

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Prescott, Arizona

Sedona, Arizona

Congress, Arizona

Online via WebEx

July 27, 2021

5:01 p.m.

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 5:01 p.m.
3 on July 27, 2021, at Yavapai College, 111 East Sheldon
4 Street, Building 19, Room 117, Prescott, Arizona; with
5 satellite locations at Yavapai College (Sedona), 4215 Arts
6 Village Drive, Room 34, Sedona, Arizona; Congress Elementary
7 school, 26400 South Tenderfoot Hill, Congress, Arizona; and
8 online via WebEx.

9
10 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

11 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson

12 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

13 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
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. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
21 Mr. Ryan Regula, Snell & Wilmer
22 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
23 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
24 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics
25 Corp.

26 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

27 Ms. Liz Kennedy, Prescott, Arizona
28 Mr. Steve Zipperman, Prescott, Arizona
29 Ms. Maria Lyam, Prescott, Arizona
30 Mr. Whitney Williams, Prescott, Arizona
31 Mr. Matt Ryan, Sedona, Arizona
32 Ms. Joanne Keene, Sedona, Arizona
33 Mr. Russ Martin, Sedona, Arizona
34 Mr. Randy Taylor, Sedona, Arizona

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 Mr. Steve King, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Joanne Pierce, Congress, Arizona
 3 Mr. Nohl Roson, Congress, Arizona
 Ms. Mandy Worth, Prescott, Arizona
 4 Ms. Maria Elena Dunn, Prescott, Arizona
 Ms. Julie Pindzola, Prescott, Arizona
 5 Mr. James Stein, Prescott, Arizona
 Ms. Vivian Perry, Prescott, Arizona
 6 Ms. Marlene Barrington, Prescott, Arizona
 Mr. Ryan Judy, Prescott, Arizona
 7 Ms. Ann Kelly, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Cindy Farmer, Sedona, Arizona
 8 Mr. Joe Farmer, Sedona, Arizona
 Mr. Mike Schroeder, Sedona, Arizona
 9 Ms. Andrea Kadar, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Janet Anderson, Sedona, Arizona
 10 Mr. Dwight Kadar, Sedona, Arizona
 Mr. Stan Goligoski, Prescott, Arizona
 11 Mr. Phil Goode, Prescott, Arizona
 Mr. Arlene Rheinfelder, Prescott, Arizona
 12 Mr. Patrick Kuykendall, Prescott, Arizona
 Mr. Robert Porter, Sedona, Arizona
 13 Ms. Marlene Macek, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Ashley Cohen, Sedona, Arizona
 14 Ms. Ellen Ferreira, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Charlotte Hosseini, Sedona, Arizona
 15 Mr. Ernie Strauch, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Karen Strauch, Sedona, Arizona
 16 Ms. Connie Levinson, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Jeannine Reno, Sedona, Arizona
 17 Mr. L.G. Mace, Prescott, Arizona
 Mr. Harry Oberg, Prescott, Arizona
 18 Mr. Larry Meads, Prescott, Arizona
 Ms. Robin Sobotta, Prescott, Arizona
 19 Ms. Rosalee Darby, Prescott, Arizona
 Mayor John Hughes, Prescott, Arizona
 20 Ms. Lucy Mason, Prescott, Arizona
 Mr. James Steven, Prescott, Arizona
 21 Dr. Jean Barton, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Roni Jelm, Sedona, Arizona
 22 Mr. Dennis Dunphy, Sedona, Arizona
 Ms. Cathy Rutherford, Sedona, Arizona
 23 Ms. Peggy Chaikin, Sedona, Arizona
 Mr. Mike Cosentino, Sedona, Arizona
 24 Ms. Katherine Ginzel, Sedona, Arizona

25 * American Sign language interpreters and Spanish interpreters are also present.

P R O C E E D I N G

1
2
3 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Good evening, everyone. If
4 you can go ahead and take your seats right now; we are going
5 to go ahead and get started.

6 We are so excited for this amazing turnout at this
7 location and then the two of our satellite locations, and we
8 are also streaming online on WebEx.

9 So you'll see our two mics, one of them is just so
10 we can make sure the audience online can hear us, so if you
11 speak directly into both of them, that would be amazing.
12 Thank you so much.

13 At this time we would like to have Connie Martin
14 come up and say the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

15 If everyone could stand.

16 MS. MARTIN: Yes, please stand and join me in
17 saying the Pledge to the most wonderful flag in the country.

18 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

19
20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you all so much.

21 Right now I would like to introduce our Chairwoman,
22 Commissioner Erika Neuberg.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you so much, Lori.
24 Thank you.

25 This truly is amazing. This turnout is -- is

1 touching, and I'm tempted to maybe create a competition
2 amongst the state so -- because we would like turnouts like
3 this every day throughout our tour.

4 With that, we'll dive right in.

5 Agenda Item No. I, call to order. I now call to
6 order the next meeting of the listening tour of the
7 Independent Redistricting Commission.

8 We would like to remind the public that COVID-19 is
9 still prevalent, and we ask that you follow the Arizona
10 Department of Health guidelines. If you are not fully
11 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in a public space.

12 If you would like to participate from home, each of
13 these meetings is being streamed through WebEx.

14 Please note that if you would like to make a public
15 comment, you may do so by signing in with staff and filling
16 out the public comment card.

17 If you haven't already done so, please fill out the
18 community of interest survey; the data is so important.
19 There's a QR code on signs at the sign-in desk and on the
20 public comment cards that will direct you to the link.

21 Please see a member of staff if you have any
22 questions.

23 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
24 joining us virtually, and we have interpreters and headsets
25 available for those in attendance. We also have a

1 transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting.

2 Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear
3 record of your input.

4 Will the interpreters in attendance please
5 introduce themselves now?

6 INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is -- good evening. My
7 name is Patricia Beck (phonetic), I'm a Spanish interpreter.
8 If anybody needs Spanish services, I'm available, and I will
9 be in the back.

10 Thank you.

11 (Applause.)

12 INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Anna and I'm going to
13 be the Spanish interpreter in Congress.

14 INTERPRETER: My name is Jeff -- hello. My name is
15 Jeff Socomorales (phonetic), and I'll be the Spanish
16 interpreter.

17 All right. So one more time, ma'am?

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Are we waiting for one more
19 interpreter?

20 I apologize, I cannot see visually who we have on
21 deck.

22 INTERPRETER: Okay. So I -- so I --

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: We have an American Sign
24 Language interpreter online?

25 INTERPRETER: I -- okay. Thank you.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: We have an American Sign Language
2 Interpreter online; his name is Frederick Dudeck.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Thank you so much.

4 With that, I'd like to introduce my colleagues, the
5 Commissioners. As Lori mentioned, my name is Erika Neuberg,
6 I am the Independent Chair from Chandler, Arizona; Maricopa
7 County.

8 I believe we have a couple of Commissioners joining
9 us through WebEx, so please chime in Commissioners Lerner
10 and Watchman, I believe.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: My name is Shereen Lerner. I
12 am one of the Commissioners; I am from Maricopa County; I am
13 one of the Democrats on the Commission.

14 Glad that you are all here.

15 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This
16 is Derrick Watchman. I'm am the Apache County
17 representative and also a Democrat to the Commission.

18 And good to see everybody there. Thank you,
19 everybody.

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: It's nice to see you.

21 With that, we will now move to Agenda Item No. II,
22 a presentation on the process.

23 From our legal team I believe we have Shawn from
24 Ballard Spahr. So please introduce yourself and take it
25 away.

1 MR. SUMMERS: Good evening, everybody. My name is
2 Shawn Summers. I'm a member of the Commission's legal team;
3 I'm an attorney with the firm Ballard Spahr. We also have
4 Ryan Regula from the firm of Snell & Wilmer, another of the
5 Commission's lawyers.

6 So what I'm going to do so tonight is I'm just
7 going to give a brief overview of the -- what the
8 Redistricting Commission actually does and what the
9 redistricting process will look like over the next eight
10 months or so.

11 Okay. So, first, why are we doing this?

12 Every ten years the constitution requires that
13 every state -- every state's congressional districts are
14 reapportioned, but it leaves the task of redistricting
15 within the states to the states themselves.

16 So you may remember a few weeks back the new
17 reapportionment numbers came out; some states gained a seat,
18 some states lost a seat, Arizona did not. Arizona had nine
19 members of Congress in the last -- House Representatives in
20 the last cycle, and it will have nine again for the next
21 ten-year cycle.

22 So the constitution requires the census, and it
23 also requires the reapportion -- reapportionment.

24 From 1912 in state -- at statehood to the year
25 2000, Arizona did what pretty much every state did back then

1 and what most states still do now, and it has the
2 legislature control the redistricting. So every ten years
3 the state legislature would draw both its own districts and
4 the Arizona congressional districts.

5 That changed in the year 2000 when Arizona voters
6 passed Prop 106, and amendment to the Arizona Constitution,
7 which created the Independent Redistricting Commission. So
8 you can see the language of the constitution there.

9 By February 28th of each year that ends in one,
10 like 2021, there's required to be an independent
11 redistricting commission.

12 What that Commission looks like, it has five
13 members. No more than two of those members can be from the
14 same political party, and no more than two commissioners of
15 the four original members can reside in the same county.

16 Now, what that means is because of the way the
17 Commission is chosen, basically one Commissioner is chosen
18 by the majority party in the Senate, the minority party in
19 the Senate, one by the majority party in the House and one
20 by the minority party in the House. So that typically looks
21 like two Republican Commissioners, two Democratic
22 Commissioners, and those four choose an Independent chair.
23 So the Commission is both independent and bipartisan by
24 design.

25 And you can see the names of the members of the

1 Commission there on the slide; we have Chair Neuberg with us
2 tonight in person, and as you saw Vice Chair Watchman and
3 Commissioner Lerner here virtually.

4 So the Arizona constitution requires that the
5 Commission take six goals into account when it's drawing the
6 new districts. First, the districts have to comply with the
7 U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Federal Voting Rights Act.
8 There's no wiggle room there; we just have to do it.

9 Congressional districts have to have equal
10 population to the extent practicable and state legislative
11 districts have to have equal population to the extent
12 practicable. What that means in practice is that for
13 congressional districts, population basically has to be
14 exactly equal, no more than one-person variation in the
15 congressional districts. State legislative districts have a
16 little more leeway but should be as close to equal as
17 possible.

18 Districts shall be geographically compact and
19 contiguous to the extent practicable. District boundaries
20 shall respect communities of interest to the extent
21 practicable -- that's a big part of what we are here tonight
22 to talk about.

23 To the extent practicable, district lines shall use
24 visible geographic features, city, town, and county
25 boundaries and undivided census tracts. So as much as

1 possible, don't draw the lines to break up census tracts,
2 city, county, and town boundaries and so on.

3 And then finally, the sixth goal. To the extent
4 practicable, competitive districts should be favored where
5 to do so would create no significant detriments to the other
6 five goals.

7 So these are how the Commissioners are going to be
8 drawing the district. These are the interests they're going
9 to be taking into account and the goals that they're trying
10 to meet.

11 What this timeline is going to look like. In July
12 and August is our listening tour, that's what we're doing
13 right now.

14 We don't have the data from the census yet, so the
15 Commissioners are not able to start drawing the maps yet.
16 The purpose of these meetings is to get public input before
17 the Commissioners start drawing the maps.

18 In mid-August, the Census Bureau promised
19 August 16th, they will release the census data, and we will
20 process it. That's later than usual, because of COVID, the
21 census was delayed.

22 In September the Commission will draw and adopt a
23 grid map. This grid map is meant to basically wipe away the
24 previous districts. The way it works is that the Commission
25 needs to draw a map that is -- contains nine districts of

1 equal population or 30 legislative districts of equal
2 population. They'll be compact; they'll be contiguous, but
3 they will take into account none of the other factors. So
4 just those two goals of the six, and the idea is here it
5 gives us a clean slate and wipes away whatever the districts
6 were before.

7 In September through October, the Commission will
8 draw -- develop possible draft maps and then finally adopt
9 an official draft map by adjusting the grid maps that they
10 put together initially.

11 Once that's done, the constitution requires a
12 minimum 30-day public comment on the draft map; and then
13 once that comment period has expired, the Commission -- or
14 through that comment period, the Commission will revise the
15 draft maps, and then finally sometime we're hoping in late
16 December, adopt the final map.

17 So public involvement, that's what we're here about
18 tonight.

19 All Commission meetings are open to the public by
20 law. You can submit public comments both online and through
21 attending events like this. So you can see the URL there
22 IRC.AZ.gov/publicmeeting.

23 As I said, what we're doing today is we're trying
24 to get initial input on your communities of interest and
25 what you consider your communities of interests to be that

1 ought to be kept together through this redistricting
2 process, what geographic areas or neighborhoods should the
3 Commission consider as they're preparing to draw the draft
4 maps.

5 And then finally, once there are draft maps, you
6 can submit draft -- you can submit your own proposed maps,
7 draft maps, and comments on in-progress draft maps prior to
8 the IRC's adoption of the official draft map; you can also
9 submit proposed revisions and comments after the IRC
10 selection of the official draft maps and then comments on
11 the near-final maps during that process.

12 So there are a lot of opportunities for public
13 input, the process was designed that way, and our mapping
14 consultants have made some great tools available online that
15 they're going to talk about.

16 I'm going to call Mark up to talk about now, but we
17 highly encourage you to use them.

18 Thanks so much folks for being here.

19 (Applause.)

20 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

21 MR. FLAHAN: Hello, everyone. It's great to see
22 you all out here tonight.

23 My name is Mark Flahan; I'm with Timmons. I'm the
24 project manager on the Timmons side.

25 With me on my mapping team I have Parker Bradshaw,

1 who is our coordinator, and I also have Ivy Beller Sakansky
2 who is our demographer, and she is from NDC.

3 (Applause.)

4 Okay. So let's talk a little bit about some of the
5 information empowerment tools that we built for you guys to
6 use to gather public input.

7 The first one is a socioeconomic report. It's
8 basically an interactive website Web app that you can go to
9 to look at geographic and socioeconomic data.

10 And I have a slide next to talk more about it in
11 depth.

12 The other tool that we've made and why we're here
13 today is to talk about communities of interest. So we have
14 a community of interest survey that is out there on the Web
15 available to you guys as a Web app that you can get to 24/7.

16 And the last mapping tool that we have is our
17 redistricting system that we will open up to be able to
18 comment on maps and view maps and submit maps, and that will
19 be coming to you in the future as you saw in our timeline.

20 Okay. So the first tool we built to you is the
21 socioeconomic report. On the right side is a screen capture
22 of what it looks like, and what it allows you to do is start
23 to look at demographic data for the state; it has over 14
24 different demographic points on it.

25 You see acronym CVAP, that is citizen voting age

1 population, so you can start to look at the different
2 ethnicities there; and then we have a bunch of other points
3 that talks about housing or percent of families with
4 children at home, et cetera.

5 I'm not going to read them all but there's 14
6 different points you can go to the site and view it; and it
7 is available on the Commission's website under the map
8 section.

9 Why are we here today?

10 Community of interest survey. Here's two
11 screenshots of the community of interest survey. On the
12 right side you can see it actually allows you to submit your
13 community of interest survey map. So now you guys can draw
14 your own community of interest survey maps, submit it to us,
15 and that way it's as accurate as possible. So now when
16 we're taking those in, we're able to completely understand
17 what you are trying to tell us.

18 Before we go on to what is a community of interest,
19 on the outside there's a QR code, so I would also suggest
20 that you guys fill out the community of survey interest
21 [sic] on your phones or when you get home. It's very easy;
22 and if you fill it out and you want to come up and talk, I
23 can actually bring up your community of survey report, and
24 we can view it live on the screen and see exactly what it
25 looks like on the map.

1 So now I will turn it over to Ivy, our demographer.

2 MS. SAKANSKY: Thanks, Mark. It's great to see
3 everybody. Thank you for coming out this evening.

4 I'm going to discuss specifically what is a
5 community of interest.

6 It is a geographic area of people who share a
7 common story or connection. The connection can be common
8 social interests, shared demographic characteristics,
9 similar impacts from a legislative or congressional issue,
10 or any other connection that leads people in a given area to
11 believe they would benefit from being kept together united
12 in one legislative and/or congressional district.

13 As you think about your community, think about the
14 factors listed on the community survey online that Mark has
15 directed you to. And that survey says you think about your
16 neighbors: Do you have similar jobs; do you rely on similar
17 public services; do you rely -- excuse me, belong to the
18 same neighborhood associations; are you impacted by some
19 regional environmental concern; is your community defined
20 by -- by similar regional land-use issues, transit concerns,
21 languages spoken, celebrations or traditions, or other
22 similar issues or characteristics?

