

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Thursday, November 3, 2011
6:20 p.m.

Location

**Granite Reef Senior Center
1700 North Granite Reef Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257**

Attending

Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director

Joe Kanefield, Legal Counsel

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

1 Scottsdale, Arizona
2 November 3, 2011
3 6:20 p.m.

4
5 P R O C E E D I N G S

6
7 (Whereupon, the public session commences.)

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So, thank you first to the
9 city of Scottsdale for these wonderful accommodations.

10 My name is Rick Stertz. I'm one of the
11 commissioners of the Arizona Independent Redistricting
12 Commission. And I would like to say on behalf of my other
13 commissioners who are watching and streaming this evening
14 that you are missing the largest crowd that we've had so far
15 in our tour around the state of Arizona.

16 So, Scottsdale, give yourself --

17 (Applause.)

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And also I'd like to
19 introduce -- pardon me.

20 Marty reminded me that the time is 6:20 and we're
21 starting the meeting at 6:20.

22 I'd like to introduce some of the folks that we
23 have with us.

24 To my left we have our legal counsel, Joe
25 Kanefield.

1 Our deputy executive director, Kristina Gomez.

2 Our public relations coordinators, and they are
3 working at the tables out there, Lisa Schmelling and Kristi
4 Olson.

5 Our chief technology officer, Buck Forst, who is
6 behind the box. And he is managing the speakers and the
7 streaming. And he'll also assist as we are -- as you're
8 coming up and giving testimony, if you need any help with
9 the microphone, for people that need it to be raised,
10 lowered, or moved.

11 To my right we have Andrew Drechsler, a fellow
12 Packer fan, with Strategic Telemetry.

13 Our court reporter is Marty Herder who has been
14 traveling the state with us.

15 Our interpreter tonight is Carlos Reyes.

16 And I want to give a special thanks to the
17 organizer from the City of Scottsdale Brad Lundahl. So I'd
18 like to give a special thanks to Brad as well.

19 (Applause.)

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

21 Before we get started, I'm going to ask everyone
22 to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

23 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, everyone.

25 We do have a few housekeeping items that we need

1 to take care of.

2 The first is that we have our interpreter, Carlos
3 Reyes, who I would like to have come up to the microphone,
4 giving the opportunity that if we have anyone that needs
5 assistance in a language and interpretation, he can make
6 that announcement.

7 So Mr. Reyes.

8 CARLOS REYES: Good evening, Commissioner Stertz,
9 ladies and gentlemen. In accordance with the Voting Rights
10 Act, an interpreter will be available at all the public
11 hearings in order to provide interpreting services that
12 might be needed. For those citizens that need interpreting
13 services, please contact the interpreter present at this
14 meeting so that he or she can assist you.

15 And I'll read that same script in Spanish.

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

18 CARLOS REYES: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Reyes.

21 When you entered the hall this evening, you should
22 have received a packet that looks like this.

23 And you should have had the opportunity to also
24 have a yellow sheet.

25 Now, the yellow sheet is a speaker sheet. So if

1 you have -- if you wish to speak tonight, please fill one
2 out and turn in the speaker sheet to one of the staff
3 members, and I will put it in the pack.

4 We've got about 80 different speakers that would
5 like to speak so far.

6 In the back of this packet is a blue sheet. On
7 this blue sheet is if you do not wish to speak but you would
8 like to have your comments entered into the record, because
9 the importance of these tours that we are doing in the
10 27 locations around the state is to collect information and
11 data.

12 So if you don't feel comfortable about what you
13 are -- uncomfortable about getting in front of a microphone
14 or speaking in public, please put your comments on this blue
15 sheet.

16 You've made it here tonight and you've taken out
17 your time and your day to do this.

18 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where do we get
19 those sheets?

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: They are in the pack of the
21 packet. And if you do not have one, or if you came in, the
22 entrance sign-in desk is right outside these doors. So
23 right outside these doors you can either get a yellow sheet
24 or blue sheet.

25 Yellow is for speakers and the blue sheet if you

1 do not wish to speak but you wish to have your comments put
2 on the record.

3 Before we begin testimony, we're going to have --
4 I'm going to introduce Andrew Drechsler. He is a mapping
5 consultant with Strategic Telemetry. And he will give you
6 an overview of the Independent Redistricting Commission and
7 the process that has been taking place so far today.

8 Andrew.

9 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Thank you very much. Before we
10 get started tonight, as Commissioner Stertz said, we want to
11 do a quick overview of the process that got us to this date
12 and we're going to display the draft maps tonight.

13 And one of the big things that we're here for is
14 to hear your comments. We want to hear what you like about
15 the maps, what you might not like about the maps, what
16 changes you would make to the maps. And we're here to hear
17 your comments, and there's a number of different ways to do
18 that.

19 Before we start, just want to quick do an overview
20 of why we're here.

21 Arizona's redistricting process is governed by the
22 state constitution as amended by voters in 2000 with the
23 passage of Proposition 106.

24 It stipulates that Arizona's Independent
25 Redistricting Commission redraw Arizona's congressional and

1 legislative districts to reflect the results of the most
2 recent census.

3 Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a
4 congressional seat. So we're going to be going from eight
5 seats to nine seats.

6 And for the legislative seats, we're still going
7 to remain at 30 senate seats, and with -- nested within them
8 are going to be two -- within each of the 30 senate seats is
9 going to be two house of representative seats. So there
10 will be 60.

11 But of course with the population changes, that's
12 why we're changing the lines.

13 So what are the requirements of the state
14 constitution via Proposition 106.

15 There are sort of six main guidelines that the
16 Commission has sort of their rule book, what they need to
17 follow.

18 New district boundaries must comply with the
19 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. And, B, equal
20 population.

21 So those two are federally mandated, and all the
22 states have to do those two.

23 The next four are parts of the Proposition 106
24 that were passed. And to the extent practicable the
25 districts must be compact and contiguous; respect

1 communities of interest; E, use visible geographic features,
2 city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided census
3 tracts; F, favor competitive districts where no significant
4 detriment to other goals.

5 We just wanted to quick highlight the Voting
6 Rights Act, and I have a quick video to show after this.

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

11 To give preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate
12 that the new districts do not discriminate against minority
13 voters in purpose or effect. Which means that they can have
14 no intentional or accidental discrimination.

15 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
16 cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce
17 minority voting -- voters' rights. The presence of
18 discrimination can be determined by analyzing population
19 data and election results.

20 Quick pause and play a video by Bruce Adelson.

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

23 ANDREW DRECHSLER: Okay. Just want to do a quick
24 review of the timeline that we're dealing with with the
25 redistricting process.

1 The first step is setting up the Commission.

2 Earlier this year the commissioners were selected
3 through a process, a thorough screening process, and all
4 five commissioners serve as a volunteer in a voluntary role
5 onto the Commission.

6 Step two was the first round of hearings.

7 Before a single line was drawn, the Commission met
8 23 -- had 23 public hearings around the state in July and
9 August to get input from members of the public regarding
10 issues relevant to redistricting, such as geography,
11 communities of interest, minority voting rights, and
12 competitiveness.

13 The third step was the mapping.

14 Per Proposition 106, they want -- they require us
15 to start with a blank slate.

16 From there we then divide the state into equal
17 population and compact grid-like districts, which was --
18 which is the grid map which was approved on August 18th.

19 Since the adopting the grid maps, the Commission
20 has met more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the
21 grid to accommodate all six constitutional criteria.

22 During this time they received additional public
23 comments and other draft maps.

24 Approval of the draft maps.

25 On October 3rd, the Commission approved a draft

1 congressional map that incorporated all the changes based on
2 the constitutional criteria.

3 It approved a draft legislative map on
4 October 10th.

5 The second round of hearings, which you're a part
6 of tonight.

7 We're currently visiting over 25 towns and
8 cities around the state to hear inputs and see what your
9 thoughts are on the maps during the months of October and
10 November.

11 Step five is the final maps.

12 Upon completion of the public comment period, the
13 AIRC will adopt the final maps.

14 And the final step is preclearance. Because
15 Arizona is subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act,
16 the district maps must be approved by the federal Department
17 of Justice or a federal court in Washington, D.C., before
18 they can be used in Arizona elections.

19 Before we show you the draft congressional map, I
20 just want to show you the current map.

21 This was the map that was used by the last
22 Commission or drafted by the last Commission and most
23 recently used in the 2010 elections.

24 Per Proposition 106 we need to start with a blank
25 slate, and then we create the grid map. The grid map takes

1 in only two of the six criteria. It takes in equal
2 population and compactness.

3 And finally, we after -- after all the meetings
4 and the public hearings and getting comments and the
5 25 meetings at the end of August and then to September and
6 October, we came up with a congressional draft map.

7 Some highlights of the congressional draft map is
8 that they have two predominantly rural districts, three
9 border districts, three districts in greater Tucson region,
10 five districts that are entirely in Maricopa County, avoids
11 splitting Arizona's Indian reservations, two districts where
12 minority voters have the opportunity to elect a candidate of
13 their choice.

14 The legislative map followed a very similar
15 process.

16 To start for a starting point for tonight, this is
17 the legislative map that the last Commission approved and
18 was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

19 And just like the congressional map, we needed to
20 start with a blank slate.

21 And then we created the grid map.

22 Again, the grid map only took into consideration
23 two of the six criteria.

24 Again, it took into consideration equal population
25 and compactness.

1 Once the grid maps were established in the end of
2 August, then they came up with a legislative map. Again,
3 that's when they took in the other four constitutional
4 criteria.

5 And this is the draft map that we're currently
6 proposing.

7 The draft map includes -- some highlights of the
8 draft map, the old districts, the population of the old
9 districts ranged from 155,000 to 378,000.

10 Under this current draft map, they are roughly
11 207,000 to 215,000.

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

15 The draft includes three districts wholly within
16 Pima County and three additional southern Arizona districts,
17 17 districts primarily within Maricopa County, and
18 nine districts primarily rural.

19 And, of course, one of the main reasons that we're
20 here tonight is because we want to hear your input on the
21 draft maps.

22 There's a number of different ways that you can
23 give us your input.

24 You can fill out one of the request to speak
25 forms, the yellow forms, if you want to speak here tonight.

1 And some examples of what you may want to tell us,
2 you may talk about some of the constitutional criteria, what
3 you like about the draft congressional map, what you don't
4 like about the draft congressional map, and same thing with
5 the legislative map.

6 So you can either give us your comments by
7 speaking at the hearing, as Commissioner Stertz, there's a
8 blue sheet at the back of your packets. You can either hand
9 those in tonight.

10 We have the address, the Commission's address, if
11 you want to mail these in. You have that at the bottom.

12 If you want to call us and give us your comments,
13 you can do that as well.

14 You can also visit us at our website,
15 www.azredistricting.org. And there's the opportunity to
16 fill out public -- submit public input there, or you can
17 call us either at the number (602)542-5221, or toll free
18 (855)733-7478.

19 This is just a screen shot of our website, and
20 it's one of -- we just wanted to highlight a couple of
21 things for the public.

22 You can -- there's public -- in the upper
23 left-hand corner you'll find a link to all the maps.

24 If you want to see the grid maps a little bit
25 closer, if you want to see some of the work, the what-if

1 maps that were developed along the way, you can see those
2 under the maps.

3 Also under the mapping section is the ability to
4 draw your own maps. We have an online mapping software
5 where you can go in and draw those.

6 There's a meeting link.

7 As we only have a couple more days in the second
8 round of hearings, if you wanted to go review any of the
9 past meetings or if you wanted to see how the draft maps
10 came in, were developed, watching any of the commissioners'
11 meetings that happened between the end of August and
12 throughout September and into October, you could watch the
13 development of the maps.

14 The public input is there as well.

15 And down at the bottom is a quick link to the
16 draft maps as well.

17 If you click on either of those congressional or
18 legislative maps, you'll come to a page like this that has a
19 number of different maps in different formats.

20 There's a number of different reports on different
21 population tables. There's compactness, competitive tables
22 on there as well.

23 And one of the things we have highlighted is the
24 Google maps. We've heard a lot of great comments from
25 citizens liking the Google maps because you can click on

1 either of those links and it will take you to a page that
2 looks like this.

3 And what this does -- one of the really nice
4 features about the Google maps is it allows you to zoom in
5 and really see the -- your districts and see what the exact
6 boundaries are of either of the congressional or draft maps.

7 This is just an example of a zoomed in shot on
8 Maricopa County.

9 Finally, we want you to stay connected through our
10 website. Where, again, I mentioned you can draw maps. You
11 can watch current or past meetings and get updates on future
12 meetings.

13 You can follow us on Twitter or friend us on
14 Facebook.

15 Thank you very much.

16 I will be here for -- until after the meeting if
17 there's any questions that you have, I'd be more than happy
18 to answer them, and we look forward to hearing your
19 comments.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Andrew.

22 The good news is that we're going to wrap this up
23 at 9:00 o'clock.

24 That's because that's how long we have in this
25 hall.

1 The bad news is that I've got currently 88 comment
2 sheets.

3 Which means when we do the math, that we've got
4 two and a half hours slightly between now and 9:00 o'clock
5 that we're going have to do the best we can to keep our
6 comments appropriate.

7 We know that this has been an emotionally charged
8 week, folks.

9 We're all aware of that.

10 So I want everybody to do the best that they can
11 to try to get the specific reason about what they want to
12 speak about on the record tonight as efficiently as
13 possible.

14 So we are going to set a timer at two minutes.
15 Then the two minutes that still -- I know that doesn't give
16 much time, but we'll also have the blue sheets available, so
17 if you not able to put it on testimony verbally, then we're
18 going to have to try to take the testimony on the blue
19 sheets.

20 Tomorrow night we're going to be at the
21 Tohono O'odham -- tomorrow afternoon we're going to be at
22 Tohono O'odham legislative chambers, tomorrow night in
23 Marana, and Saturday at the Desert Hills Social Center in
24 Green Valley and then Saturday afternoon in Casa Grande.

25 So if there's an opportunity that's closer to city

1 of Scottsdale, it would be Casa Grande, which is at 3:30 in
2 the afternoon on Saturday, November 5th.

3 So with that being said, I'm going to go ahead and
4 begin public comment.

5 And we're going to start with City of Scottsdale
6 Mayor Jim Lane.

7 I'm also going to be doing a couple things. What
8 I'd like to do is I've set these two chairs up because the
9 two subsequent -- go ahead, Mayor -- I'm going to call up
10 the next two speakers, so I set these two chairs
11 conveniently so that you can just go ahead and sit down and
12 quickly pop up.

13 So the two speakers after Mayor Lane are Gail
14 Barney and Robin Benning.

15 So, Mr. Mayor, would you spell your name -- and
16 also would you please spell your names for the record.

17 MAYOR JIM LANE: Good evening. Thanks.

18 My name is Jim Lane. That's J-I-M, L-A-N-E. The
19 mayor of Scottsdale.

20 I just want to say very plainly thanks very much
21 for coming. You can see that the invitation to have you
22 here is -- was well designed, and we've got a great crowd,
23 and I understand maybe even a record clear. So the citizens
24 of Scottsdale and the surrounding area are certainly very,
25 very interested in participating. So I'm glad that you're

1 here.

2 I'd also wanted to make a particular note that in
3 addition to having the folks from the surrounding area, we
4 do have President Enos from the Salt River Pima Maricopa
5 Indian community here with us as well. So she'll be
6 speaking to you later as well.

7 And, for the record, because I don't have any
8 comments tonight, I want to just thank you for my previous
9 two visits and my conversation on the subject. I do
10 appreciate some of the changes that were made to accommodate
11 my concerns on the area as I see it on the map.

12 So thank you very much, and welcome to Scottsdale.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mayor Lane.

14 Gail Barney will be followed by Robin Benning and
15 Diane Enos will be coming up to speak.

16 MAYOR GAIL BARNEY: Thank you. I'm Gail Barney,
17 mayor of Queen Creek.

18 And you spell my name G-A-I-L, B-A-R-N-E-Y.

19 I'm here tonight with one of my fellow council
20 members Robin Benning, and we want to thank you for the
21 opportunity to share Queen Creek's town council's thoughts
22 on the congressional maps.

23 We understand it's been a challenging week, and as
24 you can see there's a lot of people here this evening as
25 you've already stated, so I'll be very, very brief.

1 Queen Creek is a small town of about 26 square
2 miles and 27,000 people, and we feel it's imperative that
3 Queen Creek be in one legislative district and one
4 congressional district. And right now we are split down
5 county lines.

6 Some of our residents do live in Pinal County, and
7 the congressional and legislative districts are being split
8 down the county line.

9 And we feel it divides our community, and we want
10 to be whole as one community.

11 And so as a council we can't support our division.

12 We've sent -- I've sent some letters explaining to
13 the Commission and we've attended a couple of other meetings
14 and presented maps to show this.

15 So respectfully as it is written now we'd like to
16 be in Congressional District 5 and Legislative District 12.

17 Again, I thank you for your efforts. I know it's
18 not easy.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much, mayor.

20 Next speaking is city council member Robin
21 Benning, town of Queen Creek.

22 Following Diana Enos is -- Diane Enos is Jewel
23 Whitman.

24 ROBIN BENNING: Good evening, honorable members of
25 the Independent Redistricting Commission.

1 For the record, my name is Robin Benning,
2 R-O-B-I-N, B-E-N-N-I-N-G.

3 I'm a council member representing the town of
4 Queen Creek.

5 I'll try to be very brief, because as you already
6 know I'm following right behind our mayor.

7 As the mayor stated, we appreciate the opportunity
8 to present the town's perspective on redistricting maps, and
9 we hope that our attendance at multiple public hearings
10 emphasizes how important it is to the town of Queen Creek
11 that the final redistricting maps keep the town of
12 Queen Creek in one congressional and one legislative
13 district, which reflect our desire to be within the urban
14 Arizona and Maricopa County core.

