

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 26, 2011
6:03 p.m.

Location

**Bullhead City Council Chambers
1255 Marina Boulevard
Bullhead City, AZ 85422**

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair
Linda C. McNulty, Commissioner
Raymond F. Bladine, Executive Director
Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
William Desmond, Strategic Telemetry

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
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Certified Court Reporter No. 50073
www.courtreportersaz.com

Bullhead City, Arizona
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P R O C E E D I N G S

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We're going to get started.

Good afternoon. Thank you all for being here. My name is Jose Herrera. I'm a Vice Chair of the IRC, and this is my first time in Bullhead City, and I love the town. We may be staying the night, gambling.

So thank you guys for welcoming us, and what we'll do is we'll start with the Pledge of Alliance.

(Pledge recited)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Again, thank you.

And now before we get started, I want to make sure that everyone that would like to speak needs to fill out this form and put your name and the comments that you want to make.

If you want to speak and/or just want to make comment and not speak, you can fill out this blue form, but we do need one or the other, and I would recommend that even if you're not speaking, that you fill out this

comment sheet so your voice can be heard.

What we'll be doing today after I introduce some people and after our presentation from Willie Desmond from Strategic Telemetry, we'll start with the public comments, and what we'll do is we'll limit the public comments to about four minutes, and I will have our Chief Technology Officer, Buck Forst, back there -- Buck, can you wave to people.

(Buck Forst stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: He will be taking the time. It will be exactly four minutes. If you guys can do me a favor and stick to those four minutes. We will shut your mic off if you don't.

We have a big crowd and we want to make sure we get as much public comment as possible, so what I usually ask if for people to hold your applause at the end. It goes by a lot quicker.

Today is Tuesday. What show is on tonight?
CSI.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: NCIS.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: NCIS. So if you want to get home on time to watch NCIS, I recommend that you hold your applause until the end and, also, what we've been telling people, that, you know -- I know people are passionate about redistricting, and I want to make sure

people hold their comments to themselves if they're not speaking; or when people are speaking, please don't speak in the audience. It is really distracting. So just, again, just let's be courteous and listen to the people that are speaking.

And what I'd like to do now is introduce some people, some distinguished guests. We have the mayor of Bullhead City, Jack Hakim.

You can wave to the crowd.

(Mayor Jack Hakim stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have the mayor of Kingman, John Salem.

(Mayor John Salem stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have the mayor of Flagstaff, Sara Presler.

(Mayor Sara Presler stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Bullhead City Councilman Sam Medrano.

(Councilman Sam Medrano stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have our State Senator Ron Gould.

(Senator Ron Gould stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: State Representative Nancy McLain, District 3.

(Representative Nancy McLain stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We have Bullhead City
Manager Toby Cotter.

(City Manager Toby Cotter stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Kingman City Manager Jack
Kramer.

(City Manager Jack Kramer stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And obviously we have our
own Staff Council -- I mean Commissioner Linda McNulty
and then we have our attorney Mary O'Grady, and we
have -- excuse me.

Is there another city council person in the
audience?

(Unidentified male stood)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: I apologize. Your name,
sir?

MR. ANDERSON: I'm Rick Anderson from the City
of Kingman.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let's applaud him.

Is there another one?

(Unidentified female stood)

COUNCIL MEMBER BRUCK: I'm Council Member Kathy
Bruck from Bullhead City.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

(Unidentified male stood)

SUPERVISOR SOCKWELL: Supervisor Tom Sockwell

from Bullhead City. This is my district, folks.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you. Anybody else?

(Unidentified male stood)

SUPERVISOR WATSON: Gary Watson, Supervisor,
District 1, Kingman.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Welcome.

Other distinguished guests? I know you all are distinguished so we can't introduce you individually.

We also -- as I stated, we have our attorney, Mary O'Grady. We have our Chief Technology Officer in the back, Buck Forst; Ray Bladine, the Executive Director; we have the Deputy Executive Director Kristina Gomez; and we have the RIC staff person Lisa Smelling -- Schmelling back there.

I think those are all the people that I was going to introduce.

Looks like a good crowd. Again, thank you very much. And this meeting is being streamed live, so we have our other commissioners who were unable to attend, and what we're trying to do is cover as much of the state as possible, so we can't all attend all the meetings, but we have three of the commissioners, Sterts, Vice Chair Freeman, and Colleen Mathis, the Chair, that are watching the streaming, so please do say hi to them.

So next what we'll do, Willie Desmond, Strategic Telemetry, will present on what is redistricting.

MR. DESMOND: All right. Thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you today. My name is Willie Desmond. I work for Strategic Telemetry. We were the firm hired to present technical assistance to the Commission as they begin the process to draw new district maps. This is the 5th I believe in the series of 17 first round meetings that are designed to collect the public's input about what considerations they would like the Commission to take into account as they draw the maps.

Once the first draft map has been created, there will be a 30-day public review period and then another round of public meetings all around the state.

So if you're watching at home and you haven't had the opportunity to come here today, please try to come to another one of the meetings either later in this first round or coming up in the next round after the draft map has been put out.

This will be a short presentation discussing the redistricting process here in Arizona, why we have to redistrict, and how you can submit your input to the Commission.

Is it possible to get the PowerPoint up on the -- there we go.

(PowerPoint presentation was presented to the audience.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: With the Voting Rights Act, a translator will be available at all public hearings in order to provide translating interpreting services that might be needed for those citizens that need translating or interpreter services.

Will Maria Mitchell please stand up and interpret what I just said.

Can you use the mic, please.

(The Interpreter interpreted the above in Spanish.)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Can you spell your name for the record, please.

MS. MITCHELL: Sure. It's Maria, M-a-r-i-a, Mitchell, M-i-t-c-h-e-l-l.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

MS. MITCHELL: You're welcome.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Now, we do have a court reporter, Christine Bemiss, and when you come up to speak, you will have, again, four minutes. Please spell your first and last name and speak clearly and slowly. The court reporter has a difficult job, so she would

help -- it would help if you spoke clearly and took your time within those four minutes.

Now, we're going to get started, and what I'd like to do is have the mayor of Bullhead City, Jack Hakim, if you don't mind welcoming the guests, please.

