

ARIZONA INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

EXCERPT OF PROCEEDINGS

November 2, 2011
11:17 a.m.

Location

Cottonwood Recreation Center
150 South 6th Street
Cottonwood, Arizona 86326

Attending

Jose M. Herrera, Vice Chair

Kristina Gomez, Deputy Executive Director
Buck Forst, Information Technology Specialist
Joe Kanefield, Counsel, Ballard Spahr
(telephonically)

PREPARED BY:

AZ Litigation Support, LLC
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Certified Reporter
CR No. 50637

Cottonwood, Arizona
October 9, 2011
11:17 a.m.

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4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Let's start back at
5 1:01.

6 Our next speaker is Tom Steele,
7 representing himself from Prescott Valley.

8 TOM STEELE: It's Tom, traditional
9 spelling, T-o-m, Steele, S-t-e-e-l-e.

10 And good afternoon. And again, I agree,
11 that you have a very unenviable position to be in.

12 I would like to remind everybody the word
13 "gerrymandering" was created by Mr. Elbridge Gerry
14 who was a Massachusetts politician and created a
15 political district that looked like a salamander.
16 And thus the word gerrymandering.

17 Now, whether it was done by a political
18 party or it's done by a computer program,
19 gerrymandering is still gerrymandering. It's not
20 communities of common interest.

21 Yavapai County was the first county
22 established in Arizona. It's as old as the state
23 is. It is almost exactly the right population for a
24 congressional district.

25 We have gone to five supervisors. We may

1 not always get along, because there is battles in
2 some areas east and west of Mingus, but we do get
3 along to the extent that we will allow the Verde
4 River to survive because we are both concerned about
5 that.

6 As for competitiveness, the population of
7 Yavapai County has the population of Democrats, the
8 population of Republicans, and Independents are
9 really quite close, more surprisingly. And as for
10 the fact we do have a -- currently have a Republican
11 congressman, our previous congressman was a
12 Democrat. So we have competitiveness just anyway
13 you look at it.

14 So if you have to tinker around the edges
15 to give us the exact amount of population, I still
16 want us to retain Congressional District 1 for
17 Yavapai County and some areas that are willing and
18 able and have common interests to be in with us,
19 because we deserve that.

20 Thank you.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is James Eaton,
23 representing himself.

24 JAMES EATON: My name is James Eaton,
25 J-a-m-e-s, E-a-t-o-n.

1 Thank you for coming. I wish we could
2 have had the whole Commission here because there
3 have been very few opportunities face-to-face for
4 people outside Maricopa and Pima counties to address
5 this Commission. I hope the others are listening.

6 In 1987 and before, Sedona was put
7 between two counties. Incidentally, I'm chair of
8 the steering committee for Sedona's new community
9 plan.

10 I am not representing the committee; I'm
11 representing myself, but we are trying to get Sedona
12 people to imagine Sedona 2020 and beyond. You're
13 doing pretty much the same thing for the state of
14 Arizona.

15 Sedona was divided between two counties.
16 Both of them ignored us. So in 1987, we had an
17 election, overwhelmingly voted to form a city.

18 The city of Sedona is now unified. The
19 city of Sedona is part of greater Sedona. I don't
20 have to identify that for you because it's already
21 done. It's defined by our fire department and our
22 school district. It includes the Village of Oak
23 Creek and surrounding unincorporated areas.

24 Greater Sedona is part of the greater
25 Verde Valley. I don't have to define that for you

1 because it's done by mountains to our west, to our
2 north, and to our south.

3 The people on the other side of those
4 mountains ignored us, so we took action. We are no
5 longer split, we are unified.

6 And I just ask you don't try to split
7 Sedona again.

8 As far as political considerations for
9 forming legislative and congressional districts,
10 Arizona has some idiosyncrasies. We have far more
11 independence than anybody knows because you can't
12 vote as an Independent in a primary.

13 I would be an Independent today, but I
14 found much to my surprise I couldn't vote in a
15 primary, so I had to register as one party or
16 another.

17 And I think if you pay too much attention
18 to political divisions, you're going to be making a
19 big mistake in this state. Try to balance
20 everything, not just a little political
21 considerations.

