

**Excerpts From the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing
at Amphitheater High School in Tucson, Arizona, June 20, 2001**

“And as you’re establishing the hierarchy of criteria, I would suggest that you pay less attention to political boundaries and more attention to geographical boundaries and to concentrations of what we started to call communities of interest.” – Mike Hellon, Pg 26 Ln 10-15

“Now, I recognize there’s a school district that overlays that, but that’s one of what I call those arbitrary political decisions that in my judgment you ought to be ignoring and you ought to be looking at where people really live and where they interact with each other. I would further suggest that Rillito River and if not River Road, at least the river is a very significant geographical barrier in northern Tucson.” – Hellon, Pg 27 Ln 13-21

“The Navajos and Hopis have never ever been able to live in the same area. That division has still not been settled in federal court. And now we see that the Tohono O’Odham is also in disarray and maybe looking to be split.”-Jerry D’Pato, Pg 30 Ln 1-5

“Second thing, I said what was the community of interest in one of the districts that was drawn here, I don’t know what its number is, but it says King Road down to Irvington, off the Interstate, over to Campbell. And interestingly enough, as a professional anthropologist and somebody who’s worked in this city for 35 years, I think you’ve got a community of interest. What you’ve got there and here’s how I define it, the whole cluster, you’ve got primarily urban area. It’s an area of an older neglected part of Tucson. It’s an area of mid to low income people. Probably these are more Wal-Mart people than Dillard’s.” – Ted Downing, Pg 36 Ln 25 and Pg 37 Ln 1-12

“Community of interest it seems to me is inconsistent with F, which is competitive”-Paul Jewing speaking of the goals of Prop 106, Pg 39 Ln 20-21

“I mean in central Tucson it’s quite typical not to know who you’re voting with in terms of the city ward, the legislative district. I think looking at the map I’ve always voted at the school just across the street. It’s not in a different congressional district.”-Elizabeth Clemens, Pg 51 Ln 20-24

“And by and large, most of our rural areas I think will find themselves identifying more with their school districts than sometimes they might with their own county or their own city. The schools traditionally in our state, but in every state, have been the center of communities, recognizing that historical foundation, and then compounding that with the number one priority of our state legislature I think should allow some kind of prioritizing to the school districts and their needs as the districts are established.”-Ron Bennett, Pg 59 Ln 8-18

“...you will realize in that study that the single biggest issue that divided those people of that time was rural versus the urban areas. The whole thing almost fell apart. And coming from a rural community, we don’t have to be worried about too much about

communities of interest but we worry about being steamrolled by the states of Maricopa and occasionally Pima, even though they are more or less suburban.”-David Buehler, Pg 61 Ln 17-25

“I just want to make sure that you hear that some of us are very happy with the congressional districts in Pima County.”-Speaker from the audience, Pg 71 Ln 19-21

“Roads and/or the lack of roads really holds us together in Pima County or forces us apart, but holds us together because it’s an area of interest.”-Speaker from the audience, Pg 72 Ln 8-10

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.

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