

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

Anchorage, Alaska
March 22, 2011

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/22/2011)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:to order. It's 12:28 on the 22nd. Sorry for the delay but we knew that board member Greene was close.

MS. GREENE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: So we wanted to make sure we had the whole board here. Are we ready to start.....

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:with the recording and so forth? So, with that we have a small agenda and some items to run through and board business. So, Ron, will you take a roll call?

MR. MILLER: Bob Brodie.

MR. BRODIE: Present.

MR. MILLER: Marie Greene.

MS. GREENE: Here.

MR. MILLER: PeggyAnn McConnochie.

MS. McCONNOCHIE: Here.

MR. MILLER: Jim Holm.

MR. HOLM: Here.

MR. MILLER: John Torgerson.

CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Here.

MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, all board members are

1 present, so we have a quorum.

2 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Thank you. We have
3 approval of the agenda is next. There's only actually one item
4 on there and that's to clarify a pre-plan and add a couple of
5 post-plan hearing sites.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Is there a motion -- or is there
8 additions or corrections to the agenda?

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Move for approval.

10 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: And I'll second it.

11 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you. Additions or
12 corrections?

13 (No audible responses)

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All in favor, signify by saying
15 aye.

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Opposed?

18 (No audible responses)

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: There are none. That brings us to
20 Item 4A, amend the pre-plan hearing sites for Mat-Su region and
21 Kotzebue. What we have is, last Thursday at our board meeting
22 I kept talking about either Wasilla or Palmer and the record
23 indicated that we ended up with having our pre-plan hearing in
24 Palmer but there was no sites available in Palmer. The borough
25 or the city or nothing that we could find, so we needed to move

1 the site to Wasilla. So just -- we public noticed it to
2 Wasilla but we didn't have the board reflecting that, so.

3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, it would be.....

5 MR. MILLER: Mr. Chairman, also the start and end time
6 in Kotzebue.....

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I know. We'll get to that.
8 That's 4B. Is there.....

9 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I move for approval of
10 the new schedule and having the hearing in Wasilla versus
11 Palmer.

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Anymore discussion?

14 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Was she.....

15 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: It's just a technicality is what
16 we're told. We wanted to make sure we're doing things right.
17 So all in favor, please signify by saying aye.

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Opposed?

20 (No audible responses)

21 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. The next one is a time
22 adjustment in Kotzebue and it's primarily for our airplane so
23 we can fly in and out in that day. So we would like to start
24 at 1:00 o'clock and adjourn that meeting at 6:00 and then it
25 will -- that would let us actually do a day trip in and out of

1 Kotzebue.

2 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I move to approve.

3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Any discussion?

5 (No audible responses)

6 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All in favor, please signify by
7 saying aye?

8 IN UNISON: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Opposed?

10 (No audible responses)

11 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: And that will be approved. That
12 brings us to the public hearing portion of -- what? Something
13 else?

14 (Whispered conversation)

15 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. Item B, 4B is to
16 add Cold Bay and Nome as post-plan hearing sites. These were
17 requested by Mayor Stanley Mack that we have a hearing down in
18 the chain. And by the mayor in Nome that we visit Nome for a
19 post-plan hearing. What I'd like to do is bring these to the
20 board as we get them so we don't get -- you know, we keep this
21 public record going on the sites that were approved.

22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: I move that we add both
23 Cold Bay and Nome to our post-plan hearing sites.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. It's moved and seconded.

1 Any discussion?

2 (No audible responses)

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All favor -- excuse me?

4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I was just going to ask Mr.
5 Chairman, how hard is it to get in and out of Cold Bay?

6 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Well, I've flown in and out.
7 PenAir. I don't know it's that difficult.

8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: It's got a 12,000 foot runway, the
10 longest in the state. It's the fourth alternative for the
11 space shuttle. But I don't know the schedule, so it.....

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Yeah, I didn't.....

13 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I'm sure there's two or three
14 flights a day there, but I'm not.....

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: All right.

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I don't know time lines and -- the
17 team that goes down would be going down to Dutch, so we'll
18 layover and have a hearing in Cold Bay one way or the other,
19 so.....

20 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Sure.

21 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:we'll be flying right close
22 by it. Anymore discussion on the motion?

23 (No audible responses)

24 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All in favor, signify by saying
25 aye.

1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Opposed?

3 (No audible responses)

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: There are none, so that passes.

5 Now next we will go into the -- or do you have anything else?

6 (Whispered conversation)

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: We'll recess the board.

8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: But we're not recessed. We're
10 going into the public hearing part.

11 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Okay.

12 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I guess it doesn't really matter.
13 On whether we should adjourn the board meeting or recess it. I
14 guess.....

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: And I understand the board
16 and -- public hearing is part of the board meeting.

17 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Right.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: So.....

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Right. I would -- you know, I --
20 I don't think it really matters but I'd just as soon, if it's
21 my choice, we'll just recess it and we'll adjourn at 7:00 or
22 something.

23 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Yeah.

24 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah. Okay. All right. So we
25 are in the public hearing portion. And I appreciate everyone's

1 patience waiting for us to get started here. First we have Ron
2 Revis (ph).....

3 MR. REVIS: Revis.

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: (Indiscernible). If you would,
5 sir, just state your name for the record and any affiliation.
6 Go ahead.

7 MR. REVIS: Ron Revis, citizen, District 20.

8 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Thank you, Ron.

9 MR. REVIS: I'm here today to speak on the
10 redistricting process and as I stated, I live in District 20.
11 And though it had probably grown some since the last -- since
12 it was last changed, but it still remains a very socio-
13 integrated area. And it is my belief that it should remain
14 unchanged in order to operate citizenry and equal and just
15 representation to the legislature. I've heard and read about
16 several areas in other states where through the redistricting
17 process gerrymandering had taken place. And although I'm sure
18 that in our great state such a thing wouldn't happen, however,
19 this gerrymandering process enables areas to be adjusted to
20 where incumbents would have to run against each other, which I
21 would believe that it would not be a benefit to its citizenry.

22

23 It is also -- well, through this process I believe that
24 the citizens of each district should remain vigilant to ensure
25 that through the redistricting process it would not occur -- it

1 would not happen to where legislators, incumbents, would be put
2 in a position to have to run against each other and in effect
3 weakening their legislative power in our -- well, in our
4 legislature. So, that is what I'm concerned with, that, yes,
5 redistricting is important to keep its population, you know,
6 balanced in areas, but in so doing we have to be sure that it
7 doesn't -- that there's not gerrymandering taking place to
8 strengthen one party or another's position in the legislature.
9 That's what I have to say.

10 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, sir. Appreciate your
11 testimony. Bruce?

12 MR. SCHULTE: Good afternoon. Bruce Schulte. I live
13 in South Anchorage, District 28. I know you have a huge task
14 ahead of you, so I will be brief. I gather that during the --
15 our district, 28, runs from -- runs along Turnagain Arm from
16 Kincaid Park down to roughly Potter's Marsh. And the
17 boundaries, the northern boundary and the eastern boundary are
18 a little rambling. I gather that's perhaps an artifact of the
19 last redistricting 10 years ago. So I would just encourage the
20 board to consider cleaning up those boundaries. A suggestion I
21 might offer would be to pull the northern boundary down to
22 Campbell Creek because that's a natural geographic -- natural
23 physical boundary, and perhaps extend the eastern boundary
24 outward. Right now it sort of meanders through Oceanside and a
25 couple of other communities, so there's neighbors who are in

1 different districts. And while they share obvious concerns and
2 needs in terms of their representation, they're in completely
3 disparate districts. So I think there would be an opportunity
4 there to clean up our district by extending that eastern
5 boundary perhaps out to Seward Highway. Those are really the
6 only two areas of 28 that are rough like that, but I think that
7 if we could clean those up, I think that that would do our
8 district a great service.

9 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Next. Thank you.
10 Randy, it looks like.

11 MR. RUEDRICH: Randy Ruedrich with the Alaskans for
12 Equitable Redistricting. I have a question. Do we have a time
13 limit for testimony today?

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Five minutes.

15 MR. RUEDRICH: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Though we're going to be pretty
17 squishy on that if anybody.....

18 MR. RUEDRICH: I will try to.....

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Depending on how many more people
20 come in.

21 MR. RUEDRICH:read real fast and get done.

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: We noticed five minutes.

23 MR. RUEDRICH: The points I want to make today are kind
24 of overview points on the redistricting process, both in terms
25 of what ought to happen and what did happen 10 years ago when

1 we had this commission process in place for the first cycle.
2 First of all, the world changes rather rapidly in Alaska. We
3 were brought into the union as a state that was going to be a
4 partisan democrat state forever. Significant registration
5 advantages for the democrats. In 1990 registration became
6 equal. In 2000, we had over 30,000 more registered republicans
7 than we had democrats. At the time of this census we had about
8 56,000 more republicans then democrats. So one would expect a
9 fairly drawn map that equitably allows all people to be
10 represented, to be producing changed results.

