November 2, 2011
11:16 a.m.

**Location**

Cottonwood Recreation Center
150 South 6th Street
Cottonwood, Arizona 86326

**Attending**

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair

Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr
(telephonically)

**PREPARED BY:**

AZ Litigation Support, LLC
Michelle D. Elam, CR
Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you all for being here.

My name is Jose Herrera. I'm the co-vice chair of the IRC.

The time is -- I don't have a watch.

Buck -- it's 11:16, so we'll start the meeting now.

Again, thank you for being here. This is a beautiful facility. So thank you to the town of Cottonwood for hosting us and thank you all for being here.

Before we start, let's go ahead and start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We, unfortunately, ran out of handouts. So for those of you that didn't get handouts and someone next to you does have a handout, if you guys don't mind sharing. You look like a friendly crowd, so get to know your neighbor.

We do have the maps blown up in the back.

Also, if you did not sign in, please make sure you sign in.
And if you plan to speak, we do need one of these yellow sheets from you. We will -- to maximize public input, we will limit the comments to three minutes and we will stick to those three minutes. So as soon as the buzzer sounds, that means your three minutes are up and stop talking.

You know -- so let me just introduce you to a couple of people.

We have the IRC staff, starting with Kristina Gomez, the deputy executive director.

We have Buck Forst, our chief technology officer. Buck.

We have Shane Shields and Karen Herrman, our community outreach representative.

And then we have from -- on my right, Willie Desmond with Strategic Telemetry.

And then we have Joe Kanefield who is our legal counsel and he's -- I think he's streaming via the web. So you may want to say hi to Joe.

And then we have, obviously, the commissioners that are -- couldn't be here today but they are -- I think the majority of them are watching the video.

We have about 29 to 30 of these public hearings, so we are not all -- it make sense if we
split them up. So I attend as many as I can and my other fellow commissioners attend as many as they can as well.

And then we have Michelle Elam, the court reporter. So when you have someone -- I think somebody is waving their hand.

What is your name?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you stand up and talk so we can see who is talking?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I can definitely do that.

Did you want me to stand for the whole meeting? I will do that.

So we have Michelle Elam, who is the court reporter. When you come up and speak, make sure you speak loudly, spell your name, first and last name, who you are representing, and also the city that you are from.

And before we start with the comments, we're going to have Mr. Desmond do a presentation on the second round of public hearings.

Mr. Desmond.

WILLIE DESMOND: Hi. Thank you all for allowing me to speak to you today.

My name is Willie Desmond.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: You need to stand.

WILLIE DESMOND: Just one second.

All right. My name is Willie Desmond. I work with Strategic Telemetry. We're the firm hired to provide technical assistance to the Commission as it does the mapping.

The purpose of the meeting here today is to hear your comments on the draft maps.

The draft maps are currently under a 30-day review window where the public is encouraged to tell us what they think of them so that the final maps can be tweaked to reflect the will of the people.

Before getting to the draft maps, though, I want to just give you a little background presentation on how these maps were developed and the process of redistricting here in Arizona.

Okay. Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the state Constitution, which was amended in the year 2000 following the passage of Proposition 106.

Proposition 106 established the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission and it laid out a series of criteria that should be followed when drawing congressional and legislative district
lines. The line are adjusted following the completion of each census.

The most recent census happened in 2010, and following the 2010 census, Arizona was allocated a tenth -- or I'm sorry, a ninth additional congressional district.

Proposition 106 outlined the constitutional criteria that must be followed when drawing these lines. And, again, because Arizona gained a ninth congressional district, the lines would have needed to be adjusted. Also because of population and growth and shrinkage in different areas, the legislative and congressional district lines were far off balance and would have needed to be balanced anyway.

So the first criteria is that all plans must comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

The second criteria is that all plans must have equal population.

These first two criteria are federally mandated. So any redistricting that happens anywhere in the country must satisfy these two criteria.

The other six are Arizona specific and
part of the Arizona state Constitution.

They are that to the extent practicable,
the districts must be compact and contiguous;
respect communities of interest; use visible
geographic features such as cities, towns, and
legislative -- or cities, towns, and county
boundaries, and undivided census tracts. Finally,
they favor competitive districts where there is no
significant detriment to other goals.

Just to expound a little bit more 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, meaning there can be no intentional or
accidental discrimination.

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

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

   Okay. The redistricting process can be
broken down into several steps, the first of which
was to establish a Commissioner. Commissioners were
appointed earlier this year through a thorough
screening process. They serve in a voluntary
capacity for the state of Arizona.

   Following that, there was a first round
of public hearings. These public hearings are
designed to hear the public comments about what they
think is important in redistricting such as
geography, communities of interest, minority voters'
rights, and competitiveness.

   This year the Commission held 23 first
round public hearings throughout the state solely to
hear the public's opinions. Those occurred during
July and August.

   The next step is the actual mapping.

   Per Proposition 106, the Commission needs
to start with a blank slate. They cannot pay
attention to where incumbents live or the old
districts. They start completely fresh.

   Following that, the Commission has to
establish a grid map. We'll talk a little bit more
about the grid map in a minute, but what you should
know is that it's simply a map that divides the population into an even -- as a grid-like pattern as possible. This grid map only meets two of the criteria, though. It only has equal population and compact and contiguous districts.

So what happens then is that that grid map is adjusted to meet the other six criteria outlined in the Arizona state Constitution.

Since adopting the grid maps, the Commission has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the grid map and to accommodate all of the state's constitutional criteria.

During this time they not only met to adjust line moves but they heard a lot of public input at every meeting and public comments and they received citizens' maps and maps that different groups had created and wanted to turn in.

Following the completion of that process, draft maps were approved. The draft congressional map was approved on October 10th and the draft legislative map was approved on October -- or, I'm sorry, the draft congressional was approved on October 3rd and the draft legislative map was approved on October 10th.

Following the approval of the draft maps,
a 30-day public comment period happens, and that is what's happening right here. So there's a second round of public hearings.

Currently the Commission is visiting -- it says 25 but it's actually up to 31 now -- cities and towns throughout Arizona to hear what the public has to say about these draft maps. And this process has gone on throughout October and will continue in the early part of November.

Once this process is over, the Commission will meet again to vote on final maps. So upon completion of the final maps, they will be turned into the Department of Justice for preclearance. And again, because Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps must be approved by a federal Department of Justice or a federal court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used for Arizona elections.

So now just to go through the development of these draft maps you see today.

On the screen you see the current congressional draft map. This map was last used in 2010. It was retired after those elections and will be replaced by the maps that the Commission is working on right now.
Per Proposition 106, the starting point for those new maps was a completely blank slate. Again, they developed a grid map. The Commission requested that two grid maps for both the legislative and the congressional districts be put together because there's multiple ways of making a grid-like pattern across the state to have equal population.

They picked option 2 for both the legislative and congressional, and you can see that here.

So once they have this grid map, they go through the process of adjusting those lines to come up with the draft map.

As you can see here, this is the draft map. There's also copies in the back if you're interested and in the packets.

Some of the highlights of the draft map are two predominantly rural districts, three border districts, three districts in the Greater Tucson area, five districts that are entirely within Maricopa County. The map avoids splitting Indian reservations, and there are two districts where minority voters should have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
Again -- now going onto the legislative map, this is the current legislative map that was last used for the 2010 elections and is being phased out now.

Again, we started with a blank slate for the legislative map and went to a grid map, as you can see here.

Again, the Commission met 25 times to adjust that grid map to come up with the draft map you see today.

Some of the highlights of the draft legislative map are that the old legislative districts had very large population deviation amongst themselves because of population growth in areas and loss in other areas.

So the most populated districts in the old -- in the old plan, there was 378,000 people living there and the least populated had 155,000 people. So some districts were more than twice as big as others. This draft map has a deviation of from about 207,000 to 215,000.

Also to comply with the Voting Rights Act, there are ten districts in which minority candidates should have an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
And the draft map includes three districts wholly within Pima County, and three additional Southern Arizona districts. There are seventeen districts primarily within Maricopa County, and nine districts primarily rural.

Okay. As we mentioned earlier, the purpose of these public hearings is to get your input. A great way to do that is to attend these meetings and speak. So I thank you all again for being here today.

Please feel free to speak about anything you care to, but possible criteria would be -- the constitutional requirements, the draft maps, you can also, besides speaking today, you can fill out one of the blue forms and turn those in. Your comments will also go on the record that way or you can fill out a form on our website, which is www.azredistricting.org or call the office at 602-542-5221 or toll free at 855-733-7478.

And we would encourage you to visit our website. There's a lot of useful resources there. As you can see there -- well, as you might able to see there are some red arrows here highlighting different areas of the website.

The first, which is a meetings tab, that
will give you information on upcoming meetings, both
the places and times.

You can also go back and look at the old
meetings. So if you're curious about how these maps
were developed, you can go back and watch the 25
meetings where the Commission met to adjust the grid
maps. There you can watch the video or you can read
the transcripts.

You can also fill out public input forms
and submit them on the map -- on the website. And
probably most important you can go and look at these
draft maps.

So there's two places to click on and see
the draft maps.

If you do, you'll be taken to a page that
looks a lot like this. The maps are available in
several formats. There are JPEGs, PDFs, and Google
maps. There are reports there on the population
distribution, competitiveness, compactness, splits,
the components that make up each of the districts.
There's also mapping files, if you have your own
software and you would like to upload the maps
yourself.

But I do want to talk just a second about
the Google maps.
If you click on the Google maps link, which is circled in red here, it will take you to a page that looks a lot like this. It will be a Google maps page on your Internet browser. And with this you can zoom in and zoom out to see any level of geography you're interested in.

You can go see your individual house, your neighborhood, you can follow the borders that make up these districts, so you can see what streets they run along.

By clicking on some of the buttons on the left, you can turn the shading on and off, the county lines on and off, and really kind of drill down and understand the maps better.

So here is an example of a zoom in. Again, it's kind of hard to see. I apologize for that, but you can go all the way down to the house level and see, you know, the street you live on.

