Saturday, July 30, 2011
1:15 p.m.

Location

Hon Dah Resort
Mt. Baldy Room, #777 Highway 260
Pinetop, Arizona 85935

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
(Via Skype)
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

PREPARED BY:
AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, RPR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

Today is Saturday, July 30th, and the time is about 1:15 p.m.

And if we could all begin by rising to say the Pledge of Allegiance, that would be great.

Thank you.

(Pledge was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: It's great to see so many of you here today, and it's wonderful to be in this alpine setting of Pinetop, Arizona, at the Hon-Dah Resort.

I apologize for the delay in start. We are trying to link in two remote locations. We've got some folks in Holbrook as well as in Winslow, and the hope is that we can take public input from them as well. We weren't able to do that via video, though, so we're going to try it via audio and hopefully everyone will be able to hear, too.

So that's the reason for the delay, and I appreciate everyone's patience.
Today the whole purpose of this is to hear from all of you. We are really excited that there's such a great turnout here and in the other two locations.

We want to hear from you, what is important to you about your communities of interest, about anything about the redistricting process.

And so we encourage you to be sure to fill out a request to speak form, which you probably saw on the way in. I've got a number of them here. And we'll be going through each one of those and your input will be part of the public record.

We have a court reporter here today, Michelle, who is taking everything down. And be sure to -- when you come up to the microphone, state your name and spell it so that we have an accurate accounting, as well as state who you are representing, or if it's just yourself, if you could say where your -- you currently reside, either city, town, or county, that would be great.

I would like to introduce some of the people that are making this all happen today.

First and foremost is Vice Chair Freeman here to my left, one of my fellow commissioners. We have three other commissioners on this Commission
who are not here today. We are all taking turns going to different parts of the state. We've got about 15 or so public hearings that we are doing in this first round and we are all taking turns going to different parts of the state.

So today it's Scott and myself. I'm Chairman Mathis. We also have with us legal counsel today, Joe Kanefield. We have Mr. Willie Desmond from Strategic Telemetry. Buck Forst is our chief technology officer. You met maybe Kristina Gomez, our Deputy Executive Director on your way in. Our public information officer, Stu Robinson, is here.

We also have in Holbrook, I believe, our Executive Director, Ray Bladine. He's manning the fort there and we have a couple outreach coordinators, Lisa and Kristi, and they are at the other location.

No, I think -- I'm sorry, Mr. Bladine, I think, is in Winslow and Kristi and Lisa are in Holbrook.

So there's a full-court press. Everybody is here to help. And so please talk to any one of us to help you with any questions you have or speak with us afterwards. We are happy to talk to you.

We also -- because of federal law, in
order to comply with it, we have with us a Spanish translator today. Gursdan Diaz is here. Gursdan, could you raise your hand?

Great. Wonderful.

And if you had any remarks in Spanish you wanted to make at the podium, you're welcome to do so to introduce yourself.

And then we also have a Navajo translator today, Colin Tessler (sic). Is he here?

COLIN TESSIER: White Mountain Apache.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, White Mountain Apache, I'm sorry, not Navajo.

Great. Thank you for confirming that with us. Yes. And there is Colin.

And so if any translation services are needed, we are happy to have either of these gentlemen do that for us.

Let me see if I am covering everything I need.

I believe that concludes all of the introductory comments that I had, so we can go into the next agenda item, which is a presentation by Mr. Desmond on the redistricting process.

Oh, excuse me.

Okay. Before we do that, Willie, if we
I could have the translators come up actually to the podium and just speak in your native languages that you are here to provide translational services should they be required.

GURSDAN DIAZ: (Speaking in Spanish.)

COLIN TESSIER: (Speaking in Apache.)

In essence what I told all of you is we are here to listen to these people here of importance in our redistricting -- that's a difficult one -- by the voter boundaries here in state. And if anybody sees fit for me to translate into Apache what was said here, I am here for that. That is what I am here for.

Have a good day, and I'll be here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much Mr. Tessier and Mr. Diaz.

With that --

COLIN TESSIER: My last name is Tessier. I don't know how it came up with a French name, but that's --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, it's Tessier.

Thank you very much.

So we'll move on to that next agenda item, which is Mr. Desmond, who will give us a presentation on the redistricting process.
WILLIE DESMOND: All right. Thank you all for being here today on your Saturday afternoon and allowing us the opportunity to hear your thoughts and concerns as we begin this redistricting process.

Again, my name is Willie Desmond. I work with Strategic Telemetry. We are the firm hired to provide technical assistance to the Commission as it does the redistricting.

Today I'll be giving you a short presentation on the -- what exactly redistricting is, the Commission, and the process here in Arizona.

So with that, I'll begin.

There are seven things we will be talking about today. The first is why do we have a Redistricting Commission? The next is what is redistricting? The differences between reapportionment and redistricting. Why do we have to redistrict? What guidelines need to be followed when drawing new district lines? What are the steps in the redistricting process? And how can public input be submitted to the AIRC?

All right. To start, why do we have a Redistricting Commission?

Well, this is the second time that
Arizona's Congressional and Legislative district lines are going to be drawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The Commission was created in 2000 when the voters of Arizona passed Proposition 106 which created the Commission and established a set of guidelines and criteria to be used when drawing new district lines.

The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two Republicans, and an Independent chair who is elected by the other commissioners. That chair, the fifth member, shall not be registered with any party already represented on the Commission.

In 2011, the AIRC members are Vice Chairman Scott Freeman, who is here today; Vice Chairman Jose Herrera, who I'm sure is watching at home; Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, who is also here today; and Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard Stertz, who are probably also watching along with Vice Chairman Herrera.

All right. What is redistricting?

Simply put, redistricting is the process of redrawing Congressional and Legislative district lines.
What is the difference between redistricting and reapportionment?

The two terms, often used together, have slightly different meanings. Technically, reapportionment is the process of allocating Congressional districts among the states based off of changes in population.

Because of Arizona's population growth over the last decade, it was allocated an additional Congressional district following the 2010 census.

In 2012, the voters of Arizona will elect nine Congressmen to represent the State in Washington, D.C. This past decade they had elected eight.

And, again, redistricting is the process of drawing the new lines that need to be established to add that ninth district in.

Why do we have to redistrict? Well, because Arizona gained this ninth Congressional district, new lines would have to be draw to add it in. However, even if Arizona had not gained a district, Congressional and Legislative district lines would have to be redrawn to account for changes in population.

The concept of one person, one vote
dictates that there should be as close to the same number of people per district as possible.

And again, because population growth is different in different areas of the state, the districts, as they are currently comprised, no longer have equal population. Some have much higher and some have lower.

All right. What guidelines need to be followed when the -- by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission when drawing these new lines?

First, they must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

Next, they must have equal population. These first two criteria are federally mandated and all plans must satisfy these two criteria.

The districts must be compact and contiguous. They must respect communities of interest. They must use visible geographic features such as cities, towns, and county boundaries, and undecided census tracts.

And lastly they must create competitive districts so there is no detriment to the other goals.

All right. The Arizona redistricting
The first step in this process is these public meetings, to gain the input -- or to learn the public's opinion about what they want in the redistricting process.

I believe this is the 8th of 17 first-round meetings. I should say that there will be another round of meetings once the draft -- the first draft map has been completed and a 30-day public review period has been -- has gone by.

If you are watching this at home, I encourage you to try to come to one of the future meetings or submit your input some way to the Commission.

After the public input is gathered, we will start with the grid map. In some states, the previous plans are not -- are used as the starting-off point. However, in Arizona, the previous plans have to be disregarded and we must start with a grid map, per Proposition 106.

The commencement of the mapping process for both the Congressional and Legislative districts shall be the creation of an equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state.

The best way to think of a grid map is if
it was a perfectly even population distribution, it would look like a tic-tac-toe board over Arizona with nine districts. However, they will be adjusted to have equal population in all of the districts, but it's the most kind of grid-like map that can be drawn. It's likely that this grid map will only meet the first two criteria -- or two of the criteria, which are equal population and compact and contiguous districts.

Following the completion of the grid map, it is adjusted to meet the other criteria, the first of which is the Voting Rights Act.

Arizona's Congressional and Legislative districts must receive preclearance or approval from the Department of Justice or a federal court under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act before they can take effect. To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate against minority voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination.

Also, under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' right.
Finally, the presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

Following adjustments to meet the Voting Rights Act, the map is adjusted again to ensure equal population, compact and contiguous districts, and respect for communities of interest.

One of the major goals of these first round of public hearings is to solicit the public's opinion on communities of interest they feel should be taken into account.

There are forms available here. If you are here today and you feel like speaking, please fill out one of the yellow forms and you will be called on to come up to the mike and share your thoughts with the Commission.

If you are here and you don't feel comfortable speaking today but you would still like the Commission to know your thoughts, please fill out a blue form and turn it in. Both of these will be added on to the record and considered by the Commission. It's just whatever preference you have.

Finally, the map is, again, adjusted to use visible geographic features, which are city boundary -- or county boundaries, cities and towns,
and census tracts. We're lucky that the census geography typically follows these visible geographic features.

And, again, the map is finally adjusted to create competitive districts where there is significant detriment to other goals.

Okay. How can you submit your input to the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission?

Well, first of all, you can attend a meeting and fill out one of the yellow or blue forms. Possible things that you may want to speak on are the criteria being considered by the Commission, communities of interest that you feel need to be considered or anything else about the redistricting process that you would like to have your voice heard on.

You can also go online and submit it via our website or call the office. If you would like to visit us online, the website is www.azredistricting.org or you can call 602-542-5221.

I should also add that if you are interested in turning in maps you've drawn or if you've written out criteria for different boundaries you would like considered, you can submit any sort
of documentation to the Commission. We do ask that
if you are comfortable, if you would please put your
name and contact information on those materials so
that we can reach out to you should we have any
questions about exactly what criteria you are trying
to lay out.

And with that, I think the presentation
is over.

So, again, thank you very much for having
us today and we very much look forward to hearing
your input.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you,
Mr. Desmond.

That takes us to the next item on the
agenda, which is the public comment period.

I apologize in advance for any technical
difficulties we may encounter and ask everyone to
bear with us as we try to bring in these remote
locations.

It's my understanding we have one person
who has requested to speak in Holbrook. And we
thought we would go ahead and bring that person in
and see if that works and then we will take turns
going between Pinetop and Winslow, depending on how
many speakers are in Winslow. Maybe every four
speakers or so we'll switch back between sites.

WILLIE DESMOND: Lisa, we're ready.

LISA SCHMELLING: Okay. Here you go.

This is Phillip Cobb.

PHILLIP COBB: Hello. Good afternoon.

How are you doing?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The court reporter can't hear you.

WILLIE DESMOND: Can you speak up a little bit, please?

PHILLIP COBB: Can you hear me?

WILLIE DESMOND: Yes. Much better.

PHILLIP COBB: Okay. My name is Phillip Cobb, Phillip, and it's C-o-b-b, is my last name.

I am representing myself. I'm from Holbrook, Arizona, Navajo County.

And what I would like to comment on is as a former candidate for Arizona State Senate District 5, I have needless to say noticed how vast our state is and how vast our districts are encompassing hundreds and hundreds of square miles.

I think what we are finding here is that rural Arizona has such vast districts that both the population as well as candidates have extreme difficulty just communicating with one another.
I also noticed as I continued my campaign back in the '06 cycle, that cities were encompassed with rural areas that did not seem to balance the population of the rural versus urban area.

