

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Online via Webex

November 6, 2021

10:04 a.m.

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
PO Box 513, Litchfield Park, AZ 85340
(P) 623-975-7472 (F) 623-975-7462
www.MillerCertifiedReporting.com

Reported By (via Webex):
Deborah Wilks, RPR
Certified Reporter (AZ 50849)

1 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL, BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT
2 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 10:04 a.m. on
3 November 6, 2021, online via Webex.

4
5
6 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

7 Ms. Erika Neuberg, Chairperson
8 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman
9 Ms. Shereen Lerner, Commissioner
10 Mr. David Mehl, Commissioner
11 Mr. Douglas York, Commissioner

12
13 STAFF PRESENT:

14 Mr. Brian Schmitt
15 Ms. Lori Van Haren

16
17 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

18 Greg Blaire
19 Lori Gray
20 Cathy Lee
21 Tempest Shires
22 Frank Copple
23 Varilyn Jackson Downing
24 William Bowlus-Root
25 Georgetta Pierson
George Pizarro
Lydia Guzman
Joseph Junker
Sandi Bartlett
Susan Gannon
April Hernandez
James Roth
Abdelgabar Mohamdian
Najat Dahiya
Craig Stephan
April Tornquist
Maico Olivares
Angela Salazar-Willeford
Ryan Boyd
Brendan Walsh

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 Adil Nagiela
David Gordon
3 Bernard Miller
Franz Rizzo
4 Tim Schalick
Douglas Friday
5 Laraine Rodgers
Karina Ruiz
6 Magdalena Acosta
Aubrey Barnwell
7 Mike Rakowsky
Patricia Thomas
8 Crystal Lopez
Mark Bernal
9 Joshua Wells
Tomika Brown
10 Mike Martinez
Nancy Barto
11 Irma Pacheco
Carol Cherry
12 Tyler Farnsworth
Maria Romero
13 Nick Collins
Jeffrey Tucker
14 Ana Sanchez-Navarro
Steve Hetsler
15 Noella Kuntz
Jeffrey Apodaca
16 Trevor Johnson
Amber Watson
17 Paula Feely
Nelson Morgan
18 Suzanne Mead
Don Ameden
19 Nancy Ordowski
Yvonne Cahill
20 Mary-Jeanne Fincher
Roman Ulman
21 Nancy Norton
Shanna Leonard
22 Mitzi Cowell
Mike Weingarten
23 Lisa Wolfe
Richard Ulery
24 Betty Harris
Carole Malan
25 Roy Verdery

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2 Pete Rios
Thomas Elliott
3 Jennifer Dawson
Kay Schriener
4 Margaret Voge
Ellen Shenkarow
5 Scott Oldendorph
Ronald Brown
6 Christine Emery
Carol Schloff
7 Alison Jones
Leslie Cox
8 Caleb Hayter
Brenda Wexler
9 Francine Saccio
Melissa Westbrook
10 Robert Federoff
Catherine Nichols
11 Joe Boogaart
Catalina Hall
12 Deborah McEwen
Katie Maass
13 Andy Flach
Dianne Coscarelli
14 Thomas Meconi
Vivek Bharathan
15 Louise Good
Linda Horowitz
16 Frank Bergen
Corliss Jenkins-Sherry
17 James Behra
Kalyanraman Bharathan
18 Analizabeth Doan
Eric Robin
19 Susan Anderson
Carissa Sipp
20 Larry Bodine
Elizabeth Packard
21 Steve McEwen
Maria Hidalgo
22 Jean Meconi
Nancy Wexler
23 Paul Deasy
Aubrey Sonderegger
24 Marilyn Weissman
Robert Breunig
25 Lynn Walsh

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

2

3 Adam Shimoni
John Propster
4 Matt Ryan
Cynthia Malicki
5 Sallie Kladnik
Nathan Norris
6 Jordan Greenslade
Eric Kramer
7 Linda Johnson
Judy Dolloff
8 Austin Aslan
Phyllis Smith
9 Alexander Rosado
Bruce Donelson
10 Linda Guarino
Sandy Moriarty
11 Lena Fowler
Julie Pindzola
12 Cathy Rutherford
Ellen Ferreira
13 Deiter Knecht
Ann Heitland
14 Mary Lynn Zonakis
Tobie Friedman
15 Holly Ploog

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2
3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Welcome,
4 everybody. I will have staff start the meeting by
5 asking the interpreters to introduce themselves in
6 English and the interpreting language. Give us one
7 minute.

8 THE INTERPRETER: Hello. Good morning. My
9 name is Brenda Lopez. I'll be your Spanish
10 interpreter.

11 (Interpreter speaking in foreign language.)

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you.

13 We'll now call this meeting to order. I now
14 call to order the first Virtual Town Hall. We have
15 over 250 people registered to speak so we'll get
16 started right away, a great testament to the energy and
17 commitment of our public.

18 Staff will describe the format of the meeting.
19 There is a transcriptionist who will be recording every
20 word. Please speak slowly and clearly so we have a
21 clear record of your input. At this time the
22 Commissioners will introduce ourselves. My name is
23 Erika Neuberg. I'm the Chairwoman, and I live in
24 Chandler.

25 Commissioner Mehl.

1 COMMISSIONER MEHL: David Mehl. I live in
2 Pima County in Tucson.

3 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Commissioner Lerner.

4 COMMISSIONER LERNER: Shereen Lerner, and I
5 live in Maricopa County.

6 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: Good morning. This is
7 Vice Chair Derrick Watchman. I represent Apache
8 County, and I'm from Window Rock, Arizona. Morning.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: We also have
10 Commissioner York, who is from Maricopa County on with
11 us as well. We're just trying to get him registered as
12 a panelist so he can be shown in the tile, but he is
13 active and listening. Welcome, Commissioners, and
14 welcome, public.

15 We'll now move to Agenda Item II, which is
16 public comment. Staff will now describe the format of
17 the meeting and read the rules.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: My name is Lori Van Haren.
19 I'm the deputy director of the IRC.

20 We have approximately 247 people who
21 registered to speak. Anybody who was registered by
22 9:00 a.m. will be given the opportunity to speak. We
23 will try to take a break every 90 minutes. When your
24 name is called you will sent a request to unmute
25 yourself. Three speakers at a time will be unmuted.

1 Please do not begin speaking until your name is called.
2 In the chat box we have already started listing the
3 name of the next ten speakers. We will start with
4 those speakers who are talking about Eastern Arizona,
5 then Western Arizona, then Metro Phoenix, Southern
6 Arizona, and then Northern Arizona. You must be signed
7 in under the name you registered in order to speak or
8 we will not be able to find you and unmute you.

9 In compliance with Arizona's open meeting laws
10 speakers should confine their statements to the issue
11 on the posted agenda which is before the Commission.
12 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments to
13 approximately two minutes. The two minutes will be
14 strictly enforced for all speakers.

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

23 If someone has already expressed the same
24 sentiments you wish to express, you may say so and your
25 comments will be recorded. Opposing viewpoints may be

1 expressed by the citizens present. As a courtesy
2 citizens are reminded to address their comments to the
3 Chair and to the Commission and not the audience
4 present. Please show respect for all speakers and
5 avoid personal comments. Remember, the Commission must
6 hear all sides of an issue in order to make an informed
7 decision.

8 We will now begin public comment. Again,
9 there is an interpreter in Spanish present. If anyone
10 needs a Spanish interpreter please indicate so when
11 your name is called.

12 (Ms. Van Haren speaking in foreign language.)

13 MS. VAN HAREN: We will now start by reading
14 the first three names and unmuting the speakers. If
15 speakers are not present we will try to come back.

16 The first three names are Cathy Lee, Jerry
17 Michaels, and Jesse Bryant.

18 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And I just want to
19 interject and let the public know and everybody
20 participating we will be taking a break every
21 90 minutes for the transcriptionist to be able to catch
22 up with us so just be prepared for those interruptions.
23 Thank you.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Seeing none of the first three
25 speakers, we're going to move to Lori Gray, Greg

1 Blaire, and Tempest Shires.

2 I apologize, Chairwoman. I think when Mark
3 shared his screen it kicked me off.

4 So the next three speakers I called were Lori
5 Gray, Greg Blaire, and Tempest Shires.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And I did see that
7 somebody in the chat box said, "I'm here but I can't
8 unmute," Greg Blaire.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Mr. Blaire, I'll unmute
10 you now.

11 COMMISSIONER LERNER: "Called but cannot
12 unmute." They're identifying themselves in the chat.

13 MR. BLAIRE: This is Mr. Blaire.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Your two minutes is starting
15 now.

16 MR. BLAIRE: Hello, and thank you for giving
17 me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my community.
18 My name is Greg Blaire. I live in Maricopa County,
19 North Scottsdale, just south of the 101, and I'm here
20 today to provide some insights into my community of
21 interest. I live in north -- I live off North
22 Scottsdale Road and Princess Drive. My community is
23 made up of professionals and retirees that live and
24 work in offices adjacent to the 101 and along
25 Scottsdale Road. We have many people who also commute

1 and work in central Scottsdale. We gather and support
2 restaurants, arts, entertainment, shopping, and venues
3 along Scottsdale Road and businesses along the 101. We
4 rarely travel west of Scottsdale Road or south into
5 Tempe, and we mainly live, worship, work, and trade in
6 central and North Scottsdale.

