ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Friday, October 21, 2011
6:03 p.m.

Location
Gila County Courthouse
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
1400 East Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501

Attending
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel
Bruce Adelson, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: We'll start the hearing.

It is 6:03 p.m. This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will please come to order.

It is October 21st, 2011. And we are in Globe, Arizona.

Won't you all please rise and join me in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you all for coming out on this fine evening to meet with us, and we look forward to hearing your comments later tonight.

Before I begin with any of our introductions, I'd like to comply with federal law. We have translation services available.

And I would like to ask our -- first our Spanish translator, Francisco Melendez, to come up to the podium and read an announcement in English and Spanish offering those
services.

FRANCISCO MELENDEZ: Chair Freeman, commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a translator interpreter will be available for all the public meetings in order to provide translating interpreting services that might be needed for those citizens that need translating or interpreting services. Please contact the translator present at this meeting so that he can assist you.

(Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in Spanish.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Now I'd like to invite Josephine Goode to read a similar announcement in Apache.

JOSEPHINE GOODE: I'll read in English. No one is Apache here.

I'm teasing.

Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

(Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in Apache.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Well, again welcome, everyone. This hearing is part of round two of the public comment hearings the Commission has conducted. This, this round of public comment is designed to get input on the two draft maps that the Commission has published, the congressional draft map
and the legislative draft map.

My name is Scott Freeman. I'm one of the five commissioners. I serve as vice chair.

To my right is Commissioner Richard Stertz.

The other commissioners -- not all commissioners attend these public comment hearings. We've got 26 of them over -- scheduled over about a three-week period, so it's not really feasible for all of us to come to every single hearing.

But this hearing, like all our other hearings, is recorded on video and is live streamed over the Internet.

And I know that the few hearings I haven't been able to make it to, I've watched from either my office or home.

And I'm sure our other commissioners, our chair Colleen Mathis, our co-vice chair Jose Herrera, and Commissioner Linda McNulty, will be watching this either at their homes or at their leisure because it is recorded and preserved on the Internet.

I'd like to continue with a few other introductions.

To my left is the Commission's legal counsel, Mary O'Grady, our -- the Commission's voting rights consultant, Bruce Adelson.

To my right is Korinne Belock who is from
Strategic Telemetry, the mapping consultant firm for the Commission.

We have behind that box over there Buck Forst, our technology -- actually I'm not sure what his title is, technology expert.

And everything that we -- is being said today is being -- become part of the Commission's record and is being taken down by our court reporter, Marty Herder.

And we have our assistant executive director, Kristina Gomez, sitting in the room with us.

And then I think outside as you came in you probably met our public outreach experts, Shane Shields and Karen Herrman.

And any of our staff is available to help you with anything, answer any questions you might have. And in addition, after we wrap up tonight, I'm happy to stay as late as we need to if anyone wants to talk and ask questions.

The purpose of today is to get comments from you, so we sit and listen and hear what your thoughts are on the draft maps.

Before we get to that, I'd like to turn the program over to Ms. Belock who's going to give a brief presentation about the redistricting process and how we've gotten to the point we are at.
KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Good evening. I'm Korinne Kubena Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be here this evening in Globe to discuss the draft congressional and legislative map presented by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

The goal of these meetings is to hear comments from you about these draft maps, so thank you for taking the time to attend on a Friday evening.

The draft maps that you'll see today are currently under a 30-day review period so the Commission can hear your opinion about these maps.

So before I get into the maps, I want to give you a quick overview of the redistricting process.

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

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

So a little bit about the requirements of the state constitution via Prop 106.

New district boundaries must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. They must have
equal population. And criteria A and B are federally mandated.

And then to the extent practicable the districts must be compact and contiguous, respect communities of interest, use visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and favor competitive districts where no significant detriment to other goals.

So just a bit about the Voting Rights Act now.

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

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

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

And finally the presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

So now I'd like to turn it over to Bruce Adelson who's advising the Commission on Voting Rights Act and
prec clearance for a few additional words about that.

BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you, Korinne.

Good evening, it's a pleasure to be back in Globe. I thought I would spend a couple minutes with you just to explain the federal requirements.

I had been a senior attorney for the United States Department of Justice nine years ago when the department objected to or blocked Arizona's legislative redistricting plan.

My team wrote the letter in May, 2002, that stopped the redistricting process on the legislative side, because in our examination we found that illegal discrimination against the rights of minority voters to elect whom they wanted to office.

In order for your plan to go into effect and for you to have legislative elections next year, the Department of Justice or the federal court in Washington, D.C., must approve or preclear the plan.

That's a federal law. The federal law cannot be avoided or minimized.

All of the criteria that you have under the state constitution, such as compactness, keeping communities of interest together, contiguity, and competitiveness, take second place to the federal criteria. Federal criteria must be adhered to for the department to preclear.
If they're not, they will object, like we did nine years ago, and the plan will not be put into effect.

So I thought it might be helpful for you to hear from my perspective tonight as a former federal law enforcement officer how the Department of Justice looks at your redistricting plan and how federal law requires the process that we've discussed as far as preclearance.

Thank you very much.

KORRINE KUBENA BELOCK: Yes. So moving on, before we get into maps, just a little bit more about the timeline of the Commission.

So earlier this year, step one, the Commission was established, and the commissioners were appointed about following a thorough screening process and serve in a voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

This evening, of course, we have Vice-Chair Scott Freeman and Richard Stertz.

And the other commissioners, Jose Herrera, Colleen Mathis, chair, and Linda McNulty, are watching on live stream I'm sure.

And then to the second round, the steps -- step two is the first round of hearings.

So before drawing a single line, which you'll see this evening, the Commission held 23 public hearings around the state in July and August to get input from members of
the public about issues related to redistricting, such as geography, communities of interest, minority voting rights, and competitiveness.

At that point the mapping began, after those first round of hearings.

And per Proposition 106, the Commission started with a blank slate, which we'll talk about a little bit more later.

They then divided the state into equal population in compact, grid-like districts. And the grid map was approved on August 18th.

Since adopting the maps, the Commission has met over -- more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid to accommodate all of the state constitutional criteria. And during this time they also received additional input from the public and draft maps from the public as well.

