

THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Nogales, Arizona

Bisbee, Arizona

Online via WebEx

August 5, 2021

5:03 p.m.

***Miller Certified Reporting, LLC  
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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE  
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 5:03 p.m.  
3 on August 5, 2021, at Quality Hotel Americana Nogales, 639  
4 North Grand Avenue, Nogales, Arizona; with a satellite  
5 location at Cochise County Board of Supervisors Hearing  
6 Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona; and  
7 online via WebEx.

8  
9 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

10 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson  
11 Mr. David Mehle

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. Brett Johnson, 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. Melanie Nordin-Pyle, Nogales, Arizona  
28 Mr. Edward Eduardo Delci, Nogales, Arizona  
29 Ms. Connie Williams, Nogales, Arizona  
30 Ms. Deborah McEwen, Nogales, Arizona  
31 Ms. Elisabeth Tyndall, Bisbee, Arizona  
32 Ms. Yvonne Mayer, Bisbee, Arizona  
33 Mr. Robert Montgomery, Bisbee, Arizona  
34 Ms. Inga McCord, Bisbee, Arizona  
35 Mr. Steve McEwen, Nogales, Arizona

## 1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 Mr. Peter Benequista, Nogales, Arizona  
3 Mr. Dick Bauerbach, Nogales, Arizona  
4 Mr. Doug Holler, Nogales, Arizona  
5 Ms. Tamara Birch, Bisbee, Arizona  
6 Ms. Gail Griffin, Bisbee, Arizona  
7 Ms. Kathleen Vandervoet, Nogales, Arizona  
8 Ms. Maureen Mahoncy, Nogales, Arizona  
9 Ms. Carla Romero, Nogales, Arizona  
10 Ms. Carmen Valencia Flores, Nogales, Arizona  
11 Mr. Marco Antonio Flores, Sr., Nogales, Arizona  
12 Ms. Julie Grotheer, Nogales, Arizona  
13 Mr. Frederick Milner, Nogales, Arizona  
14 Ms. Kathryn Townsend, Nogales, Arizona  
15 Mr. Matt Parrilli, Nogales, Arizona  
16 Mr. Tim Grotheer, Nogales, Arizona  
17 Mr. Ray Ihly, Nogales, Arizona  
18 Mr. Bruce Bracker, Nogales, Arizona  
19 Mr. Damien Kennedy, Nogales, Arizona  
20 Mr. Mark Larkin, Nogales, Arizona  
21 Mr. Marcelino Varona, Jr., Nogales, Arizona  
22 Mr. Douglas James Cook, Nogales, Arizona  
23 Ms. Irene Ellerseck, Nogales, Arizona  
24 Mr. Jaime Chamberlain, Nogales, 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. I think we're going to go  
4 ahead and get started now. Oh, let me just -- one second,  
5 I'm going to make sure we have chairs for everyone.

6 We will have somebody come in and grab some of the  
7 chairs, but in the meantime let's go ahead and get started.

8 We have Dick Bauerbach here, and he's going to lead  
9 us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

10 If you will all stand and remove your hats or any  
11 headpieces, please.

12 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)  
13

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15 And now I will turn it over to Commissioner Mehl  
16 who will be chairing the meeting.

17 COMMISSIONER MEHL: I would now like to call to  
18 order the next meeting of the listening tour of the  
19 Independent Redistricting Commission.

20 I'd like to remind you, the public, that COVID-19  
21 is still prevalent and ask you that you follow the Arizona  
22 Department of Health guidelines; if you are not fully  
23 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in a public space. If  
24 you would like to participate from home, each of these  
25 meetings is being streamed through WebEx.

1           Please note that if you would like to make a public  
2 comment you may do so by signing in with staff and filling  
3 out the public comment card.

4           If you haven't already done so, please fill out the  
5 community of interest survey. There's a QR code on signs at  
6 the sign-in desk and on the public comment cards that will  
7 direct you to the link.

8           Please see a member of staff if you have any  
9 questions.

10          And we'll discuss the community of interest survey  
11 in a moment as part of the presentation as to what that  
12 means.

13          We have an American Sign Language interpreter  
14 joining us virtually, and we have interpreters and headsets  
15 available for those in attendance; we also have a  
16 transcriptionist who will be transcribing every meeting.

17          Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a clear  
18 record of your input.

19          Would the interpreters in attendance introduce  
20 yourself now.

21          ASL INTERPRETER: Hello. My name is Tiffany Jones,  
22 and my team tonight is Tiana Sandoval.

23          SPANISH INTERPRETER: Good afternoon -- is it  
24 working?

25          Good afternoon. My name is Deloria Rias

1 (phonetic), I'm from Nogales; and I'll be the  
2 English-Spanish translator/interpreter.

3 So if anybody needs any services, I'll be  
4 (technical/audio disruption).

5 Okay? We're going --

6 (Spanish language.)

7 Thank you very much.

8 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And at this time we will  
9 introduce ourselves.

10 I'm David Mehl; I'm a Republican appointee to the  
11 Commission; and I'm from Pima County from Tucson.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I am Erika Neuberg; I'm the  
13 Independent Chairwoman; live in Chandler, in the East Valley  
14 of Maricopa County.

15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And we have two Commissioners  
16 that are joining us virtually, and I'll let them introduce  
17 themselves.

18 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good evening, everybody. I  
19 am Derrick Watchman, and I'm the Vice Chairman of the  
20 Commission. I am the Democratic appointee to the Commission  
21 and I come from Apache County up here in Window Rock,  
22 Arizona.

23 Good evening, everybody.

24 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Okay. Sorry.

25 Hello, everyone. My name is Shereen Lerner. I'm a

1 representative from Maricopa County, and I'm one of the  
2 Democratic Commissioners.

3 Nice to see you all. Thank you for being here.

4 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And we very much appreciate the  
5 attendance tonight. This is a great turnout, and we look  
6 forward to hearing you -- your input to us.

7 Now we will move to Agenda Item II, a presentation  
8 of the process of redistricting.

9 And first is a representative from our legal team.

10 MR. B. JOHNSON: Good evening, everybody. My name  
11 is Brett Johnson; I'm with the law firm of Snell & Wilmer,  
12 with me today is Shawn Summers from the law firm of Ballard  
13 Spahr. We're co-counsel for the Commission, and we're going  
14 to give you a little bit of a civics lesson of how we all  
15 got here, okay.

16 Mark -- there we go.

17 Okay. So the need for redistricting goes back to  
18 the founding of the country itself; I'm sure a lot of you  
19 might remember this from your civics class in grade school,  
20 but basically the constitution lays it out pretty well,  
21 there needs to be a apportionment of the congressional lines  
22 every ten years.

23 When Arizona become a state, obviously followed the  
24 same model and made sure there will be reapportionment  
25 according to the Arizona Constitution.

1           So the history, obviously, 1912 Arizona becomes a  
2           state; and all the way through 2000, it was the Arizona  
3           legislature that redrew the lines for the State of Arizona.  
4           And up until that period of time every state redrew their  
5           lines through the legislature. Okay?

6           In 2000, the people of Arizona passed Proposition  
7           106, which took it out of the hands of the legislature and  
8           created an Independent Redistricting Commission.

9           One of the main reasons for doing that was to try  
10          to avoid the gerry- -- gerrymandering around political  
11          parties, but also have very set, specific criteria which  
12          we'll go over in a second.

13          But basically there's a little bit more information  
14          up there about the constitution itself and when the  
15          Commission has to be actually empanelled, which we have here  
16          today.

17          So the constitution requires basically at least --  
18          or it doesn't -- it requires five different Commissioners,  
19          no more than two from each party, and then those  
20          Commissioners will then -- got together and appointed the  
21          chair. Okay? So they've already done their introductions  
22          tonight and we have one Independent, two Democrats and two  
23          Republicans making up the Commission from a wide space of  
24          Arizona.

25          Next.



1           Here are the constitutional provisions, and this is  
2 the hardest part of -- of doing the Commission is because  
3 it's a very -- very strict laying out of the model as to  
4 what the Commission can and cannot do.

5           In particular, the first step is obviously, just  
6 like we just did the Pledge of Allegiance, we have to comply  
7 with the U.S. Constitution and what's called the Voting  
8 Rights Act; that's ensuring people are protected based off  
9 of their -- their race and ethnicity and -- and that is one  
10 of the criteria.

11           Separate is that each congressional and legislative  
12 district has to have equal population. For the  
13 congressional district, that's pretty strict. It has to be  
14 one for one: One vote equals one vote. And then you can  
15 basically have one person depending on the numbers of how  
16 the districts line up.

17           The legislative district is a little bit of wiggle  
18 room that courts has recognized basically to accommodate  
19 some of the other factors you're able to -- to have maybe a  
20 slightly more population of legislative districts, but in  
21 reality it's supposed to equal, as close as possible to an  
22 equal division.

23           The next criteria is, is obviously geographically  
24 compact and contiguous to the extent practicable. And what  
25 that means is that you can't have islands in the middle of a

1 district, they have to be connected and continuous; you  
2 can't have one part of the district on the east side and  
3 then a break and then the rest of the district on -- on the  
4 west side. It just doesn't work that way. So you have to  
5 have a connection all the way through, and that's part of  
6 the drawing of the map's context.

7 The next issue which is what we're going to be  
8 talking about here tonight primarily, obviously, public  
9 comment, please express anything you want, but we're talking  
10 about communities of interest. And Ivy is going to do a  
11 presentation in a minute of what some communities of  
12 interests are.

13 But a community of interest really is in the eyes  
14 of the beholder. This is what makes us down here in  
15 Nogales, down in San Luis, Santa Cruz County, what makes you  
16 a community of interest and what -- what -- if you're  
17 currently with another county, why are you not a community  
18 interest with somebody else -- or another part of the state  
19 that you've been paired with?

20 Those are the kinds of contexts from that -- that  
21 perspective and really important for you to give that  
22 information tonight.

23 The next is obviously geographic features, cities,  
24 towns, and county boundaries, and then undivided census  
25 tracts. What that basically means is is that to the extent

1 possible, trying to keep counties together, trying to keep  
2 cities together so long, though, that it does not impact  
3 those other three that we've already talked about.

4 The next one is to the extent -- extent  
5 practicable -- there's two, two caveats in this one -- to  
6 the extent practicable, competitive districts should be  
7 favored where to do so would create no significant detriment  
8 to the others. And that's called a competitive district,  
9 right? It's balanced and basically you don't necessarily  
10 know who's going to win the election, when the election  
11 starts, everybody has a chance to be able to win it.

12 Now, that is the last criteria but it comes in a  
13 little less than the others because of the importance of  
14 what we're talking about tonight, is the communities of  
15 interest and keeping communities together.

16 Here is the projected timeline. This is an  
17 ambitious projected timeline. We all think that we're going  
18 to be able to meet it. But there's going to be some  
19 latitude quite honestly because the U.S. Census Bureau due  
20 to COVID-19 was delayed in getting us the data that is  
21 necessary for the Commission to do its work.

22 So this is the anticipated project timeline. We're  
23 on the listening tour, the first of the listening tours, to  
24 discuss the communities of interest and anything else people  
25 want to talk about tonight.

1           Then, in the middle of August -- actually, they  
2           just announced that it's going to be four days earlier than  
3           anticipated -- so the census data will be received and then  
4           processed and then that will go into a grid map.

5           What a grid map is, is that all of the  
6           congressional lines, all the legislative district lines that  
7           you currently have are gone. They are wiped away. They  
8           cannot be used for consideration as part of the grid map.  
9           Okay?

10          Now, for purposes of being able to talk tonight  
11          about your community of interest, you might bring up your LD  
12          or congressional district, so be it, because those are  
13          markers as we know them today; but for the grid maps,  
14          they're all going away. Okay?

15          After that, the Commission has a very hard task:  
16          They take in all of the data that has been presented on our  
17          road tour so far about communities of interest, they also  
18          listen to other folks about competitiveness and some other  
19          expert testimony, and then come up with the draft maps.  
20          Those draft maps are put out for 30 days of public comment  
21          where anybody in the public can come and give their  
22          presentation as to why those map lines should be different.

23          In addition, it provides an opportunity for the  
24          legislature to give what's called a minority-majority  
25          report, kind of going -- a throwback to history that the

1 legislature is involved in the process.