15 As explained in multiple letters to the Commission
16 as well as in previous statements at public hearings, it is
17 extremely important for our town that we are kept with the
18 urban Maricopa County population core.

19 The town of Queen Creek respectfully requests the
20 Commission amend the draft maps to place the entire town
21 within Congressional District 5 and within Legislative
22 District 12, including that portion of the town's
23 incorporated areas which lie within Pinal County.

24 The portions of our population that reside in
25 Pinal County do not wish to be separated into a

1 predominantly rural and non-Maricopa district.

2 Again, thank you very much for the opportunity to
3 speak.

4 I apologize for taking so much time.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, sir.

7 Next to speak is President Diane Enos of the
8 Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community.

9 Following Diane will be Joe Wittman and Scott
10 Butler.

11 PRESIDENT DIANE ENOS: Thank you. Good evening,
12 members the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.
13 It's a pleasure to be here to provide a few comments on
14 behalf the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian community.

15 While we are well aware of the challenges that the
16 Commission has been confronted with during this
17 redistricting process, I'm hopeful that our recommendations
18 will be heard and given your full consideration.

19 Briefly by way of background, as a community
20 composed of the Au-Authm and Piipaash people, we have
21 thrived in this region for thousands of years. As a result
22 we have independently and collaboratively developed a
23 well-established history in the state of Arizona and the
24 Phoenix metropolitan area. Yet culturally and politically
25 we are a distinct community of interest.

1 Importantly our circumstance is unique from other
2 mostly rural Indian tribes throughout the state in that we
3 are active participants with our regional and municipal
4 neighbors in areas including but not limited to
5 transportation, resource allocation, infrastructure, health
6 care, education, economic development.

7 It is from this perspective that I share our views
8 with the Commission.

9 With regard to the draft congressional map, we
10 recommend -- we commend the work of the Commission to start
11 a draft congressional map that balances the requirements of
12 the Voting Rights Act and concerns the many interests of
13 stakeholders throughout the state.

14 In this context we have three recommendations for
15 the Commission to consider.

16 First, generally speaking we do not believe it is
17 in our best interest to be included in any large mostly
18 rural district, such as District 1 as defined in the draft
19 map.

20 Importantly our community is a part of the Phoenix
21 metropolitan area, and we share boundaries with several of
22 the largest cities in the state of Arizona.

23 So I would ask the Commission to keep this in mind
24 in any future alignments.

25 Additionally we have formed intergovernmental

1 mutual aid and development agreements, and our children
2 attend nearby school districts.

3 Consequently we have become active partners with
4 our city and municipal neighbors.

5 Transportation projects, intercommunity
6 cooperation, infrastructure, and economic development are
7 just a few examples, is -- is that my signal?

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We've already made
9 arrangements.

10 Folks, she's reading a letter that will entered
11 into the record.

12 So if you could do your best to wrap up. And your
13 entire context of your towns will be entered into the
14 record.

15 PRESIDENT DIANE ENOS: Sure.

16 Second and specifically we request the Commission
17 to consider amending the current congressional map to
18 include the town of Fountain Hills in District 6 for the
19 same reasons. Fountain Hills is a part of the Fort McDowell
20 and our community. We believe there's a strong community of
21 interest and strong economic ties within the three governing
22 bodies within the region to more than justify inclusion in
23 District 6.

24 Number three, given the strong community ties I
25 just mentioned, we strongly urge the Commission to keep the

1 city of Scottsdale in the same congressional district and
2 any future congressional alignments.

3 With regard to the state legislative map, we
4 request that the Commission realign District 23 to include
5 the Fort McDowell community. It better mirrors the
6 rationale I spoke of before.

7 McDowell and Salt River agree that this
8 representation will recognize each tribe individually and
9 collectively.

10 Closing up, our community believes the alignments
11 requested will be entirely consistent with the criteria and
12 constitutional requirements. Given our unique mutual tribal
13 and neighboring communities of interest, our recommendations
14 fall in line with that criteria.

15 I encourage the Commission to incorporate our
16 recommendations in future congressional and legislative
17 alignments.

18 I want to share with the Commission a joint letter
19 from my community, the Salt River community, Fort McDowell,
20 and Gila River will be provided to you in the coming days.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much,
22 President Enos.

23 Next to speak is Jewel Whitman, councilman Gila
24 River Indian community, followed by Scot Butler and Carole
25 Klopatek.

1 I hope I'm not butchering that too badly.

2 COUNCILMAN JEWEL WHITMAN: Good evening,
3 commissioners, executive director, staff, Arizona
4 Independent Redistrict Commission.

5 My name is Jewel Whitman, J-E-W-E-L,
6 W-H-I-T-M-A-N. Council member of the Gila River community.
7 The Gila River community appreciates both the opportunity to
8 address you this evening and to take part in the 2011
9 redistrict process.

10 From the time that the draft maps were issued by
11 the Commission, the community has developed extensive and
12 careful attention -- attention to develop its views regarding
13 the maps.

14 The community has also engaged in thorough
15 discussions with the -- with the two other tribes in metro
16 Phoenix metropolitan area, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation,
17 Salt River Pima Maricopa and that community.

18 In order the community respectfully submits the
19 following positions.

20 The communities and the urban tribes of
21 metropolitan Phoenix area, and should be treated as an urban
22 tribe for the purpose of the area or redistricting.

23 Congressional and legislative district maps should
24 not include the community in any district that is mostly
25 rural or that separates the community from its neighboring

1 jurisdictions in metropolitan Phoenix.

2 The community has extensive and close ties with
3 both, with both the west and east valley of metropolitan
4 Phoenix.

5 The community suggests that in order to recognize
6 a situation characteristics facing the community in more
7 than one congressional and more than one legislative
8 district may be the most appropriate method of
9 redistricting.

10 The community fully supports the principles and
11 positions that are presented by the Fort McDowell
12 Yavapai Nation and the Salt River Pima Maricopa community.

13 We have representatives of the community here to
14 provide any additional information and a letter from the
15 community will be submitted as soon as available.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

18 Next up Scot Butler, Gila River Indian community.

19 Followed by Carole Klopatek and State
20 Representative John Kavanagh.

21 SCOT BUTLER: Thank you, members of the
22 Commission.

23 Is that better?

24 My name is Scott Butler, S-C-O-T, B-U-T-L-E-R.

25 I represent the Gila River Indian community.

1 I'm here to elaborate just a little bit on
2 Councilman Whitman's remarks.

3 I should tell you that he is the chair of Gila
4 River's legislative standing community, which deals with all
5 of these types of issues. And he's also the chair of the
6 redistricting team that the community has had in place. So
7 he's been working on this extensively for the last several
8 weeks.

9 The gist of the community's position is that it is
10 an urban tribe and it should be treated as such.

11 We've had significant discussions with both
12 Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Salt River Pima Maricopa
13 Indian community.

14 The three tribes I think agree on that, but
15 unfortunately in the past we've been redistricted in various
16 ways that are no longer consistent with the nature of the
17 tribe, the nature of its relationships, its communities of
18 interest, or the Voting Rights Act.

19 What the community suggests is the following.

20 Under the congressional draft map, the community
21 is currently in Congressional District 1. We believe that's
22 completely inappropriate.

23 The community is not a rural tribe, and its
24 interests are significantly different from the other tribes
25 that are in Congressional District 1.

1 In addition, the only part of Maricopa County that
2 is put into Congressional District 1 is the Native American
3 population that's on the western side of the Gila River
4 Indian community, and that's a rather odd result for
5 redistricting.

6 The community believes that it's far more
7 appropriate for it to be placed into one of the districts
8 that is an urban metropolitan Phoenix district.

9 The community is willing to have the community
10 divided for that purpose, one, because we actually have
11 population centers on both the west side of the community
12 and the east side of the community with quite a bit of space
13 in between.

14 And, two, because we recognize if the Commission
15 is going to redraw the maps, it's easier to move a fewer
16 people in one place or another than to have to try to move
17 the entire community, which is a population of about 11 or
18 12,000 people in one place.

19 So our suggestion is that the community be placed
20 in Congressional Districts 5 and 7 on the draft map as it
21 it's redrawn.

22 On the legislative map, same principle. We
23 believe the community should be included in metropolitan
24 Phoenix district. On the legislative map, the community is
25 actually contiguous to eight legislative districts. So

1 that's a big number to have to work with.

2 Our suggestion is to -- is that the western part
3 of the community be in District 27 and the eastern portion
4 in District 18.

5 We also don't have an objection if a portion of
6 the community is left in District 11, which is where it is
7 on the map, around Maricopa and Casa Grande, which is a
8 growth area around the community.

9 We don't have any particular suggestion for you,
10 but there are some natural ways to look at this. One is the
11 Maricopa Pinal County line, which runs through the
12 community.

13 The second is Interstate 10 which runs essentially
14 northwest to southeast through the community.

15 And then as we said, there are some population
16 centers. They're not huge, but population centers.

17 So those are our suggestions, and we're happy to
18 continue to work with the Commission and staff going
19 forward.

20 Thank you very much.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

22 Next up, Carole Klopatek, State
23 Representative John Kavanagh, and Mayor Greg Bryant.

24 CAROLE KLOPATEK: Carole Klopatek,
25 K-L-O-P-A-T-E-K.

1 I'm the government relations director for Fort
2 McDowell Yavapai Nation.

3 On behalf of the nation, I wish to read a letter
4 that was signed by President Clint Pattea that was recently
5 submitted to the Commission as the Nation's recommendations
6 on the draft congressional and legislative maps. I'm
7 provide to testimony in this format in order to be concise
8 and clear and not to deviate from tribal council's
9 decisions.

10 The Nation appreciates this opportunity.

11 As you've just heard from both Salt River and
12 Gila River, Fort McDowell supports their positions as well.

13 Since time immemorial the Yavapai people occupied
14 much of this region, and, in fact, are one of the original
15 inhabitants. Through more modern times, the Nation has
16 established not only a well-documented legacy within the
17 nation -- within the region, but within the entire state.

18 Although we are a sovereign nation, with distinct
19 cultural practices and beliefs, we are interwoven with the
20 fabric of this region. Our relationship and interactions
21 with the surrounding community are unique from other rural
22 Indian tribes throughout the state.

23 We have become ensconced within the greater
24 community of interest and share common geographic
25 boundaries.

1 We have formed numerous and various partnerships
2 with our neighboring cities and towns that include, but are
3 not limited to, infrastructure, development, economic and
4 joint tourism, destination ventures, transportation,
5 education, resource allocation, and the list goes on.

6 Thus it is from this perspective that we provide
7 our views and recommendations in regard to congressional
8 redistricting.

9 We understand and appreciate the daunting task
10 before the IRC to construct the draft congressional map that
11 balances the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and the
12 criteria set out by the U.S. and state constitution, along
13 with the concerns of the vested state cultures throughout
14 the state.

15 We commend your efforts. You've done very well.

16 In that vein, below the Nation provides three
17 recommendations that uphold legal requirements the IRC must
18 abide by when reconfiguring district boundaries.

19 Number one, we agree wholeheartedly with the
20 Commission's recommendations that is in the Nation's best
21 interest to be excluded from any large predominantly rural
22 district such as defined by District 1 in the recently
23 approval congressional map -- draft map.

24 As such Fort McDowell strongly contends that it
25 remain in Congressional District 6 alongside Salt River Pima

1 Maricopa Indian community and the city of Scottsdale.

2 The Nation, being part of Phoenix metropolitan
3 area and the Maricopa County, share boundaries not only with
4 Salt River Pima Maricopa but with other municipalities. As
5 working partners and communities of interest, we have
6 jointly formed numerous IGAs, mutual aid agreements,
7 development agreements, our children attend nearby school
8 districts, and have formed our various strategic alliances,
9 economic alliances as well.

10 As a result we have become active associates with
11 our city and municipal neighbors, thus from transportation
12 projects, intercommunity cooperation, infrastructure, and
13 economic development, we are very much a vital and cohesive
14 part of the urban regional community and economy of the
15 metropolitan Phoenix area.

16 We support Fountain Hills. The Town of
17 Fountain Hills requests we be included in
18 Congressional District 6. The town is an urban partner with
19 Fort McDowell. Moreover, Fort McDowell children attend
20 schools in Fountain Hills. We mutually work together on
21 federal issues, such as transportation and
22 telecommunications, and we jointly run a tourism deal which
23 drives our economic engines.

24 We do believe that along with geographic integrity
25 including compactness and contiguousness issues, there's an

1 implicit strong community of interest, a strong economic
2 ties among our governing bodies that more than justify and
3 merit their inclusion in District 6.

4 We strongly concur with the IRC findings that the
5 Nation be aligned in Congressional District 6. This
6 alignment is of utmost importance due to our sovereign
7 people.

8 Fort McDowell collaboratively partnered with the
9 northeast valley entities on a number of ongoing and future
10 strategic projects in the region and the alliances vital to
11 the Nation.

12 Consistent with our views --

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am, ma'am.

14 Could you please wrap it up?

15 CAROLE KLOPATEK: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We've got a lot of folks
17 here.

18 CAROLE KLOPATEK: Okay.

19 In regard to the redistricting in
20 Legislative District 23, Fort McDowell requests that we be
21 actually moved from District 24 into District 23.

22 The Nation's proposed changes to the draft
23 legislative map would move more than 900 -- would move only
24 971 people into District 24 -- or from District 24, into
25 District 23, of whom 614 are voting age.

1 This decision isn't -- in regard to this decision,
2 since there is current configuration, Legislative
3 District 24 is currently overpopulated by 517 people. This
4 would help to even out the overpopulated --

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am. Thank you. We'll
6 wrap that up.

7 We'll take the entire letter and put it in the
8 record.

9 Next up is State Representative John Kavanagh,
10 followed by Mayor Greg Bryan and William Engler.

11 REPRESENTATIVE JOHN KAVANAGH: Thank you for
12 hearing my testimony. State Representative John Kavanagh,
13 K-A-V-A-N-A-G-H, District 8.

14 My original reason for coming here, and is still a
15 reason, is to plead that Fountain Hills and Rio Verde be
16 returned to its east valley neighbors. To also publicly
17 thank them for defending us, standing up for us.

18 The so-called Fountain Hills gorge in the
19 congressional district has become the poster child for
20 problems with these maps.

21 And I hope it's going to be corrected.

22 However, recent events have also required me to
23 make other comments.

24 I think the results of a legislative committee
25 which detail numerous problems with the maps also needs to

1 be heeded and dealt with.

2 I think the basic problem was that the criteria of
3 competitiveness was elevated to a second position below the
4 Voting Rights Act when in reality the voters who passed
5 Proposition 106 said that the competitiveness should, in
6 fact, be the last criteria. It's important but it should
7 not trump size, compactness, boundaries, political and
8 physical.

9 I think the Commission went wrong there.

10 It's important that competitiveness be there, but
11 it is a very subjective criteria. And that's the one that
12 people can play games with. And whether that was done or it
13 simply looks that way, it appears the maps have been
14 gerrymandered. And if you stuck to the original, very
15 strict rules that the voters voted for, to first deal with
16 compactness and equal size and communities of interest, I
17 don't think you would have gotten there.

18 The second problem deals with the findings or the
19 filings of the attorney general which suggest that one or
20 more members of the Commission have violated the open
21 meetings law in a serious way. And in addition in an
22 area --

23 (Crowd interruption.)

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Hold on, folks.

25 Folks.

1 REPRESENTATIVE JOHN KAVANAGH: That one or more
2 members of the -- one or more members of the Commission may
3 have violated the open meeting law.

4 And on the issue of the mapping firm, this is a
5 critical decision and a controversial one, and if that in
6 fact is true, then the process has been poisoned. And the
7 fruits of the poisonous tree, which are the maps, should not
8 be considered.

9 I think at this point, it's incumbent on the
10 Commission to go back to the grid maps, use the real
11 criteria, get a new mapping firm, and move forward, clean
12 without the cloud of controversy.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Greg Bryan,
15 William Engler, followed by Barry Spiker.

16 MAYOR GREG BRYAN: I'm not even welcomed like that
17 in my own council meeting. That's great.

18 Greg Bryan, G-R-E-G, B-R-Y-A-N, mayor of Arizona's
19 newest community, Tusayan, Arizona.

20 We reside at the gates of the Grand Canyon
21 National Park, which is one of our concerns in that the
22 current draft of the map putting us in, I think, District 6,
23 splits it right at the park boundaries and it separates us
24 from the very large community of both Tusayan area and the
25 Grand Canyon National Park facilities people that reside

1 there.

2 We have some great concerns about being placed in
3 with Flagstaff. We incorporated to have some independence
4 and not be associated with the urban area like that.

5 And we feel we have much more in common with the
6 folks that we've been voting with and worked with and
7 represented by in the former District 1, through
8 Chino Valley, Prescott, and down into Sedona, and
9 Verde Valley area.

10 And we ask that we be placed back in that area of
11 common -- communities of interest with those communities as
12 well.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

15 Next up is William Engler, followed by Barry
16 Spiker and Susan Leeper.

17 WILLIAM ENGLER: Thank you, Commissioner Stertz.
18 My name is Bill Engler, B-I-L-L, E-N-G-L-E-R, a resident of
19 Anthem.

20 And I want to speak to competitiveness. But
21 before I do, on the home page of the Commission, you'll see
22 a picture of all the commissioners.

