military. And I just wanted to point
16 that out.

17 DELEGATE JONES: Next we have Mr. Carl
18 Wright from Virginia Beach.

19 Mr. Wright.

20 MR. WRIGHT: Good evening, Mr. Chairman,
21 committee members. My name is Carl Wright. I too
22 reside in the City of Virginia Beach.

23 I'm not here because of a power struggle.
24 I'm here for true representation, something as a
25 minority in the City of Virginia Beach I have -- I have

1 not had and don't have now. I don't know what the
2 purpose of the Senate cutting back on a Senate seat,
3 but I do hope that you all take a true look at what's
4 happening in the City of Virginia Beach.

5 Now, I'm glad so many of my Virginia Beach
6 neighbors came out, my dear city council person and
7 some of the others, but when it comes time for my
8 community to have representation, we don't get that
9 type of passion and support.

10 So I say to you all, particularly the
11 young folks here from the university, take in what's
12 happening tonight because I'm not here for
13 partisanship. I see enough of that back in my city.
14 What I hope that you all take into consideration is the
15 people in the community, in the City of Virginia Beach,
16 being fairly represented.

17 I've been to several of your meetings,
18 House and Senate side, and will continue to come until
19 we have fair and open and true representation in the
20 City of Virginia Beach for my children, my community,
21 and those that follow. So I don't come here because
22 we're going to lose something, because right now my
23 community don't have that.

24 I see my dear senator up there. This is
25 the second time I ever met him, and I think I'm pretty

1 stupid when it comes to -- I'm stupid when it comes to
2 politics. I'm out there all the time. But what I'm
3 saying to you all, what I want you to do when you go
4 back, put the partisanship aside for a while. Think
5 about the representation of all the folks.

6 I don't know if two senators would make
7 that much of a difference, but I know right now --
8 we're talking about maybe 50 or 60 folks here, but we
9 have 435,000 folks in the City of Virginia Beach, a
10 quarter are minorities with no representation from the
11 local to the state, and that has been going on for
12 years.

13 So like I say, I will be in Richmond, and
14 I will be in Washington if I have to. But we want
15 true, true, true representation for all the citizens in
16 the City of Virginia Beach, not just a few.

17 Thank you all.

18 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you.

19 Next we have Andrew Jackson from Virginia
20 Beach.

21 Mr. Jackson, good evening.

22 MR. JACKSON: Good evening, everyone.

23 I would like to take a moment to do
24 something.

25 Would all the students in here stand up.

1 Just stand up, please, all the students.

2 And I did that for a purpose. Thank you.

3 I'm not here about me. I'm here about
4 them. We do not understand apparently what the
5 founding fathers had in mind about representation.
6 We've lost it somewhere. So I'm going to talk to you
7 on two levels.

8 The first level is, I want you to know I'm
9 your employer. You work for me. I don't work for you.
10 When I cast my vote and you run for whatever office you
11 run for, you're applying for a job, and you bring in
12 with you your resume and who you are. And you're
13 applying for that job to represent us, the people.

14 Now, I have been to -- I don't think I've
15 missed any of these meetings, House or Senate side.
16 And I say basically the same thing, and I don't carry
17 notes. I speak from here. This is not about
18 partisanship. It's not about how many times somebody
19 gets elected. If I had the choice, I'd put some term
20 limits on it. That would stop all that mess.

21 I went to the Senate side, I guess, maybe
22 a month ago, and I told them about my experience in
23 Virginia and this country growing up.

24 And I joined the military at a young age,
25 17, which means that I put my life in jeopardy right at

1 the end of Korea. And I served 20 years, six months,
2 and 28 days, but I don't count them.

3 Now, I told you, my name is Andrew
4 Jackson, and I think I should know something about
5 politics. In that military career, it didn't make any
6 difference whether I was on some little destroyers
7 bouncing around in the North Atlantic on that
8 northern perimeter watching for Russian planes to come
9 across at that time, or whether it was the killing
10 fields of Vietnam, or whether it was the Cuban
11 blockade in '62. It didn't make a difference. What I
12 said was, this was my duty because I was fighting for
13 democracy.