23 Any of these characteristics could define a
24 community of interest.

25 Next slide.

1 Do I need to do that?

2 Thank you.

3 Now, it is your turn. As they travel the state on
4 the listening tour, the Commissioners want to hear from you.
5 What do you want the Commissioners to consider as they draft
6 and ultimately adopt their maps?

7 How do you define your community of interest?
8 Using the tools that Mark has described and in your
9 testimony today, we want to hear what brings your community
10 of interest together and what are your community's
11 geographic boundaries.

12 Remember, the Commissioners can only incorporate
13 your community into their maps if you let us know where your
14 community is on a map.

15 Thank you for being here today. Now I will turn
16 this back over to the Commission staff to begin taking your
17 comments.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, everyone. Before we
20 begin public comment I have an advisement to speak -- or to
21 read.

22 Citizens may only speak when recognized by the
23 Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting if the Chair
24 is absent or otherwise has delegated hearing administration
25 authority.

1 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting law,
2 speakers should confine their statements to the issue on the
3 posted agenda which is before the Commission.

4 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments
5 to approximately three minutes.

6 Additionally, speakers are required to follow
7 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.
8 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated.

9 Any speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any
10 other guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the
11 peace or disruption of the Commission public hearing may be
12 the cause of report to law enforcement, arrest, and
13 prosecution.

14 If someone has expressed the same sentiments, you
15 do not need to speak in order to have your comment recorded.
16 As long as you filled out the survey, your input will be
17 received -- considered by the Commission. Everyone is
18 welcome to speak, however, if you should choose to do so.

19 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
20 citizens present. As a courtesy citizens are reminded to
21 address their comments to the Chair and to the commission
22 and not to the audience present. Please show respect for
23 all speakers and avoid personal comments.

24 Remember, the Commission must hear all sides of an
25 issue to make an informed decision.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And, with that, let's dive in
4 to Agenda Item No. III, which is public comment.

5 And I believe our staff has the cards and the
6 order; we look forward to hearing from you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Wonderful and thank you.

8 And just remember, if you had filled out the
9 community of interest survey and you would like your map
10 shown as you are speaking, please let us know before you
11 speak. So you can come up to the podium or to the speaker
12 and say that you have filled out the map and you would like
13 it shown, okay.

14 So the first speaker right now is Liz Kennedy; and
15 the person on deck is Steve Zipperman.

16 MS. KENNEDY: Good evening. My name is Liz
17 Kennedy.

18 I want to thank the Independent Redistricting
19 Commission for your work to redraw Arizona legislative and
20 congressional district lines following the 2020 U.S. census.

21 Six years ago I moved here to Prescott Valley from
22 California. I hate to leave the place where I was born and
23 lived for over 40 years, but I did so because there was
24 unyielding practices and laws, and now it seems Arizona is
25 looking more like California every day.

1 Yavapai County is still considered a rural
2 community with different goals and values than Maricopa
3 County. We here in Yavapai County feel that the
4 Legislative District 1 should not reach all the way down to
5 Maricopa County.

6 We have little in common with Maricopa County and
7 by including it in LD-1 you would be diluting our voice in
8 our government.

9 A decision to include Maricopa County in LD-1 would
10 have a trickle-down effect to Yavapai County supervisor
11 districts and Yavapai County precincts. People live here in
12 Yavapai County because of its small town feel, its weather,
13 and its beautiful surrounding.

14 The people of Yavapai County should have Arizona
15 legislators in LD-1 and U.S. representatives in CD-4 that
16 represent Yavapai County and its interests.

17 You're charged with considering six factors when
18 redrawing the maps including drawing district lines that
19 create very near equal populations, district shape,
20 geographical features, respect for community interest, and
21 political competitiveness. I implore you to respect the
22 interests of Yavapai County's residents and communities.

23 Please when the maps are redrawn, allow rural
24 Yavapai's county interest to remain consistent with the
25 rural nature of the community. Do not include Maricopa

1 County in LD-1.

2 Your decision is significant because Yavapai County
3 will have to live with your decisions for ten years. It is
4 important that you make the right decision when redrawing
5 the boundaries of LD-1 and CD-4.

6 And thank you for your consideration of these
7 factors.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Steve Zipperman,
10 and after that Maria Lyman.

11 MR. ZIPPERMAN: Madam Chair, I would like to thank
12 you very much for being the neutral in this process; it's so
13 important. As you know, you have two people that are very
14 charged in one direction, two people that are charged in the
15 other direction, you're probably the most important person
16 in this entire process.

17 One of the things that Ms. Kennedy just mentioned
18 is really important to me. I also am a California refugee
19 here in Arizona.

20 Rural Arizona is not the same as urban Arizona, and
21 our values are very different. Yavapai County has a very
22 rural character, and that's something that we all cherish.
23 And that's something we moved here because we loved it;
24 there are a lot of people that have moved here from other
25 places because of that rural character.

1 It's very important to us, when we look at LD-1 and
2 CD-4, to be combined with an area that's very urban and has
3 an urban character detracts from what we love.

4 Imagine yourself as a congressman and trying to
5 satisfy your constituents when they have such varying and
6 different views of what's important.

7 Urban people want things that are very different
8 from what rural people want.

9 For the most part rural people want to be left
10 alone, but if you are a congress -- if you're a
11 representative of the United States Congress, how are you
12 going to satisfy both at the same time? It's almost
13 impossible.

14 And the way that lines have been drawn in the past
15 have caused serious disparity that we have to live with the
16 consequences. We're not happy with those consequences, and
17 we sure would appreciate it if our needs were kept in mind
18 when these lines are being drawn and the new maps are
19 presented.

20 The character of Yavapai County is very different
21 from Maricopa County. The people here are very different.
22 A lot of people from Maricopa say we've had enough; we like
23 the values up there, and they've moved up to Central
24 Arizona.

25 That's about all I have to say.

1 Thank you very much for taking your role seriously.
2 We really appreciate it.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is Maria Lyam, and after
6 that is Whitney Williams.

7 And Maria Lyman submitted a map online; we're going
8 to show it on our screen.

9 MS. LYMAN: Good evening, Commissioners and staff.
10 Thank you very much for taking the time to spend with us
11 this evening.

12 My name is Maria Lyman, and it's spelled L-Y-M-A-N;
13 and I have lived in Prescott for 21 years.

14 At other hearings I noticed highways are often used
15 as dividing lines for various districts. While this is not
16 the case in our part of Yavapai County, I want to make you
17 aware of the importance of the communities on both sides of
18 Route 69, a highway that runs from I-17 west to Prescott
19 where it intersects with Route 89 that takes you north and
20 south.

21 The 69 corridor divides a number of towns:
22 Spring Valley, Mayer, Dewey-Humboldt, Prescott Valley, and a
23 large portion of Prescott before it intersects with
24 Route 89. Three of these communities make up what is known
25 as the "quad cities: Dewey-Humboldt, Prescott Valley,

1 Prescott, and the fourth town, Chino Valley that is on
2 Route 89 North. All three of the towns mentioned in one
3 city should be considered a community of interest.

4 Our healthcare system is Dignity Health, Yavapai
5 Regional Medical Center, and the Prescott VA Hospital. Our
6 major shopping centers are located on Route 69; our
7 recreational areas are off both 89 and 69 -- excuse me, 69
8 and 89 on the way to Chino Valley, and we are surrounded by
9 the Prescott National Forest.

10 We share the same workforce. The quad cities and
11 surrounding areas share a library system, our higher
12 educational institutions include Yavapai County,
13 Embry-Riddle University, and Prescott College. We have a
14 newspaper that reaches the quad cities with special
15 editions.

16 Prescott is our county seat. The county jail is
17 under construction about two and a half miles from where you
18 are seated. Formerly located in Camp Verde, the
19 transportation cost to bring prisoners to Prescott would be
20 too expensive.

21 I mention all these factors because you should know
22 that the eastern part of Yavapai County is separated by the
23 Mingus Mountain and has its own community of interest.

24 The Verde Valley and the Cottonwood-Sedona area
25 have a different economy. Their tourism (inaudible) and we

1 are agriculture. There's even a separate county
2 administration building in Cottonwood where the county
3 supervisor from that area, District 3, has her office. They
4 also have their own newspaper and radio station.

5 As you draw your maps, please take into
6 consideration that the quad cities and the western area of
7 Yavapai County are definitely not in the same community of
8 interest as the eastern part. We are big enough
9 geographically and population-wise to be in two competitive
10 districts.

11 And I thank you for your attention, and I look
12 forward to seeing the first draft maps.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Whitney Williams,
16 and after that we will throw it to our satellite sites in
17 Sedona and Congress.

18 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi. My name is Whitney Williams.
19 Thank you so much for hearing all of our voices.

20 So I'm a public school teacher in Prescott Unified
21 School District, and we only interact with the
22 Dewey-Humboldt, Chino Valley, and Prescott Valley schools.
23 And we do not go over Mingus Mountain to interact with the
24 communities on that side, and I truly believe that these
25 four areas is one community of interest.

1 Sedona is also split down the middle currently in
2 the way our districts are formulated. And that is one town
3 with one interest; it's a highly tourist visited area.

4 Also, Mingus Mountain separates those two areas,
5 and as a community member -- I was born and raised in
6 Prescott -- you don't go over Mingus Mountain unless you are
7 going for personal travel.

8 And so I truly feel that it is not zoned correctly
9 for your districts. We have different values, different
10 communities of interest, and we'd be able to better meet the
11 needs of our quad city area if we were able to have us zoned
12 together.

13 And thank you so much.

14 (Applause.)

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: You know, thank you.

16 And before we move on to additional comments, I
17 just want to make one point as we're absorbing this
18 information. You know, our -- our congressional districts
19 remain the same at nine, the legislative districts will
20 obviously remain the same; and so with population growing in
21 Arizona, legislative districts will go up.

22 So as you are speaking about wanting to carve out
23 communities of interest, please also speak if you're wanting
24 to differentiate from one area where you would like the
25 additional population growth to come from because we, you

1 know, obviously have those kind of practical limits.

2 So, with that, please.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: At this point we're going to go to
4 Valerie Neumann in our Sedona satellite location.

5 MS. NEUMANN: Good afternoon.

6 First up we have Matt Ryan, Chair from the
7 Coconino County Board of Supervisors, and then next we have
8 Joanne Keene, Deputy City Manager from the City of Sedona.

9 (Chorus of speakers.)

10 MS. NEUMANN: Can you hear me?

11 Okay. We'll start over.

12 First up we have Matt Ryan, Chair, Coconino County
13 Board of Supervisors, and next up we have Joanne Keene,
14 Deputy City Manager of the City of Sedona.

15 MR. RYAN: Thank you, Chairman and members of the
16 Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission.

17 As noted, my name is Matt Ryan; I'm the chairman of
18 Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

19 I'll note key elements of importance as we've
20 listened to our communities, we continue to listen, and
21 speak to those in a general sense. And then I will then
22 speak to a representative of Sedona area in District 3,
23 Coconino County, and the relationship to this area.

24 For Coconino County our value as far as
25 congressional district is (A) a competitive district and

1 also rural representation; it has served us well, and we'd
2 like to continue with that.

3 As far as county values, again, competitiveness.
4 Communities of interest would include regional economic
5 development, ecotourism, transportation, forestry, ranching
6 and agriculture; institutions of higher learning such as
7 Northern Arizona University and our community colleges, our
8 schools as well.

9 Rural versus urban areas of the county are very
10 important and so are our tribal nations.

11 We also still, with the reduction in the role of
12 the Voting Rights Act, still stand by the intent and the
13 tenets of the Voting Rights Act in protecting the
14 opportunity for some of our minority populations and the
15 distribution that was achieved through our legislative
16 districts. With that in mind, we support multiple
17 legislative representation; two areas has served us well,
18 and we hope to see that continue.

19 Other common areas of interest are watershed,
20 workforce, our national parks, national monuments, national
21 recreation areas; and then communities impacted by
22 emergencies, as we saw with the Rafael Fire, Schultz Flood,
23 and Schultz Fire, et cetera.

24 As far as more of specific to this area, this
25 portion of Coconino County shares a strong affinity to

1 Eastern Yavapai County, in particular the Verde Valley, with
2 Flagstaff being a commercial center in Coconino County
3 itself.

4 Sedona itself is broken up into two counties, we'd
5 like to see our cities maintain whole. However you divide
6 -- if you have to divide -- we want our cities to be
7 maintained as a whole entity.

8 We share broader natural resources with the
9 national forest being a predominant feature, which is base
10 of our ecotourism economy. We recreate above and below the
11 Rim.

12 Greenbase industry thrives not only in Sedona but
13 also in Coconino County. We share an international draw to
14 the Grand Canyon, Oak Creek Canyon, Sedona, the national
15 monuments, and dark skies both in Flagstaff and the
16 Verde Valley.

17 Many of these natural resources and wonders are
18 linked by shared corridors of commerce, primarily I-17 and
19 I-40, with arterials -- arterials such as 260 that links
20 Mogollon Rim and Coconino County 89-A connecting Oak Creek,
21 Sedona, and Flagstaff.

22 With Flagstaff and Northern Arizona being a large
23 economic engine, there are many people that commute from the
24 Verde to the Flagstaff metro area, over 6,000 workers we
25 know of, and I'm sure there are more. Flagstaff workers

1 travel from Sedona, Cottonwood, and greater Verde Valley
2 area.

3 With a strong environmental ethos in our region, we
4 share a common destiny tied to our ability to enhance our
5 forest and watershed health. The Four Forest Restoration
6 Initiative, which is a footprint that we've worked together
7 with communities within and along these corridors share an
8 important watersheds in forest; and by way of example, the
9 recent Rafael Fire started in Sycamore Canyon within
10 Yavapai County, traveled up into Coconino County, and was
11 threatening the doorstep of Flagstaff, at least in the first
12 days of that fire; many communities and geographic sites
13 along its path were endangered.

14 In sum, our region is highly interconnected.

15 In closing, we want to -- we want you to know we
16 appreciate the dedication of the IRC, the importance of your
17 role. We appreciate the opportunity to express our
18 viewpoints, and for you listening to our residents of our
19 communities.

20 Thank you, Madam Chair and IRC members.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. KEENE: Good evening. Can you hear me okay?

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes.

24 MS. KEENE: Okay.

25 Good evening. My name is Joanne Keene; I'm a

1 Deputy City Manager from the City of Sedona. I'm here to
2 read a statement from the Sedona mayor and council that was
3 approved on July 13th.

4 I would just like to take a moment to recognize two
5 of our city council members who just came here from our --
6 our meeting that just ended, Council Member Holly Plug and
7 Council Member Kathy Kinsella; they're here today.

8 (Applause.)

9 The City of Sedona values a legislative and
10 congressional redistricting outcome that first and foremost
11 keeps the City of Sedona intact and does not split the city
12 by county lines.

13 The City also values an outcome that creates a
14 district that includes both the City of Sedona and the
15 village of Oak Creek, and maintains the Verde Valley
16 communities of Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Jerome, and
17 Clarkdale, as well as the Yavapai-Apache Nation together
18 within a district.

19 Further, the City of Sedona seeks a legislative and
20 congressional district outcome that recognizes the
21 importance of aligning communities of interest.

22 The City of Sedona values placement within a
23 district with other communities that have similar common
24 interests related to economy; infrastructure -- which also
25 includes transportation and broadband; healthcare systems;

1 natural resources, which includes environmental health,
2 forest health and water resources; economic development
3 opportunities; and ecotourism.

4 Thank you for your service, and we appreciate all
5 you're doing throughout this process.

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MS. NEUMANN: Next up we have Russ Martin, Town
9 Manager of Camp Verde; Randy Taylor, Chief of Police of
10 Cottonwood; and Steve King, Superintendent of Cottonwood
11 Schools.

12 MR. MARTIN: Good evening. Russ Martin, Town
13 Manager in Camp Verde.

14 I will tell you that what you just heard sounds
15 real familiar and that ought to ring a bell with you
16 relative to how we feel about community of interest.

17 The town of Camp Verde values a legislative and
18 congressional redistricting outcome that creates a district
19 that maintains the Verde Valley communities of
20 Yavapai-Apache Nation, Sedona, Cottonwood, Jerome, and
21 Clarkdale, as well as those within the districts that are
22 outside the town boundaries, including areas like
23 Beaver Creek.

24 Further, the town seeks a legislative and
25 congressional district outcome that recognizes the

1 importance of aligning communities of interest per your
2 point tonight.