23 Also in that picture is Sandra Day O'Connor,
24 retired justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

25 And you'll note that -- I was at the meeting where

1 she spoke, and you'll note that all the commissioners sought
2 to have their picture taken with her.

3 The gist of what she said that day was that this
4 Commission as mandated by the Constitution should be
5 independent.

6 Arrive at their decisions in independently.

7 (Applause.)

8 WILLIAM ENGLER: After this week, I just wonder
9 where we find ourselves now.

10 I'm going to speak for the voters of Arizona.

11 I'm not completely thrilled with the legislative
12 map nor the congressional map.

13 However, I believe the Commission as a whole has
14 done a good job.

15 And I don't agree with Representative Kavanagh in
16 that competitiveness should not be considered.

17 In what you read this evening, it says
18 competitiveness should be considered as long as not to the
19 detriment of anything else.

20 And I believe that in order not to disenfranchise
21 the one third of the population of this state which have not
22 declared their party preference, you should try to get
23 competitive districts.

24 (Applause.)

25 WILLIAM ENGLER: The voters of this state --

1 (Applause.)

2 WILLIAM ENGLER: -- are not doing well when people
3 can't vote in the primaries have no reason to go to the
4 polls in November because their vote does not count.

5 Thanks so much for hearing me this evening.

6 Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Barry Spikers,
9 followed by Susan Leeper, and then next up after that is
10 Karen Garrett.

11 Mr. Spiker.

12 BARRY SPIKER: Thank you. I'm Barry Spiker,
13 S-P-I-K-E-R, former precinct captain and resident of
14 Fountain Hills.

15 Thank you, commission members, for the opportunity
16 to address this Commission and getting my comments on the
17 record.

18 You hold this drawing up to a mirror. You'll see
19 it's essentially Congressional District 4 in reverse.

20 This drawing is the first gerrymandered signed by
21 Elbridge Gerry, the governor of the state of Massachusetts
22 in 1812.

23 This is what you guys have done.

24 What I'm going to say is I don't understand from a
25 business perspective why you would hire Strategic Telemetry

1 when mapping is not your core line of business.

2 They plainly said on their website up until July 7
3 that they worked on behalf of progressive organizations.

4 The CEO, Ken Strasma, worked for the progressive
5 lobbying group Effective Congress, and everyone knows that
6 they are the first and foremost were a microtargeting firm
7 for President Obama.

8 I speak the facts.

9 This is a social networking and marketing work,
10 and should be removed from any further proceedings.

11 (Applause.)

12 BARRY SPIKER: Again, from a business perspective,
13 the National Demographic Corporation, who had a lower bid
14 than Strategic Telemetry, was also vying for the contract,
15 and they had done this work for our state before.

16 They know the state. They could have gotten up to
17 speed much more quickly.

18 And actually Strategic Telemetry used a number of
19 their Power Point presentations -- their Power Point
20 presentations to educate us and the commissioners.

21 Finally, in light of Ms. Mathis' removal, I would
22 like to know specifically what amendments, motions, or
23 actions she ever voted on with just the two Republicans on
24 the Commission.

25 Thank you very much.

1 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Followed by Karen Garrett
2 and then followed up by Bill Chambers.

3 SUSAN LEEPER: In February 2008 --

4 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Stop one moment, please.

5 Our court reporter is having a difficult time with
6 being able to record with the applauding.

7 And also the clock doesn't stop or pause when the
8 applauding takes place.

9 So when you get up there to speak and there might
10 be applause or booing or some other commentary that might be
11 made, it might interfere with what you're trying to get on
12 the record as well.

13 So let's do the best we can at being understanding
14 that this is an emotional issue and emotional time and let's
15 try to get our information on the record.

16 And please make sure to spell your name for the
17 court record.

18 SUSAN LEEPER: My name is Susan Leeper,
19 L-E-E-P-E-R.

20 And in February, 2008, Michelle Obama said, for
21 the first time in my adult lifetime I'm really proud of my
22 country, and not just because Barack Obama has done well,
23 but because I think people are hungry for change.

24 I can say for the first time in my adult lifetime
25 I am hungry for change too. I am extremely fearful for the

1 future of my country because of the corruption I see in
2 government, the decline of moral values, and the unAmerican
3 influences attacking every facet of our government and
4 society.

5 Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak
6 to this Commission, who in my opinion has acted without
7 integrity and balance.

8 One egregious decision the Commission made from
9 the start was the selection of Strategic Telemetry, a
10 heavily partisan firm that performed microtargeting to the
11 precinct level for Obama 2008.

12 Clients listed on the website before being purged
13 were mostly progressive or left leaning and therefore hardly
14 nonpartisan.

15 The last criterion in the Arizona Constitution
16 mentioned is creation of competitive districts where there
17 is no significant detriment to other goals.

18 The Commission has ignored the requirement to
19 create compact districts and protect communities of interest
20 in favor of trying to create as many politically competitive
21 districts as possible.

22 Where is the logic for the suburban town of
23 Fountain Hills to be cut out of your proposed CD 6, which
24 surrounds it on three sides, and lumping the town into a
25 district that stretches to an area south of Yuma and winds

1 around to the northwest to include Kingman and Boulder City?

2 Your proposed CD 6, which includes Scottsdale,
3 rambles westward through commercial areas, over highways and
4 mount ranges to Route 17, when it makes more sense to keep
5 Scottsdale together with the adjacent residential suburban
6 communities of Fountain Hills, Cave Creek, and Carefree to
7 preserve these natural communities of interest.

8 Is it just by coincidence that the way the lines
9 are drawn the new District 9, which includes much of Ben
10 Quayle's present district and whose border is 500 feet from
11 his house, does not have an incumbent and that this action
12 will likely result in a primary runoff between two of
13 Arizona's conservative Republicans?

14 I would just like to make two more remarks.

15 An excerpt from the Hill of October 6th, the new
16 congressional map released by Arizona bipartisan
17 redistricting commission appears to give Democrats a major
18 boost, its Democrats' dream map.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, ma'am. And if
20 you like to enter your documents for the record, that would
21 be fine.

22 Okay. Next up is -- ma'am, please -- next up is
23 Karen Garrett, followed by Bill Chambers and Gina Gennaro.

24 KAREN GARRETT: Karen, K-A-R-E-N, Garrett,
25 G-A-R-R-E-T-T.

1 I just received an e-mail from someone that I'm
2 taking my time to read his comments. His name is Kevin C.
3 Brown, Fountain Hills, Arizona.

4 As a 20-year Fountain Hills citizen, I am outraged
5 at the extreme gerrymandering efforts that rip us away from
6 neighboring Scottsdale and tosses us into a congressional
7 district that absolutely has zero in common with our
8 community.

9 Our family has circulated the draft map with
10 community details to state and federal officials with the
11 request to review each Commission member's logic behind this
12 travesty of justice.

13 You have set the standards for political
14 gerrymandering in the 21st century and should be ashamed of
15 yourselves.

16 We have lost any semblance of trust in your
17 decisions and request that every one of you step down from
18 your role thereby allowing a newly created Commission to
19 uphold fairness in Arizona's congressional districts.

20 (Applause.)

21 KAREN GARRETT: I'm from Scottsdale, and it
22 violated visible graphic features, city, town, and county
23 boundaries, in CDs 1, 4, and 9. These -- this criteria is
24 violated in multiple areas throughout the draft
25 congressional map due to where you place city of

1 Scottsdale -- I mean, Flagstaff in both the CD and the
2 legislative districts.

3 Several counties could be kept whole if Flagstaff
4 were placed in CD 4.

5 I was tired, as I watched many of these
6 proceedings, that Fountain Hills lobbied this Commission
7 like probably no other city in the state.

8 Is Fountain Hills less important than Flagstaff?

9 Lastly, improper consideration of the places of
10 residents of incumbents and candidates.

11 Of eight incumbent congressmen, two Republicans
12 have been divided from the vast majority of their current
13 districts.

14 No Democrat congressman has been divided from the
15 population of their current districts.

16 Two incumbent congressmen were moved into new
17 districts, and it had to have gone down to the block level
18 to have gotten Congressman Quayle.

19 Now, we're not suppose to make these important,
20 but for you to go down to the block level to pull
21 Congressman Quayle means there's a violation of some sort.

22 But, you know, I don't have enough time, but the
23 last thing I want to stay is that most numerous examples in
24 the legislative draft -- drafting focusing on places of
25 residents appears to occur in Pima County where several

1 Democrat incumbents appear to have been protected by
2 breaking census tracts, and one incumbent stays with the
3 bulk of his district by block redistricting literally down
4 the middle of his street.

5 If you want to learn more about what the egregious
6 errors have been made, which most of you aren't aware of,
7 then I would have you go to the legislative report, which is
8 what I just read from, to allow you to know what these are.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Bill Chambers,
13 Gina Gennaro, and Zofia Rawner.

14 BILL CHAMBERS: Good evening.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good evening.

16 BILL CHAMBERS: My name is Bill Chambers, B-I-L-L,
17 C-H-A-M-B-E-R-S.

18 This originally timed out at two minutes and
19 30 seconds. I'm going to have to abbreviate it.

20 I'm uncomfortable with the redistricting plan as
21 currently proposed.

22 There's a lack of public information about how the
23 Commission does our business.

24 Perception may be shared by other members of the
25 public who express themselves differently from what I'm

1 about to say.

2 The Arizona Constitution has six provisions for
3 requiring adherence.

4 The Voting Rights Act is clear and unmistakable.

5 The remaining five provisions are qualified by
6 phrase to the extent practicable.

7 And the wording is not the fault of the
8 Commission, but this phrase makes these requirements
9 flexible beyond being useful. Something only a politician
10 could love.

11 Additionally, terms such as communities of
12 interest and competitive are not well defined as already
13 admitted by the chair in previous public forums.

14 As with the concept of compactness, there are
15 three or four legitimate definitions that could be used.

16 Since the Commission has not settled on a
17 definition for each requirement, everyone has to supply his
18 or her own meaning for each term within the context of the
19 meaning to you.

20 Assuming my definition is the same as yours makes
21 useful public discussion almost impossible.

22 Among the required criteria, there are no
23 priorities established.

24 Priorities are necessary to provide a uniform and
25 rational basis for the actions and conclusions of the

1 Commission.

2 However, in years past redistricting in Arizona
3 did have priorities, to the extent that three criteria were
4 given more weight than the remaining criteria in both
5 congressional and legislative districts.

6 Those criteria were the Voting Rights Act,
7 compactness, and contiguousness.

8 The remaining criteria were satisfied to the
9 extent practicable.

10 All right. I'll ask that this whole thing be
11 entered into the record.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chambers.
13 Just give it to Ms. Gomez and the entire content of your
14 letter will be entered into the record.

15 Next up is Gina Gennaro, Zofia Rawner, and Sandra
16 Fischer will be coming up in third.

17 GINA GENNARO: Hello. My name is Gina Gennaro,
18 G-I-N-A, G-E-N-N-A-R-O.

19 And I would like to know, can I second somebody's
20 testimony?

21 That's a question.

22 I would like to second Bill Engler's testimony
23 about competitiveness.

24 It is actually defined, because it would be
25 competitive, so if you have 50 percent Republican,

1 50 percent Democrat, or if you have 30 Republican,
2 30 Democrat, 30 Independent, that would be competitive.

3 So I think underneath the voting rights,
4 competitive should be -- competitiveness should be the next
5 thing.

6 I think it's the most important thing.

7 This way we have to all listen to each other, as
8 far as candidates, voters. If it's spread out, that's the
9 way I would do it.

10 What I have to ask you though is, is there a
11 requirement for how many Republicans or Green Party or
12 Libertarians in a district?

13 Do you have the answer for that?

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am, tonight is the night
15 where we're taking comment.

16 GINA GENNARO: Okay. Well, then what I would do
17 is I would say that if you have nine districts, then you
18 should try to -- if you can't split it up so that it's
19 competitive by Republican, Democrat, or Independent, then I
20 would go to 4.5 districts that are Republican, 4.5 that are
21 Democratic.

22 That would be the way that it would be fair.

23 And if you can't do that -- right. Well,
24 31 percent in the state are Independent.

25 So you obviously should try to make more areas

1 competitive based on that.

2 And that's all I have to say.

3 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Zofia Rawner,
6 followed by Sandra Fischer, and Jim Morgan.

7 ZOFIA RAWNER: Good evening. My name is Zofia
8 Rawner. I'm a mother that lives in the Scottsdale Unified
9 District. Currently the district is divided into two areas.
10 Proposed map asks that the district, the unified school
11 district, be cut up into three different areas.

12 The fact is that the parents, the teachers, the
13 students, we are a unified district, because we have a
14 unified goal about educating our children, about raising
15 money for our schools, and making sure that despite the
16 legislature's decision to undermine our children's
17 education, we fight so that they receive that education.

18 And I know that we're talking tonight a lot of
19 about gerrymandering.

20 And I know that, yes, my district has been cut up
21 into three. My school district has been cut up into
22 three areas.

23 But just because I don't like it, I'm not going to
24 now tell the Commission that they are gerrymandering. But I
25 will ask them to make those changes.

1 In addition, there has been some talk that
2 competitiveness is to be considered less than the other
3 criteria.

4 There is actually an Arizona court ruling that
5 says competitiveness is equal to other criteria. It is not
6 to be considered less.

7 And that is a court ruling.

8 So, have we over-considered competitiveness?

9 And I think, as a last person spoke, there is no
10 showing that competitiveness was over-considered.

11 In fact, despite Republicans only making up one
12 third of the population, they have four strong seats where
13 they're going to win.

14 In spite of the Independents making up one third
15 of the population, there was only one congressional district
16 where they are the -- have any chance of being the majority
17 in that district.

18 In terms of Democrats, they make up one third of
19 our population, and yet there is only two districts that
20 Democrats have any control over.

21 So, we know, just from the facts, from the
22 numbers, competitiveness has not been a major factor.

23 But what we have seen in the last 24, in the first
24 round, was that a lot of communities of interest came
25 together.

1 For example, I am community of interest. The
2 Scottsdale Unified District is a community of interest
3 because we care about our children.

4 The different tribes that came here, they are
5 communities of interest, and their voices should be heard.

6 So when they say we should be in one area, that's
7 what makes the map look a little messy.

8 And the fact is that the map that we have right
9 now, when you see District 2, there's a skinny little line
10 and big fat area, that looks much more strange than the
11 current map, which actually is a lot more compact.

12 So what I'm saying is, let us not play politics
13 with our population.

14 Let us remember that each of these criteria need
15 to be listened to and that all of our interest needs to be
16 added into this map.

17 And so when people come on the record and they
18 perjure themselves, when they lie, or when this Commission
19 does not give accurate information, that is when you have a
20 lot of people angry, because we voted to keep politics out
21 of this and to make sure that this commission considers all
22 six criteria that we wanted. And we don't want to be washed
23 by the Department of Justice. We want to know that this
24 state can stand on its own and no longer will politics play
25 games with us.

1 And it's unfortunate that they are.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 ZOFIA RAWNER: Sorry. First name Zofia,
5 Z-O-F-I-A, last name Rawner, R-A-W-N-E-R. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

7 Next up is Sandra Fischer, followed by Jim Morgan
8 and Linda Bordow.

9 SANDRA FISCHER: Hi. My name is Sandra Fischer.
10 Sandra, S-A-N-D-R-A, Fischer, F-I-S-C-H-E-R.

11 While I agree that there were six criteria, the
12 understanding from me is that there were two that absolutely
13 the federal government requires, the Voting Rights Act and
14 the equal population.

15 The others, again, are important -- important
16 criteria. And I think what we're hearing tonight is that
17 competitiveness has to be considered extremely equal,
18 because too many people have said their voice has not been
19 heard.

20 And we find that with the Republicans having so
21 much more of a voice in this area, that neither the
22 Independents or Republicans have their voice heard.

23 Same with you, when you hear the Indian nations,
24 rural areas, they say their voice has not been heard.

25 This independent Commission needs to have -- make

1 up these maps, make it so that every voice is heard, and not
2 just one ideology over another.

3 Which is what we have now, which is why the
4 Commission is under fire.

5 And I find that reprehensible.

6 And I think that we -- again, this was supposed to
7 be independent. Politics is not supposed to play a part,
8 and now it's in the middle of it.

9 Something is definitely wrong with that regard.

10 This is our chance here to tell you.

11 I want to see that we have a chance -- that we
12 need to talk to each other.

13 Regardless of whether we're Republican, Democrats,
14 or Independents, or Green Party or whatever, and that when
15 we go to vote, our voice is heard with that map because they
16 have to talk to us.

17 Because at that point -- thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I appreciate that. Thank
19 you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Jim Morgan,
22 followed by Linda, and Patrice Kraus.

23 JIM MORGAN: Good evening. My name is Jim Morgan,
24 J-I-M, M-O-R-G-A-N.

25 I am from the town of Fountain Hills.

1 And just off the bat, I'd like to say I don't envy
2 the position you guys have, the job you have, the task you
3 have to figure this all out. It seems daunting to me.

4 So congratulations to those who are attempting to
5 do this.

6 Having said that, my main reason for being here is
7 that I think that the splitting of Fountain Hills off from
8 the old congressional district into a new one is problematic
9 for me.

10 Mainly because we don't have anything in common
11 with all the other areas that we've been put with. And I
12 basically would like to even agree with what
13 Representative Kavanagh had to say about this whole issue.

