

**Excerpts From the Independent Redistricting Commission Interactive Public Hearing at the Northland Pioneer College Campus, Show Low, AZ, September 15, 2001**

1. Speaker Edward T. Begay: "You heard some claims from the Hopis of why they should be separated from the Navajo Nation in the legislative and congressional districts. The Commission in turn responded by creating a gerrymandered corridor leading to the Hopi reservation from District A. I remind the Commissioners that the neck on your ostrich is very much similar to the North Carolina gerrymander that was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.... You also heard that Navajos are very different from the Hopis because of the land dispute. I remind the Commissioners that the Navajo-Hopi-U.S. land dispute is but one of the issues affecting the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. Beyond the land dispute, issues such as roads, schools, and medical facilities affect the Navajos and Hopis equally. In Congress nearly all Indian bills are passed by unanimous consent in the House of Representatives and the Senate. That is to say, no votes are cast, and therefore, no voting record exists. Thus, it is possible to say that both the U.S. Representatives from Congressional District 3 and 6 support the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe testimony before Congress is most often in agreement in areas other than the land dispute. One such area is law enforcement.

2. Speaker Edward T. Begay: "Both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe have expressed similar paramount concerns and needs. In addition, Navajo and Hopi have equally advocated on behalf of all tribes in the United States on federal issues such as health, transportation, roads, education and others.... The Navajo Nation will demonstrate that the Hopis and Navajos have similar needs in the areas of education, health, social services, roads, etc. The daily lives of individual Navajos and Hopis depend on the efficient and effective operations of programs that serve them, and these programs have similar goals and needs which are based on the commonalities which Navajos and Hopis share as rural Native Americans in Arizona."

3. Chief of Staff, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Nation. "As you have heard from Navajo officials and other tribes, in this day and age, we as Native Americans...must unite to preserve and protect the interests of Native Americans, the interests of rural Arizona, and the interests of Northern Arizona. When Navajos, or Hopis, go to Phoenix or Washington, DC., we speak of preserving and enhancing our health, education, roads, transportation, business and government interests. We speak the same language on these issues. This has to continue."

4. Perry B. Yazzie, Navajo Transit System: "The Navajo Transit System (NTS) operates a public transportation system, which serves members of both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe. The Navajo Transit System is a grantee of the Federal Transit Administration through the State of Arizona. It has been providing public transportation to residents and communities in rural Northern Arizona since 1980. In over twenty years of public service, NTS has maintained bus routes connecting the major communities of the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, and the border towns in Northern Arizona. One

such bus route runs between Tuba City and Window Rock, Arizona. This same bus route serves the Hopi Villages of Moenkopi, Hotevilla, Bacavi, Shungopavi Oraibi, Kykotsmovi, Second Mesa and Polacca, as well as Keams Canyon."

5. Perry B. Yazzie: "Members of the Hopi Tribe, San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, and the Navajo Nation are now able to more readily access and obtain goods and services, including medical, legal, educational, veterans, employment, health and human services. As well, NTS connects Navajo and Hopi employees with employers, students with colleges and universities, customers with businesses, and clients with local and regional public services. These connections are available equally to both Navajos and Hopis."

6. Perry B. Yazzie: "The importance to incorporate the essential role of public transportation as part of the infrastructure needed for economic and community development is paramount throughout our country. A unified voice from the Native American people will aid in working with our neighboring communities in Arizona, and the various federal and state highways and transportation agencies. To fragment the efforts of Native People is not nation building that revolves around our children, families, and communities as a priority."

7. The Navajo Division of Health: "The Navajo Nation Division of Health has supported the provision of health services to both Navajos and Hopi. Both Navajos and Hopi reside in remote and rural areas of Northern Arizona and face similar challenges in the areas of health care facilities and services. Poor housing conditions and diet, unemployment, and poverty combine with physical isolation and poor road conditions to create very similar sets of health care problems and create similar barriers to the accessing of acute health care and preventative medical services. Shared health status problems between Navajos and Hopi include injuries due to automobile accidents, diabetes, pneumonia and other transmittable diseases. There are limited health care facilities and resources in Northern Arizona to meet the needs of both Navajo and Hopi, facilities and resources which require careful planning and coordination between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe."

