

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Friday, October 21, 2011
6:03 p.m.

Location

**Gila County Courthouse
Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
1400 East Ash Street
Globe, Arizona 85501**

Attending

Scott Day Freeman, Vice Chair
Richard P. Stertz, Commissioner

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

Mary O'Grady, Legal Counsel
Bruce Adelson, Legal Counsel

Reported By:
Marty Herder, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #50162

Globe, Arizona
October 21, 2011
6:03 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Whereupon, the public session commences.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: We'll start the hearing.

It is 6:03 p.m. This hearing of the Arizona
Independent Redistricting Commission will please come to
order.

It is October 21st, 2011. And we are in Globe,
Arizona.

Won't you all please rise and join me in reciting
the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Well, thank you all for
coming out on this fine evening to meet with us, and we look
forward to hearing your comments later tonight.

Before I begin with any of our introductions, I'd
like to comply with federal law. We have translation
services available.

And I would like to ask our -- first our Spanish
translator, Francisco Melendez, to come up to the podium and
read an announcement in English and Spanish offering those

1 services.

2 FRANCISCO MELENDEZ: Chair Freeman, commissioners,
3 ladies and gentlemen, in accordance with the Voting Rights
4 Act, a translator interpreter will be available for all the
5 public meetings in order to provide translating interpreting
6 services that might be needed for those citizens that need
7 translating or interpreting services. Please contact the
8 translator present at this meeting so that he can assist
9 you.

10 (Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in
11 Spanish.)

12 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Now I'd like to invite
13 Josephine Goode to read a similar announcement in Apache.

14 JOSEPHINE GOODE: I'll read in English. No one is
15 Apache here.

16 I'm teasing.

17 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

18 (Whereupon, the interpreter made a statement in
19 Apache.)

20 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

21 Well, again welcome, everyone. This hearing is
22 part of round two of the public comment hearings the
23 Commission has conducted. This, this round of public
24 comment is designed to get input on the two draft maps that
25 the Commission has published, the congressional draft map

1 and the legislative draft map.

2 My name is Scott Freeman. I'm one of the five
3 commissioners. I serve as vice chair.

4 To my right is Commissioner Richard Stertz.

5 The other commissioners -- not all commissioners
6 attend these public comment hearings. We've got 26 of them
7 over -- scheduled over about a three-week period, so it's
8 not really feasible for all of us to come to every single
9 hearing.

10 But this hearing, like all our other hearings, is
11 recorded on video and is live streamed over the Internet.

12 And I know that the few hearings I haven't been
13 able to make it to, I've watched from either my office or
14 home.

15 And I'm sure our other commissioners, our chair
16 Colleen Mathis, our co-vice chair Jose Herrera, and
17 Commissioner Linda McNulty, will be watching this either at
18 their homes or at their leisure because it is recorded and
19 preserved on the Internet.

20 I'd like to continue with a few other
21 introductions.

22 To my left is the Commission's legal counsel, Mary
23 O'Grady, our -- the Commission's voting rights consultant,
24 Bruce Adelson.

25 To my right is Korinne Belock who is from

1 Strategic Telemetry, the mapping consultant firm for the
2 Commission.

3 We have behind that box over there Buck Forst, our
4 technology -- actually I'm not sure what his title is,
5 technology expert.

6 And everything that we -- is being said today is
7 being -- become part of the Commission's record and is being
8 taken down by our court reporter, Marty Herder.

9 And we have our assistant executive director,
10 Kristina Gomez, sitting in the room with us.

11 And then I think outside as you came in you
12 probably met our public outreach experts, Shane Shields and
13 Karen Herrman.

14 And any of our staff is available to help you with
15 anything, answer any questions you might have. And in
16 addition, after we wrap up tonight, I'm happy to stay as
17 late as we need to if anyone wants to talk and ask
18 questions.

19 The purpose of today is to get comments from you,
20 so we sit and listen and hear what your thoughts are on the
21 draft maps.

22 Before we get to that, I'd like to turn the
23 program over to Ms. Belock who's going to give a brief
24 presentation about the redistricting process and how we've
25 gotten to the point we are at.

1 KORINNE KUBENA BELOCK: Good evening. I'm Korinne
2 Kubena Belock with Strategic Telemetry. I'm happy to be
3 here this evening in Globe to discuss the draft
4 congressional and legislative map presented by the Arizona
5 Independent Redistricting Commission.

6 The goal of these meetings is to hear comments
7 from you about these draft maps, so thank you for taking the
8 time to attend on a Friday evening.

9 The draft maps that you'll see today are currently
10 under a 30-day review period so the Commission can hear your
11 opinion about these maps.

12 So before I get into the maps, I want to give you
13 a quick overview of the redistricting process.

14 So Arizona's redistricting process is governed by
15 the state's constitution as amended by the voters in 2000
16 with the passage of Proposition 106. It stipulates that the
17 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission must redraw
18 Arizona's congressional and legislative districts to reflect
19 the most recent census.

20 Due to the 2010 census, Arizona gained a
21 congressional seat, going from eight seats to nine seats.

22 So a little bit about the requirements of the
23 state constitution via Prop 106.

24 New district boundaries must comply with the
25 U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. They must have

1 equal population. And criteria A and B are federally
2 mandated.

3 And then to the extent practicable the districts
4 must be compact and contiguous, respect communities of
5 interest, use visible geographic features, city, town, and
6 county boundaries, and undivided census tracts, and favor
7 competitive districts where no significant detriment to
8 other goals.

9 So just a bit about the Voting Rights Act now.

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

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

18 Under Section 5, Arizona's redistricting plans
19 cannot be retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce
20 minority voters' rights.

21 And finally the presence of discrimination can be
22 determined by analyzing population data and election
23 results.

24 So now I'd like to turn it over to Bruce Adelson
25 who's advising the Commission on Voting Rights Act and

1 preclearance for a few additional words about that.

2 BRUCE ADELSON: Thank you, Korinne.

3 Good evening, it's a pleasure to be back in Globe.
4 I thought I would spend a couple minutes with you just to
5 explain the federal requirements.

6 I had been a senior attorney for the United States
7 Department of Justice nine years ago when the department
8 objected to or blocked Arizona's legislative redistricting
9 plan.

10 My team wrote the letter in May, 2002, that
11 stopped the redistricting process on the legislative side,
12 because in our examination we found that illegal
13 discrimination against the rights of minority voters to
14 elect whom they wanted to office.

15 In order for your plan to go into effect and for
16 you to have legislative elections next year, the Department
17 of Justice or the federal court in Washington, D.C., must
18 approve or preclear the plan.

19 That's a federal law. The federal law cannot be
20 avoided or minimized.

21 All of the criteria that you have under the state
22 constitution, such as compactness, keeping communities of
23 interest together, contiguity, and competitiveness, take
24 second place to the federal criteria. Federal criteria must
25 be adhered to for the department to preclear.

1 If they're not, they will object, like we did
2 nine years ago, and the plan will not be put into effect.

3 So I thought it might be helpful for you to hear
4 from my perspective tonight as a former federal law
5 enforcement officer how the Department of Justice looks at
6 your redistricting plan and how federal law requires the
7 process that we've discussed as far as preclearance.

8 Thank you very much.

9 KORRINE KUBENA BELOCK: Yes. So moving on, before
10 we get into maps, just a little bit more about the timeline
11 of the Commission.

12 So earlier this year, step one, the Commission was
13 established, and the commissioners were appointed about
14 following a thorough screening process and serve in a
15 voluntary role for the state of Arizona.