11 There's another major factor that I want to address,
12 which is the federal voting rights act, which is very
13 important. Alaska is the only state in the union where this
14 particular constraint applies. I think it's very important
15 that we protect the Alaska voting rights -- Alaska Native
16 voting rights to the fullest extent, and that's why I testified
17 a couple of weeks ago while I was on the road about the
18 importance of potentially getting our inmate populations
19 assigned to their home districts. It adds to the population of
20 those universes, makes them more capable of being smaller
21 geographic areas so that the representation is more compact. I
22 urge you to consider bringing the Natives, the Alaska Natives
23 back to their home areas, as well as all other inmates. It
24 will reduce the population of some urban areas which will have
25 de minimis impact compared to folks moving back to the rural

1 areas.

2 I do think we need to build a plan that's based on a
3 solid record from your hearings that then is tested by all
4 interests so that we have a plan that has less likelihood of
5 being litigated. The process should not be an automatic
6 litigation. If we can get an equitable map, people should be
7 happy with that map. Last time there was significant
8 litigation which delayed the process and confuses everything.

9 The prior gentleman spoke about gerrymandering. If you
10 wanted to look probably at the most severe classic case of
11 gerrymandering in terms of how many incumbents were paired out
12 of total population and what the party distribution of those
13 people was, the 2001 plan had 20 plus republicans paired.
14 Uniquely enough, no democrat was paired. That probably is an
15 indication of bias. I believe in the trial there was a
16 suggestion that it was a billion to one probability. We need
17 to do a better job at drawing a fair and equitable plan that
18 represents Alaskans.

19 We also need to have a plan that doesn't split
20 communities. Eagle River was deliberately split after
21 litigation. Those people went -- came back and there was no
22 remedy from the Supreme Court. It is your responsibility as
23 commissioners, board members, to not allow communities to be
24 split without reason. Oceanview in South Anchorage was split
25 for one purpose, and that was to gerrymander two incumbents

1 into the same district. How wide was the district at its
2 narrowest point? One row of houses. That's better than the
3 real bad gerrymanders that we see in Texas and Georgia. One
4 row of houses on the outside of Oceanview Drive in the
5 Oceanview neighborhood and everything else in that district was
6 put in district -- in that community was put in District 32 --
7 or 31. So the community was essentially bisected. And not --
8 if not for one house, it would have not met the criteria of
9 being contiguous on land. The map, if you look at District 28,
10 is a very positive illusion. That's because the marshlands,
11 the wetlands are included to make it look like it's a more
12 rational, compact district.

13 Eagle River was split. Initially Eagle River had --
14 well, let me go back. In the south end of 28 was a house rep
15 by the name of Joe Green and in the north end was a house rep
16 by the name of Lesil McGuire. This redistricting effort made
17 one of them surplus to the mission. In Eagle River we had two
18 house reps paired in one district and the balance of population
19 was attached to a sliver of Fire Island to which gave over 90
20 percentage of the population of the district was on military
21 bases who were fundamentally hapsacked to reduce the likelihood
22 of anyone qualified to run for office. Those kinds of things I
23 think you should also keep in mind when you're drawing
24 something maybe too good to be true. It probably was.

25 When Eagle River was split after the trial the board

1 again found a way to pair republican incumbents. Senator Randy
2 Phillips was paired with announced candidate Con Bunde for the
3 senate seat. It doesn't meet the straight face test, it
4 doesn't meet any other criteria. And the original plan took
5 South Anchorage and linked it to Valdez, across the Columbia
6 Glacier and the Harding Icefield. The current plan still links
7 Homer and Seward, which is not the most compact version of a
8 district that you can draw on the Kenai across the ice fields
9 of the southern Kenai.

10 So I just want to encourage you to look at what we're
11 going to draw. We're going to have people comment. Most of
12 these people have heartfelt requirements as to why they want to
13 comment. They're going to be coming from all parts of the
14 state and I encourage you to look at what they're saying
15 because they're taking from their time to come help present a
16 better process. We look forward to working with you in the
17 future and thank you for your time.

18 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Randy, and for everyone, on the
19 31st we will be accepting plans if you want to bring plans in.
20 Only thing we ask is if you need more than five minutes, that
21 if you need a half hour or whatever to present what might be
22 the plan for the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting,
23 that we'll allow that time on the 31st, so.

24 MR. RUEDRICH: Thank you. We will consider that and
25 we'll -- when appropriate assist you.

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I'm sure, but I'm just.....

2 MR. RUEDRICH: Yeah.

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:offering to anyone that would
4 like to present a plan, that we.....

5 MR. RUEDRICH: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:have that deadline on the
7 31st. Thank you very much. Now, let's see, where am I. Rick
8 Mueller, no. Next a Jennifer Johnston. Did I.....

9 MS. JOHNSTON: Hi, I'm Jennifer Johnston and I'm
10 representing myself but I'm also a member of the Anchorage
11 Assembly and my district covers District 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32.
12 I also ran for State Senate seat P this summer which covered
13 the rest of 32. So I'm quite aware of the constituencies in
14 each of those districts and I just wanted to say -- I wanted to
15 actually echo some of the previous speakers about District 28
16 and how it crosses through Oceanview. That I think it would
17 make sense to come up with a more legitimate or better
18 boundary. That it does sort of cut a neighborhood. 32, when I
19 was running for office, I don't feel -- I mean, even though
20 there's a lot of similar issues between Eagle River and the
21 hillside, Eagle River does very much consider itself a
22 community and I feel that it's not as appropriate to have
23 District 32 in Eagle River. I think it would be more
24 appropriate, especially since -- if you notice District 32 has
25 increased quite a bit, over 2000.

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, pretty substantially.

2 MS. JOHNSTON: And I think a lot of that probably is in
3 Eagle River. Those are my only comments. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Well, thank you. Judy
5 appears to be next.

6 MS. ELEDGE: Hi, my name is Judy Eledge and I'm just
7 resident of District 32. I have lived -- I did live in Eagle
8 River for a number of years and I think my major concern -- I'm
9 just going to speak to 32. My major concern, as Mrs. Johnston
10 just stated, is that it's extremely difficult for District 32
11 to be represented by one person. It's just huge. It is -- you
12 know, it goes all the way -- part of Eagle River and it goes
13 part of the hillside, the majority of hillside, Girdwood and
14 Hope, Alaska. And I think just as a representative that is
15 extremely different neighborhoods for one person -- I'm too
16 close? Thank you. I'm sorry. To represent and I've lived in
17 Eagle River and I do assure you they see themselves as a
18 community within themselves. And I do think that it would be
19 -- you know, you need to know the people within your community
20 in Eagle River. Even though I know some people in Eagle River,
21 I don't feel like that we go to the same community council
22 meetings. Our children don't go to the same schools. So
23 oftentimes I think people feel like they're represented by
24 someone they don't even know. And I also think that District
25 31 and 32, they are hillside communities, they have a lot of

1 the same issues, whether it be drainage or roads, and so I
2 think that those combinations are better. And I just think
3 that our district needs to be as compact as normal because it
4 is extremely difficult for one person to represent an area so
5 large. And if you look on the map you will see that 32
6 encompasses a lot of national parks and vacant land but there's
7 also people living there and they need to be represented also.
8 So that would be my request, that we would get back to more of
9 a community type like effort as far as people being
10 represented. That's all I have to say.

11 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Judy. Appreciate that.
12 Let's see, Hal next.

13 MR. GAZAWAY: Hello, I'm Hal Gazaway. I've been in
14 Alaska since 1953, in Anchorage since 1974. And since then
15 I've lived in Spenard and Mountain View and Hillside, College
16 Gate, back in Spenard and Turnagain, then Eagle River and then
17 now I live in Muldoon. I've been in Muldoon since 1950 -- 19
18 seven -- 98, excuse me. Each of these neighborhoods has
19 separate, unique characteristics that have made them unique and
20 then also have unique needs to them. I would ask that Mountain
21 View be -- or Muldoon rather be kept in tact rather than being
22 split between different districts for the simple reason that
23 we've got -- right now the assembly race, the assembly district
24 is split so part, the north -- couple blocks north of Muldoon
25 is one assembly candidate's district from Eagle River. And the

1 first two years he was elected he still didn't know that he
2 represented us. And to this day we don't see signs for the
3 candidates that are running for the assembly seat in the
4 northern district -- in the northern blocks there of Muldoon.
5 And having lived both in Eagle River and Muldoon, my wife and I
6 for I think 10 years or more in Eagle River, Muldoon and Eagle
7 River have decidedly different needs. And we have an
8 assemblyman representing Muldoon -- or Eagle River, frequently
9 his constituency that he's going to be representing have needs
10 different than those in Muldoon. And we would ask that Muldoon
11 not be split but rather it be kept in tact so that we can have
12 representation in the state legislature.