MAYOR HAKIM: On behalf of our city, our residents, and on behalf of the residents of Mohave County and those visiting from Coconino County as well, I'd like to welcome you for this very important and sensitive issue. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

What I'd like to do before we start the meeting is thank Janice Paul with the City of Bullhead for all the work she's done in putting this together. So thank you, Janice.

Our first speaker is John Salem, mayor of the City of Kingman.

MAYOR SALEM: Good evening. My name is John Salem, J-o-h-n, S-a-l-e-m. I am here representing the City of Kingman, as well as the Tri-City Council. My comments will be limited to we would just -- we would like you to consider keeping Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City together. If we can maintain the integrity of those three cities because we are -- we are a member of what we call -- it's a quasi --

quasi-governmental agency called the Tri-City Council, and we are together as one voice for rural Arizona especially in the northwest part of Mohave County.

One of my colleagues, Sam Medrano, I believe he is signed up to speak next, he can articulate more on this particular issue, so thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Now we have Sam Medrone -- Medrano, excuse me, council member with the Bullhead City.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEDRANO: Hello. My name is Sam Medrano, S-a-m, last name's M-e-d-r-a-n-o. I'm a member of the Bullhead City Council. Thank you for coming to Bullhead City. Brave it in the middle of summer, that's great.

So, anyway, I wanted to start off by saying that the mayors of the three cities of Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu have asked me to speak here tonight on this topic, and that just kind of goes to show you of the commonality and the community of interest that I wish to talk to you tonight about, and that would be with regard to the Tri-City Council of Mohave County.

It was established in 2005 as an informal mechanism to meet. We formalized the council in 2007, as you just heard the mayor talk about. One of the

biggest things you're going to have to do as commissioners is establish communities of interest, and that's why I'm here, to let you know that the city of Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City need to be recognized as a community of interest. We represent 120,000 people of Mohave County. We're growing communities. We have evolving economy based on tourism, seniors. There's just a lot of things that we work together on for the benefit of all three communities.

We -- to give you an example, we have a shop local campaign that was started from the Tri-City Council with the idea that if you can't find what you're shopping for in one of the three cities, we encourage our residents to visit our neighboring cities, either Kingman or Lake Havasu City because, you know, tax revenues stay in our community and, therefore, benefit our communities.

You just have so many different things to consider, but when we come to congressional districts and redistricting and legislative districts, it's important to note that communities of interest have a big impact and need to draw attention of their elected officials.

When we're talking about the differences between legislative districts and congressional

districts, you're making 30 legislative districts and 9 congressional districts, so the communities of interest are a little bit different.

As a Tri-City Council, we recognize the fact that Phoenix is the center of Arizona and has all the population, but we also understand that rural parts of Arizona are an important part of the state and we don't want to be lost in the mix of the Phoenix and Tucson areas, which I don't mean to be rude, and you're from Phoenix and Tucson and you have nobody on your commission representing rural Arizona, but we need to really emphasize, especially when it comes to the congressional districts. We know that there is no one county, one city in rural Arizona that can be its own congressional district, and we're well aware of that, but there is a community of interest for rural Arizona when it comes to congressional districts, and those communities of interest are, are you a part of the Phoenix or Tucson metro area or are you not. We're not, and we don't want to be a part of the metro part of Phoenix or Tucson, and while I believe that there's enough population in rural Arizona for two rural congressional districts, and I think you can make an argument that those two those congressional districts do not have to take in anything to do with Tucson or

Maricopa County.

On the legislative side, we believe that you can make 8 legislative congressional districts in rural Arizona again without taking in any parts of the metro Phoenix or Tucson areas.

We have very much in common with rural Arizona. We have almost nothing in common with Phoenix and Tucson, and that's not being rude, that's just the fact of life. I come from a rural mining town in Arizona, been in rural Arizona all my life, and the facts are true. We just don't have anything in common with Phoenix or Tucson.

Was that my time up?

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Yes, sir.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEDRANO: Okay.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

COUNCIL MEMBER MEDRANO: Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Next is State Senator Ron Gould.

SENATOR GOULD: My name is Ron Gould, R-o-n, G-o-u-l-d. I'm the senator for the third district of Arizona. Welcome to Mohave County and the third district.

For a matter of full disclosure, I'm also Chairman of the Mohave County Republican Party, so I'm

pretty much -- I'm outed since I'm a state senator, so I am partisan.

I'm a little disappointed that the rest of the Commission was unable to attend, but I do thank you two for making the trip up here. I think to really get the flavor of what my constituents have to say, you have to be in the room. I don't think you can really get that on TV. So I do thank you for coming today.

Communities of interest kind of tie in with what I'm going to say later. My main point is I would like Mohave County to stay in one legislative district. We are very pleased with how redistricting turned out in 2000. We are happy that Mohave County is almost all entirely in one district. Before the county was split into two legislative districts. Lake Havasu was with Prescott, Kingman and part of Bullhead City was with Flagstaff. I don't think that really worked very well for our area. It made a big district that was tough to represent.

The second thing that I'd like to say is we would like our own congressional district. As Mr. Medrano said previously, we don't have as much in common with the Phoenix Metropolitan area. We would like a congressional district where the congressman comes from our rural area. We don't want to see the

congressional districts as spokes of a wheel where the congressmen will come from -- all from Maricopa County. We don't think that that's fair to rural Arizona. We would like a congressman that is familiar with our area, that lives in our neighborhood. I'm fond of Congressman Franks. I think he does a great job, but he doesn't live here. He lives 200 miles away, and we don't get to see him as much as we would like to see him and we think we would get to see him more if he was actually from our own neighborhood.

On communities of interest, people will associate with people that think similarly to themselves. When -- almost 20 years ago when I moved out of California, I didn't move to Berkeley, California, I moved to Mohave County. So to split Mohave County for some issue of competitiveness I think would violate the rules that you're supposed to follow when you redistrict.

But thank you -- I'm going to be brief because there's people that would like to talk but thanks, once again, for coming.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next speaker is Nancy McLain, State Representative, District 3.

REPRESENTATIVE McLAIN: Senator Gould is a lot

taller than I am.

I am State Representative Nancy McLain,
N-a-n-c-y, M-c capital L-a-i-n.