14 It seems to me that you have tried to fix
15 something that wasn't broken to begin with. And I really do
16 question the independence of this Commission from, from the
17 decisions that you have made to split Fountain Hills off
18 from the old congressional district.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Appreciate that.

21 Next up Linda Bordow, followed by Patrice Kraus
22 and Richard Tracy, Sr.

23 LINDA BORDOW: I'm just going to keep it really
24 short. My name is Linda Bordow, B, like boy, O-R-D, like
25 David, O-W.

1 I'd like to echo everything people from
2 Fountain Hills said about why we should keep our district
3 where it is. It's kind of an unnatural placement to carve
4 Fountain Hills out of that, which is why a lot of people
5 from Fountain Hills have accused gerrymandering.

6 We have -- with that carve out of Fountain Hills,
7 it's violated no less than three criteria, geographic
8 features, communities of interest and contiguous and compact
9 nature.

10 We absolutely have nothing in common with the side
11 of the state that borders with California, the rural area.
12 And it strips away our partnership with Fort McDowell in the
13 form of our cultural exchange.

14 We have the River of Time Museum that we do a lot
15 of work back and forth with the Fort, as well as the
16 schooling of the Fort children of which I am a volunteer at
17 the school.

18 It further splits our district over three or more
19 county over 450 miles.

20 No elected official could possibly effectively
21 represent such a district.

22 So I strongly urge the community to put
23 Fountain Hills back in CD 6 along with Scottsdale of which
24 Fountain Hills was born back in 1974. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

1 (Applause.)

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Patrice Kraus,
3 Richard Tracy, Sr., and then Lynne Breyer.

4 PATRICE KRAUS: Good evening.

5 For the record, my name is Patrice Kraus,
6 P-A-T-R-I-C-E, K-R-A-U-S, as in Sam.

7 I'm here on the behalf of the City of Chandler.

8 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can't hear you.

9 PATRICE KRAUS: I'm here on the behalf of the City
10 of Chandler. The City's taken this process very seriously.

11 I think I've only missed a handful of meetings
12 during the whole time that the Commission has met.

13 We understand how important this is. And from the
14 beginning, Chandler's mayor and council have made it a
15 priority and have directed me to devote the time and
16 attention that this critical matter deserves.

17 We're happy with our legislative district that has
18 been it proposed for Chandler in the draft map. The
19 district is compact, they reflect our community of interest,
20 they give us a fair opportunity to elect someone who will
21 understand our issues and who will represent our city.

22 I realize this is the time when the Commission
23 will likely be making changes to the maps.

24 If the Commission contemplates any changes to our
25 proposed district, I would just ask that we be given an

1 opportunity to work directly with the Commission and staff
2 on these proposals so that we can ensure that our goals as a
3 community continue to be met.

4 In closing, I just want to say I know how tedious
5 and often thankless this work has been, and how it must seem
6 like that from this perspective.

7 I personally would like to say I appreciate the
8 willingness to -- that you had to listen to our concerns as
9 a city, and I want to thank you for your service to the
10 state of Arizona.

11 Thank you very much.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

13 Next up is Richard Tracy, Sr., followed by Lynne
14 Breyer and Richard Breyer.

15 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Tracy had to
16 leave.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Mr. Tracy had to leave.
18 Okay. Thank you.

19 Next up is Lynne Breyer, followed by Richard
20 Breyer, and Charles Russell.

21 LYNNE BREYER: Thank you, commissioner.

22 First I'd like to pop the -- oh, I'm sorry, Lynne
23 Breyer, L-Y-N-N-E, B-R-E-Y-E-R.

24 I'm going to pop the registration myth that voter
25 registration in the state of Arizona at this moment I

1 believe is 30 percent Democrat, 33 percent Independent, and
2 36 percent Republican.

3 This does make a difference. It is not one third,
4 one third, one third, despite the myth.

5 I'm going to just talk one second about why these
6 legislative districts look so tortured. It's because there
7 are five legislative districts that reach 50 percent or more
8 Hispanic or Native American voting age population.

9 This automatically kicks into retrogression.

10 Up to 25 -- or 27 percent of the new LD maps will
11 have a minority-majority population.

12 These areas can never ever retrogress to less than
13 61 percent or so.

14 As to the communities of interest, I looked at
15 Congressional District 9 down to the block level, and I
16 followed that boundary, if I can count on that boundary to
17 be accurate.

18 That boundary does definitely show gerrymandering.

19 It goes across the road and into a residential
20 neighbor and plucks one or two blocks out of that
21 neighborhood and puts it into nine, and this affects four
22 other congressional districts as well.

23 In some areas -- in one area of Paradise Valley it
24 actually cuts between two houses that are side by side on
25 the same street and puts them in separate districts, in

1 Paradise Valley.

2 It goes on and it takes out half a block here, one
3 side of a street there, a few houses in another neighborhood
4 are left out of the district, while the rest of the
5 neighborhood is in the district.

6 This does not happen naturally.

7 One that the criteria is to follow natural
8 boundaries. And this CD 9 does not begin to follow any kind
9 of natural boundaries, natural boundaries being mountain
10 ranges or thoroughfares or something like that.

11 It definitely reaches in and takes away rights of
12 voters in given residential neighborhoods.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Richard Breyer,
17 followed by Charles Russell, and Dorothy Campbell.

18 RICHARD BREYER: Thank you. My name is Richard
19 Breyer. Last name B-R-E-Y-E-R.

20 I live in Scottsdale with my wife. We also have a
21 property in Pinetop, Arizona.

22 You've gerrymandered both of those districts by
23 splitting them in half. Congressional District 1 you've
24 mixed urban and renewal -- or urban and rural. You've --
25 legislative you've separated Pinetop and Show Low, which is

1 a community of interest, two communities of interest.

2 You've stated District 1 includes reservation from
3 the Gila River on the northeast all the way over to the
4 northwest.

5 There's no community of interest, and there's not
6 even a competitive situation there because no Republican
7 will ever be put in that district again if that takes place.

8 Excuse me, I'm speaking.

9 One of the goals was to use the natural boundaries
10 to keep cities and communities together. You've failed to
11 do those throughout the state.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you much.

14 (Applause.)

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Charles Russell
16 followed by Dorothy Campbell and Eric Kurland.

17 CHARLES RUSSELL: Good evening, commissioners.
18 Thank you very much for having us tonight.

19 My name is Charles Russell, C-H-A-R-L-E-S,
20 R-U-S-S-E-L-L.

21 I live in south Scottsdale, about two and a half
22 miles west of here.

23 And I've been there for about 30 years.

24 I chose this spot because it was convenient both
25 from a geographical perspective where I work as well as

1 amongst my friends and like-minded people.

2 As far as the district that is proposed for me,
3 the Legislative District 24, you've heard everyone speak
4 about the communities of interest and the considerations
5 given to geographical boundaries.

6 I wish to make an exception on Legislative
7 District 24 from the compact and contiguous perspective.

8 It's a big stretch in my mind to understand how
9 something 55 miles long and 20 miles wide can be considered
10 compact, especially for an urban area.

11 And with the center of that 55-mile wide district,
12 shaped being two miles wide, holding the two bells together,
13 it really is a stretch in my mind how that can be considered
14 contiguous.

15 I'm in that two-mile connector, in that zone
16 between those two larger areas, and I feel the sole purpose
17 of that little stretch there is to bring two areas
18 completely disparate with little common interest together.

19 I ask that you return to your drawing board and
20 place the three district neighborhoods or distinct
21 neighborhoods in legislative districts that are like-minded
22 interest and provide representatives from the district a
23 chance to actually talk to their constituents without
24 spending most of their time on the road.

25 As for the Congressional District 9, I also ask

1 that you reconsider your suggestion there and place me in
2 the city of Scottsdale.

3 I understand the population cutoff for the CDs is
4 very nearly what Scottsdale's population is right now. I
5 live in Scottsdale.

6 I'd like to team with my fellow citizens to decide
7 my state and federal representation.

8 Thank you again for your time.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Dorothy Campbell,
12 followed by Eric Kurland and Nancy Mario.

13 DOROTHY CAMPBELL: Good evening. My name is
14 Dorothy Campbell, D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, Campbell, C-A-M-P-B-E-L-L.

15 I am a resident of the Verdes communities.

16 At the present time we are in District 6. The
17 proposal is that we become part of District 4.

18 I would like you to consider that our borders to
19 the north and east of us are the Tonto National Forest.

20 We interact with the communities of Scottsdale,
21 Fountain Hills, Fort McDowell.

22 And we wish, I wish, and I know many of my friends
23 do too, to remain in District 6.

24 We are a development of residential homes. We
25 rely upon our neighboring communities for communication,

1 whether that be the TV, radio, newspapers. We rely on their
2 communities for cultural activities as well.

3 Also economic. We contribute to the economy of
4 Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and the gambling at
5 Fort McDowell.

6 So that we have no shopping in our area. We go to
7 Scottsdale, Fountain Hills area. And we wish to remain with
8 them.

9 All access to our communities comes through
10 District 6, the draft of District 6.

11 We only can reach our communities through
12 Scottsdale or through the Scottsdale, Fountain Hills area.

13 So please do not remove us from District 6.

14 Thank you so much.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much,
16 Ms. Campbell.

17 Next up is Eric Kurland, followed by Nancy Mario
18 and Doris Freeman.

19 And before you start, Eric.

20 Marty, how we doing?

21 THE REPORTER: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: All right.

23 Mr. Kurland.

24 ERIC KURLAND: Eric with a C. Kurland,
25 K-U-R-L-A-N-D.

1 I'd like to thank you. I might not agree with how
2 you got on the Commission, but I thank you for serving as a
3 volunteer. One of the things that happens with volunteers
4 is they just never get paid enough.

5 It's a tough room.

6 I'll take part of my two minutes to get a little
7 bit of laughter.

8 I am an Independent.

9 And I just feel very badly that the one person who
10 is supposed to represent my interest was improperly booted
11 before her time in the wrong venue.

12 (Applause.)

13 ERIC KURLAND: Before I get back to that subject,
14 I will say that if you do not split my house in half, I will
15 be fine.

16 I heard the tape. One person, one vote.

17 I have one vote. I will try to influence as many
18 more, but as long as you don't split my house, my wife and I
19 can still sleep in the same room, I am fine.

20 I will talk to my representative.

21 I would like to thank Representative Kavanagh, my
22 representative, for speaking in the appropriate venue
23 tonight.

24 I might not agree with what he says, but I am
25 really happy that he came and said it.

1 I do not agree with his vote the other night or
2 even taking up that vote, because I believe that was the
3 inappropriate venue.

4 I think he talked about stick with the rules that
5 the voters voted for.

6 I think that's a quote.

7 The rules that the voters voted for was what's in
8 my registration, independence.

9 Declaration of independence is cool. Independence
10 of the committee, not so cool.

11 Eventually the independent member of this
12 committee will have to vote with a Republican or a Democrat.
13 That's just the way it works. They can't just vote by
14 themselves, because there's either a yes or a no.

15 So I'd like to just end by saying there is no
16 poisonous fruit from the tree. There's only the
17 legislature, and I would say not the Democrats or the
18 Independents in the legislature, but the Republicans who
19 have stepped on and trampled that fruit.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Nancy Mario,
23 followed by Doris Freeman and Karen Van Hooft.

24 NANCY MARIO: Good evening, commissioners.

25 My name is Nancy Mario, N-A-N-C-Y, M-A-R-I-O.

1 Thank you for the opportunity.

2 I wanted to start first by saying that I'm really
3 very disappointed that there's only four commissioners here
4 and not five.

5 I'm a registered Democrat.

6 I'm sorry.

7 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm the only commissioner
8 here this evening. We've got --

9 NANCY MARIO: But I'm saying that there are
10 only -- I'm saying -- what I mean to say is there are only
11 four commissioners at this point, at this moment, and not
12 five.

13 The removal of chairman -- Chairwoman Mathis, I
14 believe, was an over -- was overstepped their bounds by the
15 governor and also the senate, Senator Russell Pearce.

16 (Applause.)

17 NANCY MARIO: I'm a registered Democrat, and I
18 live in Paradise Valley. I'm one of very, very few
19 Democrats in Paradise Valley.

20 But what I want to say to you is this. I believe
21 in the political process.

22 I believe Democrats and Republicans and
23 Independents can get along, can make decisions that are
24 difficult but that are fair.

25 I believe in Prop 106, and I believe it was

1 appropriate.

2 I believe an independent Commission is
3 appropriate.

4 And I am certain that you will do the best you can
5 to make sure that the districting is done properly.

6 My last comment has to do with competitiveness.

7 I believe that when you look at the three major
8 parties, and everyone has spoken of the percentages, that
9 when you look at the Republicans, the Democrats, and the
10 Independents as a group of registered voters, they equal
11 approximately 99 percent of all the registered voters in
12 Arizona.

13 I believe that each district as closely as you can
14 needs to be equally represented by those three political
15 parties.

16 I also want you to think about and consider what
17 the voting behavior is of Independents, because Independents
18 may not be pigeonholed into either a Democratic or
19 Republican ideology. And consider their voting behavior and
20 history.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Doris Freeman,
25 followed by Karen Van Hooft and Jim Judge.

1 DORIS FREEMAN: That's D-O-R-I-S, F-R-E-E-M-A-N.

2 Thank you.

3 I have been to several of the redistricting
4 meetings. I've never asked to speak before.

5 I've asked to speak tonight mainly because of the
6 actions that were taken this week that I really think are
7 despicable and criminal.

8 So, you know where I stand on that.

9 I've lived in Arizona for several -- a number of
10 decades. I've been in the same home and the same district
11 and legislative district for over 30 years.

12 In 1964 I was a kid for Goldwater.

13 I have been a Republican, an Independent, and a
14 Democrat.

15 However, I don't think Goldwater would recognize
16 what's going on in his state today. I don't think he
17 would like it. He might recognize it, but he wouldn't like
18 it.

19 Number two, what I'd like to say is, during the
20 time that I have lived in the same CD 3, LD 11 area, I have
21 never been represented.

22 I have been taxed, but I have never ever been
23 represented.

24 I will tell you now. I have written to my
25 congressperson and my legislators over and over. I have

1 called their offices. When I call their offices, I usually
2 never, ever get a phone back -- phone call back.

3 When I write to them, whether it's through e-mail
4 or as it used to be in the regular mail, I would get a form
5 letter response only.

6 I never had my issues addressed. I never had my
7 questions answered.

8 It is the same today as it was over 30 years ago.

9 The reason for that is gerrymandering.

10 If you look at the history of the state, we've had
11 gerrymandering for one political party purposes for
12 99 years.

13 (Applause.)

14 DORIS FREEMAN: Ten years ago, the voters elected
15 and voted to stop that practice.

16 They attempted, they attempted ten years ago. It
17 didn't happen completely.

18 But it was a little bit better than it had been
19 for the previous 89 years.

20 Now, we have had -- we have an attempt this year
21 to try to institute a system whereby everyone can be
22 represented. Maybe not as much as they would like, but at
23 least some representation.

24 In my case, and in many other areas, we have had
25 zero representation.

1 I don't want that to continue. I don't want that
2 to continue for my great-grandnephews that live in the same
3 area I do.

4 That's why I live there.

5 I don't want them to have to deal with being
6 ignored as a voter, as I have been.

7 Ignored. Taxed, but ignored.

8 That was why our forefathers ostensibly fought a
9 revolution. Is that what it's going to take again?

10 And when Mr. Kavanaugh says that competitiveness is
11 the least important, he is wrong. He is absolutely wrong.

12 To me it's the most important.

13 I just want to remind people who approve of this
14 past week's actions, you think you live in a Republican
15 state. You don't. You live in a Banana Republic.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

18 Karen Van Hooft, followed by Jim Judge and Anne B.
19 Denomme(sic).

20 KAREN VAN HOOFT: Good evening. And thank you for
21 the opportunity to speak.

22 My name is Karen Van Hooft, K-A-R-E-N, V-A-N,
23 H-O-O-F-T.

24 I'm here tonight as a citizen who has a particular
25 community of interest. And that is not a geographical one

1 or a one of a particular city. It's a community of interest
2 of those people who want to see us function well as a state
3 and stop yelling at each other from opposite ends of the
4 political ideologies.

5 I think the thing that is the most important of
6 the characteristics that we are looking for is to try to
7 find competitive districts.

8 And that is because competitive districts will
9 bring us people who can talk to each other. Because they
10 have to. They have to attract people who are going to
11 listen to them from a fair point of view and not from one of
12 the extremes.

13 I -- so that is a community of interest of people
14 who want to see things get sane in this state.

15 I was very distressed as having a supporter of
16 Proposition 106 ever since it came, came up years ago, and
17 it was an Independent Redistricting Commission. I am so
18 distressed by what has happened this week, because I see
19 independence flying out the door.

20 This should not have happened.

21 People I've talked to are absolutely astounded
22 that this could have happened.

23 And I think we need to get back to some sanity.

24 I don't think we should start this process over.
25 I think we need to move in the -- considering some of these

1 changes.

2 I see some problems with the maps. Particularly
3 I'd like to affirm some of the things that were said with
4 respect to the Indian communities. It doesn't seem logical
5 they have the ones that are Maricopa County based be with
6 rural groups.

7 And there are some other problems I see such as
8 with Fountain Hills.

9 But I believe that the Commission has made a good
10 start, and I think that we should be supportive of them to
11 continue their work.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

14 Next up is Jim Judge, followed by Arne(sic) and
15 Brian Kaufman.

16 JIM JUDGE: Good evening, commissioners. My name
17 is Jim Judge, J-I-M, J-U-D-G-E.

18 My -- I'm here tonight representing the Town
19 Council of Fountain Hills.

20 They have the regularly scheduled council meeting
21 tonight.

22 A resolution by the mayor and council of the
23 Fountain Hills, Arizona, urging the Arizona Independent
24 Redistricting Commission to reconsider its determination
25 regarding placement of the town of Fountain Hills on the

1 finalized draft six.

