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

Location

Buena Performing Arts Center, Buena High School
5225 Buena School Boulevard
Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635

Attending

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

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

PREPARED BY:
AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, RPR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Good evening. Let's go ahead and get started.

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

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

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

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

But before we get to testimony, what I would like to do is the Pledge of Allegiance.
(Pledge was recited.)

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

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

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

This record that I speak of is the file that will go with all of the documents that we put together while we are drawing the maps, which will be submitted to the Department of Justice for
So all of your data is important. It's important to get on the record. And this is the time and place for you to do so.

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

AUDIENCE: Hi.

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

MR. DRECHSLER: Thank you very much.

My name is Andrew Drechsler, and I'm just going to give a presentation about redistricting tonight. The presentation is going to be on either
side of the stage so you can see it. Sorry for some of you in the front row that have to bend your necks.

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

Next.

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

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

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

In 2000, when the voters of Arizona approved Proposition 106, they created the Arizona
Independent Redistricting Commission. It established a process and criteria for drawing new district lines.

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

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

So what is redistricting?

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

Next.

And so what is the difference between redistricting and reapportionment?

Well, the terms are often used interchangeably, but technically there is a difference. Reapportionment is the process of allocating Congressional districts around the state based on changes in population. This is done by the
U.S. Census. It was done in December. This is where you saw some states gaining, some states losing some seats. And Arizona was one of those states that gained a seat this past time. And redistricting is actually the process of drawing actual boundaries of the new districts.

Why do we have to redistrict?

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

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

So what guidelines do we need to follow with redistricting?
There's six main guidelines. One, it must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voter Rights Act.

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

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

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

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

And then next what we do is we start with the grid map. In some states, previous plans are the starting point where they look at where the
district is already drawn and then we move around
the district boundaries according to population
exchanges.

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

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

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

The Voter Rights Act.

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

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

Under Section 5, Arizona redistricting
plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voter rights. And then the presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and the election results.

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

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

Continuing, the next is use visible geographic features. This is county boundaries, cities, towns and census tracts. And usually the census geography follow -- follow visible features. And then finally create the competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

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

As many of you have, you can fill out one
of the yellow forms and go on record tonight and speak. And the other -- and provide your input. Some examples would be criteria, your communities of interest, or anything else that has to do with redistricting.

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

We also have Ann English, Cochise County Supervisor District 2.
And I think those are the only three distinguished guests. If there's anyone else, I apologize. If you want to raise your hand and acknowledge, but I really do believe that you are all important, they just happen to have really fancy titles.

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

ROSSINDA BACAPARRA: Good evening, everybody. My name Rosalinda Bacaparra and I am here for interpreter --

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you also say it Spanish?

ROSSINDA BACAPARRA: (Speaking in Spanish.)
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

We also have to be respectful when other people are speaking. If people in the audience not speak. If you want to speak, please fill out this form and we'll make sure we get you and allow you to speak to the Commission and to the public.
Please speak clearly. We have, like I said, a court reporter, Michelle. She's a great court reporter but it will make her life a lot easier if you speak slowly. Before you speak, state your name, spell your name. Even if your name is simple, I think it would make her life easier. It's amazing how many different ways you can spell Sandy, and who you are representing and what town you are from.

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

RICHARD LUNT: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

I am here to speak in favor of the proposed redistricting plan that maintains the effective and cohesive relationship of Legislative District 5 as it is presently constituted with the additions of Camp Verde.
The purpose of this exercise in our political system is to equalize the populations of districts so they comply with federal requirements. Some of the key criteria that are involved with this process include one, an attempt to create compact, contiguous, and competitive districts.

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

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

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

Our proposals that have -- other proposals that have been suggested to this Committee would drastically diverge from this key point.
I am aware that this Commission has heard repeated arguments in favor of the plan that would include the areas of Flagstaff, Sedona, and the Verde Valley along -- with a long sweep to the south and east of -- to pick up population areas in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona.

