ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Thursday, October 27, 2011
6:08 p.m.

Location

Eastern Arizona College
Lee Little Theater
Activity Center
1014 North College Avenue
Thatcher, Arizona 85552

Attending

Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Ray Bladine, Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Stu Robinson, Public Information Officer
Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: This hearing of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission will please come to order.

The time is 6:08 p.m.

It is Thursday, October 27th, 2011. And the Commission is in Thatcher, Arizona, Eastern Arizona College.

And we also have a satellite location set up in Clifton at the Greenlee County Courthouse.

Won't you please rise with me to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you all for coming out tonight. It's great to see such a great turnout. And thanks to everyone in Clifton, where I see there as well, participating in our satellite office.

We're here tonight to receive public comment on the two proposed draft maps, the draft legislative map and draft congressional map.
I think what -- the public input on those maps is going to be very important to us going forward.

Before we get too far into this, federal law requires that the Commission make translation services available, so I'd like to invite Brian McBride to come to the podium. He's going to read an announcement in English and Spanish offering those services.

BRIAN MCBRIDE: Vice-Chair Freeman, commissioners, ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights Act, a translator/interpreter will be available at all 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/interpreter present at this meeting so that he can assist you.

And I will be the translator/interpreter this evening.

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

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Thank you all again. My name is Scott Freeman. I am one of five commissioners on the Redistricting Commission.

All of our hearings are recorded live. They are live streamed on the Internet, unless we're at a place where
it cannot be live streamed they're recorded and then later
on the Internet.

All commissioners don't come to all of these
meetings. There's at least 26, perhaps more, public comment
hearings that the Commission scheduled over a
two-and-a-half, three-week period. So the commissioners
have sort of divided the duties across the state.

I know that those hearings that I haven't been
able to attend in person, I've watched them all live when
they've been available live on the live stream. And I know
that Chair Colleen Mathis, Vice-Chair Herrera,
Commissioner McNulty, and Commissioner Stertz are watching
the proceedings tonight and are with us tonight through the
Internet.

I'd like to introduce a few other people who are
here tonight.

To my left is counsel for the Commission,
Mary O'Grady, from the firm of Osborn Maledon.

To her left is Willie Desmond from the firm
Strategic Telemetry, the mapping consultant for the
Commission.

Also here tonight in the back is Ray Bladine, the
executive director of the Commission.

Also next to him is Kristina Gomez, our assistant
executive director.
We also have I think out in the hallway a public information officer. You probably met him at the table out there. Stu Robinson.

We have Buck Forst down here behind these boxes. He's running the live stream. Our technology officer.

Everything that is being said tonight is being taken down by our court reporter, Marty Herder, who's down below me where I can't even see.

And we also have our public outreach assistants with us tonight, and they are actually in Clifton. Karen Herrman and Shane Shields, from what I can see.

And we'll turn to you later when we have public comment to take public comment from Clifton.

Next on the agenda we have a brief presentation from our mapping consultant, who's going to explain the redistricting process in Arizona and how we got to where we are now.

So I'll turn the program over for Mr. Desmond.

WILLIE DESMOND: Thank you. My name is Willie Desmond. I work with Strategic Telemetry. We're the firm hired to assist the Commission with technical assistance in the mapping process.

I'm excited to be here and to hear more about what you have to say and to explain a little bit more about what went into these draft maps and how the process has worked.
Today we'll be discussing the draft maps that have been approved by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission for both the congressional and legislative maps.

The goal of these meetings is to hear public comments from you about the draft maps.

So, again, thank you for taking the time to attend tonight and thank you in advance for your comments on them.

The draft maps you'll see tonight are currently under a 30-day review period that the Commission -- so that the Commission can hear your input and learn as much as we can about the feelings of Arizonans as we proceed forward.

Before going on to the maps though, I do want to give you a little bit of background on the redistricting process.

So, Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the state constitution as amended by the voters of Arizona following -- in the year 2000 with the passage of Proposition 106.

It stipulates that the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and legislative district lines to reflect the results of the most recent census.

The most recent census being in 2010.

As a result of this census, Arizona gained a ninth congressional seat.
Arizona's Proposition 106 lays out six criteria.
The first one is that it must comply -- all plans must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Also equal population.

These first two criteria are federally mandated. All plans must meet these criteria nationwide for congressional maps.

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

All right. Just a little bit more background on the Voting Rights Act.

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

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

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

Also, the presence of discrimination can be determined by analyzing population data and election results.

At this point we're going to show a brief video from Bruce Adelson.

He's an attorney with Federal Compliance Consulting. He's been assisting the Commission and advising us on the Voting Rights Act and preclearance process.

(Whereupon, a video presentation of Bruce Adelson was shown.)

WILLIE DESMOND: Okay. So, overall the redistricting process can be broken down into five stages or steps or phases.

The first of which was that the Commission needs to be established.

The commissioners were appointed earlier this year following a thorough screening process, and they serve in a voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

The five commissioners that were selected this year are Vice Chairman Scott Freeman, who's here this evening, Vice Chairman Jose Herrera, Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, and Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard Stertz.

The next step would be the first round hearings.

Before drawing a single line, the Commission held
public hearings around the state in July and August to get input from the members of the public about issues relevant to the redistricting process, such as geography, communities of interest, minority voters' rights, and competitiveness.

Step three would be mapping. We'll discuss this a little more later, but per Proposition 106 we must start with a complete -- a clean slate. Then we divide the state into equal district -- equal population districts in a compact and grid-like process, to create a grid map.

The grid map this year was approved on August 18th.

Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid maps to accommodate the rest of the constitutional criteria. During this time they received additional public comments and have worked hard to draft these maps that you'll see tonight.

The approval of these draft maps happened on October 3rd for the congressional map and on October 10th for the legislative draft map.

All right. To show how the Commission came to these current draft maps, we'll show the progression of the maps.
Currently we're visiting 25 towns -- I think that's actually 26 now -- and cities to hear the public's input on these draft maps and receive additional comment. This is all taking place during October and November.

The fifth step will be upon completion of the public comment period the AIRC will adopt the final maps. Finally the last step will be preclearance. Because Arizona 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 elections.

All right. The map you can see up here was the -- is the current congressional draft map. This map will be phased out. It was retired after the 2010 election.

Per Proposition 106, we needed to start with a blank slate, so this is -- this was the starting point for these draft maps.

Also per Proposition 106, the Commission created different draft maps that I touched on earlier.

This, this grid map, I'm sorry, only takes into account two criteria. It has equal population and it has compact and contiguous districts.

All the other requirements need to be met by adjusting this draft map.
This draft map was approved on August 18th. The Commission was presented with two different options, and they selected this one, option two, which is seen here.

Following that, after more than 25 meetings, the Commission voted to approve the draft map that you see here.

And in addition to taking into consideration the six criteria, the Commission took into consideration public comment provided by -- at the public meetings, the round one public hearings, comments that were mailed in, e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and telephoned. Over 5,000 public comments helped develop this draft map.

As you see, some of the highlights in the congressional map are there are two predominantly rural district on the east and west side, there are three border districts, three districts in the greater Tucson region, five districts entirely in Maricopa County, going to great length to avoid splitting Indian reservations, and there are two districts where minority voters have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

Okay. Again, per Proposition 106 the congressional(sic) draft map followed a very similar path.

This is the old draft map, the one that was last used in 2010.