22 Thank you.

23 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker
24 representing himself is Jim Muhr.

25 JIM MUHR: Thank you, commissioner, I

1 appreciate that.

2 My name is Jim Muhr, M-u-h-r. I reside
3 in Payson, Arizona, and I'm representing myself.

4 I would like to say that the
5 congressional districts as drawn do not represent
6 what is good for the state of Arizona and
7 specifically for Gila County.

8 We in Payson, Arizona, are the gateway to
9 the rim country. People come up the Beeline Highway
10 to go to the rim country, to go into Pine,
11 Strawberry, Show Low, up into the areas of Woods
12 Canyon and stuff like that.

13 The way you have the district drawn, you
14 have us in District Number 4, which is included with
15 the desert and the river area along the Colorado
16 River.

17 It makes no sense for Gila County or for
18 Payson to be in a district other than the mountain
19 districts. And I would respectfully ask that you
20 seriously consider moving Payson in with the
21 mountain districts.

22 The second thing I would like to address
23 is the legislative lines that you have drawn.

24 The legislative lines that you have drawn
25 now represent Gila County split into three different

1 sections.

2 Think about someone working in the county
3 trying to be on a commission and trying to work with
4 three different sets of legislatures trying to get
5 something accomplished in that county. It's almost
6 impossible to do.

7 I would ask that you seriously consider
8 looking at the legislative districts, that the way
9 they are drawn in Gila County, and make us whole, or
10 at least -- at least give us two districts rather
11 than the three that it has now. It would be an
12 unbearable situation for anybody to try to get
13 anything done with three legislative districts as
14 they are.

15 Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

17 Our next speaker is L. Thomas Spencer,
18 representing himself from Payson.

19 THOMAS SPENCER: Thank you, commissioner.

20 My name is Thomas Spencer, T-h-o-m-a-s,
21 S-p-e-n-c-e-r, and I am here today representing
22 myself.

23 I live in Payson, Arizona.

24 It is of my opinion that the Commission
25 has failed to take into consideration communities of

1 interest.

2 Payson, Arizona, is the gateway to the
3 rim country; however, at present, your map has taken
4 Payson and its community of interest, i.e., gateway
5 to the rim country, mountain communities, and placed
6 it in the desert Colorado River communities, totally
7 void of the rim communities.

8 This totally goes against the communities
9 of interest and it is also the requirement as stated
10 in the state Constitution.

11 I encourage the Commission to reevaluate
12 and take into consideration Gila County and the rim
13 country as a whole and make it whole.

14 Thank you very much.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

16 Our next speaker is Matthew Capalby,
17 representing the Greater Arizona Success.

18 MATTHEW CAPALBY: Vice Chairman Herrera,
19 thank you for being here today.

20 My name is Matthew Capalby C-a-p-a-l-b-y,
21 and I reside in Flagstaff, Arizona.

22 First of all, I want to thank you in
23 light of yesterday's circumstances for being here
24 today. There was a lot of concern whether or not
25 the meeting would occur, and I certainly appreciate

1 all of your efforts.

2 On behalf of the Arizona Success, I would
3 like to thank you for increasing the numbers of
4 rural legislative districts from eight to nine and
5 also that you did consider increasing the number of
6 congressional districts that represent Greater
7 Arizona from one to two.

8 While there are, of course, some
9 adjustments that we all believe need to be made, we
10 thank you for those and we also request that you
11 take into further consideration the issue of
12 competitive districts.

13 We feel that there is still some
14 opportunities to create more competitive districts.
15 And when that does happen, you have better
16 representation and you have more voters engaged
17 overall because races are not decided in the
18 primaries.

19 With that, I would also like to speak to
20 my former role as the regional director for Northern
21 Arizona and the Arizona Department of Environmental
22 Quality.

23 Sorry if I said that too fast. That's a
24 mouthful.

25 But with that, I would like to speak to

1 particular water issues here in the Verde Valley in
2 the Verde River watershed.

3 I do think it is important that all of
4 the Verde Valley communities are united in one
5 legislative and one congressional district,
6 preferably a competitive district, because when you
7 have a competitive district, you get additional
8 resources that will come forth from both sides of
9 the aisle and better cooperation that will serve the
10 environmental water interests relating to the Verde
11 River.