So I would encourage anybody who is interested to explore that option.

Finally, we would like you to stay connected with the Commission and hear more about what it's doing as this process goes along.

Again, the website is www.azredistricting.org. On the website you can
draw your own maps. There's an online mapping tool where you adjust these grid maps yourself, adjust these draft maps. You can watch the current meetings or the past meetings and you can get updates on future meetings.

You can follow us on Twitter at #AIRC or friend us on Facebook.

So thank you all for being here today. Feel free to come up and ask me any questions you have after the meeting. I would be more than happy to answer them or try to help find an answer for you.

Also, feel free to use the staff here as a resource. They are very knowledgeable and can help you in a lot of ways.

So thank you again for coming today. We very much so look forward to hearing what you have to say.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, Mr. Desmond.

As Mr. Desmond had mentioned, the purpose of these hearings is to find out what you're looking for in the maps, what areas you don't like, what did you like and give us some detailed modifications and how these changes will affect your communities of
interest. So that's the purpose of these meetings.
    I'm not here to answer questions but to
    listen to you and your concerns.
    Again, there's three minutes for each
    speaker. I ask that you be respectful of each
    individual, whether you agree or not agree with the
    comments, let's be respectful of every individual
    that is here today. They took the time to be here.
    So again, let's be respectful.

    Then we'll be starting now, so I'll give
    three minutes and Buck will be taking time. And our
    first speaker is Diane -- and if I mispronounce your
    name, I apologize in advance, so do correct me when
    you step up to the podium.

    And again, spell your first name and last
    name. Tell us who you are representing and the city
    or town that you are from.

    The first speaker will be Diane Joens,
    she's the mayor of the city of Cottonwood.

    DIANE JOENS: Thank you.

    Diane, D-i-a-n-e, Joens, J-o-e-n-s, and
    I'm the mayor of the city of Cottonwood.

    I would first like to welcome everyone
    here today. People from the Verde Valley live in
    one of the most beautiful places on earth and they
get pretty passionate about their place.

So thank you for being here to listen,
Vice Chair Herrera, and other members of the
Commission who are on web TV today.

Thank you for allowing me this
opportunity to speak. I am the mayor of Cottonwood,
and I am elected to a nonpartisan position in
service to the people.

I represent the citizens of Cottonwood,
whether they are Democrats, Republicans,
Independents or any other registered party.

When someone calls for the fire
department or the police department, they don't want
to be asked what party they are, they just want
service.

I represent people who work and couldn't
be here today; moms who stayed home with their kids
today and elders who just couldn't be here because
of health challenges.

The city -- the Cottonwood City Council
has agreed that Yavapai County communities, both
incorporated and unincorporated, are communities of
interest and should be together as one district when
the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
finalizes its maps. This includes all communities
of the Verde Valley.

Our communities constitute communities of interest based on our rural economies, tourism, and environmental interests, and our day-to-day interests such as fighting drugs and crime through MapForce.

Our Verde Valley and Prescott area Public Safety Department works hand-in-hand with our SWAT team and PANT. We have been all working together for years on the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee, and I believe our communities must stay together as we seek to ensure future water supplies.

What Prescott area communities do with water decisions impacts the Verde Valley and vice versa. We need to sit at the table together to make these important decisions.

In fact, our water decisions are extremely important even to Phoenix area residents because one-third of Phoenix area's water supply comes from the Verde River.

The Phoenix area does not get their water from the upper Coconino plateau, it comes from Yavapai County.

We have two Indian tribes in Yavapai County, the Yavapai Apache Nation and the Navajo
Prescott Indian Tribe. Our tribes are connected with the Prescott area and not the Flagstaff area. Our Yavapai County school superintendent is in Prescott, not Flagstaff. We are closely tied as a county with our children's education.

Our community health services and mental health services are intricately tied with Prescott.

Many of our nonprofit service agencies are very much connected in Yavapai County, and these communities of interest are important to our citizens' day-to-day lives.

We have a close connection with other communities in Yavapai County. We get along great with the Flagstaff area through the Greater Arizona Mayors, our hospitals are connected, but our day-to-day lives are connected with Yavapai County as a whole, and we would like you to consider putting Yavapai County in one district.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

If you could just do me a favor, if those that have cell phones, if you could shut them off, I would appreciate that. Put them on vibrate or silent.

Thank you.
Our next speaker is Richard --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Malik?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Searle?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No, Richard Dehnert, vice mayor of Clarkdale.

Am I not pronouncing it correctly?

RICHARD DEHNERT: Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman.

My name is Richard Dehnert, spelled R-i-c-h-a-r-d, D-e-h-n-e-r-t.

I'm vice mayor of Clarkdale, and I'm here today to read a statement from Mayor Doug Von Gausig of the town of Clarkdale.

Madame Chair -- or rather remaining members of the committee -- please let me extend my thanks and respect for the public service you and your Commission have undertaken for citizens of Arizona.

Yours may be the most difficult and least understood and is certainly the most thankless of all in politics.

Any redistricting effort brings out extremes of partisan and bickering, second-guessing and demagoguing, and your project is, unfortunately, no different.
I'm grateful to you for volunteering to take on this most difficult of assignments.

The town of Clarkdale has followed your progress since inception through various maps and many trial solutions to meeting difficult and sometimes conflicting criteria.

We understand the seeming impossibility of fitting competitiveness, compactness, political boundaries, communities of interest, and voting rights into a single district map, a map that cannot possibly please all of the stakeholders when your job is done.

This understanding is why we have no critique of your actions and we will offer only a few suggestions that could help our community in the future.

The town of Clarkdale sits in a small extension of the proposed legislative District 6 along with the majority of the Verde Valley.

The lines as currently proposed will include the entire current incorporated area of Clarkdale but they do not include the areas identified in our community plan as our future growth area.

We would like you to consider a minor
redraw of that map -- of the LD map to include this
growth area, thereby keeping our entire town in one
district.

This should not be problematic since only
a few residents reside in the expanded area. Our
community development department will provide you
with a map of our growth area so that this can be
corrected.

It is clear to the residents of Clarkdale
that all of the Verde Valley's communities both
incorporated and not, comprise a single community of
interest.

We shop in the same stores, re-create in
the same parks and along the Verde River.

We attend regional meetings together,
have school rivalries and common economic
development goals and are interdependent on the same
regional economy.

For these reasons we ask that you make
every attempt to keep the entire Verde Valley in the
same legislative and congressional districts.

By this we mean keeping the entire city
of Sedona in one district along with the
incorporated municipalities of Camp Verde,
Cottonwood, Clarkdale, and Jerome, and the
unincorporated communities of Big Park, Village of Oak Creek, Oak Creek, Lake Montezuma, Rimrock, Cornville, Page Springs, and the Verde Villages.

As I said, we understand the difficult and complex nature of your task and request that you take the foregoing comments as constructive ideas that will help the town of Clarkdale and the Verde Valley continue to grow and thrive in the future.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Mike Ward, Sedona city council.

MIKE WARD: Thank you, vice chair.

I'm Mike Ward, M-i-k-e, W-a-r-d.

I'm a resident of Sedona. I am speaking on behalf of myself, but I am also a member of the city of Sedona --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speak up.

MIKE WARD: I'm also a member of the city of Sedona council.

I would just like to echo what was just read. I would like to see Sedona retained in the Verde Valley. We are closely allied and we identify ourselves with the Verde Valley and we would like for that to happen for both the congressional and
the legislative redistricting.

I won't take up any further time, as the gentleman that spoke before me did an eloquent job of making my comments.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Roni Jelm, J-e-l-m, resident of Sedona.

RONI JELM: Thank you.

First, I would like to say that I was shocked and dismayed by the actions of Governor Brewer's recent action regarding the chairman of this so-called Independent Commission.

I believe it is and should be an independent commission, and it's actions like this that have people demonstrating all over our country.

In regard to the actions of this committee, I think that you've done a wonderful job and I would like to -- I'm a resident of Sedona. I would like to see Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek stay all in CD 1 with people of like interests and included in with Flagstaff. But that would also include Sedona, Village of Oak Creek, and some of the outlying areas that aren't in the incorporated town of Sedona, but people who consider themselves
to be citizens of Sedona.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Rob Adams, mayor of the city of Sedona.

ROB ADAMS: Good morning.

My name is Rob Adams, R-o-b, A-d-a-m-s.

I am the mayor of the city of Sedona.

I first want to acknowledge what a tough position you folks are in on the Redistricting Commission.

However, most of us that have been in public service have been in at least similar types of positions in the past. And essentially what you have to do is make your decisions based on what is for the greater good. And I'm sure that that will be eventually the outcome here.

I'm speaking on behalf of the Sedona City Council as well as the citizens of Sedona.

The city of Sedona supports a legislative and congressional redistricting outcome that first and foremost keeps the city of Sedona intact and does not split the city by county lines.

The city also values an outcome that creates a district that includes both the cities of
Sedona and the Village of Oak Creek and that maintains the Verde Valley communities of Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Jerome, and Clarkdale, along with the incorporated communities within the same district.

The city of Sedona also recognizes the Greater Arizona Success legislative district proposal 3 meets these values and also combines other communities that share similar and common interests related to economy, transportation systems, health care systems, natural resources including environmental health, forest health, and water resources as well as economic development opportunities and ecotourism.

I would also like to point out, and I'm assuming that the Redistricting Commission has received this map that has been created by the Rural Arizona Ad Hoc Eastern Rural Congressional District Committee that essentially achieves these goals in the congressional district.

It changes the existing maps somewhat where it keeps the -- all of the Verde Valley intact in one congressional district as well as it creates a rural voting district.

So I would say from my personal
standpoint, I do not have the support of the
council, we have not brought this to council at this
point. We are going to talk about it Tuesday night,
but this particular map seems to achieve all of
those criteria.

And we would appreciate it if the
redistricting committee would consider that. I can
leave this map here if you're not sure which one I'm
talking about.

Thank you very much for your
consideration.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Suzann Trout from
Cottonwood.