14 And in those years, the early years, the
15 conflict within me was I was fighting for a democracy
16 and a freedom that I didn't have. So what you do is
17 important to me because I fought for you to do these
18 things. I fought for the kind of equality, the
19 justice, and the representation that we all, as
20 citizens of this country, ought to have and especially
21 in this state.

22 This state has a history. I once made a
23 speech to -- Mr. Howell, I think, knows something about
24 that -- in a program, and I stood before some admirals,
25 and some of us made speeches, and I made speeches. But

1 one of the things that I said was America's never been
2 America to me. And I was in dress uniform at that
3 time. But I took and I made one ending statement,
4 "America will be." So you will see me at these
5 meetings. You will see me in Richmond. You will see
6 me all over because I'm not giving up on the creed
7 until it becomes a deed.

8 You have a responsibility, all of you when
9 you're elected, to make sure that every single man,
10 woman, and child has fair representation. And there's
11 not one of you sitting here now, nor any of your
12 colleagues that aren't here, that can say what they're
13 doing right now is fair and just.

14 If you can't stand up and look in the
15 mirror and say what you're doing is right, you're
16 probably not sleeping well either. Something is wrong
17 when we have the kind of districting that we have now
18 and every man, woman, and child does not have
19 representation.

20 You've heard these words before. And I
21 usually walk away saying them. "We hold these truths
22 to be self-evident." You know the rest of it. All of
23 us want representation. And in Virginia Beach, I will
24 tell you, when you look around in this state, we have
25 the numbers for a minority-majority district if you put

1 the numbers on paper the way they should be. You run
2 the numbers. You can make it fair.

3 Don't tell me that my party -- and I don't
4 care about a party. Do what's right, and you can find
5 out what you want to do after that. But get the
6 districts right so you represent people. And never
7 ever, ever forget that some of us care enough to go the
8 distance so that you can sleep well. "We hold these
9 truths to be self-evident."

10 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you for your
11 comments and for your service to the country.

12 Next we have Mr. Andy Baan.

13 MR. BAAN: Baan.

14 DELEGATE JONES: Good evening.

15 MR. BAAN: My kids' doctor just left.

16 Doc, thanks.

17 Mr. Jackson, you know I'm an admirer of
18 yours.

19 MR. JACKSON: Thanks.

20 MR. BAAN: There you are. We share a
21 name, and thank you for your service.

22 And thank you all for your service. I
23 know you're getting paid an exorbitant amount for
24 sitting here all night. Thank you very much.

25 I don't know the backgrounds of all of

1 you, but I know that Senator Blevins, Delegate
2 Cosgrove, you guys, and my kids' doctor have -- Senator
3 Northam -- hey, Doc -- have dual representation duty,
4 and I'd ask you to reflect on those because I'm sure
5 that there's some conflict within you when that -- when
6 the votes come up. You've got to go, you know, this
7 could be good for Virginia Beach, but not good for --
8 I'm from Virginia Beach, so I'm with the rest, so you
9 know that I'm -- what I'm for. But I'd ask you to
10 reflect on that internal conflict that I know you must
11 suffer and, well, relieve yourself of that by not
12 splitting up the cities as much.

13 Another example of that is I live on one
14 side of the Lesner Bridge. And there are only a couple
15 east-west roads in Virginia Beach, and the Lesner
16 Bridge is a very important part of the transportation
17 network in Virginia Beach. And it seems to me that
18 Virginia Beach benefitted from having two senators that
19 are tied by the Lesner Bridge. That helped cause the
20 replacement of the Lesner Bridge, and I wonder if that
21 would have happened if the city was split up.

22 And then I'm also a neighborly kind of
23 guy. And, well, if I move into the neighborhood, I'd
24 like to be able to ask my next-door neighbor, "Hey,
25 who's our delegate? Who's our state senator?" And if

1 I live in the same city, I'd ask that that be made
2 easier.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

5 Next we have Charles Graves, who is a
6 student of Hampton University.

7 Good evening.

8 MR. GRAVES: You all can applaud when I'm
9 done, but I appreciate it. My name, as you said, is
10 Charles Graves. I'm a senior political science major
11 and leadership studies minor. It's exactly 38 days
12 until graduation.