13 I didn't think I'd ever say this, but I agree with
14 Randy Ruedrich. I think -- don't think we ought to be
15 gerrymandering the districts so that we in the process
16 disenfranchise some people for some partisan end. And I would
17 ask that that be kept in mind as this body decides how to set
18 the boundaries for the districts that they will be deciding.
19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thanks, Hal. Is there anyone else
21 -- some people came in the room a little late maybe -- anybody
22 else wish to testify?

23 (No audible responses)

24 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. With that, I think we'll
25 recess for a little while and we'll reconvene -- every so often

1 when we get some people to testify. We will be here until 7:00
2 o'clock tonight, so that's what we'll do. So we'll stand in
3 recess.

4 (Off record)

5 (On record)

6 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:meeting. We took a break
7 about an hour ago -- or half hour ago, so we will reconvene as
8 we get folks in to testify. We have three that are signed up,
9 so we'll just go down the list. Lora Reinbold, looks like
10 you're first up. Reinbold.

11 MS. REINBOLD: Hello. Can you hear me? Okay. Hi. My
12 name.....

13 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, the mic is for recording
14 only, so just.....

15 MS. REINBOLD: Oh, okay. Okay. So don't worry about.

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, talk away from it.

17 MS. REINBOLD: All right. Thank you. My name is Lora
18 Reinbold and I am from District 32.

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay.

20 MS. REINBOLD: So that's Eagle River. And District 32,
21 as you know, goes from Hope to Girdwood to South Anchorage to
22 Eagle River. So there's just a vast distance that it covers.
23 And we tried to hold meetings and things for District 32 and
24 it's next to impossible because the Eagle River folks don't
25 want to go to Girdwood and the Girdwood don't want to come to

1 Eagle River. And then we come to South Anchorage and there's
2 just a handful of folks. So what we're trying to do is we're
3 hoping that the portion of District 32 that is in Eagle River
4 gets that combined with District 17 and 18 so we can reunify
5 Eagle River. And I'll tell you why it's very important
6 because, for example, I'm on the park and rec board and we have
7 our own service area out in Eagle River where we collect on
8 mill rates and we're -- and we service that area. And also the
9 same thing with the road boards, which I testified at last
10 night. We have a lot of our own separate issues in Eagle
11 River. And so we -- because we collect our own mill rates and
12 our taxes and we have a representative from each community
13 council that runs our service areas out there. So my
14 recommendation would strongly be to put the portion of Eagle
15 River, District 32, back into District 17. It makes logical
16 sense.

17 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay.

18 MS. REINBOLD: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right.

20 MS. REINBOLD: Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Lora. Next is Natalie
22 Landreth.

23 MS. LANDRETH: I brought paper copies. I'm not sure
24 what the protocol is, but I have paper copies for all of you
25 and for the record if need be.

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Sure. Thank you.

2 MS. LANDRETH: My name is Natalie Landreth and I am a
3 senior staff attorney at the Native American Rights Fund here
4 in Anchorage. Thank you for hearing me today. I will be very
5 brief and definitely within my five minutes allotted time
6 frame.

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Great.

8 MS. LANDRETH: NARF is more than 40 years old and the
9 Alaska office of NARF is 17 years old this year. We practice
10 in subsistence hunting and fishing rights, tribal self
11 determination and the third prong of our work is voting rights.
12 It is in our capacity as counsel in the voting rights act case
13 called Nick versus City of Bethel that I'm here today. The
14 Nick case, named after a Yup'ik elder named Anna Nick,
15 established at Sections 203 and 4(f)4 of the VRA require that
16 election materials be translated into Yup'ik in specific areas
17 of the state, namely the Bethel and Wade Hampton census areas
18 in Western Alaska. This also includes parts of Upper Bristol
19 Bay, Togiak, Dillingham, things like that.

20 This was one of the very few fully litigated Section
21 203 cases in the history of this country and it is the only one
22 nationwide to result in a court order that tells the state to
23 produce voting materials in a Native language. That's because
24 there's such a high threshold, such a huge population,
25 approximately 76 percent of the voting age population in the

1 Bethel census areas speaks Yup'ik as a primary language.

2 So there are two points I'd like to make to you as you
3 begin this process. First, it is critical that you understand
4 that in the areas I just described English is not the first or
5 primary language. For many of us, myself included that don't
6 work outside of Anchorage all that often, that live in our
7 offices and think, well, Alaska is in the United States, of
8 course people understand English. They don't. A lot of these
9 areas did not have high schools until well past Molly Hootch
10 and so what has happened is that the illiteracy rate in Western
11 Alaska is 15 times the national average. And the average
12 person over the age of 55 has only reached the second grade.
13 So there's a real disconnect between the work that you're about
14 to perform in that area and the understanding of the people
15 about the process in it.

16 It is imperative therefore in your Bethel meetings you
17 provide for live translation of the hearing into Yup'ik and let
18 the attendees know ahead of time that this will occur. This is
19 probably easiest to do by calling AVCP, the Association of
20 Village Council Presidents, or KYUK, the radio station who have
21 a more than adequate translation staff that specialize in live
22 translation. Otherwise many communities and thousands and
23 thousands of voters, we estimate it's more than 10,000 people
24 that experience this language barrier in Western Alaska, will
25 be left out of this important process. So that's the first

1 request I wanted to make.

2 The second is something that -- I understand at the
3 last meeting there were draft redistricting guidelines as part
4 of the materials posted on the internet. I apologize, I was
5 not at that meeting. There are, I believe, two incorrect
6 statements or things that have been summarized that are maybe
7 shorter and can be misleading to someone taking a look at them.
8 Part 2C of the federal statutory redistricting principles,
9 which I'm sorry, I don't have a consecutive page number. It
10 says 70230 at the bottom of the page from the March 16
11 materials. The first quote that I wanted to comment on is that
12 there is, quote, no avoidable retrogression, end quote. It is
13 probably more correct to say that standard is no retrogression.
14 Redistricting plans are considered retrogressive and will not
15 be precluded by the DOJ if they are one, intended to dilute
16 racial and/or language minority voters; and two, leave racial
17 or language minority voters worse off than they would be under
18 the old plan. Using the old district lines but new population
19 data. That's at 42 USC 1973(c). In general, under Section 5,
20 minority losses in one region can be made up by gains
21 elsewhere, but if racial or language minorities have fewer
22 opportunities to elect candidates of their choice, the
23 districts won't be pre-cleared. And I think it's probably in
24 my best interest to at least tell you that NARF is on the call
25 list for Section 5. Which means whenever a new plan comes up,

1 before it's even posted on the internet, our office here and
2 our office in DC are going to get calls from the DOJ asking us
3 to submit comments on the record. We then initiate a process
4 where we contact our plaintiffs in the Nick versus Bethel case
5 or other clients that we may be working with on this. So I
6 wanted to at least let you know that in the spirit of complete
7 transparency. You will of course see those comments when
8 they're put on the record but I wanted you to know that ahead
9 of time.

10 The other statement I believe to be maybe a little bit
11 misleading, and this one is a little more difficult to explain,
12 so I'm going to try and be brief, is the quote the minority
13 group must be large, cohesive and vote as a bloc, end quote.
14 The way it is worded and the fact that it is in the paragraph
15 on Section 5 suggests that in order to attain protection under
16 Section 5 or to be protected from retrogression a minority
17 group must demonstrate it is large, cohesive and votes as a
18 bloc. That is not technically correct. Section 5 measures
19 only changes from the statu quo. It is Section 2 that provides
20 the rights for minority populations to be free of efforts to
21 dilute their vote. These two sections, 2 and 5, have different
22 standards and purposes and they look to me like they've been
23 conflated here. The three factors, large, cohesive and vote as
24 a bloc, are what plaintiffs must prove in order to establish a
25 vote dilution case under Section 2. I will reiterate them here

1 because they're a little bit more nuanced.

2 First, quote, the racial group is sufficiently large
3 and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single
4 member district. In other words, the word large is relative,
5 it's not an empirical standard that the group has to prove that
6 it's someone, you know, large in and of itself. It's in its
7 district. Second, quote, the racial group is politically
8 cohesive. Third, quote, the majority votes sufficiently as a
9 bloc to enable it, usually to defeat the minority's preferred
10 candidate, end quote. This means that the bloc voting referred
11 to in that standard is that of the majority and not the
12 minority. And that's from the Bone Shirt versus Hazeltine case
13 from the 8th Circuit in 2006, which I think is the last word on
14 these sort of different preferences.

