

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Payson, Arizona

Window Rock, Arizona

Online via WebEx

December 1, 2021

6:00 p.m. MST/7:00 p.m. MDT

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
 2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 6:00 p.m.
 3 MST/7:00 p.m. MDT on December 1, 2021, at Matazel Casino
 4 Event Center, Highway 87, Mile Marker 251, Payson, Arizona;
 5 with a satellite location at Navajo Nation Training Center,
 6 Morgan Boulevard, Building 2740, Window Rock, Arizona; and
 7 online via WebEx.

8
 9 COMMISSIONER PRESENT:

10 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson

11 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

12 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman

13 Mr. David Mehl

14 Ms. Shereen Lerner

15 STAFF PRESENT:

16 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director

17 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director

18 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant

19 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer

20 Mr. Alex Pena, Public Outreach Coordinator

21 Ms. Marie Camacho, Public Outreach Coordinator

22 Mr. Daniel Arellano, Ballard Spahr

23 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group

24 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

25 SPEAKER NAME:

LOCATION

President Nez

Window Rock

Seth Damon

Window Rock

Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Window Rock

Leonard Gorman

Window Rock

Priscilla Weaver

Window Rock

John Watts

Window Rock

Luther Lee

Window Rock

Casey Lee

Window Rock

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Steven C. Begay	Window Rock
	Jaynie Parrish	Window Rock
4	Shannon Parrish	Window Rock
	Cadance Jesus	Window Rock
5	Elma Kee	Window Rock
	Tom Morrissey	Payson
6	James Ferris	Payson
	Richard Lunt	Payson
7	Jose Angel Medina	Payson
	Shirley Dye	Payson
8	Mila Besich	Payson
	Byron Lewis	Payson
9	Andy McKinney	Payson
	Al Gameros	Payson
10	Jim Muhr	Payson
	Kris Morrissey	Payson
11	Daniel Roberts	Payson
	Joseph Rizzo	Payson
12	Dino De Laurentis	Payson
	Gary Morris	Payson
13	Peri Cline	Payson
	Donald Cline	Payson
14	Jane Evans	Payson
	Karl Stoltze	Payson
15	Suanne Louton	Payson
	David Louton	Payson
16	Pat White	Payson
	Mike White	Payson
17	Ruth Waterman	Payson
	Darlene Younker	Payson
18	Rebecca Carr	Payson
	Angela Godac	Payson
19	Warren Tice	Payson
	Tim Deegan	Payson
20	Rose Ann Watts	Payson
	Charlie Bell	Payson
21	John Metzger	Payson
	Pam Derks	Payson
22	Tom Berggren	Payson
	Betty Leon	Payson
23	Glen Galster	Payson
	Stephen Otto	Payson
24	Dinah Lundell	Payson
	Karolyn Switzer	Payson
25	Helen Hebert	Payson

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2	<u>SPEAKER NAME:</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Jeff Bell	Payson
	Steve Titla	Payson
4	Kodee Goseyun	Payson
	Janet Williams	Payson
5	Bill Mansfield	Payson
	Ed Strain	Payson
6	Pat Edelen Smith	Payson
	Kay Cool	Payson
7	Geoff Schulteis	Payson
	Jesse Bryant	Payson
8	James Oliver	Payson
	Sherri Laffey-Long	Payson
9	Terry Lowman	Payson
	Art Schailer	Payson
10	Will Parz	Payson
	Teresa Kelleher	Payson
11	Robert Hershberger	Payson
	Richard Hinkie	Payson
12	Lisa Marshall	Payson
	Kelly Rael	Payson
13	Joseph Fleming	Payson
	Catherine Morder	Payson
14	Gabriel Schultz	Payson
	Jerry Epps	Payson
15	Sylvia Allen	Payson
	Cliff Potts	Payson
16	Diana Rysewyk	Payson
	Andrew Costanzo	Payson
17	Jim Vance	Payson
	Louise Liggett	Payson
18	Debra Hunt	Payson
	Kelly Parks	Payson
19	Bill Mayes	Payson

20 * American Sign language interpreters, Spanish
 21 interpreters, and an Navajo Interpreter are
 22 present.
 23
 24
 25

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Good evening, everyone. My name is
4 Lori Van Haren, I'm the Deputy Director of the Independent
5 Redistricting Commission.

6 I want to first start by introducing our Spanish
7 interpreter right now.

8 SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good evening, everyone. I am
9 Brenda Lopez, I'm the Spanish interpreter. If you need
10 interpretation, please I'll be -- come to me and I'll be
11 right in the back.

12 (Spanish language.)

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Brenda. Can we all
14 stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

15 (Pledge of allegiance.)

16
17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. At this point I will
18 send it over Commissioner Mehl, who is chairing the meeting.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you, Lori.

20 I now call to order the public hearing of the
21 Independent Redistricting Commission. The Commissioners in
22 Payson and Window Rock joining virtually and I'm joining
23 virtually. We're also streaming the meetings online via
24 WebEx and will be posted online afterwards via YouTube so
25 anyone can come and look at the meeting later.

1 In Window Rock you're under the jurisdiction of the
2 tribal government and you're required to follow the laws of
3 the tribe while at this meeting. This includes wearing a
4 mask to comply with the mask mandate.

5 If you would like to make a public comment, you may
6 do so by signing in with staff and filling out the public
7 comment card.

8 Even though this meeting began -- began at
9 6:00 p.m., anyone can attend and submit a public speaker
10 card at any time and we will stay until the last speaker is
11 heard.

12 There's an American Sign Language interpreter and a
13 transcription who will be transcribing every meeting.
14 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear record of
15 your input.

16 And we really appreciate all of you being tonight
17 and the input that we will receive. And at this time we
18 will introduce ourselves.

19 I'm David Mehl, I'm a Commissioner from Pima
20 County, live in Tucson and I'm very thankful to be here
21 tonight.

22 And Shereen? Commissioner Lerner?

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner, can you
24 hear us? Thumbs up or thumbs down.

25 It looks like Commissioner Lerner is having

1 difficulty hearing us.

2 Commissioner Mehl, can you hear us? Thumbs up,
3 thumbs down.

4 Commissioner Mehl, can you hear us from Payson?

5 Vice Chair Watchman in Window Rock, can you hear us
6 from Payson?

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: We cannot hear you from Payson.
8 I missed you on the introduction. I did not see you, so
9 please introduce yourself from Payson.

10 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. I'm happy to introduce
11 myself but we have a broader, I guess, connection issue that
12 we're going to need to fix to make sure we're all hearing
13 each other.

14 Commissioner Lerner, Vice Chair Watchman, are you
15 connected?

16 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: This is Vice Chair Watchman,
17 can you hear me? We're here in Window Rock.

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Please introduce --

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I'm hearing everybody.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Please introduce yourself,
21 Vice Chair Watchman.

22 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Yes. Good evening. I'm
23 Derrick Watchman, the Vice Chairman for the Independent
24 Redistricting Commission. I'm the Democratic appointee
25 representing Apache County.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. My name is Erika
2 Neuberg, I'm the Independent Chair, I live in Chandler and I
3 apologize for some of the early audio issues and perhaps now
4 Commissioner Lerner is accessible.

5 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Can you hear me in Payson?

6 Hello, everybody. Again, my name is Shereen
7 Lerner, and I'm one of the Commissioners from Maricopa
8 County. Thank you all for being here. We appreciate your
9 time.

10 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And with that, we will now turn
11 it over to our staff to read the rules of the meeting.
12 Thank you all.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 So the rules of the meeting are citizens may only
15 speak when recognized by the Chair or the presiding officer
16 of a meeting if the Chair is absent or has otherwise
17 delegated hearing administration authority.

18 In compliance with Arizona's meeting law, speakers
19 should confine their statements to the issue on the posted
20 agenda which is before the Commission.

21 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments
22 to approximately two minutes. In an effort to allow for as
23 many speakers as possible, the Commission may adjust the
24 time limits depending on the amount of speakers.

25 Additionally, speakers are required to follow

1 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
2 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any
3 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other
4 guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the peace
5 or disruption of the Commission public hearing may be cause
6 of report to law enforcement.

7 We have a lot of speakers tonight and we want to
8 make sure that we respect the time for everyone. If someone
9 has already expressed the same sentiment you wish to
10 express, you may say so and your comments will be recorded.

11 If you have already expressed your thoughts at a
12 previous meeting, you do not need to speak again. Your
13 comments were recorded in the public record.

14 This is a nonpartisan meeting. Please do not
15 distribute political material in the meeting room.

16 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
17 citizens present.

18 As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to address
19 their comments to the Chair and Commission and not to the
20 audience present. Please show respect for all speakers and
21 avoid personal comments.

22 Remember, the Commission must hear all sides of an
23 issue in order to make an informed decision.

24 Also, here in Payson and I believe at the other
25 location, you can adjust your mic to your height, so please

1 do so, so that we can make sure that we pick up your voice.

2 At this time we're going to move to public comment,
3 and I believe on WebEx we have President Nez of the Navajo
4 Nation ready to speak.

5 SPEAKER NEZ: Good evening to the Arizona
6 Independent Redistricting Commission. I'm accompanied by
7 our speaker of the Navajo Nation council and council
8 delegate Kee Allen Begay in Twin Arrows, Navajo Nation.

9 Thank you. We are having a leadership meeting here
10 and that is the reason why we are beaming in from Twin
11 Arrows. We appreciate the opportunity to present.

12 So on behalf of the Navajo people I extend my
13 appreciation to the Redistricting Commission for having the
14 Navajo Nation as part of this final round of public
15 hearings.

16 It's critical that the First People of this country
17 have our voices heard in this redistricting process, which
18 only occurs every ten years.

19 At the start of the redistricting process months
20 ago we spoke about the importance of the Navajo Nation being
21 recognized as a community of interest as the Commission
22 considers redistricting plans. As we move forward in this
23 process I cannot emphasize enough that the entire Arizona
24 portion of the Navajo Nation should remain within
25 one district to ensure that we are fairly represented at

1 every level of government and that we can effectively
2 advocate for our policy positions on issues that impact our
3 Navajo people.

4 The Commission must also consider our principles of
5 redistricting which include complying with the Voting Rights
6 Act of 1965; keeping the Native voting age population in the
7 60 percent-plus range; and due to the 2020 census undercount
8 in rural areas such as the Navajo Nation, our high deviation
9 needs to be considered. We have carefully reviewed the
10 proposed maps put forth by the Commission and we are very
11 concerned the new maps will dilute the voices of First
12 People of this country and this state as the partisan spread
13 goes from a 6-point advantage to 15-point advantage for our
14 congressional district.

15 MS. CRANK: Time, Mr. President.

16 SPEAKER NEZ: A more politically competitive state
17 is much more beneficial because it means members of both
18 parties have to pay attention to issues that are of great
19 importance to our people.

20 Coming from a long line of strong and resilient
21 ancestors who were raised through the teaching of our
22 elders, we know what is best for our communities. Our voice
23 must be heard and our voting rights must be protected and
24 upheld.

25 A fair redistricting process will provide our

1 people the opportunity to elect the candidates of our choice
2 and to all our congressional and state --

3 MS. CRANK: Time, Mr. President. Time, sir.

4 SPEAKER NEZ: Okay, thank you. And we will submit
5 additional public comments.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. CRANK: The next speaker will be the speaker of
8 the Navajo Nation legislative branch, Mr. Seth Damon.

9 SPEAKER DAMON: Thank you. Good evening, everyone,
10 and thank you very much for being -- allowing us to be a
11 part of this discussion. And I thank the president of the
12 Navajo Nation, my colleague, Honorable Kee Allen Begay here
13 this evening; and thank you everybody listening in, as this
14 is the last public comment period in order for us to go
15 ahead and state the position of the Navajo Nation.

16 As the president indicated, we are people of this
17 northern country and -- Northern Arizona and we have that
18 government-to-government relationship, not only ourselves
19 but the Navajos, Hopis, White Mountain Apaches, San Carlos
20 Nation, Havasupai and Paiute Nation and we've had this for
21 years. And that government-to-government relationship that
22 has built us in order for us to be most importantly
23 maintaining our sovereignty. And in that, staking our
24 sovereign rights, we have ties to the land, whether it be
25 our sacred places and our -- our most western ranch and

1 places, too.

2 We are people of the -- of our -- northern
3 nation -- our Northern Arizona. We have commonalities
4 amongst communities in the northern portion of Arizona and
5 we have similar interests in what the -- that are not part
6 of what we consider metropolitan Phoenix.

7 And what we're here today is to really stance and
8 put aside all differences to maintain that the Navajo Nation
9 did go through a census count and that census count was
10 under -- was deviated and it was actually an undercount.
11 And in that undercount what we're still stating is that us
12 as a Navajo people, we're sitting at a 57 percent percentile
13 Native population right now, and we consider that 50 percent
14 percentile to be something of what we -- our growth as a
15 nation.

16 We have over 400,000 Navajos now and what we're
17 trying to make sure is to protect their sovereign right of
18 voting in order for us to go ahead and push that forward.

19 We really want to thank you all for allowing us to
20 speak this evening, but most importantly we're here to
21 maintain our threshold --

22 MS. CRANK: Time, Mr. Speaker.

23 SPEAKER DAMON: -- and try to push forward to get
24 above that 60 percent in that Native American voting
25 percentile vote.