16 This evening, of course, we have Vice-Chair Scott
17 Freeman and Richard Stertz.

18 And the other commissioners, Jose Herrera, Colleen
19 Mathis, chair, and Linda McNulty, are watching on live
20 stream I'm sure.

21 And then to the second round, the steps --
22 step two is the first round of hearings.

23 So before drawing a single line, which you'll see
24 this evening, the Commission held 23 public hearings around
25 the state in July and August to get input from members of

1 the public about issues related to redistricting, such as
2 geography, communities of interest, minority voting rights,
3 and competitiveness.

4 At that point the mapping began, after those first
5 round of hearings.

6 And per Proposition 106, the Commission started
7 with a blank slate, which we'll talk about a little bit more
8 later.

9 They then divided the state into equal population
10 in compact, grid-like districts. And the grid map was
11 approved on August 18th.

12 Since adopting the maps, the Commission has met
13 over -- more than 25 times to consider adjustments to the
14 grid to accommodate all of the state constitutional
15 criteria. And during this time they also received
16 additional input from the public and draft maps from the
17 public as well.

18 Approval of the draft maps came after that. On
19 October 3rd, the Commission approved a draft congressional
20 map that incorporated changes based on all five -- all of
21 the constitutional criteria.

22 And they approved a draft, draft legislative map
23 on October 10th.

24 Which bring us to the second round of hearings.
25 Currently the Commission is visiting 25 cities and towns

1 across the state to share the draft maps and receive
2 addition input during the months of October and November.

3 Step five is the final maps are taken into
4 account. So upon completion of the public comment period,
5 the AIRC will adopt the final maps.

6 And in step six, which Bruce spoke about, is the
7 preclearance process. So because Arizona, again, is subject
8 to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, the district maps
9 must be approved by the federal Department of Justice or the
10 federal court in Washington, D.C., before they can be used
11 for Arizona's elections.

12 So just moving on to the maps. To show how the
13 Commission came to the draft maps that you'll see, we'll
14 show you a progression of the maps.

15 So the map you see here was the congressional map
16 that was used during the last Redistricting Commission --
17 that was approved by the last Redistricting Commission. It
18 was most recently used in the 2010 elections.

19 Per Proposition 106, the Commission was required
20 to start with a blank slate, which you see here. And they
21 could not take into consideration any previous election
22 districts or incumbents.

23 So after proposition -- also per Proposition 106,
24 after the blank slate, the Commission developed a grid map,
25 as I touched on earlier.

1 The grid map takes into account only
2 two consideration of the six criteria, equal population and
3 compactness.

4 So in August the Commission asked that two grid
5 maps be drawn, and on August 18th they agreed upon
6 option two, which you see here.

7 So after more than 25 meetings, the Commission
8 voted to approve the draft map on the screen.

9 In addition to taking into consideration the six
10 constitutional criteria, the Commission took into
11 consideration public comment provided via public meetings,
12 round one of public hearings, content -- comments mailed,
13 e-mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, and telephoned into the
14 Commission. Basically any form of communication that they
15 could get. And over 5,000 comments helped to develop the
16 draft map you see.

17 Some of the highlights of the map, just to touch
18 on briefly for you.

19 The draft map that you see here today creates two
20 predominantly rural districts. It creates three border
21 districts. It creates three districts in the greater Tucson
22 area. Five districts that are entirely within Maricopa
23 County. It avoids splitting Arizona's Indian reservations.
24 And it creates two districts where minority voters have
25 the opportunity to elect their -- the candidate of their

1 choice.

2 So moving on from the congressional draft map, the
3 same process -- a very similar process was followed for the
4 legislative draft map.

5 Much -- so what you see here is the legislative
6 map from the last Commission, which was last used in the
7 2010 election.

8 Again, per Proposition 106 they moved on to the
9 blank slate map, which you see, and then the legislative
10 grid map.

11 Again, the grid map was approved in August, the
12 legislative grid map. And similar to the congressional map,
13 the grid map took only into consideration equal population
14 and compactness.

15 Which leads to the legislative draft map.

16 Arizona has 30 legislative districts, and each
17 district elects one senator and two house members.

18 Some other points about the legislative draft map
19 to share with you tonight.

20 The Commission took into account population growth
21 and reduction. So old districts ranged from 155,000 to
22 378,000 in population. The current draft map ranges from
23 207,000, to 215,000.

24 To comply with the Voting Rights Act, the draft
25 plan includes ten districts in which minority voters should

1 have the opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.

2 The draft map also includes three districts wholly
3 within Pima County and three additional districts in
4 southern Arizona districts. So three additional southern
5 Arizona districts.

6 It created 17 districts primarily within
7 Maricopa County and nine districts that are predominantly
8 rural.

9 So, as we mentioned, the Commission definitely
10 wants to hear what you have to say about these draft maps.

11 So there are many ways to make sure that your
12 voice is heard.

13 You can go fill out a request to speak form at a
14 public hearing and provide the Commission with your input.
15 An example of input might include your thoughts on
16 constitutional criteria or the congressional or legislative
17 maps that you've seen tonight.

18 You can also submit your input by speaking at a
19 hearing, filling out public input forms on the AIRC --
20 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission website -- and
21 just to give you that web address. Sometimes I forget to
22 move this slide. Sorry about that.

23 So just the last piece here is you can visit the
24 website at azredistricting.org or call (602)542-5221, or
25 toll free at (855)733-7478. And, again, that's

1 azredistricting.org.

2 So the Commission also definitely wants to make
3 sure that you can stay connected throughout this process,
4 and their website is a great place to do this. This is a
5 screen of the Commission -- a screen shot of the
6 Commission's website.

7 The arrows highlight a couple of key areas of
8 interest.

9 So under meetings you can find future and past
10 meetings. If you would like to see the deliberation that
11 went into the draft maps, you can go and view the video from
12 any date of those previous meetings.

13 If you would like to make comment, you can always
14 use the public input form online and submit it that way.

15 And then, finally, if you'd like to view the maps,
16 you can go to maps, and there are a couple ways to do it.

17 At the bottom, the bottom arrow will take you
18 directly to the draft maps.

19 And so an example of -- as you click on those
20 links there, the next screen that you're going to see is
21 this.

22 It's a little small, but what it basically has all
23 the file formats for the different types of map, for the
24 maps. So it might have a JPEG file or a PDF file or the
25 Google map file.

1 The KMZ Google link is circled in red, and that
2 will take you to the Google map of -- Google map version of
3 the draft maps, which I'll show you in a moment.

4 And it's on this screen actually.

5 So you click on that link that says KMZ on this
6 screen, and then you're brought to a zoomed out version that
7 says Arizona where you can view the districts.

8 Google maps is a great way to view the maps, the
9 districts' lines that have been drawn, because you can zoom
10 in and out to specific areas or boundaries that you're
11 interested in looking into.

12 So what you see on this screen now is the draft
13 congressional map. On the left you have an ability to turn
14 on or off several different types of features. You can turn
15 off features -- filters for counties. You can turn off
16 different colors if you'd only like to focus on one district
17 in particular.

18 Basically turning off those filters just allows
19 you to view the area you want to look at much more closely.

20 So that's the screen there.

21 Then, as you zoom in, which I mentioned, which is
22 a great thing about Google maps, is you can see exactly what
23 you're looking for.

24 So this slide shows you the zoomed in look on some
25 of the districts surrounding Maricopa County.

1 And, again, you have the view -- the ability to
2 zoom in and out, down to street level, your block, so you
3 can see exactly where those boundaries run in your area.

4 So finally as I wrap this up, I want to highlight
5 the Commission's website one more time.
6 Azredistricting.org.

7 On the website, you can also, in addition to the
8 things we talked about, you can draw maps, you can watch
9 meetings, you can find out details about future meetings.

