

Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Public Hearing at the Eastern Arizona College-Activity Center, Thatcher, AZ, September 13, 2001

1. Supervisor Mark Herrington: "I'd like to state for the record we are in favor of the district as it's currently drawn, the Legislative District, also the Congressional District. One of the things we've stated from the beginning in this process was the importance of having a rural Legislative District and a rural Congressional District.... The other thing is for 10 years we have been divided. To some that might be a good thing. Graham County was split in half. A gentleman said we have double representation. In fact, it made it much more difficult to send representatives from our own area to the Legislature. It made it virtually impossible to Congress. So, in those ways, we're pleased, very pleased, with what we see. Community of interest is important. The organization, Eastern Arizona Counties Organization, of which Graham County is a member, I'm a member of the board. These counties are counties included in the communities of interest, similar interests that are very important to us here and issues that are paramount to us as far as the future of our county, rural health care, endangered species, public lands issues, forest health, grazing, and a myriad of other things we share in common with these other counties that would really serve us well in this district. I'd like to also point out that this is the only Legislative District proposed that has unanimity among all Boards of Supervisors. We've all passed resolutions in favor of this. Also, we have support of the cities and towns within the boundaries of this district in the various counties."

2. Supervisor Herrington: "I believe the reason we want to go north rather than south, we hold more in common, I believe, with Greenlee County, and the fact that some of major issues that we are facing as far as these communities of interest that you are talking about.

3. Tonya Williams: "We interviewed a lot of citizens, our businesses, major business. We talked to people all over Cochise County and feel like we belong with them, a part of them. Much of our area migrated up from Bisbee, or Douglas, into Clifton, all into mining. Mining is important to us. It's our lifeline. And it needs all the help we can get. We feel like agriculture is supported by Cochise, Nogales, and the CaniMex plan. We would like to stay with Cochise, stay this way, keep things we have in common. We're a primarily Hispanic community population. We'd like to stay a Hispanic population. They feel like their voice will be lost if they have to move north."

4. Barbara Haralson: "On our case, in Graham County, probably 35 percent of the economic impact is from agriculture. I believe that to go north, we're going to lose some of that. We're going to, as I look at the areas around Show Low, Pinetop, I look at them as blooming tourist areas that probably will be the center draw of this new district. I believe that we would become a fringe district. I believe that the road does not travel from the center to the outside in the same way it does around the center. I believe that we have had a good relationship with the SEAGO group and with Cochise County. I think we've overlooked that in our discussions. In listening to Fred Fox and President Bush, I believe the border issues are going to become more and more important areas, especially

with the fact we are agricultural.... If I look at the number of cars that go down the road in Graham County as opposed to those that run between Show Low and Pinetop and Lakeside, I put my dollars there. I -- contrary to what others believe, I believe there is something to be said to have a county that has as much representation as we do in the state Legislature. I believe they are all rural voices. I do not believe in being rural just for the sake of being rural."

5. Phillip Hogue: "I have a problem with the way it has been drawn. Cochise County is a rural county. I'll clarify my opinion of what a rural county is: anything other than a major metropolitan area. Cochise County now has a small metropolitan area blooming. That's Sierra Vista. Casa Grande is the next metropolitan area. Chandler, Tempe, and those urban areas are metropolitan areas. When you have rural areas where a portion of that is agriculture, light industry, and ranching, that is rural. The way the map is drawn now that you have proposed, it does separate Cochise County from Graham County, the traditional guidelines. We do share agriculture. Part of Cochise's biggest industry is agriculture, along with manufacturing. What bothers me more is the redistricting has taken out what we consider our metropolitan area for Cochise County. Sierra Vista is now over with Tucson. That makes no sense to me whatsoever. I know there is a big population there. That's still Cochise County. If you bring the line way down and suck it up into the area, it does not make sense. I prefer scenario number two. It's similar to what we have now. It is truly a rural area."

6. Phillip Hogue: "On the Congressional side, I agree with some of the comments that it's too big. Now we're lumped in with Tucson and Pima County on one side. Pima County does have two Congressional Districts. I believe they only should have one.... I think there should be two rural districts. Two on portions of Tucson on district, take the loop around, go into Maricopa, pick up parts of Pinal County. Debating on whether to include Casa Grande in the metropolitan area. Whether growing slowly, rapidly."

7. David Newlin: "We like the Legislative District as it is. I'm a fourth-generation Arizonan born and raised in Tucson. As much of the people of Cochise County, I feel a little frustrated with it in the orientation more than Tucson. Sierra would like to become Tucson in many ways, in talking with them on occasion. There is becoming more growth in Cochise than other areas of SEAGO. The area values, things we share in the southern parts of Navajo, Apache County, fit better with what we do. Those are the things my Council asked me to say to you."

