

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Monday, August 1, 2011
6:31 p.m.

Location

**Coconino Community College
Lone Tree Campus
2800 South Lone Tree Road
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001**

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair (via Skype)

Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162
www.CourtReportersAz.com

1 Flagstaff, Arizona
2 August 1, 2011
3 6:31 p.m.

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

6
7 RAY BLADINE: Good evening. We are trying to get
8 the audio portion of Commissioner Herrera and we're trying
9 to get it put into the overall sound system.

10 But I thought rather than wait much longer, I've
11 talked to the commissioner, we'd go ahead and start the
12 meeting, but not get to the public testimony part until we
13 get that part of the sound system.

14 So if I could ask you, will you all rise for the
15 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

17 RAY BLADINE: I'm going to hold off also in asking
18 some elected officials to come forward hoping that we'll get
19 the sound system going.

20 So I'm taking the agenda a little bit out of
21 order.

22 I'd also like to acknowledge that for non-English
23 speaking citizens, we do have three interpreters.

24 And I'd like to ask them if they each individually
25 come to the mic and in their native language explain what

1 we -- that we do have the ability to have interpretation
2 services provided.

3 And perhaps if I could start with our Spanish
4 interpreter.

5 (Whereupon, the Spanish interpreter made a
6 statement in Spanish.)

7 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

8 Do we also have the Hopi interpreter, please?

9 (Whereupon, the Hopi interpreter made a statement
10 in Hopi.)

11 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

12 And last but not least, our Navajo interpreter.

13 (Whereupon, the Navajo interpreter made a
14 statement in Navajo.)

15 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

16 My name is Ray Bladine. I'm the executive
17 director to the Commission.

18 We have some staff members here tonight to help
19 make the presentation on what the Redistricting Commission
20 is doing in this first round of hearings.

21 I would like to introduce to my left Mary O'Grady,
22 who's our legal representation.

23 Marty Herder is our court reporter.

24 We have Buck Forst over here trying to get the
25 feed in.

1 We have Korinne and Kim -- and Ken from
2 Strategic Telemetry, who will make the presentation on what
3 the process will be for the overall mapping and
4 redistricting.

5 And I think with that I'll turn it over to
6 Korinne.

7 KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Good evening.

8 Thank you, Ray.

9 I am Korinne Kubena Belock with Strategic
10 Telemetry. I'm happy to be here tonight in Flagstaff for
11 the first round of public hearings to discuss the Arizona
12 redistricting process.

13 The goal of these meetings is to hear comments
14 from you about the redistricting process. So thank you for
15 taking the time to attend.

16 This meeting is 1 of 15 in the first round of
17 public hearings.

18 There will be a second round of hearings once a
19 draft map is published.

20 Before I begin the presentation tonight, I want to
21 highlight two forms that you can pick up in the back of the
22 room.

23 Many of you have already filled them out.

24 We have both forms in Spanish as well.

25 We have the yellow form which can be filled out

1 and -- completely and turned in if you would like a chance
2 to speak tonight.

3 So please do that.

4 And we also have this blue public input form. If
5 you don't want to speak tonight for any reason, maybe have
6 stage fright like I do, please feel free to fill it out and
7 turn it into the Commission so we have a record of your
8 input.

9 And with that, I'll begin the presentation. So
10 thank you.

11 Just a brief overview of what I'll discuss
12 tonight.

13 We have seven points here that I'll cover.

14 The first is why do we have a Redistricting
15 Commission?

16 What is redistricting?

17 What is the difference between redistricting and
18 reapportionment?

19 Why do we have to redistrict?

20 What guidelines need to be followed when drawing
21 new districts?

22 What are the steps in the redistricting process?

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

24 So to start, why do we have a Redistricting
25 Commission?

1 This is the second time Arizona's districts will
2 be redrawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting
3 Commission.

4 In 2000, when Arizona voters approved
5 Proposition 106, they created the Arizona Independent
6 Redistricting Commission. And they also established a
7 process and criteria for drawing new lines -- new district
8 lines.

9 The Commission is made up of two Democrats, two
10 Republicans, and an Independent chair elected by the other
11 commissioners.

12 The fifth member shall not be registered with any
13 party already represented on the Commission.

14 The 2011 AIRC members are as follows:

15 Scott Freeman, vice chair, Republican from
16 Maricopa County.

17 Jose Herrera, vice chair, Democrat from Maricopa
18 County.

19 Colleen Mathis, chair, Independent from Pima
20 County.

21 Linda McNulty, Democrat from Pima County.

22 And Richard Stertz, Republican from Pima County.

23 So what is redistricting?

24 Basic definition is redistricting is the process
25 of redrawing congressional and legislative district lines.

1 What is the difference between redistricting and
2 reapportionment?

3 The two terms are often used interchangeably, but
4 there is a difference.

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

8 Because the population over the last decade in
9 Arizona has grown significantly, they were allocated an
10 additional congressional district taking them from five(sic)
11 congressional districts to nine.

12 Now, redistricting, however, is the process of
13 drawing the actual boundaries of those districts.

14 So why do we have to redistrict?

15 I talked about this a little before, but because
16 Arizona gained a new congressional district, new lines will
17 have to be drawn to add that new district.

18 However, even if Arizona had not gained a new
19 district, the congressional and legislative district lines
20 would have to be redrawn to account for changes in
21 population.

22 The concept of a one person, one vote dictates
23 that there should be as close to the same number of
24 people per district as possible. So because the rate of
25 population growth is different in different areas,

1 the existing districts will now have different populations.

2 So what guidelines or criteria need to be followed
3 when drawing new districts?

4 First, they must comply with the U.S. Constitution
5 and the Voting Rights Act.

6 Second, they must have equal population.

7 So criteria A and B are federally mandated, and
8 all plans must satisfy these two criteria.

9 The other criteria are as follows:

10 C, the districts must be compact and contiguous.

11 They must respect communities of interest.

12 They must use visible geographic features, city
13 and town and -- city, town, and county boundaries, and
14 undivided census tracts.

15 And F, create competitive districts where no
16 significant detriment to other goals.

17 So a little bit more about the redistricting
18 process for you.

19 Basically we're holding public hearings to collect
20 input, like this, all across the state.

21 And in some states, the previous plans are used as
22 the starting place for new plans, but that's not the case in
23 Arizona.

24 In Arizona the starting point is the grid map, per
25 Proposition 106.

1 And it states: The commencement of the mapping
2 process for both the congressional and legislative districts
3 shall be the certain -- shall be the creation of equal
4 population in a grid-like pattern across the state.

5 It's likely that the initial grid map will only
6 meet criteria B and C, which are equal population and
7 compact and contiguous.

8 So then the grid map will need to be adjusted to
9 meet the other six criteria as well.

10 First, the Voting Rights Act.

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

15 To get preclearance, Arizona must demonstrate that
16 the new districts do not discriminate against minority
17 voters in purpose or effect, which means there can be no
18 intentional or accidental discrimination.

19 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
20 cannot be retrogressive.

21 The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority voters'
22 rights.

23 And finally, the presence of discrimination can be
24 determined by analyzing population data and election
25 results.

1 So, continuing to adjust the grid map for the
2 other criteria we discussed: B, equal population; C, that
3 the districts are compact and contiguous; D, that the
4 districts respect communities of interest.

5 One of the goals of the AIRC hearings tonight is
6 to solicit public input about communities of interest, and
7 you can fill that out in the forms, and we'll discuss that a
8 little bit more.

9 E, the other criteria are that the districts must
10 use visible geographic features, county boundaries, cities
11 and towns, and census tracts. And usually census geography
12 follows physical features.

13 And finally, the goal would be to create
14 competitive districts where no significant detriment to
15 other goals.

16 Finally, as I said, a goal of this is that we can
17 hear your public input, and so here are a few ways you can
18 do that.

19 First, you can fill out a request to speak at a
20 public hearing and provide the commissioner -- the
21 Commission with your input.

22 Example of input might be criteria, this criteria
23 we discussed, community of interest, or anything else about
24 redistricting.

25 And you can also speak at the public hearing

1 tonight by filling out the yellow form that I mentioned
2 previously. And if you don't want to speak, you can fill
3 out the blue form. And both forms are also available on the
4 AIRC website.

5 And finally, you can visit the AIRC at
6 www.AZredistricting.org, or call (602)542-5221, with any
7 additional thoughts or comments.

8 So thank you very much for having me tonight, and
9 I look forward to hearing from you all.

10 (Applause.)

11 RAY BLADINE: Just as a reminder, we will be
12 starting the testimony. I'm not sure when we will have
13 Commissioner Herrera with us, but I do want to acknowledge
14 that we are streaming this media out onto the Internet live,
15 and we are also -- we will be recording it, and it will be
16 posted on the web page for the Commission in the next
17 24 hours.

18 We also have, thanks to Coconino County Community
19 College, have satellite meetings going on at the same time
20 in Page, Arizona, and Tuba City, Arizona.

21 And during the time for testimony, we will check
22 in with them and also receive testimony from those two
23 areas.

24 Before we start, just a couple reminders. If you
25 would please, when you come to the mic, get as close as you

1 can.

2 The mics aren't awfully oversensitive, so the
3 closer you get, the better it will be for us.

4 If you would please give your name and spell it
5 for the court reporter.

6 All of these meetings are being recorded and will
7 be transcribed.

8 If you would also tell us what city and town you
9 live in, that would be helpful, or what part of the
10 community.

11 Any materials that you wish to hand in, if you'll
12 just bring them up and hand them in, we'll make that a part
13 of the record.

14 And I think with that, I would like to ask the
15 chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Mandy Metzger, to come
16 forward and make a few remarks.

17 I would like to, while she's coming up, very much
18 thank the Board of Supervisors and the Coconino County
19 Community College for hosting us tonight and helping make
20 sure that the streaming is going on and that we're able to
21 do the other two locations.

22 So, again, for the Commission, thank you very
23 much.

24 Supervisor.

25 MANDY METZGER: Well, and thank you very much.

1 And thank you very much, Commissioner Herrera.
2 I'm not sure you can hear us.

3 But it's a very brave person that lets a whole
4 town into their kitchen, so I appreciate the effort.

5 My name is Mandy Metzger, and I am a Coconino
6 County supervisor and currently serve as the chair of
7 Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

8 My fellow supervisors are here with me,
9 vice chair supervisor Carl Taylor, supervisor Liz Archuleta,
10 supervisor Matt Ryan, and supervisor Lena Fowler is to our
11 right on the screen in red. She's in Page.

12 So I'm very pleased that we could all be here this
13 evening.

14 We want to certainly thank all the commissioners
15 and the staff for your service to Arizona and helping us to
16 determine the new legislative and congressional maps for our
17 state.

18 We are especially grateful that you're
19 broadcasting in Tuba City and in Page, as those communities
20 are sometimes rural and -- or are rural, and we really
21 appreciate the effort to reach them.

22 We understand that the task of the legislative and
23 congressional redistricting is a major undertaking and a
24 significant personal commitment on the commissioners' part.

25 And as elected officials, we know full well what

1 personal commitment and sacrifice means at local and
2 regional levels.

3 Given that you all have taken the extra step of
4 volunteering for this responsibility, your commitment to
5 service is even more commendable.

6 Your role in the decisions you make in the weeks
7 ahead will have a long-term impact on Arizonans for the next
8 ten years.

9 I'll adjust the mic here.

10 Coconino County is a land of vast and endless
11 beauty, and certainly I want to take this moment to say we
12 hope that all the commissioners will be able to come back up
13 here. We have much to show you.

14 And it's also a home to many cultures.

15 The following is a brief snapshot of Coconino
16 County.

17 134,421 persons live in the county. A nearly
18 16 percent increase since 2000.

19 Twenty-seven percent of that population is of
20 Native American descent.

21 Thirty percent of our population has a college
22 degree, a higher percentage than the overall percentage for
23 the state of Arizona.

24 The county is made up of 18,661 square miles,
25 16 percent of the entire state of Arizona.

1 Coconino County is the second largest county in
2 the nation, second only to San Bernardino County in
3 California.

4 Coconino County is larger than the country of
5 Switzerland.

6 Seventy percent of our county population is of
7 voting age.

8 With that as a background, our five board, made up
9 of the supervisors that I've just named and myself, support
10 legislative and congressional districts that incorporate the
11 following principles.

12 One, competitiveness so that voters have a
13 legitimate choice.

14 While we understand that competitiveness cannot be
15 the main criteria for forming districts, it is an important
16 consideration so as to give the citizens of Coconino County
17 meaningful choices in their representatives at the state
18 legislature and in the U.S. congress.

19 Multiple districts of representation.

20 As you have heard from my description of Coconino
21 County, we're a large and diverse area.

22 Therefore the board is currently weighing the pros
23 and cons of multiple representation.

24 On the pro side is the possibility of having more
25 representatives with whom the county can collaborate to

1 further goals.

2 On the con side is the possibility of segmenting
3 the county during an election process.

4 We will continue to weigh the pros and cons as the
5 maps are developed and considered.

6 Finally, the most important concern to the county
7 is communities of interest.

8 Communities of interest, which include, and not
9 necessarily in a priority order, regional economic
10 development, ecotourism, transportation, forestry, ranching,
11 and agricultural, institutions of higher learning, rural
12 versus non-rural areas in the county tribal nations.

13 By way of a brief explanation, the northern
14 Arizona region has worked diligently and continues to work
15 together on effective economic development measures. Our
16 strong and collective interest in regional economic
17 development draws us together as a community.

18 Because of the Grand Canyon and other large tracts
19 of forest and public lands along with the visitors those
20 areas attract year after year, we have a strong community of
21 interest in ecotourism, forestry, and public lands
22 management as a region.

23 We also have a strong interest in large landscape
24 restoration and continuing the industry so ingrained in our
25 rural way of life.

1 As described in my opening comments, we must
2 consistently balance the rural and urban areas of our county
3 which have distinct perspectives.

4 Our vast rural landscapes are home to many
5 residents.

6 These lands also provide the basis for agriculture
7 production, habitat for wildlife, watershed for the recharge
8 of aquifers, and significant opportunities for the
9 development of renewable energy.

10 We value our unique landscapes and have an ethical
11 obligation to the land.

12 Forest industries are a significant economic
13 potential for our region.

14 For the past several years, we've been working
15 diligently on the Four Forest Restoration Initiative.

16 Four national forests are actively engaged in a
17 collaborative landscape scale initiative designed to restore
18 fire adapted ecosystems.

19 These forests are the Kaibab, Coconino,
20 Apache-Sitgreaves, and Tonto.

21 Together with a diverse group of stakeholders, the
22 four forests are working to collaboratively plan and carry
23 out individual -- or carry out landscape scale restoration
24 of Ponderosa Pine forests in northern Arizona.

25 We would ask that you keep the diversity I've

1 described in mind as you develop the maps.

2 Speaking of diversity, we have a large
3 Native American population in the county made up of several
4 Indian tribes: Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Hualapai,
5 Havasupai, Kaibab, Paiute Tribe, and the San Juan Southern
6 Paiute Tribe.