Example being the Hopi reservation being encompassed with Flagstaff. It makes it seem that it's a more difficult chore for the Hopis to get any representation when a city like Flagstaff with a large population seems to be able to dictate, unfortunately, what rural areas have to deal with. This is also -- Flagstaff is just an example. One could look at Payson, one could look at Show Low/Pinetop, any more of the more developed communities versus those of us who are out on the edges, shall we say. I use Holbrook as an example. There are even smaller communities within the context of this district that have difficulty getting representation.

My attitude is simple. I would like to see as we go along with this redistricting that there is a more fair and balanced circumstance with both our Native American population, our Hispanic population, as well as Anglos, white people, have good representation at this stage.

These are things that have been a problem
for many a year. And we would hope this redistricting might buy up more fair and balanced circumstance.

I can see up here, for example, districts as large as District 5 being broken up into one, two, three other districts might encompass different areas.

Needless to say, I have seen several maps already and some seem a lot fairer than what I had to go through in the '06 cycle.

I would like to end right on that and not take up too much more time here.

I hope that you will consider the rural areas and have the redistricting, if it's going to be done, be and in a more equitable -- produced in a more equitable fashion.

And I thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I don't know how many speakers we have in Holbrook -- I mean, Winslow, so I'll be asking Mr. Bladine to get those folks ready, but I thought I would jump here to Pinetop and let's take the first four. And I'll go ahead and name them so you can all be getting ready to speak.

Virginia Dotson, Janice Hernandez,
Kenneth Smith, Joel Weeks. So those are our first four here in Pinetop. And if we could start with Virginia Dotson.

And if any of you are elected officials or representatives, please introduce yourself. And I apologize for not knowing myself.

VIRGINIA DOTSON: My name is Virginia Dotson. I'm from Vernon, Arizona, in Apache County.

I would like to see two Congressional districts for rural Arizona. One for the east and one in the west.

Rural Arizonans need better representation of our interests than we've had in the past. Our voices are not heard when we share our districts with large parts of urban counties. We have the same issues with Legislative districts.

I would like to see eight out of Arizona's 30 districts be predominantly rural.

When the Arizona Legislature votes to slash public school budgets, it impacts urban districts differently than rural because we are all spread out and many students have special needs.

Competitiveness within the district is important so that we can change leadership from time to time rather than having one group of interest
always dominate.

And last, I would like to thank the Redistricting Commission for their efforts to carry out their mandate as fairly as possible.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Excuse me, before you depart, do you mind spelling your name for the record?

VIRGINIA DOTSON: My last name is D-o-t-s-o-n.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you. I appreciate it.

Our next speaker is Janice Hernandez, representing self from Navajo County.

JANICE HERNANDEZ: Hello, my name is Janice Hernandez and I live in Show Low.

It seems that the rural districts have been well-represented already, but I, too, would like to plead for more representation in the rural districts. I've lived in the city, I've lived in the country, and I know the needs and comforts of both are very different.

In our case, for instance, we have longer bus routes for children to get to school. But in my own mind, the most important thing is forest protection. We have all seen evidence recently of
how badly we need our forest protected. It gives us a certain kind of tourism that's very different from the cities. And it adds to our lifestyle, for the people who live here. I live in Show Low.

Thanks.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much. I think if you'll bear with us, we are trying to bring in Winslow. So we'll hold off.

RAY BLADINE: Can you hear us?

WILLIE DESMOND: Yes, we do.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So we'll jump to Winslow.

Is that Mr. Bladine?

LOUIS GILL: My name is Louis Gill. L-o-u-i-s, G-i-l-l.

I am a 60-year resident of the state of Arizona. The last 50 years of which have been in Navajo County. And I would like to thank you for your effort in trying to get representation to the residents of the state of Arizona instead of having it all concentrated in Maricopa County.

Some people that I have had conversations (inaudible) --

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Excuse me,
Mr. Gill --

LOUIS GILL: -- we are all enthusiastic that we're finally going to have an opportunity to be represented in the State Legislature (inaudible) --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Gill --

PHILLIP COBB: We would very much like to be included in one of the greater Arizona Legislative districts --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Bladine?

PHILLIP COBB: Once again, thank you for your consideration in these matters.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Gill, I think we are going to need a repeat of your testimony.

LOUIS GILL: My name is Louis Gill, L-o-u-i-s, G-i-l-l. I came to Arizona in 1948. I am a 60-year resident of the state, the last 50 years or so in the Winslow area. For the past 30 years or so, I feel like our area has not been treated anywhere (inaudible). We are very, very excited at the possibility that we might be able to be included in one of the greater Arizona Congressional districts.

And once again, I would like to thank you for your efforts on my behalf. Hopefully this all
goes well for everybody.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Mr. Gill.

And thanks to our court reporter, who has amazing ears.

Is there another speaker?

WILLIE DESMOND: Go ahead.

RAY BLADINE: We have another speaker coming up. I'll let her introduce herself.

SUSAN LAWLER: My name is Susan Lawler, I'm from Winslow. S-u-s-a-n, L-a-w-l-e-r.

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We are not getting that. I'm sorry. Excuse me.

We're going to jump back here to Pinetop, Arizona, and see if we can figure out a better way to get the testimony from Winslow.

Our next speaker is Kenneth Smith, from Navajo County.

KENNETH SMITH: As you said, my name is Kenneth Smith, and to help you with the spelling of that, it's S-m-i-t-h.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear him.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The public can't hear.
COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: Speak right into the microphone.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, speak right directly into it.

KENNETH SMITH: Is that better?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes.

KENNETH SMITH: Okay. I strongly support having two rural districts in Arizona and eight Legislative districts as well.

As a region, Arizona -- eastern Arizona has common socio, economic and -- interests such as forestry, ranching, mining, and tourism. You might think that Maricopa County and Pima County both have a great deal of interest in tourism, as they do, but first, it's a very different kind of tourism. And secondly, they are not nearly as dependent upon it.

Try to imagine you were here on the White Mountain Apache reservation. Try to imagine this place without any tourism industry going. Try to imagine Pinetop, try to imagine Flagstaff, try to imagine Sedona. And losing tourism there would be totally destructive whereas it would merely hurt in other places.

Further, no matter how sympathetic
representatives may be who come from urban areas, they really don't know the territory and don't know intimately what the concerns are.

They may not -- they may not feel that they need to represent them anyway, but even if they do, they really don't know the concerns about forest fires, which are interesting news on the TV channels, if you're in an urban area, which are matters of total disaster in an area such as this.

Further -- and one concern is that split urban and rural districts tend more and more, of course, to become urban districts, with the urban district actually dominating, and, therefore, not representing the rural districts very well.

As you are trying to balance competitiveness, communities of interest, and other concerns and need to have sufficient numbers for a district, I hope that you will keep in mind if it becomes necessary, and I hope it won't, but if it becomes necessary in order to form an eastern Arizona district, for instance, to move in to an area of -- that is more urban just because you have to have it in order to get the numbers, then consider that there are obvious ways of doing that which are not necessarily productive, at least for
our purposes.

As a specific example, and this is only an example. This specific example -- I used to live in Saddlebrooke, if you know that place north of Tucson but in Pinal County.

Saddlebrooke's average -- or typical lot size is one-eighth of an acre. That's not counting the condos that they have there. But if they actually have a lot. Why, it typically is an eighth of an acre and it is entirely a retirement community with very large numbers.

A simple way of drawing a map, if you needed some more numbers, needed several thousand more people, would be merely to draw -- draw a line across southern Pinal County, the county line.

That's an obvious kind of thing to do. But if you know the territory there, then you know that just south of there, but still contiguous, but just south of there you have the community of Catalina, for instance.

The community of Catalina is actually quite rural, in large degree, with small ranches and horses and bad roads and other kinds of things that you might think that you would find in a rural area.

So that's just an example, and you may
not -- that particular example may not come into
play at all, I don't know. But I think it makes a
good example of something that would be an obvious
kind of thing to do. It might not be a good thing
to do, at least from our perspective.

I don't envy you at all your effort to
draw a map that balances all of these interests, and
when you get through, I may not like what it is that
you have done. But nonetheless, I want to thank you
for your willingness and your effort to put up with
a thankless, hardworking kind of a job. I know a
little of how complex it is, how difficult it is,
and something of how thankless it is, having been a
former president of a school board.

It's -- what you are doing is really
important to the State, as I'm sure you know. And
despite what goes on, I ask you to hang in there and
stay the course.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

KENNETH SMITH: I have -- I have all of
that essentially written out and would be pleased to
have you make it a matter of record, if you would
like.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: That would be great.
Please give that to our public information officer, if you would, and he'll ensure that Kristina Gomez receives it.

Thank you.

Okay. We are going to make one more attempt to pull in Winslow here via Skype. And let's hear who our next speaker is.

BILL SHUMWAY: Hi. My name is Bill Shumway, S-h-u-m-w-a-y. Born and raised in Winslow, Arizona. I've spent the last 68 years here.

And the first thing I would like to do is take the time to tell the Commission how much I appreciate their work. This whole process, through the voter initiative, is that I think is our first opportunity to keep things more fair and balanced.

As far as the way I would like to have things go with the redistricting is that I would like to see it more rural and the old idea of using spokes from the more the populated communities, I think it puts us at a disadvantage. I would like to see it where we can be completely rural.

I was a candidate last time and I participated in a Legislative district that was 18,000 square miles and it took me close to seven hours to drive from one end to the other. And I
know that that's going to give you some unique problems. But if we can shift the population basis around to make it a little more compact is one of the things done, I have concern with, and to keep within the Voting Rights Act and with the population base, that would sure change things around a little bit.

And what we are asking for is the opportunity to have balance. Right now it seems to be one-sided.

And once again, I would like to thank the Commission and the voters of the state of Arizona for allowing us this chance to be more fair and balanced.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Was there another Winslow speaker or are we going to --

BUCK FORST: Yeah, one more.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, there's one more.

MARIANNE RICHARDSON: Hi, my name is Marianne Richardson. It's M-a-r-i-a-n-n-e, Richardson, R-i-c-h-a-r-d-s-o-n, and I am from Winslow, Arizona. I'm a teacher at Northland
I have just finished up a semester on the video system there. Northland Pioneer College serves 21,000 square miles.

And as part of my work with Northland Pioneer, I spent three years attending sessions of the Professional Development Leadership Academy sponsored by the Arizona Department of Education.

My colleagues are PLA Community College teams from the metro areas as well as teachers in both the rural and public schools. This experience made clear to me the need for more appropriate representation.

I support the creation of a regular Arizona district for rural eastern Arizona.

Working for Northland Pioneer, I taught classes on the video system. I guess I already said that. And I learned that eastern Arizona shares similarities in economic reliance on farming, ranching, tourism, and the railroad. We are very closely connected to the interest of the tribal communities.

The Winslow/Holbrook/Joseph City area that I call home has far different needs and concerns than those of metro areas. The needs include roads, health care and education. The mean
incomes of our local residents, the educational needs, and the health needs differ from those in the Valley. Lack of transportation, good roads, and communication by phone and Internet are major problems that have impacted our local community, and perhaps this meeting today.

My experience with teachers from the community colleges in the metro areas who participated in PLA has clarified these differences.

Urban communities do not understand the effects of distance, climate, and the lack of job opportunities that trouble those of us seeking a rural eastern greater Arizona district.

And I do realize how tremendously difficult the task is of creating these balanced districts.