12 While the Big Chino is the headwater for
13 the Verde, it is also fed -- and it is also fed by
14 Oak Creek, Fossil Creek, Beaver Creek, et cetera.
15 So there is a direct relation to the Coconino
16 plateau, unlike some previous testimony that there
17 are very close water ties to the Flagstaff and
18 Mogollon Rim to the east as far as the Verde River
19 watershed is concerned.

20 And with that, I think it's imperative
21 that the Verde River watershed end up in a
22 competitive congressional and legislative district.
23 You're going to double the amount of representation
24 in Yavapai County for those water issues, which I
25 also think is important.

1 It's best to have two congressional
2 members and two sets of legislators that will be
3 concerned with issues pertaining to the Verde River
4 rather than just one set that's dominated by one
5 partisan interest.

6 So with that, thank you very much.
7 Continue the good fight and on behalf of the people
8 of Greater Arizona and myself being a
9 third-generation native of Northern Arizona, I am
10 ashamed by the actions of our governor and our state
11 legislature in regards to this Independent
12 Commission because it's counter to the interests of
13 the people of Arizona.

14 So thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker is Laramer Mace,
17 representing himself from Prescott.

18 LARAMER MACE: Thank you. My name is
19 Laramer Mace, L-a-r-a-m-e-r, last name, M-a-c-e
20 alarm L A R A M E R.

21 Unlike the previous gentleman, I do not
22 believe that the Commission has been doing the job
23 that it should be doing. Frankly, the very concept
24 of an Independent Commission is about as likely as a
25 temporary tax.

1 Yavapai County is known as the mother of
2 counties. Many people do not realize that Coconino
3 County was once a part of Yavapai County and was
4 split away. I personally would welcome the
5 recombination of Yavapai and Coconino County into a
6 single congressional district, which would include
7 the nonreservation portion of Coconino, Yavapai,
8 Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma.

9 This also would meet the desire of many
10 of the people in the Verde Valley with wanting to be
11 part of the Flagstaff area because now Yavapai and
12 the Flagstaff area were placed in a single CD and
13 would include all of Sedona, answering many of the
14 problems that people are having with the current
15 maps.

16 As for a legislative district, I propose
17 having all of Yavapai County as a single legislative
18 district which could include the Coconino portions
19 of Sedona within that district and still meet the
20 population requirement.

21 While we're on the subject of LDs, if the
22 people would look closely, the ones who are
23 concerned with being part of Flagstaff, the current
24 map, LD 6, does not include Flagstaff with the Verde
25 Valley. So you're not gaining anything by going

1 with that.

2 And while we're still on the subject, I
3 would like to remind people that Governor Brewer
4 acted within the confines of the state Constitution
5 when it became apparent that the current maps did
6 not meet the desires of the people of Arizona.

7 Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is Catherine Adams,
10 representing herself from Yavapai County.

11 No Catherine Adams.

12 Our next speaker is Bob Burke,
13 representing himself.

14 BOB BURKE: Thank you, Vice Chairman
15 Herrera.

16 It's Bob, B-o-b, B-u-r-k-e, Burke.

17 First of all, I want to say thank you for
18 coming to the Verde Valley. When I first saw your
19 schedules, I didn't notice anything scheduled for
20 the Verde, but very happy that you came. You're
21 very welcome here.

22 I, too, as many people have stated, was
23 very distressed by the illegal action of the
24 governor removing Chairwoman Mathis from the
25 position of chairwoman for the Commission.

1 Well, once again, many of us are in a
2 room talking about redistricting. Two out of three
3 of the board of supervisors from Yavapai County got
4 it wrong when they redistricted Yavapai County. I'm
5 just happy that they can't vote on this
6 redistricting.

7 I want to say that there are many people
8 in the Verde Valley throughout the state of Arizona
9 that do support the Herculean task with which you
10 have been given your charge.

11 I think placing the Verde Valley in CD1
12 helps to give balance to the district, or as we've
13 been calling it up here, competitiveness.

14 A balanced district reduces the possibly
15 of extremism. It gives either party a fair shot at
16 representing the citizens of that district.

17 And we have many issues that are more in
18 common with the eastern region, our northern
19 neighbors, Flagstaff, Coconino County, than with
20 Prescott.