13 DELEGATE JONES: But you're not counting.

14 MR. GRAVES: Yeah. I'm not counting or
15 anything.

16 I'm rising this evening because as a few
17 have mentioned, the students are here. And I really
18 appreciate that because I want to point out that
19 students, not only at Hampton, but at Norfolk State, at
20 ODU, and a number of the other colleges and
21 universities in this area have really been focused on
22 this issue.

23 You know, folks always say that, you know,
24 college students, they don't really care about, you
25 know, voting or politics. They're just kind of there,

1 if they ever show up in the first place, and that's not
2 the case at all. You've seen us as many of us actually
3 participated in the redistricting process in our
4 proposal, and we're continuing to be part of this
5 process.

6 Specifically, about this university, about
7 Hampton University, I want to point out that many --
8 that more students come to Hampton from Virginia than
9 from any other state. There are -- there are a lot of
10 Virginians here. I mean, we come from every part of
11 this state, from all parts.

12 And I think that those of us in this
13 university and at the other universities in this area,
14 that not only do we deserve a Commonwealth where in
15 this part, where the seven cities -- where Hampton
16 Roads is governed in fair districts, but where every
17 inch of this Commonwealth is governed in fair
18 districts.

19 I want to also thank -- I want to also
20 thank you for their work, of course, Senator Locke and
21 Delegate BaCote, for their hard work, both for this
22 university and on behalf of the state.

23 And I finally -- I finally want to point
24 out -- I won't take very long -- that -- I want to
25 point out, as I mentioned, many of us come from other

1 parts of this Commonwealth. If you look at, on the map
2 of both bills, the area of Alexandria, there are many
3 of us come from that area. Especially with respect to
4 Delegate Howell, in the Howell bill, I see so many
5 loops and bubbles and twists and slivers here and
6 there. I mean, I've got pretty good eyes, but I
7 can't -- you know, I'm doing one of these, too, trying
8 to figure out where, which is which.

9 And the same is true if you look at
10 central Virginia, if you look at Richmond. The same is
11 true if you look at Roanoke. The same is true if you
12 go to southern Virginia down in the Danville area. The
13 same is true if you go to western Virginia, out in
14 Nelson County and Rockbridge County. The same is true
15 in nearly every part of this Commonwealth. I can't
16 hardly find which district is where, and, you know,
17 which little squiggly is which here because there's so
18 many.

19 With that, and with respect to the members
20 on the dais and many other elected officials at every
21 level who have -- who have come here today and all the
22 ordinary citizens who have come out, I want to thank
23 you for your service. And finally, as an independent
24 voter, as someone who makes my decisions as well based
25 not on -- not on party affiliation or this or that, to

1 be perfectly honest with you, many of you on this -- on
2 this dais, I'm not entirely sure which party you
3 represent, but it's entirely a matter of service and
4 the quality of that service in your duties, in your
5 offices.

6 And so I certainly hope on behalf of those
7 across -- all across this area and across the
8 Commonwealth who you all represent, that you will do
9 the right thing and come up with districts that are
10 fair, that are reasonable, with areas that share common
11 values and common beliefs rather than just switch this
12 area for that area based on, you know, who votes
13 Republican versus who votes Democrat here. That's not
14 the way our system of government was founded and
15 created. We believe in a fair and equitable
16 government, and I certainly hope that you all will
17 stick up for that value in your service on our
18 government.

19 Thank you.

20 DELEGATE JONES: The last speaker that I
21 have signed up is Mr. Frank Driscoll. It's going to be
22 a tough act to follow there, Frank.

23 MR. DRISCOLL: Isn't it wonderful that I'm
24 last.

25 DELEGATE JONES: I'll see if there's

1 anyone else who would like to speak when you're done.

2 MR. DRISCOLL: I'm Frank Driscoll. I'm a
3 damn Yankee. I came here in 1966, and I stayed. The
4 Commonwealth of Virginia is my choice.

5 I've been to four of these since I came to
6 Virginia, and I've watched them slice and dice all the
7 cities of the greater Hampton Roads area to the point
8 where we don't have representation individually for our
9 cities. You're doing a terrible job in the Senate
10 redistricting now to the Beach. Chesapeake is going
11 from, I think, from 11 delegates that had a piece of us
12 at one time, and I don't know how many now. We've got
13 two delegates we really know, John Cosgrove, and my
14 very good Republican friend up there.