3 The town values placement within the district with
4 other communities that have similar common interest. Again,
5 very similar list as you just heard: Our economy, our
6 educational institutions such as Yavapai College and
7 Northern Arizona University; infrastructure; transportation
8 and our broadband; healthcare systems; natural resources
9 including our most precious resource, the Verde River
10 itself; ecotourism; and again our economic development
11 opportunities that we have cooperative.

12 Thank you again for listening.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. NEUMANN: My apologies. Next up is Randy
15 Taylor, the Chief of Police of Clarkdale.

16 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you very much. Thank you for
17 the work you're doing, and thank you for this opportunity.

18 I am Randy Taylor as she mentioned, and I'm from
19 the Town of Clarkdale.

20 The common council of Clarkdale approved the
21 following statement at its July 20th, 2021, meeting, and
22 request the town staff deliver the statement to the IRC both
23 verbally and in writing. They were not able to be here
24 tonight in person as they are having their regularly
25 scheduled council meeting.

1 The statement that they approved is as follows:

2 Town of Clarkdale proposed community of interest
3 regarding redistricting.

4 The Town of Clarkdale understands that in rural
5 Arizona, the best solutions are often regional solutions.
6 We urge the Independent Redistricting Commission's
7 recognition and actions toward preserving the community of
8 interest to consist of the Verde Valley municipalities of
9 Camp Verde, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Jerome, Sedona, the
10 Yavapai-Apache Nation, and the unincorporated areas and
11 communities of Eastern Yavapai County into one legislative
12 and congressional district.

13 The Town of Clarkdale believes said defined
14 communities of interest shares common values, interests and
15 outcomes including: economic growth and sustainability,
16 infrastructure, transportation and broadband, sharing in
17 expansion, healthcare systems, natural resources,
18 environmental health, forest health, water resources
19 including river and streams, and tourism.

20 And this is signed by Robin C. Prud'homme-Bauer,
21 Mayor of Clarkdale.

22 Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MR. KING: Good evening. My name is Steve King,
25 and I'm the superintendent of Cottonwood-Oak Creek School

1 District, but that's just my day job, and I was asked to
2 come and speak here tonight regarding redistricting. I
3 didn't really know this was really happening.

4 And it certainly seems to make sense and in
5 listening to the different people that have already spoken
6 up here, I appreciate the ecotourism; I heard the
7 Verde River, which is the reason why we all live in the
8 Verde Valley. I heard about the economic development; I
9 heard about the housing issues and all those issues are
10 very, very important and impact each and every one of us
11 each day that we live here.

12 However, what I didn't hear from anyone was about
13 the only issue that I really care deeply about, which is
14 education and about children. When we look at Verde Valley,
15 about 7,000 children in our schools and preschool through
16 12th grade not including community colleges, and what we've
17 seen in recent years with the students that are here are
18 limiting economic opportunities for growth and educational
19 opportunities as they move on.

20 What we've also seen is tremendous brain drain of
21 students who leave the Verde Valley looking for greener
22 pastures. Now, I moved here looking for greener pastures 20
23 years ago; I raised a family here. My girls are now older
24 and gone; it seems like it went very, very fast, doesn't it,
25 Mike? Yes. All the time. Quicker and quicker. They'll be

1 leaving as well and perhaps they might come back and
2 contribute to the community.

3 So when we consider looking what our growth is and
4 what the opportunities for our Verde Valley are, looking at
5 Sedona and Camp Verde, where I live -- I work in Cottonwood,
6 I'm the superintendent up there -- Clarkdale, Rimrock,
7 Sedona, Cornville -- can't leave out Cornville, I'd hear
8 about that for a year if I did that (laughter) -- Oak Creek
9 as well.

10 All of our communities we do share that common
11 interest and that is the children that we serve, and if we
12 look about that and keep that in the context and keep that
13 in perspective about what we do to serve those children, I
14 think that we will have a much better community and much
15 better society.

16 So thank you very much. Appreciate you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. NEUMANN: And now to Michele in Congress.

19 MS. CRANK: Madam Chair and members of the board --
20 or members of the Commission and the listening audience, my
21 name is Michele Crank, and I'm the Public Information
22 Officer for the Independent Redistricting Commission; and I
23 have three speakers.

24 The first speaker is Joanne Pierce, the second
25 speaker is Wilana Hagerman, and the third speaker is Nohl

1 Roson.

2 Joanne.

3 MS. PIERCE: Hi. My name is Joanne Pierce. I am
4 the precinct committee member captain of Wick209,
5 Wickenburg Ranch in Yavapai County; and thanks for taking
6 the time for us.

7 We retired here and in Wickenburg Ranch as a small
8 town; we came from Washington State west of Seattle, a very
9 large city.

10 The small town is a huge factor to our selection of
11 Wickenburg Ranch. The manners, the politeness, the
12 conservative beliefs and in our neighbors in our own
13 ruralness.

14 These are key to keeping us here in Wickenburg as a
15 wonderful place to live.

16 We are 90 percent like-minded; we do not desire to
17 be assimilated into the liberal people in mass cities of
18 Maricopa, Phoenix, area masses.

19 I am compelling this board to keep Wick209 in
20 Yavapai County. Will you keep us with our nearby
21 communities of Congress, Bagdad, Kirkland, Peoples Valley,
22 Skull Valley, and Yarnell.

23 We ring true to smaller towns in Yavapai versus
24 big, populated areas which serve Surprise, Sun City, Peoria,
25 Goodyear, Buckeye, and Phoenix proper; in all, Maricopa

1 County.

2 If we are forced to assimilate in Maricopa County,
3 we would clearly be a fish out of water. We have little in
4 common with large, populated, industrial-type cities. We
5 are a small town as Wickenburg goes and Wickenburg Ranch,
6 Wick209, even smaller.

7 I urge in the strongest manner possible you not re-
8 -- not to redistrict Wick209 into Maricopa County. Keep us
9 in Yavapai County with small precincts.

10 Please follow compliance with the United States
11 Constitution and the United States Voting Rights Act.

12 Thank you kindly again for the time to listen to me
13 and the opportunity to do so.

14 Again, I urge Wick209 to remain in Yavapai
15 District.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. CRANK: Nohl Roson.

19 MR. ROSON: Thank you for having this meeting. I
20 think it's really important, but I -- I'm from Wickenburg.
21 I represent the patriots of Wickenburg, and there's a lot of
22 interesting facts that were left out of this, and it's the
23 fact that Wickenburg not only is in Yavapai County but is
24 also in Maricopa County.

25 Now, I would advocate that Wickenburg be in -- all

1 in one legislative district, doesn't matter which side of
2 the line it's on, I believe that it's best if we can keep it
3 into a rural district, but we also have good commonality
4 with other rural areas that are in Maricopa County. We've
5 got rural Buckeye, there's a -- there's a portion of Buckeye
6 that is rural; there's Tonopah, they're completely rural; we
7 got Aguila, we've got Wintersburg, we've got Morrystown,
8 we've got Wittman.

9 There is a lot of common familiarities with both
10 Yavapai and Maricopa because quite a number of people that
11 are on the Maricopa side -- I'm on the Maricopa side in
12 Wickenburg; however, we are a rural community.

13 It would be best if we could keep it as a rural
14 community and all in one legislative district because then
15 people will know who is representing them. I think half the
16 people in Wickenburg, they already are familiar with who is
17 representing them on -- you know, from Maricopa County, but
18 not so much Yavapai County.

19 So really think it should be all in one legislative
20 district; and I believe we can keep CD-4 the same because
21 there's a lot of conservatives in both the Maricopa County
22 side and the Yavapai County side.

23 So if you could do that, that would be great, but
24 we would also like to consider Buckeye, Tonopah,
25 Wintersburg, Aguila, those types of areas that are still in

1 the rural -- they're still a part of the rural communities.
2 I don't see it on the map as much, but that's what I think
3 would be best for Wickenburg.

4 It doesn't matter which legislative district you
5 put us in, put us all in one legislative district and one
6 congressional district.

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. CRANK: Madam Chair, members of the Commission
10 and listening audience, those are the only two speakers I
11 have.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 The next speaker will be Mandy Worth who is Vice
15 Mayor of the Town of Jerome, and Maria Elena Dunn.

16 MS. WORTH: Good evening, Madam Chair, members of
17 the Commission. My name is Mandy Worth, and I'm the current
18 vice mayor for the Town of Jerome.

19 After discussion in open meeting with time for
20 public comment, our council has prepared an official
21 statement, which I will now read.

22 Currently all Verde Valley municipalities as well
23 as the Yavapai-Apache Nation and the east portion of
24 Yavapai County are in the same legislative district but not
25 the same congressional district.

1 Our rural area works cooperatively on several
2 levels, including but not limited to public safety, shared
3 educational services, economic development, transportation,
4 and environmental issues. Additionally, we use our regional
5 voice to advocate at both the state and federal levels.

6 Therefore, the Jerome Town Council as
7 representative of the constituents of the Town of Jerome and
8 will full understanding that we do not have a population
9 size to have our own district and are part of the larger
10 whole, requests an outcome that will not only retain
11 Verde Valley as being part of the same legislative district,
12 but also the congressional districts to be inclusive.

13 The Jerome Town Council appreciates the
14 Commission's work on this project and opportunity to make a
15 statement tonight.

16 Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Maria Elena Dunn,
19 and after that we have Julie Pindzola.

20 MS. DUNN: Good evening, Madam Chair,
21 Vice Chair Watchman, Commissioner Lerner.

22 My name is Maria Elena Dunn, M-A-R-I-A, capital E,
23 -L-E-N-A, Dunn, D-U, double N.

24 I am a resident of Prescott, a member of the Latin-
25 -- the Latino community, but here tonight I am representing

1 myself.

2 I appreciate the opportunity to -- that the
3 Commission is giving us and your interest in our concerns.
4 I am a regular IRC meeting watcher and as such care deeply
5 about the outcome of this process.

6 I am glad to live in a state which has an
7 independent commission and trust that the final product will
8 show that we can be an example to emulate.

9 But let me tell you about my community. I call the
10 Prescott area urban, semirural. Completely different from
11 what you have been hearing.

12 I do have a map, I was really terrible with
13 technology, so it's really not very good, but I tried.

14 As you may be aware, CD-4 map as presently drawn is
15 one of the oddest outline maps in Arizona.

16 This is what we look like.

17 You can see that there are many counties involved
18 and it goes from one end of the state to another.

19 While compared to Maricopa we could be considered
20 rural, in fact, the quad city area, which others have
21 defined which includes Prescott, Prescott Valley,
22 Chino Valley and Dewey-Humboldt, encompasses cities and
23 towns that are more urban and is populated by a demographic
24 which is far from rural.

25 While we are diverse in backgrounds, places of

1 origin, et cetera, our commonality is our interest, much of
2 that is centered around outdoors and the environment; but
3 it's also our economic ties, even where we shop, and how
4 intrinsically tied our lives are because of transportation
5 corridors, medical facilities, and recreation areas.

6 As it was pointed out in the IRC meeting earlier
7 today, yes, we do have a Latino population, but we are
8 disbursed around the quad city area. While one could say
9 that we represent a community of interest, in reality we
10 have much the same concerns and interact in our area much
11 the same way as anyone else.

12 Today what I emphasize is that our community has no
13 common cause or interest with the current outer boundaries
14 of CD-4 -- and I did not deal with LD-1 in any way -- such
15 as the area west of us around the Verde Valley River, even
16 that's with the area south near Yuma or those north and east
17 of the Valley.

18 When delineating both our CD and LD maps, we
19 strongly encourage the Commissioners to look at natural
20 geographic as well as manmade features to ensure among other
21 key factors that boundaries are drawn in a way that allows
22 for easy intrajurisdictional packages. But perhaps because of
23 our expansive CD configuration, our current congressman very
24 rarely comes our way.

25 This time please bring us together rationally.

1 The Chair just asked about what we would suggest if
2 we're going to be taking away, where do we get it. We think
3 that we have grown so significantly that maybe we can be
4 carved in a different way that does not affect the numbers,
5 but -- you know, in a way that we are suggesting. So we
6 will see.

7 We're all aware of the onus that lies ahead of you
8 and wish every one of you luck and perseverance. As you
9 know, we look forward to the data, to the first draft of the
10 map, followed by further in-person public input, and a fair,
11 competitive and litigation-free final product.

12 (Laughing.)

13 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Amen.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. DUNN: Thank you for giving us the opportunity
16 to voice our concern and explain our communities.

17 Good night. Safe travels.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Julie Pindzola;
20 after that is James Stein.

21 MS. PINDZOLA: Hi. Welcome. So glad to have you
22 and thank you for making yourself available to hear our
23 input.

24 I am Julie Pindzola, P-I-N-D-Z-O-L-A, I have to
25 spell it often; I'm a 26-year resident here in Prescott,

1 half of that was spent as a city planner for City of
2 Prescott, and spent a good chunk of time in the private
3 sector business manager, raised my family here, so I have
4 pretty good strong ties to the area and a bit of a
5 practitioner's approach.

6 I believe we all want fair and competitive
7 districts as Prop 106 sets out. Barring that, as you know,
8 there's a lot of criteria in the way. We do want at least a
9 very fair and competitive state of Arizona.

10 Most important for us here in LD-1 and CD-4 is the
11 uniqueness of Central Yavapai County compared to our eastern
12 side of Yavapai County known as the Verde Valley. The Black
13 Hills and Mingus Mountain create a barrier that is -- is
14 friction in terms of travel time. It's -- it's a lovely
15 barrier, it defines -- defines us each and it divides us,
16 but in a really beautiful way; it's a very collegial
17 distinction between Central Yavapai County and Eastern
18 Yavapai County/ Verde Valley. This is where the district
19 boundary is drawn today, along that crest of the mountain,
20 And it makes very good sense, and we'd like to see it
21 retained.

22 On the west side, we use the quad cities as you've
23 heard of Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, and
24 Dewey-Humboldt as our centers for shopping, jobs,
25 recreation, and healthcare. Our primary highways are 69 and

1 89, and they are overseen by the Central Yavapai
2 metropolitan -- sorry, metropolitan planning organization,
3 CYPO. And CYPO plans the transportation solutions for this
4 side of the mountain, recognizing what is unique to our area
5 and distinct from the Verde Valley.

6 Most unique to our central part of the county is
7 the Prescott Active Management Area known as the Prescott
8 AMA. We were described by the Arizona Department of Water
9 Resources in the early '90s due to the fact that we have
10 been mining ground water.

11 This distinction and declaration has really defined
12 our land development and water allocation ability, our
13 policies, and our infrastructure. There is a lot of study
14 and scrutiny put to water allocation as well as water
15 treatment and especially grand water recharge, so that we
16 can maintain our sustainability for future generations.

17 These water policies and infrastructure are unique
18 to our part of the county. Prescott AMA is on the west side
19 of Mingus Mountain.

20 So we ask that you retain that distinction.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is James Stein, followed by
24 Vivian Perry.

25 MR. STEIN: Good evening, Commissioners. My name

1 is James Stein, S-T-E-I-N; and I reside in Prescott. I've
2 been a small business owner for 35 years or so.

3 Thank you for allowing the citizens to have input
4 to this very important redistricting process.

5 I recall years ago that my cousin from out of state
6 commented favorably on our independent redistricting to
7 create districts for the state. It did give me a sense of
8 pride that others recognized that Arizona was doing
9 something forward-thinking.

10 I would like to emphasize that the community which
11 needs to be considered as a region is generally that of the
12 Prescott area quad cities. This includes Chino Valley,
13 Prescott, Dewey-Humboldt and Mayer and on down 69 corridor.

14 I see this both in my business and in private
15 aspects of my life. There are most services and materials
16 from my business are sourced within the quad cities first
17 and then from -- from Phoenix area. I have very little
18 interaction -- business interaction with the Verde Valley.

19 Also, with regard to education, Yavapai College
20 with campuses in Chino Valley, C-TEC, and the Prescott
21 campus along with Embry-Riddle and Prescott College provide
22 residents with a wide variety of educational opportunities.

23 I would hope that the Commission would make every
24 effort to produce maps which represent the area we live in
25 so we can all feel proud that your state has fair

1 representation.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker is Vivian Perry
5 followed by Marlene Barrington.

6 MS. PERRY: I'm Vivian Perry; I live in Mayer,
7 Arizona.

8 And we've been talking about the quad city
9 conservation, and I would like to include Mayer as part of
10 that. We have been talking about Prescott, Prescott Valley,
11 Chino Valley, Dewey-Humboldt. Mayer is just south of the
12 Dewey-Humboldt town and Mayer does all the things that we've
13 been talking about: They shop, they use the medical
14 services, the joint JTEC, joint technical education that
15 links the schools in this -- in this conurbation, the
16 library system, and the outreach services that are provided
17 by those in need are all things that Mayer participates in
18 in the quad city area.