21 Water issues are important, environmental
22 issues are important, forest issues are very
23 important. And I do not believe that becoming part
24 of District 1 in the eastern region will suffer the
25 Verde Valley in dialog with Prescott.

1 I think issues that affect Prescott and
2 the Verde Valley can be addressed. Any issues that
3 have -- that are mutually in common with those areas
4 will be addressed.

5 The only improvement I could suggest
6 would be to put the Village back in with Sedona, as
7 has been discussed, and keep the Verde Valley,
8 Sedona, and the surrounding areas intact.

9 I think -- in another byproduct of this
10 redistricting might be to bring the Verde Valley
11 closer and have the leaders establish more dialog to
12 face some of the issues that we all have in common.

13 Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is David L. Murphy from
16 Clarkdale.

17 DAVID L. MURPHY: My name is David L.
18 Murphy, D-a-v-i-d, middle initial L., M-u-r-p-h-y.

19 I wasn't going to say anything, but after
20 looking at the map real close and the community of
21 interest issue and everything else, I just wondered
22 if anyone could tell me what Clarkdale has in common
23 with Scottsdale? I'm at a loss.

24 And so, you know, it appears to me
25 looking at this Commission-approved congressional

1 draft map that here again it just puts more power
2 down in the Phoenix area because Lake Havasu,
3 Bullhead City, anyone that's out in those
4 communities will have no community of -- Prescott
5 Valley or Prescott or Clarkdale will have no idea
6 who their people are putting forward for positions
7 in authority and such.

8 And there's quite a bit of money, I
9 think, down in the Scottsdale area and I think
10 they'll have real slick fliers and everything.

11 And so just give more power to the
12 Phoenix area and take any voice in rural Arizona
13 away from rural Arizona. And that's my input.

14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

16 We have Harry Oberg, representing himself
17 from Yavapai County.

18 Is that you?

19 HARRY OBERG: My name is Harry Oberg, and
20 I'm representing myself.

21 Ha-r-r-y, O-b-e-r-g.

22 Thank you for this opportunity to talk to
23 you this afternoon and for you to come up here into
24 Yavapai County and give us this opportunity.

25 I would like to give a little history

1 first.

2 May dad came to this country in '29, to
3 the state and resided in Coconino -- or correction,
4 Yavapai County and spent his entire time in Yavapai
5 County. Even though he was other places in the
6 state, he always felt that Yavapai County was one
7 large community of interest. And for that reason,
8 he felt no reason to leave it or live anywhere else
9 or work anywhere else.

10 He was a cattle pusher. He worked
11 ranches from Sedona to Perkinsville, Chino Valley,
12 Prescott. He also at times was a minor, working in
13 the Bagdad mine.

14 So I think with my history here of
15 graduating from high school here, that I bring to
16 this discussion a little bit about what the
17 long-time residents of Arizona feel about Arizona
18 and Yavapai County.

19 Looking at your two maps, the CD and the
20 LD maps, one of your goals is to respect communities
21 of interest. All of the communities of Yavapai
22 County, Sedona, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Verde
23 Valley, and Seligman, to name just a few, all have
24 common interests and goals.

25 These communities are rural, engage in

1 agriculture, ranching and mining, and have similar
2 issues related to water based on our common
3 geography.

4 As a result, Yavapai County should be
5 kept whole and not have any portion of the county
6 redistricted to other areas of the state that will
7 not share its same interest and history.

8 Yavapai County should be kept as a single
9 district for both legislative and congressional
10 reasons. Our common -- community of interest will
11 be best represented when legislative and
12 congressional representatives who fully understand
13 the issues and needs concerning our county.

14 In addition, Yavapai County, La Paz,
15 Mohave, and nonreservation portions of Coconino
16 counties should be considered one congressional
17 district with no portion of Maricopa County be
18 included in that district, either in LD or CD.

19 As people have said here, I don't see
20 where we have any relationship with a very urban
21 area such as Phoenix, Scottsdale, whether it's Pinal
22 County or in Maricopa County.