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

I wish to address these arguments.

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

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

The White Mountains have more in common with Clifton, Duncan, Safford, Payson, and White River than Flagstaff. Our communities are founded and maintained on ranching, farming, tourism, and
timber. And the vast distance that separates Flagstaff from the rest of this region cannot be justified under the community of interest or competitiveness argument.

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

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

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

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

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

RICHARD LUNT: I will submit that I think
I've said what I need to say. I will leave out -- I will leave what I have referenced with you.

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

RICHARD LUNT: One for each one.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you so much, sir.

RICHARD LUNT: Thank you.

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

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

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

Mr. John.

DREW JOHN: Yes.

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

Chair, and I know the Chairwoman is on streaming video right now. I appreciate your time and members of the board, appreciate your time.
I'm going to speak a little bit more on communities of interest.

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

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

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

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

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

As we talked about communities of interest, we know Greenlee County has to be with Apache County with the shared forest district and Greenlee has been a mining community for decades.
Graham and Gila are also mining communities. And not just any mine, but owned and operated by the same Freeport McMoRan.

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

So I guess our main comments are going to
be when you put your first map on the table and we
get a look at those, then we will be able to clarify
what we think that -- what is fair.

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

The newspaper has reported the firm has a lot of experience working for Democrat candidates in their election campaigns. And this is, to me, where
the problem may begin. I also have concerns but for different reasons.

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

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

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

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

The figures the Secretary of State released last week, the Republicans have a majority in the state with 35 percent, the Democrats have 31 percent, and the Independent voters have
32.5 percent, thus the Independent voters are the second largest voting bloc in Arizona, and that's hardly a fringe element. It is a fact not to be ignored in the voter registration considerations.

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

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

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

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

The configuration of this district is a blatant violation of Article IV of the Constitution. We shouldn't be grouped with Maricopa County. We are not contiguous to that area of the state. Our
concerns and interests are vastly different from theirs.

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

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

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

GERALD EBERWEIN: I will.

VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Thank you, sir.

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

GARY THRASHER: Hello. My name is Gary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

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

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

I understand there are only three that are considered competitive, and I would say that districts in which one party has no hope of winning
and another party has no fear of losing will, in my opinion, not produce the most competent candidates.

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

I live in District 30, which is not a highly competitive district. My Legislators, my three Arizona Legislators, to my knowledge, have not come to Sonoita since the campaign, and I believe, in fact, that we are not competitive is the reason that they don't come. They don't have any reason to
come. They don't have to face half of the
population because they have an assured win once
they get through the primary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

    And also I would just make a complaint
about District 30. That's the one we're in. We're
a rural area, which has a lot of ranching and
tourism activities going on. We are lumped in with
far east Tucson, Green Valley, and yes, part of
Sierra Vista. Frankly, we don't feel that in our
community we have a lot in common with any of the
other areas that we are in. We would probably feel
more comfortable if we were in with, say, the rest
of Santa Cruz County.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

SHIRLEY MUNEY: Shirley Muney.

My name is Shirley Muney, and I'm
speaking for myself.

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

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

Of the five main criteria that we have
heard about, I would like to stress competitiveness.
As we can tell from the polarized political views
that we have every day, it's important that the
voters, including the Independents that now comprise a third of the population of Arizona, have a significant and fair choice.

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

Thank you for your attention?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

And as Arizonans, we are very proud of
our right to ask you people to district fairly.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

Again, spell your name for the record.

Thank you.

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

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

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

Thank you.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

BOB FLAMING: My name is Bob Flaming.
It's B-o-b, F-l-a-m-i-n-g.

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

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

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

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

Another point is that we have a prison
here over in Douglas. I think maybe you have more
than one prison in this district. And as long as
you're in a prison and get your rights back, they
can't vote. And I realize you may not be able to completely consider that, but I would love it if you can do what you can about making the districts more fair because of that.