Approval of the draft maps came after that. On October 3rd, the Commission approved a draft congressional map that incorporated changes based on all five -- all of the constitutional criteria.

And they approved a draft, draft legislative map on October 10th.

Which bring us to the second round of hearings.

Currently the Commission is visiting 25 cities and towns
across the state to share the draft maps and receive addition input during the months of October and November.

Step five is the final maps are taken into account. So upon completion of the public comment period, the AIRC will adopt the final maps.

And in step six, which Bruce spoke about, is the preclearance process. So because Arizona, again, is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by the federal Department of Justice or the federal court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used for Arizona's elections.

So just moving on to the maps. To show how the Commission came to the draft maps that you'll see, we'll show you a progression of the maps.

So the map you see here was the congressional map that was used during the last Redistricting Commission -- that was approved by the last Redistricting Commission. It was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

Per Proposition 106, the Commission was required to start with a blank slate, which you see here. And they could not take into consideration any previous election districts or incumbents.

So after proposition -- also per Proposition 106, after the blank slate, the Commission developed a grid map, as I touched on earlier.
The grid map takes into account only two consideration of the six criteria, equal population and compactness.

So in August the Commission asked that two grid maps be drawn, and on August 18th they agreed upon option two, which you see here.

So after more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted to approve the draft map on the screen.

In addition to taking into consideration the six constitutional criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comment provided via public meetings, round one of public hearings, content -- comments mailed, e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and telephoned into the Commission. Basically any form of communication that they could get. And over 5,000 comments helped to develop the draft map you see.

Some of the highlights of the map, just to touch on briefly for you.

The draft map that you see here today creates two predominantly rural districts. It creates three border districts. It creates three districts in the greater Tucson area. Five districts that are entirely within Maricopa County. It avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations. And it creates two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect their -- the candidate of their
choice.

So moving on from the congressional draft map, the same process -- a very similar process was followed for the legislative draft map.

Much -- so what you see here is the legislative map from the last Commission, which was last used in the 2010 election.

Again, per Proposition 106 they moved on to the blank slate map, which you see, and then the legislative grid map.

Again, the grid map was approved in August, the legislative grid map. And similar to the congressional map, the grid map took only into consideration equal population and compactness.

Which leads to the legislative draft map.

Arizona has 30 legislative districts, and each district elects one senator and two house members.

Some other points about the legislative draft map to share with you tonight.

The Commission took into account population growth and reduction. So old districts ranged from 155,000 to 378,000 in population. The current draft map ranges from 207,000, to 215,000.

To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft plan includes ten districts in which minority voters should
have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

The draft map also includes three districts wholly within Pima County and three additional districts in southern Arizona districts. So three additional southern Arizona districts.

It created 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County and nine districts that are predominantly rural.

So, as we mentioned, the Commission definitely wants to hear what you have to say about these draft maps.

So there are many ways to make sure that your voice is heard.

You can go fill out a request to speak form at a public hearing and provide the Commission with your input. An example of input might include your thoughts on constitutional criteria or the congressional or legislative maps that you've seen tonight.

You can also submit your input by speaking at a hearing, filling out public input forms on the AIRC -- Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission website -- and just to give you that web address. Sometimes I forget to move this slide. Sorry about that.

So just the last piece here is you can visit the website at azredistricting.org or call (602)542-5221, or toll free at (855)733-7478. And, again, that's
So the Commission also definitely wants to make sure that you can stay connected throughout this process, and their website is a great place to do this. This is a screen shot of the Commission's website.

The arrows highlight a couple of key areas of interest.

So under meetings you can find future and past meetings. If you would like to see the deliberation that went into the draft maps, you can go and view the video from any date of those previous meetings.

If you would like to make comment, you can always use the public input form online and submit it that way.

And then, finally, if you'd like to view the maps, you can go to maps, and there are a couple ways to do it.

At the bottom, the bottom arrow will take you directly to the draft maps.

And so an example of -- as you click on those links there, the next screen that you're going to see is this.

It's a little small, but what it basically has all the file formats for the different types of map, for the maps. So it might have a JPEG file or a PDF file or the Google map file.
The KMZ Google link is circled in red, and that will take you to the Google map of -- Google map version of the draft maps, which I'll show you in a moment.

And it's on this screen actually.

So you click on that link that says KMZ on this screen, and then you're brought to a zoomed out version that says Arizona where you can view the districts.

Google maps is a great way to view the maps, the districts' lines that have been drawn, because you can zoom in and out to specific areas or boundaries that you're interested in looking into.

So what you see on this screen now is the draft congressional map. On the left you have an ability to turn on or off several different types of features. You can turn off features -- filters for counties. You can turn off different colors if you'd only like to focus on one district in particular.

Basically turning off those filters just allows you to view the area you want to look at much more closely. So that's the screen there.

Then, as you zoom in, which I mentioned, which is a great thing about Google maps, is you can see exactly what you're looking for.

So this slide shows you the zoomed in look on some of the districts surrounding Maricopa County.
And, again, you have the view -- the ability to zoom in and out, down to street level, your block, so you can see exactly where those boundaries run in your area.

So finally as I wrap this up, I want to highlight the Commission's website one more time. Azredistricting.org.

On the website, you can also, in addition to the things we talked about, you can draw maps, you can watch meetings, you can find out details about future meetings.

You can also if you're on -- in social media you can follow us on Twitter with the hash tag AIRC or you can friend us on Facebook and get constant updates there up to the minute.

So, in conclusion, thank you again for coming out tonight to be a part of this process.

A final point on these maps, copies can be found in the packet you received tonight.

And we also have poster size versions hanging in the back of room for both the congressional and legislative maps. You can see them a bit more clearly that way as well.

And I am available after the public comment period. If you have any questions regarding the maps or any question regarding how to access or the mapping process, please feel free to speak with me. And you can also talk to
any of the staff here. If you have questions about the map
or how to access those, from the Commission's website in

So I look forward to speaking with you and thanks

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Belock.

Before we get to public comment, I want to make

sure I say this if I neglected to do so at the beginning.