SUZANN TROUT: Hello. My name is Suzann
S-u-z-a-n-n, Trout, T-r-o-u-t.

I want to thank the Commission for what I
think has been a terrific job. And while I do that,
I would like to cite the AIRC wants us to stay
connected.

I in turn would like to see the
Commission remain intact and free from outside
political interference.

Thank you.

As I said, I live in Cottonwood. I work
in Jerome and I would like to see us stay -- keep
the Verde Valley kept intact, just like the
Commission, and together with the district in
Flagstaff. I believe that we have a lot in common
with them just as much as we would Prescott.

Thank you again for your wonderful job.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.
Our next speaker is Bill -- and I can't
understand his handwriting. I think it's R-e-g
maybe w-e-n.

BILL REGNER: No.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No? Sorry about
that.
BILL REGNER: It's my handwriting, not
your problem.

Thank you, Vice Chairman Herrera.
My name is Bill Regner, R-e-g-n-e-r.
I'm a resident of Clarkdale, and even
though I'm an elected official of Clarkdale, I am
not representing Clarkdale today.

Thank you, chairman -- or Vice Chairman
Herrera and to the commissions of the IRC. Thank
you for the difficult job that you are doing and
we're hoping and praying that the end result of your
efforts benefit our state.
I think what you're hearing and what you will continue to hear today is a good example of the difficulty in determining communities of interest. While I encourage that the Verde Valley be kept intact, be kept whole in whatever maps you eventually adopt, I think some today are going to see that their community of interest is with the other parts of Yavapai County.

You're going to hear some people today say that the -- who live in this area see that their community of interest is with Flagstaff. I think that every map that you could possibly create will cause some people's communities of interest to be intact and others to be divided.

Do the best you can there and I know you are trying to do this.

I think competitive districts are a little more scientific. You have voter registration to guide you, you have voter turnout to guide you. Basing districts on competitiveness brings the independent voter more fully into the process. And as you know, that portion of registered voters increases every year.

Competitiveness also encourages voting decisions based on the quality of candidates.
Competitiveness also makes campaigns more about the merits of the issues, more about issues than ideology.

Competitiveness governs to a greater extent the voting behavior of those who are elected. They can now vote in ways that support good governance and good public policy.

So I encourage you to strive, whenever possible, to keep districts competitive for better districts and for a better state of Arizona.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Janice Graham, resident of Cornville.

JANICE GRAHAM: Good morning.

My name is Janice Graham, G-r-a-h-a-m. I am a resident of the unincorporated community of Cornville.

And I would like to commend the Commission on the work that they have done to keep things contiguous, competitive, and balanced as far as population and registered voters.

And I would just like to reiterate that I want this to remain an independent commission, which is what the voters of Arizona want it to be because
the last time we went through redistricting, things
got just a little bit slanted and people decided
that in order to have fairness in redistricting,
that we needed to have a Commission independent of
the state legislature.

And so I would like to go on record as
saying I agree with that, and I am thankful that we
have a Commission such as yours.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Now, we have two speakers that are
teaming up, Michael William Martin and Steve
Calkins.

What we'll do is we'll give both of you a
total of six minutes.

MIKE MARTIN: I'm Mike Martin,
M-a-r-t-i-n. If you remember me from Flagstaff, you
may regret giving me more them, but I'll try to be
more succinct.

To the Arizona Independent Redistricting
Commission based upon the 2010 national actual
numeration.

I represent the Black Bill Park
Neighborhood Association. I'm a director of it.
I'm not speaking on my own behalf.
The Black Bill Park Neighborhood Association is a nonprofit neighborhood association whose announced purpose is to assist our neighborhood, restore itself from the damages caused by the 2010 Schultz fire/flood.

The Black Bill Park Neighborhood Association specifically invites the IRC 2010 to impartially consider the needs of three entities, our Schultz fire/flood neighborhood.

Two, the needs of our adjacent Flagstaff city neighbors.

And three, the needs of our adjacent Native American reservation neighbors.

While we believe that these three communities of interest can be -- we believe that these three stated communities of interest can be joined in both a single federal congressional district and a single state legislative district simply, cleanly and equitably.

To that end we offer two preferences.

Maricopa -- one, consider Maricopa County (sic) whole with its population of 134,421 included intact as the community of interest that it is.

This keeps the county, Flagstaff city reservations in the county, the San Francisco Peaks
and the Schultz fire/flood neighborhood all intact
by maintaining Coconino County whole and undivided.

The Commission will discover A, a defined
community of interest is supposed to be a willing
neighbor. With 575,000 others, as you may select,
that are in turn disposed to find us a willing
neighbor with them in a federal congressional
district.

Second, a defined community of interest
is supposed to be -- it's the same whole county --
willing neighbor with 78,000 others as you may
select that are in turn disposed to find a willing
neighbor with it in a state legislative district.
Just keep us whole.

In both such districts, the full array of
societal relationships between Flagstaff city and
the Schultz fire/flood area will be maintained
unbroken.

In both such districts, the historical
sacred relationships between the San Francisco Peaks
area and our neighboring reservations will be
maintained, unbroken.

Then our second way of doing is it very
narrow -- not narrow-minded, but very limited and we
really hope you can do the first.
Maintain the Schultz fire/flood intact in a district with its intact Flagstaff city.

Attached is a Black Bill Park Neighborhood Association map illustrating this for a more limited second choice, but it's still a good choice.

Please contact us if you wish that we can help you.

Thank you.

STEVE CALKINS: My name is Steve Calkins, S-t-e-v-e, C-a-l-k-i-n-s.

Members of the Commission, I want to thank you for the opportunity to hear us and hear our desires.

I'm the secretary/treasurer of the Black Bill Park Neighborhood Association.

We came together as a result of the tragic Schultz fire and flood that took place -- the fire took place in 2010 and the subsequent floodings are continuing even to this day.

We are presenting to you today a map which we feel illustrates the city of Flagstaff and Coconino County's testimony dealing with our neighborhoods.

Typically the county advocated for Doney
Park, advocated for Timberline and for Fernwood.

The city, at the last meeting in Flagstaff, advocated for those areas as well as a half-dozen more subdivisions. And I would like to read to you the subdivisions that we would like you to consider keeping the community of interest of Greater Flagstaff full.

They are, starting from the north on 89, these are flood subdivisions, the communities of Wupatki Trails; Fernwood; Timberline, both platted and nonplatted subdivisions; commonly referred to as Wild Cat lot splits; Hutchison Acres; Mecan Estates; and then areas of Doney Park that were inadvertently, we feel, left out including Mount Eldon Estates, North Peak; Lynnwood; Mountainview Ranchos, Casanino; and Winona, and we certainly don't want to -- we don't want to forget Winona, and I'm not going to break out in song.

We feel that this satisfies the desire to make sure the sacred sites of the tribes are in District 7.

All we're advocating for is the subdivisions and the infrastructure needed to contain the runoff and the rebuilding process in this area, which would include the city of Flagstaff
dump, Cinder Lake Landfill, and other infrastructure.

I will leave with you a map.
Thank you very much for your time.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.
Sir, Mr. Calkins, can you give that to Shane Shields, please?

Our next speaker is Sandra Cosentino, a business owner representing herself.

SANDRA COSENTINO: My name is Sandra, S-a-n-d-r-a, Cosentino, C-o-s-e-n-t-i-n-o.

I commend you for placing the city of Sedona within CD 1, and we request that you also include the greater area of Village of Oak Creek, Red Rock Loop Road, Dry Creek Road, and the Sedona Shadows Community, and this way you're not dividing our voting precincts and our fire district.

And we're very closely aligned to Flagstaff and the Colorado plateau with regard to our role as a gateway to tourism in Northern Arizona.

We're also part of the Coconino National Forest. The whole Verde Valley, if possible without doing major revisions of your maps, I would like to see the whole Verde Valley be part of CD 1.
I do not want to be drawn into a district that includes Prescott, even though they are part of the county seat, they are not part of the natural community of interest.

I disagree with that earlier testimony. We don't have a seat at the table with regard to Prescott.

So I really appreciate LD 6 as a natural community of interest. We're all rural communities along the Mogollon Rim and underneath the rim that perhaps you should consider also putting Camp Verde in that so the whole Verde Valley is intact with been LD 6 as well.

But, again, we do not want to be drawn into a district that would be under the control of Prescott.

Prescott currently holds all three of our state legislative seats. We never hear from them here in the Verde Valley. They are not representing us. The Prescott supervisors also ignore public input and rob the new supervisor seat for themselves, now holding four of the five county supervisor positions.

So going by county lines isn't a natural community of interest for us.
And we're also in competition with Prescott for preserving the flow of the Verde River. So Chino Valley and Prescott are making decisions that drastically involve -- affect the health of the river to our detriment and we have no say. So being in our own Verde Valley district with the other Mogollon Rim communities, I think we'll have more of a say at protecting our natural resources in the Valley.

And I also support making these districts a little bit more competitive. You have made great strides from the last map, and I commend you for that.

And I also want to preserve the integrity of the independent redistricting community free of the manipulation of the political actions of the Arizona legislature, that you need to stay independent.

Thank you for all of the hard work.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Anita Simgen, paralegal with -- paralegal from the town the Clarkdale.

ANITA SIMGEN: My name is Anita Simgen.

I just started.
A-n-i-t-a, S-i-m-g-e-n.

I agree for the most part with Mayor Joens and her statements. There are many people in the Verde Valley who have tried very hard to unify the people of the entire county of Yavapai in agreement with issues that are in common with us all, especially water, other community issues that we have been trying very hard to work out.

So it would be helpful to us all, the way your legislative and congressional maps divide us, it causes even more of an us-against-them ideology and negates the efforts that we have all made to make Yavapai a unified community.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Terry Nolan, mayor of the town of Dewey-Humboldt.

TERRY NOLAN: My name is Terry Nolan, T-e-r-r-y, N-o-l-a-n.

