

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Paul Conathers, and
3 following Paul is Louise, following Louise and the final
4 speaker is Scott Caswell.

5 MR. CONATHERS: Good morning.

6 Yes. I'm Paul Conathers; and I live in Pinedale
7 community which is about 20 miles west of here on the 260 on
8 way to Heber-Overgaard. My office, I'm an insurance agent
9 and Realtor, my office is on Deuce of Club in Show Low, just
10 a stone's throw from here; and my clients range from
11 Saint Johns to Concho to McNary to Whiteriver to Cibecue,
12 Heber-Overgaard over to Winslow and Holbrook is my marketing
13 area which I have clients.

14 And right now we're in District 7, and just a few
15 minutes away I'm in District 6 for legislative district
16 which is what I want to speak about.

17 So our community, right now our community is split,
18 and that makes no sense at all. And the reason that I'm
19 going into reasons why that happened, but I think that's a
20 mistake. Because in the rural areas of Apache County, the
21 rural areas of Navajo County, we all work here in Show Low
22 most of us. The big employers is, you know, Walmart and
23 hospital are here in Show Low; and people commute
24 from Vernon where I'm at, Heber-Overgaard, they commute here
25 to work. There's a common -- there's a common interest.

1 I would implore you to put those -- our communities
2 back together and like was mentioned, so I'm just kind of
3 echoing what was mentioned before me.

4 And like Walt Blackman, yeah, some people in
5 Show Low, they think of him as theirs and he's not. So I
6 ask you to really consider that. Specifically it makes
7 sense to -- and also in congressional district have south of
8 I-40 be one district combined, and I think that will
9 better -- give us better representation.

10 So thank you for your time.

11 (Applause.)

12 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Thank you.

13 MS. LIGGETT: Good morning. All Commissioners for
14 being here for us. Can you hear me?

15 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Mm-hm.

16 MS. LIGGETT: Okay. I am new to this area; I came
17 from North Phoenix, Cave Creek, lived there for almost
18 20 years; loved living there, but it just got too crowded so
19 my husband and I moved out here to the rural area.

20 We live in -- just north of Snowflake and we love
21 it. We love it. We love it. There's so little traffic,
22 there's less people; and people talk to each other. It's
23 awesome and it's wonderful; people are real.

24 They know their neighbors, they want to know their
25 neighbors even though they're -- we have 36 acres and our

1 neighbors have property too, but we gather together because
2 we want to be together not 'cause we're squeezed together
3 into a city together on the same block. You know what I
4 mean?

5 So we are learning to live the country life and we
6 love it. It's harder but we love it. We have space, we
7 have air, beautiful clouds, we love Arizona.

8 And we believe that Sylvia Allen, Walt Whitman --
9 I'm sorry, Walt Blackwell -- I'm new here.

10 But we believe that the northern and the middle
11 eastern sections should be separated and grouped the five
12 counties together that -- that Sylvia noted; we think that
13 they have more interests in common.

14 And I also want to say that there's a lot of people
15 moving here. There's a lot of people from the cities moving
16 here, and they're going to have to learn Arizona ways.

17 And the people coming to the country, they need to
18 be together and they need to think -- think neighborly, I
19 guess you would say, and to work together. We want to work
20 together and we want to have these five areas together so we
21 can work. Whether they're white men, whether they're
22 Natives, whether they're Europeans or whatever, whoever they
23 are, we want to work together, and we want to have common
24 interests.

25 And also the legislators they don't need to be

1 going all over, you know, crazy areas, we want a more
2 compact area also.

3 Thank you for listening. Have a great day and
4 thank you for all your hard decisions you're going to make
5 and listening to all the people and caring.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. CRANK: Next speaker is Scott Caswell and the
9 final and last speaker is Kelly Rael.

10 MR. CASWELL: Hello.

11 Our problem now is that we are taxed without
12 representation. Taxation without representation is not
13 American, it is not for my child to live up -- to grow up
14 being taxed without representation.