I really want to thank Gila County and the Gila

County Board of Supervisors and the town -- the City of

Globe for hosting us here today. It's a real -- it's my

privilege to be up here. It was a beautiful drive to come

up here, and I regret the fact that I'll be driving back

home in the dark but not get to see it on the way back.

But we'll go to public comment now. I have ten

request to speak forms. If you do want to address the

Commission, we ask that you please fill out one of these

yellow request to speak forms. They should be available on

the table just outside the door you came in.

If you don't want to come to the microphone and

speak to us tonight, you can still provide comments. The

package you received should have this blue form in the back,

and it asks you for information, and you can provide written

comments that way.

And you can leave it with Ms. Gomez before you
leave, or you can take it home and complete it at home and mail it to the Commission. Or, like Ms. Belock said, you can get on our website. There's a form there where you can actually provide comments through the website.

For public comment, what we'll do is because it looks like I have about ten now, I'd ask that everyone sort of limit your comments to about five minutes.

And, Buck, will you be able to time it?

And I think he's got a buzzer. If it goes off, don't worry. Just try to wrap it up so we're fair to everyone.

And when you come to the microphone, please don't be shy about wrestling that microphone and getting it right up to your mouth so that we can hear you and our court reporter can hear you and people watching the live stream can hear you. And state your name and then spell it so we get an accurate record.

And if I haven't already said so, in announcing, you just tell us who you're here representing, yourself or some other organization, and where you're from. Just county or town. Don't give us -- we don't need a street address.

And with that, I'd ask our first speaker to come to the microphone, State Representative Lynne Pancrazi, who is from Yuma, and representing her constituents.

I am here representing my constituents. Rural Arizona is -- makes up 22 percent of the state of Arizona, and it's very important that we have rural legislators. When it's spoken that predominantly rural, that doesn't mean that they're from rural Arizona -- I mean, districts.

It says -- the one that I'm concerned about, of course, is Yuma County. Yuma County not only looks like it's going to be split, but it also is going to be attached to Maricopa County.

I am very concerned that we will dilute the voice of rural Arizona, and in my case, in Yuma County, we will absolutely silence it, because there is enough from the numbers -- there is enough Maricopa County residents to be able to swing the elections, and the voice of rural Arizona and Yuma County will not be heard.

So that's why I'm here.

I'm asking you to please tweak those maps so that Yuma County and several others are actual rural counties. They have rural representatives.

There are 15 of us now at the legislature, and we meet. We get together regardless of party and make sure that the issues for rural Arizona are heard.
We can't always make them happen, but we can make sure that they're heard.

And without making sure that the rural counties are represented, and we will be silenced, and that will be a detriment to the state of Arizona.

So with that, I would appreciate if you would tweak your maps and take Maricopa out of Districts 13 and 4.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Our next will be Fernando Shipley, mayor of Globe.


And I am here representing the constituents of Globe.

We have proposed slightly different maps. I think they've been provided for you.

Basically what we're trying to do is keep our district pretty much as intact as we can.

One of the things that we also did to modify the map slightly is that we looked at communities of interest. We considered that mining communities should be considered a community of interest. So if you'll look at that map, you'll see that we also proposed to bring in Superior, Hayden, Winkelman, and Kearny.

I am aware that Kearny has endorsed a different
plan that puts them into Pinal County. But with that, we
basically looked at mining as a very important aspect of our
community.

We'd like to have representation that is sensitive
to those needs and rural Arizona.

We have several communities that have endorsed
these plans, as well as the City of Globe has also endorsed
those plans. So we would just like you to consider them.

We're just concerned, as is the representative,
that rural voices will be diluted.

If we go into metro areas and then spread out,
that we think we'll end up having metro representatives that
don't really need to listen to us to get elected. That's a
big concern to us.

Rural areas have a lot of common issues, common
concerns. And we'd like to see some rural representation.

So thank you very much for giving us the
opportunity.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you. And, Mayor, did
you have maps with you tonight that you provided?

MAYOR FERNANDO SHIPLEY: Yes, Mr. Bryant has maps,
and we'll make sure we get those to you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Great.

And I should have mentioned, if anyone has any
written materials or maps that they would like to submit,
they can get them to Ms. Gomez, and the Commission will
receive it, and it will become part of our record.

   Next speaker will be Steve Erhart, councilman,
town of Eagar.

COUNCILMAN STEVE ERHART: My name is Steve Erhart.
I'm here representing the Town of Eagar.


I want to thank you first for all your work on the
redistricting. I know it's a pretty difficult task.

And I would like to present to you a resolution of
the mayor and council of the town of Eagar urging you, the
Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, to keep rural
Arizona together by considering and adopting the proposed
district maps that we have provided.

And I think it's the same ones that you've got.

The legislative district option one, version 8A,
supported by our resolution, is the best choice for Eagar
and many other areas represented here tonight.

Our mining, ranching, and timber resources are of
interest to us all and is the life blood of many of our
communities.

We share those interests and should be able to
elected people to serve us with those common interests.

After the Wallow fire, it's more important than
ever for us in eastern Arizona to be united in our
legislative representation. And that's what we believe option one version 8A does for us.

I'd also like to voice a few concerns about your congressional district map, if you could.

Any way you could put it up?

KORRINE KUBENA BELOCK: Yes.

COUNCILMAN STEVE ERHART: It seems to me that with 13 rural counties we should be able to form at least two truly rural congressional districts.

We have over one and a half million people in rural Arizona. That should be enough to form at least two rural congressional districts without including us with metro Phoenix or metro Tucson.

Apache County should be tied to an area that we share more interest and commonality with.

I'm concerned that Congressional District 1, as you have mapped, is tied to the suburban area of Tucson like Marana, Oro Valley, and Saddlebrooke.

In fact, it appears that all nine congressional districts are linked to metro Phoenix or metro Tucson in some fashion.

We feel this takes away competitiveness. And we in the rural areas want to have a voice and want to be able to elect a candidate from rural Arizona.

We don't want to be controlled by any single
metropolitan area.

I'm concerned that five counties are split up. Pinal, Cochise, Gila, Pima, and Yavapai Counties are chopped up in what appears to be an effort to keep Coconino County whole for some reason.

And as you said earlier, our constitution says that when practicable district lines shall be visible geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

And that's not what I see here.

