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SENATE OF VIRGINIA:
PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING)
FAIRFAX COUNTY)
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA)

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A public hearing was held on Saturday,
April 2, 2011, commencing at 10:34 a.m. in the
County Boardroom, 12011 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, Virginia before Paula L. Lowery, Notary
Registration No. 162073, Notary Public.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF THE PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:

SEN. JANET HOWELL, CHAIR

SEN. GEORGE BARKER

SEN. J. CHAPMAN PETERSEN

DEL. MARK COLE

DEL. JACKSON MILLER

DEL. MARK SICKLES

DEL. JAMES SCOTT

DEL. DAVE MARSDEN

DEL. TIMOTHY HUGO

I N D E X

	SPEAKERS:	PAGE
1		
2		
3		
4	Linda Smith	10
5	Rob Jackson	11
6	Therese Martin	14
7	Olga Hernandez	18
8	Sara Fitzgerald	22
9	Carol Noggle	26
10	Genie Nguyen	29
11	Leslie Gelman	32
12	Aran Wallingford	33
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		

P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 SENATOR HOWELL: My name is Janet Howell,
4 I'm a member of the Senate, and I chair the Senate
5 Privileges & Elections Committee.

6 With me today is Delegate Mark Cole, who
7 chairs the House Privileges & Elections Committee,
8 and we have several delegates and senators who
9 I'll ask to introduce themselves, starting with
10 Senator Marsden.

11 SEN. MARSDEN: I'm Dave Marsden. I
12 represent the Burke, West Springfield, Chantilly,
13 Centreville, Fairfax Station area.

14 DEL. SICKLES: I'm Mark Sickles from the
15 43rd, which is Franconia and Lorton.

16 DEL. COLE: Mark Cole, I represent the
17 88th District in the House of Delegates. It
18 includes parts of Spotsylvania and Fauquier
19 County.

20 SEN. HOWELL: I'm Janet Howell. I
21 represent Herndon, Reston, Great Falls, McLean,
22 part of Falls Church, and Tysons.

1 SEN. BARKER: I'm George Barker of the
2 State Senate, and I represent the area starting a
3 little bit south of here in southern Fairfax
4 County all the way from Telegraph Road and the
5 Beltway, all the way over to Little Rocky Run in
6 Clifton, as well as part of Prince William County.

7 DEL. MILLER: State Delegate Jackson
8 Miller. I represent the cities of Manassas and
9 Manassas Park, and parts of Prince William County
10 for the 58th House District.

11 SEN. HOWELL: We all would like to
12 welcome you and thank you for coming to this
13 public hearing and participating.

14 Over the last fall and winter, both the
15 House committee and Senate committee began
16 conducting public hearings across the state to
17 hear from the public about the redistricting
18 process that is now upon us.

19 In addition, eight public hearings on
20 redistricting are scheduled across the
21 Commonwealth before we go into special session on
22 Monday. Thursday night there were three. Today

1 there are four, and on Monday there will be one
2 more in Richmond.

3 During these hearings we are in a
4 listening mode. We want to hear what you are
5 thinking. We welcome your comments, and it will
6 be considered and will be continuously received.
7 We are going to take your comments seriously.

8 In addition to these hearings, we will be
9 reading the comments sent to the Division of
10 Legislative Services Redistricting website. We
11 view these hearings as an opportunity for us to
12 hear from the public and receive your input.

13 We're under considerable time
14 constraints. Because Virginia holds its General
15 Assembly elections this year, unlike most states
16 which will do it next year, our time table is very
17 short. It's only been one month since we received
18 the corrected census data.

19 Looking forward, because we are a Voting
20 Rights State, we must send our plans to the
21 Department of Justice which has 60 days to
22 pre-clear them. We must also follow all state and

1 federal laws for the timing of our primary and
2 general elections. This has resulted in a very
3 compressed schedule.

4 Next week during our redistricting
5 special session, bills will be introduced by
6 legislators and those bills will go through the
7 normal legislative process.