7 These six tribes are all sovereign governments
8 with their own governments, laws, languages, and cultural
9 practices.

10 It will be important for you to listen to their
11 viewpoints and respect their distinct historical and
12 cultural differences as well as their commonalities.

13 And finally, but not least importantly, we hold a
14 strong value on the institution of higher learning in our
15 county area.

16 Northern Arizona University and Coconino Community
17 College are drivers of our future workforce, residents, and
18 business.

19 It is important to us that this high value on
20 education be considered.

21 And, in fact, one of our primary economic
22 development strategies utilizes the intellectual property
23 and expertise from NAU through a process involving
24 incubation of start-up businesses and industries to create
25 new centers for high technology and green enterprises.

1 In closing, we appreciate the dedication of the
2 IRC members and certainly of the staff members for the
3 opportunity to provide our perspective.

4 If there's anything we can do to be of assistance
5 during the weeks and months ahead, please do not hesitate to
6 contact us. You may contact any of the Board of
7 Supervisors, and our county manager, Steve Peru, is also
8 available to assist with this difficult task.

9 And I would ask, since you're literally taking a
10 rain check and hopefully coming back, that, you know, that
11 maybe there can be some time built in so we can show you
12 part of this wonderful part of Arizona.

13 So thank you very much.

14 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you all hear me?

17 RAY BLADINE: Yes, we can hear you. Can you hear
18 us?

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can everybody hear me? You
20 can hear me fine?

21 RAY BLADINE: We can hear you. Can you hear us?

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let me -- I will -- yeah, I
23 can hear you there.

24 So, yeah. Okay.

25 I want to first, I want to apologize and Ray had

1 mentioned to take the blame, but it was my fault. I should
2 have been better prepared.

3 So I hope you accept my apologies.

4 The meeting the, I hope I will be in the second
5 round of meetings, hopefully Flagstaff because I love
6 Flagstaff.

7 So I want to apologize profusely.

8 I think Ray, as the people that are speaking, Ray
9 mentioned the names of people and again if you guys can
10 spell your name, speak clearly, for our court reporter, and
11 there won't be a problem with your comments, that would be
12 great.

13 So are we ready to get started?

14 RAY BLADINE: Can you hear me,
15 Commissioner Herrera?

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I can hear you fine.

17 RAY BLADINE: I think they're working on it, but
18 you're awfully broken up right now.

19 If I understood, I'll go ahead and read the names,
20 and you will monitor what the speakers are saying.

21 Is that correct?

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That is correct.

23 RAY BLADINE: Okay.

24 Now you're sounding much better.

25 Marty was having a hard time also getting this for

1 the record.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Okay.

3 RAY BLADINE: The next speaker we have is the
4 chairman of the Hopi Tribe.

5 And that is LeRoy Shingoitewa.

6 And I would ask him if he would please come
7 forward.

8 And I butchered your name. I'm very sorry. I
9 tried to write it phonetically, and then I blew it, so I
10 apologize.

11 LEROY SHINGOITEWA: That's okay.

12 My name is LeRoy Shingoitewa. L-E, capital R-O-Y.
13 Last name, S-H-I-N-G-O-I-T-E-W-A.

14 First of all, I want to thank you for allowing me
15 to speak this evening in regards to redistricting.

16 For many of you that don't know the Hopi Tribe,
17 the Hopi Tribe is no longer just an island in the middle of
18 the Navajo Nation.

19 We have now gone to the point that we've gone
20 beyond our bounds. We now have lands between Flagstaff and
21 Springerville.

22 And because of that, we have now expanded
23 ourselves to become a, I would say, a contributing member of
24 the counties and of the congressional areas that are now
25 being looked at for redistricting.

1 I think as a tribe we have been watching the
2 various plans that have been made in northern Arizona in
3 regards to how we would like to see redistricting done.

4 We've watched the Navajo Nation do their
5 presentation. We've looked at Flagstaff's plans on
6 redistricting.

7 First and foremost, I think for the Hopi Tribe we
8 are looking to try to keep intact our properties. And
9 because of that, we would ask the commissioners to take a
10 look at where the Indian Hopi lands are.

11 Because, like I said, we are no longer just an
12 island within Navajo.

13 We own property west -- or east of Flagstaff,
14 between Flagstaff and Winslow, and we have ranches that are
15 around Springerville, Clear Creek. And because of that, now
16 the Hopi Tribe will become an economic development force in
17 the northern part of Arizona.

18 We as a Hopi Tribe have not given you a written
19 statement because we've been analyzing what has been put out
20 by the various communities.

21 And now as a Hopi Tribe we believe that we not
22 only are a rural community, but we also are a member of
23 Flagstaff because we own properties here in Flagstaff, and
24 are taxpayers and revenue generators for the city of
25 Flagstaff as well as Winslow and Holbrook.

1 Our plans are to see that we become members of
2 these communities. We want to be members that will work
3 with the various communities we are going to associate with.
4 And in doing so, it becomes very critical for our tribe to
5 be contributing members as well as be accepted as members of
6 the communities that we will associate with.

7 So right now the Hopi Tribe will go back and take
8 a look some more at what we see and follow what's going on
9 with the hearings.

10 And we look forward to coming back before you at
11 this time to the next time having a written statement given
12 to you as a Commission.

13 Thank you.

14 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

15 (Applause.)

16 RAY BLADINE: The next speaker I would like to
17 recognize is Flagstaff City Council member, Art Babbott.

18 Are you still here, I hope?

19 ART BABBOTT: Thank you, members of the
20 Commission.

21 My name is Art Babbott, B-A-B-B-O-T-T.

22 I am here representing the mayor and City Council
23 of Flagstaff, and I wanted to first note two other council
24 members who are in attendance tonight. Karla Brewster is
25 here, and Councilman Coral Evans are here. So I want to

1 thank them for their attendance.

2 I know you heard from the mayor in Bullhead City,
3 and it is our interest and desire to keep the dialogue
4 with you continuing so you can hear our perspectives on two
5 of the most important criteria that I'll be addressing
6 tonight.

7 I want to thank you, Commission, for taking the
8 time to reach out to many different communities throughout
9 the state in your efforts to build consensus on new
10 legislative and congressional district boundaries.

11 The City Council has discussed redistricting on
12 multiple occasions, and is engaged and heard feedback from
13 stakeholders and many of our citizens over the last several
14 months.

15 Both the Flagstaff City Council and these
16 stakeholders are united in terms of the redistricting
17 strategies which we feel are best for our region and very
18 importantly for our state as a whole.

19 We made a decision not to endorse a specific map,
20 but to convey and endorse the values we feel should be
21 associated with any potential legislative and congressional
22 district maps.

23 The City Council has been unanimous endorsing
24 competitiveness and communities of interest as the two most
25 important criteria in the redistricting process.

1 With regard to competitiveness, the city
2 believes -- the City Council believes that competitive
3 districts are key to bring forth legislative and
4 congressional representation that serves the interest of
5 good public policy making.

6 That is where compromise and consensus produce
7 effective public outcomes.

8 We believe that how the Commission measures
9 competitiveness is very, very important.

10 Competitiveness should not be measured solely in
11 terms of party affiliation, as roughly a third of our
12 citizens are registered Independents and would not be
13 counted in terms of how we measure competitiveness.

14 We would encourage you to look at evaluating
15 competitiveness by assessing past electoral contests to
16 determine how Independents lean in given legislative
17 districts.

18 This will enable the Commission to bring forth
19 districts which are competitive to the greatest extent
20 practical.

21 The second clear value that we agreed on very
22 strongly was supporting and maintaining our communities of
23 interest.

24 In part a response for us expressing values as
25 opposed to black lines on a map, we chose to discuss the

1 indicators that define our community and our communities of
2 interest.

3 These include communities which deal with
4 forest health concerns, shared watershed and shared water
5 policy priorities, transportation corridors, including
6 overlapping metropolitan planning areas, and including
7 where we have public transit that services different
8 portions of our region, federal land issues, and those
9 working on collaborative economic development strategies and
10 policies.

11 Keeping Flagstaff in a single legislative district
12 and joined contiguously with our regional partners in
13 northern Arizona is integral to how we define our community
14 of interest.

15 Although the task facing you is challenging, I
16 want to thank you for your commitment to public service.

17 And thank you, commissioner, for Skyping in to us.
18 I'm really appreciative that you have taken the time to make
19 it work.

20 The City Council and our city manager, Kevin
21 Burke, will continue to be contacting the Commission, and we
22 look forward to a return visit with as many members as can
23 make that visit.

24 We very much appreciate that consideration, and
25 want to thank you very much for your time.

1 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 RAY BLADINE: Buck, are we going to try to bring
4 in the commissioner or shall I just proceed?

5 BUCK FORST: He should be hearing us right now.

6 RAY BLADINE: Great. I'll go ahead.

7 The next speaker would be Lina H. Wallen.

8 Did I pronounce it correctly? L-I-N-A.

9 LINA WALLEN: Good evening, everybody. My name is
10 Lina Wallen. My last name is W-A-L-L-E-N.

11 I am not presenting anybody, just myself.

12 I live in Flagstaff for so many years, and tonight
13 I just -- I can't say enough for --

14 RAY BLADINE: Hold on. Let me cut off this other
15 speaker so you can be heard and the court reporter can get
16 the information.

17 (Brief pause.)

18 RAY BLADINE: Thank you for waiting.

19 LINA WALLEN: I will not only spend so much time
20 in term of saying what actually the Board of Supervisors
21 chair, Mandy Metzger, and Art Babbott, a City Council
22 member, that -- but I agree all with that.

23 I just want to emphasis about some kind of -- my
24 personal perspective.

25 I live here for a long time.

1 And I, I couldn't see myself that through a split
2 Flagstaff or the county to be different district, because
3 that will be a split in terms of our community itself.

4 And that's -- I am applying for a community of
5 interest, so please have that city, county all together.

6 And in term of competitiveness, Council Babbott
7 explain it a little bit more clearly than that.

8 So I agree with that.

9 And I want to emphasis about Voting Rights Act.

10 Because I'm as citizen, I couldn't see myself will
11 be represented with somebody that doesn't represent me.

12 For example, from Anthem.

13 Or, let's say, from Bull -- not Bullhead City,
14 might be from Phoenix.

15 Because that's different kind of community.

16 Our community is only half specific in terms
17 cultures, in terms of what kind of, we have in here that
18 form the ranch and such.

19 So if I could make a request, please be consider
20 to have Flagstaff and the County, Coconino County, not to be
21 split.

22 And I understand in term of population, it might
23 be that we need to add if that could be for the similar
24 community of interest and such, it might be we could have it
25 with like Verde Valley, White Mountain, and Sedona.

1 Thank you very much.

2 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 RAY BLADINE: The next speaker, Jackie
5 Dierks-Walker.

6 JACKIE DIERKS-WALKER: My name is Jackie
7 Dierks-Walker.

8 I live in Flagstaff. I've lived here for
9 ten years.

10 I want to thank all of you because I understand
11 you volunteer your time to do this, and it's really
12 important, so thank you for your service.

13 I don't have a lot to say.

14 I just feel like there are so many districts in
15 Arizona where there isn't even a possibility for
16 competitiveness. And if we could redistrict in such a
17 way that we had, like, an eastern northern Arizona district,
18 that we might actually be able to see democracy in action.

19 We could create a district where the competitors
20 could actually speak and be heard. And we could make
21 choices for our community that really matter and where our
22 vote really means something.

23 Thank you.

24 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

25 (Applause.)

1 RAY BLADINE: Louise Hublitz? Hublitz? Did I get
2 close?

3 LOUISE HUBLITZ: You're very close.

4 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

5 LOUISE HUBLITZ: Okay.

6 My name is Louise Hublitz. I'm a resident of the
7 city of Flagstaff, owned property here for that 20 years,
8 and been a full-time resident for about five.

9 I know you people are getting an awful lot of
10 thanks, but I will add my thanks and also my thanks for the
11 opportunity to have a voice for my community. It really
12 reflects our Democratic system.

13 I think you guys have a unique opportunity to
14 create a competitive district. Aligning Flagstaff --
15 keeping it whole and aligning it with Sedona and the
16 Verde Valley.

17 We have very similar interests, and remain aligned
18 in our interest in economics, in national resources, in
19 tourism, in education, and in our values as we raise our
20 families here.

21 My kids are here as well, and are hoping to raise
22 their family here.

23 And I would like to see Flagstaff remain as a
24 whole with the values that I came here to share with my
25 family.

1 So, I'm asking that you keep that in mind to
2 keep Flagstaff as a total community and that you align us
3 with the other rural eastern communities of northern
4 Arizona.

5 I know this is not an easy situation for you guys,
6 but I hope that you'll keep that in mind, and as you move
7 forward, and that you'll come back again and hear from the
8 rest of our community, and see a little bit more of it.

9 Thank you.

10 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

11 (Applause.)

12 RAY BLADINE: Let me -- I forgot to ask you to
13 spell your name at the front, so let me do that for the
14 court reporter.

15 H-U-B-L-I-T-Z; correct?

16 LOUISE HUBLITZ: That's correct.

17 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

18 Jeffrey Hall, director Lowell Observatory.

19 JEFFREY HALL: My name is Jeffrey Hall, H-A-L-L.
20 I live in Flagstaff.

21 Thank you for letting me speak.

22 I work at a nonprofit here in Flagstaff that has
23 been in Arizona for 117 years. Over that time we have
24 developed a lot of connections to higher education. For
25 example, with NAU through collaborations and student interns

1 who work up at the observatory.

2 Federally, our research sites are located on the
3 Coconino National Forest through special use permits from
4 the Forest Service. At one of those sites we operate a
5 highly specialized telescope for the United States Navy.

6 To tourism and stem through our outreach programs,
7 we have a deep connection. Thousand of kids each year come
8 to see us, and the school buses are not just from the
9 Flagstaff Unified School District, but I see buses all the
10 time from Williams, Winslow, Camp Verde, Cottonwood.

11 And finally to business and the economy.

12 Where possible, we try to draw on local
13 contractors and retailers for services and capital projects.

14 I can say fairly confidently that my organization
15 would not exist without these connections.

16 And the more and the better they work, the better
17 off we are.

18 Therefore in the redistricting process, when a
19 community like Flagstaff identifies itself as a unit, or
20 when related communities in a region identify themselves as
21 having common needs, common competing concerns, it is vital
22 to the maximum extent possible to preserve them in cohesive
23 and competitive legislative units.

24 Individual organizations benefit from that.

25 The stronger those connections are, the better we

1 do.

2 Likewise, certainly our elected leaders must be
3 maximally empowered if they too represent regions that
4 present them with a coherent and cohesive set of issues to
5 wrestle with.

6 That I think will give us and Arizona and the
7 federal delegation maximally capable of solving the many
8 problems we face.