7 Further, we rarely go to the Desert Ridge and
8 never go to Deer Valley -- to the Deer Valley Airport.
9 The proposed District 3 includes industrial parks and
10 young families. That's very different from -- very
11 distant and different from the suburban single family
12 housing that you'll find in North Ranch or North
13 Scottsdale.

14 We're a single community with shared interests
15 and should not be stretched to include these areas, as
16 the Commission proposed map depicts. Please keep our
17 community whole and hopefully in a single congressional
18 district as well. We do not share interests in Central
19 Phoenix, which is a very urban area, and I appreciate
20 your time today. Thank you.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker will be Lori
22 Gray. Yes, Ms. Gray, go ahead.

23 MS. GRAY: Sorry about that. I just got
24 unmuted.

25 Thank you very much. I actually am a realtor,

1 and I live -- I actually live in Fountain Hills. My
2 family and myself, as far as where we live, work and
3 worship and shop it is -- it is rare -- it's almost
4 never past a certain point. It doesn't make sense to
5 me for Desert Ridge and Deer Valley Airport to be in my
6 district. The western boundary for Scottsdale and
7 Fountain Hills and Rio Verde should be the city line,
8 which is Scottsdale Road, not I-17. Scottsdale,
9 Fountain Hills, and Rio Verde are western cities.
10 North Phoenix and I-17 are filled with young families,
11 and our communities are different, and they should not
12 be in the same district.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Ms. Gray.

14 The next speaker will be Cathy Lee.

15 MS. LEE: Thank you for allowing us the time
16 to speak. My name is Cathy Lee, and I live in East
17 Mesa, zip code 85209. The current district drawn for
18 East Mesa, LD 15, is divided in a way that is not
19 competitive, fair, compact, and does not keep
20 communities of interest together. As of now you have
21 us as part of Apache Junction, Queen Creek, and San Tan
22 Valley, with which we have nothing in common. From
23 Guadalupe north and to the Maricopa County border, we
24 have much more in common with the rest of Mesa than we
25 do with the other areas mentioned. Infrastructure,

1 light rail, libraries, senior citizen centers,
2 recreation centers, parks are all facilities we
3 frequent in the community.

4 The current map also breaks up a great deal of
5 the LDS community as well as the Gilbert Unified School
6 District. The closest you have come to keeping
7 communities of interest together for that area was LD
8 10 in Map 3.0.

9 I have the same concerns for the CD 5 District
10 on the current 7.1 map. I know it is not considered a
11 competitive district, but each iteration of the maps
12 has made it less competitive. If we are able to
13 protect against extremism we will encourage better
14 representation.

15 On a broader note, the current maps for
16 Maricopa County do not take into consideration or
17 represent the changing landscape of the growing
18 communities of color. The current iteration has gone
19 from three to two toss-up districts. The map must
20 honor the VRA. We encourage you to follow the rules
21 that the voters passed so that we will have compact,
22 competitive, and fair districts. Thank you so much.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24 The next speaker will be Tempest Shires.

25 MS. SHIRES: Hi. My name is Tempest Shires.

1 I'm a resident of Chandler, and according to the
2 approved congressional map part of new District 13.
3 Twelve years ago I moved with my family to the United
4 States. My husband's job has been from Central Phoenix
5 where we could choose where we live. We chose Chandler
6 mainly because of our children and the excellent
7 Chandler Unified School District and because coming
8 from a small English village Chandler felt like it was
9 a unique place with its own identity, vibrant,
10 community.

11 Chandler has been our home for 12 years now,
12 and after a long road all four of us became American
13 citizens earlier this year. I'm so excited that I'm
14 finally able to vote now, and having a district that is
15 competitive that will promote high turnout and make our
16 representatives more responsive and visible to Chandler
17 is very important to me.

18 I understand that my city of Chandler is too
19 big to fit into just one district, but I am very
20 concerned that the draft map cuts it into three. I
21 would really like the Commissioners to revisit, keeping
22 the cities in the East Valley as far as possible as
23 compact, separate entries, respecting the school
24 district boundaries and keeping Chandler in no more
25 than two districts.

1 I ask the Commissioners to take out of
2 District 13 the parts that aren't actually Chandler and
3 to add back one part that is that is currently split in
4 two. On the east side of District 13 currently there
5 is a strip of Gilbert between Val Vista and Greenfield.
6 Gilbert is already too divided up into five districts
7 and has a different feel to the rest of South Chandler.

8 On the west side of District 13, there is an
9 entirely self-contained Sun Lakes retirement community
10 which could also be moved. Although Sun Lakes is part
11 of Maricopa County, it isn't part of the city of
12 Chandler, and the residents are more like the retirees
13 of Ahwatukee Foothills. Removing these two parts would
14 then leave enough room to no longer split our Latino
15 communities in the north of Chandler at Ray Road.
16 Moving the northern border of D 13 to Elliot Road would
17 allow this community to remain as one whole and
18 necessary part of Chandler.

19 Thank you to the Commissioners for all the
20 hard work that you're doing, and for listening to me
21 today.

22 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Lori, I can't hear you.
23 I don't know if I'm the only the one.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: The next three speakers are
25 Frank Copple, Bill Hardt, and Varilyn Jackson Downing.

1 I will remind everybody if you're not signed in under
2 the name that you registered I won't be able to find
3 you as an attendee.

4 Mr. Copple, your two minutes start now.

5 MR. COPPLE: Good morning. Thank you very
6 much for allowing me to speak. I live in Sun City
7 West. I've been a resident here for 11 years. Just a
8 little background, we have now been in a competitive
9 district, either in LD 22 or CD 8. Now you have us in
10 the worst situation where you've taken the
11 congressional district from Sun City West out to the
12 Colorado River. I believe that just a recommendation
13 that you go take some of the population from the
14 counties to the north of us and put us in another
15 district that is more compatible here in Sun City West.
16 We are pretty much a contained community, but almost
17 all of our movement is either to the south or to the
18 east as far as commercial interests, so I would
19 recommend something being done there. I'm sorry?

20 As far as the legislative district, once
21 again, you have us completely uncompetitive, and I
22 would say what we need to do is to take some of the
23 population from the east of us over toward El Mirage,
24 Peoria, and then make us more a more competitive
25 district.

1 So thank you very much for allowing me to
2 speak and have a good day.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 The next speaker is Varilyn Jackson Downing.
5 Varilyn, if you could unmute. There you go.

6 MS. DOWNING: I thought I did.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: You're good. We can hear you.

8 MS. DOWNING: Good morning. I live in the
9 Glendale area, District 8. I'm fairly pleased with the
10 lines at this point. I see that they were moved up
11 north, and I believe that our district is more
12 competitive, and I want to be sure that my voice is
13 heard with my representation. I was a census worker
14 here in Arizona, so I know Glendale has become more
15 diverse than it has been in previous years, and I want
16 to make sure that we have a voice, and I'd like to keep
17 affordable housing in our area. As we're expanding
18 there are lots of developments, housing going up, but
19 I'd like to make sure that we have affordable housing
20 in the Glendale area. I love the developments that
21 we're having in the Glendale area improving our
22 environment, our neighborhoods, our parks, so I'm very
23 happy about that.

24 So that's all I have to say, and I want better
25 representation that is going to hear all the voices

1 that are living in the Glendale district. Thank you.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is William
3 Bowlus-Root.

4 I'm unmuting you now. Mr. Bowlus-Root, can
5 you hear us? Please proceed.

6 MR. BOWLUS-ROOT: Okay. My name is William
7 Bowlus-Root, and I'm a retired software engineer in
8 Yuma, 85365, and I'm currently in CD 4, LD 13, and I
9 would be in the proposed CD 7 and LD 23.

10 So Chair Neuberg and Commissioners, thank you
11 for the opportunity to present my views to the
12 Commission today. In the past the legislators were
13 charged with drawing the boundaries to the legislative
14 district, and they did so to ensure their party had the
15 best chance to retain power. They created as many safe
16 districts as they could, districts where the party
17 bosses could put up a candidate that they could rely on
18 to tow the party line. Districts could win time after
19 time without having to invest much money or effort, and
20 districts were safe for the party of their interests,
21 and never mind what the voters had to say. That led to
22 poor government, and people were fed up with government
23 that failed to address the issues or provide the kinds
24 of services that would help them in their communities
25 to prosper. The safe districts weren't responsive to

1 their needs. They recognized that safe districts were
2 dysfunctional, that they produced voter apathy and
3 disenchantment with government and low participation in
4 voters.

5 And so they -- in 2000 they took back the
6 power from the legislature and passed Proposition 106,
7 which would create the IRC, and indicated that they
8 should try to create districts that were, quote, fair
9 and competitive districts, unquote, not safe districts,
10 but competitive districts. They knew the competitive
11 districts would have the opposite effect, that to win
12 one the parties must put forth their best candidates
13 and those familiar with the issues that would respond
14 to the voters. When that happens people become engaged
15 with the political process, their government, their
16 communities, and their elections, and they vote in
17 greater numbers, so that is the way to get to
18 democracy.

