October 15, 2011
3:03 p.m.

Location
Hon-Dah Resort - Casino
777 Highway 260
Pinetop, Arizona 85935

Attending
Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner

Ray Bladine, Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr

PREPARED BY:
AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good afternoon.

This meeting of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

The time is 3:03 p.m. on Saturday, October 15th.

And let's start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, it's great to see so many of you here at the Hon-Dah Resort and Casino in our second round of public hearings. We were here during the first round and had a great crowd as well. So glad you're all back to provide input today.

The primary purpose of our meeting today is to get input from you. We're here to listen, and the whole -- the topic will be the draft congressional and draft legislative maps that the Commission has approved.

So we're looking forward to hearing what you have to say. And if you would like to speak with us, please fill out a yellow request to speak
form that you should have seen on the way in.

And if you're not interested in speaking at the podium today, you can fill out a blue sheet and your comments will still be entered into the record just the same as if you had stood at the podium and said them.

So two easy ways to come give us input today. And you'll be hearing more about that in a little bit from our presentation, but I just wanted to point that out early.

So let's have roll call.

Vice Chair Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Vice Chair Herrera.

Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Here.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Commissioner Stertz.

And just so everyone knows, all of the commissioners aren't attending necessarily all of the meetings. In fact, all of the meetings we've had so far in the second round, there's just been a subset of the Commission at each of them.

We're going to 26 places across the state, so we're kind of divvying them up among the commissioners. So I'm sure Vice Chair Herrera and
Commissioner Stertz are watching this via streaming or will be watching it once they have an opportunity to do so. Because it will be all recorded and you can pull it up on your computer at home at a later time. All of our hearings are available on our website to watch.

Other folks at the table today, we have legal counsel, Joe Kanefield and our mapping consultant, Andrew Drechsler.

Way to cover, Ray.

RAY BLADINE: I don't know what's setting it off, a mic.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And our chief technology officer, Buck Forst.

Our executive director, Ray Bladine, and we also have a court reporter, Michelle, who is taking an accurate transcript of today's meeting.

We also have public outreach coordinators in the back Karen Herrman and Shane Shields, and please feel free to talk to any of our staff if you have any questions or need anything throughout the meeting, they will be happy to help you out.

We also have some translators today.

By federal law, we are required to translate -- provide translation services for
anybody who needs them, and today we have three. And we'll ask each one of them to come up and say a few words in their native languages and provide the opportunity for translation services for anyone who might need them.

So I'll start with Carlos Reyes, he is our Spanish translator today.

CARLOS REYES: Good afternoon, Madame Chair Mathis and commissioners.

Ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act and translator -- a translator and interpreter will be available at the public hearings in order to provide translating interpreting services that might be needed for those citizens that need translating or interpreting services.

Please contact the translator and interpreter present at the meeting so that he or she can assist you.

And now I will read the transcript in Spanish. (Speaking in native tongue.)

The interpreter for Apache and Navajo will also come up and read the script in their language.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Carlos.
Our next interpreter is Bonnie Lewis, for Apache.

Thank you.

BONNIE LEWIS: Okay. Hello to Apache speakers. (Speaking in native tongue.)

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And our last interpreter is Louise Kerley, for Navajo.

LOUISE KERLEY: Yá’át’éeéh, Chair Mathis. (Speaking in native tongue.)

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

So with that, I think we'll go over to our mapping consultant, Andrew Drechsler, and he'll be giving us a presentation on the process.

ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much, Madame Chair.

Good afternoon. Thank you very much for being here today.

As the Chair mentioned, we are going to make -- the purpose of this meeting today is to present the draft maps.

The draft maps are currently under a 30-day review period, which means -- one of the big reasons we are here today is we want to hear your
opinions on the maps.

Before we start with the maps, we just wanted to give a quick overview of the process.

Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the State Constitution, as amended by voters in 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates that Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect the results of the most recent census.

Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a congressional seat, so we're going from eight seats to nine seats.

What are the guidelines of Proposition 106?

These are the six rules that are sort of governing the map drawing.

A, must comply with the United States Constitution and Voting Rights Act.

B, equal population.

Just a reminder, criteria A and B are federally mandated, which means we have to have those two.

The other six are part of the State Constitution and are to the extent practicable.
C, contact and contiguous; D respect communities of interest; E, use physical geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries and undivided census tracts, and not favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

We just want to cover the Voting Rights Act.

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

To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that the new districts do not discriminate against minority voters in purpose or effect, which means that there can be no intentional or accidental discrimination.

Understand Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters' rights.

The presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.
We wanted to quickly go over the timeline of the entire Commission.
There's six main steps involved with the commission.
The first step was setting up the Commission.
Earlier this year, commissioners were appointed through a thorough screening process. And all of the commissioners are serving in a voluntary capacity.
The Commission remembers are Scott Freeman, vice chair, who is with us today; Jose Herrera, vice chair; Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, who is here today; Commissioner Linda McNulty, who is also here today; and Commissioner Richard Stertz.
The second step was the first round of hearings.
Before drawing a single line, the Commission held 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to get input from members of the public about issues relevant to redistricting, such as geography, communities of interest, minority voting rights and competitiveness.
Then started the map, step 3.
Per Proposition 106, we're to start with
a grid map, which means that we are not supposed to take into consideration any of the past lines.

This was approved on August 18th. And only two considerations -- two of those six criteria were taken into consideration, that being equal population and compactness.

Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid map to accommodate all of the State's constitutional requirements. During this time they received additional public comments and draft map.

Approval of the maps.

On October 3rd, the Commission approved the draft congressional map that incorporated the changes based on all of the constitutional criteria and the public comment that we heard. It then approved the draft legislative map on October 10th, just Monday of this week.

We're currently in step 4, the second round of hearings.

We're currently visiting 25 towns and cities around the state to share the draft maps and receive additional public opinion during the month of October.
Step 5, final maps.

Upon completion of the public comment period, the Commission will adopt final maps.

And the final step in the process is preclearance.

Because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district map must be approved by the federal Department of Justice or a federal court in Washington D.C. before they can be used for the Arizona elections.

Before we show you the draft congressional map, we just wanted to go through the process.

This was the last map -- this was the map that was approved by the last commission and most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Per the proposition -- per Proposition 106, we started with a blank map and then the -- one of first steps we did was draw the grid map.

And again, the grid map only takes into consideration the equal population and compactness and is meant as a starting point for the draft maps.

After more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted to approve the draft map that you see here.
Besides taking into consideration the six criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comments provided via public meetings, round one of public hearings, comments mailed, e-mailed, and faxed and telephone into the Commission.

Over 5,000 public comments were inputted to help development of this map. And as you see here, some of the highlights of the map, it includes two predominantly rural districts, three border districts, two districts in the city of Tucson, five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County, it avoids splitting Arizona Indian reservations and two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

This map -- there's a wall size of this map in the back of the room as well.

The legislative map went through a very similar process. This was the legislative map developed by the last Commission and the most recently used for the 2010 elections.

Again, Proposition 106 required us to start with a blank slate, and this was the grid map for the legislative that was developed and approved on August 18th.

The legislative draft map, some
highlights -- the old districts that you saw a couple slides ago currently have population of 155,000 to 378,000. So the new draft that you see here has populations of 207,000 to 215,000.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft map includes ten districts in which minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice. The draft map includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional Southern Arizona districts, seventeen districts primarily within Maricopa County and nine districts primarily rural.

As the Chairwoman mentioned today, one of the main reasons that we're here today is we want to hear what your thoughts are on the maps, things you like and things that you may change.