9 I'm sure that the task of dividing up the sixth
10 largest state in the union is a rather difficult and
11 thankless one, and I do appreciate your time and effort
12 making this the best area it can be for all of us.

13 Thank you.

14 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 RAY BLADINE: Brian Bates.

17 BRIAN BATES: Ladies and gentlemen of the
18 Commission, thank you for coming to Flagstaff.

19 My name is Brian Bates, B-A-T-E-S.

20 I am a science instructor here at Coconino County
21 College, and I live here in Flagstaff.

22 The northern Arizona region is in my perception a
23 continuous region of interest.

24 Flagstaff is -- I've made a few notes and now I
25 can't read them because I scribbled.

1 RAY BLADINE: I know that problem.

2 BRIAN BATES: Flagstaff and the rural suburban
3 areas such as Doney Park, Mountainaire, Kachina Village, so
4 forth, should be held together because they are a common
5 rooted community.

6 Williams, Grand Canyon, Sedona, and other regions
7 in the south and east of Flagstaff are all united as we
8 are -- have economic reliance upon tourism, education, and
9 the natural resources of this region.

10 Secondly, we share a common watershed, as well a
11 common biogeophysical region, thus our dependance upon the
12 natural resources of the region.

13 We have common transportation issues. How do we
14 get to and from Phoenix in terms of transportation, how do
15 we get within -- not only between our communities but move
16 within our communities.

17 And finally, we have numerous common issues and
18 interactions with federally managed lands.

19 Thus, I believe that the Flagstaff, Sedona,
20 Verde Valley, and communities in the southeast region have a
21 common interest.

22 Second, it's my understanding that by state law
23 the state must consider native communities as a community of
24 interest.

25 The native communities need to have their own

1 voice, and they should be, um, coordinated such that their
2 properties, whether federally mandated reservations or
3 whether acquired lands through purchase, should all be put
4 together.

5 And I would support an independent district for
6 the native communities so that they may voice their opinions
7 as well.

8 Based upon this competitiveness issue, which I
9 think is a very high priority, I found that
10 Representative Tom Chabin has come up with an excellent
11 plan.

12 I am not at the point where I can describe it
13 adequately, but his model serves as one which I think would
14 be a good place to begin the assessment.

15 His plan creates a Flagstaff, Verde Valley, and
16 rural regional system in which the voting patterns basically
17 break out as one third Independent, Republican, and
18 Democrat.

19 That fulfills many of the requirements that the
20 Commission is facing.

21 So I thank you very much for your time, your
22 energy, and may God bless you.

23 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

24 (Applause.)

25 RAY BLADINE: I just want to check in for a

1 second.

2 My understanding is there is no one in Tuba City
3 or Page to speak at this time.

4 (No oral response.)

5 RAY BLADINE: I guess we'll go back to Page and
6 Tuba City and double check.

7 But I was told we don't have anyone there, but
8 I'll go back and check in a moment.

9 I feel like I'm doing a talk show or something.

10 Kathryn Kozak.

11 KATHRYN KOZAK: Hello. My name is Kathryn Kozak,
12 K-O-Z-A-K. And I'm a resident of Flagstaff.

13 First, I commend you on your activities.

14 I actually teach apportionment in my math classes.
15 So I wish you luck.

16 Redistricting on top of that has got to be even
17 more fun.

18 When I was looking through and listening to your
19 presentation, the things that kept pointing out to me was
20 use visible geographic features.

21 Currently Flagstaff is in two legislative
22 districts.

23 It really needs to be in one, and it needs to be
24 in one that makes sense for all of us in Coconino County.

25 In addition, Coconino County Community College,

1 the one you're sitting in right now, which happens to be
2 where I work, is for the whole county, yet we're represented
3 by different legislative districts.

4 And that doesn't seem to make a whole lot of sense
5 when you think of how this place is funded, and community
6 colleges are funded in general.

7 I would like to see us, because we also go down to
8 Sedona, it would make more sense to have a Sedona,
9 Camp Verde connection, and then we would whatever other
10 thoughts are in place and to keep Coconino Community
11 College -- Coconino County in one district.

12 The other thing that I wanted to mention is that I
13 notice that all of the commissioners, and this isn't a
14 criticism, I know that all of them are from Pima County and
15 Maricopa County.

16 And you're well represented in our legislature.

17 The rurals, we don't get as much representation,
18 so I would like to see more rural districts and more
19 competitive districts also would be helpful, so that we get
20 a voice also.

21 Thank you.

22 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 RAY BLADINE: Stephen G. Walker.

25 STEPHEN G. WALKER: My name is Steve Walker. My

1 last name is spelled W-A-L-K-E-R.

2 I'm a Flagstaff resident.

3 I will try to be brief, but I'm a former college
4 professor, and it could turn out to be difficult.

5 RAY BLADINE: We do have a timer. We could use it
6 if you think you need help.

7 STEPHEN G. WALKER: I'll keep that in mind.

8 I really only want to make two points and say why
9 I believe these are important.

10 I'd like to add my support to Flagstaff being a
11 single community of interest or conceptualize that way as
12 you go through your process, and also to link it to the
13 areas just mentioned in northern eastern Arizona.

14 And exclude Prescott and Mohave Counties.

15 I think they're sort of a natural political
16 frontier that you can identify going as far south as the
17 Verde Valley and into the east.

18 And I think the other reason for those kind of
19 borders is because it's possible to construct a competitive
20 district with those geographical features in mind.

21 I think competitiveness, although it's the last
22 value that you mention in your protocols, is probably the
23 most important from a system-wide perspective.

24 Because if you follow the competitiveness
25 principle, you keep politicians honest and accountable, no

1 matter what part of the state you're talking about.

2 And if you keep them honest and accountable, you
3 have to -- in order to do that, you have to have the
4 political power within the unit roughly in equilibrium.

5 So, minorities are actually empowered in a
6 district where there is no clear majority.

7 The whole point of this process is to try to
8 overcome potential tyranny in small majorities, majorities
9 in small districts. Because if you gerrymander, that breaks
10 the system up in a way in which people who may be in the
11 majority of the state as a whole never are in the majority
12 anywhere.

13 And if you at least make the districts
14 competitive, then it allows politicians to compete on equal
15 terms for the seats that they're trying to be elected to and
16 it allows for change to occur once somebody is in power if
17 it turns out that the electorate made a mistake in light of
18 subsequent developments.

19 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

20 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

21 (Applause.)

22 RAY BLADINE: Patricia Rensink.

23 (No oral response.)

24 RAY BLADINE: I'm sorry, make it Patricia Ramsink.

25 Maybe that would get someone. R-A-M --

1 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: She had to leave.

2 RAY BLADINE: Okay. I'll bring it back.

3 Thank you.

4 Doug Ballard.

5 DOUG BALLARD: Thank you. Doug Ballard,

6 B-A-L-L-A-R-D.

7 I'm from Parks, Arizona, a rural part of the
8 county.

9 I'd like to really thank you.

10 Many people may not realize, but the commissioners
11 are citizen volunteers. And we very much value the time and
12 effort that you're putting into this.

13 This is probably one of the most important
14 activities that is going on that will affect our democratic
15 system in Arizona, and it's extremely important, and we
16 appreciate the time and commitment that you're providing.

17 And I think to complement what some other speakers
18 have said, I do want to urge you to take competitiveness
19 very, very seriously.

20 I think democracy is well served when there can be
21 an honest and civil -- civic -- civil discussion, open
22 discussion, of ideas from different perspectives.

23 And the more competitive a district can be, I
24 think the more democracy is served.

25 So I would certainly urge you to do that.

1 Some major points in terms of geography of what a
2 district might look like from my perspective.

3 We do -- I would urge you to keep greater
4 Flagstaff area whole.

5 By greater Flagstaff, I mean a good part of the
6 populated portion of Coconino County. You certainly have
7 Flagstaff, Doney Park, Kachina Village, Parks, Belmont, and
8 those areas.

9 I think in terms of communities of interest, we
10 have much in common with Sedona, with the Verde Valley, with
11 Grand Canyon Village, with the rural counties to the east
12 and southeast of us, Navajo, Apache, Gila Counties.

13 We share much in common, some of which has been
14 said before.

15 Our, our proximity to federal lands, our
16 economies, forestry.

17 Just general physical environment.

18 Someone had mentioned earlier, and I would concur,
19 the Four Forest Restoration Initiative, for example. I
20 think that was Supervisor Metzger may have talked about
21 that.

22 And that's just the one example of the
23 commonalities we share with eastern Arizona.

24 So I would urge a competitive district with
25 Flagstaff and the greater Flagstaff area in terms of

1 congressional districts and eastern Arizona as I had
2 mentioned.

3 And in terms of legislative districts also, I
4 think we have much in common with many of those same areas.

5 So thank you very much.

6 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 RAY BLADINE: Roger Curley.

9 ROGER CURLEY: My name is Roger Curley,
10 C-U-R-L-E-Y.

11 I want to thank the commissioners for coming up
12 here.

13 You know, I'm looking out here at this beautiful
14 view here, the sun setting. Too bad Commissioner Herrera
15 couldn't be here to see it.

16 But it's one of the reasons that makes this place
17 unique.

18 And that's why rural Arizona is different from
19 Maricopa County, different from Pima County.

20 That's one of the reasons why we need to have
21 districts in rural Arizona.

22 From a congressional side, this would mean we can
23 form two rural districts with the population in rural
24 Arizona.

25 One on the western side and one on the eastern

1 side of Arizona.

2 From Flagstaff's standpoint, we would like to be
3 in a competitive district.

4 The only way that can occur and have rural
5 districts is by having Flagstaff coupled with eastern
6 Arizona. That's Apache County, Navajo County, and
7 Gila County.

8 And have that -- that would make a competitive
9 district.

10 I understand we'll have to go further down the
11 eastern side of Arizona in order to draw in enough
12 population.

13 But if we do that, then I think the people of
14 Flagstaff will be well served.

15 From the legislative district side, we know that
16 there is a requirement that a certain percentage of Native
17 Americans be put in a district.

18 And as a result of that requirement, with respect
19 to northern Arizona, this means that the only way that
20 Flagstaff can get into a competitive district is if greater
21 Flagstaff is kept together.

22 And, to be combined with the Verde Valley and to
23 be combined with the White Mountains.

24 Otherwise we can't be in a competitive northern
25 district given the Native American population.

1 So I would request that you do give good -- due
2 consideration to that, in order to give us the competitive
3 district we want.

4 Thank you very much.

5 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 RAY BLADINE: Two quick things.

8 Commissioner Freeman is watching online, and
9 indicated that at times it's hard to hear, so if the
10 speakers would again try to get as close to the mic as
11 possible, that would help, although the sound certainly has
12 been coming across in this room.

13 And I would also like to point out that
14 Commissioner Herrera is an NAU graduate, so he has enjoyed
15 some of those sunsets and had hoped to be here.

16 So I want to give him that local credit.

17 With that, Patricia Rensink.

18 You get to be the first person after I admonish
19 people to come to the mic, so let's see how you do here.

20 PATRICIA RENSINK: Hi. My name is Patricia
21 Rensink, R-E-N-S-I-N-K.

22 And I just have to say that as soon as I got up to
23 go down the hall, I knew that would happen.

24 RAY BLADINE: Sorry.

25 PATRICIA RENSINK: I am a resident of Flagstaff,

1 Arizona, ten years today.

2 And a proud resident of Flag.

3 I have two requests for redistricting.

4 And I appreciate all of the work that all of you
5 are doing. It's a challenging and admirable job that you
6 doing.

7 The two requests I have is that, one, with the new
8 congressional district that we are gaining in the state of
9 Arizona, I think it's imperative that that be a rural
10 district. Quite honestly I think our urban communities have
11 enough representation.

12 (Applause.)

13 PATRICIA RENSINK: And my second request would be
14 that Flagstaff be kept intact.

15 With those two things being said, my overall
16 request is that we work as hard as possible to have as many
17 competitive districts in this state as we can.

18 Some research has shown us that we should be able
19 to gain at least 13 competitive districts in the state.

20 I believe that this can solve a lot of the
21 problems that we are seeing in our state. And I will quote
22 you some figures from a couple of Gallup polls.

23 One Gallup poll done this spring says that Arizona
24 has the 3rd most conservative legislature in the country.

25 However, our voter population, our registered

1 voters, are actually ranked the 28th most conservative.

2 So you can see from 3rd to 28th that that is a
3 significant discrepancy.

4 A second Gallup poll, which is actually being used
5 by Lattie Coor in the Arizona We Want project, states that
6 less than 10 percent of our voter population believes that
7 our elected officials are doing a satisfactory job, and less
8 than 10 percent of our voter population believes that our
9 elected officials are in touch with their constituency.

10 This is a significant problem, which I believe can
11 be solved with conscientious redistricting efforts.

12 So I thank you all for your work.

13 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 RAY BLADINE: Professor Lawrence Mohrweis.

16 LAWRENCE MOHRWEIS: Good evening. Welcome to
17 Flagstaff.

18 My name is Lawrence Mohnweis, L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E,
19 Mohrweis, M-O-H-R-W-E-I-S.

20 I'm a professor in the W.A. Franke College of
21 Business at Northern Arizona University.

22 I was also one of the 25 finalists for membership
23 on the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, as
24 selected by the Commission on Appellate Court Appointees.

25 Do the five commissioners, now listening on the

1 Internet, remember when we all stood before the Commission
2 to answer a few questions?

3 That was only a few months ago, but it now seems
4 like a decade ago.

5 The Commission on Appellate Court Appointments
6 warned the applicants that this would be a very high time
7 demanding job.

8 Reviewing your work schedule, it is my impression
9 that they were right.

10 However, what the Commission did not warn us about
11 was the enormous political pressures that would be placed on
12 each one of you.

13 Well, I am here to give you my views and to
14 emphasize three points.

15 First, as you do your work, it is not important
16 that Republicans win or Democrats win or Independents win.

17 It is, however, very important that the voters
18 win.

19 Voters win when there are competitive districts.
20 Voters win when there is a free market exchange of ideas
21 generated through highly contested general elections.

22 Yes, I understand that competitiveness is only one
23 of the many attributes that you must consider when drawing
24 up districts, but I urge you, as much as possible, let the
25 voters win.

1 Second, I'm amazed at how much political pressure
2 that you folks, that is the commissioners, have had to
3 endure.

4 Stay strong. Stay tough.

5 What you are doing has ramifications not only for
6 Arizona, but beyond Arizona.

7 Taking the politicians out of the redistricting
8 process could become the future model for redistricting in
9 the United States.

10 Very few states allow independent commissions to
11 draw lines.

12 Arizona, California, Iowa.

13 These are just some of the states that are
14 laboratories for democracy, to use a term once coined by our
15 former Supreme Court justice.

16 So, yes, you will get discouraged, but stay
17 strong.

18 One day I'd like to see the political commentators
19 on Fox News, MSNBC News, and other news shows cite Arizona
20 as the number one role model for redistricting for the rest
21 of the country.