19 Now, I know the Commission feels that it's
20 doing a good job of creating districts, but if you look
21 at the draft map you've come up with it's obvious that
22 you failed to carry out what the voters have charged
23 you with, creating fair and competitive districts.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 The next speaker will be Georgetta Pierson.

1 Ms. Pierson?

2 After Ms. Pierson, George Pizarro, Roberta
3 Miller.

4 MS. PIERSON: Thank you for allowing me to
5 speak to the Committee today. My name is Lynn Pierson.
6 I do live in Maricopa County, and I'd just like to talk
7 a little bit about my community of interest. I live
8 off of 12th Street north of the 101, and my community
9 is Desert Ridge, the Desert Ridge area, but I
10 frequently visit friends in the North Scottsdale area,
11 near Scottsdale Airport and that surrounding area. We
12 gather there socially in our area, but we also travel
13 down to Gainey Ranch where we shop and do restaurants
14 and things like that, visit their boutiques, you know,
15 for social reasons. So we have a lot of friends in
16 that area, and we also buy our vehicles, many of us,
17 there at the dealerships near that Scottsdale Regional
18 Airport.

19 Therefore, the area north of Doubletree Ranch
20 Road up to Frank Lloyd Wright and between Scottsdale
21 Road and 96th Street I believe needs to be a part of
22 the LD 3 instead of the LD 8. Right now your map shows
23 this section as being part of LD 8, which is a mixing
24 of communities that are very different in their values
25 and their priorities, and that makes it difficult for

1 our legislative representatives to be effective in any
2 good -- effective in serving their constituents in that
3 area. So I would like to say to accommodate this
4 population shift you could give the southern boundary
5 of LD 3 that falls below the 101 to LD 4, and to
6 compensate LD 8 you could move the southern boundary of
7 LD 8 to include South Scottsdale, which has more in
8 common with Tempe, and this makes more sense and keeps
9 our communities more compact. Just ask that you follow
10 the Arizona Constitution when you are drawing our
11 districts at this time.

12 Thank you so much for your time. Appreciate
13 it.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our next speaker
15 is George Pizarro.

16 Mr. Pizarro, can you hear us? Mr. Pizarro?

17 MR. PIZARRO: Yes. Can you guys hear me?

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

19 MR. PIZARRO: Thank you. So hi. My name is
20 George Pizarro. I just want to thank you guys for your
21 time right now. I live in the city of Gilbert and
22 reside near the downtown area. I've lived in the East
23 Valley for the last ten years. I currently work for
24 the City of Phoenix. I'm a father and currently have a
25 son attending school in the bordering community of

1 Mesa. In my spare time, my family and I, we like to
2 walk around the downtown area of Gilbert and enjoy all
3 the city has to offer.

4 After looking at the legislative district new
5 boundary map, reference Map 10.2, I have some concerns
6 about the boundary realignment. It would appear we are
7 the only East Valley community that will be fractured
8 into five different legislative districts. This
9 disrupts the community of our city -- excuse me, the
10 continuity of our city and community.

11 I also noted your maps remove two blocks in
12 Gilbert and put them with downtown Mesa, also three
13 blocks in the Gilbert area and put them into an area
14 all the way near Ahwatukee. In my opinion this is not
15 going to serve our communities of interest. I can
16 understand splitting it into two pieces, but more no
17 more than that. Please keep our community whole in a
18 single congressional district as well. We are an urban
19 community and do not want to be added into a suburban
20 district. Those areas do not represent our values and
21 respect our priorities. I believe that redistricting
22 should be fair and in compliance with the established
23 guidelines of the U.S. Constitution.

24 Thank you for your time and patience.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

1 Our next speakers will be Lydia Guzman, Joseph
2 Junker, and Gisell Garcia.

3 Ms. Guzman.

4 MS. GUZMAN: Thank you so much for allowing me
5 to speak on this important issue. My name is Lydia
6 Guzman, and I'm with Chicanos Por La Causa, and we are
7 members of the Arizona Latino Coalition for Fair
8 Redistricting. And what I wanted to say is our
9 coalition submitted proposed legislative districts. We
10 submitted -- our proposed legislative districts are
11 eight in total. There is five in Maricopa County and
12 three in Pima County, and we feel that these proposed
13 districts would best represent the best interests of
14 Latino voters and protect the Voting Rights Act.

15 We've been gathering to do education with our
16 community starting from two years -- a little over two
17 years ago when we started engaging our Latino community
18 to participate in the Census. And throughout our
19 meetings and our education and outreach one thing
20 became increasingly clear, that one of the strongest
21 communities of interest are the boundaries with the
22 school districts. The school districts were very
23 essential in helping to educate communities, to reach
24 out to parents, to engage them. And so what we ask is
25 that our communities of interest are protected, and

1 especially with the school districts, that the lines
2 don't cross and divide any school districts.

3 But I'm -- I'm also aware that this week the
4 Urban Institute released a report in which they
5 acknowledge that there was a huge undercount, and I
6 know there was. We all know there was, because of the
7 pandemic and because of, you know, other -- other items
8 that were very difficult for -- to have an accurate
9 Census count, so we know that there is a big population
10 growth. We feel that the districts that we submitted
11 represent our population growth.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Joseph Junker.

14 Mr. Junker?

15 MR. JUNKER: Okay. Sorry about that. Good
16 afternoon. This is Joe Junker. I work for a
17 technology consulting firm that's based nearby. I'm in
18 Maricopa County, and I live in McCormick Ranch.
19 Besides the consulting firm, I'm a licensed and active
20 real estate agent as well as an online instructor at
21 Grand Canyon University for leadership and innovation.

22 I really appreciate the opportunity that the
23 Commissioners have given us to express our concern or
24 interest. And as you can tell from my work schedule,
25 it's hard for me to keep up with some of the maps. But

1 one of the most recent maps I saw had Scottsdale broken
2 up into at least four different districts, which is my
3 concern. Being in McCormick Ranch I'm living in a
4 residential area which is not high density, and I would
5 prefer to try to -- try to keep Scottsdale whole, which
6 is really where I'm spending most of my time. As I
7 say, even my work is based there, and as an online
8 instructor I'm more local to my district.

9 I also -- you know, for the personal
10 interests, and I think you've heard it before that I
11 hope that you continue to take the Constitution at
12 heart in that the compactness and really communities of
13 interest are a higher priority than the competitiveness
14 in anything you do in your maps, because it does appear
15 that with what you've done with us, McCormick Ranch is
16 at the far east north corner of something that reaches
17 into almost Central Phoenix, and it just didn't seem
18 like a match to me as far as where I spend my time and
19 what my community is.

20 Again, I thank you all for -- for the
21 opportunity and hope you take that into account. Thank
22 you very much.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Sandi
24 Bartlett.

25 And I will remind everyone if I can't find you

1 under the attendees list under the name that you
2 registered under I'm not going to be able to unmute
3 you. So we're just moving through anybody I can find,
4 so the next speaker is Sandi Bartlett.

5 MS. BARTLETT: My name is Sandi Bartlett. I
6 live in northwest Gilbert, and I've lived here for
7 15 years with my husband. This is the heart and soul
8 of Gilbert. Our downtown area is filled with gift
9 shops and restaurants that we often visit, and that's
10 where the Gilbert Market is, and that is where the town
11 council meets to make our laws.

12 Your maps moved two blocks in Gilbert and put
13 them into -- north into downtown Mesa in LD 9. You
14 also removed three blocks of Gilbert and put them into
15 an area that spreads all the way to Ahwatukee, which is
16 LD 12. These are not communities of interest because
17 Gilbert wants to be together, and that's why we
18 moved --

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Ms. Bartlett? Ms. Bartlett,
20 we lost your audio. Ms. Bartlett?

21 It looks like she was kicked off, so let's
22 move on to the next speaker is Susan Gannon, Linda
23 Calderon, and Connie Henry.

24 Ms. Gannon? Ms. Gannon, can you hear us?

25 We'll move to the next speaker, Ms. Connie

1 Henry.

2 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Lori, I think the
3 speakers are trying to say that they're not getting
4 unmuted, if I read the chat correctly.

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Chairwoman, they are being
6 unmuted. There is a request to unmute and so if they
7 don't accept the request then we can't hear them.

8 So, Ms. Gannon, you've been unmuted.

9 MS. GANNON: Yes. Hello? Can you hear me?

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Is this Susan Gannon?

11 MS. GANNON: Yes, it is.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Ms. Gannon,
13 please proceed.

14 MS. GANNON: So I'm talking about -- can I
15 have it? I'm talking about the CD district, not the LD
16 district. I'm in the Anthem area, and just by looking
17 at the way this is drawn -- and thank you, again, for
18 allowing us to have this opportunity. We don't have
19 that much in line with the north of I-10, the Phoenix
20 area, even though we are part of Phoenix, the
21 Scottsdale area, the Fountain Hills area as District 1.
22 We would be more in line with the District 8, which is
23 what we have been aligned with in the past. So that's
24 pretty much all I have to say.