And I thank all of you who have dedicated so much of your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Now I would like to take it back to Pinetop, if we could.

We will come back to Winslow in just a few speakers, but I would like to give some folks in Pinetop the opportunity now.

We'll take the next four from Pinetop. I
had mentioned Joel Weeks, I believe, is the next speaker. After that, just so you are getting ready, Barbara Smith, Brad Carlyon, Holly Hanson. So you guys are on deck.

So right now Joel Weeks, deputy city manager, City of Show Low.

JOEL WEEKS: Thank you. Good to be with you. We appreciate your efforts to come up here and do this today.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can't hear you.

JOEL WEEKS: Is it on? I'll try to eat it as I speak.

A couple of thoughts. The City of Show Low is aware that there are two basic proposals that have been presented. One of them basically keeps Legislative District number 5 as it is now, and we think that's a good fit. It ought to continue with the addition of the Verde Valley area, and we think that is acceptable.

The second proposal is one that we understand is being proposed by the City of Flagstaff.

We enjoy our productive relationships with all of Navajo County and many of the communities in Apache County like St. Johns, Eagar,
and Springerville and also the White Mountain Apache tribe. This proposal would put us in a different Legislative district.

We have similar concerns with these groups that I have mentioned and we don't think we share many of those same concerns with the Flagstaff area and we don't really believe that Flagstaff truly represents rural Arizona.

And those are our thoughts. I have a letter from our mayor who had hoped to be here today but has had a camping trip planned previously and wasn't able to make it.

I would also like to thank your Commission for your efforts regarding this critical issue.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much. If you could submit that. Willie can take it and will give it --

Thank you.

Our next speaker is Barbara Smith, representing self from Navajo County.

BARBARA SMITH: Hi, I'm Barbara Smith, S-m-i-t-h, in case you thought it might have a Y.

I would like to speak on behalf of two Congressional rural districts out of the nine. And
I would also like to have --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear her.

COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: You've got to go right under the microphone.

BARBARA SMITH: I have to get closer.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hold it, perhaps.

BARBARA SMITH: Well, it would probably rattle the --

I'm Barbara Smith, and I would like to speak on behalf of having two rural Congressional districts and eight rural Legislative districts because our district is so different from any of the metropolitan or urban districts.

Other people have said why, but I would like to mention even though we have tribals -- groups all over the state, and some of them are in the metropolitan areas -- the tribal differences are completely different between urban and rural.

In Apache -- the White Mountain Apache, there's 40 percent unemployment. That's a lot. And there may be just as much in the urban setting, but I don't think so because there are more possibilities for employment.

Our tourism, as it's been mentioned before, is also different. We have individuals
instead of conventions. And if our tribal districts are different and our tourism is different, our forests are also different. I haven't seen any forests in Pima County in the urban areas, or in Maricopa County in the urban areas.

I've lived in Arizona for over 35 years and in the White Mountains for almost 10, and I can say that in Pima County, things are very different compared to what they are here. And those kinds of things need to be kept in mind when you are creating a new district or a new Legislative district or Congressional.

And finally, I would like to thank you for your hard work. I know it's been difficult and I don't envy you either. I think it would be very hard to listen to all of us and keep a fair and balanced idea in your head and I can't imagine having to draw the maps. I think that would be impossible.

And so thank you to your organization as well for aiding in that purpose.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Brad Carlyon, Navajo County attorney, representing self.
BRAD CARLYON: Thank you for letting me speak.

I used to think serving on a school board was the most thankless public job, but now I know different from all of the grief that you have been getting.

I think you hear a common theme here today, and that is to protect the rural counties, the rural lifestyle.

You have heard many of the reasons why, and I can actually talk from experience.

Back in the mid-'80s, I worked for a U.S. Congressman here in Arizona, Eldon Rudd. His district went from the northeast part of Maricopa County, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Cave Creek, Carefree, and included Navajo County, Apache County, Gila County, Graham County. He never came up here. His base for both money and for votes was the urban area and the rural counties suffered because of that.

And that's probably the greatest fear that all of us who live in these rural areas have because we'll be lost. We don't have the same businesses who can donate to the candidates. We don't have the same compact voters where it's easier
to get to get your message to.

    As you have traveled here, you've seen things were different. Your cell phones probably went down in battery life really quickly because we have lots of dead areas. You're seeing with your Internet usage, we don't have the latest technology.

    When you get to the rural areas, we have great government land masses. Here in Navajo County, more than 40 percent of our land mass is Indian reservations. We have great swaths of national forest service. We have BLM lands. And that causes on the county government level, and sometimes the municipal level, problems because we don't have that property tax base.

    We need a Congressman who comes from a rural area who understands those problems, who understands that we need Congress to help us with these payments in lieu of taxes because we don't have that tax base.

    When you live in the Maricopa or Pima County with all of the municipalities, your roads are there. They are held by the municipal. You come up here, we have hundreds and hundreds of miles of county roads but we don't have a property tax base.
Those are different issues. We have to use -- because of the government lands that are missed -- we have to get agreements with federal government, tribal governments because we cut across there to get to them.

An urban Legislator will not understand those problems. Somebody who comes from the rural areas like us will have lived through those problems, will understand those problems, and will be able to help us with those problems.

We've had rural Legislators in these last Congressional districts up here who have understood and who have worked with the local governments, who have worked with the people to help us solve those problems. We may lose that if you give us an urban hub.

Having a competitive district as we do now has been a benefit because they have to cross any political boundaries to get those votes.

We have seen our Republican representatives, Renzi and currently Gosar reaching out to the Native Americans, which we historically have not seen Republicans do. Ann Kirkpatrick, when she was in here, she too tried to reach across and put one of her main offices in a Republican
stronghold in the Prescott area. So competitiveness
is also important to the rural areas.

    And when you get to the State Legislative
districts, the big elephant in the room is DOJ and
Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. And that's
primarily for this reason, the Navajos. That almost
has to be the point where you start drawing those
Legislative district maps because you'll have to be
careful of the retrograde issue when it comes to
that Native American vote.

    And then how you craft the State
Legislative district for the Navajos will help
decide how you follow down from that point.

    But once again, I along with many of the
others that have spoken and will continue to speak
after me, would like to see as many rural districts
as you can, because once again, on the State level,
rural districts are different in Maricopa County and
Pima County.

    We saw a lot of that this last
legislative session with the State budget. There
was a big push to push down on to the counties. It
was our rural Legislators, led by Sylvia Allen and
Chester Crandell who came from the Legislative
district here who got the message out that is
different. The impact is different.

And through their efforts and the other rural Legislators out there in our state Legislature, they were able to protect ten rural counties in our state. They understood our message.

Probably this far away in the White Mountains from Maricopa and Pima, we are still going to be a rural. But we need as many rural counties out there that share those same problems and issues as us so that we can have a voice. We won't have a control, but have a voice in the Legislature that can be heard.

So the more rural State Legislative districts you can make, the better that we get representation that covers all of this state and not just Maricopa County.

Thank you again for your time. I appreciate it. I appreciate your efforts, and I look forward to you coming back with a map so we can get some more input.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker in Pinetop will be Holly Hanson. And then I thought if it works, we could go back to Skype for Winslow, if they are ready. So if
you could let Ray know.

So Holly Hanson, representing self, from Lakeside.

HOLLY HANSON: My name is Holly Hanson, H-a-n-s-o-n, and I live in Lakeside.

Close enough?

I want to thank the members of the Commission that are here for serving and also the ones who are not here. I think it's a tremendous and very important job, and I know you've been working hard and will continue to work hard, and we thank you for that.

I would like to ask that the districts that you create be more competitive, and I hope that you will look at election results and not just voter registration.

I'm also asking, as have many people before me asked, that rural districts need representation. I would like to see the creation of two rural Congressional districts and eight rural Legislative districts. Rural people need representation and their problems and their concerns are different than those in the urban areas.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
So we will go to Winslow now, but just to get ready for the next four in Pinetop, we have Sheryl Eaton, Janis Newton, Steve Titla, and Matthew Capaldy.

So we'll go to Winslow.

BUCK FORST: Ray, you're on.

SARAH R. SMITHSON: Good afternoon. My name is Sarah, S-a-r-a-h, middle initial R., Smithson, S-m-i-t-h-s-o-n.

I have lived in Winslow for the past 20 years and I have been a resident of Arizona for 43. I have been an educator for 43 years.

I would like to thank the Commission for presenting us with this opportunity to speak with you and also to express my gratitude to the State of Arizona for allowing us to have a process where our input is collected.

I firmly believe that there is a significant difference between rural and urban areas, which is one of the reasons that I live in northeastern Arizona.

Our district, as you heard Mr. Shumway say, is 18,000 square miles. I believe that we can better serve our people's needs if we have a more compact district. That is why I strongly believe
that we should have two rural Congressional districts, one in the east and one in the west in Arizona and eight Legislative districts. There are three basic reasons. Number one, people in northeastern Arizona have similar interests. These include the cities of Holbrook, Winslow, Joseph City, Woodruff, the reservations and surrounding ranches.

Number two, we have common interests in employment and education, such as ranking, railroad, tourism, agriculture, and the reservations.

Number three, we have economic ties with -- economic and social ties with many of the Native peoples here that the people in urban Arizona do not have.

I believe very, very strongly that the urban area -- that our rural areas should have a greater voice in what is going on in the Legislature and that we cannot do this if we are part of the southern Arizona city districts.

Thank you again for allowing us to speak with you, and I do hope this process is successful.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Are there more in Winslow?
SUSAN LAWLER: My name is Susan Lawler S-u-s-a-n, L-a-w-l-e-r.
I've been an inspector at one of the precincts here in Winslow for 12 years. And I think we need a rural -- greater rural Arizona district, perhaps as Mrs. Richardson said on the east and on the west.

Our interests along this area includes tourism, ranching, railroad, and working with the Native American communities. We need a district that does not have spokes into the metro area. We just need to have our own areas for the rural areas.

A district -- perhaps two districts now along the western and northern part of the state and northeastern part of the state. And I think this would be much more fair.

And I thank you for your time and effort that you are putting into this.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.
Okay. Can we jump back to Pinetop now? We've got Sheryl Eaton up next followed by, again, Janis Newton, Steve Titla, and Matthew Capaldy.

So right now Sheryl Eaton, representing
self, from Lakeside.

SHERYL EATON: Sheryl Eaton, S-h-e-r-y-l, E-a-t-o-n.

And I think as you have already heard, we rural people feel almost like minority with a capital M and maybe even we could come under that federal mandate for keeping the minorities having a voice.

We -- I can just give one example from my own experience of community of interest problem. I was a teacher in Whiteriver for 21 years. Rural schools have very different problems from urban schools. For instance, we have trans- -- high transportation costs and high administrative costs just because of distances. You need an administrator in a district and administrators in schools and yet you can't combine districts because of distances.

So somebody urban representing us doesn't really think of those things, and there are many more things just involved with schools that are different from urban and rural.

So I would hope that we can have the two rural Congressional districts and the eight Legislative districts rural, you know, with no
contamination by urban, as much as possible.

    I hope these Congressional and
Legislative districts are competitive. If we could
have, you know, good, honest, I don't want to say
fights, but, you know, a contest for being elected,
that would be really good. It gets people
interested and it's more fair.

    And I support the Commission as it's
currently constituted. I think that you guys are
trying to be fair and honest and do the best you can
for all of the people, and I thank you for that.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

    Our next speaker is Janis Newton,
representing self, from Navajo County.

