

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing in Apache Junction, AZ: June 20, 2001**

“Apache Junction will tell you in their district they are a community of interest. Kearny will tell you the same thing. Casa Grande will tell you the same thing. To a large extent, what they tell you is all correct. Pinal County will tell you everybody that resides in Pinal County is a community of interest. Now I begin to have a problem.”-Senator Pete Rios, Pg 28 Ln 14-20

“Additionally, your new proposed district lines bring in areas like Gold Canyon with Jack Nicklaus golf courses and retains areas like Saddlebrooke, a Sun City-like retirement resort community, that have very little in common with mining, Indians, Latinos, and blue collar working families in Pinal County.”- Rios, Pg 31 Ln 16-21

“If the Commission wishes to make Apache Junction whole, and Casa Grande whole, and most of Pinal whole, I ask you consider moving the district lines for Globe, Miami, Morencie, Clifton, certain areas of Chandler, insure the protected classes in the district truly are protected. Include the Native American areas I referred to earlier.” –Rios, Pg 32 Ln 6-12

“When I think of communities of interest, I think of taxing authorities, municipalities, and school districts, which their boundaries do not – more often than not do not match a municipal boundary, counties, those types of entities.” –Mayor Coleman, Pg 36 Ln 17-21

“I see a county that is almost split in half. Like Senator Rios was saying, communities of interests, Gold Canyon, I too have much of the same interests as Eloy. Quite a few people in Eloy have similar interests as mine. But you have Gold Canyon, Apache Junction, in a contiguous area which has very like interests to East Mesa, Gilbert, whatever, that area.” – Sharron Gill, Pg 38 Ln 13-17

“The county is just chopped to smithereens with, again, as the Mayor said, people representing us that have no idea what is going on half the time.”- Gill, Pg 39 Ln 8-11

“I’d like to see the City of Apache Junction kept together, work with the City of Apache Junction staff, look to areas designated as potential incorporation areas, and I’d also like to consider those in keeping them in the same area.”-Barbara Gardner, Pg 43 Ln 14-18

“I’m not afraid of having some of the east valley put into Pinal County to make sure we guarantee the minority rights. I would welcome that.” -Sandie Smith, Pg 44 Ln 12-14

“We have three legislative districts. Apache Junction is a joke, an insult at times that Apache Junction districting in Pinal county represents us. It’s not the mining industry, not the dollar people. And also I find it an insult to get up here and say because Hispanic, black, white, green, whatever color, I thought we were all created equal.”-George Diehl, Pg 50 Ln 13-19

**NOTE:** These summaries and excerpts were developed for the Independent Redistricting Commission by its consultant, National Demographics Corporation, and have not been reviewed by the Commission prior to posting. They are not official statements of the Commission and represent only the consultant's best effort to identify major themes and highlights of each public hearing. The excerpts were chosen by the consultant in an effort to identify common themes and especially noteworthy statements.

These materials are placed here for citizen review and with the hope that they will encourage comments. Comments can be made on the form provided.