15 You should eat at Angie's.

16 Anyway, the point being is I heard people
17 behind me, and they said some very good things about
18 representation for all. And the City of Chesapeake,
19 where I have my principal residence, and the City of
20 Virginia Beach, where I have another property, really
21 needs to be kept whole and kept so that they can go to
22 Richmond and truly represent the greater Hampton Roads
23 area.

24 Thank you.

25 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you, Frank.

1 Before we close the public hearing, is
2 there anyone else in the audience who did not sign up
3 but would wish to speak this evening?

4 Irene, good evening.

5 MS. THURSTON: Good evening, Mr. Chairman.
6 My name is Irene Thurston, and I reside in Chesapeake.

7 First of all, I'd like to ditto my
8 chairman and my council member.

9 Oh, I'm not close enough.

10 And I want to say that I like partisan
11 politics. The reason I like it is because through the
12 years, I've worked very hard, along with my Republican
13 candidates, to elect good people, good people that
14 represent Chesapeake. We are a non-partisan election
15 in Chesapeake, and we are the type of people that get
16 out and work rather than sit home and wait for somebody
17 to call us to go to the polls.

18 We've won seven seats in our last
19 election. That's because the Republicans work. That's
20 because the Republicans went to the polls to vote.
21 Other people, independents, Democrats, have the same
22 opportunity. So I don't have a problem with partisan
23 politics.

24 I would like to see my senator, Senator
25 Blevins, remain in Chesapeake as a senator. I don't

1 know whether you're going to carve him out to where it
2 won't happen, but I do feel that I'd like to see him
3 stay where he is. And I'd like for you all to consider
4 that.

5 And quite frankly, I don't mind you men
6 representing us, mainly because most women behind you
7 are very strong, so they know what you're up to.

8 So anyway, I'd like you to consider
9 keeping Chesapeake at least so that we have our very
10 own senator. Thank you.

11 DELEGATE JONES: Anyone else?

12 Yes, ma'am. Please come forward. Good
13 evening.

14 MS. CHIERA: Good evening. My name is
15 Ashley Chiera. I'm a junior political science major at
16 Christopher Newport.

17 I just have a couple of things to say
18 first. I want to thank you all for being here, for
19 listening to the citizens. Hopefully, they'll talk
20 about it.

21 A few weeks ago, I spoke in front of many
22 of these same people, as well as the Governor's
23 commission and presented maps. I was involved in the
24 redistricting competition. And I would just like to
25 say, I don't want my work to go unnoticed, and I feel

1 like it is. These, you clearly didn't look at them.

2 I'm sorry. You didn't.

3 To speak to what the student said earlier,
4 the lines don't have to be drawn that way. I can get a
5 computer and show you right now. They don't have to
6 be. Okay? I've done it. I put time into it, and I
7 did it. Okay?

8 And that's all I have to say.

9 DELEGATE JONES: Is there anyone else
10 wishing to speak this evening? Anyone else wishing to
11 speak?

12 Yes, sir, please.

13 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening. And thank
14 you for being here. I appreciate it. My name is Carl
15 Anderson. For full disclosure and the like, I am one
16 of the co-leaders of the Peninsula Tea Party. I am
17 also the chairman of the Republican Party of Hampton.

18 I'm interested in some of these districts
19 that I've seen here and how you can justify in the City
20 of Hampton having 30 precincts. And one of these plans
21 has ten of them as split precincts, one of those with
22 5,158 voters in one of those splits and three voters in
23 the other split. Another district with 5,910 in one
24 split, and the rest of that precinct has 78 people
25 standing in the same line at the same precinct to vote

1 and having different ballots.

2 The contiguousness, the compactness of
3 these districts is like you've heard here, and we've
4 heard it at other redistricting meetings. Everybody
5 that's standing up here is saying that we need compact
6 and contiguous districts, and we haven't seen it yet.
7 We really need some help.

8 And our registrar is here, and we're going
9 to have trouble with all the ballots, the election
10 process. We really need to have the City of Hampton
11 not split as it is now with three congressional
12 districts. Now you're looking to bring in three
13 senatorial districts. It's just too split out.