2 Then hopefully there's a revised map in December of  
3 that time frame; and then the beginning of January, we have  
4 new legislative districts and new congressional districts to  
5 tee off the election cycle for next year.

6 Public involvement. I've talked about that through  
7 the entire presentation so far. Commission meetings are  
8 open to the public; we want to strongly encourage everybody  
9 to participate. So even your friends, family, neighbors  
10 that they're not here tonight, there are multiple ways to  
11 participate; even old-school snail mail. If somebody wants  
12 to put together a map and it is crayon, Mark over there can  
13 figure that out and put that as part of the record the  
14 Commissioners can consider. Okay?

15 There's a lot of district electronic options that  
16 are going to be discussed tonight too. Highly encourage you  
17 to make sure. Personally, I need to get my 14-year-old kid  
18 to figure out some of the technology, you all might have to  
19 do the same thing with your grandkids or your kids; but we  
20 want to make sure that you all have the opportunity to have  
21 input, not just about the communities of interest which  
22 we're talking about primarily tonight, but all the different  
23 factors. And, again, there's multiple ways for you to  
24 participate.

25 So, please, not just give comments, but if you're

1 able to also draw a map and there's -- they're going to --  
2 the mapping consultants are going to go over that in a bit,  
3 that's very helpful to the process itself. Okay?

4 Okay. I'm going to go off script just a second  
5 real quick.

6 When you do testify tonight and you come up to the  
7 -- at the podium, please don't just consider who you don't  
8 want to be with, but also if you don't want to be with  
9 another community, what communities do you want to be in?  
10 Because, remember, we have an equal population issue, most  
11 likely your community has to be with some other community.

12 So please consider explaining not only who you  
13 might not want to be with but who you want to be with, and  
14 then thoroughly explaining your communities of interest that  
15 Ivy is going to cover.

16 And I think I'm turning it over to her now. Okay.

17 MR. FLAHAN: Thanks, Lori.

18 Hello, everybody. My name is Mark Flahan; I'm the  
19 project manager on the mapping team.

20 So today part of my team, I have Ivy Beller  
21 Sakansky who is a demographer from NDC, and sitting next to  
22 her is Parker Bradshaw, our coordinator for the project from  
23 the Timmons side.

24 So what I want to do is talk to you about some of  
25 the empowerment tools that we have available for you to use

1 today that are in the web available 24/7.

2 The first is our socioeconomic report, it's an  
3 interactive website which -- which has a bunch of  
4 demographic data, which we'll talk about in the next slide.

5 The other two mapping tools that we're going to  
6 talk about is the community of interest survey, hopefully  
7 you saw that when you first came in. There's QR codes and  
8 you can scan it with it your phone and actually fill it out  
9 live here if you want to.

10 If you have filled out a community of interest  
11 survey already and you are going to publicly testify, I can  
12 bring it up on the screen if you let me know; so we can  
13 actually bring it up live so everybody can see it.

14 The last one that we have is our redistricting  
15 system, it's currently being set up, and that will allow you  
16 to draw and make your own maps live in the system.

17 So the socioeconomic report. On the right side  
18 there's a screen capture of it, but what it is is it's 14  
19 different demographic points that you can view for the  
20 entire state of Arizona.

21 There's an acronym up there that says CVAP, that's  
22 citizen voting age population. So you can go to the IRC's  
23 website today, click on the link, and you can look at the  
24 application and all the demographics on it.

25 The second piece that we have is why we're today,

1 community of interest survey. Again, this is on the web  
2 24/7 available for you to use.

3 One of the key things about the community of  
4 interest survey is not only it tells us what makes your  
5 community special but there's also a map; so that will allow  
6 you to draw your own community of interest boundary. And  
7 that's critical because we can see exactly what you consider  
8 your community of interest, instead of us just trying to  
9 understand accurately exactly what you're testifying about  
10 today.

11 So if you haven't done that, after the meeting I  
12 encourage you to go fill out an online community of interest  
13 survey.

14 With that being said, I'm going to turn it over to  
15 Ivy who is going to talk about what is a community of  
16 interest.

17 MS. SAKANSKY: Thank you, Mark.

18 So what is a community of interest?

19 It is a geographic area of people who share a  
20 common story or connection. That connection can be common  
21 social interests, shared demographic characteristics,  
22 similar impact from a legislative or congressional issue, or  
23 any other connection that leads people in a given area to  
24 believe they would benefit from being kept together, united,  
25 in one legislative and/or congressional district.



1           As you think about your community, think about the  
2 demographic points and the other data that is online that  
3 Mark has referred to, which says: "Think about your  
4 community. Do you have similar jobs? Do you rely on  
5 similar public services? Belong to the same neighborhood  
6 association? Are you impacted by a similar environmental,  
7 regional concern? Is your community defined by regional  
8 land-use issues, transient concerns, languages spoken,  
9 community celebrations or traditions or other similar issues  
10 or characteristics?

11           Any of these characteristics could define a  
12 community of interest.

13           Now, it's your turn. As they travel the state on  
14 this listening tour, the Commissioners want to hear from  
15 you.

16           What do you want the Commissioners to consider as  
17 they draft and ultimately adopt their maps?

18           How do you define your community of interest?

19           Using the tools that Mark has described and in your  
20 testimony today, we want to hear two things: First, what  
21 brings your community of interest together; and, secondly,  
22 what are your community's geographic boundaries?

23           Remember, the Commissioners can incorporate your  
24 community into your maps only if you let us know where your  
25 community is on the map.

1           Thank you for being here today. Now, I will turn  
2 this back over to the Commission staff to begin taking your  
3 comments.

4           COMMISSIONER MEHL: (Technical/audio disruption.)  
5 Read the rules of the meeting.

6           MS. VAN HAREN: Citizens may only speak when  
7 recognized by Chair or the presiding officer of the meeting  
8 if the Chair is absent or has otherwise delegated hearing  
9 administrative authority -- administration authority.

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

13           Speakers are also requested to limit their comments  
14 to approximately three minutes; you may only use one card  
15 and speak on your own behalf.

16           Additionally, speakers are required to follow  
17 proper decorum. Speakers must use appropriate language.  
18 Foul and/or abusive language will not be tolerated. Any  
19 speaker failing to follow proper decorum or any other  
20 guidelines may be asked to leave. Any breach of the peace  
21 or disruption of a Commission public hearing may be the  
22 cause of report to law enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

23           If someone has expressed the same sentiment as you,  
24 you do not need to speak in order to have your comment  
25 recorded. As long as you have filled out the survey, your

1 input will be received and considered by the Commission.

2 Everyone is welcome to speak should you choose to  
3 do so.

4 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the  
5 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to  
6 address their comments to the Chair and to the Commission  
7 and not to the audience present. Please show respect for  
8 all speakers and avoid personal comments.

9 Remember, the Commission needs to hear from all  
10 sides in order to make an informed decision.

11 And at this time we will start the public comment  
12 session.

13 The first speaker is Melanie Nordin-Pyle.

14 MS. NORDIN-PYLE: Good evening.

15 My name is Melanie Pyle; I'm a resident of Elgin,  
16 Arizona, and a current precinct committeewoman in my  
17 community. My husband and I own and operate our small  
18 business in Elgin and plan to retire and spend the rest of  
19 our lives here.

20 I am here to provide firsthand information on my  
21 community and our interest in redistricting.

22 My community, including Sonoita, Canelo, Lochiel,  
23 Rain Valley, and Patagonia share the same values and  
24 interest in life; we do not live in Tucson because we do not  
25 want or value a big city's fast-paced, crowded lifestyle.

1           We are ranchers, farmers, miners, Border Patrol.  
2           Homeland Security, and current and retired military retirees  
3           and families. We have tourism, wineries, and various small  
4           home businesses, and we value our independent way of life.

5           Our community has been under constant strain from  
6           different governmental bodies imposing urban city values and  
7           rules on rural communities without considering our values  
8           and way of life.

9           There's been a significant defection from the  
10          metropolitan cities over the last six years to our area.  
11          The current maps do not accurately represent this shift and  
12          do not appropriately represent our area whatsoever.

13          Our community was having monthly meetings preCOVID  
14          to figure out how we could escape the heavy hand of a system  
15          that didn't represent the vast majority of our community.  
16          We independently reached out to Cochise County; they  
17          appreciated us and recognized they had similar values and  
18          we're more like them. They were open to our area joining  
19          them and promoting our lifestyle as an extension of Cochise  
20          County.

21          My neighbors and I are split between Santa Cruz  
22          County and Cochise County. The Commission that previously  
23          drew the precinct lines didn't account for our community's  
24          values or way of life. It focused on splitting us in half,  
25          driving down our population as a voting group, and dividing

1 us as a community when voting on what is vitally important  
2 to its citizens, all while living down the street from each  
3 other.

4 Our needs differ from Tucson. We have real issues  
5 with the border crisis, not just the TV blips you see at  
6 5:00 p.m. on the evening news.

7 You see, we're just like Cochise County; we need  
8 better security and police along our border. Because the  
9 Border Patrol has closed -- closed both checkpoints in  
10 Sonoita, we need to develop plans with other border towns to  
11 manage this crisis. It is a real humanitarian and dangerous  
12 health crisis; now it is not imaginary. Remember, our  
13 communities are the first step to the big cities.

14 The Arizona State Constitution must be followed  
15 this time. We can't keep disenfranchising and putting the  
16 lives of legal citizens of the state of Arizona at risk  
17 anymore. If we do, what does it say about the integrity and  
18 character of our state and our country?

19 Thank you for your time and consideration.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is Edward Del -- Delci, followed  
22 by Connie Williams, followed by Deborah McEwen.

23 MR. DELCI: My name is Edward Eduardo Delci;  
24 81 years of age, native Arizona, grew up in Morenci in  
25 Greenlee County, Florence in Pinal County, and home raised

1 in Maricopa County, home base is Chandler.

2 Honorable Commissioners, thank you for the  
3 opportunity to testify during this Santa Cruz County hearing  
4 this evening. In 2011, I had the opportunity to do CIRC  
5 during six -- six separate sessions in Southern Arizona in  
6 Santa Cruz, Pima, and Cochise counties.

7 It was during these sessions that I was able to  
8 convince the IRC Commissioners that Santa Cruz County  
9 warranted the opportunity and interest to be one independent  
10 district of positive minority votes. We did not care to be  
11 split with neighboring Cochise County by placing the Eastern  
12 Santa Cruz County communities in that geographic region.

13 Since Santa Cruz County's incorporation in 1899,  
14 even before the establishment of state of Arizona in 1912,  
15 Santa Cruz County has embraced its connection with the  
16 Santa Cruz River based corridor, because of its embracement  
17 of the international connection with Mexico, the cultural  
18 ties with its Hispanic/Mexican origin, the economic ties  
19 with the International Trade Command, and the governmental  
20 ties with Pima County along the same corridor which they  
21 both share.

22 The invaluable political ties with this minority  
23 vote base shared with the Tohono O'odham Native American  
24 Nation to the west in Pima County, that historical cultural  
25 values of the Hispanic Mexican vote base along the side of

1 the river basin connecting with Green Valley communities,  
2 Sahuarita, the South Tucson community in Pima County, only  
3 strengthens the value of the minority vote in our American  
4 political system.

5 Our good Lord and Mother Nature have bestowed on  
6 Santa Cruz County, the beautiful Huachuca Mountain range  
7 separating Santa -- Santa Cruz County from Cochise County.  
8 The few vocal voices and the extreme right wing of the GOP,  
9 in the Elgin -- in the Elgin community region wants to  
10 connect their community area with Cochise County. They  
11 should just pack up their belongings and get their bigoted  
12 racism and just relocate to Cochise County.

13 Santa Cruz County should remain as one whole  
14 political unit of the invaluable American minority vote of  
15 Hispanic and Native American origins. Do not take into  
16 consideration of dividing Eastern Santa Cruz County and  
17 placing it in a political jurisdiction.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, sir. That's time.

19 MR. DELCI: Thank you very much for the opportunity  
20 to present my statement to this honorable Commission.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Connie  
22 Williams, followed by Deborah McEwen, followed by Milal  
23 White -- Wright.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Connie Williams; I live  
25 in Rio Rico just a few miles north of Nogales.