We have asked you to fill out a request to speak form at the public hearings and provide the Commission your input.

Example of thoughts include any of the constitutional criteria, thoughts on the draft congressional map, and thoughts on the legislative map as well.

So you can submit your input by speaking at today's hearing. At the back of the packet you
received, there's a blue form where you can do
written comments. And there's an address on it to
mail it in. Another option is the phone number at
the bottom. You can also call the Commission and
give us any thoughts on the maps.

You can also visit at us
www.azredistricting.org or call us at 602-542-5221
or toll free at 855-733-7478.

This is just a shot of the home page of
our website. Just a couple of things that we want
to point out.

The two arrows on the left show where you
can find the maps. The arrows on the right, one has
meetings. So if you wanted to watch any of the
meetings that covered the deliberations of how we
got to the draft map, all of those are on the
website and you can watch that. Also information on
future meetings is on the website and you can stream
most of our meetings.

And if we don't have Internet access at
one of the locations where we're doing a public
hearing, the stream is usually up within 48 hours.

There's also a place where you can enter
-- click to do public input.

And then down at the bottom is the arrow
pointing to maps. So if you click on either of those, it will bring you to the draft maps that we have approved and that you saw today.

When you click -- when you click on the bottom maps area, it brings you to this screen. This is just something we wanted to point out.

Circled in red are the ability to get to the Google map, and this is something that many members of the public really liked because they are able to click on those and really scroll down and see what are the boundaries that make up your district.

So if you click on either of those, it will bring you to a page that looks like this and it will allow you to scroll in and you can get down as much as you want and show exact boundary lines, whether that road making it up or other features that make up the boundary lines.

Finally, we want you to stay connected. We want you to visit our website at www.azredistricting.org.

Besides watching our current meetings or past meetings and getting updates on future meetings, there's the ability to draw your own maps. We have an online mapping software where you can go
in and draw maps and submit them to the Commission
or you can follow us at Twitter at #AIRC or friend
us at Facebook.

    Thank you very much.

    And a couple other things.

    Again, we have both of the draft maps on
the wall in the back. You have a computer screen
showing the draft legislative map. We have a poster
of the congressional map on the wall in the back.

    You have the maps in your packet, both
the congressional draft map and the legislative
draft map. And these maps are also available on the
website as well.

    And if you have any questions, I will be
here afterwards and will be more than happy to
answer any questions.

    Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you

Mr. Drechsler.

So we're at the point in the meeting
where we take public comment, and I have a whole
stack of forms, but feel free to fill one out if you
haven't yet and our assistants will get us the
information so you can also speak.

    Just a few ground rules.
When you come up to the microphone, when your name is called, please speak directly into the microphone and get as close to it as you can so it comes over the Internet well and everyone else in here, too.

Please state your name and spell it for the reporter so that we get an accurate transcript.

And if you could also say where you live, not your home address or anything, but just a city, town, or county, that would be great.

We’ll limit comment to four minutes per person since we have such a large amount of people that want to talk today.

So if the buzzer happens to go off and you're still talking, if you could try to wrap it up within a reasonable amount of time, that would be great.

So with that, I think we'll -- oh, and I also just wanted to say in terms of your input, if you could be as specific as possible -- if there are things that -- lines that, you know, you don't like or you think need to be changed, if you could tell us exactly what you think you think -- you don't like about that and how the lines should be moved.

And if you've given any thought to how
that impacts the rest of the map, because I think as you all know, these lines, it's a very sensitive puzzle in that if you move a line just seemingly a very small amount, but that impacts the whole map, actually. So there's a big ripple effect.

So to the extent you have given any thought to that, please feel free, because we would love to hear any solutions.

So with that, our first speaker is John Hatch, mayor from the Town of Taylor.

JOHN FAY HATCH: Thank you, commission. I am grateful for this opportunity.

My name is John Fay Hatch. I represent today the Town of Taylor.

I have a letter here from the Town of Taylor that I would like to present to be entered into the record and I also have a few comments that go along with that.

Today I would like to talk about the congressional district, the new proposed District 6 on the map.

This proposal removes Pinetop and Lakeside by placing it in a separate district from Show Low, even though they are contiguous and share historic goals and objectives. This is
unacceptable.

   Southern Navajo and Apache County communities will be split from each other and who are now communities of common interests. We share services, goals, and objectives. These resources took years to develop but are now in jeopardy.

   Navajo and Apache County communities are communities of common interest with each other, but the current proposal splits these communities from each other.

   Navajo and Apache County communities are all communities of common interest with political units and government agencies, Gila Graham, and Greenlee Counties as well.

   Navajo and Apache Counties communities are communities of common interests for the following reasons, and I have a few of these reasons that I would like to touch on today very quickly.

   Economic.

   We are tied together economically through Real Arizona Development Council. This is the development authority for all communities in Southern Navajo and Apache Counties. This includes nine cities and towns as well as private sector partners.
The collaborative for most Navajo and Apache Counties region for job development and industry attraction.

There's also the White Mountain partnership. This is the recognized tourism department authority for Southern Navajo and Apache Counties.

There's also the Workforce Investment Authority. WIA is the state-designated workforce development authority for Southern Navajo and Apache Counties, including nine cities and towns as well as private sector partners.

Aside from these reasons, there are also community values.

Traditional conservative values of strong families and strong communities as well as strong support and relief for each other, as displayed through reliance upon each other in times of disaster and crisis.

Some examples of this character are exemplified through recent Rodeo-Chediski forest fire, Wallow forest fire, Round Valley High School plane crash incident, flooding and relief and an equine epidemic relief and support actions, just to name a few.
There are several others in this category that should not be ignored. In education, Northern Pioneer College serves both Navajo and Apache Counties. Northern -- Northern Arizona Vocational Institute of Technology serves both of these areas. Northern Arizona Training Center located in Taylor serves Navajo and Apache Counties, including the nine cities that will be affected by these boundaries of the new proposed District 6.

There's a transportation and social services, and all of these things come together to tie these communities together that stand in jeopardy of being split if these boundaries of this new proposed District 6 are approved.

A while back I attend the last meeting here in this building. A woman stood up and said that she did not feel that this Commission represented or was concerned about the concerns of rural Arizona. And I didn't know at that time how right she was until I viewed the boundaries of this District 6.

All of the concerns that I heard expressed at that meeting have been completely ignored if this district is accepted as it is drawn now.
In the final days and weeks of this process, I would encourage and ask this Commission to please reconsider the needs and desires of the rural communities in Navajo and Apache County.

These ties have taken years to develop and are in jeopardy if this process goes forward as it is now lined out.

I thank you for this opportunity.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is David Tenney, Navajo County Supervisor from Navajo County.

DAVID TENNEY: Thank you, Madame Chair, and members of the Commission.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

My name is David Tenney, T-e-n-n-e-y. I live in Linden.

And first I would like to welcome you back to Navajo County. Glad to have you here with us again today.

I'm a life-long resident of the White Mountains. Currently serving as a member of the Board of supervisors, representing District 4, which is Show Low, Heber-Overgaard, Taylor, Linden, Clay Streams, Pine, all of those areas.

I also currently serve as the chairman of
our board and as the president of the State Association of Counties.

I want to speak mainly -- if I have any time at the end I'll touch on the congressional district, I want to speak mainly to the legislative districts, as Mr. Hatch from Taylor just did.

I'm here in my capacity as leader of the community to dispel the notion that Navajo County and four of our neighboring counties can be sacrificed to satisfy the political aims of communities that are far removed from us physically, socially, and economically.