8 Dramatic shifts in Virginia population
9 require changes in district lines. Some
10 districts, including Senate Districts 29 and 33,
11 were grossly overpopulated. Others were
12 significantly underpopulated, including all of the
13 majority black Senate districts.

14 Some regions will lose representation.
15 Other regions will gain representation. Northern
16 Virginia is gaining representation. All of this
17 is due to the one person/one vote federal and
18 state requirements.

19 This past Tuesday afternoon Senate
20 Democrats entered a proposed plan to the General
21 Assembly's Division of Legislative Services. We
22 are considering making some changes and actually

1 have made some changes already based on public
2 comments.

3 We will be continuing through the weekend
4 and next week to make possible modifications to
5 that plan. You can find the plan on the
6 Legislative Services website.

7 We believe our proposed plan fully
8 complies with all applicable federal and state
9 requirements, including the one person/one vote
10 requirement of the federal and state constitution,
11 the Voting Rights Act, and the Virginia
12 Constitution.

13 Now Del. Cole has some comments.

14 DEL. COLE: I just want to welcome
15 everyone coming out on a Saturday morning. I'm
16 sure you all had better things to do.

17 Again, this is the latest in a series of
18 public hearings that actually started last fall on
19 redistricting. We now have some specific plans
20 and proposals that have been put forward, and
21 we're here to solicit your thoughts, hear what you
22 have to say, and I would also encourage you to

1 keep up with the redistricting at the Virginia
2 redistricting website.

3 Also, please contact your state senator,
4 your house delegate and give them your thoughts on
5 redistricting as well. Every member of the
6 General Assembly will have input into the process.
7 Thank you.

8 SEN. HOWELL: Just for your information,
9 we do have a court reporter who will take down all
10 of your comments, and they will be posted on the
11 Division of Legislative Services website. They
12 will be available for members who are not at this
13 hearing and everyone can read the comments.

14 Also, we'd ask that you limit your
15 comments to three minutes. We won't be brutal
16 about that, but three minutes I think is the
17 amount of time we agreed to use state wide.

18 I hope you are aware you could have
19 signed up as you came in. If not, there is still
20 a sign-up sheet in the back.

21 The first person we have is a member of
22 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Linda

1 Smith.

2 MS. SMITH: Good morning. Thank you,
3 first of all, for having this public hearing. We
4 in the county have been doing the same exercise
5 for redistricting and, of course, we had a citizen
6 task force to review the plans. We will be having
7 our own public hearings on April 12th and April
8 26th for the county.

9 One of the things, when looking at the
10 state plans that raised some concerns, at least in
11 my district and I'm sure others as well, is that
12 we do have more in the way of split precincts.
13 Where you draw those lines in precincts means very
14 easily that you can be dividing neighborhoods.

15 When we looked at our redistricting
16 efforts in the county, that was one of the
17 principles that we tried to follow -- not to split
18 up neighborhoods.

19 In Providence, under the House plan, I'm
20 looking at the possibility of two precincts being
21 split: Woodburn and Mantua. I don't know exactly
22 where that line is, but I do know, particularly in

1 Mantua, they're carving up a neighborhood.

2 I think that's something that needs to be
3 looked at. We're not talking about census blocks
4 of numbers always in redistricting. We have
5 neighborhoods and people.

6 I hope you will look at some of these
7 precincts. I understand in the county there are
8 probably about 20 for either the House or Senate.
9 So please keep that in mind and try to keep the
10 neighborhoods together. Thank you.

11 SEN. HOWELL: Rob Jackson from the McLean
12 Citizens Association.

13 MR. JACKSON: Good morning, thank you
14 very much for taking time out of your busy
15 schedules to come listen to the community's
16 interests.

17 I'm Rob Jackson. I'm president of McLean
18 Citizens Association. We represent 26,000
19 households through a 40 person board of directors,
20 and I also had the privilege of serving on the
21 county's redistricting task force this year.

22 We strongly object to the Senate

1 Democratic and House Republican redistricting
2 plans because they split McLean into pieces and
3 put us in the districts where we have no
4 commonality of interest with some people in other
5 communities.