Again, per Proposition 106 we started with a blank slate.
We then again developed a grid map that only satisfied two of the six criteria: Equal population and compact and contiguous districts.

Again, after the 25 meetings, the Commission developed this draft map.

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

There are some important points to mention about this legislative draft map.

The population growth has been taken into account. Some of the old districts had population as low as 155,000 or as high as 378,000.

The current draft map has a range of about 207,000 to around 215,000.

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

The draft includes three districts wholly within Pima County, Districts 3, 9, and 10, and three additional southern Arizona districts, one, two, and four. Seventeen districts primarily within Maricopa County, and nine districts primarily rural.

All right. The Commission wants to make sure you stay connected throughout this process, and it's eager to hear your input.
To make sure your voice is heard, there are several ways of commenting or giving us your feelings. You can fill out a request to speak form and speak at one of these meetings. You can submit your input at the hearing or on the website. You can visit at www.azredistricting.com, or you can call us at (602)542-5221, or toll free at (855)733-7478.

All right. Most people here are interested in the draft maps, which can be found on the website and here at the meeting.

We do have a screen shot of the website here. You'll notice a few things. You can click on the meetings tab to get information about what meetings are coming up. There's a public input button so you can submit your input.

And you can view the maps down at the bottom. So if you do click on this maps button, it'll take you to a page that looks very much like this. This allows you to see some of the maps and the data tables and the reports that go along with them. I do want to point your attention to one specific file type, and that's the Google maps here. If you click on that Google maps link, it will open up the maps in a page that looks very much like this.
It's a good way to view the maps because you can zoom in to your individual house, you can look at any streets that you're curious about, you can follow the boundaries very easily.

Using these buttons on the left-hand side you can turn off the counties, you can turn off the actual district shading, and really kind of play around and explore how the maps work.

I want to show you -- it's easy to zoom in. You can go down to the city level or the street level or even the house level.

So this is a zoom in of an area in Maricopa County, but just an example.

As I wrap this up, I just want to highlight a few things, again, on the commission's website. If you visit the website at azredistricting.org, you can draw your own maps.

You can watch the current meetings and the past meetings and you can get updates on future meetings.

I also encourage you to keep up with us on social media, if you're into that sort of thing.

You can follow us on Twitter at hash tag AIRC or you can friend us on Facebook at Facebook.com/azredistricting.

All right. Well, I just want to thank you all
again for being here.

We're very excited to hear what you have to say and learning more about, about your feelings.

Please feel free to talk to me at the end of the meeting or anyone else on staff if you have any questions, that more than happy to help you with anything or answer any questions you might have.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Mr. Desmond.

I as well will stay after the hearing for everyone has any questions or would like to talk about the redistricting process.

Before we get to public comment, I want to extend a special thanks to Keith Alexander, Eastern Arizona College. He was instrumental in setting up the meeting we have here today and I understand also instrumental in setting up at the county courthouse in Clifton.

Next is public comment.

If you would like to address the Commission, there's these yellow request to speak forms that should be on the table out in the hall.

If you want to come and speak tonight, please fill one out, give it to our staff, and they'll get it up to me. If you don't want to give public comment at the microphone tonight, you should have also picked up a packet
that has printouts of the maps in the back. There's this blue form you can complete and leave your comments in writing. You can either complete them tonight and hand them to our staff and take them home or complete them at home at your leisure and mail them to the Commission.

And of course if you go to the website that Mr. Desmond mentioned, azredistricting.org, you can find a link there. There's a public comment form available to you on the website. And you just transmit it over the Internet, and that gets to the Commission as well.

There are also phone numbers that you can call the Commission and speak to staff if you have any questions or would like to leave comments.

So with that, we'll turn to the public comment portion of the program.

Right now I have 13 request to speak forms here, and I know there's at least one person in Clifton who would like to speak.

So I'd ask tonight that everyone try to limit your comments to five minutes. And, Mr. Forst will keep a timer. And when you hear the chime, that doesn't mean you have to stop. It's just a reminder to try to wrap up your thoughts so we're fair to everyone here and everyone gets a chance to speak.

And when I call you, please come to the microphone.
and state your name and spell it so that we have an accurate spelling of your name for the record.

And, if I haven't announced this when I called your name, please tell us who you representing, if anyone, yourself or a group, and tell us the town, city, or county that you're from. Again, if I haven't already said that.

Now I have 14.

So first I'd like to invite James Palmer, chairman of the Graham County Board of Supervisors, from Graham County.

CHAIRMAN JAMES PALMER: Thank you, Vice Chairman Freeman, staff members.

We appreciate you making the effort to come be with us this evening, and I want to extend a welcome to you to Graham County and express our appreciation for your efforts to come hear what the people in Graham County has have to say.

I'm a lifelong resident of this county. I have represented Thatcher, central Pima, Klondyke, and Fort Thomas for the past 11 years on the Board of Supervisors.

I am currently the board chairman, and I am a past president of the County Board of Supervisors Association.

And I realize now that I just forgot to spell my name. It's P-A-L-M-E-R.
VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: And I forgot to remind you.

CHAIRMAN JAMES PALMER: And I am here in my capacity as a leader of the community to dispel the notion that Graham 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 have only relevance for their population, and our relevance and effective voice in the state legislative process is about to be silenced.

The legislative draft map splits Graham County into two different districts, actually I think it's three, but the population are in two.

It does not keep Graham and Greenley Counties together.

Graham and Greenley are nearly identical in their communities of interest. They both have significant agriculture, mining, and water issues. And they actually cooperate with each other to provide some county services.

No two counties in the state are more interdependent than these two, and they stand to lose the best representation that they've had in a long time here in the Arizona legislature.

Graham County's community of interest lies within
the small towns of our neighboring eastern counties where
our ancestors from all walks of life and ethnicities carved
out farms, ranches, mines, and communities out of rural
Arizona.

They do not lie with the communities of
Sierra Vista and eastern Pinal County where border and
military and urban issues are the order of the day.

The communities of Safford, Morenci, San Carlos,
Globe, and Payson have far more in common with
Heber-Overgaard, Snowflake, Taylor, Winslow, Holbrook,
Show Low and Pinetop -- too fast.

And Pinetop, than Flagstaff, Window Rock and Vail.

Any map that puts White River and Pinetop-Lakeside
in a different district than Show Low, but keeps Show Low
with Flagstaff, is seriously flawed.

White River, Pinetop-Lakeside, and Show Low share
everything, shopping, hospitals, roads, forests, and the
list goes on.

Therefore I support the comments that
Chairman Lupe of the White Mountain Apache delivered to this
body at the hearing in Hon Dah. We need common
representation so that our issues are addressed by people
who are part of our community, and we need local communities
to stay together.

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

Not Navajo, Gila, Apache, Graham, and Greenlee Counties are neighbors. We share roads, watershed, forests, and the issues that go with them. Yet these counties have been pulled apart by the draft maps that have been adopted by this body.

The legislative draft map puts Greenlee County with Navajo and Hopi tribes.

These communities have little to no interaction and our physically isolated from each other by hundreds of miles.

The legislative draft map splits both Gila and Navajo Counties into three legislative districts. While this configuration may supply population numbers to other areas, it does not lead -- 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 south and the rest of this 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 requirement for a legislative district comprising Flagstaff, its the surrounding areas, and the communities of the Navajo
Nation are literally next door to each other.