1 Thank you very much and have a good evening.

2

3 MS. CRANK: Our next speaker is council -- Navajo
4 Nation council delegate Mr. Kee Allen Begay.

5 SPEAKER BEGAY: Good afternoon, this is council
6 delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

7 I would like to continue what the president -- the
8 president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker of the Navajo
9 Nation Council, has alluded to. We still have our
10 challenges when it comes to voting but we have to ensure
11 that our citizens have an equal opportunity to participate
12 in the election. We need to have a precinct boundary
13 clearly defined so that there is no question about where our
14 people should cast their ballot on election day.

15 With all of that said, we are respectfully
16 requesting the support of the Commission to approve the
17 Navajo congressional plan CDF010. This plan is also
18 supported by the White Mountain Apache tribe, the San Carlos
19 Apache tribe, Havasupai, Paiute, and the Yavapai Nation.

20 Thank you for your time. We stand ready to work
21 together with the Commission to finalize redistricting maps
22 that are fairly and effectively in protecting the voting
23 rights of our Navajo people.

24 (Navajo language spoken.)

25 Thank you very much.

1 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Council Delegate.

2 Our next speaker is Mr. Leonard Gorman. Following
3 Leonard Gorman is Priscilla Weaver, following Priscilla
4 Weaver is John Watts, Luther Lee, Casey Lee, Steven Begay.

5 SPEAKER GORMAN: Good afternoon. (Technical/audio
6 disruption) Gorman for the Navajo Nation Human Rights
7 Commission.

8 I have two points. One is that we've been closely
9 following your maps and we do not support the iteration that
10 you put up for LD-6 for the reasons that you are allowing
11 other districts such as 10 -- I mean, 19 and 28, having the
12 aspects of a more negative deviation than what the Navajo
13 Nation has repeatedly requested and has even submitted white
14 papers to talk about the legalities that pertain to the need
15 to ensure the LD-6, based on your iteration, provides for a
16 much more greater negative percent deviation.

17 Second, we will be submitting a new map and in
18 hopes that we are helpful to the Commission and that new map
19 will be fitting into the map that you have on the bandwagon
20 to solicit across the state.

21 The new map provides for LD-6 negative 5 deviation
22 NVAP 66.39, LD-7 a deviation of .26 percent, Native American
23 voting age of 4.6, and then District 19 a negative 3.71 at a
24 NVAP at .01 -- 81. So we will be submitting this new map to
25 you tomorrow morning.

1 Thank you.

2 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER WEAVER: (Navajo language) Commissioners,
4 for allowing me to give my statement and giving me the
5 opportunity to give my statement today.

6 My name is Priscilla Weaver, I'm from a Teec Nos
7 Pos, Arizona. (Navajo language spoken.)

8 I'm from Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, that's a 2-hour
9 20-minute drive from Window Rock, total of 234 miles, so
10 this public hearing means a lot to me. I support the
11 congressional draft map submitted by the Navajo Nation Human
12 Rights Commission proposal CDF010.

13 Please redraw the district lines for CD-2. The IRC
14 draft map that I don't support has taken a highly
15 competitive district and made it solidly Republican. When
16 my father Willy Weaver returned home from military service
17 in World War II, he was not allowed to vote. Now, in 2021,
18 we Native Americans in the state of Arizona are being
19 disenfranchised again.

20 The representative will be chosen in the Republican
21 primary. Native Americans will have no voice. I will have
22 no representation in the USA as a Navajo tribal member.

23 U.S. Native Americans deserve a chance to elect a
24 congressional representative of their choice. A competitive
25 district gives them that chance.

1 Thank you Commissioners Neuberg, (Navajo language)
2 Derrick Watchman, Lerner, York and Mehl for listening to my
3 testimony about my support for Navajo Nation Human Rights
4 Commission proposal CDF010.

5 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you.

6 MS. CRANK: Just a translation, at the beginning of
7 her speech she did introduce herself and introduced her
8 clan, so just to do the English translation for our
9 Commissioners and those that are listening.

10 SPEAKER WATTS: (Navajo language spoken.)

11 My name is John Watts, I live in Teec Nos Pos,
12 Arizona, on the Navajo Nation; and for the last ten years in
13 my current districts, Native voices and Native votes have
14 had power. When Natives speak up and show up at the ballot
15 box, representatives at the state legislature and Congress
16 have listened. But that may change because the approved IRC
17 CD-2 map has been drawn so that Native American voting power
18 will be watered down and Native voters disenfranchised by
19 adding Prescott, which places us in a noncompetitive
20 district.

21 The proposed congressional map lumps the Native
22 vote with Prescott and all of Yavapai County whose voters
23 are overwhelmingly non-Native. This strategy would dilute
24 the Native vote until it's drowned out by people who don't
25 know the issues in our Native communities, don't understand

1 the needs of our Native communities and won't be responsive
2 to the voices and votes of our Native communities.

3 Yavapai County must be split within several
4 districts. The current approved IRC draft CD-2 map is not
5 competitive and violates the intent of the Voting Rights
6 Act.

7 We need to be in a competitive district where
8 representatives must fight for every vote to win an election
9 so our voices are heard. A district that is too easy for
10 one candidate to win will leave us with someone who doesn't
11 need to fight for our issues.

12 The current IRC-approved map is an attack on the
13 very rights that the Code Talkers fought to uphold for
14 future generations.

15 I support the CD-2 map that was drawn by the Navajo
16 Human Rights Commission. It's number CDF010.

17 (Navajo language spoken.)

18 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Luther Lee.

19 SPEAKER LEE: (Navajo language spoken.) Thank you.

20 As mentioned before, we don't support your IRC
21 draft map the way it's drawn out. The district -- the
22 district is not competitive. It will avert and silence our
23 tribal voice.

24 District 2 does provide strong representation to
25 Arizona's tribal communities and is critical to our voice at

1 the federal level.

2 We also do not want Prescott and San Tan Valley
3 drawn into the district.

4 Thank you.

5 SPEAKER LEE: Good evening, Commission.

6 Good evening, Commissioners. My name is Casey Lee.
7 I'm a voter from Kayenta, Arizona. I am very concerned
8 about the way the current congressional district map has
9 been drawn for my area which was formerly known as CD-1 and
10 is currently labeled CD-2 on the IRC map. CD-1 has been a
11 highly competitive district and has given us fair
12 representation.

13 The redistricting process is supposed to be fair
14 and competitive and what we see in the draft map now
15 includes Prescott and Yavapai County which increases
16 Republican representation and doing so decreases our Native
17 American voting power.

18 We already have smaller populations compared to
19 others and we know why that is. Colonization, genocide and
20 system -- systemic racism. We've had to always fight for
21 our rights, especially voting rights. I fear in 2021 these
22 unfair actions through redistricting will continue to
23 further disenfranchise us if our Native voices and our votes
24 are further diluted and diminished by turning my district
25 into Republican and taking away any real opportunity for me

1 and my family to elect our candidate of choice.

2 I do not want to be trapped in a district for the
3 next ten years that doesn't give me a fair shot.

4 We can't take steps back, we cannot limit Native
5 people and future Native candidates. I don't want to see
6 Republicans using redistricting to steal a congressional
7 seat.

8 Any attempts to dilute our voting power by adding
9 Prescott and Yavapai County or something similar is just
10 wrong and should not be done.

11 Therefore I ask the committee to adopt the Navajo
12 Nation legislative and congressional district draft maps
13 submitted by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission.

14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER BEGAY: (Navajo language spoken.)

16 Good afternoon, Commissioners, staff and guests.
17 My name is Steven C. Begay, a Navajo and an enrolled member.
18 I vote at the Saint Michael's chapter near here during
19 elections.

20 I gave my testimony at the first hearing at the
21 museum in Window Rock and at the second hearing here at the
22 training center. I have submitted a map plan for review and
23 I have objected to the rejection of the map submitted by the
24 Navajo Nation at that time. Many suggestions have been
25 made. The participants appreciate the work of the

1 Commissioners. There are differences in many communities of
2 interest throughout the state.

3 This redistricting process should not be -- should
4 not disenfranchise Native Americans in the final maps. The
5 process should allow opportunity for Native Americans to
6 elect candidates of their choice.

7 Their participation has made the elections more
8 competitive in the recent times. The Navajo and federal
9 government relationship and the treaties and agreements have
10 geographically and politically compacted the people. The
11 community of interest concept relies on the land and the
12 resources available to the people and used for societal
13 purposes. Raw materials like sand and gravel that are used
14 for road improvements throughout the reservation are handled
15 under old federal rules. The clean up of abandoned uranium
16 mines sites on Navajo lands is an interest of all residents.

17 Other resources like water are constrained but
18 shared by the people at large.

19 It is important to have an independent Commission
20 to run the redistricting process and more communities of
21 color have participated in the process.

22 Thank you for listening to me.

23 MS. CRANK: I have three additional speakers here
24 in Window Rock. The next speaker is Jaynie Parrish. After
25 Janie Parrish is Shannon Parrish, and then after Shannon is

1 Candace Jesus.

2 Jaynie Parrish? Once?

3 SPEAKER PARRISH: (Navajo language spoken.)

4 Hello, Commissioners. Thank you for coming back to
5 Window Rock.

6 Since the first Congress in March of 1789 there
7 have been 12,415 people elected to serve their constituents.
8 I would like to see one Navajo Nation member serving. We
9 are already redistricted in a sense because state
10 boundaries, not ours, divided our people.

11 Yet it was CD-1. We have the highest percentage of
12 Native Americans of any congressional district in the
13 country. We are not there yet but we had a chance. A chase
14 -- a chance to get one person elected out of 12,415 members.
15 My goal is to let every child know that representative
16 democracy is for them, that they can grow up and serve in
17 Congress or beyond.

18 The current draft map for CD-2 not only does --
19 doesn't get us there, it reverses course and sends a
20 chilling message that you have to be white, Republican and
21 represent rural Arizona and that's really too bad.

22 We are rural Arizonans too, and we have a history
23 with this land and we care for it in ways that are not
24 understandable to someone who is not seeing Arizona for the
25 first time.

1 The draft map that adds Prescott and Yavapai County
2 reduces our percentage of Native American voters. CD-2 will
3 not be the most Native district in the country anymore if we
4 follow this lead, and we'll tell our children that we had a
5 shot but we have to wait another 10 years or 20 years.
6 There are now 15 tribal nations who have young people who
7 are asking for a fair shake and a fair shot in
8 representation.

9 It's not too late to do the right thing. Do not
10 dilute our Native American voting power. I ask the IRC to
11 adopt the legislative and congressional district maps
12 submitted by the Navajo Nation by the Navajo Nation Human
13 Rights Commission.

14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER PARRISH: Good evening.

16 (Navajo language spoken.)

17 My name is Shannon Parrish, I'm a citizen of the
18 Navajo Nation and I'm a voter in Apache County.

19 I am concerned that the conditional congressional
20 draft map CD-2 has changed my district from being highly
21 competitive to being a Republican district.

22 I know that every vote in my current district
23 counts and I have seen my congressional representative work
24 hard to make sure that all of my issues and the issues of my
25 community and many other communities are addressed.

1 Our current representative works for veterans both
2 on and off the tribal lands; my dad is a veteran and has
3 always fought for our right to vote and fair representation.
4 If Republicans are given a chance to consistently win
5 elections without having to work for every constituent or
6 genuinely include communities like mine, I know that our
7 voting power will be diminished and I will not have the same
8 quality of representation that I have now.

9 Adding more Republicans to my district by redrawing
10 the map will only further diminish Native American voters
11 and everything that we have worked so hard for.

12 Therefore I ask the panel to keep our district map
13 as close to the current. I would also ask the panel to
14 approve maps submitted by the Navajo Nation Human Rights
15 Commission for our congressional and legislative districts.
16 I want to see a map that will encourage the election of
17 candidates who will work with indigenous people and not
18 against us.

19 Thank you.

20 SPEAKER JESUS: Good evening.

21 (Navajo language spoken.)

22 I am in fifth grade. I go to school at Sandy
23 Public School. Today I'm here --

24 MS. CRANK: Just to let you all know, I'll do the
25 English translation. She introduced herself, gave her name

1 and what clan that she belonged to and told -- told her age.

2 SPEAKER JESUS: Today I am here on behalf of my
3 (Navajo language) lady and my relatives from White Clay,
4 Arizona. My family wanted to be here today but are working
5 or too nervous to talk. I am nervous myself but I am going
6 to do my best.

7 I am speaking for them. First, I want to say that
8 Native Americans deserve a voice. The current draft map is
9 not fair.

10 I am here to ask you to change it to be fair. My
11 family has recently gotten involved with voting at the
12 federal and state level. We are now starting to see more
13 Native American involvement and this is because the maps
14 were fair and competitive. We need a fair chance to be
15 heard.

16 I want to run for office one day and that means I
17 need and want to have a fair chance. I would like to thank
18 you all for letting me come up here and hearing me speak.

19 Please consider my requests and change the current
20 draft maps to be fair.

21 (Navajo language spoken.)

22 MS. CRANK: Our final and last speaker here in
23 Window Rock thus far is Elma Kee.

24 SPEAKER KEE: (Navajo language spoken.)

25 Good evening, my name is Geraldine Kee-Obee

1 (phonetic) and I'm the daughter of Alma Key and I'm going to
2 go ahead and help my mother with her -- with her comments
3 here and I'll speak in English on her behalf.