2 The draft map assigned the town of Fountain Hills
3 to Congressional District 4 while surrounding communities of
4 interest, including the city of Scottsdale, Fort McDowell,
5 Yavapai Nation, the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian
6 community, the surrounding communities, are located in
7 Congressional District 6.

8 The draft map fails to set forth a reasonable
9 district shape and long-standing relationship of the town
10 and the surrounding communities.

11 Who have strong ties with one another in many
12 respects, including joint cooperation and coordination of
13 fire and emergency medical services.

14 The town and Fort McDowell jointly promote and
15 fund tourism efforts to a common tourism bureau and various
16 other events, and the economies of the town and
17 Fort McDowell are inextricably linked.

18 The town and Fort McDowell share a common school
19 system, school district, and the children of both
20 communities share many of the same schools.

21 The current boundary between District 4 and
22 District 6 divides those tightly bound communities of
23 interest into separate congressional districts, splintering
24 representation of the town and aligning it with rural
25 Arizona communities with whom it has very few common

1 interests.

2 The shape and extremely diverse and remote
3 geographical location of the major population centers of
4 proposed District 4 creates substantial difficulties for a
5 representative elected from one portion of the district to
6 another.

7 I will wrap up.

8 Therefore, be it resolved by the mayor and council
9 of the town of Fountain Hills that the mayor and council
10 request that the IRC approve an amendment to the draft map
11 to alter the boundary lines between District 4 and
12 District 6 to include the town and its neighbor community of
13 Rio Verde within District 6.

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Judge.

15 Give that, give that document to Ms. Gomez right
16 behind you.

17 JIM JUDGE: I'm sorry?

18 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: You can give that document
19 to Ms. Gomez right behind you. She'll include it in the
20 record.

21 Next up is Arlie -- queen of everything she has
22 listed here.

23 Followed by Brian Kaufman and Margaret Grannis.

24 ARLIE DENOMME: Good evening. My name is Arlie
25 Denomme, A-R-L-I-E, Denomme, D-E-N-O-M-M-E.

1 And, yes, sometimes I have been called the queen
2 of everything.

3 I find that unfortunately this Commission entirely
4 insults our intelligence.

5 We are a suburban community. We have very unique,
6 natural beauty, and especially strong community feelings
7 with Scottsdale, our Yavapai neighbors in Fort McDowell. We
8 are ground in also the Verdes.

9 I find it inappropriate to be away from this
10 family, and I would strongly ask you to reconsider the
11 boundaries.

12 I totally support the natural ties that we now
13 have.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Brian Kaufman,
18 followed by Margaret Grannis or Grannis, and next up is
19 Marcia Imber.

20 BRIAN KAUFMAN: Thank you, commissioner. It's
21 Brian Kaufman, B-R-I-A-N and K-A-U-F-M-A-N.

22 I'm here today to ask you to break up your draft
23 District 24. You've heard a few people comment that. And
24 I'm also here to ask you when you do that to stick south
25 Scottsdale, that extreme south Scottsdale that's in 24, to

1 stick that with the rest of Scottsdale.

2 I don't think breaking up 24 is too controversial.

3 You've already heard from former minority leader
4 Ken Chevron that he wants his central Phoenix area to be
5 separate from the Indian reservation, and you also heard
6 tonight from the Indian reservation requesting to be kept in
7 the east valley district with Scottsdale in that area.

8 And so I think if you follow both those reasonable
9 requests, the question mark remaining is what do you do with
10 Scottsdale.

11 I just ask you not to keep that with Phoenix,
12 because those precincts have been stuck with -- kind of
13 tacked on to Tempe for the last ten years. And it's been a
14 little rough politically because being -- having such a
15 small influence in the Tempe district, we've always been
16 represented by Tempeans, and it's just been awkward
17 politically. And I just foresee that if you stick that
18 small area with a Phoenix district, it's going to be the
19 same for the next ten years.

20 So it's basically I'd ask you to put south
21 Scottsdale with the rest of Scottsdale.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much,
23 Mr. Kaufman.

24 Next up is Margaret Grannis, followed by Marcia
25 Imber and Paul Brierley.

1 MARGARET GRANNIS: My name is Margaret Grannis,
2 M-A-R-G-A-R-E-T, G-R-A-N-N-I-S.

3 My family lives just north of Indian School and
4 west of Pima Road.

5 For the last 20 years, we have been
6 disenfranchised.

7 We vote, but I don't know why, because the
8 district is not competitive.

9 I know you have other things to consider, but in
10 that particular area I don't think any of the other
11 considerations bear nearly so much as putting us, please, in
12 a competitive district.

13 I'm not asking for things my way. I just want it
14 to be competitive, so we have a chance and our vote will
15 count, one way or the other.

16 Now it's just -- I can see why people don't bother
17 to vote. It's stupid to vote when you know that it's not
18 going to make a bit of difference.

19 If you could please gerrymander us into the Tempe,
20 gerrymander us into Tempe or Phoenix, just to the slightly
21 south and west of us, where we would economically and
22 socially we are more in tune, up to Camelback Road. You can
23 see your line there, if you please move it up to Camelback
24 Road instead of Thomas and put us either in Tempe or Phoenix
25 to the west of us, we would have a chance for our vote to

1 count.

2 Thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

4 Marty, how we doing?

5 THE REPORTER: I'm good.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Good.

7 Next up is Marcia Imber, followed by Paul Brierley
8 and Gene Pizzario, I believe.

9 MARCIA IMBER: I am Marcia Imber, M-A-R-C-I-A,
10 I-M-B-E-R.

11 I live in CD 3 and Legislative District 11.

12 And I simply agree with the people who said we
13 have been unrepresented for many years, and we are
14 unanswered with letters, and so on.

15 I have faith in you people to do the job
16 appropriately. And if you don't, I'm hoping that the
17 Department of Justice will fix that. But I think you will
18 do that.

19 And I'm incensed about this removal of the
20 chairman. Absolutely I think it was a power grab, and I
21 just hate it.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Paul Brierley,
25 followed by Gene Pizzario and Bonnie Sneed.

1 PAUL BRIERLEY: Thank you, Commissioner Stertz.

2 My name is Paul Brierley, B-R-I-E-L-E-Y.

3 I'm here representing the Arizona Farm Bureau
4 tonight and I want to read part of the statement that was
5 submitted for the record.

6 The Arizona Farm Bureau is a grassroots
7 organization representing 22,000 member families statewide.
8 We appreciate the hard work of the Commission and realize
9 that there are many factors to balance as you create maps
10 that will best represent Arizona residents.

11 Having said that, we are very concerned about the
12 effect that the draft maps would have on rural communities.
13 In our view keeping communities of interest together so that
14 they can elect like-minded representatives is the best way
15 to provide effective representation.

16 The draft maps appear to have inappropriately
17 split many rural communities of interest in order to meet
18 other objectives.

19 One of Arizona's strongest communities of interest
20 is our rural areas.

21 They share much in common with each other, no
22 matter how far apart they may be. Their voices can be
23 drowned out by an urban population that may be closer in
24 proximity but not in ideology.

25 Some of our most cherished commodities from the

1 five Cs include cotton, copper, citrus, and cattle, all of
2 which come from our rural communities. Ensuring the
3 survival of these industries will require rural communities
4 of interest to be represented at the state capital and in
5 Washington, D.C.

6 It's crucial that rural communities be grouped
7 with other rural communities, not with an urban corner of
8 the district that will drown out their voice.

9 Many of the districts as drawn absolutely nullify
10 the rural voice.

11 We see many areas of concern with the maps, and
12 would like to point out a new examples of which I speak.

13 Yuma is split in two for both legislature and
14 congressional districts, meaning that their rights to the
15 Colorado River could be shepherded by representatives from
16 Pima and Maricopa Counties, both of which have a strong
17 interest in obtaining more of that resource.

18 The rural CD that runs from the southern to
19 northern borders on the east side of the state could end up
20 with someone from north Tucson as a representative.

21 And agricultural areas in the west valley are
22 split into four CDs and as many legislative districts.

23 Cottonwood is kept whole with the Verde Valley in
24 the congressional map but it is split off with Flagstaff in
25 the legislative map.

1 I'll wrap up.

2 In closing, we ask you to remember that if you
3 combine rural and urban populations, the rural residents
4 will lose their voice in state and national politics. This
5 violates not only their rights, the vote -- their mandates
6 in the Voting Rights Act but it jeopardizes some of the
7 treasures that make Arizona a great place to live.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Brierley.

10 Next up is Gene Pizzario, I believe.

11 Followed by Bonnie Sneed and Evelyn Mary Munn.

12 TIM HORN: Hi. I've got a proxy for Gene. He had
13 to go.

14 My name is Tim Horn, H-O-R-N, last name. I'm a
15 resident of Scottsdale, and by complete disclosure I'm a
16 conservative.

17 And I actually was a conservative Democrat when
18 that was still permitted.

19 Today I'm a conservative.

20 I've been an Independent for a long time.

21 And here's what I have to say about what you guys
22 are doing.

23 First of all, thank you. I do a lot of volunteer
24 work. I've been involved in politics as well for years.

25 The problem we've got here is I've heard people

1 say things like, gosh, we ought to all just be able to get
2 along.

3 And I've heard detailed things about this street
4 and that side of the street and so forth. And while all of
5 that is good, I don't think that's the real big issue.

6 People would like to have us all get along, but
7 the fact of the matter is we are in a life struggle right
8 now for this country.

9 We're in desperate opposition, and it's just the
10 beginning. It's not the end.

11 What all of us want, on either side, is fairness.

12 And the problem that we have with this, the way
13 this Commission has been done and information has come out,
14 isn't especially, it's information that has come out, as far
15 as I'm concerned, it's the issue of fairness.

16 When this proposition was passed in 2000, what we
17 wanted in our state was kind of a trophy for fairness, to
18 eliminate the parties from the shenanigans that have always
19 gone on in this thing called gerrymandering.

20 The reality is that while that trophy was there
21 and it was pulled into, let's say, the fortress of our
22 freedom, what's happened is it opened up, and what fell out
23 was things that were unfair.

24 People that were representing one side more than
25 the other.

1 Now, if that's the case, no matter what is done,
2 no matter what -- how it changes, this group will be
3 discredited from fairness.

4 And what we need is a fair battlefield, because
5 that's really what we're doing here, we're specifying what
6 our battlefield is.

7 And whether you're left or right, we need it to be
8 fair.

9 This thing need to be scrapped, the Commission
10 redone, and let's start with an attitude of beginning with
11 fairness in mind.

12 (Applause.)

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Bonnie Sneed,
14 followed by Evelyn Mary Munn and Robert Deppe.

15 BONNIE SNEED: Good evening. My name is Bonnie
16 Sneed, B-O-N-N-I-E, S-N-E-E-D.

17 I am here as a governing board member of the
18 Scottsdale Unified School District. And we have already
19 submitted a resolution to the committee, but I wanted to in
20 a public forum just reiterate our feelings on the issue.

21 The governing board of the Scottsdale Unified
22 School District thanks the Arizona Independent Redistricting
23 Commission for holding this public hearing in Scottsdale.
24 That was one of the meetings we asked for.

25 The Scottsdale Unified School District was founded

1 in 1896 and has a current student population of 26,400
2 pre-K through 12 students, and we are a political
3 subdivision of the state of Arizona, governed by the laws of
4 the state of Arizona and the Arizona Department of
5 Education.

6 As a community of interest, the Scottsdale Unified
7 School District desires that the best interests of its
8 stakeholders be considered during the redistricting process
9 as it impacts their future representation at Arizona
10 legislature and the United States congress.

11 Scottsdale Unified School District is concerned
12 that the legislative and congressional districts for our
13 stakeholders be properly compact and contiguous, respectful
14 of communities of interest, which includes the unified
15 school district population, and considerate of geographical
16 boundaries.

17 We respectfully request that the Scottsdale
18 Unified School District population be split into no more
19 than two legislative and/or congressional districts as we
20 have worked hard over the last ten years especially to unify
21 our district and not, not separate different populations.

22 Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Folks, I've got, I've got

1 about 50 more speakers, and 50 times two equals 100, and
2 that's going to take us past 9:00 o'clock.

3 So --

4 (Brief interruption.)

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: It's not our opportunity.
6 We -- the doors are being closed on us.

7 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: The mayor is here.
8 Let's ask the mayor.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'll have staff ask that
10 question, but what I will ask of you if there's anyone --

11 (Brief interruption.)

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Please, please, ma'am,
13 please.

14 What I'd like to do is if anyone has a statement
15 that they've already had pre-prepared, and they want it read
16 into the record, if you would -- if you know that you're
17 going to be doing that, submit it to make sure that it gets
18 into the record if we don't make it through the time
19 tonight.

20 I also would like to ask staff to go ahead and
21 check with the operations folks if there's any opportunity
22 of us going past the 9:00 o'clock time so that we can
23 honor all these folks' time and effort to coming out this
24 evening.

25 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. Thank

1 you.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: So, next up is Evelyn Mary
3 Munn -- I can't guaranty a thing, folks. All I can do is to
4 say we'll give it a try.

5 Evelyn Mary Munn, followed by Robert Deppe and
6 Joan Chiazza.

7 EVELYN MARY MUNN: Thank you. My name is Evelyn
8 Mary Munn, E-V-E-L-Y-N, M-A-R-Y, M-U-N-N.

9 I thank you for allowing me to address you this
10 evening.

11 As a former mayor and council member in
12 Walnut Creek, California, I cannot tell you that I have
13 never seen guidelines where Voters Rights Act so blatantly
14 disregarded as I have seen in Arizona.

15 And what it really is called is really the G word,
16 gerrymander.

17 In fact, the congressional district map here looks
18 like a Rorschach ink blot test. It makes no sense to us.

19 We would worry if it made sense to you.

20 Be fair. Do it over.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks very much.

24 Next up is Robert Deppe, John Chiazza, or Joan
25 Chiazza, my apologies, and Nancy Ordowski.

1 ROBERT DEPPE: My name's Bob Deppe, B-O-B,
2 D-E-P-P-E.

3 Congressional District 4 runs from Colorado City
4 down to Yuma with a finger pointing down to Fountain Hills.

5 I'm from Fountain Hills.

6 I go to Scottsdale a lot. I've been to the senior
7 center many times. If I have to go to the hospital, I go to
8 Scottsdale.

9 Let's face it, Fountain Hills is a suburb of
10 Scottsdale.

11 Fountain Hills may look like Lake Havasu City, but
12 we have nothing in common.

13 We have no contact. We don't go along with them
14 in the same district.

15 We go along with Scottsdale.

16 My other point is, the district population is
17 basically in the west.

18 A congressional representative that runs for
19 congress will likely run from the west somewhere.

20 What do they care about Fountain Hills.

21 Again, we're at the end of the finger point down
22 here. They're not going to bother with us.

23 You've got a certain amount of Republicans that
24 are going to vote one way, a certain amount of Democrats
25 another way, and they're not going to spend any time with us

1 because you're not going to change that dynamics that much.

2 So what's going to happen to Fountain Hills?

3 We're not going to be represented any longer in
4 congress.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Deppe.

7 Next up is, I believe, Joan Chiazza -- John
8 Chiazza. My apologies.

9 JOHN CHIAZZA: John Chiazza, and it's
10 C-H-I-A-Z-Z-A.

11 I am a 23-year resident of Gilbert.

12 I want to compliment the Arizona Independent
13 Redistricting Commission for the tough job they're trying to
14 do.

15 The maps you are trying to finalize are not going
16 to please all of us.

17 I still think more competitive districts should be
18 closely looked at, even if communities of interest are split
19 up.

20 Please continue your work and push hard to make
21 districts balanced, fair, and competitive.

22 I think the removal of the chair of this
23 Commission by our elected officials is truly a travesty.
24 This Commission was to be free of political input by elected
25 officials.

1 It is a known fact that the Arizona state senate
2 was happy with the maps. It was the pleading of the two
3 congressional incumbents to our governor that pushed this
4 majority party into breaking the law and ignoring the
5 constitution, just to protect the incumbents from the true
6 competitiveness.

7 The governor and the Republican-held senate has
8 broken the process that was the actual will of the people.

9 I would hope the chair of this Commission stay on
10 and complete her work and let the courts rule on this
11 illegal power grab by the majority party of this state.

12 The gross misconduct of the majority party soundly
13 proves why it is so critical that this Commission should
14 make sure things like this do not happen again.

15 This is exactly why the Commission was put into
16 place by the people.

17 We need to have competitive districts and a
18 balanced voice at the capital so there's no runaway takeover
19 by one party as we have just seen this past week.

20 I was in the gallery of the senate when this vote
21 took place to remove the chair of this Commission.

22 When I left, I felt like I was watching
23 Nazi Germany in action.

24 (Applause.)

25 JOHN CHIAZZA: This kind of politics is ruining

1 the state, ruining the fabric of this country, and I would
2 hope it would inspire this Commission even more now to move
3 towards a balanced and fairness so all of Arizona can be
4 once heard in our government.

5 Thank you for all of your hard work. I hope you
6 continue to make this process in favor of the people and not
7 the politicians.

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, sir.

9 (Applause.)

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Nancy Ordowksi,
11 Jerry Gettinger, and Nancy Buell.

