

1 **ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

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5
6 Thursday, August 4, 2011
7 6:21 p.m.

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9 Location

10 **Buena Performing Arts Center, Buena High School**
11 **5225 Buena School Boulevard**
12 **Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635**

13
14 Attending

15 Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
16 Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

17 Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
18 Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
19 Mary O'Grady, Counsel, Osborn Maledon

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21
22 **PREPARED BY:**

23 AZ Litigation Support, LLC
24 Michelle D. Elam, RPR
25 Certified Reporter
 CR No. 50637

Sierra Vista, Arizona
August 4, 2011
6:21 p.m.

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4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Good evening. Let's
5 go ahead and get started.

6 We thank you guys for your patience. I
7 really appreciate it. We ran into a couple of
8 issues on the road getting here, but we are fine. I
9 guess some people were worried, so thank you for
10 worrying about us.

11 My name is Jose Herrera. I'm the Vice
12 Chair of AIRC and to my right is Commissioner
13 Stertz. I'll have him say a few words after I
14 introduce everyone else, but Commissioner Stertz on
15 my right.

16 We have Andrew Drechsler from Strategic
17 Telemetry; our attorney, Mary O'Grady; then we have
18 our Executive Director, Ray Bladine; and our Deputy
19 Executive Director, Kristina Gomez is in the back.

20 So, again, thank you guys for welcoming
21 us to Sierra Vista. This is my second time here.
22 Hopefully we can come again. We are looking forward
23 to a great evening with hearing testimony.

24 But before we get to testimony, what I
25 would like to do is the Pledge of Allegiance.

1 (Pledge was recited.)

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. So what
3 we'll do first, before we start the presentation, is
4 we will have Andrew Drechsler from Strategic
5 Telemetry do a presentation on redistricting and
6 what it is and what it isn't. And then once he
7 finishes we'll -- actually, before that I'll have
8 Commissioner Stertz welcome the crowd.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good evening,
10 everyone. My name is Rick Stertz. I'm from Tucson,
11 Arizona. And welcome everybody to what is our 13th
12 in a series of 15 visits that we've made
13 specifically to cities across the state. This is
14 our first round of public hearings.

15 The first round of public hearings is --
16 the desire is to do fact gathering. So if you've
17 got -- if you haven't filled out your yellow forms
18 to speak, please do so. If you don't feel so
19 inclined to speak, fill out the blue forms so that
20 you can put your thoughts, your name, and your
21 desires on the record.

22 This record that I speak of is the file
23 that will go with all of the documents that we put
24 together while we are drawing the maps, which will
25 be submitted to the Department of Justice for

1 preclearance.

2 So all of your data is important. It's
3 important to get on the record. And this is the
4 time and place for you to do so.

5 So welcome tonight, and the -- feel free
6 to give us all the thoughts that you have to allow
7 us to make great decisions on your behalf.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

9 We also have a -- even though the
10 Commission has been making -- we try to attend as
11 many meetings as possible. Sometimes it's not
12 possible. We all have full-time jobs and we try to
13 make it to as many meetings as we can. But when we
14 are not here physically, we are watching it --
15 streaming it on the web. So I'm certain that
16 Commissioner McNulty and Freeman and our Chairwoman
17 Mathis are watching. So please say hi to them.

18 AUDIENCE: Hi.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Now, I will go ahead
20 and give the mic to Andrew Drechsler from Strategic
21 Telemetry.

22 MR. DRECHSLER: Thank you very much.

23 My name is Andrew Drechsler, and I'm just
24 going to give a presentation about redistricting
25 tonight. The presentation is going to be on either

1 side of the stage so you can see it. Sorry for some
2 of you in the front row that have to bend your
3 necks.

4 So the -- we're going to talk about the
5 redistricting process and what it is and just going
6 through the steps of what the Independent
7 Redistricting Commission is doing.

8 Next.

9 So there's seven -- there's seven things
10 we are going to talk about tonight. One, why we
11 have a Redistricting Commission? What is
12 redistricting? What is the difference between
13 reapportionment and redistricting? Why do we have
14 to redistrict? What guidelines do we need to follow
15 when drawing new districts? What are the steps in
16 the redistricting process? And how can public input
17 be submitted to the Independent Commission.

18 So the first question is why do we have a
19 Redistricting Commission?

20 Well, this is the second time that the
21 Commission -- that Arizona will be redrawing their
22 lines through the Independent Redistricting
23 Commission.

24 In 2000, when the voters of Arizona
25 approved Proposition 106, they created the Arizona

1 Independent Redistricting Commission. It
2 established a process and criteria for drawing new
3 district lines.

4 The Commission is made up of two
5 Democrats, two Republicans, an Independent chair
6 elected by the other commissioners. The fifth
7 member should not be registered with any party
8 represented on the Commission.

9 And the 2011 commissioners are Scott
10 Freeman, who is a vice chair. Tonight we have Jose
11 Herrera, who is a vice chair. The Chairwoman,
12 Colleen Mathis, Commissioner Linda McNulty and
13 Commissioner Rick Stertz who is also here tonight
14 with us.

15 So what is redistricting?

16 Redistricting is the process of redrawing
17 Congressional and Legislative district lines.

18 Next.

19 And so what is the difference between
20 redistricting and reapportionment?

21 Well, the terms are often used
22 interchangeably, but technically there is a
23 difference. Reapportionment is the process of
24 allocating Congressional districts around the state
25 based on changes in population. This is done by the

1 U.S. Census. It was done in December. This is
2 where you saw some states gaining, some states
3 losing some seats. And Arizona was one of those
4 states that gained a seat this past time. And
5 redistricting is actually the process of drawing
6 actual boundaries of the new districts.

7 Why do we have to redistrict?

8 Well, as I mentioned, Arizona did pick up
9 another Congressional seat. So we will have to draw
10 new lines to include that seat. And even they did
11 not pick up a seat, even if they didn't gain a new
12 district, the Congressional and Legislative lines
13 would have to be redrawn to account for changes in
14 population. This goes along the concept of one
15 person, one vote, that dictates that there should be
16 as close to the same number of people in each of the
17 districts as possible.

18 Because of the way the population changes
19 throughout the state, there's some areas that
20 gain -- some have gained population, other areas
21 that might have lost or not gained as much
22 population. That's the reason why we have to do the
23 redistricting.

24 So what guidelines do we need to follow
25 with redistricting?

1 There's six main guidelines. One, it
2 must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voter
3 Rights Act.

4 Second, the equal population. So
5 criteria A and B are federally mandated. All plans
6 around the country must set aside these two
7 criteria.

8 Then going on specifically to Arizona, C
9 is compact and contiguous, d is respect of
10 communities of interest, E, use visible geographic
11 features, city, town, and county boundaries, and
12 undivided census tracts. And F, create competitive
13 districts where no significant judgment detriment to
14 the other goals.

15 So the Arizona redistricting process, as
16 I mentioned, is a little different than other states
17 because we have the Commission.

18 So what we do is we start with public
19 hearings, such as we have done tonight. As
20 Commissioner Stertz has mentioned, this is our 13th
21 of 15 in the first round. We're really interested
22 in hearing what the public, you, have to say.

23 And then next what we do is we start with
24 the grid map. In some states, previous plans are
25 the starting point where they look at where the

1 district is already drawn and then we move around
2 the district boundaries according to population
3 exchanges.

4 But per Proposition 106 the commencement
5 of the mapping process for both the Congressional
6 and Legislative districts shall be the creation of
7 equal population in a grid-like pattern across the
8 state.

9 The initial grid map will probably only
10 meet two criteria, B and C, equal population and
11 compact and contiguous.

12 The -- then once we have the grid map, we
13 adjust the grid map to meet the other six criteria.

14 The Voter Rights Act.

15 Arizona's Congressional and Legislative
16 districts must receive preclearance approval from
17 the Department of Justice or a federal court under
18 Section 5 of the Voter Rights Act before they can
19 take effect.

20 To get preclearance, Arizona must
21 demonstrate that the new districts do not
22 discriminate against minority voters in purpose or
23 effect. That means that they cannot have any
24 intentional or accidental discrimination.

25 Under Section 5, Arizona redistricting

1 plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot
2 weaken or reduce minority voter rights. And then
3 the presence of discrimination can be determined by
4 analyzing population data and the election results.

5 Continuing, we adjust the grid map for
6 equal population, compact and contiguous, and
7 respect of communities of interest.

8 One of the goals of the Commission and
9 the public hearing is to solicit information about
10 communities of interest. As we mentioned, there are
11 forms available at the public hearing or on the
12 website that can be used to define an area where
13 there should be -- where that can be considered a
14 community of interest.

15 Continuing, the next is use visible
16 geographic features. This is county boundaries,
17 cities, towns and census tracts. And usually the
18 census geography follow -- follow visible features.

19 And then finally create the competitive
20 districts where no significant detriment to other
21 goals.

22 So as we mentioned in the beginning, one
23 of the big reasons we are here tonight is to get
24 your input. There is a couple ways to do that.

25 As many of you have, you can fill out one

1 of the yellow forms and go on record tonight and
2 speak. And the other -- and provide your input.
3 Some examples would be criteria, your communities of
4 interest, or anything else that has to do with
5 redistricting.

6 Besides speaking at the hearing, you can
7 use one of these blue input forms that are out on
8 the table tonight. You can fill those out or you
9 can visit us at the website at
10 www.azredistricting.org, or you can give us a call
11 at 602-542-5221 or e-mail us at
12 info@azredistricting.com.

13 I want to thank you for your time today
14 and look forward to your comments.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 We have a couple of distinguished guests,
17 so I would just like to introduce them. They won't
18 be speaking yet, but if you don't mind standing up
19 or raising your hand or whatever you want to do.

20 We have Richard Lunt, Chairman of the
21 Greenlee County Board of Supervisors.

22 And we have Drew Johnson, Graham County
23 Supervisor District 1.

24 We also have Ann English, Cochise County
25 Supervisor District 2.

1 And I think those are the only three
2 distinguished guests. If there's anyone else, I
3 apologize. If you want to raise your hand and
4 acknowledge, but I really do believe that you are
5 all important, they just happen to have really fancy
6 titles.

7 So the next people I want to introduce is
8 Rosalinda Bacaparra. She's a Spanish interpreter.
9 We are required to have a Spanish interpreter. So
10 if you don't mind introducing yourself, Ms.
11 Bacaparra, and letting people know why you are here.
12 On the microphone, please.

13 ROSALINDA BACAPARRA: Good evening,
14 everybody. My name Rosalinda Bacaparra and I am
15 here for interpreter --

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: If you can get
17 closer to the mic. You can bring it to you.

18 ROSALINDA BACAPARRA: My name is
19 Rosalinda Bacaparra. I am here to interpret this
20 night and I hope I can help somebody translate it.

21 Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you also say it
23 Spanish?

24 ROSALINDA BACAPARRA: (Speaking in
25 Spanish.)

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

2 I also would like to introduce Michelle
3 Elam, and she is our court reporter. So wave.

4 Before we start, a couple of things.
5 There's quite a few people here and we want to
6 maximize public input, so what we want to do is
7 limit the comments to three minutes per person, and
8 I hope that's enough. I think three minutes is
9 quite a bit.

10 I will not time you, but if you go over
11 the three minutes, I will be as polite as I can to
12 make sure that you wrap up your comments and allow
13 other people to speak.

14 And then a couple of other items that I
15 want to address. Tonight is for us, the
16 commissioners, to listen to your comments about
17 what's important to you before we start drawing the
18 maps and we're not here to comment on your comments.
19 We are just here to listen, that's all we want to do
20 tonight.

21 We also have to be respectful when other
22 people are speaking. If people in the audience not
23 speak. If you want to speak, please fill out this
24 form and we'll make sure we get you and allow you to
25 speak to the Commission and to the public.

1 Please speak clearly. We have, like I
2 said, a court reporter, Michelle. She's a great
3 court reporter but it will make her life a lot
4 easier if you speak slowly. Before you speak, state
5 your name, spell your name. Even if your name is
6 simple, I think it would make her life easier. It's
7 amazing how many different ways you can spell Sandy,
8 and who you are representing and what town you are
9 from.

10 So we'll go ahead and get started, and
11 we'll start with Richard Lunt, again, Chairman of
12 the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors.

13 RICHARD LUNT: Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

15 RICHARD LUNT: I am Richard Lunt,
16 R-i-c-h-a-r-d, L-u-n-t. I am chairman of the
17 Greenlee County Board of Supervisors. Myself and
18 fellow supervisors, David Gomez and Ron Campbell,
19 are here in total agreement with the following
20 comments.

21 I am here to speak in favor of the
22 proposed redistricting plan that maintains the
23 effective and cohesive relationship of Legislative
24 District 5 as it is presently constituted with the
25 additions of Camp Verde.

1 The purpose of this exercise in our
2 political system is to equalize the populations of
3 districts so they comply with federal requirements.

4 Some of the key criteria that are
5 involved with this process include one, an attempt
6 to create compact, contiguous, and competitive
7 districts.

8 Two, attempt to keep political units and
9 communities of similar interest with a single
10 district. An attempt to avoid the drawing of
11 boundaries for purpose of partisan advantage and
12 incumbent protection.

