

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Monday, July 28, 2011
6:00 p.m.

Location

**Yavapai County Board of Supervisors
Board Hearing Room (1st floor)
1015 Fair St,
Prescott, Arizona 86305**

Attending

Colleen C. Mathis, Chair
Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair

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

Joseph Kanefield, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162
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1 Prescott, Arizona
2 July 28, 2011
3 6:00 p.m.

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

6
7 (Whereupon, the public session commences.)

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: This hearing of the Arizona
9 Independent Redistricting Commission will now come to order.

10 For those of you watching from home or at work,
11 we're coming to you live from the Yavapai County Board of
12 Supervisors board hearing room.

13 And it's wonderful to see this amazing turnout
14 here in lovely Prescott, Arizona, tonight where it's softly
15 raining.

16 And we also have a remote location in Cottonwood,
17 Arizona, tonight. And we welcome all of those folks who are
18 in Cottonwood.

19 Thank you for being here. And thank all of you
20 for coming out tonight.

21 Let's all start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

23 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I'd like to start by
24 recognizing a few folks around the room tonight who help
25 make this happen.

1 Of course to my left here is Vice Chairman Scott
2 Freeman.

3 I'm Chairman Mathis.

4 And our other commissioners aren't here tonight,
5 but I'm sure they're watching online. That's
6 Commissioner Herrera, Commissioner McNulty, and
7 Commissioner Stertz.

8 We also have Joe Kanefield, our legal counsel.

9 And Mr. Willie Desmond from Strategic Telemetry
10 who will be giving you a presentation soon.

11 Marty Herder is recording tonight for us, so this
12 public meeting and all of your comments will be taken into
13 the public record.

14 Buck is our chief technology officer.

15 And Kristina Gomez is our deputy executive
16 director, whom you'll probably see, but she's not here at
17 the moment, but she's around.

18 Thank you all, staff, for getting this organized
19 for us tonight. We appreciate it.

20 We also have a couple of translators, I believe.
21 We have Mr. Alfred Yazzie, who will be translating into
22 Navajo, and I think a Spanish translator, but I haven't seen
23 him or her.

24 So if that person is here and wants to translate
25 into Spanish for us later, that will be helpful.

1 We've got a number of request to speak forms.

2 These are the yellow forms that you should have
3 seen on your way in. And if you didn't, if you would like
4 to address the Commission tonight and be part of the public
5 record, be sure to fill out one of these and give that to
6 Kristina, and she will pass that up to us.

7 We also have blue forms that are public input
8 forms, where if you don't want to speak tonight at the
9 microphone you can fill that form out and submit it to us
10 and it still be part of a public record, official record.
11 It just won't be a recorded item.

12 I think that's -- is there more?

13 Was there something in Cottonwood?

14 Oh, I think we have some coordinators in
15 Cottonwood too. Lisa and Christine are there helping us
16 coordinate input from there.

17 And I also forgot to acknowledge our public
18 information officer, Stu, who's roaming around in the yellow
19 shirt in the back.

20 So with that, I think we're ready to roll with the
21 translation.

22 Mr. Yazzie, would you like to make some opening
23 remarks?

24 (Whereupon, Mr. Alfred Yazzie made a statement in
25 Navajo.)

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

2 And do we have the Spanish translator by chance?

3 THE INTERPRETER (VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE): Yes, we
4 do.

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, wonderful. Great.

6 Would you like to make some opening, also like to
7 make some opening remarks too?

8 (Whereupon, the Spanish interpreter made a
9 statement in Spanish via videoconference.)

10 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you -- (loud audio
11 feedback.)

12 Sorry about that, everyone.

13 With that I think we can move to the next item on
14 the agenda, which is item two, presentation on the
15 redistricting process. And that will be given by Mr. Willie
16 Desmond.

17 WILLIE DESMOND: All right. Thank you, all, for
18 allowing me to be here today to speak to you. I'm going to
19 be giving -- again, my name is Willie Desmond. I work with
20 Strategic Telemetry.

21 We were the firm contracted to provide technical
22 assistance to the Commission as it does this redistricting.

23 I believe this is the 7th in, I think, 17 first
24 round public hearings designed to collect input from the
25 public about what criteria and communities of interest and

1 other things that they would like considered as we begin
2 this process of drawing maps.

3 Once the first map is completed, the first draft,
4 there will be a 30-day public review period, and another
5 whole series of public hearings to discuss what's in that
6 first map.

7 So I encourage anyone who's listening at home
8 and would like to come to a meeting to try to come to one of
9 the future ones or to come to one of the second round
10 hearings.

11 With that said, I'll begin the presentation.

12 It should just be a short background on the
13 redistricting process and why we have a Redistricting
14 Commission here.

15 And, you know, the background of that all.

16 Anyone who's following at home can download this
17 Power Point presentation from the IRC website and follow
18 along if they like.

19 All right.

20 So, we'll be covering seven things.

21 The first of which is why do we have a
22 Redistricting Commission?

23 Next is what is redistricting?

24 What is the difference between reapportionment and
25 redistricting?

1 Why do we have to redistrict?

2 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
3 new districts?

4 What are the steps in the redistricting process?

5 And how can public input be submitted to the AIRC?

6 First of all, why do we have a Redistricting
7 Commission?

8 Well, this is the second time that Arizona's
9 congressional and legislative districts are being redrawn by
10 the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

11 The Commission was established in 2000 when the
12 voters of Arizona passed Proposition 106, which not only
13 created the Commission but also laid out process and
14 criteria for drawing new district lines.

15 The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two
16 Republicans, and an Independent chair who's elected by the
17 other commissioners.

18 That fifth member shall not be registered with any
19 party already represented on the Commission.

20 In 2011 the AIRC members are Vice Chair Scott
21 Freeman, here tonight; Vice Chairman Jose Herrera;
22 Chairwoman Colleen Mathis, who's also here tonight; and
23 Commissioners Linda McNulty and Richard Stertz.

24 All right.

25 What is redistricting?

1 Simply put, redistricting is the process of
2 redrawing congressional and legislative district lines.

3 The difference between redistricting or
4 reapportionment, while slight, is there is a technical
5 difference.

6 Reapportionment is the process of allocating
7 congressional districts among the state based on changes in
8 population.

9 Because of population growth here in Arizona over
10 the last decade, Arizona was allocated an additional
11 congressional district following the 2010 census.

12 In 2012, Arizona will have nine congressional
13 districts while it currently has eight.

14 And, again, redistricting is simply the process of
15 drawing the new lines based on the new census information.

16 All right.

17 Why do we have to redistrict?

18 Well, first of all, because Arizona gained this
19 ninth congressional district, new lines will have to be
20 drawn to add it in.

21 However, even if Arizona had not gained this new
22 district, the congressional and legislative district lines
23 would have to be redrawn to account for changes in
24 population.

25 The concept of one person, one vote dictates there

1 should be as close to the same number of people per district
2 as possible.

3 And also because of the rate of population
4 growth is different in different areas of the state, the
5 existing districts no longer meet this one person, one vote
6 criteria.

7 Some districts have added people in them. Some
8 have less.

9 All right.

10 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
11 these new districts?

12 Well, first of all, they must comply with the
13 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act.

14 Next, they must have equal population.

15 These first two criteria are federally mandated
16 and any plans that are submitted must satisfy these two
17 criteria.

18 Proposition 106 also laid out four other criteria,
19 the first of which is that districts must be compact and
20 contiguous, they must respect communities of interest, they
21 must use visible geographic features, city, town, and county
22 boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and that they must
23 create competitive districts with no significant detriment
24 to others goals.

25 All right.

1 The Arizona redistricting process.

2 Again, the first step is these meetings right
3 here.

4 So, like I said, there will be several meetings
5 all across the state, that have been going on this past
6 week, and will be continuing to go on for the next week and
7 a half.

8 After that, it's mandated that we start with a
9 grid map.

10 In some states you start with the existing plan.
11 However, this is not the case in Arizona.

12 Proposition 106 specifically lays out that the
13 starting point must be a grid map.

14 The commencement of the mapping process for both
15 the congressional and legislative districts shall be the
16 creation of equal population in a grid-like pattern across
17 the state.

18 The best way to think of this is just a map that
19 looks as much like a checkerboard as possible.

20 This initial map will likely only meet two of the
21 six criteria: Equal population and compact and contiguous
22 districts.

23 All right.

24 Following the completion of the grid map, it must
25 be adjusted to meet the other criteria, first of which is

1 the Voting Rights Act.

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

6 To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that
7 the new districts do not discriminate against minority
8 voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no
9 intentional or accidental discrimination.

10 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
11 cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce
12 minority voters' rights.

13 And finally, the presence of discrimination will
14 be determined by analyzing population data and election
15 results.

16 All right.

17 Once these criteria have been met, we move on to
18 the other ones, which are equal population, compact and
19 contiguous districts, and respect communities of interest.

20 And, again, the goal of these hearings is to
21 solicit the public's input and put as much as we can on the
22 record about what Arizonans want to see in a new
23 congressional and legislative district.

24 There are forms available here.

25 If you would like to speak, you can fill out one

1 of the yellow forms and turn it in, and you'll be called on
2 to speak.

3 If you want to put your input in but don't feel
4 comfortable speaking today, you can fill out one of the blue
5 forms, and this will also go on the record.

6 Additionally, if you've brought any other prepared
7 materials that you'd like to turn in, you're welcome to do
8 so.

9 We ask that if you do, you please put your contact
10 information, if you feel comfortable, on there, so that we
11 may reach out to you if we have any questions about the
12 criteria you're trying to establish.

13 After communities of interest, we then go on to
14 use visible geographic features. Again, county boundaries,
15 cities and towns, and census tracts.

16 Luckily, census geography typically follows these
17 same types of visible geographic features.

18 Lastly, the map is adjusted to create competitive
19 districts where there is no significant detriment to other
20 goals.

21 Okay.

22 How can you submit your input to the AIRC?

23 First of all, you can fill out a request to speak
24 form, or you can turn in just an input form.

25 You know, criteria for these types of things are

1 what communities of interest you care about, anything else
2 you want to talk about redistricting, or the actual six
3 criteria, how you define them.

4 You can submit this to Stu or Kristina or -- and
5 we'll get to you tonight.

6 Or else you can visit us at
7 www.AZredistricting.org or call 602-542-5221, and speak with
8 someone at our office who would be happy to take your
9 comments and listen to whatever you have to say.

10 So, thank you again for coming tonight. We very
11 much look forward to hearing your input and understanding
12 what matters to you here in Prescott.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thank you,
16 Mr. Desmond. Thank you very much for the presentation.

17 We have about 32 request to speak forms. About
18 ten of those are coming from Cottonwood.

19 So I thought we'd go back and forth, maybe every
20 few speakers.

21 So what I thought I would do is name the first
22 four speakers in town here in Prescott, and that way if your
23 name is called you can be ready to come up to the microphone
24 and address us.

25 Just a few ground rules. If we could limit our

1 comments to four minutes, if possible. If you end up going
2 over, it's okay. No one will pull you out of here. But
3 we're trying to be respectful to everyone's time limit.

4 So, with that, we'll go ahead, and I'll name the
5 first four.

6 These are all in Prescott.

7 Joy Staveley, Laramer Mace, Tom Kayn, and Mike
8 Siavelis.

9 So, if you all -- if you four could be getting
10 ready to speak.

11 And our first person is Joy Staveley.

12 JOY STAVELEY: I am not that tall.

13 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And I should also say, and I
14 should have said this in the beginning, if you could state
15 your name for the record and spell your last name so that we
16 get an accurate recording, who you're representing, or if
17 you're just representing yourself, if you could state your
18 city, town, or county where you reside.

19 JOY STAVELEY: Can you hear me?

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yes.