I've been a representative now for 7 years, going into my 8th and final year next year, and I truly enjoyed representing District 3. It's been wonderful. The one thing it isn't, though, is compact. I know that that is one of the requirements, and it certainly isn't the case in here. I'm driving to Page tomorrow, that's a five-hour drive, but I don't mind doing that because I enjoy going up there and representing those people. They too have a community of interest with us as they're on the Colorado River, as is most of District 3, but, you know, I understand that the districts are going to change, and I may or may not lose the City of Page -- or District 3 may not retain the City of Page, but I would certainly like to echo the others who have said that we would -- we would really like to see Mohave County kept in the same legislative district.

Mr. Medrano spoke at the Tri-City Council, and I can tell you that that has been an effective way of talking to the legislators. I meet with them frequently. They have quarterly meetings. I attend those that I possibly can, and we discuss again interests that are in common with the three cities. So

it's really important that the three cities be retained in one district. We would like to see all of Mohave County in the same legislative district as well.

We have all of Mohave County except a portion of the Hualapai Reservation that comes into Mohave County. That's the status now, and we would certainly like to see that continue.

As far as the congressional districts, I think you're going to see a map later from one of the folks that we've been working with which would basically follow the Colorado River from Mohave County on down to Yuma. Again, the river interests are extremely important. Those of us who live on the Colorado River share the interest. We have the issues with -- that are mostly resolved now but not entirely of the contamination of the river by septic tanks and that sort of thing, and we have all fought in our different ways to make sure that we can get the funding to do what's necessary to install the sewer systems. That's been a big point with the folks here, especially Bullhead and Lake Havasu City.

That's really all I had to say, either just -- just we would certainly stress that Mohave County needs to be in the same legislative district.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next we have Sara Presler, City of Flagstaff mayor.

MAYOR PRESLER: Good evening. My name is Sara Presler, S-a-r-a, P-r-e-s-l-e-r, 211 West Aspen, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001, and I'm in my second term as mayor for the City of Flagstaff. Most people think that I work for the mayor, but I really am the mayor.

I'm also a Northern Arizona University alumni, a licensed attorney with the State of Arizona, and a graduate of River Valley High School, originally from Bullhead City, Arizona.

While we are many communities, we have one Arizona, and so I've come home this evening to speak on behalf of the Greater Arizona Mayor's Association. I serve as vice chair of the organization to which the Mohave County mayors are a part. The mayors of Kingman, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu have expressed their desire to you tonight in unison as the tri-city, tri-community mayors, and I'm here to support their statement in that.

I'm also here to testify to you on behalf of the City of Flagstaff. I'll see you on Thursday in Prescott, and my colleagues on the City Council will speak to you when you're in Flagstaff, but I wanted to

share with you that the City of Flagstaff values a redistricting outcome that is first and foremost compliant with the Voter's Rights Act of 1965 and does not regress in its representation of native populations in Northern Arizona.

Aggregates Flagstaff's communities of interest as seen in transportation, government, economics, and natural resources maximizes competitive districts across the state of Arizona. Very important. It's not just Flagstaff, but across the state of Arizona competitive districts and includes Flagstaff in such a competitive district and places all of Flagstaff's city limits in a single legislative district.

So, Mr. Vice Chairman Herrera, Commissioner -- of course, Chair Mathis, who couldn't be with us this evening, Executive Director Gomez, my fellow mayors, thank you for hosting me here in Mohave County. Judge Brady is here, Mohave County supervisors, our state senators, state representatives, and most importantly the public are here tonight to share with you our collaborative vision, and we as community leaders have engaged in a vigorous listening process, and we're here through representative democracy to be able to share that feedback with you. And so I just want to emphasize to you the Voter's Rights Act, not regressing in its

representation of native populations, maximizing competitive districts, and unifying communities of interest and maintaining cities in single legislative districts, including Flagstaff.

Thank you for being here in my hometown of Bullhead City, and we're really grateful that you've come to conduct your hearing here this evening.

And on behalf of all the mayors of greater Arizona, we welcome you and appreciate your time tonight. Thanks.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: The next person is -- I think it's LaJuana Gillette representing herself.

MS. GILLETTE: Hello. My name is LaJuana, L-a, capital J-u-a-n-a, Gillette, G-i-l-l-e-t-t-e, and I just want to say that -- I want to repeat what has been said before, that Mohave County wants to stay in one district. I like the people who represent me. I like what they do. They listen to what we say. They understand our problems and they're accessible to us. We don't want to be represented by someone from Maricopa County or any of the large areas that outvote us on every single statewide election. We have a good thing here and we would like to keep it.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Excuse me, any comments in the audience, can you keep that to a minimum. Thank you.

Our next speaker is Bob Boyd representing himself.

MR. BOYD: My name is Bob, B-o-b, B-o-b, real easy, B-o-y-d.

THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MR. BOYD: And I recognize -- I identified myself as a citizen, and what I want to say, first of all, thank you for coming. Thank you for listening to us.

Additionally, I'm not going to need an interpreter, but I thank you for that.

I came here 31 years ago with my family. I have a lovely wife that I thank God for every day. We, between us, have 7 children, adult children, and their spouses. That's 13 grandchildren. We came here for a reason. Like Ron said, we came here to get away from a lot of the big city, and I represent myself just as one citizen. The bulk of this county that needs to stay and wants to stay together are here for that very same reason. They like this area. They came for that river. They came to enjoy the mountains that we have, the Hualapai Mountains. They came to enjoy the hunting, the fishing, the recreation that they have down in Havasu,

the casino life that's close to Bullhead City. This is the type of thing that we want to maintain the integrity of. We do have legislative people that listen to what we want to say and have to say, and they represent us and stand by our feelings in our district.

Additionally, I cannot emphasize enough the fact that when you start looking at the congressional districts, we need our own congressional representation.

Bottom line, I know at one point in time our representation was on the other side of the state. We've got so much going on right now, and a lot of people are saying it's a depressed area. Mohave County is not resting. We want to make things happen. We want to set things in a positive direction no matter how negative the rest of the world wants to be. Mohave County stands together, and I want to keep us together, and I thank you for your time.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next speaker is James D. Barber representing himself.

MR. BARBER: James, J-a-m-e-s, D., Barber.

And I remember in -- first I want to thank you for coming.