JANIS NEWTON: My name is Janis Newton,
and I'm from Pinetop, Navajo County, and I support
competitive rural Congressional and Legislative
districts.

    I support two Congressional districts,
one that includes eastern -- can you see me -- one
that includes eastern greater Arizona and one that
includes western greater Arizona because it just
makes sense.

    When you think -- if you think about just
about every issue that you can think of such as the
rural economy or keeping our forest healthy or the
interests of the Native American community up here,
rural needs are very different than the needs of
urban Arizona. We need representation that
understands rural issues.

Also it is important to make the
Legislative district competitive by comparing the
voter registrations with voter turnout and voting
patterns.

And thank you for the work that you are
doing.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Steve Titla, from San
Carlos Apache from Globe, Arizona.

So if you could spell your name for the
recorder, that would be great.

STEVE TITLA: Steve Titla, T-i-t-l-a.

(Speaking in native tongue.)

I'm just trying to work up the
interpreter.

My name is Steve Titla. I'm an Apache
from San Carlos Apache reservation. I'm glad that
we are here discussing the Arizona redistricting
process. I'm glad that you are here.
Welcome to Apache land. I'm not from here, White Mountain Apache, but I'm from San Carlos Apache, born and raised in Bylas, Arizona, which was in Graham County on the east side of the San Carlos Apache reservation.

A little bit of history here in this past of Apache land, we have a treaty from 1852. 1852. And in 1852, the treaty lands included this area here and included San Carlos Apache reservation. It was all one reservation, one reservation.

Then in 1892, the U.S. government, in its ultimate wisdom, divided the San Carlos reservation and the White Mountain Apache reservation along the Black River line. So right now the Black River is a boundary between Fort Apache and San Carlos Apache reservations.

We are the same people. We have the same culture and tradition, language. The gentleman over here, I'm sure that he understands what I said awhile ago.

And our linguistic base language is Athabaskan. Athabaskan linguistic base, and we have the same linguistic base as White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache and the Navajos also, they have Athabaskan. Athabaskan, as you know, in
Alaska. I think they have some Athabaskan in South Dakota, too, I think. So we all have the same linguistic base. And with regard to the Navajos, you can catch a drift of what they are saying. When they are talking, you can sort of know what they are talking about.

But when I am listening to a Hopi or Pima, they might as well be speaking Russian. So there's no relation there. But anyway, that's the linguistic -- that's our history, just for a little bit.

And then the gentleman over here said that he didn't know how he got his French name but, in Bylas, what they said was that the soldiers, they brought over a -- they brought over a phone book from back East somewhere and they lined all Apaches up, this is my grandparents that were saying that, they lined all of the Apaches up and all of the Apaches had Apache names, not English names.

And they put a phone book and the soldier were sitting here, they said everybody line up, so everybody lined up.

They said, what's your name? And some guy would say his Apache name. And they said look for a name in this book, and the guy would point to
a name in the phone book and that's how we have
French names or Smith or Walker or all of these
English-sounding names. That's how we got our
names, just to let him know that the French name was
there somewhere.

At any rate, with regard to the
Legislative districts, we would request -- as you
know, the Arizona Redistricting Commission is -- the
criteria that you must follow the U.S. Constitution
and the Voting Rights Act. And we ask that these be
followed with regard to the compact and contiguous
districts.

Now, in San Carlos, we are working on the
maps to present to you later on, but the San Carlos
Apache Tribal Council has not passed on the maps yet
but we will be presenting them to you with regard to
the criteria under the Voting Rights Act.

We talked to Navajo Nation and talked to
White Mountain Apache, so I think that we'll be
getting together here very soon to get together to
see how we can get some districts that will have a
certain percentage of American Indian population
that will be within the mean deviation so that we
will be able to have a chance to elect somebody.

In our history in Arizona, we don't have
a good history with -- historical history with Arizona or the U.S. government. So the effect has been that we have not been able to really elect anybody in the Congressional district.

So I think that it would be good that some day if we can vote a Native person into Congressional district, so we'll be looking to that effect. I think that we want to be -- we're U.S. citizens. We're part of the State government. We are state citizens and U.S. citizens also.

And I think that if you look in the nation as far as the Armed Forces go -- I'm a Marine Corps, so if there's any marines out there (speaking in native tongue.) But I've been in the military service and I've been overseas, the Far East. I think if you look at the population of the nation with regard to Native Americans, I think that the portion of Native volunteers in the Armed Forces much exceeds any other people in the country, I would think.

So we volunteer. We are citizens and we volunteer, we go to war for the nation, the United States, and we would like to get some good representation in the Congressional district.

As we go into the future, we are going to
look for presenting you maps that we think that we might have a chance.

You know, in my lifetime, I thought that there was no chance that any minority would ever be elected to the president. I thought that that would never happen. And low and behold, President Obama was elected. I voted for President Obama, and I feel that he's one of ours, a minority. And so we would like to have the same chance with the State of Arizona to see whether we can get a Congressional person, a Native person in there, at least have a chance to do that because we have a certain percentage of Native voters in one district and the Native person can go into other areas. Then I think that we would have a real chance of supporting a Native person or any other person in the district. We would like to have you look at that area so that we can have a compact and contiguous area.

Any maps that you draw, we would ask that they not be retro aggressive. We don't want the maps to weaken or reduce Native votes in the state.

I would like to say about communities of interest that we have the original communities of interest, I think, if you look at the tribes in Arizona.
I was telling you about the history of these Apache tribes in Arizona. I'm looking at the map right now, and you have the White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache.

With regard to our treaty lands, our treaty lands, the eastern boundary of our treaty land was New Mexico boundary that was going from here up to the north here going to the west Springerville boundary then going down south into Morenci, Safford, Thatcher, Pima, all of those areas were Apache lands.

But what happened was the history -- they cut off those lands, they took out those lands. The eastern area, including the blue range and Springerville and all of those areas, once Apache lands, were taken away because they discovered copper in the area of Morenci. In Morenci they discovered copper and then that treaty land was taken away.

On the south side, Safford, Thatcher, Pima, they have farming lands and people move in those areas, squatters -- home squatters move into the area and they took that land away from us.

And then in the Southwest area, that was our lands also, treaty lands, and then they
discovered copper and other minerals in Winkelman
and Hayden and Dudleyville, in those areas and they
took those lands.

And then in Globe and Miami and up toward
the Salt River, those were Apache lands also. But
then they discovered minerals there, gold and copper
and silver, and they took those lands also.

So today, we are left with what we have
today, and those lands are communities of interest
that I would like you to take a look at along with
the Navajo tribe in the northeast that are their own
area, huge reservation. Then the Hopi tribe, too in
those areas. You have the Hualapai and Supai in
those areas.

And so we would like for you to take a
look at communities of interest with respect to
those tribes.

With regard to the county districts --
I'm looking at the county lines right now, and San
Carlos Apache reservation is in three counties. We
are in Gila County and in Graham County and in Pinal
County. So we are divided into three counties. So
I don't think those are communities of interest or
they are not compact or contiguous, in my
estimation. So I would like to see if those lines
can be redistricted.

And then I'm looking at White Mountain Apache reservation and they are in three counties also. Why do we have the Apache tribes in six counties? To me, that seems to be a dilution of our voting strength and discrimination maybe against the Apache tribes.

I know that you sitting here did not have anything to do with those lines probably, but you have a chance here now to draw county lines where we can have compact and contiguous county lines and communities of interest that are respected, that will go along with the Voting Rights Act.

So we ask you to take a look at that and we'll be looking at that also as far as county lines go.

Let's see. I'm looking through the notes real quick. Excuse me.

And so we want to -- in the final analysis, I would ask you to take a look at the -- making -- strengthening the Native vote in the state so that we follow the Voting Rights Act and Section 2 -- Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act so that no discrimination results against the Native tribes in Arizona.
But we will be presenting those maps as we go along here.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Matthew Capaldy, from Coconino County, representing self.

MATTHEW CAPALDY: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, Commissioner Freeman, staff. It's a pleasure to be here.

My name is Matthew Capaldy, C-a-p-a-l-d-y. I reside in Flagstaff, Arizona.

First of all, thank you for following the will of the people and executing your constitutionally mandated responsibility by serving on and with this Commission. We certainly appreciate it.

As you well know, this Commission was created in the year 2000 by Proposition 106 by the will of the people. And again, I express my appreciation to you for executing that effort.

First of all, I would like to talk about areas of -- communities of like interest, and the fact that partisanship has no factor in that aspect. It's a matter relating to quality of life, economy, topography, et cetera.
And to speak to that, we all were perplexed and think we have more in common with the White Mountains than almost any other area in this state. We have very similar economies, we have very similar qualities of life as well as communities, size, and such. The only difference, again, is partisanship.

And the White Mountains and Flagstaff and the Verde Valley, on the Legislative aspect, have one distinct opportunity no real other areas in greater Arizona have, and that is the creation of a competitive Legislative district.

It would be within 5 percent. I personally define a competitive district to be within 5 percent of Republican or Democrat, and I think the public is better served in that context because races are then decided in the general elections where all people can vote versus just in the narrow partisan primary.

So I urge you to really take a look at that. We've looked at the population bases of those three particular regions of the Flagstaff metropolitan area, the White Mountain region, and the Verde Valley, and we believe that comes up with one of the only competitive Legislative districts
that can be formulated in northern Arizona.

There would be two in the northwestern part of the state that we have looked at. Making those competitive is difficult. And then, of course, with the high population of Native Americans within this particular region and the need not to retrogress -- or retrograde below the 63, 64 percent -- it would be very difficult, other than north central Arizona, to create a competitive district, and that's where we see that happening.

Of course, I would like to echo some of the previous sentiments. I'm a third-generation native Arizonan and spent the majority of my adulthood in northern Arizona. This is my home. And with that, again, I would like to see two -- sorry, you're probably getting tired of hearing this -- two greater Arizona Congressional districts, both on the east side and west side of the state that don't go into the two metropolitan areas and eight greater Arizona Legislative districts.

Again, because we don't think we have an adequate voice as it is right now in the Legislature being so urban centric and with their urban battles, our communities out here, both at the county and city level, have been paying for that.
And so we need to do anything and all that we can to change the dynamic in the Legislature and make sure that rural and greater Arizona have a stronger say in the Legislature and also in Congress with that additional Congressional seat that we are hoping to obtain.

So again -- with that, we appreciate you being here today and no doubt, unfortunately for you, you'll be seeing me at other meetings.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

So our next four -- let's go ahead and tee those up. J.C. Kite, Joe Waters, Don Ascoli, and Shirley Dye will all be speaking.

So we'll start with J.C. Kite, representing self from Navajo County.

J.C. KITE: My name is Chet Kite and my wife Stephanie of 50 years, we split our living time between Pinetop in the summers and Phoenix in the winters and we are very, very fortunate.

When I hear the term "fair and balanced," I want to throw up. Life is not fair and balanced. And anybody that can promise you that is, A, probably a politician who wants to get elected, and, B, has no consideration for what is practical, realizable, and doable.
And I want to change a challenge to the Commission and phrase it in this fashion: With your dividing system that you put together, do the greatest good for the greatest number of people within the time and means that you have to operate.

That's all I have to say.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Mr. Kite, do you mind spelling your name for the record? I'm sorry, do you mind spelling your name for the record?

J.C. KITE: Like go fly a, K-i-t-e.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Joe Waters, Planning Director, White Mountain Apache tribe from Navajo/Apache/Gila Counties.