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

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

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

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

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

I have now seen that news story for myself and I am very concerned. In my mind, and what should be made very public, is that this group, Fair Trust, exists to protect the interest of our state's most powerful Republicans. Their comments promoting the Voting Rights Act criteria must be very seriously scrutinized.
While I believe that no map should be tolerated that doesn't fully comply with the Voting Rights Act, we also must have fair maps that reflect the makeup of our electorate.

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

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

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

Thank you for your attention.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My remaining remarks address LD25, my Legislative district.

In theory, LD25 is contiguous; however,
one cannot drive from one side of the district to the other without leaving the district and crossing through LD30.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

SUSAN BREEN: Thank you.

My name is Susan Breen, S-u-s-a-n, B, as in Baker, r-e-e-n.
I am a resident of Greenlee County where I lived for the past 28 years, and I am representing myself.

I want to thank all five of the commissioners for their excellent and fair work to change our Legislative districts and our Congressional districts to make them more competitive.
Competitive districts provide a reason to vote, get more people involved in the political process, and it's so important to keep the Independent Redistricting Commission independent and fair and out of the hands of Legislators.

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

Thank you.

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

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

At the state level -- Legislative level, I feel Greenlee -- there are a few different concerns here, and I feel that Greenlee should be included in a rural district, again, together with the community of like interests, specifically with Graham, Gila, and at least the eastern part of Cochise County, which would be contiguous.
Being in the central to southern half of eastern Arizona, we in Greenlee are more likely to access health care, go shopping, have people in our families relocate to this southern part of eastern Arizona.

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

I am a resident of Cochise County in Hereford along the border, and that is my community of interest. I feel we need three Congressional districts along the border. Douglas, Nogales, and Yuma are three distinct areas. The three Congressional districts should start on the border
and head north to accommodate all of the other requirements for population.

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

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

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

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

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

    Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

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

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

    Sorry about that.

ROBERT LEACH: No problem.

    So I would like to thank you for being here.

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

    They helped draw them their primary maps
to ensure bipartisanship, which is what the people voted for in Proposition 106.

Your organization assisted with former Republican and mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, with microtargeting in 2010, which assisted in his re-election.

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

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

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

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

Without that representation, you will end up with what we have today, one-third of the people
representing a hundred percent of the people. So you have two-thirds of the people without a voice currently.

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

So E. -- she's coming.

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

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

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

The last redistricting that was done cut Cochise County into two pieces and it cut Sierra Vista into two pieces. Despite Sierra Vista being, if there ever was one, a community of interest since
it sprang up as a result of business with Fort Huachuca.

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

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

Perhaps the Commission should be looking at cutting Arizona into a pie of many pieces. That would mean that many of us would have to put aside our biases and our ideas about who we want to rub elbows with as members of the Legislative district. But it would also mean that every representative would have to drive 300 miles to see his or her constituents.
When our district was in the bounds with Greenlee and Graham Counties, when our County -- when our district was basically Cochise County and Graham County, we were almost equally divided as far as political parties at that time. And one year we would go Republican and the next year we would go Democrat and back and forth and that is even.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for doing this job. Thank you.
for keeping fairness as your primary goal.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

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

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

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

I wanted to reach out to the state of Maricopa and residing Gila suprees in the rural area northeast of Nogales.

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

The current LD25 and the CD7 clearly reflect this and also LD30 and CD8 clearly reflect the same geographic and contiguous area.
In particular, though, I have a personal concern that Sierra Vista is gerrymandered to the degree that it is, and I think it should probably reflect more of Cochise County contiguous with Graham and Greenlee Counties that include the rural areas plus the borderline region.

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

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

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir. Let me remind the audience, if you have any comments to make when people are speaking, I would appreciate it if you would fill out this form instead of speaking while people are speaking. Let's respect everyone.

Rubin Ortega?

Rubin Ortega?

Sir, are you Jim?