If there is really a desire to give rural Arizona a voice, don't put us with Pima County where we -- that we share nothing with.

I just want to close by saying the Town of Eagar supports the proposed eastern rural congressional district that you got from us now in resolution form.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next speaker I have is Chip Wilson, council member, City of Apache Junction.

CHIP WILSON: I'm Chip Wilson, C-H-I-P, Wilson, W-I-L-S-O-N.

City council member from Apache Junction.

I want to voice my opinion of my constituents as well as our neighbors of Gold Canyon, San Tan Valley, and
the eastern part of Queen Creek.

We do not understand why we've been included in District 4, the Colorado River communities.

I could not attend the meeting that was done in Chandler, so I -- this past Tuesday, so I drove up here to represent my constituents and talk to you concerning this.

On my way up here, I passed through Superior and then into Miami and Globe. And in actuality, Apache Junction has more in common with these communities because there's a lot of our people that have worked or currently work in the copper industry.

With the possibility of Resolution Copper opening, and new opportunities, even more of our citizens will be working in this endeavor.

We also have Empire Industries. They are looking at providing a lot of the equipment, and that's inside our city as well.

We're -- even coming to the recreation, we're not in common with what the river communities are.

I myself have lived inside the city, but we also have a rural part of our community.

And I own horses.

And there's a lot of us in the entire area that own horses and are part of the rural area.

That includes the San Tan Valley and the eastern
part of Queen Creek.

And we believe that we should be kept with part of Pinal County and all should be part of going together.

We have seen the proposed map that was given to you by Pinal County Government Alliance. And as elected officials from the city of Apache Junction, we support this proposed map.

I understand that you have included an area in the district -- included us in the District 4 because Flagstaff area did not want to be included in the western district.

Really, truthfully, our population is actually bigger than the Flagstaff area. And we don't feel that our input or concerns were involved in this.

We feel that District 4 does not meet four of the requirements given to this Commission. Of course that's compactness, communities of interest, geological features, and competitiveness.

Over competitiveness is really in a sense you look at the voting record on it, and it's become a very Republican district. Very heavily.

We are a community that share our interests and our recreational pleasures with the rural areas of Pinal County.

And we ask that you look at this and take us into very serious consideration.
We want to thank you for all your work that you're doing, and we feel that our input is taken seriously, and we hope that we will have a better map in the future.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next speaker is George Lemen, mayor of Pima.

MAYOR GEORGE LEMEN: Hi there. Hope you all are having a good evening.

My name is George Lemen, G-E-O-R-G-E, L-E-M-E-N. I'm the mayor of the town of Pima.

We, the Town of Pima, sent you guys a letter about two months ago with our own drawing of what we would like to have done in this redistricting.

We don't feel like the maps that you have now you took into consideration the community of interest.

We're rural. We drive by cotton fields to go to work and our town and our mine or in the other mine over in Greenlee County.

One map associates us with south Phoenix. Another map associates us with south Tucson.

And that's -- neither of those are good.

We go to Tucson to the doctor. We go to the Phoenix to the doctor.

Sometimes we go for a good meal. Sometimes we go so my wife can shop somewhere other than Wal-Mart, but hey.
But that's, that's the way it is. So we don't associate with those people in those cities. Except for my one son. They come out to us for a little bit of recreation, and then they go back. And they leave us their junk. We don't feel like this is a really good situation. And we think that you didn't take into consideration three of the things that you were supposed to, but we don't think that you've taken that one into consideration at all.

So, thank you for letting me speak to you tonight. I'll leave this map with her again. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

The next speaker is James -- and I'm sorry, I can't read the last name. McCawlly? Is that even close? Looks like representing self, from Globe.

JAMES MCCAWLEY: That was very close. McCawley, M-C-C-A-W-L-E-Y. James, common spelling.

I would like to say I appreciate the work that everybody's been putting in on this. I can't imagine the almost impossibility of trying to please everybody.

And I know that many people here in the Globe area
and Gila County are not pleased, including myself.

On the first map, the congressional map, Gila County is a small county. Not too populous. It has a very large attraction for each other.

The north part and the southern part of the county fight quite a bit.

But when it comes to the county, we're all one county, and we know it. And we're proud of it.

But now we're split in two.

One of us, the southern half of the county, goes into District 1, Congressional District 1. And the northern half goes into, I think, four.

Pardon me.

Goes into four.

But even worse than that is the one with the legislative map where we're cut into three portions.

Like I say, it's a small county. We're less than a hundred miles from one end to the other, anywhere from probably 30 miles one side to the other. So 300 square miles. That's small.

And our population is, what, under 100,000 people. And we're cut into three. That gives us a complete loss of power when it comes down to the state.

It cuts our power in congress. Because we're -- in the southern part of the county here we'd be voting with
Pinal County. As far as the legislature -- state legislature is concerned.

And the northern half would be voting with the large group that runs almost around to Yuma.

I'm not blaming or saying that the Commission gerrymandered, but that came up with a -- I think in the 1930s, where a -- somebody drew up a map of the redistricting, it looked like a dragon, called it gerrymander.

I don't think you did.

I see what you're trying to do. You're trying to keep reservations together. That's good.

We also think the counties need to be together, as much as possible.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next will be Michael Hing, mayor of the town of Superior, representing his constituents.

MAYOR MICHAEL HING: Good evening. My name is Michael Hing, MI-C-H-A-E-L, last name Hing, H-I-N-G.

I am the mayor of the town of Superior.

We have proposals, as Mayor Shipley of Globe had mentioned, at least proposed maps of -- start off with the legislative district. That we're currently in Legislative 23, and I don't want to look at the new maps
because the numbers all change, but to move to, like, Legislative No. 5, because the more our District 23 is growing, we have -- we're more and more being disconnected.

   If you're not familiar with the town of Superior, it's a mining town and possibly home of one of the largest underground operations in North American, ore body that is.

   And so we feel a disconnect with Legislative 23, because currently two representatives come out of the metropolitan areas, like Casa Grande and the AJ area, Apache Junction.

   So, as I see them, they're part of the metro area. And of course Casa Grande has basically become the point of interest between Tucson and Phoenix. So there seems to be a disconnect with the town of Superior, and especially the communities of Highway 177.