JOE WATERS: Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good afternoon.

JOE WATERS: I first would like to read a letter from Chairman Lupe and then I would like to add just a few comments to his letter.

The letter is addressed to the Chairperson.

It says, "Thank you to the Commission for holding a hearing on the Fort Apache Indian reservation for the White Mountain Apache tribe to
gather public input for the redistricting process.

"The White Mountain tribal goes on record to maintain the status quo to the maximum extent possible. Our reservation currently falls within three separate counties, yet we are one people and devoted to the well-being of our tribal members.

"The present districting plan has served the tribe well. We have had both Democrats and Republicans elected to represent us and all have served us well.

"I regret I will not be able to join you in person, but our tribal planner, Joe Waters, is authorized to speak for the tribe and answer any questions the Commission may have.

"Enjoy your visit to our homeland. We are pleased to be your host."

And it's signed "Chairman, Ronnie Lupe."

Who gets this?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: You can give it to our legal counsel and he'll ensure that it gets into the record.

JOE WATERS: I would like to add just a couple of comments to the Chairman's letter.

The first is the Arid Land Institute of the University of Arizona, Lay Gibson, did a study
to determine communities of interest in our region.

    Turns out that we are soundly
interconnected economically. Don't have a whole lot
of connection to the Valley or any of those cities,
but independently and connected together, we are an
economic region. We ask you to respect that
economic region.

    The other one is that in looking at some
of the proposals, there are four Apache tribes in
the state of Arizona. There is San Carlos. You
heard from the attorney, Steve Titla. There is
White Mountain, Tonto Apache in Payson, and there is
the Yavapai Apache Nation in Camp Verde.

    The union of those four Apache nations is
something that I think should be considered as the
Commission does its deliberation.

    So again, welcome. The chairman
apologizes for not being able to be here but he's
glad you made it all the way on to the reservation.

    Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Don Ascoli,
representing self.

You'll have to tell us what county or
city you reside in. If you could spell your name,
DON ASCOLI: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of this Commission, and the staff and, of course, the fellow citizens here. And it's good to be back in front of you again.

My name is Don Ascoli, A-s-c-o-l-i. I'm from Payson, Arizona in Gila County.

While I am representing myself, I wear many hats, one of which is I am Chairman of the Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission, which covers the needs of a county, just like our elected supervisors do, like the county attorney, the county sheriff, the county assessor, et cetera.

I suggest to you that the basic community of interest is a county. That is how our state a hundred years ago, almost a hundred years ago, when it came into being and had its Constitution, each county had a state senator. The House was based upon population; the Senate was based upon communities of interest called counties.

So I respectfully request whatever you do in your redistricting, you respect the community of interest called county and keep them as whole as possible.

In the commission that I work on, we have
spent a lot of time working with our representatives and state senator in trying to advance forward the good and the needs of the people of Gila County.

In the district we are in, and you happen to be in LD5, we are represented by one senator and two representatives. There have been proposals made out there to slice up Gila County. In fact, it came out of Flagstaff, and I will show -- because a picture is worth a thousand words.

This is how it represents the state area. And if you look at Gila County right there, it would be four different representatives, four different districts, excuse me, and that would be an absolute nightmare.

We have spent ten years with a district that met the requirements of this Commission ten years ago, met the requirements of DOJ, and has worked perfectly well. I would hate to see that totally thrown out the door.

We have developed a certain rapport. We have an identity, as has been mentioned by previous speakers. This District 5 that you are sitting in right now is nice and contiguous. It is a nice block.

A couple people before me have mentioned
possibly, because of the population shortfall, picking a bit of Verde Valley and would make it whole to the requirements to the 213,000, I believe is the count per Legislative district.

I think your job here is not to put dice in a can and roll the dice and come up with all kinds of new things to destruct the citizens of the state.

I think your responsibility partly is stability, maintaining the rapport through government and the people, not create chaos. It's a lot simpler if you would simply look at and tweak and adjust boundaries as opposed to total destruction. We don't need that in these days.

As far as Congressional districts, I've heard the proposal of two. I happen to agree with that. We were in Prescott a couple of days ago, as you were, and it was mentioned there's 1.5 million people in what's defined as rural counties. That would justify two Congressional districts.

However, I think there's a fallacy in an east/west divide. Think about it, folks. The north is the high country. That's where you have forestry. We have the beautiful, largest Ponderosa forest in the world that crosses the north half of
this state. Ranching, a common interest, goes all across that.

You go to the south, you're in the desert. A whole different lifestyle. You have farming, you have mining. Activities of interest.

I think if you look at two res-- rural Congressional districts, you got to look at a north/south divide. East/west would be a mistake. You would have forest in the east, forest in the west.

We have in here -- I'm proud to -- I hope I can mention it -- my supervisor, Tommy Martin, of Gila County has worked diligently to deal with the forest, the forest fires that we endure in the north country. But it's pulled us all together because it's the natural right thing to do. Don't break us apart by creating political lines that don't match what we do together.

If you are going to do two in the rural, it should be a north/south, not an east/west.

And I would like -- one remaining comment or recommendation. You talked about one man, one vote, equal representation, and I'm going to make this pitch again for the benefit of the guests here because you folks have heard it.
There are five members of this Commission. Three from Pima County and two from Maricopa. Where is the representation from rural Arizona on this Commission?

Over 20 percent of this state lives in rural Arizona. One member of this Commission should be from rural Arizona.

Now, I don't know if it has to be done by law, a bill, a petition, whatever, but I would plan on talking to my representatives and I would like you to look at it from your position already on the existing Commission, because we are talking about something ten years from now.

But I would surely hope I come to one of these ten years from now and I see someone directly representing my interests, the interests of rural Arizona.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Shirley Dye, who is getting ready, but let me go ahead and name the next three. Roberta Peterson, Lynne Breyer, and James Palmer.

So Shirley Dye is representing self, LD5, Gila/Graham/Greeley (sic), Navajo Apache -- Southern
Navajo Apache.

SHIRLEY DYE: Hi, I'm Shirley Dye, and that's spelled D-y-e, and I am here to talk to you once again, because I was here in Prescott, about Legislative District 5, in which you sit.

Legislative District 5 is currently made up of southern parts of Navajo and Apache Counties plus Greeley (sic), Graham, and Gila Counties. And after the 2010 census, LD5 is shown to be short 20,809 people. LD5 needs to pick up approximately 21,000 people to bring it close to the target population for a district.

And as I mentioned the other day, the Camp Verde area just has that 21,000 people that we need.

Now, you have just heard from Don Ascoli about how very important counties are. As you look at this map, you have Navajo, Apache, Greeley, Graham, and Gila Counties, and this little section here is the most eastern part of Yavapai County, okay?

Just a couple of communities here. This is all forest service and BLM land from Maricopa County all the way up in here into the Coconino County line. This is all Yavapai County.
As much as -- or as well as practicable is a word that I have heard many, many times in sitting in the Gila County redistricting meetings, of which I was very interested in and that's how I ended up submitting this map.

The little area of Cordes Lakes, the Camp Verde, Montezuma Castle -- or Montezuma Castle and Montezuma Lakes area and Rimrock, those little communities pick up the exact amount of people that we need.

And, yes, it is dipping into another county and I understand that is a problem for Yavapai County and so we would just have to see how the cookie crumbles here.

But anyhow, the addition of Camp Verde's population to LD5 makes perfect sense. Camp Verde is rural and tourist community of interest has far more in common with LD5 than the majority of LD4 or LD1.

Just 40 miles west down the mountain from Strawberry, Pine, Payson, and Star Valley, small town Camp Verde is very similar to the majority of rural Legislative District 5 with its ranching, small farms, forest, tourist -- and tourist attractions.
The similar communities will unite along Highway 260, which is the backbone of this whole LD5. We go from Camp Verde all the way to Show Low and all the way to the New Mexico border.

But Camp Verde is also very similar. Besides the high country of Pine, Strawberry, and Star Valley, it is very, very consistent with our -- down Highway 188, the areas along the Tonto Basin and other lower-lying areas where we get into the saguaro -- beautiful saguaro forests and the more high desert areas where we have recreation like Lake Roosevelt area and all.

The LD5 minority/majority Hispanic voting block in Greeley (sic), southern Gila and Graham County and its minority/majority Native American Apache voting blocks. And like you have heard from the San Carlos Indian reservation, Fort Apache and our own close to Payson and Tonto Apache tribes, will have -- with the inclusion of that extra 21,000 people -- will still have basically the same percentages of total majority/minority voting block interests.

LD5, with the addition of Camp Verde, will be very well-balanced politically and competitively. It would be, like, 37 percent
Republican, 37 percent Democrat, and 21 percent Independent voters.

There is no reason for a massive reconfiguration of Legislative District 5 when a simple shift of population from Camp Verde into LD5 meets all of the redistricting requirements. The total population would only be about 700 to 750 people short of the exact target population of 21 — 213,067 people.

In the areas of the Voting Rights Act, minority/majority populations are in compliance. Our communities of interest are maintained with Camp Verde fitting right in the historic, pioneer, and ranching, and farming interests.

The LD5 boundaries remain intact with the Navajo Nation to the north and Coconino County line on the north, New Mexico on the east, Pinal County on the south, Maricopa on the southwest, and that little area of Highway Interstate 17 that goes up between the Maricopa County line and the -- I guess I should be doing it this way -- Maricopa County line and the Coconino County line, so it has good boundaries.

Okay. LD5 boundaries -- okay. LD5 boundaries remain intact except for the new
inclusion of Camp Verde, which has rather been an
island to itself surrounded by public lands and far
away from the main populations of LD1 and LD4.

So we request the Independent
Redistricting Commission maintain the existing
configuration of LD5 but with the inclusion of the
Camp Verde area.

So thank you very much.

And based on what I heard last Thursday
night, I believe that if you are going to split into
two Congressional districts for rural Arizona, that
they would be layered horizontally, not vertically
east and west due to some of the reasons Mr. Ascoli
said.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I want to be sensitive to our court
reporter, which is unusual for me. Are you sure
Michelle?

Okay. We'll keep going. Let us know
when you need a break.

Our next speaker is Roberta Peterson,
representing self from Pinetop.

ROBERTA PETERSON: P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n.

I applaud what Ms. Dye just said. I
totally agree with her. It makes so much sense to include Camp Verde because that is a community of interest.

I lived in Flagstaff for 19 years and then moved to Pinetop 6 years ago. I don't think we really have anything in common with Flagstaff except good weather.

And then I want to ask Mr. Desmond, is it true I have understood that your company has never done redistricting mapping before?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I don't think we are able to answer questions, is that right, Mr. Kanefield?

ROBERTA PETERSON: We can't ask questions?

Okay. I understand that his company has never done redistricting mapping before, and I'm surprised that another company wasn't chosen, because there were some good ones to choose from.

Also, I have to say that I do not believe that this Commission is fair and balanced, not only because we've got Pima and Maricopa only, but because I do not believe that the White Mountain Independent newspaper was wrong when they reported that Ms. Mathis is definitely not independent.
So I just want to say those things. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Lynne Breyer, representing self from Navajo County.

LYNNE BREYER: Thank you. The spelling of my name is B-r-e-y-e-r.

Madam Chairman and Commissioners, I've been a small business owner in Arizona for 28 years with clients in both Pinetop and Scottsdale. I split my time between these two areas for all of the time I have lived in Arizona. I can safely say that these areas have little in common.