10 You can also if you're on -- in social media you
11 can follow us on Twitter with the hash tag AIRC or you can
12 friend us on Facebook and get constant updates there up to
13 the minute.

14 So, in conclusion, thank you again for coming out
15 tonight to be a part of this process.

16 A final point on these maps, copies can be found
17 in the packet you received tonight.

18 And we also have poster size versions hanging
19 in the back of room for both the congressional and
20 legislative maps. You can see them a bit more clearly that
21 way as well.

22 And I am available after the public comment
23 period. If you have any questions regarding the maps or any
24 question regarding how to access or the mapping process,
25 please feel free to speak with me. And you can also talk to

1 any of the staff here. If you have questions about the map
2 or how to access those, from the Commission's website in
3 particular.

4 So I look forward to speaking with you and thanks
5 for having us tonight.

6 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you, Ms. Belock.

7 Before we get to public comment, I want to make
8 sure I say this if I neglected to do so at the beginning.

9 I really want to thank Gila County and the Gila
10 County Board of Supervisors and the town -- the City of
11 Globe for hosting us here today. It's a real -- it's my
12 privilege to be up here. It was a beautiful drive to come
13 up here, and I regret the fact that I'll be driving back
14 home in the dark but not get to see it on the way back.

15 But we'll go to public comment now. I have ten
16 request to speak forms. If you do want to address the
17 Commission, we ask that you please fill out one of these
18 yellow request to speak forms. They should be available on
19 the table just outside the door you came in.

20 If you don't want to come to the microphone and
21 speak to us tonight, you can still provide comments. The
22 package you received should have this blue form in the back,
23 and it asks you for information, and you can provide written
24 comments that way.

25 And you can leave it with Ms. Gomez before you

1 leave, or you can take it home and complete it at home and
2 mail it to the Commission. Or, like Ms. Belock said, you
3 can get on our website. There's a form there where you can
4 actually provide comments through the website.

5 For public comment, what we'll do is because it
6 looks like I have about ten now, I'd ask that everyone sort
7 of limit your comments to about five minutes.

8 And, Buck, will you be able to time it?

9 And I think he's got a buzzer. If it goes off,
10 don't worry. Just try to wrap it up so we're fair to
11 everyone.

12 And when you come to the microphone, please don't
13 be shy about wrestling that microphone and getting it right
14 up to your mouth so that we can hear you and our court
15 reporter can hear you and people watching the live stream
16 can hear you. And state your name and then spell it so we
17 get an accurate record.

18 And if I haven't already said so, in announcing,
19 you just tell us who you're here representing, yourself or
20 some other organization, and where you're from. Just
21 county or town. Don't give us -- we don't need a street
22 address.

23 And with that, I'd ask our first speaker to come
24 to the microphone, State Representative Lynne Pancrazi, who
25 is from Yuma, and representing her constituents.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LYNNE PANCRAZI: Lynne Pancrazi,
2 L-Y-N-N-E, Pancrazi, P-A-N-C-R-A-Z-I. Or Z-Y, depending on
3 the date.

4 I am here representing my constituents. Rural
5 Arizona is -- makes up 22 percent of the state of Arizona,
6 and it's very important that we have rural legislators.
7 When it's spoken that predominantly rural, that doesn't mean
8 that they're from rural Arizona -- I mean, districts.

9 It says -- the one that I'm concerned about, of
10 course, is Yuma County. Yuma County not only looks like
11 it's going to be split, but it also is going to be attached
12 to Maricopa County.

13 I am very concerned that we will dilute the voice
14 of rural Arizona, and in my case, in Yuma County, we will
15 absolutely silence it, because there is enough from the
16 numbers -- there is enough Maricopa County residents to be
17 able to swing the elections, and the voice of rural Arizona
18 and Yuma County will not be heard.

19 So that's why I'm here.

20 I'm asking you to please tweak those maps so that
21 Yuma County and several others are actual rural counties.
22 They have rural representatives.

23 There are 15 of us now at the legislature, and we
24 meet. We get together regardless of party and make sure
25 that the issues for rural Arizona are heard.

1 We can't always make them happen, but we can make
2 sure that they're heard.

3 And without making sure that the rural counties
4 are represented, and we will be silenced, and that will be a
5 detriment to the state of Arizona.

6 So with that, I would appreciate if you would
7 tweak your maps and take Maricopa out of Districts 13 and 4.

8 Thank you very much.

9 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

10 Our next will be Fernando Shipley, mayor of Globe.

11 MAYOR FERNANDO SHIPLEY: Good evening. My name is
12 Fernando Shipley. That's F-E-R-N-A-N-D-O, S-H-I-P-L-E-Y.

13 And I am here representing the constituents of
14 Globe.

15 We have proposed slightly different maps. I think
16 they've been provided for you.

17 Basically what we're trying to do is keep our
18 district pretty much as intact as we can.

19 One of the things that we also did to modify the
20 map slightly is that we looked at communities of interest.
21 We considered that mining communities should be considered a
22 community of interest. So if you'll look at that map,
23 you'll see that we also proposed to bring in Superior,
24 Hayden, Winkelman, and Kearny.

25 I am aware that Kearny has endorsed a different

1 plan that puts them into Pinal County. But with that, we
2 basically looked at mining as a very important aspect of our
3 community.

4 We'd like to have representation that is sensitive
5 to those needs and rural Arizona.

6 We have several communities that have endorsed
7 these plans, as well as the City of Globe has also endorsed
8 those plans. So we would just like you to consider them.

9 We're just concerned, as is the representative,
10 that rural voices will be diluted.

11 If we go into metro areas and then spread out,
12 that we think we'll end up having metro representatives that
13 don't really need to listen to us to get elected. That's a
14 big concern to us.

15 Rural areas have a lot of common issues, common
16 concerns. And we'd like to see some rural representation.

17 So thank you very much for giving us the
18 opportunity.

19 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you. And, Mayor, did
20 you have maps with you tonight that you provided?

21 MAYOR FERNANDO SHIPLEY: Yes, Mr. Bryant has maps,
22 and we'll make sure we get those to you.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Great.

24 And I should have mentioned, if anyone has any
25 written materials or maps that they would like to submit,

1 they can get them to Ms. Gomez, and the Commission will
2 receive it, and it will become part of our record.

3 Next speaker will be Steve Erhart, councilman,
4 town of Eagar.

5 COUNCILMAN STEVE ERHART: My name is Steve Erhart.
6 I'm here representing the Town of Eagar.

7 That's S-T-E-V-E, E-R-H-A-R-T.

8 I want to thank you first for all your work on the
9 redistricting. I know it's a pretty difficult task.

10 And I would like to present to you a resolution of
11 the mayor and council of the town of Eagar urging you, the
12 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission, to keep rural
13 Arizona together by considering and adopting the proposed
14 district maps that we have provided.

15 And I think it's the same ones that you've got.

16 The legislative district option one, version 8A,
17 supported by our resolution, is the best choice for Eagar
18 and many other areas represented here tonight.

19 Our mining, ranching, and timber resources are of
20 interest to us all and is the life blood of many of our
21 communities.

22 We share those interests and should be able to
23 elected people to serve us with those common interests.

24 After the Wallow fire, it's more important than
25 ever for us in eastern Arizona to be united in our

1 legislative representation. And that's what we believe
2 option one version 8A does for us.

3 I'd also like to voice a few concerns about your
4 congressional district map, if you could.

5 Any way you could put it up?

6 KORRINE KUBENA BELOCK: Yes.

7 COUNCILMAN STEVE ERHART: It seems to me that with
8 13 rural counties we should be able to form at least
9 two truly rural congressional districts.