And I remember one of the things I saw in my history book when I was a kid. There was a snake or a

lizard and it was cut up into different sections, and I remember reading the word "gerrymandering," and I always wondered about that word until I saw a congressional district that went from Kansas City, Missouri, across the I-70 to St. Louis, and that was a congressional district. And I said how can someone be -- how can someone be represented properly like that until I came here. In 19 -- in the year 2000 I moved here, and I looked at the map and I go, wait a minute, and it must have been an old map, but the map went from Glendale up through Mohave County, kind of meandered around and then went all the way over to Flagstaff. I said, "Wow, that's impossible. How can you do it?"

Being from Los Angeles, every Friday morning I would get -- I would go to my congressional rep's office, which was about a mile and a half, and I would ask them, "What are you guys doing in Washington for us?" And ultimately her staff asked me, "When are you going to quit bothering the congresswoman?" And I told her, "As soon as she decides to reduce -- propose a tax cut." But that is what I'm talking about.

My congressional rep right now is decent. I can call him, people will get on the phone, but he's still 200 miles away from me. In Los Angeles I could drive to, depending on traffic, about 25 districts

within an hour from my former home, and down one street I can pass like 5 of them. Just Crenshaw Boulevard, I can just drive right by 5 different congressional offices, but that's how -- it's so compact.

So when we hear people here in Mohave County talk about compact, compact to us is being able to go from the bottom half of the county to the upper half of the county and it all be one congressional district, not two, not three, and no part of it belongs to Maricopa County. I mean, they have a nice stadium, but it doesn't have to be in our district. Trust me, we like the river in our district, not the stadium.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next we have Diane I think it's Klostermeier representing herself.

MS. KLOSTERMEIER: Hello. My name is Diane Klostermeier.

I'd like to first of all thank you for allowing us to be here. My name is spelled D-i-a-n-e, capital K-l-o-s-t-e-r-m-e-i-e-r. I'm a registered voter and resident of Lake Havasu City, in Mohave County, and I respectfully request that you keep your deliberations on setting up our districts -- that you keep it as one county, Mohave County. We have similar interests. We

are involved in a lot of efforts and improvements that are done within our area and within our county. We would like it to be one congressional district, one legislative district so we would have adequate voice in the things that our citizens of that community need. I've been very active in a lot of things in our community, and that's what I'm hearing from the people.

We would also like to keep one continually compactness and contiguous needs and things of our city because we do have similar interests, similar needs, and lot of our representatives are doing so.

We also would like you to respectfully request that other areas, such as the rural part of our state, have its own congressional district so that they, too, can enjoy the things we are now having here in Mohave County. They can have their proper representation that they will reflect the real needs of those areas. I want to ask that you please respectfully request our needs to respect communities and commonality of interest. That should be one of your prior guidelines. I notice you had the federal and state requirements here. As far as legislative things, please honor those, and it's very important that Mohave County stay as one area.

I want to thank you very much for your time.
God bless you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next we have Bill McMahon representing himself.

MR. McMAHON: And my wife.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: And your wife.

MR. McMAHON: Bill, B-i-l-l, McMahon is M-c
capital M-a-h-o-n.

My wife and I moved from the state of New Jersey about four years ago to Lake Havasu City. We went from an area totally overcrowded, but with that overcrowding I was on first name basis with the mayor, the council people, my state senator, and my senator in Washington. Here my representative is 200 miles away. I've never met him.

So as other people have said, we need contiguous and Mohave County kept together as one.

It was mentioned by the mayor of Bullhead City that the sewers are a big problem here along the Colorado River, yet our current representative would not even support getting any kind of money from the state or federal government because we feed water to California and we feed water to other parts of the state. Didn't want to hear a thing. So we need our own rural congressman that's going to look after our interest and the interest of 25 million people that get fed water from the Colorado River.

We have a district of like-minded people and what has not been said yet, it's probably one of the most patriotic areas I've lived in the country, and I've lived in five different areas in the southeast, the northeast, Pennsylvania, but I have come here and I have found that this area has the most patriotic and hard-working people that I have ever met.

So please keep our county together, and we need a representative local.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next we have Sam Scarmardo. He's a Lake Havasu City voter representing himself.

MR. SCARMARDO: Sam, S-a-m, S-c-a-r-m-a-r-d, as in David, o.

I want to thank you all for coming to our lovely little area of the state here. I moved here from Illinois, from Chicago precisely, 23 years ago. That's where gerrymandering was invented. I hope that doesn't even come into the picture here.

You know, that's -- I'm putting -- we're putting our faith in you. And I was asked by two of the city council members from Lake Havasu to express their regrets because tonight is a regular council meeting in Lake Havasu.

Basically what I'm going to say is what was said by everyone else here. First of all, if you're looking for a community of like interests, Mohave County is a community of like interests. It's compact, it's contiguous, and it is of like interest. The people in this county are very, very much like-minded. So it's an easy one for you to draw. You can draw your little district up here and get on to the important parts of the state -- the other parts of the state, less important part.

Secondly, we do need our own rural -- you need a couple rural congressional representatives, but we need ours. We absolutely and positively need our own congressional representative.

And, thirdly, we had a representation in one of the most screwiest legislative districts set up we ever had. In 23 years, as I say I've been here, when we had the representation where Lake Havasu was attached to Resect and Bullhead and Kingman was attached to everywhere else, for all intents and purposes, we never saw the representative. Most of the people in Lake Havasu City didn't even know who their legislative representatives were. And in the entire time I attended -- I've attended meetings since the day I moved into Arizona because you can actually get something

accomplished. In Chicago, forget it. You know, everything is predetermined and decided before you go, so it was a waste of time. Here the public actually has input, actually effect was coming out. We have phenomenal representation. I mean, we've got one of the finest state senators you can get, and our representatives are great. We just need you to take this all into account when you're doing it.

And I want to thank you and we appreciate your coming here.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next we have Donna Crouse representing herself.

MS. CROUSE: I'm Donna, D-o-n-n-a, Crouse, C-r-o-u-s-e.