And I would like to reiterate Ms. Joens's comments to keep the county whole. I know you guys have a very difficult position here. No matter how it comes out, no one is going to be fully satisfied, but, you know, the water issue was brought up here and if you split the districts, there will be more controversy about the water issues than anything.
You know, I'm on the other side of the hill but we all have communities of interest involved.

As Mayor Joens stated, GAMA, which is the Greater Arizona Mayors Association, we're all part of that and we all work together to work and solve problems for our towns.

So with that, just keep everybody in the county together. It's very important, you know, for that.

Another issue is, you know, Yavapai County has been District 1 from the start of the state and we need to maintain that number in that district for this area.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Richard, I think it's Mihalik, representing himself from Flagstaff.

RICHARD MIHALIK: Good afternoon.

My name is Richard Mihalik. Richard, R-i-c-h-a-r-d, M-i-h-a-l-i-k.

I am here speaking for myself as well as several hundred other people who have signed these petitions for me to speak for them and also the former mayor of Flagstaff.
In previous meetings, members of -- the current mayor and a group called the Flagstaff Forty and a lobbying group have been claiming to speak for all of us citizens living in the city limits of Flagstaff. And I am here to repudiate that and tell you that there are many of us who have never been contacted, there has never been a forum or a poll taken. And therefore I think it's very unfair for the Commission to just hear that they represent us when, in fact, they respect their own special interest.

Beyond that, let me just make the following statement.

I believe Northern Arizona is heavily tied to tourism in and around the Grand Canyon. And as such, we are very different than Maricopa County.

While Flagstaff is the largest city in Northern Arizona, it is still rural and rarely does have much in common with the urban areas of our state.

We here in Coconino County have much in common with Yavapai County, Mohave County and other northern and western communities in Arizona. Therefore, we should be placed together in a common congressional district.
As an example, Northern Arizona communities such as Flagstaff, Prescott, Verde Valley share economic development interests, transportation, education, forest restoration, water management, medical and health care interests, and, of course, tourism.

We currently work together on common legislative issues such as the Greater Arizona Mayors Association, Northern Arizona Council of Government, and the Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The majority of the forestlands lie within Northern Arizona, and this is of great concern for both Coconino and Yavapai counties.

Additionally, Grand Canyon National Park is located within the counties of Mohave and Coconino and we will be better served by being in the same congressional district.

The business communities believe that whole counties and whole cities should be placed in a single district to the extent possible while following the criteria spelled out in the Arizona Constitution, the Voting Rights Act and U.S. Constitution along with all of the laws that govern the Commission rules.
We recognize that the Commission must follow the law and that you are not above the law. We appreciate your efforts in making sure that our congressional districts contain communities of interest, as I have described.

Please do not split Yavapai County arbitrarily to include parts of the Verde Valley with the eastern rural District CD 1. The Verde Valley is the link between Yavapai County and Coconino County.

Many of the problems with the draft map could be resolved by adding the nonreservation portion of Coconino County into the new CD 4 and removing an equal population from Pinal County in CD 4 and adding it to CD 1, addressing many of the concerns of our friends and neighbors in Pinal County.

For example, Florence, Gold Canyon, Queen Valley, and the San Tan Valley of Pinal County want to be currently in the drawn CD 1 and the nonreservation part of Coconino County wants to go in the currently drawn CD 4. That would be a very easy swap. That would help create two rural districts and not make the Commission have to completely redraw the map.
If two rural districts and three border districts are truly desired by the Commission, this can be accomplished without putting eastern counties in Pima County and without putting western counties in what is urban areas of Maricopa and Pinal counties.

Arizona has more than enough people in rural parts of the state to deserve a minimum of two completely rural districts.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

RICHARD MIHALIK: I would like to just add one thing on behalf of the former mayor, he had sent me two e-mails on his behalf to speak. He could not be here today.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sure. Do you want to leave the information with Mr. Shields?

RICHARD MA: Can I?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is Mel Copen, president of Big Park Regional Coordinating Council.

MEL COPEN: Hi. I am Mel Copen, M-e-l, C-o-p-e-n.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Big Park is a little bit of an unusual
location. I took -- very briefly describe what we are.

We are part of the Greater Sedona area commonly referred to as the Village -- about 6,000 residents, about 50 residential groupings, homeowners associations, and so forth, a distinct business district and we straddle Highway 179, which was Arizona's first all-American highway.

We are proud to be residents of Yavapai County, but in looking at congressional districting, there is a strong affinity that exists that -- that goes beyond county lines and it really relates to our relationship to the city of Sedona and the surrounding area and of which a portion, of course, is in Coconino County. So the two counties are very much involved.

And in drawing lines along county barriers, would, I think, put us at a substantial disadvantage. It would -- we're more than a community of interest, we are a community.

If you look at what is going on, we have millions of tourists every year pouring in through Big Park into the city of Sedona into the surrounding areas.

They travel that 179, that all-American
highway. They then go on up to Flagstaff and to the
Grand Canyon. There’s another linkage there.

But if you take a look at the Greater
Sedona area, we’re talking about, for example,
common library system, common fire district, common
school system, many, many organizations that work
transparently through the entire community.

Dividing those two areas along county
lines, Coconino and Yavapai, would weaken our
ability to be heard and to have our needs addressed.

And so I am just strongly recommending
that as you take a look at what can be done, you try
every effort to keep the city of Sedona, the
surrounding areas and the Greater Sedona area whole.

Obviously, being part of the Verde Valley
is important. There are many other factors that you
have to consider, but from our perspective, that one
is really paramount.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Keran O’Brien,
professor representing himself.

KERAN O’BRIEN: Mr. Chairman,
distinguished commissioners, ladies and gentlemen,
my name is Keran O’Brien, K-e-r-a-n, capital O,
I live in the Big Park section of Sedona.

I ask you to affirm the proposed map for District 1 and the corresponding legislative district with the addition of as much of the Verde Valley as possible, but at least including all of the Sedona area, both the city of Sedona and the adjacent unincorporated areas and the Village.

There are three reasons for this. First, the main northbound route from Phoenix is Interstate 17. It passes through the Verde Valley and on up to Flagstaff. If one exits I-17 at exit 298, one is in Sedona. The distance through Sedona to Flagstaff is actually less than the distance from Exit 298 to Flagstaff along I-17.

Our I-17 goes nowhere near Prescott. No one goes to Flagstaff through Prescott. The tourist industry on which both Sedona and Flagstaff areas rely on typically exits I-17 at Exit 298, passes through Sedona and then goes on up to Flagstaff to visit the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, the Hopi Mesas, and other areas north of here. We represent a single economic unit.

Second, the Black Hills of Arizona represent a formidable barrier to travel between the
Prescott area and the Verde Valley. They refer to us as "the other side of the mountain." The Prescott area is geographically, and I might add, ecologically distinct from the Verde Valley.

Third, Northern Arizona University is an important resource for the area, especially the Sedona area. We go up there to attend lectures and hear concerts. Some of the faculty actually live in the Sedona area. We have no such connection to the Prescott area.

Let me add that we faithfully attend the Coconino fair held every year during the Labor Day weekend.

Thank you, sir.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is Dorothy O'Brien.

DOROTHY O'BRIEN: Thank you Vice Chair Herrera.

He's a tough act to follow.

My name is Dorothy O'Brien. Capital D-o-r-o-t-h-y, capital O, apostrophe, capital B-r-i-e-n.

I am the immediate past president of Big Park Regional Coordinating Council. I am the chairperson for our task force on redistricting, but
I am here speaking as citizen Dorothy, just myself.

And the first thing I would like to do, after thanking the commissioners for their really tireless efforts here, it's much appreciated, is to thank the men and women who have served our country. I haven't heard anyone do that yet, and Veterans Day is approaching us and here we have a room full of people, many of you have served in the armed services, and I just want to say thank you.

If I may, say I have testified to this Commission on two other occasions. This will be my third. So what I would like to say is the following: Paramount to our -- to me, because I'm speaking for me personally, is that our Greater Sedona area be kept intact and that it be kept intact as one unit as for all of the reasons that you heard previously spoken.

We share so many services and common interests as well as an economic driver, which is our tourism. More than 3 million tourists come through that gateway at 179. It's astonishing.

And for most purposes, they are heading through our community to see the beautiful Red Rocks, enjoy parts of the Verde Valley, maybe on through Canyon Railroad and then on up to Grand
Canyon or Hopi land and the Navajo lands and so on. And this is paramount. The second part is that we are in the part of the Verde Valley community. We feel strongly about this community.

But the third part of that is that we are -- we have demonstrated disregard from our elected officials that are in the Prescott area.

Prescott is considered the hub of that political base, and we are not, as a community, as a body, as a community of interest, are not considered.

The things that are important to us aren't heard, legislation decisions are made and none of our representatives, other than our own supervisor, Chip Davis, come into our community to hear what we have to say to ask our opinions about things and find out what our concerns and needs are.

I would ask you to help us as a community look at the next ten years. Give us a shot at having better representation, more equitable opportunities for our needs to be heard and met.

We have many good neighbors in Yavapai County. No question. But we also have a great strong history with the Flagstaff area.

And I would appeal to you to look at that
for us, give us another chance. Please help us make
the next ten years different than these previous ten
years.

And with that, I will end my remarks and
say thank you again for your service.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Mike Cosentino,
representing himself.

MIKE COSENTION: Hi. I am Mike
Cosentino, M-i-k-e, C-o-s-e-n-t-i-n-o. No relation
to Sandra. I no longer feel unique in the Verde
Valley.

When I moved here in 19- -- just a little
history, I guess -- first of all, what Rob Adams
said, Richard Dehnert and Sandra will cut my speech
real short.

Keep the Verde Valley whole, if at all
possible -- whatever lines you have to draw to do
that.

I personally wish you had stopped at the
grid and not have applied the other six criteria.
We wouldn't be here today if you had laid the grid
down on population and -- but that's -- I understand
Constitution and things like that.

When I moved to Sedona in 1972, we
harkened toward Flagstaff. I've lived in Oak Creek Canyon, lived in Sedona. The students in west -- uptown Sedona went to school in Flagstaff. We did our shopping in Flagstaff. There was nothing in Sedona.