13 I submit to this Committee that the
14 proposed redistricting plan, which keeps the eastern
15 counties of Arizona in LD5, meets all of these three
16 criteria and the communities of our district are
17 best served under this configuration with the simple
18 addition of Verde Valley.

19 With the addition of Verde Valley, LD5
20 would retain its previous contiguous configuration
21 determined by the Commission ten years ago with
22 minimum changes.

23 Our proposals that have -- other
24 proposals that have been suggested to this Committee
25 would drastically diverge from this key point.

1 I am aware that this Commission has heard
2 repeated arguments in favor of the plan that would
3 include the areas of Flagstaff, Sedona, and the
4 Verde Valley along -- with a long sweep to the south
5 and east of -- to pick up population areas in the
6 White Mountains of eastern Arizona.

7 The proponents of this plan argue that
8 there is strong case to be made with the competitive
9 district under this configuration and that there is
10 a community of interest ties that -- for these two
11 different regions of our state.

12 I wish to address these arguments.

13 The proposed concept is drastically less
14 compact in LD5 proposal and would require a
15 significant change to the concept that already works
16 and has passed federal scrutiny.

17 The difference between the regions in the
18 White Mountain and Flagstaff are significant. We
19 share forest management issues, but making the
20 argument that these communities are hand-in-glove is
21 a stretch at best.

22 The White Mountains have more in common
23 with Clifton, Duncan, Safford, Payson, and White
24 River than Flagstaff. Our communities are founded
25 and maintained on ranching, farming, tourism, and

1 timber. And the vast distance that separates
2 Flagstaff from the rest of this region cannot be
3 justified under the community of interest or
4 competitiveness argument.

5 The truth of this competitiveness
6 argument is that the residents of Flagstaff will do
7 anything to get rid of the influence of the Navajo
8 Nation.

9 Flagstaff and the Navajo Nation have
10 everything in common. Flagstaff is only 25 miles
11 from the Navajo Nation, and according to the latest
12 census data, the population of Flagstaff is more
13 than 10 percent Navajo already.

14 The Navajo Nation spends a significant
15 amount of money in Flagstaff with consumer goods,
16 services, and education. The Navajo Nation sends an
17 overwhelming majority of their college-age students
18 to NAU on scholarship.

19 The Navajo Nation has significant
20 religious and spiritual connections to the San
21 Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Lunt, can you do
23 me a favor and wrap it up in ten seconds? Is that
24 possible?

25 RICHARD LUNT: I will submit that I think

1 I've said what I need to say. I will leave out -- I
2 will leave what I have referenced with you.

3 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Sure. Andrew
4 Drechsler can pick that up.

5 RICHARD LUNT: One for each one.

6 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much,
7 sir.

8 RICHARD LUNT: Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: And then next we
10 have Drew Johnson, Graham County Supervisor,
11 District 1.

12 And what I would like to do is I'm going
13 to call out a couple of names, and if you could get
14 ready to speak so that we could have a nice flow.

15 After Mr. John will be Ann English
16 followed by Gerald Eberwein followed by Gary
17 Thrasher and Max Frye. If you guys could get ready
18 to speak, I would appreciate that.

19 Mr. John.

20 DREW JOHN: Yes.

21 You got my name right this time, John,
22 not Johnson. You did good. Thank you.

23 Chair, and I know the Chairwoman is on --
24 streaming video right now. I appreciate your time
25 and members of the board, appreciate your time.

1 I'm going to speak a little bit more on
2 communities of interest.

3 I want to thank you for giving us the
4 time, not just elected officials, but also the
5 public to be able to speak here today, and I
6 appreciate the effort in listening that you do with
7 all of the information.

8 My name is Drew John. I'm a District 1
9 County Supervisor for Graham County. I'm on my
10 third term right now.

11 My district goes right down through the
12 middle of Safford and most of the San Carlos Apache
13 reservation is in my district.

14 I don't propose to speak for the tribe,
15 but I do support the Pinal County Government's
16 Alliance CD map, especially including Verde Valley
17 in there and making the Apache people more of a
18 whole group.

19 Even though it's not the whole Apache
20 tribe, it's important that the Apache tribe has as
21 many Apaches in one district as possible.

22 As we talked about communities of
23 interest, we know Greenlee County has to be with
24 Apache County with the shared forest district and
25 Greenlee has been a mining community for decades.

1 Graham and Gila are also mining communities. And
2 not just any mine, but owned and operated by the
3 same Freeport McMoRan.

4 Because of the 20-year old organization
5 such as EACOs, Eastern Arizona Counties
6 Organization, and others that have dozens of MOUs
7 and IGAs put in place because of the commonalties of
8 Graham, Greenlee, and Gila, the three G's.

9 In closing, I am just asking that the
10 next round of hearings that you have that you would
11 be welcome in Graham County to have a hearing in
12 Graham County. All three Graham County supervisors
13 support and endorse Pinal County's Government
14 Alliance maps and the numbers do work.

15 And thank you for your commonsense
16 approach and listening and thanks for your time.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

18 ANN ENGLISH: Good Evening. My name is
19 Ann English, and I am a supervisor for Cochise
20 County.

21 I really appreciate the fact that you are
22 here to listen to the people's concerns. I think my
23 concerns and many of the people that I have spoken
24 with are waiting to see if you follow each one of
25 these that you have -- characteristics that you have

1 put forward.

2 And I think most our comments are going
3 to be based on the fact that we really believe that
4 we should be more contiguous, especially in our
5 Legislative districts.

6 If you run for a Legislative district
7 here, it is very difficult to cover the one that is
8 in place right now. So we want to make it so people
9 want to serve in the Legislature and that means it
10 needs to be a smaller area that they are serving and
11 not such a diverse population.

12 I think that you know that we are -- even
13 though you are sitting in Sierra Vista, the largest
14 city in Cochise County, that we are basically rural
15 in this area of the state, and so we would like for
16 you to keep that in mind.

17 As the people in Greenlee and Graham
18 County have mentioned, you know, we do have rural
19 heritage. We do have those characteristics that we
20 would like to be able to not be a pie that comes out
21 of Tucson so that we are represented by people who
22 don't have the same interests that we do.

23 So I guess our main comments are going to
24 be when you put your first map on the table and we
25 get a look at those, then we will be able to clarify

1 what we think that -- what is fair.

2 You know, you have to see what you do
3 first and then we will comment on that.

4 But I do appreciate your coming. I'm
5 sure some of the citizens have specific comments
6 they would like to make, but I think that you have a
7 great blueprint here. And if you follow that, then
8 we should be satisfied. As long as you give us
9 those competitive districts and that we are
10 contiguous and compact.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ms. English, could
13 you do me a favor and spell your name for the
14 record?

15 ANN ENGLISH: A-n-n, E-n-g-l-i-s-h.

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

17 GERALD EBERWEIN: My name is Gerald
18 Eberwein. I'm a citizen in Naco, Arizona.

19 I've read that some of the -- I read some
20 of the GOP Legislators have problems with the
21 consulting firm that was hired to do the map
22 boundaries.

23 The newspaper has reported the firm has a
24 lot of experience working for Democrat candidates in
25 their election campaigns. And this is, to me, where

1 the problem may begin. I also have concerns but for
2 different reasons.

3 The Commission's website has considerable
4 rhetoric about registered voters and I fail to see
5 why it has anything to do with district boundaries
6 that's of any type of district boundaries.

7 The U.S. Constitution says the population
8 will be divided equally, the number of seats in the
9 House of Representatives and the Arizona State
10 Legislature -- or State Constitution has similar
11 goals for the Legislature.

12 The focus on registered voters is not to
13 be an issue in the initial maps and later can be
14 used as a test factor for other issues. This could
15 be problematic when dealing with the Independents,
16 as I saw little mention of that voting lot.

17 With some in Congress branding them as a
18 fringe element, I feel that they could be overlooked
19 in any process, and it's an important consideration
20 in dealing with them in the voter registration
21 considerations.

22 The figures the Secretary of State
23 released last week, the Republicans have a majority
24 in the state with 35 percent, the Democrats have
25 31 percent, and the Independent voters have

1 32.5 percent, thus the Independent voters are the
2 second largest voting bloc in Arizona, and that's
3 hardly a fringe element. It is a fact not to be
4 ignored in the voter registration considerations.

5 The 3,000 -- or 3,211,711 registered
6 voters are but 50.2 percent of the population.
7 That's very little over half of the people in the
8 state. To focus on voters may be wrongheaded as the
9 real goal is equal division of people.

10 I'm in District 25. It has a southern
11 boundary of 235 miles, or 66 percent of Arizona's
12 340 miles of U.S./Mexico border.

13 From the furthest border at the McDonald
14 Ranch in Cochise County southeast corner, it's a
15 trip of 300-plus miles transversing four counties to
16 the district's northwest corner near Arizona 85 on
17 I-10 in Buckeye.

18 Rural voter districts are a challenge to
19 calculate, but this one borders on gerrymandering,
20 as they originally called the practice in Louisiana
21 where this type of thing got started.

22 The configuration of this district is a
23 blatant violation of Article IV of the Constitution.
24 We shouldn't be grouped with Maricopa County. We
25 are not contiguous to that area of the state. Our

1 concerns and interests are vastly different from
2 theirs.

3 We should let Legislators and
4 Representatives focus on situations that plague
5 their neighbors. That way we will have people who
6 will understand our problems in unique situations to
7 represent us.

8 How is this for a solution? Cochise,
9 Graham, and Greeley -- Greenlee Counties and a small
10 part of the eastern edges of Santa Cruz, Pima, and
11 Pinal Counties until you get the 213,067 people
12 needed for a Legislative district.

13 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Mr. Eberwein, can
14 you wrap up in ten seconds, please?

15 GERALD EBERWEIN: I will.

16 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Thank you, sir.

17 GERALD EBERWEIN: The same grouping with
18 Gila and Pinal Counties added could be used for the
19 Congressional district the Cochise County is going
20 to be in in the next decade.

21 And I would like to thank you folks on
22 the Commission for being here in Cochise County and
23 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

25 GARY THRASHER: Hello. My name is Gary

1 Thrasher. It's G-a-r-y, T-h-r-a-s-h-e-r. I live in
2 Hereford, Arizona.

3 My concern is primarily with
4 Congressional districts, but Legislative districts
5 also, and my concern mostly is how you split the
6 border up.

7 I represent ranchers all the way across
8 the entire southern portion of Arizona. There are
9 very remote rural population. They have a difficult
10 time getting representation, very difficult time.

11 If you split them up, they are so far
12 between and so few people that they actually have a
13 very difficult time even getting represented.

14 So I would like to keep the border no
15 more than two districts and not any larger than that
16 and try not to split up the counties.

17 Cochise County as least is in one
18 Congressional district. Santa Cruz County is split
19 in half. Doesn't make a whole lot of sense when you
20 come to border issues.

21 The rural people in both Cochise and
22 Santa Cruz County have very common interests.
23 There's only 30 percent actually rural inhabitants
24 of those counties, yet that particular number
25 doesn't entirely involve commercial ranchers and

1 those types of people.

2 There's a lot of people out there that
3 are living in those districts that are very poorly
4 represented and border issues are an ongoing
5 problem -- have been for almost 15 years -- and it's
6 very difficult to be represented unless you have a
7 long enough district along that border.

8 If you split the border up even further,
9 it will create a problem for those rural people when
10 they have almost no representation. Their numbers
11 just aren't high enough to be listened to.

12 Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

14 After Max Frye, if the next people could
15 start getting ready. We have Molly Anderson, Morris
16 Farr, Shirley Muney, and George Cooper. And again,
17 don't forget to spell your name for the record. I
18 would appreciate that.

19 MAX FRYE: Max, M-a-x, Frye, F-r-y-e.

20 I just want -- my comments are brief, but
21 I just want to lend another voice to rectifying the
22 imbalance of our state districts.

23 I understand there are only three that
24 are considered competitive, and I would say that
25 districts in which one party has no hope of winning

1 and another party has no fear of losing will, in my
2 opinion, not produce the most competent candidates.

3 The Independents constitute a very large
4 block, as you heard a previous speaker say. And
5 even where major party voters along party lines,
6 it's the Independents who determine the winners in
7 these elections.

8 And I think that if districts are
9 extremely competitive within the margins that you
10 are required, are considered competitive, that would
11 compel the major parties to put up their best
12 candidates. And I think that all of us would
13 benefit in that case.

14 So therefore, I simply wanted to say I
15 urge you to give high priority to creating
16 competitive districts.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

18 MOLLY ANDERSON: Molly Anderson. Molly
19 with an L, Anderson with an O.

20 I live in District 30, which is not a
21 highly competitive district. My Legislators, my
22 three Arizona Legislators, to my knowledge, have not
23 come to Sonoita since the campaign, and I believe,
24 in fact, that we are not competitive is the reason
25 that they don't come. They don't have any reason to

1 come. They don't have to face half of the
2 population because they have an assured win once
3 they get through the primary.

4 I'm speaking to competitiveness as the
5 most important aspect of the redistricting.

6 MORRIS FARR: Good evening. My name is
7 Morris Farr. M-o-r-r-i-s, F-a-r-r.

8 I certainly want to second the comments
9 that my wife just made.

10 We live in Sonoita, Arizona, and it is
11 certainly -- let me just tell you a little bit about
12 those communities.

13 Sonoita and Patagonia have a very slight
14 Democratic registration niche. We generally vote
15 that way. It usually comes out a close Democratic
16 win, and we are in a heavily Republican Legislative
17 district.