And you've heard this a lot already, but I would just like to reiterate tonight that the Colorado River offers many things to Arizona and it's very important to Mohave County. It's very important to the other counties that border the Colorado River. It's not just a natural resource in the water itself, it's also the commerce that brings these counties into similar interest. The people in these counties have similar interest in recreation, they have similar interest in the natural resource itself because it's very viable to them, and as individual counties, they are all what we

would call rural counties.

We strongly desire our own congressional district. I think it's very important with the pending issues that are coming up with the Bureau of Reclamation that we do have a voice and a strong voice that's going to help us not only as Mohave County but the other counties that are involved along the river to protect all of Arizona, and the best way that can happen is for those of us who have that community of interest and are dependent on that river to be able to have a strong voice.

Legislatively, again, we are rural. Our issues with education are very similar. Our issues relating to even transportation, our roads, our infrastructure are very similar.

And so, again, not only would I suggest that you keep Mohave County together, but as rural communities of interest, that you consider keeping the rural counties along the Colorado River as one district.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next we have Norman Halfpenny representing himself.

MR. HALFPENNY: My name's Norman Halfpenny, H-a-l-f-p-e-n-n-y. Cut a penny in half.

We would like to say thank you for coming.
Wish there was more of you here.

We in Lake Havasu City -- I come from another big town in Arizona, Coconino County, Flagstaff, Arizona. I knew it when it was a small little town. We had a good mayor that worked, had a block plant, we had good judges. Arizona is unique. I'm from New York City. I left New York when I was 16, joined the Marine Corps, served in Korea and Vietnam. I retired and I come in -- bought my own truck. I was a truck driver in Arizona for 35 years. In that time I've learned Lake Havasu is our paradise. I know I live there, so I'm prejudiced, but the point I'm trying to make is we got a senator, Ron Gould, who's a working senator. He's not a politician. He's a working senator. He has his own business and gets up on the roofs and cleans air conditioners and everything else. We got a council person. They also work with you. We got people in city council right now tonight, they're having their meeting. The mayor should be here, but he wasn't. Sonny Borrelli, he's another mayor. We have people that we relate to, and as a small community, we have very close contact with our representatives, and they're not the fat cats in Washington, D.C., they're working people and they care about what happens in Kingman, Bullhead, and

Lake Havasu, and I think you should keep Mohave County intact the way it is, maybe add a few on, that's fine, but we would like to keep it that way.

And the rural area, we would definitely like to have another representation for another congressman. Trent Franks is a nice guy. I know him personally for many years, but like we've said, I haven't seen Trent since the last barbecue last year, and that's not right. We need local representation and we want to keep it that way.

And we appreciate your consideration.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Next we have Donald VanBrunt representing himself.

MR. VanBRUNT: Donald VanBrunt, D-o-n-a-l-d, V-a-n capital B-r-u-n-t. I live at 2484 South Highway 66, Kingman.

I'd like to thank all of you for coming. I look forward to the next trip when we'll have the first map that will be proposed.

I have with me some maps that I'll leave with you. And I was here -- oh, I've been here 44 years. When I first came here, we had a representative for our legislative district from the -- closer, okay -- from the state who I had occasion to go to Phoenix to take

care of business in our community on 10 or 12 different occasions, and of all those occasions, that gentleman who represented us was there one time. He came from the eastern part of the state, Navajo County, and he never in all the time that he served came to this county once. We do not want that again.

The map that I have -- I don't know if I can be heard -- if you haven't received you will receive from other areas a proposal that looks like this, which takes in the eastern Indian counties all the way across above the Grand Canyon and includes the northern part of Mohave County. It includes here a precinct which is the Hualapai Indian Reservation and a precinct here which is the Paiute Reservation. It also includes three others that they've proposed not be included.

We understand the necessity on your part to perhaps put the two precincts that are Indian reservations in with this area, but there is no reason on earth that these people, Colorado City, Scenic, Beaver Dam, Littlefield, should not be included as I have proposed here with the rest of Mohave County.

We encourage you, as everyone has thus far, to keep Mohave County as much as possible intact, particularly the areas that have commonality.

The two -- the two precincts that have

commonality with the rest of the Indian areas onto the east is understandable, but there's no reason whatsoever to include these areas of Colorado City, Scenic, Beaver Dam, and Littlefield with the area to the east, and this would put -- and there is a connection here between those precincts that would put these people back with the rest of us in Mohave County.

We have enjoyed very much having senator and congressman -- or house of representatives of our state that we could talk to, which for years we did not have.

As to the congressional districts, over here you have a map that I'm sure other people have represented to you that would put Mohave County, La Paz County, Yuma County, and Yavapai County, which comprises a total of 627,000 people. We'd need only 80,000 additional people from the very western edge of Maricopa County to put us all into a rural congressional district, and that is something that -- and I have met with many organizations in the county who all propose the same thing. We feel that we need a congressman that could be from the area of rural Arizona.

I leave that with you and thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Sir, if you could give that to our Executive Director, Ray Bladine. Thank you.

MR. VanBRUNT: Yes. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: The next speaker is Steven Robinson representing himself.

MR. ROBINSON: Good evening, Vice Chair. My name is Steven, with a v, Robinson, R-o-b-i-n-s-o-n.

And several of us met this afternoon before coming over here and we didn't want to overwhelm you with our representation, but since I am District 2 director for the Mohave County Republican Party here, which entails the area from Mohave Valley, including Bullhead City, and going all the way up to Golden Valley, I think this is a great place for me to say I am representing the Republican party on one big issue, which is the one you brought up about competitiveness. Competitiveness means that obviously we're trying to create districts where there's a balance between Republicans and Democrats. That is not going to happen in Mohave County. You know, we have -- right now the county has 49,000 Republicans, just under -- just over 29,000 Democrats, and about 41,000 Independents, most of whom consider themselves to be upset Republicans. So that's not going to be an issue, and there is a discussion about how -- you know, when you have that word significant, "no significant detriment to the other goals," the challenge is because of the concern about the whole issue with the history of the -- setting up

the Commission.

A phrase that I use to guide my political activity is a politician weakly and amiably in the right is no match for a politician tenaciously and pugnaciously in the wrong.

By that I mean I will fight for my values and I will fight strongly to my last breath. We are all Americans, so we can disagree without being disagreeable.