   Because we share a lot of interest with the rural areas of district -- Legislative District No. 5, which is Globe-Miami and of course the eastern part of the state. And we want to kind of remain in that area, because we want to have a -- be able to have a voice being spoken, rather than being disconnect.

   So, you know, what the requirements of the state constitution very clear, and I really say follow these, follow these rules. They're exactly how we feel, because of the representation, the respect of interest of the
communities. You know, we're, we're in a resource area. You know, up in this area is into mining and also timber, you know, cattle ranching.

So we all feel kind of like -- excuse me.

Sorry.

But I -- to close it up, we support, you know, these proposed new maps. I'll put this in the record.

Also this -- the congressional district, CD 1, that we're part of, that do not include Flagstaff.

Because putting Flagstaff back into CD 1 with the eastern part does not, does not have any shareness. What we have, we consider rural.

And you mentioned coming up to this area. You enjoy it.

It's the open space of rural.

We already have that sense. That's why we live here.

We're productive in our areas, and we want to be able to speak on that level.

So thank you again.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next I have Don Asli -- Ascoli, representing self, from Gila County.

DON ASCOLI: Thank you, commissioners. My name is Don Ascoli, A-S-C-O-L-I, from Payson, Arizona.
And I'm not representing any group officially. I'm a member of several different organizations, one of which I'll refer to more as chairman of the Gila County Planning and Zoning Commission.

I want to go to the presentation that the young lady gave earlier.

You go to Page 3 of the slide where the guidelines of Prop 106, must comply with constitution, Voting Rights Act, which I'm going to address at the end, equal population, and to the extent practical(sic), compact and -- compact and contiguous, respect communities of interest, and use visible geographic features, city, town, county boundaries, undivided census tracts.

I suggest to you gentlemen, the Commission, that you have in a way violated the very guidelines that Proposition 106 requires.

This is the map of which several prior speakers talked about, the Eastern Arizona Counties Association map for CD, which I'm going to talk about first, the CD, and then we'll talk about LD districts.

And this is what it looks like. Very nice and compact. Two genuine rural districts.

Two genuine rural.

You've heard the arguments why we should have that. Living in rural Arizona is not like living in
downtown Phoenix or Tucson.

This is the map you gentlemen, the Commission, has approved.

Just to show the crowd.

I wish I had nice color so you could see the difference in those two maps.

Anyway, compact and contiguous, respect communities of interest, and use visible geographic features.

I don't know what the town of Payson has to do with Parker, Lake Havasu City, and Yuma.

There is nothing in common with that area. Nothing in common with it.

The prior speakers also talked about in the southern part of this county. That's the map of our county. I'm a resident of that county. I represent that county in the planning and zoning effort of this county.

And the CD map has cut us in half.

Where the map that was proposed by the Eastern Counties Associations, and I know one of our supervisors of Gila County is in here, and I believe he's supportive along with the others, has all the eastern counties pretty much all together.

And the map that you proposed, that's on the wall there, splits it into pieces and puts uncommon interests
When you go to the LD map, it gets worse, not better.

There are 12 rural counties in the state of Arizona, for everybody's information.

In option 8A -- option one 8A, which was this map here, pretty much kept the districts the way they were for the last ten years, which have worked for this state, the great state of Arizona, the sovereign state, and made the adjustments because obviously population changes.

The map that you proposed again puts un -- or disinterested, unconnected communities of interest, splits up existing ones, and creates -- I don't know how it will ever become a community of interest in these new maps. There's just no way.

In the case of Gila County, you do the travesty of splitting us into thirds.

We're one of the smallest counties in the state of Arizona, and by breaking it into thirds -- and by the way, we're the only county you chose to split into thirds.

But by doing that, we become so insignificant to the representative and the senators of that district, we're going to have triple the difficulty of getting their attention in legislative issues.

In option eight -- option one of 8A that was
originally proposed, it was this map here that took kind of what it liked and made some adjustments. Five counties did get split.

    Five rural out of 12.

    In the map that you have on the wall here, you've taken eight of the 12 counties and split them up.

    It's like you totally ignored who we are. You totally ignored who we are.

    How in the world can we conduct business at the state and national level when you split us up?

    It's a travesty, in my opinion.

    Now, you go back to the guidelines, and it says Voting Right Act.

    The second paragraph, the slide four says under Section 5, Arizona redistricting plans cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority votes -- voters' rights.

    Personally I believe rural voters are being treated as a minority and you're splitting our interest up.

    (Applause.)

    DON ASCOLI: Now you go to slide -- I'll get there in a moment.

    Let me get the text right.

    Preclearance. We've heard that mentioned.

    Preclearance.
Voting rights, Section 5, preclearance. What is it about.

I'm going to introduce into the record a legal memorandum titled the Bailout Bait and Switch: DOJ's Last-Ditch Attempt to Rescue Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

I don't know if the people in this room are aware, but this state could apply for a bailout and be waived from the Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

Which is all the grief that we're having to go through.

I talked to Linda Eastlick in the county elections. Basically she's spent her last year working solely on preparing for this event.

She mentioned that ten years ago when we went through redistricting process, she basically put together one three-and-a-half-inch binder of information for DOJ, because back then we still did stuff with DOJ.

She's up to seven binders this year.

She shared with me there's a county in Texas that they, they the DOJ, has demanded over 50,000 e-mails as part of the preclearance process.

And I am getting to wonder, aren't we a sovereign state?

Don't you people represent the people of Arizona,
not the federal government?

I understand the attorney general's filed a lawsuit declaring Section 5 unconstitutional.

I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt it's unconstitutional.

It applied in 1965. That's 45 years ago, gentlemen and ladies.

It does not apply any more. There's two lawsuits that are close to the Supreme Court right now.

I would sure like the state of Arizona to stand up for its rights in saying we're not going to comply with that part. We're going to represent the people of Arizona, not comply to, what is it, an unconstitutional act.

I don't want to take time from this meeting here, but in the memorandum they list four very egregious points of anyone who enforces Section 5 of this law. It sticks it to the citizens of that state.

And what's happened is we have been intimidated, folks. We have been intimidated by the actions of the DOJ.