22 Finally, whatever your final product is, there is
23 a high degree of certainty that your redistricting maps will
24 be challenged by some group, somewhere, in court.

25 I would encourage the commissioners to constantly

1 be aware of the open meeting law requirements.

2 Every time you go into executive session, it
3 should be viewed as a failure.

4 That's such an important point that it's worth
5 repeating.

6 As you prepare your maps, every time you go into
7 executive session, it should be viewed as a failure.

8 Those that challenge your maps will only be
9 successful in their challenges if they can prove to a judge
10 that the commissioners engaged in decision making behind
11 closed doors.

12 So do your deliberations, all of your
13 deliberations, in open meetings.

14 As you know, all five commissioners on the Arizona
15 Independent Redistricting Commission were chosen from
16 Maricopa and Pima Counties.

17 Rural counties, like Coconino County, lack
18 representation on this Commission.

19 However, I truly think that Arizona has a fine set
20 of excellent and committed commissioners.

21 Coconino is a distinctive region, so I do ask that
22 during the public comment meetings that the commissioners
23 carefully listen to the concerns from our city leaders, from
24 our community leaders, from our county leaders, and from
25 members of this unique northern Arizona community.

1 Thank you for your hard work, welcome to
2 Flagstaff, and I have to throw in this last line, I look
3 forward to seeing all five commissioners in person at our
4 next meeting at Coconino County.

5 Thank you.

6 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 RAY BLADINE: Cathy Anne Trotta.

9 CATHY ANNE TROTТА: Thank you very much for your
10 presence here and your openness to listen to this community.

11 I've been a resident of Flagstaff for 33 years.

12 I received my Ph.D. in history and political
13 science from NAU, so I feel I can speak very closely maybe
14 with a little bit of ethnocentricity toward the strength of
15 Flagstaff and this northern Arizona community.

16 My last name is spelled T-R-O-T-T-A.

17 First of all, as a historian, I want to stress
18 that I have become aware of Flagstaff's overall strengths in
19 cultural diversity.

20 Issues relating to forest ecology, strengths and
21 beliefs on the environment, tremendous amount of care about
22 sacred space, and values.

23 These are all part of a long-established community
24 association.

25 And what I want to support quickly is competitive

1 districts.

2 This is really sincerely a part of the Democratic
3 process.

4 I am hoping that the plan that you might consider
5 is keeping on a congressional level Flagstaff and Coconino
6 County with Navajo County, Apache County, Gila County,
7 Sedona, Verde Valley, not necessarily Prescott and the rest
8 of eastern greater Arizona.

9 These four counties and the Sedona, Verde Valley
10 region are a community of interest, and similar values tied
11 to economics, natural resources, medical care, quality of
12 life, and sacred values.

13 Evidence of this is obvious in existing
14 partnerships.

15 And, as a whole, I'm hoping that you will keep the
16 Flagstaff community as one.

17 It is a leader in forestry, tourism, renewable
18 energy. And that the possibility of maintaining Flagstaff
19 in one space, not splitting it, is the logical thing, to
20 maintain community values and Democratic process.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 RAY BLADINE: Sydney Tolchinsky.

25 SYDNEY TOLCHINSKY: Very good. Tolchinsky.

1 That's T-O-L-C-H-I-N-S-K-Y.

2 I am representing the Planned Parenthood Advocates
3 of Arizona and reading their statement to the Commission.

4 Let me begin by telling you all who we are.

5 Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona is a
6 political action committee that supports the activities of
7 Planned Parenthood Arizona.

8 Just like this Commission, our board is made up of
9 Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, from both Tucson
10 and Phoenix.

11 As for Planned Parenthood Arizona itself,
12 presumably you aware that Planned Parenthood Arizona has
13 been providing medical services and counseling to women
14 across Arizona for over 75 years.

15 Today Planned Parenthood Arizona provides these
16 services to 14 health centers in 11 cities across Arizona.

17 Here in our state, over 80 percent of the more
18 than 50,000 patients we serve annually receive preventative
19 health care, including life saving cancer screenings, STD
20 treatment and testing, and birth control.

21 As a provider of charitable care, we are often the
22 only health care provider available for many of our
23 patients.

24 We're both excited and hopeful about the
25 redistricting process.

1 As a health care provider which regularly
2 participates in the legislative process, often not by our
3 choice, we have witnessed firsthand the deterioration of
4 civic dialogue in our state's legislative process.

5 There's almost no bipartisanship to speak of on
6 either side of the aisle.

7 Legislation is heard in stacked committee hearings
8 with a near complete disregard for both the facts and the
9 right of interested parties and citizens to be heard.

10 Results are valued without regard to due process,
11 and typically those results seem predetermined.

12 To us, at least part of the problem stems from
13 Arizona's lack of competitive legislative districts. Once
14 again, on both sides of the aisle.

15 As a result of this lack of competition,
16 legislative races are often too decided -- or too often
17 decided in primaries.

18 We know the primaries are dominated by voters
19 within the given political parties, and we firmly believe
20 that primaries are disproportionately dominated by the more
21 extreme elements within each of the two major parties.

22 Finally and most importantly, when legislative
23 races are decided in primaries, it obviously eliminates the
24 effectiveness and purpose of general elections.

25 The key result is a lower voter turnout.

1 To us, lower voter turnout is undemocratic.

2 We know this is not one of the expressed criteria
3 set forth for this Commission, but to us it would seem to be
4 a fundamental goal for the Commission to make sure that the
5 maximum number of voters are motivated to participate in
6 Arizona's electoral process.

7 We know that everyone involved is aware of
8 Arizona's past record of discrimination. Our state's
9 redistricting process is subject to oversight by the
10 United States Department of Justice. We know that part of
11 the voting rights analysis is the maintenance of minority
12 majority districts.

13 We recognize that this Commission must respect
14 its legal obligation and the historical deeds that underlie
15 it.

16 However, this legal obligation should not be the
17 sole controlling factor in this Commission's work.

18 In our view, this legal obligation has served as
19 an excessive justification for districts that too heavily
20 lean Democratic, which in turn results in the creation of
21 other districts that lean too heavily Republican.

22 This may well be in the interest of the two
23 parties to secure safe seats, but is not in the interest of
24 Arizona.

25 Arizona needs fewer safe seats and more

1 competitive seats.

2 Finally, we recognize that there is no single
3 pendency as for what we perceive to be the degraded state of
4 Arizona's legislative process.

5 More competitive seats alone will not produce a
6 more dignified legislative process. Nevertheless, we
7 believe that anything that increases voter turnout will
8 produce a better legislature.

9 Besides increased voter turnout, it's a good thing
10 in and of itself.

11 We believe more competitive districts will
12 re-enfranchise more Arizonans than anything else this
13 Commission might consider.

14 We want to thank you for your time and effort, and
15 thank you for listening.

16 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 RAY BLADINE: Our next speaker, Jim McCarthy.

19 JIM MCCARTHY: My name is Jim McCarthy,
20 M-C-C-A-R-T-H-Y.

21 I'm a resident of Flagstaff.

22 And I guess I want to offer something for the
23 Democratic party, the Republican party, and for the people
24 of Arizona.

25 And I might mention that I ran twice for

1 legislature.

2 I ran as a Democrat in a Republican district.

3 And what I offer the Republicans is that I lost
4 the race.

5 What I offer to the Democrats is that I came
6 within 56 votes of winning.

7 So there is a chance.

8 So I guess the real question is what did I learn
9 in this process, which is what I want to bring to you
10 tonight.

11 And what that is is that safe districts promote
12 polarization of our political process.

13 That's the key point I want to make.

14 Polarization.

15 What happens is that the extreme Democrats win the
16 Democratic primaries and the extreme Republicans win the
17 Republican primaries.

18 And if they're in so-called safe districts, what
19 we end up is with extreme politicians that don't represent
20 the people of Arizona.

21 So the bottom line is that what we need is
22 competitive districts, that's the most important thing in my
23 mind, rather than safe districts.

24 So what the people get out of this is that we will
25 get representation that is closer to where the people are,

1 rather than where the parties are, and less polarization in
2 our political process.

3 Thank you.

4 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 RAY BLADINE: Just to give you kind of an idea of
7 where we are.

8 It looks like we have about 24 more speaker
9 sheets.

10 And we've been going through them very rapidly.

11 If we though take about three minutes per person,
12 which is I'm going to guess about what we did, we'd have
13 about another hour.

14 And I am just letting you know that to kind of
15 give you a status of where we are.

16 I don't see any need to time, because I think
17 people have been very quickly getting their points out, and
18 I think that's been very helpful to the Commission's
19 listening.

20 I think what I'll do, to speed it up a little,
21 I'll call three names. And then if you would be ready in
22 that order, that might help us a bit.

23 Eve Ross.

24 And then Bruce Nordstrum and Bill Callaway.

25 Is Eve Ross here?

1 EVE ROSS: Yeah.

2 RAY BLADINE: I couldn't see you back there.

3 I'm sorry.

4 EVE ROSS: I'm short.

5 RAY BLADINE: So am I. I can't see over the
6 podium from here.

7 EVE ROSS: My name is Eve Ross, R-O-S, as in Sam,
8 S as in Sam.

9 I'm here representing W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc.
10 We're one of the largest private employers in northern
11 Arizona with approximately 1800 associates in Flagstaff and
12 about 500 in north Phoenix.

13 As you can tell from that description, we're
14 frequent users of I-17.

15 Gore in Arizona manufactures a range of
16 cardiovascular devices for the treatment of disease in
17 humans.

18 Our workforce is approximately one third
19 technical, engineers, biologists, biomedical engineers,
20 physicians, nurses, statisticians, scientists, and other
21 technically trained associates.

22 As scientists, we often find the political process
23 remarkable.

24 Gore would like the IRC to take note of
25 four points in its deliberations.

1 One, a definition of competitiveness.

2 Gore supports the creation of competitive
3 districts wherever possible.

4 We define competitiveness as an approximately
5 equal representation within five percent of Democrats,
6 Republicans, and Independents/other.

7 Based on the 2010 census data and the voter
8 registration statistics kept by the Secretary of State, we
9 propose this definition for your consideration.

10 Second, a competitive legislature district.

11 Gore supports a competitive legislative district
12 that would include the Flagstaff area, the Verde Valley, and
13 the White Mountain region.

14 This area is bound by common interest, including
15 rural characteristics, dependence on I-17, coherence of
16 medical care, tourism, water, and forest issues.

17 Third, a competitive congressional district.

18 We respectfully ask the IRC to include
19 Coconino County in a competitive congressional district that
20 encompasses greater northeastern Arizona.

21 And fourth, more participation is better.

22 Competitive districts will encourage greater
23 participation in the political process, the opposite, if you
24 like, of you can't win if you don't play.

25 Greater citizen participation based on more

1 likelihood of influence will require candidates to engage
2 with a wider array of voters in order to get elected.

3 It will also reduce the importance of party
4 primaries and allow meaningful participation by the many
5 Independents in Arizona generally and northern Arizona
6 specifically.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

8 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 RAY BLADINE: Bruce.

11 Bruce Nordstrum: Good evening. I am Bruce
12 Nordstrum. That's N-O-R-D-S-T-R-O-M.

13 Commissioner Herrera, and also representatives of
14 our Independent Commission, Redistricting Commission, I
15 thank you for the opportunity to speak.

16 I come here -- I've lived here -- been blessed to
17 live here since 1975.

18 Very fortunate to have a local business. But our
19 business, a CPA firm, like many of our clients, are
20 struggling with the economy. We've gone from a firm of
21 13 people just a few years ago to 10 people.

22 So we as a firm have a keen interest in the future
23 of our state, and this redistricting is so important.

24 The two issues I'm going to speak to are very
25 similar to what you've heard.

1 The communities of interest. Eve and many others
2 have said that to the south of us and also to the east of us
3 in the White Mountains we have many economic similarities,
4 economic ties, not only what Eve mentioned. She did mention
5 health care, but also water issues.

6 We have a number of rural water issues that we
7 don't always see eye to eye on, but we need to come together
8 and work on those.

9 And then the other issues of the competitive
10 districting, we, we sit -- people I associate with, my
11 colleagues, we are frustrated not to have more balanced
12 legislative races where people from all parties or all
13 representative areas have a legitimate shot to win and we
14 can get the best candidates out there.

15 And we can bring some saneness to our state
16 legislature.

17 We would really appreciate that up north.

18 Thank you very much.

19 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 RAY BLADINE: Bill Calloway.

22 BILL CALLOWAY: Good evening, commissioner and
23 staff.

24 My name is Bill Calloway, C-A-L-L-O-W-A-Y.

25 I'm the plant manager with --

1 RAY BLADINE: I'm sorry, could you repeat the
2 spelling of your name for the record?

3 BILL CALLOWAY: C-A-L-L-O-W-A-Y.

4 RAY BLADINE: And, I'm sorry, plant manager, do
5 that again for the record.

6 BILL CALLOWAY: Okay.

7 I'm the plant manager with the Nestle Purina Pet
8 Care Company here in Flagstaff.

9 I've been part of Purina's management team for
10 35 years.

11 I've worked in Pennsylvania, Iowa, Ohio, New York,
12 Georgia, most of these in rural communities.

13 For the last 15 years I've been the plant manager
14 here in Flagstaff.

15 I stand before you this evening as a long-time
16 businessman who recognizes the many challenges that most
17 businesses in northern Arizona have.

18 We continually deal with the shortage of a skilled
19 workforce.

20 We see that the high cost of living impacts the
21 ability of our graduates to remain in this community.
22 Because of this, I've worked hard to actively support
23 economic development and workforce development.

24 I've been -- currently I'm on boards of Chamber of
25 Commerce, Flagstaff Forty, the Northern Arizona Economic

1 Development, and also on the United Way board. I'm past
2 chair of the Greater Flagstaff Economic Council, Chamber of
3 Commerce, United Way.

4 And all these lead me to what I'm discussing, the
5 issues of these various committees.

6 Communities of interest become critical for
7 economic development.

8 When I take a look from economic development
9 arenas as a holistic point of view, I'm asking you to look
10 at the congressional and legislative district boundaries.
11 You consider these collaborative efforts as evidence of
12 existing communities of interest. As a member of each one
13 of these organizations, I've sat side by side in meetings
14 with officials from the public and private sector,
15 educators, citizens, and representatives from other groups
16 from Flagstaff and Verde Valley working together to try to
17 tackle issues related to economic development.

18 Within economic development, we look at
19 transportation, education, forest health, tourism, water
20 management, health care, and preservation of our economic
21 base.

22 Northern Arizona municipalities have worked
23 together on both state legislation and also legislation
24 before congress.

25 The public record shows the communities' testimony

1 as evidence of having common goals and interests.

2 Flagstaff sits at the center of northern Arizona
3 with I-17 and I-40 corridors running through it.

4 It's important to link the communities along that
5 corridor as much as humanly possible to provide for
6 consistency and congruency among the communities.