Add to those facts the Navajo Nation spends significant amounts of money in Flagstaff with consumer goods, services, and education. Just like White River does in Pinetop and Show Low and Bylas and San Carlos do in Safford and Globe.

You've find every reason for keep the communities of eastern Arizona together in a legislative district that reflects true representation of communities of interest, contiguous principles, and representation.

And then finally, on the congressional districts, we would ask -- we submit to you from the eastern counties a truly rural congressional district.

And we would ask that you put Gila County back into that district.

There are roughly 1.5 million Arizonans that live in non-metropolitan areas. That's more than 20 percent of this population. We ask that you give the rural voters the respect and choice to elect one of their own regardless of party.

Similarly, keep Congressional District 4 rural.

Your early efforts to have those two truly rural congressional districts led many of us to believe that the real vote would actually mean something, but somehow that's all changed, and we'd like to see those put back where we
really feel we have real representation.

It's been a privilege to be with you, and I would answer any questions if you have any.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you very much.

And, by the way, if anyone has pre-prepared written remarks or maps that they would like to submit, please give them to your executive director and staff.

CHAIRMAN JAMES PALMER: I have it. Want me to give it to them in the back?

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN JAMES PALMER: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next, Richard Lunt, Greenlee County supervisor, chairman, representing Greenlee County.

SUPERVISOR RICHARD LUNT: Richard Lunt, L-U-N-T. Well, thank you very, very much. You've seen me at many of these, and you know it's always hard to follow someone -- one of my counterparts who we think alike, and he being from Graham County and I am from Greenlee County, you know, he's already expressed that we do a lot of things together, because we are very much alike.

In fact, Greenlee County was formed from Graham County, and back in 1909.

And so, first of all, I just want you to know that we feel in Greenlee County that our voice is being silenced.
We -- much like Supervisor Palmer said, the old LD 5, consisting of Greenlee, Gila, Graham, Navajo, and Apache Counties, worked very well. And we had a voice. And we had a -- especially in the legislative district, we, we were heard, and we made a difference.

This legislative map puts Greenlee County in with the Navajo, Apache, and Hopi tribes.

I want you to know this is unacceptable to the residents of Greenlee County.

We just do not have the same interests as the tribes do.

And I'll repeat that. We do not have any of the same interests as the tribes do.

Another thing, your map splits Graham and Greenlee Counties.

Our interests are the same, agriculture, mining, water. And we actually cooperate with each other to provide services to our constituents.

Boy, it's tough to follow someone that has a lot of the ideas.

I know you want to keep this short.

Finally, I was one of those that proposed the eastern counties organization map that we presented to you the first part of this month. And we believe that that map -- we put a lot of time and effort. We hired
It gave -- it made us competitive. In this district, right now we've had Republicans, we've had Democrats that represented us. And we feel that the way that you're doing this, that won't be the issue.

So please, whatever you do, Greenlee County wants out of the District 7 that you have proposed. We just don't have the same interests. And put us back together with the counties that -- so we will have a voice and we won't be silenced.

Now going to congressional districts. About 20 percent of the population in Arizona are rural. And we look at things different.

They look at land as -- metro areas look at land for a place to recreate. We look at it as a place -- as a resource, a place to raise our families, to make a living.

They look at water as a commodity. We look at it as a resource.

And I believe that the rural areas deserve to have someone that is elected from our area. And I think we'll give you an example.

Before this last districting we were in Tucson, and Congressman Kolbe was our representative. And we'd go over there, and we'd say, hey, we just don't agree with this. And he says, I agree with you 100 percent, but you do
not elect me.

    Now, is that a voice?
    That's the difference. And that needs to be it.
    Another thing, we want the EECO map, it had
District 4, CD 4, was another rural area. And you
gerrymandered that thing where it's picking up a lot of the
metro. And so, there again, our voice is being watered
down.

    So please, listen to us.
    It makes a difference -- we have to live with
this.

    And what happens in Maricopa County, I wish would
stay in Maricopa.

    And what happens in rural county I wish would stay
here, but that's not the way it works.

    Last of all, I thank you for your efforts.
    I bet if you knew then what you know now, I don't
know if you would have volunteered. But we appreciate your
effort, and we realize that the effort it takes to come and
listen to us.

    But your decisions we will have to live with for
ten years.

    And you've seen me at a lot of these. I wouldn't
be here and wouldn't have testified at so many if it didn't
make a difference to us in the rural areas.
Once again, thank you very much for your time.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Next is John Drew Graham County Board of Supervisors, District 1.

DREW JOHN: After as many times as I've spoke, it's actually Drew John. That's okay.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sorry.

DREW JOHN: That's a character builder. It's John, the last name, J-O-H-N.

Vice Chair, members, those that are watching here tonight, welcome to Graham County.

My counterpart speaks very eloquently about everything. I'm going to touch on a few things that are very important to me and the people of Graham County.

I'm one of the three supervisors here in Graham County, and we represent about 40,000 citizens in Graham County.

And we are a rural community.

And we work hard to keep it a friendly rural community.

We have been able to accomplish this partly because of the people you see here tonight and committees like this.

Members like yourselves have seen the importance of rural representation that have legislators that we elect...
as rural citizens and understand our rural values. You have the authority and charge to decide how it we will be represented in our legislative district. This is what I'm speaking on tonight.

You can decide whether to listen and do something about what is being asked tonight.

What you're being asked is to keep Graham County whole and continue to have rural representation.

As you been told many times, Graham and Greenlee, as recently as Richard, were once the same county. Then it was split.

We're sister counties. And when I say sister counties, we are sister counties. We've always worked together with many, many IGAs, MOUs, and sometimes even share staff.

Our mining operations are owned by the same company.

Our watershed supplies the needed water for citizens and agricultural.

I've been on the watershed committee from since 2000. And we're dealing with Graham -- with Greenlee and Graham all the time on our watershed, and we work together well because they're our neighbors.

Keep our rural representation intact. Keep our communities of interest together.
Someday one of you or one of your kids might want to live in a rural community.

This is one of the ways to destroy a rural community is to have representation from your metro areas.

If you want to keep rural communities so the metro people have somewhere to visit to get away from the metro, you need to keep the rural communities intact.

(Applause.)

DREW JOHN: And thank you for being here.

You know, this, this is not just a way of life, it's our way of life, and we enjoy it, and we invite you to move here and keep rural Arizona in place.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next is Mayor Chris Gibbs, mayor of Safford.

MAYOR CHRIS GIBBS: Vice Chairman Freeman, staff members, welcome. Gibbs, G-I-B-B-S.

My name is Chris Gibbs, and I am the mayor of Safford, which is the county seat of Graham County and the economic center for southeastern Arizona.

Until now the mayors and councils of Graham County have asked our county supervisors to speak to you concerning our entire region. However I feel compelled and obligated
to speak about the apparent idea that our rural area of the
state is only important as a numbers pawn for communities
removed from us geographically, economically, socially, and
politically.

After listening to the commissioners -- or the
supervisors speak, I realized how closely my presentation
echoes theirs, but I'd like to state it anyway.

As far as the legislative districts go, the
proposed legislative draft map fails drastically in allowing
the rural communities of this region any relevant input to
the legislative process at the state capital.

Arizona is predominantly a rural state. At least
in area.

And yet this map appears only derived to satisfy
the number scenario to appease more populated centers and
silence its rural interests.