6 We don't think these plans meet the
7 standards for compactness and for accommodating
8 communities of interest.

9 You might recall that last summer McLean
10 celebrated its 100th anniversary as a community,
11 and we had a lot of elected officials there who
12 recognized this is a community.

13 Besides the McLean Citizens Association,
14 which has been operating since 1914 as the
15 unofficial town council for McLean, we have other
16 organizations including Greater McLean Chamber of
17 Commerce, McLean Community Foundation, McLean
18 Athletics, McLean Rotary, McLean Planning
19 Committee, McLean Revitalization Corporation,
20 McLean Community Center, McLean Project for the
21 Arts, McLean Historical Society, and McLean
22 Orchestra. All act as evidence that this a

1 community.

2 We think these two plans ignore the
3 importance of keeping all of greater McLean in a
4 single district to the greatest extent possible.
5 We understand that there are political factors
6 involved, but again, the representatives represent
7 the community not the other way around.

8 We don't like the slicing and dicing of
9 McLean into pieces and putting us together with
10 especially Arlington County. Certainly we're
11 neighbors with Arlington County and work with
12 them, but we have very different views on issues.

13 If you have a delegate or senator
14 representing both of those areas, one side is
15 going to lose automatically on those issues.
16 That's just not right. That's not good
17 government.

18 We have a number of people who have said
19 they like the 27th senatorial district in concept
20 and the Watkins plan because it keeps McLean
21 together and pairs us with communities of
22 interest.

1 What we'd like is for our elected
2 officials to support plans to keep McLean together
3 to the greatest extent possible and, if needed,
4 pair us with communities in Fairfax County, most
5 especially counties that are in the new
6 Dranesville supervisory district.

7 Thank you very much for your time.

8 SEN. HOWELL: Thank you.

9 We've been joined this morning by Sen.
10 John Petersen and Delegate Tim Hugo.

11 Next is Therese Martin.

12 MS. MARTIN: Good morning, and thank you
13 members of the Senate and House Committees. I'm
14 Therese Martin, and I am speaking for myself. I
15 have been a Virginia resident for 44 years and
16 paid some attention to the redistrictings that
17 have occurred during that time.

18 I'm here today because of my concern with
19 the excessive splits of counties, cities, towns
20 and even precincts reflected in the committees'
21 plans. The lack of attention to jurisdictional
22 lines reflects the committee's inattention to

1 community of interests. The first geopolitical
2 identification of most citizens is usually where
3 they live.

4 I believe that it would also magnify the
5 negative effect of the Dillon Rule on Virginia's
6 local jurisdictions, making it more difficult than
7 ever to gain the power to more adequately provide
8 for their citizens. I know that it would result
9 in both primary and general elections this year
10 that will be extremely difficult and expensive to
11 manage.

12 I looked at the criteria that the House
13 and Senate used in the 1991 redistricting. What a
14 change. Both said that the district plans should
15 be drawn to avoid splitting counties, cities, and
16 towns to the extent practicable.

17 Compare that to the 2001 and 2011
18 criteria where jurisdictional lines were not
19 separately identified in the criteria and are to
20 be given no greater weight than any other
21 identifiable community of interest. It appears
22 that they were given no weight.

1 If Virginia's college students could
2 design districts that minimize jurisdictional
3 splits, why couldn't the committees?

4 Since I live in Reston, I believe that I
5 am fortunate that both committee plans seems to
6 include all of our new town within one House and
7 Senate district. For that I'm thankful. Other
8 areas of Northern Virginia are not so fortunate.
9 Some of the plans seem to defy reason.

10 Just as your committees have complained
11 about the compression of so much work into so
12 little time, you need to take account of the
13 effect of your decisions on the State Board of
14 Elections and local electoral boards and
15 registrars.

16 The excessive numbers of split
17 jurisdictions and precincts will result in a
18 significant increase in their workload and in the
19 costs of conducting the elections this year. This
20 follows on budget cuts for elections at both state
21 and local levels.