18 The result is, quite frankly, that we
19 feel we are ignored and have been for some time. So
20 we very definitely like the idea of competitive
21 districts.

22 And also I would just make a complaint
23 about District 30. That's the one we're in. We're
24 a rural area, which has a lot of ranching and
25 tourism activities going on. We are lumped in with

1 far east Tucson, Green Valley, and yes, part of
2 Sierra Vista. Frankly, we don't feel that in our
3 community we have a lot in common with any of the
4 other areas that we are in. We would probably feel
5 more comfortable if we were in with, say, the rest
6 of Santa Cruz County.

7 Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 SHIRLEY MUNNEY: Shirley Munney.

10 M-u-n-e-y.

11 My name is Shirley Munney, and I'm
12 speaking for myself.

13 The idea behind Prop 106 was to take
14 redistricting out of the hands of Legislators who
15 were motivated to create safe districts for
16 themselves and their friends.

17 And now I would like to thank the
18 Commission for operating as the voters intended in
19 Prop 106, creating a fair and balanced Commission
20 with a truly independent chairperson and with
21 significant input from the public.

22 Of the five main criteria that we have
23 heard about, I would like to stress competitiveness.
24 As we can tell from the polarized political views
25 that we have every day, it's important that the

1 voters, including the Independents that now comprise
2 a third of the population of Arizona, have a
3 significant and fair choice.

4 Competition is the hallmark of our
5 society and it should be reflected in our voting
6 process as well as in commerce.

7 Thank you for your attention?

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 GEORGE COOPER: My name is George Cooper
10 from Hereford, Arizona. G-e-o-r-g-e, C-o-o-p-e-r.

11 I want to thank you all here for coming.
12 I would like to reiterate what you heard before.
13 The rural characteristics are really vital in this
14 part of the woods and you folks are faced with a
15 tremendous responsibility.

16 We voters of Arizona who have a
17 Constitutional right to demand laws, as the Supreme
18 Court recently decided what was best for us in our
19 elections.

20 We would ask that you would stand up and
21 listen to this and we the people, we would like
22 competitiveness. The whole idea that -- the toxic
23 political environment is nauseating to the average
24 citizen.

25 And as Arizonans, we are very proud of

1 our right to ask you people to district fairly.

2 Thank you.

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

4 The next five people, if you can start
5 getting ready, Mark Lobner, Bob Flaming, Elsa
6 Obregon, Susan Spikes Bickel followed by Susan
7 Breen.

8 Again, spell your name for the record.

9 Thank you.

10 MARK LOBNER: I'm Mark Lobner, M-a-r-k,
11 L-o-b-n-e-r.

12 And, yes, I want to thank you for serving
13 on the Commission, first of all, but also to express
14 my concern that competitiveness should be,
15 notwithstanding, the importance of minority voting
16 rights and the importance of contiguous districts.
17 That competitiveness needs to be closer to the top
18 of the list.

19 I am afraid that with the number of
20 compet- -- of noncompetitive districts that we have
21 now, we seem to be getting a number of Legislative
22 solutions that are not solutions. They merely
23 create more problems and extend the difficulties
24 that we have talking to each other as citizens.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

2 BOB FLAMING: My name is Bob Flaming.

3 It's B-o-b, F-l-a-m-i-n-g.

4 I want to thank you for being here and
5 taking on a difficult job of redistricting. I know
6 it's very difficult.

7 Arizona is fortunate to have an
8 Independent Redistricting Commission because
9 independence avoids possible conflicts of interest
10 that will occur when Legislators decide their own
11 districts.

12 I understand that some persons want to
13 make three Congressional districts on the border
14 with two Legislative districts. A large portion of
15 the population of those two districts would not --
16 would not live on or near the border.

17 Consequently, many persons who don't have
18 to deal with issues of the border would be making
19 decisions about the border. So I urge you to take
20 that into consideration when you are making
21 decisions.

22 Another point is that we have a prison
23 here over in Douglas. I think maybe you have more
24 than one prison in this district. And as long as
25 you're in a prison and get your rights back, they

1 can't vote. And I realize you may not be able to
2 completely consider that, but I would love it if you
3 can do what you can about making the districts more
4 fair because of that.

5 There was another thing I would like to
6 mention about Legislative district 25. Actually,
7 it's not four counties it's in, it's five counties
8 and it's 18,000 square miles to cover.

9 The -- it also has different, many
10 different makeups of that community and it has
11 rural, it has ranches, it has urban areas, it has
12 mining, it's also made up of Indian reservation and
13 of two primarily Hispanic communities. So it's very
14 diverse.

15 To me, these issues are important because
16 fair, compact, competitive districts are the only
17 way that the people of Arizona can truly be
18 represented. And to do so, districts must be truly
19 competitive. And I am confident that this
20 Commission will not bend to political pressure as
21 I'm sure would happen if it didn't exist.

22 I would like fair and competitive
23 representation for all cities of the population of
24 Arizona. And I hope you can get us at least 10 or
25 12 competitive districts instead of 3.

1 Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

3 ELSA OBREGON: My name is Elsa Obregon
4 E-l-s-a, O-b-r-e-g-o-n. I'm from Douglas.

5 My family has been living in Douglas
6 legally since Arizona was a territory. I'm a
7 retired teacher. I heard of some public comments
8 from yesterday's meeting in Glendale that gave me
9 some great concern.

10 I believe that public -- that the public
11 must be made aware that the two attorneys who have
12 been offering public comment at several of your
13 previous meetings on behalf of a group called Fair
14 Trust, have not disclosed who is behind Fair Trust.

15 Yesterday's commentator up in Glendale
16 said that Arizona Capitol Times reported that Fair
17 Trust is backed by the Republican Senator Jon Kyl
18 and the Arizona Republican Congressional Delegation.

19 I have now seen that news story for
20 myself and I am very concerned. In my mind, and
21 what should be made very public, is that this group,
22 Fair Trust, exists to protect the interest of our
23 state's most powerful Republicans. Their comments
24 promoting the Voting Rights Act criteria must be
25 very seriously scrutinized.

1 While I believe that no map should be
2 tolerated that doesn't fully comply with the Voting
3 Rights Act, we also must have fair maps that reflect
4 the makeup of our electorate.

5 What is apparent to me and to others is
6 that the underlying goal of Fair Trust, given who is
7 backing it, runs counter to true district
8 competitiveness.

9 Simply put, their plan is to ensure our
10 state remains solely under the Republican power
11 structure.

12 For the Commission's record and for
13 public knowledge, I believe we should insist that
14 these lobbyists fully disclose just who their group
15 represents and who funds these activities and put
16 that into public record.

17 Thank you for your attention.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

19 SUSAN SPIKES BICKEL: Good evening. My
20 name is Susan Spikes Bickel, S-u-s-a-n, S-p-i-k-e-s,
21 B, as in boy, i-c-k-e-l.

22 I am a third-generation Arizonan.
23 Members of my family have lived in Arizona since
24 1890, mostly in Cochise County and specifically in
25 Douglas. I am a registered -- a retired registered

1 dietician.

2 As you begin your deliberation and
3 development of the grid map, I appreciate being able
4 to address my concerns and interest in the process.
5 I will first comment on Congressional districts in
6 Arizona.

7 Knowing that the maps must be started
8 from scratch, I would nevertheless remind the
9 Commission about what happens when there are too
10 many cooks in the kitchen.

11 Simply put, I believe that having two
12 Congressional districts on the border of Mexico is
13 adequate and appropriate.

14 While I believe that all Congressional
15 districts in Arizona should be concerned with border
16 issues, an additional district along the Mexican
17 border would serve to dilute the message and the
18 effectiveness of the two districts.

19 Obtaining adequate population for the
20 third district would force metropolitan areas
21 farther north to be concerned with border issues
22 that are now not relevant to them.

23 My remaining remarks address LD25, my
24 Legislative district.

25 In theory, LD25 is contiguous; however,

1 one cannot drive from one side of the district to
2 the other without leaving the district and crossing
3 through LD30.

4 It is approximately 300 miles from the
5 southeast corner to the northwest corner of LD25.
6 This, I would submit, is not compact.

7 For reasons known only to previous
8 commissioners in 2001, it was decided to put Sierra
9 Vista into LD30 and the populations in Marana, which
10 is west of Interstate 10, into LD25.

11 While this may satisfy the population
12 requirement, this division appears to destroy the
13 contiguity of the county boundary and effectively
14 divide LD25 in half.

15 The eastern half of LD25 compromises most
16 of Cochise County and is predominantly rural with
17 mining, ranching, and agricultural interests. At
18 least four of the five C's are found in this part of
19 Arizona: Cattle, copper, cotton, and climate.

20 On the other hand, the western half of
21 LD25 comprised of all or parts of four other
22 counties is also decidedly rural but is dominated by
23 the Tohono O'odham reservation, a national wildlife
24 refuge, the Organ Pipe Cactus Monument, and the
25 military gunnery range. Conflicting interests, I

1 think, yes.

2 It is my hope that the Commission can
3 create a competitive map that complies with the
4 Voting Rights Act and reflects the true makeup of
5 our electorate.

6 My thanks to all of the commissioners for
7 your time and your dedication to the good people of
8 Arizona.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

10 After Susan Breen we have Matthew
11 Creegan, Robert Leach, E. Kathy Suagee. And I
12 apologize if I mispronounce your name. And then
13 Eduardo Delci. Those are the next speakers after
14 Ms. Breen.

15 SUSAN BREEN: Thank you.

16 My name is Susan Breen, S-u-s-a-n, B, as
17 in Baker, r-e-e-n.

18 I am a resident of Greenlee County where
19 I lived for the past 28 years, and I am representing
20 myself.

21 I want to thank all five of the
22 commissioners for their excellent and fair work to
23 change our Legislative districts and our
24 Congressional districts to make them more
25 competitive.

1 Competitive districts provide a reason to
2 vote, get more people involved in the political
3 process, and it's so important to keep the
4 Independent Redistricting Commission independent and
5 fair and out of the hands of Legislators.

6 The Commission is doing what the voters
7 said they wanted back in 2000, and we should not
8 change what is working for us.

9 Thank you.

10 At the Congressional level, I feel
11 Greenlee County must be kept together in a large
12 rural eastern Arizona Congressional district.

13 Greenlee County shares significant
14 economic and natural resource-based interests with
15 the communities throughout eastern Arizona,
16 including Coconino and Pinal Counties. These
17 interests will be ranching, farming, mining, rural
18 transportation, education, and health care.

19 At the state level -- Legislative level,
20 I feel Greenlee -- there are a few different
21 concerns here, and I feel that Greenlee should be
22 included in a rural district, again, together with
23 the community of like interests, specifically with
24 Graham, Gila, and at least the eastern part of
25 Cochise County, which would be contiguous.

1 Being in the central to southern half of
2 eastern Arizona, we in Greenlee are more likely to
3 access health care, go shopping, have people in our
4 families relocate to this southern part of eastern
5 Arizona.

6 And as ours being the most rural county
7 in Arizona, we need to be included and we need to be
8 heard.

9 At both the Congressional and Legislative
10 level, we are strongly opposed to any district that
11 cuts our communities into a district in the greater
12 Phoenix area because we are very rural and we are
13 opposed to splitting up Greenlee County in any way.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 MATTHEW CREEGAN: My name is Matthew
17 Creegan. M-a-t-t-h-e-w, C-r-e-e-g-a-n.

18 I would like to thank you for coming down
19 and affording us the opportunity to speak tonight.

20 I am a resident of Cochise County in
21 Hereford along the border, and that is my community
22 of interest. I feel we need three Congressional
23 districts along the border. Douglas, Nogales, and
24 Yuma are three distinct areas. The three
25 Congressional districts should start on the border

1 and head north to accommodate all of the other
2 requirements for population.

3 As far as Legislative Districts 25 and 30
4 go, the current makeup of LD25 is too large and
5 unwielding. Sierra Vista should be cut from LD30
6 and reconnected with the rest of Cochise County.
7 LD25 could then be comprised of Cochise County,
8 Graham, and Greenlee Counties as well. It will then
9 be a compact and contiguous geographic area. It
10 won't be the barbell shape it is today.

11 I would like to call attention to the
12 actions of the IRC itself. Things that come into
13 question are the ability -- its ability to be a
14 nonbiased (sic) operation.

15 The Attorney General's Office is
16 currently in a preliminary investigation of
17 allegations of violations of the open meeting law,
18 bid rigging and improper procurement matters. Some
19 commissioners have said, according to papers, they
20 will not cooperate because of Legislative privilege.

21 In a past case, Arizona IRC versus
22 Fields, it was found that the Commission could
23 withhold its work product associated with the duties
24 for drawing districts. The Legislative privilege
25 does not apply to the current Attorney General's

1 investigation.

2 Are the members of the Commission who
3 refuse to cooperate doing so to cover partisan
4 tactics? I hope not. We the people do not want a
5 tainted process.

6 Thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

8 ROBERT LEACH: Good evening. My name is
9 Robert Leach, R-o-b-e-r-t, L-e-a-c-h.

10 First I would like to thank the
11 Commission for coming out here today and being an
12 open forum like this and also Strategic Telemetry --

13 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Excuse me. There's
14 somebody's cell phone ringing. Okay. It stopped.