10 We have over one and a half million people in
11 rural Arizona. That should be enough to form at least
12 two rural congressional districts without including us with
13 metro Phoenix or metro Tucson.

14 Apache County should be tied to an area that we
15 share more interest and commonality with.

16 I'm concerned that Congressional District 1, as
17 you have mapped, is tied to the suburban area of Tucson like
18 Marana, Oro Valley, and Saddlebrooke.

19 In fact, it appears that all nine congressional
20 districts are linked to metro Phoenix or metro Tucson in
21 some fashion.

22 We feel this takes away competitiveness. And we
23 in the rural areas want to have a voice and want to be able
24 to elect a candidate from rural Arizona.

25 We don't want to be controlled by any single

1 metropolitan area.

2 I'm concerned that five counties are split up.
3 Pinal, Cochise, Gila, Pima, and Yavapai Counties are chopped
4 up in what appears to be an effort to keep Coconino County
5 whole for some reason.

6 And as you said earlier, our constitution says
7 that when practicable district lines shall be visible
8 geographic features, city, town, and county boundaries, and
9 undivided census tracts.

10 And that's not what I see here.

11 If there is really a desire to give rural Arizona
12 a voice, don't put us with Pima County where we -- that we
13 share nothing with.

14 I just want to close by saying the Town of Eagar
15 supports the proposed eastern rural congressional district
16 that you got from us now in resolution form.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

19 Next speaker I have is Chip Wilson, council
20 member, City of Apache Junction.

21 CHIP WILSON: I'm Chip Wilson, C-H-I-P, Wilson,
22 W-I-L-S-O-N.

23 City council member from Apache Junction.

24 I want to voice my opinion of my constituents as
25 well as our neighbors of Gold Canyon, San Tan Valley, and

1 the eastern part of Queen Creek.

2 We do not understand why we've been included in
3 District 4, the Colorado River communities.

4 I could not attend the meeting that was done in
5 Chandler, so I -- this past Tuesday, so I drove up here to
6 represent my constituents and talk to you concerning this.

7 On my way up here, I passed through Superior and
8 then into Miami and Globe. And in actuality,
9 Apache Junction has more in common with these communities
10 because there's a lot of our people that have worked or
11 currently work in the copper industry.

12 With the possibility of Resolution Copper opening,
13 and new opportunities, even more of our citizens will be
14 working in this endeavor.

15 We also have Empire Industries. They are looking
16 at providing a lot of the equipment, and that's inside our
17 city as well.

18 We're -- even coming to the recreation, we're not
19 in common with what the river communities are.

20 I myself have lived inside the city, but we also
21 have a rural part of our community.

22 And I own horses.

23 And there's a lot of us in the entire area that
24 own horses and are part of the rural area.

25 That includes the San Tan Valley and the eastern

1 part of Queen Creek.

2 And we believe that we should be kept with part of
3 Pinal County and all should be part of going together.

4 We have seen the proposed map that was given to
5 you by Pinal County Government Alliance. And as elected
6 officials from the city of Apache Junction, we support this
7 proposed map.

8 I understand that you have included an area in the
9 district -- included us in the District 4 because Flagstaff
10 area did not want to be included in the western district.

11 Really, truthfully, our population is actually
12 bigger than the Flagstaff area. And we don't feel that our
13 input or concerns were involved in this.

14 We feel that District 4 does not meet four of the
15 requirements given to this Commission. Of course that's
16 compactness, communities of interest, geological features,
17 and competitiveness.

18 Over competitiveness is really in a sense you look
19 at the voting record on it, and it's become a very
20 Republican district. Very heavily.

21 We are a community that share our interests and
22 our recreational pleasures with the rural areas of Pinal
23 County.

24 And we ask that you look at this and take us into
25 very serious consideration.

1 We want to thank you for all your work that you're
2 doing, and we feel that our input is taken seriously, and we
3 hope that we will have a better map in the future.

4 Thank you.

5 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

6 Next speaker is George Lemen, mayor of Pima.

7 MAYOR GEORGE LEMEN: Hi there. Hope you all are
8 having a good evening.

9 My name is George Lemen, G-E-O-R-G-E, L-E-M-E-N.
10 I'm the mayor of the town of Pima.

11 We, the Town of Pima, sent you guys a letter about
12 two months ago with our own drawing of what we would like to
13 have done in this redistricting.

14 We don't feel like the maps that you have now you
15 took into consideration the community of interest.

16 We're rural. We drive by cotton fields to go to
17 work and our town and our mine or in the other mine over in
18 Greenlee County.

19 One map associates us with south Phoenix. Another
20 map associates us with south Tucson.

21 And that's -- neither of those are good.

22 We go to Tucson to the doctor. We go to the
23 Phoenix to the doctor.

24 Sometimes we go for a good meal. Sometimes we go
25 so my wife can shop somewhere other than Wal-Mart, but hey.

1 But that's, that's the way it is. So we don't
2 associate with those people in those cities.

3 Except for my one son.

4 They come out to us for a little bit of
5 recreation, and then they go back. And they leave us their
6 junk.

7 We don't feel like this is a really good
8 situation.

9 And we think that you didn't take into
10 consideration three of the things that you were supposed to,
11 but we don't think that you've taken that one into
12 consideration at all.

13 So, thank you for letting me speak to you tonight.

14 I'll leave this map with her again.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is James -- and I'm sorry, I
18 can't read the last name. McCawnly? Is that even close?
19 Looks like representing self, from Globe.

20 JAMES MCCAWLEY: That was very close. McCawley,
21 M-C-C-A-W-L-E-Y. James, common spelling.

22 I would like to say I appreciate the work that
23 everybody's been putting in on this. I can't imagine the
24 almost impossibility of trying to please everybody.

25 And I know that many people here in the Globe area

1 and Gila County are not pleased, including myself.

2 On the first map, the congressional map,
3 Gila County is a small county. Not too populous. It has a
4 very large attraction for each other.

5 The north part and the southern part of the county
6 fight quite a bit.

7 But when it comes to the county, we're all one
8 county, and we know it. And we're proud of it.

9 But now we're split in two.

10 One of us, the southern half of the county, goes
11 into District 1, Congressional District 1. And the northern
12 half goes into, I think, four.

13 Pardon me.

14 Goes into four.

15 But even worse than that is the one with the
16 legislative map where we're cut into three portions.

17 Like I say, it's a small county. We're less than
18 a hundred miles from one end to the other, anywhere from
19 probably 30 miles one side to the other. So 300 square
20 miles. That's small.

21 And our population is, what, under 100,000 people.

22 And we're cut into three. That gives us a
23 complete loss of power when it comes down to the state.

24 It cuts our power in congress. Because we're --
25 in the southern part of the county here we'd be voting with

1 Pinal County. As far as the legislature -- state
2 legislature is concerned.

3 And the northern half would be voting with the
4 large group that runs almost around to Yuma.

5 I'm not blaming or saying that the Commission
6 gerrymandered, but that came up with a -- I think in the
7 1930s, where a -- somebody drew up a map of the
8 redistricting, it looked like a dragon, called it
9 gerrymander.

10 I don't think you did.

11 I see what you're trying to do. You're trying to
12 keep reservations together. That's good.

13 We also think the counties need to be together, as
14 much as possible.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

17 Next will be Michael Hing, mayor of the town of
18 Superior, representing his constituents.

19 MAYOR MICHAEL HING: Good evening. My name is
20 Michael Hing, MI-C-H-A-E-L, last name Hing, H-I-N-G.

21 I am the mayor of the town of Superior.

22 We have proposals, as Mayor Shipley of Globe had
23 mentioned, at least proposed maps of -- start off with the
24 legislative district. That we're currently in
25 Legislative 23, and I don't want to look at the new maps

1 because the numbers all change, but to move to, like,
2 Legislative No. 5, because the more our District 23 is
3 growing, we have -- we're more and more being disconnected.