So in focusing on these issues of competitiveness, I think that should be the least consideration and, frankly, when I was doing some boundary drawing of lines both in the district and across the state when I was looking at it, it didn't even enter my mind to take into account voting patterns or microtargeting to create gerrymandered little districts where we picked up a bunch of liberal-leaning Independents to balance of all the hardcore Republicans, and I don't think you should do that either because that's not in the spirit of the Constitutions or in the spirit of the Voting Rights Act.

And so even though I am highly partisan and I believe in fighting for my values, and I will fight in the battlefield of ideas in our place -- in fact, I want to gently remind our mayor from Flagstaff that we're in

the representative republic, not a democracy.

And on that point I'll say a democracy is when two wolves and a lamb vote on what's going to be for dinner. Liberty is when that lamb is well-armed in contesting the vote, and the way we are well-armed is with the facts and with the truth, and that's what we hope to do is provide with adequate and solid information why things should be fairly and judiciously drawn.

Thank you and have a good day.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Next speaker is Marvin Robertson representing himself.

MR. ROBERTSON: Marvin is M-a-r-v-i-n, Robertson, R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n.

I'd like to welcome you to Fantasy Island, where you -- and you probably, between hearings, ought to be practicing with a Rubik's cube. It's amazing that we have now, going through our second session with the "independent" -- I put that in quotes -- "commission." I know you try and you work at it, but you weren't appointed that way; and, secondly, that everybody's going to be satisfied with the, quote, "competitive districts" that you're going to put together.

I handed in some written stuff I will go away

from a little bit, but the idea that I see coming up that we need a Native American district in the state I think is made from some people's interpretations fit within the Voting Rights Act, but having spent a number of years working in Georgia, at the University of Georgia, and in some politics, including helping unsuccessfully to get a man elected to Congress as a communication director, I can -- and looking at what's gone on here and nationally, if you -- the more you go -- the U.S. Supreme Court has disagreed with the Department of Justice on every -- virtually every case over the last several years.

We talked about gerrymandering. Can't get that out. One of the districts in North Carolina ran down the center lane of a highway.

In the congressional district I was in in South Georgia looked a little bit like a map of Mohave County that shows you which part of the county belongs to the Bureau of Land Management. That's a checkerboard square of what they own, and that's the way the district was put together.

When you get to competitiveness, after -- if you put together three districts based on race and ethnicity, call them minorities, but -- you know, I don't know who's -- I've been trying to figure out for a

long time how come women are minority and there are more of them than there are of us, but, anyway, that's the way we define minority.

But once you put those three groups in minority districts, you've used up an awful lot of Democrats because the minority districts across the United States vote in one party mostly. So now you've got -- when you start to make the next districts, you've already used up a lot of your Democrats, so you're going to end up with probably three districts that are already on one side, then you've got a lot of left-over Republicans that are going to put you in three more districts and maybe the other three will be competitive.

Secondly, I want to say there are over 200,000 people in this county now which almost gives you a legislative district, pretty close. When I first voted in this county, living north of Kingman, I was amazed trying to figure out which member of the Navajo Nation I should vote for. At that time our legislative district ran from Nevada across the Utah border to New Mexico. Wasn't gerrymandering, it was all fit together, but I don't think he ever saw us.

One more point, the Hualapai Indians are very much a part of Mohave County and this area. Our county builds the roads to get to their area. Part of their

people are in the Hall of Fame for the Route 66 Association and very active in that. Kingman tourism and their tourism is together. Most of their people, they go to Las Vegas for more of their tourism than somewhere else, and how they would fit with Apaches would be beyond me when it comes to community of interest.

Thank you all for coming up and good luck with a very, very difficult task.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

We have -- the next person is Beth Weisser representing herself. She's also a teacher in Kingman, Arizona.

MS. WEISSER: Thank you. My name is Beth Weisser, B-e-t-h, W-e-i-s-s-e-r.

And thank you for coming here. I know it's a long drive from Phoenix. I tend to drive to Phoenix quite often.

I wanted to speak as a teacher because of things that have been happening to public education. I'm sure most everybody in the room is well aware of the major cuts that have been taking place. It is my understanding that most of those cuts are due to an ideological view, mainly Republican.

I am in full disclosure now the chair for the

Mohave County Democrats. I am also the new president for Kingman Education Association. So I felt it was very appropriate for me to talk about public education.

Public education needs more funding in rural areas because of property taxes being so much lower.

As another person has already said, Democrats are very much a minority in Mohave County. If Mohave County continues to stay the same district, then we will continue to have not enough representation that is competitive.

Those are my main points. Thank you and thank you for coming out here.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Tom Wilkinson representing himself.

Before we go, I want to make sure that I ask the court reporter, do you need a break at all?

THE COURT REPORTER: No.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Anytime you need a break, just give me a signal.

AN UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Yeah, just throw something at him.

MR. WILKINSON: Tom Wilkinson, T-o-m, W-i-l-k-i-n-s-o-n.

Thank you very much for coming today. This is

a very big crowd, so it's a very interested crowd in your decisions.

One point that we need to point out, too, is that Mohave County is one of --

MS. McNULTY: Right into the mic.

MR. WILKINSON: Pardon?

MS. McNULTY: Pull the mic up to your mouth.

MR. WILKINSON: Oh, okay. Sorry.

One of the things is that we are one of the big five counties in this state, and so we should have at least one congressional district for ourselves also and as many of the state legislative districts as we can get.

We are rural and we do need rural representation. We all do have the same common interests in our county.

I think that that would probably be about it. Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

Our next speaker is Denise Bensusan representing the Long Mountain Property Association. She's the chairperson.

MS. BENSUSAN: Good evening. Thank you for coming down to see us all.

My name is Denise Bensusan. That's

D-e-n-i-s-e, B, as in boy, e-n-s-u-s-a-n.

I live in Mohave County, Kingman, Arizona. I'm a very rural citizen. I am isolated with a couple of neighbors. That's what rural Arizona is all about.

Now, I've heard from all the Republican counterparts. I think in my opinion, quite frankly, when they talk about like minds, they're talking about Republicans. Okay. Democrats are the minority in our county. Roughly 29,000 registered Democrats, about 49,000 Independents, which you can decide which way they lean or not because people are afraid to admit that they're Democrats in Mohave County because of the aggression and the issues that come around us.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Please, keep your comments to yourself. Thank you.