15 Sorry about that.

16 ROBERT LEACH: No problem.

17 So I would like to thank you for being
18 here.

19 Some would argue that the company,
20 Strategic Telemetry, is a Democratic organization.
21 However, what they will fail to mention is that this
22 company also worked with Republicans in 2010 in the
23 states of Nevada, Michigan, California, Georgia, and
24 South Carolina, just to name a few.

25 They helped draw them their primary maps

1 to ensure bipartisanship, which is what the people
2 voted for in Proposition 106.

3 Your organization assisted with former
4 Republican and mayor of New York City, Michael
5 Bloomberg, with micotargeting in 2010, which
6 assisted in his re-election.

7 With regards to the last comment made
8 about Attorney General Tom Horne, a Republican, he
9 stated that his office does not have a reason to
10 believe anything was done wrong, which I fully
11 support as well.

12 Numerous public hearings have occurred
13 and public input has been sought to ensure
14 transparency within the spirit of Proposition 106.

15 Today's public hearing is just another
16 testament to the openness and balance this
17 Commission lives by and for the people.

18 One of the greatest things that I have
19 heard throughout tonight is people want
20 representation. You cannot have representation
21 without competitive districts. Regardless of where
22 the bounds go, people want equal and an access to
23 representation.

24 Without that representation, you will end
25 up with what we have today, one-third of the people

1 representing a hundred percent of the people. So
2 you have two-thirds of the people without a voice
3 currently.

4 Without competitive districts, nothing
5 will change. Competitive districting should be a
6 priority just beyond what other federal requirements
7 are.

8 Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

10 So E. -- she's coming.

11 E. KATHRYN SUAGEE: That is E, initial,
12 Kathryn, with a K and a y, Suagee, S-u-a-g-e-e.

13 I want to thank you for doing a difficult
14 -- I guess it's all right.

15 I want to thank the Commission for doing
16 a very difficult job. You have a most difficult
17 job. I have recently had experience with trying to
18 become less partisan, and I know that it's hard to
19 put aside your biases and think about the greater
20 good. And again, I will give you great commendation
21 for having done that so far.

22 The last redistricting that was done cut
23 Cochise County into two pieces and it cut Sierra
24 Vista into two pieces. Despite Sierra Vista being,
25 if there ever was one, a community of interest since

1 it sprang up as a result of business with Fort
2 Huachuca.

3 As you have heard, LD25 is a
4 barbell-shaped district 300 miles from corner to
5 corner. People who run for office in Phoenix don't
6 have to drive 300 miles across the state to see
7 their constituents.

8 The Episcopal Diocese of Arizona a few
9 years ago had a project to bring together parishes
10 and churches across the state and they made an
11 attempt to divide the state into six districts,
12 which were more or less a pie. Each point of the
13 pie ended in Phoenix or somewhere in the metro
14 Phoenix area, thus each area has both metro and
15 rural representation, both wealthy parishes and poor
16 parishes and issues. I presume that they were
17 well-balanced as far as political parties went.

18 Perhaps the Commission should be looking
19 at cutting Arizona into a pie of many pieces. That
20 would mean that many of us would have to put aside
21 our biases and our ideas about who we want to rub
22 elbows with as members of the Legislative district.
23 But it would also mean that every representative
24 would have to drive 300 miles to see his or her
25 constituents.

1 When our district was in the bounds with
2 Greenlee and Graham Counties, when our County --
3 when our district was basically Cochise County and
4 Graham County, we were almost equally divided as far
5 as political parties at that time. And one year we
6 would go Republican and the next year we would go
7 Democrat and back and forth and that is even.

8 So I'm asking that -- well, I also wanted
9 to mention that here in the hinterlands as usual, we
10 call the great state of Maricopa that because no
11 matter how the rest of us vote, if we all got
12 together and voted all together, we would still be
13 outvoted by the Phoenix metro area.

14 So I think the pie idea might be
15 something you should look at.

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Could you wrap up in
17 ten seconds?

18 E. KATHRYN SUAGEE: Yeah, I'm almost
19 done.

20 I want to say whatever you do, please
21 don't force those who are from our district to
22 represent three-fourths of the Mexican border. I
23 don't think it's a good idea to have just one set of
24 representatives with that whole load of work.

25 Thank you for doing this job. Thank you

1 for keeping fairness as your primary goal.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

3 I think the next person is Eduardo Delci
4 followed by Rubin Ortega, Jim Behnke. I apologize
5 if I butchered your name. Sally Acevedo and then
6 Marianne Frances -- I think it's Clinton.

7 EDUARDO DELCI: Thank you very much,
8 commissioners, for this opportunity.

9 My name is Eduardo Delci. That's
10 E-d-u-a-r-d-o, Delci is D-e-l-c-i. And I speak as
11 Chairman of Santa Cruz County Democratic party, and
12 also a fourth-generation Arizonan.

13 I wanted to reach out to the state of
14 Maricopa and residing Gila supremes in the rural
15 area northeast of Nogales.

16 I would like to reiterate that keeping
17 the AIRC independent is most important. The
18 Commission is now challenged to sustain strong
19 communities of interest, and this would uphold the
20 principal of one person, one vote, also sustaining
21 geographic contiguous communities, which are so
22 important to our border land rural areas.

23 The current LD25 and the CD7 clearly
24 reflect this and also LD30 and CD8 clearly reflect
25 the same geographic and contiguous area.

1 In particular, though, I have a personal
2 concern that Sierra Vista is gerrymandered to the
3 degree that it is, and I think it should probably
4 reflect more of Cochise County contiguous with
5 Graham and Greenlee Counties that include the rural
6 areas plus the borderline region.

7 The new Congressional district should
8 also reflect the above-cited areas of interest.

9 And I congratulate your effort on behalf
10 of Arizona residents for your work on the Commission
11 and keep up the good work, regardless of what
12 challenges you are faced with.

13 Thank you very much.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

15 Let me remind the audience, if you have
16 any comments to make when people are speaking, I
17 would appreciate it if you would fill out this form
18 instead of speaking while people are speaking.
19 Let's respect everyone.

20 Rubin Ortega?

21 Rubin Ortega?

22 Sir, are you Jim?

23 JIM BEHNKE: Jim.

24 My name is Jim Behnke. Last name is
25 spelled B, as in boy, e-h-n-k-e, and I've lived here

1 in Sierra Vista for 41 years. Army brought me here
2 in 1970.

3 I only have one point to make to the
4 Committee, and that is that when you draw the lines
5 for the Congressional district, that Cochise County
6 not be included with the same district -- in the
7 same district as Tucson. I think we have vitally
8 different interests in communities. I'll explain
9 that in a second.

10 But while I'm at it, I would like to
11 recommend, too, the previous -- one of the previous
12 speakers said, I would like to see three
13 Congressional districts along the border. We need
14 help on the border. We need clout.

15 And hypothetically, one could be the
16 seventh, could be over in Yuma, the eighth would be
17 in Nogales, all of these running south and north.
18 And then the ninth would be Cochise County, Graham
19 County, and as far as you want to take it.

20 Here are just some of the communities of
21 interest. Fort Huachuca has about 12,000 soldiers
22 here. A vital interest to our economy. Our local
23 people, leaders fought hard to keep that open when
24 they had the base closures and we still need to
25 fight on.

1 Ranchers. Ranchers are like the church,
2 they are nonprofit organizations, and they need all
3 of the help they can get, particularly along the
4 border where there are problems with fence cutting
5 and things like that.

6 Illegals, we have an enormous amount of
7 illegals crossing our county, our area. On a good
8 day -- or should I say a bad day, 30 percent of our
9 jail -- county jail population is illegal. And they
10 are not in there for being illegals, they are there
11 for committing crimes such as drugs and other
12 crimes.

13 Many drugs pass through our county.
14 Sheriff Dever told me that they are so sophisticated
15 that -- he told me I could mention this, that they
16 bring their own telephonic van with an antenna.
17 They set it up and they can talk anywhere that they
18 want to not using Verizon or other systems. Very
19 sophisticated.

20 Then lastly -- my last point is fires.
21 Just, you know about the Monument fire. The
22 Monument fire, which destroyed at least 57 homes,
23 maybe over 60, and our government still can't tell
24 us who started that one.

25 So I think Cochise County is unique and

1 it has a special interest.

2 I thank you for your time.

3 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

4 Sally Acevedo.

5 SALLY ACEVEDO: Yes.

6 My name is Sally Acevedo. S-a-l-l-y,
7 A-c-e-v-e-d-o.

8 I am a second-generation American born of
9 legal immigrants. I moved my parents to Sierra
10 Vista in 2001. Came here to care for my dad in 2005
11 and live four blocks from my son and his family.

12 We have all made Sierra Vista our home
13 because of the profound sense of community, the
14 caring nature of the people, and the honor they
15 exhibit toward one another and our country.

16 As a California native, I have seen over
17 and over again the gerrymandering that is occurring
18 with regard to our district.

19 I lived in one of those pie cities that
20 was referred to earlier. It is not fun, where you
21 live in one district, your neighbor across the
22 street in another, and then next door, another.
23 Five districts. Five districts in one city. It's
24 not a good idea.

25 I'm unsure how many followed our Monument

1 fire. Our community, indeed our entire county, came
2 together like nothing anyone has ever seen. Just
3 ask the Forest Service.

4 We may disagree politically, vehemently
5 at times, always passionately, but we are neighbors
6 first and foremost and always.

7 To have the Redistricting Commission play
8 politics with our community is an insult to every
9 resident here.

10 Our teens came out to assist families in
11 walking their pets, our businesses offered goods,
12 services, places to stay for firefighters and
13 residents alike. It was our residents who informed
14 one another of evacuations via phone trees. And the
15 Commission seeks to divide us into a barbell with a
16 pie shape out of our city? I don't think so.

17 Cochise County and Sierra Vista share the
18 fact that we are apart and fairly isolated from
19 point west, namely Tucson.

20 The needs of Tucson are not our needs.
21 Our residents both within Sierra Vista as well as
22 Cochise County as a whole proved what they were made
23 of during the Monument fire.

24 By the time assistance got here, we had
25 already pretty much taken care of it. We depended

1 on one another and that included our pets and
2 livestock. Nobody was forgotten.

3 Now you want to tear us apart to serve a
4 political agenda. Sierra Vista has the largest
5 population in Cochise County yet someone has decided
6 to draw some imaginary boundary placing the bulk of
7 Sierra Vista with Tucson, a community that does not
8 resemble us, whose needs are entirely different,
9 while leaving Cochise County out in the south 40
10 like a red-headed stepchild.

11 I implore the Commission to reconsider
12 this arbitrary boundary they have set for us, taking
13 the bulk of our county and leaving them out in the
14 cold disconnected to the proposed District 25 while
15 lumping most of Sierra Vista in with Tucson to suit
16 a political agenda.

17 It is appalling and embarrassing to see
18 what is being done to our Legislative process, as a
19 result of a few whose goals are not those of the
20 people they serve.

21 Thank you.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: After Mary Frances,
23 I think it's Clinton, we will have Fred Stickler, we
24 have -- I'm going to say Hollis is the person's last
25 name, Executive Director of Sierra Vista County

1 Development Foundation, followed by Robert L. Gent.

2 Thank you.

3 MARY FRANCES CLLINTON: Thank you.

4 My name is Mary Frances Clinton. And
5 it's the feminine Frances, c-e-s on the end and
6 Clinton, which theoretically can be spelled.

7 I am part of the rural community of the
8 Sierra Vista area. I live in Palominas. We go
9 clear back to my homestead family in 1903. And
10 there didn't use to be a Sierra Vista then, but at
11 this time, Palominas and Hereford and Huachuca City
12 are all so linked to Sierra Vista, that I think as a
13 sweep of community, we need to be held together.

14 We are part of Bisbee and Douglas and
15 Wilcox in the same way and yet we are neighbors, and
16 Benson.

17 I think we need to keep that sense of
18 rural towns and rural communities as a very
19 important voice. We are different from cities and
20 we are easy to forget. We don't make as much noise.
21 We don't seem to be aggressive, maybe.

22 And so I think it's really important for
23 you to give the voice of these communities the
24 attention of the whole state and let our voice be
25 heard in and among all of those stronger, louder

1 voices.

2 And then for the group of you -- several
3 have said, and thank you for the good work you do,
4 but I want to really say you have a fiduciary
5 mission that you've been given to stay above all of
6 the grasping and pushing that the political
7 organizations and some more powerful than others.
8 It's really important to hold that balance that
9 you've been given the task for. And I ask you for
10 it and I thank you for it.

11 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

12 FRED STICKLER: (Speaking in Spanish.)

13 Oh, I'm sorry, you probably didn't bring
14 somebody that went English to Spanish. I apologize.

15 F-r-e-d, S-t-i-c-k-l-e-r. I'm a real
16 stickler.

17 I, too, would like to cast my vote in
18 support to three different districts here on the
19 border. The comments that I have heard, to me, run
20 against logic. If you want to ensure that the
21 minorities on the border are truly represented, it
22 would make sense to me that you had more districts
23 down here to do it. Why would you want to limit
24 them to just two districts? Give them three
25 districts where they have more access to more people

1 who represent them.

2 So the logic of two districts does not
3 make sense to me at all if you're really trying to
4 make sure that minorities are properly represented.
5 Give them the extra district that they are closer
6 to.