And if you know who's running it right now, I would question all that.

I would question it.

But I just want to read -- basically what they're saying here, this memorandum that I want you to read and put as part of the record, is that due to past coercion and the
political cost that the DOJ has done to the jurisdictions
that come under this damn law, we've been intimidated and
have not taken our rightful action of saying, DOJ, we don't
want to go through preclearance, skip it.

There are counties and cities in the United States
that are already -- have applied and have been bailed out.

I strongly recommend that you as a Commission
representing the people of Arizona, not the DOJ, to say this
is how we feel about it, what happened 50 years ago doesn't
apply today, we've addressed all those issues.

We do not apply and request the bailout from the
Department of Justice so we can have good districts
represent us in the national level, CDs, as well as the
state level, the LD districts.

I strongly implore you as representatives of the
people of Arizona speak for the people.

You've heard what you -- these folks you've heard, mayors, you've heard councilman, all people of interest,
they're not happy with what you see here. And I wouldn't be
surprised if you went across most of the places you've been
in rural Arizona, they weren't happy either.

The only person I -- the only group I think that's
happy here is the people of Flagstaff.

And you know why? I'm sorry. I care about Gila
County.
A lot of people in this room, it's Gila County, the people are here from Pinal, or people from Apache and Navajo.

Let's deal with those folks, listen to their voice, and let's don't split up a beautiful county of great people.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is Jesse Bryant, from Globe, representing the Eastern Arizona Ad Hoc.

JESSE BRYANT: Commissioners, if I might give these to you. Thanks.

My name is Jesse Bryant, and I'm from the city of Globe.

And I want to welcome you here -- last name is spelled B-R-Y-A-N-T -- welcome you to Globe, welcome you to rural Arizona.

And we understand, we understand your purpose and the difficulty of your job.

We realize that you are doing the best you can do with what you have to do.

We invite you to discuss with us, discuss with our communities, discuss with our elected representatives on a municipal level what serves our interest. That aid you and
save you a lot of time and headache if we could create an
environment of cooperation and coordinate with one another
instead of you folks doing what you can with what little
knowledge you have of what the interests are of the various
parts of the state and then coming and listening to us tell
you how we disagree with that.

The federal mandates given, we understand that.
We all accept it.

Communities of interest is probably the most
important thing to us, to every region. And you're going to
hear that term quite a bit.

The maps before you, they represent what serves
our interest, to give you an idea.

We understand that, that whereas we don't
understand everything in the mind of those in the
metropolitan areas, those in the metropolitan areas don't
understand our mind.

And that's what we're here today to try to help
you understand that mind.

Our, our rural region is very important to us.

It is -- we're, we're here tonight not as
Republicans and Democrats, but as rural Arizonans.

Whether you realize it or not, you're hearing from
Republicans, you're hearing from Democrats, some of them
elected to something, some of them not.
Historically rural Arizona is a competitive region, and that's a strong interest of your Commission to understand that.

Well, even the -- this legislative map before you is, is a very competitive.

It's much like what we've had for the last ten years. And for those ten years, we've had, we've had Democrats and Republicans, moderate Republicans, conservative Republicans, moderate Democrats, conservative Democrats, or liberal Democrats, elected from that region, likewise the congressional district.

What, what we, what we did, after we began to get wind of the draft maps, is our communities began to stand up and speak together.

And if you'll bear with me, I'd like to tell you just how many communities have spoken on this issue.

And I'd also like to thank Ms. Gomez too. She's been helpful to our communities in receiving the e-mails and receiving the maps and the resolutions.

The resolution as read before you from Superior and from Eagar, those are two of our communities that traveled here tonight. But across eastern Arizona, we've had ten communities thus far pass resolutions by their council and forward them to your record in Phoenix supporting those maps that before you now, and five more
cities have them on their agendas for next week.

And there are more to come, it's just a matter of time reaching out to everybody.

Unfortunately it's a long ways to drive and not all of them could be here. But we -- understand that we are of one mind on this matter.

As far as the congressional map is concerned, we understand that Flagstaff has the resources to have spent a lot of time in front of you. Here in rural Arizona we don't have those resources.

However, those 15 -- soon to be 15 communities agree that Flagstaff is not in our interest. We do not want Flagstaff, and we do not want Prescott in our rural region.

The reservations are great. In our legislative district, the one that was before, proposed and even added an Apache reservation along with the White Mountain, San Carlos, and Tonto, we want to add the Yavapai Apache, along with that the Verde Valley area.

And the congressional district, we have the Navajos and the Hopis. And we intend to add the Hopis as well.

Please understand what we've done.

I want to name off the communities for your record.
So far, the city of Globe, Miami, Superior, Winkelman, Hayden, Duncan, Show Low, Lakeside, Eagar, Springerville, and -- I mentioned Superior, and Superior, have passed resolutions so far.

The towns of Snowflake, St. Johns, Camp Verde, and Holbrook, and Winslow have on their agenda for next week.

Still have to get a hold of Taylor.

I think I failed to mention Pinetop passed it last night as well.

So, we are one mind and we ask you to work with us.

We don't have to work against each other.

These serve our interests.

Understand that I'm -- I apologize for how rough the congressional proposal is there before you. Understand there's -- there is outside the federal mandates which those represent and does not -- in fact, both maps, in fact, slightly increase the minority count for those, those regions. But, but the congressional map had two goals: Solely rural and the removal of Flagstaff and Prescott from our district.

Thanks very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Mr. Bryant, were these prepared using the Commission's online mapping?
JESSE BRYANT: That one was not.

Can be, certainly.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next speaker is Lery Alderman, Globe city councilman.


Also I'd like to speak on behalf of Gila County.

As you've heard before, our specific interests are mining, timber, cattle, and tourism.

We all share the same commonality here of those items. And as I, as I -- we have just gone through a redistricting for our city. And I understand how difficult that is. And I want to thank you all for what you did. You guys are doing a great job, and I really appreciate the fact that you're listening to us tonight.

I pray that you're absorbing this information, and we can get it on paper.

We all do have interest, like interest. And we are, as it was mentioned, compact and contiguous, respect for communities of interest, use visible geographic features, city, town, county boundaries, and undivided census tracts.