The legislative draft map has me very concerned that the communities of Eastern Arizona only have relevance for their population and our relevant and effective voice in the state legislative process is about to be silenced.

The communities of Heber-Overgaard, Snowflake, Taylor, Winslow, Holbrook, Show Low, and Pinetop have far more in common with Safford, Springerville, Eagar, Payson, and White River than we do with Flagstaff, Window Rock, and Sedona.

Any map that puts White River and Pinetop-Lakeside in a different district than Show Low, keeps Show Low with Flagstaff needs only one
word to describe it, and it's the word my teenagers
use on me quite often, and that word is "seriously."

I can't imagine that anyone could believe
that Show Low has more -- is more of a community of
interest with Flagstaff than with Pinetop-Lakeside.

If you don't believe me, I invite you to
Show Low High School this Friday to see the Blue
River/Show Low football game to see just what our
community of interest is.

There will be probably 6 or 8,000 people
at that game as opposed to 60 or 700 if it were to
be Show Low versus Flagstaff or Coconino high
schools.

White River, Pinetop-Lakeside, and Show
Low share everything, our shopping centers, a
hospital, roads, forest, and the list goes on.

Therefore I support the comments that
Chairman Lupe, the White Mountain Apache Tribe,
delivered to the body the last time you were here.

We need common representation so that our
issues are addressed by people who are part of our
community and we need our local communities to stay
together.

Our communities are founded and
maintained on ranching, farming, tourism, and
natural resource development.

Navajo, Gila, Apache, and Graham and Greenlee Counties are neighbors. We share roads, water, forest, and issues that go with that, yet these counties have been pulled apart by the draft map that has been adopted by this body.

The legislative map puts Greenlee County in with the Navajo and Hopi tribes. These communities have little or no interaction and are physically isolated from each other by hundreds of miles.

The legislative draft maps split Graham County into two different districts and does not keep Graham and Greenlee counties together. Graham and Greenlee are nearly identical in their communities of interest.

They both have significant agriculture, mining, and water issues and they actually cooperate with each other when providing some county services.

No two counties in the state are more interdependent than these two, and yet they stand to lose the best representation they have ever had in the Arizona legislature.

The legislative draft map splits Gila County into three LDs and Navajo County into two.
While this configuration may supply population numbers to other areas, it doesn't lend any credibility or confidence to the competitive voting strength of our citizens and it devastates our voice in Phoenix.

The distance that separates Flagstaff and our Native American neighbors to the north from the rest of the region cannot be rationally justified as a stronger community of interest or competitiveness argument when most, if not all, of the population that would satisfy the requirements for legislative district compromising Flagstaff and surrounding areas and the communities of the Navajo Nation are literally next door to each other.

There's only one logical split in Navajo County, and that is north/south. South with the -- north/south with the Navajo and Hopi reservations to the north and the small cities and towns along I-40 and the White Mountains to the south.

The DOJ has favorably ruled on this configuration before. And the fact that the Native American voters of the Navajo Nation have decreased in population relative to the rest of the state does not justify the proposed configurations for the communities of the White Mountains and our other
eastern communities.

   In the alternative, Flagstaff and Navajo Nation have significant ties and communities of interest. Flagstaff is only 25 miles from the Navajo Nation. And according to the latest census, the population in 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, just like White River does with Pinetop and Show Low.

   You have every reason to keep the northern communities together and the eastern communities of Pinetop-Lakeside, White River, Show Low, and the eastern counties that I have mentioned in separate legislative districts, that reflect the true representation of communities of interest, contiguous principles, and competitiveness.

   Am I out of time?

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

   DAVID TENNEY: Am I out of time?

   CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I didn't hear a buzzer, so you can keep going.

   DAVID TENNEY: I don't hear very well, so
I don't know what that buzzer -- just let me know.
I just have a few more remarks I would like to
make --

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Go ahead.

DAVID TENNEY: -- concerning
congressional districts.

First of all, I urge you to consolidate
Gila County and put it all in CD 1. There are not
that many people involved.

Second, go back to keep CD 1 rural.
There are approximately 1.5 million Arizonans who
choose to live in nonmetropolitan areas. That's
more than 20 percent of our state population.

Please give the rural voters the respect
and choice to elect one of their own, regardless of
party.

The other point I would make is similarly
to keep CD 4 rural. Your earlier efforts had two
truly rural CDs, made many of us believe that the
rural vote could actually mean something in both
rural districts and it's difficult to understand
what changed so suddenly.

Then finally, make CD 1 a real border
district, not just a token one. Please remove the
perceived gerrymander around Bisbee and Douglas and
make the representative of CD 1 accountable for the issue, if you're going to imply that their responsibility is down there.

That's all of my remarks on the CD, but again, I just want to encourage you to really take at look at the communities of interest for this area.

We work together very well for a reason, because we have the same issues. And I encourage you to look at that as you consider these maps.

Thank you for your time today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Brad Carlyon, representing self from Show Low.

BRAD CARLYON: Good afternoon.

As was said, my name is Brad Carlyon, C-a-r-l-y-o-n.

My two big issues are communities of interest and competitiveness, but I also understand the Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act impacts both of those areas greatly.

In our northeast part of the state, we have to start with the Navajo Nation because that's going to be one of the Section 5 areas.

And because of the overall state
population growth, they don't appear to be sufficient in themselves anymore to carry a state legislative district, at least not to the level the DOJ wants.

While I understand why the White Mountain Apache Tribe wants to be with Southern Navajo County, I also understand why this Commission has added them to that legislative district, just to get above that 60 percent number.

So that does affect our communities of interest, as the prior two speakers and many following me will talk about.

But taking those parts out and understanding that we're probably going to have to lose the White Mountain Apache Tribe because of the DOJ and Section 5, there's other parts of Navajo County that have a strong community of interest, whose population isn't so great -- and I understand there's a trickle effect throughout the state, but it makes literally no sense to anybody who lives in this area why Show Low and Pinetop-Lakeside would be separated.

Those of us who live in the area, we don't see the separation. We have too much interaction, too much -- we know everybody. And
it's kind of hard when you say my neighbor is no
longer my neighbor in the sense of a legislative
district. That community is still strong here.

And I also understand that
competitiveness is going to be strongly impacted
because you have to make a certain number of your
districts noncompetitive. You have to overstack
them, which therefore impacts everybody else in the
state, especially those who adjoin.

So when you create that majority district
for the Native Americans, it's going to impact the
competitiveness in the adjoining district.

Looking at your numbers that you provided
this afternoon, there's a 68 percent advantage for
the Republicans it appears in competitiveness.
Higher than I would like. I would like to see it
drop three or four percent.

If we add Pinetop-Lakeside, it would add
maybe a percentage or two impact, it would help,
depending on what you subtract out of the district.

I hope you will add Pinetop-Lakeside.
And as you look at it, also look at putting Winslow
back into the district.

Once again, as talked by Supervisor
Tenney, Winslow has a strong community of interest
with all of Navajo County.

You know, I would like to have our sister city of St. Johns and Springerville and Eagar in with us, but you have to find a way to swoop down to get to the White Mountain and San Carlos, and that seems to be the burden that you have to carry in the maps that you have to draw.

But if you could bring us back Winslow, get us all of those areas off of I-40 that is in the middle of nonreservation portion of the county, that will strengthen our community of interest and also get that competitiveness for that legislative district to be truly competitive.

So I hope you will take those thoughts in mind. Try to keep Navajo County nonreservation portions together because we are such a strong community of interest.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is William Faurot, representing self from Navajo. And forgive me if I'm mispronouncing your name.