22 I encourage you to interpret HJ 5002 (and

1 similar legislation) to allow consideration and
2 enactment of a budget amendment for additional
3 funding for both the SBE and local election
4 offices within the purview of this special
5 session.

6 I serve as an officer of election in my
7 own precinct. Little will change for us, except
8 that the precinct needs to be split because of its
9 size.

10 However, I can sympathize with those
11 precinct workers throughout Virginia who will end
12 up taking the brunt of complaints from voters who
13 can't understand why they can't vote in their old
14 precinct, why they can't find any of their current
15 office holders on the ballot, or maybe their only
16 current office holders, and why they are in the
17 same district as a relative who lives nowhere near
18 them, et cetera.

19 To late they will realize that you have
20 selected their office holders for them and they
21 have no choice.

22 I'd like to end this morning with

1 something I saw this morning in the Washington
2 Post, an article about Tysons Corner getting its
3 own postal address.

4 At the hearing of the Governor's
5 independent commission several weeks ago, they
6 tried to come up with some objective measure of a
7 community of interest.

8 I'd suggest that you can always look at
9 postal addresses, usually zip codes. This is one
10 about Tysons Corner -- it's going to get its own
11 post office name and eventually its own zip codes.

12 I haven't checked to see where Tysons
13 Corner is on these plans, but I think it was
14 interesting. So I recommend you look at the
15 Washington Post metro section from this morning.

16 Thank you very much.

17 SEN. HOWELL: Olga Hernandez.

18 MS. HERNANDEZ: Good morning, welcome to
19 Fairfax County. My name is Olga Hernandez, and
20 I'm president of the League of Women voters of
21 Virginia.

22 First, I commend you for having public

1 hearings last fall before you actually got the
2 Census numbers and drew final maps. But did you
3 hear what the communities said?

4 In all the hearings the testimony was
5 about keeping communities together, having a
6 choice at the polls, and ensuring compact, logical
7 districts. Not to mention the idea of having a
8 public process where the maps were visible during
9 the drawing.

10 That's not reflected in what you have
11 submitted. You released your maps very late with
12 no prior viewing and now these current hearings
13 are so compressed that I'm concerned you're not
14 going to be able to take note of the testimony
15 that you are getting.

16 There is time, if you have the will.
17 Software technology makes such changes able to be
18 made quickly.

19 Last week we had an unveiling of
20 alternative maps drawn from scratch by some very
21 engaged, bright college students. Did you take a
22 look at these and see what was put on the table?

1 You still have time. Please consider these plans
2 and use them to better serve Virginians.

3 Tweaking boundaries at the edges and
4 zigzagging the lines to make ever safer districts
5 does nothing to give voice to communities. Your
6 proposed maps split more cities, counties and
7 geographical areas.

8 Lumping areas together just because
9 certain precincts voted a certain way in the last
10 gubernatorial or presidential election does not
11 serve the community or lead to real conversations
12 and problem solving in the General Assembly or in
13 Congress.

14 The governor appointed an independent
15 bipartisan commission which he staffed with
16 experienced quality citizens. They gathered
17 information and drew up a plan. Have you looked
18 at that?

19 Your tight margins of deviation only
20 serve to force more community splits. Please
21 reconsider this to keep more jurisdictions whole.
22 The maps of the bipartisan commission keep more

1 cities and counties together.

2 One proposed map reduces the Senate split
3 jurisdictions from 110 to 79 just by having a
4 deviation of +/-2 percent. In the House it is
5 possible to reduce the splits from 194 to 157, a
6 20 percent reduction on split communities.

7 Look at these maps and garner a new way
8 of drawing the lines. They tend to be more
9 compact and less rambling, thus more logical for
10 citizen participation.

11 The maps presented by both houses are so
12 gerrymandered for political purposes that they
13 serve no one but the protection of incumbents and
14 that is a shame.

15 We know this is not an easy task, but the
16 purpose of redistricting is so that everyone has a
17 voice. It's about protecting democracy not
18 yourselves.

19 The one man/one vote principle should be
20 the best guide, and the voter is better served
21 when he has a choice at the ballot. Safe
22 districts do not serve that purpose and thus

1 citizens lose out on good government where
2 representatives can be held accountable.