We have the maps that Mr. Bryant gave you guys, you all, is something that we all can agree on.
You've heard the number of communities who are approving this, making resolutions, accepting this. And we just feel like we want representation.

We don't want to be split up. And rural land Arizona wants a voice.

We want that voice, we relish that ability to do that, and we respectfully ask that you consider rural Arizona and the maps before you.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next we have Jose Medina.

And if you could please let us know if you're here on behalf of yourself, and where you're from.


I apologize -- I was going to apologize for being late because -- and tired. I spent most of the day down in the valley.

And I was going to -- I thought I was alone on this issue from what I was hearing.

I'm here to agree with everybody about representation for rural Arizona, rural Gila County and Arizona in particular.

Anyway, while I was down in the valley, I was trying to think about what I was going to say.
While I was in the valley at one of the local eateries down there, I saw this paper. And it's an information -- Hispanic paper, La Voz, The Voice.

And I found it interesting from what I understand from reading in it. They are awfully concerned in the valley. Minorities are organizing and trying to support -- or have minorities support their interests in rural Arizona.

So, I gave you a copy here. And if you'd like, I can hand another one to you right now.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sure.

JOSE ANGEL MEDINA, SR.: I'd just like to add that I come from a mechanical background and aviation background. So in my world, I'm accustomed to symmetry. And when I work on something or plan on something, I expect it to show some kind of symmetry, smoothness. It's very important.

From what I've seen, and don't fully understand, but with the help of my friends here, I'm getting a better picture.

I don't see the symmetry. I don't see the representation.

It's starting to worry me now.

That's why I thought I would show up and show support for everyone here that has spoken in favor of rural Arizona and our concerns.

And, well, I believe that's all I have to say for
tonight.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next I have Michael Pastor, Supervisor Michael Pastor, Gila County board of supervisors.

SUPERVISOR MICHAEL PASTOR: Good evening.

Thank you for being here. My name is Michael Pastor, P-A-S-T-O-R, M-I-C-H-A-E-L. And I am the District 2 supervisor for Gila County, which covers the area of southern Payson, to the top of the world, which is the mining area that you came through from Superior. Probably the largest district for Gila County.

We're only a county of 53,000 people.

Graham, Gila -- Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, and Apache are all like-sized counties, rural counties. And basically I'm here just to express my support for the rural Eastern Arizona Coalition map.

It keeps Gila County whole.

We really, we really don't want to see ourselves split up.

You've heard that from everybody here.

I know that you guys have struggled immensely with this redistricting project because the county just finished doing ours since -- we've been working since March with Mr. Adelson and his staff, and we finally were able to come
to an agreement and submit a map.

So we're awaiting clearance hopefully.

I would encourage you to look at this proposal from the rural coalition counties, really consider the community of interest that exists to be partnered or attached to an urban community such as western Pinal County, doesn't do us a whole lot of service.

I think the southern parts of Pima County are included too, and that doesn't really serve rural Arizona.

So if you look at those maps, we would appreciate it. And I thank you for your effort as working on the Commission. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next I have Barbara McGuire, representing self.

BARBARA MCGUIRE: Members of the Commission, my name is Barbara McGuire. I'm a former state representative for Legislative District 23.

I have had the pleasure of serving that district for over the past six years, representing 350,000 constituents in that district, part of which was a small part of Gila County.

I am the rural gal, born, lived all my life here, have family that go back to the 1800s in the state of Arizona in this area, in this rural area.

I'd like to show my support for the comments that
Mayor Shipley and many of the gentlemen and ladies in this community -- or in this room have made that live in these communities, along with the mayor from Superior, Mayor Hing from Superior.

I'd just like to add a little bit to that.

With regards to these rural communities that are of mining, ranching, farming, we also have some light manufacturing down in the Casa Grande area, such as the Frito-Lay, some vitamin company, tortilla manufacturing companies, also included in these areas. These are home grown, having generation after generation grow up and live, work, and retire in these rural areas.

I'd also like to add a comment with regards to, at the legislature, the voice of rural representation in and of itself at the legislature is that of a minority.

The urban community, the urban representation outnumber us. And I was fortunate to be able to open doors that in the past had been closed to us to make a difference for these rural communities. And I'd like to see that continue.

But with the proposed number eight, District No. 8 that you're now proposing, I don't see that Saddlebrooke, Catalina, or Oro Valley have anything in common with this copper corridor and its community.

It makes more sense to have other parts of
Pinal County, like Eloy, Apache Junction, Casa Grande, Globe, Miami for the Gila area, and I heard someone mention the reservation, Apache Indian reservation. In the past in District 23 I had the honor of representing four of the Native American tribes.

And I was very pleased to be able to do that, and I learned a lot in that experience of representing them of their needs.

And the urban environments that you're wanting to mesh into these rural environments do not have anything in common with them as well as these rural farming and ranching communities.

These foundation -- these rural areas need to have a foundation with a balanced voting mix.

And I think the communities that I've mentioned to you would create that balance or help to create that balance.

This is a great opportunity to create a very strong rural district with the interests of all these people here and others that live in these rural districts to keep them similar.

This copper corridor area, to me, all my life, has been the heart bumping blood of these rural areas. And I'd like to see it remain intact, and as such I don't think that merging the urban environments into these rural environments
is in the best interest of these areas.

And I'd like to thank you for giving me the time to speak tonight. I'd really like to commend you on all the work that you've been doing. I have been following online, trying to watch everything on the Internet as it unfolds.

Your job is a very, very hard one.

I, I wholeheartedly commend you. I wish you the very best. And I am very optimistic for the outcome that we will have, that it will be a fair and balanced outcome that will represent everyone in the best interest, especially in the rural areas.

Thank you so much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

We have one more request to speak form.

And there it is.

Diana Wheeler, from Gila County, representing self.


I'm speaking for myself, but my husband would be here. He's on the city -- Globe City Council, and he's also a ranching consultant. And he's up in Springerville right now.

My feel and my concern is we are in a crisis situation right now here in the county, or in our district,
fighting to continue with ranching, timber, mining. And we're beginning to get a foothold because we're all working together.