7 I would be remiss if I did not talk about the
8 diversity of the pop -- of our population and the importance
9 of representation.

10 It is important that the new lines represent the
11 diversity and allow for competitive legislative and
12 congressional districts to ensure that each citizen feels
13 that they have a seat at the table in electing the
14 representatives. Districts that favor one party over
15 another only serve to disenfranchise the voter at the
16 beginning of the local process.

17 Again, I want to thank you for your service and
18 the ability to come speak before you.

19 Thank you very much.

20 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 RAY BLADINE: I'll read through more names.

23 The next speaker would be Jamescita Peshlakai.

24 Then Dea Brasgala and Tony Harmon.

25 And I hope I didn't ruin someone's name too bad.

1 JAMESCITA PESHAKAI: My name is probably the most
2 challenging one, and you did pretty good.

3 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

4 If you'd spell it though for our friend. He --

5 JAMESCITA PESHAKAI: My name is Jamescita
6 Peshlakai. Last name is P-E-S-H-L-A-K-A-I.

7 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

8 JAMESCITA PESHAKAI: Thank you.

9 Honorable Commission, thank you for service, the
10 work that you're doing.

11 (Whereupon, Jamescita Peshlakai made a statement
12 in a foreign language.)

13 JAMESCITA PESHAKAI: Thank you.

14 I see many people that are concerned citizens and
15 friends and respectable folks that I know here, and I am
16 glad they're all speaking.

17 I am Navajo, born and raised in northern Arizona.
18 And I don't officially speak for anybody. But as a humble
19 community person, Navajo, I just want to give you the
20 information of many of the lives of people that are not here
21 tonight, the Navajo, the Hopi, the Havasupai, the Hualapai,
22 the San Juan Paiute.

23 We've been here thousands of years, and we have
24 migration patterns that go essentially to Flagstaff, to the
25 mountain, whether it is to provide for our families, food,

1 hunt, gather, or get medicinal plants or to offer our
2 prayers in our spiritual ways.

3 And the people that I speak for are not here,
4 because they're watching the clouds, they're watching the
5 seasons, the monsoons are here, they're planting, and
6 they're hard working people.

7 So, I speak for these people that are not here.

8 And to keep in mind that every single dollar that
9 is earned on the reservation is brought to the border towns,
10 Flagstaff. We buy all our farm equipment here, all of our
11 food, our supplies.

12 Maybe for the exception of a few cans of coins
13 that are buried in somebody's backyard, every dollar comes
14 off the reservation.

15 I want you to be aware of that. Educate
16 yourselves.

17 We have people here that in this area that provide
18 the economic -- some economic power, and I don't want them
19 disempowered, because that is our history.

20 And we are losing many things, and I implore you
21 to keep these folks in mind. They are very much a part of
22 northern Arizona, the history, the culture.

23 And you see towns -- stores here in town that are
24 built upon the economy and the culture of Native Americans.

25 So, we are very important.

1 And I also want to say to my people, the working
2 families of northern Arizona, whoever you may be, whatever
3 race or belief you have, to register to vote, and that's the
4 only way we will be heard.

5 So thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

8 Dea?

9 DEA BRASGALLA: I don't move as fast as I used to.

10 RAY BLADINE: That's happening to me too. And I
11 don't get up like I used to either.

12 DEA BRASGALLA: Yeah, I know. I know the feeling.

13 RAY BLADINE: Can I ask you to pull the mic down,
14 please?

15 DEA BRASGALLA: My name is Dea Brasgalla. That's
16 D-E-A, and my last name is B-R-A-S-G-A-L-L-A.

17 And I represent myself, and I thank you all for
18 your efforts in this endeavor.

19 I live in Rimrock, which is a rural community, of
20 course.

21 I don't even have mail delivery where I live. I
22 have to have a Cornville mail address.

23 Anyway, I feel that Flagstaff, greater Flagstaff,
24 should be included in, along with the Verde Valley, Sedona,
25 the city of Cottonwood, Cornville, and McGuireville, those

1 communities to the west, Clarkdale, Jerome, the village of
2 Oak Creek, should all be together.

3 We really don't have anything in common with
4 Prescott.

5 So we don't even hardly go there half the time.
6 Anyway, we have the same economics.

7 We have tourism.

8 We have a lot of small businesses.

9 We have a lot of art galleries, et cetera.

10 So I just feel that that should be, that should be
11 a district of competitiveness and a community of interest.

12 Thank you very much for letting me share.

13 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 RAY BLADINE: Tony Harmon.

16 TONY HARMON: Hi. I'm Tony Harmon. I've lived in
17 Flagstaff for almost 11 years now. And, as such, I'd like
18 to see competitive districts in basically the spirit of
19 fairness.

20 As a community, we are already closely tied with
21 eastern Arizona. And I believe we can best represent our
22 communities by creating an eastern greater Arizona.

23 We are closely tied with Sedona, White Mountains,
24 Verde Valley, and I think we should continue to be.

25 On a congressional level I feel that Coconino

1 County and Flagstaff should be kept with Navajo County,
2 Apache County, Gila County, and Sedona.

3 These areas are connected. We are connected by
4 our resources. We're connected by our economies.

5 We share natural resources, medical care, cultural
6 arts, tourism, mining, small business.

7 And we work together.

8 Flagstaff as a whole, along with these other
9 areas, are leading the state in technology, forest
10 redevelopment, renewable energy, and I would like to see a
11 greater legislative district including one that includes all
12 of Flagstaff.

13 This would include Munds Park, Doney Park,
14 Timberline, all the surrounding areas. They are a part of
15 Flagstaff.

16 There's no -- basically no differentiation between
17 them as far as the community is concerned.

18 They are a part of Flagstaff.

19 And we'd like to keep it that way.

20 I don't think that our communities would be well
21 served by splitting Flagstaff.

22 I would hope that you would give that
23 consideration and realize that our community may be best
24 represented as a whole.

25 And that's all I have to say.

1 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

2 (Applause.)

3 RAY BLADINE: I'd like to release our Spanish
4 translator. And I know if I ask in English if anyone needs
5 Spanish translation, that doesn't work very well, but I'm
6 going to take a chance anyway since we haven't had a
7 request.

8 Is there anyone out there that would like to have
9 assistance with language in Spanish?

10 (No oral response.)

11 RAY BLADINE: Okay. Thank you very much.

12 Thank you.

13 The next three would be Glenn Hoge, Charlie
14 Silver, and Marian McCollister.

15 So, Glenn.

16 GLENN HOGE: Hi. My name is Glenn Hoge, last name
17 is H-O-G-E.

18 I've lived in northern Arizona for 38 years.
19 Eleven years at Grand Canyon and 27 years in Flagstaff.

20 I want to thank the Commission.

21 Arizona is one -- is among one of the very few
22 states in the country where we actually have an Independent
23 Redistricting Commission.

24 I really appreciate that.

25 I also appreciate the extraordinary --

1 extraordinarily difficult -- how difficult this whole
2 redistricting process is and trying to balance all these
3 competing needs.

4 There are two things that I am extremely concerned
5 about in the redistricting process.

6 First of all is competitiveness.

7 Candidates should have to, should have to campaign
8 throughout their district, regardless of what it is.

9 The best way that I think I can explain
10 competitiveness is to give an example of what it should not
11 be. And that's the current situation.

12 I currently live in Legislative District 1, which
13 is not part of Flagstaff.

14 I'm right outside the city limit in Kachina
15 Village.

16 And therefore I'm in Legislative District 1.

17 Over the years, our legislators have been almost
18 exclusively from Yavapai County, Prescott area, and Mohave
19 County.

20 Not once have they campaigned anywhere near
21 Flagstaff or near where I live.

22 I did not get to see them very often. They didn't
23 even campaign, not even any campaign signs.

24 The first time I ever saw who the candidate was
25 was when I got my sample ballot.

1 And -- so really as far as voter information, as
2 far as -- it's not right.

3 We're not part of the Prescott area.

4 We're not part of that part of Yavapai County.

5 The second thing I want to stress is that is the
6 community of interest.

7 And I think that we should be part of the greater
8 eastern Arizona district, which should include Flagstaff,
9 Sedona, Verde Valley, Grand Canyon, Navajo County, Apache
10 County, and Gila County.

11 I think there are strong ties with that area.

12 We have historical ties. We have ties with our
13 forest, tourism. We're with Flagstaff and -- Flagstaff area
14 and White Mountains, a lot of second homes both in those
15 areas that we have in common.

16 We have a lot of state and national monuments,
17 state and national parks and monuments in this area that
18 ties us together.

19 We have a lot of the same national resources --
20 natural resources. And also, we all have strong
21 Native American friends throughout this sort of district.

22 Flagstaff absolutely should not be split for the
23 same reason that I mentioned, that the areas surrounding
24 Flagstaff currently are in a different legislative district.

25 I support -- there should be eight greater

1 legislative districts in Arizona that represent the rural
2 interest.

3 And, one thing that I would say about Flagstaff
4 being part of this reason for not splitting Flagstaff is
5 Flagstaff is an extremely tight community.

6 We have -- we value public service highly.

7 Most of the people in Flagstaff, I would say,
8 would know the mayor, the City Council members, and the
9 Board of Supervisors in our county.

10 And I think that's a reason to make sure we should
11 not be split, and the surrounding communities should not be
12 split as well.

13 Thank you.

14 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 RAY BLADINE: Charlie Silver.

17 Charlie Silver?

18 He gave up on us.

19 (No oral response.)

20 RAY BLADINE: Marian?

21 MARIAN MCCOLLISTER: Hi, my name is Marian
22 McCollister, M-C-C-O-L-L-I-S-T-E-R.

23 And, first of all, like most previous speakers, I
24 want to emphasize the importance of competitiveness and
25 communities of interest in drawing up the new districts.

1 Also, I think it's extremely important to keep the
2 Flagstaff area intact.

3 As for congressional districts, I ask you to
4 support two rural congressional districts, one in eastern
5 Arizona consisting of Coconino County, Navajo County,
6 Apache County, Gila County, Sedona, Verde Valley,
7 Cottonwood. Pretty much as some of the other speakers have
8 said, we have so many ties in common.

9 I've lived in Flagstaff for 22 years.

10 Last year I was one of the residents out 89 that
11 was evacuated by forest fire.

12 Then I had flood damage.

13 I was very involved in all the community meetings
14 that went on with the forest fire, where it was attended by
15 so many officials.

16 I am in Legislative District 1 also.

17 All of my representatives and senator -- state
18 senator and representatives are all from Prescott.

19 I have not heard or seen from any of them in a
20 year.

21 I think this shows, first of all, it's not
22 competitive, and certainly they don't think that they have
23 any communities of interest with Flagstaff.

24 I think it would have helped a lot if they had
25 been up here supporting us.

1 Like other speakers, I have not had a chance to
2 hear them speak.

3 I don't think they're concerned.

4 I've been here long enough to remember when we had
5 representatives and state senators from Flagstaff and how
6 important it was for us to be able to get a hold of them and
7 contact them.

8 So thank you very much.

9 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 RAY BLADINE: Next three speakers, Patricia
12 Prince, Sally Kladnik, and Bob Schacht.

13 PATRICIA PRINCE: My name is Patricia Prince,
14 P-R-I-N-C-E.

15 And I'm representing myself.

16 I'm a senior citizen from Sedona.

17 And I've come here to say that I would like to see
18 Sedona -- include Sedona, the Verde Valley included in with
19 all of Flagstaff.

20 We have always been traditionally connected.

21 We all have our natural resources from the beauty
22 of Sedona to the beauty of the Grand Canyon. We share the
23 forest lands.

24 We share small businesses.

25 We also share our medical facilities. The

1 Flagstaff Hospital has a center and hospital in Sedona and
2 in Cottonwood.

3 We appreciate and encourage the arts. It's very
4 important to Sedona, to Flagstaff, to the Navajo Nation, to
5 the Hopis.

6 And I believe in the competitive district and the
7 communities of interest.

8 So, what I'm saying is that Sedona, Verde Valley,
9 Cottonwood should be included with Flagstaff and the Navajo
10 Nations and the other tribes.

11 Thank you.

12 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 RAY BLADINE: Sally.

15 SALLY KLADNIK: My name is Sally Kladnik. That's
16 K-L-A-D-N-I-K.

17 And I am a resident of Flagstaff.

18 I've been here over eight years, and my family has
19 been here twice that long. I came here to join them.

20 There's three things that I'm very interested in,
21 which I will reiteration a lot of the other speakers.

22 One is compliance with the Voter Registration Act
23 to represent minorities fairly.

24 Two is competitiveness. It's very important.
25 It's been stated by most of the speakers here this evening.

1 And I totally agree, because I currently don't
2 feel represented.

3 And thirdly, a community of like interest I think
4 is very important to keep the whole greater area of
5 Flagstaff together in both the congressional and the
6 legislative districts for Arizona.

7 We have more in common with the eastern side, and
8 we do need another rural district.

9 Thank you.

10 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 RAY BLADINE: Bob?

13 BOB SCHACHT: I think you are probably referring
14 to me. My name is Bob Schacht, S-C-H-A-C-H-T.

15 RAY BLADINE: I'm sorry. I was.

16 BOB SCHACHT: Thank you.

17 And welcome to northern Arizona.

18 I hope you will remember our cool weather when you
19 return home to southern Arizona.

20 Anyway, I am a resident of Flagstaff since 1987.

21 Before then I lived on the Navajo reservation.

22 And I would like to recall the words of
23 Ms. Peshlakai who spoke a few moments ago in referring to
24 Flagstaff as a border town.

25 Historically that has been the case.

1 And from that we have traditionally for 100 years
2 or more had a close relationship with the Navajo and Hopi
3 peoples.

4 And so I would like to see that relationship
5 continue.

6 As I have a few illustrations of that common
7 interest that we need to work through, sometimes with
8 difficulty.

9 One is that the San Francisco Peaks are very
10 important both to the Hopi people and the Navajo people, and
11 also important for the economy of Flagstaff.

12 And so it's important that we sort out our common
13 interest in the San Francisco Peaks together. And I'd
14 rather do that together than have two different
15 congressional districts trying to sort things out.

16 Another similar thing in my mind is that recently
17 I believe Flagstaff signed a water agreement with I believe
18 it's the Navajo Tribe to assure our water supply for future
19 decades.

20 And so those are just a couple examples of the
21 many ways in which Flagstaff is tied to the eastern Arizona,
22 the Navajo Tribe, the Hopi Tribe.

23 And I would hope that this -- and there are many
24 other examples.

25 Coconino Board of Supervisors, that would be

1 awkward to cut that in two somehow or another and many other
2 things that link Flagstaff to the northeastern part of
3 Arizona.

4 And so thank you again for your work. And I wish
5 you the best in coming up with whatever you can come up
6 with.

7 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 RAY BLADINE: The next three speakers, Pamela
10 Burruel, Shirley Dye, and Marilyn Ruggles, if I didn't
11 destroy people's names such that they don't know that I
12 called them.