JIM BEHNKE: Jim.

My name is Jim Behnke. Last name is spelled B, as in boy, e-h-n-k-e, and I've lived here
in Sierra Vista for 41 years. Army brought me here in 1970.

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

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

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

Here are just some of the communities of interest. Fort Huachuca has about 12,000 soldiers here. A vital interest to our economy. Our local people, leaders fought hard to keep that open when they had the base closures and we still need to fight on.
Ranchers. Ranchers are like the church, they are nonprofit organizations, and they need all of the help they can get, particularly along the border where there are problems with fence cutting and things like that.

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

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

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

So I think Cochise County is unique and
it has a special interest.

I thank you for your time.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Sally Acevedo.

SALLY ACEVEDO: Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

I'm unsure how many followed our Monument
fire. Our community, indeed our entire county, came
together like nothing anyone has ever seen. Just
ask the Forest Service.

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

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

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

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

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

By the time assistance got here, we had
already pretty much taken care of it. We depended
on one another and that included our pets and livestock. Nobody was forgotten.

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

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: After Mary Frances, I think it's Clinton, we will have Fred Stickler, we have -- I'm going to say Hollis is the person's last name, Executive Director of Sierra Vista County
Development Foundation, followed by Robert L. Gent.

Thank you.

MARY FRANCES CLINTON: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

FRED STICKLER: (Speaking in Spanish.) Oh, I'm sorry, you probably didn't bring somebody that went English to Spanish. I apologize. F-r-e-d, S-t-i-c-k-l-e-r. I'm a real stickler.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gracias.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She left.

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

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

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

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

You are going to feel tugs from every direction you can imagine. As you have heard tonight, we don't want this county split up, we want
this county like this, we want three districts, we want two districts.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

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

DON SIMPSON: Hello. My name is Don
I want to, again, thank you first for appearing here in rural Arizona, especially since none of the commissioners are from a rural county. I think that that's one of the things you need to really be looking at, is under the six criteria as passed in Proposition 106, the federal mandate, of course, is for the Voting Rights Act and equal population.

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

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

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

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

Well, as you understand, I'm sure, under
Proposition 106, it is only to be considered when it's not to the detriment of the other five criteria. So it should not be the most -- should not be the priority.

If you consider the other criteria fairly, competitiveness will follow. I think competitiveness is sometimes used as a code word to say, well, we want equal number of Republicans and Independents and Democrats in the Legislature.

Well, some areas, if you got a rural area, it may be one way or the other, and I think competitiveness will follow.

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

MARK STONEBRAKER: I'm Mark Stonebraker. I have lived in Arizona for 20 years and in Sierra Vista and Cochise County for the last 13, and I'm very pleased and excited about this Independent Redistricting system that's been put in place here. I haven't seen that in other states that I've lived in. And I want to thank you all for coming down here to listen to us.
It's my wish -- of course, I think competitiveness is very important. I want to see that balance of representation that our original founders put into the Constitution and I believe that the districts should be compact as well. I support that.

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

Put three districts across the border.
We need more control there. One district cannot do it all.

That is my suggestion. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

JOANNE DALEY: Wanda gets the prize.

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

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

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

Cochise County is -- has diverse counties -- excuse me, communities of interest, including formal urban areas, small family ranches up to large cattle ranches, local vegetable farms to sophisticated greenhouse agricultural production,
unique western historic communities, ghost towns and mines, once beautiful forested mountains with incredible biodiversity that was the destination of furters (phonetic) from around the globe and to Fort Huachuca, which is both historic and on the cutting edge of the federal government communication systems and more. A vital engine to our area down here. We are also a border community with issues and benefits specific to those being close neighbors with Mexico and New Mexico. In short, while diverse, we are specific.

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

That is a very important to us, and I am tired of -- I have friends who constantly have
illegals going through their backyards at all hours of the day and night and it needs to be stopped and we need more representation in Washington, D.C., to accomplish that goal.