19 So when you're drawing lines, we need to include
20 Mayer in that because otherwise there is a large division of
21 no place to access those services until you're nearly in
22 Phoenix.

23 So, I think that Mayer shares the same interests
24 as -- that we've been talking about for the quad cities, and
25 it makes no sense to in any way separate these communities

1 which are a geographically cohesive unit.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is Marlene Barrington,
5 followed by Ryan Judy; and after that we'll throw it back to
6 our Sedona site.

7 MS. BARRINGTON: My name is Marlene Barrington; I
8 live in the Prescott Country Club about five miles south of
9 Prescott Valley. I moved here 11 years ago from the state
10 of Washington.

11 It is important for you to know that our community
12 here in Yavapai County is filled with veterans who have
13 retired here close to our fine VA hospital in Prescott. The
14 Bob Stump VA Medical Center in Prescott, Arizona, is located
15 at the site of Fort Whipple, a base for the U.S. Cavalry
16 after the Civil War. It later become headquarters for the
17 Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War.

18 As a member of the Dewey-Humboldt American Legion
19 Auxiliary, it is important for you to know that
20 Yavapai County has eight or more Legion posts supported by
21 the veterans; we are in Black Canyon City, Yarnell,
22 Dewey-Humboldt, Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley,
23 Cornville, and Cottonwood.

24 Our VA hospital draws veterans to our area, and we
25 are blessed to have healthcare and education to support our

1 workforce as it continues to grow.

2 We are served, though, by our quad city area; no
3 changes geographically are required at this time.

4 Thank you for listening.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is Ryan Judy; and we'll
7 send it over to our satellite site.

8 MR. JUDY: Madam Chair, Commissioners, thank you
9 for the opportunity to comment. I will be brief, I won't
10 say anything you haven't heard already.

11 We prefer three things -- I'm representing the Town
12 of Prescott Valley so we prefer that you keep the quad
13 cities together, Mayer can be our "plus one," we invite them
14 to join us as well. Two, we would like to really be part of
15 a rural district, and as you're looking to add members to
16 our joint district for population that you look to greater
17 Arizona first before you dip into what we call the "great
18 state of Maricopa."

19 (Laughing.)

20 And, three --

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hey, be careful, I'm from
22 Maricopa here.

23 (Laughing.)

24 PUBLIC SPEAKER: That's all right. That's okay.

25 And, three, historically Prescott has always been

1 to my understanding in LD-1, so please keep us number one
2 when you're in looking at numbering.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. NEUMANN: First up we have Ann Kelly, followed
5 by Cindy Farmer, and Joseph Farmer.

6 MS. KELLY: Good evening. My name is Ann Kelly.

7 I moved to Sedona five years ago to retire in this
8 beautiful rural small town. I'm not alone; 52 percent of
9 the Sedona residents are over 55 years old.

10 Sedona has limited business and services so
11 residents have to head to the Verde Valley. It provides our
12 shopping, medical services, including our hospital; we're
13 also heavily dependent upon Verde Valley contractors for
14 home repairs.

15 Two to three million tourists come to this area
16 annually. The Verde Valley takes the brunt of the tourist
17 traffic coming to Sedona, along with the fact that 74
18 percent of the people that work in Sedona commute from the
19 Verde Valley. There's also a shortage of affordable housing
20 impacting that workforce.

21 So in response our city council is working closely
22 with the Verde Valley to manage traffic, improve transit,
23 and expand affordable housing.

24 The national forest that we share is impacted by
25 damaging ATVs. This issue is being worked with the Yavapai

1 Board of Supervisors, our state senator, and state
2 representative. This only works because they all support
3 the entire Verde Valley.

4 Currently at the federal level Sedona and village
5 of Oak Creek are in CD-1 and the rest of the Verde Valley is
6 in CD-4. I hope that can be remedied with this
7 redistricting effort; we need the same congressman to care
8 about the entire Verde Valley, not one little corner of it.

9 Thank you, Commissioner Chair Neuberg and the
10 Independent Redistricting Commission members for collecting
11 comments from our community. I greatly appreciate your
12 commitment to delivering a quality product for Arizona.

13 So no matter what district we end up in, please
14 keep the Verde Valley together.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. FARMER: Hello. Which one? Hello?

18 Hi. Good evening. I had "good afternoon," but I
19 had to change that.

20 But it is well worth it, and I just want to say my
21 name is Cindy Farmer; I live in the Verde Valley. I am a
22 former Phoenix police officer, teacher, and rancher.

23 I want to say a big thank you to your redistricting
24 commission and for your time and consideration of our very
25 important petitions presented here today.

1 We have -- excuse me.

2 We here in rural Arizona do not have common
3 interests with a big city like Phoenix. I strongly implore
4 you not to combine our rural Verde Valley, Sedona, and
5 Prescott communities with Phoenix or other large
6 municipalities.

7 We do not have the same common interest or needs
8 and, thus, we must have representatives that clearly
9 understand and promote our conservative concerns and
10 interests.

11 Please remember my earnest and vital community
12 request here as you draw the new redistricting lines. Our
13 rural towns need to be accurately represented according to
14 the laws of our -- Arizona Constitution and our common
15 interests.

16 Thank you so much.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. FARMER: Good evening, Madam Chair, members of
19 the Commission. My name is Joe Farmer. My wife Cindy and I
20 are lifelong Arizona residents. We're now living in the
21 Verde Valley.

22 I retired in 2004 after 14 years as a state drug
23 gang and violent crime control manager for the Arizona
24 Criminal Justice Commission, so I know exactly the things
25 that you're dealing with. It's -- in my opinion you have

1 demonstrated a willingness to undertake the responsibility
2 for making critically important decisions impacting
3 thousands of people statewide with different sometimes
4 opposing needs and agendas. It will be a difficult and
5 challenging task.

6 Each year I did what you're doing now, visiting
7 with and listening to the myriad of federal, state, and
8 local officials, residents in all 15 Arizona counties, thus
9 able to clearly identify and consider their varying areas of
10 common community interests and concerns in recommending the
11 allocation of up to 13 and a half million dollars in federal
12 grants. And we did that every year; you're just doing it
13 once, but it's still a very demanding task.

14 We in Central Arizona and rural Arizona concern for
15 mandates and restrictions on water availability, the usage,
16 the agriculture -- including many small farms and
17 wineries -- cattle ranches, protection of our forests, our
18 recreational lands and natural resources, unchecked
19 development by major corporations and others turning rural
20 lands into large residential and business operations, and so
21 forth.

22 Many of the required criteria for establishing
23 legislative and congressional district boundaries include
24 the phrase "to the extent practicable."

25 As this Commission develops its interpretation of

1 this phrase as it relates to each criterion, it's my
2 sincere, earnest request that the information gleaned from
3 these hearings will be very helpful in strongly clarifying
4 and focusing on identifying communities of interest and how
5 important it is to place them within legislative and
6 congressional districts from which their elected officials
7 can adequately address their commonly held interest and
8 concerns.

9 Thank you for consideration and, again, for the
10 difficult challenging and hopefully very rewarding work
11 you're doing for all Arizonans.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. NEUMANN: Our next speakers are Mike Schroeder,
15 Andrea Kadar, and Robin Brigman.

16 MR. SCHROEDER: My name is Mike Schroeder, and I'm
17 a resident of Sedona.

18 Thank you, Commissioners, for your -- your
19 tremendous work in this very complex project. I want to
20 express my appreciation for your monumental effort in
21 managing the Arizona redistricting process. I can only
22 imagine the challenges you face.

23 Fortunately, the Arizona State Constitution lays
24 out the process in detail.

25 I became a permanent voting resident in Arizona

1 several years ago. Although I have lived here for almost
2 18 years, this is the first time I have ever resided in a
3 rural area. As compared to the density and the population
4 of my home state of Indiana where I was a resident in
5 Indianapolis, the areas down here are vast.

6 I have been actively -- or active politically and
7 the toll it takes on candidates to do their job in LD-6 and
8 CD-1 are substantial. I'd hope that using the guidelines
9 provided that our districts can be formatted to a more
10 reasonable size and still meet the population requirements.

11 I find it somewhat frustrating around the country
12 that many districts have been structured to give advantage
13 to one philosophy or another, so what many citizens end up
14 with is having little to say on a subject that they may
15 agree or disagree on.

16 I find that to be more of an issue when living in a
17 rural district versus a major metropolitan center like
18 Phoenix.

19 The representative government term really means a
20 lot when you live in a rural area. The ultimate balance
21 should be the ability of the voter to make a difference and
22 support the candidate that they want and have a fair chance
23 of winning.

24 I think one of the biggest challenges sometimes is
25 to get qualified candidates to even run. If a political

1 candidate that may be a terrific -- may be terrific to the
2 state does not see any path to victory no matter how hard
3 they work, the public loses the opportunity in many cases to
4 even hear good policy decisions from qualified people.

5 Through your efforts, if you can balance our
6 districts not only in size but political makeup, then you
7 give all sides a better opportunity and in the long run the
8 best candidate from any party will be elected.

9 It is clear how important your job is and that you
10 are taking it as seriously as you are.

11 Fair-minded people of all persuasions just want the
12 opportunity to have a choice as who will represent them.
13 The only way to do that is to have balanced districts.

14 Thank you for your time and effort.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. KADAR: Madam Chair Neuberg and Commissioners,
17 I'm Andrea Kadar from village of Oak Creek. I thank you for
18 your good sportsmanship. Thank you for coming up and seeing
19 us and following the constitution to create communities of
20 interest; we really appreciate your time and your effort.

21 As respects Congressional District 1 -- I know
22 we've talked about this before but I'm going to paint you a
23 little picture. It's my opinion that sparsely inhabited
24 Northern Arizona and highly populated Southern Arizona
25 cities have little in common. In fact, if you think about

1 our congressman, he has to literally drive from Window Rock
2 to Oro Valley to meet with his voters; and so those two
3 communities are very different constituents with very
4 different needs.

5 And on a smaller scale, I feel strongly that
6 Yavapai County, more specifically the Verde Valley and
7 Prescott should be together as a community of interest.

8 It's my opinion that those of us in Eastern
9 Yavapai County have little in common with large Arizona
10 cities; and, in fact, as a VOC resident, I live in a little
11 sliver of CD-1 with very little in common with Pima and
12 Maricopa.

13 So, again, as a village resident, our community of
14 interest should include much of Yavapai County, if not the
15 Verde Valley, Sedona, and Prescott solely.

16 For example, let me paint you another little
17 picture. All of Cottonwood where we shop and meet and dine
18 is just 15 miles from this college location, it's CD-4, and,
19 yet, Uptown Sedona which is only five miles from here is
20 CD-1, and that seems to many of us incongruous.

21 So we Sedonans, Village of Oak Creek, Prescott
22 residents, Verde Valley residents, and perhaps even
23 Yavapai County, we have more in common with each other than
24 we do with the folks in Flagstaff, the Native American
25 communities, and highly populated southern counties although

1 we certainly wish them well.

2 (Laughter.)

3 So, we Sedonans -- we Sedona VOC residents support
4 vendors within our close-knit community. We utilize medical
5 facilities that are in Cottonwood and Prescott. We
6 volunteer, we worship, we're concerned about very specific
7 issues like Verde Valley's booming tourism, Verde Valley
8 real estate development, and the safety and efficacy of our
9 national forest.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, we are rural. So we are
11 natural resources focused, ranching, water, federal land
12 management, and power focused. I believe those facts speak
13 specifically to our being a community of interest.

14 Thank you for your kind consideration and hard
15 work.

16 Welcome to Northern Arizona.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. NEUMANN: Robin Brigman had to leave, so we'll
19 call up Janet Anderson and then Bob Porter; and then we'll
20 hand it back over to Prescott.

21 MS. ANDERSON: Good evening. My name is Janet
22 Anderson, with O-N, and my husband and I live in Camp Verde.

23 Thank you Chair- -- Chairwoman Neuberg, we really
24 appreciate the opportunity to speak today and thank you for
25 undertaking the important and challenging work of

1 redistricting our legislative and congressional districts in
2 a fair and thoughtful manner, and for reaching out in this
3 public meeting to seek our input for this daunting task.

4 I grew up in a large farm in rural Michigan, but
5 after a 38-year career in education -- much of it spent in
6 the greater Phoenix area and other metropolitan areas, I was
7 anxious to return to my rural roots.

8 My husband and I found the perfect rural setting
9 here in the Verde Valley alongside the Verde River. The
10 Verde and its many tributaries wind through our Valley and
11 influence the communities making water issues, including
12 irrigation, of great concern to the Verde Valley communities
13 as well to Prescott.

14 Our lives and activities including social life,
15 shopping, healthcare, hiking, kayaking, and volunteering
16 take place in the Verde Valley and often in the Prescott
17 area as well.

18 Although, we know there's six factors, all of which
19 are of great importance in the redistricting process, the
20 one regarding communities of interest is at the top of my
21 list.

22 The common interests of the Verde Valley and our
23 close neighbor Prescott are many. Prescott is our county
24 seat and we are periodically called on to do jury -- jury
25 duty in Prescott, and we also have our county jail presently

1 in Camp Verde.

2 The rural lifestyle, including agriculture,
3 tourism, education, water use, and law enforcement are
4 things that we all share in common. As a retired educator,
5 I'm very concerned that we need more opportunities in the
6 Verde Valley and reach out to Prescott to help provide those
7 opportunities for our state -- our students here in the
8 Verde Valley, which we find often lacking in opportunities
9 for educational -- in the educational realm.

10 Another feature that I think is often overlooked,
11 I'm a volunteer at the Verde Valley Archeology Center, the
12 whole Verde Valley is a wonderful archaeological
13 environment. We have so much in the way of archeological
14 sites, and our center focuses on both the ancient cultures
15 and many of the archeological sites throughout the
16 Verde Valley, even extending into the Prescott area which
17 shares common interest in the archeology of the region.

18 The redistricting that took place in 2010 left
19 us -- from the 2010 census, left us with districts extending
20 hundreds of miles apart that failed to keep communities of
21 interest intact. How can citizens be well represented when
22 their representatives have to cover such vast areas from one
23 end of the state to the other and address such various
24 regional interest and issues?

25 Please take into consideration these rural

1 communities of interest as you draw those lines that will
2 impact our communities for the next ten years.

3 Thank you for your hard work.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. KADAR: Good evening. I'm Dwight Kadar. First
6 of all, I would like to say I've got a tough act to follow
7 with my wife, so please indulge me.

8 First of all, I would like to express my sincere
9 appreciate to you, Madam Chair, and to the Commission for
10 your tireless work to redraw Arizona's legislative and
11 congressional district lines.

12 I know there are a set of citizens that believe
13 that these in-person sessions are a waste of time; I don't.
14 And I want to thank you on behalf of all the citizens here
15 for traveling to rural Arizona to hear from us.

16 After retiring, my wife and I choose to relocate to
17 Sedona in 2011. So this is our first opportunity to
18 actually participate in the redistricting process. We lived
19 in Houston, Texas, and worked there for 35 years. Sedona,
20 Arizona, won over from Asheville, North Carolina, and Austin,
21 Texas. Why?

22 Because Sedona is a small, rural community with
23 great weather, lots of sunshine, and beautiful red rock
24 views.

25 So why have I chose to speak to you today. One of

1 the criteria you must consider when drawing districts is
2 that the districts are nearly very equal in population.
3 Previous maps that were drawn ten years ago, the population
4 varied more than 10 percent from one district to another.

5 Additional criteria that you must consider are the
6 federal Voting Rights Act, district shape, geographic
7 features, respect for communities of interest which we've
8 been talking about, and potential competitiveness.

9 In drawing the final lines please adhere to all six
10 criteria as described in the Arizona Constitution.

11 Currently we live in Legislative District 6, which
12 includes residents living in four of Arizona's 15 counties,
13 and in Congressional District 1, which includes residents in
14 11 of Arizona's 15 counties, including the counties of
15 Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal.

16 Our Congressmen must travel over 200 miles in
17 Congressional District 1 from Sedona to Marana; yet, only
18 15 miles from here is Cottonwood which is in Congressional
19 District 4.

20 In Legislative District 6 our legislators must
21 travel more than 170 miles between Sedona and Show Low,
22 while Prescott which is in Legislative District 1 is
23 hundreds of -- it's a hundred miles and 90 minutes closer.