12 NANCY ORDOWKSI: Hello. My name is Nancy,
13 N-A-N-C-Y, Ordowski, O-R-D-O-W-S-K-I.

14 Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak
15 with you tonight.

16 I'm from Fountain Hills.

17 And like somebody mentioned earlier, it's like you
18 stuck a finger in the pie and took Fountain Hills and
19 Rio Verde out, thus following -- not following the
20 directives of the compact and contiguous areas.

21 Fountain Hills is a community of around
22 21,000 people.

23 We have no community of interest with the rural
24 areas of Arizona.

25 As nice as the people are in these areas, we still

1 have no relationship with them in our service, in our
2 communities.

3 Our interest is with Scottsdale and Fort McDowell.
4 We need to be placed in CD 6.

5 Fountain -- Fort McDowell students are part of our
6 Fountain Hills School District.

7 And I appreciate what the president of the
8 Salt River and Yavapai communities have said tonight.

9 By pulling Fountain Hills out of the CD 6 area, it
10 does not appear to me that you've met the state
11 constitutional redistricting laws.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

14 Following is Jerry Gettinger, followed by Nancy
15 Buell and Patty Stetson.

16 Mr. -- is Jerry here? He's left?

17 Nancy Buell.

18 Followed by Patty Stetson and Laurie Coe.

19 NANCY BUELL: My name is Nancy Buell, B-U-E-L-L.

20 And as a community volunteer, I just want to
21 commend you all for being on this Commission. It's
22 certainly been a thankless job, and I hope you can continue
23 with it.

24 I -- one factor that I find important is
25 competitiveness.

1 So many places in the state, everybody's vote does
2 not count.

3 So I hope you can continue with all your members.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

6 Next up is Patty Stetson, followed by Laurie Coe
7 and Harold Stahl.

8 PATTY STETSON: Good evening, gentlemen.

9 Thank you for the job that you've done with the
10 Redistricting Commission.

11 I am here for two reasons. I'm a citizen of
12 Scottsdale. My name is Patricia Stetson, spelled
13 S-T-E-T-S-O-N.

14 I was out of the state when the hearings began.
15 When I returned my perception and what I heard was my very
16 favorite congressman was no longer in my district, and I
17 decided to attend the first possible meeting, which was the
18 meeting that they approved the final draft map.

19 I was a little concerned when two of the board
20 members made the comment, and they were the conservative
21 board members, that they had not had the time sufficient to
22 review what had happened over the weekend of the tweaking of
23 the map and therefore they could not in good conscience vote
24 either yea or nay on this particular issue because they did
25 not have the information, and I quote one, he did not have

1 time to run the numbers.

2 However, the chairman went ahead with calling the
3 vote, and it passed with one abstention and one no.

4 So, I would like the -- if that's my perception of
5 that's what happened, I would really like to consider that
6 maybe there was a misrepresentation of the map that was
7 presented to all the members of the chair -- of the
8 Commission.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Laurie Coe,
11 followed by Harold Stahl and Jonathan, Albina, and David,
12 all signing up on the same sheet.

13 LAURIE COE: Good evening. I'm very grateful to
14 be here, and I am also grateful for the Commission and the
15 work that you've done.

16 I've lived in Arizona for 33 years, and I've been
17 affiliated with several parties.

18 So it's about what's going on today.

19 I wouldn't have even come to a redistricting
20 meeting because I don't know anything about it.

21 But when the legislature voted to take the
22 commissioner off, that really, really pushed me to come
23 tonight.

24 I am here because I feel as a citizen who pays
25 taxes in our state, who works in our state, and makes a

1 living, who's raised their family in this state, I feel that
2 as a voter I have been transgressed.

3 We voted in 2000 for this Commission to be
4 empowered outside of politics.

5 I am satisfied that if there is a representation
6 with two Democrats, two Republicans -- and if I was an
7 Independent right now, I would feel underrepresented. So I
8 would like to just state this for the record that I am very
9 angry, and I feel that all of us should be, at how this
10 process just happened on Tuesday.

11 Thank you very much.

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We can stay here until 9:15.
15 I've just got you for if we stick to our two minutes,
16 everybody, and we're efficient getting up to the microphone,
17 we should be able to make it through our list.

18 So Mr. Harold Stahl, followed by Jonathan
19 Urquidez, and Jim O'Connor.

20 HAROLD STAHL: I'm Harold Stahl from the Biltmore,
21 Arcadia area of Phoenix. H-A-R-O-L-D, S-T-A-H-L. I'm
22 representing myself.

23 In a previous appearance before this Commission, I
24 implored the chair, Colleen Mathis, to stand firm against
25 the high level partisan political pressure which was then

1 being applied to the Commission.

2 I'm here to congratulate Colleen Mathis in
3 particular and the commissioners who are standing up and
4 retaining the independence of the redistricting process
5 against unjustified and malicious charges by the Arizona
6 governors, the secretary of state, and the Republican
7 members of the Arizona senate.

8 You have heard and you will hear requests for
9 changes including those for improvements in the lines
10 affecting geographic areas such as mine, the Biltmore
11 Arcadia area of Phoenix.

12 It's reasonable to include this area with
13 Paradise Valley, for example, as a community of interest.

14 These requests are quite proper and stand in stark
15 contrast to the tactics of those politicians who are
16 engaging in an unprecedented power grab to usurp the
17 political will of the people.

18 Please continue to work for fair and competitive
19 voting districts, and you will continue to earn the
20 admiration of a grateful electorate.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

24 Next up Jonathan, and because all three of you
25 included yourselves on one sheet, if you can keep the entire

1 presentation to two minutes, I would really appreciate it.

2 JONATHAN URQUIDEZ: I'd like to thank the
3 Commission for hearing us.

4 I'm a student. We're students at Arizona State,
5 and we worked on a congressional map that we would like to
6 propose that focused on more competitiveness as far as the
7 districts are concerned, mainly six and nine.

8 Six, according to the presidential election of
9 '08, six was almost at 58 percent Republican, and District 9
10 was a little under 47 percent.

11 We did our best regarding communities to keep them
12 intact.

13 We arranged -- we managed to get six down to
14 55 percent to try to make it more competitive, and
15 District 9 to about 50/50 percent.

16 The rest of the moves we made were intended to try
17 to keep the populations even, and also, like I said, to use
18 natural boundaries and communities to keep everything
19 intact.

20 Just like to thank the Commission for all the work
21 you have done and for hearing us.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 JONATHAN URQUIDEZ: J-O-N-A-T-H-A-N,
25 U-R-Q-U-I-D-E-Z.

1 ALBINA HIDIC: So I'm just here -- my name is
2 Albina, A-L-B-I-N-A, Hidic.

3 And I just want to thank the Commission for doing
4 such hard work, but I would like to give you guys a proposal
5 to continue working and hear us all out so we can have that
6 fairness thing, because I think that's really important, to
7 make everybody happy, since we are all citizens of Arizona.

8 And my political standpoints are not more
9 important than anybody else's here, so thank you guys so
10 much.

11 (Applause.)

12 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thanks so much.

13 Next up is Jim O'Connor, city council member,
14 Robert Littlefield, and I'm not sure -- I apologize for
15 Councilmember Littlefield for having provided him a slot,
16 and Sherri Smith-Dodgson.

17 Jim O'Connor? Jim O'Connor is here or not here?
18 Jim O'Connor has left.

19 Council member, Mr. Littlefield, please.

20 COUNCILMAN ROBERT LITTLEFIELD: My name is Bob
21 Littlefield, L-I-T-T-L-E-F-I-E-L-D. I've been on the
22 Scottsdale city council for nine and a half years.

23 And I'm here tonight to talk about the community
24 of interest standard.

25 One of the things that disturbs me about both the

1 congressional and legislative map is that on both maps
2 you've cut off south Scottsdale south of Osborn and Thomas
3 from the rest of Scottsdale.

4 And I believe that's a real violation of the
5 community of interest standard.

6 We have a situation in the legislature which is
7 particularly important to the city.

8 And, by the way, I should say we don't have
9 districts in Scottsdale, so our political futures are not
10 impacted by this at all.

11 But it is important that south Scottsdale has been
12 cut off from the rest of Scottsdale in all of these maps.

13 And that's particularly pernicious because in the
14 nine and a half years I've been on the city council I hear
15 often from residents of south Scottsdale that they often
16 feel almost disenfranchised and certainly cut off from the
17 rest of Scottsdale already. And this would make it even
18 worse.

19 I know that Scottsdale Unified School District is
20 also concerned about this issue, and I believe they may even
21 have somebody here to testify tonight.

22 But it would certainly be -- it would certainly
23 move forward on the community of interest standard to move
24 south Scottsdale back in with the rest of Scottsdale,
25 particularly on the congressional map, but really

1 particularly in the legislative map.

2 Because we at the city and in the school district
3 have a lot of interaction with the legislature.

4 And it would certainly be important for south
5 Scottsdale to be with the rest of Scottsdale, both from a
6 practical standpoint and frankly from a symbolic standpoint
7 too.

8 So thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

10 Next up is Sherri Smith-Dodgson, followed by John
11 Gallagher and Mark Grenard.

12 SHERRI SMITH-DODGSON: Good evening, members of
13 the Commission.

14 My name is Sherri Smith-Dodgson. I'm the
15 vice president of legislation for the Scottsdale Parent
16 Council.

17 The Scottsdale Parent Council is an all-volunteer
18 parent organization dedicated to supporting excellence in
19 teaching and learning in all Scottsdale Unified School
20 District schools, through parent education, communication,
21 and legislative advocacy.

22 I'm here today on behalf of the SPC executive
23 board to ask you to give serious consideration to an
24 important component of your charge.

25 Please keep our community of interest intact as

1 you redraw our state legislative districts.

2 As an active group of parent advocates for our
3 public schools, we know that the more legislatively divided
4 our school district is, the less impact we can have as a
5 collective group of concern parents on policies that effect
6 our schools.

7 Scottsdale Unified School District currently
8 overlays three legislative districts, 8, 11, and 17.

9 The legislators in LD 8 and 11 know that the bulk
10 of their constituents lie within the boundaries of our
11 school district, and they are actively engaged with us in
12 decisions about public school policies.

13 Conversely the one school in our district that
14 lies within LD 17 is largely isolated from our advocacy
15 efforts since the elected officials from that district are
16 rightfully more concerned with the school districts that
17 comprise the bulk of their legislative district. Limiting
18 the legislative district within Scottsdale Unified's
19 boundaries is an important consideration for our community
20 of interest.

21 We are one school district with a set of distinct
22 and unique interests, with our community warrants
23 legislative representation that is as focused as possible.

24 While we understand that our issue cannot be the
25 sole focus of your work, it is important to keep in mind

1 that the law admonishes that boundaries should, quote,
2 respect communities of interest to the extent practicable,
3 end quote.

4 We hope this Commission seriously considers our
5 community of parent advocates for the Scottsdale Unified
6 School District when deciding where to draw the legislative
7 district boundaries.

8 Thank you for your time and consideration.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am, Sherri, can you spell
10 your name, please?

11 SHERRI SMITH-DODGSON: S-H-E-R-R-I, Smith,
12 S-M-I-T-H, D-O-D-G-S-O-N.

13 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

14 Next up is John Gallagher, Mark Grenard, and
15 Dr. Janie Hydrick.

16 JOHN GALLAGHER: My name is John Gallagher,
17 J-O-H-N, G-A-L-L-A-G-H-E-R.

18 Members -- remaining members of the Arizona
19 Independent Redistricting Commission, first of all, I'd like
20 to thank you for your dedication and service.

21 At this point if you have to select a fifth member
22 of the Commission, I'm not sure why anyone would want to
23 serve on a Commission though whose independence has been
24 compromised.

25 When a commissioner can be removed for reasons

1 that are arbitrary and capricious, for no reason at all,
2 when a coalition of incumbent congressmen doesn't like the
3 lines you draw, it seems like the Commission isn't really
4 independent.

5 Now, why do I say it's arbitrary and capricious?
6 Well, I was at the senate hearings when they voted to remove
7 Colleen Mathis.

8 And one senator said, well, gross misconduct is
9 whatever we decide it is.

10 That's arbitrary.

11 Another said, well, it's like pornography, I can't
12 tell you what it is, but you know it when you see it.

13 That's arbitrary. That's capricious.

14 Earlier Representative Kavanagh talked about the
15 attorney general is investigating violations of the open
16 meeting law and improprieties in the selection of the
17 mapping firm.

18 And what he said, if that is, in fact, true, the
19 fruits of the tree are poisonous.

20 He said, if that is, in fact, true.

21 They determined the guilt of Colleen Mathis before
22 they ever examined the evidence.

23 Representative Kavanagh doesn't know if that is,
24 in fact, true.

25 And he said we should start over.

1 What's really poisoned about the process is it's
2 tainted by the fact that a commissioner cannot be
3 independent without fear of being removed when a group of
4 congressmen don't like the lines that they drew. That's
5 what's poisoned about the fruit. That's what's tainted
6 about this process.

7 Your job as defined by the law was not to protect
8 incumbents. You were, in fact, instructed to do quite the
9 opposite, to disregard where the incumbents live when
10 addressing the other criteria of equal population,
11 compactness, et cetera.

12 Your job was to creates districts that accurately
13 reflect the interest of Arizona voters.

14 And I'm just afraid at this point that you're not
15 really able to do that, because of the political pressure.

16 Professor Paul Bender said, he questions how any
17 appointee can act truly independently given Mathis' removal,
18 and he said that the above action to remove for lack of
19 detail about her alleged gross misconduct creates a chilling
20 effect.

21 Well, I'd like --

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Sir, Mr. Gallagher, would
23 you please wrap up?

24 JOHN GALLAGHER: Yes. I'm wrapping up right now.

25 And more than ever you need to refuse to be

1 intimidated by the powerful interest representing incumbent
2 politicians which this law was designed to take out of the
3 process.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next is Mark Grenard,
7 followed by Dr. Janie Hydrick and Chase Williams.

8 MARK GRENARD: Mark Grenard, M-A-R-K,
9 G-R-E-N-A-R-D. G-R-E-N-A-R-D.

10 I'm from District 3.

11 And I have felt I've not been represented by my
12 congressman in that district.

13 I've made numerous calls to him.

14 So I'm urging you to make all districts as
15 competitive as possible. And I'm also urging you to keep
16 those districts -- keep competitiveness as the number one
17 concern that I have.

18 And I am sorry that Colleen Mathis is not here to
19 hear my opinions about the Redistricting Commission. I
20 commend you for your work.

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

22 Dr. Janie Hydrick, Chase Williams, and CG --
23 CJ Briggie.

24 JANIE HYDRICK: I'm Janie Hydrick, H-Y-D-R-I-C-K.

25 Please note that the most vitriolic voices are

1 neither the majority nor the ones which should deter you
2 from the courageous path you as a Commission have chosen to
3 follow.

4 Your perseverance alone could shepherd Arizona
5 into a politically active future that can be fair,
6 equitable, and truly reflective of its population.

7 On Tuesday 20 of my friends and I wrote separate
8 different letters to our LD senator. His answer to each of
9 us was the same form letter.

10 McComish denied that Tuesday's legislative
11 travesty was a political power play.

12 I have two Ph.D.s and I can tell you for certain
13 that when the Republican congressional delegation,
14 Republican governor, and every Republican member of the
15 state legislature vote to deny the will of the people, that
16 is a political power play.

17 My legislative and congressional districts have
18 been evolving. We no longer overwhelmingly reflect the
19 unbending, predictable ideology of a single party.

20 So thank you for making the new CD 9 and LD 18
21 more competitive so they can truly reflect the increasing
22 moderate character of our community.

23 For the first time in many years and for the first
24 time in too many election cycles we feel there is finally
25 the opportunity to be represented rather than to be

1 disenfranchised by the political system.

2 However, there are a couple of tweaks that would
3 render two adjoining legislative districts, LD 18 and LD 26,
4 even more competitive.

5 Baseline is the proposed divider between 18 and
6 26.

7 By moving that divider north to Route 60 and by
8 pulling the eastern border back west to Dobson, both 18 and
9 26 would be virtually 50/50.

10 With the current drafts Kyrene district
11 essentially matches the boundary of LD 18, and Tempe Union
12 High School District fits right inside of CD 9.

13 The lifelong friendships and the intense community
14 engagement that our four children garnered from their years
15 in those two districts should be hallmarks of every
16 community.

17 With a truly competitive legislative district and
18 congressional district, our community will finally have an
19 opportunity to impact education policy and education
20 funding.

21 Thank you so much for your work.

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Dr. Hydrick.

23 Next up is Chase Williams, CJ Briggie and Dorothy
24 Ward.

25 CHASE WILLIAMS: Chase, C-H-A-S-E, Williams,

1 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

2 I'm here speaking on behalf of my future, because
3 if we continue to allow the Republicans and our state senate
4 and allow our governor to continue her illegal power grab,
5 we will never have competitive districts in the state of
6 Arizona.

7 For the next ten years we have to deal with these
8 districts. And if you allow these sitting congressmen to
9 pick their districts so that they can run unopposed in a
10 primary, I'm sorry, Congressman Schweikert and Ben Quayle,
11 it's time you answer for the votes that you've made in
12 U.S. Congress. And if that means you have to fight it out
13 in the primary, then so be it.

14 In fact, even Congressman Franks said today that
15 it's a politically awkward and unpopular move of what the
16 governor did.

17 Especially because she's in New York, instead of
18 being here in Arizona to answer to the citizens of this
19 state.

20 The three authors of Proposition 106 outlined
21 today how they feel that her move was unconstitutional and
22 not in line with the will of the voters.