15 So Sections 2 and 5 protect different aspects of
16 minority populations and their standards are not
17 interchangeable or related as they look to be in this paragraph
18 in the guidelines. I understand that the guidelines are merely
19 a summary at this point, shorthand, and that you have engaged
20 legal counsel who will no doubt steer you correctly, but I
21 wanted to at least note these critical distinctions now lest
22 anyone attending these meetings actually think that, number
23 one, so-called unavoidable, unquote, retrogression is
24 acceptable; or two, that a minority group much show it is
25 large, cohesive and votes as a bloc in order to be protected

1 from retrogression or receive Section 5 protection.

2 Now if you're not already bored or twisted in knots
3 from listening to these fascinating standards about Sections 2
4 and 5, I'm happy to answer any questions, but I wanted to keep
5 my comments to a minimum about what I know thus far. That's
6 all I had. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Natalie, for.....

8 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: No, I'll talk to her off
9 record. Sorry.

10 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah.

11 MS. LANDRETH: Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Well, we want to know too, so
13 whatever.

14 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I'll talk to you.

15 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah. So some time or
16 another.....

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: You are. Thank you.

18 MS. LANDRETH: Okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Are you leaving?

20 MS. LANDRETH: I wanted to make sure I didn't get up
21 before.....

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah.

23 MS. LANDRETH:we were done. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Next is Vicki Otte.

25 MS. OTTE: Thank you and good afternoon. My name, as

1 he mentioned, is Vicki Otte. I am currently the chair, soon to
2 be CEO of my village corporation, MTNT Limited, and I'm here
3 speaking in that capacity today. MTNT's villages consist of
4 McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna and Telida. I'm also the outgoing
5 executive director of the ANCSA Regional Association, which
6 consists of the 12 regional corporations in the state in an
7 association that was formed.

8 I also served as the chair of the 2000 redistricting
9 process, so I have firsthand knowledge of what your jobs are
10 and I want to tell you I commend you for the public service
11 that you're taking on. It's a difficult job. It's not an easy
12 one and I wish you godspeed in your actions.

13 I wanted to clarify a comment that was made a few weeks
14 ago about the 2000 -- the makeup of the 2000 redistricting
15 board. This board was made up, as you know, five members. One
16 was a republican, one was a democrat, two were undeclared and
17 one was non-partisan. The plan that was adopted in 2001, in
18 the plan that was adopted in the 2001 process, I believe gave
19 us the legislature that we have today that I believe is fair
20 and balanced. Currently we have 10 members in the senate who
21 are republicans and 10 who are democrats. I also believe that
22 the makeup of the house is relatively balanced and I think it's
23 been good for our state. It has allowed and encouraged our
24 legislature to work together across party lines.

25 When you are drawing new legislative districts, I'm

1 asking that you take that into consideration. And I'm also
2 asking that you consider preserving incumbents as much as you
3 can because of the fair balance we have in our legislature
4 today.

5 Further, how the lines are drawn determines whether
6 Alaskans will have a meaningful choice when they vote. How the
7 lines are drawn determines where Alaska Natives and other
8 minority groups will have the opportunity to be represented
9 fairly in our state legislature. I'm asking that you protect
10 rural Alaska and ensure that it continues to have a voice and
11 is represented fairly in our legislature. And I know that's a
12 difficult task because of the out migration from parts of rural
13 Alaska.

14 In closing, again, thank you for your public service.
15 I know, like I said earlier, it's a thankless job and I applaud
16 you for agreeing to serve and to set the course of history for
17 Alaska for the next 10 years. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Ms. Otte. Anyone else
19 which to testify that's not signed up? Or they did sign up and
20 I haven't got the list?

21 (No audible responses)

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Seeing none, then we will
23 stand in recess until the next wave comes in, whatever time
24 that is.

25 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: We'll call the meeting back to
3 order. It looks like it's 10 after 2:00. We've been in the
4 public hearing mode since about 12:30, going on and off the
5 record as people join us. I guess I don't have to ask them.
6 They're probably more efficient. Michael, you want to take
7 care of that piece of.....

8 MICHAEL: Oh, first?

9 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:first?

10 MICHAEL: Okay. Sure.

11 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I'll turn it over to you for an
12 explanation.

13 MICHAEL: Okay. Thank you. Are we back on record, Mr.
14 Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: You're on the record. Go ahead.

16 MICHAEL: We had the testimony from Ms. Lambert [sic]
17 who pointed out a couple of things we that she thought were
18 incorrect in our redistricting guidelines that we adopted last
19 time. And I have taken a look at those and it slipped through
20 the cracks that the last sentence in Section 2C, the minority
21 group must be large, cohesive and vote as a bloc, actually just
22 got put in the wrong paragraph. It should actually be up under
23 2B. So I would request them, that the board, in order to
24 correct that and make sure that we're -- it's proper and
25 there's no misinterpretation for the public, that we make that

1 change. So that change can be made on the redistricting
2 guidelines on all of our websites, et cetera.

3 In terms of Ms. Lambert's [sic] second point on no
4 avoidable retrogression, we have congenially agreed to disagree
5 on that. I still believe the standard is no unavoidable
6 retrogression. I think it may be a matter of interpretation
7 between lawyers as to what that actually means, but I don't see
8 any need to make that change at this point in time. So I would
9 recommend, Mr. Chairman, that the board take the last sentence
10 of paragraph 2C and move it up to be the last sentence of
11 paragraph 2B.

12 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: It's been moved and seconded that
15 we rearrange those sentences. Is there discussion on the
16 motion?

17 (No audible responses)

18 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Hearing none, all in favor please
19 signify by saying aye.

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Opposed?

22 (No audible responses)

23 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you. Then that will pass.

24 And, Ron, you can.....

25 MR. MILLER: I'll make that change.

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:get that. So tomorrow at our
2 public hearing we can have the amended redistricting guidelines
3 by the board. Thank you very much.

4 Okay. Let's -- we have two people signed up. Heidi
5 Dygas [sic] is first.

6 MS. DRYGAS: Close.

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. I.....

8 MS. DRYGAS: That's okay.

9 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:couldn't tell.....

10 MS. DRYGAS: Heidi Drygas.

11 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. It was close.

12 MS. DRYGAS: We just missed the R.

13 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay.

14 MS. DRYGAS: Hi. My name is Heidi Drygas, I'm general
15 counsel for the Alaska District Council of Laborers and I'll
16 make my comments brief. I want to thank the board for giving
17 the public the opportunity to provide comments on this
18 important process. As you all know, Alaska faces some
19 significant challenges resulting from the growth of population
20 in some areas of our state and the loss of population in
21 others. But myself and others believe that we should resist
22 the urge to make significant changes to the current districts
23 as they exist. The districts that we have right now work well
24 in Alaska and to the extent that we can maintain them given the
25 population shift and the legal framework.....

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: That's only for recording. It
2 doesn't project. So you don't need to get that close to
3 the.....

4 MS. DRYGAS: Oh. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, not a problem.

6 MS. DRYGAS: Was I.....

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I should have said something.....

8 MS. DRYGAS: Sorry to everyone listening. They're like
9 -- okay. As I said, the districts we have now work well in
10 Alaska and to the extent that we can maintain them, given the
11 population shifts and legal constraints, we should. The 2001
12 redistricting plan resulted in a balance of representation in
13 the state legislature, both with party representation and the
14 representation of minority groups in our state. Additionally,
15 the current districts reflect important neighborhood and
16 community linkages that we should strive to maintain. It's
17 extremely important that all Alaskan voices be heard, and I
18 believe that the current districts under the 2001 plan do just
19 that. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

20 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you. Just
21 trying to make notes. All right. Debbie Williams is next.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Commissioners. It is my
23 pleasure to speak with you again today and I would like to
24 reserve the bulk of my comments to March 31st, because like
25 other people involved in this process, we are busily crunching

1 numbers, drawing lines, and looking at all of the multiple
2 legal and other factors that must be considered.

3 First of all, I want to thank you for making this
4 opportunity to say a few preliminary comments, but also for
5 providing the public the opportunity to present plans and
6 larger comments on the 31st. That's so important, so greatly
7 appreciate that opportunity. This is such a compressed time
8 frame for all of us and we know how hard you're working and I'm
9 sure you know how hard we're all working to try and come up
10 with the best plan for the future of this state that's fair and
11 balanced and equitable.

12 I just wanted to make the following initial comments.
13 One, you already took care. I was going to point out the
14 guidelines issue, so that's the advantage of staying a little
15 late at the downtown rotary and coming at 2:00 o'clock, so
16 thank you board members and counsel for addressing that issue.