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Connie

1 Henry, and then it's April Hernandez, and then
2 Mr. Mohamdian.

3 And Ms. Henry, can you hear us?

4 We'll move to April Hernandez.

5 April, can you hear us?

6 MS. HERNANDEZ: Can you hear me? I'm sorry.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes, Ms. Hernandez. Please
8 proceed.

9 MS. HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Commission, for the
10 chance to speak. I live on 2nd Street and Hampshire in
11 North Phoenix. I wanted to say that I am glad that
12 Sunnyslope will be in Legislative District 2 with the
13 rest of the North Mountain community. This new
14 district now includes more of Washington Elementary
15 School District and Glendale Union School District.

16 I am a working mother of a 3-year-old. I'm
17 already thinking about the future and his education. I
18 know that our state representatives are responsible for
19 setting education budgets, and if more parents are able
20 to come together in the same district we will be able
21 to advocate for the best education possible. Thank
22 you.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next three speakers are
24 going to be Howard Klemmer, Faisal Elhassan, and then
25 James Roth.

1 Howard, can you hear us?

2 We will move to Mr. James Roth.

3 Mr. Roth, can you hear us? Mr. Roth, can you
4 hear us now?

5 MR. ROTH: This is James Roth. I live in Rio
6 Verde. I'm a retired attorney. And for my comment I
7 would like to say that Rio Verde, Fountain Hills, and
8 Scottsdale should continue to be in the same
9 legislative district because this area shares community
10 and economic interest. This is the area where my
11 neighbors and I live, do business, shop, dine, go to
12 church, or participate in community activities. The
13 current district which includes Rio Verde, Fountain
14 Hills, and all of Scottsdale I believe accurately
15 represents a community of interest of citizens who live
16 and work together. The proposed inclusion of Desert
17 Ridge and extending the district out west as far as
18 I-17 to include parts of Anthem with Rio Verde and
19 Fountain Hills and separating large parts of
20 Scottsdale, basically dividing Scottsdale into three
21 different parts from Rio Verde and Fountain Hills, does
22 not reflect an actual community with shared interests.

23 In talking with my neighbors and myself, we
24 rarely or never go to shop or, you know, socialize in
25 Desert Ridge or in Anthem. We don't do business there,

1 we don't go to church there, and we don't shop there.
2 So the communities of Rio Verde, Fountain Hills, and
3 all of Scottsdale are I believe a distinct community
4 and should be represented by people from this area and
5 not Desert Ridge or Anthem.

6 And, in addition, I think in the past, the
7 past redistricting, I think there was a little bit too
8 much emphasis on or focus on the idea of
9 competitiveness, and I think that the Commission should
10 follow the Constitutional mandate, because
11 competitiveness is subservient to the other six factors
12 that should be considered by the Commission.

13 So I think, in sum, I think the west border of
14 our district should be no further west than Scottsdale
15 Road.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Mr. Roth.

17 The next speaker, we're going back up to
18 Mr. Mohamdian.

19 MR. MOHAMDIAN: Yes. Hi, everybody. My name
20 is Abdelgabar Mohamdian. I live in Congressional
21 District 8 in Glendale, representing the Sudanese
22 refugee community. I support my -- I support my
23 district the way it is currently drawn because it makes
24 my district very competitive.

25 During the pandemic most of us -- most of the

1 small business in my community, they didn't support us.
2 And also nobody ask my community what do we need. We
3 like to be close for the refugee because easy access to
4 healthcare for refugee. And we also noted that our
5 education in this area has not been a lot of my -- a
6 lot of my community. A lot of us who arrive from 10 to
7 15 years, 10 to 15 years ago is still struggling, and
8 not much (indiscernible). We need more -- we need more
9 resource for refugees in Glendale, and by keeping my --
10 my district this way I feel that candidates will take
11 us more seriously and not -- and not forget that we are
12 a part of this community as well. This is my point.
13 We're looking for more to have from you guys.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15 Our next three speakers are Najat Dahiya,
16 Craig Stephen, and April Tornquist.

17 Ms. Dahiya.

18 MS. DAHIYA: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

20 MS. DAHIYA: Hi. My name is Najat Dahiya, and
21 thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.
22 Also, I'm represent -- I'm representing some refugees
23 in my community, also like Mohammed. I live in
24 District 24, so we are in need for more competitive --
25 we are in need for our district to be more competitive

1 because we believe that when people fight for our vote
2 they will find out that we need more resources, like
3 school. I have -- I have seen that in the district I
4 live in. Now the school need to be better. We need
5 more funds for better equipment, and I feel like my
6 children will be benefited when people fight hard
7 for -- for my vote to raise the standards in the public
8 school. During the pandemic there were no school
9 social distance in my district being implemented or
10 enforced, and I feel that needed to be better. They
11 need to do a better job for listening for our community
12 or for our concern, and that's about it.

13 Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: The next three speakers will
15 be Craig Stephan, April Tornquist, and Maico Olivares.

16 Craig, please proceed.

17 MR. STEPHAN: Yes. Thank you.

18 This is Craig Stephan. I just wanted to say I
19 live in Scottsdale, and I wanted to address my
20 communities of interest here, and I wanted to speak
21 specifically to issues involving your maps for LD 4 and
22 LD 8. And I wanted to reiterate what Mr. Joe Junker
23 said, and that is that I also share his concern that
24 Scottsdale remain whole because that is essentially the
25 community of interest for those of us who live on

1 McCormick Ranch.

2 If you look at the map for LD 4, you'll see
3 that the northern portion of the east boundary of that
4 map is Scottsdale Road. However, when you get down to
5 Doubletree Ranch Road that east boundary jogs over to
6 Hayden Road, which is east of Scottsdale Road. The
7 area in LD 4 south of Doubletree Ranch Road, which
8 includes the area past McCormick Parkway and Indian
9 Bend, is part of the heart of McCormick Ranch, zip code
10 85258. I live just north of McCormick Parkway, so my
11 residence is in LD 4 on that map. However, I meet with
12 clients at an office just north of Doubletree Ranch
13 Road, which is in LD 8 on your maps. Therefore, moving
14 the east border of LD 4 from Scottsdale Road to Hayden
15 Road artificially divides my communities of interest.
16 So I request the east border of LD 4 be Scottsdale Road
17 from north to south without jogging over to Hayden Road
18 at any point.

19 Next, my communities of interest for shopping,
20 dining, healthcare, the small businesses that are
21 frequented by people in McCormick Ranch essentially lie
22 within the boundaries of Scottsdale, and certainly the
23 west boundary should be Scottsdale Road, which is the
24 main artery north and south throughout Scottsdale.

25 And with respect to LD 8, the south boundary

1 should be no further south in my opinion than McDowell
2 Road. There is no connection between those people who
3 live and work in Scottsdale and Tempe -- and the Tempe
4 area that is currently on LD 8. I think that the --
5 the boundary there should stop no further south than
6 McDowell Road, and we should --

7 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is April
8 Tornquist.

9 MS. TORNQUIST: Hi. Can you hear me okay?

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

11 MS. TORNQUIST: I'm April Tornquist. I'm in
12 Gilbert off of Gilbert Road and Warner, and I'm in that
13 little finger there that got absorbed into Ahwatukee
14 and Chandler. I moved to Gilbert 17 years ago
15 deliberately. I grew up in Mesa. I've lived in
16 Chandler. I wanted to move to Gilbert because of the
17 country feel, because of the -- well, because of the
18 people. We have a close-knit community here. By
19 separating this finger out you're separating me from
20 the rest of my school district. You're separating me
21 from those that I go to (indiscernible) with. And the
22 congressional district lines isn't any better. It
23 doesn't even line up with the legislative district
24 lines.

25 In short, Gilbert just appears to be a

1 disaster to me, and I would ask that you keep Gilbert
2 together. Gilbert is a unique community, and we moved
3 here for a very specific reason. We love our -- we
4 love our animals. We love our -- we love God. We love
5 our families. And we would like to stay together, so
6 if you would remove that finger from Ahwatukee and
7 Chandler and keep us with Gilbert, including my
8 neighbors just to the north of me, we would greatly
9 appreciate that. Thank you.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 Our next speaker is going to be Maico
12 Olivares.

13 MR. OLIVARES: Hello. Thank you all for
14 giving me an opportunity to speak.

15 I currently, looking at the maps, am in
16 Congressional District 1. I know there is a lot of
17 concern as far as how Scottsdale is being split up,
18 but, you know, I just want to stress that being
19 competitive is ultimately what we are seeking. I live
20 near the Arcadia community, and I feel that when we
21 choose to simply look at communities as a whole and not
22 competitive I feel that a lot of communities and a lot
23 of small groups get taken for granted. You know,
24 especially when you create a strong district for a
25 certain group of people, I feel that they don't put as

1 much effort in in trying to really see what the
2 community as a whole has to say, so I simply want to
3 say that right now I see that Congressional District 1
4 seems to be -- seems to look very competitive, and I
5 would like to keep it that way. And I would, again,
6 like to stress that the surrounding congressional
7 districts also remain competitive.