1 I'm a retired public school teacher, and since my  
2 retirement I've been involved with a number of nonprofits in  
3 the area: The End of Trail Coalition, Friends of the  
4 Santa Cruz River, Tubac Nature Center to name a few. I'm  
5 also involved with Green Valley groups -- that's a Pima  
6 County place -- who have Santa Cruz County members.

7 Most if not all of these folks are retired, so  
8 maybe we can call it a retiree COI.

9 All of us attend the festivals, shop in the various  
10 retail businesses and enjoy Santa Cruz County's wine, and  
11 we're all living along the Santa Cruz River corridor.

12 This corridor COI was more or less kept together in  
13 the 2011 legislative district map, but it was split out of  
14 the congressional district map for reasons that I don't know  
15 why.

16 But I'm here today to request that  
17 Santa Cruz County stay together as a county; and that north  
18 of here, the communities of Green Valley and Sahuarita be  
19 included following the lines that were used in the  
20 legislative district map.

21 And I've got these two and I've circled it, so.

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

23 Our next two speakers will be Deborah McEwen,  
24 followed by either Mikael Wright or Milael Wright, and we're  
25 going to send it over to Bisbee.



1 MS. McEWEN: Chairman and Commissioners, thank you  
2 for making this hearing possible.

3 I'm Deborah McEwen from Santa Cruz County, I live  
4 in ZIP Code 85648; and I reside in Rio Rico.

5 My LD-2 traverses across the entire bottom of  
6 Santa Cruz County at the Mexican border and all the way up  
7 north into Tucson like a pie wedge.

8 It goes all the way up into Tucson up to 22nd  
9 Street, it literally the divides the town of Green Valley on  
10 the east and west side of I-19.

11 Congressional District 3, yes, my congressional  
12 district is still further west where a mountain range, a  
13 national wildlife refuge, and a federal reservation isolate  
14 the town of Nogales from the rest of the congressional  
15 district.

16 I would like to see a more sympathetic and  
17 accordant district drawn for geographic, economic, and  
18 cultural needs are more in line with Cochise County in the  
19 east at LD-14 and CD-2.

20 For example, I watch the water issues, the mining  
21 issues, ranching, and the produce and shipping industries;  
22 they're potential areas of economic development and growth.  
23 Too often I've seen the urban activists and special interest  
24 groups gab the ear of district representatives and literally  
25 obstruct the industries, adding to our declining economy.

1           The rural southern border of counties of Cochise  
2           and Santa Cruz are in need of cohesive plans that share  
3           ideas and imagine creative ways to solve our issues; to  
4           increase technical training and industrial work study  
5           opportunities between our community colleges and these  
6           industries.

7           Santa Cruz County needs to be able to manage and  
8           plan its own rural environmental issues in balanced  
9           coordination with our unique commerce among the border in  
10          combination with Cochise.

11          I've seen my neighbor's kids graduate from high  
12          school with little to no opportunity to continue education  
13          locally or to obtain technical skills which will get them  
14          higher paying jobs in rural entries; their only option is to  
15          go to urban institutions.

16          I want these kids -- and they want -- to live in  
17          their hometowns with their families and friends and start  
18          long-term careers and raise their families for generations  
19          to come.

20          Please consider keeping the agricultural county of  
21          Santa Cruz in its entirety and Cochise together in one  
22          district for rural representation that will help solve our  
23          economic problems and give our children a better future.

24          Thank you.

25          MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our next speaker is

1 Mikael Wright and then we'll send it over to Bisbee.

2 Am I saying that right? It's M-I-K-A-E-L, Wright,  
3 W-R-I-G-H-T.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pardon me, ma'am.

5 (Inaudible.)

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. All right --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, sir.

9 We'll send it over to Bisbee now.

10 MS. CRANK: Members of the Commission and also the  
11 listening audience out there on WebEx, I have nine speakers  
12 this evening in Bisbee; we have a great group here.

13 The first speaker is Elisabeth Ti- -- Tyndall, the  
14 next speaker will be Yvonne Mayer, and following Yvonne is  
15 Robert Montgomery.

16 MS. TYNDALL: Hi, everybody.

17 Thank you all so much for taking time out of your  
18 day today to do this; and thank you, Commissioners, for  
19 allowing us time tonight to share what makes Cochise County  
20 amazing.

21 My name is Elisabeth Tyndall, and I've lived in  
22 Sierra Vista for almost six years; it is one of the most  
23 welcoming places I've ever lived. I work for the University  
24 of Arizona and my husband is federal law enforcement. Our  
25 daughter has attended public schools in Sierra Vista since

1 preschool, and yesterday she began fourth grade of the  
2 school where I'm the PTO treasurer.

3 My ask of the Commission is to uphold fair and  
4 competitive maps mandated by law. Please be sure that  
5 communities in Cochise County that are underrepresented at  
6 all levels of government can elect officials that have their  
7 interest at heart.

8 Arizona is a competitive state and our  
9 congressional and legislative district should be the same.

10 A fair map would ensure voters in areas like  
11 Douglas and outside Wilcox are able to have a fair chance of  
12 electing representation from their neighborhoods, not just  
13 from the greater Sierra Vista area.

14 Citizens of Cochise County get medical care and  
15 shop in Tucson; our children go to Tucson for college, and  
16 many of us are employed by organizations in Tucson. Young  
17 families leaving our area for work go to Tucson.

18 David-Monthan Air Force Base and Fort Huachuca  
19 employ and support many of your families, creating a strong  
20 community of interest that deserves responsive  
21 representation.

22 The ties between our border region and Tucson are  
23 made strong by family, military, and business ties.

24 Cochise County is a very diverse community with  
25 people making it home from all around the world, and we

1 share more in common with Southeast Arizona and the I-10  
2 corridor than other regions of Arizona. I hope that our  
3 future representation can reflect the amazing citizens we  
4 have here in Cochise County.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MS. CRANK: Yvonne Mayer.

7 MS. MAYER: Thank you.

8 I'm Yvonne Mayer, a resident of Hereford.

9 We are a rural district including all of Cochise,  
10 Graham County, part of Greenlee, and rural Pima. This area  
11 represents a strong community of interest; our district  
12 encompasses an agricultural base including ranching,  
13 wineries, pecan orchards, and dairies.

14 We're home to Fort Huachuca and defense and  
15 aerospace industries; our climate and elevation provide a  
16 healthy living environment for retirees, as well as provided  
17 outdoor sports and tourism; our cities and towns are small  
18 with neighbors we know.

19 Cochise County has 370 miles of international  
20 border with Mexico. Local law enforcement guards this  
21 border well, providing safe communities. Our crime rate is  
22 low.

23 We are satisfied with the current community of  
24 interest, the compact and contiguous nature of our district,  
25 the dividing lines and the safety of our communities.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. CRANK: Robert Montgomery.

3 MR. MONTGOMERY: Hi. I'm Robert Montgomery. Good  
4 day, Commissioners.

5 I live in Palominas, a rural area just on the  
6 Mexican border between Bisbee and Sierra Vista. I've been  
7 there for more than 30 years, and in Cochise County for  
8 40-plus years, and feel I know something about the rural  
9 community.

10 I am on the -- serve on the fire district board in  
11 Palominas as the chairman of the board; currently I am also  
12 the chairman for the Cochise County Republican Party; and  
13 once a month I serve on the Cochise County Planning and  
14 Zoning Commission in this very room, so we do review all of  
15 the activities regarding permits and business activities  
16 within the county.

17 Legislative District 14 is a rural district, has  
18 always been a rural district, we live here because we like  
19 it that way.

20 Excuse me.

21 And we have a common interest with Graham and  
22 Greenlee County in many respects; but primarily our border  
23 community is rural, and it is that way intentionally.

24 Our districts include agriculture, ranches, farms,  
25 wineries up in Wilcox area, and other natural resources

1 including mining. We have national defense as you know,  
2 over in Fort Huachuca and aerospace industries around the  
3 county.

4 We like to keep it that way as well.

5 We have small to medium size cities and towns as  
6 well as small to medium size school districts. We have  
7 community colleges and a satellite campus of a major  
8 university.

9 Our district composes mostly small businesses; I  
10 have been a small business owner here. Many small  
11 businesses are the backbone of our district.

12 We do not have and never have had any tribal  
13 reservations in our district; and their interests are  
14 specific to them, different from our own, and they are  
15 considered sovereign to themselves. There's also something  
16 that we -- we would hope to keep, we do not have casinos or  
17 gaming here as you know.

18 It is a safety -- a safety issue that we are  
19 concerned here, as always, being on the border which I can  
20 see from my kitchen window, and our -- our far district  
21 borders the entire border fence among Palominas.

22 And we see there is no reason to change things; if  
23 it isn't broke, don't fix it.

24 Thank you.

25 Three? Oh. I could have gone on.

1 (Laughter.)

2 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Inga McCord, Tom  
3 Crosby is following Inga, and Tamara Birch.

4 MS. McCORD: Hello. My name is Inga McCord; I am a  
5 resident of Hereford, Arizona, and have been for 35-plus  
6 years.

7 And in order to not be redundant, I fully agree  
8 with Yvonne Mayer and Robert Montgomery in keeping things  
9 just the way they are.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MR. CROSBY: Hello, Commissioners. Tom Crosby, I  
12 am a county supervisor here in Cochise County.

13 I would prefer it to not be paired with Pima County  
14 because of A.R.S. statutes having to do with counties over  
15 500,000 and the various complications that that causes for  
16 us.

17 I am against the proposal for a border legislative  
18 district; if that proposal happens to come up, I would  
19 definitely be against that.

20 If someone cares to accuse me of thinking the  
21 United States is the best country and the U.S. Constitution  
22 is the best form of government, I am guilty; that's what I  
23 think.

24 So when I ponder the possibility of a redistricting  
25 for a border legislative district if it comes up, this



1 district would be the one most likely to be the most  
2 sympathetic with Mexico, the most likely to have a  
3 constituency favoring open borders; globalist entities like  
4 the EPA refer to what I call the border as the  
5 "transboundary community."

6 In my opinion, the north side of a proposed border  
7 legislative district is what progressives might hope would  
8 be the de facto new U.S.-Mexico border.

9 The cartel dope industry is estimated between 13.6  
10 and 49 billion annually. I believe that the strategy of  
11 drug cartels is to infiltrate one county deep in the U.S.;  
12 and if they can't get the whole county, they'd be very happy  
13 to settle for a border legislative district in the meantime.

14 In the face of the failure of the Mexican  
15 government and its fundamental function to protect and  
16 defend its own citizens and because of corruption, having  
17 reorganized its law enforcement five times since the '80s,  
18 and in the wake of now over 120,000 narco war-related  
19 atrocities in Mexico, the cartels are now the ones offering  
20 peace and safety for Mexicans instead of the government.

21 We should disregard racial demographics in  
22 redistricting because of the destructive divisive  
23 consequences I've outlined today.

24 Meanwhile, those of us that believe in liberty,  
25 don't be intimidated by accusations of racism. When I say

1 "we the people," I'm not excluding any of our citizens.

2 But if you believe in liberty, you're one of us.  
3 Don't get tired, don't give up, we the people and we of  
4 Southeast Arizona.

5 Thank you very much, Commissioners.

6 MS. CRANK: We will turn it back over to Nogales.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 Our next three speakers are Peter Lucas, Steve  
9 McEwen, and then Peter Benecita -- Benequista.

10 Peter Lucas is our first speaker.

11 Then Steve McEwen.

12 MR. McEWEN: Good evening Chairman and fellow  
13 members of the committee. I'd like to begin by thanking the  
14 Chairman for insisting on having these hearings available in  
15 our small rural communities.

16 My name is Steve McEwen and I'm a full-time  
17 resident of Rio Rico and Santa Cruz; I currently reside in  
18 LD-2 and CD-3.

19 Although I cannot boast about a long life in  
20 Arizona, my life in Montana next to the Canadian border in a  
21 rural society has more similarities than I have time to  
22 mention; perhaps that's why I feel so comfortable in my new  
23 home of four years.