14 You end up within your congressional
15 districts -- for example, you have a congressman who
16 has a large area, all the way up to the Manassas area,
17 and we're the tail end of their district. They have a
18 lot of citizens to consider, and we're the tail end.

19 We have another district that goes all the
20 way to Richmond and comes down here. We're the tail
21 end of another district. We have another district that
22 goes to the Maryland state line and Virginia Beach, and
23 we're tail end of that district.

24 How does that give us representation when
25 we have to have three different congressmen that we

1 have to convince that our little piece of their
2 district needs full representation?

3 Thank you.

4 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

5 Anyone else?

6 MS. KELLY: Thank you very much. I know
7 it's a long evening for you guys, and I appreciate all
8 of you all being here.

9 I first want to thank, I think,
10 Mr. Graves. You did a great job of representing the
11 students here, and I think that that was very well
12 said, very well put. And I think he represented a lot
13 of what everybody at home, if they could speak tonight,
14 would probably be saying.

15 Actually, I'm on City Council in
16 Chesapeake, but I don't consider myself a politician.
17 I'm a business person, and so I look at things that
18 make sense and things that don't make sense. And just
19 like the students were saying, just like probably 98
20 percent of the people that came up here said, these
21 things just don't pass the common sense test.

22 Now, like I said, as a business person, I
23 don't need to have committees. I don't need to have
24 public hearings. You can look at a map. It doesn't
25 work. I hope that we can all go back and say the

1 cities want to be intact. The counties want to be
2 intact. Let's try and do this very reasonably and use
3 some common sense in determining how we're going to
4 redistrict. It's not partisan. It's not gender. It's
5 simply where we live and how we vote.

6 So I ask that you just do what the folks
7 say. The folks at home that elected us, most of them
8 don't even know this is going on. They won't know
9 until they go to the polls and vote. Why am I voting
10 for this person? Why am I not voting for you? They
11 don't get it. They elected us to do the right thing,
12 and they don't notice this until it impacts them. So
13 again, I think it was well put by everybody here this
14 evening. We'd like some common sense in this
15 district.

16 Thank you.

17 DELEGATE JONES: Thank you very much.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Mary Williams.
19 I live in York County. I didn't come prepared, so this
20 is kind of just off the cuff.

21 I'd like to thank you, but I'm not going
22 to because I've been to these meetings and been to
23 these meetings, and you know and I know and they know
24 you're not listening. Okay? I am a Tea Party patriot.
25 I didn't know my co-leader was going to be here, but

1 here we are. We want you to listen.

2 These kids told you they put the time in.
3 You had a separate government -- excuse me --
4 Governor's committee. You're not listening. Make it
5 compact. Make it contiguous. Make it cost-effective.
6 Come on and hear us. We're watching you.

7 DELEGATE JONES: Anyone else wishing to
8 speak tonight. Anyone else wishing to speak?

9 If not, before we close, I want to thank
10 Hampton University for hosting us this evening. My
11 wife is a 1982 graduate of Hampton and proud to be so.
12 I want to thank all the elected leaders of Hampton
13 Roads who came out this evening, and I especially want
14 to thank the citizens who took time from their busy
15 schedules to come out and tell us what was on your
16 mind.

17 And what I would encourage each of you to
18 do is go to the website. What you think doesn't make
19 sense, you can go right on there, and you can hit the
20 cursor, and you can make a comment. And that comment
21 will be logged. It will be considered by the -- I can
22 tell you, by P&E. It's my bill that we're going to be
23 voting on next week. We will consider all comments
24 that are received, and we will do what we can do to
25 improve, if we can split precincts, et cetera.

1 I thank you for coming out this evening.

2 This meeting is over.

3

4 (The proceedings were concluded.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CITY OF NORFOLK, to wit:

I, Susan Feehery, CCR, Court Reporter, a Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of Virginia at large, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of my Stenotype notes of the proceedings had at the time and place in the caption mentioned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 8th day of April 2011.

Susan E. Feehery, CCR, Notary Public

Notary Registration No: 259417

My Commission expires June 30, 2014.