23 Since Yavapai County is within 2 percent
24 of the required population to be considered our own
25 legislative and congressional district, it would be

1 unfair for any of our communities to be separated
2 from the county for ten years when it's likely that
3 we will reach the required population levels in a
4 very short time, maybe one or two years.

5 I know in the Prescott area and the
6 surrounding area, people continue to be building
7 homes at a greater rate than we were earlier.

8 So I feel we will reach the population
9 requirements that we can be our own congressional
10 district.

11 And again, I would also support a couple
12 of the other comments here that historically --
13 Yavapai County is the oldest district. It's based
14 on the fact that it was the original -- Prescott was
15 the original capital of this state and I would like
16 to see CD 1 be a designation that remains in Yavapai
17 County.

18 Thank you.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Monica A. Joyner,
21 representing herself from Gila County.

22 MONICA A. JOYNER: Monica A. Joyner,
23 M-o-n-i-c-a, J-o-y-n-e-r.

24 I attended a Commission meeting that was
25 held in Payson a while ago. At the time I had

1 little information regarding the Commission's
2 origins and goals. I do now, after following the
3 process, understand that the new redistricting lines
4 drawn for Gila County evidence the malfeasance of
5 this Commission. That is, the lines were drawn to
6 ensure that the current political leadership in our
7 district changes hands.

8 There can be no other explanation for
9 this as the Commission clearly violates its own
10 rules on several criteria. Specifically it divides
11 municipalities, counties, and census tract lines.
12 It divides rural communities of interest such as
13 tourism, a big industry for us, and then includes us
14 into districts where we have no vested interest.

15 As evidenced by Yuma and speaking at
16 these hearings, they have no community of interest
17 with us.

18 I mention this because your process has
19 catered to the criteria of competitiveness while
20 minimizing criteria regarding geographical
21 boundaries and other lawfully required criteria.

22 As a result of this division of Gila
23 County, legislators will most likely be out of touch
24 with their new constituency due to distance and time
25 constraints. In effect, it is obvious that the term

1 local government will no longer apply, and that I
2 believe is the goal.

3 I am here to tell you today that as Gila
4 County taxpayers, we do not want to pay for illegal
5 maps drawn by a mapping company illegally employed.
6 We don't want to pay for lawsuits brought about by
7 this Commission's unconstitutional conduct. We
8 don't want any more condescending torts from IRC
9 commissioners during public hearings.

10 We want a fair and transparent process in
11 redistricting, which thus far has been absent.

12 In short, I represent the taxpayer, the
13 unrecognized minority. The people that end up
14 footing the bill for social welfare programs that
15 ensure -- that ensue when partisan commissioners
16 such as this are given power with little oversight.

17 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

18 Next person is Sally Lurette,
19 representing herself from Prescott.

20 By the look on your face, I didn't
21 pronounce it correctly.

22 SALLY LERETTE: You did.

23 My name is Sally, that's with a Y,
24 Lurette, L-e-r-e-t-t-e.

25 Actually smiled because I lived 20 years

1 here in the Verde Valley and then I moved to
2 Prescott 18 years ago, so I kind of feel like I'm
3 from both places.

4 Anyhow, I'm here today to urge you to
5 keep Yavapai County as one district, legislative
6 district and congressional district, like the last
7 gentleman before me talked.

8 Anyhow, going back, I lived on a little
9 ranch on the Verde River right here in Cottonwood.
10 And I think it was about 25 years ago a real
11 terrible flood came and it flooded our ranch, parts
12 of it. And so the FEMA moved in, the federal
13 government, and they declared that there would be no
14 more building on the rivers and the creeks, which
15 Oak Creek was included in that, of course, and all
16 of the other major waterways here in Yavapai County.

17 And they also declared that if you owned
18 a home, which we did, and it burned down, you
19 couldn't rebuild again. In other words, the value
20 of all creek- and river-front properties was
21 terribly devaluated.

22 And it was a horrible outcry through
23 Yavapai County. In fact, I was with some of the
24 committee, we called ourselves STOP, S-T-O-P, Stop
25 Taking Over Our Property, and we went all the way

1 down, of course, to the state legislature, starting
2 in Prescott County and then actually, thank God,
3 Barry Goldwater was still our state Senator at the
4 time and he said, "What the heck is going on down on
5 the Verde Valley?"