24 I was greeted warmly by my neighbors who were  
25 willing to assist us in settling in our home in a Latino

1 neighborhood. I find that citizens of Santa Cruz to hold  
2 God as their father, nature as their mother, family the most  
3 blessed of possessions, and hard work to be the essence of  
4 life to support all the aforementioned values. These values  
5 in my opinion define Santa Cruz County as a conservative  
6 community.

7 Living in a rural environment can be difficult but  
8 it's never spurned. Instead, these difficulties are seen to  
9 be a path of building solid character and appreciation for  
10 the fellow man.

11 Although these values may be found in urban  
12 society, their path is not ours nor is the special  
13 appreciation of our surroundings.

14 For a decade Santa Cruz has been governed by urban  
15 values; decisions have been made that seem to ignore our  
16 principles and our way of life. The 20-mile limit for trade  
17 with Mexico was taken away and with it our prosperous border  
18 communities. The two South32 Mine promises, education,  
19 training and great paying jobs, but urban special interests  
20 has delayed the mine's development; border policies have  
21 separated families and destroyed an already fragile economic  
22 environment in Santa Cruz County.

23 We are desperately in need of representation in our  
24 state government that understands and addresses these  
25 important issues, not a "one size fits all" policy.

1           Please consider pairing Santa Cruz County with our  
2 neighbor, Cochise County, for consistent, fair and common  
3 sense representation.

4           My research in these hearings has brought attention  
5 to the fact that sitting politicians and candidates may be  
6 attempting to sway this committee to fit their desires.  
7 Proposition 106 passed by the citizens of 2000 did so  
8 because they did not want our elected officials to be a  
9 determining factor in our legislative and congressional  
10 districts.

11          I pray this Committee turns a deaf ear to these  
12 politicians; they'll have plenty of time to represent our  
13 wishes when the important process is finished.

14          I also pray to God you will give me -- you will  
15 have the wisdom to make these important decisions in the  
16 best interest for the citizens.

17          Thank you for listening and Godspeed.

18          MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19          The next speaker is Peter Benequista, followed by  
20 Dick Bauerbach, followed by Doug Holler.

21          MR. BENEQUISTA: Howdy, Commissioners.

22          I am Peter Benequista. My wife Carol and I have  
23 lived in Tubac area in Santa Cruz County for 20 years; we  
24 are Tucson escapees.

25          I currently serve on the board of directors for the

1 Tubac Fire District and have served on the board of our  
2 homeowner's association. Carol has served on the board for  
3 Tubac Center of the Arts and has worked at the golf resort  
4 and two shops in the village; we are both retired.

5 The Tubac Fire District notably comprises  
6 communities from Amado at the Pima County line to much of  
7 Nogales district that I think should remain intact from any  
8 view.

9 Tubac is a very rural community, like most of the  
10 county. Our biggest concerns are border security and  
11 economic development, issues shared largely in a large way  
12 with Cochise County; a natural connection for districting  
13 purposes.

14 Tubac itself is not an incorporated entity, there  
15 are no physical or otherwise boundaries; although, it  
16 occupies a huge area in Santa Cruz County.

17 I don't know what the Commission did ten years ago,  
18 I wasn't paying attention at that time, I do know that the  
19 last representative that actually represented Carol and me,  
20 our principles and our needs, was Jim Kolbe.

21 I believe that the constitution law and the six  
22 criteria that we have referred to, along with plain-old  
23 common sense are of utmost importance to the future of our  
24 community. Let's get it right this time.

25 Thanks for listening.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is -- oh. I'm sorry. Sir, we  
3 have a question.

4 MR. BENEQUISTA: Yes?

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Oh I'm sorry.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you so much. You know,  
7 all of this information is remarkably helpful.

8 You know, the Commission just yesterday came from  
9 Yuma. There's a couple of issues that are coming up today  
10 that I'd like to just seek some clarification or additional  
11 information on.

12 One is obviously this is a border town, it's  
13 obviously also a military town. How do these needs  
14 distinguish themselves from the Yuma situation that we just  
15 came from in terms of their border issues and their base  
16 needs?

17 Is there anything unique that you would like us to  
18 understand as it distinguishes itself from that territory in  
19 our state?

20 MR. BENEQUISTA: Honestly, I'm not familiar with  
21 the situation in Yuma, but having lived in Tubac for  
22 20 years, I know that the Border Patrol is up against it in  
23 a big way.

24 Now, we have two major ports of entry in Nogales --  
25 actually, three total, but two major ports of entry; and

1 even the ports of entry have not been staffed to the level  
2 that was authorized by Congress ten years ago perhaps, okay.

3 So, again, overloaded; unable to, you know, with  
4 capacity to handle the problem.

5 This -- this county, Santa Cruz County, is -- if  
6 you look it from a satellite, is a maze of routes for  
7 illegal aliens, drug smugglers, people traffickers, all of  
8 that that we have to deal with; and the little checkpoint on  
9 the I-19 just north of Tubac, north of Exit 40, in many ways  
10 is a joke because the people know where to go, which way to  
11 go, and how to go without ever seeing that checkpoint, and  
12 that's a big problem.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 Our next speaker is Dick Bauerbach, followed by  
15 Doug Holler, and after that we'll go back to Bisbee.

16 MR. BAUERBACH: Chairman and members of the  
17 committee, my name is Dick Bauerbach; I live in  
18 Santa Cruz County just outside of Patagonia, and I'm here  
19 today to give you my comments about the area as a community  
20 of interest.

21 Patagonia is a rural community. I am retired,  
22 moved here 26 years ago because of the mountains, the  
23 people, and the Mexican food.

24 The people here are rural and are very open and  
25 easy to talk to. Our common interests include cattle

1           ranching, farming, mining, tourism, and interaction with  
2           citizens from the Mexican state of Sonora.

3                   The mountains here are rich with ore, and Patagonia  
4           has a major mining activity just outside of town.

5                   I joined a rock club in Sierra Vista to explore the  
6           mountains of Santa Cruz and Cochise.

7                   Our interests are in common with activities in  
8           Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee Counties. For example,  
9           Santa Cruz and Cochise both have ports of entry with Mexico,  
10          Nogales, Naco, and Agua Prieta; both counties have fall  
11          festival in October; Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Greenlee have  
12          active mines at Patagonia, Bisbee, and Morenci; the  
13          semiannual wine festival at Elgin on the Cochise-Santa Cruz  
14          border within site of the 100,000 Brophy Ranch adjacent to  
15          Fort Huachuca always draws people by bus from Phoenix.

16                   Ranching, farming, mining, and tourism are not the  
17          primary interest of people in the urban areas of Southern  
18          Arizona. By representing the rural aspects of  
19          Santa Cruz County, duly elected conservative legislators  
20          will better represent the communities of Southeastern  
21          Arizona.

22                   Any questions?

23                   Thank you.

24                   MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25                   Our next speaker is Doug Holler.



1 MR. HOLLER: Good afternoon.

2 My name is Doug Holler; I'm a fourth generation  
3 resident of Santa Cruz County area. I'm a retired ADOT area  
4 manager retiring after 25 years of service with the rank of  
5 lieutenant. I'm a former precinct committeeman in this  
6 county; and I'm also a former political party executive  
7 officer in Santa Cruz County. I'm also a former member of  
8 the county library board. I'm retired now.

9 And in case of our district here in  
10 Santa Cruz County, I think it's -- we're a very large  
11 Hispanic population and I believe we -- we're represented  
12 well.

13 I am concerned a bit with our friends to the east  
14 in Cochise County, and I mentioned this ten years ago, but I  
15 know there's lots of Hispanics, Democrats, and Independents  
16 in Cochise County but, yet, when I look at the  
17 representatives and senators, I just see Republicans and no  
18 apparent Hispanic names.

19 And so with that being said, I want to thank you,  
20 members, I know you're not compensated; you're doing this on  
21 a volunteer basis, and I appreciate that and I want to thank  
22 you for helping to keep our democracy going.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. At this time we'll send  
25 it back to Bisbee.

1 MS. CRANK: I have two last speakers here in  
2 Bisbee: Tamara Birch and Gail Griffin.

3 MS. BIRCH: Thank you, Commissioners. Can you hear  
4 me?

5 My name is Tamara Birch; and thank you for the  
6 community for opening this facility and all the committee  
7 members from our county and districts.

8 I live in Cochise County in Bisbee, my LD-14 is my  
9 Arizona state legislat- -- legislative group, and I'm also  
10 part of CD-2.

11 I'm a concerned citizen hoping to promote safe and  
12 healthy environments for our diverse rural population.

13 My husband and I are both retired teachers. He was  
14 from Cochise College and Fort Huachuca teaching, and I'm a  
15 public school teacher from many districts in the county.  
16 We've spent most of our teaching careers here, our son is --  
17 one and only son was born here in 1983 is also a teacher.

18 I've lived in the area for over 40 years. I  
19 originally came here because I am a bird watcher. I've  
20 lived in Palominas, Bisbee, and Hereford; we've lived in the  
21 San Pedro River several times even at the Lehner Kill Site  
22 Ranch; bird watching, hiking, camping throughout the region  
23 has engaged my family from day one.

24 I'm here because of water concerns. Redistricting  
25 until now has not addressed ground water management. This

1 affects not -- not only affects our agricultural but our  
2 private water usage, the wells, and it's an international  
3 border issue also.

4 Our border communities are plagued. If you can  
5 remember, we had sewage running from the south up into the  
6 Bisbee not a few years ago back and wells have been  
7 contaminated; this includes issues in Naco, Arizona, all the  
8 way to Nogales, which has had also sewage problems.

9 Santa Cruz County should be included in our  
10 redistricting map as I feel this would deal with our common  
11 concerns.

12 Water issues in our district have moved from bad to  
13 worse, more and more wells are running dry; highway fissures  
14 are expensive to fix and dangerous for residents and for our  
15 church -- check with ADOT on that one.

16 Turkey Creek and Silver Springs Valley have endured  
17 dramatic water losses recently; a number of half-mile deep  
18 wells in the Douglas district have given the corporate  
19 agricultural projects room to deplete the remaining aquifer.  
20 There was an article on 8/3/21 in the High Country News  
21 entitled "A Mega-Dairy is transforming Americas Aquifer and  
22 Lifestyles."

23 People have been in our area for generations; the  
24 folks who built this country are being forced to leave  
25 because of no water, night skies are affected by the 24/7

1 farm lights, bird populations have drastically reduced over  
2 the years --

3 Okay. Thank you so much for your concerns and  
4 listening.

5 MS. GRIFFIN: Good evening.

6 My name is Gail Griffin; I'm a resident of Cochise  
7 County. I've lived in Cochise County for 50-plus years. I  
8 currently live in Hereford, Arizona.

9 As a full disclosure I am a state representative  
10 for LD-14. I am here as an individual property owner and  
11 citizen of Cochise County, not in my political affiliation.

12 I have been involved with local, state, and  
13 national issues for many, many years and continue to be  
14 involved in those issues.

15 Our community of interests include the agricultural  
16 community of ranches, farms, wineries, and other natural  
17 resource issues like mining. All four of the current  
18 counties that are in LD-14 have mines; we have national  
19 defense operations, military, aerospace, a large retirement  
20 community, and law enforcement to provide a safe community.  
21 Our district composes mostly of small business which has --  
22 is and has and will continue to be most -- most of the  
23 district.

24 We do not have casinos or gambling in the district;  
25 our law enforcement work hard to stop the illegal activity

1 of drug and human smuggling as well as other crimes that are  
2 committed along the border.

3 Safe communities are what we want.

4 Our ports of entrance are different from other  
5 border communities. You mentioned Yuma, and Yuma has double  
6 fencing. In Cochise County we -- we have drug cartels that  
7 have taken up operation on our American soil.

8 I am here speaking again for myself as a Cochise  
9 County resident. With all due respect, I request that the  
10 next meeting -- next series of meetings, we have one in  
11 Sierra Vista.

12 Thank you for allowing us to be here.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. CRANK: We'll send it back over to Nogales.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Kathleen  
16 Vandervoet, followed by Maureen Mahoncy, followed by Carla  
17 Romero.

18 MS. VANDERVOET: Hi, Commissioners. Thank you for  
19 traveling here; appreciate that very much.

20 My name is Kathleen Vandervoet, and I'm lived in  
21 Santa Cruz County for 43 years. I voted in every election  
22 and I've always known who my representative is and I paid  
23 attention to the districts for the last 43 years.