17 Secondly, of course we saw in the most recent notice
18 your desire to have administrative board meetings prior to the
19 pre-planning hearings. And I would recommend, for the sake of
20 openness, transparency and public knowledge that you do one of
21 two things with respect to those potential future pre-hearing
22 board meetings. Either, one, have them be telephonically
23 communicated so that if you know you're going to have one
24 before Bethel or Juneau or Ketchikan that you could notify
25 people on your mailing list that there is likely to be one and

1 there could be a call-in number that we could call in to listen
2 to. Or alternatively, if that's technically impossible, to
3 have staff as quickly as possible summarize with some detail
4 what occurred at the board meeting with respect to your
5 administrative decisions and get that to everyone on your
6 mailing list. The first would be preferable. We would love to
7 hear your voices before every one of the hearings, but again,
8 if that's technically not possible, we would just ask that the
9 staff prepare that as quickly as possible so that if necessary
10 people could be prepared to comment on any decisions you've
11 made at the next meeting and that you've have the full benefit
12 of public comment as quickly as possible in this very, very
13 compressed time frame.

14 So those were really the gist of my two comments at
15 this time. I do look forward to talking at much greater length
16 once we have had the opportunity to fully evaluate the census
17 data. And I again thank you for your hard work. I personally
18 have been very impressed with your deliberations. I thought
19 the last meeting was an outstanding one and we look forward to
20 working with you and providing you insight and input going
21 forward. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you. I don't
23 think we have anybody else, so we will at 2:19 or 18, I guess,
24 we will stand in recess until the next wave.

25 (Off record)

1 (On record)

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:appreciate your commitment
3 to avoid racial and political gerrymandering. Second, the 2001
4 redistricting plan resulted in a balance between parties in our
5 legislature and this has made it possible and encouraged our
6 legislators, our representatives and senators, to work together
7 despite their affiliations and across party lines, and I'd like
8 to see that continue. And third, I believe that how the lines
9 are drawn determines whether Alaska Natives and minorities
10 across the state get equal representation. And I want to be
11 sure that they have an opportunity to be represented fairly in
12 the state legislature.

13 And in conclusion, I want to remind you that your job
14 is -- as redistricting board members is very important and that
15 the decisions that you make will affect Alaskans' futures for
16 the next 10 years. Please exercise due care and protect the
17 rights of all Alaskans to be represented fairly. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Nick, appreciate that.
19 All right. We are -- during the break our legal handed out a
20 memo that basically gave us a summary of the Department of
21 Justice guidelines of the new guidelines for Section 5.

22 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Did you tell Vicki that
23 (indiscernible)?

24 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, what's that?

25 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Did you tell Vicki that

1 she doesn't have (indiscernible)?

2 MS. OTTE: Did I pick this up on the back table?

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Sure.

4 MS. OTTE: The guidelines? Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I'm sure it's back there, Vicki.

6 MS. OTTE: Yeah. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you for your
8 testimony.

9 MS. OTTE: I appreciate that and good luck.

10 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: So, with that, if you will -- do
13 you want to walk us through the memo? Or are you just open for
14 questions?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I think probably.....

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Or what would you like?

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Well, this wasn't noticed
18 on the agenda. It's beyond administrative issues. I think a
19 public discussion with the whole board might be pushing the
20 envelope a little bit in terms of what we can do. And perhaps
21 we should -- are any of the upcoming meetings teleconferenced
22 until we get to the 31st or.....

23 MR. MILLER: The 31st is the only one that will be
24 teleconferenced.

25 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We could notice it after

1 that meeting.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: We could notice it out for
3 that meeting that we're going to have a board meeting and we're
4 going to discuss -- I mean, put it definitely on there so that
5 at least people can then listen and hear. I'd hate to have a
6 conversation and then have someone say, well, wait a minute, it
7 wasn't on the agenda, you're discussing substantive issues, you
8 said you were only going to deal with administrative issues. I
9 think so far we've only dealt with administrative issues. I
10 can certainly, at the break, talk to each of you or if anybody
11 has any questions they can ask me, I just don't want to get
12 into a public meeting situation on an issue that I haven't
13 provided notice on.

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Questions? All right. Hearing
15 none, we'll stand in recess at 2:53 and we'll come back to
16 order when we get some more folks.

17 (Off record)

18 (On record)

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. We'll call the meeting back
20 to order and the time is 4:00 p.m., 4:01, whatever. We have
21 three people that have signed up to continue the testimony.
22 First is Jolie [sic] Hall.

23 MS. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, my
24 name is Joelle Hall and I'm the political director of the
25 Alaska AFL-CIO. Thank you very much for giving us a chance to

1 testify today. I'm here on behalf of my boss, Vince Beltrami,
2 who is in Juneau, as you read in the paper. We got issues in
3 Juneau. He's down there doing his job. And on behalf of the
4 60,000 members of the Alaska AFL-CIO, the working men and women
5 all around our state which we are proud to serve every day.

6 I want to thank you first off for volunteering to do
7 this because public service is hard even when you get paid to
8 do it, but when you don't get paid to do it and you're being
9 taken away from your businesses and your families, it's -- I
10 really want to thank you very much for your time because I know
11 this is a big task. Lots of time and a big commitment to
12 hearing from the public. I wish there were 40 million more
13 behind me coming to make good use of your time, but I won't go
14 on. I can't make up for all of them, so I won't take their
15 five minutes. But thank you again.

16 The Alaska AFL-CIO is a member of Alaskans for Fair
17 Redistricting who will be here later on to present a plan and
18 to talk to you about their perspectives. For our point of
19 view, from the AFL point of view, I guess what we'd like to
20 have put into the record today is that we really feel that the
21 current redistricting and the balance that it has created in
22 the legislature is a good thing for Alaska and for its voters.
23 And the rationale for that is that in my mind when you think
24 about what is a good district, when you think about what is a
25 good plan, the most competitive plan, the most competitive

1 district is the best district for the electorate. Meaning when
2 you put up two candidates, each one of them having a real
3 chance to win, and the best candidate with the best campaign
4 can be the victor, that's the best exercise of democracy. So a
5 plan that results in the maximum number of those kinds of
6 districts is the best suited to the public at large. I think
7 this plan has resulted in a fairly large number of highly
8 competitive districts. By my political calculations, there's
9 at least nine highly competitive districts. That's a full
10 quarter of the Alaska house. That means that in any given
11 year, depending on the quality of the candidate, the quality of
12 the campaign, the mood of the electorate, the people can move
13 this pendulum ever so slightly to one way or the direction kind
14 of based on the mood of the people.

15 I also want to reiterate that 53 percent of Alaskans
16 are non-partisan, so when you have these highly competitive
17 races, these highly competitive seats, it's the non-partisans
18 who are the majority who actually effectuate the change in
19 those districts. And I think that that is good for the public,
20 good for the people who are the majority of the electorate and
21 is a nice balance in the system. I also think this is a very
22 healthy environment because it has fostered in a time when you
23 have a lot of stridency on both sides of the aisle and people
24 kind of bunkering down into their trenches on either side to
25 wage war at each other, Alaska is different. Alaska has a

1 group where people work together. That is refreshing. The
2 electorate likes that kind of thing. You know, those of us who
3 maybe work in this for a living, we may like it too some days;
4 we may not like it some days. But this is what the electorate
5 wants. They want us to go to work together.

6 So I would argue that those two things, highly
7 competitive districts and the evidence that folks working
8 across the aisle give you the indication that this is a fairly
9 balanced plan that will serve -- that has served Alaska very
10 well. Now I'm fully aware that there has been lots of
11 migration of population and that you have a huge task before
12 you to assimilate, you know, 18 to 20,000 people into the
13 Valley and to move people out of certain communities, and that
14 is a huge challenge and I know that you'll be up to the task.
15 And just urge you to try to do as much as possible to retain
16 that competitive, because I think that is the instrumental part
17 that gives Alaska the ability to be different than the other
18 states in this nation.

19 On a -- that's really all I wanted to say with regard
20 to the plan. We're looking forward to seeing the plan you
21 produce. And of course AFFR will be presenting a plan on the
22 31st and we're hoping to really, you know, engage in an
23 exchange about the relative -- you know, I kind of hope it's a
24 debate -- not a debate, but I'd love to like what were you
25 thinking here, what were you thinking here? I think that would

1 be very interesting for the public too.

2 On a housekeeping note, I wondered -- I saw in the
3 public notice that the board is letting the public know that
4 there might be housekeeping business or administrative affairs
5 done at the beginning of the public testimony because I know,
6 you guys have a lot of administrative tasks to do. Is there
7 any way that that portion of the meeting could be either
8 webcast or tel -- or available through listen-only
9 teleconference so that we can keep track of the business part
10 of the board? Not so much the testimony that goes on like
11 this, but on that front end of the business part? I just put
12 that out as a potential request and hope that you will think
13 about that. And I really appreciate your time and your service
14 and I'll just -- I'm going to kind of hang out and watch
15 because I like this kind of things. Thank you very much.

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Ms. Hall. Michael,
17 will you -- okay. Oh, okay. Steve.