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

We also need the representation at the border. I believe we have a definite problem here. The federal government isn't doing anything to help
us. We need to get this taken care of.

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

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Lynn Stewart.

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

Thank you for coming to Cochise County to hear us. I think this is such is a wonderful exhibit of the American tradition of coming together and listening and talking. And I also appreciate,
even though there have been differences, the
civility with which this was handled tonight. I
really appreciate that.

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

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

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

I'm concerned about the redistricting to
make it a balanced districting, that we do have
contiguous districts, not the barbells or whatever.
But I'm also concerned that we have
competitiveness in our districts. For without
competitiveness, I could be disenfranchised or the
next person on the other side could be
disenfranchised, and we haven't really talked about
that a lot.

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

I'm honored to have been one of three
judges for the Arizona Competitive Districts
Coalition and the mapping process that they went
through. And I think you know that we've just
recently picked some winners, and I was pretty
excited actually by the work that was done by
citizens to create these maps. And I would like to
encourage the Commission to think about adopting
that mapping software as part of the public outreach
tool.

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

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

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

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

I know that community of interest is
going to be a challenge for you. You hear a variety
of comments on what that is for people.
Good luck in your work, and I do hope that you will have a public outreach component of mapping software to challenge people.

Thank you.

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

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

MOHUR SARAH SIDHWA: Mohur Sarah Sidhwa, M-o-h-u-r, Sarah, S-a-r-a-h, Sidhwa, S-i-d-h-w-a. Good evening, commissioners. I usually talk about competitiveness, today I want to do a slight -- I want to be slightly different from usual. I want to talk about democracy as an idea and that is, what it is. It's a fragile one at that. It needs to be protected. Be it with regards to the technicalities of integrity of elections and chain of custody of the ballots, or drawing of districts, such that the -- where the outcome is not a foregone conclusion.

When we give over the selection of candidates to party insiders by settling results in
the primary, our system of democracy suffers. The moderates on both sides of the aisle get shut out of the process as will the Libertarians or the Independents or Green.

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

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

This is very important because otherwise this may lead to my minority disenfranchisement. So counting prison population, especially within the thousands, as residents of the district artificially inflates minority population because these people
cannot vote.

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

Competitiveness should be high on the design list along with compactness. A look at the current maps shows how compactness certainly was not considered for CD1 and LD25. It is thought that there may be two or three competitive CDs, although that, frankly, is arguable.
And interestingly enough, in 1992, there were seven competitive Legislative districts. And by 2002, after the first IRC finished its work, there were only three.

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

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

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

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

Congressional representatives need to understand that they are responsible for these
already-defined border sectors.

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

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

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

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

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

    Thank you.

    VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

    GEORGE TAYLOR: My name is George Taylor.

    Oh, you're Linda?

    MELINDA VAUGHN: Melinda.
VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Melinda Vaughn.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I don't care what the federal government is telling you, they have their own agenda. It's false. We are still having a major problem. And,
of course, now, the Huachua, they won't be the same in your grandchildren's lifetime. They won't.

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

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

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

So I don't know what you are going to do. I'm just begging, I don't want to be part of Tucson and I don't want to be part of Santa Cruz County,
and we need a voice along the border. We have none.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

GEORGE TAYLOR: George Taylor.

George, G-e-o-r-g-e, Taylor, T-a-y-l-o-r.

Thank you for coming.

I'm going to make it very short. So many people have said what I have in my heart.

Mrs. Vaughn said something from her heart.

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

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

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

There's two things that you are called upon to do, and I wonder now why you volunteered for
this job. I really do.

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

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

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

    Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

JAMES MARCH: James March.

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

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

    First thing I would like to say on behalf of the party is we believe that one person, one vote
equals as contiguous as possible a block shape set
of districts as possible to make. And if that means
cutting towns or counties or tribal areas in half or
more, well, there's an advantage to that. The
people who were talking about at least three
district Congressional voices on the border, they
are on the right track because you've got multiple
different sets of ledger critters and their staffers
to complain to when things are going wrong. That's
a good idea.