4 Hello, my is Elma Kee. I'm a citizen of the Navajo
5 Nation and a strong voter in Apache County. I would like to
6 make sure our tribal voting power is not decreased. We have
7 worked so hard to get where we are. Being able to choose
8 our own candidates of choice is very important for our
9 representation at the state and federal level.

10 I remember a time when we could (verbatim) vote or
11 even have Native Americans running for office. Today it's
12 getting better and this is because many of us have fought to
13 have the right to vote and have fair maps so that we can
14 have a chance to run and win.

15 We have to keep this progress moving and this means
16 we can't go backwards. We can't have extremists trying to
17 control how we all vote or who runs for office because they
18 have shown many times they do not work with tribes or even
19 want us to vote.

20 For this reason we have to have fair maps and I ask
21 the committee to consider and adopt the maps submitted by
22 the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission for LD-6 and for
23 the congressional districts. We cannot split the Navajo
24 Nation from the counties of Apache, Navajo and Coconino
25 County, our border counties. (Technical disruption) to

1 counties and businesses in those border towns. Our
2 livelihood depends on one another. Removing the border
3 towns from LD-6 only encourages -- encourages more
4 separation. We are better people if we work together and
5 get along together.

6 I support the Navajo Nation map for both the
7 congressional and legislative maps. It makes everyone
8 accountable for our state and our great Navajo Nation.

9 We thank you. (Navajo language spoken.)

10 And thank you for giving us the time and the
11 opportunity to talk in front of you.

12 Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: (Navajo language spoken.)

14 MS. CRANK: Thank you. Now we will turn it over to
15 Payson's 95 speakers.

16 MS. CAMACHO: Thank you, Michele.

17 Yes, we have 95 speakers and I will call you five
18 at a time and if you wouldn't mind lining up so that we can
19 get to the mic faster, it would be appreciated.

20 Thank you, Payson, for having us in your community.

21 And the first five speakers will be mayor of
22 Payson, Tom Morrissey; then James Ferris, Payson town
23 councilman; then Richard Lunt, Greenlee County supervisor;
24 then Jose Angel Medina, Sr., Town of Miami councilman; and
25 then Shirley Dye, Green Valley Water Board Chair.

1 SPEAKER MORRISSEY: Thank you. I've already been
2 introduced as the mayor and I am also a veteran of the
3 United States Army and I have the -- really, the honor of
4 welcoming you all to Payson.

5 This is very, very important to all of us. We all
6 have skin in the game.

7 I want to thank the Commission, especially the
8 Chairwoman, for presenting what I consider to be a very fair
9 map that you have presented up to this point. I'm talking
10 about the legislative district and the maps in general.

11 I believe that the map is exactly what will provide
12 fair representation. It appears now, however, that politics
13 is now becoming a factor where it has no place and should
14 have no place.

15 For example, to put Payson into a community of
16 shared interests with the Navajo Nation would be in my
17 opinion -- would in my opinion violate the very principles
18 of the Voting Rights Acts by watering down their deserved
19 representation for the sake of political gain, as I see it.

20 I urge you, I plead with you, to follow the
21 Constitution and give us fair representation driven by --
22 by -- by fairness and not driven by political lobbyists and
23 special interests. This country belongs to the people, we
24 the people. And that includes all of us in this room.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 SPEAKER FERRIS: Good evening, my name is James
3 Ferris, I'm on the Payson town council and I thank you for
4 the hard work a task like this requires.

5 And a special thank you again to Erika Neuberg for
6 not missing one single Commission meeting, so.

7 And thank you for listening to us back in July,
8 which resulted in an IRC draft map that put Gila County in a
9 district of common interests and that district is 7.

10 We want to be in a district that represent
11 commonalities of interest. Tribal communities do not share
12 our community common interest. We have been dealing with
13 issues of securing our CC Cragin water source which includes
14 restoring our forest; we have had the Lion Springs 260
15 highway project pulled out from under us several times.
16 With the IRC draft map, we finally have renewed hope that
17 some of the issues that are facing the newly drafted
18 District 7 may finally be addressed.

19 I support the IRC draft map that creates
20 communities of true commonality.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER LUNT: Madam Chair, members of the
24 Commission, I'm Richard Lunt, chairman of the
25 Greenlee County Board of Supervisors.

1 Thank you for your work on the 2020 census
2 redistricting maps.

3 Greenlee County has reviewed them and find
4 generally speaking the proposals in draft maps CD-7.1 and
5 LD-10.0 are acceptable to Greenlee County. Greenlee County
6 has been placed in proposed Congressional District 6 and
7 proposed Legislative District 19.

8 Our local economies, which are based in mining,
9 agriculture including ranching and outdoor activities, these
10 common issues define much of what the core of our
11 communities in District 6 are.

12 As for Legislative District 19, Greenlee County
13 strongly prefers the adopted LD draft map 10.0. We feel it
14 imperative to keep LD-19 as set forth in draft LD map 10.0
15 and not separate the border from the rest of the district.

16 The areas along Arizona/Mexico border share
17 communities of interest with more than one neighboring
18 community; however, to assume that this community has its
19 strongest ties to Latino communities in Pima and
20 Santa Cruz County over the Latino communities in the
21 remainder of Cochise, Graham and Greenlee County, simply
22 attempts to put substance -- form over substance while
23 ignoring agriculture and ranching interests and border
24 issues common to Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties.

25 Additionally, having -- to be represented by three

1 senators and six representatives is important to us.

2 Thank you once again for your -- your efforts.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I actually have a follow-up
4 question and it's not -- you wrote a compelling letter, so
5 I'm actually asking a question in response to that.

6 With what you're asking, is there any way to
7 accomplish as much as what you want but making the districts
8 more compact and contiguous? Just a question.

9 And you don't have to necessarily answer it now,
10 but that's a challenge that I'm going to present to you.

11 SPEAKER LUNT: Okay. Thank you and -- and as I
12 stated, we generally accept those two maps but we don't
13 want -- we -- well...

14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Just a question.

15 SPEAKER LUNT: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER MEDINA: Good evening, my name is Jose
18 Angel Medina, better known as Angel in the community, and I
19 want to thank you for all your work and everything that
20 you've done for us.

21 Little bit about myself. I'm a town councilman for
22 the town of Miami and I've worked for the copper mines, one
23 in particular for 43 years. I served my country as a
24 nation -- Air National Guard reservist for 24 years; I'm
25 71 years of age and 55 of those years I lived in Gila County

1 and that's my main concern.

2 I kind of lean with Councilman Jim from Payson and
3 Mayor Tom Morrissey on their choice, but I'd also like to
4 add that I'm very interested in the plus-five eastern county
5 issue. So I don't know if that's carrying much weight but I
6 thought I'd throw that in.

7 My concern is that I've lived in Phoenix for ten
8 years, I went to a fantastic school, we learned a lot about
9 politics from grade school all through high school, so since
10 that grade, that age, I've been following politics all my
11 life and what I've seen is very detrimental to Gila County,
12 in my opinion, because we've been divided for ten years,
13 which brought up a lot of suspicion between the north and
14 the south portion of the county.

15 So I've got so much to say and I'm watching the
16 clock running down.

17 But anyway, again, I want to thank you and I hope
18 you understand where I lean on the topic. Okay.

19 Thank you very much.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER DYE: Good evening, I'm Shirley Dye. I've
22 lived in Payson for 17 years and I've served on the green
23 water -- Green Valley Water Board for seven years.

24 I'm also actively involved in many groups here in
25 the town and many of us have met three times this past week

1 and a half, between 50 and 75 people in attendance each
2 meeting.

3 We have studied proposed adjustments to the IRC
4 10.2 maps to see what effects would be on the surrounding
5 districts. A great majority of us supported keeping the IRC
6 10.2 map as it is since it has respected our rural Arizona
7 communities of interest.

8 Thank you, Chairman Neumann (verbatim), for trying
9 to be as fair as possible following the legal redistricting
10 requirements. We did not know about the Flagstaff plan to
11 form their own district and thus force population from our
12 rural district to the Native American tribal district until
13 Monday night.

14 We had a meeting with 75 folks last night, and
15 shared, discussed why they wanted to support the IRC 10.2
16 map as we have very little community of interest in common
17 with the various tribes or the town of the urban Flagstaff
18 area.

19 The reservation lands and our rural communities
20 have come from very different cultures to settle in Arizona.
21 Rural Arizonans have worked hard to develop our ranching,
22 timber, mining, hunting, and now tourism industries, and
23 those traditions run deep as we work to protect our forests
24 and our watersheds. We need our rural voice represented at
25 the state legislature.

1 It is my request that we keep the urban Flagstaff
2 with the tribal district as they have much interaction with
3 the tribal people, giving them educational, healthcare,
4 social, and economic support.

5 It is too late in the game to make such major
6 changes to our IRC 10.2 map across the state.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. CRANK: And the next speakers are Mila Besich,
10 Mayor of Superior; Byron Lewis, councilman from Snowflake;
11 Andy McKinney, vice mayor of Star Valley; Al Gameros, mayor
12 of Globe; and Jim Muhr, board member.

13 SPEAKER BESICH: Good evening, Chairman,
14 Commissioners and those online.

15 Thank you for your time, your patience, and most
16 importantly the integrity it takes to fulfill your positions
17 here, this is a big job that you have and we appreciate your
18 work.

19 I'm here because last night the town of Superior
20 did approve a resolution to -- to support the five eastern
21 counties district that has been proposed, and there's a map
22 that keeps all of us together.

23 Communities like Superior, Kearny, Mammoth, Oracle,
24 Globe, Miami, we really need to be able to stay in a rural
25 district versus being in an urban district, that's been a

1 critical concern for us. As someone just said, our
2 economies are linked together -- tourism, mining,
3 agriculture, those are all important things and our leaders
4 need to be able to understand the nuances to those
5 particular -- particularities in our economies.

6 But most importantly we also understand that our
7 tribal friends are also looking to maintain some kind of --
8 maintain their communities of interests as well and that's
9 also important to make sure that that -- you're mindful of
10 that in your final decisions.

11 Adding Flagstaff and Prescott into our
12 congressional districts would obviously create a lot of
13 unfairness to our much smaller rural communities that need a
14 lot more attention when we're talking about federal issues
15 that affect our communities.

16 And with that, thank you very much for your time
17 and patience.

18 My name is Mila Besich and I'm the mayor of
19 Superior.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER LEWIS: Good evening. Thank you for your
22 time and I'm glad you had safe trips here. I'm sure there's
23 other places you would rather be than here tonight but we're
24 grateful for your presence.

25 My name is Byron Lewis, I'm a sixth generation born

1 and bred and raised in rural Arizona, serving as a council
2 member for the town of Snowflake, and my constituents
3 overwhelmingly are in favor of supporting the five-plus
4 county eastern county proposal.

5 Of the conversations I've had with hundreds of
6 individuals there, there are a handful who do not favor
7 that.

8 Almost all are opposed to the proposition that has
9 come late to the game from -- from Flagstaff.

10 One of the observations I have made over the last
11 several meetings is that we have had many of the individuals
12 born and raised on the reservation that have now lived off
13 reservation but still have ties to their homelands seeking
14 to reservationize the communities in which they move to. I
15 would never consider combining, for example, the Navajo and
16 the Apache Nations because they are diverse and different
17 individuals and putting them in one legislative bloc because
18 of their differences.

19 For that same reason -- cultural, economic,
20 political differences -- rural Arizona deserves to have a
21 chance to be reunited, they've not had a common voice since
22 2011. Their differences run deep. They're political, they
23 vote different, they have different outlooks, they have a
24 different economic base. There's no casino anywhere in
25 rural Arizona other than on the reservations, for example.

1 Representative example of these differences can be
2 found in the water adjudication.

3 One representative covering all of these
4 individuals would be -- would not be a good situation. No
5 man, legislator, or woman can serve two masters and a house
6 divided would not stand.

7 You have an opportunity for a tremendous legacy.
8 Please make a decision that will last.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER McKINNEY: Madam Chairman, council members,
11 my name is Andy McKinney, I'm the vice mayor for a little
12 neighboring community here that you might have come through,
13 Star Valley. I'm here to speak in support of the map that
14 you guys have made, the 10.2 map that suits me to the T.

15 It unifies the communities of interest that I am a
16 part of as a member of -- citizen in rural Arizona, I'm
17 connected to our friends at the -- all through Gila County
18 and then further down in the -- the Copper Corridor, there's
19 mining interest after mining interest in these little towns
20 all the way down to Oracle. We like that just fine.

21 Like to limit my comments to the -- the legislative
22 district map because that's what I'm most familiar with.

23 We have an opportunity to unify all of Gila County
24 which as my friend Angel has said -- mentioned has been
25 snipped right in the middle. Gila County is a poor county,

1 it's the third poorest county by per capita income in the
2 state of Arizona and we're also old. We're poor, we're old,
3 and there's not very many of us either. There are less than
4 60,000 in the whole county.

5 There's a proposal out there in the ether to take
6 70,000 people from Flagstaff, cram them down into a
7 Flagstaff-friendly district, forcing another 70,000 people
8 to be squished one way or another throughout -- the domino
9 effect throughout the state of Arizona with -- impacting
10 legislative district after legislative district.

11 You guys have spent an awful lot of time and good,
12 strong thinking and effort to produce the 10.2 map. I
13 applaud that and I support it.

