

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing in Holbrook, AZ: June 27, 2001

“The proposed congressional redistricting map allows the Navajo Nation and the neighboring tribe to be contained on one congressional district. We have similar background and share common community bonds.”- Ben Shelly, in support of the proposal by the Navajo Nation, Pg 29

“The Navajo Nation congressional district proposal speaks to the need of a northern congressional district to serve the interests of these largely rural communities of interest.”
-Frank Seanez, Pg 37

“We cannot keep standing second to cities like Flagstaff and Sedona and Phoenix and Tucson. It’s just not working. We – our people are starving and we can’t even get a decent food bank in our own district.” – Cynthia Furrh, Pg 44

“...I do not feel that our rural areas in northern Arizona ought to be put in the same district, either in the state legislature or in the congressional district, with the metropolitan populations of the Phoenix metropolitan area. We do not have enough common interests to be able to feel that the same representative could represent both us and them equally.” – Spike Simmons, Pg 51

“Another community of interest I’d like to point out would be the Holbrook-Winslow area, the I-40 corridor. It’s been an important part of Navajo County redistricting to keep that corridor together.” – Eddie Koury, Pg 52

“You know, Arizona, we’re very different in our metropolitan areas. There, the people are trying to control growth. They are trying to, you know, where we see some of the legislative proposals that, you know, they want to restrict growth, development. And in rural Arizona, it’s just the opposite.” – Nick Patterson, Pg 54-55

“We’d like, you know, our little communities up here, like all the people have said, you know, to stay together, hold hands, and, you know, work for one cause. Where we try to bring people in the state – or, rather, the city of Phoenix, those big areas, we like to limit things. And we have seen a lot of things go by the wayside simply because the ideas of Phoenix is very predominant in Washington.” – Richard Begay, Jr., Pg 65-66

“I know the Navajo Nation has a plan that looks real good, and also the opinions that are put forth here, where we all have a common interest, and that is to keep the rural people together and keep Phoenix and Tucson, those big metropolitan areas, out of, out of our little plans that we have for our people here.” - Begay, Jr., Pg 67-68

“Some of us Native Americans, we probably would be on the endangered species list in another ten years, but I think what we need to do is when we look at everything we have in common, we have the lands we hold in common, the mountains, the waters, our livestock, our commerce, the way we do business in the rural areas is a lot different than

the way we do things in the metropolitan areas. There, it's a material thing. Here, it's spiritual. It's something that's of common interest." – Larry Foster, Pg 74-75

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.

These materials are placed here for citizen review and with the hope that they will encourage comments. Comments can be made on the form provided.