8 And also commenting on Legislative Districts 4
9 and 2, I say that I think you guys are doing a great
10 job as far as those two legislative districts go
11 because they also seem to be very competitive as well.

12 And so thank you for giving me an opportunity
13 to speak. Again, I just want to stress that when we
14 keep these districts competitive both parties make a
15 bigger effort to reach out to every single person in
16 those communities. Thank you very much.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next three speakers will
18 be Adil Nagiela, Angela Salazar-Willeford, and then
19 Brendan Walsh.

20 Adil, we see you, but you're not unmuted.

21 Let's move to Angela Salazar-Willeford.

22 MS. SALAZAR-WILLEFORD: Good morning -- good
23 after -- good morning, Chairwoman Neuberg, Vice Chair
24 Watchman, and members of the Commission. My name is
25 Angela Willeford. I represent the Salt River

1 Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Thank you for this
2 opportunity to provide feedback on the Commission's
3 final draft map. This can't be an easy task on
4 listening to the needs and wants of the communities of
5 interest. We appreciate the work the Commission that
6 has done thus far.

7 My comments today are directed to
8 Congressional District Number 4 and the draft
9 Legislative District Number 8. First, with regard to
10 the draft Congressional District Number 4 the
11 communities have worked with construction of this
12 district. We believe the proposed district is
13 consistent with the principles of our community, which
14 we provided previously to the Commission. At this time
15 the community offers no recommendations to this map.

16 Second, the community appreciates the work of
17 the Commission to construct legislative districts. We
18 know this is not an easy task. In regards to the
19 Committee proposed refinements to the draft Legislative
20 District Number 8, we believe that the proposed
21 refinements keep the intent of the spirit of the draft
22 district map while also being consistent with the
23 Committee's legislative district principles. The first
24 recommendation to the draft district map is to include
25 Saddleback area into the district. The area is located

1 within the boundaries of the community along the
2 northern border. Ironically, the Commission included
3 this area in the draft Congressional District Number 4.
4 We believe this may be a simple oversight.

5 Second, you have received a letter of support
6 from Mesa public school districts related to one of the
7 community's principles, which is to improve the city of
8 Mesa with 10. (Audio distortion.) Generally speaking,
9 the requirement the Committee is proposing meets the
10 population target with acceptable deviation. More
11 specifically, our staff can provide the Commission with
12 a detailed mapping detail.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to provide
14 comment on the Commission draft district maps. Thank
15 you for this time.

16 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: I have a question. The
17 previous speaker was saying "we," and the suggestion
18 was submitted on behalf of I think a group, and I
19 didn't hear on behalf of what group this previous
20 speaker was -- was speaking on behalf of.

21 MS. SALAZAR-WILLEFORD: Am I still unmuted?

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Madam Chairwoman, are you
23 addressing Angela Salazar-Willeford?

24 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Was that the previous
25 speaker? Yes. Do you know what organization --

1 MS. VAN HAREN: She's still -- she's still on
2 the line, and she's still unmuted.

3 MS. SALAZAR-WILLEFORD: Chairwoman Neuberg,
4 I'm not sure if you heard. I'm with the Salt River
5 Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

6 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Perfect. That's what I
7 wanted to know. Thank you very much.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: The next three speakers will
9 be Brendan Walsh, Joseph Corda, and Ryan Boyd.

10 Mr. Walsh, can you hear us?

11 Okay. Mr. Corda is not online.

12 Mr. Boyd, Ryan Boyd.

13 MR. BOYD: Good morning, Madam Chair,
14 Commissioners. Ryan Boyd. I live over on Grand Avenue
15 and Van Buren, right on the border between LD 11 and LD
16 1 in your draft maps. I just want to say that I do
17 really appreciate the LD 1 design keeping the kind of
18 communities along the light rail within Central Phoenix
19 together. I think that has been something that was
20 kind of missing in previous maps that we saw where
21 there was had a lot more kind of focus on that
22 east/west versus a lot of the north/south travel that
23 happens. A lot of folks enjoy this urban kind of core
24 and keeping that together.

25 Furthermore, I think it's nice because you see

1 you got central city within the ring between the I-10
2 and the I-17. It's very much -- it was divided up I
3 think three ways in the previous maps, so it's nice to
4 see, and I think -- and I support the Latino
5 Coalition's maps for a lot of the districts you see in
6 the western areas with that.

7 And beyond that, though, I just want to note
8 that where possible I think it would be good to keep
9 districts as competitive as possible. I understand
10 that this is not exactly on the top of the legal
11 requirements, but it is nice because when you're out
12 there and you're knocking on doors for local races or
13 talking about things like light rail or just community
14 services, people are a lot less -- less in one camp or
15 another is my own experience, especially here in what
16 would be LD 1 and this other area, people with a wide
17 variety of things, and I think it's better represented
18 when the districts are as competitive as we can make
19 them.

20 But, again, really support this new LD 1. I
21 think it's a good design, and thank you so much for
22 your time.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24 Our next speaker is Brendan Walsh.

25 MR. NAGIELA: Hello. Can you hear me now?

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

2 MR. NAGIELA: My name is Adil Nagiela. I can
3 be --

4 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Mr. Walsh, please
5 proceed.

6 MR. WALSH: Okay. Sorry about that.

7 My name is Brendan Walsh. I'm the executive
8 director of Central Arizonans for Sustainable Economy,
9 or CASE. We're an organization that works on economic
10 equality or equal opportunity and civic engagement. So
11 we are very concerned, obviously, with representation
12 of working communities, particularly minority majority
13 districts, but also for those of us that live in the
14 sort of working class suburbs to make sure that we are
15 competitive districts. And I do want to talk about --
16 and I've seen some comments basically say that we have
17 to balance competitiveness with the other things, and I
18 do want to say that, you know, I agree.

19 I want to talk today in particular about
20 Legislative District 4, which is where I live. I spoke
21 about this in one of the draft map hearings, but I'm
22 very glad to see that the Sunnyslope area, the Metro
23 Center area, basically what I would consider the Black
24 Canyon corridor are kept together, which is largely
25 Glendale Union High School District, the North Mountain

1 Preserve. For me this is an excellent balance of what
2 we will see with competitiveness and keeping
3 communities of interest together, so I'm very thankful
4 for that, and I hope you'll keep it together.

5 I did just want to say a word about
6 Legislative District 4 as well. It's really the
7 only -- one of the -- one or two toss-up areas, and I
8 would hate to see changes made to that district that,
9 A, for marginal gains a community of interest would
10 make it less competitive.

11 So we very much appreciate the work you're
12 doing, and we thank you very much for this opportunity
13 to comment.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15 I believe that Adil Nagiela is back on the
16 line.

17 Mr. Nagiela, can you hear us?

18 MR. NAGIELA: Oh, yes. Hi, everyone. My name
19 is Adil Nagiela. Currently I live in the new
20 Legislative District Number 2. I'm off the I-17 and
21 Cactus. I am a member of Sudanese community, and I
22 support my new district as drawn, because I believe
23 that the competitive district are very important for
24 communities like mine. I like that we are now
25 connected with the folks with the similar interest in

1 Sunnyslope. As refugees we have a unique experience
2 here when politicians need our vote to win it, and it
3 means that they need to respond to our needs, that we
4 cannot be forgotten. Also, during the pandemic the
5 small business in our communities struggle to get
6 support. They need it because they left behind, and I
7 hope this issue might be respond as soon as possible.

8 And thank you so much for listening to me and
9 giving me a chance to speak.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 Our next three speakers will be David
12 Gordon, Bernard Miller, and Frank Rizzo.

13 Mr. Gordon, can you hear us?

14 MR. GORDON: Yes. Can you hear me?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes, Mr. Gordon.

16 MR. GORDON: I've lived in Peoria, Arizona,
17 for 23 years. I married my wife, who is a retired
18 teacher. I'm a vet from the Vietnam area and a retired
19 registered nurse. I'm quite involved with the City of
20 Peoria. I'm on the design and review board and the
21 volunteer firefighter retirement board for the City of
22 Peoria. I'm also a PC in the global precinct, and
23 we're located in Congressional District 8 and
24 Legislative District 21. Our current map of
25 Congressional District 8 to me is not very competitive.

1 The new map gives us new opportunities for
2 diversification and competitiveness, and I really
3 appreciate that.

4 But I'm somewhat confused about LD 21 because
5 it's now down along the border below Tucson, and it's
6 always been up in the area where we live in Peoria,
7 which makes no sense to me. So I don't know if there
8 is new legislative districts are going to be in or
9 what's happened. That's something we have to find out.

10 I do appreciate all the work of the Commission
11 creating these legislative (audio distortion) and I
12 thank you for all the work you've put in.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 Our next speaker is Mr. Bernard Miller.

15 The rest of you I just ask you that you unmute
16 yourself.

17 MR. MILLER: Hi. Can you hear me?

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

19 MR. MILLER: My name is Bernard Miller, and I
20 live in Gilbert (audio distortion) and Elliott, zip
21 code 85233.

22 COMMISSIONER LERNER: There is a lot of
23 feedback right now. Is it possible for us to figure
24 out to -- it's difficult to hear the speakers, so if we
25 could figure out why we're getting that feedback that

1 would be helpful.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Commissioner Lerner, I believe
3 it's the speaker who is having the feedback. I believe
4 it is working now.