14 Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 SPEAKER GAMEROS: Good evening. My name is Al
17 Gameros, I'm the mayor of the city of Globe. Like Mayor
18 Besich has stated, we also passed a resolution this month in
19 support of the five-plus eastern counties.

20 The people of rural Arizona had a voice in the
21 legislature until 2011. Our region was robbed of that voice
22 by cutting us up and joining us up with urban communities.
23 It is not right to divide up rural communities, as it is not
24 right to divide up urban communities.

25 Like Apache Junction, Gold Canyon deserves to have

1 their own voice for their urban issues. Eastern Arizona
2 deserves to have their voice for rural issues. We are our
3 own minority as rural people, so please do not rob our voice
4 for another ten years. Please support the five-plus eastern
5 county proposal, rural area -- rural and urban have
6 different issues and we want our voice as rural communities.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER MUHR: Good evening, my name is Jim Muhr,
10 board members with the Green Valley Water District.

11 Sorry about that.

12 I'm a combat veteran and I'm a proud member of the
13 community of Payson, Arizona.

14 First of all, I want to thank each and every one of
15 you for your tremendous efforts and your work that you have
16 completed. You people have done an outstanding job.

17 I 100 percent support the maps that I see here
18 tonight. I think that they're excellent. It appears to me
19 that you have really put some time and effort and looked at
20 the laws and have put together what I consider to be some
21 outstanding maps.

22 Now, I heard earlier some comments about
23 commonality, communities of interest, you know, we want to
24 be together and stuff like this, and when I see the -- the
25 blue area there on I believe it was District 2 that you have

1 drawn, that puts together communities of interest. I know
2 that here in Gila County the tribes here have stated that
3 they want to be in the same district, they want the same
4 county supervisor, and I see that that's what you've done
5 there and -- and I want to applaud and I want to thank you
6 for that.

7 I support both the Legislative District 7 map that
8 I see here and the congressional map that I see here.

9 And again, I want to thank you very much for your
10 time and effort and your good work, your excellent work.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13
14 MS. CAMACHO: Our next five speakers -- and please
15 come up in any order, as soon as you get to the front you
16 can come up and speak.

17 Kris Morrisey, Gary Morris, Scott De Laurentis,
18 Daniel Roberts, and Joseph Rizzo.

19 SPEAKER MORRISSEY: Hello. Madam Chair and
20 Commissioners, welcome back to Rim Country. Sorry for the
21 smoky atmosphere but we -- we start -- we're starting our
22 controlled burns, something that we live with up here.

23 My name is Kris Morrissey, I am from Payson. I had
24 the pleasure of addressing you in the July meeting and I'm
25 thanking you for the opportunity to do this again.

1 We sent you off with a fair number of requests and
2 when we look at the maps and the latest version, 10.2 of the
3 CD and the LD, LD-7, it looks to me like you got pretty
4 close to what we requested. I know there's another version
5 out there people are kind of pushing for, but I -- I think
6 what you have here has captured the communities of interest
7 and the population requirements that you needed.

8 I -- I guess the only concern I have was we were
9 beginning to hear some rumblings about moving Flagstaff in
10 the district, out of the district, in the tribal, out of the
11 tribal area, moving us in and out, none of that is going to
12 work as well as what you've come up with.

13 So again, appreciate really all the time and
14 effort. This was a monumental task and we're not a happy
15 group anyway, so I think you just did a great job. But
16 anyway thank you so much for your time and attention. This
17 is a ten-year decision so we're pretty serious about it and
18 we appreciate that time and effort.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER ROBERTS: Good evening, Commissioners. My
22 name is Daniel Roberts and I live here in Payson, Arizona.

23 I would like to thank the Commission for their time
24 and hard work. Obviously you guys spent a lot of time and
25 effort on this in this entire process and I appreciate that

1 and wanted to convey that.

2 That being said, I would like to state that I
3 support the Commission's latest map for District 7, the
4 Gila County area, and I do not support Flagstaff in our
5 district as I believe that -- that their community of
6 interest is not the same as ours.

7 And I cannot support the alternative map model.

8 And thank you for your time.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER RIZZO: I'm Joseph Rizzo, I'm a resident of
11 Payson and you guys have had a very difficult job because
12 you've got to juggle population, geography, boundaries of
13 communities of interest, district lines using -- using maps
14 that -- that make sense.

15 It's a difficult thing to accomplish.

16 Rural Arizona asks that their interest be
17 considered in redistricting because their community
18 interests in wildfire protection, water rights, and mining
19 issues are paramount to them. The 10.2 draft map as it
20 currently stands does address the community of interest for
21 rural Arizona and I thank the board and wish to express my
22 support for this draft map.

23 The district that includes Payson is as
24 geographically compact as practicable, meets the population
25 requirement, takes into consideration our community of

1 interest. Please don't change it.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER DE LAURENTIS: Good evening. My name is
5 Dino De Laurentis, I'm a resident of Payson. We just moved
6 here last January, nice rural community. Thank you,
7 Commission and Erika Neuberg.

8 Support the Commission's latest District 7 and the
9 Gila County area, I do support that. We don't want
10 Flagstaff in our district, they are an urban collegiate
11 community.

12 Also we hope and support -- we don't -- we hope you
13 don't support the other group's alternative map, support
14 10.2. Any major alterations to the mapping such as
15 intersecting Flagstaff has major trickle-down impacts to the
16 major district maps.

17 Thank you very much. Have a good day.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER MORRIS: Madam Chair, I want to thank you
20 for all your leadership and successfully guiding the
21 Commission to this stage in the event. It's a very
22 difficult task.

23 To all the Commissioners, thank you for the
24 challenge and time-consuming work that you've done and put
25 forth for the citizens of Arizona, especially the work

1 adhering to the mandated community of interest criteria.

2 My name is Gary Morris, I'm the chairman of the
3 Gila County Republican party.

4 The party endorses the Commission's current
5 proposed maps for Legislative 6 and 7, that's the 10.2; as
6 well as the proposed congressional maps. The party does not
7 endorse the five-plus county proposed alternative for
8 Legislative District 6 and 7. The party does not support
9 the Coconino County Board of Supervisors' request to insert
10 Flagstaff into the proposed Legislative Districts 5 or 7.

11 There are no real community of interest criteria
12 that fits either of the two legislative districts with
13 Flagstaff as discussed with other speakers; the trickle-down
14 effect affects many other districts.

15 The party does not support the proposed changes
16 presented by -- at the Pinetop meeting and today that would
17 push the proposed District 7 into reservation lands or bring
18 the reservation into the district. There are no, and I mean
19 no, demonstrated community interest in these two areas.

20 Further, moving nontribal population into a
21 reservation district dilutes the voting possibilities for
22 the tribal members and could very well be in violation of
23 the U.S. Voting Rights Act related to the majority-minority
24 issue.

25 As you move forward in this project I ask you to

1 continue to work at the big picture -- I mean the big
2 picture, particularly the mandated communities of interest
3 and get the -- and not get buried in last-minute radical
4 proposals or a large number of low-priority issues.

5 Thank you very much.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CAMACHO: Our next five speakers are Peri
8 Cline, Donald Cline, Karl Stoltze, Jane Evans, and Suanne
9 Louton.

10 SPEAKER CLINE: My name is Peri Cline and I live in
11 Star Valley, a rural community.

12 While I respect and admire my Native American
13 neighbors, I have little in common with their community,
14 sovereign nation, their customs and lifestyles. I request
15 that the draft map be used to delineate the political
16 boundaries (technical disruption) -- the political
17 boundaries keeping the rural areas together and not
18 including any large metropolitan areas.

19 Thank you, Madam Chairman, and the Commission.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER CLINE: Good evening, everyone. I really
22 want to thank you for all of your hard work, it's -- I know
23 it's a very difficult process.

24 My name is Donald Cline, C-L-I-N-E. I live in
25 Star Valley, Arizona; I'm an Air Force veteran.

1 I support your latest map for District 7. I have
2 no commonality of interest with Flagstaff or any Indian
3 nations. I want the map to remain as shown without
4 dilution. Please continue your commitment to the six
5 mandates and it's time to adopt the latest mapping
6 proposals.

7 Thank you very much.

8 (Applause.)

9 SPEAKER EVANS: Good evening, my name is Jane Evans
10 and a lot of this has been said before so I'm going to be a
11 little redundant.

12 First of all, thank you all so much and Erika
13 Neuberg for your leadership. I know this has been a lot of
14 hard work, a lot of dedication, and we are really very
15 grateful.

16 We -- I do support the latest 10.2 draft map for
17 rural Arizona, it shows that you have listened to and have
18 incorporated many, many of our requests. Our map set
19 doesn't satisfy everyone but it does put our communities of
20 interest together, which is so important.

21 We are a rural area and our interests are very
22 different than those of the Native American tribes or
23 Flagstaff.

24 So please do not try to combine different
25 communities of interest.

1 We need to stay together with the rural counties as
2 reflected in your 10.2 draft maps. To change it would have
3 a major negative impact on several districts which at
4 present are fair and balanced and best represent the
5 communities of interest and common challenges within them.

6 Thank you again for listening to us.

7 (Applause.)

8 SPEAKER STOLTZE: Good evening. My name is Karl
9 Stoltze, I live in Star Valley; I'm not an elected official,
10 just a plain and simple senior citizen.

11 So first of all, I'd like to thank you for your
12 very effective and hard work. It's not easy to bring all
13 these different interests under one head, so to speak.

14 Basically I second the comments of our mayor in
15 Star Valley who was here before, so I support the current
16 proposal for District 7 the way it is; and furthermore, we
17 don't want Flagstaff to be moved in our district and I
18 object basically District 7 to be pushed on to the
19 reservation.

20 Thank you very much. Good evening.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER LOUTON: Hi, good evening.

23 Oh, sorry.

24 My name is Suanne Louton and I live here in Payson
25 and I want to thank you very much for your hard work.

1 A lot of what I'm going to say has been said but we
2 all have to say our say, so I agree with the latest map,
3 District 7, Gila County area.

4 I think that you have listened to the needs of
5 the -- of our county and I think that having the rural
6 counties together really helps our people that we would --
7 oh, God, I'm so sorry -- the people that we would elect
8 here, the kind of things that we deal with, the forests and
9 the water and all that kind of thing.

10 We don't have anything in common with the
11 Navajo Nations as far as our ruralness, and so I ask that
12 you don't push us into there or Flagstaff down in with us.

13 Thank you again for your hard work.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. CAMACHO: Our next five speakers are David
16 Louton, Mike White, Pat White, Darlene Younker, and Ruth
17 Waterman.

18 SPEAKER LOUTON: Hello, my name is David Louton,
19 I'm a new resident here in Payson. My wife and I moved to
20 Payson early last year and one of the reasons why we decided
21 to move here is because it's a rural community and we enjoy
22 that type of community.

23 I do support the -- the current maps that are
24 proposed. I believe that it creates a good community of
25 interest for the rural communities and it also creates a

1 good community of interest for the Copper Corridor.

2 Once again, thank you for your efforts in putting
3 together these maps. I realize how difficult it is to
4 balance all of these issues.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER WHITE: I'm Pat White, I live in
8 Star Valley. I thank you. I'm impressed that you were
9 willing to undertake anything like this where you willingly
10 and knowingly take on a thankless task.

11 So that said, I would still thank you for your
12 efforts to -- your commitment to the mandates described in
13 the law for the map. I'm in favor of the latest map for
14 District 7. The Gila County area of Payson, rural
15 communities, Flagstaff, the Navajo Nation have the similar
16 commonalities of pigs and piranha. If you want to allow us
17 to have a like district, there's no way that these three
18 groups could ever be placed together and be represented
19 fairly.

20 I thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER WHITE: Good evening. My name is Mike
23 White, I'm a ten-year resident of the Payson area and also a
24 very proud combat veteran.

25 I'd like to thank you for the excellent job you did

1 in the current version of the maps. I think it's very well
2 thought out and I want to go on record as stating I strongly
3 support the way you've drawn that.

4 I do not support pushing District 7 on to the
5 reservation and I'm not sure they'd want us pushed in there
6 anyway; nor do I support pushing Flagstaff, which is
7 completely different than this area of rural Arizona,
8 pushing them into our district. So I please respectfully
9 request that you keep your good work the way it is and don't
10 make those unnecessary changes.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER WATERMAN: Good evening. Thank you for
14 having us here tonight, giving us the opportunity to voice
15 our opinions and -- and for the work you've done to be able
16 to facilitate this.

17 My name is Ruth Waterman and I live in rural Payson
18 and love, love, love this country. Love this community.

19 And I'm here tonight to stand in support of the
20 rural IRC 10.2 plan as it stands.

21 We are a diverse state and each one, each area
22 deserves representation by persons who know their particular
23 needs. The Native Americans deserve representation by
24 someone who knows and cares for what their needs are. We in
25 rural Arizona also deserve representation by those who

1 understand and who care about our needs.

2 Please retain the rural districts the IRC is
3 currently supporting and thank you again for having us here
4 tonight.

5 (Applause.)