13 Since I also have a part-time home up here, I'm
14 not anxious to go back to the Valley.

15 PAMELA BURRUEL: I'm Pamela Burruel,
16 B-U-R-R-U-E-L.

17 I'm representing myself.

18 I am from Gila County.

19 And in Gila County we don't consider Flagstaff
20 being rural or having a lot in common with us.

21 And I have heard a lot of comments regarding the
22 Navajo and Hopi population, but I've heard nothing about the
23 Apache population.

24 And in Gila County we have several Apache groups.
25 One is the -- we have the White Mountain Apache, the

1 San Carlos Apache, the Tonto Apache.

2 And in our presentation we're hoping to bring in
3 the Verde Valley, which would bring in the Yavapai Apache,
4 which are all close in relationship to their culture and
5 their beliefs.

6 It was suggested at the meeting in Pinetop
7 Saturday that rural Arizona was not represented on this
8 Commission by any person from rural Arizona.

9 And since you're all coming from metro areas,
10 Chairman Mathis' closing remarks on Saturday's meetings, she
11 stated that the Commission represents all of Arizona.

12 So that being said, I believe that there is not
13 reason to change the makeup of LD 5 with the exception of
14 the addition of Verde Valley, an area that would make up the
15 population requirements because if, in fact, this Commission
16 represents all of Arizona, then it would take into
17 consideration our commonalities in an area of very much
18 diversity, community interest being ranching, mining,
19 farming, and tourism, and not have reason to carve out of
20 LD 5 a particular ethnicity or socioeconomic group.

21 According to the chairman on Saturday, it's
22 already represented, and because of our diversity should not
23 have to be a consideration for drastic redistricting
24 measures.

25 Thank you.

1 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 SHIRLEY DYE: Good evening. I'm Shirley Dye.

4 That's D, as in dog, Y-E.

5 I am from Payson, Arizona, right in the center of
6 the state.

7 And Legislative District 5 is currently made up of
8 the southern parts of Navajo and Apache Counties, plus
9 Greenlee, Graham, and Gila Counties.

10 After the 2010 census, LD 5 is shown to be short
11 20,809 people.

12 And as much as practical -- practicable, it is
13 good to keep counties together so that when they're doing
14 their planning and zoning and working on various issues
15 around the counties, they can work with one legislature and
16 not have to deal with two different legislatures if they
17 were split up.

18 LD 5 needs to pick up approximately 21,000 people
19 to bring it close to the target population for a district.

20 And by adding the community population of
21 Camp Verde only, not the whole Verde Valley, just that area
22 east of Interstate 17, which is Camp Verde, and
23 Lake Montezuma, Rimrock, and also including Cordes Lake a
24 little further south, but still east of Interstate 17, but
25 not including Cottonwood, Clarksdale, Cornville, or Sedona.

1 We just want that one little community of Camp Verde.

2 And it does go a little bit over to the west of
3 interstate, but it is still part of their city limits.

4 So, anyhow, that would just put us within
5 700 feet -- 700 feet -- 700 people, not dollars either,
6 700 people of the exact target 213,067 we need.

7 The addition of Camp Verde's population to LD 5
8 makes perfect sense.

9 Camp Verde's rural and current communities of
10 interest have far more in common with LD 5 than the majority
11 of LD 4 or LD 1.

12 That's either the Prescott area or the Cottonwood,
13 Sedona, north to Flagstaff areas.

14 They're not quite as artsy craftsy as the rest.

15 Just 40 miles west down the mountain from
16 Strawberry, Pine, Payson, and Star Valley, small town
17 Camp Verde is very similar to the majority of rural LD 5
18 with its ranching, farming, forest, and tourist attractions,
19 and its natural resources.

20 These similar communities united along Highway 260
21 would begin with Interstate 17, with Camp Verde, go through
22 Payson, and all the way to Show Low at the east border of
23 our areas.

24 Which is the backbone of our legislative district.

25 And Camp Verde also identifies with the

1 communities along Highway 188, which are the -- go down to
2 the lower elevations of our legislative districts, all the
3 way down to southern Gila County and into Graham County.

4 The LD 5 minority majority Hispanic voting block
5 in Greenlee and southern Gila and Graham Counties would not
6 be diluted, but add it to the minority majority of
7 Native American Apache voting block, which includes the
8 White Mountain Apaches, the San Carlos Apaches, our
9 Tonto Apache Tribe right by Payson, and then the
10 Yavapai Apaches out of Camp Verde have very close
11 associations with our Tonto Apaches up in Payson.

12 So none of those voting blocks would be at all
13 diminished.

14 And, okay, LD 5 with the addition of Camp Verde
15 will be very well balanced politically and competitively.

16 It's 37 percent Democrat, 37 percent Republican,
17 and 21 percent Independent and other.

18 There is no reason for -- back to the
19 Native Americans again. We were at the Pinetop meeting on
20 Saturday afternoon.

21 And during that meeting there was a letter read by
22 the chairman of the White Mountain Apaches in which he
23 expressed a desire to remain with Legislative District 5.

24 And also the San Carlos Apaches, most of them have
25 desired that, rather that there are some legislative plans

1 out there that would make one whole Native American district
2 with Navajo Nation coming down and taking the White Mountain
3 Apache and the San Carlos Apache.

4 And in that case, it would divide our current
5 Legislative District 5 into four different places, different
6 parts, totally messing up the communities and working
7 relationships that we've built up over the years.

8 There's no reason for a massive reconfiguration of
9 Legislative District 5 when a simple shift of population
10 from Camp Verde into LD 5 meets all the redistricting
11 requirements.

12 The total population would only be 700 people
13 short of the exact target population.

14 In the areas of the Voting Rights Acts, our
15 minority majority populations are in compliance.

16 Our communities of interest are maintained with
17 Camp Verde fitting right in with our historic pioneers,
18 ranching, and farming interests, and our different grades of
19 forest from saguaro cactus areas up to the tall pines and
20 the Ponderosas.

21 The LD 5 boundaries remain intact, except for the
22 new inclusion of Camp Verde, which has been rather an island
23 to itself surrounded by public lands and far away from the
24 main population of LD 1 or LD 4.

25 I also believe that we need the two congressional

1 districts that are rural. And I just want to show you a map
2 here of how large this district is. It's a huge, big
3 district of three full counties and two half counties.

4 And what we would be picking up is this little
5 area right here.

6 See, everybody?

7 This little area.

8 It's all forest and BLM land except this one
9 little community here of Camp Verde only, not the whole
10 Verde Valley.

11 So Prescott and Flagstaff can fight over that.

12 Thank you.

13 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 RAY BLADINE: Marilyn.

16 MARILYN RUGGLES: Marilyn Ruggles. You did
17 pronounce that right.

18 M-A-R-I-L-Y-N, R-U-G-G-L-E-S.

19 I am not a Flagstaff resident. I have a Flagstaff
20 address. I live out in the county seven miles from
21 Flagstaff.

22 And that's one of my big concerns.

23 I'm also in LD 1.

24 Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

25 Though I recognize the importance of redrawing the

1 lines for congressional districts, my comments are specific
2 to the redrawing of state legislative district maps.

3 The most important requirement that the IRC must
4 consider in redrawing the district lines is compliance with
5 the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

6 That is nonnegotiable.

7 The redrawn map will not be accepted by the
8 Justice Department unless it complies with the Voting Rights
9 Act.

10 The requirement of equalization of population
11 between the districts within a certain percentage is also
12 nonnegotiable.

13 The matter of competitiveness in the state
14 legislative districts seems to be the number one concern in
15 media coverage.

16 Three of 30 competitive districts is not
17 acceptable.

18 Ideally 30 of the 30 districts would be
19 competitive.

20 I'm a realist, not an optimist. I know that's not
21 going to happen.

22 However, the closer the IRC is able to get to that
23 ideal of 30 of 30 competitive districts, the better off
24 Arizona and its residents will be.

25 In considering competitiveness, the number of

1 Independents and their recent voting history must be taken
2 into account.

3 In 2021 the IRC may not have to consider
4 competitiveness in drawing -- redrawing district lines.

5 The majority of voters in Arizona will probably be
6 Independents, and hopefully will be voting in open
7 primaries.

8 Where the IRC has the greatest discretion in
9 drawing the new state legislative district map is in
10 considering geographic boundaries and communities of
11 interest, which I see are interrelated.

12 There is less leeway in considering these issues
13 in Maricopa County and the Tucson region due to population
14 density.

15 However, there is great flexibility in rural
16 Arizona, even when the Voting Rights Act, population,
17 equalization, and competitiveness are considered.

18 Defining geographic boundaries and communities of
19 interest is key.

20 Keeping cities and towns whole, as well as
21 counties to the extent possible, is essential.

22 Geographic features may be important to different
23 areas and people for different reasons.

24 My geographic area is the Schultz fire/flood area,
25 which is seven miles from the Flagstaff city limits.

1 The area encompasses far more than Doney Park, but
2 that is how you will hear it referred to as.

3 It is a community of interest for Flagstaff, and
4 should be included in the same legislative district as
5 Flagstaff.

6 Part of the water supply for Flagstaff comes off
7 the San Francisco Peaks.

8 The water line and the access road were severely
9 damaged by the catastrophic events of last summer and have
10 not been repaired.

11 The floods which resulted from the fire have
12 threatened and continue to threaten the landfill which
13 serves the city of Flagstaff.

14 The City Council recently voted funds to support
15 construction of berms to protect the landfill from future
16 flooding.

17 What happens on the east side of the peaks and the
18 region below affects Flagstaff.

19 The people who reside in the Schultz fire/flood
20 area shop in Flagstaff, attend meetings and cultural
21 recreational events in Flagstaff, visit medical
22 professionals in Flagstaff, go to school in Flagstaff,
23 volunteer in Flagstaff, and on and on.

24 The Schultz fire/flood area is a community of
25 interest for Flagstaff.

1 Thank you for consideration -- your consideration
2 and your service to the state of Arizona.

3 And I want to give a little extra special thank
4 you to two young folks who are here tonight helping us out,
5 future voters I hope, and this is a good start.

6 Thank you.

7 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 RAY BLADINE: Next three speakers, Stephanie
10 McKinney, Dennis Jones, Hunter Moore.

11 STEPHANIE MCKINNEY: Good evening. My name is
12 Stephanie McKinney, M-C-K-I-N-N-E-Y.

13 I've been a Flagstaff resident for 16 years, and
14 in my profession have served both in the banking industry
15 and also the privilege to run our economic development
16 agency up here for seven years.

17 During that tenure, we received numerous
18 government excellence in rural development awards, largely
19 because of collaboration that we did across the region.

20 I've been active in civic engagement having served
21 on the Governors Council and Workforce Policy to both the
22 current governor as well as the former and have been
23 involved with the industrial development for both the city
24 and the county in the past.

25 I currently serve on the board of Flagstaff Forty

1 leadership group as well as our incubator the Northern
2 Arizona Center for Entrepreneurship.

3 Over the last two decades, I've had the
4 opportunity to collaborate with many of the people in this
5 room on projects that would further economic development and
6 quality of life in the northland.

7 I've spoken out on issues related to economic
8 development, forest health, transportation initiatives,
9 education, and health care.

10 At one time or another most of us have been on the
11 same team for one issue or another.

12 You've heard testimony from many members of our
13 business community who roll up their sleeves every day and
14 work 9:00 to 5:00 and then spend another several hours
15 giving back to their community through serving on
16 commissions, boards, and other groups.

17 Our communities of interest are interwoven
18 throughout each level of government, nonprofit, private
19 sector, and community groups.

20 We in rural Arizona do wear many hats.

21 I have testified to you previously last week about
22 maintaining competitiveness for a northern Arizona rural
23 state legislative district, for all of the very same reasons
24 that you've heard here tonight.

25 Tonight I would also like to comment a little

1 further on congressional districting.

2 Over the last ten years, CD 1 has benefitted
3 greatly from something that might not be obvious to many.

4 The district was designed by the 2001 Independent
5 Redistricting Commission to be one of only a few competitive
6 congressional districts across the entire country.

7 The power in the United States of representatives
8 basically rested on the results of only 15 of 435
9 congressional district seats, and Arizona CD 1 was one of
10 those seats.

11 Being a competitive district puts us in play on a
12 national political stage.

13 It forced national leaders to look at the needs of
14 us in rural Arizona, and that was why we asked for a rural
15 district in the first place.

16 If you look at the last ten years and compare the
17 funding assistance received in the previous ten years for
18 transportation, flood control, education, health care, and
19 other vital projects, it will further prove my point.

20 It really didn't matter who was in office, whether
21 they were a Democrat or a Republican. Both parties
22 recognize the importance of either maintaining control or
23 possibly gaining control of the district.

24 To further prove my point, how many times did
25 former president George W. Bush and President Obama come to

1 CD 1?

2 Do you remember a president coming here before
3 that? Or a first lady?

4 What about the number of hearings held in the
5 district on forest health, veterans services, and education?

6 Or what about the number of cabinet members who
7 came to hold town halls?

8 All of this attention was generated because CD 1
9 is a competitive district.

10 I further argue that the funding received in the
11 last ten years is a direct result of competitiveness too.

12 Can we say these same things happened in the
13 1970s, '80s, or '90s?

14 It didn't.

15 I would think that Arizona as a whole would not
16 want to lose a congressional competitive district for these
17 reasons.

18 I know there are many who would like to see a
19 politically winning advantage afforded to a safe
20 congressional district, but I would argue that CD 1 has been
21 the winner for the last ten years.

22 Because the Independent Redistricting Commission
23 had the foresight to draw it as a competitive district, we
24 have had more attention than at one time.

25 I would ask that you consider what is good for

1 northern Arizona as the economic hub for this region, and
2 that you provide the same advantage that was given to us
3 ten years ago.

4 Allow us to have a competitive congressional
5 district in rural Arizona, and expand that to include a
6 state legislative competitive district.

7 It is important to have an inclusive process that
8 does not disenfranchise part of the constituency at the
9 beginning of the process.

10 I thank you for your service, and I thank you for
11 your time.

12 If you need more information about communities
13 of interest, I'm happy to provide that to the Commission,
14 or to be of any other service I can as you continue your
15 work.

16 Thank you.

17 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 RAY BLADINE: Dennis.

20 DENNIS JONES: Hello. My name is Dennis Jones.
21 D-E-N-N-I-S, J-O-N-E-S.

22 I'm from Belmont, Arizona.

23 If we talk about a competitive district, and I've
24 talked to other people, I think I feel confident to say that
25 if we had a greater eastern and a greater western region,

1 with the eastern region consisting of Coconino County,
2 Navajo County, Apache County, Gila County, Sedona, and
3 Verde Valley, and Flagstaff, we would meet all the
4 requirements for a competitive district.

5 Also, Prescott and Mohave would not be included in
6 the eastern -- greater eastern Arizona portion.

7 Thank you.

8 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 HUNTER MOORE: Mr. Chairman, members of the
11 Commission, thank you for your time.