24 I'd like to ask you to keep Santa Cruz County in  
25 one district; don't split it into two.

1           I'm not sure if that's in the planning stages or  
2 not, but Santa Cruz County was split into two in the past,  
3 and I saw a lot of problems with that. I live in State  
4 Legislative District 2 and Congressional District 3, and I  
5 like -- I like living there, I like the response from our  
6 elected officials.

7           When we were split in two it severely diluted  
8 the -- the needs and concerns of citizens. People in  
9 Santa Cruz County weren't able to show that they had a  
10 strong unified voice because they had to get the attention  
11 of representatives from two different legislative districts.

12           At that time I heard from some people that: "Oh,  
13 it's good, we get double the attention." But I -- I  
14 observed it carefully and we didn't, we didn't get double;  
15 we didn't even get our fair share.

16           So that's why I feel so strongly that  
17 Santa Cruz County should remain in one legislative district.

18           And I just want to talk for a moment about your  
19 question about Yuma.

20           I was -- yeah, that's a great question. I visited  
21 Yuma a few times on some quasi-business trips, and one  
22 difference I would say is it's so agricultural, they have so  
23 many growing fields; Santa Cruz County doesn't have  
24 agriculture except some small businesses. So, I mean,  
25 there's a huge disparity. That's a big difference.

1           We do have a lot of other common interests,  
2           however. So that's an interesting thought that you've been  
3           presented with to think about.

4           But we are mostly ranching, a lot of mountain  
5           areas, Santa Cruz River, we've got the international trade  
6           too. Because we're on the international border, we need  
7           frequent assistance from our elected officials and, you  
8           know, maybe more so than larger Arizona cities even though  
9           our population is smaller.

10          Some of the problems that you've heard about and  
11          I'd like to mention that we need help with transportation,  
12          public health, border crossing, and education because of our  
13          location and because we're such an important port of entry  
14          for Arizona and the whole United States.

15          I also wanted to talk for just a moment about some  
16          people's suggestions that Santa Cruz County and Cochise  
17          County be joined, and I agree we have a lot -- oh. Is that  
18          my three minutes? Okay -- similar interests, but it would  
19          really dilute the Democrat voice in Santa Cruz County. It  
20          would be lost compared to Cochise County; and I personally  
21          would be so sad to see that happen.

22          Thank you for coming and I would like  
23          Santa Cruz County to remain in the same districts.

24          MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25          Our next speaker is Maureen Mahoncy, followed by

1 Carla Romero followed by Carmen Flores.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you hear me, Mike?

3 MS. MAHONCY: Good evening. My name is Maureen  
4 Mahoncy; I have been a resident of Santa Cruz County for  
5 12 years and own a property on the east side of Nogales,  
6 which is located in LD-2.

7 I moved to Nogales in order to escape the strife  
8 and bustle of Tucson, enjoy a small-town community and  
9 return to the rural roots in which I was raised. My house  
10 in Tucson, which I still own, is located just north of South  
11 Tucson, so I am very familiar with the area which our county  
12 has been so incongruously enjoined.

13 I have found great solace and joy in living the  
14 small-town life and in the pastoral setting of Nogales,  
15 where I'm an active member of Sacrad Heart of Jesus Church,  
16 participate in the choir, prayer group, and numerous other  
17 activities.

18 I find that Nogales is more compatible with the  
19 outlying towns and surrounding rural areas of Tubac,  
20 Rio Rico, Patagonia, Sonoita, and greater Cochise County  
21 than with the urban, dense, hectic zone of South Tucson.

22 Our concerns and needs are very different  
23 geographically, commercially, and demographically.  
24 Economically we are commonly defined by mining, ranching,  
25 agricultural, small business and produce industries, as well



1 as the border protection and security.

2 Living along the border is a unique experience  
3 which lends a special color to our lives and also carries  
4 unique concerns. I absolutely don't want Nogales included  
5 in the same legislative district of South Tucson, a city of  
6 a million people located 70 miles away from us and with whom  
7 we share little in common. Our interests are only  
8 overshadowed and lost in the greater dimensions of such a  
9 locality.

10 I don't know why a small county like ours would  
11 have marked along such divergent lines in the past and can  
12 only surmise that there were other interests at play; such a  
13 division is highly unfair to the residents in Nogales and  
14 did not allow us to be united as a bloc or allied with  
15 surrounding communities of common representation.

16 Please consider redistricting our county in a way  
17 that truly reflects the needs and concerns of our community  
18 in conjunction with the stated claims of the Arizona  
19 Constitution with respect communities of interest.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker is Carla Romero or -- Carla  
23 Ramero, followed by Carmen Flores, followed by Marco Antonio  
24 Flores, Senix --

25 MS. ROMERO: Hi. Good afternoon. Thank you for

1 taking the time to be here today.

2 Santa Cruz County has been my home for over  
3 30 years and I have never felt more under -- unrepresented  
4 than I do now. These past ten years my representative has  
5 done absolutely nothing for my community.

6 We are a rural community who enjoys spending our  
7 times in the outdoors, living a more western and rural  
8 lifestyle; we are also a border community with overwhelming  
9 alliances with Cochise County than Pima County.

10 I've seen my county deteriorate instead of  
11 improving, from our economy to our safety. Our county has  
12 been affected economy-wise from Tucson getting the majority  
13 of the business and education benefits while here at the  
14 border we get very little.

15 By pairing Santa Cruz County with Cochise County it  
16 will help develop a more rural economic and educational plan  
17 which in return will help our community greatly and turn our  
18 economic situation around.

19 In 2020 Santa Cruz County had the highest poverty  
20 level in Arizona; our unemployment rate is near 13 percent,  
21 that's well above the national and state average. There's  
22 also huge problem at the southern border with child sex  
23 trafficking that our representatives don't talk about, and  
24 that child sex trafficking goes directly to Tucson and is  
25 present throughout the United States.

1           So I can't recall a time when those who were  
2 politically representing us came to our community to talk to  
3 us and get our feedback; (technical/audio disruption) then  
4 they will come down.

5           It's that they feel so confident that they will be  
6 reelected that they do not even pay attention to us. That  
7 has to change, and it is your constitutional obligation to  
8 make sure we are being represented and not just taken  
9 advantage of for political power.

10          Thank you.

11          COMMISSIONER MEHL: Question.

12          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you for this feedback.

13          If there -- if you have particular boundaries or  
14 populations or districts that you feel if you aligned with  
15 would -- would better represent your needs, please make sure  
16 you submit that data to us, or if that's information you'd  
17 like to share with us now, we'd very much like to know.

18          MS. ROMERO: In regards to why think we should be  
19 in Cochise County or?

20          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: The boundaries, you're saying  
21 that you're not being represented and --

22          MS. ROMERO: Right.

23          CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: -- so if there are just  
24 specific districts or data that you'd like us to consider  
25 that you feel best represent your constituency, we just want

1 to -- we -- we want to be able to best record that data.

2 That's all. Thank you.

3 MS. ROMERO: Well, yeah, I just think that all  
4 Santa Cruz County, it should not be divided. I think we  
5 should be paired with Cochise County. Douglas and Nogales  
6 are very similar when it comes to our produce industry; we  
7 rely very heavily on it. And I -- I just don't think that  
8 we're being paid attention to the last ten years.

9 So I could get data for you'd you like and I could  
10 e-mail it to you. I could try to find it on my phone and  
11 get back.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: We care. Thank you.

13 MS. ROMERO: Okay. Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you for this, and we'll  
15 look into it.

16 Very much. Thank you.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Carmen Flores,  
18 followed by Marco Antonio Flores, Sr., followed by Julie  
19 Grotheer.

20 MS. FLORES: Good evening, Madam Chairman and  
21 Commissioners.

22 My name is Carmen Valencia Flores. I believe the  
23 representation we currently have isn't inadequate, not  
24 because of inability but because they simply are not part of  
25 this community.

1 I live in Nogales; Santa Cruz County has been my  
2 home for 67 years. I come from generations of committed  
3 Santa Cruz residents that have worked to improve our rural  
4 border community.

5 Because of nonexistent opportunities to further our  
6 education -- at the time, it's changed now, a little bit but  
7 it's changed with great effort -- we left our rural  
8 community, some in my family returned to our small border  
9 community to establish businesses, creating success both  
10 personal and for their workforce. Others have been  
11 committed workers who have labored side by side with our  
12 communities of employment for decades.

13 I am a granddaughter of a man passionate about his  
14 trade and dedicated to developing the power grid in rural  
15 Santa Cruz County. Started in 1915; 22 years later still  
16 driven by that vision of improving his community he laid  
17 down his life restoring the power on Patagonia Highway. In  
18 1937, it wasn't great news, there was nothing much to be  
19 said of I-19.

20 Let's see. I scratched a bunch of things out that  
21 I thought I was going to say, but I'm not going to anymore.

22 It was then that with great pride he carved out --  
23 it was with great pride that he carved out the electrical  
24 services to this very border and part of Nogales, Sonora,  
25 and Mexico. There was a time when the first blocks of

1 Sonora light up to the tower provided from the U.S.

2 It was this pride that I learned for my community,  
3 which brings me here today.

4 My neighborhood includes the border and the start  
5 of a new well-known I-19 corridor. The fence has been a  
6 backyard reality all my life, with all its charm and its not  
7 so many charms too.

8 Not a photo op as it is for others, it is my home.

9 I doubt that my current representation has the  
10 slightest idea as to what it is to have both I-19 and the  
11 international border dictate what your day or your night  
12 will be like.

13 We require highly specialized knowledge to be  
14 supportive. This is a powerful rural border community, we  
15 are true assets, residents of Santa Cruz County are miners,  
16 agriculturals, international businessmen, and front-line  
17 defenders of this country's sovereignty. Residents are  
18 rooted in gratitude to this country, who believe in what  
19 Santa Cruz County has to offer and some of us have signed  
20 our name to it with blood.

21 It's time we have the representation that promotes  
22 and supports, matches -- and matches our sacrifices.

23 The current LD-2 has Tucson-imposing policies in  
24 our rural communities, and they are not appropriate  
25 decisions.

1                   Thank you so much for listening to me; I really  
2 appreciate it.

3                   MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Marco Antonio  
4 Flores, Sr., followed by Julie Grotheer, followed by  
5 Fredrick Milner.

6                   MR. FLORES: You asked for some distinction --  
7 difference from Yuma, the area in where we live in. I just  
8 jot -- I jotted some down here, but is that going to take  
9 away from my three minutes.

10                  CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I'll give you 30 extra  
11 seconds.

12                  MR. FLORES: Thank you.

13                  All right. Real -- really quickly, then. Yuma:  
14 Yuma is not on the border, Nogales is, Naco is and Sahuarita  
15 is. Yuma is seven miles north. Yuma is 2 hours and 40  
16 minutes away from San (indiscernible), and so it's 2 miles  
17 [sic] and 40 minutes away from Phoenix, where do you think  
18 they're going to go for their commerce and entertainment?

19                  We are not, no. We're 65 miles away to Tucson and  
20 three hours -- two and a half miles to Phoenix.

21                  Yuma is both military and it's also a slightly  
22 border town. Nogales is not military; Sierra Vista is  
23 military but not border town. Nogales is border town  
24 smacked right on the border.

25                  Thank you.

1                   CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Three minutes now.

2                   MR. FLORES: Santa Cruz County and it's two  
3                   incisions.

4                   My name is Marco Antonio Flores, Sr.; I'm a  
5                   healthy 71 years of wisdom and common sense; retired here in  
6                   my hometown of Nogales, Arizona; two children, a proud son  
7                   as a military black op pilot and my lovely and successful  
8                   New York City daughter who is pre- -- who has credited to  
9                   visiting 36 countries.

10                  I am -- I am proud to say that I was born and  
11                  raised in this border town, a child product of two cities  
12                  endued proudly in a dual heritage. Here is a culture and a  
13                  history so character rich, that even the incision of the  
14                  international line can never uproot its sacred legacy, the  
15                  interconnectivity that is defined and the commonality of  
16                  language, culture, and faith-related values; moreover there  
17                  is a sacred partnership that we call family.