I am here to discuss issues surrounding the mapping process regarding competitiveness and the communities of interest.

People move into areas that fit their needs in terms of education, economic, cultural opportunities, recreation, political interests, and social values, among other reasons. They naturally gravitate to areas where like-minded people live in the neighborhoods they choose.

The people in some areas of our state are quite distinctive in their interests, needs, and values.
In this case of LD5, as well as the future Congressional district, the common interests are tourism, outdoor activities, ranching, a preference and a concern for -- sorry, preference and concern for forested areas and small rural communities sharing similar needs and services.

These communities need the kind of lawmakers who share and understand these same interests and values.

For this area, I believe communities of interest for drawing district lines in the primary -- is the primary and commonsense method of choice.

This district -- excuse me, this district should include the similar areas existing now following the Maricopa County line over to the I-17, south of Camp Verde up to the Coconino County line, and this would include Camp Verde. It would exclude Flagstaff, which really no longer meets a rural criteria.

This plan will satisfy the population requirement respecting counties and the communities of interest that are linked by lifestyle. It is also a culturally diverse area and it satisfies the
need for tightly contained districts.

Residents of these areas routinely travel between and do business in all of these communities and recreational areas.

In terms of compactness, the current CD1 could be used as the perfect bad example for drawing district lines. For the new Congressional district, this sparsely populated area would further -- would extend further south along the eastern border to retain the same communities of interest.

Using the format of competitiveness is less important in this process because of the diversity that exists within these areas already and opens the door to abuse of power by the Commission, given that those charged with this work, including ancillary participants and Strategic Telemetry, are made up of, except for two panel members, those with close ties to one party, the Democrat party, although it's really irrelevant which party is in control.

There is already evidence of the chair, who is representing herself as an Independent, despite evidence to the contrary, violation of open meetings laws, bid-rigging, trading of votes for favors, and failure to produce all public records,
scoring sheets which show how the mapping company was selected.

The intent of Prop 106 was to prevent this type of activity. This process has been tainted and has not adhered to the State Constitution. It's doubtful that it can be trusted by fair-minded people.

Observing the rule that perception is reality, this panel should immediately move to correct these serious abuses as well as avoiding actual partisanship and gerrymandering.

Given the process to date, this is going to be a monumental task. You have yet an opportunity to make needed efforts to commit to a fair process.

I sincerely hope this Commission will use that opportunity to follow the law in accordance with the Constitutions of Arizona and the United States. To do otherwise jeopardizes this entire project.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is James Palmer, County Supervisor for Graham County.

JAMES PALMER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
Commissioners. Thanks for the opportunity to be here and for the important work that you are doing and the very difficult task.

I had the opportunity ten years ago to stand before your predecessors in the original Commission and advocate for rural representation in Arizona and advocate for areas that we believed had a strong community of interest.

We were successful in that effort, in what turned out to be the creation of Legislative District 5 and Congressional District 1.

Our purpose in that was to have districts that were truly rural. We have heard a lot here today about being both rural and compact, and I recognize that by virtue of the numbers game and what comprises rural areas, those two things are virtually mutually exclusive.

Now, contiguous works. Compactness can be very difficult when trying to stay completely rural. And our hope was that we did not have something that included the metropolitan areas in our districts.

And I would advocate that this is important going forward; that we maintain that, even if it means reaching out to a larger area to
maintain the rural community of interest that we have.

The communities of interest that we advocated for ten years ago, and which I am here today to advocate for, I believe are very important in our communities. These include the mining communities of interest in Graham, Greenlee, and Gila Counties and families that have been in those communities for generations and are very culturally diverse and a very important part of our district.

The agricultural communities of interest that include farming, ranching, greenhouse industries that stretch across the entire breadth of our Legislative District 5 and our Congressional District 1. We have tribal issues that I believe were met in these districts when they were formed.

And so I think it's important that we maintain that. That we, to the extent necessary, reach out to reach the population thresholds but to not turn the applecart over.

It's important to note that our family and cultural and historic ties go back to days that were before statehood in these communities of interests. These mining communities, these agricultural communities, these small towns were
here long before Arizona was a state. And our
gypsy ties stretch across these boundaries and they
are very important to us. And I think they as well
are very diverse and cover all walks of life.

I know there is no one on this Commission
that represents rural Arizona, so I would implore
you and ask that all of you represent rural Arizona,
that you hear our voice, that you keep us intact.
We have truly, in the past ten years, been heard
more loudly and more clearly than at any time since
counties represented -- or elected their State
representation. And I don't want to lose that. I
want to see us be able to hang on to that going
forward. I know you have a difficult task.

Finally, let me tell you that I had a
call from one of my fellow county supervisors in
Greenlee County, Mr. Lent, who could not be here
today due to a prior commitment. And he asked me if
I would speak on his behalf and say that he does
support maintaining our current Legislative and
Congressional districts to the extent that it's
possible that we only expand them to what we need
and we keep going forward with our voice being
heard.

And finally, let me just add, I know that
the meetings are set for the first round of public meetings, but we feel there was a fairly large part of Arizona left out. And we have sent a letter, in fact, to the Commission requesting that the counties of Graham, Greenlee, and Gila, that's a fifth of the counties in Arizona, be considered as you schedule future public meetings.

I would suggest that Eastern Arizona College might be a fairly central location for those three counties. But our citizens might have an opportunity to have their voice heard in this process.

And I thank you for all of the good work that do you and ask that you listen as we come to you and share our concerns and that we come up with something that will effectively represent all of us and that we maintain these districts as closely as we can.

And I have comments and maps here that I would like to submit.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Joe.

Thank you very much.

Our next speaker is Tommie Martin, County Supervisor for District 1 in Gila County.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It takes her a while.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: No problem. Take your time.

I'll go ahead and name the next couple of speakers. We've got David Tenney up next, Charleen Greer, Adolfo Echeveste.

TOMMIE MARTIN: Madam Chair and Commissioner, I want to thank you very much for the opportunity to visit with you today. I think your job makes herding cats look easy.

As supervisor for Gila County, there's a couple of points I would like to make. I am here to support a couple of plans. The first one is the Legislative District 5 being the same with the addition of Camp Verde.

Through my lifetime -- I'm a fifth generation out of Payson, and through just my voting career in Payson, Gila County tends to be Arizona's chopping block when it comes time to reconfiguring districts. And I have voted with Flagstaff, I have voted with Prescott, I have voted with Globe.

The last ten years of putting Gila County with Navajo, Apache, Greenlee, Graham has worked very well for us. We are a rural voice. And it's
the first time that I know of that we were not
diluted with an urban voice and a true rural voice
was heard.

I think adding Camp Verde to us makes
very good sense for several reasons. They are still
rural. They have an agricultural ranching
background as much -- many of us do.

And I would like to talk a minute about
the Apache voice there.

I have a very sincere interest in that
voice. I had a great aunt who was the last -- was
the surviving Apache of the Winona massacre, so I
have direct Apache relatives. At Tonto Apache I
have other folks that I consider family and they do
have direct family in Camp Verde.

Steve Titla's conversations about the
White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache, to me,
come right on around to Tonto Apache and then
Yavapai Apache. And I realize that doesn't pick up
Fort McDowell, but it, in fact, consolidates that
Apache voice and gives them an Apache voice,
something that also hasn't been considered.

As Gila County tends to get chopped up,
that's one of the voices that gets chopped up, too.
I would think that the Yavapai Apache, if there was
any disenfranchised voice in that part of the world, it is that voice. And to consolidate them would give them a solid voice.

I also would like to -- there's a lot of talk about the Congressional District, whether it goes north/south or east/west. There is a Pinal County Governmental Alliance proposal that does, in fact, do an east/west cut.

When I look at it, it's almost -- it's almost the best of both worlds. It is an almost north/south, east/west cut. And why I like it in particular is it looks to me like it gives rural Arizona two fair votes and voices in Congress.

Playing the supervisor game of having three of us in my county, it's important to have another voice sometimes when you are looking at rural issues. And I think that particular proposal, of all of the ones that I have seen, does that as fair as any other.

And I would like to simply submit written comments and let it go with that.

Thank you again very much. And I would second Jim Palmer. Payson is another nice place to come. That center of Arizona could stand to have you all show up and we wouldn't be trotting to
Prescott and the White Mountain, although we like to. But thank you much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is David Tenney, Supervisor, District 4 and Board Chairman for Navajo County.

DAVID TENNEY: Good afternoon.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good afternoon.

DAVID TENNEY: Madam Chair and members of the Commission, thank you for allowing me to speak today. Thank you for what you are doing. I know it's a thankless job and I know you get a lot of fingers pointed at you.

What we hope to do today is to help be part of a solution and we are confident that the fact that you are here means that you care about what we have to say.

So thank you and welcome to Navajo County. Certainly better than being in the Valley, whether it be Maricopa or Pima County. Much warmer than it is here today. So thank you for coming.

My name is David Tenney. Last name is spelled T-e-n-n-e-y. I am a community member here. I've lived in Navajo County my entire life, and I currently serve as the chairman of the Board of
Supervisors for Navajo County and also serve as the president this year of the County Supervisors Association for the State of Arizona. And at the end of my remarks, I will share a little insight that I gained in performing my duties there this year.

I want to speak in favor of the proposed redistricting plan that maintains the effective and cohesive relationships of LD5 as it is presently constituted.

The purpose of this exercise in our political system is to equalize the population of districts so that they comply with federal requirements.

Some of the key criteria that are involved in this process, as we've heard many times today, include an attempt to create compact and contiguous districts, an attempt to keep political units and communities in a single -- within a single district and attempt to avoid the drawing of boundaries for purposes of partisan advantage and incumbent protection.

I submit to this committee that the proposed redistricting plan which keeps the eastern counties of Arizona in LD5 meets all of these
criteria, and the communities of our district are
best served under the current configuration with a
simple addition of the Verde Valley, as has been
stated by others today.

With the addition of the Verde Valley,
LD5 will retain its previous contiguous
configuration determined by the Commission ten years
ago with very minimal changes. Other proposals that
have been suggested to this committee would
drastically diverge from this key criteria point.

In addition, the proposal we support
fully meets the required population levels for the
new Legislative districts in Arizona to within less
than one-half of one percent and does so while
meeting the competitive standard requirements for
partisan and political criteria. Roughly leaving
right around one-third Republican, one-third
Democrat, and close to one-third Independent.

The proposal that we support also
maintains the current districts for minority
standards of representation. The LD5 configuration
has been tried and tested and has yielded a fair and
representative outcome over the past decade.

This is a key point to the members of the
White Mountain Apache tribe, and other minorities
that you have heard from today and will hear from at
other times, I'm sure. They like that
configuration, as you heard today.

Finally, we support -- the plan we
support, I'm sorry -- the plan we support is rooted
in commonsense and time-tested relationships.

I have not seen another plan that can
claim such close compliance with all of the other
criteria points I have outlined while maintaining
the social, historical, and communal ties common to
each of the political units and communities within
the presently constituted LD5. LD5 works, plain and
simple.

We feel that this balanced and reasonable
proposal will fairly retain the common ties that the
counties, cities, towns and tribes share in the
areas of natural resource management, education,
travel, tourism, and others. We share common
concerns and common social issues in the management
of our communities. We know how to work well with
each other and these relationships provide benefits
to our citizens.

I therefore ask that you adopt this map
as presented, and I will give you a map for the
record -- the one that you have seen already.
A couple of things that I would like to share with you, personal observances.