7 The other comments that I will make is
8 that I, too, share the concern of others who have
9 spoken before me. And my concerns are -- it goes to
10 the integrity of this Commission.

11 When you look and see all of the reports
12 that are being promulgated in the newspapers, it
13 stops me and makes me concerned.

14 One individual mentioned something about
15 McCain and being connected to an organization.
16 Well, I'm sure that there are people that are
17 serving on this Commission that if it was looked
18 into as deeply as that one was looked into, the same
19 situation would be found.

20 So I would challenge you as members of
21 this Commission, to at all costs maintain your
22 integrity and your honesty.

23 I've had people ask me, well, what's the
24 difference? Well, to me honesty is doing what's
25 right. Integrity is doing what's right and no one

1 is watching.

2 So I challenge you and I exhort you to be
3 people of integrity when you decide to draw these
4 lines and forming our districts in the state of
5 Arizona.

6 Gracias.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

8 We have Hollis is the last name. It
9 starts with an M. M.D. Hollis, Executive Director
10 of the Sierra Vista Development Foundation, if you
11 could step up.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She left.

13 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay. Then the next
14 person after that, as I mentioned, is Robert Gent.

15 ROBERT GENT: My is Robert Gent,
16 R-o-b-e-r-t, G-e-n-t.

17 I moved to Arizona in 1947. I'm a
18 retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel and currently
19 reside just outside of Sierra Vista here.

20 I would like to thank you for your
21 service. Being a volunteer in this position is not
22 easy, I can imagine.

23 You are going to feel tugs from every
24 direction you can imagine. As you have heard
25 tonight, we don't want this county split up, we want

1 this county like this, we want three districts, we
2 want two districts.

3 What I encourage you to do is listen, go
4 back to what the voters voted for originally that
5 created this Commission.

6 I think they wanted fairness. They
7 didn't want Republicans, they didn't want Democrats.
8 They didn't want some other group saying how these
9 districts would be, but they wanted fair,
10 competitive districts.

11 I think you are doing that. I think you
12 need to continue to do that and come up with the
13 best solution.

14 For those who want Greenlee or Cochise or
15 Santa Cruz to be a Congressional district, I would
16 like to remind everyone there aren't enough voters
17 in those counties to do that. It's not practical.

18 So you guys have got to come up with the
19 solutions. That's why you were hired for this job
20 and be fair and make these districts competitive.

21 Thank you very much.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

23 Next we have Don Simpson, Mark
24 Stonebraker, Wanda Pike, and Joanne Daley.

25 DON SIMPSON: Hello. My name is Don

1 Simpson, D-o-n, S-i-m-p-s-o-n.

2 I want to, again, thank you first for
3 appearing here in rural Arizona, especially since
4 none of the commissioners are from a rural county.

5 I think that that's one of the things you
6 need to really be looking at, is under the six
7 criteria as passed in Proposition 106, the federal
8 mandate, of course, is for the Voting Rights Act and
9 equal population.

10 Next comes compactness and contiguous
11 communities -- continuous areas. Communities of
12 interest such as Cochise County and the Sierra Vista
13 greater area, which basically starts south of Benson
14 and all the way to the border, I would say west of
15 San Pedro for certain, and that should be one state
16 Legislative district, in my view.

17 I think it's a little silly to have
18 Sierra Vista residents in two different state
19 Legislative districts.

20 As far as -- that includes, of course,
21 geographic boundaries.

22 I've heard a lot people talking about
23 competitiveness, and a lot of people even said it
24 should be your first priority.

25 Well, as you understand, I'm sure, under

1 Proposition 106, it is only to be considered when
2 it's not to the detriment of the other five
3 criteria. So it should not be the most -- should
4 not be the priority.

5 If you consider the other criteria
6 fairly, competitiveness will follow. I think
7 competitiveness is sometimes used as a code word to
8 say, well, we want equal number of Republicans and
9 Independents and Democrats in the Legislature.
10 Well, some areas, if you got a rural area, it may be
11 one way or the other, and I think competitiveness
12 will follow.

13 I would like to remind you that the law
14 is that it will be considered only when it's not to
15 the detriment of the other criteria, and I want to
16 thank you for your services and for coming down
17 here.

18 MARK STONEBRAKER: I'm Mark Stonebraker.

19 I have lived in Arizona for 20 years and
20 in Sierra Vista and Cochise County for the last 13,
21 and I'm very pleased and excited about this
22 Independent Redistricting system that's been put in
23 place here. I haven't seen that in other states
24 that I've lived in. And I want to thank you all for
25 coming down here to listen to us.

1 It's my wish -- of course, I think
2 competitiveness is very important. I want to see
3 that balance of representation that our original
4 founders put into the Constitution and I believe
5 that the districts should be compact as well. I
6 support that.

7 You know, many of this has been said
8 already, and I think that LD25 is an example of one
9 that isn't compact, as has been pointed out.

10 I also think that Sierra Vista belongs in
11 this district with the rest of Cochise County. It's
12 a community of interest for them.

13 And I want to thank you all for your
14 excellent work and I support you very much.

15 Thank you.

16 WANDA PIKE: Wanda Pike. W-a-n-d-a,
17 P-i-k-e.

18 I have not been in politics a whole lot
19 of my life, but with the things that our government
20 is doing right now, I have gotten involved and I
21 would like to see our district changed out of
22 Tucson. Take LD30, add it to Cochise County and
23 take in Graham and Greenlee -- or Greenlee into our
24 district to make us a competitive thing.

25 Put three districts across the border.

1 We need more control there. One district cannot do
2 it all.

3 That is my suggestion. Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

5 I think that's a record. Only 17
6 seconds.

7 JOANNE DALEY: Wanda gets the prize.

8 It's Joanne Daley, J-o-a-n-n-e,
9 D-a-l-e-y.

10 Thank you for coming. I live just
11 outside of Sierra Vista. Literally my backyard is
12 on the city limits. I am on the east side of Moson
13 Road. So I am in District 25. If I lived across
14 the street, I would be in District 30. Yes. So we
15 have issues here.

16 Over the years I have traveled through
17 the state extensively, and I can tell you that I
18 have far more in common with my neighbor across the
19 street than I do with the Tohono O'odham Nation but
20 we are both represented by the same district.

21 Cochise County is -- has diverse
22 counties -- excuse me, communities of interest,
23 including formal urban areas, small family ranches
24 up to large cattle ranches, local vegetable farms to
25 sophisticated greenhouse agricultural production,

1 unique western historic communities, ghost towns and
2 mines, once beautiful forested mountains with
3 incredible biodiversity that was the destination of
4 furters (phonetic) from around the globe and to Fort
5 Huachuca, which is both historic and on the cutting
6 edge of the federal government communication systems
7 and more. A vital engine to our area down here.

8 We are also a border community with
9 issues and benefits specific to those being close
10 neighbors with Mexico and New Mexico. In short,
11 while diverse, we are specific.

12 The 2000 Redistricting Commission really
13 chose to ignore the county geographic lines and
14 broke up the smaller counties of Santa Cruz, La Paz
15 and Cochise by pulling the large population areas
16 into other districts that have little in common
17 except for population.

18 The two large populated counties of
19 Maricopa and Pima, I understand that the inclination
20 would be to start your redistricting with those
21 areas. However, I would ask that you start from the
22 outlying areas and set those up and then work inward
23 and use county district lines, county lines for your
24 districts. That way we can remain intact both in
25 our Legislative and Congressional districts as our

1 communities of interest and with our neighbors as
2 well.

3 Thank you.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

5 Next we have Katie Miller followed by
6 Debbie Stoner, Linda Stewart -- or Lynn Stewart,
7 Tricia Gerrodette, and Mohur Sidhwa.

8 KATIE MILLER: I'm Katie Miller,
9 K-a-t-i-e, M-i-l-l-e-r.

10 When my husband and I heard about the
11 Redistricting Commission, because we weren't here
12 when Prop 106 was decided, our first concern was
13 that the lines should be drawn strictly by
14 population, that you should not consider any kind of
15 political bend or party or anything else. They
16 should be a grid work based entirely on population.

17 But I do also agree with several others
18 that we need another district and more
19 representation on the border. If we have three
20 districts, we end up with three Congressmen or women
21 in the federal government. We will have a larger
22 voice and possibly we might be able to get help to
23 secure our border.

24 That is a very important to us, and I am
25 tired of -- I have friends who constantly have

1 illegals going through their backyards at all hours
2 of the day and night and it needs to be stopped and
3 we need more representation in Washington, D.C., to
4 accomplish that goal.

5 I am also concerned about the open
6 meeting laws and things not being done properly with
7 the Commission. It needs to be addressed and it
8 needs to be cleaned up and you need to follow the
9 rules, all of you, and that's the gist of my
10 comments.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 DEBBIE STONER: Hello. My name is Debbie
14 Stoner. D-e-b-b-i-e, S-t-o-n-e-r.

15 One of my comments is -- first of all,
16 I've been in the area 42 years. Army brought me
17 here with my dad. Sierra Vista has shown how much
18 we stick together during crisis in our recent
19 Monument fire that we went through.

20 I would hope that the Commission would
21 keep Sierra -- or not keep, but put Sierra Vista in
22 District 25.

23 We also need the representation at the
24 border. I believe we have a definite problem here.
25 The federal government isn't doing anything to help

1 us. We need to get this taken care of.

2 Also I believe that we should not be
3 looking at any party at all. When you are doing
4 your redistricting, you need to take it as if you
5 have blindfolds on the party line. I wish you could
6 pay attention to that.

7 I know that Strategic Telemetry has
8 access to the voter history, the census voter
9 registration, and it may or not be used to make
10 this -- the map that you are going to be working on,
11 but the info there, be careful on how it's
12 disseminated and not letting it be used wrongly.

13 We do need three representatives down on
14 the border to take care of us and that's the gist of
15 my comment.

16 Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 Lynn Stewart.

19 LINDA STEWART: Hi. My legal name is
20 Linda, L-i-n-d-a, but I go by Lynn, L-y-n-n. Last
21 name S-t-e-w-a-r-t.

22 Thank you for coming to Cochise County to
23 hear us. I think this is such is a wonderful
24 exhibit of the American tradition of coming together
25 and listening and talking. And I also appreciate,

1 even though there have been differences, the
2 civility with which this was handled tonight. I
3 really appreciate that.

4 I want to thank you for your time, your
5 talents, and your wisdom. I know that in coming
6 days, you're going to need pretty thick skin because
7 I know there have been attacks on you and your
8 integrity, but I also want you to know that there's
9 a vast minority -- majority out there who may be
10 silent but support what you are doing.

11 I was proud to have voted for the
12 creation of the Independent Redistricting Committee,
13 and so I hope that party bickering and all of that
14 will never affect you, and I'm sorry for the
15 comments and attacks that have been made upon you.
16 That's not American. It violates the basis of our
17 country.

18 I also think that you have very thankless
19 job but we want you to do a good job.

20 I'm concerned about the redistricting to
21 make it a balanced districting, that we do have
22 contiguous districts, not the barbells or whatever.

23 But I'm also concerned that we have
24 competitiveness in our districts. For without
25 competitiveness, I could be disenfranchised or the

1 next person on the other side could be
2 disenfranchised, and we haven't really talked about
3 that a lot.

4 When we don't have fair districts, when
5 we don't have competitive districts, we lose our
6 vote. And to me, that's the most precious thing I
7 have as an American citizen, is my vote. It's my
8 chance to say this is what I would like my
9 government to be.

10 So I ask you, please, contiguous but
11 please do your best to make sure that they are
12 competitive so I don't lose my vote and neither does
13 anybody else here or you.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 TRICIA GERRODETTE: Good evening,
17 commissioners. Tricia Gerrodette, T-r-i-c-i-a,
18 G-e-r-r-o-d-e-t-t-e.

19 I'm honored to have been one of three
20 judges for the Arizona Competitive Districts
21 Coalition and the mapping process that they went
22 through. And I think you know that we've just
23 recently picked some winners, and I was pretty
24 excited actually by the work that was done by
25 citizens to create these maps. And I would like to

1 encourage the Commission to think about adopting
2 that mapping software as part of the public outreach
3 tool.

4 I hope it doesn't confuse the audience
5 too much, but I'll encourage them to visit
6 azredistricting.com in addition to
7 azredistricting.org, and they can play with the
8 mapping software.

9 And I think -- it was an absolutely
10 eye-opening experience to me the challenge to create
11 the requirements under the law for equal populations
12 and for protecting the minority/majority and then to
13 try to create competitive districts and also honor
14 communities of interest and make them compact.

15 It was an amazing challenge and yet we
16 had some pretty darned good maps, and I hope you are
17 encouraged by them. We came up with four and five
18 competitive Congressional districts out of nine and
19 we came up with about nine competitive Legislative
20 districts out of 30.

21 And so I hope that we will see something
22 similar to those levels of competition from you.

23 I know that community of interest is
24 going to be a challenge for you. You hear a variety
25 of comments on what that is for people.

1 Good luck in your work, and I do hope
2 that you will have a public outreach component of
3 mapping software to challenge people.

4 Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Mohur
6 Sidhwa, then we have Melinda Vaughn, Judy Gignac,
7 George Taylor and James March.