And we're talking about coordination now, and we're making different entities come and sit down to the table with us, which is mainly the Forest Service and the environmental groups.

If you split us up into little bit size pieces like you've got on those maps, we won't have a chance. What's left of ranching will be gone. Timber is already gone, and we're trying to bring it back right now.

You will set us so far back, and it will be tragic.

Everybody's really feeling good about what's going on right now, and we are really working hard as a whole entity. Please don't chop us up.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Well, that was my last request to speak. Is there anyone else who wants to address the Commission, any more?

If we could get you to complete a request to speak form, you could do it perhaps after you've made your comment, just so we have it in our record.

MICHAEL BINGOCHEA HING: Good evening. My name is Michael Bingochea Hing, and I'm here just as a common
My last name is -- is spelled M-I-C-H-A-E-L, B-I-N-G-O-C-H-E-A, and last name Hing, H-I-N-G.

I'm here to speak tonight because the great state of Arizona is built on the four Cs: Copper, cotton, citrus, and cattle -- cattle.

And we're -- we seem to forget as the metropolis grows that once the valley was farming. And you take away -- if you go to this plan, you're forgetting the heart of our state.

And right now we're mighty.

We're not mighty as population base, but as our mining industries, we make a ton of money for, for the state and the federal government.

If you put us into the urban, you're going to choke us. Because as you put the urban to have a voice, they're going to have a stronger voice than we do. And what good does it do us?

We, we work together with environment. We work with environmental people.

But if you close us down by chopping us into these little pieces, nobody wins.

And you have to really take at heart that everybody in this room works hard for what they got, and you're going to close the avenue for all the residents of
the state of Arizona.

   Because without taxes and money coming in, who's going to win?
   We want to keep our state productive. We want to be a state that's heard.
   Look, we've added another representative. Let us keep growing. Don't choke us.
   That's all I have to say.
   Thank you.
   VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.
   Is there anyone else who would like to speak to the Commission?
   (No oral response.)
   VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: All right then. Thank you again for coming. That will close the public comment portion of the program.
   Before we adjourn I'd like to ask Commissioner Stertz if he would like to say any words.
   COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes. First, thank you very much for coming out.
   There's not much that I disagree with that was said tonight. I'm the -- I'm one member of the five member commission, and in both of these two maps I voted against them.
   And so what I'm going to encourage you to do is
that someone said earlier that you are outlobbied by some other groups.

If you truly want to become a voice, you need to mobilize your voice and combine. Small cities become big voices when they're combined together.

The 30-day comment period is coming to a close.

I'm suggesting that if you want to get your voice together, that you gather everyone that you can gather and get that voice heard.

Because if it is not part of the record, it's not going to be considered.

And that's just -- that is how this process works.

We take a look at the six points on the constitution, we have to evaluate them accordingly, and it's based on what we are given.

And if we are given a big stack of information about one thing and a small stack of information about another, the big stack is going to have a lot more consideration than the small.

So the two week -- the comment period for 30 days comes to a close in the next couple of weeks.

So as you want to become from small -- from small voices become together, become a very loud mobilized group.

So I'm going to encourage you, if you want to be heard as that large group, to bring together your small
groups to become a large group, and to do it quickly so that you -- there can be an equal level of consideration. Because I look at geographic issues that we see in some of these maps, and I scratch my head. And I put it on public comment when I said that I did not approve of some of these maps, where you could not go from Apache Junction and go -- you had to go through three other congressional districts to be able to get -- by road to be able to get to the northern half of that congressional district.

So I will be one of those that will be hoping that you as members of these areas come out. Because my voice is only my voice. I -- I'm right now part of the small stack of information.

So I'm going to encourage you to -- if you want to get heard, that you get heard and get heard quickly.

So I want to thank you very much for coming out tonight.

And by the way, thank you for Gila County and the board of supervisors for welcoming us today.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: If I may ask, you're saying that you want to hear us heard as a large group? I don't understand that. E-mail? Radio?

COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We have -- we have opportunity for you to submit information about what your
concerns are to azredistricting.org.

You can go online. You can send e-mails. You can submit testimony as you have done tonight.

You can have blue sheets. You can have communities as you've done currently where you have got cities, you've listed ten cities. I think there was 11 including Pinetop last night that actually passed resolution.

There are other cities that, that it is incumbent upon members of the public, there's six and a half million people living in this state. We've had 5,000 pieces of information, Kristina, plus, 5,000 plus pieces of information that have been delivered to us.

It will make Kristina crazy what I just said, but it is incumbent for us to hear everybody now, because in two weeks from now the now is over.

And we're only going to be considering the information and the data and the testimony that we've been given.

And then it will be left up to the five commissioners to hash it out.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you,
Commissioner Stertz. I couldn't agree more.

I was born and raised in Phoenix. I spent some
time in my life in Tucson. I certainly can't claim to be
from rural Arizona. But I do spend a lot -- I have here in
my lifetime spent a lot of time, particularly in eastern
Arizona, in the White Mountains area, and I -- and even now
I -- I'm a want to be hunter perhaps, I go up quite often.
So a lot of what was said tonight resonates with me.

We've heard a lot of public comment about keeping
rural districts truly rural. In fact, before we began the
proceedings tonight, I had a brief conversation with
Representative Pancrazi from Yuma about how even introducing
a small percentage of population that is from an urban area
into a rural district and trying to call it a predominantly
rural district doesn't quite work, because it's very easy
for that population, that urban population to dominate and
destroy that rural community of interest.

So that does mean a lot to me in developing and
going forward with these draft maps, a number of the
commissioners emphasized repeatedly on the record that they
were only drafts that and that there would be changes after
the public comment period was over.

So I believe it is very incumbent upon all of the
Commission as a body to take into consideration all public
testimony from all parts of the state and evaluate it and
weigh it and then go back to the drawing board with these
maps, with those public comments in hand, apply the six constitutional criteria the way they should be and develop true final maps.

That's what would be my goal going forward.

So, that's all I have. And thank you all of you for coming.

And so we'll conclude the hearing at 6:00 -- or, excuse me, 7:26 p.m.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

* * * * *
BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter, CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing 61 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 23rd day of October, 2011.

C. Martin Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50162