6 Anyhow, we fought back. We had to
7 compromise some, and there was restrictions on
8 river-front and creek-front properties and
9 elevations and such.

10 But the point is, is that we have this
11 wonderful, common bond as a family unit, the
12 Prescott, Yavapai County, Verde Valley, Clarkdale,
13 all of us have this water. This water is our main
14 interest, too. And the Verde watershed is
15 throughout these areas, even into Sedona, which they
16 maybe not want to admit, but they were part of our
17 Verde watershed.

18 And it's important that we stay together
19 and that we are like a family. I still think we do.
20 I love the Verde Valley and I love Prescott area and
21 I think we're both represented.

22 If you get out and vote, everyone has got
23 a vote. I only have one. If you don't like it, you
24 change it, I hope. There's somebody here for
25 elections and all, but anyhow I think the Verde

1 needs to be part of Prescott and the rest of Yavapai
2 County.

3 Like I said before, it's like a divorce.
4 You're tearing us away. We belong to each other.
5 We have all of these interests. It's very tearing.

6 So thank you very much.

7 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

8 Our next speaker is Karan Pfeifer, vice
9 mayor of Cottonwood. Thank you for giving a nice
10 spelling.

11 KAREN PFEIFER: It just makes it easier.

12 Karen Pfeifer, K-a-r-e-n, P-f-e-i-f-e-r.

13 I'm speaking for myself and my family.

14 It's been known here -- I've been told that if you
15 swing a cat by the tail in this area, you can't miss
16 one of my family. We've got numerous children here,
17 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, in-laws from
18 Sedona to Mayer, Arizona.

19 I lived in Sedona my -- I've been here
20 for about 40 years now. And my first six and a half
21 years was in Sedona and then I moved to Cottonwood.

22 I felt no connection whatever with
23 Flagstaff when I lived in Sedona and I feel no
24 connection whatsoever with Flagstaff at this point.

25 As for representatives not being -- not

1 listening, we have had our representatives in
2 Cottonwood quite often. You need to invite them and
3 make it to where they are not in session and they
4 will come down and they will talk to you.

5 We don't always get the results that we
6 want but sometimes, like the mayor said a little bit
7 earlier, you know, when you get lemons, you make
8 lemonade. And we've been able to work around a lot
9 of the differences with Prescott. And our water
10 issues are similar. I'm part -- the AMWUA water
11 board and the connection with Flagstaff is much,
12 much closer than it is -- I mean, with Prescott is
13 much closer than it is with Flagstaff.

14 So in my opinion, I think that both
15 districts -- congressional and the legislative needs
16 to remain rim to rim and keep Yavapai County whole.

17 Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

19 Our next speaker is Bruce George, Camp
20 Verde Town Council.

21 BRUCE GEORGE: Good afternoon.

22 My name is Bruce George, B-r-u-c-e,
23 G-e-o-r-g-e. And I am on the Camp Verde Town
24 Council, but I can't speak for them, I'm speaking
25 for myself. And I would just like to echo the

1 mayors of Cottonwood, Clarkdale, and many of the
2 others that we need keep the Verde Valley as one
3 family, one -- so that we can all be neighbors.

4 And I know you've heard this before, but
5 I guess if enough of us say it, maybe it will have
6 an impact.

7 But I think on some of the maps, Camp
8 Verde is being separated from the rest of Verde
9 Valley. Don't like that at all.

10 So please, don't separate Camp Verde or
11 the communities east of I-17, McGuireville, Rimrock,
12 Lake Montezuma. Let's keep the Verde Valley
13 together. We all have common interests, and thank
14 you.

15 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.
16 Our next speaker is John Nevel from
17 Sedona.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's missing.

19 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: He's not here?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He had to leave.

21 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Our next speaker is
22 Christine Lutz, representing herself from Yavapai
23 County.

24 Andy Grosare (phonetic), representing
25 himself from Yavapai County.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Andy left.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Paul LaBonte,
3 representing himself from Gila County.

4 Not here.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's coming.

6 PAUL LABONTE: My name is Paul LaBonte.
7 It's spelled P-a-u-l, LaBonte, L-a, capital
8 B-o-n-t-e, and I want to thank you very much for
9 letting me speak.