12 My name is Hunter Moore, H-U-N-T-E-R, M-O-O-R-E.

13 I'm here as a member of the community of the
14 White Mountains. I'm a resident of Snowflake.

15 I'm also a representative of Supervisor David
16 Tenney of Navajo County.

17 I'm the government affairs director for
18 Navajo County.

19 Mr. Chairman, I'm here to speak in favor of the
20 proposed redistricting plan that maintains the effective and
21 cohesive relationships of LD 5 as it is presently
22 constituted.

23 The purpose of this exercise in our political
24 system is to equalize the population of districts so that
25 they comply with federal requirements.

1 Some of these key criteria are involved -- that
2 are involved in this process include an attempt to create
3 compact and contiguous districts, an attempt to keep
4 political units and communities within a single unit, an
5 attempt to avoid drawing of boundaries for the purposes of
6 partisan advantage of incumbent protection, and several
7 others that have been mentioned by the members at the
8 beginning of this meeting and also the individuals that have
9 spoken before you.

10 I submit to this committee that the proposed
11 redistricting plan which keeps the eastern districts or
12 eastern counties of Arizona in LD 5 meet all of these
13 criteria.

14 And the communities of our district are best
15 served under the current configuration with the simple
16 addition of the Verde Valley.

17 With the addition of the Verde Valley, LD 5 would
18 retain its previous contiguous configuration, determined by
19 the Commission ten years ago, with minimal changes.

20 Under other proposals that have been suggested to
21 this committee would drastically diverge from this key
22 criteria point.

23 In addition, the proposals that we support fully
24 meet the required population levels for new legislative
25 districts in Arizona, within the -- within less than one

1 half of one percent.

2 And thus so, while maintaining the competitive
3 standard requirements for partisan political criteria, the
4 addition of the Verde Valley in LD 5, at the community
5 level, balance of Republican, Democratic, and Independent
6 voters to LD 5 in its currently constituted state.

7 The purpose -- the proposal that we support also
8 maintains the current district's minority standards of
9 representation.

10 The LD 5 configuration has been tried and tested
11 and has yielded a fair and representative set of outcomes
12 over the past decade.

13 This is a key point for the White Mountain Apache
14 Tribe and other minorities that you will hear from or have
15 heard from from our area.

16 And I ask you to pay close attention to their
17 perspective on this point.

18 Finally, the plan we support is rooted in common
19 sense and time tested relationships.

20 Navajo County, Apache County, Greenlee, Graham,
21 and Gila Counties have maintained strong ties even prior to
22 the creation of LD 5 to the eastern Arizona county
23 association.

24 Our strong common interest and community values
25 have a long-standing history that I ask you to consider.

1 I have not personally seen other planning -- plans
2 that claim such close compliance with all the other criteria
3 points that I've already stated.

4 We feel that this balanced and reasonable proposal
5 will fairly maintain the common ties that the counties,
6 cities, and tribes share in the areas of natural resource
7 management, education, travel, tourism, et cetera.

8 We share common concerns and common social issues
9 in the management of our communities.

10 We know how to work well together, and these
11 relationships provide benefits to our citizens.

12 I therefore ask you to adopt this map that I
13 present to you as proposed.

14 Thank you.

15 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 RAY BLADINE: The next three speakers, Leonard
18 Gorman, Sally Tyrrell, and Matthew Capalby.

19 LEONARD GORMAN: Good evening,
20 Commissioner Herrera and the other commissioners that are
21 listening online.

22 My name is Leonard Gorman, L-E-O-N-A-R-D. Last
23 name is G-O-R-M-A-N.

24 I am a lifetime resident of the Navajo Nation, on
25 the Arizona portion. The Navajo Nation extends into Utah,

1 New Mexico, and Arizona.

2 There's a small strip of land in the state of
3 Colorado.

4 The Navajo Nation has hosted the meeting last
5 Friday at St. Michaels, New Mexico.

6 I'm executive director of the Navajo Nation Human
7 Rights Commission.

8 I want to thank not only the commissioners that
9 are here, folks that are here this evening, but also staff,
10 the Commission.

11 Appreciate the opportunity to speak to you.

12 I want to address three areas.

13 One is the community of interest.

14 The second is the, as stated earlier, the
15 nonnegotiable Voting Rights Act requirement of the
16 United States.

17 And then finally, the presentation of maps that
18 the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission delivered to the
19 Commission last Friday.

20 And those maps have been alluded to by the
21 previous speakers.

22 In the community of interest concerns, the Navajo
23 Nation has an essential ancestral pride to many of the
24 places that are called community of interest by others also.

25 The Navajo Nation has essential ancestral ties to

1 the San Francisco Peaks area.

2 The Navajo people and all other indigenous peoples
3 of the state of Arizona refer to the San Francisco Peaks as
4 a sacred site.

5 And we have common interest in those regards with
6 the Hopis, with Hualapais, the Havasupais, the Apaches, in
7 various subgroups, the White Mountains, San Carlos, and
8 folks down in Safford.

9 We also have a tremendous amount of common
10 interest with the community of Flagstaff.

11 One being the education.

12 The majority of the Navajo students that come from
13 the Navajo Nation come to the Northern Arizona University.
14 As they come to NAU, they come with a substantial amount of
15 money coming to the community here, by way of scholarship
16 dollars, in the millions of dollars, are expended here by
17 students that come to this community.

18 They're contributing members and stakeholders of
19 this community.

20 Economic-wise, ten years ago, then mayor as
21 indicated to the Navajo Nation that in a community as small
22 as Flagstaff, ten vehicles that are purchased in this
23 community, nine of them go to the Navajo Nation.

24 That's how much the Navajo people contribute to
25 this community.

1 Just recently the Navajo Nation Human Rights
2 Commission conducted a border town hearing, and it was
3 determined that from the Navajo Nation alone, the government
4 alone, Flagstaff is the third city in which Navajo Nation
5 government contributes millions of dollars in goods and
6 service purchases by the Navajo government.

7 The Navajo people out-of-pocket purchases spends
8 over \$1.6 billion.

9 This is 2005 numbers.

10 And Flagstaff is one of the leading communities in
11 which the Navajo people conduct a lot of retail economy.

12 Also, in the community of Winslow and also in the
13 community of Holbrook, similar common circumstances exist
14 where Navajo people contribute to the retail economy on a
15 daily basis.

16 As an example, as a member of the Arizona Ad Hoc
17 Commission Committee on a use and abuse of alcohol in the
18 northern region of the state of Arizona, it was noted that
19 there are large number of individuals that inhabit
20 communities surrounding the Navajo Nation that cause
21 concerns.

22 We came to Flagstaff a couple weeks ago, and we
23 were informed as a committee 70 to 80 percent of the
24 residents at the Flagstaff Coconino County Detention
25 Facility are Navajos.

1 That is a very good example, while it's not the
2 best example, as to how many Navajos live and conduct
3 commerce activity in the border towns.

4 So that is what I wanted to convey as to a Navajo
5 citizen, a Navajo individual representing a Navajo Nation,
6 the amount of contribution Navajo people come to the city of
7 Flagstaff.

8 Secondly, as the Hopi nation expressed, the Navajo
9 Nation also holds lands west of the city of Flagstaff, north
10 of Seligman, Arizona.

11 We commonly refer to that place as Big Boquillas
12 Ranch.

13 It's a large mass of land in which the Navajo
14 Nation owns.

15 The Navajo Nation remarks upon your effort to
16 ensure that that land is included in the district in which
17 the Navajo Nation will be located in the legislative and
18 also congressional districts.

19 Now, coming to Section 5, the state of Arizona has
20 consistently demonstrated and has continued to be a covered
21 jurisdiction based on the Voting Rights Act of the
22 United States.

23 That is very important to the Navajo people.

24 Currently Legislative District 2 is one of those
25 that is considered as a majority minority district.

1 That is very essential to the voting public of the
2 Navajo Nation.

3 If you use the 2010 census, and populate it in the
4 current District 2, Native American population makes up of
5 63.97 percent.

6 That is the standard that we believe this
7 Commission, this honorable Commission that I present to this
8 evening, must achieve.

9 How do you achieve such a standard?

10 We have submitted to you at Window Rock a plan
11 that essentially not only achieves that but surpasses that
12 standard.

13 The only way that, in our opinion, that you can
14 achieve that standard is to include the White Mountain
15 Nation and the San Carlos Nation.

16 People that live in those communities will make up
17 the standard achieving that 63.97 percent.

18 So to conclude my remarks, we present to you
19 two congressional plans.

20 One that states the congressional plan by
21 Navajo Nation proposal NN1. NN1 achieves a 25 percent
22 Native American population in that district.

23 It comes all the -- goes all the way down to the
24 north -- I mean the southeast corner of the state of
25 Arizona, swings to the west, and pick ups Tohono O'odham

1 Nation, and goes up towards Phoenix, and pick ups
2 Maricopa County, plus Gila River Indian Nation.

3 That would make up a good majority minority
4 district including the Hispanic population.

5 The second proposal is the Navajo Nation's NN2.

6 That makes up 23.71 percent Native American
7 population.

8 And that is to pick up, again, the Gila River
9 Indian Nation and also to its neighbor the Maricopa Indian
10 Nation, to make up that 23 percent.

11 As far as Legislative District 2, in order to
12 comply with the mandate of Section 5 of the Voting Rights
13 Act, we need to achieve a 63.97 percent Native American
14 population.

15 The way we do that is to ensure that, one, the
16 sacred site, the San Francisco Peaks, is part of
17 Legislative District 2.

18 And also pick up the San Carlos Nation and the
19 White Mountain Nation.

20 The Hopis have also expressed that the Navajo
21 Nation endorses that request. And that is to incorporate
22 their land areas they have purchased since then west of
23 Winslow and south of Winslow and also near Eager and
24 Springerville area.

25 Our proposal includes their request.

1 So with that, thank you very much for the
2 opportunity to speak tonight.

3 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 SALLY TYRRELL: Good evening. My name is Sally
6 Tyrrell, T-Y-R-R-E-L-L.

7 I'm new to the legislative process. I just didn't
8 pay attention much of my life.

9 I learned a lot here tonight, and it warmed my
10 heart.

11 I'm so impressed with many, many voices, but
12 primarily one heart and one mind.

13 I want to thank you for your service. I can't
14 imagine being in your seats.

15 I want to thank you for coming to the wilds of
16 northern Arizona.

17 The rest of my notes are a repeat.

18 I believe I would like to advocate for a
19 competitive congressional district, including the greater
20 Flagstaff area and Coconino County, Sedona, Verde Valley,
21 and eastern greater Arizona.

22 You've already heard the many things we have in
23 common here.

24 I would certainly believe that Flagstaff should
25 not be divided.

1 I'm a retired NAU professor. I've been in Flag
2 for over 40 years.

3 It seems to me that we're on the verge of progress
4 here, and I would believe that you will further that.

5 RAY BLADINE: Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 RAY BLADINE: Matt, your turn.

8 We didn't save you for last, but close.

9 MATTHEW CAPALBY: All right.

10 Good evening, Ray.

11 Thank you, all.

12 And, Commissioner Herrera, I hope you're hanging
13 in there. It looks like you're starting to fade a little
14 bit.

15 But, again, I want to thank you for coming up to
16 Flagstaff this evening.

17 My name is Matthew Capalby, C-A-P-A-L-B, as in
18 boy, Y.

19 I reside here in Flagstaff.

20 Again, I'd like to just re-emphasize several of
21 the points made here this evening.

22 First and foremost, a congressional district. I
23 support the creation of two greater Arizona congressional --
24 rural congressional districts.

25 Primarily there is the possibility of making one

1 of those competitive.

2 Flagstaff is very important to that aspect, that
3 Flagstaff would have to remain in the eastern configuration
4 of the eastern Arizona congressional district to make that
5 district competitive.

6 If Flagstaff is in the western -- configured into
7 the western eastern -- I'm sorry, western greater Arizona
8 congressional district, then that Flagstaff would not be or
9 that entire district would not be competitive.

10 And would also make the eastern Arizona
11 congressional district also noncompetitive.

12 So having at least one of them competitive out of
13 the two rural congressional districts is of the utmost
14 importance.

15 And Flagstaff is the linchpin. It needs to go to
16 the eastern congressional Arizona district.

17 I just want to make that real clear.

18 Also Flagstaff, the Flagstaff immediate region has
19 or is in a position to create one of the only competitive
20 legislative districts, much to counter some of the previous
21 comments from some of our neighbors over in Navajo and Gila
22 Counties.

23 The fact of the matter is from a nonpartisan
24 standpoint we share a great deal with them in the Payson and
25 White Mountain regions. Quality of life, topography, water

1 resources, economy, et cetera.

2 Counter to what was presented in Hondah, we
3 actually have a great deal more in common with Navajo County
4 than trees.

5 That was stated by Chairman Tenney, which I
6 thought was not a very rational point.

7 And but with that, we think it is very important,
8 not just the common interest, but the opportunity to create
9 at least one competitive district in northern Arizona, which
10 would include the Flagstaff region, the Verde Valley, and
11 the White Mountain region.

12 That constitutes a competitive legislative
13 district which will be the only one that really could be
14 configured because it's in the east and to the north, would
15 have primarily tribal Voting Rights Act related district.
16 And to the east -- I'm sorry, to the west, which would be
17 Mohave and Yavapai Counties, due to the partisan
18 registration there, it would also be very difficult to
19 create a competitive legislative district.

20 So we think also Flagstaff needs to go into a
21 southern and eastern competitive legislative district that
22 is in the best interest of also what you're trying to
23 achieve and the number of competitive districts.

24 And I'd also like to speak to the support of the
25 configuration of current Legislative District 5.

1 There's the issue of retrogression.

2 As Mr. Gorman spoke to that district, if it stays
3 intact as it is, that it will actually dilute the
4 Native American vote. As what they're trying to do, which I
5 think again is misrepresentative of some of the facts, is
6 the fact that if they draw in some of the Apache Nation and
7 try to counter that they will be in the same legislative
8 district, for example, with the isolated Yavapai Apache
9 Nation, that that would actually cause retrogression in the
10 Native American district to the northeast.

11 So we think it's imperative in order to maintain
12 that roughly 64 percent level of Native American votes --
13 I'm sorry, population, in that district, that it will be
14 necessary to draw in the San Carlos, the White Mountain
15 Apaches, in with the Hualapais, Havasupai, Paiute, Navajo,
16 and Hopi Nations.

17 That would configure a 64 percent legislative
18 district that would meet all of the criteria of the
19 Voting Rights Act and would prevent any retrogression.

20 So really from a Department of Justice standpoint,
21 voting rights standpoint, trying to keep the
22 Legislative District 5 intact is not possible.