8. Mayor Joe Miranda of the Town of Hayden: "What would I have in common (in the Congressional District)? What community of interest would I have with somebody on Mohave County? There just isn't. As it is, it creeps along, takes up some of northeastern Maricopa County. There might be a few Hispanics in there, but even there, as far as a community of interest, I have none with those, outside of the same heritage. And, therefore, this is just too -- it was suggested a couple times earlier by some speakers to divide up this District, this C. And that -- I can wholeheartedly support that. There's just no way that this person would be able to come out to my part of the county."

9. Supervisor Jim Palmer: "Our concern is being pushed into this southern proposal is that we have fears of being completely ignored. The likes of Sierra, Douglas, very large areas, quite honestly swallow us up not even realize we're there. When we look at the current draft proposal, we see a group of communities of interest, all of similar size and population. If you take Gila Valley as an area that compares to the Globe Miami area, or communities in the White Mountains area, see very similar populations, very similar kinds of communities very rural interests. I think it's important that, in that scenario, we felt like Graham County be represented, listened to, heard.... I think when you truly look at the draft proposal that you currently have, you link two of the most important mining communities in this state together, the Globe Miami area, Morencie area, don't see any gain going south, two communities linked with a common employer, common interest, a very strong mining background."

10. Supervisor Jim Palmer: "Another thing that perhaps should be addressed, that's competitiveness within that district as presently proposed. I don't see any particular political interest in really gaining a strong dominant hold there. A very competitive district, where I realize this is not a primary goal, it is nonetheless I think an important goal where I think that district would be very competitive."

11. Supervisor Jim Palmer: "Finally, let me just comment on the Congressional District. While I understand the challenges posed by the large land mass, by the nature of being a completely rural district, it is going to be a large land mass whichever way you draw it. While I understand, certainly, the challenges that will be faced, when I weigh that against being represented by someone from the Phoenix area, or the Tucson area, I'll take the large land mass anyway. While it may be difficult, we live in a time and area where travel is not that difficult, It's not that hard to get across the State of Arizona. It can be done within part of a day. You can get anyway in this state. By air, it can be done in a matter of an hour or two, I don't see that as an insurmountable obstacle."

12. Supervisor Don Stacey: "When you look at mining...you travel through Globe, Miami, I think the name of Phelps Dodge is very prevalent throughout that county, and also in Graham County. I understand that mines may be opening in the future when things look better. Public land issues are very big for Greenlee County. We're just about...97 percent public lands. We look at Apache County, Gila County, it's the same issue: public lands. Cattle mining, cattle ranching are present in all counties. And Graham County, there are water issues along the Gila River. And with the present litigation going on, Gila River flows through Greenlee County, Graham County, Gila County. So all those issues we have in common.... But as far as the Board is concerned, when issues come up, we're constantly communicating with Apache County, Gila County, and Graham County. Again, the issues: commonality between counties. That's what is important to us. And those economic issues we talk about at EACO, the Arizona Mexican Coalition, they are very important to all of us. And that's our livelihood."

13. Ted Poelstra: "There will always be safe districts with the six goals of redistricting of Proposition 106. Making competitive districts at the expense of the other goals would make the districts appear as branches cut off from a tree. And I don't think that is your

intention. But please review the growth patterns. And please look at the true representation of a community of interest over the other goals that are set by Prop. 106."

14. Gary Griffith: "I wanted to direct my comments to the Congressional District in District C. I think you've done a very good job on this. I recall the original draft that was done kind of split the area into two, had the majority type rural districts. That was fine as well. I like this better. It really does take into account the fact there are rural issues that need representation in Congress on. I think large is fine. Not a problem. I don't think the people understand what you're talking about, necessarily, when saying it's a pretty big district. It really isn't when you compare it with other western states. The western states are large Congressional states. Imagine Don Young in Alaska. Imagine Barbara Cuben (phonetic) from Wyoming. This is pretty small. True, it takes awhile to get to Kingman. People from Kingman have a lot in common with us. Safford is completely surrounded by BLM land. People in Kingman are surrounded by BLM land. A congressman that represents Kingman, he can represent both very well fighting with the BLM. I think a lot of rural type issues will be better represented by this district. Many, like the fact Northern Pinal is in this district. The choice of the south hookup, Tucson like it used to be, I like that you've done. Areas of Hayden, Winkleman, Superior, strong mining interests, like we do, that's something very important.

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