6 SPEAKER YOUNKER: Good evening. My name is Darlene
7 Younker and I live in the beautiful town of Payson.

8 First, I want to thank your committee for doing a
9 pretty thankless job. It certainly is hard to please
10 everyone.

11 I appreciate the hard work and attention to detail
12 you have given the remapping effort.

13 While the IRC final draft maps are not perfect,
14 they are competitive, fair and balanced.

15 Some people are pushing to put urban Flagstaff in
16 the new LD-7 and remove rural Payson, Show Low and a few
17 other rural communities. They want to add them to the
18 tribal lands to make up for the population loss of removing
19 Flagstaff from the tribal lands. Those communities proposed
20 to be removed from LD-7 are primarily Anglo rural
21 communities which have very little in common with the tribal
22 lands, and much of the new LD-7 and CD-2 are rural and also
23 have little common interests with urban Flagstaff. It is
24 evident your committee has given much thought about
25 communities of interest and I really appreciate that.

1 The IRC final draft maps as presented do a fine job
2 of grouping these communities together.

3 I fully support the IRC final draft maps and urge
4 you not to change them.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to address you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CAMACHO: Our next five speakers are Rebecca
8 Carr, Warren Tice, Tim Deegan, Angela Godac, and then John
9 Freemuch, John F? Freemuch? Thank you.

10 SPEAKER CARR: Hi, good evening. My name is
11 Rebecca Carr and I'm a resident of Star Valley and
12 Republican precinct committeeman for Star Valley.

13 I appreciate all your hard work and thank you for
14 your time. The -- I appreciate the fact that you took into
15 consideration the communities of interest as a priority
16 factor; and with that said, I support your current mapping
17 proposal and that's it.

18 Thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER GODAC: My name is Angela Godac and I'm
21 from just a little bit east of Star Valley, Diamond Point.

22 I am a fourth generation Paysonite; my great
23 grandfather homesteaded an area up in Washington Park, and
24 my dad was born and raised 12 miles west of Payson.

25 Ranching families, rural of course.

1 And I just -- I also want to thank you, too. Yeah,
2 you've had a hard job and we just thank you for all your
3 efforts on this and just -- just know that we appreciate
4 everything you've done.

5 I do support the District 7 map, the IRC 10.2 map,
6 it does reflect the geographical compactness which is a -- a
7 rule that they need to follow. It also reflects -- it is
8 well balanced and so we do like that, the way it stands
9 as-is, we thank you for that.

10 We -- we don't -- I don't want Flagstaff and the
11 influences of Flagstaff, they're very different than Payson
12 or even Globe and some of these other rural areas that we're
13 talking about.

14 We don't want them in our district and we don't
15 really want to push 7 -- District 7 into the Navajo Nation,
16 the Native American lands.

17 So we just thank you for your -- your help and your
18 work again on all of this and God bless you and that's it.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER TICE: Hello. My name is Warren Tice, I --
21 I live in Star Valley -- Star Valley down the road.

22 We've heard from many eloquent speakers tonight who
23 have covered all of the technicalities, the details that go
24 into the drawing of these maps. I just want to go on record
25 as saying that I support the maps that are proposed for the

1 new LD-6 and the CD-2, and I think what I've heard here
2 tonight is it seems like the common issue that just about
3 everybody is concerned about is the communities of interest.

4 I think that's probably about the over- --
5 overwhelming concern that everybody has. Having said that,
6 I'd also express that I'm totally against incorporating
7 Flagstaff into our -- into our area or pushing us into the
8 land of the tribes and for me that seems to be the
9 overriding issue also.

10 I want to thank you for the hard work you have put
11 in. We all respect what you've done, we appreciate it and
12 with that I'm finished.

13 (Applause.)

14 SPEAKER DEEGAN: Good evening, my name is Tim
15 Deegan, I'm a resident of Star Valley, I want to thank the
16 Commission for their work.

17 In the interest of brevity, I'll just keep it --
18 I've heard a lot of things tonight but I support the
19 Commission's latest map for District 7, Gila County area;
20 don't want to see Flagstaff in our district because I don't
21 believe there's a community of interest there with us, and I
22 don't agree with pushing District 7 on to the reservation.

23 Thank you kindly.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. CAMACHO: And I'll try again. If your name is

1 John and your middle name has an F or a T, I'm sorry I can't
2 read the writing, and it looks like T-E-M-U-N-K? Does that
3 sound familiar? No.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Pass.

5 MS. CAMACHO: Okay.

6 Our next five speakers are Greg Freestead, Rose Ann
7 Watts, John Metzger, Pam Derks, and Charlie Bell.

8 SPEAKER WATTS: Good evening, my name is Rose Ann
9 Watts and I'm a resident of Payson and also treasurer of the
10 Rim Country chapter of the Arizona Republican Assembly and I
11 support -- as all the previous speakers, I support the
12 map -- proposed map.

13 We don't want Flagstaff in our district or be
14 pushed into the Navajo Nation because of common interests;
15 and I do appreciate all your hard work and -- that you've
16 put into this and I thank you.

17 Good evening.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER BELL: Good evening, Commissioners. My
20 name is Charlie Bell.

21 First of all I want to thank you for all your hard
22 work, your sacrifice, your time, energy, and I know that you
23 would probably want to be somewhere else.

24 I am in support of the latest map of District 7,
25 10.2. I think that Navajo Nation would be better served if

1 they want to be part of Flagstaff, but Navajo Nation has
2 their medical, behavioral health, they shop, communicate,
3 they live in the Flagstaff area, and I think as a nation
4 they would be better served through their Indian tribe.

5 I'm grateful for the Diné people, I've worked with
6 many Native Americans in the state of Arizona.

7 Please continue to stick by your maps that you've
8 done, they look fair and they look that they're focused with
9 the rural communities here of Arizona.

10 Again, thank you for your time, for your commitment
11 and for your sacrifice.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER METZGER: Hello, my name is John Metzger
14 and I'm a resident of Payson.

15 I have appreciated that the Commission has applied
16 communities of interest as a priority factor, which excludes
17 us from joining with the Indian reservation or Flagstaff.
18 What you have presented is -- looks well balanced and I
19 think should be adopted and I thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 SPEAKER DERKS: Thank you for the opportunity to
22 speak today and for listening to us this summer when we
23 spoke of a rural community of interest district.

24 The Commission has spent many months listening to
25 the public and working on the maps. The last draft maps

1 show a balanced version that can serve Arizona over the next
2 decade.

3 So welcome to Rim Country. My name is Pam Derks,
4 and I live in Payson, also known as the heart of Arizona.

5 In regards to the Flag -- the Flagstaff map that --
6 that we're seeing come up lately, I would like to note that
7 Rim Country and the White Mountains are not the Colorado
8 plateau as the Discover Flagstaff website states this is in
9 regards to their history and culture.

10 Flagstaff is the heart of the Colorado plateau, a
11 region known for its rich Native American history, but more
12 importantly the article continues: "This Native American
13 heritage still permeates the culture today as tribal lands
14 cover more than 31,000 square miles in this region and home
15 to numerous tribes. To learn more about the diverse Native
16 cultures of the Colorado plateau visit Flagstaff's
17 world-renowned museum of Northern Arizona."

18 In the Navajo Hopi Observer News website, there's
19 an article this month, November 3rd, and on their website it
20 says: "Proudly serving the Nation and Hopi Nation,
21 Flagstaff and Winslow, Arizona."

22 The Flagstaff City Council is considering beginning
23 their meeting with an acknowledgment of Native tribes in the
24 region. The council humbly acknowledges the ancestral
25 homelands of this area's indigenous nations. These lands

1 still inhabited by Native decedents, we honor them, their
2 legacies, their traditions and their continued contribution.
3 We celebrate their past, their present and future
4 generations who will forever know this place is home. It's
5 important our rural communities of interest are not placed
6 with the large metro areas.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9
10 MS. CAMACHO: And again Greg Freestead, are you
11 here?

12 Okay. We'll move on. Thank you.

13 Tom Berggren, Steve Otto, Glen Galster, Betty Leon,
14 Cheryl Walker.

15 Thank you.

16 SPEAKER BERGGREN: Hi there, my name is Tom
17 Berggren, I do live here in Payson for about four years now.
18 I grew up in Los Angeles which really sucks now, so I live
19 here in Payson's bedroom community; I wanted change.

20 I approve of the map the way it is and I want to
21 keep Payson rural, keep other influences out. I know you
22 guys have been busting your hump now for almost a year now.
23 Maybe in January you got to go on vacation like Cozumel or
24 something?

25 Thanks again. Bye.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER LEON: Good evening. I'm Betty Leon.

4 I'm Betty Leon, I've been a resident of Payson for
5 18 years, however my family has been here in Payson in Guy
6 C. Lustin's (phonetic) territorial days and I just want to
7 reiterate my support of the latest map for District 7 and
8 for Gila County; and again, my support as has been
9 represented in the 10.2 map.

10 I think that's very important and as others have
11 stated, Flagstaff doesn't fit for us, they're a college town
12 and really a quite urban town and also don't wish to
13 support -- I don't support pushing us, our District 7, on to
14 the reservation, that doesn't meet their needs or ours.

15 And again Commission, thank you for your work, your
16 hard work, and for your consideration of our rural needs and
17 concerns.

18 Thank you. Good night.

19 (Applause.)

20 SPEAKER GALSTER: Good evening, Chairwoman Neuberg
21 and Commissioners. My name is Glen Galster and I've been a
22 resident of Payson, Arizona, for just 30 years.

23 During that time I've seen a lot of change and I
24 have to say that you've done a masterful job compared to
25 your predecessors 11 years ago and I want to thank you for

1 the hard work. It reminds me of an old saying: "No good
2 deed goes unpunished," and you've had a very, very difficult
3 job to go through.

4 So I want to thank you for the job you've done, I
5 want to thank you for -- well, other speakers have already
6 stolen my thunder this evening and I just -- I may have had
7 the longest drive to get here, I drove from Cheyenne,
8 Wyoming, to get home to be here tonight, but I want to thank
9 you for the conclusions you've drawn for the latest map and
10 I ditto what many other speakers have said.

11 I'm in complete agreement with the draft map 10.2
12 and the congressional districts with that.

13 Thank you again. I appreciate your help and
14 appreciate all the work that you've done on our behalf.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER OTTO: Good evening. My name is Stephen
18 Otto, I'm a Payson resident. I want to thank the whole
19 Commission for the opportunity to speak tonight.

20 I am absolutely a supporter of your latest draft
21 map. I think for the communities of interest factor you've
22 hit the trifecta, we've got pine trees, we've got mountains,
23 and we've got a rural population. None of the other
24 folks -- the Navajo tribe areas have slick rocks; we have
25 mountains and pine trees; Flagstaff has the college, urban

1 center.

2 We need to keep Payson, we need to keep Gila County
3 rural, we need to keep it a beautiful place to live and as
4 part of our unofficial shared community of interest, the
5 major wildfires of this last year all occurred on what you
6 have designated for our new district and that would be
7 our -- our major community of interest aspect of wildfire
8 reduction and in keeping our community green instead of
9 burnt and black.

10 So thank you very much for being here, thank you
11 for allowing me to speak.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14

15 MS. CAMACHO: And is Cheryl Walker here? She was
16 the next one called. Cheryl? No?

17 Okay. Our next speakers are then Jeff Bell,
18 Karolyn Switzer, Dinah Lundell, Tim O'Malley, and Helen
19 Herbert.

20 SPEAKER LUNDELL: I'm Dinah Lundell, I live in
21 Star Valley.

22 I want to thank you for coming and for being always
23 here, it's very important.

24 So I support the map that keeps Gila County rural.
25 We have interests that are the same. We are not

1 particularly wealthy, we live on the land, we care about the
2 land, we care about the forest, the water, the mining, the
3 things that go on in our community.

4 And I don't believe that we have that much in
5 common with Flagstaff or the tribes. We love our American
6 Indians and we support them. They need to have their own
7 representatives and Flagstaff is a metropolitan community
8 and our interests are very different.

9 Thank you so much.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER SWITZER: Hello. My name is Karolyn
12 Switzer and I've lived in or near Payson since 1999. In
13 2000 I enthusiastically supported Prop 106, the amendment to
14 the Arizona Constitution to create the IRC, especially its
15 mandate to construct fair and competitive maps. I was
16 proud -- proud to be a new Arizona resident.

17 As I review the information on the proposed CD-2,
18 it does not appear to be even close to competitive. In
19 fact, its 7.6 percent vote spread even exceeds the
20 Commission's stated target of a maximum 7 percent spread for
21 any congressional districts.

22 One of my strong concerns is that we get the best
23 possible candidates for every office and that our elected
24 officials pay attention to all of their constituents. When
25 a district is less competitive, the risk is that the

1 election will be decided in one of the primaries rather than
2 by all the voters in the general election, that runs against
3 the constitutional imperative that every voter should have a
4 voice in our democracy.

5 The proposed CDF010 by the -- by the Navajo Nation
6 Human Rights Commission district would be highly competitive
7 with a spread of less than 1 percent, so I urge you to -- to
8 consider it or something like. That would clearly meet
9 these concerns about candidates and elected officials.

10 In addition, with the largest concentration of
11 Native Americans in the U.S., they -- they would have a
12 better chance to elect a congressional representative of
13 their choice just as the rest of us do.

14 It's also my opinion that the proposed legislative
15 maps created for Northern Arizona are unnecessarily
16 noncompetitive.

17 Thank you for your work.

18 (Applause.)

19 SPEAKER HEBERT: Good evening. My name is Helen
20 Hebert, I'm a resident of Payson and I want to thank all of
21 you for all of your hard work that you've been doing this
22 year.