WILLIAM FAUROT: No you just one a nickel. You did it right.

My name is William Faurot. That's
F-a-u-r-o-t, and I reside in Linden.

The United States of America was established to represent all of the people, not some of the people. All of the people elect representatives to represent them in their beliefs.

Formerly, the redistricting process was carried out by the legislature. The process was partisan because not every neighbor is like the other neighbor.

Arizona citizens were told that if the process was done by a small committee of impartial people, that a fair and balanced result could be achieved.

Arizona citizens believed and voted to change the Constitution.

What happened is that the appointed Commission turned out to be composed of corruptible humans, after all, who failed to heed the requirements of geographically compact and contiguous districts, communities of interest, and respect for existing geographic boundaries.

The commissioners are five appointed humans who represent some of the people but not all of the people.

It is time for the people of Arizona to
I loudly reject the proposed map which was presented, by the way, without accompanying documentation, and more importantly, change the Arizona Constitution so that all citizens are represented by their elected legislators, not by appointed bureaucrats who redistricted Arizona in a partisan manner by blatant gerrymandering.

Thank you for your time.

Who gets the copy?

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Rich Crockett, mayor for Pinetop-Lakeside.

RICH CROCKETT: Thank you, Commission, for your service. We don't get thanked very often, and we want you to know that we appreciate what you do.

I echo the sentiments of Mayor Hatch and Chairman Tenney. On Thursday of next week I will be presenting to our council a resolution that we will be forwarding on to the committee for consideration.

In part, that resolution reads: In the town of Pinetop-Lakeside first preference is to be in a legislative district in a configuration as generally proposed in the October 3rd, 2011, legislative grid map what-if scenario 9 minority district option 1 version 8a as District 5, as that
district is, number one, consistent with the current
legislative district.

Number two, includes the majority of the
East Central Arizona communities of interest.

Number three, is more compact,
contiguous, and grid-like.

And number four, in particular, includes
the town of Pinetop-Lakeside with its immediately
adjacent Navajo County areas along with the city of
Show Low and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

The town of Pinetop-Lakeside's second
alternative preference, if the general
configurations for Districts 6 and 7 as set forth in
the approved draft map of October 9, 2011, that at a
minimum, you include the town of Pinetop-Lakeside
and its immediately adjacent Navajo County areas in
District 6 with the city of Show Low and
additionally the White Mountain Apache Tribe in
council concurs.

The problems we see with the legislative
district map that its proposed is that you have
split Gila County into three legislative districts,
6, 7, and 8. What is it about Gila County?

Does the IRC consider it a sacrifice
county? You also split it in your congressional
You put Greenlee County in with the Navajo, Hopi, and two Apache Indian reservations, with which they have little to no interaction. For example, commerce or trade.

They are also physically isolated from the rest of this proposed district by a long and torturous drive on Highway 191.

You have split Graham County in two and do not keep Graham and Greenlee Counties together, two counties which have a lot of similarities. For example, jobs, commerce, similar economic issues, mining, and agriculture.

They have cooperated in county services. No two counties in the state are more intertwined than these two. To separate these two counties would be wrong.

You have split Navajo County three ways, when there is only one logical split north and south. With the Navajo and Hopi reservations to the north and the small towns along I-40 and the White Mountains in the south.

Please do not split the southern part of the county yet again.

We appreciate what you tried to do with
LD 7 and to make it predominantly a Native American
district, but do not just add Greenlee County with
less than 10,000 population just to make the numbers
work.

Two proposed solutions.

Consolidate the nonreservation portions
of Gila, Graham, and Greenlee Counties into a single
LD. They have a definite community of interest with
their similar natural resource-based economy,
mining, grazing, and agriculture.

The second, adjust the boundary for LD 6
to, number one, drop the Gila County portion, and
number two, include the remainder of the southern
portion of Navajo county.

I thank you for your time and for being
here in Navajo County today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Terry Hill,
representing self from Shumway.

TERRY HILL: Thank you.

My name is Terry Hill. T-e-r-r-y,
H-i-l-l.

My opinion is that the legislative
district maps are an outrageous example of
gerrymandering.
The loss of communities of interest with Pinetop-Lakeside in South Apache County going into District 7 makes no sense at all.

The old District 5 with the addition of Camp Verde would have made a lot more sense than what I see today with this new district.

Including Flagstaff in the new District 6 will eliminate the rural representation in the state -- in our state legislature, as that urban population of Flagstaff will outweigh the rural population in the White Mountains.

And I concur with Mayor Hatch of Taylor and David Tenney, County Supervisor.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Ken Smith, from Pinetop.

KEN SMITH: Ken Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

First of all, what I want to do is compliment this Commission. I don't see how you've put up with it, but I am -- but I commend you for doing it, and I thank you for doing it. It's extraordinary what you have had to put up with during your tenure.

One of the things you've had to do is try
to balance six often contradictory principles.

And so as we pick a principle and say that you didn't meet that one, I suspect that we could spend the day pointing out individual examples of places where that particular principle is not being met but there are others, and they don't necessarily fit with each other, as you know better than I do.

One of the things I think all of us in here could agree on is that the state is in a terrible financial crisis. And I've come up with a way of saving a great deal of money. If what we are to do is to have largely uncompetitive districts, then we could just dispense with the elections because this Commission will already have decided who the winners are going to be.

Why go through the process of spending all of the money it takes to have an election and all of the time that it takes to have an election, when the winners are known with the districts having been selected with that in mind.

We also will have disenfranchised -- if you look at the congressional layout as it is now and, you know, I suspect that legislative layout is worse in this instance, but as it stands now,
two-thirds of the citizens of this state will have been disenfranchised because they will have been located in districts where their votes don't matter, where their votes don't count because the winner is already known before the election takes place.

You also will have decided that there are twice as many Republicans in this state as there are Democrats, looking at the congressional. That doesn't fit with the numbers very well.

This is a democracy, or supposedly so.
Is it a democracy if two-thirds of our votes don't count?

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Eric Kramer, president of White Mountain Democrats representing self from Pinetop.

ERIC KRAMER: Erik Kramer, E-r-i-c, K-r-a-m-e-r.

I want to thank the Commission for your hard work.

I do want to speak today in favor of competitiveness.

As Mr. Smith mentioned, if we don't have competitive districts, we're effectively
disenfranchising a large number of people in the state for a period of ten years. That would not be a good thing.

We need more competitiveness. We need more competitiveness in that legislative District 6.

As we draw the lines, I think it's fair to say that in Navajo County, there are many false-flag Democrats who infiltrate the Democratic primaries. And even the statistics you show might not make the district as competitive as it might seem to be.

But again, we need more competitiveness, and we thank you for your work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Virginia Dotson, representing self from Vernon in Apache County.

VIRGINIA DOTSON: My name is Virginia Dotson, D-o-t-s-o-n, from Apache County, town of Vernon.

First, I would like to thank the Commission. You conscientiously listen to all speakers. I know you are trying to carry out a very difficult balancing act.

As to the congressional districts draft map, there is some good features in what you have
The White Mountains and Flagstaff are together in District 1. We share some common interests and concerns relating to natural resources, forest restoration, economic issues, and transportation needs that are important to Northern Arizona, and it's much preferable to have -- to be with Flagstaff. And you go over and snatch a piece of Maricopa County just to make up the population counts.

It's also good on the congressional districts to have Navajo and Apache Counties kept together and kept whole.

