

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing in Window Rock, AZ: June 25, 2001**

“So we are very pleased and happy to report to the Commission this evening information that these tribes that we made contact with are very supportive, and they are evidenced by a memorandum of support they sent, and they will follow it by their council resolution on the Northern Congressional District, because we feel that it has the most community of interest is what we’re pursuing, and we’re making contacts with all the entities that are being affected.”-Kenneth Begay, Pg 28 Ln 13-22

“We are aware and have been aware and have been aware for many, many years of the sentiment of large numbers of people in Northern Arizona that not all districts should pie out of either Phoenix or Tucson.”-Ron Faich, Pg 33 Ln 5-8

“But what the Navajo Nation would like to see is these whole counties, plus these CCD’s and the San Carlos Indian reservation, as well as the White Mountain Apache Indian reservation and the other tribes whose reservations – whose homelands are included in these counties.” – Faich, Pg 36 Ln 12-17

“And what you have, essentially, is in these – in this district, the Apache, the Navajo, the Havasupai, a small part of the Hualapai, a small part of the Kaibab, the White Mountain Apache, the San Carlos Apache and the Community of Holbrook.” –Faich, Pg 40 Ln 23-25 and Pg 41 Ln 1-3

“We understand that the – that the recent legal history between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe has been – has been fraught with difficulty. However, we believe that there are communities of interest which go far beyond the current legal problems and past recent problems between the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation, that there are far greater commonalities between the needs, the desires of – of both the Navajo and Hopi as well as the other tribes, which – which speak against a segregation of Hopi in a separate legislative district or congressional district.”-Frank Seanez, Pg 49 Ln 15-25 and Pg 50 Ln 1

“What the Nation tried to do as much as possible was to include entire counties as opposed to the congressional – the congressional district proposal, the only one that we could work out with them was Apache County.” – Seanez, Pg 55 Ln 3-7

“The Navajo Nation congressional district proposal speaks to the needs for a northern congressional district to serve the interests of these largely rural communities.” –Seanez, pg 56 Ln 14-17

“I think the Navajo Nation should have their own congressional district.”-James Henderson, Jr., Pg 69 Ln 10-12

“I would now like to see a Northern Arizona District not be included with any of the metropolitan areas, such as Phoenix and Tucson due to inconsistent issues. And a lot of times their voices overwhelm the rural districts.”-Aresta LaRusso, Pg 86 Ln 25 and Pg 87 Ln 1-5

“We know the Navajo Nation numbers are not there. But it would be most beneficial if we keep all the Navajos, Native Americans, together, so as to accomplish a community of interests, as per Proposition 106.”-Sylvia Laughter, Pg 89 Ln 3-7

“There’s a big issue related to rural versus urban interests. Any new district that does come about that represents Northern Arizona needs to keep in mind the rural interests.”-Derrick Watchman, Pg 105 Ln 18-21

**NOTE:** These summaries and excerpts were developed for the Independent Redistricting Commission by its consultant, National Demographics Corporation, and have not been reviewed by the Commission prior to posting. They are not official statements of the Commission and represent only the consultant’s best effort to identify major themes and highlights of each public hearing. The excerpts were chosen by the consultant in an effort to identify common themes and especially noteworthy statements.

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