

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Steven.

4 The next speaker is Jaynie Parrish.

5 MS. PARRISH: Sorry. I'm one of the lucky ones, I
6 actually have a computer.

7 So (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

8 My mother is from Window Rock; I grew up here in
9 Window Rock; my father is from Kayenta and I also grew up
10 there; my mother's maternal relatives are from Dilkon. So
11 our families are across counties here in Northeastern
12 Arizona. We also have relatives married into Hopi and
13 relatives married into White River, and so we travel to many
14 of these places quite frequently for family gatherings, for
15 ceremonies and for just family celebrations.

16 So the question about what's a community of
17 interest is interesting because I consider all of that my
18 community, not just the borders of the Navajo Nation.

19 Because our people make their purchases, we -- we
20 support the border towns, everybody knows every border town
21 from Holbrook, Winslow, Show Low to Eagar. They -- they get
22 our money because we do our shopping there.

23 So we -- we get our public services, our
24 healthcare, our education. It's not uncommon for our
25 community members, like some of my relatives, to drive every

1 day two hours to go to work from here or to Flagstaff or
2 even from Kayenta to other parts of the Navajo Nation in
3 other states, like in New Mexico.

4 So it's a very interesting question and I know it's
5 not -- you'll get a lot of input on what that means.

6 But the question about community of interest is our
7 current district, which is LD-6 and LD-7; that's our whole
8 community. We can go further because we're older than the
9 counties, we're older than the state, we're older than the
10 country, and -- but all of us as tribal nations have shared
11 characteristics that you have laid out on that paper.

12 And we all share transportation and, like I said,
13 CD-1, Congressional District 1, is the most Native American
14 district in the whole country. In the whole country. Which
15 includes Navajo, Hopi in our nation and others. Nowhere
16 else in the U.S. do we have this. We have a shared
17 population, we have shared interests, and we have to keep
18 this tremendous power- -- powerful group and community and
19 family intact. There's no other way around it.

20 The Commission has to recognize all of our tribal
21 nations in the state, but especially here in Northeast
22 Arizona. Because, again, we live off the tribal land, we're
23 very transient, we go into a lot of places; and this is very
24 critical: You guys have a lot of responsibility on your
25 shoulders and I strongly suggest that what we have now is --

1 is what's been working good for us, and so keeping the
2 Native voting power and representation is very much
3 important and part of that.

4 As part of my comments, though, I have two quick
5 things.

6 That I think a lot of folks would have been here,
7 but there -- there needs to be better communication. Not a
8 lot of people have the Internet; I do. I'm a little bit
9 younger, I actually know how to access things, but a lot of
10 our voting people are elders, they don't -- we had a hard
11 time getting them out to vote and we had to do that by
12 old-school off-line strategy. So you guys have to do that,
13 too. Have a real good public campaign for them. There's
14 nothing in the paper, there's nothing on the radios, and we
15 have to make sure that that's there.

16 So I think more people would be angry because they
17 want to be heard and those are my comments right now.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. CRANK: The next speaker.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: That lady was the Apache County
22 Chair?

23 MS. CRANK: Jaynie? No, she wasn't.

24 Navajo County -- she's going to introduce herself
25 again.

1 MS. PARRISH: No, my name is Jaynie Parrish and I'm
2 a community organizer and I am -- before that I was an
3 advocate, I help people get out to vote; I'm an executive
4 director to help with policy development on tribal lands.
5 So that's who I am.

6 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Ann Heitland.

7 MS. HEITLAND: Hello. My name is Ann Heitland; I
8 am a resident of Coconino County immediately outside of
9 Flagstaff.

10 I'm here because we care very much about Northeast
11 Arizona in the greater Flagstaff area. We know that Arizona
12 has grown substantially in the last ten years, making your
13 job difficult because it hasn't grown substantially enough
14 to give us a tenth congressional district.

15 With that in mind, I would like to consider that a
16 large chunk of Arizona's population is concentrated in
17 Maricopa County, but as you know as you drive across this
18 vast state, much of the land area of the state is rural; and
19 those rural areas deserve representation in the United
20 States Congress.