As drawn there could be -- could there ever been a
conceivable legislative candidate from the Gila Valley to
represent this district? Our population's less than 35,000,
and we couldn't compete with east Tucson, Vail,
Sierra Vista, each having many more numbers than that.

To legislatively separate Graham and Greenlee
County is nothing short of preposterous and definitely
appears to only satisfy political agendas for larger
populations centers far removed. These two interdependent
counties are the definition of the concept of communities of interest.

You've been hearing it from each of the supervisors.

We share everything.

Mining, agricultural, shopping centers, tourism, major medical center, and even last names and some heritage.

This, this -- the groups that settled this area are still here.

I personally am not originally from the region. I've only been here seven years. But I can truly appreciate those that have four and five generations in the soil here.

Now would be a great time, and it's already mentioned, but water issues.

Graham and Greenlee County share a large drought stricken watershed, and this arid state really needs to look to that.

It's difficult enough to -- with the legal issues that are always present for consideration in watersheds, but to separate the legislative voice that we now enjoy would really weaken any ability to govern water policies for this region.

And the notion of communities of interest certainly extends much farther than these two counties, same basic interests, resources, and concerns are also shared
with Gila, Apache, and Navajo Counties, as you've already heard.

However, the proposed legislative draft map splits Graham County into two separate legislative districts, Gila County into three, and Navajo County into three.

It forces Greenlee County to be in the same district with groups hundreds of miles from their location, and certainly have no commerce or political interaction.

The splits may help with the numbers game in other areas, but here in our region it effectively silences any political voice our citizens might have in state government.

Concerning congressional districts, I'm still not sure why any county in the state needs to be divided on this map, no matter what their population.

Border issues are specific. All border communities should be part of the same solution.

How did Bisbee and Douglas get added somewhere else?

And how did the original discussions of two legitimate rural CDs just vanish?

Rural and urban citizens too have differing needs. Why can't this vastly rural state have legitimately rural representation in our state legislature and congress.

I plead with you to accept the maps already supported by Graham County supervisors, Greenlee County
supervisors, and many of our regional friends.

In closing, I have one simple request. Give rural voters a little respect. Don't lump us into some urban district just to balance numbers. Without regard to political party, let us choose our representation from local area candidates we know might actually understand our issues.

Please allow us our political voice.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: For our next I'd like to throw it to Clifton. I think we have -- I have one speaker, Doug Stacy.

And, again, as a reminder, if you could state your name and spell it, tell us who you're representing if someone other than yourself, and what town, city, or county you're from.

DOUG STACY: My name is Doug Stacy, S-T-A-C-Y, no E in it.

First of all, I'd like to thank you guys for going through this process. I know it's a difficult process, but this -- looking at these maps, our Board of Supervisors from Graham and Greenlee County and the mayor from Safford has already expressed some of the same issues that I have.

You know, people in Maricopa County and our
congressional district, you're proposed map on the congressional district, they don't understand anything at all.

We had a 538,000 plus acre fire that directly affected our ranching operation and a lot of my neighbors on the Blue Spring Trail ranger districts, the town of Greer.

And the people down in Maricopa that you guys have listed on our congressional district, they don't care about that.

The only thing they actually care about is trying to get our water, which the supervisors have just expounded on.

And I really wish you guys would take a hard look. I'm for rural representation, and I don't care about including Maricopa and Casa Grande and all the other little communities down there, probably Coolidge involved.

They don't have the same issues that we have in rural Arizona.

And I'd like to keep it rural too. I'm a native Arizonan. My family has been here since the late 1800s.

And I guess I'm speaking for myself, but I had some people when I left the ranch today tell me, speak for us too, Doug. Because they have the same issues.

Everybody is after our water. And all you're doing is throwing fuel on the fire when you're trying to
district us with districts that want our water and we're trying to fight in opposition to taking our water. And the water is everything to us.

And Richard expounded on or mentioned it earlier, it's a commodity for the people down in the valley, and all -- a lot of the so-called Indian tribes, the only thing they're interested in is the money that's going to be generated selling it to the metropolitan areas.

And we don't -- you know, all it's going to do is kill us up here. It's already doing so.

And I'd just like to really -- right now I'd like to also thank the board of supervisors, members from Graham County and Richard from Greenlee County and the mayor of Safford, and appreciate you guys and your time.

But I really wish you would really take into consideration that five counties, the rural Arizona map that was -- because I've seen it. I don't have my copy here. I left it up to the ranch today. But it's a workable and a rural map that really addresses the issues that are pertaining to us.

And a lot of the people in the metropolitan areas, they don't understand our issues at all.

In fact, we hardly have any voice now. I would like to at least have some kind of a say.

So thank you for your time.
Really consider it, please. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next Bill Brandau, chair of the Gila Watershed Partnership, Graham County.

BILL BRANDAU: My name is Bill Brandau, B-R-A-N-D-A-U.

I'm representing the Gila Watershed Partnership, but I'm a 35-year resident of Graham County.

This is a map of the upper Gila Watershed. It's split by the state boundary. Half is in Mexico. Half is in Arizona.

The east western portion is the San Carlos Dam.

My career has primarily been focused on natural resource issues the entire 35 years.

As a chair of the Gila Watershed Partnership, we wanted to express our concerns about the -- particularly the legislative districts and the congressional district.

Our group is a broad-based community organization that's been founded in 1992, with the novel idea of local people solving most of the local issues.

One of the state agencies came to our community and asked us to look at our issues and help solve them. So we, kind of silly, decided to do that. And we've been functioning since then.
We identify issues, we develop solutions, and we seek funding, and we implement the actions with the community.

Since our 19 years of existence, we have successfully implemented millions of dollars of projects in both Graham and Greenlee Counties to support the watershed.

This year, we received the Partners In Conservation award from the secretary of interior. One of four in the country.

So we've been somewhat effective.

To this end, I want to speak about the redistricting.

The Gila Watershed Partnership proposes that you leave the Gila Watershed in one legislative district as it has been for the last ten years.

Also in the same congressional district.

We believe that by doing so it furthers the goals of the Arizona Constitution, Article 4, districts shall be geographically compact, contiguous to the extent practicable.

The district boundaries shall have respect communities of interest to the extent practicable.

And to the extent practicable the district shall have visible geographic features.
By definition a watershed is geographically compact, it's contiguous, and has definite geographic figures -- features as defined on the map.

And I'll give you a map.

Those address parts one and three.

What I'm really here to talk about is the community of interest.

Watershed, its resources, and its people define a community of interest.

And I wish to emphasize the community of interest that exists in this watershed.

Statute generally prohibits the transfer of water from one watershed to another. As a result, our water will be generally managed and used in our watershed.

And when we're represented by people outside of our watershed, we lose control of that.

Or at least lose -- I'm not as eloquent as the politicians. We lose.

Regardless of artificial legislative boundaries.

The geography of watershed results in transportation corridors being located in a manner that creates communities, markets, and employment centers that are completely within the watershed.

The -- by location, we are defined as rural.

I'm sorry. And I use this example.
The 40,000 people, 38,000 in Graham County and eight or nine in Greenlee County, and you put in the other people, those people don't even count up to half of what's on the entire street of Indian School from east to west in Phoenix.

And when we get gerrymandered into north Tucson or gerrymandered into Casa Grande, we lose our representation.

The Upper Gila Watershed encompasses the majority of Greenlee, Graham County, and Greenlee and Graham Counties and portions of the Gila and Cochise and actually way up here, Apache County.