24 As prescribed in the Arizona Constitution,
25 districts should be compact to accurately represent

1 communities of interest who live and work together.

2 That criteria clearly was not followed ten years
3 ago.

4 The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
5 will redraw the final legislative and congressional
6 districting lines in a few months, and we Arizonans will
7 live with the IRC's decision for the next ten years.

8 We respectfully request that you faithfully adhere
9 to the Arizona Constitution and place communities of
10 interest near the top of your criteria list.

11 Thank you very much.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. NEUMANN: Back to Prescott.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Val. Our next speaker
15 is Stan Goligoski and then Phil Goode.

16 MR. GOLIGOSKI: Good evening, Commissioner Chair
17 Neuberg and members of the Independent Redistricting
18 Commission.

19 My name is Stan Goligoski. My family has lived
20 here in Prescott for over 40 years, and my wife's family has
21 lived here since Arizona's statehood back in 1912. This is
22 where we have chosen to raise our children as well.

23 After graduating from Prescott High School, I
24 served on active duty for the next 21 years in the United
25 States Army. As a company commander in Afghanistan, our

1 main mission was provide support, security, and governance
2 over 17 villages in the Parwan and Kapisa provinces. After
3 leaning the complicated environment over there, it became
4 obvious that boundaries and governments needed to be set
5 according to the various spheres of influence from one area
6 to the next.

7 When I was assigned to the United States Military
8 Academy at West Point to teach counterinsurgency to the
9 cadets, I would tell them the basic building block and
10 support the community comes down to is being a good
11 neighbor.

12 Currently I'm working as the Executive Director for
13 the county schools where I quickly learned how applicable my
14 time as company commander overseas was aligned with the
15 rural environment of Yavapai County and our adjacent
16 counties in Arizona.

17 Since schools are a significant community anchor
18 institution, I have worked with every single community in
19 this county as well as every county school administrator and
20 staff on many different projects such as consolidating
21 services for school nurses, counselors, substitute teachers,
22 maintenance, IT services, delivering high-speed broadband to
23 over 74 schools and libraries throughout Yavapai County.
24 None of this could have been accomplished without the
25 various communities coming together to tackle common issues

1 like finding common ground areas where neighbors are more
2 willing to help out each other.

3 So I urge you as you listen to everyone that's
4 speaking here tonight and as you gather more information,
5 please base your boundary decisions primarily on where the
6 local population gain the most of their influence and not
7 just on the geographical location of a certain city or town.

8 Consider how the citizens of Black Canyon City
9 align more with the population of the cities -- or the
10 citizens of Mayer or Camp Verde, or how all of Sedona,
11 Rimrock, Cornville, and Camp Verde as well as Oak Creek are
12 incorporated into the Verde Valley; or how Aguila and
13 Wikieup are more supported by towns in Yavapai County than
14 they are in Mojave and Maricopa County.

15 Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Phil Goode
18 followed by Arlene Rheinfelder.

19 MR. GOODE: Thank you, Chairman, and thank you for
20 the Commission to come up to Prescott and hear our
21 community's concerns.

22 I'm the current city councilman for the City of
23 Prescott. I'm also a past elected director for the Central
24 Yavapai Hospital District including virtually the entire
25 Yavapai County; I'm currently the secretary/treasurer for

1 the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization which
2 is very focused on transportation issues, and I also
3 represent the quad cities on the Arizona League's Budget
4 Finance and Economic Development Committee.

5 So I've taken a very broad look at the communities
6 of interest and also the boundaries that we've had to deal
7 with since the last redistricting happened in 2010.

8 Clearly, I think we have heard that our communities
9 of interest are pretty well-defined. We have rural issues
10 that are drastically different than the urban issues that
11 have been included in some of our districts like areas of
12 Anthem in LD-1.

13 But our biggest challenge I think is the fact that
14 we have such a vast area to cover in order to have balanced
15 population numbers and that makes not only LD-1 but also
16 CD-4 such a huge challenge. The areas of CD-4 that are in
17 southern part of the state have drastically and
18 significantly different concerns than we have up here in
19 Northern Arizona. And I think that -- that probably has not
20 been discussed as much as our concerns about having a common
21 LD-1 representation, and I think that's really important
22 because we have problems with being able to provide services
23 throughout CD-4 when we're considering the fact that we have
24 very little private property that generates revenue through
25 taxes that makes for our community.

1 We have to rely on payment in lieu of taxes that's
2 supposed to come from the U.S. Congress that is a rarely
3 adequate to be able to deal with our transportation
4 challenges.

5 So by redrawing CD-4 lines and getting more of that
6 representation north, then we would be able to rely on our
7 congressional representatives to make sure that we have
8 transportation revenue to deal with a broad number of roads
9 and things that we need to have.

10 So I would hope that you would take into
11 consideration when drawing your lines and appreciate the
12 opportunity to present -- and speak with you today.

13 Thank you.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Arlene
16 Rheinfelder followed by Patrick Kuykendall.

17 MS. RHEINFELDER: Good evening. My name is Arlene
18 Rheinfelder.

19 Thank you for your service to the voters of our
20 great state. As you consider where to draw the lines,
21 please put communities of interest at the top of your list
22 of factors.

23 I'm a native of Arizona. 27 years ago I chose to
24 move to the rural community of Cordes Lake. Cordes Lake is
25 located at the junction of Highway 69, the road to Prescott,

1 and I-17, the road to Flagstaff. Most folks from Phoenix
2 metro area know of Cordes Junction as a place to stop for
3 gas on the way to Flagstaff or Prescott.

4 Cordes Lakes is a rural, unincorporated area where
5 young members of the Future Farmers of America and 4-H clubs
6 raise farm animals for sale. Our community is surrounded by
7 ranch land and Agua Fria National Monument.

8 Cordes Lake is part of a greater community of
9 interest which is primarily rural is what you heard us
10 called as the quad city area.

11 Residents of Cordes Lake attend school, shop, work,
12 and even share library and fire resources with the greater
13 community of interest.

14 Our local fire district, Mayer Fire Department, has
15 mutually agreed to be the Central Arizona Fire and Medical
16 Authority called CAFMA, which covers the quad cities. This
17 alliance was particularly important recently when a mobile
18 home caught fire in Cordes Lake before the rain started.
19 Resources from CAFMA assisted Mayer Fire in battling the
20 fire which threatened the town because of extreme drought
21 and wind. Although one home was lost and some of the
22 surrounding vacant lots, the firefighters prevented the fire
23 from spreading to any other homes.

24 Students from Cordes Lake have the option of
25 attending school in Prescott Valley or Prescott. Humboldt

1 School District sends a school bus to Cordes Lake to pick up
2 students who are attending school in Prescott Valley or
3 Dewey-Humboldt. This cooperative agreement is extremely
4 helpful to parents who prefer the greater opportunities
5 afforded by a larger school district.

6 Our local high school students have the opportunity
7 of dual enrollment at Yavapai College, in the joint
8 technical education district. This allows the student to
9 graduate high school and earn a college certificate in many
10 different programs of study.

11 Those of us who live in Cordes Lake are part of a
12 larger quad city community of interest; that is where we
13 work, play, shop, attend church, and school.

14 When drawing the lines, please understand that
15 Cordes Lake has more in common with Prescott as a community
16 of interest than it does with any of the Phoenix metro area,
17 including Anthem.

18 With all due respect to the Maricopa County
19 Commissioners, we do not want to be in a congressional
20 district or legislative district with Maricopa County.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is Patrick Kuykendall and
24 then Patty Parkins.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And let me -- that was so

1 helpful because actually as we're listening about the quad
2 cities, we actually do have a question about
3 Cordes Junction, Cordes Lake, and whether or not it moves
4 that far east if I have my geography correct.

5 So thank you, and if there's additional comments as
6 it relates to those areas, we welcome that.

7 Please.

8 MR. KUYKENDALL: Good evening, Madam Chair and
9 Commissioners. Thanks for the opportunity to speak this
10 evening.

11 I'm Patrick Kuykendall, a true native of Prescott,
12 Arizona, being born here in what as known as Yavapai
13 Regional Medical Center in 1965. My father, Marlin
14 Kuykendall moved here in 1959 and stayed steadfast until he
15 passed in January of this year. Our family has planted deep
16 roots here in Prescott and Yavapai County, and I am proud to
17 call this home.

18 Over six decades our family has owned many
19 businesses in Prescott and Yavapai County and employed many
20 residents in the area. Currently I work for the state of
21 Arizona as a state veterans workforce manager, and I also
22 volunteer at the Arizona Army Reserve Ambassador and the
23 Vice Chair of the Arizona Employers Support of the Guard and
24 Reserve.

25 I am honored to have served my country in the

1 United States Army and also in the Arizona National Guard,
2 22 years in uniform.

3 In LD-1 we have one National Guard armory which has
4 an infantry attachment with our National Guard men and women
5 coming in from across Arizona to do their weekend drill.

6 The national Guard has dual missions which includes
7 federal if called upon by the President of the United States
8 and State service if called upon by the Governor.

9 I understand that redistricting would not influence
10 the mission of our local unit; however, it does enhance our
11 ability to recruit and help our local employers find good
12 quality employees and give an employees an opportunity to
13 serve their country by serving in the Guard and Reserves.

14 I personally ask that you consider having Yavapai
15 to be one legislative district and keep Maricopa aligned
16 with the urban areas, keeping rural Arizona rural and
17 allowing our elected officials the opportunity to focus on
18 rural living and maintaining and preserving our historic
19 heritage and our quality of life.

20 As a native rural Arizonan, I ask you to take your
21 time and truly consider all denomination factors as you make
22 this decision.

23 I chose to live in rural Arizona, Yavapai County,
24 and the great City of Prescott because I love it here; we
25 are so blessed.

1 Thanks to each of you for your selfless service and
2 all you do in making Arizona the greatest state in the
3 United States of America.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Patty Parkin,
7 and then we will go back to our Sedona location.

8 It doesn't look like Patty Parkin is present so,
9 Val, if you want to take it over there.

10 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you.

11 First up we have Bob Porter, Marlene Macek, and
12 then Ashley Cohen.

13 MR. PORTER: Good evening. I thought -- I'll be
14 brief 'cause I thought I only had two minutes and also I'm
15 humbled by everyone else who is better prepared than I am.

16 Commissioner and members of the Independent
17 Redistricting Committee, thank you for your time, thank you
18 for listening to our opinions and our -- this evening as you
19 proceed with the challenging task of redrawing the Arizona
20 legislative and congressional districts.

21 My name is Robert Porter; I've lived in Sedona for
22 more than 20 years. It's the home of my heart for me and my
23 late wife. I'm originally a native of Washington, D.C., but
24 I've lived in the Southwest since 1980.

25 I've lived in Scottsdale, Arizona; we've lived in

1 Palm Springs and Orange County, California, and Henderson,
2 Nevada; so we have a preference for the Southwest. And we
3 were very intentional in selecting Sedona as our home
4 because it's a small town because it's rural. It's -- the
5 population here remained relatively constant at about 10,000
6 since we've bought our home more than 20 years ago. It is
7 rural; it's peaceful, and we would like to keep it that way.

8 As we've watched this, I've learned more about
9 Sedona and how it relates to the Verde Valley with
10 Cottonwood, Cornville, Camp Verde, and Jerome, and the
11 commonality of interest that we have with Prescott and
12 Prescott Valley, and I believe that those are the
13 communities of interest that should be considered as you're
14 redrawing these lines.

15 The thing that the -- well, I'll echo the same
16 theme as a lot of other people: We would prefer not to be
17 part of the Phoenix and Maricopa County metroplex. We want
18 to keep our small town and rural flavor if you will.

19 Thank you for taking the time.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. MACEK: Good evening.

22 Good evening. My name is Marlene Macek, and I live
23 in the village of Oak Creek, one of the unincorporated
24 communities in the Verde Valley.

25 I'm here today to give information about my

1 community of interest. I respectfully request that the
2 Commission keep the Verde Valley communities together with
3 Prescott.

4 There are ten communities that the U.S. Census
5 Bureau recognizes as within the Verde Valley; there are five
6 incorporated, four unincorporated, and the Yavapai-Apache
7 Nation.

8 One of the things I learned early on about living
9 in rural communities is that our strength comes from the
10 combined efforts with other communities to accomplish a
11 common goal.

12 We have many shared values and concerns, including
13 the preservation of small town character and our natural
14 environment; and nothing unites us quicker than a land-use
15 issue that involves high-density development or a
16 large-scale hotel. Land-use matters are not limited to
17 community boundaries; they have a regional impact touching
18 on transportation, traffic, fire safety, water use, schools,
19 economic development, sustainability and culture.

20 El Rojo Grande and a new hotel in the village of
21 Oak Creek were some of the Verde Valley's combined efforts.
22 They prompted the organization of the Verde Valley Region
23 Town Hall Forum in November of 2019. I participated in this
24 event which emphasized making collaborative decisions for
25 land-use planning and decision-making.

1 Finally, our connection with Prescott I feel is
2 stronger than Flagstaff for the following reasons.

3 Prescott is the center of Yavapai County
4 government. There are four unincorporated communities in
5 the Verde Valley including the village of Oak Creek, and
6 42 -- 42.2 percent of the population in the village of
7 Oak Creek is over 65 years old. In Sedona that percentage
8 is 42.6. In Flagstaff the percentage population over
9 65 years is only 8.4 percent. That is a huge difference.

10 In Prescott that percentage is more reasonable,
11 it's 37.3 percent.

12 It makes sense to keep the village of Oak Creek
13 with the Verde Valley communities and with Prescott.

14 I thank you for your time.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. COHEN: Hello. Thank you for your service to
17 the residents of Arizona, we greatly appreciate it.

18 My name is Ashley Cohen, and I'm a new resident of
19 Sedona and the village of Oak Creek at Cathedral Rock, and I
20 am here out of concern for the last redistricting boundaries
21 have not been in compliance with three of the six state
22 constitutional requirements.

23 I am a small business owner and -- in that same
24 location and run a permanent cosmetic arts studio, newly
25 located after ten years of serving in Seattle and Washington

1 State.

2 Although there appears to be three violations, my
3 greatest concern is that Sedona was cut off from the
4 community with which it's most reasonably aligned, which is
5 Prescott and Verde Valley. We chose rural life by moving
6 our residence and business to Sedona, which has challenges
7 of its own. We need to solve our unique challenges to
8 sustainable growth while maintaining the treasure of our
9 national wonders, farmland, and natural habitats with
10 like-minded communities that share similar value systems.

11 I don't to wish to continue to being in competition
12 with the value of Flagstaff and Maricopa and not being
13 adequately represented as a citizen.

14 Furthermore, the last redistricting resulted
15 imbalances [sic] as large as 12 percent, which could be
16 mitigated with rational, lawful represented district
17 boundaries.

18 Please don't continue to include Sedona in the
19 legislative district with Flagstaff and Maricopa. In
20 addition to the lack of community of interest, I never go
21 there. If I need to go -- if I need medical services or
22 shopping, I go to Cottonwood; on supplies and business
23 marketing, I go to Prescott.

24 I've already formed some business partners in
25 Cottonwood, Cornville, and Prescott, but I don't know anyone

1 in Flagstaff or Maricopa.

2 Perhaps Flagstaff should be its own district since
3 the gerrymandering squeezed through a narrow path only to
4 bulge out into a southern region which is not compact
5 consuming Sedona and the Flagstaff district just to falling
6 short of being compact is unfair and unreasonable.

7 Please follow the Arizona Constitution when you are
8 drawing districts this time.

9 I thank you for your time and appreciate the
10 opportunity for my voice to be heard.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. NEUMANN: Next up we have Ellen Ferreira,
13 Charlotte Hosseini, and Ernie Strauch.

14 MS. FERREIRA: Hi. I'm Ellen Ferreira; I'm a
15 seven-year resident of Sedona. I love living here, and I
16 love our community.

17 Community of interest is another word for saying
18 "bubble," and we live in a wonderful bubble, and we have so
19 much in common with our near neighbors.

20 When we need our knees and hips replaced, we go to
21 Flagstaff for the Northern Arizona healthcare; when we need
22 our cataract surgery, we go to Cottonwood for our
23 Northern Arizona Healthcare; if we need to see the
24 Milky Way, we go to the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff; if
25 we need to hear the symphony we go the Flagstaff; if we need

1 to take visitors for a nice day shopping or a ghost tour, we
2 go to Jerome; if we want to lose money we go to Cliff Castle
3 Casino, which is on the Yavapai-Apache Nation; if we need to
4 get wet, we go to the Verde River or the Oak Creek; when we
5 need to sit on a motorcycle or a horse, we go to Cottonwood
6 because they have the Rolling Thunder Festival every year;
7 when we need red dirt all over our shoes and our cars, we
8 stay home and hike in Sedona; when we need a really good ear
9 of corn, we go to Hauser's in Camp Verde.