15 Our taxes are taken and very little benefit comes
16 to our people; that is slavery. We want our people to be
17 represented by our people. And if a foreign nation, the
18 Navajo Nation, they are unite and other nations, they have
19 no right to tax us. They can take care of themselves; we'll
20 take care of ourselves. We can no longer permit a foreign
21 nation to tax us and not give us any benefits.

22 We need representation for our taxation here. They
23 have different values, they have different school systems,
24 they have different police system, they are separate. They
25 are their own nation, let them be their own nation.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. RAEL: Hello. My name is Kelly Rael; I'm from
4 Florence, Arizona, but after serving my time in the military
5 and after my husband retired 30 years in the military, we
6 chose this place out of the whole country to come live and
7 raise our family. This is truly God's country.

8 And as soon as I came here I saw the dysfunction of
9 our representation. Last year when businesses were being
10 forced to shut down, I reached out to our state
11 representatives, Arlando Teller and Myron Tsosie. I called
12 their office numerous times, sent numerous e-mails, no
13 response. I'm not even a business owner, but I could feel
14 the pain.

15 Out of desperation I created a BOLO alert for our
16 leadership "missing leadership." Because they were missing.
17 And I shared it on every Navajo Nation yard sale page, every
18 yard sale page in this area, and throughout the White
19 Mountain Apache Tribe.

20 In that, in the responses I saw that no one was
21 getting representation. It's very easy to sit on the Navajo
22 Nation and virtue signal (phonetic) but not do anything.

23 So I believe Sylvia's Allen proposed map is
24 adequate representation; it would make this area competitive
25 again.

1 If you want a point of reference to look at what
2 would make us communities of interest, the first place I
3 would start, looking at the DES office locations.
4 White River recently closed their offices, Show Low closed
5 their office, they moved it to Pinetop-Lakeside so it would
6 be fair for -- for people looking for work and looking for
7 assistance.

8 On the Navajo Nation they can go to Tuba City or
9 they can go to Flagstaff; and based on the data, a lot of
10 Natives are -- Navajo Natives are going to Flagstaff and
11 Tuba City for services.

12 Here at the Show Low office, they are seeing over
13 50 percent members from White Mountain Apache Tribes as
14 their clients.

15 Secondly, another point of reference would be
16 looking at the VA Medical Center the way they have their
17 maps laid out. Navajo Nation is part of Northern Arizona VA
18 medical program. Here in White River, San Carlos Apache
19 tribes, Payson, they are all out of the Phoenix VA tribe --
20 or, excuse me, Phoenix VA health center.

21 I believe that this would be a lot more
22 competitive. It's very disheartening to look at the voting
23 ballots and not seeing any conservative representatives
24 because there's no point. As Dave Peelman has said many
25 times "Jesus Christ couldn't even win LD-7 at this point."

1 I believe that we do deserve better representation,
2 we --

3 MS. CRANK: Time.

4 MS. RAEL: Okay. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 COMMISSIONER LERNER: First of all, I want to just
7 say thank you to everybody for coming out on a Saturday
8 morning. It's a beautiful day; I'm sure there were a lot of
9 other things you could have done.

10 But we really appreciate you being here. We very
11 much appreciate hearing from you and want -- so I just
12 wanted to say thank you, this was a great morning.

13 As you've seen today, on our website we have some
14 easy-to-use tools for learning about and sharing information
15 about your communities of interest. We are all very
16 appreciative of the maps you all have been talking about,
17 clearly you have been sharing those. We would appreciate
18 all that kind of feedback from you.

19 Rather than relying purely on our interpretation of
20 your comments today, we encourage you to go online and
21 submit a map to us or provide any additional feedback that
22 you would like to. This will ensure we are correctly
23 understanding the definition of your community.

24 Please encourage your friends and neighbors to
25 share their thoughts as well. Anyone can do so online at

1 any time, there's no requirement to attend any one of these
2 meetings to be heard.

3 We are appreciative of you being here, but we also
4 want to make sure that you know we are not -- this is not
5 the end of hearing from you in terms of public comment.

6 So, again, I just want to say thank you very much
7 from myself and other Commissioners and our staff, and I
8 will now adjourn the meeting.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 11:45 a.m.)

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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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