10 What I would like to speak about is the
11 maps. I believe all of your maps are illegal.
12 Nothing here pertains to anything.

13 And more, as of yesterday, your
14 independent person that you had on your board,
15 Colleen Mathis, I believe it was, she was asked to
16 step down, to put it politely, and she was found out
17 to be telling lies about certain things on her
18 application and who she actually was for. She never
19 told them that she was leaning left or right or
20 anything, which come up later that she was leaning
21 in one direction.

22 And so she may have had a big influence
23 on the board members without actually the board
24 members knowing it, and I think that these maps are
25 all illegal and should be started all over from word

1 one.

2 And as far as I'm personally concerned,
3 the board should dismiss themselves because nobody
4 knows how much influence she's had on either side of
5 the board and it should be a whole new board and a
6 whole new map system because everything that she has
7 been part of is illegal, the same as she was and
8 that's why they let her go.

9 Thank you very much.

10 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

11 Our next speaker is Mike Flannery, from
12 Yavapai County.

13 MIKE FLANNERY: Thank you and good
14 afternoon, Vice Chairman Herrera.

15 Mike Flannery, M-i-k-e, F-l-a-n-n-e-r-y.

16 That didn't take along. We must be
17 getting towards the end. I just put that in.

18 First of all, I want to thank you very
19 much, Commissioner Herrera. When the initial 25
20 locations came for the round two public hearings,
21 Cottonwood was not included on that, and I know that
22 you worked hard at facilitating this meeting this
23 morning, and I want to thank you because as you
24 know, Cottonwood -- or Verde Valley was part of a
25 lot of discussions as to which way it would go. And

1 I thought it was important that Verde Valley be
2 heard, and you have facilitated that and I thank you
3 very much for that.

4 And secondly, in light of the recent
5 events, I want to thank you for continuing with the
6 schedule and not canceling. I think it's important
7 to get the public input and continue. I know that
8 you've set a tentative deadline for completion of
9 this process by Thanksgiving, and I hope that you
10 can continue that.

11 So let me just comment on the
12 congressional maps.

13 First of all, I want to commend you for
14 attempting to come up with two rural congressional
15 districts. I think that that's very important. You
16 heard that in various different meetings, and I
17 think that your work thus far has been challenging
18 because we know that in order to do that, you need
19 710,000 people per district. Arizona doesn't have
20 that. You're going to have to dip into some areas,
21 and that's where the challenge lies.

22 However, dipping into Maricopa County,
23 and you've heard this, is not something that anybody
24 likes.

25 But when you go from a western rural

1 district and you go completely across the state to
2 pick up Gila County and the western part of Pinal
3 County, I liken it to Orion's belt as it travels
4 across the state.

5 So if you could, I would like to have you
6 look at making -- and you've heard this already
7 today -- take Gila County and western Pinal County,
8 move that over into District 1 and take the
9 nontribal Coconino County western part and move that
10 over into District 4. I think that helps. That's
11 an easy solution. I think it keeps everybody in
12 rural and I think it makes a lot of sense to do
13 that. And so I would like to have you do that.

14 And in terms of the congressional map, I
15 would like to -- I would like to have you listen to
16 the people here today. Keep Verde Valley whole and
17 in one district, and I would like to encourage you
18 to keep that in Yavapai County.

19 Let me just wrap it up, because I heard
20 that.

21 In terms of the legislative map, I would
22 also echo the same in terms of keeping the Verde
23 Valley whole and in one legislative district and
24 that would be in Yavapai County.

25 Thank you.

1 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, sir.

2 Our last two speaker are -- the second to
3 last is Shirley Dye, representing herself from
4 Northern Arizona.

5 SHIRLEY DYE: It's Shirley,
6 S-h-i-r-l-e-y, Dye, D-y-e.

7 Commissioner Herrera, thank you for being
8 here and thank you for adding this Cottonwood public
9 meeting to the listening. I wished I had known it
10 sooner. We could have gotten more of the Payson
11 people down here.

12 I wanted to echo the gentleman who just
13 spoke before us who doesn't know any of us in Gila
14 County, I don't believe that we would prefer, as far
15 as the congressional district map goes, that
16 Northern Gila County be placed in your Congressional
17 District 1 and you could give Flagstaff back over to
18 Yavapai County and the river counties.