8. Ed Richards, Navajo Tourism Department: "The Navajo Tourism Department has a continuing working relationship with the Hopi Tribe. The Navajo Nation has assisted the Hopi Tribe through marketing projects focusing on increasing visitors to both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, thereby increasing income to the tourist industries of both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe."

9. Four Corners Enterprise Community: "The Four Corners Enterprise Community, 4CEC, approved by the USDA in 1998, includes the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The 4CEC Board of Directors includes representatives of all three tribes and there is a high degree of cooperation shown by the Board members for the benefit of all three tribes. One of the main reasons for this cooperation is the primary goal of the 4CEC, which is to promote partnerships in the fostering of community and economic development in the 4CEC region."

10. Tuba City Regional Business Development Office: "The Tuba City Regional Business Development Office, Tuba City RBDO, provides assistance to individuals and businesses on business planning, Navajo Nation business preference certification, business site leasing and other business related services. The Tuba City RBDO has served clients from the Hopi Tribe over the years by providing information to them on the availability of business sites, Navajo Nation business preference certification and business planning."

11. Navajo Nation TANF Program: " In Indian country, the National Congress of American Indians (NCDI) has established a tribal TANF administrators work group to address tribal TANF issues and the upcoming reauthorization of the welfare reform law in 2002. This tribal workgroup understands the need to unify and advocate for tribal issues regarding tribal TANF. In the State of Arizona, the five tribal TANF tribes have come together to form the Southwest Tribal TANF Coalition (SWTTC) to address the reauthorization and other tribal issues concerning welfare reform. The Navajo Nation and the Hopi Nation tribal TANF representatives co-chair this coalition. Support has been given by each individual tribal leadership in the creation of this coalition and the continued advocacy of policy recommendations. Both the Navajo and the Hopi Nation see common issues in the reauthorization for better service delivery coordination. It is very important that both the Navajo and Hopi Nations continue to address tribal TANF service delivery areas and services populations since the reservations are next to each other."

12. Navajo Division of Dine Education: "The Navajo Division of Dine Education consists of eleven programs which cover the entire Navajo Nation and provides services to all children, including Hopi children attending Navajo schools, including those set forth below:

Tuba City High School	103 Hopi students
Tuba City Junior High School	56 Hopi Students
Eagles Nest School	51 Hopi Students
Greyhills Academy School	9 Hopi Students

Navajo students also attend Hopi schools, and there are teachers and administrators who work jointly within the school systems serving both tribes. There is significant interaction and coordination between the Navajo and the Hopi Tribe in education."

North Central Association/Monitoring and Technical Services Program. This agency accredits schools that are administered by the Navajo Nation and by the Hopi Tribe. The program provides technical assistance to both Navajo and Hopi schools, upon request. The North Central Association/Monitoring and Technical Services Program maintains good coordination with both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, OSERS. This office has provided services in vocational rehabilitation to members of both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe and has assisted the Hopi Tribe in the preparation of the Hopi Tribe Section 121 grant application. The Navajo Nation has provided \$450,000 Navajo Nation

Trust Funds for Handicapped Services to the Hopi Tribe Project ASSIST To Independence, center for independent living."

13. Office of Dine Youth, ODY. "This office works with Hopi youth as well as Navajo youth. The Tuba City Agency worked with the Hopi Tribe during the Annual Western Agency Youth Fair. The Hopi Tribe provided assistance to the ODY-Tuba City in hosting the 5K and Fun Run during the annual event. This type of coordination has existed between the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe for many years and will continue for the benefit and partnership of both Navajo and Hopi youth."