18 MR. AUFRECHT: Hi, my name is Steve Aufrecht and I'm
19 here as a member of the media. I say that as a blogger. And I
20 really didn't expect to be up here but after last time you
21 talked about whether you -- whether individual members could
22 talk to individual members of the public and whether that was
23 any kind of a violation and you agreed that it -- you had to be
24 able to talk to people, and I think that's a good idea. And
25 I'd suggest -- and I know this is difficult to implement, that

1 particularly if you have longer conversations that the
2 conversations just be logged so that -- because you're
3 collecting information from people so all information that you
4 get from people that's written is supposedly going to be posted
5 on the website. So at least a log to let people know, you
6 know, you talked to this person who is a representative of
7 this, you talked to this person who is a representative of
8 that. And then people at least will know whether they really
9 need to get in -- if they feel like they need to get in and
10 talk to you because they think that person might have different
11 ideas than they have and they want to correct it. At least
12 that people know that, because now the written stuff we'll all
13 know but the oral stuff we won't necessarily know. And that's
14 all I have to say.

15 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you, Steve. Mr.
16 Mayor/Commissioner Bill Noll.

17 MR. NOLL: My name is Bill Noll. I live at 4167 Apollo
18 Drive, Anchorage, District 21. Among other things that could
19 be added, I'm Chairman of the Republican Party in District 21,
20 just for the record. I don't have much to say except perhaps
21 one or two comments. One, I'd like to comment on District 21,
22 which your records note has seen although a growth in
23 population overall, it falls some 1500 or 1450 or so below what
24 is looked at as the desirable average of 1700 or more. And
25 there's a way of amending that and I don't know what the

1 numbers crank out at. We have, that is District 21 has in the
2 past added to its inventory that precinct which is up on top of
3 Stuckagain Heights, is variously called Stuckagain Heights or
4 Basher Drive or -- and it's got X number of people in it. It's
5 the old Joe Henry/Roger Cremo subdivision that was built in the
6 year zero, a long time ago. So as a possible cure to the
7 situation in District 21, that could be pulled down. It is now
8 in District 32, which is, along with 6, probably one of the
9 biggest geographical -- well, there are maybe two or three
10 actually that are very, very big. This is a very big district
11 and not a very practical one in some ways. Anyway, Basher
12 could be added to 21.

13 I don't have a cure necessarily in terms but I'd just
14 point out that District K, which is a combination -- Senate
15 District K, combination of 21 and 22, overall is some 3000
16 short between those two precincts, so that's going to be an
17 issue. I don't have a cure to suggest to you. I'll point it
18 out and we would welcome anything reasonable that could work.
19 Again, eastside along with the valley, eastside of Anchorage is
20 enjoying kind of a slight trend up in terms of overall
21 population. It's a very viable neighborhood and an area that
22 I'm only familiar with because of some experience in the
23 fishing industry. 36 comes to mind and, just for the record,
24 Brother Brodie and I worked on what we could do about building
25 the Trans-Alaska Pipeline system back in the mid-seventies when

1 we worked together at Sheep Creek camp near Valdez. So I hold
2 nothing against him for that, by the way. But as a way of
3 looking at this, and I know you've got your plate full, they
4 are terribly short. They went up short by some 3000 people in
5 terms of population in 36. But I'd encourage thinking in terms
6 of mutual interests in both culturally and in industry. And
7 the first thing that pops to mind aside from coast guard and so
8 on, activities there, is fish. I, as you pointed out, lived in
9 Seward for quite a while and it's possible if you take an east-
10 west access that you could reach out as far as, who knows,
11 Dutch Harbor or Cold Bay at least. And to -- in that
12 direction. And then over into Prince William Sound on the
13 other. At least you would have a cultural and industrial
14 similarity. And I don't know how you rob Peter to pay Paul in
15 this event. It's -- simply, I could make comments on this and
16 leave it up to your good hands for an eventual cure.

17 I'd just like to make a general comment along with
18 other would-be state leaders or past leaders. We shared a
19 great concern in terms of loss of population in the bush and a
20 natural development, it's nobody's fault per se, with the great
21 growth in the Mat-Su. And I'd just like to mention how pleased
22 I am personally because I know lots of people from the north
23 that -- Kotzebue and that area -- came out looking pretty good.
24 So congratulations on that. I'm happy for you, happy for the
25 state for that matter.

1 I'd like to point out only something that may go back
2 to fish in terms of Kodiak, but there was an enormous,
3 cataclysmic event there in Japan. I needn't go into great
4 detail, but I -- I'm going to put a call in to Alan Austerman
5 and ask him if anyone is paying attention on the economic
6 impact that's going to have on our fishing industry. Somewhere
7 in my memory cells I always looked at fish as probably a four
8 billion dollar industry here in terms of -- exports are pretty
9 easy to keep track of; domestic, not so. But maybe four
10 billion. That's a lot of business here. It means lots of
11 jobs. And Sendai and that whole coastal area north of Tokyo is
12 a big problem. And there's a lot of buyers there. And I think
13 there's cod milt, there's lots of stuff which is actually
14 rotting now on ships waiting to deliver that and it's not going
15 to happen. So I know this is a little bit off track from
16 perhaps your current assignment, but I see lots of leaders in
17 the state sitting in front of here, so just a word. I'll put a
18 call in to Allen. I'm going to ask him to see whether or not
19 he can't assign some money or put a request into commerce or
20 ASMI or somebody to try to put a number behind that and see
21 what might should be done for us, for Alaskan industry. Thanks
22 very much for the time.

23 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you.....

24 MR. NOLL: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:Mr. Noll. Well, with that,

1 we will recess at 4:15 and wait for the next wave.

2 (Off record)

3 (On record)

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Back to order and the time is
5 4:41. And we have two more folks that wish to testify before
6 the board. First is Geri Simon. Good afternoon.

7 MS. SIMON: Good afternoon. I at least see one
8 familiar face in Marie. My name is Geri Simon. I'm from
9 Allakaket, which is up in interior Alaska. I'm an attorney by
10 trade and have worked here in Anchorage, in Bethel and in
11 Fairbanks, but I currently make my home in Anchorage. I work
12 for a village corporation here in Anchorage but I'm speaking on
13 my own behalf today.

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay.

15 MS. SIMON: The redistricting process is very, very
16 important to my family and to my people at home in the
17 interior. As you know, District 6 has, what, some 90-odd
18 villages within the district and my village is 180 people on a
19 good day, depending if the plane made it in or out. But we
20 want to -- we would encourage you to keep the districts as much
21 as possible to where they are now. I think we have a balanced
22 approach right now with the representation that we get out
23 there and what that really means is that every voter and every
24 constituent out there does have an equal chance of ending up in
25 the game, of being able to benefit from the state and our

1 representation and who we have out there.

2 And as you know, interior Alaska was -- saw the
3 greatest number of folks out-migrating from the villages, most
4 likely into Fairbanks. So as you draw the lines I think it's
5 important to take those folks into consideration and if you
6 have to draw closer to Fairbanks, I would encourage that. I
7 know that some parts of Fairbanks, like west Fairbanks, does
8 have a large minority of Alaska Native voters. And again, I
9 think with the current technology that we have, I've worked
10 with the Native vote effort since 1996, I believe, and even
11 back then we really broke down the numbers and looked at what
12 folks were voting and where they were voting and what
13 percentage of shareholders or beneficiaries or tribal members
14 we had in those districts. And so based upon those numbers, I
15 mean, you can obviously now have much better information and
16 much better access to information in terms of how you draw the
17 lines.

18 So that was one of my points. The other is that I
19 would really encourage your group to go out to some of the more
20 rural areas maybe. Like I said, you know, District 6 has some
21 90-odd communities and then District 5, which is like 40
22 communities. And while you may go to Bethel, having lived in
23 Bethel, I am going to guess that a lot of the folks that will
24 be testifying aren't necessarily coming in from the outlying
25 communities to do so. Especially with the travel costs what

1 they are. I mean, right now it's, in my village, about 340
2 bucks one way from Allakaket to Fairbanks, and I don't see
3 anybody spending that kind of money.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: One way (indiscernible).

5 MS. SIMON: Yep.

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Wow.

7 MS. SIMON: So there's need for competition obviously.
8 Yeah, from here, the community that I work for here is Tyonek
9 and it's \$150 round trip, and that's just for, you know, a half
10 an hour flight one way. So -- and Marie knows the cost of
11 traveling out in rural Alaska. And if people want to go into
12 town to testify it's going to be in connection with a medical
13 appointment or some other event. So anyways, I would encourage
14 you at least to get out there and you will be able to see
15 really what a difference it is for folks to try to participate
16 and make their voices heard. So those are my comments.

17 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. All right. Thank you,
18 Geri.