The watershed's resources and its uses define our community of interest.

The watershed produces water, wildlife, minerals, forage, timber, open space, and the uses associated with those resources, water, agriculture, our communities, the wildlife, natural resources, hunting -- as a matter of fact, just show you how important this is, I'm giving up my morning hunt tomorrow to be here.

I'm giving that up to be here.

(Appause.)

BILL BRANDAU: And I'm sure you are too.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I feel your pain.

BILL BRANDAU: Minerals, we have one of the largest copper mines.
These issues create a -- all these issues create a very sharp learning curve for whether it be a legislature or congressman.

In my previous life I've dealt with every congressman for the last 20 years.

And when we had a congressman that was representing us as a whole, we could talk to him and educate him.

But when our congressman was representing Tucson, it was very difficult to educate them on our issues.

Same thing with the legislators.

Understanding these issues in the watershed as large and complex and important to the Upper Gila, and it's difficult for a seasoned person to even understand, much less a novice. And that's what we'll get when we get somebody.

It's important that our lawmakers have an incentive of a large, single block of voters to learn these issues and represent.

It appears that the redistricting proposal will divide the watershed, the communities of interest, the citizens, and a -- into multiple legislative and congressional districts.

And I think we're only going to be about 15 to 18 percent in any one of them.
We're going to lose our representation.

Not only will the citizens lose representation here in this watershed, but our resources will lose too.

It was spoke of. Water is the major issue.

And when it's split up, it's very difficult for a legislature or a congressman to focus on those as a whole.

So I thank you for time here, and I hope that you put our districts back together where we can continue to be productive and solve issues in our watershed.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Donna Orbegoso, representing self.

DONNA ORBEGOSO: Good evening. My name is Donna Orbegoso, O-R-B-E-G-O-S-O.

Dear Redistricting Commissioners, I recognize that many long hours have been invested in the redistricting meetings and hearings.

I am, however, a bit dismayed that schedules and venues have been published and changed with very little notice, and that makes it very hard especially for those of us who work and live outside the large metropolitan areas to arrange to attend meetings. So I thank you very much. I appreciate you being here tonight.

As a concerned citizen of the current
Legislative District 5, I wish to register my support for what I -- to the best of my recollection, you had an option one 6A map that was previously proposed, and very much -- we find that very easy to support.

And I would like you to reconsider that, that option.

This map does preserve the communities of interest of our current district, such as small rural communities, farming, ranching, mining, mountainous areas, forest land, and historical heritage.

Communities of interest is a major issue to be considered in redrawing the district lines.

This map also keeps our counties geographically intact and contiguous, which is another important issue to be considered.

The lines I see that define the new districts certainly meander around to give advantage to political persuasions.

And I'd like to remind you to please remember when you increase the percentage of an ethnic group in a district, that percentage cannot be reduced later.

So when we're talking especially about the district that contains all the Navajo or all the Indian reservations, it would be very difficult to have a district with a lower percentage of Indian ethnic population.
The maps currently being proposed have several rural counties split in half, or three, at least three ways. And parcel off to metropolitan districts.

Often the legislators and population of these urban areas really are not aware of the uniqueness of rural Arizona and do not realize the effect that legislation often imposes upon rural areas.

I respectfully yet strongly request that you, the Independent Redistricting Commission, reconsider the long-term consequences of the current maps and the imbalances that are being created.

Rural Arizona needs representation, and I do not see that happening with these districts.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Rudy Dalpra, representing self, from Safford.

RUDY DALPRA: You had the name right, Rudy Dalpra, D-A-L-P-R-A.

Private citizen, retired, spent most of my life in community journalism, so I try to pay attention to what's going on around me.

On this particular issue, I'm kind of cold turkey.

So the only observation I want to make is I think
that the voters of Arizona, amazing at times, because when a
proposition is put on a ballot, the results are often
contrary to what I would have thought maybe the legislature
would do.

I think setting up this commission was a case in
point.

I think separating the deliberation over
redistricting and taking it out of the hands of politicians
who have vested interest was a very wise move.

And I'd like to compliment the members of the
Commission.

I was amazed when I got the handouts how much --
how many hearings you had and how much time you spent on
this project.

And I can understand the provincial interest of
the people that have already spoken.

And they're better prepared to deal with the issue
than I am, but generally speaking from going hastily over
the statistical data you had there, it would seem that what
you've come up with, as it is, meets the federal criteria.
Whether or not that can be adjusted to accommodate the
interests of the people who have spoken without jeopardizing
the one man, one vote principle, I don't know.

But in conclusion, again, I'd like to say that I
appreciate the work that you people have done.
(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Don Carter from the county.

DON CARTER: My name is Don Carter, C-A-R-T-E-R.

Vice-Chair Freeman and staff, I've got a big, long talk, but now we're restricted to five minutes, and so I can ad lib now.

I think it would be easy to concur with everything that's been said tonight, and I think perhaps by now you've been hearing this time and time again over the past couple of weeks.

But when the Commission was appointed by the courts, they were given some very specific criteria to follow.

And it appears to me as an observer or since that very first meeting that we had down at ASU, and I think, Vice-Chair Freeman, you and I talked, that there was some concerns that I expressed about rural counties being represented, and how we were going to be represented just on the input to the Commission.

And I was told that we've have the opportunity through the set up that we have currently with Clifton and Morenci, Greenlee County.

This is the first one I know about in our area.

So we didn't get represented properly.
Some of the hearings that have gone on before our hearing have been loaded with people who have particular agendas.

And I assume that each meeting you have has essentially the same thing.

We're fighting as rural Arizona, as rural counties, Graham County, for our livelihood.

Some have said water is important. When I lived in Maricopa County, water was what we did to the ground to make our grass grow.

It's the thing that we went down to the local park and fished so our kids could fish.

But water to rural counties is our livelihood. Without that water, we don't survive.

The compacts that have been placed on rural counties, particularly Graham County and Greenlee County in the past few years, farmers now are limited to a specific acre feet of water.

Some farmers can hardly grow crops with that, and understand that there's a desire to still take more water from the watersheds that Bill Randall expressed.

Representation is an important issue also.

I can remember historically, because I'm a little older than some of you, that in this county, Graham County, Greenlee County, historically in the past some of the best
and the largest and the best legislators from the state came from.

   We currently have in LD 5 three legislators that the people have elected. And those three legislatures have well represented our interests, Senator Sylvia Allen, currently senate pro tem, Representative Brenda Barton sits on very important committees pertinent to our area, Representative Chester Crandell who likewise sits on very important committees for our area.

   To do what you're doing with the map, LD map, all of them go away but one.

   Senator Sylvia Allen goes away. She's no longer with us.

   Representative Crandell disappears. He goes into another district, goes away.

   Representative Brenda Barton is now placed, if this map were to occur, which I hope it does not, she would be placed in a district with four other representatives currently sitting in office.

   And since the district can only have two representatives, that means that two will be eliminated.

   Probably what would happen is that because our representative Brenda Barton is the youngest of all of them, she would probably be eliminated.

   So now we have from Graham County, Greenlee County
absolutely zero representation.

As has been expressed very well already, when you put rural counties in with Pinal, Pima, or Maricopa County, or just touch the counties to get the population there, all of a sudden the 40,000 that we're talking about here are left completely without representation.

I think that probably the most telling story that you've heard tonight is the Representative Kolbe said to one of the constituents here, that's atrocious.