23 It's time for our state to start working for the
24 voters again and stop working for the partisan politics they
25 have controlled for too long.

1 We need to protect competitive districts, because
2 the only way that I or any of my generation will have a
3 voice, and I'm tired of our older generations controlling my
4 future, which is unfair and unjust.

5 The bottom line of this Commission and districts
6 in general in the redistricting process is not everyone's
7 going to be happy all of the time. We're never going to
8 have 100 percent agreement.

9 I'm not happy with all the maps in the same way
10 that my opponents, I guess, on the other side are not happy
11 with all of the maps.

12 But the bottom line is that's part of the
13 independence process. We're not going to agree on every
14 single issue, just as we don't agree on every policy issue.

15 The bottom line of this process is that we allow
16 for the independence of this Commission to exist.

17 Chairwoman Mathis should be reinstated.
18 Governor Brewer needs to apologize for her independent power
19 grab and her illegal actions this week in the senate. And
20 Russell Pearce better be recalled next Tuesday because we
21 need changes --

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up, CJ Briggie,
23 followed by Dorothy Ward and Toby Stahl.

24 CJ BRIGGLE: CJ Briggie, B-R-I-G-G-L-E.

25 And thank you, commissioner.

1 I do have a -- I've been preempted with a special
2 request to keep this open so that all of us can speak this
3 evening.

4 And I know you're doing your best to do so.

5 I'm personally satisfied that the maps are fair.
6 As a matter of fact, for the first time my new LD 18 and
7 CD 9 are going to be competitive.

8 That is going to be the first time my voice will
9 be heard. And can be heard.

10 However, the process has been disrupted.

11 I'm an activist.

12 As an activist, I am going to, on all future phone
13 banks and canvassing, which I do often, I will remind those
14 voters of a very popular Latin phrase.

15 Caveat emptor.

16 And as a four-year student of Latin in high school
17 by the way, I will now interpret that for you, Colleen.

18 Don't let the bastards get you down.

19 (Applause.)

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Dorothy Ward, Toby Stahl,
21 and Paula Linker.

22 DOROTHY WARD: My name is Dorothy Ward,
23 D-O-R-O-T-H-Y, W-A-R-D.

24 And I want the district map that was proposed in
25 the October 10th Arizona Republic to be adopted.

1 I think it's a wonderful map, 710,000 people in
2 each district. And hopefully the Native Americans being
3 able to have a representative in congress.

4 There may need to be some tweaks here and there,
5 but I think overall it is an excellent map.

6 I want to thank each of the commissioners for
7 accepting a position knowing the contentious situation it
8 would be.

9 I want particularly to acknowledge the chairman's
10 position. I think she has done a suburb job, and I think
11 Governor Brewer is absolutely wrong in trying to get her
12 ousted.

13 She has done nothing wrong.

14 I hope that she sleeps well at night knowing that
15 she's been doing the right thing, because she certainly has.

16 I think you should be commended.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

18 Next up is Toby Stahl, Paula Linker, and
19 Mr. Charles McCracken.

20 TOBY STAHL: My name is Toby Stahl, T-O-B-Y,
21 S-T-A-H-L.

22 And I'm here because I'm very angry and very
23 upset.

24 I'm upset with our elected officials who took the
25 word independent out of this Commission's name.

1 We voted for an independent Commission, and that's
2 what we had until they decided that they didn't like it,
3 that Quayle and Schweikert might have to compete.

4 So they colluded and got the governor to call the
5 special session.

6 Although we all know she wasn't here.

7 But this is awful.

8 You are stepping on our rights as citizens of this
9 state to elect an independent Commission and have it free of
10 political interference.

11 And that goes for you too, Mr. Kavanagh.

12 Thank you -- I thank you for your work as
13 independent as it may be, because that's what we need.

14 And we also need competitive districts.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

17 Next up is Paula Linker, Charles McCracken and
18 Matt Mason.

19 PAULA LINKER: My name is Paula Linker, P-A-U-L-A,
20 L-I-N-K-E-R.

21 I'm a citizen of Scottsdale.

22 Okay. First of all, regarding the legislative
23 districts here in Maricopa County, after several tries the
24 Commission seems to have got it pretty much correct,
25 although it would be nice to have south Scottsdale where we

1 reside right now, we're sitting right now, re-unified with
2 the rest of Scottsdale.

3 When I was outside, several people commented what
4 a nice senior center this is.

5 It is provided by unified Scottsdale, and
6 Scottsdale should be all in one piece.

7 Now I'm really here tonight to address the
8 sprawling CD 6.

9 The congressional maps that have been drawn really
10 don't make a lot of sense.

11 The last census showed population growth to the
12 south in Maricopa County, and that's where the new districts
13 should be formed.

14 So what does the Commission do, but they draw up a
15 map that already has dense districts, they split them up,
16 they link them up with other existing congressional
17 districts, totally disregarding clear communities of
18 interest and compactness and contiguousness.

19 This is evidence throughout the state but
20 particularly in proposed CD 6 and CD 9.

21 Both seem to have been drawn without considering
22 compact and contiguousness and communities of interest.

23 The proposed CD 6 covers a large east-west swab,
24 running from the 101 on the east over two highways and
25 mountain ranges picking up a lot of commercial areas and

1 rambling around to try to pick up 710,000 population.

2 They ignore the communities of interest.

3 If the 101 on the east could speak to the I-17 on
4 the west, it might say something like my community worked
5 hand in hand with the arts community and gave me nice
6 amenities, it provided for nice soundproof decorations on
7 the walls, showing the local flora and fauna, and it
8 provided a nice bike and jogging path that was elevated for
9 members of the community to utilize that weren't taking
10 their cars, and it also provides where the 101 crosses into
11 the Salt River Pima nation a very lovely monument called the
12 Handshake.

13 Okay. I'm going to cut myself off right here
14 except that this is really a lot of gerrymandering here.

15 And I do want to make one statement regardless of
16 this.

17 To the gentleman from Gilbert. I am Jewish. I
18 was very insulted by his comparison of the actions of
19 heir fuhrer to legally elected representatives in Arizona.
20 I think he needs to get in touch with some history courses.

21 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Jewish too, and
22 he was fine.

23 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Ma'am.

24 If you have a written statement, please put it on
25 the record with Ms. Gomez to your right.

1 (Applause.)

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Charles
3 McCracken, Matt Mason and Janet Olivia.

4 CHARLES MCCRACKEN: All right. Charles McCracken,
5 M-C-C-R-A-C-K-E-N. Chuck.

6 I -- I'm a resident of Scottsdale and a native of
7 our beloved Arizona. But I must report to you a tragedy to
8 come.

9 No representation.

10 I'll say it again. No representation.

11 How would you feel if no one seemed to care? Or
12 if no one listened to you?

13 I did live in a gerrymandered current LD 14. I'm
14 a voting Republican, and no one there would listen to me.

15 My side of the story couldn't be told. My ideas
16 to solve problems couldn't be told. And my needs for my
17 neighbors and neighborhoods could not be told.

18 So, I had to make a real tough monumental
19 decision, a decision to move away.

20 So now south Scottsdale is my permanent home, and
21 I love it.

22 So if the boundaries around south Scottsdale,
23 there's about 16 precincts, are now projected into this new
24 gerrymandered LD 24, and that map looks like a big U, I'll
25 be forced to endure no representation for a whole another

1 10 years all over again.

2 You know, I live here in Scottsdale. I pay
3 Scottsdale sales taxes, property taxes. I get my services
4 from Scottsdale.

5 I love it.

6 But with these new boundaries, I would be common
7 with north central Phoenix. I would have something similar
8 to do with West Indian School Road and 15th Avenue. I'd be
9 part and have things to do with downtown Phoenix.

10 They've got nothing in common with my beautiful
11 Papago Park, the zoo, or of course a little spring training
12 games we get to go to.

13 So, don't let these boundaries stay. Put me back
14 into regular Scottsdale, the new 23.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Chuck.

17 Next up is Matt Mason, Janet, and Miles Eggmann.

18 MATT MASON: Good evening. Matt Mason, M-A-T-T,
19 M-A-S-O-N.

20 I'm here on behalf of myself. I'm a third
21 generation Scottsdalian, and I have two young children
22 growing up here in Scottsdale.

23 And I'd like to echo what Chuck said.

24 This district, this District 24 proposed,
25 stretches from 19th Avenue all the way to this location.

1 And it's just absolutely ridiculous.

2 I don't see how I'm supposed to -- you know, when
3 I look at a community of interest, do I take my kid to
4 19th Avenue and Northern for an ice cream cone, or do I take
5 him over to Sugar Bowl in downtown Scottsdale.

6 It's a real obvious answer there.

7 And these maps don't address that. Instead they
8 seem to address the competitiveness issue alone.

9 And what I'm seeing is that the natural
10 boundaries, like Scottsdale Road, the Scottsdale Unified
11 School District, the city of Scottsdale, it's completely
12 ignored.

13 We instead cut off south Scottsdale from the rest,
14 we use it as a bridge, and it just is grotesque.

15 So I really encourage you -- I've got kids that
16 are coming up. They're going to be in the Scottsdale
17 schools. I'd like a legislator that's going to hear me when
18 I've got issues.

19 And I don't think the legislator that is
20 representing a lot of Phoenix is going to care too much
21 about a few residents in a little tucked away spot of south
22 Scottsdale.

23 So, again, I'd like to urge the Commission rethink
24 LD 24 and cut off that line. I appreciate it.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

2 Next up is Janet Olivia, or Oliver?

3 Is Janet here? No?

4 We're going to go to Miles Eggmann.

5 Miles is not here.

6 Going to go to Mary Cosaboom.

7 Not here.

8 Going to go to Kevin Jones.

9 KEVIN JONES: I see you've saved the best for
10 last.

11 My name is Kevin Jones. Jones, common spelling.
12 Kevin, K-E-V-I-N. Middle initial P for Patrick, the patron
13 saint of Ireland.

14 I must commend you, gentlemen, on the work that
15 you have done in this redistricting endeavor, but I think it
16 is all for naught.

17 I refer you to today's Arizona Republic.

18 After Saturday it's unclear how the Commission
19 will proceed with this task of adjusting the draft maps.

20 This in response to our faux governor and
21 Republican crybabies in the senate removing your chair. So
22 I don't see how you can proceed, because the political
23 process has taken over your independence.

24 I see this whole process going through the court
25 system. I see the Republican meandering attempts to be

1 chided. And I think we're going to be back here again two
2 or three months from now answering the same questions.

3 So I guess I just was wondering why we're even
4 having a meeting tonight.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you. I appreciate
7 that.

8 (Applause.)

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Kathy Schneider,
10 followed by Janet Tillotson and Bob Thomas.

11 Okay. Followed by Judy Whitehouse.

12 Okay.

13 Judy Whitehouse will be followed by Alison Brevard
14 and Kyle Blackhorse.

15 Oh, Bob Thomas is here.

16 BOB THOMAS: Commissioner, council, and members of
17 our state, I wanted to come and state tonight to speak to
18 the record on a lot of my comments tonight about the new
19 LD 24. I'm in that new LD 24 which was historically for the
20 last ten years part of the LD 15.

21 I wanted to speak to the issue of communities of
22 interest in that what does the historical neighborhood of
23 downtown Phoenix have in common with the east side of 101,
24 the rural communities, and the Indian tribes.

25 I was glad to hear those people speak earlier and

1 want to be in a district that represents them and their
2 interest and their rural farming interest. It has nothing
3 in common with Encanto, Palmcroft, Willo, Coronado, any of
4 the areas downtown.

5 As you know, the LD 15 was a heavily gerrymandered
6 district. There was not a Republican being elected in that
7 district in the last 32 years.

8 So I was glad to see south Scottsdale included in
9 that.

10 I would like to see the Commission take the line
11 of Camelback Road and extend it more west -- I mean more
12 east that would include the Arcadia neighborhood which would
13 be a neighborhood that would be a community of interest with
14 the historical neighborhood.

15 The way that the numbers look on this district
16 now, you're aware of it, but LD 24, 25.3 percent
17 Republicans, 38.4 percent Democrats, and 31.4 Independents.
18 That's not competitive.

19 That's the same ten years of gerrymandered
20 district we've had.

21 If you move the line from Camelback eastward and
22 take in the Arcadia neighborhood splitting it all through
23 the Biltmore, you will have created a true competitive
24 district that any of the three party candidates could
25 campaign and win.

1 Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.

3 Next up is Judy Whitehouse, followed by Alison
4 Brevard and Kyle Blackhorse.

5 JUDY WHITEHOUSE: Hi. Judy Whitehouse, J-U-D-Y,
6 W-H-I-T-E-H-O-U-S-E.

7 And I am sorry that you're so light on
8 commissioners tonight.

9 But, I think what I really want to say is for
10 everyone, even those who are no longer here, I think this
11 commission, particularly the ones who worked hard on getting
12 the maps so that we had something to comment upon, we owe
13 our thanks to them.

14 Because if they hadn't acted, we wouldn't have
15 anything to discuss right now.

16 And those maps are a given that it's not final;
17 they will be changed.

18 But I hope that those who think that their
19 interests and their -- particularly their communities of
20 interest are so exclusive to their school district or their
21 neighborhood or their friends that they have nothing in
22 common with the rest of Arizonans really need to get out
23 more, and we need to break up those communities and have
24 them find out that people really do have common interests.

25 You're not so exclusive that you don't care about

1 your children the way somebody else cares about their
2 children, the way people in downtown Phoenix care about
3 their children, care about the schools that their children
4 attend.

5 You're not so exclusive that you have to have a
6 voting district where you can elect someone that is a member
7 of your club, rather than someone who might have some good
8 ideas that you may not have heard of.

9 Thank you very much.

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

11 Next up is Alison Brevard.

12 Alison Brevard, last call.

13 Kyle Blackhorse.

14 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: He had to leave.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay. Thank you very much.

16 Maria Syms.

17 Danica Oparnica.

18 After Danica it will be Wil Howarth and Bradley
19 Vandermark.

20 DANICA OPARNICA: Would you like me to spell my
21 name?

22 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Please.

23 DANICA OPARNICA: D-A-N-I-C-A, O-P-A-R-N-I-C-A.

24 And I am a nurse practitioner.

25 I'm here to speak on behalf of my patients. Who

1 in many cases cannot speak for themselves, but in all cases
2 have suffered tremendously because of the last legislative
3 redistricting map which is not competitive and has allowed
4 for repeatedly electing partisan legislators who have
5 relegated health care for the poor, for those on fixed
6 incomes, for children, and for the mentally ill to the
7 bottom of the heap.

8 The current map as it is drawn in some part allows
9 for competitive districts. More competitive districts will
10 allow voters to elect the legislature that is more
11 competitive of our state's registration. There is nothing
12 to fear from more competitive districts unless one desires a
13 one party system.

14 In addition, I want to say that I'm very disturbed
15 that the chair of this Commission has been told -- voted out
16 just because -- without the benefit of so much as a hearing,
17 which in my opinion goes against everything this country
18 stands for.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up Wil Howarth.

22 Bradley Vandermark.

23 BRADLEY VANDERMARK: My name is Bradley
24 Vandermark, B-R-A-D-L-E-Y, Vandermark, V-A-N-D-E-R-M-A-R-K.

25 The first Commission set the precedent where the

1 final maps were fundamentally different than the drafts.

2 You folks unfortunately recently we've had the
3 legislature governor say we don't like your drafts, and so I
4 propose a solution.

5 This spring summer there was a competition held
6 by the Arizona Competitive District Coalition. I'm going
7 to submit the results of the public mapping contest in
8 which it lists two winners for congressional maps, two
9 winners for legislative maps, and honorable mention for each
10 of those.

11 All six of these options are better than your
12 current drafts for meeting the Voting Rights Act, the equal
13 protection, compactness, communities of interest, geographic
14 features, and competitive.

15 It was an open competition. Nobody knew who
16 submitted the maps, Democrat, Independent, Republicans. We
17 didn't know. The judges selected based on the name of a
18 Walt Disney character.

19 And the winners were, for the congress map,
20 Sleepy, Aladdin, and the honorable mention was Mickey.

21 For the legislative maps, the winners were Eeyore,
22 Alice, and the honorable mention was Dewey.

23 I suggest, as a Commission, if the chairperson is
24 not brought back, which I think she will because it's
25 unconstitutional what happened, hopefully the rest of you

1 four -- and when I was here last time in South Mountain I
2 said I have no doubt about your integrity, I may disagree
3 with your each of your policy and positions, but I have no
4 doubt you have great integrity.

5 Without the commissioner, you folks, there's four
6 of you, you only need three votes, take any one of these six
7 and select one.

8 If you can't agree, just agree to throw a dart and
9 pick one.

10 All these six of these are better than your drafts
11 and absolutely better than anything the Republican
12 legislature or governor would submit.

13 I thank you very much. And I could say a lot
14 more, but I don't want to.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

16 (Applause.)

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next up is Juan Mendez,
18 Ed Hermes, and Susan Gerard.

19 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: I think Juan left.

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Okay.

21 You must be Ed.

22 ED HERMES: I'm Ed, yes. Thank you so much.

23 I didn't think you guys would get to me, so I
24 didn't really write a speech.

25 But my name is Ed Hermes, E-D, H-E-R-M, as in

1 Mary, E-S, as in Sam.

2 I didn't vote for Prop 106. I wasn't able to vote
3 yet. But I -- when I learned about it in school, I was
4 really proud of what our state had done. And when I became
5 a government teacher myself, I was proud to teach my
6 students about Prop 106 and about what it would do in terms
7 of making an Independent Redistricting Commission.