8 And my phone went battery cell died, so
9 I'm not keeping track of time, so I'm going to trust
10 that you all stick to the three minutes. I have a
11 cheap phone.

12 MOHUR SARAH SIDHWA: Mohur Sarah Sidhwa,
13 M-o-h-u-r, Sarah, S-a-r-a-h, Sidhwa, S-i-d-h-w-a.

14 Good evening, commissioners. I usually
15 talk about competitiveness, today I want to do a
16 slight -- I want to be slightly different from
17 usual. I want to talk about democracy as an idea
18 and that is, what it is. It's a fragile one at
19 that. It needs to be protected. Be it with regards
20 to the technicalities of integrity of elections and
21 chain of custody of the ballots, or drawing of
22 districts, such that the -- where the outcome is not
23 a foregone conclusion.

24 When we give over the selection of
25 candidates to party insiders by settling results in

1 the primary, our system of democracy suffers. The
2 moderates on both sides of the aisle get shut out of
3 the process as will the Libertarians or the
4 Independents or Green.

5 This dilutes the application of
6 democracy, and this is dangerous. This has happened
7 in other parts of the world. This must not happen
8 in Arizona. Our only protection is competitiveness.

9 Another issue that has been bubbling to
10 the surface at these hearings is about inmates.
11 Someone had suggested drawing a Legislative district
12 encompassing an area that included Florence and Eloy
13 and then calling it majority/minority district.
14 That's kind of cynical because these people can't
15 vote. They may be minorities but they are not able
16 to vote and should not and cannot. So do keep that
17 in mind if somebody throws out a district and says,
18 yes, this is very large district. Try and figure
19 out what they are talking about. Get an
20 anthropologist on staff if you have to.

21 This is very important because otherwise
22 this may lead to my minority disenfranchisement. So
23 counting prison population, especially within the
24 thousands, as residents of the district artificially
25 inflates minority population because these people

1 cannot vote.

2 One suggestion somebody had mentioned was
3 to make sure there's only one person per Legislative
4 district, maybe even adapting it out a little bit,
5 because otherwise the Legislators representing those
6 districts get a very large bang for the Legislative
7 buck. Something to keep in mind.

8 That's pretty much all I had to say other
9 than I'm going to repeat my definition of a
10 competitive district as being one in which the
11 ability to predict the outcome of the election is
12 fairly low and in which no party fails to field
13 candidates on a regular basis.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 JUDY GIGNAC: Thank you for being here
17 this evening. My name is Judy, J-u-d-y, Gignac,
18 G-i-g-n-a-c. I've been a resident of the city of
19 Sierra Vista for 41 years now.

20 Competitiveness should be high on the
21 design list along with compactness. A look at the
22 current maps shows how compactness certainly was not
23 considered for CD1 and LD25. It is thought that
24 there may be two or three competitive CDs, although
25 that, frankly, is arguable.

1 And interestingly enough, in 1992, there
2 were seven competitive Legislative districts. And
3 by 2002, after the first IRC finished its work,
4 there were only three.

5 Increasing competitive districts will
6 give a voice to more of Arizona's voters and I
7 believe make us a better state.

8 A Congressional River District has been
9 proposed using the argument of it being a single
10 community of interest along the Colorado River.
11 However, that river serves more than just those
12 areas adjacent to it. More importantly, a river
13 district will leave a smaller area along the border
14 with Mexico as a community of interest.

15 I believe that only two CDs need to
16 encompass the border and that designing more will
17 negatively dilute the border's voice. The reason I
18 say that is three districts will require for the
19 population needed to go much further north and
20 encompass areas not close to the border.

21 The two existing principal border sectors
22 are recognized by the federal government. Federal
23 resources are seeing through this two-sector lens.

24 Congressional representatives need to
25 understand that they are responsible for these

1 already-defined border sectors.

2 The border, Fort Huachuca, the University
3 of Arizona south branch campus all have close
4 connections to the University of Arizona and argues
5 in favor of that portion of Tucson continuing to be
6 in the same Congressional district.

7 The border's Legislative district design
8 must also take these consideration -- into -- these
9 issues into consideration.

10 I believe that we need at least three
11 competitive Congressional districts and at least ten
12 competitive Legislative districts.

13 I remind you that the last IRC actually
14 decreased the number of competitive Legislative
15 districts from seven to three. Please don't repeat
16 that mistake.

17 I also have some longer comments that I
18 would like to submit.

19 Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

21 I think we skipped Melinda Vaughn. Is
22 she still here?

23 GEORGE TAYLOR: My name is George Taylor.

24 Oh, you're Linda?

25 MELINDA VAUGHN: Melinda.

1 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Melinda Vaughn.

2 MELINDA VAUGHN: My name is Melinda
3 Vaughn, V, as in Victor, a-u-g-h-n.

4 I know a lot of people came out with
5 prepared statements; I just came up on the spur of
6 the moment.

7 I live in Sonoita; however, I am in Pima
8 County. And I guess my community of interest would
9 be those who would like to see our borders secured.

10 I used to ride on the BLM. I had
11 property on the borders of BLM. I had to give that
12 up. I ran into too many people. My neighbors would
13 find bales of marijuana out there.

14 Started hiking the Santa Ritas. That's a
15 pretty foolish thing to do. (inaudible) that's a
16 deadly place. Don't do that anymore.

17 Started hiking Huachuca's a couple years
18 ago. I went probably three or four times a week up
19 there. I ran into all sorts of people up there
20 crossing the border illegally. I have personally
21 seen armed people escorting drugs into this country
22 and it's happening now continually every day.

23 I don't care what the federal government
24 is telling you, they have their own agenda. It's
25 false. We are still having a major problem. And,

1 of course, now, the Huachuas, they won't be the same
2 in your grandchildren's lifetime. They won't.

3 So my first reaction would be yes, we
4 need a third voice along the border because we have
5 two districts. One is not competitive, one is
6 somewhat competitive, but I'm a little annoyed that
7 from neither representative heard anyone asking our
8 federal government what they are doing selling guns
9 to the drug cartels. It's deadly silence from our
10 representatives. We need a voice.

11 The problem is you would probably have to
12 include Tucson. I've got nothing in common with
13 Tucson. Most of these people here have nothing in
14 common with Tucson. I lived there for 20 years, I
15 fled. I don't want anything to do with Tucson. So
16 we have a problem.

17 And where I live, I'm in CD8 right now.
18 And, frankly, I guess it's not politically correct
19 to say this, but I don't have much regard for any
20 elected official in Santa Cruz County, so I don't
21 want to be part of anything that has anything to do
22 with Santa Cruz County.

23 So I don't know what you are going to do.
24 I'm just begging, I don't want to be part of Tucson
25 and I don't want to be part of Santa Cruz County,

1 and we need a voice along the border. We have none.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

3 George Taylor, James March, Joann
4 Kingston (sic) followed by Fred Thomson.

5 GEORGE TAYLOR: George Taylor.

6 George, G-e-o-r-g-e, Taylor, T-a-y-l-o-r.
7 Thank you for coming.

8 I'm going to make it very short. So many
9 people have said what I have in my heart.
10 Mrs. Vaughn said something from her heart.

11 Every time we leave our community to
12 drive north, be it on Highway 90 to get on Highway
13 86, be it on 19, we have to go through a border
14 patrol checkpoint. We are the borderlands people.

15 I'm from Santa Cruz County. I've been
16 there 23 years. I experienced the same thing
17 Mrs. Vaughn is talking about, and I listen to my
18 elected official saying there's no problem.

19 We have a problem and you have been
20 involved in it. It is called public trust. We are
21 looking for it. We read in the Capitol Times
22 recently that there's questions by the Attorney
23 General.

24 There's two things that you are called
25 upon to do, and I wonder now why you volunteered for

1 this job. I really do.

2 One of them is performance-related, and
3 that's the final product that you will sort of sign
4 off on together. The other is the conduct of the
5 committee and the people that come in contact with
6 you and you come in contact with while you are
7 finishing this product, this redistricting.

8 I've read in the Arizona Capitol Times
9 that the Committee desires protection from
10 conduct-related issues. That is my understanding of
11 what I read. I certainly hope that is wrong.

12 Regardless, before you go any further,
13 please resolve those issues with the Attorney
14 General so we can focus just on the finished
15 product.

16 Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

18 JAMES MARCH: James March.

19 Sorry. My name is James March. Last
20 name is spelled exactly the same as the month.

21 I'm a member of the board of directors of
22 Blackhawks voting. I'm second vice chair to the
23 Pima County Libertarian party.

24 First thing I would like to say on behalf
25 of the party is we believe that one person, one vote

1 equals as contiguous as possible a block shape set
2 of districts as possible to make. And if that means
3 cutting towns or counties or tribal areas in half or
4 more, well, there's an advantage to that. The
5 people who were talking about at least three
6 district Congressional voices on the border, they
7 are on the right track because you've got multiple
8 different sets of ledger critters and their staffers
9 to complain to when things are going wrong. That's
10 a good idea.

11 But the same thought also applies for
12 Sierra Vista, for Greenlee County, for the Tohono
13 O'odham Nation. If they are in one district,
14 they've only got one Legislator to complain to if a
15 mega corporation or a rogue federal bureaucracy
16 tries to screw them. If they are in multiple
17 chunks, then they've got several slices at the pie
18 to have a federal Legislator run interference for
19 them.

20 So if you're ever questioning whether or
21 not to cut the knife right through the middle of a
22 town, think about that as there's an upside as well
23 as a downside.

24 Now, I want to remind you all -- no, I
25 need to inform you of something actually pretty

1 nasty.

2 One of the pieces of data you are using
3 for making your decisions involves the Secretary of
4 State's voter registration data. Well, I have bad
5 news for you, folks, it's flawed.

6 Somebody is going to have to figure out
7 the rate of error of that data before you pay a
8 whole lot of attention to it.

9 Let me tell you what I mean.

10 On behalf of my county and a couple of
11 candidates, I took the Apache County voter
12 registration database that I got from the chair of
13 the Libertarian party, and under strict
14 confidentiality, by the way. That stuff is only
15 supposed to be used for political campaigns and
16 studying the election process, so I keep it on an
17 encrypted hard disk.

18 The reason I say Apache County, that's
19 one of the few counties that reports the entire data
20 for each voter, including their date of birth. Pima
21 County, Maricopa and others delete that data from
22 the data the parties get.

23 So I took the Apache County data and I
24 had enough information on it to go to the Arizona
25 Secretary State website where it -- there's a place

1 you can go on there to question whether or not you
2 are a valid registered voter.

3 You put in a lot of information. You
4 can't do, like, a search on the last name March.
5 You have to have first name correct, last name
6 correct, driver's license or voter ID number, date
7 of birth, and other -- I think there's one or two
8 other things you have to throw in there to pin down
9 to exactly you and then it tells you whether or not
10 you are a registered voter.

11 So I took voters who had registered
12 freshly in 2009, 2010 in Apache County and I tried
13 to find them in that database on the Secretary
14 State's website and I couldn't find them. I
15 spot-checked 50 false, all right?

16 Second problem. I took a friend of mine
17 in Tucson, Ted Downing, who had actually run for the
18 State Senate that year, who was actually running at
19 the time. I said, "Hey, Ted" -- I happened to meet
20 him at the Pima County Registrar's Office. Had my
21 laptop set up.

22 "Type your stuff into this website and
23 see if it says you're a registered voter." It says
24 he wasn't. This guy was running for office. He had
25 been checked out six ways from Sunday. He was

1 definitely a registered voter.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you wrap it up
3 in ten seconds?

4 JAMES MARCH: I will quickly, okay, I'll
5 be as quick as I can.

6 My point is there's not supposed to be a
7 discrepancy in that data. It all comes from the
8 same source, the Arizona Secretary State's Office.

9 So if something is wrong with the data
10 you are getting on voter registration, you need to
11 question that. You need to ask whether or not that
12 data is correct. What the heck -- ask the Secretary
13 of State's Office what's going on because they are
14 aware of this but haven't given me any feedback.
15 Find out what the rate of error is if you're paying
16 any attention to that data.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

19 Joann.

20 JOANN KIYABU: Joann Kiyabu, J-o-a-n-n,
21 K-i-y-a-b-u.

22 I have here just a very short letter that
23 I am reading on behalf of somebody who could not be
24 here tonight.

25 My husband and I chose Sierra Vista,

1 Hereford, and Palominas area because it is a small
2 rural community. It had basic services, hospital
3 and shopping, so we would not have to travel to
4 Tucson, open spaces, historical towns and land to
5 explore throughout the county.

6 We chose to live outside the city limits.
7 We also considered communities such as Safford,
8 similar values, similar size. Fort Huachuca
9 provided a sense of secure border, which has not
10 proved to be the case. We are being invaded through
11 Cochise County.

12 Cochise County, including Sierra Vista,
13 Hereford, Palominas, et cetera, is rural. We have
14 rural small town values. We pull together.

15 The recent Monument fire is an excellent
16 example of community. I believe Cochise County
17 should be one Legislative district in and of itself
18 and one Congressional district.

19 If the Congressional district is too
20 small, then another rural county such as Graham or
21 Greenlee would be the best for that. Similar
22 landscape, similar rural values.