14. Department of Johnson-O'Malley, JOM: "Members of the Hopi Tribe have been included on Indian Education Committee of the Navajo Nation JOM Subcontractors. One good example of this is in the Cedar Unified School District, where many Hopi students are bussed in from the Hopi Reservation and are enrolled in the school district in significant numbers."

Department of Head Start. "This department provides services to both Navajo and Hopi children. Through intermarriage, there are parents from both the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe who serve on the Head Start Parent Advisory Council and participate in Head Start activities."

15. Navajo Tax Commission: "The Navajo Nation Tax Commission has worked with the Hopi Tribe in planning and coordination between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe in the area of taxation. While there has been ongoing litigation relative to the meaning of the share and share alike language of the federal statute dictating the split of proceeds for mineral proceeds, the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission has cooperated with the Hopi Tribe. Specifically, the Office of the Navajo Tax Commission has met with representatives of the Hopi Tribe on at least two occasions to advise them of the manner in which the Navajo Nation structures its tax program and offered further advice to the Hopi Tribe on how it might conduct such activities."

16. Frank Seanez: "Commissioners, the Navajo Nation heard at the AIRC second round public hearings in Phoenix on August 30, 2001 and in Flagstaff on September 6, 2001, claims that the Legislative District 3 state representatives and state senators have a history of not supporting Hopi issues. The Navajo Nation was concerned about these allegations, and the effect that they might have upon the Commissioners as you consider changes to the initial Legislative District maps. Since the claims were unsupported by any documentation at both Phoenix and Flagstaff, the Navajo Nation wanted to research the basis for these allegations. The Navajo Nation would certainly not want the AIRC to make its decision based on bald and unsupported allegations. Following research of the matter, I am pleased to report to the AIRC that the state representatives and state senators elected from Legislative District 3 have consistently provided support for the bills addressing Hopi issues in the State Legislature.... The support of these Legislative District state representatives and state senators has shown through their votes at the committee level, in the votes of the full State House of Representatives and the full State Senate, as well as sponsorship of legislation in the State Legislature."

17. Frank Seanez: "The Navajo Nation believes that, based on the number of bills which have been introduced by Legislative District 3 state representatives and state senators on behalf of Indian tribes, the Hopi Tribe could expect to receive at least the level of fair and effective representation that it has enjoyed since the 42nd Legislature in Legislative District 3. What is clear by the records of the Arizona Legislature is that the Hopi Tribe has enjoyed significant support and received significant appropriations of funds through the on-going support of the Legislative District 3 state representatives and state senators."

20. Navajo-Hopi Land Commission Office: "The NHLCO works on a daily basis with the Hopi Tribe to enforce the provisions of the accommodation agreements and to address issues related to the remodeling and refurbishment of structures on the former Bennett Freeze area. While the land dispute is the single greatest issue dividing the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe have approved housing construction projects in the Hopi partitioned lands and former Bennett Freeze area, multi-million dollar water and electricity projects and a nearly \$20 million community development in former Bennett Freeze lands.

Even in the most divisive areas of contact between the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe the two tribes work together closely. As ancestral inhabitants of the same area, the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe are bound together closely by the same land whose beneficial ownership causes the most dispute between them. The Navajo-Hopi land dispute does not provide a good and adequate reason for the division.... In fact it raises some of the best arguments why the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe must be placed in the same districts in both the congressional and legislative districts.

Roads, highways, airports, water and electrical utility systems are all infrastructure issues for both the Navajos and the Hopi within our closely held land bases. The delivery of educational, health, law enforcement, and social services and facilities to populations which share striking similarities in social and economic conditions bring the same challenges in the cases of both the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. Finally, the intermarriage of Navajos and Hopi people and the needs of youth who share both Navajo and Hopi ancestry ties the Navajos and Hopi people together in ways that the land dispute can never tear apart."