21 JOY STAVELEY: Okay. I am Joy Staveley. Last
22 name is S-T-A-V-E-L-E-Y.

23 And I'll hand in a paper afterwards.

24 Madam Chair and commissioners, I'm -- I am a
25 co-owner and president of Canyoneers, a whitewater rafting

1 company based in Flagstaff and operating in Grand Canyon.

2 There are half a dozen licensed river outfitters
3 operating in Grand Canyon who are Flagstaff based.

4 My husband and I also own and operate Kaibab
5 Camper Village, an RV park and campground located by the
6 north rim of Grand Canyon.

7 Excuse me for reading, but if I do that it will go
8 faster.

9 I am here tonight to testify even though I live in
10 Flagstaff. Unfortunately I will be out of town when the
11 Commission comes to Flagstaff. This was the next closest
12 venue.

13 In addition to being a business owner in Flagstaff
14 for the past 33 years, I'm also past chairwoman of the
15 Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce and advisory board member of
16 the Small Business Development Center, Northern Arizona vice
17 president for the National Federation of Independent
18 Business, and a past delegate to the White House Conference
19 on Small Business.

20 So as you can see my interest here tonight is to
21 speak on behalf of small business and as a small business
22 owner myself.

23 So I stand before you this evening as a small
24 business owner with a 33-year history of involvement in
25 small business on the local, state, and national levels.

1 I believe that northern Arizona is heavily tied to
2 tourism in and around Grand Canyon.

3 And as such, we are very different from, shall we
4 say, Maricopa County.

5 While Flagstaff is the largest city in northern
6 Arizona, it is still rural, and really does not have much in
7 common with the urban areas of our state.

8 We here in Coconino County have much in common
9 with Yavapai County, Mohave County, and the other northern
10 and western communities of Arizona.

11 And therefore we believe we should be placed
12 together in a common congressional district.

13 As an example, northern Arizona communities such
14 as Flagstaff, Prescott, and the Verde Valley share economic
15 interests, transportation, education, forest restoration,
16 water management, medical and health care interests, and of
17 course tourism.

18 We currently work together on common legislative
19 issues such as the Greater Arizona Mayors Association,
20 Northern Arizona Council of Governments, and the Flagstaff
21 Metropolitan Planning Organization.

22 The majority of forested lands lie within
23 northern Arizona, and this is of great concern for Coconino
24 and Yavapai Counties.

25 Additionally, Grand Canyon National Park is

1 located within, within the counties of both Mohave and
2 Coconino, and we think we will be well served being in the
3 same congressional district.

4 The business community believes that whole
5 counties and whole cities should be placed in a single
6 district to the extent possible while following the criteria
7 spelled out in the Arizona Constitution, the Voting Rights
8 Act, and the U.S. Constitution, along with the rules that
9 govern this Commission.

10 We recognize that the Commission must follow the
11 law, and we appreciate your efforts in making sure that our
12 congressional districts contain community of interests as I
13 have just described.

14 Concerning another issue the Commission must
15 address, since Latinos make up 29 percent of Arizona's
16 population, they should get at least two congressional
17 districts in which Latinos are able to elect a candidate of
18 their choice.

19 It's the law, and it's the right thing to do.

20 Also, we believe that Native American communities
21 should probably not be split among districts.

22 But, it would be perfectly acceptable, for
23 example, to put Hopi along with Flagstaff, Holbrook,
24 Show Low, Payson, Prescott, Kingman, Havasupai, Sedona, and
25 Bullhead City, as these are all rural areas all with similar

1 economic interests, especially as respects tourism.

2 While competitive districts should be favored,
3 this is not the only criteria.

4 And as I researched under Title 4, Part 2,
5 Section 114(F) of the Arizona Constitution, it says: To the
6 extent practical, competitive districts should be favored
7 where to do so would create no significant detriment to the
8 other goals.

9 We believe that respecting communities of interest
10 is very important.

11 Districts should not be gerrymandered solely for
12 the sake of competitiveness.

13 This was clearly rejected by the voters when they
14 passed Prop 106 in the year 2000.

15 So for business, for small business, the
16 communities of interest is really very critical.

17 So, in closing, the Commission must be sure that
18 districts comply with the U.S. Constitution and Voting
19 Rights Act, make sure that congressional and legislative
20 districts have equal population where to the extent
21 practical, be geographically compact and contiguous, respect
22 communities of interest, use lines that follow geographic
23 features, city, town, and county boundaries, and undivided
24 census tracts, and then, and only if these criteria are met,
25 consider competitiveness.

1 I ask that while complying with the law and rules
2 that you are faced with that you please respect the
3 communities of interest, especially within rural Arizona,
4 which are so different from the urban areas.

5 Thank you very much for your time, and thank you
6 for letting me speak early, because I have to drive back to
7 Flagstaff tonight.

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Drive safely.

9 (Applause.)

10 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Laramer
11 Mace.

12 LARAMER MACE: My name is Laramer Mace. I'm known
13 as LG Mace. Last name is M-A-C-E.

14 Speaking for Yavapai County, I am from
15 Groom Creek, which is an unincorporated area just south of
16 Prescott. So actually I live in Prescott.

17 I really wish to speak to the fact that
18 Yavapai County is a contiguous area. We work together. We
19 are one.

20 I actually want all the counties as much as
21 possible to be within single congressional districts. This
22 can be done.

23 Maricopa and Pima will be the exceptions.

24 The proposals I've seen, which are, I guess,
25 unofficial, actually show great gerrymandering. They show

1 areas that split counties.

2 And this should not be done.

3 The counties as much as the extent is possible
4 should be in single congressional districts.

5 That's all I have. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Tom Kayn,
9 representing self, and from the city of Prescott.

10 TOM KAYN: Thank you, Madam Chair and
11 commissioner.

12 In my researching data regarding the community of
13 interest topic role in this process, I came across some
14 information that I believe will help you to stay on that
15 topic in the few comments that I do have.

16 First of all, in referring to unwarranted
17 gerrymandering in voting districts. Unwarranted.

18 In a July 18th article, written by three former
19 members of this very same Redistricting Commission, this was
20 stated.

21 They said: Certainly a retirement community, for
22 example, deserves representation without manipulation.

23 And then another article states that districts
24 should be structured so they do not carve up separate groups
25 of people living in an area that have similar interests.

1 Now, the 2010 census shows that Yavapai County is
2 10 percent -- 10.7 percent higher in residents aged 65 and
3 older over the state average.

4 That's a 23.8 percent versus 13.1 percent.

5 With a county increase in general population of
6 being only about 1.5 percent above that same state average.

7 With that in mind, we can conclude that the
8 retirement age community of interest group is showing more
9 significance in Yavapai County, just by looking at the
10 census numbers.

11 And we also know that -- with that we also know
12 that retirement aged people tend to have a similar interest
13 that leads toward more conservative lifestyles, and thus
14 they also tend to vote more conservatively.

15 But because they do that, because they do so does
16 not make for an argument that this community of interest,
17 the retirement community, should be chopped up and its
18 pieces divvied out into other voting districts, whether they
19 be federal or state.

20 That's my comment on the community of interest
21 being the retirement age community of which we have seen an
22 increase in Yavapai County.

23 And as a brief note, please be reminded that
24 Yavapai County is classified as rural in its makeup and its
25 rural nature, and that is also considered to be a legitimate

1 community of interest.

2 And I'll close with just a few points that you may
3 find helpful.

4 Perhaps the gentleman from Strategic Telemetry may
5 find this helpful too.

6 Though it is near the very top geographically in
7 size, please keep in mind that only 25 percent of Yavapai
8 County's land by area is privately owned.

9 Only 25 percent of it.

10 The remainder of that land is owned by the federal
11 government and the state of Arizona.

12 And also, and I got this from a mining source, it
13 lists that there are 251 mines in Yavapai County.

14 So this should also be considered a community of
15 interest, the mines, the mining industry.

16 Also, the Voting Rights Act that was shown in your
17 Power Point states that redistricting plans cannot be
18 retrogressive.

19 That is, the plans cannot weaken or reduce
20 minority voters' rights.

21 And regarding the existing boundaries of
22 Congressional District 1, I'm talking about the ones that
23 exist today, please be aware that the district as it is now
24 drawn is home to more Native Americans than any other
25 district in the United States.

1 So the Native American population is well
2 represented in Congressional District 1.

3 And then, finally, please note that
4 Congressional District 1 as it is now drawn has a human
5 development index of .0 -- 0.898.

6 The telemetry people will understand what that is.
7 Which is quite close to the state average, which
8 is .928.

9 And this is another indicator that the district as
10 it is now drawn should be seen as quite well balanced and it
11 should remain with its existing boundaries.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We have Mike Siavelis, but
16 I'd thought I'd also just tee up those in Cottonwood, if
17 could you be getting ready to speak after Mike.

18 Victor Goldie.

19 Gary LaMaster.

20 Stephen Williamson.

21 And Suzann Trout.

22 So Mr. Siavelis.

23 MIKE SIAVELIS: My name is Mike Siavelis. I
24 reside in Prescott Valley.

25 I want to speak to communities of interest first

1 in regard to Legislative District 1 and 4.

2 About ten years ago it was changed. It used to be
3 that District 1 was Yavapai County.

4 And then for a few reasons that I don't want to
5 get into it was -- four came all the way up and crossed in a
6 small area past Highway 69.

7 Well, geographically and for the community of
8 interest for the legislative area of what I'm talking about,
9 it makes it very difficult for people that are in the
10 Republican or Democrat party, it doesn't make -- well, it
11 makes some difference for the Independents also, but you
12 can't go to the meetings easily when you got meetings down
13 in, oh, heck, down in Sun City from up here.

14 It worked fine.

15 It wasn't broken.

16 I believe the legislative district for this area
17 should be Yavapai County.

18 On the congressional side, for communities of
19 interest, it's pretty well balanced as it is now, with CD 1.

20 You might have a little bit of tweaking, but
21 there's not too much to complain about now.

22 You can only possibly make it worse.

23 So be careful in what you fix, because it's not
24 really broken right now.

25 If you look at competitive districts.

1 If you look at the term competitive districts, I
2 would like to see everybody get pissed off in this state,
3 and they have to compete to win their election.

4 I don't like to see people with sweetheart deals,
5 and they don't even have to put a sign out to get elected.

6 Everybody in Arizona should have to compete.

7 And that's where I look at ten being competitive,
8 make it competitive.

9 But, like I said, in regards to legislative
10 districts, we need to adjust for District 4 and 1 and make
11 it so it's community of interest.

12 That's what we really need here.

13 Good luck with the competitive districts.

14 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Spell your name.

15 MIKE SIAVELIS: S-I-A-V-E-L-I-S. My business is
16 alternative energy.

17 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our court reporter needs a
18 minute to reboot.

19 (Brief pause.)

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. Ready to go.

21 Looks like we have a speaker in Cottonwood.

22 Mr. Goldie.

23 And if you could spell your name for the reporter.
24 And also, again, tell us who you're representing or, if it's
25 yourself, tells us where you live.

1 Thank you.

2 VICTOR GOLDIE: My name is Victor Goldie. And my
3 last name is G-O-L-D-I-E. Victor, it's V-I-C-T-O-R.

4 I represent myself.

5 Not to want to make this into a debate, I just
6 have to preface my own advocacy for having the lines drawn
7 so that Verde Valley is aligned along with Flagstaff,
8 Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Sedona.

9 In other words, the east, the eastern part of what
10 would be a new district.

11 But, you say it's not broken, why fix it.

12 That to me is simply a semantic device that I
13 don't think registers what we're saying.

14 I have a lot of points that I want to make. But I
15 think actually, two big groups, which I haven't heard the
16 first one mentioned yet, since I agree that there is a high
17 retirement community, Or older people, whatever name you
18 want to give them, and I myself fit into that, that health
19 care availability is certainly one of the most important, if
20 you want to call it community of interest, that I can think
21 of.