23 Thank you. David, D-a-v-i-d, and Jere,
24 J-e-r-e, Fredenburgh, F-r-e-d-e-n-b-u-r-g-h.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

2 Fred Thomson.

3 FRED THOMSON: Good evening. My name is
4 Fred Thomson, F-r-e-d, T-h-o-m-s-o-n. No P. I'm a
5 dry Thomson.

6 I would like to say that I, too, am very
7 happy that the voters of Arizona decided to create
8 this Commission, and I thank you for serving.

9 However, I disagree with the previous
10 speaker who said that it's un-American to keep a
11 close eye on what our government, our Legislature,
12 and our Commissions do. We all need to watch
13 government in action and to call attention to
14 discrepancies if we believe they exist.

15 I request specifically that the
16 Commission perform all of its duties fairly and in a
17 balanced manner, avoiding even the appearance of
18 partiality.

19 I am particularly concerned that although
20 the two Democrats on the Commission were allowed
21 their first choice of an attorney for their side,
22 the two Republicans were not.

23 I submit that even without more, this
24 decision tends to cast out on the neutrality of the
25 independent member of the Commission.

1 I am also concerned by reports that 37
2 hours of the 74 hours of Commission meetings held
3 prior to July 15th were held in executive session,
4 thus excluding the public from the Commission
5 proceedings.

6 The open meeting law of the state of
7 Arizona contemplates open meetings, not executive
8 session for over half of your meetings.

9 I believe that the Commission should bend
10 over backwards to abide by both the spirit and the
11 letter of Arizona's open meeting law and erring, if
12 at all, on the side of openness, and I thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Our next speaker is
14 Kale Kiyabu, Saundra Engle, Iris Lynch, Pat Fleming.
15 So you can start approaching so you can speak right
16 after Mr. Kiyabu.

17 KALE KIYABU: My name Kale Kiyabu,
18 K-a-l-e, K-i-y-a-b-u. I am from Sierra Vista,
19 Arizona. Prior to my prepared statement, I would
20 like to request that the transcripts from all of the
21 Commission data be put on the website.

22 I was at the website today. Some of them
23 were there, some aren't. In order to see what's
24 going on, you have to watch a video, which can be
25 pretty time consuming. It would be faster if the

1 comments were there in writing so I could just
2 breeze through them.

3 Another thing, I hear a lot of talk about
4 competitive districts and people not -- votes not
5 counting. Every person that is holding an elected
6 office right now was either put there by the
7 majority of the votes or the most votes.

8 Also, that not being -- or one-third of
9 the population voting for all of our representatives
10 and the other two-thirds not being represented,
11 during the last election, I rang over 3,000
12 doorbells, mostly here in Sierra Vista, a couple
13 precincts in Tombstone, a couple precincts in
14 Benson, two precincts in Tucson, a couple precincts
15 up in Oro Valley.

16 I tell you that because it's not
17 something I just read or heard about. And about
18 20 percent of the time there was somebody home, so I
19 got to talk to them. And the walking list that I
20 worked off of included Republicans, Independents,
21 and party undeclared. So the fact that two-thirds
22 of the people of Arizona are not represented, I
23 would say is false, from my own experience.

24 And from my prepared statements,
25 PowerPoint presentation slide 6, which goes over

1 guidelines, and anticipate I'm not going to go over
2 guidelines again. I've got no confidence that this
3 Commission is performing its task in a
4 (inaudible) guidelines were not ethical problems
5 that have come to my attention.

6 (Interruption by the court reporter.)

7 KALE KIYABU: I would have no doubt --
8 about the guidelines in slide 6. I would have more
9 confidence in this Commission performing this task
10 in a fair manner following these guidelines were it
11 not for the ethical problems that have come to my
12 attention.

13 First, was the obviously partisan
14 selection of two -- all groups to represent this
15 Commission. The two Democratic commissioners got
16 their choice of representation with the Independent
17 commissioner's voice, her vote. Then the
18 Independent commissioner sided with the two
19 Democrats. They chose representation for the
20 Republican commissioners. I don't think it was
21 ethical for Colleen Mathis, Independent
22 commissioner, to allow Democrats their first choice
23 in representation but not the Republicans.

24 Next, was the less ethical process and
25 selection of Strategic Telemetry to do the mapping

1 for redistricting.

2 True or not, I have seen stories that
3 three of the five commissioners gave Strategic
4 Telemetry perfect scores despite a bid that was
5 twice that of other companies, despite inexperience
6 in mapping, and worst of all, its obvious partisan
7 political past including the Democratic National
8 Committee, the Democrat party of Wisconsin and the
9 Florida Democratic party for where it made the
10 campaign, just to name a few.

11 I've also seen scoring documents being
12 discarded in violation of the open meeting law. I
13 wish you could, Colleen Mathis, call the
14 commissioners and discuss an AZ selection outside
15 the open meeting environment.

16 And that's my comments.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

19 SAUNDRA ENGLE: My name is Sandra Engle,
20 S-a-u-n-d-r-a, E-n-g-l-e.

21 My original comment was going to be
22 concerning the gerrymandering that we have suffered
23 under for all of these years, but that has been
24 pretty thoroughly covered, so I just want to make a
25 brief comment concerning the issues about how many

1 districts one, two, three, however, many districts
2 we have on the border and specifically take issue
3 with the people who say that northern cities
4 shouldn't have to be bothered with dealing with the
5 border, that somebody else should.

6 I would like to remind people that our
7 border is a national security issue, it's not a
8 southern Arizona border issue.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

11 IRIS LYNCH: My name is Iris Lynch,
12 I-r-i-s, L-y-n-c-h.

13 There's been a lot of discussion this
14 evening about competitiveness. I would suggest that
15 we've seen competitiveness at its most interesting
16 last week in Washington, D.C., and the results of it
17 today, as it has been for the last 11 days, the
18 stock market. Competitiveness doesn't always work.

19 I would suggest respectfully, that we
20 consider cohesiveness of interests more than
21 competitiveness. For one thing, once these lines
22 have been determined and everything is equal, I
23 would suggest that within six months they are no
24 longer equal. People change their voting records
25 all the time.

1 So to me, it would be more interesting to
2 have cohesiveness determined for each district and
3 that supersedes all other variables such as
4 religion, race and/or political parties.

5 People of all beliefs and groups can come
6 together to sustain a good economic outcome that
7 benefits one and all. We have recently seen the
8 results of competitiveness.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

11 PAT FLEMING: My name is Pat Fleming,
12 P-a-t, F-l-e-m-i-n-g.

13 Members of the Commission, visitors to
14 our community, welcome. I'm glad to have you here.
15 It's very encouraging to know that people are coming
16 to see us in southern Arizona.

17 I'm here as a citizen of my state, a
18 member of the greater community in Cochise and very
19 interested in the process.

20 Your decisions that will create new
21 district lines will affect the surrounding
22 communities for which I care very deeply.

23 My hope is, and for your consideration,
24 that by creating districts that are within your
25 prescribed guidelines and given equal consideration

1 within the criteria, that new districts could
2 ideally be considered to reflect the electorate
3 picture of our state, that is a third voter
4 registration for Democrats, a third for Republicans,
5 and a third for others.

6 My requests are that on our
7 Arizona/Mexico border, the districts must be
8 represented within two Legislative and two
9 Congressional districts so as not to diminish
10 effective representation.

11 Representatives, as discussed earlier
12 from the Fair Trust Group, of which I've been
13 viewing online, fully -- need to fully disclose
14 their true mission and the funding sources.

15 And to conclude, I hope that you will
16 continue to stay strong. Be strong against
17 political interference, as competitive districts are
18 what we in Arizona voted for years ago and what we
19 expect.

20 Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

22 The next five people will be Kelly
23 Glenn-Kimbro, Mary Gresham, Jerry Hatfield, Toni
24 Arena, and Robin Davis.

25 KELLY GLENN-KIMBRO: Hi. My name is

1 Kelly Glenn-Kimbro, K-e-l-l-y, Glenn, G-l-e-n-n,
2 hyphen, Kimbro, K-i-m-b-r-o.

3 I am here to thank you so much for having
4 this meeting. I am here representing my mom and
5 dad, Younger and Wendy Glenn, myself, our two
6 ranches, J. Ranch and (inaudible) on the border.

7 We homesteaded -- the Glenn family
8 homesteaded in 1996. We are neighbors to the Krentz
9 (phonetic) family and their ranch is sandwiched in
10 between our two ranches.

11 One of our ranches borders the Mexican
12 border. The southern border of our ranch is a
13 wake-up call every morning that our border is not
14 secure.

15 Until this point, we feel that we have
16 had a fair and just representation from our
17 Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. It is our fear
18 that redistricting will eliminate instead of support
19 that we've received regarding border issues.

20 For those of us living on the border, the
21 border issues are the most critical ones that need
22 to be addressed. What is happening on the border is
23 affecting the nation as a whole and care needs to be
24 given in redistricting Arizona or it will give the
25 federal government another way to throw Arizona

1 under the bus. It will lessen the support that the
2 border community and rural residents have at this
3 point.

4 There are two principal border sectors
5 along Arizona border. The federal government has
6 also recognized these two sectors and defines their
7 aid and efforts through the current districting.

8 Given the geographic problems affecting
9 border communities, it is crucial that we have
10 Congressional representation that understand that
11 they are responsible to the citizens of their
12 districts.

13 It is easy for the urban population in
14 any district to forget that there is a rural
15 population and that we, too, need representation.
16 If we are not careful, the influence of Cochise
17 County will be diluted and the current cultural and
18 economic ties that we have will be lost.

19 Schools in southern Arizona need the
20 opportunity for federal grants and aid from the
21 state that are sought in the current districting.

22 The ranching, farming, and rural
23 populations need a voice and there is a feel of
24 discontent that this is yet another method to push
25 the rural people out of the picture to lessen their

1 importance and to quiet their voices.

2 I have one more letter from Bill
3 McDonald. He is also a border rancher east of
4 Douglas.

5 It has come to his attention that some
6 interest has been shown in radically changing the
7 geographical boundaries of the Congressional
8 districts in Arizona.

9 Apparently, one idea is to have numerous
10 districts tough -- touch a part of the border with
11 the notion that doing so would make all of Arizona's
12 Congressional delegation more sensitive to border
13 issues.

14 It appears to me that representatives are
15 already very sensitive to the impact of illegal
16 border entries.

17 All parts of Arizona are affected by it,
18 and I have not detected apathy on the part of any of
19 our state's Congressional delegation towards this
20 issue. It does not mean they always agree on what
21 should be done.

22 Differences currently exist on how to
23 address this issue between our representatives of
24 the two districts that currently touch the border,
25 increasing their number is no guarantee of

1 cohesiveness on this issue. What it will do is
2 dilute the influence that Cochise County now has
3 within the district.

4 Currently the district includes part of
5 Tucson. Southeast Arizona is culturally and
6 economically tied to Tucson in many more ways than
7 it is to Phoenix. So this makes sense --

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ms. Glenn-Kimbrow,
9 could you wrap --

10 KELLY GLENN-KIMBROW: I will. I'll read
11 the last paragraph.

12 Another idea apparently being floated is
13 to have one giant rural district. This assumes that
14 Arizonans living in Tucson or Phoenix are incapable
15 of understanding rural issues.

16 For this state, as big as Arizona, it is
17 simply an impractical idea.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

20 MARY GRESHAM: My name is Mary Gresham,
21 M-a-r-y, G-r-e-s-h-a-m.

22 I want to thank you for coming here to
23 hear these many voices that we have heard tonight.
24 It's truly an exercise in democracy. And as an
25 exercise in democracy, I think that the competitive

1 districts are very, very important and that's a real
2 concern and I hope that's a concern to you, too.

3 Thank you for coming.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

5 JERRY HATFIELD: I'm Jerry Hatfield. I
6 live about a mile and a quarter off the border in
7 Hereford. I've been here for ten years. This is a
8 great place to live.

9 One of the things that I have heard
10 tonight is competitiveness. I think the only
11 impersonal or nonmanipulative way to put districts
12 together are by compactness and whether they are
13 contiguous or not.

14 When we start getting into competitive,
15 we start getting into manipulating what the
16 population is. And manipulation by any group is
17 very distasteful.

18 We all vote with our feet. We chose
19 where we live. The demographics of a community will
20 change.

21 When I first moved to our house, I could
22 not see another house from my house. Now I can see
23 many. It just changes. And it may be changing
24 politically not to suit somebody or politically to
25 suit others. That's just the way life is. And to

1 try to manipulate a district to be competitive is
2 certainly not the way this Committee should
3 function. That's why I think that the competitive
4 question on there had to do with if it does not
5 affect the other issues.

6 I live here by choice. I think most of
7 us do. And I'm willing to live with the way the
8 demographics are. Whether I'm a Democrat or
9 Republican or Independent is immaterial. I vote.
10 My vote counts, whether we win or we lose.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 TONI ARENA: Toni Arena, T-o-n-i,
14 A-r-e-n-a.

15 Also a multigenerational Arizonan from
16 the town of Portal, far east Cochise County.

17 We are a community of ranchers and
18 neighbors who have suffered greatly from the open
19 border problems. We watch the illegal immigrants
20 transporting drugs across our lands on a daily
21 basis.

22 As such, we are a community of interest
23 and would like to see district lines reflect our
24 border concerns.

25 As our lands have degraded and we

1 struggle to protect our livelihoods, indeed our very
2 lives, we have become more politically aware.