18                  This truism can also be said about boundaries  
19                  between counties where the demographics are the same  
20                  uniquely woven tapestry. These very characteristics serve  
21                  to garner a meritorious distinction melding four counties of  
22                  its components to become one district that is stronger and  
23                  more distinctive than its current state; thus, justifiably  
24                  emboldened to those who would think fit to condescend.

25                  In the case made for Santa Cruz County, our



1 neighboring rural counties of Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee  
2 have more in common than the current lines of demarcation  
3 with Pima.

4 This other incision has turned into a scar that  
5 separates us to the extent that our unique existence --  
6 existence is snobbishly and -- and reluctantly accepted as  
7 the typical adopted child whose honor and pride is subdued  
8 and the voting powers suppressed.

9 I am not a Mexican-American, I am an American.  
10 Proud of my heritage, yes. But prouder still to be  
11 assimilated into the most generous and freedom-loving  
12 country in the world. Likewise, assimilation should be in  
13 the interest of a well-balanced counties that reflect the  
14 purity in our constitution and the halls of patriotism.

15 (Applause.)

16 MS. VAN HAREN: (Inaudible) followed by Frederick  
17 Milner, followed by Kathryn Townsend.

18 MS. GROTHEER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and the  
19 members of the committee.

20 My name is Julie Grotheer and we bought a home in  
21 Tubac in 2013; I'm from LD-2, CD-3. My husband Tim and I  
22 moved here from rural Colorado and live in Tubac full-time.  
23 We picked Tubac because of its similar -- similar values --  
24 excuse me.

25 Because of its similar size, small village, natural

1 beauty, and the opportunity to be around rural people who  
2 share similar -- similar values.

3 I board my horse at a local ranch close by and  
4 enjoy trail riding and spending time down at the ranch with  
5 other folks that love horses. My daughter and I enjoy trail  
6 riding on the Anza Trail and on the ranch. As more people  
7 bring their horses, this ranch is becoming a community of  
8 people that enjoy the outdoors and equestrian activities.  
9 We enjoy our rural setting, walking our dogs in our friendly  
10 neighborhood, golf resort, and on the Anza Trail.

11 We have met others in Tubac who share common values  
12 such as profamily, proconservative, and prosmall business.  
13 We also know ranchers close by and people with small farms.  
14 Our abundant wildlife and beautiful setting attracts people  
15 to visit our area.

16 We also have different issues here such as our  
17 southern border, mining, and preservation of our natural  
18 environment.

19 The village of Tubac is a small community of  
20 friendly folks who are also enjoying the small-town  
21 atmosphere with a love of art, nature, history, gardening,  
22 and caring for the environment. All want to conserve this  
23 small-town feel and preserve our beautiful ecosystems.

24 Our surrounding small town close by are also places  
25 that we love to visit.

1           After four years of being director of religious ed  
2           at St. Ann's Parish I have come to know the families, the  
3           local families that reside here; they are profamily and make  
4           family members, old and young, a priority.

5           Santa Cruz is different than the people who reside  
6           in urban areas. We have different needs, interests, values.  
7           We have more common interests and values with residents who  
8           live in rural settings similar to our small town.

9           Redistrict -- redistricting with similar counties,  
10          Cochise, will better represent the needs of the people in  
11          Santa Cruz and our border concerns -- and the border  
12          concerns we cannot ignore.

13          Thank you.

14          MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15          Our next speaker is Frederick Milner, followed by  
16          Kathryn Townsend, followed by Matt Purely -- Parrilli.

17          MR. MILNER: Good evening, Madam Chairman,  
18          Committee, thank you for coming.

19          My name is Fred Milner, my amazing wife and I live  
20          in Downtown Nogales in a home built by my ancestors in 1888;  
21          four of our five daughters have graduated from Nogales High  
22          School, while our youngest is in the 7th grade.

23          We still run the family ranch, and I'm also a music  
24          teacher at an elementary school locally. I lead praise and  
25          worship music at First Baptist Church of Nogales, and I'm

1 chairman of Child Evangelism Fellowship of  
2 Santa Cruz County.

3 My oldest daughter and I are in a band called "Tow  
4 the Line" with other Nogales area musicians. We're in the  
5 recording studio working on our first album.

6 The community of interest I would like to address  
7 is that of small town border communities. Small towns in  
8 Southern Arizona have a unique makeup, culture, and history.  
9 Proximity to the Mexican border and culture has fostered  
10 strong family ties and roots such as my own.

11 These small border communities hold deep religious  
12 and family values that hold us together and influence our  
13 world view.

14 Although there is important economic activity  
15 through produce, trucking brokerages, mining, agriculture,  
16 ranching and other international activity, these Southern  
17 Arizona communities of Santa Cruz County and Cochise  
18 Counties still have that small-town feel. We don't have the  
19 bells and whistles of the big city and, yet, what draws and  
20 keeps many is the sense of family, stability, and vision.

21 Preserving these hometown-border values built  
22 around family, church, children, location, and culture are  
23 in everyone's best interest.

24 So as you think about where to draw the lines, I  
25 urge you to bolster the strong voice of these small border

1 communities of interest, please reunite us as one bloc of  
2 citizens which hold to very similar rural values. Please do  
3 not arbitrarily or for some political agenda include us with  
4 Tucson which has interests that are not in line with our  
5 Southern Arizona border communities.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Kathryn Townsend, followed by  
9 Matt Parrilli, followed by Tim Grotheer.

10 MS. TOWNSEND: Good evening. It's nice to see you  
11 again. The last time I saw you was via Zoom when you guys  
12 were interviewing for the Commission; I'm a member of the  
13 Commission on Appellate Court Appointments.

14 And I want to start by saying thank you. I think  
15 more than anybody except Jaime here who is another member of  
16 Commission, we understand what it took to get to where you  
17 are, how thankless the job is, and how invasive the process  
18 of becoming a member of the Independent Redistricting  
19 Commission is, and I want to say thank you and also that I  
20 think you are doing a fantastic job.

21 So I think that tonight you've heard a lot of  
22 really interesting things from articulate people who have  
23 some passionate ideas about what needs to happen, and I  
24 would encourage you to look at what people are saying  
25 through the frame of how political decisions impact those

1 communities, 'cause I think that that's the theme that we're  
2 hearing over and over again.

3 And so I want to answer the question that you asked  
4 about Yuma and explain what I mean.

5 So my husband and I own 15 acres in St. David,  
6 which is a beautiful census -- census-designated area that  
7 has about 2,000 people living there; and we do a lot of  
8 things, we raise critters and crops, and one of the things  
9 that my husband does is aquaponics, which is a way of  
10 raising fish and -- okay, you're familiar with it.

11 Which is a way of raising fish and lettuce or other  
12 plants together but primarily lettuce. So one of the  
13 reasons that aquaponics isn't bigger in Arizona and why it's  
14 hard to bring aquaponics-grown produce to market is because  
15 of the lettuce lobby. So what we need in our small  
16 community is representatives who understand that in a small  
17 holding what you can grow effectively using water  
18 responsibly, is different than what huge industrial  
19 agricultural growers are doing by pulling water out of the  
20 Colorado River. Our interests are different because what we  
21 need in order for us to be responsible on the farm that  
22 we're trying to develop using permaculture methods is  
23 different than what the industrial agriculture growers are  
24 doing in Yuma.

25 And I think if you just focus on, if you're looking

1 at these groups and what they need and what they need from  
2 their representatives, then the lines that you draw will  
3 make sure that people feel like they have representation on  
4 the other end.

5 And I also think that if you do it that way, you  
6 have the advantage of it's naturally compact.

7 And so those are my thoughts on this, but I do have  
8 one request, and that is that if, from a demographic  
9 standpoint for numbers you have to include Tucson with where  
10 we are in Cochise County, could you please make sure that  
11 it's like Vail and Rita Ranch and people who on the out --  
12 outskirts because they have closer interests than people who  
13 live in Midtown Tucson would.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: One comment, I don't know  
16 what -- if there is new, you know, conceptual information  
17 for us to be able to digest information as it relates to  
18 water, you know, these kind of things that naturally, you  
19 know, carve out territories, make sure that the Commission  
20 receives this empirical data. We're -- we're, you know, the  
21 mapping folks, the Commissioners, we're taking notes; it's  
22 an enormous amount of information that we're synthesizing,  
23 so if you're concerned that there's particular pieces of  
24 information that might get lost, I just as a partner we're  
25 asking that you submit it --

1 MS. TOWNSEND: Okay.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: -- so -- so that we can make  
3 sure that we come back and -- and incorporate it.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. TOWNSEND: Thank you.

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

7 The next speaker is Matt Parrilli, followed by Tim  
8 Grotheer, followed by Ray Ihly.

9 MR. PARRILLI: Good evening.

10 My name is Matt Parrilli; I live in Sonoita. I  
11 have lived there for 21 years. I first set foot there in  
12 1976 and fell in love with it, finally was able to make a  
13 connection.

14 It's -- I think your choice of topic for this  
15 interface, this meeting, is a good one: community interest.  
16 Because in the 2021 [sic] redistricting that did not happen.

17 In 2020 we were, we the resident citizens of  
18 Sonoita-Elgin were encompassed in CD-8 and LD-30 at that  
19 time; the LD would now be 14; the CD would be 2.

20 The -- there is a vast sociological and economic  
21 difference between the western part of Santa Cruz County and  
22 the eastern part. The west -- the west side of the county  
23 is much more urban, it's heavily ensconced in and dependent  
24 on produce transport, which they do very well. The west  
25 side -- the east side of the county on the other hand is



1 very rural. I mean, its mainstays are ranching, vineyards;  
2 people have little hobby farms and hobby horse activity, and  
3 it's small.

4 They -- there are only 1,500 registered voters in  
5 the Sonoita-Elgin area.

6 One of the -- one of the other dissimilarities is  
7 just for common shopping for groceries and what have you,  
8 the drive from Sonoita to Sierra Vista is 30 miles. The  
9 drive from Sonoita to Nogales to shop is 40 miles; I mean,  
10 it's a no-brainer, that's where people for the most part go.

11 We -- we feel that we have much more in common with  
12 CD-2 and LD-14 because of the -- some of the things I  
13 mentioned.

14 Now, I'm going -- you're going to love me because I  
15 put together some thoughts, some maps, and a recommendation  
16 for moving these LD-14 and CD-2 boundary a little bit to the  
17 east -- west, sorry.

18 Time? Okay.

19 Thanks for listening.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Our next speaker -- can I  
21 just remind everybody, make sure you're talking into both  
22 mics, one is for amplification, so the one I'm speaking into  
23 right now is amplifying, the other one is going out to all  
24 of our viewers at Bisbee and then anybody on WebEx too. So  
25 the other mic up here is really important that you speak

1           into it.

2                   Thank you.

3                   MR. GROTHEER:   Hi.   My name is Tim Grotheer; I live  
4           in Tubac.

5                   And, first of all, thank you Madam Chair and  
6           Commissioners for allowing these --

7                   (Chorus of "Can't hear you.")

8                   MR. GROTHEER:   -- for allowing these meetings to  
9           take place and give people the opportunity to share their  
10          thoughts.

11                   Are you there?

12                   As my wife noted, we moved here in 2013 from a  
13          rural county in Colorado, and so we came here because -- to  
14          Santa Cruz because we liked the rural communities.

15                   And I'm learning a lot tonight from my neighbors;  
16          I -- I don't know nearly as much about Santa Cruz County as  
17          many of the folks in this room that have spoken and it's --  
18          it's very interesting to me.

19                   One of the things I -- I did want to make a note of  
20          that I noticed, when you look at the existing map of the  
21          legislative districts in Arizona, it doesn't seem to be  
22          grid-like for LD-2, it seems to be more like a -- something  
23          that was put together to make something happen; that's just  
24          a thought.

25                   And it makes sense to me that Santa Cruz County be

1 associated more with -- with the counties to the east of us.

2 I agree that Santa Cruz County should be kept  
3 whole.

4 I kept my comments a little bit shorter here than I  
5 had intended because -- so I've kind of rewritten it, but  
6 I'm going to submit one of these online, a survey, so that I  
7 can be more complete with my comments, but I don't want to  
8 be redundant, and in the interest of time I just wanted to  
9 keep it short and sweet.

10 That's my comment.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 Our next speaker is Ray Ihly, followed by Brock --  
13 Brock Bracker, followed by Carlos Pena.