8 So when I read about this week the governor -- the
9 governor's move to inject politics into your Commission, I
10 was really upset, and that's why I came down today.

11 I haven't been following the process very closely,
12 but I did send an e-mail and try to contact my senator to
13 tell him don't vote to remove Colleen Mathis.

14 As always, I didn't get a response.

15 Because -- I think it's because my legislator's in
16 a safe district.

17 I live in Chandler, and he had no reason to
18 respond.

19 We have to get to the root of the problem.

20 We need to create competitive districts in order
21 to make all legislators listen to us and be responsive.

22 As a government teacher, I have to address the
23 word gerrymandering, because I think it's been used
24 incorrectly a lot today.

25 I think polling my students and ask them what

1 gerrymandering is, I think they would give you the right
2 answer.

3 And that's creating -- artificially creating
4 districts in order to favor one political party.

5 And that's what gerrymandering is.

6 So I ask you not to do that. And by creating
7 competitive districts, you won't be doing gerrymandering.

8 Thank you so much for your time.

9 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Susan Gerard, followed by
12 Frank Ugenti and Randall Holmes.

13 SUSAN GERARD: Hi. It's Susan Gerard, S-U-S-A-N,
14 G-E-R-A-R-D.

15 And, boy, I would have not got to do this if we
16 had to stop at 9:00 o'clock, so I appreciate the extra time.

17 I just like to start by saying --

18 (Laughter.)

19 SUSAN GERARD: Okay. I'd just like to start by
20 saying I was actually a member of the state legislature the
21 last time they did redistricting themselves. And as ugly as
22 the process is with the Commission, it's still a whole lot
23 better than the legislators doing it themselves. And I
24 appreciate your work.

25 I've already submitted a map for you. I'm only

1 speaking to the draft of District 24 and 28 to try to make
2 them a little better. Twenty-eight used to 11.

3 And what we've done here is make 28 more like it
4 was.

5 I know there were people here that didn't like
6 south Scottsdale being in a certain district.

7 This proposal moves them into 28.

8 It moves Sunnyslope into 24, which actually adds
9 to their amount of Hispanic voting age.

10 But we -- 24 will still be a coalition district, a
11 minority-majority district and it will better comply with
12 the Voting Rights Act.

13 Both districts will be more compact and take into
14 consideration neighborhoods.

15 We also in this have put most of the Scottsdale
16 school district into 28 as well.

17 We move the Salt River Pimas and Fort McDowell
18 tribes into 23.

19 And then to make it all balance, there's minor
20 changes to 20, 21, and 23 that I think, you know, deal with
21 balance and splitting cities, so I think it makes them -- it
22 enhances them as well.

23 So they're going to be more compact.

24 Twenty-eight, I hope, will be more competitive.

25 And I think they'll pass muster not only with

1 Prop 106, but also the Voting Rights Act.

2 My maps also include the block equivalents that
3 you all put together so it will be easy for you to, you
4 know, analyze them.

5 Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: And, just for the record, we
7 do have that on file, and we have it submitted, so thank you
8 very much.

9 Frank Ugenti. And if I mispronounce your name, I
10 apologize.

11 FRANK UGENTI: Thank you. Frank Ugenti,
12 F-R-A-N-K, U-G-E-N-T-I.

13 I'd like to first speak on behalf of my wife,
14 State Representative Michelle Ugenti, representing
15 Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, and Verde communities, currently
16 LD 8 and proposed LD 23.

17 The proposed map is relatively good.

18 It follows Scottsdale's city boundaries,
19 Scottsdale Road to the west, all the way north to the county
20 boundary.

21 It does abandon south Scottsdale. I think that
22 can be fixed.

23 It also includes our sister city of Fountain
24 Hills, which in my opinion must remain intact with
25 Scottsdale. They're one in the same as far as community of

1 interests are concerned.

2 To Mr. -- commissioner -- Councilman Littlefield's
3 point, education, shopping, real estate, jobs, all things of
4 community interest are, in fact, represented by the natural
5 boundaries and it almost perfectly represents the population
6 requirements.

7 I'd like to now speak on my own behalf and make it
8 very clear I'm not speaking on behalf of my wife in her
9 official capacity. As it relates to the congressional
10 district, my job affords me the opportunity to understand
11 all aspects of this state. I travel it in a real estate
12 capacity. I know the markets. I know the communities. I
13 know the people.

14 You guys had to try real hard to screw up that
15 congressional district, with all due respect.

16 What happened to Fountain Hills is deliberate.
17 It's a hatchet job, as well as what happened in Arizona.

18 What happened in the central Phoenix, west Phoenix
19 area was scalpel-like precision of carving out Democratic
20 congressional districts for current congressmen and some
21 hopefuls coming out of our legislature in Democratic
22 districts.

23 I hope that can be remedied, especially as it
24 relates to Fountain Hills.

25 While I appreciate your efforts, I think that you

1 can do better. And thanks for your time.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Appreciate that. Thanks
3 very much.

4 Next up is Randall Holmes, Jeff Schriber, Randy
5 Keating, and Melanie Beikman.

6 RANDALL HOLMES: Hello. You've all heard me
7 talking on behalf of competitive districts in the past and
8 on behalf of the independence of the Commission.

9 Something that was said by several people tonight
10 really struck me.

11 Doris Freeman, the gentleman who used to vote
12 Republican in District 14, people who have been taxed for
13 years but not represented, and of course I speak on behalf
14 of the largest community of interest in Arizona, and that's
15 the people of Arizona, the people who are taxed and most of
16 them are not represented because they don't live in
17 competitive districts.

18 They live in a district that is safe, a safe
19 district for one party or the other.

20 And even if you are a member of the party who
21 controls your district, you are still disenfranchised
22 because your representative, your incumbent representative
23 takes your vote for granted.

24 Since the turnout for primary elections is so low,
25 it's confined to activists pretty much and ideologues. And

1 they choose the most ideological member of that party who's
2 running.

3 And since it's a safe district, the general
4 election is a foregone conclusion. It's a formality.

5 So therefore you are taxed and you are not
6 represented, whether you're a blue person in a blue
7 district or a red district or whether you're a red person.
8 And of course if you're an Independent they don't care about
9 you at all. They don't care what you think. They don't
10 care how you vote. Because they don't need to compete for
11 your vote.

12 Now, the other communities of interest that we've
13 heard from tonight, whether it's a city, a school board, an
14 Indian -- First Americans' community, their community of
15 interest, there's this religion, they think their community
16 of interest is best served if it's all in one district so
17 they can have more power over choosing one representative.

18 The upshot of that is, of course, is that they
19 only get one representative.

20 And so I want to speak to the people who are not
21 here tonight. They may not be watching on
22 azredistricting.org. They may not be watching on
23 AngryHousewife.com. The people who don't pay attention to
24 this stuff, but the people who wonder why their legislative
25 doesn't do what they want it to do and they get side tracked

1 into crazy stuff.

2 The reason for that is because of uncompetitive
3 districts. And because you're disenfranchised, they don't
4 care about your vote. They don't answer your letters. You
5 are not important to them.

6 What is important to them is who pays them, who
7 pays for their campaigns, and who they have to raise money
8 from, since that's what they spent all their time doing is
9 raising money from special interests.

10 Thanks.

11 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you, Mr. Holmes.

12 Next up is -- and if we end this on time, we will
13 get them all.

14 Jeff Schriber.

15 JEFF SCHRIBER: I'm Jeff Schriber. I represent
16 myself and my small family. And I think many people have
17 already spoken today. I want to remind you what the reason
18 for Prop 106 in fact. With the Internet thing you can
19 actually read it.

20 And what people voted on exactly was to oversee
21 the balance -- oh, excuse me, but the balance of fair
22 competitive districts. That's what people voted on. That's
23 what the proposition was about.

24 And you might say, well, why is that important.
25 Well, you've heard today from a number of sides, both on the

1 left and on the right, that they don't have representation.
2 The reason they don't have representation is because when,
3 when you have extremes on either side, that's the group that
4 takes over.

5 So by having a competitive district, which you're
6 going to allow yourself, is to have a state where you can
7 say both major parties have to have people that are
8 somewhere in the middle, because that's where the vast
9 majority of people are. People are sick of the partisan
10 bickering that we have on the left and the right. And by
11 having moderates come on both sides, and that's only
12 possible if you don't have a safe district as someone just
13 said, you have a Republican district, it can be as far to
14 the right and people don't get represented, if it's
15 Democratic it can be as far to the left.

16 Most people are somewhere in the middle. That's
17 where we should be. That's why it's important to do this.

18 And, finally, because you got to take those away
19 from the politicians. That was the reason to do this.

20 And what's just happened shows us exactly why.
21 The removal of your chair without any justification is
22 criminal. And frankly all of the commissioners, I believe,
23 on both sides should repudiate this and make a clear
24 statement that this is wrong.

25 Because this could easily have been on the

1 Democrats. In fact, my understanding is they tried to do
2 that but weren't able to do.

3 If you get a different governor the next time, it
4 could easily be on your side. This is not in anyone's
5 interest. This was created to get a better interest for
6 everyone.

7 I think you guys are trying to do a good job of
8 that.

9 I'm not an expert on that. I don't want you to
10 tell me how to do transplants. I'm not going to tell you
11 how to do this. But I can tell you it's time that you
12 looked at the Independents and get people working together.

13 (Applause.)

14 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

15 Spell your name, please.

16 JEFF SCHRIBER: S-C-H-R-I-B-E-R.

17 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you.

18 Next up Randy Keating.

19 And following that is our final speaker, which
20 will be Melanie Beikman.

21 RANDY KEATING: Hello. My name is Randy Keating,
22 R-A-N-D-Y, K-E-A-T-I-N-G.

23 And fortunately the gentleman earlier kind of
24 stole my thunder. I had wanted to point out that
25 gerrymandering as it's being used is completely wrong. And

1 that, two, for a district to be competitive, it cannot being
2 gerrymandered by definition, unless Merriam Webster has a
3 liberal bias, which I don't know if it does or not, but it
4 could.

5 So I want to speak about competitiveness.

6 What's so bad about competitiveness? Isn't
7 competitiveness and competition what America is built on?

8 We can compete for everything in our daily lives.
9 If competition make a better widget and competition makes a
10 better athlete, then won't competition make a better public
11 servant?

12 And if two sitting congressmen are then forced to
13 compete with each other, God forbid, for everyone's votes,
14 how is that bad? Ultimately the best man will win, and
15 ultimately Arizona will be better off for it.

16 And then that loser can go and run in some other
17 race, if they really want to.

18 And so, finally, I'll just say, I'm saddened. I'm
19 relatively new to politics and I'm definitely new into the
20 level of activism that I have been into the past couple
21 years. And this whole process has really turned me off.

22 I mean, I don't know about everyone else in this
23 room, but I feel like maybe there's no saving us. Maybe we
24 are just an ungovernable people, and no matter what we're
25 going to tear at each other's faces as our ship sinks.

1 I think that when Arizona voters in their wisdom
2 voted this Commission into existence, they wanted fair and
3 competitive districts.

4 And we held up this system in high regard as the
5 very model of what is best about our democracy.

6 Instead it has become a caricature of the worst of
7 our democracy.

8 And it's really turned me off.

9 But I think it's this Commission did itself a huge
10 disservice when you allowed your unanimously elected
11 chairwoman to be tarred and feathered and attacked and
12 slandered publicly, and you did not -- not one of you stood
13 up and said, enough is enough, this woman is a woman of
14 integrity, and she is serving the people to the best of her
15 ability. Instead we all stayed quiet, wink and nod, and now
16 look where we are.

17 Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Next we have Melanie
20 Beikman, and we have one final speaker after Melanie.

21 MELANIE BEIKMAN: Hello. Thank you. My name is
22 Melanie Beikman, M-E-L-A-N-I-E, B-E-I-K-M-A-N. I'm here
23 representing only myself.

24 First of all, as many as have done, I'd like to
25 thank you for your service.

1 I know that it's -- it is a volunteer job.

2 I understand that you have many important criteria
3 to balance, and I will not minimize the importance of true
4 communities of interest.

5 But, I do believe that competitive districts serve
6 the majority of Arizonans, and specifically moderates of
7 both parties and independents. Many prominent Arizonans --
8 many prominent Arizonans have been trying to find very
9 publicly trying to find solutions to the extreme
10 partisanship in Arizona politics. And Sandra Day O'Connor
11 is one of those who's been looking for solutions to that.

12 If moderates and independents had a vote, we
13 wouldn't have the kind of abuse of power that we've had this
14 week with our Arizona senate, not to mention the governor
15 and secretary of state.

16 So I believe that the events of this week are just
17 one example of many of why we need more competitive
18 districts in Arizona.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

21 Is there anyone else that would like to speak this
22 evening?

23 LAUREN KUBY: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: You do not have a speaker
25 slip because --

1 LAUREN KUBY: I really appreciate it.

2 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Quite all right. Spell your
3 name for the record, please.

4 LAUREN KUBY: Lauren Kuby, K-U-B-Y.

5 So the actions of Jan Brewer, the legislature, and
6 the Republican congressional delegations in the last few
7 days bring to mind my favor childhood story, Alice In
8 Wonderland.

9 So imagine, if you will, ask everyone to suspend
10 belief here. Alice is Chair Colleen Mathis. The Queen of
11 Hearts is Jan Brewer, whose philosophy, like the Queen's
12 is sentence first and verdict afterwards. Off with their
13 head, Jan proclaims as she orders Chair Mathis fired from
14 the IRC.

15 The Mad Hatter is represented by the super
16 majority in the senate, whose rush to judgment has, oh, so
17 hastily overturned the will of the voters.

18 And who is the Cheshire Cat in this drama of
19 democracy, this overdrawn drama of democracy. Well, it's
20 Fair Trust Arizona, the SuperPAC funded by, as you know,
21 Schweikert, Kyl, Gosar, and Quayle, the Republican
22 delegation.

23 In Wonderland all that's seen is the cat's grin.
24 His corporeal body is invisible, just like the shadowy group
25 that's been influencing the independent redistricting --

1 sorry.

2 All that is seen is the cat's Cheshire grin. His
3 corporeal body is invisible just like the shadowy group
4 that's been influencing the independent redistricting
5 process. He's hiding from the voters.

6 Curiouser and curiouser.

7 Only one thing is for sure, Arizona is down the
8 rabbit hole.

9 (Applause.)

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

11 One more, which is -- after you will be Pam.

12 PAM LAPLACA: Thank you. My name is Pam LaPlaca.

13 I live in Tempe. I've lived in Arizona for a total of
14 25 years.

15 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Sorry to interrupt, spell
16 your --

17 PAM LAPLACA: L-A, capital P, as in Peter,
18 L-A-C-A.

19 And I've been proud of the law that Arizona passed
20 on the Independent Redistricting Committee, and I am very
21 disappointed that Governor Brewer just come in and, you
22 know, off with her head, as Lauren said.

23 And, it's not good.

24 It's just -- it's really just reeks of politics,
25 like lots of people said. We were a third, a third, a

1 third. You know, we have a third Independents who are
2 really cut out of the process.

3 And it's important because this is going to set
4 our stage for ten years.

5 And so I hope that Brewer and the Mad Hatters at
6 the legislature will come to their senses.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: I'm correct now in saying
11 that Pam is our last speaker, Pam.

12 COUNCILWOMAN PAM KIRBY: Thank you for indulging
13 me.

14 I serve on the town council for the town of
15 Paradise Valley.

16 And I am late arriving tonight as I've been in a
17 council meeting since 1:00 p.m. this afternoon drafting our
18 general plan.

19 So -- which is also very important, so I
20 appreciate you giving me the opportunity.

21 I am proud to represent the residents, get their
22 feedback on issues of importance to them, and stand up for
23 their best interests.

24 An undeniable connection for the residents of
25 Paradise Valley is our strong connection to our neighboring

1 communities in the city of Phoenix.

2 These ties to the Biltmore to our west, northeast
3 Phoenix to the north, and Arcadia to the south are extremely
4 strong and have been for decades.

5 There is great concern over the draft
6 congressional maps and the way they split these very closely
7 linked communities apart.

8 Specifically the maps pull the Biltmore and
9 Arcadia areas apart from their neighbors of Paradise Valley
10 and northeast Phoenix with the strong, long-standing social
11 and economic links they share in common.

12 And they place them in a district with Tempe and
13 other east valley cities.

14 The east valley enjoys its own unique
15 characteristics and needs, which are not shared in the
16 Biltmore and Arcadia areas.

17 I ask that you adjust the draft congressional maps
18 so that you don't split the Biltmore and Arcadia away from
19 Paradise Valley and northeast Phoenix.

20 We appreciate your hard work and the immense time
21 commitment devoted to this important process.

22 And thank you for allowing me the opportunity to
23 speak tonight.

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Thank you very much.

25 I want to give special thanks to the city of

1 Scottsdale for allowing us to use this beautiful facility
2 this evening. I want to give special thanks to everybody
3 that came out and hung out there and, but above all, to the
4 iron man, Marty, for being able to stand up to this --

5 (Applause.)

6 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: -- to the handle all of the
7 public record without taking a break, allowing 100 percent
8 of the public comment that wanted to be put on the record.

9 The iron man, Marty.

10 Thank you, everybody. Have a great night.

11 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.
3

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceeding was
5 taken before me, Marty Herder, a Certified Court Reporter,
6 CCR No. 50162, State of Arizona; that the foregoing
7 143 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all
8 proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to
9 the best of my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 14th day of
11 November, 2011.

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

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