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

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

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

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

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

Let me tell you what I mean.

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

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

So I took the Apache County data and I had enough information on it to go to the Arizona Secretary State website where it -- there's a place
you can go on there to question whether or not you are a valid registered voter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

My point is there's not supposed to be a discrepancy in that data. It all comes from the same source, the Arizona Secretary State's Office. So if something is wrong with the data you are getting on voter registration, you need to question that. You need to ask whether or not that data is correct. What the heck -- ask the Secretary of State's Office what's going on because they are aware of this but haven't given me any feedback. Find out what the rate of error is if you're paying any attention to that data.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Joann.

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

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

My husband and I chose Sierra Vista,
Hereford, and Palominas area because it is a small rural community. It had basic services, hospital and shopping, so we would not have to travel to Tucson, open spaces, historical towns and land to explore throughout the county.

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

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

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

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

Thank you. David, D-a-v-i-d, and Jere, J-e-r-e, Fredenburgh, F-r-e-d-e-n-b-u-r-g-h. Thank you.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Fred Thomson.

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

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

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

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

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

I submit that even without more, this decision tends to cast out on the neutrality of the independent member of the Commission.
I am also concerned by reports that 37 hours of the 74 hours of Commission meetings held prior to July 15th were held in executive session, thus excluding the public from the Commission proceedings.

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

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

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

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

I was at the website today. Some of them were there, some aren't. In order to see what's going on, you have to watch a video, which can be pretty time consuming. It would be faster if the
comments were there in writing so I could just breeze through them.

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

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

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

And from my prepared statements, PowerPoint presentation slide 6, which goes over
guidelines, and anticipate I'm not going to go over guidelines again. I've got no confidence that this Commission is performing its task in a (inaudible) guidelines were not ethical problems that have come to my attention.

(Interruption by the court reporter.)

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

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

Next, was the less ethical process and selection of Strategic Telemetry to do the mapping
for redistricting.

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

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

    And that's my comments.

    Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

    My original comment was going to be
concerning the gerrymandering that we have suffered
under for all of these years, but that has been
pretty thoroughly covered, so I just want to make a
brief comment concerning the issues about how many
districts one, two, three, however, many districts we have on the border and specifically take issue with the people who say that northern cities shouldn't have to be bothered with dealing with the border, that somebody else should.

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

I would suggest respectfully, that we consider cohesiveness of interests more than competitiveness. For one thing, once these lines have been determined and everything is equal, I would suggest that within six months they are no longer equal. People change their voting records all the time.
So to me, it would be more interesting to have cohesiveness determined for each district and that supersedes all other variables such as religion, race and/or political parties.

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

Thank you.

Vice Chair Herrera: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

My hope is, and for your consideration, that by creating districts that are within your prescribed guidelines and given equal consideration
within the criteria, that new districts could ideally be considered to reflect the electorate picture of our state, that is a third voter registration for Democrats, a third for Republicans, and a third for others.

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

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

KELLY GLENN-KIMBRO: Hi. My name is
Kelly Glenn-Kimbro, K-e-l-l-y, Glenn, G-l-e-n-n, hyphen, Kimbro, K-i-m-b-r-o.

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

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

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

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

For those of us living on the border, the border issues are the most critical ones that need to be addressed. What is happening on the border is affecting the nation as a whole and care needs to be given in redistricting Arizona or it will give the federal government another way to throw Arizona
under the bus. It will lessen the support that the border community and rural residents have at this point.

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

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

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

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

The ranching, farming, and rural populations need a voice and there is a feel of discontent that this is yet another method to push the rural people out of the picture to lessen their
importance and to quiet their voices.