23 And I just want to say very briefly that I support
24 your map as it is. We do not need to have anybody else in
25 our district and we don't need to be pushed into another

1 district and we -- I plead with you to keep it as it is.

2 Thank you so much. Have a good evening.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER BELL: Good evening, Commissioners. My
5 name is Jeff Bell. I'm known as the retired tycoon that
6 came to Payson about five years ago. I live in a small
7 community called Chaparral Pines where most people are just
8 trying to improve their golf game but sometimes when you get
9 involved in talking to them a little bit about politics, you
10 find out they have some interests as well; and what I found
11 out today was that a lot of them expressed to me the desire
12 for me to come here and -- and tell you that we support the
13 map as you -- as you've done it. It is a wonderful map for
14 us and we think it can do the best for our area.

15 The statewide mapping models that you've made as
16 well were reviewed by some of us and we feel that those are
17 good and should be adopted as well.

18 I want to thank you for all your hard work and
19 invite you any time to come over to Chaparral Pines and
20 learn a little bit.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. CAMACHO: And a last call for Tim O'Malley.
24 Tim? Gone. Okay, thank you.

25 We are now going to take a five-minute break. It

1 is 7:36 so we will return at 7:41. Thank you.

2 (Recess taken from 7:36 p.m. to 7:43 p.m.)

3
4 MS. CAMACHO: Sorry If I've mispronounced any
5 names. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER TITLA: Are we ready?

7 All right. Thank you, Honorable IRC Commission,
8 Honorable Chairwoman, we thank you for doing a lot of work
9 on the IRC Commission, what I wanted to say.

10 Honorable Chairwoman, good to see you again.

11 Thank you.

12 And thanks for all your hard work regarding the
13 maps. We want to say that San Carlos is a community of
14 interest with the other tribes in the district, White
15 Mountain Apache, Navajo Nation, Hopi Tribe, Havasupai,
16 Hualapai, San Juan Southern Pauite. We are a community of
17 interest and we would like to stay in a district that would
18 give us a chance to elect somebody of our choice.

19 Under the Voting Rights Act our tribal members are
20 entitled to a district that gives us the opportunity to
21 elect candidates of our choice. If the Commission were to
22 include Flagstaff in Legislative District 6, it could
23 prevent us from electing candidates of choice into the
24 legislature.

25 In 2004 Native American voters were unable to elect

1 their candidate of choice in the only Native American
2 majority-minority district in the state because Flagstaff
3 voters mobilized to defeat the Native American candidate of
4 choice.

5 When a district was redrawn after 2010, LD-7, the
6 Native American majority-minority district excluded
7 Flagstaff. Flagstaff has grown by over 18 percent since the
8 last census, a much higher rate than any of the
9 off-reservation border towns in Northern Arizona. This
10 means that Native Americans will likely lose the majority
11 during the decade and further be impacted from electing
12 candidate of choice if the Commission adopts a final
13 legislative map that includes the city of Flagstaff.

14 Furthermore, the Native Americans are the most
15 underpopulated race in the census. Arizona is ranked number
16 one in the U.S. with the highest number of American Indians
17 and Alaska natives living in hard-to-count census tracts,
18 with 68.1 percent of the state's Native population living in
19 hard-to-count areas.

20 Poverty, lack of broadband service, housing
21 insecurity, language barriers and the COVID-19 pandemic
22 further increases the risk -- oh.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have one follow-up
24 question. On the legislative district maps there's been
25 several submissions and when I go online and I look at the

1 different iterations, I'm not always sure I'm looking at the
2 most recent one because I was made aware that the most
3 recent submission had a lower population deviance which
4 gives us a little more room to work with.

5 Do you have the specific number or -- or letters
6 associated with the legislative map that you're advocating
7 for right now so I can make sure I'm looking at the right
8 version?

9 SPEAKER TITLA: Do you mean the legislative
10 district or the congressional?

11 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Correct. The legislative
12 district that you're advocating for.

13 SPEAKER TITLA: With regard to the legislative
14 district, we just talked with Navajo Nation this afternoon
15 and they showed us a map that we conferred upon and I think
16 that we will probably support that map with the tribes
17 supported that; and the Navajos will be introducing that map
18 to you.

19 And the deviation of that is less than 4 -- I think
20 it's 4 percent of deviation in that map, and the Native
21 American voting age population in that proposed district
22 will be 57 percent I think what it is. So that includes --

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Are you saying that
24 there's a map that's about to be submitted or what --

25 SPEAKER TITLA: Right. That's to be submitted.

1 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. So there is no current
2 map --

3 SPEAKER TITLA: No.

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: -- and I should look for it
5 in the next day or two?

6 SPEAKER TITLA: Right. Right.

7 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you very much.

8 SPEAKER TITLA: That's what we support.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: That clarifies things.

10 SPEAKER TITLA: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER GOSEYUN: Chairman Neuberg,
14 Vice Chairman Watchman and Commissioners, hello, my name is
15 Kodee Goseyun, economic development specialist of the
16 San Carlos Apache tribe. I'm in agreement with what Steve
17 Titla stated and the importance of having a Native American
18 majority-minority legislative district.

19 Currently the San Carlos Apache tribe resides
20 within the Legislative District 6 and Congressional
21 District 2. Any proposal to revise district boundaries from
22 the prior redistricting cycle fractions and dilutes the
23 Native American voting strength and the Native American
24 voice.

25 The newly approved LD-6 draft map includes

1 Flagstaff. This inclusion will heavily impact the
2 Native American voice -- vote and the opportunity to elect
3 candidates of our choice. Please exclude Flagstaff from the
4 LD-6 draft map.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7
8 MS. CAMACHO: Again, Vince Smith. Bob Dailey,
9 William Mayes, are any of those here?

10 No? I will go with the next speakers.

11 Carla Townsend, Bill Mansfield, Ed Strain, Janet
12 Williams, and Marsha Wycart.

13 SPEAKER WILLIAMS: Good evening,
14 Commissioner Neuberg and fellow Commissioners. My name is
15 Janet Williams and I live in the northwest part of Payson
16 and I've resided in Payson for 50 years. I raised my four
17 children here and they attended school here.

18 As a rural community, 75 miles from any urban area,
19 support of local businesses, schools, restaurants, forests
20 and streams is essential and makes us a unique community.

21 I want to thank you for all the hard work and
22 effort that you've down in redrawing the district maps and
23 listening to the people of Arizona. And that being said, I
24 am here also to personally express my support for the
25 current proposed 10.2 map for District 7 and I wanted to say

1 that it -- I believe it fairly encompasses communities of
2 interest and population as laid out in the redistricting
3 objectives.

4 I am totally against the five-plus county map
5 proposal for the -- this district that would include
6 Flagstaff and the reservations in District 7.

7 I respectfully request that you -- that what you
8 have fairly professionally proposed and drawn in the 10.2
9 map be finalized. Please respect the commonality of the
10 towns that you have included in this IRC map.

11 We are limited private property towns and
12 communities surrounded by federal land with common concerns
13 such as fire, water, small industry, tourism and EMS and law
14 enforcement concerns.

15 Thank you so much for your time.

16 (Applause.)

17 SPEAKER MANSFIELD: Hi there, my name is Bill
18 Mansfield, I live in Star Valley, Arizona. I just moved
19 there from Payson, actually.

20 First off, I would like to thank you all for what
21 you've done and the hard work you've put in getting those
22 maps up there like that. I think it represents our area,
23 our rural area, our rural interest, and I support your map
24 that you've worked so hard on a hundred percent.

25 I thank you for that.

1 I do want to add that adding -- adding Flagstaff to
2 our community of interest doesn't make any sense at all and
3 we really are way too rural to have the same kind of
4 interest that the Indian nations have up there in the Navajo
5 Nations and I really hope that it stays the way you drew
6 this map up.

7 Thank you very much for your time. I appreciate
8 it.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER STRAIN: Good evening. My name is Ed
11 Strain, I'm a resident here in Payson.

12 I think I want to thank you for the service that
13 you've done for the State in creating our redistricting
14 maps, and I wish to state that I am fully behind the IRC
15 draft map that you have presented, fully behind that.

16 And I appreciate your efforts in keeping areas of
17 common concern and interest taken into account and all the
18 other four or five requirements that you are required to do
19 by the Constitution.

20 I thank you for the chance to be a small part of
21 your effort, allowing me the opportunity to speak before
22 you.

23 Thank you.

24 (Applause.)

25 MS. CAMACHO: And one last time, Marsha Wygert,

1 Wigert?

2 PUBLIC SPEAKER: She's gone.

3 MS. CAMACHO: Carla Townsend.

4 PUBLIC SPEAKER: Carla is gone.

5 MS. CAMACHO: Okay. The next speakers are Pat
6 Edelen Smith, Luis Baysert, Jesse Bryant, Kay Cool, and
7 Geoff or Jeff Schulteis.

8 SPEAKER SMITH: Madam Chair and Commission, my name
9 is Pat Edelen Smith. I have been a resident of Payson since
10 2015. I moved from a highly urban area to a highly rural
11 area and that has raised my awareness of the importance of
12 balance in drawing fair and competitive district maps.

13 Much emphasis has been on the communities of
14 interest and I haven't heard much about the competitive
15 nature. The -- my main concern is the legislative draft --
16 draft map of Northern Arizona legislative districts. The
17 draft maps remove any competitive legislative districts from
18 Northern Arizona leaving LD-5, 6, 7, and 30 as totally
19 noncompetitive. That was unnecessary to achieve the other
20 five constitutional criteria, which seems to be a little bit
21 unfair for the Northern Arizona which our concerns should be
22 state not just local.

23 Having at least one competitive district out of the
24 four mentioned is better than having no competitive
25 districts across the broad rural area, therefore I'm asking

1 the redistricting committee to consider looking at the
2 alternatives.

3 The two that have been proposed as the Coconino
4 County Board of Supervisors would be District 7 LDF050 and
5 District 6 LDF051, and I understand from our presenter from
6 San Carlos that there may be another one coming up. So I
7 would ask you to look at at least giving us one competitive
8 district in our state here in Gila County.

9 Thank you.

10 (Applause.)

11 SPEAKER COOL: My name is Kay Cool, I've lived in
12 Payson for 15 years. Thank you for restoring my confidence
13 in this Commission. Ten years ago the map that resulted in
14 the current districting was a little disappointing; in fact,
15 it appeared a little political. The 10.2 version that
16 you've provided the L -- the LD-7 and -- and the
17 Congressional District 2 are -- are a fine example of what I
18 think is objectivity and functionality. That says a lot
19 about this Commission and the work that you've done.

20 I sincerely hope that you will implement that.

21 Thank you so much for coming to Payson.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER SCHULTEIS: Good evening, Commissioners.
24 Thank you for being here.

25 My name is Geoff Schulteis and I live in the rural

1 community of Payson.

2 I want to thank you for your time and effort in
3 listening to the voices of those who actually live here and
4 would be impacted by any district changes.

5 Due to our both educational and rural economic
6 differences that I've personally witnessed. I want to thank
7 you for keeping communities of similar needs, interests, and
8 visions together. Thank you for considering communities of
9 interest while understanding the long-term potential impact
10 within communities as you drew up these maps.

11 In saying that, I would like to address the fact
12 that Flagstaff is very different than our rural areas in
13 terms of education, transportation, economically, just to
14 name a few. Therefore, I do not support any alternate maps
15 that would lose the rural voice. I also do not support
16 forcing our rural communities of District 7 into the
17 reservation.

18 I agree with your current 10.2 District 7 map,
19 Gila County, as well as the CD-2 map that you have drawn.

20 Thank you kindly.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER BRYANT: Madam Chairman, Commissioners,
23 thank you for being here tonight. I've now been to more of
24 these hearings that I can count. It's very good to be here
25 again, thank you for all you've done.

1 Here of course to support the five eastern counties
2 proposal and to speak on behalf of the tens of thousands of
3 voices that could not be here tonight.

4 We have -- we have ten communities across our
5 region here as far south as Duncan and as far north as
6 Saint Johns who have adopted resolutions to support keeping
7 rural Arizona together, solely rural and undivided.

8 You keep hearing about this rural message, which is
9 fantastic, and you keep hearing about communities of
10 interest. The important thing about communities of interest
11 is that it's about priorities, and so it's whose priorities
12 are going to be spoken for by your representation. That's
13 why it's important to us as rural communities to have our
14 own representation. We are a minority of ourselves covering
15 about a third of the state, we're not the four or five
16 million voices in Pima/Maricopa Counties arguing over city
17 blocks.

18 It's very important to us, as you have heard, that
19 we do not want urban centers such as Flagstaff in our
20 district. Likewise, Apache Junction, Gold Canyon and
21 Florence, they do not belong in rural Arizona either. Those
22 urban centers will dominate the -- the elections and the
23 legislative priorities of our people, and they themselves
24 have stated very much that they would rather be in urban
25 districts with themselves.

1 So thank you very much for being here and I hope
2 you will not ignore our voice as was in 2011.

3 Thank you.

4 I'm sorry. My name is Jesse Bryant from -- born
5 and raised in Globe, Arizona. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. CAMACHO: And last time for Luis Baysert,
8 Bassert?

9 Okay.

10 The next speakers are James Oliver, Art Schaier,
11 Terry Lowman, Will Parz, and Sherri Laffey-Long.

12 SPEAKER OLIVER: Good evening, thank you.

13 Thank you so much for the massive effort you've put
14 in and for so long. You guys have been at this for so long.
15 I think it's time where you come to some sort of conclusion.