When I was on the volunteer fire department in Sedona, everything came through Flagstaff.

Sedona -- it was a surprise to those of us in Oak Creek Canyon that Sedona actually became something worthwhile. But yet there it is.

My point is whatever decision you have to make, keep Verde Valley whole, if possible. I understand that in the current maps that you're drawing, that may not -- it's not working out, but if you do have to choose, we want to be part of Flagstaff.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Next speaker representing himself is Richard Searle.

RICHARD SEARLE: I only get surly when I'm mad.

But it's Richard Searle, and it's R-i-c-h-a-r-d, S-e-a-r-l-e.

And I have heard many people express
similar opinions to mine in regard to Sedona. I'm representing myself.

I appreciate that in your current maps you do show Sedona, the town of Sedona as being kept together.

There are some things that should be adjusted. I think that, for instance, West Sedona, some of the precincts are actually split. So I think you want to review that. We have ten precincts in the Greater Sedona area, and I think you should look at those boundaries. And I think if you do take those into account, it would include the Village of Oak Creek. So I think that that would be something that would be really worthwhile.

I also appreciate the fact that we were split in half between two counties. I guess this is sort of the case that where the town happened -- they had drawn the lines before the town.

But in any case, our general perspective, my perspective is that as a community of interest, it's Sedona, Village of Oak Creek, and my personal feelings and my friends are business-wise, culturally are to the great extent with Flagstaff.

And that's not taking anything away from the people to the west of us, but I will say that
when I first moved to Sedona approximately 30 years ago, Prescott was over the hill and it was a journey to get there, and it still is, and we really don't hear from what's going on over there. And you can move the boundaries to wherever you want, but they don't change the way people relate to each other. It's people themselves.

So what I'm advocating is I appreciate the boundaries you have now as far as CD 1 is concerned, the congressional district, and I would like to see those extended a little bit more so that they do include the Greater Sedona area and that's really in the Oak Creek Canyon basin area, if you'll look at that.

I think I've probably run through all of this except to say that I'm also disturbed by the attempts of politicians to influence the outcome of the deliberations of this Commission, and I hope that it all turns out for the better, that your decisions will not be dictated by the legislature.

So thank you for this opportunity.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is, and I hope I'm pronouncing it correctly, it's either Gary or Eary LaMaster.
GARY LAMASTER: I guess I have got to work my handwriting.

It's Gary LaMaster. And it's G-a-r-t, L-a, capital M-a-s-t-e-r.

I live in Cornville.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I am the president of the Democrats in the Verde Valley but I'm speaking for myself.

As you know, voter registrations in Arizona were relatively evenly split between Republicans, Independents, and Democrats.

But based on yesterday's allegations by the governor and the senate, it would appear that the Republicans are unhappy with the redistricting maps that will allow them to retain a majority of congressional representatives and all but guarantee dominance of 16 of 30 legislative districts.

Instead, it would appear the Republicans feel entitled to continue the super majority.

As a result of yesterday's actions, your job has been made even more difficult. I feel like the "I" has been taken out of the IRC.

If the primarily goal of redistricting is to keep communities of interest intact, as Governor Brewer and Senator Pearce claim, the Verde Valley
should remain in the eastern rural district of CD 1. We have much more in common with the areas to the north and the east, as many people have said, then we do with the west.

Jerome, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Sedona, and Flagstaff share an economy based on tourism and a concern for the environment that attracts our tourists.

The same is true when it comes to legislative districts. If creating communities of interest is a goal, the Verde Valley should be included with Sedona and Flagstaff.

The mountains between the Verde Valley and Prescott are an obvious physical barrier, but the difference in interests are even more profound.

For example, the Verde River that is the centerpiece of this Valley is in real and constant threat by political interests on the other side of the mountain.

It appears that politicians in Prescott and Prescott Valley would rather drain the Big Chino aquifer that feeds the river than implement sensible water conservation.

Placing the Verde Valley watershed in a competitive district with the Coconino plateau will
help us preserve this valuable resource.

Unfortunately for those of us that live in the Verde Valley, legislative and county offices have been dominated by the other side of the mountain.

It's time that the Verde Valley enjoy real representation, including the entire Verde Valley in the same congressional and legislative districts as Sedona and Flagstaff will help accomplish that.

Thank you for listening.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Joan McClelland, representing herself.

JOAN MCCLELLAND: Thank you. That's Joan, J-o-a-n, M-c, capital C-l-e-l-l-a-n-d.

Thank you for being here today, vice chair. We appreciate the opportunity to be able to come just from the Village of Oak Creek to Cottonwood and not have to go to Prescott Valley and all over the place. Thank you so much. You can tell by the crowd here that a lot of people are very grateful also.

I gave you a copy of this map, and I'll give it to -- well, you all -- all of the
commissioners have got a copy of the map.

There are eight voting precincts in the Yavapai County portion with Sedona, five of the eight will be split with your present District 1 congressional map. This is really almost intolerable.

That means, for example, the Big Park -- so-called Big Park precinct will have two congressional districts. This is -- this should be corrected.

The Greater Sedona areas share many communities of interest. The Greater Sedona area should be in CD 1 with Flagstaff. The Village of Oak Creek, which is where I live, Big Park, Village of Oak Creek, has three precincts and they are immediately south of the incorporated city of Sedona.

The Village is a southern gateway to the Red Rock country. A scenic destination for travelers from all over the United States and overseas.

Some of the most photographed rock formations are in the so-called Village, Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock, and Courthouse to name a few.

Precincts Red Rock west and Red Rock 2
with their Red Rock formation are the gateway for
visitors coming from the west. We were all integral
parts of Sedona.

The visitors traveling up Highway I-17
through the Verde Valley are coming to see the Red
Rock country of Sedona and then on to Flagstaff and
the Grand Canyon.

The Greater Sedona area should be with
the I-17/Verde Valley corridor communities of camp
Verde, Rimrock, and Lake Montezuma and with
Flagstaff.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Chip Davis, Yavapai
 County supervisor.

CHIP DAVIS: Howdy.

Chip Davis.

Welcome to Yavapai County. And I have to
start off with this hard to criticize volunteer, so
I'll try to be very respectful in my comments.

We have testified on this before. We've
sent in letters and we've testified over at the
Prescott hearings, and I don't know that any of that
testimony or written submissions made it into the
draft maps because they don't look like what we
You indicated you had a hard time reading Bill Regner's handwriting and I noted I had a hard time reading your maps.

You know, you guys have had just a hair of controversy in this whole process. So I'm not really quite sure where we stand today. I know over the past week there has been so doggone much movement going on politically, that it's bound to be hard to be a volunteer on this thing, but sometimes I think we get so entwined with things that it gets confusing. We actually take a simple method and it turns into a very confusing method.

In my observation, we have 15 percent that are usually far to the left and we have 15 percent that are far to the right, and I think those are probably 30 percent that you all hear a lot of, but what I would like to ask you to consider is the 70 percent of the mainstream citizen that's out there.

Politics is not pretty nor desired or viewed upon very favorably by most mainstream folks, and that's because we do politicize it and we take out the common sense of it.

And what I would ask the Redistricting
Commission, can you put the common sense back into it? Let's make it as easy as possible for citizens to understand what our boundaries are, to understand that the boundaries make sense, to understand that our boundaries include our neighbors and our friends and the communities that we grow up with and we befriend.

I know it's different from metropolitan areas. Rural communities have one thing in common, and that is that our strength is in combining our efforts to accomplish things.

And there's been some comments in regards to the water issues and Yavapai County, and I'll be the first to admit they have been very controversial and we haven't had a solution yet, but I would much rather be sitting at the table with those folks than not us have there at the table to where decisions could be made without our input.

So I think it's diversity that keeps us healthy, and I think that it's pretty important that we sit at that table and we keep an eye on the things that affect both of us.

I think what I've been hearing mostly from folks, and I know most of the folks that have been up here today, they are not really doing a
Democrat-versus-Republican argument. I think mostly what everybody is saying is that we want to stick together as communities. We want to know the kids we watched in football and growing up, that they are going to become our elected officials or people that we know, it's not people from far outlying areas who have no idea because we're going to end up with politicians that way. And we would rather elect people that we know that are going to do good, honest work for the state of Arizona and for our communities.

And that's the best I can ask you, is keep it manageable, keep it responsive and let's try to make it easy for every citizen.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Angela LeFevre, and I know I'm not pronouncing it correctly.

ANGELA LEFEVRE: Yes. Good afternoon.

My name is Angela, A-n-g-e-l-a, LeFevre, capital L-e, capital F-e-v-r-e, and I am an American citizen.

So anyway, I'm here -- I had to say that -- I'm here for myself, though I'm the outgoing president of the Democrats of the Red Rocks, which
not -- is not important from the Democrats's perspective but for the fact that we are of the Red Rocks and we cover the whole Red Rock area. So we have a big club with hundreds of members both from the Village of Oak Creek and from Sedona. And that is just one of many clubs that covers the area of the Greater Sedona.

And as everybody else is saying, we are friends, we work together, we shop together, and we experience the same things as far as the growing community is concerned.

So I've said this before, and I hope you all correct those mistakes with our ten precincts that they all are going to be in a congressional district together.

It wouldn't work to go by county lines because as people pointed out, part of Sedona is in Coconino County, part in Yavapai County. So a decision has to be made which way we're going.

I would love to see not just Greater Sedona but also the Verde Valley being up north with the Flagstaff area in CD 1, if that were possible, just as you've been able to do it for the legislative districts.

I feel -- one of the important things and
one gentleman brought it out is the competitiveness.

   Even though I am a registered Democrat, I also -- our club is open to Independents, and Independents make such a strong -- make such a strong voice today.

   If we are in a competitive district, we will have a stronger voice. And I think that's very, very important for us in the Greater Sedona area.