14 MR. IHLY: Thank you, members of the IRC.

15 I'm Ray Ihly; I live in rural unincorporated Pima  
16 County on a private well; I own a ranch property in rural  
17 Cochise County; I'm a retired aerospace worker; I have  
18 connections to the military and law enforcement and  
19 politics.

20 I would like to begin by recognizing the work so  
21 far of those of you on the current IRC board, especially  
22 Chairwoman Dr. Erika Neuberg; you've been running the IRC  
23 fairly, I believe you care about fair play, you have allowed  
24 these public hearings to take place. Thank you.

25 In contrast, the IRC of 2011 was unfair, showing

1 partisan bias, ignoring communities of interest, and failing  
2 to meet the five legal requirement of districting, thereby  
3 defaulting to competitive districts that have  
4 underrepresented many communities.

5 The LD-2 situation mixing Nogales and South Tucson  
6 with rural Pima and Santa Cruz together with Green Valley  
7 and Sahuarita is a clear example, one of many. I hope this  
8 time the IRC will assure districts comply with all five  
9 criteria in the law thereby making so called "competitive  
10 districts" not found.

11 My interests support communities with a rural  
12 suburban lifestyle, personal responsibility, individual  
13 rights, private property rights, water rights, mining,  
14 agriculture, ranching, wine production, public safety, and  
15 law enforcement, religious faith, the military, aerospace  
16 and defense industry, retirement communities, hunting,  
17 fishing and outdoor activities. These communities are found  
18 in most areas outside the city of Tucson and Pima County,  
19 especially unincorporated land on private and community  
20 wells.

21 Plus, most of the counties of Cochise, Graham,  
22 Greenlee, and Santa Cruz County east of the mountains or  
23 I-19 corridor, including the communities of Green Valley,  
24 Sahuarita, Vail, Corona de Tucson, Rita Ranch, Dragoon,  
25 Morenci, Safford, San Simon, the agricultural valleys from

1 Wilcox to McNeal, Duncan, Sonoita, Elgin, Patagonia,  
2 Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista,  
3 Raytheon Tucson, and surrounding communities in Saddlebrooke  
4 and Quail Creek.

5 I urge you to fashion districts that keep these  
6 communities together and representative -- and represented.

7 Please keep Cochise County together. It is a  
8 unique, ruggedly individualistic, free-thinking rural  
9 western county that must not be split.

10 Please comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights  
11 Act and place Nogales and the I-19 corridor of  
12 Santa Cruz County in their own special protected districts  
13 with similar interests.

14 None of the new CD-2 should be in the city of  
15 Tucson at all; the city should confine its influence to one  
16 CD of its own. Likewise, LDs in or near the city of Tucson  
17 should be urban or suburban -- either urban or suburban in  
18 character, as not mixed as possible.

19 Thank you for your hard work, God bless it, I wish  
20 you all every success under difficult circumstances.

21 Thank you for hearing me.

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

23 Our next speaker is Brock or Brocz Bracker, Carlos  
24 Pena, and then Maria Osowa.

25 MR. BRACKER: Good evening, Commissioners.

1           My name is Bruce Bracker; I am a county supervisor  
2 representing District 3 in Santa Cruz County.

3           First and foremost, I would like to thank you for  
4 your service to the State in this endeavor. It is a  
5 thankless job and so kudos to you for stepping up to the  
6 plate to do it.

7           I have a couple points that I think is really  
8 critical to make. One, I think is very important to keep  
9 Santa Cruz County whole in a congressional district.

10          I think it is very important that Arizona have  
11 minimum two congressional districts that are touching the  
12 border. Currently, we have a third district with -- with  
13 Congressman Gosar's district representing Yuma, and these  
14 are very important voices when we go to our delegation to  
15 advocate for the needs of our community; so it's very  
16 important.

17          Also, when we're talking about legislative  
18 districts and our state legislative districts, again, keep  
19 Santa Cruz County whole. These are the people that we work  
20 with on a daily basis for the needs of our community.

21          So I thank you very much for your time. Thank you  
22 very much for coming to Santa Cruz County to listen to us.

23          MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24          The next speaker is Carlos Pena, followed by Maria  
25 Osowa, followed by Damien Kennedy.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

2 Okay. Our next speaker is Damien Kennedy, followed  
3 by Mark Larkin.

4 MR. KENNEDY: Good evening, Commissioners. Thank  
5 you for making the long trip down here. It is greatly  
6 appreciated in these rural communities.

7 My name is Damien Kennedy; I live in Lakewood-Amado  
8 area which is just north of the Santa Cruz-Pima County line;  
9 I've lived there for 12 years sharing my community as  
10 president of my local school PTO; I've been a Scout Master  
11 and a legislative chairman.

12 I live in a small community, a little over 500  
13 citizens and the demographics are mixed generously. We live  
14 in a community that has one small market; one large chain  
15 store which just came in; we are down to one restaurant due  
16 to flooding due to lack of representation; and a school  
17 district that is tied to a much larger school district that  
18 ignores the needs of my small community because we are  
19 just -- we're too far away to matter.

20 My community is nestled between a large  
21 unincorporated town in Green Valley and a county line that  
22 is just too far away from Tucson, too far away from Nogales  
23 for the main metropolitan areas to matter what the needs of  
24 the community are.

25 Our roads haven't been redone since the '70s when

1 the community was built. Largely we are a speed bump on  
2 your way to Mexico or to Tucson depending on which way that  
3 you're headed. No one notices the community and no one is  
4 listening to the community in general.

5 I am here today in the hopes that my community will  
6 not be tossed into a district as an afterthought and  
7 forgotten for the next ten years like it has been for the  
8 last ten.

9 We would like to have a voice and be heard like any  
10 other part of Southern Arizona that gets bundled with other  
11 counties that are much larger than they are and their voices  
12 being drowned out also because they are too far away to  
13 really matter.

14 Our ruralness in the state gives us different  
15 values more than the urban areas of the state, areas  
16 Southern Arizona usually gets lumped into, Tucson and such.

17 This rural attitude has given us great conservative  
18 values, though, a standard of principles that need to be  
19 reflected legislatively. Our voice disappeared 10 years ago  
20 and this is our chance to correct that mistake and bring our  
21 valued voice, principles, and strong conservative values  
22 together to be the anchor to this state that everyone  
23 outside of the Southern Arizona agrees economically that we  
24 are here at the border with our produce coming across the  
25 line and everything like that.



1           With that, I thank you very much for listening to  
2 me and thank you for coming down.

3           MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4           Our next speaker is Mark Larkin, followed by  
5 Marcelino Varona, Jr., followed by Douglas Cook.

6           MR. LARKIN: Yes, good evening to the Commission,  
7 very happy that you are taking time to come down here and  
8 listen to us down here in Nogales.

9           My name is Mark Larkin; I've been a -- I'm a native  
10 Arizonan, I've been a member -- or resident of  
11 Santa Cruz County since about 1992, when I came down here  
12 and started farming and ranching in this area, something I'd  
13 grown up with and that I continue to do here in  
14 Santa Cruz County.

15           Right now as I get older, I find out that work is a  
16 little tougher so now I'm an attorney here in Nogales, and I  
17 represent a lot of agricultural interests in land use and  
18 water rights particularly.

19           In 19- -- the mid-1980s, we split out our active  
20 management area here which manages groundwater here in the  
21 area, and we split away from the Tucson Active Management  
22 Area; that was a terrific -- excuse me, a terrific move for  
23 us down here because of the difference, the hydrological and  
24 agricultural differences between us in this county and  
25 the -- the more urban demands in Pima County.

1           That difference has persisted throughout the -- the  
2           decades since then; and the attaching of us like we did ten  
3           years ago to Pima County and to that -- that part of Pima  
4           County just, frankly, made Santa Cruz County kind of a  
5           sideshow. I mean, we were just sort parked aside and, you  
6           know, our interests were just completely subsumed by the --  
7           the interest of the more urban areas north of us.

8           I think it is a much better idea to couple these --  
9           these counties that are rural, are agricultural, have a lot  
10          of the same economic base, and are made up -- instead of  
11          large urban areas, are made up by smaller cities in a more  
12          rural type of area.

13          It's -- it just makes sense to couple those kinds  
14          of communities together as a -- a district. I think the  
15          people of those communities would be far better served by  
16          that than being kind of just shunned to the side by -- by  
17          the urban interests.

18                 So, thank you very much.

19                 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20                 Our next speaker is Marcelino Varona, Jr., followed  
21          by Douglas Cook, followed by Irene Ellerseck.

22                 MR. VARONA: Thank you.

23                 Before I just like to make a comment before I get  
24          started. It would help a lot if I could see the other two  
25          Commissioners on the screen so that I know how they're

1 reacting to the presentations and that.

2 Oh, they're on the bottom? Oh -- I think -- I  
3 don't really need to see Bisbee, I would like to see how  
4 they're acting, 'cause if I'm sitting in the back I don't  
5 see them at the bottom; so it would be very helpful if you  
6 would enlarge them.

7 (Inaudible.)

8 Welcome. I -- I couldn't see you in the back of  
9 the room there.

10 Marcelino Varona; I am a resident of  
11 Santa Cruz County for 70 years, and I -- I do want to go  
12 over just a couple of bullet points here.

13 Originally, people have mentioned here that they  
14 want to go ahead and be a part of Cochise County. The  
15 railroad tracks right here when you leave here, that was the  
16 dividing point; that was one district on the other side that  
17 was connected to Cochise County, on this side where you are  
18 presently that was another district that went up the I-9 --  
19 I-19 corridor.

20 I will just emphatically suggest that the good  
21 thing about being with Cochise County is Gail Griffin, she's  
22 a wonderful representative. The bad part of what we are  
23 right now so you recognize it, is that we don't elect very  
24 many Republicans and in the state legislature that does  
25 cause us a problem of our voice being heard because I've

1           been up there at the state legislature. And when we had  
2           John Ackerley represent us, we got a lot of things done; but  
3           he was defeated and we had three Democratic representatives,  
4           it does hurt us 'cause we are drowned [sic] out by the  
5           opposite; and I am since 1972 a registered Republican.

6                     I also would like to make a point on the border  
7           issues.

8                     The only thing that Nogales, San Luis, and Douglas  
9           have in common right now is all three entities of government  
10          have no city manager, that's all that we have in common.

11                    If you look at Douglas right now, they just lost  
12          their big super market, their Food City. They're dwindling  
13          economically; so we have to make sure that we have a sound  
14          economic base here.

15                    I will tell you this, because I am also the former  
16          mayor and city councilman for the City of Nogales, I  
17          presently sit on the Nogales Unified School District  
18          Governing Board and on the Santa Cruz County Provisional  
19          Community College Governing Board.

20                    The Provisional Community College, say it real  
21          fast, is just we are not an accredited community college, we  
22          have to have another community college that comes in to give  
23          the accredited courses. We were with Cochise College at one  
24          time; they rejected us. So we were on the verge of shutting  
25          down our community college; when Caspert Lambert (phonetic)

1           came in and offered us for Pima Community College to come in  
2           and seek to survive our community college offerings.

3                       So now we can continue to offer an associate of  
4           arts degree through Pima Community College, and bachelor's  
5           degree through the University of Arizona.

6                       So we do have something in common with Pima County.

7                       I am very supportive of the I-19 corridor, I think  
8           it's important. When you leave this evening and if you're  
9           going back to -- to your hometowns through I-19, when you're  
10          going out on Mariposa Road, look at that big freeway  
11          structure that cost millions dollar that the city of Nogales  
12          and Santa Cruz County had to contribute millions of dollars  
13          for, what is it for that highway? It is for efficiency of  
14          produce industry which --

15                      MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, that's time.

16                      MR. VARONA: Thank you, ma'am.

17                      Can I have an additional 30 seconds?

18                      So I want you to look at that as you go out because  
19          that is a big factor on our employment here.

20                      So, to me, keeping Santa Cruz County the way it is,  
21          joining us with people of South Tucson and that area which  
22          are Hispanic and Catholic.

23                      MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24                      Next speaker is Douglas Cook, followed by Irene  
25          Ellerseck, followed by Billy Peard.