5 Please proceed.

6 MR. MILLER: Thank you.

7 My name is Bernard Miller, and I live in
8 Gilbert near Cooper and Elliot, zip code 85233.

9 In reviewing the legislative district map, I
10 have several concerns. I live, like I said, in
11 northwest Gilbert and have for over 27 years. The
12 proposed LD Map 10.2 does not respect Gilbert's
13 community of interest or town boundaries. It separates
14 Gilbert into five different districts. More
15 importantly, the Heritage District of Gilbert is the
16 heart and soul of the community with shops,
17 restaurants, Farmer's Market, many parades, special
18 events, and the seat of the town government. Yet, it's
19 close in the district with Ahwatukee, which is on the
20 other side of the county and shares pretty much no
21 community interest with Gilbert. I strongly encourage
22 you to respect the city boundaries and keep Gilbert as
23 whole as possible. The boundary should be Baseline and
24 the western boundary should be Arizona Avenue.

25 I would also like to request that a draft map

1 hearing be scheduled in the East Valley. Not a single
2 hearing is scheduled in the East Valley, and I can see
3 no good reason why this is so.

4 In reviewing the Congressional District Map
5 7.1, I also have similar concerns. It again groups
6 Gilbert together with areas that share no community of
7 interest. I ask that you keep Gilbert together with
8 Queen Creek and Mesa. The district needs to stay
9 within Maricopa County and not include parts of Pinal
10 County.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 The next speaker is Franz Rizzo.

14 Mr. Rizzo?

15 MR. RIZZO: Yes. Can you hear me?

16 MS. VAN HAREN: We can hear you. Please
17 proceed.

18 MR. RIZZO: Thank you.

19 My name is Frank Rizzo, and I'm a retired
20 seven-year resident of Surprise. I live in Sun City
21 Grand, and this is mostly my community of interest. In
22 the last 25 years I've moved four times from Ahwatukee,
23 Chandler area to Carefree to Anthem and now to Surprise
24 in my retirement years, and I moved based on the
25 communities of interest I felt I would be living,

1 working, and worshipping in. And so now with LD 29 it
2 seems that they've cut off some of our -- some of our
3 community to the east where we spend quite a bit of our
4 time. My church is in Sun City West, and it seems that
5 Sun City is being cut in two and moved south, so LD 29
6 is considerably south. I don't go directly down that
7 way. That's quite a ways away. I probably live and
8 communicate within the first ten miles around Sun City
9 Grand.

10 Also, in District 9 it puts me in an area
11 where I'm possibly working with people to the far north
12 and to the far south and all the way west, and I don't
13 think that's significant for our community of interest,
14 which is the retired communities of Sun City, Sun City
15 West, and Sun City Grand, Surprise, and now we're
16 shipped out to the west to the desert areas, going
17 north to Wickenburg or to Kingman and south almost to
18 Yuma, so --

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker, Tim Schalick.

21 Mr. Schalick?

22 MR. SCHALICK: Hello. I'm Tim Schalick, and
23 I've lived in the Gilbert -- northwest Gilbert in LD 12
24 for the past 13 years. I just wanted to say that
25 before that I was in the Air Force for 24 years. Of

1 all the -- in all our travels we loved Arizona the
2 best. So I don't have a long-term history here, but my
3 passion is no less.

4 I just wanted to state off the bat the town
5 boundaries and school districts are inherent
6 communities of interest. We are the only East Valley
7 community that is divided up into five legislative
8 districts, and I can understand two, but dividing urban
9 and rural (audio distortion).

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Mr. Schalick?

11 I believe Mr. Schalick was cut off. We will
12 come back to Mr. Schalick.

13 The next person is Mr. Douglas Friday.

14 Mr. Friday, we've asked you to unmute. Can
15 you unmute yourself?

16 MR. FRIDAY: I have unmuted myself. I wanted
17 to be muted while other people were talking.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much, Mr. Friday.
19 Please proceed.

20 MR. FRIDAY: Hi. My name is Douglas Friday.
21 I'm a former long-time Green Party registered voter in
22 North Chandler near the 101 -- near the 101 and Ray.

23 Thank you for these work on these maps. When
24 I look at the maps a thought hit me. It appeared as if
25 competitiveness was determined by trying to keep a

1 balance of sorts between the numbers of safe districts
2 between both major parties. In my observation, the
3 candidate nominees for safe districts tend to be
4 determined in the primary, which encourages candidates
5 to pander to the extremes of both parties. This is not
6 good for democracy. Indulging in the extremes often
7 encourages demonizing the other party, which makes it
8 harder to work with them and actually accomplish
9 anything. Instead of two ultra competitive districts,
10 I would prefer maps where maybe two to three districts
11 were the safety and all the remaining districts were
12 sufficiently competitive that either major party could
13 win each cycle if they nominated the right person for
14 that district. I have a different view of
15 competitiveness, perhaps, when I want the best overall
16 candidate to win and not simply the one I agree with
17 the most or the one who can simply win a majority of
18 their district's part of the majority.

19 I encourage you to seriously consider making
20 as many districts as competitive as possible,
21 minimizing the number of safe districts, because I
22 believe that results in better government for all of
23 us. Thank you for your time.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 Mr. Schalick, it looks like you're back.

1 MR. SCHALICK: Yes, I am.

2 What I was getting at was my main point is
3 that the town boundaries should be respected in
4 determining the legislative districts. Right now we've
5 been split up into where our downtown, which is kind of
6 the heart and soul, that is only about a mile and a
7 half or two miles from our Civic Center Plaza, which
8 contains our city hall, police department. They're
9 separated into legislative districts. So I think
10 Gilbert should be all kept together. The new proposed
11 LD 12, the boundary has been moved down to Elliot,
12 which again separates our downtown area and lumps it in
13 with Mesa. So my biggest point is that this panhandle
14 that's been created that's on your screen right there
15 is just -- that new legislative district extends
16 westward 20 -- more than 20 miles through Chandler to
17 the west most edge of Ahwatukee. It's clear across the
18 county, and it's an incoherent collection of disparate
19 communities of interest. Our civic center complex and
20 downtown area should be kept within the same
21 legislative district and more closely aligned to the
22 Gilbert town boundaries.

23 Between the areas of downtown Gilbert, the
24 Heritage District, Civic Center Plaza, we hold lots of
25 holiday events, festivals, parades, and these

1 activities unite us as a community. This is Gilbert's
2 most critical community of interest. I don't see how
3 these are close to communities of interest. Southern
4 Gilbert does share a community of interest with Queen
5 Creek. We shop in similar areas, use similar parks and
6 trails, and family members live there in the rural
7 sections of their respected communities.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 The next speaker is Laraine Rodgers, followed
10 by Karina Ruiz De Diaz, and followed by Pastor Aubrey
11 Barnwell.

12 Laraine, can you unmute yourself?

13 MS. RODGERS: Please unmute me.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: You are unmuted. I can hear
15 you.

16 MS. RODGERS: Good. Thank you so much.

17 Good morning. My name is Laraine Rodgers. I
18 live in Scottsdale, Arizona. In total I've lived in
19 several neighborhoods over Scottsdale over three
20 decades. I first moved here in 1975. I serve as and
21 currently am a volunteer with the City of Scottsdale's
22 Board of Commission and volunteer in other areas of the
23 city as well.

24 The current final draft map splits Scottsdale
25 into three legislative districts, as you've heard and

1 know, across city and multiple -- across the city and
2 multiple congressional districts. From a congressional
3 district standpoint it splits Scottsdale by Hayden
4 Road, so this cuts across HOAs of the community. There
5 is school districts, for example Scottsdale Unified
6 School District, plus over 180,000 people commute to
7 Scottsdale, the city, along with the 101 and work
8 across Scottsdale.

9 We are very interdependent with the Salt River
10 Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, or the SRPMIC as it's
11 called. The city and tribes also share a powerful
12 interest in protecting desert and mountain lands, the
13 character of diverse neighborhoods, et cetera.

14 Keep Scottsdale -- keep greater Scottsdale
15 together. I've heard several other folks who are also
16 speaking say that in one way or another. I know that a
17 woman in Scottsdale, another Scottsdale citizen, Emily
18 Wilson, submitted a legislative district map, although
19 it's called CDS 009, and that map, as I've looked at it
20 and gone through all the background, meets all six of
21 the IRC criteria A through F for drawing a district,
22 and it's respectful of one of the tenets, not the only
23 one, of the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights
24 Act. We don't have a lot of diversity in Scottsdale,
25 and I think it would be really helpful if we extended

1 that or changed that whole platform.

2 As I understand these criteria, each one of
3 them -- and others have said that in the chat I've
4 seen, are equal importance. One is not more than the
5 other.

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next speaker
7 is Karina Ruiz. Karina, can you unmute yourself.