3 We have watched with concern the
4 irregularities of the IRC, from the incomplete
5 disclosures in the beginning to the shredding of
6 documents, the open meeting abuses and, of course,
7 the selection of a completely partisan mapping
8 company.

9 We wonder how can the lines agreed to by
10 this IRC be trusted.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 Robin Gomez.

14 James Speck followed by Tom Crosby, Casey
15 Jones. And if Mr. Ortega shows up, that would be
16 the next one.

17 JAMES SPECK: Well, first off, I would
18 like you to know I do have a stopwatch right here,
19 so I won't be going very far over time.

20 First off, I want to thank you for having
21 this meeting. And one of the side effects for being
22 close to the end is most everything I came to
23 address has already been said.

24 So what I am saying has been said -- has
25 already been stated by a lot of people here, but

1 they are issues that I agree with and feel strongly
2 about.

3 First off, I would like to address
4 Legislative District 25 and 30. I agree with many
5 of what people have stated so far, that Sierra Vista
6 should become part of LD25 because Sierra Vista is
7 so closely linked to the rest of Cochise County,
8 both economically through family ties and, of
9 course, our geographical proximity. We have very
10 little to do with the communities of Vail and all
11 the way over in Sonoita.

12 Similarly, LD30 has very little to do
13 with towns of Marana over near Tucson.

14 So I believe that what Legislative
15 districts you draw, should keep Cochise County
16 together and depending on population move north, if
17 necessary.

18 Concerning Congressional districts, I
19 feel very strongly that three districts are
20 necessary to increase our representation on the
21 border, of course, population permitting.

22 I also do believe that Cochise County
23 being kept as a sep- -- being kept separately from
24 Tucson in the -- in whatever Congressional district
25 you draw is very necessary.

1 I would also like to address what has
2 been tossed around quite often tonight,
3 competitiveness.

4 I don't believe that competitiveness
5 should be your priority. I believe that
6 competitiveness is code for gerrymandering.

7 If you look at what we have now with LD25
8 and 30, how 25 has a huge branch which goes up
9 towards Yuma and 30 goes all the way toward -- all
10 the way towards Sonoita. I believe that is a direct
11 result of the competitiveness argument and
12 gerrymandering.

13 Finally, before I step down here tonight,
14 I would like to address -- I would like to address
15 the dirty politics I have witnessed as part of the
16 Commission over the past few weeks.

17 I believe it is blatantly -- blatantly
18 against what you guys were formed for. Excuse me.
19 I believe it is blatantly against what the
20 Commission was founded as, in your decision of
21 mapping companies of attorneys and your blatant
22 disrespect for the open meeting laws in Arizona.

23 Thank you.

24 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

25 Can you spell your name?

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Mr. Speck, can you
2 spell your name into the record.

3 JAMES SPECK: J-a-m-e-s, S-p-e-c-k.

4 VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Tom Crosby.

5 TOM CROSBY: Tom Crosby.

6 I spent 26 years on the border patrol and
7 I can tell you that the fact that there is two
8 sectors in Arizona is absolutely irrelevant to
9 having anything to do with redistricting.

10 The Progressives' dissatisfaction and
11 envy are at the heart of the so-called competitive
12 districts debate. Just like with economics, the
13 Progressives want to be freed from political market
14 forces. Unwilling to accept the unpopularity of the
15 Progressive political philosophy, they cry out that
16 something must be unfair.

17 The Progressives say, quote, we should
18 have only two border districts because we cannot
19 dilute the representation of the border communities.
20 If the border region is further carved up, our
21 communities' voice will be diluted. Our community
22 is too important and our struggle with border issues
23 is too difficult already to try to weaken us further
24 by splitting us up into three districts where the
25 representatives will have a smaller number of border

1 residents.

2 Although the Progressives claim to value
3 diversity, don't believe it. They want that solid
4 block of Progressive voters.

5 In fact, Progressives really prefer a
6 pointed political body like the IRC and appointed
7 activist judges over elected officials.

8 I support equality under the law. I
9 support equal opportunity as long as it doesn't
10 involve involuntarily redistribution of wealth.

11 Where the Progressives cross the line
12 into error is their progression into demanding
13 equality of outcome.

14 The philosophy of one man, one vote is
15 not what Progressives want. They want the clearly
16 less popular Progressive voice to be afforded,
17 endangered species special rights. That is what
18 so-called competitive districts amount to. No
19 affirmative action for Progressives.

20 Thank you very much.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

22 Casey Jones followed by Rubin Ortega.

23 CASEY JONES: My name is Casey Jones,
24 C-a-s-e-y, J-o-n-e-s.

25 There was a reason in the Legislature --

1 legislation that created the IRC for competitiveness
2 to be listed last as a criteria.

3 I would suggest that there be absolutely
4 no consideration in your deliberations of party
5 affiliation. One man, one vote should be what
6 counts. Keep it tight. Keep it contiguous. Keep
7 it close in interests as we work ourselves through
8 it.

9 Like a couple of the other speakers
10 before me, most of what I would address has already
11 been addressed sufficiently. I would only reinforce
12 what Mr. Crosby just said about two federal
13 districts on the border are irrelevant to your
14 considerations. Three Legislative/Congressional,
15 whatever districts, would increase our clout, not
16 decrease it.

17 I'm a retired Army officer. I can tell
18 you with certainty that the activities at Fort
19 Huachuca are some of the most sensitive activities
20 concerning our nation's defense that take place
21 anywhere in this country.

22 For me to stand on the tee of a golf hole
23 at Fort Huachuca and have to wait to hit my ball for
24 illegal aliens to cross the fairway is a travesty.
25 We need help on the border, and the more

1 representation we can get there, the better.

2 Mr. Herrera, I'm also an ex-elected
3 official. I have sat in many public hearings. I
4 know that you may not respond directly to me. I
5 know that you may, if you choose, and perhaps
6 required by law ask an aide from your staff to
7 respond.

8 I would like to know where you ever came
9 up with the idea that your being a member of this
10 Commission gives you Legislative immunity.

11 Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

13 I think that's our last speaker, unless
14 we have Rubin Ortega. Is Rubin Ortega here?

15 So I think that is it. So I really
16 appreciate your time. And before we close out, I
17 would like Mr. -- Commissioner Stertz to say a few
18 words and then I'll close out. So thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Vice
20 Chair Herrera.

21 First of all, thank you everyone who is
22 still here tonight. Thank you for the people that
23 are watching online. I want to say hello to our
24 fellow commissioners because I've been on the other
25 side of the screen watching them sit behind the

1 microphone while I've been in my office watching and
2 taking expedient notes of the things that have been
3 said in places where I haven't been.

4 A couple of things that I want to talk
5 about a little bit that came up tonight.

6 There's been a lot of conversation about
7 competitiveness. And competitiveness is -- as
8 you're aware, anybody that isn't aware of this, it
9 is listed as the sixth criteria after the Voters
10 Rights Act, the equal population geographical
11 compactness and contiguity, communities of interest
12 being respected and geographic lines being
13 maintained.

14 In 2009, the Arizona Appellate Court made
15 the decision that the -- or the Supreme Court made
16 the decision that the Constitution, as it's crafted,
17 is correct. That the idea of competitiveness does
18 not hold any hierarchy over the other issues and
19 that it restated that competitiveness should be
20 favored where, to do so, would create no significant
21 detriment to the other goals.

22 So in that restatement, it did not put
23 competitiveness above the others, as has been
24 discussed previously or has been mentioned. It just
25 put it as a restatement of exactly what the

1 Constitution, as it was originally crafted.

2 But competitiveness is interesting
3 because you start looking at what does that
4 competitiveness really mean.

5 I asked the question when I was Casa
6 Grande, to reach out to the public and tell me what
7 competitiveness means to you. Does it mean a third,
8 a third, and a third?

9 Well, someone mentioned earlier that
10 people move, people change, people adjust in
11 particular neighborhoods. Is it a third Republican,
12 a third Democratic, and a third Independent? If
13 it's a third Independent, what does Independent
14 mean?

15 I asked this question when I was at our
16 last hearing, to give me the definition of what an
17 Independent is.

18 It's the lack of being a Republican and a
19 lack of being a Democrat that puts you in the party
20 of Democrats, the Independent or other or a Green
21 party. It's the accumulation of people that are
22 neither Democrats nor Republicans.

23 It happens to be a growing group,
24 registrants that way. But people vote -- you'll see
25 that in the Legislature in both Congress and the

1 state, that you're not finding people that are
2 Independents that are being elected. They are
3 electing Democrats, they are electing Republicans
4 for the most part.

5 So you know that Independents have a
6 preference. They are either having -- Independent
7 does not mean that you are neutral. Independent
8 means that you are choosing to not be affiliated
9 with a particular party, but you clearly have
10 political leans or else Republicans or Democrats
11 would not be being elected.

12 So I don't believe that there's a level
13 of disenfranchisement that takes place because there
14 is -- there is a -- unless we are looking at purely
15 breaking up our districts, a third, a third, and a
16 third.

17 When I was asked to be part of this
18 Commission, I was asked by a friend of mine to put
19 in my application. I was not even really sure what
20 this Commission was. He's a man by the name of Doug
21 Martin, he owns the Christian radio station in
22 Tucson.

23 I put my application in, and I truly
24 enjoyed the spirit of what this is all about. We
25 are five volunteers that are putting ourselves out

1 there in the public, and I've enjoyed it quite a
2 bit.

3 But the one thing I absolutely do is I'm
4 a Constitutionalist. I believe in the Federal
5 Constitution, American Constitution and the
6 Constitution of the State of Arizona, and this is
7 what I am going to be following to its letter.
8 That's what I was put in place for and that's what I
9 intend to follow.

10 I'll close with this, and it's a quote
11 from Judge Brandeis, which is a very simple. Judge
12 Brandeis was put on the Federal Supreme Court by
13 FDR, and even though I did not, you know, look at
14 his -- you know, we would probably view things in a
15 bit of a different way, but this I totally agree
16 with him on, and that is that sunlight is the best
17 disinfectant. And it's incumbent upon us to have
18 these meetings as open as possible, as open is
19 allotted by law.

20 And we intend to continue to take this
21 process and keep it open so that the
22 representatives -- the people that we are
23 representing, which are you, and not just the group
24 in this room, but everybody else that's online and
25 the other six and a half million people that aren't

1 sitting here are getting a fair shot.

2 So thank you very much for being out here
3 tonight. Thank you for listening to my comments.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr.
5 Stertz.

6 I definitely want to thank the staff for
7 putting this together. The high school here in
8 Sierra Vista that allowed us to use the facility and
9 the individuals that are handling the cameras, and
10 Michelle, of course, who is taking notes. She
11 didn't take a break at all. And for our court
12 interpreter, I thank you.

13 And what I wanted to say about
14 competitiveness, the Supreme Court disagreed with
15 the Appellate Court in 2009 that competitiveness is
16 equally as important as the other five criteria. It
17 is not a subordinate role. It is important and it
18 should be considered.

19 I have volunteered for many campaigns in
20 my life. One of the reasons I volunteered is I
21 really feel that the persons I'm supporting, whether
22 they were a Democratic candidate or a Republican, as
23 I have supported both, that they have a shot at
24 winning. And that's what competition is all about.

25 People want to go to the ballots because

1 they feel that their vote counts. If we don't have
2 competition, if we feel our vote doesn't count, why
3 bother voting. And I think a lot of people feel
4 that way here in Arizona. That's why people don't
5 vote.

6 I mean, we have a small percentage of not
7 only a population of registered voter that actually
8 vote in Arizona and that's because of
9 competitiveness. I think many people -- I
10 visited -- many of the areas that we are doing
11 public comments and I hear a lot on competition.
12 And typically only those that don't care about
13 competition or think it's inferior to the other
14 goals is because they are in power and they want the
15 status quo to remain the same. And I don't want
16 that. I don't care if it's a Democratic official or
17 Republican.

18 We should be able to oust them out if we
19 don't agree with them. And the only way we can do
20 that is if there is true competition.

21 So I value competition. It is equally as
22 important. And as I said, the Supreme Court
23 disagreed with the Appellate Court. It is important
24 as long as it doesn't create a significant
25 detriment. That is the key. Significant detriment

1 is the key. Not just a detriment, significant
2 detriment.

3 So we need to all -- because one day the
4 people that are empowered now will no longer be in
5 power. Things switch and people change their minds,
6 they vote for a different party. And the people
7 that are in power now, when they lose their power,
8 they are going to care about competitiveness. They
9 don't now, but they will. And they will remember
10 that. And I think all of the voters that care about
11 competitiveness will remember that.

12 Let's be consistent. Let's care about
13 the issues that are important to Arizona, and that's
14 all of us having a voice, Democrat, Republican,
15 Libertarian, Green, I don't care what party you are,
16 you should have a voice. And that's why I am doing
17 this.

18 Thank you again.

19 I wish you all a good night and what a
20 beautiful town.

21 Thank you.

22 (The hearing concluded at 8:50 p.m.)
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5 I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter
6 No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby
7 certify that the foregoing 112 printed pages
8 constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of
9 the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all
10 done to the best of my skill and ability.

11
12 WITNESS my hand this 14th day of August,
13 2011.

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17 -----
18 MICHELLE D. ELAM
19 Certified Reporter
20 Certificate No. 50637
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