22 And in Yavapai County, what would be an eastern
23 side of a new district drawn, the people go to the
24 Verde Valley Medical Center, which is right nearby here in
25 Cottonwood, and also to Flagstaff Hospital, both of which

1 are part of Northern Arizona Health Care. Verde Valley
2 Medical Center being the other part in Cottonwood.

3 And not only that, but people from Sedona,
4 Camp Verde, and smaller, people in that area avail
5 themselves overwhelmingly to those two facilities primarily.

6 There's also a clinic in Sedona.

7 In my experience here, in health issues, you do
8 not drive over the mountain to health facilities there.

9 So I think if you want to call it a community of
10 interest or simply practical dividing, that health
11 availability constitutes a core point why this line should
12 be drawn in that regard, those entities being part of that
13 district.

14 Something else, and I -- you know, that I've
15 noticed, in the years that I've been here, from this part of
16 the country, is I-17.

17 And I think we could call this area an I-17
18 corridor, places like Cottonwood, Verde Valley, Sedona,
19 Rimrock, Camp Verde, and Flagstaff, all around that
20 corridor.

21 And that certainly would be an argument to draw a
22 line that they stay there and they are part of whatever --
23 however you want to call it, but an eastern part of the line
24 being drawn.

25 And just a final point that I think is personal to

1 the people in this room and the people that I teach in
2 Yavapai College and to my friends, to my knowledge no
3 resident of Yavapai College of Yavapai -- I'm sorry, of the
4 Verde Valley has been part of representation in the
5 legislature.

6 There should be -- draw the lines according to
7 that eastern I-17 corridor, and that would happen.

8 And whenever you give a group of people who
9 have -- I wouldn't say disenfranchised, but who have not
10 been representative -- represented in a meaningful way, and
11 we give them that opportunity, then we can say a democratic
12 process was being followed.

13 And that's why I urge the lines being drawn
14 accordingly to the argument I've made.

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks, Mr. Goldie.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Goldie, do you mind
18 stating where you reside, just either the city --

19 VICTOR GOLDIE: Verde Villages.

20 Verde Villages, which is right --

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Got it. Verde Villages.

22 Thank you.

23 And our next speaker is Gary LaMaster.

24 GARY LAMASTER: Yes, my name is Gary LaMaster, and
25 that's spelled L-A, capital M-A-S-T-E-R.

1 I live in Cornville, and I am a small business
2 owner who's partially retired.

3 And I want to start by thanking you for your
4 efforts. I know that you have a very difficult task ahead
5 of you.

6 I'd like to reiterate some of the same points that
7 the previous speaker made.

8 As you may know, or as you probably know, Yavapai
9 County is one of the largest geographic counties in the
10 country.

11 And CD 1 is an unwieldily huge district that is
12 bigger than some states geographically.

13 As a result, the people in the Verde Valley, even
14 though we're part of Yavapai County and our county seat is
15 in Prescott, we have much more in common with Sedona and
16 with Flagstaff and some of the other areas, Jerome,
17 et cetera, that rely on tourism.

18 Further, my wife works at the Verde Valley Medical
19 Center, which is actually owned by Northern Arizona Health
20 Care.

21 So, again, we have something more in common with
22 Flagstaff. Indeed, Verde Valley Medical Center is, I
23 believe, our area's largest employer.

24 And, conversely, we have almost nothing in common
25 with the Prescott area other than the fact that they're our

1 county seat.

2 Mingus Mountain presents quite a barrier for us to
3 travel over.

4 Additionally, we have virtually no representation
5 in the Verde Valley.

6 Chip Davis is our county supervisor. To my
7 knowledge, he is the only public official who represents,
8 you know, our area who's near our area.

9 Finally, I guess that's all I really have to say,
10 is I feel more in line with Sedona, and that's what brought
11 me here originally.

12 I feel more aligned with Flagstaff, and I would
13 like to see our district carved up in a manageable way that
14 would better represent us.

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Stephen
18 Williamson.

19 STEPHEN WILLIAMSON: I want to thank the
20 Commission for its work --

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Mr. Williamson, I'm sorry, do
22 you mind stating who you're representing or where you
23 reside?

24 STEPHEN WILLIAMSON: Yes.

25 I work in Sedona, Arizona. And my last name is

1 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S-O-N.

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

3 STEPHEN WILLIAMSON: So, again, I want to thank
4 the Commission.

5 But you'll notice that the meeting is taking place
6 in Prescott. And we're, we're on satellite. And I think a
7 the lot of people in the Verde Valley feel that our
8 representation is always as a satellite community rather
9 than a center.

10 There are no elected officials at the state
11 level from our area. Sedona, Jerome, Flagstaff, Cameron,
12 Tusayan.

13 So many of our areas in northern Arizona, the most
14 important, sometimes the only industry, is tourism. And
15 that's something that we all have in common here.

16 But people do not come to northern Arizona to go
17 to our restaurants or see our art galleries. They come here
18 because we have three national monuments in the
19 Verde Valley. We have a great national park, the greatest
20 national park perhaps, in the Grand Canyon.

21 We have the Painted Desert.

22 We have a series of the most beautiful places in
23 the United States.

24 And what we have in common, and whether you're in
25 tourism or you're interested in environmentalism, is

1 protecting these areas.

2 They provide not only our job, but they provide
3 our sort of duty to preserve nature.

4 I they appropriately share with us this love of
5 nature.

6 I think that's essential to why we have more in
7 common with the folks north of here than we do across the
8 valley.

9 People here encourage you -- you probably heard
10 people talk about over going the hill.

11 Prescott feels very, very far from Sedona, where
12 I'm from. It is a long drive.

13 We go to Flagstaff. We don't go to Prescott.

14 As long as the Verde Valley is attached to the
15 rest of the Yavapai County and population is dominated on
16 the other side, we won't have a chance to have indigenous
17 representation, people from our area representing us, in
18 congress, and particularly also in the legislative area.

19 So I too feel that as many of the other people
20 have mentioned, we have more in with common because we have
21 things like the Coconino National Forest, we have a national
22 scenic area, we want to have these areas preserved for both
23 economic and spiritual, environmental reason.

24 So I feel we have more in common to the north and
25 east than we do, with all due respect, to Prescott and the

1 area over on the other side of the map.

2 Again, I'd like to thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you very much.

4 (Applause.)

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next and last speaker for
6 now from Cottonwood is Suzann Trout.

7 While she's coming up to the microphone, let's tee
8 up the folks up here in Prescott.

9 Suzanne Allender will be next up after Ms. Trout,
10 and then we have Judy Sulltrop, Malcolm Barrett, Jr., and
11 Dawn Knight.

12 So, Ms. Trout.

13 SUZANN TROUT: Hello. My name is Suzann Trout,
14 T-R-O-U-T.

15 I live in Cottonwood, and I want to thank you for
16 holding these hearings.

17 I also want to speak very strongly for making our
18 area part of the Flagstaff northern Highway 17 corridor.

19 I have -- I and my daughter, who's in this room,
20 have a small jewelry studio in Jerome at the old high
21 school.

22 That's not meant to be a plug, but we depend on
23 tourists.

24 There are many of us in this area who count on
25 tourists.

1 And we need ideally better representation and
2 representation on the part of someone who can really help
3 develop both the tourists and the arts and the beauty of the
4 area and the specialness.

5 You don't just fly in to Jerome. You just don't
6 drop by Cottonwood. You have to want to go there.

7 And we would -- we need to have all the help we
8 can in this area.

9 And I truly believe that it also would make us a
10 more competitive district and more successful economically.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And, Cottonwood, we'll come
15 back to you in a little bit.

16 Right now we're back in Prescott.

17 And we have Suzanne Allender. She's representing
18 self and from Yavapai.

19 SUZANNE ALLENDER: Thank you very much and thank
20 you for your service, all of you.

21 I want to speak briefly about the competitive
22 districts.

23 I noticed that that's the last one on the list. I
24 hope it's not the least important.

25 I've been interested in politics almost all my

1 life. I started when I was 12 stuffing envelopes for Adlai
2 Stevenson.

3 That's a few years back.

4 And ever since then I've voted in both parties at
5 different times in my life.

6 I think that having competitive districts makes
7 everyone responsible once they've gained office. Because
8 they know that when they go back to the voters the next time
9 around, they may or may not win.

10 Okay.

11 Not just because of their membership in one party.

12 And therefore I think it makes for better
13 government overall when we have really competitive
14 districts.

15 And since I've lived in Prescott for -- well, I
16 live actually in an unincorporated area just outside
17 Prescott city limits in the Williamson Valley corridor.

18 But, since I've lived here for the last 15 years,
19 I have seen very few of one party be elected, and the vast
20 majority of folks being elected are from the other party,
21 even though I know that they're, in Yavapai County, overall
22 there are more or less the same number of registered voters
23 in each party.

24 So that strikes me as a bit odd.

25 But it's because of the way the legislative

1 district and the congressional district is drawn.

2 I think that we tend to get candidates from only
3 one party being elected most of the time.

4 Thank you very much.

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Judy
8 Sulltrop.

9 Oh, I should say representing self and from
10 Prescott, Yavapai County.

11 JUDY SULLTROP: Thanks for your time tonight.

12 I am Judy Sulltrop. My last name is
13 S-U-L-L-T-R-O-P.

14 So, I am a small business person here, and have
15 been here for 19 years.

16 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Speak into the microphone.

17 JUDY SULLTROP: So, I have been a small business
18 person here for 19 years.

19 And I am in favor of splitting into two rural
20 districts.

21 Because I feel like small business in the rural
22 area is not well represented.

23 Because in the Prescott area and the rural areas,
24 we really depend on our small businesses. And we're not a
25 metropolitan urban area.

1 Sorry, I'm nervous.

2 And so I feel like our needs are different, and
3 it's not represented.

4 So I'm in favor of splitting that so that we have
5 two rural areas and better representation for the small
6 business people and for the families.

7 So, you know, I think like an east west would
8 work, or however that would work with population, but I'm in
9 favor of having another rural district so that we can get
10 our needs met.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Before we get to the next
15 speaker, our legal counsel, Joe Kanefield, is just going
16 to make an announcement about what you see here on the
17 screen.

18 Joe.

19 JOSEPH KANEFIELD: Thank you, Madam Chair.

20 It was brought to -- a request was made by one of
21 the speakers that if we could -- if the Commission could put
22 on the screen the current map.

23 I just wanted to let everyone know what we've done
24 is put up on the screen the existing congressional lines and
25 maps for northern Arizona, including this area and this part

1 of the state.

2 Please understand -- these maps are available for
3 all of you to see at WWW.AZredistricting.org, so you can see
4 the existing congressional maps and the existing legislative
5 maps.

6 Please understand that these -- the population has
7 changed significantly. That's why the Commission is here,
8 to readjust these maps.

9 So we ask only that you, in looking at the map,
10 understand that these are the existing maps and that they
11 will have to be changed in light of the population.

12 Happy to answer any questions after the hearing.

13 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Okay. This -- the CD 1
14 actually goes further down one below.

15 Can you zoom out a little bit on the map --

16 JOSEPH KANEFIELD: We'll zoom out so you can
17 see --

18 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: You can see the whole --

19 JOSEPH KANEFIELD: So you can see all of CD 1.

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you, Joe.

21 I apologize. Malcolm Barrett, Jr., is our next
22 speaker. Chairman of Yavapai GOP, he's representing
23 himself, and he's from Yavapai County.