   We have strong environmental points of view, which are very important to us. Right now, for instance, in the past we were able to put forth some legislation into congress regarding a national scenic area, for the area to protect our lands, to protect our Red Rocks. I think it's important that we are able to continue doing that and have our say and that would mean having people who would listen to us.

   You know, we get into our local area issues, but I think our issues are more than that. They are Arizona issues, they are also national issues, and I think people in Sedona and the Greater Sedona area should be able to feel that they have a national voice on those many, many issues that impact us, especially environmental ones.
So your help here would be wonderful. I am sorry that your own committee is not intact anymore. I truthfully -- we appreciate all of the work you have done and hope you continue and hopefully will be allowed to maintain your independence.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Tony, and I'm going to spell the last name. G-i-o-i-a, former mayor of Camp Verde.

TONY GIOIA: Thank you for not abusing my name. I really appreciate that.

My name is Tony, Gioia, G-i-o-i-a.

Good afternoon to the Commission representatives and to my neighbors. Excuse my back.

I was not prepared to speak today, however one thing moved me.

I've heard and understand that there are now three concepts for what to do with the Verde Valley, which is certainly my main concern.

And by the way, I'm speaking for myself although more than a quarter of my life has been spent in public service as an elected official,
today I'm speaking for myself.

The Verde Valley citizens are split, from what I have heard, with the concept of retaining the Verde Valley as a whole, with separating the Verde Valley and attaching ourselves to Flagstaff, which we do have a considerable community of interest with, and today the concept of both Coconino County and Yavapai Counties joining in the larger district, which is intriguing.

All three of these possibilities have advantages and disadvantages. What I am here to address is not those, but the Verde Valley.

The Verde Valley is a family. Has been a traditional historic family through its growth, and that -- when I name the Verde Valley, I'm naming the cities and towns of the Verde Valley, the communities, the outlying communities, and the Sedona area and outlying communities, just so there's no mistaking it.

We have several interests, a number of interests that tie us together besides our microclimate, our economy, and most importantly the Verde River watershed.

What I will ask you for is to keep the family together. We may occasionally have
differences within the family, but whenever there is
a subject that addresses the survival of the family,
we do come together.

Our history shows we've been together and
interdependent, so I would ask you to keep the Verde
Valley, which includes Sedona and surrounding
neighborhoods, together.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is
Dea Brasgalla, representing herself.

Michelle, would you like to take a break
after this?

THE COURT REPORTER: Do you have quite a
few left?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We do. So do you
want to take a quick break?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have a court
reporter. And if she needs a break, we'll take a
break. So we'll take a break after this.

DEA BRASGALLA: Good afternoon.

My name is Dea Brasgalla. That's D-e-a,
B-r-a-s-g-a-l-l-a.

I feel like I must make this statement
first. I am appalled by the legislative move to remove Chairwoman Mathis and to try to disrupt the work of the Commission.

   It is the shameful act on the part of the governor and the Republican legislators to remove her.

   That said, I wish to stress again the fact that Sedona and Greater Sedona, including Laurel Loop Road and the Shadows and the Village of Oak Creek continue to be in CD 1 and LD 6. I would ask that the Verde Valley be included in both.

   I live in Rimrock but I seldom, if ever, go to Prescott. I do my shopping, I do my medical appointments, everything is in Flagstaff.

   So I think that there is more interest in Flagstaff for all of these communities and would make CD 1 and LD 6 more competitive.

   Thank you for all of your hard work. I certainly wouldn't want to be on this Commission.

   Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let's take a quick ten-minute break and we'll be back at around 11:50. No, 12:50.

   (A recess was taken from 12:43 p.m. to 1:01 p.m.)
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let's start back at 1:01.

Our next speaker is Tom Steele, representing himself from Prescott Valley.

TOM STEELE: It's Tom, traditional spelling, T-o-m, Steele, S-t-e-e-l-e.

And good afternoon. And again, I agree, that you have a very unenviable position to be in. I would like to remind everybody the word "gerrymandering" was created by Mr. Elbridge Gerry who was a Massachusetts politician and created a political district that looked like a salamander. And thus the word gerrymandering.

Now, whether it was done by a political party or it's done by a computer program, gerrymandering is still gerrymandering. It's not communities of common interest.

Yavapai County was the first county established in Arizona. It's as old as the state is. It is almost exactly the right population for a congressional district.

We have gone to five supervisors. We may not always get along, because there is battles in some areas east and west of Mingus, but we do get along to the extent that we will allow the Verde
River to survive because we are both concerned about that.

As for competitiveness, the population of Yavapai County has the population of Democrats, the population of Republicans, and Independents are really quite close, more surprisingly. And as for the fact we do have a -- currently have a Republican congressman, our previous congressman was a Democrat. So we have competitiveness just anyway you look at it.

So if you have to tinker around the edges to give us the exact amount of population, I still want us to retain congressional district 1 for Yavapai County and some areas that are willing and able and have common interests to be in with us, because we deserve that.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is James Eaton, representing himself.

JAMES EATON: My name is James Eaton, J-a-m-e-s, E-a-t-o-n.

Thank you for coming. I wish we could have had the whole Commission here because there have been very few opportunities face-to-face for
people outside Maricopa and Pima counties to address this Commission. I hope the others are listening.

In 1987 and before, Sedona was put between two counties. Incidentally, I'm chair of the steering committee for Sedona's new community plan.

I am not representing the committee; I'm representing myself, but we are trying to get Sedona people to imagine Sedona 2020 and beyond. You're doing pretty much the same thing for the state of Arizona.

Sedona was divided between two counties. Both of them ignored us. So in 1987, we had an election, overwhelmingly voted to form a city.

The city of Sedona is now unified. The city of Sedona is part of greater Sedona. I don't have to identify that for you because it's already done. It's defined by our fire department and our school district. It includes the Village of Oak creek and surrounding unincorporated areas.

Greater Sedona is part of the greater Verde Valley. I don't have to define that for you because it's done by mountains to our west, to our north, and to our south.

The people on the other side of those
mountains ignored us, so we took action. We are no
longer split, we are unified.

And I just ask you don't try to split
Sedona again.

As far as political considerations for
forming legislative and congressional districts,
Arizona has some idiosyncrasies. We have far more
independence than anybody knows because you can't
vote as an Independent in a primary.

I would be an Independent today, but I
found much to my surprise I couldn't vote in a
primary, so I had to register as one party or
another.

And I think if you pay too much attention
to political divisions, you're going to be making a
big mistake in this state. Try to balance
everything, not just a little political
considerations.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker
representing himself is Jim Muhr.

JIM MUHR: Thank you, commissioner, I
appreciate that.

My name is Jim Muhr, M-u-h-r. I reside
in Payson, Arizona, and I'm representing myself.
I would like to say that the congressional districts as drawn do not represent what is good for the state of Arizona and specifically for Gila County.

We in Payson, Arizona, are the gateway to the rim country. People come up the Beeline Highway to go to the rim country, to go into Pine, Strawberry, Show Low, up into the areas of Woods Canyon and stuff like that.

The way you have the district drawn, you have us in District Number 4, which is included with the desert and the river area along the Colorado River.

It makes no sense for Gila County or for Payson to be in a district other than the mountain districts. And I would respectfully ask that you seriously consider moving Payson in with the mountain districts.

The second thing I would like to address is the legislative lines that you have drawn.

The legislative lines that you have drawn now represent Gila County split into three different sections.

Think about someone working in the county trying to be on a Commission and trying to work with
three different sets of legislatures trying to get
something accomplished in that county. It's almost
impossible to do.

I would ask that you seriously consider
looking at the legislative districts, that the way
they are drawn in Gila County, and make us whole, or
at least -- at least give us two districts rather
than the three that it has now. It would be an
unbearable situation for anybody to try to get
anything done with three legislative districts as
they are.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is L. Thomas Spencer,
representing himself from Payson.

THOMAS SPENCER: Thank you, commissioner.

My name is Thomas Spencer, T-h-o-m-a-s,
S-p-e-n-c-e-r, and I am here today representing
myself.

I live in Payson, Arizona.

It is of my opinion that the Commission
has failed to take into consideration communities of
interest.

Payson, Arizona, is the gateway to the
rim country; however, at present, your map has taken
Payson and its community of interest, i.e., gateway to the rim country, mountain communities, and placed it in the desert Colorado River communities, totally void of the rim communities.

This totally goes against the communities of interest and it is also the requirement as stated in the state Constitution.

I encourage the Commission to reevaluate and take into consideration Gila County and the rim country as a whole and make it whole.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Matthew Capalby, representing the Greater Arizona Success.

MATTHEW CAPALBY: Vice Chairman Herrera, thank you for being here today.

My name is Matthew Capalby C-a-p-a-l-b-y, and I reside in Flagstaff, Arizona.

First of all, I want to thank you in light of yesterday's circumstances for being here today. There was a lot of concern whether or not the meeting would occur, and I certainly appreciate all of your efforts.

On behalf of the Arizona Success, I would like to thank you for increasing the numbers of
rural legislative districts from eight to nine and also that you did consider increasing the number of congressional districts that represent Greater Arizona from one to two.

While there are, of course, some adjustments that we all believe need to be made, we thank you for those and we also request that you take into further consideration the issue of competitive districts.

We feel that there is still some opportunities to create more competitive districts. And when that does happen, you have better representation and you have more voters engaged overall because races are not decided in the primaries.

With that, I would also like to speak to my former role as the regional director for Northern Arizona and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

Sorry if I said that too fast. That's a mouthful.

But with that, I would like to speak to particular water issues here in the Verde Valley in the Verde River watershed.

I do think it is important that all of
the Verde Valley communities are united in one legislative and one congressional district, preferably a competitive district, because when you have a competitive district, you get additional resources that will come forth from both sides of the aisle and better cooperation that will serve the environmental water interests relating to the Verde River.

While the Big Chino is the headwater for the Verde, it is also felt -- and it is also fed by Oak Creek, Fossil Creek, Beaver creek, et cetera. So there is a direct relation to the Coconino plateau, unlike some previous testimony that there are very close water ties to the Flagstaff and Mogollon Rim to the east as far as the Verde River watershed is concerned.