19 We don't have anything in common with
20 Flagstaff hardly at all. We never get up that way
21 much.

22 And since they are so entwined together
23 with the Verde Valley and all, we would find that
24 that's very -- a very fine thing.

25 We definitely relate more to Eastern

1 Arizona mountains and forest and would like to be
2 placed back there with them.

3 One of the reasons I do want to make a
4 comment is the whole reason this District 1 got so
5 gerrymandered is because you all thought that it
6 would be a really great idea, or someone impressed
7 upon you, that the Native Americans all wanted to be
8 in one district.

9 And I spent a lot of time following our
10 Gila County redistricting where Bruce Adelson was
11 our Department of Justice. Many times before our
12 redistricting ever started, I sat in on all of those
13 trainings and sat in on all of the trainings and
14 questioning when we were working with our districts.
15 And even though I was not on that commission, I was
16 very closely entwined and participated in it.

17 The Voting Rights Act says that a
18 minority-majority is of a separate language and a
19 separate culture.

20 You have mixed all of these Native
21 American language groups and cultures into one big
22 group. And I see no reason why all of the Grand
23 Canyon area Native Americans should not be over in
24 District 4 with Yavapai and all of that whole
25 district, and I don't see why the Salt River -- not

1 the Salt River, the Gila River Tribe that is south
2 of Phoenix and off the 10 freeway needs to be in
3 that district.

4 And then there's all of the other things
5 that I could and would love to say to you but my
6 time apparently is up.

7 So I thank you very much.

8 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

9 Our last speaker is Peggy Magee,
10 representing herself from Cottonwood.

11 PEGGY MAGEE: I'm not from Cottonwood,
12 I'm from Prescott Valley.

13 My name is Peggy, P-e-g-g-y, Magee,
14 M-a-g-e-e.

15 May I ask a question?

16 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, this is the
17 time for to us listen to your concerns.

18 PEGGY MAGEE: All right. Well, it has to
19 do with my concerns.

20 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Ma'am, no. We're
21 just here to listen your concerns.

22 PEGGY MAGEE: Okay. Then I'll make an
23 assumption.

24 I'm going to assume that the
25 congressional draft map was approved on October the

1 3rd. Am I correct? It says so on the map.

2 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: That, ma'am, I can
3 answer. The congressional draft map was approved
4 actually, yes, on October 3rd, and the legislative
5 draft map was approved on October 10t.

6 PEGGY MAGEE: Okay. And there's 30 days
7 for comments. So this should be the last day for
8 comments on the congressional map.

9 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: No, ma'am. We
10 approved both of them -- even though they were
11 approved at separate times, we went in -- the
12 comment period started on October the 10th. That
13 was our first day of comment period.

14 PEGGY MAGEE: Okay. Because it says 30
15 days from the 3rd.

16 Okay. I'm going to talk about the
17 legislative map.

18 My big concern is what others have
19 voiced, so this is nothing new.

20 We have got nothing in common with
21 Maricopa County. Yavapai County is a very rural
22 district, and I think it should be, especially in
23 the legislative area, it should be kept intact. We
24 are only 40,000 people minus what the average is.
25 And I think if you add in Williams, which is rural,

1 and take away Maricopa, we would be at our -- what
2 is to be the average.

3 That's all.

4 VICE CHAIR HERRERA: Thank you, ma'am.

5 That was our last speaker for the
6 afternoon.

7 Thank you guys so much for being here and
8 for sticking around for this long meeting.

9 Thank you to the staff for organizing
10 this.

11 Thank you for the Town of Cottonwood for
12 providing this great facility.

13 Again, thank you so much for being here
14 and have a great day.

15 We're ending the meeting at 1:47 -- 1:48.

16 (The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.)
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I, MICHELLE D. ELAM, Certified Reporter
No. 50637 for the State of Arizona, do hereby
certify that the foregoing 35 printed pages
constitute a full, true, and accurate transcript of
the proceedings had in the foregoing matter, all
done to the best of my skill and ability.

WITNESS my hand this 3rd day of November,
2011.

MICHELLE D. ELAM
Certified Reporter
Certificate No. 50637