24 MALCOLM BARRETT, JR.: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
25 Mr. Vice Chairman.

1 I truly do admire your efforts.

2 The spelling of my name, Malcolm, M-A-L-C-O-L-M,
3 Barrett, B-A-R-R-E-T-T.

4 I'm speaking for myself because I do not have a
5 consensus or nor did I try to get a consensus from the
6 Yavapai Republican Committee.

7 But as a 31-year resident of Prescott, Arizona, I
8 would like to address you today on the issue of equal
9 population, communities of interest, and geographic
10 compactness.

11 Despite what we've done in the old legislative and
12 congressional districts, we do have a new opportunity to
13 establish what I think are more fair districts based on the
14 top three priorities of what the Commission has stated, in
15 addition to the Department of Justice requirement.

16 First off, the ideal legislative district consists
17 of 213,000 residents. According to the 2010 census, Yavapai
18 County's population totalled 211,033.

19 The population of Yavapai County alone is within
20 two percent of the population required or target population
21 for a legislative district.

22 Yavapai County, I believe, should be placed in its
23 own legislative district and most fairly meets all of the
24 ten requirements listed by the Redistricting Commission.

25 Secondly, along the lines of congressional

1 districts, the ideal congressional district population is
2 about 710,000 residents.

3 The total population of the state of Arizona,
4 outside Maricopa and Pima County, is 1.5 -- 1,594,000
5 people.

6 That means of the 15 counties in Arizona, 13 of
7 them should qualify or can qualify for the other two
8 districts of congressional districts.

9 And in following along the line of geographic
10 compactness and communities of interest, by keeping together
11 the other 13 counties in Arizona outside of Maricopa and
12 Pima, we can create all rural districts representing the
13 north, the west, and to the river on one side, the north,
14 and the eastern Arizona communities, and still have balanced
15 rural districts.

16 So along the legislative district side, I think
17 Yavapai County should qualify for its own congressional
18 districts.

19 I support the 13 additional counties in Arizona be
20 represented by two rural districts.

21 Now, in closing, keeping communities of interest
22 whole is especially important to counties outside Maricopa
23 and Pima because of our rural nature.

24 We're united around interests of water, economic
25 development, the environment, and education.

1 Keeping us together makes our voices stronger on
2 these issues.

3 Including our Yavapai County College District,
4 which does encompass and have taxing authority for the
5 entire county.

6 Thank you for your time today.

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Dawn
10 Knight.

11 And we're going to jump to Cottonwood after
12 Ms. Knight speaks.

13 So let me just tee up those folks quickly.

14 In Cottonwood, it will be Michael Cosentino.

15 Jon Graham or Jan Graham, apologies in advance.

16 Virginia Goldie.

17 And Bill Regner.

18 So right now, though, Dawn Knight, representing
19 self, from Prescott.

20 DAWN KNIGHT: Good evening, and thank you very
21 much for all the work you commissioners have been putting in
22 on this very important path.

23 And we appreciate all your time and effort.

24 I am a resident of Yavapai County, and I've been a
25 resident since 1952.

1 And of course Yavapai is a wonderful place to
2 live, and I'm not going to speak anything about the
3 legislative districts, but I really would love to see that
4 the congressional districts, since we all have enough -- I
5 you agree with Malcolm Barrett that we have enough
6 population to make two rural districts at least. And I
7 would love to see those kept in the north and east and west
8 of the state.

9 So hopefully from that you can keep at least
10 two rural districts.

11 Because we have the same interests, and I think
12 you can make them competitive also.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So we're going to go to
17 Cottonwood for the next four speakers.

18 Michael Cosentino is next.

19 And if you could again be sure to state either who
20 you're representing, and if it's yourself, tell us what city
21 or town or county you reside in.

22 Thank you.

23 MICHAEL COSENTINO: I reside within the city
24 limits of Cottonwood.

25 My name is Mike Cosentino, C-O-S-E-N-T-I-N-O.

1 Quick comments. I surely agree with many of the
2 things said here tonight with Vic Goldie and Steve
3 Williamson, but I really love the process.

4 Taking this power away from the Arizona
5 legislature was a very, very good thing. The Independent
6 Arizona Redistricting Commission is a very, very good thing
7 and a very good idea.

8 So to that, my humble thank you for doing this.

9 Like others have said there is no Verde Valley
10 representation legislatively.

11 They, all three of them, both the senator and the
12 two representatives, come from the other side of the
13 mountain.

14 And as far as competitiveness goes, it goes, the
15 other checkmark I had, that there are, depending on who is
16 counting, lots of, quote unquote, safe districts,
17 noncompetitive district in Arizona.

18 And, as others have said, not a good idea.

19 So for this Commission we'll do well to make as
20 many competitive districts as possible.

21 And I too am a small business owner, retired small
22 business owner, to look for live music in the Verde Valley
23 Google my website, Arizona Riffs.

24 And get to know Arizona.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And our next speaker is Jan
3 Graham.

4 JAN GRAHAM: My name is Jan Graham, G-R-A-H-A-M.
5 And I live in Cornville, which is right next to
6 Cottonwood.

7 And I have been a resident of the state of Arizona
8 for almost eight years, as a permanent resident.

9 I still work as a substitute teacher. I am a
10 lifetime credentialed teacher, retired.

11 And one of the issues that I agree and am in
12 agreement on is I am thankful that I live in one of the
13 37 states that has an Independent Redistricting Commission.
14 So I thank you for your service in that capacity.

15 I also agree that we need to divide the northern
16 Arizona rural area into two congressional districts, not
17 necessarily making one of them Yavapai County.

18 Yavapai County is so large that, in my opinion, it
19 would actually be better to make the eastern congressional
20 district include the Verde Valley, this side of the
21 Black Mountains, including Mount Mingus, up to Flagstaff,
22 and also incorporating the Navajo Nation and the
23 Hopi Nation, which I understand the last redistricting there
24 were some issues with these two tribes that have since been
25 resolved.

1 And I am hearing from my connections in those
2 tribes that they actually would invite being a part of this
3 new rural district.

4 So thank you again for your service.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker in
7 Cottonwood is Virginia Goldie.

8 VIRGINIA GOLDIE: Yeah, Virginia Goldie,
9 G-O-L-D-I-E.

10 I represent myself.

11 I'm an artist and part of the artistic community
12 here in the Verde Valley, and Sedona, and Cornville,
13 and Camp Verde, all the way out to Rimrock, and up to
14 Flagstaff.

15 All of my friends are in these areas, my artistic
16 friends.

17 We don't go over the mountain to Prescott. We
18 just don't.

19 When we want to do something as a group, as a
20 cultural group, we stay -- going up the I-17 corridor.

21 We even go over to Strawberry and Payson.

22 We don't head over to Kingman.

23 So, my point is that I think that we are
24 forgetting some important points here, and that is tourism.

25 We have worked very hard to build a wine industry

1 in this area, along with our artist groups.

2 To keep -- one of the things that I'll mention is
3 that Sedona is partially in Yavapai County and partially in
4 Coconino.

5 And to say that Yavapai County should be its own
6 district seems like you're breaking up Sedona.

7 So I think you should really take thought to that
8 also.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: And our next speaker in
12 Cottonwood is Bill Regner.

13 But before we get to Bill, let me tee up the folks
14 here in Cottonwood.

15 Our next speaker will be Lindsay Bell, followed by
16 Jane Alley, Virginia Garcia-Bunuel, and Ralph Harris. If
17 these people could get ready.

18 So, Mr. Regner.

19 BILL REGNER: Thank you, Madam Chair,
20 Mr. Vice Chair and members of the AIRC. My name is Bill
21 Regner, R-E-G-N-E-R.

22 I live in Clarkdale. I'm an elected official of
23 Clarkdale, but I'm here today not in any official capacity.
24 I'm here for myself.

25 First, I want to thank you for coming to our

1 community, and thank you for the service to Arizona in
2 determining the new legislative and congressional districts
3 for our state. Thank you for including the communities of
4 the Verde Valley through simulcasting. I hope that sometime
5 in the future an IRC will see fit to conduct a meeting in
6 our beautiful region.

7 I understand that the task of legislative and
8 congressional redistricting is a major undertaking and
9 personal commitment on your part.

10 I recognize what personal commitment and sacrifice
11 means when you were a public servant.

12 As you're well aware, your role and the decisions
13 you make in the weeks ahead will have a long-term impact on
14 all Arizonans for the decade ahead.

15 I've been to the areas that you're visiting. The
16 Verde Valley is home to a diversity of cultures.

17 There are very visible reminders of
18 Native American people that have inhabited in the valley for
19 thousands of years and still do today.

20 Mining, ranching, agriculture, tourism, and
21 retirement brought the Hispanic, Asian and Anglo cultures.

22 Agriculture and technology appear to be an
23 important part of our future.

24 We see this as a stable quality of life that
25 includes economic development, education, health care,

1 the preservation of some pretty spectacular natural
2 resources.

3 We want to raise our children here and be able to
4 live down the street from our grandchildren.

5 That is why what you are doing is very important
6 to us.

7 I would hope that the AIRC would support
8 legislative and congressional districts that incorporate the
9 following principles for the Verde Valley.

10 First, competitiveness. So that voters have
11 legitimate choices. Very important.

12 Secondly, communities of interest. So that we can
13 work together regionally for common goals.

14 And I'm not going to suggest a map to you, only
15 that you approach whatever map that you are designing with
16 that idea that we need to work regionally for common goals
17 in regional economic development, transportation,
18 infrastructure, ecotourism, health care, the use of public
19 lands, education, primarily through higher education,
20 technical and continuing ed, sustainability of our natural
21 resources, ensuring that we enjoy them fully and future
22 generations do so as well.

23 And moving forward with our Native American
24 brother and sisters emphasizing our common interests and
25 goals.

1 On the point of higher education, we hold a strong
2 value on institutions of higher learning in our area.
3 Yavapai Community College campus in Prescott -- Prescott
4 Valley in Sedona is a driver of our future workforce
5 development, economic development, and quality of life for
6 our families.

7 And as a member of the Yavapai Community College
8 Foundation Board Greater Verde Valley Chapter, it's
9 important to me that the districts that you create lend
10 themselves with a spirit of cooperation and support for
11 education.

12 In closing, I appreciate the dedication of the IRC
13 members and staff and for the opportunity to provide my
14 perspective.

15 I look forward to seeing the draft maps in the
16 weeks ahead so that we can assist and do our part and give
17 our perspective with the input that is so important to your
18 decision-making process.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Lindsay
22 Bell, representing self, from Prescott.

23 LINDSAY BELL: Lindsay Bell, B-E-L-L.

24 And I'm a resident of the city of Prescott.

25 And I'm representing myself, but in the interest

1 of full disclosure, I am an officer in the Yavapai County
2 Democratic Party, but I'm not authorized to speak for them
3 tonight.

4 I want to first indicate my support for the
5 independent redistricting process.

6 I was an enthusiastic voter for the citizens'
7 initiative in 2000, and I am very glad that Arizona is a
8 state that conducts this process as objectively as possible
9 through an independent Commission.

10 And I want to thank each of the commissioners for
11 stepping up, taking on the challenge of what can be a very
12 thankless job.

13 And it is a lot of work, and I have to tell you
14 from my perspective I think you guys are doing a great job
15 so far.

16 In terms of legislative districts, my concern is
17 the competitiveness of those districts.

18 Now, statewide, we're about one third, one third,
19 and one third between Democrats, Republicans, and
20 Independents.

21 But, Legislative District 1 does not reflect that,
22 and hasn't been a competitive district for nearly 50 years.

23 I have lived here in Prescott and in Yavapai
24 County for 38 years.

25 I'm retired after working more than three decades

1 in the nonprofit sector.