3 The commission and the map competition
4 have provided you with tangible, visible
5 alternatives, which can and should be considered.
6 We will hold you to the task of really taking
7 citizen input and using it to fulfill your
8 obligation.

9 We continue to say that you have a
10 conflict of interest because you are choosing your
11 voters instead of having voters choose you.
12 Virginia can be a model for the country if you go
13 about putting people ahead of party protection.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to address
15 you, and I hope this did not fall on deaf ears.
16 Thank you.

17 SEN. HOWELL: Thank you.

18 Sara Fitzgerald.

19 MS. FITZGERALD: Good morning. My name
20 is Sara Fitzgerald. I'm speaking as a
21 representative of the Falls Church League of Women
22 Voters. I also served on a redistricting reform

1 study committee of the Virginia League of Women
2 Voters.

3 From the vantage point of the Falls
4 Church League, the most important concern in the
5 redistricting is to protect a community of
6 interest known as the City of Falls Church. Our
7 12,000 residents have a strong identity as well as
8 a strong history of citizen participation.

9 I'm pleased that the districting plans
10 I've had a chance to review place the city in a
11 single district. There are reasonable arguments
12 that could be made on both sides for putting us
13 into an Arlington-oriented district or into a
14 Fairfax-oriented district. My hope today is that
15 you will put us into a competitive district.

16 I will acknowledge that that is not
17 always possible, but it's important to remember
18 what can happen when legislators pick their voters
19 instead of the other way around.

20 In the 2009 legislative races in
21 Virginia, 32 of 100 members of the House of
22 Delegates faced no opposition, and only 12 races

1 were considered competitive. A race is considered
2 competitive when it is decided by a margin of
3 fewer than 10 percentage points, which can still
4 be a pretty one-sided race.

5 The same trend could be seen in the 2007
6 state Senate races. In 17 of the 40 races the
7 incumbent faced no opposition, and only nine races
8 turned out to be competitive. That year more than
9 half of the House of Delegates candidates faced no
10 opposition at all.

11 Falls Church City has a well-educated
12 population and traditionally one of the highest
13 voter turn-out rates in the State, but in 2007
14 with no hotly contested state-wide race on the
15 ballot, and incumbents virtually assured of
16 reelection, voter turn out plummeted to below 25
17 percent.

18 We face the same crisis in Congress with
19 too many safe districts for one party or the other
20 contributing to a polarized political environment.

21 In 2001 the General Assembly tried to
22 pack as many democratic voters as possible into

1 our own 8th Congressional District. It's an
2 embarrassment to all of us that its mirror image
3 ended up bearing an uncanny resemblance to the
4 Massachusetts district that first gave the
5 gerrymander its name.

6 This protection of incumbents has many
7 consequences. It fosters apathy in citizens and
8 increased polarization as elected officials are
9 forced to play to the extremes of their parties
10 rather than to a more moderate middle.

11 It makes it more difficult for newcomers
12 to break into politics and for legislative bodies
13 to reflect the increased diversity of the
14 population it serves.

15 It's time for Virginia to take a stand
16 for good government. We get to go first among all
17 the states and wouldn't it be refreshing for the
18 cradle of democracy to set an example for the rest
19 of the country.

20 We commend the Governor for creating a
21 bipartisan redistricting commission, but only wish
22 the General Assembly was required to accept its

1 recommendations.

2 We commend the students that worked so
3 hard to create new redistricting plans and for
4 those who supported them in their competition.
5 What better statement to send to the next
6 generation of politicians and activists than to
7 decide to endorse one of these plans, rather than
8 those that are designed to preserve the status quo
9 of the General Assembly.

10 Unfortunately, redistricting reform is
11 not a sexy issue that can fit neatly on a bumper
12 sticker or a protest, but it is critical to the
13 prospects of good government in the Commonwealth
14 over the next decade.

15 We urge you when you draw the lines not
16 to focus on what's best for you or your party.
17 Think about what's best for all of us, the
18 citizens of Virginia. Thank you.