4 If you're not familiar with the town of Superior,
5 it's a mining town and possibly home of one of the largest
6 underground operations in North American, ore body that is.

7 And so we feel a disconnect with Legislative 23,
8 because currently two representatives come out of the
9 metropolitan areas, like Casa Grande and the AJ area,
10 Apache Junction.

11 So, as I see them, they're part of the metro area.
12 And of course Casa Grande has basically become the point of
13 interest between Tucson and Phoenix. So there seems to be a
14 disconnect with the town of Superior, and especially the
15 communities of Highway 177.

16 Because we share a lot of interest with the rural
17 areas of district -- Legislative District No. 5, which is
18 Globe-Miami and of course the eastern part of the state.
19 And we want to kind of remain in that area, because we want
20 to have a -- be able to have a voice being spoken, rather
21 than being disconnect.

22 So, you know, what the requirements of the state
23 constitution very clear, and I really say follow these,
24 follow these rules. They're exactly how we feel, because of
25 the representation, the respect of interest of the

1 communities. You know, we're, we're in a resource area.
2 You know, up in this area is into mining and also timber,
3 you know, cattle ranching.

4 So we all feel kind of like -- excuse me.

5 Sorry.

6 But I -- to close it up, we support, you know,
7 these proposed new maps. I'll put this in the record.

8 Also this -- the congressional district, CD 1,
9 that we're part of, that do not include Flagstaff.

10 Because putting Flagstaff back into CD 1 with the
11 eastern part does not, does not have any shareness. What we
12 have, we consider rural.

13 And you mentioned coming up to this area. You
14 enjoy it.

15 It's the open space of rural.

16 We already have that sense. That's why we live
17 here.

18 We're productive in our areas, and we want to be
19 able to speak on that level.

20 So thank you again.

21 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

22 Next I have Don Asli -- Ascoli, representing self,
23 from Gila County.

24 DON ASCOLI: Thank you, commissioners. My name is
25 Don Ascoli, A-S-C-O-L-I, from Payson, Arizona.

1 And I'm not representing any group officially.
2 I'm a member of several different organizations, one of
3 which I'll refer to more as chairman of the Gila County
4 Planning and Zoning Commission.

5 I want to go to the presentation that the young
6 lady gave earlier.

7 You go to Page 3 of the slide where the guidelines
8 of Prop 106, must comply with constitution, Voting Rights
9 Act, which I'm going to address at the end, equal
10 population, and to the extent practical(sic), compact and --
11 compact and contiguous, respect communities of interest, and
12 use visible geographic features, city, town, county
13 boundaries, undivided census tracts.

14 I suggest to you gentlemen, the Commission, that
15 you have in a way violated the very guidelines that
16 Proposition 106 requires.

17 This is the map of which several prior speakers
18 talked about, the Eastern Arizona Counties Association map
19 for CD, which I'm going to talk about first, the CD, and
20 then we'll talk about LD districts.

21 And this is what it looks like. Very nice and
22 compact. Two genuine rural districts.

23 Two genuine rural.

24 You've heard the arguments why we should have
25 that. Living in rural Arizona is not like living in

1 downtown Phoenix or Tucson.

2 This is the map you gentlemen, the Commission, has
3 approved.

4 Just to show the crowd.

5 I wish I had nice color so you could see the
6 difference in those two maps.

7 Anyway, compact and contiguous, respect
8 communities of interest, and use visible geographic
9 features.

10 I don't know what the town of Payson has to do
11 with Parker, Lake Havasu City, and Yuma.

12 There is nothing in common with that area.
13 Nothing in common with it.

14 The prior speakers also talked about in the
15 southern part of this county. That's the map of our county.
16 I'm a resident of that county. I represent that county in
17 the planning and zoning effort of this county.

18 And the CD map has cut us in half.

19 Where the map that was proposed by the Eastern
20 Counties Associations, and I know one of our supervisors of
21 Gila County is in here, and I believe he's supportive along
22 with the others, has all the eastern counties pretty much
23 all together.

24 And the map that you proposed, that's on the wall
25 there, splits it into pieces and puts uncommon interests

1 together.

2 When you go to the LD map, it gets worse, not
3 better.

4 There are 12 rural counties in the state of
5 Arizona, for everybody's information.

6 In option 8A -- option one 8A, which was this map
7 here, pretty much kept the districts the way they were for
8 the last ten years, which have worked for this state, the
9 great state of Arizona, the sovereign state, and made the
10 adjustments because obviously population changes.

11 The map that you proposed again puts un -- or
12 disinterested, unconnected communities of interest, splits
13 up existing ones, and creates -- I don't know how it will
14 ever become a community of interest in these new maps.
15 There's just no way.

16 In the case of Gila County, you do the travesty of
17 splitting us into thirds.

18 We're one of the smallest counties in the state of
19 Arizona, and by breaking it into thirds -- and by the way,
20 we're the only county you chose to split into thirds.

21 But by doing that, we become so insignificant to
22 the representative and the senators of that district, we're
23 going to have triple the difficulty of getting their
24 attention in legislative issues.

25 In option eight -- option one of 8A that was

1 originally proposed, it was this map here that took kind of
2 what it liked and made some adjustments. Five counties did
3 get split.

4 Five rural out of 12.

5 In the map that you have on the wall here, you've
6 taken eight of the 12 counties and split them up.

7 It's like you totally ignored who we are. You
8 totally ignored who we are.

9 How in the world can we conduct business at the
10 state and national level when you split us up?

11 It's a travesty, in my opinion.

12 Now, you go back to the guidelines, and it says
13 Voting Right Act.

14 The second paragraph, the slide four says under
15 Section 5, Arizona redistricting plans cannot be
16 retrogressive. The plans cannot weaken or reduce minority
17 votes -- voters' rights.

18 Personally I believe rural voters are being
19 treated as a minority and you're splitting our interest up.

20 (Applause.)

21 DON ASCOLI: Now you go to slide -- I'll get there
22 in a moment.

23 Let me get the text right.

24 Preclearance. We've heard that mentioned.

25 Preclearance.

1 Voting rights, Section 5, preclearance. What is
2 it about.

3 I'm going to introduce into the record a legal
4 memorandum titled the Bailout Bait and Switch: DOJ's
5 Last-Ditch Attempt to Rescue Section 5 of the Voting Rights
6 Act.

7 I don't know if the people in this room are aware,
8 but this state could apply for a bailout and be waived from
9 the Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

10 Which is all the grief that we're having to go
11 through.

12 I talked to Linda Eastlick in the county
13 elections. Basically she's spent her last year working
14 solely on preparing for this event.

15 She mentioned that ten years ago when we went
16 through redistricting process, she basically put together
17 one three-and-a-half-inch binder of information for DOJ,
18 because back then we still did stuff with DOJ.

19 She's up to seven binders this year.

20 She shared with me there's a county in Texas that
21 they, they the DOJ, has demanded over 50,000 e-mails as part
22 of the preclearance process.

23 And I am getting to wonder, aren't we a sovereign
24 state?

25 Don't you people represent the people of Arizona,

1 not the federal government?

2 I understand the attorney general's filed a
3 lawsuit declaring Section 5 unconstitutional.

4 I am convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt it's
5 unconstitutional.

6 It applied in 1965. That's 45 years ago,
7 gentlemen and ladies.

8 It does not apply any more. There's two lawsuits
9 that are close to the Supreme Court right now.

10 I would sure like the state of Arizona to stand up
11 for its rights in saying we're not going to comply with that
12 part. We're going to represent the people of Arizona, not
13 comply to, what is it, an unconstitutional act.