2 I've always been active in the community and
3 active politically.

4 I've served on the Prescott City Council, and I
5 was, in fact, a candidate for the state house from LD 1.

6 But in the last nearly 50 years, it has never been
7 a competitive district. Very skewed to one party, almost
8 two to one in terms of the skewedness of the domination by
9 the majority party here.

10 And I would like to see that changed and be more
11 reflective of the state as a whole, which is one third, one
12 third, one third.

13 So I would urge you to consider the
14 competitiveness of Legislative District 1.

15 As for the congressional districts, I also have a
16 concern that they be competitive. And I know that it's
17 easier to do that with congressional districts. But with
18 the congressional districts, I also feel strongly about the
19 community of interest regarding the rural nature of the
20 outlying counties that aren't in the state of Maricopa as we
21 refer to it up here.

22 So I would very much urge the creation of two
23 largely rural districts that don't take in any population
24 from Maricopa County, so that the rural interests that do
25 bind at least 13 of Arizona's counties together are

1 represented in congress.

2 So I would urge the competitiveness and the rural
3 nature in terms of communities of interest for the
4 congressional districts.

5 Thank you very much for your time.

6 (Applause.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jane
8 Alley, and representing self, and from the county of
9 Yavapai.

10 JANE ALLEY: Good evening. I think I can reach.
11 My name is Jane Alley, and I live in
12 Prescott Valley, Arizona.

13 And I am here speaking for myself, but also as a
14 gerontologist for the population I have served for 37 years.

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: We'd like the spelling of
16 your name for the record.

17 JANE ALLEY: A-L-L-E-Y.

18 There's one in every town, a back street, back
19 alley.

20 In fact, up in Kayenta, they introduced me as Jane
21 Backstreet.

22 I have lived in and out of Arizona since 1977.

23 Educationally and professionally Arizona has been
24 my heart place because I've completed my studies at NAU in
25 1989.

1 I sat for my exams for my doctoral degree, and
2 have served the social behavioral sciences profession ever
3 since.

4 I serve the older adult population, and I say
5 advisedly because they are a passion with me as you will
6 see.

7 I'm referring to the gentleman who spoke about not
8 separating categories of older adults simply because they
9 tend to vote conservatively.

10 I will share with you that I have done many, many
11 clinical studies in and around the state of Arizona since
12 1974 when I was stationed with the government with the
13 Social Security Administration in Blythe, California.

14 And my territory included Quartzsite.

15 Now, in the summertime Quartzsite is a desert.

16 In the wintertime, January and February, it
17 becomes a booming town of more than -- at this point in time
18 I heard last 700,000 people.

19 That's a lot.

20 We desperately need two rural communities.

21 Please don't wash out those who tend -- and many
22 of them are snowbirds who have been in the snowbird
23 population, the RV folks who go from place to place. No
24 longer is the Thanksgiving turkey served at their home.
25 It's under that second saguaro in Quartzite or up in

1 northern Arizona depending on the weather.

2 But they were not a pocket group.

3 Those who find permanent homes, and we came here
4 to Prescott by choice, they're very, very different, and
5 their needs are very different when they choose a retirement
6 community than those who are still traveling and living up
7 in the rural areas.

8 They are not a -- you cannot generalize.

9 Yes, they have some similarities. They mostly all
10 have white hair. They mostly are very, very determined in
11 their feelings.

12 But I will share with you, after 37 years of
13 observing this population, I have found lots of
14 conservatism, but I have found such activism you would not
15 believe in the other direction as well.

16 And so, I urge you, please, to consider not a
17 blanket attitude when you are thinking about the rural
18 communities, but think of their purposes for being there.

19 If they are there as retired people wanting to
20 make a home from which they will be carried out, if they
21 burn the boxes, and they don't want to travel anymore, then
22 they are entirely different from the people who are still
23 looking for Valhalla, the people who have full timed it and
24 choose to do so.

25 I have many people with whom I'm still in contact

1 who go from Show Low, to Flagstaff, to the Grand Canyon.

2 And I'm 78. These people are my peer group. So
3 that should tell you something.

4 I ask you to please consider that.

5 Again, I thank you all for what you are doing.

6 I think it's imperative, I think it's important,
7 and I celebrate you for giving your time to do so.

8 (Applause.)

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Virginia
10 Garcia-Bunuel, representing self, from Yavapai County.

11 VIRGINIA GARCIA-BUNUEL: Thank you.

12 I live in Yavapai County just outside the Prescott
13 city limits.

14 My name is Virginia. My last name is G-A-R-C-I-A,
15 hyphen, capital B-U-N-U-E-L.

16 I want to thank this Commission very much.

17 I know how much work volunteers do. It takes big
18 chunks out of your life. And we all thank you so much for
19 your work.

20 We trust in you to be even handed and fair in your
21 work, and it's my hope that this Commission, in spite of the
22 political storms around the state, can stay fair minded and
23 independent --

24 (Applause.)

25 VIRGINIA GARCIA-BUNUEL: It's my understanding

1 that Arizona has the population to support two congressional
2 districts, rural districts, and eight rural legislative
3 districts.

4 My personal feeling is the competitive districts
5 are in the public interest, and that includes doing
6 something about Yavapai County.

7 So if you could accomplish this whenever possible,
8 it would be very healthy for District 1 to become more
9 competitive.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker in Prescott
14 is Ralph Harris, but let me go ahead and get the folks in
15 Cottonwood ready too.

16 Evelyn Witt will be next in Cottonwood. Harry
17 Sweet, Susan Hall, and J.R. Murray.

18 So with that, we have Mr. Harris, representing
19 self, from Yavapai County.

20 RALPH HARRIS: Good evening.

21 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Good evening.

22 RALPH HARRIS: My name is Ralph, R-A-L-P-H,
23 Harris, H-A-R-R-I-S.

24 I'm a long-time resident, rural resident. Mail is
25 delivered to me through a Kirkland Post Office mail carrier.

1 I live close enough to Prescott but yet far enough
2 away.

3 I have two water wells, I haul my own trash, I can
4 see the stars at night, and I like it that way.

5 And I would like to state for the record that the
6 independent Commission I feel is doing a great job in
7 providing a fair and balanced process for Yavapai County and
8 our state.

9 I feel the communities of interest indeed need to
10 be reflective of the quality of life and the economic
11 issues.

12 Also that the competitiveness -- it's been a long
13 day -- is equally important to us all, including the greater
14 Arizona legislative and congressional districts. And I
15 believe this Commission is an important asset to the rural
16 Arizona and the people of the state.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So now we're going to
21 Cottonwood for the next four.

22 Evelyn Witt is up next.

23 Again, remember to tell us who you're representing
24 and, if it's self, what county or city you reside in. And
25 to spell your name too for the record.

1 EVELYN WITT: Yes, Madam Chairman, commissioner
2 members, my name is Evelyn Witt, and I live in Cottonwood.

3 And my husband and I retired three years ago
4 there.

5 And having lived in both rural areas and urban
6 areas, I know that the interests are -- tend to be more,
7 more different, and it follows that the voting tends to be
8 somewhat different.

9 But my concern, and I'm echoing those that went
10 before me, about the health care and Medicare, medical is
11 much more convenient here. We wouldn't go down into Phoenix
12 or somewhere like that.

13 We go to Cottonwood, or, if necessary, up to
14 Flagstaff.

15 And we have also enough -- well, the main thing,
16 the main point I want to get is the fact that there's a
17 difference between a rural and urban area, and I think we
18 should be aligned more with the Flagstaff and the interest
19 there and be represented in this new redistricting.

20 And I thank you again.

21 (Applause.)

22 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

23 Ms. Witt, I'm sorry, do you mind spelling your
24 name for the record?

25 EVELYN WITT: Oh.

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: I apologize. Do you mind
2 spelling your name --

3 EVELYN WITT: I'm sorry. I'm very sorry. The
4 last name is spelled W-I-T-T.

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

6 Our next speaker is Harry Sweet in Cottonwood.

7 HARRY SWEET: Hello. Harry Sweet, and it's
8 spelled S-W-E-E-T.

9 I live in Peach Springs, as well as Verde Valley,
10 and I have a small business there which does depend heavily
11 on tourism.

12 Hello, IRC. Thank you for the work you're doing.

13 I would like to see the Verde Valley represented
14 congressionally and legislatively in a district ideally to
15 take Flagstaff as the Sedona, Cottonwood area, and Flagstaff
16 is so interconnected economically and socially.

17 Tourism, health care, watershed, education, and
18 national forests are a few of the common interests that bind
19 the Verde Valley, Flagstaff area, Grand Canyon, and the
20 northeastern Arizona.

21 I believe a new district with these communities
22 would make a balanced and competitive district and encourage
23 more citizens to get involved in the political process.

24 Thank you and good luck.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Susan Hall.

3 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: Shouldn't you have J.R.
4 Murray next?

5 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh, sure, J.R. Murray.

6 J.R. MURRAY: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you, IRC
7 commission.

8 My name is J.R. Murray. Initials J-R,
9 M-U-R-R-A-Y.

10 And I am the general manager of the Arizona
11 Snowbowl Ski Area outside of Flagstaff.

12 But I am speaking tonight as the chairman of the
13 board of directors of Flagstaff Forty. Flagstaff Forty is
14 an organization comprised of business and organizational
15 leaders in the Flagstaff greater community and the largest
16 employers and several nonprofits.

17 Flagstaff Forty is very concerned about the state
18 of Arizona, the current financial straits that we are in.
19 And we are also working very diligently with other groups
20 around the state to improve the education, quality of life,
21 economic development opportunities, and to make sure that
22 Arizona not only pulls itself out of this economic downturn,
23 but rises to the top in the country.

24 And that takes leadership.

25 And leadership starts with who runs for office.

1 And people need to know where they're going to be running
2 for office first.

3 And that is where redistricting comes in.

4 Redistricting is important to Flagstaff Forty, and
5 I would like to touch on competitiveness first.

6 Ten years ago, the IRC split greater Flagstaff.
7 We found ourselves with one very safe Democratic district
8 and one very safe Republican district.

9 Then we know that you have a safe district, the
10 competitiveness is missing, and for the most part the
11 candidate that prevails is determined in the primary.

12 There are not opportunities for many people to
13 participate in the political process when you have such safe
14 districts.

15 It is our intent to share with you the need for
16 competitive districts in northern Arizona, in rural northern
17 Arizona.

18 Everyone deserves a fair opportunity to be heard
19 and to share their views and to run for office if they so
20 choose.

21 Lopsided voter registration determines that one
22 party stays in office.

23 We are, we are supporting more competitive
24 districts in northern Arizona.

25 Communities of interest is another concern of

1 ours, and I would like to share with the group many of the
2 items or areas of interest that were shared earlier this
3 evening.

4 When we are working with ADOT, the five-year plans
5 and funding, it's I-17, and we find ourselves sharing the
6 room with many of the people here with us today.

7 I-17, 89-A, the Verde Valley, Sedona, reaching up
8 above the rim to Flagstaff, Williams, the Grand Canyon,
9 Tusayan, those communities are very linked together.

10 We've mentioned tourism.

11 People do not get to Flagstaff without coming
12 through the Verde Valley.

13 They stop at Verde Valley.

14 And when we go south for whatever reason from
15 Flagstaff, we stop at the Verde Valley.

16 The public lands that surround our communities and
17 the large percentage of public and state lands that are
18 controlled by state and federal reach down below the rim,
19 and they go east towards Payson and west towards Prescott.

20 We believe that the school system is very, very
21 linked.

22 The only time I've ever been to Cottonwood is to
23 bring my daughter down here to volleyball games, because we
24 share the same athletic conference as many of the schools
25 down here.

1 That's just one example.

2 Higher education. We have people driving,
3 commuting up and down I-17 to work, either in Flagstaff or
4 down here in the Verde Valley.