Statewide, I would like to see a larger number of competitive districts. When one party completely dominates a district, the voters of the other party are disenfranchised because the elections are decided in the primaries.

As to the legislative districts, again, statewide, I urge you to make more of the districts competitive for the same reasons that I've mentioned.

And the competitiveness idea needs to take actual voting patterns into consideration.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is David Berry, representing self from Apache County.

DAVID BERRY: David Berry, D-a-v-i-d, B-e-r-r-y.

Well, I couldn't possibly do that and echo the last three speakers, but I'll add my two cents for competitiveness.

I think it's absolutely essential that we have the most competitive districts that we can, and I'm confident that you all have moved in that direction.

But it I think disenfranchising is about the worst thing that could happen, and you've heard that word quite a bit here. That's probably my main fear.

We have a great Arizona voter registration. We have one-third GOP, one-third Independent, and one-third Democrats in this state and yet we find that we sent to Washington six Republican reps, House of Representatives and only two Democrats. And they might have changed since we've added one, but both Senators are also Republicans.

So I'm sure you can agree that something
is wrong with this picture. And I think that
something is probably going to be repaired somewhat
by what you are doing here.

And I hope you'll keep on in that
direction for more fairness, for competitiveness,
and more equity.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Rick Fernau, Mayor
for the city of Show Low.

RICK FERNAU: Thank you.

Rick Fernau, mayor of Show Low. That's
F, as in Frank, e-r-n-a-u.

And I do want to thank you all for the
job you are doing. I don't feel you're corrupt.

And I also -- I'm sure you didn't, you
didn't ask -- necessarily ask for these positions.
You did not pick the membership of this committee.

However, when we look for
representations, especially in the rural areas three
from Pima and two from the state of Maricopa, it's
kind of hard to feel that, you know, rural is going
to get a fair shake.

I'm here to talk about Legislative
District 5, and I basically just want to ditto the
comments made by Mayor Hatch of Taylor. I think he did a good job. Also Navajo County Supervisor, David Tenney. I think he hit the mark. And then also Mayor Rich Crockett of Pinetop-Lakeside.

We do share a lot of common interests. I think it's very unreasonable -- it's not practical to be thinking of splitting up Navajo County into three pieces.

The north/south option I also agree with and also I have a letter that we sent to the Commission dated July 27th asking to keep Legislative District 5 as close as possible to its existing boundary.

And then also the city council also passed a resolution, 16, August 2011, stating basically the same, and I'll give those to you just in case you weren't in receipt of it.

And I prefer -- and this is just my preference, option 1 version 8a, which was apparently a draft which you came up with on October 3rd for Legislative District 5.

So I'll give those three copies to you.

And once again, thank you for what you are doing. I know it is difficult, but I do feel that there should have been some representation from
rural on the committee. At least one.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Holly Hanson, representing self, from Pinetop-Lakeside.

HOLLY HANSON: Holly Hanson, H-o-l-l-y, H-a-n-s-o-n.

I want to thank the Commission for your hours and hours of work, and especially the chairwoman, who I think has taken a lot of attacks when she's only trying to do her best, as I'm sure all of the commissioners are.

Although both maps which have been presented are an improvement over previous maps, I'm in favor of even a larger number of competitive districts in both the congressional districts and the legislative districts.

When a district is noncompetitive and is considered a Republican or Democratic district, as many as two-thirds of the people in that district are essentially disfranchised. You've heard that word before.

They have no -- the people in that district then have no compelling reason to vote or keep informed on the candidates and the issues. This does not make for a strong democracy.
When competitiveness is being established, I urge the Commission to look at voter behavior, not just voter registration.

In past elections, when I have been canvassing -- I have visited many people who were registered as Democrats, yet when I spoke to them about candidates, many of them said "I couldn't vote for a Democrat" or I couldn't vote for blank, giving the name of the Democratic candidate.

This was always based on a single issue, not the entire array of issues.

So these peoples' voter registration information did not give the whole story.

In the legislative district, I am in favor of Flagstaff being included with the White Mountain area.

The White Mountains share a community of interest with Flagstaff in the -- particularly in natural resources. When I look at the fire season, infrastructure, tourism, and the Northern Arizona Council of Governments.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Barbara Smith, representing self from Pinetop.
BARBARA SMITH: I'm Barbara Smith, and
I'll bet you don't need me to spell the last name.
I'm speaking on behalf of
cOMPETITIVENESS.
I know that you are trying to make it as
competitive as possible, and I appreciate what
you've done, but I think that since -- at the moment
it looks like in the congressional districts, there
are only three that are actually competitive. There
really should be four so that it is a little more
evenly competitive.

And when you look at the legislative
districts, it looks like the legislative districts
only have one that is really competitive.

That isn't quite the way democracy is
supposed to work. It does disenfranchise people.
It gives people who are Independent less voice.
Gives people who are Republicans or Democrats less
voice.

If the Commission has decided that it is
a noncompetitive district, one way or the other,
then it seems that you have made the decision
instead of the voters.

And I know you're working hard not to
have that happen, and I appreciate it, but I hope
that you would make it more competitive.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Chester Crandell, representing self from Navajo County.

CHESTER CRANDELL: Thank you.

My name is Chester Crandell. I live in Heber-Overgaard, Navajo County, and I appreciate the opportunity of being able to address the Commission.

Here, again, like others, I appreciate what you do. It's a thankless job. It's a hard job. It's one that you're danged if you do and danged if you don't. You still -- you're caught in the middle.

I want to bring attention to the fact as we went through the beginning of the presentation here, there was a list of six things that the Commission had to look at in order to set the new boundaries in the way they need to be. And one of those was competitiveness.

But if you look at the bottom, the last one on there, F, on there, competitivism should be used only when it did not deter or affect the other five that were there.

And I think throughout this whole
process, either through the media or through peoples' comments, that competitivism has become the big issue. And that we tried to -- through redistricting, we tried to even out everything that's there.

And I'm not sure that that's true. And I don't think anyone has taken a look at how many Democrats or how many Republicans have voted for those who are in office today.

I would hope that whether you're a Democrat or whether you're an Independent or whether you're a Republican, you vote for people who are going to represent you the best in where you're at.

I think we're going to find it very difficult in using that one last bullet down there of competitivism to be able to meet the needs of some of the perceived needs that we see that we don't have enough Democrats representing people in the state of Arizona. I'm not sure that that can be legislated and we can draw boundaries to be able to do that.

The other thing is that in my view, the most important thing that we need and we need to look at are communities of interest because those are the things that are going to keep people
together. Those are the things that are going to keep this state moving. Those are the things that are going to be able to help us to rebound economically because we can work together, we know how each of us feel, how each of us think.

And so if you're going to pick one thing that would determine where district boundaries should be, whether it be legislative or whether it be congressional, it should be aligning those people who have common interests and common goals to get where they want to go.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sheryl Eaton, representing self from Lakeside.

SHERYL EATON: I'm Sheryl Eaton, S-h-e-r-y-l, E-a-t-o-n, from outside of Lakeside and the county.

And I do like the makeup of this Commission because it is not based on an already gerrymandered legislature making up boundaries, and I really appreciate it and I am grateful for you.

I am still emphasizing competitiveness.

I think if in this state there's a third and a third and a third, approximately of Republicans,
Democrats, and Independents, then the districts should reflect that, as best as possible and as -- from what I've heard of the congressional ones that are proposed, it's like four to two Republican/Democrat and then three competitive. I would like to see at least three, three, three, or as Barbara Smith suggested, two, two, four.