First of all, two of my cohorts, Mr. Palmer and Mrs. Martin from Greenlee and -- I'm sorry, from Graham and from Gila Counties spoke of how these five counties in LD5 work together.

That's not something that just started in 2000 with the first redistricting that took place. We also -- all five of those counties are members of what we call the Eastern Counties Organization. It was started long before the present redistricting took place.

Those five counties have been working together on economic and environmental issues and natural resource issues for much longer than just the past ten years, I think proving that communities of interest certainly do exist between the counties that are represented in LD5. Simply adding the Verde Valley, who has very similar communities of interest to this district, is a very simple and commonsensical way to go about this.

Another thing that I would share with you lastly that I observed this year as I spent three to four days a week throughout the Legislative session in Phoenix working on Legislative issues on behalf
of counties.

There were times, particularly when we saw budget proposals coming out of the Senate that counties were very concerned. And more than once I as the president of that organization had to send out a call to the counties and county-elected officials to come and make their voices heard with the Legislature.

I can assure you that the representation that was seen at the Legislature on those days when a call actually went out from those five counties, more than double what we saw from the other ten counties combined.

These five counties get involved. They work together as a cohesive unit in this Legislative district. They know who their representatives and their Senator are. They work well with them. They've had some that have been Republican; they've had some that were Democrat over the last ten years and that has worked well.

And I submit to you that they work well together because they are a community of interest.

I respectfully disagree with our friend from Flagstaff who here today talked about the community of interest between this region and
Flagstaff because we all have trees. That doesn't make any more sense to me than saying that Globe and Bagdad ought to be in the same district because they both have mines.

I respectfully request that you consider the map that has been proposed of leaving LD5 as constituted with the addition of the Verde Valley.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Charleen Greer, representing self, from Navajo, Pinetop.

CHARLEEN GREER: Madam Chairman, committee member, not members, I guess, and public, hello.

My name is Charleen Greer. I -- currently I am a retired attorney. We spent our summers up here and our winters in the Valley. I've been a resident of Arizona for 40 years and my husband and I actually lived up here for 13 years in the '80s and '90s.

While living here, I had lots of opportunities to be the either northern Arizona or rural member of all sorts of statewide committees, and particularly the bar association because there aren't that many rural lawyers. And so I was on the
State Bar Commission and on communities and on the statewide foster care review board, et cetera.

And it became very, very, very clear to me that urban people don't understand rural issues and problems. And I just want to emphasize that because I can't -- they don't understand things. They don't understand how far away people are. They don't understand the issues. And I don't want to repeat because everyone was quite wonderful on talking about those issues.

I very much support the two Congressional -- two rural Congressional districts and eight rural Legislative districts. I think probably north and south makes a little more sense to me, but I haven't had a lot of time to think about it.

What I would like to talk about is the guidelines that you have on -- in your handout. It's number 5, what guidelines need to be followed when drawing new districts.

I particularly want to point out that these guidelines very strongly support rural communities of interest. And I say that for several reasons.

One is, of course, that communities of interest is one of the criteria, and I want to point
of with regard to compact and contiguous, that we have seen in Arizona in the past districts that broke up the rural areas, and then in order to get enough people, went down to the urban areas. That is not compact. It's contiguous, of course, but it's not compact. It's basically gerrymandering.

The most important thing, though, about the guidelines is that F, create competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

So your job is to do communities of interest, compact and contiguous, physical geographic features. And lastly, if none of those are harmed, then competitive districts. And I think in the past, and sometimes now, people talk about competitive districts as if they were the primary consideration and they are, in fact, a secondary consideration.

So I just urge you emphasize communities of interest and contiguous and compact, and I think you can meet the wishes of the folks here.

I would like to say one other thing, and that is I think just about everyone here is here because they are pleading for rural districts and communities of interest. And I am sorry that some
partisan politics and things like that have come up. I don't think it's the place for it.

But thank you very much. I appreciate all of the time you all are spending. I know it's got to be a real hardship on your families.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I just wanted to count. We have seven more request to speak forms. I don't -- we can take a short recess if anyone would like to. I'm not just looking at Michelle.

Okay. We'll keep plowing through.

Adolfo Echeveste. He's a tax paying, voting U.S. citizen representing himself from Tempe.

ADOLFO ECHEVESTE: Thank you very much.

My name is Adolfo, A-d-o-l-f-o, last name Echeveste, E-c-h-e-v, as in Victor, e-s-t-e.

I've been a property owner in Pinetop/Lakeside area for 36 years and a homeowner here for over 17 years, and I am one of those fortunate ones that somebody mentioned that I spend five -- my wife and I spend five months, that's during the summer, in Pinetop and seven months in the Valley, in Tempe.

I want to point out a couple of things
that -- I'm going to touch on some points based on my personal experience, my professional experience, as the executive director of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission during the first commission. Also I wanted to touch very briefly on a comment that one of the supervisors just mentioned, and that is -- and it's a very key point for the Commission.

I happened to also be staff assistant to Governor Jack Williams. I was in charge of inner governmental relations for him for a time. And we, myself and Holly Atkinson from Sun City, were responsible in putting together the Regional Councils of Government. They were based on social, economic, communities of interest.

Those councils have been in place since about the mid-'60s. And as the supervisor mentioned, they function very well together, and I would urge this Commission to take them into consideration when looking at different configurations for mapping.

One point I wanted to make with regard to Tempe and then I'll get back to some other items. Unfortunately, I was not able to be at the East Valley hearing that you had recently
because it's cool up here and it's hot down there. And so I thought I would take advantage of making a comment regarding -- since that's my voting area, Tempe is.

If you will look at the districts throughout the state, you will find that -- and if you do the research, you will find that the district -- the Tempe district was the most competitive, the most contiguous, met all of the guidelines that the district was from -- the Tempe border on the west side, the Mesa border on the east side, Guadalupe street on the south side, and they did have to move it over to McDowell, which is just a few blocks into Scottsdale. I would have preferred it been all Tempe, but that was a decision made for other reasons.

In any event, I urge you that you keep that district intact or as close to it as possible. Or if you can, keep it all within Tempe.

Now, moving right along into a couple of other items.

Somebody mentioned the selection of the current mapping company. I need to tell you that as the former executive director, frankly, whether you hired one company or you hired another company, I'm
sure that they all have the expertise to do the job.

The bottom line is they are simply professional staff that crank out information for the commissioners to do their job.

Now, the leadership in the House and the Senate in their wisdom selected two Democrats and two Republicans. Those four individuals selected the chair.

Now, I want to point out, also, for clarification for some people that apparently have some misinformation on the selection process. I also applied this time around to be considered for the Commission.

Now, fortunately or not, I think probably fortunately, I was not selected and you, Chair, Madam Chairman was selected.

But I want to point out that nowhere in the application process was there any question asked of what party my wife belonged to. That was not included in the selection process, not in the questions, not in the lengthy questionnaire.

My point being that we applied because we were Independents. It had nothing to do with our husbands or our wives.

My final point regarding that is that
this time around, separate and apart from the
other -- the last ten years, is that a new situation
has occurred that you need to be very conscious of
that, and that is -- and you may have read in the
paper -- that there are now more of us Independents,
over a million -- I believe a million and 37,000
Independents. Then there are Democrats and we are
rapidly catching up with the Republicans.

I think that that component needs to be
carefully weighed when you look at population and
numbers of Republicans and Democrats. In order to
have competitive districts, you have to incorporate
that into your consideration.

One final point and I'll sit down.

I'm sorry to see the -- from a distance,
I've seen the Skype in Pima County and Maricopa
County. Up here I'm glad to see that almost all of
our folks are very civil and cordial and understand
the Democratic process and embrace it, and I'm proud
of our people up here. But it did disturb me that a
lot of misinformation seems to be coming out.

For example, the director and owner of
NDC, one of the companies that was not selected to
do the mapping, Mr. Allan Hislop, Ph.D. -- after I
took over as executive director and all of the
community questionnaires had already -- the
decisions had been made to pay to get the documents
printed, approached me when they appointed me as the
second executive director after about two months in,
he told me, he says, you know, we included in the
initial questionnaires competitiveness. It is an
essential consideration along with the rest.

He says, "I was instructed by Lisa
Hauser, the attorney, one of two attorneys, to
delete it. I informed her that that was a serious
mistake that would bite the Commission in the long
run, as it did."

At the time I was busy implementing the
hearings and what not. I didn't pay attention to
those comments. It was not until I heard the court
-- the long drawn-out court process in Superior
Court, the Court of Appeals, back to the Superior
Court, back to the Court of Appeals up to the
Supreme Court that that issue became very apparent
that he was correct in his assessment.

I only bring that up because I noticed
during the selection process there were some
comments made that gave, if you will, attack the
professional -- their professionalism and their
reputation, and that's unfortunate, because they did
incorporate competitiveness at the beginning but
they were directed by Lisa Hauser not to. Whether
she was given direction by the Commission or not, I
do not know.

Now, having said that, I hope that -- and
I am fully confident that the company that you have
selected is competent. Bottom line, it's up to the
four (sic) Democrats and the four (sic) Republicans
to have them produce the appropriate maps that fit
all of the criteria.

And I want to say to you specifically as
chairman, you represent over a million and 37,000
Independents, that we are placing our support and
our confidence in the job that you are doing. We
respect you, we support you. Those 1,037,000 may
not show up to all of the hearings, but rest assured
that we are out there, we are watching, we are
supporting you. You are supporting the Commission.
And bottom line, if the Democrats and Republicans
can't seem to coalesce into the decision-making
process, we support you and we expect you to bite
the bullet. You are the third vote. You are
representing all of the people of Arizona.

So, yes, you are going to take the heat
but that's why we are paying you the big bucks we
are, right? To represent us and keep doing that
good job. We hope the rest of the commissioners
also do a good job.

God bless.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Julie Junod, and
forgive me if I am mispronouncing your name,
representing self, from Show Low, Navajo County.

JULIE JUNOD: I have a French-speaking
cousin. It's Junod, but the French would say Junod.

My name is Julie Junod, J-u-n-o-d, from
Show Low.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak
today. And thank you for taking the time to come to
the White Mountains.

I would first like to reiterate my
agreement with some of what the other speakers have
said. I agree that the White Mountains and other
areas of the current LD5 has little or nothing to do
in common, that is, with Flagstaff.

I would also ask that in your
consideration, that you keep LD5 as it is with the
inclusion of the Verde Valley. I think that is an
excellent idea. I also agree with the north/south
rural districts.
I would also like to agree with a previous comment that the representatives here on this panel represent only the urban areas of the state of Arizona. And with all due respect, I hope that we can find a way to have mandatory representation of the rural Arizona in the future.

I would also like to -- lastly to state my disagreement with the Commission's choice with the selection of Strategic Telemetry. And I mean no disrespect to Mr. Desmond in any way. It's the company that he works for that I am against, primarily because of its political history in representing people like President Obama, SCIU, moveon.org, the AFLCIO. In other words, the company has represented very leftist or liberal or progressive entities and people, and that is not a company that, in my opinion, would be most suited for an impartial mapping procedure.

Thank you again for taking the time to come to the White Mountains.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Sam Upshaw representing self from Navajo County.

SAM UPSHAW: You didn't give me any notice.
First, I would like to say my name is Sam Upshaw, spelled U-p-s-h-a-w. And thank you all for coming up here. I know it's a long drive, but there's worse things you have to do in July than come to Pinetop.