14 I don't want to take time from this meeting here,
15 but in the memorandum they list four very egregious points
16 of anyone who enforces Section 5 of this law. It sticks it
17 to the citizens of that state.

18 And what's happened is we have been intimidated,
19 folks. We have been intimidated by the actions of the DOJ.

20 And if you know who's running it right now, I
21 would question all that.

22 I would question it.

23 But I just want to read -- basically what they're
24 saying here, this memorandum that I want you to read and put
25 as part of the record, is that due to past coercion and the

1 political cost that the DOJ has done to the jurisdictions
2 that come under this damn law, we've been intimidated and
3 have not taken our rightful action of saying, DOJ, we don't
4 want to go through preclearance, skip it.

5 There are counties and cities in the United States
6 that are already -- have applied and have been bailed out.

7 I strongly recommend that you as a Commission
8 representing the people of Arizona, not the DOJ, to say this
9 is how we feel about it, what happened 50 years ago doesn't
10 apply today, we've addressed all those issues.

11 We do not apply and request the bailout from the
12 Department of Justice so we can have good districts
13 represent us in the national level, CDs, as well as the
14 state level, the LD districts.

15 I strongly implore you as representatives of the
16 people of Arizona speak for the people.

17 You've heard what you -- these folks you've heard,
18 mayors, you've heard councilman, all people of interest,
19 they're not happy with what you see here. And I wouldn't be
20 surprised if you went across most of the places you've been
21 in rural Arizona, they weren't happy either.

22 The only person I -- the only group I think that's
23 happy here is the people of Flagstaff.

24 And you know why? I'm sorry. I care about Gila
25 County.

1 A lot of people in this room, it's Gila County,
2 the people are here from Pinal, or people from Apache and
3 Navajo.

4 Let's deal with those folks, listen to their
5 voice, and let's don't split up a beautiful county of great
6 people.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

10 Next is Jesse Bryant, from Globe, representing the
11 Eastern Arizona Ad Hoc.

12 JESSE BRYANT: Commissioners, if I might give
13 these to you. Thanks.

14 My name is Jesse Bryant, and I'm from the city of
15 Globe.

16 And I want to welcome you here -- last name is
17 spelled B-R-Y-A-N-T -- welcome you to Globe, welcome you to
18 rural Arizona.

19 And we understand, we understand your purpose and
20 the difficulty of your job.

21 We realize that you are doing the best you can do
22 with what you have to do.

23 We invite you to discuss with us, discuss with our
24 communities, discuss with our elected representatives on a
25 municipal level what serves our interest. That aid you and

1 save you a lot of time and headache if we could create an
2 environment of cooperation and coordinate with one another
3 instead of you folks doing what you can with what little
4 knowledge you have of what the interests are of the various
5 parts of the state and then coming and listening to us tell
6 you how we disagree with that.

7 The federal mandates given, we understand that.
8 We all accept it.

9 Communities of interest is probably the most
10 important thing to us, to every region. And you're going to
11 hear that term quite a bit.

12 The maps before you, they represent what serves
13 our interest, to give you an idea.

14 We understand that, that whereas we don't
15 understand everything in the mind of those in the
16 metropolitan areas, those in the metropolitan areas don't
17 understand our mind.

18 And that's what we're here today to try to help
19 you understand that mind.

20 Our, our rural region is very important to us.

21 It is -- we're, we're here tonight not as
22 Republicans and Democrats, but as rural Arizonans.

23 Whether you realize it or not, you're hearing from
24 Republicans, you're hearing from Democrats, some of them
25 elected to something, some of them not.

1 Historically rural Arizona is a competitive
2 region, and that's a strong interest of your Commission to
3 understand that.

4 Well, even the -- this legislative map before you
5 is, is a very competitive.

6 It's much like what we've had for the last
7 ten years. And for those ten years, we've had, we've had
8 Democrats and Republicans, moderate Republicans,
9 conservative Republicans, moderate Democrats, conservative
10 Democrats, or liberal Democrats, elected from that region,
11 likewise the congressional district.

12 What, what we, what we did, after we began to get
13 wind of the draft maps, is our communities began to stand up
14 and speak together.

15 And if you'll bear with me, I'd like to tell you
16 just how many communities have spoken on this issue.

17 And I'd also like to thank Ms. Gomez too. She's
18 been helpful to our communities in receiving the e-mails and
19 receiving the maps and the resolutions.

20 The resolution as read before you from Superior
21 and from Eagar, those are two of our communities that
22 traveled here tonight. But across eastern Arizona, we've
23 had ten communities thus far pass resolutions by their
24 council and forward them to your record in Phoenix
25 supporting those maps that before you now, and five more

1 cities have them on their agendas for next week.

2 And there are more to come, it's just a matter of
3 time reaching out to everybody.

4 Unfortunately it's a long ways to drive and not
5 all of them could be here. But we -- understand that we are
6 of one mind on this matter.

7 As far as the congressional map is concerned, we
8 understand that Flagstaff has the resources to have spent a
9 lot of time in front of you. Here in rural Arizona we don't
10 have those resources.

11 However, those 15 -- soon to be 15 communities
12 agree that Flagstaff is not in our interest. We do not
13 want Flagstaff, and we do not want Prescott in our rural
14 region.

15 The reservations are great. In our legislative
16 district, the one that was before, proposed and even added
17 an Apache reservation along with the White Mountain,
18 San Carlos, and Tonto, we want to add the Yavapai Apache,
19 along with that the Verde Valley area.

20 And the congressional district, we have the
21 Navajos and the Hopis. And we intend to add the Hopis as
22 well.

23 Please understand what we've done.

24 I want to name off the communities for your
25 record.

1 So far, the city of Globe, Miami, Superior,
2 Winkelman, Hayden, Duncan, Show Low, Lakeside, Eagar,
3 Springerville, and -- I mentioned Superior, and Superior,
4 have passed resolutions so far.

5 The towns of Snowflake, St. Johns, Camp Verde, and
6 Holbrook, and Winslow have on their agenda for next week.

7 Still have to get a hold of Taylor.

8 I think I failed to mention Pinetop passed it last
9 night as well.

10 So, we are one mind and we ask you to work with
11 us.

12 We don't have to work against each other.

13 These serve our interests.

14 Understand that I'm -- I apologize for how rough
15 the congressional proposal is there before you. Understand
16 there's -- there is outside the federal mandates which those
17 represent and does not -- in fact, both maps, in fact,
18 slightly increase the minority count for those, those
19 regions. But, but the congressional map had two
20 goals: Solely rural and the removal of Flagstaff and
21 Prescott from our district.

22 Thanks very much.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

24 Mr. Bryant, were these prepared using the
25 Commission's online mapping?

1 JESSE BRYANT: That one was not.

2 Can be, certainly.

3 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Next speaker is Lery
4 Alderman, Globe city councilman.

5 COUNCILMAN LERY ALDERMAN: My name is Lery
6 Alderman, L-E-R-Y, Alderman, A-L-D-E-R-M-A-N, city
7 councilman for the city of Globe.

8 Also I'd like to speak on behalf of Gila County.

9 As you've heard before, our specific interests are
10 mining, timber, cattle, and tourism.

11 We all share the same commonality here of those
12 items. And as I, as I -- we have just gone through a
13 redistricting for our city. And I understand how difficult
14 that is. And I want to thank you all for what you did. You
15 guys are doing a great job, and I really appreciate the fact
16 that you're listening to us tonight.