10 We don't drive to Phoenix and we don't drive to
11 Prescott, and if we do drive to Prescott we say "road trip,"
12 because it's three hours to Prescott and it's a big day.
13 It's -- it's three hours driving.

14 (Laughing.)

15 I'm hoping that's a delay.

16 I just want to impress upon you that we -- we are
17 one with our near neighbors, we cherish and value the rural
18 nature of our area and the relationships that we have with
19 our near neighbors, especially Flagstaff which is so
20 instrumental in our day-to-day lives.

21 We tend to stay in our bubble, and it makes sense
22 for LD-6 and CD-1 -- whatever you want to call them as we
23 draw the maps -- to stay together.

24 Thank you so much for your time and for -- for
25 listening to us.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. HOSSEINI: Good evening, Commissioners.

3 I hope I'm speaking into the right mic here.

4 My name is Charlotte Hosseini, and I'm a retiree of
5 Arizona state government, and I've resided here in Sedona
6 for over six years full-time and part-time for ten years.

7 Thank you for holding these listening tours around
8 the state. I imagine what you're hearing will vary
9 considerably, it is going to hear -- vary tonight. And I
10 hope what you gather from the data and what you hear will
11 enable you to come up with fair maps and competitive
12 districts, which is the goal we all have.

13 I have to say that when this last redistricting
14 process took place, I was living and working in Phoenix and
15 I observed it in a different way than I do now from a
16 semirural part of the state, where the capital is far away,
17 and we may seem a bit off the beaten track.

18 But we're not off the beaten track, and that's what
19 I would like to make you aware of.

20 We're a tourist destination, known by Phoenicians
21 for day trips, and we're well-known nationally and
22 internationally as well.

23 We have over three million visitors a year in
24 Sedona, some of whom were visitors to the Grand Canyon, and
25 many pass through Oak Creek Canyon and Sedona either coming

1 or going. Our whole Verde Valley region is what I would
2 call a community of interest, as other towns around Sedona
3 -- and I mean the village of Oak Creek, Cottonwood,
4 Daysprings, Clarkdale, Camp Verde, and up to Flagstaff --
5 are developing their own tourism industries including
6 wineries, outdoor recreation and kayaking on the Verde River
7 in Oak Creek, hiking, of course, historical train rides.
8 There's even a kayaking and wine tasting tour.

9 You get the picture: We're connected in our
10 tourism.

11 Sedona is very big on citizen engagement, and I've
12 served for several years on various city budget and finance
13 committees, and I think I can say I have a pretty good idea
14 of Sedona's priorities and issues.

15 The Verde Valley and Flagstaff suffer from some of
16 the same problems we do, especially those that are
17 consequences of tourism such as lack of affordable housing
18 for workers and transportation issues.

19 The solution to these issues is not easy, but the
20 good news is is that we're working on them regionally so as
21 not to just push the problem from one jurisdiction to
22 another. For example, Sedona contracted for a housing study
23 and then amended it to cover the entire Verde Valley because
24 the issue of availability and affordability is regional.
25 Now, Cottonwood and Sedona are teaming up to share a housing

1 manager who can work on increasing the availability of
2 workforce housing in this wider area.

3 We have a Verde shuttle bus system that's paid for
4 by Cottonwood and Sedona, that ferries workers back and
5 forth to jobs in both cities.

6 Our economies are knitted together and workers
7 commute within the Verde Valley just like Glendale and
8 Surprise resident may work in Phoenix or vice versa, or
9 Phoenix residents may work in Scottsdale. Flagstaff
10 residents live there and come to work in Sedona and vice
11 versa.

12 People in Camp Verde, Rimrock, Lake Montezuma and
13 Beaver Creek work all over the Verde Valley.

14 I-17 is not a barrier for us. The service areas
15 for our contractors, electricians, contractors, and
16 repairman are Flagstaff and the entire Verde Valley. Our
17 local farmers rotate around and sell in farmers markets in
18 Cottonwood, Flagstaff, Sedona, and Camp Verde. We do things
19 regionally.

20 And that's what I would like to leave you with.
21 The Verde Valley and Flagstaff is one community of interest,
22 and although we reach across two counties which has its
23 issues, we would like to be able to continue working on our
24 regional issues within the same legislative district and
25 same congressional district, whatever those turn out to be.

1 Thanks for listening.

2 (Applause.)

3 MR. STRAUCH: Commissioners, I am Ernie Strauch,
4 S-T-R-A-U-C-H, and I have a map I submitted last night.

5 I'm a 24-year resident of what used to be called
6 the Chapel area, now called "Airbnb central" in Sedona.

7 Since arriving in Sedona, I've served four years on
8 the Sedona City Council, one as vice mayor, vice chair of
9 Sedona Sustainability Commission, and president of Keep
10 Sedona Beautiful; I've also served on both Coconino and
11 Yavapai County Transportation Committees and numerous
12 nonprofit boards and commissions.

13 Today I will address two issues which are
14 incorporated into every entity with which I have been
15 affiliated.

16 First and most important, the Verde Valley
17 communities belong together within the same legislative and
18 congressional district. There's no artificial line that can
19 be drawn dividing the Valley that makes any sense to the
20 Verde Valley.

21 Why? We share too many common enterprises and
22 living/working conditions. In IRC language, that is
23 importantly called a community of interest.

24 We share transportation challenges with tourism,
25 medical care provision and access, workforce housing you've

1 just heard about, transportation, location, costs and
2 availability of workforce; we also share locally integrated
3 economic decision-making, public transit managers, housing
4 administrators, as well as routine environmental
5 interfacing. All of our Valley concerns are integrated; we
6 will sink or swim together.

7 Whether our issue involves arts and culture, retail
8 shopping, water supply and usage, forest help, wild fire
9 danger or recreation, the Verde Valley deserves political
10 representation that considers us all a single, strong, and
11 vital community of interest.

12 The second request I have is shorter, and it
13 involves population equalization and compact geographical
14 consideration.

15 Mingus Mountain to the southwest is a very serious
16 barrier to transportation, creating greater distance and
17 slower speed of travel than appears obvious on a flat
18 two-dimensional map. We have little interaction and share
19 few commonalities with residents to the south and west of
20 Mingus Mountain.

21 In contrast, the access to the Flagstaff area is
22 both faster, shorter, and contains more direct integration
23 of the Valley's arts, shopping, water, forest, and
24 recreational opportunities.

25 In conclusion, we respectfully request that the

1 Verde Valley communities remain an integral unit within LD-6
2 and CD-1, and that we remain contiguous to and part of the
3 greater Flagstaff community of interest.

4 Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MS. NEUMANN: Next up we have Karen Strauch, Connie
7 Levinson, and Jeannine Reno; and then we will go back over
8 to Prescott.

9 MS. STRAUCH: Good evening. I'm Karen Strauch, and
10 my husband and I have been residents of Sedona for 24 years.

11 I echo everyone else who has spoken in thanking the
12 Commissioners for listening to us and many of our varied
13 views here.

14 We know that your objective is to draw fair maps.
15 In order for you to do that, the most important point for
16 you to know is that the Verde Valley must remain whole in
17 both legislative and congressional districts.

18 We are a city filled with the natural beauty of red
19 rocks, the Coconino National Forest, and regionally the
20 Verde River, and Verde Valley. Our values naturally are
21 based on environmentalism and preserving that beauty. Those
22 values closely align with the city and area of Flagstaff.

23 The geographic barrier of Mingus Mountain separates
24 us from Prescott with which we have no community of
25 interest.

1 Sedona and our economy is based on tourism.
2 However, the majority of our workforce is not able to live
3 here. We have very limited workforce housing, and it's been
4 the objective of our city council to provide more. Still,
5 there is a constant stream of cars coming into Sedona from
6 other areas of the Verde Valley and Flagstaff, and at other
7 times leaving Sedona and going back to the Verde Valley and
8 Flagstaff. They're not coming from Prescott because of the
9 drive over Mingus Mountain.

10 The median age of Sedona according to our community
11 plan is 56 years of age, so healthcare is an important issue
12 to our residents. The hospital system that most of us use
13 is Northern Arizona Healthcare and the physicians and other
14 healthcare workers have offices in Flagstaff, Sedona, and
15 other areas of the Verde Valley.

16 There is daily traffic between these areas. There
17 is not that amount of traffic over Mingus Mountain for the
18 longer drive to Prescott.

19 Please give strong consideration to maintaining the
20 integrity of Sedona, the Verde Valley and Flagstaff as a
21 considerable community of interest.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. LEVINSON: Good evening, everyone.

25 Which one works?

1 Okay. My name is Connie Levinson, L-E-V, as in
2 Victor, -I-N-S-O-N; I have lived in this area for 20 years.

3 It's going to be very, very difficult for me not to
4 repeat what some of the preceding speakers have pointed out.
5 We are so closely integrated with both the Verde Valley and
6 Flagstaff, it's almost impossible to describe the extent to
7 which we interact.

8 Our police officers interact, our fire people
9 interact. When we had an incident at the high school,
10 police representatives from every community in the area
11 showed up within 15 minutes.

12 I only know people who go to Prescott for the
13 purpose of visiting Costco and Trader Joe's. I have to be
14 honest, I don't know very many people who willingly take
15 that drive for scenic events. The last time I got stuck on
16 69, it took two hours just to go 15 miles.

17 And I don't know how Ellen makes it in three hours;
18 it usually takes me four.

19 (Laughing.)

20 But the truth is, the Verde Valley and Flagstaff
21 are so closely related, it is almost impossible to separate
22 from our daily routine which of these cities we will be
23 visiting.

24 Yes, we are an elderly and aging population, and we
25 need specialists. We have primary care physicians here, but

1 for Northern Arizona Healthcare and some of the private
2 groups we need to go to Flagstaff for most medical things
3 and Cottonwood when it's available.

4 Mingus Mountain in many ways is literally a giant
5 obstacle. Personally I was taken very, very ill two years
6 ago, if I had to go through Mingus, I would not be standing
7 here now; I would not have made it to Prescott. But the
8 excellent care at VVMC made me better very quickly.

9 We need specialists; they are not here. And as
10 others have pointed out, the shopping that is available in
11 our town is basically tourist orientated; but if you want to
12 buy some clothing that doesn't come in an Amazon package and
13 maybe you'd like to try it on first, you need to go find a
14 department store, and we don't have any. And aside from
15 that, do we really want to have to travel to the Valley just
16 to buy a car or get a car serviced when there are dealers in
17 Cottonwood and many in Flagstaff with beautiful new
18 dealerships, a 14-plex Harkins and all kinds of other things
19 that we use constantly.

20 So I would implore you as many have to consider the
21 entire Verde Valley and Flagstaff as one unit both in terms
22 of congressional district and legislative district.

23 I'm sure you've gotten the point that we all would
24 rather prefer [sic] that our congressional districts, be it
25 1 or 4, come close to reaching the Mexican border and run

1 through Maricopa County with which we have very little in
2 common.

3 CD-1 ends 70 miles north of the Mexican border. We
4 have very little in common with that geographic area, but
5 much in common with the cities we visit regularly.

6 So I beg you, implore you, hope that you will take
7 this into account, but I think Prescott really does not fit
8 with the Verde Valley and Flagstaff in terms of community of
9 interest or practicality.

10 Thank you all very much for creating this event and
11 the IRC.

12 Good luck.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. RENO: Hello. My name is Jeannine Reno; I'm a
15 five-year resident of the village of Oak Creek in Sedona.

16 I am retired. I was a retail store manager for
17 30 years before coming here, and I've worked three years
18 part-time in Sedona with stores that cater to our tourism
19 base.

20 I agree with many of the other speakers that
21 Verde Valley needs to stay together, but I also feel that
22 the problems that we have as a base for tourism extend
23 through Flagstaff and we need consistent representation in
24 our state congress, senators, and with our federal
25 congressman. We have 4,800 short-term rentals from Camp

1 Verde to the south side of the Grand Canyon, and it is a
2 community problem.

3 There are a lot of benefits of living in this area,
4 the stunning beauty and all the amenities that we share
5 because of tourism are a blessing. But we have
6 over-tourism, a big impact on our national forests, and we
7 have those in common with Flagstaff and Sedona, the Coconino
8 National Forest.

9 We are bound by Mingus Mountain to the left that is
10 Prescott National Forest. No one that I know goes to
11 Prescott except to go to Trader Joe's and Costco. We go to
12 no community events in Prescott.

13 Our healthcare is Northern Arizona Healthcare with
14 hospitals in Flagstaff, Cottonwood, and Sedona.

15 While I was working in retail in Sedona, I met
16 people from all over the world and most of their journeys at
17 least -- almost half of them -- not only visit Sedona, they
18 continue up through Oak Creek Canyon, Flagstaff, and to the
19 jewel of Arizona, the Grand Canyon.

20 So I ask that you keep this community together so
21 we can solve our problems and be successful together and
22 have fair and equal representation.

23 Thank you so much for volunteering your time to
24 help us redistrict our community.

25 (Applause.)

1 MS. NEUMANN: Back to you, Prescott.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is -- I believe
3 it's Laga Mace, L-A-G-A, Mace; and then Harry Oberg, and
4 after that is Larry Mead.

5 Oh. I'm sorry. L.G. Mace. Sorry.

6 MR. MACE: First of all, thanks for coming up.

7 I'm happy to see as many people show up. Ten years
8 ago I think the largest group I saw was 40.

9 My name is L.G. Mace; I live in Clear Creek
10 (phonetic), in Yavapai County.

11 We need for Yavapai County to be completely in
12 whatever LD and CD. We have common interests, regardless of
13 what the people in Sedona seem to think.

14 Personally I don't think it takes three hours to
15 get down here; I've driven that route a number of times.

16 What I really want to say, though, is that we need
17 to have Yavapai as a single unit. It's got in common
18 interest, we have a common sheriff, we have a common Board
19 of Supervisors, we have a common election board.

20 So I'll restrain the rest of my comments because
21 basically I would like to say: No part of Maricopa County.

22 Last time when they gave us 13 precincts in
23 Maricopa County as part of LD-1, they immediately stated
24 they did not want to have anything to do with Yavapai. They
25 wanted to run their own little show, and that's fine; let

1 them do that. We don't want them as part -- as part of any
2 district with Yavapai County in it.

3 Thank you.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Next is Harry Oberg and then Larry
6 Mead.

7 MR. OBERG: Good evening. I want to thank
8 Madam Chair and Commissioners for visiting our county. I
9 hope our testimony tonight will give you insights into our
10 desires and concerns.

11 My name is Harry Oberg, and I live in Prescott. I
12 was raised in Prescott and served 33 years in the military;
13 I'm a former mayor of Prescott and currently a supervisor in
14 Yavapai County.

15 There are two very important areas of interest and
16 concern that I will address this evening.

17 First, I would ask that the Commission connect the
18 splintering -- correct the splintering of our county under
19 the current LD/CD configuration; and, secondly, I would ask
20 the Commission to recognize and give considerable way to our
21 western heritage and rural ranching way of life when
22 establishing new LD/CD numbers.

23 Please allow me to explain.

24 Currently our county is split between CD-4 and CD-1
25 and LD-1 and LD-6. This arrangement fragments and dilutes

1 our communities of interest, local issues, and legislative
2 and congressional representation. This can be correct by
3 ensuring all of Yavapai County is in one LD; and when
4 creating the new CD, Yavapai County should not be splintered
5 and rather joined in its entirety with other rural counties
6 that share our western spirit, our culture, and our common
7 interest.

8 Prior to the last IRC redistricting, Yavapai County
9 was honored with the designation of CD-1. There was good
10 reason for this as Prescott was twice the territorial
11 capitol of our state. I would ask that the Commission
12 recognize this unique history and restore our designation of
13 CD-1.

14 Secondly, our western heritage is a major community
15 of interest in Yavapai County. We cherish and want to
16 sustain our western roots of cattle ranching, mining,
17 agriculture, forestry, rodeo competitions that define and
18 represent our way of life.

19 We celebrate our western traditions each year with
20 the world's oldest rodeo continuously held since 1888,
21 Prescott Frontier Days, Yavapai County Fair, the Turquoise
22 Circuit Rodeo, and the Western Heritage Center. These are
23 all huge attractions for local and national cowboys, rural
24 residents, and tourists from around the nation and the
25 world.