MS. BENSUSAN: Thank you.

It's an interesting issue. Keeping Mohave County together and following all these guidelines that you all have to follow is going to be very, very difficult. We have many, many disenfranchised voters, and they are further disenfranchised by the domination of the Republican party in Mohave County.

Now, I'm a Democrat and it's --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Excuse me.

You know, the comments from the public, I mean,

as I mentioned in the beginning, let's be respectful of all speakers, whether you agree with them or not. They respected you, if you spoke, so you need to do the same for the speaker in front of us. I'd appreciate that.

MS. BENSUSAN: Thank you. This is what I'm talking about right here. Okay. You've just seen it displayed. It's difficult to speak out when you're attacked when you do, but we follow what we think is best.

I don't think -- now, I'm really glad that the Republicans get to talk to all the Republican -- you know, we're Republican-dominated in Mohave County. It's all Republican. We don't get that attention. Okay. And there are many, many, many people that need your help. I don't know how you're going to do it, to be honest with you, but I think that the disenfranchised voters, the people of color deserve every thought, every ounce of energy that you can put into it to pull out some equality in our community. It's not there. Racism, bigotry, and -- it's just horrible. And I'm -- as I said, I'll continue to speak --

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Please do speak as long as you need.

MS. BENSUSAN: Thank you. Sorry for the interruptions.

As I said, it's a prime example. You are not allowed to speak. Our rep -- our Republican representatives do not speak to us. They ignore everything we talk to them about. We do not have a phone connection to our Republican representatives.

And concerning -- I think you guys cannot be bullied. It's a -- you're -- they're trying to bully you, and I think that what you're trying to do is be an independent commission. I appreciate that. I'm not sure how you're going to accomplish it, but those people, those Republican representatives are not representing my rural interest. It's been proven many times. We've been in court over issues, so, believe me, the city of Kingman does not know what rural citizens are really going through. It's just a totally different situation.

So please -- thank you for letting me continue. I appreciate your help. And I hope that you can hang in there without being bullied into a corner over anything.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

Our next speaker is Sharon Holmes.

MS. HOLMES: Sharon Holmes, S-h-a-r-o-n, H-o-l-m-e-s, out of Kingman.

Again, as most of the other people have said, I thank you for appearing here today. I know it was a

long way to get here.

I certainly concur with what has been said regarding Mohave County. I also concur with Mr. VanBrunt, who has presented a map to you which would in effect separate all of the Colorado River counties, Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma, into a district. We share similar problems all the way down the river. It simply makes good sense, I think, to do that.

You have a difficult job. I think he has done a good job of maybe giving you a suggestion that would work, and I will hope that you consider it as you go forward.

I did have a question. What exactly is ARIC and where do you come from, for lack of a better way of putting it?

MS. O'GRADY: If you'd like me to respond. I'm a lawyer for the Commission. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission is ARIC.

MS. HOLMES: Right.

MS. O'GRADY: It was established by the Constitution. There was a citizen initiative approved as Willie's presentation described.

MS. HOLMES: By the Constitution of Arizona?

MS. O'GRADY: By the Constitution of Arizona, that's right, ma'am.

MS. HOLMES: Do you have any relationship -- and I think the answer now is no -- to the redistricting process for the supervisor districts for the other districts that we're going through? I think that's not -- that's Mr. Cissen out of Tucson.

MS. O'GRADY: This Commission is only involved with legislative and congressional redistricting, not with any penalty or other --

MS. HOLMES: Okay. I was asking because they had promised they would be back for three meetings in July and we haven't seen them yet.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: You know, what I would encourage you, we do have quite a bit of information on our website, including a nice presentation and a very grave interpretation that our attorneys put together that will give you a good background on what redistricting -- what we do.

Our next speaker is Matthew Capalby representing himself.

MR. CAPALBY: Good evening, Commissioner's staff. My name is Matthew Capalby, M-a-t-t-h-e-w, C-a-p-a-l-b, as in boy, y, and I reside at 3070 Troxler Circle in Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

I am actually a third generation native of

Mohave County, born and raised in Kingman. So it's nice to be home and see many friends here in the audience this evening.

I am working with the citizen's group called Greater Arizona Success. We were formed actually in Coconino County, but we've outreached to a number of groups throughout Mohave County and the other greater Arizona regions, and I recently presented, but we have some further points more specific to this area.

And, again, I support much of what has already been mentioned here, and it's going very well.

And, again, the Greater Arizona Success citizen's group supports eight greater Arizona rural legislative districts with two greater Arizona congressional districts, one on the west side of the state, one on the east side of the state. We've been doing significant research to that effect. We have determined that the bulk of Yavapai County, Mohave County, La Paz County, and the bulk of Yuma County basically going down to Interstate 8 with a little bit of the outskirts of western Maricopa County does constitute a congressional district. Understanding that there are Voting Rights Act issues both at the north end and at the south end of that proposed congressional district, we thought that possibly the Mohawk Irrigation

District border or the Interstate 8 border region would suffice to create that district, at the same time meet those Voting Rights Act issues that go from Interstate 8 down to the border and into potentially the Tucson and the rest of the border region into the north.

We actually have consulted with actually one tribal council member of the Hualapai Nation, council member Honga, and they, from what I understand, at least informally have expressed interest in going into predominantly tribal native American district both legislatively and congressionally to the east with the Navajo and Hopi Nations, and recently I was in Window Rock at a meeting of the Navajo Nations Human Rights Commission, and there were several other tribal members or tribes represented, and the Hopi Nation has expressed direct interest from a resolution from their tribal council that they want to go into a specific congressional district with the Navajo Nations -- with Navajo Nation and the other regional tribes. So I think that's actually a bit of good news and makes your job a little easier on the issue of contiguousness and compactness.

So we do think that there are two reasonable congressional districts. The eastern district would comprise primarily Coconino County, Gila County, Navajo,

Apache, Graham, Greenley, and most of western Pinal, and I'll actually be at Case Grande tomorrow evening and there's similar maps and proposals befitting that congressional configuration as well.

So I thank you very much for your time and effort and welcome to beautiful Mohave County and we hope you enjoy the rest of your stay here.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is Ken Chism representing himself.