19 MS. SIMON: If you have.....

20 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Ms. Simon.

21 MS. SIMON:any questions.

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: No.

23 MS. SIMON: All right. Thank you. I appreciate the
24 time.

25 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you. Next we have Peter

1 Giessel, I think.

2 MR. GIESSEL: Hi. I'm Peter Giessel, District 17
3 resident, and I just want to not waste your time too much but
4 say that the Eagle River districts are horribly broken and just
5 mangled with District 32 especially being this weird, split
6 district where it represents everything from a slice of Eagle
7 River all the way down to Hope and so forth. It just divides
8 the community. It doesn't keep Eagle River together as a
9 community. And the people in part of 32 are much more like
10 District 17 voters and their concerns about the Glenn Highway
11 traffic and so forth; whereas the rest of District 32 doesn't
12 share our concerns and it just is a bad division of the
13 community. And those parts of 32 should be put back together
14 with the rest of Eagle River and Eagle River should be
15 reunited.

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you, Peter.
17 Appreciate that. Well, with that I think we'll go into recess.
18 It's now 4:48 and we'll stand in recess for awhile.

19 (Off record)

20 (On record)

21 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:to order. The time is 5:30
22 and we have one person that's here to testify. Mr. Berkeley
23 Ide. Sir, if you'll join us at the podium, give us your name
24 and affiliation, if any.

25 MR. IDE: Yeah, my name is Berkeley Ide, I'm actually

1 representing myself today but I'm a community activist. I have
2 been a lobbyist in years gone by, back in the late 70's and
3 80's. I did run for assembly in 1980 against Jerry O'Connor
4 out in Eagle River, but here in town I am active in my party.
5 But the biggest thing is, District 23 is what I want to talk
6 about. District 23 in 2001 was gerrymandered around where it
7 split Government Hill. Government Hill right now is split
8 right at Loop Road. The right-hand side, if you go on
9 Government Hill, is tied in with the Muldoon area and Mountain
10 View area, which it should not be. It split the Muldoon -- the
11 Government Hill community council right in half. Okay? And
12 actually what it does, it violates the natural boundaries of
13 the old District 23. Okay? Chester Creek here in the south
14 would be a good natural boundary, southern boundary for us.
15 But we do have currently -- it was back in -- set in 2001, it
16 was gerrymandered around till we brought in precincts south of
17 Chester Creek and it excluded some precincts north of Chester
18 Creek.

19 Secondly, the splitting of Government Hill was a
20 perfect example of what they did back then. Okay? What we
21 want to do is this committee should look at keeping communities
22 together. Okay? So we have cohesive units rather than looking
23 like a -- some of these districts in the state where they're
24 spread over hell and highwater. I mean, it's just this long,
25 slender things that cover half the state. Even here in town we

1 have a couple of precincts that way that are split that
2 actually there is no community cohesion on these things.

3 I know that what they did up in Eagle River -- up in
4 Government Hill back then was when Lisa Murkowski was our
5 legislator. They split that because -- to tie her in with
6 another republican candidate to eliminate -- and what they did
7 is they then opened up the area here for a democratic candidate
8 to run and that's who won the district for 23. You know, why
9 was Government Hill split? It was strictly because of
10 political -- you know. That's all it was. It was -- there was
11 a lot of things that were done in the last time that they
12 gerrymandered this district that they destroyed communities,
13 they destroyed community councils, they split them up. It was
14 strictly for political expediency, is all it was, so that they
15 could control and get the political control. Okay?

16 Now, I'll tell you what, I am -- I have been a
17 Constitutional conservative. Okay? And we look at -- I don't
18 care what party they are. If they destroy a community and
19 strictly out for political gain and ignore the public, then
20 we're going to fight them. Okay? Because right now I'm
21 involved with a big fight with Congress over some of the things
22 that's been going on back there. I've been involved here in
23 the state since '72 so that I'm well aware of what's going on
24 in the state. But if you have -- are redistricting, make your
25 districts as cohesive as possible so that they don't destroy

1 communities. That's the main thing. You can figure it out.

2 The politics of the people will fall in place to where
3 they want it to be. You can't gerrymander around just to get
4 political favor here or there to benefit one party or the
5 other. It really doesn't work, because all it does is turn the
6 people against those parties because if you see what's going on
7 -- and it also creates something that, well, many people don't
8 realize, but the average voter out there is smarter than the
9 politicians. Believe they are. Okay? And they're going to
10 learn one of these days when we come down on them. So that's
11 the main thing. Big thing is, I live in District 23, I've seen
12 how it's been split up. I've been up there for 15 years and
13 I've lived in the Eagle River area, the Muldoon area, and I've
14 seen how they've gerrymandered the places over the years. And
15 the biggest thing is, why do they have to do this just to get a
16 political gain which will last, what, for three, four, five
17 years. Actually what we're doing is we are starting a program
18 in the state, we're going after term limits for legislators,
19 period. And that's what we're after. And so regardless of how
20 they gerrymander it or how they get the districts going, we're
21 going to come in to cause the legislators to be term limited.
22 That's what we're after. If we have to do it with a
23 congressional or constitutional amendment, we'll do it.

24 But the biggest thing is, I'm asking you to keep the
25 districts at least cohesive where the community is together,

1 they're kept together with -- and our community councils and
2 keep it that way. Thank you very much for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Thank you, Berkeley, for
4 your testimony. Well, I know one of the -- Senator, you had
5 signed up to testify?

6 MR. BUNDE: That's mister to you.

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Oh.

8 (Laughter)

9 MR. BUNDE: Yes, I did.

10 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Mr. Senator, did you sign up --
11 it's the title for life, Mr. Bunde. But do you want to join us
12 then, sir -- well, Mr.

13 MR. BUNDE: I'm working desperately to become one of
14 the exalted status like you guys. Didn't you used to be
15 somebody?

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Seems like a long time ago.

17 MR. HOLM: Nice to see you, Senator.

18 MR. BUNDE: Thanks, Jim. Good to see you. Well, Mr.
19 Chairman, committee members, I'll say it's a delight to be able
20 to come to a hearing and not have to wear a tie. As the
21 chairman indicated, I have been involved in redistricting and
22 the last time around my district, which was District 32 of the
23 house district and Senate District P, went through this
24 process. And I'm here just to, one, commend you to your work
25 and wish you well and just share what went on with my

1 experience in redistricting in hopes that we can streamline
2 things a little bit over the last time around.

3 Redistricting is often, I think as probably was
4 indicated by previous testimony, somewhat partisan. It
5 certainly was the last time around when the district that I was
6 to represent was drawn to include Valdez. And the attorney
7 supporting that said, well, gee whiz, what's the problem of you
8 from Anchorage representing Valdez? Why you have many things
9 in common. And he used the example of Don Young, who was
10 elected from Fort Yukon and could represent the huge district
11 and got elected quite handily. And of course I had to observe
12 that it's helpful when your opponent dies. And then I
13 apologized to Don later.

14 It would seem to me to increase credibility in public
15 confidence. I could share at least with two of you the -- I
16 think the concern about the esteem in which the legislature is
17 held. I think it would increase public confidence to see if we
18 couldn't once eliminate the courts. And as you draw the lines,
19 and I know it is a -- it's a Gordian knot that is very, very
20 difficult and I don't for a moment underestimate your task.
21 But if we could eliminate the courts one time around I think it
22 would be a great asset to our process. And maybe we'd get at
23 some point more than 20 or 30 percent of the voters turning out
24 to vote if they -- if we could raise their confidence level a
25 little bit. With that, I thank you for your time and the

1 difficult task that you have before you. I appreciate you
2 taking it up.

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, sir. I just -- I think
4 the board shares your thought on keeping it out of court.
5 We're clearly not into this process looking to go to court on
6 anything we do, so maybe we will be the board that creates a
7 plan, hopefully we are the one that creates the plan that
8 doesn't a court challenge. It's a worthy goal. Thank you,
9 Senator -- or Mr.

10 MR. BUNDE: And when you get a day off, let's play a
11 game of cribbage.

12 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, I got your number.

13 MR. BUNDE: Yeah, in more ways than one.

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Actually, they've got a whole
15 bunch of your stationery right over here, right next door. I
16 was going to take a bunch of it because I write letters to
17 people. You might want to just -- it's your official senate
18 stationery. Just.....

19 MR. BUNDE: Well, hopefully they can recycle it.

20 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I think that's what they're going
21 to do.

22 MR. BUNDE: Scratch off (indiscernible).

23 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: I'm going to write to all my
24 friends on your letterhead.

25 MR. BUNDE: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Senator. Thank you for
2 coming in.

3 MR. BUNDE: (Indiscernible).

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah, there you go.

5 MR. BUNDE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you. Okay. Next we have
7 Christopher Kurka. Go ahead and state your name for the record
8 and proceed.