16 My name is James Oliver, I'm from the thriving
17 community of Tonto Basin and we are definitely rural and we
18 like it that way. But I also -- I want to thank the mayor
19 of Payson for reaching out to us because, you know, you are
20 our support here. This is where we shop, this is where we
21 go to medical facilities. I'm a veteran and I'll tell you,
22 it's a long drive to Phoenix so it 's nice to be able to
23 come here to Payson.

24 I really support the map that you've drawn up, it
25 fits perfectly with the interests of our community, of the

1 community surrounding us. I've had quite a bit of contact
2 with Flagstaff and love them, they just don't fit with our
3 community. So I think we should just -- just -- you've done
4 the work, it's time to complete the work.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER LAFFEY-LONG: Hi, I'm Sherri Laffey-Long.
8 I -- I live in Payson as well and I'm not a comedian but I
9 want to thank you and I really want to thank you that I'm on
10 this side and not over there, bless you all for being there.

11 I support the District 7 map and the reason being
12 is we are rural and I can just -- this whole room is just
13 telling you: Please, let's keep it rural. And I want
14 Flagstaff to know, we're not dissing them, they just don't
15 belong in our district. We have just separate values,
16 separate ways of living, and we cherish that. We -- we live
17 here in Payson for that reason. We love our rural community
18 and we want to see it stay that way.

19 So thank you all very much and I just bless you all
20 for being here. Have a good evening.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER LOWMAN: Good evening, Madame Chairwoman,
23 Commissioners, my name is Terry Lowman. I've been a
24 resident of Payson now for 15 years, moving here from
25 Austin, Texas, of all places.

1 And I'm a small business owner and obviously an
2 Army veteran. I would like to say we all have jobs to do.
3 Some we love, some we hate, but no doubt challenging each
4 and every one of them and I commend you on the task that
5 you-all took on and the fine map that you have drawn showing
6 Legislative District Number 7. And without a doubt I think
7 it's been overwhelming tonight that the 55 or speakers --
8 truly, I've lost count how many were ahead of me, but
9 overwhelmingly I think the majority wish to keep the map as
10 drawn.

11 I thank you for your time.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER SCHAIER: Madam Chairman, good evening.
14 Thank you for your leadership and successfully guiding the
15 Commission to what will be a very fine product.

16 And to all the Commissioners, thank you for the
17 work that you have put forth for the citizens of Arizona,
18 especially the work of adhering to the community of
19 interests and criteria.

20 My name is Art Schaier and I'm here on behalf of
21 the thousands of veterans in Gila County to let you know
22 that we support the map you have prepared. We do not
23 support any alternative map.

24 Keep in mind you have drawn up maps, including the
25 map that includes my legislative district, that properly

1 gives priority to the community's interest.

2 Pushing 70,000 people in Flagstaff into a
3 differing -- different district would set off a chain
4 reaction that would distraught (verbatim) the neighboring
5 districts. This would dilute our community interests and
6 the interests that we in Gila County have with other nearby
7 rural communities.

8 As you move forward to completing this project I
9 ask that you continue to look at the big picture,
10 particularly the communities of interest and their
11 priorities. In my opinion and the opinion of many veterans,
12 you have produced a workable map that need no further
13 adjustments.

14 Your result is favorable in the entire state of
15 Arizona and I urge you to keep the map that you have already
16 made and do not ruin a good thing.

17 Thank you. And on behalf of the vets, I'd like to
18 invite to -- with us to celebrate December 7th, 1941, at the
19 Sawmill Theatre and to celebrate the 13 people that were
20 murdered when they left Afghanistan.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 SPEAKER PARZ: Good evening, Commissioners.
24 Welcome to Payson. I'm a Purple Heart combat-wounded
25 veteran, and I currently am a lawyer and advocate for

1 veterans in our community here in Rim Country as well as for
2 the indigents that often don't have a voice. I serve as our
3 Judge Advocate at our American Legion post and I'm on the
4 board for the Warming Center.

5 So I had some feedback from other people in our
6 community that there's a -- a commonality with our shared
7 interest of having access to basic needs here because we are
8 geographically isolated as a rural community, we don't have
9 the same support systems here that Flagstaff and Maricopa
10 County, a lot of the urban areas have.

11 The wildfires here the past summer were a perfect
12 example of where our community had to come together and take
13 care of our own needs as a community. From the farms to the
14 homeless to the veterans, we all had to pull together to get
15 through the wildfires.

16 These are -- a lot of our issues here are unique to
17 Rim Country, we all have problems accessing specialty care,
18 food, transportation, our safety net, our access to justice;
19 there are a lot of needs here unique to Rim Country that
20 force us to travel outside of our local area for help,
21 including travel -- myself traveling to Flagstaff for
22 medical care or the Valley. So our needs here are best
23 representative by the map that you've drafted, the 10.2 map.
24 I totally support your efforts here and your work here and I
25 believe that that's our best way forward.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 (Applause.)

3 SPEAKER PARZ: I'm Will Parz, P-A-R-Z. Thank you.

4 MS. CAMACHO: And the next speakers are Teresa
5 Kelleher, Gail Boozon, Robert Hershberger, Richard Hinkie,
6 and Lisa Marshall.

7 SPEAKER KELLEHER: Hello, thank you for your hard
8 work. Really have a challenging job.

9 My name is Teresa Kelleher and I've been associated
10 with Payson for 30 years because a lot of my family lives
11 here and seven years ago we bought a home here and I've been
12 involved in the community ever since.

13 I teach adult education for Gila County Education
14 Service Agency and our first lessons for all students are
15 about the Constitution and the importance of being involved
16 citizens, and being involved means knowing our rights and
17 responsibilities and speaking up to be heard by our
18 representatives in government, a government by the consent
19 of the governed.

20 The more citizens who participate, the better our
21 government will function and the stronger our democracy will
22 be. Over the life of our democracy, several amendments have
23 been made to guarantee that all citizens have the right to
24 vote. And that when they're informed and involved they're
25 more likely to -- to vote, and the best way to encourage

1 voting is to be sure that our legislative and congressional
2 districts are fair and represent all citizens in the
3 state -- in the districts, excuse me.

4 When each citizen knows that he or she is being
5 heard, we indeed have fair representation.

6 All voters in Northern Arizona need to rest assured
7 that their individual votes count. Competitive districts
8 are a must, and I don't feel like we're there yet.

9 Please work to balance our Northern Arizona
10 districts and make sure that all citizens in
11 Northern Arizona have a voice.

12 We've heard a lot of people talk about rural
13 Arizona. There's a lot of rural Arizona that's being
14 treated separately here than in other situations; we've
15 heard from a lot of speakers on the reservations, for
16 example.

17 But I do want to thank you for your continued good
18 faith efforts to work together to find balanced districts
19 for all constituents in Northern Arizona.

20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 SPEAKER HERSHBERGER: Madam Chair, members of the
23 Commission, my name is Robert Hershberger, I've lived here
24 about 20 years. I'm a veteran, and I'm now a full-time
25 student at Gila Community College taking 13 hours.

1 I appreciate very much all the effort that you've
2 put in, as all of the other speakers have said. This is a
3 big task and you're doing a fantastic job with it.

4 The one thing I would ask you is to make an effort
5 to respect the desires of the Native Americans to have a
6 district, legislative and congressional, that is competitive
7 to where their voices can be heard.

8 Thank you very much.

9 (Applause.)

10 SPEAKER HINKIE: Good evening, everyone. My name
11 is Richard Hinkie and I'm a retired U.S. Army officer, proud
12 to have served for 23 years. Last duty was at the Pentagon,
13 got to destroy a Russian nuclear missile. It was a good
14 thing.

15 What I'm trying to say to you tonight is in
16 addition to a huge thank you, I -- I can't imagine the tasks
17 that you have been through and all of the feedback and how
18 to sort through all of this, I would just suggest to you
19 that what you are about is so vital to American democracy.
20 Think about the divisions in our country right now, think
21 about the fact that our Congress at the national level is
22 stuck, they can barely get anything done, and so I'm a huge
23 advocate for every single legislative/congressional district
24 must be competitive. If it is not competitive, then either
25 side can produce the crazies that you know are in the media,

1 we don't need to discuss who they are at the moment, right?

2 If in fact they are competitive, then both the
3 rural and the urban if the districts are together, whatever
4 it takes, they're going to have to pay attention to all of
5 the constituents. If we don't have competitive districts,
6 then we have failed, I'm sorry.

7 So I thank you so much for your hard work, but
8 please when -- when the last vote is taken, just ask
9 yourself: Have we got competitive legislative and
10 congressional districts? Please.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER MARSHALL: Hi. My name is Lisa Marshall
14 and I'm from Snowflake, Arizona, so I am from rural Arizona.
15 Thank you, Madam Chair and all of you-all. Thank you.

16 Little nervous because I don't like to speak.

17 But anyhow.

18 So I agree with the maps that you have, 10.2. I
19 can't even imagine the sleepless nights that you-all have
20 had putting this together and I know that you are very tired
21 right now, I can just look at your eyes, you want to fall
22 asleep.

23 But honestly I think right now the maps look great
24 the way they are, LD-7 and CD-2. We are rural Arizona;
25 Flagstaff has really no community of interest with our

1 areas.

2 I'm originally from California, from Orange County,
3 and I know like all the big cities, all the big buildings,
4 the first time we moved to Arizona in Snowflake, I was like:
5 Holy cow, there's more cows than people out here. But I
6 love it. We're small town and we're a community that we
7 just -- I mean, we love the rural area.

8 And so that being said, I just think that 10.2 is
9 good. I don't think we need to have any more maps out
10 there. This has been going on for how long? I mean, it's
11 time to put them together and so -- anyway, thank you for
12 your time.

13 (Applause.)

14

15 MS. CAMACHO: And the last time for Gail Boozon?

16 Okay. We'll move on.

17 Kelly Rael, Barbara Bunton, Catherine Morder,
18 Joseph Fleming, and Laurence Truly.

19 SPEAKER RAEL: Good evening, my name is Kelly Rael,
20 I am from Show Low, Arizona. And I'm a combat veteran; I am
21 a Native Arizona multigenerational.

22 I'm here -- I drove all the way from Show Low
23 because I am just -- I want to say thank you for the maps
24 that you have laid out thus far, I believe that everybody
25 wins with the 7.2 maps. I believe the tribal nations should

1 be represented by tribal members and I think rural Arizona
2 should be represented by rural candidates.

3 Last year when we had the COVID lockdowns, while
4 many businesses in the White Mountains were suffering, our
5 state representatives were living underneath President Nez's
6 draconian lockdowns. They couldn't relate to the small
7 business owners and I believe that everybody will win in
8 this situation as it is now.

9 I just want to also just point out that this is
10 such a pinnacle moment in our nation's history and I just
11 pray to God that everybody's voice is heard and with the
12 10.2 map I believe it's a great opportunity to create more
13 bipartisanship. I believe more conservatives need to
14 understand tribal nation issues and so I believe that this
15 will be a more competitive district and I just thank you for
16 your time.

17 (Applause.)

18 SPEAKER FLEMING: My name is Joseph Fleming. I'm a
19 resident of Payson, I'm a combat-wounded veteran.

20 Flagstaff basically has three industries:
21 Transportation with the railroad, skiing and tourism, and
22 the university. The rest of this district is basically
23 agriculture and retirement and cattle.

24 The basis of trying to adjust everybody having an
25 equal vote which is the premise of the Constitution, if you

1 include Flagstaff in this district, it will overwhelm the
2 rest of the vote. We can't compete with their money and
3 their population. Please don't include them in my district.

4 (Applause.)

5 SPEAKER MORDER: My name is Catherine Morder, I
6 live in Payson. I'm totally against the project that will
7 destroy our beautiful town of Payson.

8 Thank you.

9 (Applause.)

10 MS. CAMACHO: And one last time for Barbara Buntin
11 and Laurence Truly?

12 Okay, we'll move on.

13 Heidi Swatty, Gabriel Schultz, Marce Epps, Paul
14 Assault (phonetic), and Sylvia Allen.

15 SPEAKER SCHULTZ: Hello. My name is Gabriel
16 Schultz. I'm 19 years old and I'm representing the youth of
17 Payson, Arizona.

18 (Applause.)

19 I'd like to bring to the attention of the IRC the
20 sociological impact of combining Gila County with the Navajo
21 County. My concern is the current District 7 layout may
22 unintentionally become a systematic form of oppression of
23 against American minorities.

24 As a student of sociology, I studied racial
25 suppression tactics of days long gone and that outlines a

1 disturbing truth: Native voices have been muffled and
2 silenced by systems that wish to mix their common interest
3 with our own. It is my belief that the American voice is of
4 equality and of freedom and that the voices of
5 Native Americans should carry their own voting weight,
6 separate from white rural American communities.

7 As a brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow,
8 Lodge Wipala Wiki, I strongly suggest that we should
9 preserve Native American culture by keeping the prior more
10 competitive district layout.

11 Thank you.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER EPPS: My name is Jerry Epps and I live in
14 Overgaard.

15 I -- there are ten resolutions that have been
16 adopted as far as -- south as Duncan, as far north as Saint
17 Johns and as far west as Superior. A diversity background
18 of voices have been calling for the same goal. Mayors and
19 vice mayors, county supervisors, even the fire district
20 chief, have all advocated for five-plus eastern counties,
21 all an effort to reestablish a rural legislative district in
22 rural eastern Arizona.