1 Our residents from former urban areas tell us that
2 they moved to Yavapai County to experience a rural and small
3 town atmosphere. We want to sustain this rural lifestyle
4 and are extremely concerned about our water and increasing
5 demand for water by Metro Phoenix.

6 The Verde River is one of Arizona's last wild and
7 scenic rivers and is a significant source of water for
8 Phoenix. Yet, this water is vital to our county's ranching,
9 agriculture, mining interest, and is under great stress.

10 In drawing the new CD maps, our county should be
11 joined intact with other rural counties that appreciate the
12 need to protect and sustain our water resource.

13 In closing I ensure you that the citizens of the
14 county want our historic western lifestyle to remain and not
15 to be splintered as in previous redistricting. So I ask
16 that you seriously consider recognizing the entire county
17 and our communities of interest in LD-1 and CD-1; we would
18 preserve -- this would preserve our unique history and
19 recognize the role of our citizens.

20 Thanks very much and safe travels.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Larry Meads and
23 Robin Savada.

24 MR. MEADS: Hello, Madam Chair and other
25 Commissioners. Welcome to our part of the world. This is

1 Prescott.

2 I moved here eight years ago; we retired from
3 Texas, and this is my first opportunity to be involved in a
4 process like this because Texas doesn't do it this way.

5 Nevertheless, let's see, do we -- do you just take
6 our comments? Can you answer any questions at all? Is
7 there -- the only question I had was, I saw something about
8 this HaystaqDNA and National Demographics Corporation, is
9 that still something to comment on?

10 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: No. So our mapping team is
11 Timmons/NDC, and so you must be looking at maybe old
12 information when we were making mapping determinations.

13 MR. MEAD: Okay. Not surprised.

14 Okay. Thank you. I'm still catching up --

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: That's okay.

16 MR. MEAD: -- and I'm learning a lot; it's been
17 very interesting to hear these comments. And mostly we're
18 -- there's a some agreement, few little areas of
19 disagreement.

20 I bet the folks in that little corner of Maricopa
21 County are wondering: What the heck are we doing in Yavapai
22 County? Because that's how we feel, you know. They
23 probably ought to be back with those folks down there
24 instead of wondering what -- why are they with us.

25 Nevertheless, I have some cryptic notes that I want

1 to look through and I look forward to doing a map.

2 I don't know if it would be practical for just
3 Yavapai County to be CD-1 and LD-1 at the same time
4 population-wise. If so, well, it's worth considering.

5 From my perspective having been here eight years
6 and my wife and I have hiked all around this county,
7 we've -- there are hundreds of miles of hiking trails here,
8 which are wonderful, so we've gotten kind of the lay of the
9 land that way.

10 Certainly, Mingus Mountain to our east is a natural
11 barrier between us and Jerome and Verde Valley and -- and
12 Flagstaff. And seems from my perspective that Flagstaff and
13 Oak Creek and Sedona, they -- they kind of go together with
14 the Verde Valley string of towns on I-17, whereas west of
15 Mingus Mountain would be Prescott and Prescott Valley. We
16 call them the quad cities but, you know, there's Star Valley
17 and there's Mayer, Crown King, and Paulden.

18 So all these rural communities to me seems to fit
19 with Prescott; and I think the Flagstaff and Verde Valley
20 has their own character that fits well on that side of the
21 mountain.

22 I hope you'll all be reading transcripts of this as
23 opposed to just listening to us and trying to remember all
24 these things. I presume you are.

25 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And taking data, too. We're

1 tracking everything.

2 MR. MEADS: It's wonderful, isn't it? Technology
3 these days.

4 Let me see. I want to make sure I haven't
5 missed -- oh. This is very important, I think.

6 The population is growing quite rapidly here in the
7 Prescott area. There are thousands of homes being built
8 right now, and we have tens of thousands of homes on the
9 horizon in some of the communities that have been annexed
10 and approved in the Prescott area or Prescott Valley or
11 Prescott Valley has grown so much that it has a larger
12 population than Prescott now, so we're kind of neck and
13 neck, but both are growing immensely.

14 I think I've got my notes squared away for now, and
15 I look forward to getting further into this process.

16 Thank you again for showing up and giving us this
17 opportunity.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is Robin Sobotta, and after
21 that is Rosalee Darby.

22 MS. SOBOTTA: Good afternoon -- I should say good
23 evening -- Madam Chair.

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: It's evening now.

25 MS. SOBOTTA: I'm Robin Sobotta, former Aerospace

1 and Defense Commissioner for State of Arizona and currently
2 the airport director for Prescott Regional Airport.

3 Currently Prescott Regional Airport is the 25th
4 busiest airport in the country, due largely to defensive
5 flight training in support of the air transportation
6 industry, the military, and U.S. Forest Service.

7 We host the Prescott Fire Center at Prescott
8 Regional Airport and provide regional air services and
9 resources for forest fire management. We also host United
10 Express which provides daily commercial jet service from
11 Prescott to Denver and Prescott to Los Angeles, and hundreds
12 of connecting destinations through those hubs.

13 This has benefitted more than 55,000 total
14 passengers in 2019 alone. Within five years we anticipate
15 exceeding over 100,000 total passengers per year at this
16 valued regional transportation resource.

17 As a more rural community, Prescott and other
18 nearby cities have unique transportation needs versus those
19 in larger urban settings. It is hopeful that these rural
20 transportation needs will be considered in this
21 redistricting process.

22 Our community of interest with regard to this
23 regional transportation resource is those individuals within
24 a 60-minute drive time, generally within 50 miles of the
25 Prescott Regional Airport -- that's round miles. This

1 centers on Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Dewey,
2 Mayer, Humboldt; it does extend out to the Verde Valley,
3 throughout the Yavapai County, and includes Cottonwood and
4 as far north as Ash Fork but certainly is Yavapai County
5 area.

6 If this process results in combining rural
7 communities with dramatically higher population in urban
8 regions, transportation decisions will likely tip towards
9 those with urban voices and could jeopardize our ability to
10 continue to provide the best transportation services and
11 infrastructure options most appropriate for the community
12 members that we serve.

13 Before three years ago most of our citizens had
14 little choice in air travel but to traverse down the
15 unpredictable and, frankly, the most fourth most dangerous
16 freeway corridor in the United States, that's Flagstaff to
17 Prescott, the I-17 corridor; they had to do that to access
18 Sky Harbor International Airport. But with the support of
19 our legislators and many others, the airport and air service
20 has dramatically improved and evolved and now greatly
21 benefits now what will be hundreds of thousands of
22 individuals within the community and the region each year.
23 Legislators can encourage local transportation investment,
24 or they can advocate for that investment to be made
25 elsewhere.

1 We're hopeful that the redistricting effort will
2 allow our district to be reasonably compact and contiguous
3 and respect communities of interest such as the one I just
4 defined to the extent practical as suggested by the
5 redistricting guidelines and allow our rural needs to be
6 heard.

7 Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next speaker is
10 Rosalee Darby followed by Mayor John Hughes.

11 MS. DARBY: Good evening, Madam Chair.

12 My name is Rosalee Darby and Yavapai County is
13 where I live and I'm here to represent us as a county.

14 Our county is a fragmented county already. The
15 Verde Valley holds their own (inaudible). They have their
16 own school areas, and they hold all their functions
17 separately from where we are (inaudible). Our county is
18 built on agriculture, ranching, mining, and everything else.

19 It began in 1913 as the Northern Arizona State Fair
20 right here in Prescott, and we have fragmented as a county,
21 and we need to bring it back together and be under one
22 legislative district so we can have the support, the
23 agriculture and the things (inaudible).

24 It's not about the shopping, and it's not about all
25 of that, it's about the rural areas that are out there for

1 the ranching families and the other things where people move
2 in and they don't respect the fact that those cattle belong
3 there, that those chickens crow at night. They have a
4 purpose; and that's what will feed us and keep us going on
5 (inaudible).

6 Without our ranching families and without our
7 agriculture, we has a community and as an existence of
8 people cannot sustain.

9 Yavapai County needs to be together, and with a
10 legislature that can support us in the agricultural sense
11 from the mining and everything aspect of that, and I hope
12 that you can bring that there and realize that we as a
13 county do have a common interests. It doesn't matter if
14 you're in the Verde Valley or if you're on this side of
15 great wall of Mingus Mountain; it is one county. And it is
16 not a treacherous thing and that we need to come together as
17 a county and celebrate that as began all the way back in
18 1913.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Mayor John
22 Hughes and after that is Kelly Boryca.

23 MAYOR HUGHES: Thank you, Madam Chair and
24 Commissioners.

25 I am the mayor of Dewey-Humboldt, and I'm

1 representing myself as a fourth-generation rancher for
2 Yavapai County.

3 Shirt tail off of Harry's comments, they were to
4 the point to the "T."

5 Yavapai County should be LD-1, CD-1.

6 And just want to let you know that we are the last
7 incorporated town before you hit Maricopa County, so I would
8 include Mayer, Cordes Junction, all of that in line with
9 Black Canyon City. We don't leave them out, we are the quad
10 city area, but we have the surrounding areas that are rural.

11 My definition of "rural rural rural" is, is we have
12 urban rural, which we can just leave to the big cities; my
13 definition of "rural rural rural" is when you're rural, you
14 don't get delivered food service. Rural is you just now in
15 the last five or six years got (inaudible).

16 So Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino, Dewey, we're
17 still rural, okay.

18 So that's it, and I just thank you for letting us
19 have the opportunity.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Kelly Boryca and then Frances
22 Lechner.

23 There's not Kelly or Frances. We have Barry Denton
24 next.

25 And then after that is Michael Allenwood --

1 Allegood, I'm sorry.

2 William Hamilton.

3 And the last card I have is -- oh. I'm sorry, two
4 more speakers.

5 After that is Lucy Mason and James Steven.

6 Lucy Mason is first and then James Steven.

7 MS. MASON: Thank you, Chairman, so much for
8 trekking up here to do this -- this hearing. It's really
9 important as you can hear. I was listening to all of these
10 impassioned talks about who we are, and I hope this really
11 does give you representation of what we want to see.

12 I am -- I refer to myself often as the former Lucy
13 Mason because I was on Prescott City Council, and then I
14 served in the legislature for eight years. So I'm a former
15 legislator.

16 But in that service, I was honored, honestly, to
17 serve the entire rural area up here in LD-1 and -- excuse
18 me, catching my breath.

19 This communities of interest are extremely
20 important up here as you can see and as you heard; I won't
21 belabor the point, you've heard it many, many times. But I
22 did want to make that one point and that is from
23 Cordes Junction I-17 to where Highway 69 picks up, that is a
24 natural growth corridor, and we're seeing that with the
25 various cities that are beginning to pop up.

1 And the quad cities, a name actually doesn't really
2 apply any more because I -- I actually like to refer to it
3 as the central highlands, this is -- it really kind of
4 defines who we are in this mountainous area here. And --
5 and providing the natural corridor, rural corridor all the
6 way through to Williamson Valley right through Prescott,
7 Prescott Valley, through Coyote Springs, and there's a lot
8 of communities that are coming that are going to be growing,
9 including Chino Valley and, you know, all the -- all the
10 names.

11 But it's important that you understand that we keep
12 the rural -- I think the rural opportunities here. We've
13 got people that are moving here from various other states,
14 my family moved to Arizona in 1868 -- no, I'm not that old.
15 We -- but we've got a long history of growth here in Arizona
16 and watching how the growth is happening, and it's important
17 to me to see that our legislators are able to -- to
18 represent us without having to represent Maricopa County as
19 well.

20 And we've seen that this last ten years, it's been
21 very, very difficult on our legislators.

22 So I think that's all I want to have to say.

23 I do appreciate you coming up again and request,
24 please keep our rural communities together. Yavapai County
25 needs to be a cohesive district.

1 Thank you so much.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. VAN HAREN: And our last speaker of the night
4 is James Steven.

5 MR. STEVEN: Thank you, Madam Chair, for taking the
6 time and letting me bring up the train as is the case.

7 This is my first exposure to this process. I guess
8 I should officially say my names is James Steven, and I live
9 in Prescott.

10 Listen -- I (inaudible) attention way back there as
11 I came in late about all the criteria that you have to
12 consider in coming up with your maps.

13 I heard so many people talk about compact size,
14 community of interest, and more importantly not part of
15 Maricopa County. I heard we also have to have state
16 legislative districts and U.S. congressional districts have
17 differing but approximately the same number of people so
18 that we have to spread out some of the districts that are
19 drawn.

20 We have 30 legislative districts where I think
21 possibly because of the growth and the changes, that
22 communities of interest and compact size can perhaps be
23 adjusted in the coming deliberations that your committee
24 will have.

25 I think that will be far more difficult with the

1 nine congressional districts because just the population
2 numbers as I think of them make that very difficult to
3 achieve. We have 7.2 million people in Arizona
4 approximately and we have four and a half to five million
5 people that live in Maricopa County, and we've got another
6 million or so folks that live down in the Pima area, so that
7 leaves with about 1.7 million to divvy up on compact
8 districts, which I don't see how that works for U.S.
9 congressional districts.

10 I think they're going to be a lot bigger than many
11 of us might hope. I would hope that on the state districts
12 we can do that.

13 So in addition, I -- I've looked at the past IRC
14 district decisions and we've [sic] created two to three, in
15 my opinion, safe districts. I don't know why that was done,
16 but clearly when you see the election results every year,
17 there are two or three districts in this state that are
18 totally safe; they have no competition to speak of.

19 So I guess my real issue is I believe that at least
20 for the U.S. congressional districts, they should be made to
21 be competitive.

22 All voters should be heard; all voters should be
23 allowed to feel like they participate and have a voice in
24 the outcomes.

25 Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. There's still eight
3 speakers left in Sedona, so we are going to send it over
4 back to our Sedona room.

5 MS. NEUMANN: Thank you.

6 First up we have Dr. Jean Barton followed, by Roni
7 Jelm, and Dennis Dunphy.

8 DR. BARTON: My name is Jean Barton and I'm a
9 retired pediatrician, educator, and administrator.

10 I moved to Sedona about six years ago, first
11 visited as a tourist ten years ago, and I strongly feel that
12 as a pediatrician that the health of the community and the
13 Verde Valley depends on education and basic healthcare.

14 And in retirement we -- Sedona started in 2012 the
15 Children's Literacy Program that began in Sedona, the
16 village of Oak Creek; soon thereafter we lost population,
17 and even more so since we've had Airbnbs; and in 2016, we
18 were able to expand to the whole Verde Valley.

19 It became very clear that we are economically,
20 educationally dependent on each other. Sedona for the
21 workforce and amenities over in Cottonwood and the rest of
22 the Verde Valley, and to some extent the jobs that are
23 available for -- in Sedona.

24 The no-brainer for me is to have Sedona all -- in
25 all one district combined with the Verde Valley. Between

1 education, healthcare, transportation, recreation we share
2 much in common.

3 As to our relationship with Prescott versus
4 Flagstaff, as we were developing our kids' book program,
5 which by the way serves 2,000 children under 5 for books, we
6 worked with both Prescott and Flagstaff, and I will say that
7 the Foundation of Northern Arizona Healthcare was
8 instrumental in being able to expand to the entire
9 Verde Valley.

10 I have found it very interesting to hear that
11 Prescott considers the Verde Valley sort of second-class
12 citizens and not a place that they would like to attend.

13 And as far as recreation, I tend to head up to
14 cooler areas in the summer.

15 Having said that, I would encourage again to keep
16 the Verde Valley including Sedona as all one area of
17 interest. I would prefer to see it aligned with the
18 Flagstaff because of our issues with regard to tourism.

19 Thank you.

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. JELM: Hello. My name is Roni Jelm; I live in
22 Sedona and I've lived here for 32 years.

23 This is the second redistricting that I'm aware of
24 since I'm living here, and I think it's a wonderful thing
25 that we have this opportunity.

1 I'm going to keep it very short.

2 I'd like to advocate that all of Sedona, which also
3 includes the village of Oak Creek, the towns of the
4 Verde Valley, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Clarkdale, Jerome,
5 Cornville, Lake Montezuma, and Rimrock be in one district
6 along with Flagstaff.

7 This is a contiguous region with mutual issues and
8 interests.

9 All these cities and towns have a lot in common and
10 cooperate together in the areas of commerce, medical
11 systems, transportation, its workforce, outdoor recreation,
12 and education.

13 I do not advocate that Prescott be included in this
14 area. It is not convenient to travel there as opposed to
15 our contiguous region, Flagstaff is much easier to get to.