But that is what will happen if this map is allowed to go forward.

You know that, and we all know that. That's why we're here.

We're fighting for our lives here, for our good. And we please request of you that you take that into consideration.

Forget the political things.

Use all six or seven of the criteria the DOJ has placed on you, not one. Don't take one of them, which it seems the least apparently in the last two or three weeks has occurred.

This one of competitive districts is negating the effect of all of the other five or six that you're supposed to be using. The Arizona Supreme Court says you're supposed to using.
And it appears that you have not.

That's not acceptable.

And I think that the legislature and
Governor Brewer is understanding that now, and that's
probably why some of the fire is being placed in your laps
by the political side of our country.

Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Susan Breen, representing
self, from Clifton.

SUSAN BREEN: Good evening, commissioners. And
thank you so much for coming to this part of the state.

We were really concerned at the first round that
you weren't coming out here to eastern Arizona, and now
you're here, and I'm also very glad that Greenlee County was
able to participate.

I want to thank you for your incredibly hard work
that's all volunteer and that's been very increasingly
difficult.

And people are quick to criticize, but I think one
thing they don't understand is that you have to keep your
congressional districts and your legislative districts
relatively equal in population. That's very difficult to do
when we have declining rural population.

And I for one am very glad and appreciate very,
very much the way you've worked so hard to keep CD 1 out of Maricopa County, and to create two rural districts.

I favor the congressional map, and I oppose the blatant partisan politics involved in trying to impeach one or more of the commissioners.

The CDs right now as they're proposed have two predominantly Democratic districts, four Republican, and three competitive, meaning they could go either way.

I fail to understand how that favors Democrats.

Governor Brewer's complaints that the new ninth CD is too competitive?

I thought competition was the foundation of our way of life and our free enterprise system.

And so why are Republicans opposed to competition when it relates to our democratic form of government?

Could it be they're afraid that if a district is competitive it might affect their -- the balance of power that they've had in the state since 1966, the legislative districts.

As far as the legislative districts, thank you for keeping Greenlee as a whole and not splitting us up.

Several of the draft maps did have us split in two.

Again, though, I feel that in the interest of creating competitive districts and community of interest that Greenlee would be better served being part of the whole
of Graham and the whole of Cochise Counties, than where we are now.

But I really appreciate your hard work, and thank you so much for coming here, and hearing what we have to say tonight.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Jenna Mason, representing self, from Graham County.

JENNA MASON: I would like to thank you for coming once again.

It is a hard thing to take everything into consideration.

I wanted to address the legislative map first.

I am from Graham County, so that's what I'm going to specify on and to expound upon.

But I am going to talk about the others as well, because my belief is that we need to unify ourselves, and I believe that with some of the mapping that's going on, especially taking the whole of the Navajo and the Apache, I think it's segregating us, and I do differ in some of what people have said about. Our interest with the Navajos is our land and the Apache is with our land.

As the previous map has stated, that we still have that mining in Globe, and we have that in common with the
Indian nations.

We have mining in Morenci as well.

And our unemployment is above the national average. It is 12 percent.

And we need to keep that in mind that we need to have our jobs available to us, our legislation to -- I didn't know I was going to get like this, but we don't need to have our mine taken from us, from Graham County. And our watershed with Greenlee County, we share that. We have a wonderful relationship with them.

We are essentially cut in half and then put with Cochise County and with Tucson as well, and it's metro. They don't share the same interest as us.

They have two caverns, two caves. They have the whole, like, Air Force museum. It's a very, very different way of life.

They're metropolitan. We are rural.

My whole theme is unity.

We need to keep our rural communities rural, and our metro metro. With that we can have blue collar workers and white collar workers working in harmony. We grow the cotton. We send it to our cities, who then make it into something we can wear.

And, and I think that we need to keep that in mind.
We need to be able to be represented fairly.

That being said, I wanted to address the congressional map.

I have been to Utah and back and all the way around. And like I said, the Navajo and Apache, the southern part of their nation and the northern part are very different.

The southern half is more of a mid desert range, and the northern half is more arid and dry.

So as far as community interest goes, in their own regions they're not -- they don't have the same needs agricultural-wise as -- you know, they're topical.

So, in closing, please reconsidering this, these two maps with the previous one that was accepted before, and let our voices be heard and not quashed out by five different metropolitan areas ranging from Flagstaff to Sierra Vista to Tucson. Thank you.

(Applause.)

JENNA MASON: It's Jenna, J-E-N-N-A, Mason,

M-A-S-O-N.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Fred Kessler, representing self.

If you could let us know where you're from.

FRED KESSLER: I feel a little out of place, because I have so much less information to give.
VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: If you could spell your name and tell --


The first 69 years of my life I lived in Cleveland and the Phoenix area, so I've been a metro boy all my life. And when my wife indicated she wanted to move to the Thatcher area, I gulped and thought, well, we weren't married yet when we said that, but she said that, and I thought I think it's worth it to me to get her.

And as soon as we found a place in Pima, and I looked out at Mount Graham from our backyard, I felt at home.

So even though I've been a big city boy, I'm now a rural boy, retired, a teacher.

And I agree with about everything that has been said tonight. And I've learned a lot. And, again, I'd like to add my thanks to you giving us this tonight to complain about what redistricting people that I've come up with so far.

We feel it deeply.

I don't want to have to go back to a big city now, and this redistricting process seems to be encouraging that kind of thinking.

I appreciate especially Senator Allen and
Representatives Martin and Crandell for all they've done to represent us. And I don't want to lose that representation.

(Applause.)

FRED KESSLER: From what I've seen of the maps, it appears that the rural Arizona ADHOC eastern rural congressional district map, that's basically two halves to it, seems to be workable.

None of the others that I've seen seem at all workable, because there's too much of Tucson in Graham County.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: David Morse, representing self.

DAVID MORSE: David Morse, M-O-R-S-E.

For the past ten years Graham County has been voting together with Greenlee County, Apache County, and Navajo County.

We've developed long and meaningful relationships with people and the businesses of those areas.

The proposed map would tear Graham County in two places, placing the majority of the population into a district with whom we have little to no interaction, who developed no relationships, and basically have no vote in
the affairs of the new Legislative District 1.

   Graham County has only one sixth of one percent of
the state's population to begin with, and you would take
that and cut it in half.

   Under this new map Graham County would become
insignificant and lose our voice at the state capital.

   To illustrate, let me point out that the recent
Wallow fire that affected Apache County, the Wallow fire
affected Navajo County, the fire affected Greenlee County,
and the fire affected Graham County.

   Ash from the Wallow fire still flows in the Gila
County -- Gila River here in this county.

   The Wallow fire did not affect anyone living south
of Interstate 10.

   The people of Cochise County and Gila County are
neighbors. We have nothing against them. But they're not
part of our community.

   Thank you.

   (Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

Sharon Watson, representing self, from Graham
County.

SHARON WATSON: My name is Sharon Watson,

I came out here because I don't feel that the
communities of interest have been met in the maps that you are proposing.

And I also agree with most everything that everyone has said this evening, and I won't reiterate that because it will take forever. But some very good points were brought out, and I appreciate everyone voicing their opinion.

I would like to be counted as opposing the LD and the CD map that you've cut as a draft right now.

I've in favor of the LD 5 map that has already been submitted. I believe that's the name of it.

And I feel strongly that my voice and all of the voices in rural Arizona will be silenced with the draft maps that are being proposed right now.