21 Those rural areas represent what many people in
22 Maricopa County love as well as the people that live in
23 these rural areas. Right now we essentially have two
24 congressional districts that represent rural Arizona, and I
25 urge you to reserve at least two rural congressional

1 districts so that ranchers, farmers, people who just enjoy
2 living in rural Arizona have two voices in Congress from
3 this state.

4 Coconino County where I live has nearly 30 percent
5 of its voters who are Native American; we share many values
6 with them. When I say "we," I mean those of us who live in
7 the greater Flagstaff area and are not Native American.

8 First of all, many Native Americans live in
9 Flagstaff and essentially have second homes either in
10 Flagstaff or on the reservation, there's a lot of back and
11 forth. They are integrated into our communities and we
12 share their values, we share their interests in things that
13 the federal government can help us all with, like uranium
14 mining clean up, like dealing with water resources, like
15 preserving and protecting our forests. Those are things
16 that are federal issues and we need a voice in Congress that
17 represents all of the people in rural Arizona who share
18 those interests.

19 So for those reasons I ask you to consider rural
20 Arizona as a significant population that should have a large
21 voice in Congress.

22 Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. CRANK: Our next speaker and our last speaker
25 is Leonard Gorman.

1 MR. GORMAN: Good afternoon, members of the
2 Commission.

3 You will get a package for the information my
4 office wishes to share with you. I'm from the Navajo Nation
5 Human Rights Commission Office and my office is detailed to
6 interact/interface with you as a body from the state of
7 Arizona; we also interface with the New Mexico side and also
8 the Utah side. So we have a tremendous responsibility to
9 interact with you.

10 We've done this the past several decennials, we've
11 gone through the 2001, 2011, and now 2021 periods, and I
12 hail to you your efforts as a body, as an institution to
13 recognize the VRA; that's your job. That's your number one
14 job, to recognize and fulfill the requirements of the VRA.

15 You have that responsibility. Otherwise, as it has
16 happened in the past decennials, we end up in court all the
17 time. So I think part of your agenda through the course of
18 the next several months should be "we don't go to court,"
19 that should be a part of your agenda.

20 But the package that you're supposed to receive is
21 in the envelope -- did you receive that?

22 You're all just looking at me starry-eyed.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: We haven't received it yet but
24 I'm sure we will.

25 MR. GORMAN: Okay. LD-7 is a -- is a tremendous,

1 important district, it is the only Native American majority
2 district. It is designed to respect and comply with the
3 VRA.

4 The Navajo Nation makes up a significant proportion
5 of the Havasupai-Walapai to the west and then the Apache to
6 the south. My brothers and sisters have raised concerns
7 about the differences and the disparities from the south; we
8 have to work together, we have to live together, and we have
9 common interests and we have commonality.

10 And I think that commonality is the mighty dollar
11 that we all share in one respect or another. Over
12 \$6 billion of Navajo money go off the Navajo Nation into the
13 respective communities around the Navajo Nation, that
14 includes Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

15 The threshold issue that you need to aspire and
16 comply with is what exists today in LD-7. LD-7 has
17 63.1 percent Native American voting age population. You
18 need to respect that and conform with that.

19 Secondly, you also need to consider the Navajo is a
20 cohesive nation, it's a community of interest in its own.
21 And on the Navajo Nation, as we will be talking with the
22 respective counties, chapter boundaries, political
23 boundaries become communities of interest across the Navajo
24 Nation.

25 And then -- how much time?

1 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

2 MR. GORMAN: And the threshold issues you need to
3 consider is that you need to have 64.8 percent Native
4 American voting age population in LD-7 as we go forward.
5 It's a very important issue. There's no division in that
6 LD-7 as far as congressional district is concerned.

7 CD-1 also is a very, very important district. In
8 Arizona it -- as pointed out, it comprises of Native
9 American voting age population that's the highest percentage
10 in the state.

11 So those are issues that you need to take into
12 consideration. We will be spending a lot of time together,
13 we'll know each other at the end of the cycle.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. CRANK: Thank you, sir.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CRANK: We do have one final speaker,
18 Madam Chair and Commissioners. Barbara Silversmith.