1 MR. COOK: Hello. My name is Douglas James Cook; I  
2 have lived in Southern Arizona for 21 years.

3 Legislative District 2 should be Santa Cruz County,  
4 Graham County, and Cochise County; and definitely do not  
5 split Santa Cruz County up, make it whole.

6 I lived in Tucson and after a couple of years I  
7 moved to Rio Rico, Santa Cruz County. My law enforcement  
8 background has given me strong ties to most of the  
9 communities from South Tucson to Nogales. It is clear to me  
10 that the needs of metropolitan communities like Tucson are  
11 completely different from the needs of citizens living in  
12 rural small towns, border towns, and ranches.

13 It is wrong to have a representative in Congress  
14 speaking for such different groups of citizens. The  
15 ranching community desperately needs representatives that  
16 understand their needs.

17 Additionally, my experience in Rio Rico and Nogales  
18 is that the citizens here do daily business across the  
19 border and in most cases are binational with family members  
20 living in Mexico; we need representation that understands  
21 binational issues.

22 In addition to that my law -- in addition to my law  
23 enforcement background, I'm also a retired Navy chief from  
24 the military intelligence community. For three years I was  
25 president of the retired military organization known as

1 Arizona ASAA. Cochise County is largely if not mostly  
2 retired military intelligence, as Fort Huachuca is one of  
3 the largest intelligence bases in the country.

4 I have close ties to these citizens, and they would  
5 tell you that the representative from Tucson has no clue  
6 what they need.

7 Please redraw the district lines so  
8 Santa Cruz County whole -- not split up -- Graham County,  
9 and Cochise County are in one district together and not  
10 subordinated to Pima County.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Irene Ellerseck, followed by  
14 Billy Peard, followed by Jaime Chamberlain.

15 MS. ELLERSECK: Thank you for letting me speak  
16 about redistricting.

17 I believe I have a deep insight into this subject.  
18 I have lived in Arizona since 1978 and in Rio Rico since  
19 19- -- about 20 years -- thank you -- and I have a real  
20 estate broker's license in Arizona for over 30 years.

21 I have brokered sales across Arizona, but what I  
22 would like to speak about is my experience of subdividing my  
23 personal land in the metropolitan area of Tucson and the  
24 ranch lands of Northeastern Arizona.

25 A few examples as how I experience the difference

1           between the metropolitan and the farm/ranching/mining  
2           citizens of Arizona. When I was before the Board of  
3           Supervisor in Tucson, the supervisors were interested in the  
4           pollution of my property from the Air Force plane graveyard  
5           even though my land was five miles from the graveyard.

6                       (Whereupon the ASL interpreter exits WebEx.)

7           On another piece of land that was close to Downtown  
8           Tucson, the supervisors were interested how I was going to  
9           preserve the Javalina trails used in their daily pursuit of  
10          food.

11          Now, I can tell you that Northern Arizona citizens  
12          are not interested in the graveyard pollution, and they  
13          would find it amusing to preserve a trail for javelin.

14          Northeastern Arizona were interested how my CNRs  
15          would preserve their open range for their livestock and how  
16          many acres of open range I need -- or they need for cow and  
17          a calf; roads in the subdivision were secondary in the  
18          subdivision, just don't impede their livelihood.

19          In one subdivision in Tucson I needed to build a  
20          bridge to accommodate rain runoff from a mountain. In  
21          Northeastern Arizona bridges are not built to handle rain,  
22          it's open range.

23          Once I hired an attorney from Tucson to help with  
24          my project in Northeastern Arizona. Well, that was an  
25          expensive experience. A business employs attorneys, title



1           company, and architects in metropolitan areas; or, if you're  
2           an urban area, you employ the architect, the attorney, and  
3           the title company from that area.

4                     I have many examples why Santa Cruz has more in  
5           common with Cochise and Graham County than the metropolitan  
6           area of Pima County.

7                     Just being a woman I'm interested in clothes, and  
8           you go to Northeastern Arizona wearing cowboy boots and a  
9           Stetson hat and a jeans; but in the metropolitan area of  
10          Tucson you wear high heels and jewelry, so it's just totally  
11          different as far as living in the two different -- in the  
12          two different areas.

13                    So, in my opinion, the metropolitan representatives  
14          should not be representing rural areas and the rural areas  
15          should not be representing metropolitan areas in the  
16          legislature.

17                    Let the inhabitants of each -- in each area have a  
18          voice in their government.

19                    Thank you.

20                    MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21                    Our final speaker is Jaime Chamberlain.

22                    MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Good evening, everyone.

23                    Commissioners, thank you all for being here. Thank  
24          you for coming to Santa Cruz and Nogales.

25                    I am Jaime Chamberlain and I am a lifelong resident

1 of Nogales, Arizona. I am also current chairman of the  
2 Greater Nogales Santa Cruz Port Authority; I'm on the  
3 Arizona-Mexico Commission Executive Committee; and I'm also  
4 the past chairman of the Fresh Produce Association of the  
5 Americas; I was on the Commission for Appellate Court  
6 Appointments which screened you all to go to the Governor's  
7 Office along with Kathryn Townsend from -- from Southeast  
8 Arizona.

9 I really appreciate everyone's point of view as far  
10 as what they see as -- what they want as -- as the districts  
11 are being redrawn.

12 I want you to know that in Nogales, and I talk  
13 about this all the time, we -- we are a community that is  
14 very small, there's about 22,000 people in this community,  
15 about a little over 40,000 people in our community -- in our  
16 county, but we are extremely important to the viability and  
17 the economic viability not only to our state but also to our  
18 country.

19 We have -- we handle anywhere between 4 and a half  
20 and \$5 billion worth of Mexican fruit and vegetables that  
21 get to your table here in the United States and to Canada  
22 and Asia and Europe as well that cross through this  
23 community. My family has been doing over -- about 50 years  
24 and we've being done it in Nogales, Arizona, for over a  
25 century.

1           We also process about 26 billion dollars' worth of  
2 other mercadoria products that get to your home, probably  
3 some of your laptops that you're using right now, were  
4 probably made some of the components were probably made in  
5 Nogales Sonora right now.

6           We are an extremely important community. We have  
7 very much similar issues to some of the other border  
8 communities that you've been -- that have expressed their  
9 opinions here and sometimes we have some very different  
10 issues that come up.

11           But almost everything that we have that comes up as  
12 far as an issue for this community is a federal issue.  
13 Whether it's the IOI, the International Outflow Interceptors  
14 or whether it's the port of entry and the lack of -- the  
15 lack of infrastructure that we have, almost every single  
16 issue that we have is a federal issue.

17           So this job that you have, the five of you -- on  
18 the camera as well -- is extremely important to all of us.  
19 It is something that we take very, very seriously. You  
20 heard all of the different opinions that we have.

21           I just want you to know that -- and people have  
22 said it many, many times over and over, it's -- we need to  
23 get it right. Not only for this community now, but for the  
24 viability of our communities in the future.

25           So I appreciate your work; I respect your work,

1 I -- I've known a little bit about everyone who was -- who  
2 applied for the job to do this, and I'll tell you what it  
3 was very, very difficult to choose you all, but I think that  
4 we trust in your wisdom.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: So -- so before you go, I  
7 mean, this is your fault.

8 MR. CHAMBERLAIN: It is?

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And so, with that, I think we  
10 could ask a couple of follow-up questions.

11 MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Sure.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: First of all, if you could  
13 just expand a little bit on the I-19 corridor and along with  
14 that the link between Douglas and Nogales border ports.  
15 Just so we can kind of have a schema through which we can  
16 digest this information.

17 MR. CHAMBERLAIN: So one of the biggest issues that  
18 we have in Arizona is our competitive nature that we have  
19 with the other border states, so we're consistently  
20 competing with Texas, New Mexico, and California.

21 So in the past we had always fought for federal  
22 dollars for our ports of entry on more of a separate basis.  
23 Right now we are not doing that; we are actually supporting  
24 each other in the needs of San Luis, San Luis Phase 1, which  
25 already has about 154 million dollars for their first port

1 of entry, and they're seeking another 140 million for their  
2 Phase 2; we are also supporting Douglas in their two border  
3 port solution, which they want a commercial port five miles  
4 away from their existing port, and they want to remodel  
5 their existing port as just for commercial and for  
6 pedestrian traffic; we are also actively seeking monies for  
7 the remodel and redesign of DeConcini Port of Entry here in  
8 Nogales, Arizona, which actually sits on the international  
9 boundary line and is extremely dangerous for the Customs  
10 agents that are working at that border.

11 All new modern ports of entry have buffer zones of  
12 hundreds of yards for security reasons and also for the new  
13 technology that are coming out, so we are actively seeking  
14 to push our DeConcini Port of Entry which sits in our  
15 downtown community here more toward -- more toward the  
16 inside of Nogales.

17 So that's the connection that we have together.  
18 Those ports of entry are extremely important, and the  
19 figures that I gave you were only for Nogales and Mariposa.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Yes, Mr. Mehl.

22 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And we -- Erika asked also  
23 about the I-19 corridor.

24 MR. CHAMBERLAIN: The I-19 corridor is extremely  
25 important for us; it is the largest corridor that we have

1 for the state of Arizona going through the state of Arizona  
2 for the majority and almost all of our products that come  
3 through here. We are actively looking for different  
4 solutions to efficiently get our products to different parts  
5 of the United States.

6 Mexico just recently invested \$1.8 billion in the  
7 remodel of Mexico City to the Nogales Port of Entry and it  
8 is -- in Arizona many people are looking for an active way  
9 to get to Calgary. We would -- we used to call it the  
10 "Cana-Mexican Highway" which is Mexico 15, I-19 to probably  
11 hopefully a new highway in I-11 coming out of Tucson and  
12 going straight up to Calgary is our hope for that.

13 So I-19 is extremely important, the corridor, the  
14 economic viability of that corridor is extremely important.

15 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

16 MR. CHAMBERLAIN: Thank you.

17 Any other question?

18 No? Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On behalf of myself and my  
20 fellow Commissioners, I really want to thank you for the  
21 testimony today.

22 It's really important and we really are trying to  
23 listen; and the issues that are brought up are difficult to  
24 deal with, and just to give you a little bit of an idea of  
25 some of the challenges we face, in the 2011 redistricting

1 each congressional needed to have about 710,000 people.  
2 Given the population growth in the state, each congressional  
3 district by law will now be based -- when we get the final  
4 census we'll know, but it's going to be roughly 800,000  
5 people.

6 So any congressional district we draw we've got to  
7 find 90,000 more people in that district than what it was  
8 ten years ago.

9 Similarly on the legislative district, in 2010 each  
10 district had plus or minus 210,000 people; and based on the  
11 estimated population growth, we're going to need to have  
12 about 240,000 people in a legislative district.

13 So when we're looking at communities of interest,  
14 we're looking at how do we combine communities of interest  
15 to hit those numbers. So that just -- just so you'll  
16 understand that.

17 And as -- as you've seen today from the earlier  
18 presentation on our website, we do have easy-to-use tools  
19 for learning about and sharing information about your  
20 community of interest.

21 And those websites will load the new census data as  
22 soon as we get it, so by the first of September you'll be  
23 able to look and play with and create your own maps and  
24 create your own communities of interest based on that census  
25 data and send them to us; and we encourage you to do that so

1           that we can fully understand the input that you'd like to  
2           give to us.

3                       And that way we won't be relying purely on our own  
4           interpretation of what you said today, but we'll -- we'll be  
5           able to see exactly what you're -- you're looking at if you  
6           do that.

7                       This will ensure we correctly understand the  
8           definition of your community, and we encourage you to  
9           encourage your friends and neighbors to share their thoughts  
10          also.

11                      Anyone can go online any time between now and when  
12          we have final maps; and there's no requirement to attend one  
13          of these hearings, you can go online and give us your input  
14          through that website. So, again, I particularly encourage  
15          you to take advantage of that.

16                      We really appreciate you being here tonight; we  
17          appreciate the comments that we've heard; and we thank you  
18          very much.

19                      And, with that, we adjourn the meeting.

20                      (Applause.)

21                      (Whereupon the proceeding concludes at 7:12 p.m.)  
22  
23  
24  
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 23rd 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 23rd of August, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Miller Certified Reporting, LLC  
Arizona RRF No. R1058