8 MS. RUIZ: Can you hear me now? Yes. Thank
9 you, everyone.

10 My name is Karina Ruiz. I am a DACA
11 recipient, the executive director of the Arizona Dream
12 Act Coalition. I'm also a member of the PTO board at
13 Mountain View Elementary, and I have a 19-year-old who
14 is a registered voter.

15 I live in the Sunnyslope area, and I support
16 Sunnyslope being a part of District 2 because I believe
17 it connects us to other similar areas through the Black
18 Canyon. I also like how it is right now because it is
19 competitive. And for some people that might not be
20 relevant, but for people like me whose -- I cannot vote
21 because of my immigration status. My family is of
22 mixed status. My son is the only one in my household
23 who can vote, and our voices are watered down already
24 because we cannot vote and participate in that way, so
25 fighting for our vote from our elected officials makes

1 really important sense when it comes to the watering
2 down of voices like my family.

3 I also want to point and acknowledge there are
4 community members who are Spanish-speaking members and
5 don't have access to immediate translation. I hope
6 that this is fixed in the future so that these
7 community members can have access to what is being said
8 here in these meetings.

9 Yes, so that's basically what I wanted to
10 list, and hopefully you keep District 2 as it is in the
11 maps with the Sunnyslope area as it is. Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Can you please clarify
13 for the community what kind of translation services we
14 have available, including right now?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: We have a Spanish translator
16 here, and if anybody needs one they can just ask a
17 member of staff. And I can have her announce again and
18 introduce herself again.

19 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: And how would they do
20 that, in the chat function or --

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. That would make the most
22 sense.

23 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Thank you. Can we
24 repeat that in Spanish.

25 (Interpreter speaking in foreign language.)

1 THE INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Brenda
2 Lopez. I am the Spanish interpreter. If you need
3 interpretation in Spanish, please send us a message and
4 let us know so we can identify you through the Spanish
5 interpretation. Thank you.

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Aubrey
7 Barnwell.

8 Mr. Barnwell, can you unmute yourself?

9 I think the next one is Mike Rakowsky, and
10 after Mike Rakowsky is Magdalena Acosta.

11 Magdalena, please proceed.

12 MS. ACOSTA: Can everybody hear me?

13 MR. BARNWELL: I'm unmuted now as well.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: I'm sorry. Magdalena will
15 proceed.

16 And then, Pastor Barnwell, we'll proceed with
17 you afterwards.

18 We can hear you, Magdalena.

19 MS. ACOSTA: Hello. My name is Magdalena
20 Acosta. I live in the area of 75th Avenue and Indian
21 School in Phoenix, Arizona. I am very with satisfied
22 with our new district, but I really feel that there is
23 a lack of after school activity funding. I believe
24 that keeping my district together will allow my
25 community to continue advocating for better funding so

1 that our children are more inclined to take part in
2 constructive activities. I believe in order for school
3 to be properly funded throughout the state of Arizona,
4 we need more districts that are more competitive. It
5 means that candidates for office must be attuned to the
6 changing dynamics and needs of their districts. It
7 limits extremism on both sides of the spectrum and
8 means the candidates must listen to voters from all
9 parties and fairly weigh their decisions. Competition
10 is good for our democracy and education. This is very
11 important to me as a new grandmother. Thank you.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 The next speaker is Aubrey Barnwell.

14 Mr. Barnwell.

15 MR. BARNWELL: Thank you so much.

16 I'm Pastor Aubrey Barnwell. I live at 83rd
17 Avenue and Cactus in Peoria, and I'm a pastor at First
18 New Life Church, which is at 19th Avenue and Rosier in
19 Phoenix. I will be part of the new Congressional
20 District 3 in the draft maps approved by the
21 Commission.

22 I support the congressional maps as they have
23 been drawn because it brings some balance to where I
24 live and where I pastor. Peoria is very diverse.
25 There are middle class families, and Peoria is not a

1 monolithic group. In the past, the needs of more
2 diverse areas of Peoria have been overshadowed, so that
3 diversity that we share with South Phoenix can bring
4 about more equity and synergy by uniting our voices
5 around our community of interest and needs. The area
6 where I pastor should have the opportunity to look like
7 where I live. These maps will bring equality and
8 continuity to our community. Together we will be able
9 to organize for the development of community amenities
10 and resources in South Phoenix that we already enjoy in
11 Peoria.

12 I also support the new Congressional District
13 8, which encompasses my neighbors in Glendale. And
14 competition I believe is important because that is how
15 we have better ideals. We get a better understanding
16 of what our community needs, and it fosters compromise.
17 If there is no competition we do not get the best
18 outcome. It's all about balance.

19 Thank you for the time. Thank you,
20 Commissioners, for what you're doing.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 Our next two speakers will be Mike Rakowsky
23 and Patricia Thomas, and then we will take a 15-minute
24 break.

25 Mr. Rakowsky, please proceed.

1 MR. RAKOWSKY: Thank you very much.

2 I'm Mike Rakowsky. I live in the North
3 Mountain area, and over the past 26 years I've lived up
4 and down the 7th Street corridor from Northern and 7th
5 Street until now just north of Peoria. It's a great
6 community. It's one with a lot of commonality up and
7 down that area. The city I live, the city of Phoenix,
8 has been paying attention to the mayor and councilwoman
9 to Sunnyslope and the neighborhoods there. I'm glad to
10 participate a couple of weeks ago at -- some of the
11 institutions in this area are Sunnyslope High School, a
12 great high school, and also the John C. Lincoln
13 Hospital. We had a festivity with the congressman and
14 the mayor and councilwoman to plant trees along with
15 private community of Buddhists in the area. And so
16 it's a lively area with good shops and restaurants, and
17 I think the cohesiveness of this area is very positive.

18 I would also agree with a lot of the other
19 speakers that I've heard that have said that to me
20 competitiveness should not be downgraded as a criteria,
21 and it's very important that the citizens in an area
22 have the attention of the elected officials, and a
23 competitive district ensures that.

24 It's a great community. I hope you maintain
25 the integrity of this area, and thank you very much for

1 what you're doing.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

3 Our next speaker before the break is Patricia
4 Thomas.

5 Ms. Thomas.

6 MS. THOMAS: Thank you.

7 Hi. I'm Patricia Thomas. I'm retired. I
8 moved back to Arizona in 2015, and I'm actually an
9 Arizona native. Currently I live at 103rd Avenue and
10 Broadway.

11 For the past five years I've worked to
12 advocate for my community, and I want to see equity for
13 all people. But, you know, my community not only
14 includes my neighborhood; it includes people in Arizona
15 who like me are Black or people of color and seniors,
16 and just people who like to see Arizona reach its
17 potential of being a state of inclusion for all people.
18 So right now I'm in a district where my voice is being
19 heard, so I'm happy that, and it looks like with the
20 new map I will just still be happy with what I have.

21 But I know many Arizonans who are not listened
22 to, so, you know, to make sure that all voices are
23 heard you can do this by making sure that there are
24 more competitive districts. Competition is something
25 that all Arizonans, regardless of party value, because

1 it encourages politicians to hear our concerns, even if
2 they may not agree with us, and that's it.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 At this time we will take a 15-minute break,
5 and we will return at 11:45.

6 (Brief recess taken.)

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Madam Chair, if it's okay with
8 you I will go ahead and announce the next three
9 speakers.

10 We will start with Crystal Lopez, Mark Bernal,
11 and then Joshua Wells.

12 Ms. Lopez, can you unmute yourself?

13 Ms. Lopez, can you hear us? Crystal?

14 MS. LOPEZ: Are you able to hear me clearly?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes, we can hear you. Thank
16 you. Please proceed.

17 MS. LOPEZ: I support competitiveness in all
18 districts because I'm a long-time resident of the East
19 Valley Queen Creek community, and like other -- and
20 like others have stated I, too, feel that my vote is
21 taken for granted. I live near four major golf
22 courses, and at no point has anyone asked me or the
23 indigenous community how we feel about current water
24 conservation efforts, which is extremely important to
25 me and my family and my community. As a descendent of

1 my grandparents who came to this country seeking
2 citizenship, I understand the importance of sustainable
3 agriculture. I worry about the future of my children
4 because I don't want them to be taken for granted,
5 either.

6 The current expansion that is occurring out
7 here is worrisome, especially with understanding of the
8 urban heat island effect. This highly impacts water
9 retention in our soil and it increases heat waves.
10 There is increasing urban heat island effect in the
11 growth of Phoenix as we build out farther and farther
12 into the desert valley. I ask myself if we will have
13 access to clean drinking water instead of using it for
14 major golf courses that very limited people use.

15 Will working class people in minority
16 communities continue to be dismissed? That is
17 something I'm really worried about because if no one
18 takes the time to fight for our vote and what we care
19 about then we will never have true representation. All
20 we ask is that have not been forgotten, because we live
21 here, too, and contribute just like everyone else, and
22 that's why competitiveness is extremely important to my
23 community.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, Ms. Lopez.