21. Chairman Peter MacDonald: "My fellow Navajos and I are concerned that the Navajo Nation has been grouped together with Yavapai County, an area of Arizona with which we share little common interest. Because of its rapidly growing population, Yavapai county is more concerned with managing its growth than with our issues of economic development. The County's Native American population stands, and every year this population in Yavapai County becomes more and more diluted. Similar problems are at work in the included portions of Mohave County, which is undergoing extensive growth, with a diluted Native American population of 2.4 percent. And obviously that population is falling, also, due to rapid population growth in that area. Indeed, our ties with neighbors in Prescott, in Kingman, are as historically and demographically weak as they are geographically distant.

To be sure, we have a great deal more in common with the Native Americans of the people of Fort McDowell, Salt River, Gila River, and Ak-Chin Reservations, with whom we share a history of common interest in the current Congressional Number six. The tradeoff of tribal populations depicted in the new Congressional draft map will result in an estimated net loss of over 10,000 Native Americans in the new district. This is just the dilution of Native American voting power that is being contemplated by the boundaries of the draft map. The remaining dilution will occur rapidly through dynamic population growth in Yavapai and Mohave Counties. If the Navajo Nation is aligned with high growth counties like Yavapai and Mohave, our voice in this proposed new Congressional District will diminish. The diluting of our voice that is not done with redrawing boundaries will, in the end, be accomplished through disproportionate population growth and its influence."

22. Frank Seanez: "I believe you'll find the Navajo Nation's proposal is a competitive proposal when viewed on that basis noting, again, competitiveness is not to be considered in the first -- in the initial consideration and is only to be utilized if it does not have a negative effect on the other criteria, one other criteria being possible dilution and retrogression under Section two of the Voting Rights Act."

23. Nancy Golightly: "Listening to various reports from various people, it's very obvious to me the Hopi Tribe historically and currently has very, very different needs. Using the Congressional District to separate out the Hopi Tribe, you should also follow suit with the Legislative Districts instead of lumping together all Native American tribes in the Northern part of the State."

24. Supervisor David Brown: "Let's talk about the Congressional District first. I think the rural part of the state said strongly we wanted a rural district. Symbolically it means a lot. Ms. Hauser asked Representative Flake about the difficulties of campaigning over that big a district. I understood that. I've lived in that kind of world for a long time. It's a challenge, daunting, but not something you can't handle. It's would you rather have a symbolic point, having a rural district than anything else. Now personally, I'd rather see it include more of the eastern part, starting down into Pinal County, Cochise County...be more eastern oriented."

25. Supervisor David Brown: "I notice, by counting up on my map, it includes 10 Indian tribes out of 21. If you pick up another one or two, that's better. We, Congressionally, in Apache County like to be aligned with Indian tribes. Every issue, federal issues, health, education, welfare, the Apache issue, having the highest unemployment rate. We need federal intervention, federal help, at all levels, all the way up and down. I strongly support the Congressional District. We're all in it together. The more tribes we're in with, the better we feel. We have the issues, the same on the federal level.... I sympathize with the Hopi. I don't see how it fits Shaw vs. Reno to leave that design going northward. It gives us a much more compelling case as a rural district to have all of us in it together."

26. Supervisor David Brown: "I have a very difficult time dealing with the bureaucracy getting state government to respond to my Navajo constituents, but it's been particularly helpful these last two years to have two senators, four representatives in assisting with our issues with senior citizen funding; transportation. Senior citizen vans sit there, no gas to run, meal trays, no meals, lack of meal trays. All these issues confront the four chapters I represent of the Navajo Nation. We receive the help of two Senators, four Representatives in Apache County. Speaking on behalf of my Navajo colleagues, we are far better off having two sets of Senators, two sets of Representatives representing us. As depicted in the Legislative draft map where we are in E, Apache County, look over here and it's split exactly in half, love that, twice as much, half. Navajo constituents get twice as much. Half. Restricted to one Representative, pot money, my constituents in Apache County get cut in half. For Apache County, keep Legislative E intact."

**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.