16 I recently purchased a car, I did purchase it in
17 Prescott because they had the color that I wanted, and after
18 going there for having my car serviced two times, I said,
19 that's it, it's too long, it's too far to travel, and I now
20 take my car up to Flagstaff; it's a lot more convenient.

21 I rarely go to Prescott and would much rather stay
22 here in the Verde Valley and do my shopping in Flagstaff.

23 Thank you for your consideration.

24 (Applause.)

25 MR. DUNPHY: Good evening.

1 My name is Dennis Dunphy. I was misidentified as
2 Dennis Murphy, but I take no umbrance in that since it's
3 another good Irish name. I'm not going to give you any
4 stories, though, because it's getting late.

5 I'm retired and in my second decade living here in
6 Sedona. I'm on the Coconino County side of Sedona living in
7 the Chapel neighborhood which is several miles south of
8 downtown, and actually a little closer to the village of
9 Oak Creek in unincorporated Yavapai County.

10 We have a recreation and tourism economy here in
11 the Verde Valley. I'm an avid hiker, mountain biker, and
12 outdoor recreationist.

13 I believe my keen interest in public policy
14 relating to local forest management is shared by many in the
15 upper Verde Valley and Flagstaff. Policies, positions, and
16 priorities can differ among citizens, but that's part of a
17 healthy community and part of healthy discussions.

18 Folks recreate throughout the Verde Valley in and
19 around -- and in and around Flagstaff, Cottonwood area
20 trails such as Creosote and Cliff Rose, Clarkdale area,
21 locations like Tuzigoot National Monument and Sycamore
22 Canyon, Sedona trails, and recreational opportunities in the
23 natural forest near the communities of Lake Montezuma and
24 Rimrock and Camp Verde such as the Verde River and
25 Beaver Creek and Montezuma's Well National Monument are all

1 within the upper Verde watershed.

2 And with the exception of the national monuments,
3 which the park service deals with -- and although they're
4 nevertheless surrounded by Coconino National Forest, all of
5 these area are within Coconino national management, not
6 Prescott National Forest, and our national forest is
7 headquartered in Flagstaff and connected in that fashion.

8 And speaking of Flagstaff and its connection with
9 the Verde Valley, Flagstaff along with Cottonwood is where
10 we shop and obtain medical services just as others have
11 mentioned. Northern Arizona Healthcare Services is the king
12 here for Cottonwood, for Sedona, for Flagstaff where it's
13 centered.

14 Mountains and transportation corridors really
15 matter in creating and confining communities. A Google
16 search will confirm that the driving time Sedona to
17 Flagstaff is half that of Sedona to Prescott. And, yeah, it
18 really does take I think three hours and 15 minutes
19 according to Google to do that roundtrip road trip to
20 Prescott from Sedona.

21 And as a matter of fact, the 101 loop highway in
22 Northern Phoenix Valley is only about less than ten minutes
23 farther than going to Prescott itself.

24 So that gives you the idea of the scale of the
25 difference between going -- connecting with Flagstaff versus

1 connecting with Prescott.

2 I'll provide the Commission with an example that is
3 I think emblematic of our Verde Valley community. I'm a
4 volunteer member of the Verde Valley Search and Rescue,
5 although I'm not here in any official capacity, they'd never
6 trust me to do that, nor am I authorized to speak for that
7 organization, but I can quote from VSAR's public website to
8 give you a little background of what it means to be on the
9 other side of Mingus Mountain.

10 I'll quote: "The Verde Search and Rescue Posse was
11 formed in early 1986 in response to the growing need to
12 develop a rapid lifesaving response to cover the highly
13 visited Verde Valley and red rock country communities of
14 Sedona, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, Cornville, Clarkdale, and
15 the Village of Oak Creek. Prior to this, search and rescue
16 capability did not exist in the eastern half of Yavapai
17 County, the eastern side of the Mingus Mountain range."

18 So my fellow VSAR volunteers live in Camp Verde,
19 Cottonwood, Sedona, Clarkdale, Cornville and elsewhere in
20 the Verde Valley. They share a common interest in
21 commitment and that, my friends, is community.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. NEUMANN: Next up with Cathy Rutherford, Angela
25 LaFevre, Peggy Chaikin.

1 MS. RUTHERFORD: Good evening.

2 My name is Cathy Rutherford, as you just heard, and
3 I've lived in Sedona for 12 years; I'm a retired educator
4 having worked as a teacher and an elementary school
5 principal.

6 I live in the Chapel area of Sedona which I learned
7 tonight is also called Airbnb Central, and I can attest to
8 that.

9 But we are very close to State Highway Route 179.
10 I live in the Coconino part of Sedona, and right across 179
11 my neighbors live in Yavapai County. The only separation
12 that exists between us is that a county line was drawn
13 between us. We access the same healthcare professionals,
14 shop at the same grocery stores, recreate in the same
15 national forest, and enjoy the same entertainment
16 opportunities.

17 Sedona is well anchored in the Verde Valley.
18 Collectively we are an integrated community of interest and
19 the geographic boundaries of Sedona, the Verde Valley, and
20 Flagstaff define that community of interest; the county
21 boundaries do not.

22 Verde Valley is tied as a community of interest to
23 Sedona and Flagstaff for the same reasons named above.

24 Another connection is through our children. You
25 know, I've listened to all the testimony tonight, and I

1 think we have to think about families. Families that --
2 that's what makes a community. Families working together,
3 living together, communing together with their children,
4 that makes a community.

5 Having worked in the Sedona Oak Creek School
6 District at West Sedona School and having lived and formed
7 friendships throughout the Verde Valley and Flagstaff, I
8 know that the children that live in this region attend
9 schools throughout the Verde Valley, Sedona, and Flagstaff.
10 They may or may not live near those schools, but the parents
11 choose to send their children to schools in the region based
12 on their children's needs and inclinations.

13 For instance, FALA, Flagstaff Arts and Leadership
14 Academy attracts Verde Valley students interested in the
15 arts.

16 I have a close Sedona friend who has worked for
17 25 years in a program named PAEX, Program of Academic
18 Exchange, which places students chosen by the U.S. State
19 Department. She has placed high school students in
20 countries around the world with host families from the
21 Verde Valley and Flagstaff in the Cottonwood, Sedona, and
22 Flagstaff high schools.

23 Due to the many connecting threads that run through
24 this region, it is critical that this region is mapped with
25 the same legislative and congressional districts.

1 The needs and concerns of the students of its
2 citizens in this region need to have one voice in their
3 governing bodies because they have those needs and concerns
4 in common.

5 The region of the Verde Valley, Sedona, and
6 Flagstaff is a community of interest.

7 Thank you for your time and your consideration.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. CHAIKIN: Good evening. My name is Peggy
10 Chaikin; and I'm an almost-50-year resident of the region of
11 the Verde Valley/Flagstaff.

12 I look at Verde Valley, Flagstaff, and Sedona as
13 one region and would like to see it considered as such.

14 And I'll just read for you what I've written about
15 a little bit of a personal story. I know it's late for you,
16 so I'll keep it brief.

17 The community interest I refer to you as Sedona,
18 Verde Valley, Flagstaff consists of the communities of
19 Sedona, Verde Village, Oak Creek, Cottonwood, and all of the
20 unincorporated areas in the surrounding region and
21 Flagstaff. It shares an economy based on sustainable
22 tourism, recreational experiences that promote the
23 well-being of people and the environment.

24 As a long-time resident of this region, I've
25 watched this sustainable tourism industry grow. It's really

1 amazing how it's happened. I'm a founding member of the
2 Friends of the Verde River and now serve on the board of
3 Keep Sedona Beautiful. We seek to preserve and conserve the
4 beauty and resources of this region; I'd like to see this
5 kept intact as a community of interest.

6 Having worked for Headstart and the Cottonwood and
7 Camp Verde school systems through federal funding managed
8 through the Northern Arizona Council of Government, NACG,
9 agency based in Flagstaff I see a strong link between our
10 communities and Flagstaff.

11 The connection continues as our Flagstaff neighbors
12 at NAU and the Flag city staff has been great resources in
13 helping Sedona develop its climate action plan and in
14 educating our residents with strategies to address drought
15 and the challenges of fire.

16 I strongly believe that the effects of the climate
17 change need to be considered in this redistricting process;
18 resource management and protection are critical shared
19 issues of concern.

20 Fires in the Flagstaff/Verde Valley affect our air
21 quality and create flooding hazard and damage Oak Creek and
22 the Verde River ecosystem. Although the region has a
23 growing ecotourism-based economy which offers wine tours,
24 hiking, biking, kayaking, and other events in the national
25 forest, there's a shared deep concern for protecting its

1 natural beauty and conserving our diminishing ground water
2 and other resources.

3 Over almost 50 years in this region and having
4 raised our family in Clarkdale, Cottonwood, and Flagstaff,
5 decades' long experiences have generated the vision for me
6 of the Sedona/Verde Valley/Flagstaff region growing closer
7 through collaboration and respect for our common concerns.

8 Groundwater use management of development in
9 fire-prone areas and support of climate refugees, a new
10 category of residents, people who need to rebuild because of
11 fires destroying their homes in California or people needing
12 to move up from hotter regions and coming to the
13 Verde Valley.

14 We need to look to protect our workforce housing
15 and provide housing for them in face of our unfortunate
16 legislative process which has diminished our local control
17 and given us a plague of Airbnbs.

18 While we have been growing in population, we have
19 also been growing in our problem-solving and collaborative
20 efforts in creative ways. We are sharing climate action
21 plan strategies, a housing manager position, an expansion of
22 intercommunity transit to serve workers, residents, and
23 tourists.

24 Our Sedona leaders in government and the nonprofit
25 leaders meet with community leaders in each area of the

1 region to make the most of budgets and to promote quality of
2 life orientated decision-making that supports residents and
3 visitors and protects resources.

4 I strongly recommend that you take climate change
5 into consideration as many people have said "climate change
6 changes everything."

7 Thank you.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. NEUMANN: And our last three speakers are
10 Michael Cosentino, Kat Ginzel and Cathy Rutherford.

11 MR. COSENTINO: Best for last, right.

12 Hi. I'm Mike Cosentino; I live in Cottonwood.
13 I've spent 46 years in Cottonwood and the Verde Valley, five
14 years in Sedona and 41 years in Cottonwood.

15 And I want to ask you to consider Sedona, the
16 Verde Valley, and Flagstaff if you have to go for more
17 population as a community of interest.

18 And that I-17 is not a barrier. People have
19 mentioned the communities on the other side of I-17, but
20 they've left out McGuireville and Beaver Hollow and
21 Clear Creek, so we want to throw in those three also that
22 are still part of the Verde Valley.

23 While politically active, I am representing myself.
24 I did speak ten years ago when the IRC was in Cottonwood; we
25 went to the public safety building in Cottonwood, and you

1 can see how effective my speech was because we have -- we're
2 in two different congressional districts.

3 I served on the Old Town Association, the
4 Verde River Valley Nature Organization which has become
5 Friends of the Verde River.

6 Traditionally when I served on the volunteer fire
7 department of Sedona, I want to demonstrate educationally
8 that Sedona and Flagstaff are connected. West Sedona
9 students went to Flagstaff; certainly Oak Creek Canyon
10 students where I lived went to Flagstaff for school, K-12
11 students. I was educated in Flagstaff.

12 As far as healthcare goes my children were born in
13 Cottonwood and Flagstaff over the years. I carry a card in
14 my pocket that says I'm a disabled veteran, although I don't
15 know if I deserve it, I get VA services in Flagstaff since
16 they built -- now, I have gone to Prescott, of course, they
17 have a wonderful facility there, but since they opened the
18 VA facility in Flagstaff, for my needs, I'm able to go
19 there. And now that they opened it go there every -- for as
20 many things as they can provide for me. It's a beautiful
21 facility over in the Walmart area.

22 The tourist maps, when I lived and worked in the
23 Sedona in the '70s, all were of Sedona and Flagstaff.

24 The -- the census that I worked for last year, all
25 my resources and supervisors were in Flagstaff. This is --

1 I was working in Cottonwood for the 2020 census; all our
2 resources and supervisor were in Flagstaff.

3 I worked at Yavapai College; I was an adjunct for
4 16 years from 1996 to 2013. The Sedona campus and the
5 Verde Valley campus used to be more autonomous as far as
6 educational opportunities go, but the Yavapai governing
7 board for whatever reason curtailed that. It is coming
8 back, so I think the educational opportunities in the
9 Verde Valley and Sedona via Yavapai College will be more
10 locally centered as time goes by.

11 As is people -- other people have mentioned, we
12 have a public transportation system between Sedona and
13 Cottonwood.

14 For all these reasons, we ask -- I ask that you,
15 however it's possible, be -- have Sedona, Flagstaff, and
16 Cottonwood, and the areas on the other side of I-17 be in
17 the same legislative district and congressional district.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. GINZEL: Hi. My name is Kat Ginzell, it's
21 G-I-N-Z-E-L, Kat for Katherine, K-A-T-H-E-R-I-N-E.

22 And I -- thank you for hearing us tonight. I've
23 been a Verde Valley resident for 20 years, and I am a
24 retired public educator from Flagstaff, actually. From
25 Arizona.

1 And I had sent in what I -- what I wrote, but I'm
2 just going to read it and be brief.

3 Many of my neighbors are retired and I live in
4 Rimrock. I'm sorry, I should explain that. I'm -- I'm over
5 on the other side of 17, which is kind of like a no-man's
6 land.

7 All right, anyway.

8 Many of my neighbors are retired and/or disabled
9 and are not able to drive and most of them are on fixed
10 incomes -- or many of them are -- and a substantial number
11 are well below the poverty line. Rents keep going up where
12 people's incomes do not, and without food banks many
13 families in my community would go hungry.

14 There are no jobs, no grocery stores, pharmacies,
15 hardware stores, et cetera, and our public schools lack
16 funding. We are entirely dependent on Dollar Stores, and we
17 are cut off in Rimrock without any form of public
18 transportation.

19 Now, although I live in CD-1, I do most of my
20 living in the Verde Valley, which is of course across I-17,
21 and -- and do almost everything in CD-4. And this is my
22 community where I shop and I have a social life, but I feel
23 like I have no voice when it comes to voting for services to
24 benefit my community. This is true for all Beaver Creek as
25 well as Camp Verde where I also lived for many years.

1 I feel like we're this large community east of I-17
2 with our voices silenced. Rimrock desperately needs
3 affordable housing, funds for public schools, public
4 transportation and many other things; and it seems to me
5 that to be logical and fair, that we should be included in
6 the -- in the Verde Valley and -- I mean, we are part of the
7 Verde Valley anyway. We need to be consistent and that our
8 congressional and legislative districts should -- are in the
9 Verde Valley and Sedona and Flagstaff.

10 So it just makes sense to me that we -- we do that.

11 And as everybody else has said, all of my -- my
12 medical and recreation and such is -- or a large part of it
13 is either in the Verde Valley or in Flagstaff.

14 And another thing I wanted to add too. That we
15 don't have public education beyond -- or for high school,
16 and so people, the students choose between either going to
17 Cottonwood or Camp Verde; and in order to go to Cottonwood,
18 they have to drive, personally drive their children to
19 school and back, which is outrageous to me.

20 Anyway, we do think it only makes sense that we are
21 connected and that we are part of Sedona and Flagstaff.

22 Thank you.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. NEUMANN: All right. Thank you.

25 That concludes all of our speakers here in Sedona.

1 Madam Chair, we'll go back to you.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I believe we are done with
3 our speakers.

4 And -- and I have to say, Yavapai County, I mean,
5 this has been a remarkable display of civic engagement, and
6 we have heard all of your feedback and are taking notes
7 diligently.

8 As you have seen today, on our website we have
9 easy-to-use tools for learning about and for sharing
10 information about your community of interest. Rather than
11 relying purely on our interpretation of your comments today,
12 we encourage you if you have not yet done so, to go online,
13 please submit a map to us. This will ensure we correctly
14 understand the definition of your community.

15 Please encourage your friends and neighbors to
16 share their thoughts too. Anyone can do so online any time.
17 There's no requirement to attend one of these meetings to be
18 heard.

19 We are now going to adjourn the meeting.

20 And if anybody wants more, we will be in
21 Lake Havasu tomorrow 5:00 p.m.; the day after that in
22 Flagstaff, Coconino County, 5:00 p.m. as well.

23 Thank you, staff, participants.

24 (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 8:03 p.m.).

25

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 16th of August, 2021.



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

* * *

I CERTIFY that Miller Certified Reporting, LLC, has complied with the requirements set forth in ACJA 7-201 and 7-206. Dated at LITCHFIELD PARK, Arizona, this 16th of August, 2021.



Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058