And I want to thank you for your long hours of work, and that's all I have. Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Dan Haralson, representing self, from Safford.

DAN HARALSON: I'm Dan Haralson, H-A-R-A-L-S-O-N. I'm actually fourth generation here in the valley. Maybe some of the early ones should have been run out, but they stayed fortunately for me.

I love this area.

After my education I returned here specifically
because I do love it so much.

I want to thank you for the difficult but hopefully fruitful works. But having said that, the legislative district should include Greenlee County. It was part of Graham County until 1909, and has long been our beloved sister county.

And also the reservation, the San Carlos reservation has long been a part of our shopping and commercial outreach.

These areas are closely tied to us in so many ways.

I want to impress upon you to please keep our rural representation alive and give us a chance to elect people that understand our issues.

Keep politics out of it. I know you have tried to do this, and it is appreciated.

I think everyone here, certainly ones that have spoke earlier, find faults with either the congressional or legislative lines that have been drawn.

But after all the suggestions are heard, the decisions are yours.

And I do understand the tough job that has been for you to make these decisions.

Many thanks, and please stay independent.

Thank you very much.
VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Jesse Bryant, from Globe.

JESSE BRYANT: Good evening. My name is Jesse Bryant. Last name B-R-Y-A-N-T.

I last had the pleasure of being before you when you came to visit us in Globe. Since then city councilman Larry Alderman has been doing his best to attend all these meetings and speak to you and keep rural Arizona in front of your eyes and noses.

And when last I spoke to you, I had the honor of telling you that nine rural communities across eastern Arizona had approved resolutions supporting the maps that keep rural Arizona together.

Tonight I have the greater privilege of telling you that 14 rural Arizona communities across eastern Arizona --

(Applause.)

JESSE BRYANT: -- have passed resolutions supporting legislative and congressional maps that keep us together, keep our representations rural.

And I am going to tell you over the next week you're going to have even more cities and towns across eastern Arizona approving those resolutions.

(Applause.)
JESSE BRYANT: Mr. Freeman, who asked me, as I displayed this very rough map to you, if I had constructed a map on the IRC website.

Well, I took your advice, and I spent about 20 hours last weekend, and I reconstructed it on the IRC website. And the cities and towns are submitting -- the ones that passed have submitted this, so this co-relates that for your record.

You have the LD map already on your record. I believe you call it option one 8A, I believe is what it's called.

That is the map that's continued to be supported.

We strongly encourage you to hear the voice of rural Arizona.

As you heard here tonight, our cultures, our economies, our livelihoods, our very existence depends upon us keeping a rural representation, that is from among us, that understands what it is to be one of us, and can fight our battles when we have to confront state and federal agencies, especially over the natural resource developments.

The tribes are our neighbors. The Hopi and Navajo are in a congressional district. The Hopi will be in our next congressional district, and the Apaches are part of our legislative district. And they are neighbors, we do many things with them.
Especially in Globe, the San Carlos Apache. They shop in our stores, and we go out to their lakes, and we share the chamber of commerce events. And I am sure likewise up north the White Mountain Apaches in Show Low. Please hear our voice. Please do not ignore that voice.

I know there are five of you. As Mr. Stertz said, you're going to lock yourselves in a room and not come out until there's blood on the windows. After the blood has cleared away, I hope rural Arizona will survive your deliberations.

Thank you very much, and I look forward to telling you when there are more communities on board with this.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I feel your pain as well. Next is Dr. Suzanne Menges. If you could tell us who you're representing and where you're from.

SUZANNE MENGES: I'm Suzanne Menges, M-E-N-G-E-S. I'm just a private citizen representing myself. And I don't know if I'm from Graham or Greenlee County.

Let me tell you why.

We run a cow-calf operation, a cattle ranching
operation on the Gila River and in Greenlee County and in
Bonita Creek in Graham County.

I'm highly involved in both counties. I've been a
school administrator in both. I'm a member of the Duncan
Valley Electric Co-op board in Greenlee, Gila Watershed
Partnership in Graham.

I don't know which county I'm in half the time.
And that's okay.
Because the county lines in this area are very,
very faint.

I'm a graduate of NAU and U of A, and I'll tell
you there's nothing more important to rural, the rural
population than us continuing to be rural and to be
represented by those that understand rural issues.

Don't get me wrong. We love our urban friends,
and we have appreciate what they bring to our state as well.
We love sharing and teaching about rural issues.

We enjoy teaching them that you can't fire a
cattle guard.

(Appause.)

SUZANNE MENGES: We teach them about what a back
country byway is. What it takes to farm and ranch in rural
Arizona today.

Farmers and ranchers provide the fuel and the
fiber of this state and this country, and our issues are so
incredibly different from that of our urban counterparts. Just manage, if someone from Graham or Greenlee County went into Phoenix and started making decisions for them about where to build a school, how to divide their neighborhoods and their subdivisions. It's ludicrous. We wouldn't know the issues.

But yet there doesn't seem to be an outcry, except what you've heard here today, about our urban counterparts making big decisions for our water, for our public lands. And it's a big concern for us.

I would urge you to reconsider the Eastern Arizona Counties EECO map that maintains our rural integrity and our rural issues. And that we keep Arizona -- rural Arizona rural.

I appreciate this opportunity. What we're experiencing tonight is what makes America great. We can come and express our opinions. And I'm very proud to be part of rural Arizona.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Mitchell Beals, representing self.

MITCHELL BEALS: Beals, B-E-A-L-S. I'm fifth generation Beals here in the
Gila Valley.

I have eight grandchildren. They will be the seventh generation here in the Gila Valley.

My great-great-grandfather assisted in founding Pima, Arizona. He also assisted in digging the canals to see that we had the water to the farm ground.

I'm living on the farm that my great-grandfather cleared from the desert floor.

I have a neighbor. He moved from Queen Creek, he and his beautiful family.

His wife said, I knew we needed to get out of Queen Creek when one of our friends commented when I said that's a cotton gin over here. Cotton gin? I don't see any that sheep around here.

And, again, there is a difference between rural and metropolitan, very much so.

When I looked at the maps, the thought that came to mind was all roads lead to Rome.

But this is not the Roman Empire. This is the American republic.

The Pledge of Allegiance that was said this evening is a -- dedicated to a united people.

But the reason they're united is because we have the freedom to be different from one another without being overwhelmed.
In fact, the United States of America would not even be the United States of America had there not been some compromises between the more populous states and the rural states. They would have refused to unite.

And the reason the rural states were concerned is because they didn't want to be swallowed up by the more populous and more powerful states and lose their voice, like I'm losing mine.

What I would beg of you to do is to make your decisions based on correct principles.

(Applause.)

MITCHELL BEALS: Use those founding principles as a guiding light.

Those are the principles that got us here.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next is Pat Fleming, representing self, from Cochise County.

PAT FLEMING: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman, commissioners who are watching from afar, members of the staff here, thank you so much for allowing me the chance to speak.

My name is Pat Fleming, F-L-E-M-I-N-G.

I live in Cochise County, which is another rural
county in southern Arizona, southern, southeastern Arizona as a matter of fact.

Cochise County was also affected greatly by fires this summer, so we understand what -- how people are feeling with the fires they suffered during the summer on the eastern side.

I'm here as an advocate for good government, for true legislative representation, and my particular community in Cochise County.