23 We join our neighbors of urban Apache Junction,
24 Gold Canyon, and San Tan Valley to respect their communities
25 of interest, as well as urban must have -- must be joined

1 with urban and rural must be joined as rural.

2 Do -- don't -- do not diminish either of our votes
3 and voices by mixing and combining us.

4 We respect our reservation neighbors, but rural
5 eastern Arizona communities are not their communities of
6 interest.

7 Remove our communities, incorporate our
8 unincorporated and their district, and keep like-minded
9 Flagstaff with the Navajo Nation.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 SPEAKER ALLEN: Good evening. Thank you for
13 sticking it out with us.

14 I'm Sylvia Allen, former Arizona state senator for
15 District 5 and District 6 and former Navajo County
16 supervisor.

17 I want to bring a different perspective to the
18 argument here.

19 When I represented District 5, that district was
20 created as a community of interest of rural communities and
21 it was a true rural district.

22 And in that we were -- I was able to work with
23 everybody because we were focusing on our issues, the
24 district was created that way, and people from Miami-Globe
25 will tell you that during that time we were represented by

1 both Republicans and Democrats, it didn't matter, we were
2 working on our same issues.

3 And then when District 6 was created, it was
4 created as a competitive district and then it became
5 Republican-Democrat. I could tell such a difference and
6 when we create these commu- -- these legislative districts
7 when we create them versus communities of interest to
8 competitive.

9 Then when I would go to Flagstaff and -- and they
10 were more urban and their philosophical -- the way they
11 believed, the things that they wanted was in direct conflict
12 with the other part of the district and it became harder to
13 represent them.

14 I also noticed in these last ten years that
15 politics has become extremely nasty and hateful because
16 we're into this competitive stuff instead of into trying
17 to -- to have districts that have issues in common because
18 then we'll work together.

19 I think your draft Legislative District 6 map is
20 exactly what the Indian community has asked for; and
21 Flagstaff, I know from serving there, that they --
22 philosophically they work to help them with education, they
23 fit perfectly with the tribe.

24 I also know that our communities, Show Low and
25 Pinetop, have asked their city council to pass resolution,

1 have asked to be able to be put in with communities of
2 interest because we have issues that are different than on
3 the reservation.

4 Thank you very much.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. CAMACHO: And one more time, Heidi Swatty, Paul
7 Afelt --

8 Okay. Then we have about 10 to 11 names left.
9 I'll call the next five.

10 Cliff Potts, Andrew Costanzo, Jerry Epps, Jim
11 Vance, and Diana Rysewyk.

12 SPEAKER POTTS: Good evening, Commissioner Neuberg
13 and Commission members. Appreciate, really appreciate
14 you-all coming up to Payson. It's not very often we get to
15 address leaders from around the state, and we thank you for
16 your time.

17 We -- I've lived in Payson for 40 years, my name is
18 Cliff Potts, and I've been involved in community affairs a
19 good part of that time. I served terms as a council member
20 and its mayor and I have really experienced firsthand the
21 rural versus urban disparity amongst our elected officials.

22 So just like past Senator Allen just said, it
23 was -- the people that represent rural areas and rural
24 interests understand that and they can be our voice and our
25 advocate. Just as you've heard from these voices tonight,

1 you know that there is a voice in rural Arizona, but when
2 we -- it gets translated down into the Maricopa and Pima
3 Counties, we become overwhelmed with the interests and
4 voices there. We have to have for our rural areas strong
5 advocates.

6 For that reason, I really want to speak against the
7 alternative map that's been proposed that would lump us in
8 with a good part of Flagstaff. We need rural
9 representation. So I do support the 10.2 maps that you've
10 proposed.

11 I think that you were called on to exercise the
12 wisdom of Solomon with additional limitations that he didn't
13 even experience, and you've done a great job with it. And I
14 appreciate what you've done and I would ask that you
15 continue to do this.

16 I've -- my experience in transportation issues just
17 carries this out. When we're overwhelmed in getting our
18 roads taken care of -- you've heard Lion Springs mentioned,
19 just a little section of Highway 260 that's in serious need
20 of improvement and if we don't have our representatives to
21 exercise that voice, those things don't happen.

22 Thank you again.

23 (Applause.)

24 SPEAKER RYSEWYK: Hi, my name is Diana Rysewyk and
25 I'm a resident of Payson.

1 I'm not a Congressman, I'm not a Commissioner, I'm
2 not any of those things. I want to thank you guys for doing
3 that.

4 But what I have done tonight is I've listened to
5 the people and the majority of the people here tonight are
6 concerned with the same things and that's with the rural
7 being combined with each other. So I also support the 10.2
8 and the 7 District that you've done and I thank you for your
9 hard work.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 SPEAKER COSTANZO: I'd like to thank the Commission
13 for their hard work, your efforts are very important to our
14 Republican form of government.

15 My name is Andrew Costanzo, I'm a former chairman
16 of Legislative District 27 Republican Committee.

17 The redistricting that created the LD-27 did not
18 maintain communities of interest. This resulted in
19 disenfranchisement among the electorate. This was evident
20 on both sides of the aisle. This is what happened in what
21 is an urban community.

22 So now by the grace of God I live in rural
23 Gila County, so I'm very concerned again about the potential
24 to not have communities of interest.

25 So I ask you to please make that your utmost

1 consideration and I do support the 10.2 maps and I thank you
2 very much for your time.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER VANCE: Madam Chair and Commissioners, it's
5 a -- I'm grateful that -- that you took the time to listen
6 to us today.

7 When I was two years old I talked my parents into
8 moving to Arizona, we went straight to Chandler; it was
9 tough, but I did it.

10 And we used to come up here on the mountain and go
11 hunting and fishing and -- and teaching the people up here
12 how to play softball and stuff like that, and it was great.
13 Back then Chandler consisted of 5,000 people, it was known
14 as the green spot of Arizona, and also the home of Williams
15 Air Force Base.

16 When you go to Chandler today you don't recognize
17 it, and I moved up here to -- to be a part of rural Arizona
18 and I love it up here.

19 I'm from Aripine, Arizona, and that's -- I think
20 the majority of the people in Aripine moved out today, they
21 took out ten head of cattle, and I like it that way.

22 Anyway, I love what you did with LD-6 and LD-7. I
23 think that the -- the people that I'm used to being around
24 feel much more represented now and I hope you leave the
25 proposed map the way it is. And I like the way -- like what

1 you did with Flagstaff as well.

2 And thank you very much.

3 (Applause.)

4 SPEAKER VANCE: My name is Jim Vance from Aripine,
5 Arizona.

6 MS. CAMACHO: And then one last call for Jerry Eps?

7 Okay. These are our last speakers: Louise
8 Liggett, Debra Hunt, Bev Miller, Kelly Parks, Frank Pacino,
9 and then Donna Duly.

10 SPEAKER LIGGETT: Good evening, Commissioners. I
11 thank you for being here. I thank you for listening to us.
12 I hope you're still awake.

13 We are, we're still here.

14 Anyway, I support IRC draft map LD-7 with changes
15 to establish a five-plus eastern counties rural and
16 undivided district. I used to live in the city, I came from
17 southern California, I had different interests. Now I'm
18 rural. There's so many retirees and veterans and people who
19 just came out here to breathe. We just want to breathe. We
20 want to look at rocks and trees and clouds and we love the
21 rain, nature.

22 We also support IRC draft map LD-6, the Native
23 American district combined with Flagstaff. We thank you for
24 that. We like that.

25 And I would just like to say to the

1 Native Americans that all Republicans are not evil, we are
2 not your enemies. I heard -- I was listening at the
3 beginning when they were speaking and it was like the
4 Republicans against the Native Americans, and I don't
5 understand that. I'd like to get to know more of you and
6 talk with you and love you and bless you and thank you for
7 being here in Arizona with us.

8 Thank you for listening. God bless you.

9 Oh, Louise Liggett of Snowflake, Arizona.

10 Snowflake comes from two different families, the Snow family
11 and the Flake family. We are not snowflakes.

12 (Applause.)

13 SPEAKER HUNT: Hi, my name is Debra Hunt. And I'm
14 a fourth generation Native Arizonan and I'm of a copper
15 mining and a ranching family and I live in Heber, Arizona,
16 the best part of Arizona.

17 And I was raised in Hayden and I've always been
18 concerned about living in a rural area and being
19 underrepresentative -- represented.

20 The Coconino County Board of Supervisors map that's
21 being pushed by our reservation neighbors does not serve the
22 interests of the rural Arizona at all. Communities of
23 interest is about one thing: Priorities. Whose priorities
24 will your legislatures work for in the next ten years? I
25 want rural legislators with rural priorities.

1 I support the IRC draft map 10.2 and I would hope
2 that the IRC would continue to make this map as rural as
3 possible so that our representatives will work to make our
4 rural issues a priority.

5 Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 SPEAKER PARKS: Good evening, my name is Kelly
8 Parks and I am from the most remote rural town of Arizona,
9 Young. Have you been there? Have you?

10 'Cause, yeah.

11 It took me about an hour and a half on a very
12 windy, dirt, washboard road to get here and I represent
13 many people that wouldn't take that drive to come here, and
14 so I really appreciate the venue that you have provided us
15 to come and have a voice in a very remote place that
16 normally we wouldn't have the chance to come and say what we
17 feel. So thank you, Madam and Commissioners, for this
18 opportunity.

19 I, too, am a Native Arizonan, four generations.
20 I've lived here my whole life. I come from actually Mesa,
21 Arizona, my ancestors settled Mesa and -- but I live now in
22 a rural town. So I can see the contrast. And I know, I've
23 run businesses down in Mesa and now I'm in rural Arizona,
24 and so I see the contrast and I can see how as has been
25 explained very well, the contrast does not lead to -- it

1 leads to a lot of chaos and a lot of division and a lot of
2 divisiveness, which we are so tired of right now in our
3 country.

4 So I don't think that a competitive solution would
5 be the best -- the best thing.

6 I've allowed -- I've come to love and embrace the
7 rural town and I'm actually a leader in the town that I'm
8 in. I'm on the town council's boards, church leadership,
9 library board, I've tried to get very involved. And so I do
10 represent a very small town but they do have a voice,
11 though, and I could not stay home and not come and represent
12 them, they are in favor of the 2.2 map that you have
13 currently proposed.

14 Thank you so much for your time and for this venue.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. CAMACHO: And I'll call once again Bev Miller,
17 Frank Pacino, and Donna Duly.

18 No?

19 Well, that concludes the speakers in Payson.

20 Oh, I'm sorry and you are?

21 SPEAKER MAYES: Bill Mayes.

22 MS. CAMACHO: Bill Mayes. Okay.

23 SPEAKER MAYES: You are here tonight because you
24 are very, very, very important people. I have researched
25 how you got here, you were chosen for this position, you are

1 five of the most important people right now in the state of
2 Arizona. And I believe you know that.

3 It is not about politics, whether you're a Democrat
4 or Republican, an Independent, it is about the state of
5 Arizona. Not Northern Arizona, not Payson, not Flagstaff.
6 The state of Arizona.

7 I have lived in Tempe, Mesa, I have lived in
8 Phoenix, I have property -- vacation property up in
9 Flagstaff, and now I'm living here in Payson. I can tell
10 you from years of raising my family in the Valley and being
11 up here, Payson is very different than Flagstaff, very
12 different than Mesa, very different than Tempe.

13 You have been selected by the legislature of
14 Arizona to do the most important job for the next ten years,
15 the redistricting of the state of Arizona and the election.
16 You will affect this entire state. Not Northern Arizona,
17 the entire state.

18 It is an honor to have you with us tonight. It is
19 an honor to know how you were selected, how you got here,
20 and I hope and pray that you will do for the state of
21 Arizona what you feel is the best and ask God to bless and
22 help you in this decision.

23 Thank you for being here. Thank you for what
24 you're doing and what you're giving.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. CAMACHO: And with that, that concludes our
2 speakers in Payson. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On behalf of --

4 MS. VAN HAREN: And I'll turn it over to
5 Commissioner Mehl. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On behalf of all five of the --
7 of our Commission, I just want to express tonight how
8 wonderful a night this is. And each one of the listening
9 meetings that we've had, we've had over a dozen and it's
10 probably closer to 15 of these meetings, and the public has
11 been incredible. You share our passion for this state of
12 Arizona. And -- and all of the things that are expressed
13 are really helpful and meaningful to us, so we really
14 appreciate the time and effort that each of you have put
15 into coming tonight and spending your time to help us
16 understand this state better and to make better decisions.

17 So with that, I would like to remind you that you
18 can go online also, anyone who was listening tonight or was
19 here and not able to speak, you can go online and submit a
20 map using our mapping software at IRC.AZ.gov.

21 We'll be in the east valley tomorrow evening; we
22 have another virtual meeting on Friday; we'll be in Tucson
23 on Saturday; we'll start drawing the final lines on Monday,
24 so there's a lot of work ahead of us. And we thank everyone
25 tonight.

1 And with that, we adjourn the meeting.

2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon the meeting concludes at 8:40 p.m.)

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12 "This transcript represents an unofficial record.

13 Please consult the accompanying video for the official

14 record of IRC proceedings."

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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

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

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



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

* * *

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



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058