5 We've mentioned the medical center. The medical
6 care and health care is only going to become more important.
7 And to have quality health care and not rely and not need to
8 go to Phoenix or to a metropolitan area is going to continue
9 to be forefront in all of the residents' minds in northern
10 Arizona.

11 And right now Northern Arizona Health Care manages
12 the hospital in Flagstaff, a hospital here, in the
13 Verde Valley, and a hospital in Winslow.

14 We believe that the gateway to the Grand Canyon is
15 I-17 to Flagstaff. People leave the metropolitan area on
16 vacation, they go through Sedona, up the switchbacks, stop
17 in Flagstaff, go to the Grand Canyon.

18 It's a wonderful experience.

19 Those are communities of interest right there.

20 And if you go from northern Arizona and go a
21 little east and a little west and come south, you will find
22 that the needs of the competitive district and communities
23 of interest are satisfied when you're working on your map.

24 I would also lastly mention with the congressional
25 district, the Congressional District 1 is very, very large.

1 We do not have a lot in common with Casa Grande.
2 And that is the southern reach from the Utah
3 border of CD 1.

4 I share the views of many that we need rural
5 congressional districts. But I would suggest, as others
6 have, that CD 1 could be more compact and more -- and
7 include more communities of interest.

8 And I would just share for those there in Prescott
9 and here in the room that the Mogollon Rim is not a
10 geographical barrier.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

14 So our last speaker in Cottonwood, Susan Hall?

15 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: She left.

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Oh.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: She had to leave.

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

19 Well, we'll jump then to here in Prescott. And
20 I'll read -- I'll go ahead and read the next four.

21 Mike Flannery, Bill Halpin, Shirley Dye, and Jim
22 Muhr.

23 If we could get you folks ready, and we'll start
24 with Mike Flannery.

25 He's representing quad cities, from Yavapai

1 County.

2 MIKE FLANNERY: Good evening, Madam Chair,
3 Mr. Vice Chairman.

4 Welcome to Prescott.

5 I want to, along with everyone else, thank you for
6 volunteering for your journey you're about to embark on.

7 Last time they told the Commission members
8 12 months to 18 months.

9 It took, like, eight and a half years.

10 So, I hope you're prepared.

11 Let's hope it's not going to take that long this
12 time. I hope some of the kinks have been ironed out.

13 Well, there are many things to address tonight.

14 I will, I will take my time to discuss the
15 communities of interest, because I think that's very
16 important.

17 Quad cities, when I mention quad cities, should
18 I -- that would be Chino Valley, Prescott, Prescott Valley,
19 and Dewey-Humbolt, have a strong community of interest.

20 And, in fact, I believe that community of interest
21 extends to Yavapai County.

22 And that community of interest includes economic
23 development, construction standards, transportation
24 planning, education, and quality of life.

25 Let me elaborate on that just a little bit.

1 Economic development.

2 Yavapai College is the largest of the educational
3 facilities here. They offer a small business development
4 center, which reaches out to small businesses and
5 facilitates a lot of their small business, small business
6 development throughout the county.

7 And as a college, it is broken down into districts
8 which covers the entire county. So that in and of itself is
9 an interest.

10 So when you look at that, you have to recognize
11 that it's college districts which cover the entire county.

12 Also both this side and the other side are --
13 their economic development is geared by regional -- or
14 they're trying to do regional redistrict development.

15 And we have two enterprise zones. They have just
16 formed a Yavapai foreign trade zone now. And they are
17 serviced by the NACOG local workforce development investment
18 board.

19 So they have that commonality as well.

20 As well as the tourism, as you heard a lot about
21 tonight.

22 Construction standards. Now, that may be an odd
23 connection, but because of where we are, and the terrain,
24 the environment that we live in, standards were actually
25 developed here for construction that are suitable for our

1 area.

2 And we've had to work with other entities for
3 that.

4 And we operate under the Yavapai area or YAG
5 standards.

6 So just a little bit there.

7 And you heard about transportation planning.

8 Before we had the -- we used to have a
9 transportation planning organization here. And because we
10 had hit a 50,000 threshold, we are now a metropolitan
11 planning organization, or CYMPO, Central Yavapai Planning
12 Organization.

13 Education. We have a number of unified school
14 districts, but one of the things that you may or may not
15 know is the amount of charter schools. Yavapai County has
16 probably one of the highest densities of charter schools of
17 anywhere in Arizona.

18 And charter schools are open. They're open
19 enrollment, so they cross over into other districts as well.

20 So I bring that to your attention, because I
21 think that's something that you can consider in looking at
22 that.

23 We have a joint technical education district,
24 which also crosses over some boundaries.

25 And as I mentioned, Yavapai College, for

1 education, they do joint projects with Northern Arizona
2 University. They are in conjunction with Old Dominion.

3 We have another university here called
4 North Central University.

5 Embry-Riddle University, it's aeronautical. It's
6 a huge aeronautical university. There's only two in the
7 United States.

8 Lockheed Martin training center is here. And they
9 do all of the training for all of the air traffic
10 controllers, small air traffic control for all of the
11 United States here.

12 And also Northern Arizona Regional Training
13 Academy, which is a public safety training academy.

14 Just a little bit about our area here.

15 And we have a regional communication center, which
16 is public safety, and the -- probably underlying of all of
17 our communities of interest is water.

18 And sometimes we don't always agree with water,
19 but one of the things that we are trying to do is solve them
20 on a local level before we go to legislature to have that
21 resolved.

22 So, Prescott is within an AMA, and so I think that
23 we have a rather strong community of interest.

24 And I think the Commission would be fortunate to
25 look at this as Yavapai County having one legislative

1 district, as you've heard before, and I think it's
2 extremely, extremely important that the Commission go ahead
3 and form a definition for community of interest and apply it
4 as soon as possible and be as transparent about that as
5 possible.

6 And, and one thing that I would like to echo that
7 I've heard a lot about, and that is the rural districts in
8 terms of congressional districts. I think that that is an
9 outstanding idea, and I would totally support that in terms
10 of congressional districts.

11 So, thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: Would you spell your name for
13 us.

14 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I sat back and said, I'm
15 not going to do that.

16 Flannery, F-L-A-N-N-E-R-Y. Thank you.

17 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

18 Our next speaker is Bill Halpin, representing
19 self, from Prescott valley.

20 BILL HALPIN: Thank you, and welcome to Prescott.
21 Hope you're enjoying the weather.

22 Bill Halpin, H-A-L-P-I-N.

23 My comment is more or less a question about the
24 maps, and the gentleman from Strategic almost came that
25 close to answering my question, and I thought I was going to

1 have to just sit down.

2 But can I ask a question as far as the plans, the
3 grid maps?

4 It was stated that they're going to be ready in
5 August, and Monday is August 1st. Any idea when we're going
6 to be able to view these maps?

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, unfortunately we can't
8 answer the questions tonight. We're only to accept
9 hearings.

10 Is that right, Counselor Kanefield?

11 Yeah.

12 BILL HALPIN: Even though you came that close to
13 answering my question.

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, I apologize.

15 BILL HALPIN: How can I go about asking that
16 question? If I can't ask it here, how do I go about getting
17 an answer?

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Yeah, I think you can submit
19 that question. Our staff, I'm sure, is taking notes. If
20 not, I will make sure that we get that question answered.

21 And maybe we could respond to you outside of this
22 venue if we get some contact information, like e-mail
23 address, if that would work.

24 BILL HALPIN: Okay.

25 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Maybe if you could add that

1 to your sheet.

2 BILL HALPIN: I'll do it now.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Great. Thanks very much.

4 I'm sorry we couldn't answer your question
5 tonight.

6 And our next speaker is Shirley Dye, representing
7 self, and LD 5, from Navajo, Apache, Graham, Greenlee, Gila.

8 SHIRLEY DYE: Thank you, commissioners.

9 I have given to you a block level equivalency file
10 for LD 5. And it's submitted by the friends of LD 5.

11 And we have a plan that you have a copy of in your
12 packet with our talking points.

13 But basically we have the plan of
14 Legislative District 5 now contains Navajo, the southern
15 part of Navajo, the southern part of Apache County, Greenlee
16 County, all of Graham County, and all of Gila County.

17 And we are 21,000 people short of having our
18 target number of 213,067 people per a legislative district.

19 It just so happens that the Camp Verde area has
20 that 21,000 people.

21 And I would like to tell you about how our
22 Legislative District 5 would be if it included this area on
23 your map right here -- see, guys, it's this little area
24 right here.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MAN: That's gerrymandering.

1 SHIRLEY DYE: It's not gerrymandering. It's
2 keeping right off the edge of existing LD 5.

3 Okay.

4 This does include Camp Verde and Lake Montezuma
5 and Rimrock and Cordes Lakes.

6 All of those areas are on the east side of
7 Interstate 17, and are currently part of Yavapai County.

8 The only place where it crosses Interstate 17 is
9 where Camp Verde crosses Highway 17 and has a section of
10 their town across there.

11 As you can see, most all of this is rural Arizona.

12 And a lot of the area that is being picked up on
13 the map is forest service and BLM land.

14 And I would just like to let you know that
15 Camp Verde does come up to Payson, Pine, and Strawberry.
16 They come up with their truck loads of vegetables, they come
17 up with their crafters, and they come -- you know, we have
18 very similar tourist interests in almost all of
19 Legislative District 5.

20 We have timber. We have cattle, ranching. We
21 have truck farms. And we have mining.

22 And Camp Verde has very similar values.

23 When -- if and when Camp Verde would be part of
24 Legislative 5, we would become compact, contiguous, and
25 competitive.

1 We would be competitive in that we would be
2 37 percent Democrat, 37 percent Republican, and 21 percent
3 Independent, and the rest would be other.

4 And we are contiguous in that we have a nice big
5 block of people all together in -- with our forest and our
6 BLM lands.

7 Sorry to say, this does not include Spring Valley,
8 which is just west of 17 across from Cordes Lakes. And it
9 does not include Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Cornville, or
10 Sedona, which are very much more, with similar communities
11 of interest, to Flagstaff, as they have been telling you.

12 So, anyhow, let me see where I was here.

13 So we have -- oh, it's very contiguous because
14 it's got natural boundaries. We have Highway 40 up at the
15 top up here.

16 We have New Mexico down here.

17 We have Pinal County.

18 We have -- this is the area along Maricopa County
19 area.

20 This is Maricopa County line.

21 We have Coconino County line here.

22 And we have Interstate 17.

23 So we have natural boundaries for the district
24 should you allow us to include Camp Verde into our
25 legislative district.

1 With the addition, we come within 700 to
2 750 people to the exact number of the 213,069 people.

3 So we have our pioneering families, like there's
4 pioneering families down in Verde Valley and Camp Verde.

5 We have our small truck farms.

6 We have our ranching.

7 We have all those things that they would meld very
8 well into as far as communities of interest.

9 And so I think that's it, so I thank you very
10 much.

11 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

12 SHIRLEY DYE: And we don't want to be carved up
13 into three other districts.

14 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Jim Muhr
15 in Prescott.

16 And let me just get the folks in Cottonwood ready.

17 I think I only have three more speakers in
18 Cottonwood, if they're there.

19 John O'Donnell, Anita Goss, and Stephanie
20 McKinney.

21 So we'll go to Mr. Muhr, representing self, from
22 Payson, Gila.

23 JIM MUHR: Thank you, Madam Chair and
24 Vice Chairman and the committee members, I believe, that are
25 in Cottonwood.

1 I have heard many speakers tonight ask questions
2 or make statements about having certain, certain areas in
3 other certain areas. And the only one I've seen that's
4 given any map of any direction to the board has been the
5 previous speaker.