I'm not overly up on the legislative maps, but I do think that we have interests with Flagstaff. I can't really tell from these maps -- I can't see where Pinetop-Lakeside is exactly, but I do think that our area has interests with Flagstaff and other parts of Coconino County. So District 6 looks okay to me.

And I just really -- since I came to Arizona in 1975, I've often felt sort of the state-level disenfranchised. You know, I vote and I knew all the time, well, my guy -- my woman isn't going to win. So I favor competition.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Bobbi Peterson, president White Mountain Conservatives from Pinetop.

ROBERT PETERSON: It's Roberta, I go by Bobbi, B-o-b-b-i, P-e-t-e-r-s-o-n.
It's so interesting -- I'm sitting there and all the Democrats behind me have talked about competitiveness, and I have to address that, as Mr. Crandell did.

I think if the message gets out, and I think it does in Arizona, I think the voters are voting for the message that resonates with them.

And I'm sorry if your message is not resonating with most of the voters, but you cannot gerrymander this state in order to -- in order to make your message come out better than it is.

Concerning the congressional draft, it's way too big. I can't believe nobody has said that so far.

Congressional District 1, as we've had it, is way too big and now you've increased it and it goes all the way from Utah to Mexico and then almost all the way to the western border of our state.

This would be a disaster because our congressperson now cannot seem to get to his constituents like we would have him do.

He's been criticized for not visiting -- well, how do you visit a district that size?

And it was pointed out this morning in
Eagar that the staff and so forth for such a huge
district and the cost of it legislatively and
congressionally is the same as you've got a very
small geographic district in Maricopa. It just
doesn't make sense to have such a huge district.

And we have no commonality with
Flagstaff. I lived in Flagstaff for 19 years and
then moved to Pinetop 6 years ago and have been here
6 years. And there are so many differences.

No, I don't think we should be in the
same -- with Flagstaff at all.

And I do think that the idea of making
Arizona a blue state by gerrymandering is what's --
what we're seeing right now, the effort to do that.

And the idea that no one on this
Commission is rural is important.

And it is important to reveal the reasons
for combining the Native Americans.

At lunch today I spoke with a good Apache
friend who told me she doesn't understand why we're
trying to play the race card and pit the Native
Americans against the whites, but that's the way it
seemed to her and that's the way it seems to me.

Also, you may not be aware, but
Pinetop-Lakeside, Wagon Wheel, Show Low, they run
into each other. It's not like you can separate them easily. You don't know when you're in Lakeside going from Pinetop, you don't know when you're in Show Low. These have a common interest and they should have.

Concerning the legislative district map, I don't think Apache County has anything of common interests with Mohave County on the other side of the state. I think this is a disaster, this District 7. It's way too big.

And the comments have been made about the common interests are the most important consideration.

The White Mountains have so much common interests in Southern Apache and in Southern Navajo, we need to really back what these mayors have said and so forth.

So I urge you to not worry about the competitiveness because it's -- whatever is the best message or the people will prevail.

And I am sorry if I'm in the majority or I'm in the minority or whatever, we just have to work to get the message out and then back what the citizens say.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is
Dixie Dana, representing self from Snowflake.

DIXIE DANA: My name is Dixie Dana. I'm from Snowflake, Navajo, Arizona.

And I didn't know when I signed the yellow paper that I would be up here in front of everybody. I should have signed the blue one, but as long as I'm here, I've heard everybody talking against the new proposal. I haven't heard one person agree with it.

And also I heard about Google, Internet, and all of this kind of media. Why was not the local newspapers advertised about these meetings like the Silver Creek, the Independent?

And I agree with most everything that's been said today.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Harvey Akeson, representing self from Pima.

HARVEY AKESON: Harvey Akeson, A-k-e-s-o-n.

And, yeah, I live in Pima County.

Registered to vote there, but I have a second home up here in Apache County.

Madame Chairman and members of the
Commission, I want to thank you for your work. I know it's not easy, that problems come up, but I want to talk about just one thing, the congressional maps.

On the congressional maps, if you do decide to change some of them, picture not who is in congress now, but who would be representing the congressional district.

Is that person going to seek a position on the Interior Affairs Committee, the Military Committee, or what committee is the common interests of that district?

Are we going to put the Yuma military into Tucson Daivs-Monthan military and Fort Huachuca? Are we going to have Bureau of Land Management areas together as areas of common interests?

The congressional district should represent somewhat what the congressional district will seek out in congress so that the common interest is the thing that are in the district.

And I hope you look at that, and I thank you for all of your hard work.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Lynne Breyer,
LYNNE BREYER: My name is Lynne Breyer, L-y-n-n-e, B-r-e-y-e-r.

I hate to read this, but it's so long and I'm afraid I'll get rang, but I'm going to read it any way.

First I would like to thank you, sir, for the beginning presentation where you showed the language of Prop 106 because I personally feel that has been totally ignored. So I'm glad to see that that was up there and perhaps some of the people in this room will take note of that.

I want to speak on several issues. First, I want to speak on geographic compactness.

I want to tell that you District 1 is shaped like a backwards C, not compact. So -- and at this time I think because it allows more Democrats to be packed into this district.

I spent my time between -- I split my time between Scottsdale and Pinetop. So I have an interest in District 1 as well as where I live in Scottsdale.

And District 1 is gerrymandered all over the place. There is no possible way that one
representative can properly represent District 1 as it's now drawn, with urban areas that have completely different needs and interests and with -- than rural areas.

So how can one representative, number one, get around to this entire district?

And number two, how can they represent people who have such different interests?

They can't do it. So you have essentially given District 1 an opportunity to have no representation for at least half or more of the people. I don't think that's what Prop 106 was designed to do.

It was passed in 2000 by people with a spirit of optimism that this process was going to be improved over time. And, in fact, this is the worst I can remember in the 28 years I've lived here.

So I hope this is not the final map because it doesn't work.

District 2 divides Cochise County and bumps along the southern border where a majority of Democrats are registered. There's no reason to divide Cochise County. It's a small county. It has a common interest with Santa Cruz County and it should not be put into -- any part of that should
not be put into District 1 and it should have its own district.

District 3 rambles east and west and north and south and all over the place and picks up part of Maricopa County. That's not compact. Come on, guys.

District 9 snakes all the way from Tempe all the way up to North Phoenix. I understand that that was done to make sure that -- it was a gift to Mr. Schapira, who I believe appointed you, Ms. McNulty, and I don't think that that is appropriate.

District 4 includes the river areas and the northwest corner of the state and then it goes down south. Well, that's great, that works, except that then it shoots across the state and picks up, for Pete's sake, Fountain Hills. Fountain Hills and San Tan Valley do not belong with the north quarter of the state. It just doesn't happen. That's not compact.

So I don't see very many districts that meet the criteria for compactness.

D, communities of interest. It's the same story. You failed in Flagstaff. Flagstaff has nothing in common with the rural communities in
District 1. We've already covered that. I think you should know that. I think you knew that when you were drawing the maps.

Most of this district will not be represented either. Flagstaff is not going to get representation if the rural areas do.

So that -- and the people in Flagstaff don't -- they don't want to be in a rural area. They don't have anything in common then there. They just don't want it. And you guys need to listen to somebody other than the mayor of Flagstaff because people count.

All right. I'm going to observe that buzzer but I'm going to go ahead and say this at the end.

Paragraph 15 of the Prop 106 says: Party registration and voting history data shall be excluded from the initial phase of the mapping process but may be used to test maps for compliance with the above goals. That's A through F. All of those goals.

And incumbents -- the residence of incumbents and candidates shall not be identified or considered.