MR. CHISM: Good evening. My name is Ken Chism. That's K-e-n, of course, C-h-i-s-m. We shorten the trail.

I want to thank you folks for being here and listening to us tonight.

First of all, I'm not going to bash Maricopa County. I lived there for 13 years. But as you noticed, I'm in Mohave County.

I want to bring it to mind that back in '97 through 2002, my wife and I owned a business that covered the three cities. Why did it cover the three cities? Because it was so reasonable and it was situated so easy to get around.

Recently, about two years ago, two and a half years ago, I had an injury that unfortunately the

doctors pulled me off the mountain in Flagstaff, which is a beautiful city -- if you haven't had time to go visit there, I would say go visit -- and the doctor said get to a lower elevation. Well, my wife, because I was kind of incapacitated at the time, said we're going to go to Kingman. Well, I don't remember that. She said she bought the house -- or we bought the house, but I still say she did.

Since that time, I tell you what, I have not found a better group or a better group of citizens not only in Kingman, and I must commend the fact that we have an outstanding mayor and council, we've got an outstanding Chamber of Commerce who has designated themselves and made themselves sure that they help small business, but in addition to that, when we go out -- it doesn't matter if we go to Lake Havasu, if we come down here to Bullhead, depending upon what we want to play, the people that we meet there are one. Everybody is the same. Whereas, if you remember back several years ago, you'd go from one city, you'd move there, and you'd say, gosh, they looked at me as like I was a foreigner and they looked at me with hate. I haven't found that in any three of the cities. And several people that I've met here, gosh, they seem like they've been friends for years.

So with that, I'm trying to suggest to you, as many other people have before, I had to find a different way of putting it to you rather than to say, "Keep Mohave, keep Mohave," please consider keeping Mohave County as it is.

I know that there has been a map submitted to you. I haven't had a real good opportunity to look at it, but from what I did, that looks reasonable, but it does evolve around keeping the three cities together. Let us have someone that is local to represent us. I can tell you that Ron Gould, I have seen him I don't know how many times. I go to Flagstaff and he knows me by first name. That's the type of individuals we need to represent us in our county on a whole, and we should have the same in Congress, someone that represents us, knows us on the whole.

Thank you again for coming and listening to our comments.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

The next speaker is Eva White representing herself.

MS. WHITE: My name is Eva White, E-v-a, W-h-i-t-e, very easy.

I represent District 3, Precinct 29. We are the smallest precinct in District 3. We are the area

they call Golden Shores. Our people here are only about 2,000 people, but we value this area, and you should, too. We have a wildlife refuge that is second to none, and we've come here because of that wildlife refuge. It's important. It's -- BLM controls it, and we need to have the representation when there are problems, and there are problems.

This wildlife refuge goes all the way to Lake Havasu City, over 30 miles, 30 miles of animals and birds and things you have to go to see really if you're in the area. It's important to our residents that we keep this pristine, that we keep it there for generations, and so it is important that we keep our area one, that people that know the area know that we -- well, we want to be able to be able to say to a representative, "This is a problem we have," and that representative says, "Okay. I'll take care of it," whether it's on the state level or the federal level.

So I ask you, please keep us together. District 3 is important. It's important for future generations. You may not realize it now, but it will be.

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Is anyone else wanting to speak? We have completed all our public input. So

if -- we still have plenty of time. I think CSI starts at 8:00. So if you want to speak.

(No response)

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: If not, we will go ahead and proceed. I would like to have our Commissioner McNulty say some words.

The mayor would like to speak? Please.

MAYOR HAKIM: This is the kind of people we have here, but we love them all.

I just wanted to add, at the beginning I wanted to welcome you, but it's important to note from what you've been able to hear this evening, it's not about a green party, it's not about a libertarian, it is not about a Republican, it's not about a Democrat, it's about us here in Mohave County.

We have worked so hard to get where we're at and we're finally there. So please don't forget us when you leave here.

Thank you very much and thank you for coming.

And I just want to add that Mayor Nexsen would have been here had they not had a city council meeting tonight.

And, yes, our three cities are close and, yes, we think alike, we represent our interests not just for our own but for the whole county as a whole and, yes, I

believe we have the best damn representatives in the state representing us here.

Thank you very much.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: What I'd like before we close the meeting, I'd like to have Commissioner McNulty say a few words.

MS. McNULTY: Thank you, Commissioner Herrera.

I have to say that I'm on to your secret. I understand why you think this is the most beautiful part of the state. It's gorgeous up here. I enjoyed driving up here from Tucson very much.

I've actually spent a lot of time in this part of Arizona, in the mountains and in the wildlife refuges around here. My mother-in-law went to high school in Kingman, Arizona, over 60 years ago. Her father was an extension agent in Wickiup. So I've been in this part of the state quite a bit, and I know why you love it, and I was reminded of that again today.

We have a hard job ahead of us. We are five volunteer citizens, each of whom have stepped up to do this because we love the state of Arizona. I don't think there's one of us that's doing it because we're from Tucson or Phoenix or wherever it is that we might be, we're doing it because we love the state.

I would encourage you to keep doing what you did tonight. This input is very helpful. We're not experts. We're citizens. We're learning as we go around the state. If you think of things that you didn't tell us, please submit written comments, please submit maps. If you have questions, we do have information on our website and we're trying to put more on our website. We've put together a great team, a good staff that are available to answer your questions, so take advantage of that. Come see us again when we come back for the next round of hearings, at which point we'll have some draft maps prepared.

And so, again, thanks again for spending the evening with us and congratulations on your beautiful little corner of the world here.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Well said. I didn't grow up in Kingman, but I grew up in a rural area in San Luis in Yuma, Arizona, so I'm familiar with the comments and I -- as I said, this is my first time here, and I hope that we do come back if not Bullhead City maybe somewhere nearby where we can have our second round. We do plan on having an additional -- you know, additional meetings to discuss our first round of maps, and the comments that were made tonight were exactly what we needed, and you know your communities better

than we do and this kind of information is what we need.
So I'm looking forward to coming back.

Thank you very much for your politeness with
your comments, and in the words of a famous person,
let's all get along.

Thank you.

AN UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: Come on down to
Lake Havasu.

VICE CHAIR HERRERA: We will be adjourned at
7:35.

(Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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