Okay. Really quickly, folks, I'm a native Arizonan. I was born in a small area. I am a rural resident. I have lived in Tucson. I have lived in Phoenix. I have lived up here.

It is very important to note, as we reiterate, that the rural and urban values are very different. I know this because I've lived in both. I have also lived out of state, and in particular Florida and Colorado, and I have seen the effects of this redistricting process change the whole political climate of the state, and I think to the detriment of the electoral -- to the Democratic process, in my opinion.

I am also an Independent, and I would just like to point out that the reason I am an Independent is not because I can't make up my mind between the Democrats and the Republicans, but because I don't believe either party at the national level, not the state, but at the national level adequately represents my interests and values on --
you know, especially at the national level, okay?

Quickly, I support the idea of two rural Congressional districts and I would like to see an east and west. And the reason for that, folks, is that then we have two representatives for the forestry and border issues instead of one Congressman who represents the border and one that represents forestry. We will have two, one of each -- I'm sorry, two of each.

Now, also -- and just for Mr. Titla's very eloquent -- he left the room -- his very eloquent talk about the San Carlos Apache tribe.

Just for the record, my -- I am not a third-generation cattle rancher because the federal government seized my family's property down the middle strip east of the Hayden/Winkelman area in the 1970s after we had been there since the 1930s. And they seized that -- our property along with several other ranches in the area and awarded them to the San Carlos Apache tribe. So just FYI, that has gone both ways. Okay? I am living proof of that.

I would also like to say that I have family over in the Camp Verde area, and the Legislative District 5 as it stands with the
inclusion of the Verde Valley would meet all of your
criteria and it would also keep the people there.
We have the same socioeconomic, and public policy
interests. We are very -- culturally, we are very,
very similar.

And the -- something that the -- the
values that we have, we do not share with Flagstaff.
In fact, a lot of the issues that we've had with our
catastrophic wildfires came -- the reason that we
had such a gigantic fuel buildup in our forest,
which resulted in the Rodeo-Chediski and the Wallow
fire was because a lot of interests, many of them
based in Flagstaff, through litigation, et cetera,
would not allow us to manage our forests in the ways
that were time tested, and proven to keep wildfire
risks down. So please, we do -- I have nothing in
common with Flagstaff.

And also I would just like to -- the one
gentleman mentioned the elephant in the room was the
Voting Rights Act. And I would just like to tell
you my perspective on that and then I will yield my
time, so to speak.

I believe that in 2011, the Voting Rights
Act is for the most part irrelevant. And the reason
that I say that is because I believe having fought
forest fires for many years and fought side by side with the Native American fire crews, et cetera, I believe that a cattle rancher, whether he is -- whatever the color of his skin or what language his ancestors spoke, a cattle rancher in rural Arizona has more in common with another cattle rancher just because they don't look the same than either one of them does with -- from somebody who looks the same that lives in Tempe or Tucson. Okay?

And I wrote down a whole lot of other things, but I do appreciate y'all's time and thank you for listening to us.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Okay. Our next speaker is Barry Weller, representing self, from Apache County.

BARRY WELLER: Thank you for the opportunity to speak, and thank you for coming up to this area.

My name is Barry Weller. That's W-e-l-l-e-r. I live in very rural Apache County, but I want to claim minority status for the fact that I have only been living up here about two years. I lived down in Mesa for many, many years, and I'm a minority in the sense that I don't have five generations in Arizona or up in the rural area.
But I do have a perspective, as the previous speaker, to both the rural and the urban issues, so to speak, and I have been a little bit politically involved for some time. And since I've been up here, I've been very politically involved.

It's very expensive to travel the district for gas money, I assure you. So we are not compact, but we are contiguous and we are like-minded.

LD5 is really what I want to speak to briefly.

I support the minor modification of taking on the Verde Valley, because I have traveled this district we are like-minded and it is competitive in the sense that we do sometimes elect Democrats and we do sometimes elect Republicans. And when you talk to a Democrat in Apache County, he'll say "I'm an Apache County Democrat," which doesn't mean he's a Democrat, it just means that he's approaching that perspective so that he may be considered to have a voice.

People up here just get along and they do things and they are like-minded. They don't worry about that political difference most of the time. It's the issue that they get to, and that's been a
wonderful experience being up here.

I just want to lend my support without any major political clout to keeping things simple, as the representative from the White Mountain Apache tribe said. I totally agree with him. The minor -- the least amount of change the better. These people get along, the system has been working, and I ask that you consider keeping it as it is.

I have not given a lot of consideration to the Congressional district division, but practically, I would say the east/west split makes more sense. It seems to also support the majority of the Native Americans getting into the same Congressional district, which is part of their language issue that they spoke to earlier.

And lastly, I will say that the person that spoke about the process in the mapping organization, I'm not sure exactly where he might be coming from. I cannot imagine a large organization not being somewhat influenced by the major polarization of the political environment over the last decade and over the last few years.

So I think it is very critical to look at the potential influence from their political involvement or the types of things they have done in
the past.

And I would ask that the Commission, or your organization, look more closely at tainting of the selection of the organization presently.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I have three more forms. Our next speaker is Karen MacKean, Chairman, Navajo County, Republicans from Navajo County.

KAREN MACKEAN: Hi. My name is Karen MacKean. I am a resident of Show Low in Navajo County.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: M-a-c- --

KAREN MACKEAN: M-a-c, capital K-e-a-n.

Thank you, Julie.

I'm here to submit the proposed map for Legislative District 5. The proposed map keeps the current district but will add required number of people and other criteria by annexing the area just west of the existing district, as many people have said, Camp Verde area.

Since this map comes within 700 persons of the exact number necessary for a new district, we would like very much to see this happen.

Important to the community of interest is
to keep our representatives. We worked very hard to elect them. That's Senator Allen and Representatives Barton and Crandall.

Rural communities like ours have important similarities and is the reason most of us have chosen to live here. We enjoy the lifestyle very much and want to keep it. Also I believe Flagstaff would not be representative of our community of interest.

And I would like to submit the proposed LD5 map to you.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Bill Faurot, maybe, forgive me if I am mispronouncing, representing self, from Navajo.

BILL FAUROT: Just won a nickel.

Last name is spelled F-a-u-r-o-t and it is pronounce Faurot.

I only have three quick points to make. There is a divide between people who live in rural areas and people who live in urban areas.

There is no conceivable way that Flagstaff would ever fit into a rural area. That's number one.
The existing CD1 and LD5 --

Is that better in the back?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

BILL FAUROT: Existing CD1 and LD5 have worked very well for the last ten years. Prior to that, and in some situations, there is the case where the State of Maricopa has decided how things will run. And that -- the folks up in Flagstaff aren't far behind.

The last point is there is an extraordinary misconception in the world about Independent voters. In Navajo County, they are a major group, but in that group, the number of people who identify themselves as Independents is miniscule. On top of that, only a third of them voted. Most of the people who are in this Independent class are people who simply didn't check any box, for whatever the reason, and therefore, they are lumped as Independents. They are not. They just didn't check the box.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

I think this is my last request to speak form. David Kwail, Chairman, Yavapai Apache Nation from Verde -- Camp Verde in Yavapai County. And
forgive me if I mispronounced your name. Sorry.

DAVID KWAIL: You got it wrong but that's okay.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks.

DAVID KWAIL: I am the chairman of the Yavapai Apache Nation. I appreciate all that was said regarding my tribe, my Yavapai Apaches.

And the idea of wanting to include Camp Verde, of which I am a -- I vote in that district setting. I am a citizen of Camp Verde, plus I am the chairman of my tribe.

I have just a small concern about being included in LD5, is that my community is checkerboard. I do not know if you will be including all of my districts or all of my communities as it gets moved or as it gets included.

I have a community also with Clarkdale. I'm not sure what half of the Verde Valley is thinking about, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Jerome, and Sedona.

I did not attend the meeting that was held in Prescott, and I should have, of course. I knew about this one but not the one in Camp Verde or wherever you had it.

I like the ideals of the north and the
south. My father worked in the south. He was -- he worked in the open pit mine in Ajo, Arizona, retired from there and came back to our community in Camp Verde.

I was -- like, the first year of my being a teenager, 13, that we moved back to the Verde. After that I was -- grew there, stay there now, know the country, know the high country, and the difference I agree, yes, Flagstaff is getting -- is a big-time city compared to my 10,000 in Camp Verde. Compared to Prescott, also growing like Chino Valley and Prescott Valley, uniting. In my younger days they were very many miles apart.

So I just wanted to address that, and I've heard the comments and I will have to get with my mayor to see where his position is regarding this discussion. It sounds like there's an invitation and we will discuss that. Mayor Burnside, is his name.

And I thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Chairman, do you mind stating your name for the record and spelling --

DAVID KWAIL: David Kwail, K-w-a-i-l.

(Speaking in native tongue) is the original, so I
won't spell that for you. Sorry.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Well, if -- are there any other request to speak forms that anyone else that didn't get to speak that would still like to address the Commission?

Hearing none -- or seeing none, I just wanted to express my great appreciation, and I know Vice Chairman Freeman is going to want to do the same thing in a minute.

It's a testament to me that all of you do have strong feelings and relationships built among yourselves, that you are all still here and that you all listened to each other. I think listening to each other is the most important attribute any of us can have, frankly, and it's really great to see that up here in northern Arizona.

We have been now to Prescott in the Navajo County and then today here in Pinetop and have heard a lot about the rural versus urban debate. And I want all of you to know that it's incumbent upon each of us, each of the five members to represent all 6.4 million Arizonans.

It's not that I can only -- I represent people from Pima or Vice Chairman Freeman represents
Maricopa County or that he represents Republicans and I represent Independents. Each of us has to represent all of the Arizonans, and that's what we took an oath to do.

So I just want to give you that assurance, because even though there isn't a specific commission member from a rural county, we hear you and that's why we are here. We want you to talk to us and tell us what's important to you, and that's what you did today and we really appreciate that.

So with that, I'll give -- let Vice Chairman Freeman speak.

COMMISSIONER FREEMAN: Thank you.

I agree with everything that the chair has said.

I really want to thank the White Mountain Apache tribe for welcoming -- making us feel welcome here.

This is a really special part of the state for me. When I was growing up, my folks had a little cabin just right down the road from here. So I spent a lot of my summers up here and other times of the year here as well. They are great memories, and I wish I had that cabin right now.
And it really is a spectacular part of the state. When we -- yesterday we were in Window Rock, another great part of the state, northeast part of the state.

And when I was driving down, I made a point to drive down through Eagar and come across on 270 so I could see the northern part of where the Wallow fire hit. And I know there are a lot of people hurting up here about that and still are.

But this morning I went out with some friends that I stayed with and we went out onto Unit 3B, which is just to the east of here in Apache Sitgreaves National Forest, and it was really spectacular. It's just beautiful and the forest was alive and green and there was lots of water there and we saw some wildlife and it was great.

So this is a great part of the state. I really want to thank all of you for coming and being involved in public participation and watching. This Commission is very important, and it's very important that we hear from you.

You need to tell us how these maps should look, and the more commentary, the better. The more specific commentary, if you could prepare maps and submit them, that will really help us do our jobs,
and you should expect us all to listen to you as well.

So thank you again for coming out today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

The time is 3:50 p.m., and this hearing is concluded.

Thank you.

(The hearing concluded at 3:50 p.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 117 printed pages constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this 11th day of August, 2011.

__________________________
MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637