But that was ignored as well.
And I just want to say one other thing.

If this map stands, I cannot imagine that the people of Arizona are going to sit tight and let this happen to all of us who vote.

Democrats represent 30 percent of the registrations, Republicans represent 36 percent of the registrations, and the balance is Independents and P and Ds.

So the fact that you have not been competitive with CD 1, which was competitive and now is not. We'll never get another competitive race going in Congressional District 1. Maybe not in some of the other districts either.

So I would appreciate it if you guys would go back and look at what you have done here and think about the people, the people of Arizona who vote. That's what you should be interested in.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Richard Breyer, representing self from Navajo.

RICHARD BREYER: My name is Richard Breyer. Last name is B-r-e-y-e-r.

I would like to address what the Commission has done in three different areas.
One, competitiveness -- excuse me, compact and -- compact and contiguous, community of interest, and also the independent nature -- supposedly independent nature of the committee.

First of all, Commissioner McNulty, as my wife already alluded to, was appointed by District 9, Senator Schapira and has drawn the map to his benefit.


Large areas of Mesa on the map are zig-zagged through Tempe and east -- North Phoenix, Maricopa, Eloy, Casa Grande and then put in with the Four Corners. Flagstaff district goes all the way to the Mexican border.

I don't think Salvador Dali could have put together a more bizarre configuration of districts. I'm surprised we haven't put in parts of San Francisco in this.

In my opinion, the Commission is an alter ego of the Democratic party. And I believe, Ms. Mathis, if she considers herself to be an Independent, then would say also Barney Frank and
Chuck Schwimmer could fall into that category also.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Ann Yarmal, representing self from Show Low.

ANN YARMAL: Ann Yarmal, Y-a-r-m-a-l.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Can you speak into the mic?

ANN YARMAL: In today's Arizona Republic, it was noted that in a recent Gallup Poll, Arizona was listed as the most evenly split state in the nation in terms of partisan loyalties.

I wish to support efforts to establish the legislative districts that truly reflect equal partisan representation.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Eli Blake, representing self from Navajo.

ELI BLAKE: E-l-i, B-l-a-k-e.

This morning I went to my first ever meeting of this group in Eagar and I decided to come back.

I had a little bit of an insight, but just to show how this works, I actually think
there's a gentleman over here who had a much better idea in terms of both the concern I raised in the I-40 communities and being able to include Winslow and possibly also Pinetop-Lakeside, which is not to split up Gila County so many ways.

Why does District 6 need to have a thumbprint in Gila County?

That's the main thing I wanted to say. The other thing I wanted to address was competitiveness.

State Representative Crandell suggested when he spoke that the idea of competitiveness being listed number six on the list meant it should be deemphasized.

When you make a shopping list, you have to put something first and you have to put something last.

I think the first two on the list are federally mandated. I don't know of any place where it says that the others need to be put in any particular order or not. Just when you make a list, it has to be in some order in particular.

The last thing I would like to mention, and I really do want to emphasize this.

I've heard a lot of comments that I don't
really feel are very polite. And when I first moved into Navajo County, into Joseph City quite a few years ago, it had just rained five inches very recently. A lot of people were flooded out of their homes.

Nobody knew us and a whole lot of people showed up to help us move in. That's the kind of people we have in Navajo County. And we've heard a lot of accusatory and angry remarks and very rude remarks. And I don't want the commissioners to feel that that's the kind of people we have, because we don't. We have some wonderful people here.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Dara Vanesian — sorry if I mispronouncing — representing Pinetop-Lakeside — oh, from the town council.

DARA VANESIAN: Representing myself, but yes.

And it's D-a-r-a, Vanesian, V-a-n-e-s-i-a-n.

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Dara Vanesian, and I am a Pinetop-Lakeside town council member.

As you drove through this beautiful
venue, you probably came through Show Low to get here. You had to notice these communities are contiguous. And despite their football rivalry, they have one community of interest.

The White Mountain Apache, Pinetop-Lakeside, Round Valley, Heber-Overgaard, Snowflake, Taylor, and Show Low are inextricably tied together in the tourism industry. Their economies are dependent upon one another.

The Apache resort we're in today is a member of the Pinetop-Lakeside Marketing Organization. The chambers of commerce of these towns cooperate on only a single paired gift certificate program.

Those communities plus Holbrook, Winslow, St. Johns have formed REAL Arizona to develop job-based -- develop base jobs anywhere among them.

Yet the legislative map currently in place has separated Pinetop-Lakeside and Show Low into different districts.

Show Low's new district formed suddenly over the weekend of October 1st, is almost exactly the same salamander shape as the 1812 Massachusetts' district that inspired the name gerrymandering.

Clearly it was drawn upon only to create
certain voting preferences, which we believe are unfair to this area and designated to give certain political parties and other groups a competitive advantage.

Former U.S. Attorney Dennis Burke wrote in the Arizona Republic this summer that when he drafted the initiative that created your Commission, competitive districts were the last thing on his behind.

He said that after complying with one man, one vote and the Department of Justice requirements regarding minorities, communities of interest should rank first among districting concerns.

In the eastern state -- east part of the state have a rural community of interest and have been perfectly happy with the representation in the house and the senate.

We have districts that needed minimal tinkering to get the required population for new districts, and yet suddenly we are being carved up into four new districts.

I urge you to consider our community of interest and rethink this legislative map.

Thank you for your time and
consideration.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Judy Gurley representing self from Apache.

JUDY GURLEY: Judy, J-u-d-y, Gurley, G-u-r-l-e-y.

And I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I feel like this may be the last time my voice will be heard.

We see in this map that I have before me is -- goes into effect, I will have a minority voice.

I think that you people that are sitting there are patriots and you care about this country. You care. The decisions has been for the people who live here. Otherwise, you wouldn't be sitting there. Am I right?

I'm sixty -- I'll be 66 years old this coming month and I can stand here before you and tell you I have never missed an election. I have always voted. And even when the East Coast was telling us who won, I still voted for my candidate.

This is America. Every single individual in this country counts. Everybody gets one vote and
those votes should be equal.

Now, if I sound a little upset, it's because the largest district in the state on this map is District 7, and I'm in District 7. And the highest population, 273,582 Hispanics are voters -- registered voters in this district with 130,155 whites. I'm part of that rural voice that this map ignores.

I would not even have known about this meeting today except that I was at a neighborhood function yesterday and I learned about it. And I cannot express to you the hopelessness that people feel.

I do want to thank you for all of your work. I know you can't make everyone happy, but I remember something being said about as the districts are being drawn up -- am I correct, that they were drawn up so that minorities would have a voice? Do I remember saying that -- or hearing that?

So I ask you to reconsider and I also would like to say that I agree with most everything that has been said by our mayors, by our community. I feel like I'm a citizen of the White Mountains. I shop in Show Low, Pinetop-Lakeside, Springerville.

I've got friends everywhere, and I have
concerns about all of them, not just the ones who
are neighbors out there in rural Apache County.
There's a lot of really good people up here who
care, and I would like to see everybody's vote
count.

I'll still vote, but if it doesn't count
for anything, it's not going to be on me.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Jill Skaufel,
representing self from Apache.

JILL SKAUFEL: That's Jill, J-i-l-l,
Skaufel, S-k-a-u-f, as in Frank, e-l.

I am from the Concho of Apache County. I
want to go on the record that I agree wholeheartedly
with Mayor Hatch, Chairman Tenney, Terry Hill,
Chester Crandell, Bobbi Peterson, and Lynne Breyer.