I must tell you this evening's been a real education hearing from the members of this community. Their comments are very well thought out and very informative.

But I'm also here to express my support for the process that was presented at the beginning of the meeting, where it was described how the voters of Arizona in November of 2000 voted to create Proposition 106, which created the Commission on which you're now serving.

Four of your commissioners were appointed by legislative leadership.

That is, two from the majority party and two from the minority party.

Collectively you commissioners selected the Independent chair.

That was evidence of your ability to come together in bipartisanship. The efforts that set a great example for
the rest of our citizens in which we certainly are in
desperate need of throughout our state.

    Your efforts to draw new congressional and state
legislative districts have been constantly under attack.
However, for the citizens who do so, there are at least that
many more maybe who appreciate the effort that you have
completed as citizen volunteers.

    And this is not to say that I agree with all the
distribution of the legislative districts, frankly.

    There are way too few truly competitive districts
in the current map.

    For example, a major concern to myself and to many
is that of a particular minority-majority district, that is
Legislative District 2, that's been packed and creates a
26-point advantage for the Democrats.

    This clearly violates the Voting Rights Act.

    I prefer to see some of the Democratic leaning
precincts in the border communities of our Cochise County
that are now in LD 2 moved back in to make Cochise County an
entire county within a legislative district.

    The current LD 1 is certainly not competitive.
However, making all of Cochise County into a single
legislative district will certainly allow for representation
of the communities of interest there in that county.

    I thank you for being citizen volunteers, thank
you for your attention, and thank you for considering all
the comments this evening.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Larry Nielsen, representing
self, from Graham County.

LARRY NIELSEN: I appreciate the opportunity to
come here and speak to you today, to give you my true
opinion of things.

I am not from this area originally. I'm from
Southern California out by Death Valley.

And I, I -- from where I'm from, water is the main
issue.

And I see from this meeting here today this was
one of the primary concerns of this group. To be able to --
the concern of water for this area and how it's used.

To me, it was a major point of my life to have
water. It meant everything to us.

I lived in a very rural community with three
chemical factories in the town.

They depended on water there. We had to have it,
to make our citizens work.

This here, this meeting today was the meeting of
the people stating what they truly believe.

It's a meeting of the people being concerned and
going about things the right way to demonstrate their belief
in the American way and the justice of life and what this
great country provides to us.

    I am very proud to be an American. That's a major
part of my life, and I am proud of it.

    And I'll demonstrate it everywhere, anyway.

    Thank you for letting me say my piece this
evening.

    N-I-E-L-S-E-N. Larry.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next we'll go to Clifton.

David McCullar.

    MAYOR DAVID MCCULLAR: Good evening. My name is
David McCullar, M-C-C-U-L-L-A-R.

    I happen to be the mayor of Clifton. I am not
here to speak for the town or the town council. I'm here to
speak for myself.

    I'm here to commend this Commission for the job
that they've done.

    I've been hearing all the commentaries that's been
going on, and I have a very hard problem in defining how
either one of these districts could have been put together
without going into a city or a town, a metropolitan area.
Because if this -- if we were truly rural, we would comprise
99 percent of this state. We would -- this -- either number
one or the congressional or the legislature would go all the
way around the state of Arizona and not touch any, any population center, because, I mean, I just can't see where the Commission could have gotten the numbers if they didn't go into cities and towns, and -- I mean, so, I -- that's about all I can say.

I want to thank you for the job you've done, and especially under quite bad circumstances.

But, that's, that's about all.

Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Is there anyone else in Clifton who would like to speak?

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I'll take that as a no. Is there anyone here that would like to address the Commission? That was my last request to speak form.

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sure there isn't anyone?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes, Commissioner Freeman, we have another individual. We'll actually have him state his name, if that's okay.

MAYOR M.C. HOLIDAY: My name is M.C. Holiday. I'm the mayor of Duncan, although I do not represent the town.

But everything that you heard tonight from the --
from our people that were speaking here, believe it. It's all true. And we really, we really need to keep it like it was.

Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Anyone else in Clifton?

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay. Anyone else here in Thatcher?

JEANNE BOURIAQUE: I'd like to speak. I gave my paper to somebody else.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Come on up.

And did you say you completed a request to speak form?

JEANNE BOURIAQUE: I gave it to somebody else because they wanted to speak.

But I would like to. My name is Jeanne Bouriaque, and it's spelled B-O-U-R-I-A-Q-U-E. And it's not pronounced anything like that.

But I would like to thank you for coming.

I would like you to take very, very seriously everything that you've heard tonight. And I feel very, very prompted by God to speak to you and say to you that he is in full control and that you are volunteers, as you are, are
responsible before God for the decisions that you make.

   And not to be, not to be biased or guided by
anything other than what is right and just and good for this community.

   I thank you for that.

THE REPORTER: Spell your first name.

JEANNE BOURIAQUE: Jeanne, J-E-A-N-N-E.

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Is there anyone else?

(No oral response.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Okay. Well, usually this is the part of the program where we turn the microphone to the other commissioners who were in attendance, but since it's just me tonight, I get it.

   You know, one of the great privileges of serving on this Commission is coming out to places like Thatcher and Safford, that that was one of the perks for me.

   It's a great drive coming up here. I really enjoyed getting on those roads that I hadn't been on in quite a few years.

   I'm not going to sit up here and pretend to tell you that I fully understand the rural issues.

   I was born in Phoenix. I've lived most of my life in Phoenix. I lived a few years in Tucson, going to school down there.

   But, I've got family roots that are in the rural
Arizona. My grandparents moved just after statehood to Bisbee, where my father was born. I've spent a lot of time in Cochise County.

And growing up, and even today, I spend a lot of time in eastern Arizona. I'm one of those urban people who likes to come up and hunt and fish and do it all.

And so a lot of what I hear certainly resonates with me.

And shortly after being appointed to the Commission and after we had a few Commission meetings, one of the agenda items was a request for speaker from the Arizona Farm Bureau.

And I volunteered to do that. They were having their annual meeting in Phoenix, and I went to speak to them. I gave them the redistricting 101 speech. And they had a few questions, but really the main concern they had was constructing rural districts and keeping them rural.

And the Commission has heard that again and again and again ever since then.

And certainly I believe that rural is a community of interest.

I believe there are other commissioners that believe that as well. And the Constitution says to the extent practicable communities of interest must be respected.
And that's something I'm trying to do.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: I want to thank everyone for coming out and everyone for sticking around to listen to me at the end.

It's really a great turnout. Appreciate the input.

What the Commission is still going on with second round of public comment hearings. Tomorrow the Commission is in Nogales, and then Saturday is in Yuma, and next week I can't think of far ahead, but we've got hearings set, I think, Tuesday through Saturday of next week.

And then after the public comment period concludes, the Commission reconvenes, conducts business meetings, and makes adjustments to the draft maps to produce a final map that we've voted on.

I think it is incumbent upon the Commission, every commissioner, to take into account all the public comment that has been heard, take that, evaluate it, apply the six constitutional criteria, and make the appropriate adjustments.

And developing the -- in voting on the draft maps, a number of commissioners noted that it was a -- they were drafts, and there would be changes. And I think changes are appropriate.
So that's what's coming next.

(Applause.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thanks for coming out. And at 6:53 p.m., I declare this meeting adjourned -- 7:53.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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STATE OF ARIZONA )
COUNTY OF MARICOPA ) ss.

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 74 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 4th day of November, 2011.

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