23 It will lead to litigation, and I think that's
24 something you want to avoid. That you create and focus on
25 competitive district possibility of having the

1 White Mountain, Verde Valley, and Flagstaff together, I
2 think that reach your goals.

3 So I want to thank you very much again for being
4 here this evening.

5 Commissioner Herrera and Commissioner Freeman, we
6 appreciate you watching online as well.

7 And thank you, and look forward to seeing you
8 soon. Take care.

9 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 RAY BLADINE: Next three speakers, and then we
12 only have one more after that.

13 Maury Hernan, Joe Galli, and Jeff Schops.

14 I guess I'm really killing names now. Sorry.

15 MAURY HERNAN: Good evening, commissioners.

16 I'm Maury Hernan, M-A-U-R-Y, H-E-R-N-A-N.

17 I'm a long-term Flagstaff resident, a business
18 person, and a real estate investor in Flagstaff and other
19 northern Arizona communities.

20 I'll try to be brief.

21 So, first I wanted to speak about competitiveness
22 a little bit.

23 Stephanie McKinney really eloquently spoke about
24 the benefits of this district had received by being in a
25 competitive congressional district. And I guess I know that

1 it's not your only consideration, but to the extent that you
2 can spread those benefits to other communities within the
3 state, I think it would be well worthwhile.

4 Having, having the possibility of more than one
5 choice in your district is really very beneficial.

6 It gets better candidates, creates more
7 excitement, produces a greater turnout.

8 And so I hope that as you're doing your work, not
9 just for this community but for other communities, you work
10 on competitiveness.

11 I know it can't be your only consideration.

12 I'd like to comment a little bit on what
13 competitiveness means too.

14 In my mind, competitiveness isn't just a ratio
15 between Democrats and Republicans. It's looking at the
16 whole districts and saying if you had a well-qualified,
17 energetic candidate who spent their effort running, would
18 they have a possibility of winning. And if that's possible
19 for more than one candidate, for more than one party, then
20 it's a competitive district.

21 And no matter how qualified and how energetic a
22 candidate is, if they have no possibility of winning, then
23 it's not competitive, no matter how that ratio of
24 Republicans and Democrats looks.

25 So I hope that you will look at the pattern of

1 Independent voters and other voters in the district and try
2 and merge in all of -- a little bit more than just the
3 ratio.

4 Thank you.

5 One other point on community of interest.

6 There's been a lot of effort to define our
7 transportation, our environment, et cetera.

8 Just in my own life of business, I find tremendous
9 energy between what happens in Flagstaff and what happens in
10 the Verde Valley.

11 I'm down there at least once a week.

12 And sometimes some of that's for medical. Some of
13 it's for business, et cetera.

14 So I'm hopeful that you will find a way to tie
15 Flagstaff and Verde Valley together in a competitive
16 district.

17 Thank you.

18 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 RAY BLADINE: Jeff Schops.

21 JOE GALLI: Joe Galli.

22 RAY BLADINE: Joe, I'm sorry, I guess I'm getting
23 late.

24 JOE GALLI: I'm not Jeff. I'm Joe.

25 Thank you. It is getting late so I'll try to be

1 brief.

2 It's Joe Galli, G-A-L-L-I.

3 101 West Route 66 in Flagstaff.

4 I'm the vice president of government affairs in
5 the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce, and I am speaking on
6 behalf of the board of directors tonight who are submitting
7 a formal statement for public record.

8 I've already handed a copy of the letter to the
9 clerk in the back of the room. I won't read the entire
10 letter, but I'll just focus on a couple of points.

11 But before I do, I'd like to mention that the
12 board of directors consists of 19 different local small and
13 representatives of large businesses, including W.L. Gore,
14 who you heard from earlier today, and the Flagstaff Medical
15 Center.

16 And so our board has 19 members, excuse me, and we
17 represent more than 1,000 businesses in the community of
18 Flagstaff, and that equals more than 28,000 employees in the
19 region.

20 Just so you know where we are, we've vetted the
21 issues surrounding redistricting and this exercise now for
22 several months, and put a lot of time and research in and
23 worked with a lot of our business leaders, who you have
24 heard from this evening. Several of those folks that spoke
25 before me have either sat on the board of directors of the

1 Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce and are currently sitting on
2 the board of directors of the Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce
3 or have been very active members in the Chamber for a number
4 of years here in the community.

5 And I think that I will echo a lot of what they
6 said in that our board of directors specifically supports
7 considering making legislative districts in northern Arizona
8 competitive as a high priority, as well as focusing on
9 communities of interest.

10 You've heard the things that were mentioned in
11 terms of trying to define communities of interest, but I
12 think several of them are very clear.

13 Once you make your way up the rim, you can see
14 that we have forest health issues.

15 We know from the fires that we've had in this
16 community and surrounding communities that we do have
17 significant forest health issues that we think links us to
18 other communities in northern Arizona, as well as education,
19 transportation, demands in terms of dollars, and so forth.

20 So, there's a whole host of issues that easily tie
21 us to communities close to us.

22 And we hope that you would consider that.

23 And finally on behalf of the board of directors,
24 we desire to keep Flagstaff only in one district. And that
25 is something that we understand might be tough to do in

1 terms of this exercise. It's something on a secondary level
2 that we urge you to take into consideration.

3 Thank you very much for your time this evening,
4 for being in our community, and we look forward to the
5 exercise and getting these new district lines drawn and
6 accepted by the DOJ in time for our elections next year.

7 Thank you.

8 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 JEFF SCHOPS: All right. Jeff Schops,
11 S-C-H-O-P-S.

12 That's okay.

13 RAY BLADINE: Sorry.

14 JEFF SCHOPS: It's been worse.

15 I'm a Phoenix resident.

16 And to speak to chair people, I rode up here in
17 the rain on my motorcycle.

18 So I don't see why five of you guys can't get here
19 with your cars.

20 And that makes me very angry.

21 You chair people, you know, what I want to speak
22 about is our honesty.

23 And with the Independent -- I'm an Independent.

24 And our Independent chair that you have up over
25 here brought to my attention that she was a very heavy

1 Democrat before she got into the committee over here as an
2 Independent.

3 Which is not right.

4 And what I want to do is make sure you guys are
5 steering in the right direction with vets.

6 I'm a veteran with the United States Army, and we
7 fought for our country to keep us free.

8 We look at different things without our policies,
9 with our political policies, and it's all wrong.

10 We have to start going back to the people and
11 bringing the people back into this vote.

12 The people that they complain about, it's not
13 fair, different districts, you know, they need to get out
14 and vote. They really do.

15 If you can't get out and vote, you know, they send
16 you mail-in ballots.

17 You know, it's -- their problems of why they
18 are -- you know, this policy is going wrong. Because they
19 don't get out and vote.

20 So I don't -- you know, you talk about different
21 ethics groups that, you know, any special interest for
22 different ethnic groups, you know, we're all American
23 citizens.

24 We all vote the same way.

25 You know, one goes to one direction or of

1 Republican or Democrat, you know, we still are American
2 citizens and need to stand up for America.

3 This committee up over here, you have your
4 Strategic Telemetry company here, never -- was never a
5 mapping group, a mapping company.

6 They lean one direction.

7 And I just hope that this committee does not lean
8 in one direction.

9 And that's what I wanted to point out today, and
10 that's why I rode up here in the rain, to make sure I could
11 stay and say what I want to say about leaning in different
12 directions.

13 We need to stay in the middle. You don't need to
14 move party lines. People need to get out and vote, and
15 that's all there is to it.

16 Thank you.

17 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

18 (Applause.)

19 RAY BLADINE: The last speaker, David Cantelme.

20 And I guess I have to say, since you sat through
21 this, best for last; is that fair?

22 DAVE CANTELME: You are a wonderful guy,
23 Mr. Bladine.

24 RAY BLADINE: Sorry.

25 DAVE CANTELME: David Cantelme, spelled

1 C-A-N-T-E-L-M-E.

2 I'm from Cave Creek --

3 RAY BLADINE: Can you pull the mic up?

4 DAVE CANTELME: Sure.

5 I'm from Cave Creek, but I'm renting a summer home
6 in Munds Park.

7 I have a few points I'd like to read.

8 First and always the most important criterion to
9 follow is the United States Constitution in every respect.

10 Second, the Voting Rights Act, we support
11 Mr. Gorman's emphasis on the Voting Rights Act. We think it
12 is critical that it be followed in every respect.

13 And then, of course, the Arizona Constitution.
14 Along with all other laws that govern the Commission's
15 process.

16 We speak first to legislative districts.

17 The ideal legislative district, strictly on the
18 math, dividing 30 into the state's population under the 2010
19 census consists of 213,067 residents.

20 According to the same census, Coconino County's
21 population totaled only 134,421 residents, or 78,647 short
22 of a district.

23 Thus Coconino County has got to be joined with
24 another area in order to make a legislative district.

25 When you do that, we strongly support that

1 Flagstaff and its environs be kept whole in one district.

2 But I have to point out that if you added the
3 White Mountains to the Flagstaff district, then because you
4 can never split the Navajo Nation, you would have to go all
5 the way west to Mohave County in order to make a district in
6 which the Navajo Nation would be undivided.

7 Is that what anybody wants? A district that would
8 cover the entire legislative district, the entire width of
9 the state of Arizona?

10 Let me move on to congressional districts.

11 The ideal numbers for a congressional district is
12 710,224 residents.

13 Arizona's population outside Maricopa and Pima
14 totals 1,594,637.

15 That means that the other 13 counties should get
16 at least two congressional districts, and we support that
17 strongly.

18 Now, think about it, if you were to put Coconino
19 County in an eastern district, what does that leave on the
20 western side?

21 It would leave Yavapai, it would leave Mohave, and
22 it would leave Yuma, and La Paz. And even then you would
23 not have a full district.

24 But you can't go down to Yuma, because you're
25 going to take that then from Mr. Grijalva's district, and

1 you would clearly violate the Voting Rights Act if you did
2 that.

3 You cannot have a district in which you only have
4 Mohave and Yavapai.

5 That doesn't come anywhere near close to the
6 required population of 710,224 residents.

7 So simple arithmetic tells you what must happen.

8 You should have a northwestern district and a
9 eastern district.

10 And of course never split the reservations at all.

11 Those are the numbers.

12 Unless the idea is to defeat the notion of
13 two rural districts, and send Yavapai and Mohave into
14 Maricopa County, and I can't imagine anybody would want that
15 to happen.

16 Keep communities of interest whole, and to that
17 end we would strongly urge that this Commission develop a
18 definition of competitiveness and definition of community of
19 interest so they can be applied evenly and equally all
20 around the state of Arizona.

21 Let me point out, contrary to what we've heard at
22 several meetings, the registration figures in Arizona are
23 not a third Republican, a third Democrat, and a third
24 Independent.

25 That's not true.

1 According to the Secretary of State's figures for
2 July, 2011, the figures are 35.46 percent Republican,
3 31.1 percent Democrat, and 32.5 percent other, which would
4 be Independent, Green, et cetera.

5 Now, that sounds like it's about a third, a third,
6 and a third, but it isn't.

7 The difference between Republican registration and
8 Democrat is 4.3 percent.

9 And in most elections, if you mirrored those
10 population figures exactly, 4.3 percent would be decisive.

11 We're not looking for that, and we don't suggest
12 that. And that's why communities of interest play into it.
13 You must respect communities of interest.

14 You should favor competitiveness.

15 We don't disagree with that.

16 But not if it causes, as the constitution says, a
17 significant detriment to communities of interest or equal
18 population or contiguity or compactness or the Voting Rights
19 Act or one person, one vote, which is what the constitution
20 says.

21 Last point I want to get to is equality of
22 population.

23 In that respect I want to point out there are
24 two sources for the notion of equality of population.

25 There's, of course, the 14th Amendment, and the

1 case is Baker versus Carr, Reynolds versus Sims, from the
2 1960s, that adopted the one person, one vote rule.

3 Now, as you well know, for legislative districts,
4 some flexibility is allowed if there are good and sufficient
5 reasons for deviating from exact population.

6 For congressional, you cannot deviate from exact
7 population if there is a way to achieve it. And with the
8 software we have now, there is a way to achieve it.

9 But the other source of equal population is the
10 state constitution.

11 And that is a separate requirement from the
12 14th Amendment, and it is more stringent from the
13 14th Amendment or it wouldn't have any meaning.

14 If it weren't more stringent, it would be a
15 redundancy. There would have been no reason to put it
16 in the state constitution if it were already covered by
17 the 14th Amendment, which is the first criterion in the
18 state constitution, is to follow the United States
19 constitution.

20 So if it's to have any meaning, it must be
21 stricter than the leeway allowed by the 14th Amendment.

22 We think it is the same as it is for congressional
23 districts, and that is equal population if the software, and
24 it does, permits it to be achieved.

25 Thank you very much.

1 I also commend you. I know it's late, and I
2 appreciate the opportunity to speak.

3 RAY BLADINE: Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 RAY BLADINE: One last chance if there's anyone
6 that's tough enough to at this late hour come forward.

7 I can't see that far.

8 (No oral response.)

9 RAY BLADINE: Commissioner Herrera, can you, can
10 you -- would you like to say anything before we close?

11 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Only if you can hear me. Can
12 you hear me?

13 RAY BLADINE: Yeah, right now you sound okay.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I'm going to make my comments
15 brief.

16 I want to make sure that you guys can hear me.

17 I want to first of all thank everyone for
18 attending and for those that stuck around.

19 And, again, I apologize for not being there.

20 Can you still hear me?

21 RAY BLADINE: Yep, you're doing fine.

22 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let me just quickly say that
23 my -- purpose as the Commission is not to decide how many
24 Democratic or Republican legislative and congressional
25 districts we can create.

1 Our role is to create and redraw fair and
2 competitive districts that allow the public to vote for
3 their candidate.

4 Republican, Democratic, Independent, and
5 Libertarian voters want chances. Competitive districts give
6 chances.

7 The voters spoke at Prop 106.

8 Arizona voters no longer wanted those empowered to
9 create their own gerrymandered districts.

10 They passed Prop 106 to have a group of citizen
11 commissioners who are independent of the legislature.

12 We need to respect those voters by creating as
13 many competitive districts as possible in a fair and
14 competitive way.

15 You know, I wanted to read this statement because
16 I really feel that competitiveness is extremely important.

17 It is not a significant goal, but it is just as
18 important as the other five. I wanted to make that comment
19 because I think all the people that were in attendance
20 tonight talked about the importance of creating competitive
21 districts, and I feel the same way.

22 So those are my comments.

23 Thanks again, and I will see you -- I think
24 Glendale is the next one that I'm attending. So thank you
25 all and have a good night.

1 RAY BLADINE: I'd also like to just thank you for
2 your patience tonight and your willingness to stick with us.
3 And it certainly was a very informative meeting. And I know
4 all the commissioners really appreciate the time you took to
5 be with us.

6 I'd like to thank the people up here that have
7 supported me as we've worked our way through this.

8 Thanks very much and have a good evening.

9 (Whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.)

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
)
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA) ss.
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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 125
7 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of all
8 proceedings had upon the taking of said meeting, all done to
9 the best of 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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