6 My question -- it's a question, and I know that
7 you cannot answer the question, but I'm going to ask it.

8 And my question goes to this.

9 Is it -- I understand that the Department of
10 Justice gives the final okay and the final authority for
11 either the congressional and the legislative maps.

12 My question is: Is there any computer aid or
13 assistance available for us, the people here in Arizona, the
14 citizens of Arizona, to go to so that we can actually look
15 at those maps, draw some, draw some map areas both in our
16 concern of legislative districts and also the concerns in
17 congressional districts?

18 I find I feel that that would be an appropriate
19 thing for the consultants to offer to both you and to
20 ourselves.

21 And basically that's it.

22 I just want to know if there is a map that we
23 could use or if there is an aid, a computer aid that we can
24 use so that when we address the committee that we can
25 actually make presentations like the lady before me.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you'd like to add your
3 e-mail address -- Mr. Muhr, if you'd like to add your e-mail
4 address, we can have our staff respond.

5 Oh, can we get a spelling of your last name?

6 JIM MUHR: M-U-H-R.

7 And I have it underlined so I would do that.

8 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

9 Okay. We'll go to Cottonwood. John O'Donnell is
10 our next speaker.

11 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: He left.

12 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

13 Anita Goss.

14 ANITA GOSS: Anita Goss. The last name is spelled
15 G-O-S-S.

16 And I would like to thank the Commission and
17 everyone for staying this late at night.

18 This is very important work, and thank you from
19 the bottom of my heart for doing it.

20 I own a small business in Cottonwood, and I have a
21 bed and breakfast, and I have tourists come from all over
22 the world.

23 I have guests coming from Germany, from England,
24 from India, from Japan.

25 And they come to see the Grand Canyon. And they

1 come to Sedona, and thereby Cottonwood.

2 And I'm very careful to make sure that I say I'm
3 near Sedona, because they know that.

4 To broaden the first little bit to what works for
5 tourism.

6 The Grand Canyon is something that is known to
7 people throughout the world, and they even come to the
8 Sedona area.

9 I think it is important to include all of the
10 Verde Valley, including Flagstaff.

11 I think our interests are more common and aligned
12 with each other.

13 In the interest of developing the economic
14 opportunities here in the valley, I think it's very, very
15 important that our district be represented with Flagstaff.

16 And I would also like to say that the education
17 piece of this is very important. The connection with NAU,
18 being a former teacher, this is something that I value very
19 highly.

20 And, again, I think the draw of Flagstaff is very
21 important to our communities, and I would vote that the new
22 district reflects that concern.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 (Applause.)

25 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

1 And we have Stephanie McKinney in Flag -- I mean,
2 sorry about that, Cottonwood. And our next -- that's it for
3 Cottonwood, unless there's others that I don't know about.

4 Let me just name the next four here in Prescott.
5 Matthew Perry, Susan Ghen, Don Ascoli, and Wendy
6 Schops.

7 And so, Ms. McKinney.

8 STEPHANIE MCKINNEY: Good evening, Madam Chair and
9 members of the Commission.

10 My name is Stephanie McKinney. I'm going to spell
11 it. M-C-K-I-N-N-E-Y.

12 I'm here representing myself. I am from
13 Flagstaff.

14 I have spent a number of years in the business
15 industry both as a financial professional, I had the
16 privilege of serving as the economic development director
17 for Flagstaff for seven years, and I'm also a business owner
18 with my husband.

19 Since I've lived in Arizona for 20 years, I try to
20 be as involved in being a good citizen. I've served on both
21 state commissions as well as commissions on Coconino County
22 and the city of Flagstaff.

23 I would like to address you on three points this
24 evening.

25 The first would be a comment in general about

1 competitiveness.

2 The second two points would be relative to
3 communities of interest related to both the state
4 legislative level as well as the congressional level.

5 One of the things that strikes me as a stark
6 contrast in looking at the Arizona population is how
7 evenly distributed the voter registration is between
8 Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and others, and how
9 that distribution does not really bear out in only
10 3 of 30 districts being competitive around the state.

11 It would seem to me that that's an opportunity to
12 improve somewhat and to have that help us to have good
13 elections and good spirited campaigns with our election
14 process going forward.

15 I would also like to tell you that sitting in
16 Flagstaff the last ten years I have seen this robustness in
17 the competitive process at our congressional level.

18 The fact over the last ten years we've had three
19 or four candidates that have been from either party back and
20 forth, I would imagine for the county it wasn't much fun,
21 but for the citizens we were able to see a robust process
22 and to clearly see differences in candidates and their
23 approach to governing.

24 Whereas at the state level we have not had that
25 experience. In fact, there's been many times in the last

1 ten years in Flagstaff there's not even been a person
2 running on the ticket of the opposite party that is not
3 represented in the majority.

4 In moving to the state legislative communities of
5 interest, in my role as an economic development
6 professional, it's very important to pay attention to
7 transportation, education, tourism, how economic base is
8 established, health care.

9 These are the types of things that I dealt with
10 with prospects all the time.

11 And I will tell you that on many occasion I was
12 discussing not only Flagstaff but I was also discussing the
13 Verde Valley.

14 I believe that Flagstaff and the Verde Valley have
15 much in common, but I will also profess to you that
16 Flagstaff and the Verde Valley together do not come up to
17 the 213,000 population that will be necessary to create a
18 new state district.

19 I would advise any other northern Arizona rural
20 area that shares these same common interests you've heard
21 this evening about wanting to be competitive and wanting to
22 work together on regional issues, that we would invite an
23 opportunity to work with them as well.

24 Moving to the congressional district, I personally
25 support the idea of having two rural congressional

1 districts. Ideally, we would like to see both of them be
2 competitive, but I think at a minimum one ought to be.

3 Additionally, I would like to close by telling you
4 that I personally would be happy to be represented by a
5 statesman that could come from Cottonwood, Clarkdale,
6 Sedona, Camp Verde, Flagstaff, or any other northern Arizona
7 rural area that shares these values.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 I know you have a rough road ahead of you, a lot
10 of hours listening to public hearing. I would like to thank
11 you in advance for volunteering for this job.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thanks to everyone in
16 Cottonwood that provided input tonight. We really
17 appreciate you guys coming out and participating.

18 It's about 8:00 o'clock, five minutes to 8:00.
19 And I wanted to see if our court reporter felt okay in terms
20 of proceeding.

21 You're okay? You're good? No Power Bars or
22 anything?

23 Okay.

24 We will then move on, and we have a handful left
25 here in Prescott.

1 So our next speaker is Matthew Perry, representing
2 self, Prescott.

3 MATTHEW PERRY: My name is Matthew Perry, and my
4 family name is spelled P-E-R-R-Y.

5 This is my first time in one of these. I'm a
6 little nervous, so if I go over, I apologize in advance.

7 But I wanted to talk about two issues:
8 Competitiveness and communities of interest.

9 First, competitiveness.

10 I think it's great that everyone here is so
11 passionate about having two competitive districts.

12 But, I want to refer back to the presentation made
13 earlier.

14 And the goals that were put up there aren't just
15 goals. They're also part of our state constitution and the
16 law of our land that was voted on in Prop 106.

17 And I think we should, according to our
18 constitution, put communities of interest before
19 competitiveness.

20 I've noticed just going to different events and
21 volunteering, that when you put local issues at the
22 forefront, people are more likely to get involved more.

23 And I think that's why that's included in part of
24 our constitution.

25 That way we can have a stronger civic society, if

1 we divide our districts based on local interests and not
2 just on the elusive and not very definite notion of
3 competitiveness.

4 And I also wanted to speak about our local issues,
5 because as someone from Prescott, I have feelings like
6 everyone else in this room about how we should divide up our
7 district.

8 And I think that for the legislative district, I
9 think that Yavapai County should have at least one
10 legislative district.

11 And I know some of the people from Verde Valley
12 may not believe me, but I drive the 17 and the 89-A at least
13 three days a week for work.

14 And I have no problem whatsoever sharing a state
15 senator or a state representative with you.

16 And for the congressional district lines, I like
17 sharing with the counties that share my economic interest.
18 Most notably, Coconino, Mohave, and Gila Counties.

19 I think because we're very geared to tourism and
20 because we have a very strong passion for our national
21 monuments, whether it be the Grand Canyon up in Coconino,
22 Mohave County, or whether it be Lynx Lake or Willow Lake
23 here in Prescott, I think that forms a strong bond between
24 us, and I think that we will be served well if we share that
25 same congressional representation.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Our next speaker is Susan
5 Ghen, if I'm mispronouncing it.

6 (No oral response.)

7 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Is she here?

8 (No oral response.)

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay. We'll move on to Don
10 Ascoli, and correct me if I'm mispronouncing that, and he's
11 representing self.

12 And if you could tell us where you're from.

13 DON ASCOLI: Perfect job of pronouncing my last
14 name. Don Ascoli, A-S-C-O-L-I. And I'm from Payson,
15 Arizona.

16 Thank you, Madam Chair and commissioners and
17 fellow citizens.

18 Though I'm representing myself, I have many roles
19 I play.

20 One of which is I am chairman of the Gila County
21 Planning and Zoning Commission.

22 So when I -- in that role, there are nine of us
23 total, spread across the whole county. We look at our
24 county as a unit, as a whole body of people with common
25 interest. Common interest.

1 And you heard that mentioned by many speakers
2 before me.

3 And it is most important.

4 We're not pieces. We do not want to be pieces of
5 a political pie.

6 I know that -- in fact, Joy, when she came up
7 here, she used the term, we should look at keeping whole
8 counties and whole cities kept together.

9 And I think that's what your -- one of your top
10 goals needs to be.

11 Now, from a practical standpoint, we know that
12 there isn't a perfect population in each county, so you put
13 two, three, or four together or as one, as you heard from
14 Yavapai County.

15 But, that's got to be one of your starting points.

16 I believe that's one of your responsibilities.

17 And it's not only fair, but I think it makes
18 sense.

19 Now, there have been some plans proposed publicly,
20 I know several from Flagstaff, that to me are plans of what
21 you should not do.

22 Not plans what you should do.

23 And I find that pictures are worth a thousand
24 words.

25 This is what has been termed scenario three.

1 Four districts. Two -- one, two, four, and five.

2 And I've color coded them because I think that's
3 the only way you could understand what is being done here.

4 This is when it slices and dices Gila County into
5 four parts.

6 Now, one of the things I do on the Planning and
7 Zoning Commission, we have done in the past, is we
8 coordinate with our state representatives and state
9 senators.

10 I can't imagine having to work with two, three, or
11 four sets of representatives to get a job done.

12 If you recall in your history, the state of
13 Arizona felt also that a county was a community of interest
14 because each county only had one state senator.

15 It wasn't until a Supreme Court ruling in 1962
16 took that out and went to one man, one vote on the state
17 senate side.

18 Totally contrary to what we have in the United
19 States Senate, which is two senators per each state.

20 It doesn't matter what size or shape the state is.
21 It doesn't matter what the political format of that state or
22 city is, because the registration, predominantly Republican,
23 Democrat, whatever, it don't matter.

24 The community of interest is the state.

25 Below the state is the county.

1 So, if you hear me a little passion about it, I
2 am.

3 Keep the counties as whole as possible.

4 They have county supervisors, county sheriff,
5 county attorney.

6 You can go right down the list.

7 Recorder.

8 All to take care of the interest of the county,
9 the people of the county.

10 When you slice and dice, you destroy that
11 community of interest. Okay?

12 Now, part of the map that Shirley Dye showed
13 before was a proposal for District 5,
14 Legislative District 5, which took a little piece of Verde
15 Valley. Otherwise, it keeps the thing whole, the current
16 district.