17 I pray that you're absorbing this information, and
18 we can get it on paper.

19 We all do have interest, like interest. And we
20 are, as it was mentioned, compact and contiguous, respect
21 for communities of interest, use visible geographic
22 features, city, town, county boundaries, and undivided
23 census tracts.

24 We have the maps that Mr. Bryant gave you guys,
25 you all, is something that we all can agree on.

1 You've heard the number of communities who are
2 approving this, making resolutions, accepting this. And we
3 just feel like we want representation.

4 We don't want to be split up. And rural land
5 Arizona wants a voice.

6 We want that voice, we relish that ability to do
7 that, and we respectfully ask that you consider rural
8 Arizona and the maps before you.

9 Thank you very much.

10 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

11 Next we have Jose Medina.

12 And if you could please let us know if you're here
13 on behalf of yourself, and where you're from.

14 JOSE ANGEL MEDINA, SR.: My name is Jose Angel
15 Medina, J-O-S-E, A-N-G-E-L, M-E-D-I-N-A, senior.

16 I apologize -- I was going to apologize for being
17 late because -- and tired. I spent most of the day down in
18 the valley.

19 And I was going to -- I thought I was alone on
20 this issue from what I was hearing.

21 I'm here to agree with everybody about
22 representation for rural Arizona, rural Gila County and
23 Arizona in particular.

24 Anyway, while I was down in the valley, I was
25 trying to think about what I was going to say.

1 While I was in the valley at one of the local
2 eateries down there, I saw this paper. And it's an
3 information -- Hispanic paper, La Voz, The Voice.

4 And I found it interesting from what I understand
5 from reading in it. They are awfully concerned in the
6 valley. Minorities are organizing and trying to support --
7 or have minorities support their interests in rural Arizona.

8 So, I gave you a copy here. And if you'd like, I
9 can hand another one to you right now.

10 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Sure.

11 JOSE ANGEL MEDINA, SR.: I'd just like to add that
12 I come from a mechanical background and aviation background.
13 So in my world, I'm accustomed to symmetry. And when I work
14 on something or plan on something, I expect it to show some
15 kind of symmetry, smoothness. It's very important.

16 From what I've seen, and don't fully understand,
17 but with the help of my friends here, I'm getting a better
18 picture.

19 I don't see the symmetry. I don't see the
20 representation.

21 It's starting to worry me now.

22 That's why I thought I would show up and show
23 support for everyone here that has spoken in favor of rural
24 Arizona and our concerns.

25 And, well, I believe that's all I have to say for

1 tonight.

2 Thank you very much.

3 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

4 Next I have Michael Pastor, Supervisor Michael
5 Pastor, Gila County board of supervisors.

6 SUPERVISOR MICHAEL PASTOR: Good evening.

7 Thank you for being here. My name is Michael
8 Pastor, P-A-S-T-O-R, M-I-C-H-A-E-L. And I am the District 2
9 supervisor for Gila County, which covers the area of
10 southern Payson, to the top of the world, which is the
11 mining area that you came through from Superior. Probably
12 the largest district for Gila County.

13 We're only a county of 53,000 people.

14 Graham, Gila -- Graham, Greenlee, Navajo, and
15 Apache are all like-sized counties, rural counties. And
16 basically I'm here just to express my support for the rural
17 Eastern Arizona Coalition map.

18 It keeps Gila County whole.

19 We really, we really don't want to see ourselves
20 split up.

21 You've heard that from everybody here.

22 I know that you guys have struggled immensely with
23 this redistricting project because the county just finished
24 doing ours since -- we've been working since March with
25 Mr. Adelson and his staff, and we finally were able to come

1 to an agreement and submit a map.

2 So we're awaiting clearance hopefully.

3 I would encourage you to look at this proposal
4 from the rural coalition counties, really consider the
5 community of interest that exists to be partnered or
6 attached to an urban community such as western Pinal County,
7 doesn't do us a whole lot of service.

8 I think the southern parts of Pima County are
9 included too, and that doesn't really serve rural Arizona.

10 So if you look at those maps, we would appreciate
11 it. And I thank you for your effort as working on the
12 Commission. Thank you.

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 Next I have Barbara McGuire, representing self.

15 BARBARA MCGUIRE: Members of the Commission, my
16 name is Barbara McGuire. I'm a former state representative
17 for Legislative District 23.

18 I have had the pleasure of serving that
19 district for over the past six years, representing
20 350,000 constituents in that district, part of which was a
21 small part of Gila County.

22 I am the rural gal, born, lived all my life here,
23 have family that go back to the 1800s in the state of
24 Arizona in this area, in this rural area.

25 I'd like to show my support for the comments that

1 Mayor Shipley and many of the gentlemen and ladies in this
2 community -- or in this room have made that live in these
3 communities, along with the mayor from Superior, Mayor Hing
4 from Superior.

5 I'd just like to add a little bit to that.

6 With regards to these rural communities that are
7 of mining, ranching, farming, we also have some light
8 manufacturing down in the Casa Grande area, such as the
9 Frito-Lay, some vitamin company, tortilla manufacturing
10 companies, also included in these areas. These are home
11 grown, having generation after generation grow up and live,
12 work, and retire in these rural areas.

13 I'd also like to add a comment with regards to, at
14 the legislature, the voice of rural representation in and of
15 itself at the legislature is that of a minority.

16 The urban community, the urban representation
17 outnumber us. And I was fortunate to be able to open doors
18 that in the past had been closed to us to make a difference
19 for these rural communities. And I'd like to see that
20 continue.

21 But with the proposed number eight, District No. 8
22 that you're now proposing, I don't see that Saddlebrooke,
23 Catalina, or Oro Valley have anything in common with this
24 copper corridor and its community.

25 It makes more sense to have other parts of

1 Pinal County, like Eloy, Apache Junction, Casa Grande,
2 Globe, Miami for the Gila area, and I heard someone mention
3 the reservation, Apache Indian reservation. In the past in
4 District 23 I had the honor of representing four of the
5 Native American tribes.

6 And I was very pleased to be able to do that, and
7 I learned a lot in that experience of representing them of
8 their needs.

9 And the urban environments that you're wanting to
10 mesh into these rural environments do not have anything in
11 common with them as well as these rural farming and ranching
12 communities.

13 These foundation -- these rural areas need to have
14 a foundation with a balanced voting mix.

15 And I think the communities that I've mentioned to
16 you would create that balance or help to create that
17 balance.

18 This is a great opportunity to create a very
19 strong rural district with the interests of all these people
20 here and others that live in these rural districts to keep
21 them similar.

22 This copper corridor area, to me, all my life, has
23 been the heart bumping blood of these rural areas. And I'd
24 like to see it remain intact, and as such I don't think that
25 merging the urban environments into these rural environments

1 is in the best interest of these areas.

2 And I'd like to thank you for giving me the time
3 to speak tonight. I'd really like to commend you on all the
4 work that you've been doing. I have been following online,
5 trying to watch everything on the Internet as it unfolds.

6 Your job is a very, very hard one.

7 I, I wholeheartedly commend you. I wish you the
8 very best. And I am very optimistic for the outcome that we
9 will have, that it will be a fair and balanced outcome that
10 will represent everyone in the best interest, especially in
11 the rural areas.

12 Thank you so much.

13 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

14 We have one more request to speak form.

15 And there it is.

16 Diana Wheeler, from Gila County, representing
17 self.

18 DIANA WHEELER: My name is Diana Wheeler,
19 D-I-A-N-A, W-H-E-E-L-E-R.

20 I'm speaking for myself, but my husband would be
21 here. He's on the city -- Globe City Council, and he's also
22 a ranching consultant. And he's up in Springerville right
23 now.

