

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the Kingman City Council Chambers, Kingman, AZ: September 8, 2001

1. Robert Holsinger: "Now, in the Congressional District C, it appears to be competitive, since the 51 percent is Democrat, as opposed to the other party, and -- but it goes from one end of the state to the other, from California or Nevada border clear over to the New Mexico border and certainly isn't a common interest within the -- this particular district. A more suitable district, in my opinion, would be if we took Mohave County, La Paz County and the northern part of Yuma County into one district, and I think that would create a better district. It would have common interests and would be more competitive."

2. Lester Byram, Mayor of the City of Kingman: "I might mention that with the grid you first proposed, I think we were elated with it. We have 155,000 in Mohave County now. We only needed 12,000 more to form a district. What was showing I think it was showing a portion of La Paz County to do that. We still urge you to strongly consider that."

3. Lester Byram, Mayor of the City of Kingman: "Of the three general criteria (equal population, geographically compact and contiguous and communities of interest), the proposed district appear to meet only the equal population standard. An area that stretches across the State for some 350 miles can hardly be called compact and is contiguous only in the sense that Interstate 40 runs through or along most of it. Quite simply, the distances involved in the proposed district stagger the imagination and would make effective representation by any official impossible. Communities of interest is included as one of your criteria and applies, as I understand it, to a relatively broad range of economic, natural resource and cultural considerations so that an elected representative has some hope of representing all of his constituents' interests. The Kingman economic base of the western and eastern portions of the area could not be more diverse. Population growth rates in the west are the highest in the State. Kingman is both on the CanaMex and NAFTA corridors, and has an economy based in manufacturing, tourism and transportation. On the other hand, the eastern portion of the proposed district is extremely rural, with an economic base in tourism."

4. Mayor Lester Byram: "We have not been disappointed in being in a congressional district that did take in part of Phoenix, and we have been very well represented for many years."

5. Pete Byers, Supervisor Mohave County: "These lines have, clearly, been drawn by political interest groups in northeastern Arizona, that have complained about being linked with the Navajo Tribe in the past years. Seems Kingman, and the rest of Northern Mohave County, has been singled out as the sacrificial lamb."

6. Dave Knisley: "But we don't get the representation and haven't for eons, so whatever district we receive here, we need a lot of emphasis put on being represented, and if you

make it too big, we're not getting represented now, and if you make it all the way over to the other border, it will probably even be less."

7. Robert Zimmerlee: "Our interests in this area, and particularly in the City of Kingman, lies with our neighbors to the west, and the Colorado River Valley, and I would suggest that this map as it's drawn in this congressional district is certainly out of proportion.... I would suggest that, as has been suggested that you do some rethinking on this thing and put all of Mohave County with the Colorado River Valley, Lake Havasu, La Paz. This is where our interest lies, and all the issues that affect us are going to affect the same ones over here. So our commonality of ground is on the west side, and I do not go along with the way you have this drawn at all."

8. Robert J. Ferm: "To be very honest with you, I don't consider Kingman a rural town at all. I don't consider our associated towns part of a rural area."

9. Richard Glancy: "But in 1960, they determined that Mohave County didn't have enough people, and since then, we've never had our own representative straight out, we've always shared with a neighboring county, and that's a little frustrating when we're trying to develop a sense of community in the county. My understanding is that the whole basis of Proposition 106 was to prevent the perceived gerrymandering in the elections. That tells me that the issue that brought all this to the front was the issue of competitive districts, I'm using the loose definition of less than a 5 or 6 percent variance between the two major parties. I think that's a fine goal for you to continue to go for. That I think is what the citizens of Arizona want."

10. Richard Glancy: "The issue of rural versus urban, size doesn't necessarily matter. I think that if you look at the City of Lake Havasu, you will find everybody there considers themselves somewhat urban. On the river, it's a transition into fairly urban; and Kingman I think has very well made the transition into an urban center. There is very little agriculture, and there is starting to get quite a compactness in the housing."

11. Donald VanBrunt: "We have nothing in common with the Hopi and Navajo Tribes and with that part of the eastern part of our state. We are a part of the western border of the state. We are a part of the Colorado River and all of its problems. We, as previously stated, have been members of the Western Council of Governments, all three cities -- all four cities, I should say, of the county. We have water problems that are all common throughout the county. We also have the Colorado River Sewer Coalition, which takes in a big portion of our county that we have been working on for some time. We were, 20 years ago, definitely rural. Today, we fit better in what would be considered to be urban than rural. We would be better off, as far as a congressional district is concerned, in being a part of the western part of Maricopa County, such as Wickenburg and the areas that have been served us in the past. It would be far more sensible to make the entire county and a portion of La Paz in one district than dividing us up in the manner that we have been in the past."