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

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

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

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

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

Differences currently exist on how to address this issue between our representatives of the two districts that currently touch the border, increasing their number is no guarantee of
cohesiveness on this issue. What it will do is
dilute the influence that Cochise County now has
within the district.

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ms. Glenn-Kimbro,
could you wrap --

KELLY GLENN-KIMBRO: I will. I'll read
the last paragraph.

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

I want to thank you for coming here to
hear these many voices that we have heard tonight.
It's truly an exercise in democracy. And as an
exercise in democracy, I think that the competitive
districts are very, very important and that's a real concern and I hope that's a concern to you, too.

Thank you for coming.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

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

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

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

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

When I first moved to our house, I could not see another house from my house. Now I can see many. It just changes. And it may be changing politically not to suit somebody or politically to suit others. That's just the way life is. And to
try to manipulate a district to be competitive is
certainly not the way this Committee should
function. That's why I think that the competitive
question on there had to do with if it does not
affect the other issues.

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

As our lands have degraded and we
struggle to protect our livelihoods, indeed our very lives, we have become more politically aware.

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

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

   Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Robin Gomez.

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

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

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

   So what I am saying has been said -- has already been stated by a lot of people here, but
they are issues that I agree with and feel strongly about.

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

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

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

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

I also do believe that Cochise County being kept as a sep- -- being kept separately from Tucson in the -- in whatever Congressional district you draw is very necessary.
I would also like to address what has been tossed around quite often tonight, competitiveness.

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

VICE CHAIR HERERRA: Tom Crosby.

TOM CROSBY: Tom Crosby.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Casey Jones followed by Rubin Ortega.

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

There was a reason in the Legislature --
legislation that created the IRC for competitiveness
to be listed last as a criteria.

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

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

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

For me to stand on the tee of a golf hole
at Fort Huachuca and have to wait to hit my ball for
illegal aliens to cross the fairway is a travesty.
We need help on the border, and the more
representation we can get there, the better.

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

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

   Thank you.

   VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

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

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

   COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Vice
Chair Herrera.

   First of all, thank you everyone who is
still here tonight. Thank you for the people that
are watching online. I want to say hello to our
fellow commissioners because I've been on the other
side of the screen watching them sit behind the
microphone while I've been in my office watching and
taking expedient notes of the things that have been
said in places where I haven't been.

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

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

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

So in that restatement, it did not put
competitiveness above the others, as has been
discussed previously or has been mentioned. It just
put it as a restatement of exactly what the
Constitution, as it was originally crafted.

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

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

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

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

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

It happens to be a growing group, registrants that way. But people vote -- you'll see 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
6 So you know that Independents have a
7 preference. They are either having -- Independent
8 does not mean that you are neutral. Independent
9 means that you are choosing to not be affiliated
10 with a particular party, but you clearly have
11 political leans or else Republicans or Democrats
12 would not be being elected.
13
14 So I don't believe that there's a level
15 of disenfranchisement that takes place because there
16 is -- there is a -- unless we are looking at purely
17 breaking up our districts, a third, a third, and a
18 third.
19
20 When I was asked to be part of this
21 Commission, I was asked by a friend of mine to put
22 in my application. I was not even really sure what
23 this Commission was. He's a man by the name of Doug
24 Martin, he owns the Christian radio station in
25 Tucson.
26
27 I put my application in, and I truly
28 enjoyed the spirit of what this is all about. We
29 are five volunteers that are putting ourselves out
there in the public, and I've enjoyed it quite a bit.

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

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

And we intend to continue to take this process and keep it open so that the representatives -- the people that we are representing, which are you, and not just the group in this room, but everybody else that's online and the other six and a half million people that aren't
sitting here are getting a fair shot.

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

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Stertz.

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

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

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

People want to go to the ballots because
they feel that their vote counts. If we don't have
competition, if we feel our vote doesn't count, why
bother voting. And I think a lot of people feel
that way here in Arizona. That's why people don't
vote.

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you again.

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

Thank you.

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

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

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MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637