19 MS. SILVERSMITH: Hello. My name is Barbara
20 Silversmith.

21 I would like to introduce myself in Navajo which is
22 the proper way of introduction to my Navajo people.

23 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

24 I'll now switch to English.

25 I want to welcome the committee to be able to come

1 here and be with us, but I'm just disappointed that there's
2 not a lot of the tribal delegates, tribal leaders here to
3 hear all the Navajo people that have spoken, their input,
4 and those delegates are supposed to take our information
5 back to each of their communities. And I'm just quite
6 surprised they're not here but, oh well.

7 I've had the best of both worlds. I was born here
8 in Apache County, Arizona; I was raised in Eagar, Arizona;
9 my father was a sawmill worker since the '60s; and I was a
10 community servant, served as a courtroom supervisor with the
11 Apache County Superior Court for 32 years, I retired about
12 eight years ago.

13 So I've seen both sides. And I hope this is not an
14 effort -- when you redistrict an effort to try to divide the
15 county as they have tried to do in the 1980s. There was a
16 case presented by a local attorney to divide the county but
17 it didn't work. I don't know if it was presented again,
18 that part I don't remember.

19 And in the late '60s, I was not very old then but
20 I -- I remember my parents talking about it, my uncle Tom
21 Shirley was the first Navajo supervisor elected to the Board
22 of Supervisors. So prior to that, the Apache County was
23 represented by three members from the southern part of the
24 county for many years.

25 So as far as funding went, I don't know if the

1 Apache -- Navajo -- if the Navajo people were represented or
2 if they got funding from the county back then prior to Tom
3 Shirley being elected.

4 So with this redistricting, I -- like I said, I
5 hope it's not an effort to divide the county again. I am --
6 my parents have been taxpayers since the 1960s.

7 I know the case about -- between the Navajos and
8 the Hopis about the water issues, that case is very old. I
9 don't know if it ever got settled because when I retired it
10 was still going. A very old case.

11 I agree with Ms. Heitland's comments concerning the
12 ranching part because my husband and I do ranching there.
13 We retired in Saint Johns, we still have kids that live in
14 the Round Valley area.

15 I also thank Mr. Jay Platt for the comments he's
16 made, and that was quite an insight mentioning all the other
17 counties, how it affects the redistricting in other
18 counties, which I was not aware of.

19 The other thing I wanted to mention, too, is -- I
20 guess my three minutes is up, so.

21 But, like I said, I hope that redistricting goes
22 well and you consider the Navajos. Navajos are being
23 elected to the state offices now and I'm glad our voices are
24 being heard. My parents still have a home here on the
25 reservation and I still have a home off the reservation and

1 I pay my share of taxes.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Madam Chair and
5 Commissioners and the listening public, that is our last
6 speaker here in Window Rock.

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On behalf of myself and my
8 fellow Commissioners, I want to thank those who have spoken
9 today. I want to thank the people who attended in Eagar
10 and -- for their comments.

11 We take your comments very, very seriously. We
12 will make sure we get translations of the one or two
13 speakers that we did not understand ourselves, but we will
14 make sure we get those.

15 And -- and, again, I want to really appreciate your
16 participation today.

17 Also, as our presenters showed earlier in the
18 meeting, on our website we have easy-to-use tools for
19 learning about and sharing information about your community
20 of interest; and rather than relying purely on the comments
21 that we heard today, we encourage you to go online and
22 submit maps to us or submit other comments to us. This will
23 ensure that we correctly understand the definition of what
24 you want to see in your community of interest.

25 And we encourage your friends and neighbors to do

1 so, too. So share your thoughts with them.

2 Anyone can go online, we're online 24 hours 7 days
3 a week, so you can make comments at any time and there's no
4 requirement to attend one of these meetings in order for
5 your input to be heard.

6 At this point we'd like to adjourn the meeting.

7 And, again, thank you for attending.

8 (Whereupon the proceedings concludes at 3:35 p.m.
9 MST/4:35 p.m. MDT)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Angela Furniss Miller, Certified Reporter No. 50127, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.

I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto nor am I in any way interested in the outcome thereof.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-206. Dated at Litchfield Park, Arizona, this 17th of August, 2021.



Angela Furniss Miller, RPR, CR
CERTIFIED REPORTER (AZ50127)

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 17th of August, 2021.



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