And with that, I think it's imperative that the Verde River watershed end up in a competitive congressional and legislative district. You're going to double the amount of representation in Yavapai County for those water issues, which I also think is important.

It's best to have two congressional members and two sets of legislators that will be concerned with issues pertaining to the Verde River
rather than just one set that's dominated by one partisan interest.

So with that, thank you very much.
Continue the good fight and on behalf of the people of Greater Arizona and myself being a third-generation native of Northern Arizona, I am ashamed by the actions of our governor and our state legislature in regards to this Independent Commission because it's counter to the interests of the people of Arizona.

So thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Laramer Mace, representing himself from Prescott.

LARAMER MACE: Thank you. My name is Laramer Mace, L-a-r-a-m-e-r, last name, M-a-c-e alarm L A R A M E R.

Unlike the previous gentleman, I do not believe that the Commission has been doing the job that it should be doing. Frankly, the very concept of an Independent Commission is about as likely as a temporary tax.

Yavapai County is known as the mother of counties. Many people do not realize that Coconino County was once a part of Yavapai County and was
split away. I personally would welcome the recombination of Yavapai and Coconino County into a single congressional district, which would include the nonreservation portion of Coconino, Yavapai, Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma.

This also would meet the desire of many of the people in the Verde Valley with wanting to be part of the Flagstaff area because now Yavapai and the Flagstaff area were placed in a single CD and would include all of Sedona, answering many of the problems that people are having with the current maps.

As for a legislative district, I propose having all of Yavapai County as a single legislative district which could include the Coconino portions of Sedona within that district and still meet the population requirement.

While we're on the subject of LDs, if the people would look closely, the ones who are concerned with being part of Flagstaff, the current map, LD 6, does not include Flagstaff with the Verde Valley. So you're not gaining anything by going with that.

And while we're still on the subject, I would like to remind people that Governor Brewer
acted within the confines of the state Constitution when it became apparent that the current maps did not meet the desires of the people of Arizona. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Catherine Adams, representing herself from Yavapai County.

No Catherine Adams.

Our next speaker is Bob Burke, representing himself.

BOB BURKE: Thank you, Vice Chairman Herrera.

It's Bob, B-o-b, B-u-r-k-e, Burke.

First of all, I want to say thank you for coming to the Verde Valley. When I first saw your schedules, I didn't notice anything scheduled for the Verde, but very happy that you came. You're very welcome here.

I, too, as many people have stated, was very distressed by the illegal action of the governor removing Chairwoman Mathis from the position of chairwoman for the Commission.

Well, once again, many of us are in a room talking about redistricting. Two out of three of the board of supervisors from Yavapai County got
it wrong when they redistricted Yavapai County. I'm just happy that they can't vote on this redistricting.

I want to say that there are many people in the Verde Valley throughout the state of Arizona that do support the Herculean task with which you have been given your charge.

I think placing the Verde Valley in CD 1 helps to give balance to the district, or as we've been calling it up here, competitiveness.

A balanced district reduces the possibly of extremism. It gives either party a fair shot at representing the citizens of that district.

And we have many issues that are more in common with the eastern region, our northern neighbors, Flagstaff, Coconino County, than with Prescott.

Water issues are important, environmental issues are important, forest issues are very important. And I do not believe that becoming part of District 1 in the eastern region will suffer the Verde Valley in dialog with Prescott.

I think issues that affect Prescott and the Verde Valley can be addressed. Any issues that have -- that are mutually in common with those areas
I will be addressed.

The only improvement I could suggest would be to put the Village back in with Sedona, as has been discussed, and keep the Verde Valley, Sedona, and the surrounding areas intact.

I think -- in another byproduct of this redistricting might be to bring the Verde Valley closer and have the leaders establish more dialog to face some of the issues that we all have in common.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is David L. Murphy from Clarkdale.

DAVID L. MURPHY: My name is David L. Murphy, D-a-v-i-d, middle initial L., M-u-r-p-h-y.

I wasn't going to say anything, but after looking at the map real close and the community of interest issue and everything else, I just wondered if anyone could tell me what Clarkdale has in common with Scottsdale? I'm at a loss.

And so, you know, it appears to me looking at this Commission-approved congressional draft map that here again it just puts more power down in the Phoenix area because Lake Havasu, Bullhead City, anyone that's out in those...
communities will have no community of -- Prescott
Valley or Prescott or Clarkdale will have no idea
who their people are putting forward for positions
in authority and such.

And there's quite a bit of money, I
think, down in the Scottsdale area and I think
they'll have real slick fliers and everything.

And so just give more power to the
Phoenix area and take any voice in rural Arizona
away from rural Arizona. And that's my input.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

We have Harry Oberg, representing himself
from Yavapai County.

Is that you?

HARRY OBERG: My name is Harry Oberg, and
I'm representing myself.

Ha-r-r-y, O-b-e-r-g.

Thank you for this opportunity to talk to
you this afternoon and for you to come up here into
Yavapai County and give us this opportunity.

I would like to give a little history
first.

May dad came to this country in '29, to
the state and resided in Coconino -- or correction,
Yavapai County and spent his entire time in Yavapai County. Even though he was other places in the state, he always felt that Yavapai County was one large community of interest. And for that reason, he felt no reason to leave it or live anywhere else or work anywhere else.

He was a cattle pusher. He worked ranches from Sedona to Perkinsville, Chino Valley, Prescott. He also at times was a minor, working in the Bagdad mine.

So I think with my history here of graduating from high school here, that I bring to this discussion a little bit about what the long-time residents of Arizona feel about Arizona and Yavapai County.

Looking at your two maps, the CD and the LD maps, one of your goals is to respect communities of interest. All of the communities of Yavapai County, Sedona, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Verde Valley, and Seligman, to name just a few, all have common interests and goals.

These communities are rural, engage in agriculture, ranching and mining, and have similar issues related to water based on our common geography.
As a result, Yavapai County should be kept whole and not have any portion of the county redistricted to other areas of the state that will not share its same interest and history.

Yavapai County should be kept as a single district for both legislative and congressional reasons. Our common -- community of interest will be best represented when legislative and congressional representatives who fully understand the issues and needs concerning our county.

In addition, Yavapai County, La Paz, Mohave, and nonreservation portions of Coconino counties should be considered one congressional district with no portion of Maricopa County be included in that district, either in LD or CD.

As people have said here, I don't see where we have any relationship with a very urban area such as Phoenix, Scottsdale, whether it's Pinal County or in Maricopa County.

Since Yavapai County is within 2 percent of the required population to be considered our own legislative and congressional district, it would be unfair for any of our communities to be separated from the county for ten years when it's likely that we will reach the required population levels in a
very short time; maybe one or two years.

I know in the Prescott area and the surrounding area, people continue to be building homes at a greater rate than we were earlier.

So I feel we will reach the population requirements that we can be our own congressional district.

And again, I would also support a couple of the other comments here that historically -- Yavapai County is the oldest district. It's based on the fact that it was the original -- Prescott was the original capital of this state and I would like to see CD 1 be a designation that remains in Yavapai County.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Monica A. Joyner, representing herself from Gila County.

MONICA A. JOYNER: Monica A. Joyner, M-o-n-i-c-a, J-o-y-n-e-r.

I attended a Commission meeting that was held in Payson a while ago. At the time I had little information regarding the Commission's origins and goals. I do now, after following the process, understand that the new redistricting lines
drawn for Gila County evidence the malfeasance of this Commission. That is, the lines were drawn to ensure that the current political leadership in our district changes hands.

There can be no other explanation for this as the Commission clearly violates its own rules on several criteria. Specifically it divides municipalities, counties, and census tract lines. It divides rural communities of interest such as tourism, a big industry for us, and then includes us into districts where we have no vested interest.

As evidenced by Yuma and speaking at these hearings, they have no community of interest with us.

I mention this because your process has catered to the criteria of competitiveness while minimizing criteria regarding geographical boundaries and other lawfully required criteria.

As a result of this division of Gila County, legislators will most likely be out of touch with their new constituency due to distance and time constraints. In effect, it is obvious that the term local government will no longer apply, and that I believe is the goal.

I am here to tell you today that as Gila
County taxpayers, we do not want to pay for illegal maps drawn by a mapping company illegally employed. We don't want to pay for lawsuits brought about by this Commission's unconstitutional conduct. We don't want any more condescending torts from IRC commissioners during public hearings.

We want a fair and transparent process in redistricting, which thus far has been absent.

In short, I represent the taxpayer, the unrecognized minority. The people that end up footing the bill for social welfare programs that ensure -- that ensue when partisan commissioners such as this are given power with little oversight.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Next person is Sally Lerette, representing herself from Prescott.

By the look on your face, I didn't pronounce it correctly.

SALLY LERETTE: You did.

My name is Sally, that's with a Y, Lerette, L-e-r-e-t-t-e.

Actually smiled because I lived 20 years here in the Verde Valley and then I moved to Prescott 18 years ago, so I kind of feel like I'm from both places.
Anyhow, I'm here today to urge you to keep Yavapai County as one district, legislative district and congressional district, like the last gentleman before me talked.

Anyhow, going back, I lived on a little ranch on the Verde River right here in Cottonwood. And I think it was about 25 years ago a real terrible flood came and it flooded our ranch, parts of it. And so the FEMA moved in, the federal government, and they declared that there would be no more building on the rivers and the creeks, which Oak Creek was included in that, of course, and all of the other major waterways here in Yavapai County.

And they also declared that if you owned a home, which we did, and it burned down, you couldn't rebuild again. In other words, the value of all creek- and river-front properties was terribly devaluated.

And it was a horrible outcry through Yavapai County. In fact, I was with some of the committee, we called ourselves STOP, S-T-O-P, Stop Taking Over Our Property, and we went all the way down, of course, to the state legislature, starting in Prescott County and then actually, thank God, Barry Goldwater was still our state Senator at the
time and he said, "What the heck is going on down on
the Verde Valley?"