24 My feel and my concern is we are in a crisis
25 situation right now here in the county, or in our district,

1 fighting to continue with ranching, timber, mining. And
2 we're beginning to get a foothold because we're all working
3 together.

4 And we're talking about coordination now, and
5 we're making different entities come and sit down to the
6 table with us, which is mainly the Forest Service and the
7 environmental groups.

8 If you split us up into little bit size pieces
9 like you've got on those maps, we won't have a chance.
10 What's left of ranching will be gone. Timber is already
11 gone, and we're trying to bring it back right now.

12 You will set us so far back, and it will be
13 tragic.

14 Everybody's really feeling good about what's going
15 on right now, and we are really working hard as a whole
16 entity. Please don't chop us up.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

19 Well, that was my last request to speak. Is there
20 anyone else who wants to address the Commission, any more?

21 If we could get you to complete a request to speak
22 form, you could do it perhaps after you've made your
23 comment, just so we have it in our record.

24 MICHAEL BINGOCHEA HING: Good evening. My name is
25 Michael Bingochea Hing, and I'm here just as a common

1 citizen.

2 My last name is -- is spelled M-I-C-H-A-E-L,
3 B-I-N-G-O-C-H-E-A, and last name Hing, H-I-N-G.

4 I'm here to speak tonight because the great state
5 of Arizona is built on the four Cs: Copper, cotton, citrus,
6 and cattle -- cattle.

7 And we're -- we seem to forget as the metropolis
8 grows that once the valley was farming. And you take
9 away -- if you go to this plan, you're forgetting the heart
10 of our state.

11 And right now we're mighty.

12 We're not mighty as population base, but as our
13 mining industries, we make a ton of money for, for the state
14 and the federal government.

15 If you put us into the urban, you're going to
16 choke us. Because as you put the urban to have a voice,
17 they're going to have a stronger voice than we do. And what
18 good does it do us?

19 We, we work together with environment. We work
20 with environmental people.

21 But if you close us down by chopping us into these
22 little pieces, nobody wins.

23 And you have to really take at heart that
24 everybody in this room works hard for what they got, and
25 you're going to close the avenue for all the residents of

1 the state of Arizona.

2 Because without taxes and money coming in, who's
3 going to win?

4 We want to keep our state productive. We want to
5 be a state that's heard.

6 Look, we've added another representative. Let us
7 keep growing. Don't choke us.

8 That's all I have to say.

9 Thank you.

10 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you.

11 Is there anyone else who would like to speak to
12 the Commission?

13 (No oral response.)

14 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: All right then. Thank you
15 again for coming. That will close the public comment
16 portion of the program.

17 Before we adjourn I'd like to ask
18 Commissioner Stertz if he would like to say any words.

19 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: Yes. First, thank you very
20 much for coming out.

21 There's not much that I disagree with that was
22 said tonight. I'm the -- I'm one member of the five member
23 commission, and in both of these two maps I voted against
24 them.

25 And so what I'm going to encourage you to do is

1 that someone said earlier that you are outlobbied by some
2 other groups.

3 If you truly want to become a voice, you need to
4 mobilize your voice and combine. Small cities become big
5 voices when they're combined together.

6 The 30-day comment period is coming to a close.

7 I'm suggesting that if you want to get your voice
8 together, that you gather everyone that you can gather and
9 get that voice heard.

10 Because if it is not part of the record, it's not
11 going to be considered.

12 And that's just -- that is how this process works.

13 We take a look at the six points on the
14 constitution, we have to evaluate them accordingly, and it's
15 based on what we are given.

16 And if we are given a big stack of information
17 about one thing and a small stack of information about
18 another, the big stack is going to have a lot more
19 consideration than the small.

20 So the two week -- the comment period for 30 days
21 comes to a close in the next couple of weeks.

22 So as you want to become from small -- from small
23 voices become together, become a very loud mobilized group.

24 So I'm going to encourage you, if you want to be
25 heard as that large group, to bring together your small

1 groups to become a large group, and to do it quickly so that
2 you -- there can be an equal level of consideration.

3 Because I look at geographic issues that we see in
4 some of these maps, and I scratch my head.

5 And I put it on public comment when I said that I
6 did not approve of some of these maps, where you could not
7 go from Apache Junction and go -- you had to go through
8 three other congressional districts to be able to get -- by
9 road to be able to get to the northern half of that
10 congressional district.

11 So I will be one of those that will be hoping that
12 you as members of these areas come out. Because my voice is
13 only my voice. I -- I'm right now part of the small stack
14 of information.

15 So I'm going to encourage you to -- if you want to
16 get heard, that you get heard and get heard quickly.

17 So I want to thank you very much for coming out
18 tonight.

19 And by the way, thank you for Gila County and the
20 board of supervisors for welcoming us today.

21 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: If I may ask,
22 you're saying that you want to hear us heard as a large
23 group? I don't understand that. E-mail? Radio?

24 COMMISSIONER STERTZ: We have -- we have
25 opportunity for you to submit information about what your

1 concerns are to azredistricting.org.

2 You can go online. You can send e-mails. You can
3 submit testimony as you have done tonight.

4 You can have blue sheets. You can have
5 communities as you've done currently where you have got
6 cities, you've listed ten cities. I think there was
7 11 including Pinetop last night that actually passed
8 resolution.

9 There are other cities that, that it is incumbent
10 upon members of the public, there's six and a half million
11 people living in this state. We've had 5,000 pieces of
12 information, Kristina, plus, 5,000 plus pieces of
13 information that have been delivered to us.

14 It will make Kristina crazy what I just said, but
15 it is incumbent for us to hear everybody now, because in
16 two weeks from now the now is over.

17 And we're only going to be considering the
18 information and the data and the testimony that we've been
19 given.

20 And then it will be left up to the
21 five commissioners to hash it out.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE-CHAIR FREEMAN: Thank you,
24 Commissioner Stertz. I couldn't agree more.

25 I was born and raised in Phoenix. I spent some

1 time in my life in Tucson. I certainly can't claim to be
2 from rural Arizona. But I do spend a lot -- I have here in
3 my lifetime spent a lot of time, particularly in eastern
4 Arizona, in the White Mountains area, and I -- and even now
5 I -- I'm a want to be hunter perhaps, I go up quite often.

6 So a lot of what was said tonight resonates with
7 me.

8 We've heard a lot of public comment about keeping
9 rural districts truly rural. In fact, before we began the
10 proceedings tonight, I had a brief conversation with
11 Representative Pancrazi from Yuma about how even introducing
12 a small percentage of population that is from an urban area
13 into a rural district and trying to call it a predominantly
14 rural district doesn't quite work, because it's very easy
15 for that population, that urban population to dominate and
16 destroy that rural community of interest.

17 So that does mean a lot to me in developing and
18 going forward with these draft maps, a number of the
19 commissioners emphasized repeatedly on the record that they
20 were only drafts that and that there would be changes after
21 the public comment period was over.

22 So I believe it is very incumbent upon all of the
23 Commission as a body to take into consideration all public
24 comment from all parts of the state and evaluate it and
25 weigh it and then go back to the drawing board with these

1 maps, with those public comments in hand, apply the six
2 constitutional criteria the way they should be and develop
3 true final maps.

4 That's what would be my goal going forward.

5 So, that's all I have. And thank you all of you
6 for coming.

7 And so we'll conclude the hearing at 6:00 -- or,
8 excuse me, 7:26 p.m.

9 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.)

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

10 DATED at Chandler, Arizona, this 23rd day of
11 October, 2011.

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

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