12. Matthew Capalby: "Currently, Mohave County is divided into four legislative districts, which means we have 12 legislators that represent Mohave County. Currently, one legislator resides in Mohave County. That is, I think, unacceptable, and many of the people, I think, here in Mohave County do agree that we do need to be united in primarily at least most of Mohave County in one legislative district so we can be united on issues and get appropriate representation on issues and that we face here in northwestern Arizona."

13. Emmett Sturgill: "Basically what we are opposed to, in the cattlemen's association anyway, is to being lumped in with the Indian reservations. We feel there are several issues that we will not be able to be represented on. They don't pay the same taxes. They're not covered on the same grazing issues that apply to the rest of Arizona, do not apply to the reservations. We have different water issues, vastly different water issues. The State's water rights issues are completely different than Indian water rights. It's a whole different issue. The representation, there is no way they're going to be able to represent both of us in those issues. They're very divisive. We're on opposing sides of those issues. The Association feels that we would like to have a rural district, but we would not -- if we have to have it that way, we would rather not have it. We feel the river is a commonality here, if we had to redraw the lines in that area."

14. Dan Barlow, Mayor of Colorado City: "Western Arizona Council of Governments, which we are a part of, run down along the river and it gives us an opportunity to do many things when we go south toward Kingman, Lake Havasu and Bullhead. Much of the population growth in the state has been along these areas and along the border by southern Utah, and it seems to me that it would be much more advantageous to include some of the counties on the eastern part and leave the west in one district."

15. Frank Seanez: "Mohave County can have its own representative, if the Commission will embrace the Navajo Nation's legislative district. In doing that, there would have to be some changes made in that area, and we have suggested connecting us (Navajo Nation) with Apache Nations, the White Mountain Apache Nation and the San Carlos Apache and -- you know, Apache, Apache, Navajo and Hopi, you know, that all seems to go together really well."

16. Paul McCormick: "The commonality of us over here is industry, manufacturing and distribution, in complete contrast to what would go on in the eastern part of the state, and we...are the second fastest growing county ratiowise, and we will be going from rural to urban, and I would highly recommend going back to the original map of Mohave County, La Paz and part of the Yuma. I think this is where you should take a serious look at it. This will be the fastest growing part of the state."

17. Tom Carter: "The port in Yuma. That's going to be a super point port of entry and there will be many goods coming up through into the California corridor. The influence that's developing in Mohave County is more with the west coast, so if you look at a line down the western side of Arizona, I think it wouldn't be unreasonable to take a look at your congressional map and say, why don't we have Yuma County, why don't we have La

Paz, why don't we have Mohave County, why don't we have Coconino and part of Yavapai County as part of a congressional district. We're going to have much more in common with one another than presently."

18. Henry Varga: "Another concern I have is artificial competitiveness. That is what we do at the end of the process, try to deal with competitiveness, and typically that means competitiveness between political parties. In my view, there are some areas of the state who have such strong common interests without consideration of political registration that to do something based upon political registration would do more harm than good. I believe that there are places, whether they be Democrat or Republican or any other party that may rise, that it is more important that people are together than splitting between two parties.... Our common interest in transportation lies mostly along highway 93 and Interstate 19 and Highway 95 than it does eastward with Interstate 40. We're a stopover point for Interstate 40. Ultimately we're going to become more of a shipping point, but for the folks from here to New Mexico, the commonality is only going to be the truckers who stop along the way for gas. About a few hundred feet or a half a mile from that freeway there is not going to be a lot of common interest. My suggestion and urging, whatever you do, keep Mohave County together and do the best you can to keep them together both for the legislative and congressional pressures."

19. Lee Fabrizio: "I worked in the Hualapai reservation, the Supai reservation, Mohave reservation and Navajo reservation as an FBI agent. The two cultures could be no more different. I don't know how you could put the river communities with the Indian communities. It doesn't mix. It doesn't make any common sense, and the -- you know, as your issue of rural as opposed to urban, I thought I was coming to a rural community. I came from Chicago. And this is not a rural community, and it will become much more an urban one when the four-lane highway goes through between Phoenix and Las Vegas. This place is going to expand up in 100,000 people just in Kingman alone I'm told."

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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