9 MR. KURKA: My name is -- can you hear me? My name is
10 Christopher Kurka. I'm a lifelong resident of Eagle River,
11 District 17. I am also here with -- I'm part of Alaska Right
12 to Life Political Action Committee.

13 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Which one?

14 MR. KURKA: Alaska Right to Life.....

15 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay.

16 MR. KURKA:Political Action. We're a non-
17 partisan organization. Anyway, as an individual and a resident
18 from Eagle River all my life, in the 2002 redistricting, or
19 that finally took place in 2002, Eagle River community was
20 split. And you have District 32, which is South Anchorage, and
21 Hope and Girdwood and Whittier. I think it's -- I'd have to go
22 back and check. I'm not sure if Whittier is in that or not.
23 You have that coming into Eagle River Valley from the south and
24 from the east. And you have 17, which is kind of a compact
25 district. And I've heard it was created for the purpose of

1 creating like a republican (indiscernible) where you have, you
2 know, forcing all the republicans into one district
3 (indiscernible) influence other reporting areas. And you have
4 District 18 over to the west where you have -- it looks like a
5 serious bit of gerrymandering where you have a sliver of
6 Mountain View, Muldoon and the bases and then Chugiak and Eagle
7 River. And it's kind of a mess, to be honest. And it would be
8 great to see, when you redraw this, the map kind of start from
9 the back of Eagle River Valley and then come to the west
10 instead of being connected to cross-glaciers and mountains,
11 which doesn't make sense at all when you can avoid it.

12 And the other thing I was thinking about was that --
13 you know, I have friends out in the Valley so I have some
14 concern out there. And I believe that with the Valley's
15 current population it's entitled to 5.012 districts with the
16 way the 88,000 plus, almost 89,000 votes -- people in the
17 Valley. But even though the Mat-Su Borough is quite large and
18 goes past the -- you know, over towards the District 12 and
19 includes the Lake Louise area and then up north, if you look at
20 the Valley, it looks like District 16, District 12 is kind of a
21 -- you can see this -- like the Chickaloon precinct, is not --
22 it's part of the same community as the Valley but it's split up
23 and it's taken out and being part of Valdez and Delta Junction.
24 And really, if you look -- I think that you should probably, if
25 at all possible, separate that from Valdez and make those, you

1 know, separate districts.

2 I've heard that the people in -- and you'll probably
3 hear this on the road -- people up in Delta Junction are going
4 to want a -- to not be split -- not to have their community
5 split up. And I think when you're -- because from what I've
6 looked at, it looks like District 6 is going to have to be cut
7 up quite a bit. And maybe to make up for those lack of numbers
8 you'll be taking out with Delta Junction and Chickaloon
9 precinct you would be including, maybe over towards the border
10 with Canada, the Tok area, I think it's part of -- more
11 connected with the community in Glennallen and Valdez than say
12 Chickaloon is.

13 And another thought in this process is that maybe to
14 look at the high growth areas. If you go back and look at
15 2002, I think you saw districts like 15 where they were drawn
16 and they were under-represented. And where the district was
17 larger, just from the start off, it was larger in numbers than
18 it should have been. And you had districts in Anchorage that
19 maybe would have been closer to being perfect. And -- but that
20 was a high growth area and so -- well, for the last 10 years a
21 significant population chunk in 15 and other districts have
22 been under-represented. So I was thinking about this -- and I
23 don't know if this is something that's been done but -- or can
24 be done legitimately, but when you're drawing lines, to look at
25 maybe projected population growth and where the -- that's not

1 something you can look at.

2 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: We have to use the census data as
3 presented. We can't conjure up.....

4 MR. KURKA: Right. Yeah.

5 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:this district is going to be
6 this size and this district is going to be that size.

7 MR. KURKA: But you can.....

8 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: That would make one heck of a
9 process if that was part of the equation, but -- sorry, to
10 interrupt you, but I just -- I don't want you to go down that
11 path.

12 MR. KURKA: Okay.

13 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: It's something that we cannot do.

14 MR. KURKA: Right. But what is the -- I've heard ten
15 percent, I've heard five percent. What is the variation that's
16 allowed in the said districts? Is it five percent or.....

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

18 MR. KURKA: Okay.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Not more than 10 percent.

20 MR. KURKA: Because that's -- I think it's up to
21 approximately 1700 people and.....

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

23 MR. KURKA: And, you know, I would just thank you for
24 your time and recommend that you -- or ask that you would make
25 it as fair and equitable as possible.

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Christopher.

2 Appreciate.....

3 MR. KURKA: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:your testimony. Anyone else
5 wish to testify?

6 (No audible responses)

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. Seeing none, then we will
8 recess at 5:45 and wait for the next wave.

9 (Off record)

10 (On record)

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Do you think there will
12 be any heartburn because we had to change the location?

13 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: No, we put it on the public
14 record. It's reasonable notice. If anybody wants to complain
15 about that, we'll just (indiscernible).

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Yeah.

17 (Off record)

18 (On record)

19 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: So let's go ahead and call the
20 meeting back to order. It's 6:10 p.m. and we have Jeanie
21 Campbell. So if you would identify yourself for the record and
22 then proceed.

23 MS. CAMPBELL: I'm Jeanie Campbell. I live in
24 Government Hill and I'm really excited about getting to say
25 this today. And I know it's been said a dozen times today

1 already, but this is my turn, so I'm going to say it too. If
2 District 18 isn't the very definition of gerrymandering, I
3 don't know what could be. And I -- see what I don't understand
4 is how that one half of Government Hill has something in common
5 with North Birchwood that the other half of Government Hill
6 doesn't. Government Hill is like 300 feet wide, it's sort of
7 crescent shaped, and it's like a mile and a half long. And
8 what this has to do with, the north side of Birchwood, not the
9 side that's close to Eagle River, not that side, but the side
10 that's closer to Peter's Creek. And then of course there is
11 this little section in Muldoon and I have heard that there's a
12 few places in Mountain View, maybe it's Oceanview, I don't
13 know. It just seems contrived. It's a huge area and there's
14 like so many other neighborhoods between us that belong to
15 these other districts. It just seems like somebody was smoking
16 crack and charging it to the taxpayers. And I just really
17 hope, really hope that somebody has some commonsense and can
18 fix this problem. Oh, actually the base is included in that
19 too. I can't even get on the base. Anyway, it just makes it
20 difficult. Anybody have any questions for me? Did I leave
21 anything out?

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: No, I think you did fine. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. CAMPBELL: I'm sorry. It's just so strange.

25 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you, Ms. Campbell.

1 MS. CAMPBELL: I mean, how much stranger could it have
2 been? Barrow and Seward? I.....

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Yeah. Well, I encourage you to
4 keep track of the process and when we get our draft plans out
5 we'll be.....

6 MS. CAMPBELL: Sure. I.....

7 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON:back having these and you'll
8 be able to hopefully not criticize our actions but maybe -- who
9 knows. We'll see.

10 MS. CAMPBELL: Well, I understand that there might be
11 one or two other districts that were a little stranger. I
12 heard of such, but it was just -- when I heard how big my
13 district was, as a republican District 18 chair, it was
14 daunting for me.

15 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

16 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: All right. Thank you, Ms.
17 Campbell.

18 MS. CAMPBELL: You're welcome. So we are now at 6:14
19 and we will recess.

20 (Off record)

21 (On record)

22 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Okay. We'll call the meeting back
23 to order. It's 6:59. Before we adjourn, we understand that
24 tomorrow we will meet at our offices.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: By 10:00.

1 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: By 10:00 o'clock.

2 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: By 10:00.

3 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: By 10:00 and then we'll arrange
4 for cars or the vans or whatever we're going to ride in. So I
5 think Michael's going to have a rig he's taking out. Ron's
6 going to (indiscernible).

7 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) have a rig.

8 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: And whatever else happens. So
9 that will all be done tomorrow, so if we can all be there about
10 10:00, that would be great. So is there anything else to come
11 before us tonight?

12 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: No one else
13 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible).

14 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Pardon me?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible) I thought
16 maybe we had one more (indiscernible).

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Oh, that's right.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I had seen him before.
19 Sorry.

20 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Well, I've already invited him to
21 testify.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

23 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: He wanted to.....

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: (Indiscernible).

25 (Laughter)

1 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Who's buying? No, no. That's
2 right. So a motion to adjourn will be in order.

3 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: So moved.

4 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: So -- second to the
5 question.

6 CHAIRMAN TORGERSON: Thank you. Is there any -- it's
7 not debatable. So we will stand adjourned at 7:00 o'clock.

8 (Off record)

9 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

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TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Salena A. Hile, hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 2 through 65 are a true, accurate, and complete transcript of proceedings, transcribed under my direction from a copy of an electronic sound recording to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Date

Salena A. Hile, Transcriber