19 SEN. HOWELL: We've just been joined by
20 Delegate Jim Scott.

21 Carol Noggle.

22 MS. NOGGLE: Good morning, Senators and

1 Delegates. I'm Carol Noggle. I'm representing
2 the Prince William area League of Women Voters.

3 I live in Prince William County, and I
4 welcome this opportunity to provide some input. I
5 also wanted to thank those of you who have been
6 supportive for several years to get legislation to
7 have a bipartisan commission.

8 It's apparent this appointed commission
9 this year, that's advisory only, has definitely
10 made a difference in citizen awareness of this
11 process. The League, of course, supports maximum
12 citizen participation and education.

13 I reiterate or echo what other League
14 members have presented to you, and ask that you
15 focus on the fact that we are truly interested in
16 having understandable districts. I certainly
17 understand the challenge you have of getting this
18 done in a very short amount of time.

19 We would advocate that there be some
20 merit and rationale for these boundaries. We can
21 see the boundaries, we can look at where they are;
22 but just what purpose, how those came about is

1 what a lot of citizens would like to know so they
2 can understand that, and realize they're looking
3 for citizen benefit.

4 What we're interested in in Prince
5 William County, where we have a huge population
6 growth, so there's definitely going to be major
7 changes, is knowing what those are and why it's
8 important.

9 There's a lot of complex, wandering
10 boundaries that would definitely merit
11 explanation. One district I happened to zero in
12 on on the map is the 87th House district. It's
13 now a little piece of Prince William County, the
14 western part, and it wanders up to almost the
15 Potomac River, including Dulles Airport. It's a
16 very new district for us.

17 Also, in one of the Senate proposals, I
18 think it was the Senator Watkins' proposal, there
19 is definitely a precinct split exactly where I
20 live. Now there are two senators in my district,
21 and apparently the line was drawn to follow a
22 stream, not the HOA boundaries. So it's one thing

1 where citizen input would really make a
2 difference.

3 We'd welcome some responses on that at
4 some point. I appreciate your short time
5 constraints. I appreciate you being here. We
6 urge more citizen input. Thank you very much.

7 SEN. HOWELL: Thank you.

8 Margie Anderson.

9 MS. ANDERSON: I'll pass.

10 SEN. HOWELL: Genie Nguyen.

11 MS. NGUYEN: Good morning, Chairman and
12 members of the House redistricting committee and
13 the Senate redistricting committee. I'm glad to
14 take a stand to thank you for all the very hard
15 work you put in in the last short time from
16 February to now.

17 My name is Genie Nguyen, chair of Voice
18 of Vietnamese Americans. We are a nonpartisan,
19 nonprofit organization advocating for fair
20 redistricting and civic engagement in respect to
21 the constitution of the United States and the
22 Commonwealth of Virginia.

1 As one of the youngest Asian American
2 communities, Vietnamese Americans in Virginia this
3 year, 2011, have the population rapidly increase
4 within the last decade. If the population of
5 Virginia grew 11 percent, Asian American
6 population in Fairfax grew 17.5 percent, among
7 which Vietnamese Americans would be among the
8 fourth largest group in the APIA community.

9 However, Vietnamese Americans are very
10 different from other immigrant groups. We came
11 here in 1975 as refugees. We came barehanded. We
12 had tried very hard to overcome challenges, and we
13 have risked our lives to come and live here and
14 call it home.

15 After 36 years the younger generation has
16 assimilated into the mainstream. We have
17 contributed as professionals and successful
18 businessmen. However, there are still many
19 Vietnamese who came in the first generation who
20 have a hard time adapting to the society and hard
21 changes.

22 So I'm going to take this time to plead

1 to you to maintain the principles of community of
2 interest that many of the previous representatives
3 tried to emphasize. We are very concerned about
4 excessive splitting of districts and communities
5 in the proposal you are proposing.

6 Vietnamese Americans respectfully request
7 the commission, the committees from the Senate and
8 the House in redistricting please, when you make
9 decisions on the boundaries, please pay attention
10 to community of interests.