   Anyway, we fought back. We had to
compromise some, and there was restrictions on
river-front and creek-front properties and
elevations and such.

   But the point is, is that we have this
wonderful, common bond as a family unit, the
Prescott, Yavapai County, Verde Valley, Clarkdale,
all of us have this water. This water is our main
interest, too. And the Verde watershed is
throughout these areas, even into Sedona, which they
maybe not want to admit, but they were part of our
Verde watershed.

   And it's important that we stay together
and that we are like a family. I still think we do.
I love the Verde Valley and I love Prescott area and
I think we're both represented.

   If you get out and vote, everyone has got
a vote. I only have one. If you don't like it, you
change it, I hope. There's somebody here for
elections and all, but anyhow I think the Verde
needs to be part of Prescott and the rest of Yavapai
County.

   Like I said before, it's like a divorce.
You're tearing us away. We belong to each other. We have all of these interests. It's very tearing.

So thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Karan Pfeifer, vice mayor of Cottonwood. Thank you for giving a nice spelling.

KAREN PFEIFER: It just makes it easier.

Karen Pfeifer, K-a-r-e-n, P-f-e-i-f-e-r.

I'm speaking for myself and my family.

It's been known here -- I've been told that if you swing a cat by the tail in this area, you can't miss one of my family. We've got numerous children here, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, in-laws from Sedona to Mayer, Arizona.

I lived in Sedona my -- I've been here for about 40 years now. And my first six and a half years was in Sedona and then I moved to Cottonwood.

I felt no connection whatever with Flagstaff when I lived in Sedona and I feel no connection whatsoever with Flagstaff at this point.

As for representatives not being -- not listening, we have had our representatives in Cottonwood quite often. You need to invite them and make it to where they are not in session and they
will come down and they will talk to you.

    We don't always get the results that we
want but sometimes, like the mayor said a little bit
earlier, you know, when you get lemons, you make
lemonade. And we've been able to work around a lot
of the differences with Prescott. And our water
issues are similar. I'm part -- the AMWUA water
board and the connection with Flagstaff is much,
much closer than it is -- I mean, with Prescott is
much closer than it is with Flagstaff.

    So in my opinion, I think that both
districts -- congressional and the legislative needs
to remain rim to rim and keep Yavapai County whole.

    Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our next speaker is Bruce George, Camp
Verde Town Council.

BRUCE GEORGE: Good afternoon.

    My name is Bruce George, B-r-u-c-e,
G-e-o-r-g-e. And I am on the Camp Verde Town
Council, but I can't speak for them, I'm speaking
for myself. And I would just like to echo the
mayors of Cottonwood, Clarkdale, and many of the
others that we need keep the Verde Valley as one
family, one -- so that we can all be neighbors.
And I know you've heard this before, but
I guess if enough of us say it, maybe it will have
an impact.

But I think on some of the maps, Camp
Verde is being separated from the rest of Verde
Valley. Don't like that at all.

So please, don't separate Camp Verde or
the communities east of I-17, McGuireville, Rimrock,
Lake Montezuma. Let's keep the Verde Valley
together. We all have common interests, and thank
you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is John Nevel from
Sedona.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's missing.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: He's not here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He had to leave.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is
Christine Lutz, representing herself from Yavapai
County.

Andy Grosare (phonetic), representing
himself from Yavapai County.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Andy left.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Paul LaBonte,
representing himself from Gila County.
Not here.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's coming.

PAUL LABONTE: My name is Paul LaBonte. It's spelled P-a-u-l, LaBonte, L-a, capital B-o-n-t-e, and I want to thank you very much for letting me speak.

What I would like to speak about is the maps. I believe all of your maps are illegal. Nothing here pertains to anything.

And more, as of yesterday, your independent person that you had on your board, Colleen Mathis, I believe it was, she was asked to step down, to put it politely, and she was found out to be telling lies about certain things on her application and who she actually was for. She never told them that she was leaning left or right or anything, which come up later that she was leaning in one direction.

And so she may have had a big influence on the board members without actually the board members knowing it, and I think that these maps are all illegal and should be started all over from word one.

And as far as I'm personally concerned, the board should dismiss themselves because nobody
knows how much influence she's had on either side of the board and it should be a whole new board and a whole new map system because everything that she has been part of is illegal, the same as she was and that's why they let her go.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Mike Flannery, from Yavapai County.

MIKE FLANNERY: Thank you and good afternoon, Vice Chairman Herrera.

Mike Flannery, M-i-k-e, F-l-a-n-n-e-r-y.

That didn't take along. We must be getting towards the end. I just put that in.

First of all, I want to thank you very much, Commissioner Herrera. When the initial 25 locations came for the round two public hearings, Cottonwood was not included on that, and I know that you worked hard at facilitating this meeting this morning, and I want to thank you because as you know, Cottonwood -- or Verde Valley was part of a lot of discussions as to which way it would go. And I thought it was important that Verde Valley be heard, and you have facilitated that and I thank you very much for that.
And secondly, in light of the recent events, I want to thank you for continuing with the schedule and not canceling. I think it's important to get the public input and continue. I know that you've set a tentative deadline for completion of this process by Thanksgiving, and I hope that you can continue that.

So let me just comment on the congressional maps.

First of all, I want to commend you for attempting to come up with two rural congressional districts. I think that that's very important. You heard that in various different meetings, and I think that your work thus far has been challenging because we know that in order to do that, you need 710,000 people per district. Arizona doesn't have that. You're going to have to dip into some areas, and that's where the challenge lies.

However, dipping into Maricopa County, and you've heard this, is not something that anybody likes.

But when you go from a western rural district and you go completely across the state to pick up Gila County and the western part of Pinal County, I liken it to Orion's belt as it travels
So if you could, I would like to have you look at making -- and you've heard this already today -- take Gila County and western Pinal County, move that over into District 1 and take the nontribal Coconino County western part and move that over into District 4. I think that helps. That's an easy solution. I think it keeps everybody in rural and I think it makes a lot of sense to do that. And so I would like to have you do that.

And in terms of the congressional map, I would like to -- I would like to have you listen to the people here today. Keep Verde Valley whole and in one district, and I would like to encourage you to keep that in Yavapai County.

Let me just wrap it up, because I heard that.

In terms of the legislative map, I would also echo the same in terms of keeping the Verde Valley whole and in one legislative district and that would be in Yavapai County.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our last two speaker are -- the second to last is Shirley Dye, representing herself from
Northern Arizona.

SHIRLEY DYE: It's Shirley,
S-h-i-r-l-e-y, Dye, D-y-e.

Commissioner Herrera, thank you for being here and thank you for adding this Cottonwood public meeting to the listening. I wished I had known it sooner. We could have gotten more of the Payson people down here.

I wanted to echo the gentleman who just spoke before us who doesn't know any of us in Gila County, I don't believe that we would prefer, as far as the congressional district map goes, that Northern Gila County be placed in your congressional district 1 and you could give Flagstaff back over to Yavapai County and the river counties.

We don't have anything in common with Flagstaff hardly at all. We never get up that way much.

And since they are so entwined together with the Verde Valley and all, we would find that that's very -- a very fine thing.

We definitely relate more to Eastern Arizona mountains and forest and would like to be placed back there with them.

One of the reasons I do want to make a
comment is the whole reason this District 1 got so
gerrymandered is because you all thought that it
would be a really great idea, or someone impressed
upon you, that the Native Americans all wanted to be
in one district.

And I spent a lot of time following our
Gila County redistricting where Bruce Adelson was
our Department of Justice. Many times before our
redistricting ever started, I sat in on all of those
trainings and sat in on all of the trainings and
questioning when we were working with our districts.
And even though I was not on that Commission, I was
very closely entwined and participated in it.

The Voting Rights Act says that a
minority-majority is of a separate language and a
separate culture.

You have mixed all of these Native
American language groups and cultures into one big
group. And I see no reason why all of the Grand
Canyon area Native Americans should not be over in
District 4 with Yavapai and all of that whole
district, and I don't see why the Salt River -- not
the Salt River, the Gila River Tribe that is south
of Phoenix and off the 10 freeway needs to be in
that district.
And then there's all of the other things that I could and would love to say to you but my time apparently is up.

So I thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

Our last speaker is Peggy Magee, representing herself from Cottonwood.

PEGGY MAGEE: I'm not from Cottonwood, I'm from Prescott Valley.

My name is Peggy, P-e-g-g-y, Magee, M-a-g-e-e.

May I ask a question?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, this is the time for us to listen to your concerns.

PEGGY MAGEE: All right. Well, it has to do with my concerns.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, no. We're just here to listen to your concerns.

PEGGY MAGEE: Okay. Then I'll make an assumption.

I'm going to assume that the congressional draft map was approved on October the 3rd. Am I correct? It says so on the map.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That, ma'am, I can answer. The congressional draft map was approved
actually, yes, on October 3rd, and the legislative
draft map was approved on October 10th.

PEGGY MAGEE: Okay. And there's 30 days
for comments. So this should be the last day for
comments on the congressional map.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No, ma'am. We
approved both of them -- even though they were
approved at separate times, we went in -- the
comment period started on October the 10th. That
was our first day of comment period.

PEGGY MAGEE: Okay. Because it says 30
days from the 3rd.

Okay. I'm going to talk about the
legislative map.

My big concern is what others have
voiced, so this is nothing new.

We have got nothing in common with
Maricopa County. Yavapai County is a very rural
district, and I think it should be, especially in
the legislative area, it should be kept intact. We
are only 40,000 people minus what the average is.
And I think if you add in Williams, which is rural,
and take away Maricopa, we would be at our -- what
is to be the average.

That's all.
VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

That was our last speaker for the afternoon.

Thank you guys so much for being here and for sticking around for this long meeting.

Thank you to the staff for organizing this.

Thank you for the town of Cottonwood for providing this great facility.

Again, thank you so much for being here and have a great day.

We're ending the meeting at 1:47 -- 1:48.

(The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.)
I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby certify that the foregoing 103 printed pages constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this 3rd day of November, 2011.

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MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637