17 And if you can see here there's some other
18 proposals of other districts for the northern Arizona area.

19 And if you look at that, it pretty much keeps the
20 counties whole or as whole as practical.

21 That's what you should do as part of your job.

22 I live in Gila County. You come from either
23 Maricopa or Pima County.

24 We have a lot of folks here from Yavapai County.

25 We each have an interest.

1 When you say where you live, you name the town and
2 you name the county you live in.

3 Okay.

4 So, one, as Joy said earlier, keep the towns as
5 whole as possible, and above that, and you're going to do
6 that because our rural counties, except maybe Yavapai, I
7 haven't studied them specifically, you need more than a
8 whole county to get to your requirement for the 213,000.

9 So I submit to you that your responsibility is to
10 tweak and refine the boundaries.

11 Because, remember, ten years ago, when we went
12 through this process, districts were laid out that met the
13 Justice Department requirements.

14 They have served this state and the people of this
15 the state very well for ten years.

16 Don't fix it if it ain't broke.

17 You do have to be requirements of population. I
18 understand that.

19 And there's other criteria.

20 But if you're within the guidelines, and you can
21 keep, I believe, the counties as whole as possible, you meet
22 that.

23 Now, I'd like to make -- and I guess I'm mostly
24 speaking from the legislative district side. I'll make one
25 comment on the congressional district side.

1 It's intriguing, and I like the idea that Malcolm
2 Barrett mentioned, of possibly having two rural
3 congressional districts.

4 Thirteen counties make the rural. I don't know if
5 Pinal still is qualified as a rural district. I don't know
6 what the actual definition is.

7 But there is some value in that, and I find it of
8 interest personally to look at two rural districts.

9 And that leads me to my observation and
10 recommendation here, which I don't think anyone's caught.

11 If you look at Flagstaff, as you presented
12 earlier, guideline B, it talks about equal population.

13 But when I look at slide three that you presented
14 earlier, of the five Commission members sitting before us,
15 three are from Maricopa County -- I mean, sorry, two are
16 from Maricopa County and three are from Pima County.

17 There's not a single commissioner from a rural
18 county.

19 Yet you heard Malcolm mention earlier, over
20 20 percent of the people from Arizona are from rural
21 Arizona.

22 Now, if we're going to be represented, I believe
23 this Commission should have at least one rural
24 representative on the Commission.

25 So I would make a recommendation to you and a

1 recommendation to our legislature to change the law. If
2 20 percent of the people, which is one fifth of this member
3 board, is rural, then one member needs to be chosen from the
4 rural communities to represent our interests.

5 We're talking about representation for the
6 districts. But here on this very board, who represents us?

7 I use that term in the generic sense.

8 So, anyway, I would suggest you consider that for
9 the future.

10 I don't know what all the legal requirements are,
11 but if there is someone who would step forward, I would sure
12 be in line to support that.

13 Thank you very much for your interest, your help,
14 in listening what I have to say.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Just to let everyone know, I
19 have four more request to speak forms.

20 Our next speaker is Windy Schops.

21 (No oral response.)

22 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Is she here?

23 (No oral response.)

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Okay.

25 And Jeff Schops.

1 (No oral response.)

2 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: They probably left together.

3 Our next speaker is Chip Davis.

4 Is he here?

5 Great Yavapai County supervisor District 3
6 representing Yavapai County.

7 CHIP DAVIS: I was going to say welcome, but I
8 might as well tell you guys good night.

9 Welcome to Yavapai County.

10 And thank you for coming up to visit with us. We
11 appreciate the opportunity.

12 I myself am I fourth generation Yavapai County
13 Arizonan.

14 I have a residence in Clarkdale. That's where I
15 live. That's where my office is. That's where my district
16 is. That's the Verde Valley, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Sedona,
17 Jerome.

18 And then I also have regular meetings over here in
19 Prescott, which is convenient today, because I was over here
20 all day.

21 And then my parents have a ranch in Walnut Grove,
22 which is south of here, and is currently in
23 Legislative District 4, so I've had the experience of the
24 redistricting process.

25 And what I've learned on my folks being in LD 4 is

1 that the ranchers up in that area are in no way connected or
2 have anything in common with the folks in Sun City.

3 And so for the past ten years when they did the
4 redistricting, my folks and the folks out there felt that
5 they didn't really have a voice or representation.

6 Folks didn't come up and visit with them.

7 The communication process wasn't taken too
8 seriously because they knew it was a pretty small voting
9 block over there.

10 So, when the new redistricting process came up
11 this time, I felt it would be a great opportunity, and so I
12 wanted to probably be the very first person to tell you guys
13 that I have the easiest, simplest, best laid out plan of the
14 whole state.

15 I say that in jest because everything I read says
16 everybody has the best idea for it.

17 But in Yavapai County it would make sense to be
18 its own legislative district.

19 We do have the population.

20 The boundaries are very simple.

21 I think folks understand it.

22 Right now Yavapai County is in the process of
23 redistricting, so I can relate to what you're going through.
24 We're in the process of going from three to five
25 supervisors.

1 And the issues and concerns of folks that have
2 come out is very concerning.

3 One of the things I like to point out to them is
4 that when we create new districts, it doesn't mean you have
5 to quit doing business with that other community and go to
6 another district.

7 It's merely an election district.

8 And so a lot of the fears I've heard this evening
9 are if the Verde Valley doesn't go with Flagstaff, then,
10 you know, commerce will end, and people will quit going up
11 I-17.

12 I don't believe that to be true.

13 Let me catch up with my notes here.

14 In regards to the rural congressional districts, I
15 support that also.

16 In our work with the congressional districts, it's
17 been very helpful to have congressional members that
18 understand that rural issues are very different than
19 metropolitan or urban issues. So I do support that, however
20 you end up divvying that up.

21 And the consideration of Yavapai County of being
22 its own legislative district, we could include that portion
23 of Sedona that's in Coconino County, that's a population of
24 approximately 2,000 people, so that would put us right at
25 213,000 if we added that little Sedona piece in there.

1 I think, lastly, you guys are very patient.
2 All of you, staff members included, to go through these
3 things.

4 But I think in the process what you find is you
5 find about 10 percent of the very active, passionate
6 Republicans are going to come out, 10 percent of the very
7 active, passionate Democrats are going to show up, and
8 they're very concerned about trying to convince you of
9 reasons why they want to make elective districts is what it
10 boils down to, but they'll tell you different reasons to get
11 there.

12 But 80 percent of the common public just want
13 government to make sense.

14 They want to be able to know, you know, this
15 district makes sense. It doesn't make sense when I'm in one
16 district and the guy across the street is in a different
17 district.

18 So in your work, if you could bear that in
19 mind, that 80 percent of the people, and probably the ones
20 that don't show up here, they just want some common sense
21 stuff.

22 I'd appreciate any work you can do on that.

23 And to dispel any fears on both sides, the biggest
24 trend growing around the state of Arizona and Yavapai County
25 too is our Independents. So no matter which party you're

1 in, if you put up a viable candidate, they've got a good
2 shot at being elected.

3 It's not about that. I think it's more about
4 common sense.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

7 Please spell your last name.

8 CHIP DAVIS: D-A-V-I-S.

9 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

10 And I just want to thank you for -- and please
11 extend this to the other supervisors. We really appreciate
12 you being in the hearing room tonight and this opportunity
13 to be in Yavapai County and the support we've got from law
14 enforcement and everyone, so thank you and please tell your
15 fellow colleagues.

16 CHIP DAVIS: We'll do that. And, if you want to
17 have another meeting over in the Verde, we can video it back
18 over here.

19 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: The reverse.

20 Our last speaker, at least the last form I have,
21 is for Smith Horton, representing self, and from Yavapai
22 County.

23 SMITH HORTON: My name is Smith Horton, and I live
24 at Prescott Country Club, which is an unincorporated area.

25 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: If you could spell name to

1 the record. Sorry.

2 SMITH HORTON: Oh, Horton, H-O-R-T-O-N.

3 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

4 SMITH HORTON: I'm not going to take too much of
5 your time. It's getting late, so. . .

6 I just wanted to mention that when you brought up
7 the topic of compact and contiguous, it struck a note with
8 me because ten years ago before the other redistricting, we
9 did all of our voting right where we were in the Prescott
10 Country Club.

11 And then that changed, and we are now in, I think,
12 in all the versions that you have, it shows District 1, over
13 to Black Canyon City, and Peoria, that I didn't even think
14 was that far north, but it is, and so it's not compact. And
15 it's not -- it's not contiguous for sure.

16 We are across the street from Prescott Valley.

17 We all get our water from Prescott Valley.

18 We are totally surrounded by Prescott Valley, plus
19 they're doing a lot of annexation over the years.

20 And so I know this was -- this put to us in the
21 beginning of this session that we're having, that those two
22 things, compact and contiguous, are pretty damn important.

23 And I know you also are faced with all kinds of
24 rules and state law, and you probably run some places where
25 you just can't do anything about it.

1 And I know that.

2 But I was hoping there would be some way that we
3 could change so we are put into maybe Prescott Valley,
4 whatever part of the Prescott Valley, if you could put us in
5 that, could keep us so we could vote in that area, and not
6 have -- I know we can still vote where we are, if they put
7 the, put the voting place there. It just seems like we have
8 so much more to do with that, and we spend all of our --
9 most of our money in Prescott Valley. We go there and know
10 those people.

11 And we don't know anybody in Black Canyon. And
12 there must be a lot of nice people there, but I don't know
13 any of them.

14 So when we have an election, which includes people
15 that are just for local government positions, the Courier
16 does not cover that for us. So we know when we got the
17 ballot, and it's got names on there, somebody down there for
18 just a local job. And so we're kind of disenfranchised in a
19 squeaky way, but that's how I look at it.

20 So I really would like to get that so we didn't --
21 so that district, we could be -- it could be more contiguous
22 and compact.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: Well, I think we've gone
2 through all the request to speak forms.

3 I just want to thank everyone here tonight, and
4 even those who departed too. You have been an amazing
5 group, and you all took time out of your lives to come and
6 participate in this process, which is hugely important. And
7 we really respect that.

8 And thank you for coming here tonight, and thank
9 you for listening to us here.

10 It's been delightful.

11 And I don't know if Vice Chairman Freeman would
12 like to say anything.

13 VICE CHAIR FREEMAN: I want to echo those
14 comments, and thank you to the people in Cottonwood as well,
15 if there's anyone still there as well.

16 Thank you for getting me out of the heat from
17 Phoenix. And I'm very happy the air conditioner eventually
18 turned on, because it was getting warm.

19 When I applied to be on this commission, I thought
20 one of the great privileges would be to get out in the
21 public comment things and across the state.

22 This is -- and I was born and raised here.

23 And just about everywhere in this state, although
24 I've never been to Window Rock, and that's where Chair and I
25 that will be tomorrow.

1 It's fun to be on those roads less traveled.

2 And I -- my roots are pretty deep.

3 My father was born in Bisbee back in the early
4 '20s.

5 My grandfather on my mother's side farmed all over
6 the southwest, spent some time in Douglas.

7 So I've got that kind of background.

8 I really love coming up to a place like Prescott.

9 My sister used to live up here. I love the rodeo
10 and even did the boot race. I didn't win.

11 So thank you, and I really appreciate everyone
12 being so involved and interested. It's very important,
13 because this is the key part of this process.

14 And this is a great thing about Prop 106, because
15 the public's involved. They have the same -- we need to
16 listen to you, and the first step in that processing is you
17 telling us how you think and being involved.

18 Thank you for having us and have a good night.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON MATHIS: So this meeting is adjourned.

21 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.)

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25

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 99 pages
7 constitute a true and accurate transcript of all proceedings
8 had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to the best of
9 my skill and ability.

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 8th day of
11 August, 2011.

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C. Martin Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50162

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