11 Those Asian Americans and Latino
12 Americans, we are having a lot in common with
13 limited English skills, having aging health
14 issues, and communities with the same history,
15 tradition, same culture, and same interests.

16 I would also echo the previous
17 recommendations that please make understandable
18 new districts so we can educate our community. We
19 will have to try in a very short time to explain
20 to them how the changes are and why there are
21 changes.

22 So if you would explain why the

1 boundaries moved, the reasons, and make it as
2 clear as possible so we can translate it and
3 educate our community.

4 Many of the Vietnamese Americans live in
5 Falls Church, Fairfax, and Prince William County.
6 I understand that those are affected greatly with
7 the new boundaries. We respectfully request that
8 you pay attention to that.

9 If you want us to help, please do not
10 hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

11 SEN. HOWELL: Leslie Gelman.

12 MS. GELMAN: Good morning. My name is
13 Leslie Gelman. I'm vice president of the
14 (Inaudible) civic association, but I'm
15 representing myself today. I didn't have a chance
16 to coordinate this.

17 I live in Fairfax County near the West
18 Falls Church Metro station. Our neighborhood
19 Lemon Road has worked with and been part of the
20 McLean area for 50 years, so we share common
21 interests, issues and concerns.

22 The Watkins Plan keeps us and McLean

1 together in District 27, except that it splits off
2 my small neighborhood between Great Falls Road and
3 Route 7. It splits it off from the rest of McLean
4 and puts it in District 25. It splits the Lemon
5 Road neighborhood in two.

6 We would prefer to be represented by the
7 same representative as the rest of our neighbors.
8 This would encourage our representative to focus
9 on the urgent problems now confronting our
10 neighborhood and those nearby.

11 So if you could alter the Watkins Plan to
12 include our streets: McKay, Eastwood, and Norwalk,
13 we would appreciate it. Thank you for your
14 attention.

15 SEN. HOWELL: Thank you.

16 Aran Wallingford.

17 MS. WALLINGFORD: Good morning. Thank
18 you for this opportunity. I'm kind of new at
19 this. Bear with me.

20 Late yesterday afternoon I got an e-mail
21 announcement there was a public hearing this
22 morning on redistricting. The e-mail came from

1 the supervisor's office, who also did not have
2 details of the proposals that you were presenting
3 and, therefore, what we should be speaking to.

4 That's kind of strange to me, considering
5 that the supervisors control the use of this room;
6 and they had no idea that this public hearing was
7 being scheduled.

8 It's very difficult for people to comment
9 on something when they don't know what it is
10 that's being proposed, and we don't know that
11 there's a public hearing.

12 I would like to suggest that in some way
13 you advertise this, whatever the proposal is, and
14 provide an opportunity for people to work with
15 their communities and get back to you.

16 I know you're on a tight time frame, but
17 this is important. The results of what you do is
18 going to affect our lives for the next ten years
19 or so.

20 The second thing is trying to understand
21 how your proposal impacts me. I'm on the Board of
22 Mantua Citizens Association and Pine Ridge

1 Citizens Association. Both of those associations
2 are currently represented by one representative.
3 However, the proposals that I see it looks like
4 Mantua will be divided into two districts. Pine
5 Ridge will be divided into three districts.

6 You've heard it all before: maintain
7 communities of interest. Please don't split the
8 communities. That's all I can add. Thank you
9 very much.

10 SEN. HOWELL: Jerry Welch.

11 MR. WELCH: I pass. My concerns have
12 already been stated.

13 SEN. HOWELL: Thank you.

14 Is there another sign-up sheet? This is
15 the end of the one I was passed.

16 No one else has signed up? Is there
17 anyone else who would like to speak?

18 Thank you very much for spending your
19 Saturday morning with us. I hope you realize
20 we're listening.

21 (Whereupon, the proceedings at 11:10 a.m.
22 were concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Paula L. Lowery, do hereby certify that the forgoing proceedings were taken by me in stenomask and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my supervision; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this proceeding was taken; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

PAULA L. LOWERY

NOTARY PUBLIC