Please do not separate the towns of St.
Johns, Concho, Vernon, and Eagar from the Show Low,
Taylor, Snowflake towns with whom we share community
interests.

I'm in agreement with the north/south
option, and I want to ask the question how a
candidate is going to run a campaign in Legislative
District 7? It's huge.
The last time I looked in the dictionary, I believe the word "compact" meant small.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And this is my last request to speak form, just so everyone knows. So if I missed anyone or if you would like to fill out a request to speak form, please do so.

The next speaker is Lowry Flake, representing self from Snowflake.

Is it Lowry?

LOWRY FLAKE: Correct. Lowry, L-o-w-r-y, no e, Flake.

Madame Chairman and members of the Commission, I appreciate very much the opportunity to participate in this important process, and I support what has been said by Chairman Tenney and Mayor Hatch. It's good to see that at least two of my students have turned out so well.

I am deeply offended by the idea of hyphenated Americans.

I don't know who did it. I don't know why they did it, but I am deeply offended.

I am an American. I was born an American. I plan, partisanship notwithstanding, to
1 die an American.

My great-grandfather came to this country in 1878. The last I checked, that was long before Arizona was a state.

We are involved in a very important process. As a fourth-generation American, I support the work ethic and personal compassion and charity over the cradle-to-death welfare state.

I support thrift and self-control over debt.

I support honesty, integrity, and personal honor over greed, corruption, and political advantage.

I support stewardship and the wise use of our God-given natural resources over the religion of radical environmentalism.

I support the traditional timeline and Judeo-Christian values over humanism and relativism.

I support life over the culture of death.

Again, I am an American. I strongly support communities of interest as a means of strengthening the traditional family, preserving our inalienable rights under the rule of law and ensuring that every life in our state and nation has the opportunity to be lived under the United States
Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I received one more request to speak form.

Naomi White, from Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

NAOMI WHITE: Good afternoon, Madame Chair and commissioners.

Thank you for listening to the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and also thank you to the communities of Pinetop-Lakeside for having us here as well as Show Low and the surrounding communities.

I would just like to speak to a few points.

Everybody spoke about federal requirements of equal population and also the Voting Rights Act.

And as you know, that's something that the Navajo Nation Human Right Commission strongly advocates compliance with, especially in regard to the Native American voting-age population, we would still like it to remain at least at 62 percent within the legislative district and also at 20.5 percent within the congressional district.
And however the maps are drawn to accommodate the population, that's primarily what your job is. And we thank you and support you and the difficulty of your job.

Also I would like to speak to the requirement of compactness.

Most people don't know that compactness does not mean in terms of geography, that the districts must be compact. It actually means in terms of population, that the districts have to remain equal. So I would just like to clarify that point.

Also, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission and the Navajo Nation agrees that communities of interest are a primary concern among the voters and also their primary interests among our commission as well.

We've heard several people speak about rural communities. And as you know, you visited Window Rock yesterday and that is one of our largest cities within the Navajo Nation. And if we want to talk about ruralness, then we invite you to come out to the very rural parts of the Navajo Nation where there is one house per five square miles and people reside in places that don't have electricity or
running water or paved roads and there's multiple livestock about.

And those infrastructure interests are presumably a lot alike in what others are calling rural communities.

We also have natural resource concerns. We also have infrastructure concerns, concerns with water. And how we address those is -- we would not like to take an adversarial position, but within the same district, we're faced -- and we're faced with the possibility and the likelihood of having to address those issues to one representative.

And with that, we would all, I'm sure, like a representative that's fair and balanced as the competing interest that one another has in regard to geographical areas, and that just remains to be seen.

However, we would just like to request that this Commission continue to adhere to the federal requirements as well as the state requirements with regard to Voting Rights Act, the U.S. Constitution and also the Arizona Constitution.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Well, I think that concludes public
comment, unless there's anybody else who would like
to address the Commission.

Okay. Seeing -- hearing none, I will ask
my fellow commissioners if they would like to say
anything.

I'll ask my fellow commissioners if they
would like to say anything. I think I gave Vice
Chair Freeman the floor first this morning in Eagar,
so I'll switch out to Commissioner McNulty.

COMMISSIONER MCNULTY: Thank you.

Thank you all for coming this afternoon
and spending a Saturday with us.

This is a very complicated and difficult
but important process. We have a number of criteria
that we need to satisfy.

And as folks have said, some of them are
in conflict with one another. A good example of
that, I think, is the effort that we're engaged in
to really focus on creating rural districts but at
the same time because of the way ruralness is, that
involves creating districts that cover a large area
territory.

So on the one hand, unless we tie the
rural district into the urban area, the rural
districts are going to be fairly large. And I think
that's a balance that we're trying to achieve. So we appreciate your comments about that.

And we hope you continue to follow the process and give us your input.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

Vice Chair Freeman.

VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks everyone for coming out today and speaking with us. This is a special part of the state for me.

I was born and raised in Phoenix. I drove up this morning to Eagar for our hearing earlier today. It's one of the most beautiful drives in the state.

I saw a large herd of antelope north of 260. And why is it -- I asked myself, why is it I always see the wildlife when I'm lacking a hunting tag. I come up here a lot to hunt.

After our hearing this morning, I drove up on US60 towards Show Low on the Verde McNary Road, down through the forest just to experience the forest a little bit.

It's a part of the state I really like.

I've been coming up to this part of the
state since the late '60s when I was a small boy and my folks had a place up here.

And, yes, I remember when Pinetop was Pinetop and Lakeside was Lakeside and Show Low was Show Low. Now they all run together.

I remember when if you were stuck in the snow on a dirt road, and a lot of them were dirt roads, you were stuck in the snow.

I say that not to pretend that I know your communities like you do. I could never hope to do that, but what I want you to know is a lot of what was said does resonate with me because of the long time I have spent up here.

And I do hope that -- the Commission has put out two draft maps and the commissioners have all said one way or the other that these are drafts that are being put out so the public has something to comment on.

And after this comment period, the Commission is going to go back to work and I really hope the Commission focuses in on the communities of interest because there are some aspects of where the lines have been drawn up here that we've heard some comments about it, that perhaps need to be looked at to see if adjustments are appropriate and to look at
how the counties are treated up here in Eastern Arizona.

And I do hope all of the commissioners do that, take all of the public comments into consideration and all of the public comment and apply the constitutional criteria and we'll get some fair maps that we can go to a vote on as our final maps for the next ten years.

Thank you again for coming today.

CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

And I also thank all of you for participating in the process. The only way that we can make these maps better is by hearing from the public throughout the state, and you're part and parcel of that. And we really appreciate it and we appreciate your input in the first round of hearings, too. We had great deal turnout then.

I also see some faces in the crowd from Eagar group this morning. Thank you all for making the trek and following us to this afternoon meeting.

And we're going to have another meeting on Monday, for anybody who would like to go to that. We've got Tuba City at 9 a.m., Mountain Standard Time in the morning, and then in the evening we'll be in the Prescott Valley Public Library.
So you're welcome to join us. And if you don't want to drive that far, you can always follow us on the Internet.

You should be able to -- not always does it work, but we try to stream every meeting that we can over the Internet so that people can watch the process from home.

We don't always have the capability and bandwidth to be able to do that, but we strive for that. So hopefully it will work on Monday from Tuba City and then Prescott.

So with that, there's only one thing left on the agenda and that's adjournment.

So at 4:52 p.m., I declare this hearing adjourned.

Thank you.

(The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 81 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 27th day of October, 2011.

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MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637