25 Our next speaker is Mark Bernal.

1 Mr. Bernal.

2 MR. BERNAL: Yeah, can you hear me okay?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yep. Please proceed.

4 MR. BERNAL: Awesome, awesome.

5 So first and foremost, good morning.

6 (Speaking in foreign language.) My name is Mark
7 Bernal. First and foremost, I appreciate and recognize
8 the privilege of being able to hop on in here and talk
9 with you all today. You know, not many people from
10 communities such as the one I'm representing today,
11 which is the Latinx and indigenous communities,
12 specifically the Pascua Yaqui tribe, you know, often
13 don't know these meetings are occurring or don't have
14 access to them, so I thank you for that.

15 I'm currently residing in Queen Creek. I'm a
16 firm believer in pushing and wanting to keep districts
17 competitive. As I previously stated, having lived in
18 said district for 20 plus years, that has not been the
19 case. The reason, argument I would have to ignite this
20 competitiveness would be for candidates to feel the
21 need to fight for my vote. I would like to see things
22 such as more transparency when it comes to spending,
23 better access to information and resources for minority
24 communities, and I would like to see more engagement
25 with indigenous because currently it seems like we are

1 almost forgotten when it comes to resources and
2 education.

3 As someone who represents said communities in
4 multiple recent election cycles having to go to these
5 communities and let them know that we are trying to
6 fight and strive for their rights, unfortunately it
7 only comes down to whenever it is election cycles. I
8 think it is pertinent for these communities to be
9 represented throughout the entirety of the year, not
10 just election cycles, and that's why I support
11 competitive districts, because that is what true
12 democracy is about, and not any taking communities for
13 granted.

14 Thank you so much for your time.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker is Joshua Wells.

17 Mr. Wells?

18 MR. WELLS: Hello? Can you hear me all right?

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

20 MR. WELLS: Perfect. My name is Joshua Wells.

21 I live near North 31st Avenue and West Encanto
22 Boulevard over in Phoenix, Arizona. After growing up
23 in western New York state and living briefly in
24 California, I came to Arizona in 2009. I have set up
25 roots here and built a family that is multilingual and

1 multiracial. Our community of interest often struggles
2 to find resources that reflect our diversity, such as
3 school programs where children can learn to flourish in
4 both of their home languages. I am happy with my new
5 district and would like to see the Commission keep my
6 community together so that we can continue to advocate
7 for the needs of our families and children.

8 That said, when I first moved to Arizona I
9 became enamored by its frontier spirit and the
10 beautiful red rocks. As Arizonans we understand the
11 value of the statement, May the best man or woman win.
12 Politicians should have to listen to a diverse array of
13 constituents and develop policies where all communities
14 of interest are heard. Because of this, I am urging
15 the counsel to also create more competitive districts
16 when possible. Districts who are in alignment with the
17 values of the old west, courageous leaders can have the
18 opportunity to show why they are the best to represent
19 us.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 Our next three speakers will be Tomika Brown,
23 Suzanne Mead, and then Nancy Barto.

24 Tomika Brown, can you hear me?

25 MS. BROWN: Yes. Good morning. Can you guys

1 hear me?

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Thank you. Please
3 proceed.

4 MS. BROWN: Hi. My name is Tomika Brown. I
5 currently live on 19th Avenue and Dunlap, part of the
6 new congressional district that goes from Glendale in
7 North Phoenix and extends out northwest. I want to
8 leave the district as is because it accurately
9 represents my community. I also like that the
10 districts are competitive. I like the idea that
11 elected officials need to fight for my voice, because
12 here in Arizona working class people, especially those
13 of color like myself, has been underserved. If we keep
14 the redistricting lines competitive the people running
15 for office will have to appeal to us for support, and
16 to be sure that we get better and fairer representation
17 so that the needs of our communities and our interests
18 as working class people are met.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 Our next, let's see, three speakers are going
22 to be Suzanne Mead, Nancy Barto, and then Irma Pacheco.

23 Suzanne, can you hear us? Suzanne, you can
24 repeat. Suzanne, we can't hear you.

25 Okay. We'll come back to Suzanne.

1 Our next speaker is Nancy Barto.

2 Nancy, can you hear us?

3 We'll move to the next speaker, which is Irma
4 Pacheco. Irma?

5 The next speaker is Mike Martinez.

6 Mr. Martinez? Mike?

7 MR. MARTINEZ: Hello. Can you hear me?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Thank you. Please
9 proceed.

10 MR. MARTINEZ: All right. Well, thank you for
11 letting me speak here before you. My name is Mike
12 Martinez. I currently live close to 7th Avenue and
13 Thomas. I've lived in Arizona for eight years. I feel
14 our state is greatly improved by districts that don't
15 think about benefitting parties but instead what is
16 best for Arizona, and I also think that competitive
17 districts really embody what Arizona is about. I like
18 when elected officials actually have to fight for my
19 vote instead of just taking it for granted. I would
20 love to see Redistricting Commission produce final maps
21 that promote balance so that both parties have a
22 fighting chance to be elected, and that's basically
23 what I'm emphasizing is just like a fairness in the
24 redistricting process and in balance.

25 So thank you for your time.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Nancy Barto.

3 Ms. Barto?

4 MS. BARTO: Yes. Thank you. Can you hear me?

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

6 MS. BARTO: Thank you, Chairwoman Neuberg and
7 Commissioners. My name is Nancy Barto, and I live near
8 Desert Ridge and represent the voters of District 15 in
9 the northern part of the metro Phoenix, Scottsdale,
10 Cave Creek, Glendale, and Peoria areas.

11 Under the Constitution's instructions to abide
12 by the federal Voting Rights Act, the goal of the IRC
13 is achieving fair boundary lines for Arizona, but ten
14 years ago that didn't happen in my area, and voters
15 continually expressed frustration that people residing
16 in the northern section of Maricopa County, Cave Creek
17 and Carefree specifically, were drawn into Yavapai
18 County, with which they have literally nothing in
19 common geographically nor as a community of interest,
20 two priorities in the Voting Rights Act.

21 Second, LD 15 included important sections of
22 six cities as well as multiple school districts,
23 another example of how the communities of interest
24 provision of the Voting Rights Act was rather put on
25 the sidelines and people were not as well-served as

1 they should have been.

2 Other lesser goals took precedence. This time
3 around may I suggest a greater focus on achieving more
4 contiguous North Phoenix districts that take all of
5 these Constitutional considerations to heart, including
6 competitiveness to a great extent, specifically the
7 following: Sunnyslope should be in the Central
8 Corridor and not extend north of Shaw Butte, a natural
9 geographic divide.

10 Second, a District 2 priority should be
11 keeping Deer Valley together, including the Deer Valley
12 Airport, and District 2 shouldn't be drawn so far
13 south. Rather, the southern boundary should be north
14 of the 101.

15 Third, considering the wide differences in the
16 District 4 map as drafted, the area south of Camelback
17 Road is not a community of interest with the arts and
18 entertainment areas to the south from the different
19 communities of interest further north, which should be
20 separate and distinct, envisioned as a truly North
21 Phoenix LD, the northern boundary of which should
22 extend north to Deer Valley or Pinnacle Peak. These
23 align much more with PV.

24 Finally, District 4 should go furthest east of
25 the 101 and include all of PV schools.

1 On Congressional District 1, the boundary of
2 District 8 and CD 1 should move west to the I-17, not
3 Cave Creek Road. Those are very different communities
4 of interest.

5 And, finally, on the Alhambra, Encanto, and
6 Camelback east areas, those should be in a Central
7 Phoenix area. Deer Valley and North Phoenix are very
8 different and shouldn't be lumped together.

9 Thank you very much for allowing me to comment
10 today.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 The next speaker is Suzanne Mead.

13 Suzanne, can you hear us?

14 The next speaker after Suzanne Mead is Irma
15 Pacheco.

16 Irma, can you unmute yourself?

17 The next speaker after Irma is Nelson Morgan.

18 Nelson, can you hear us?

19 It looks like Irma Pacheco is online now.

20 Irma, can you hear us?

21 MS. PACHECO: Good morning. My name is Irma
22 Pacheco. I live on 19th Avenue and Rosier Road in
23 Phoenix, Arizona. I am satisfied with my new district,
24 but there are some issues to remark. We need our
25 community library to be innovative. We need more

1 spaces like park, and no more pollution. It is
2 important that our community remains together so we can
3 speak up about these issues. I want others of the
4 state to have the voices here, and I would like to
5 propose competitiveness in the new districts to involve
6 competitive districts and make sure communities are
7 using it, too. We need a candidate that must listen to
8 diverse group with the decisions and votes. This is
9 very important to make our democracy stronger.

10 Thank you so much for your time. I
11 appreciate. Thank you.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Maria
13 Romero.

14 Maria, can you unmute yourself?

15 And we'll just let anybody who is joining us
16 right now know that we will send you a request to
17 unmute yourself. We are trying to list the next ten
18 speakers in the chat, and then I'm trying to announce
19 the speakers as we go, and so if can you unmute
20 yourself when we send you the request that would help
21 us speed up the process.

22 I don't see Maria Romero, but we have it looks
23 like Nelson Morgan is back.

24 Nelson, can you hear us?

25 Our next speaker is Carol Cherry.

1 Carol, can you hear us?

2 MS. CHERRY: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

4 MS. CHERRY: My name is Carol Cherry. I live
5 in Gilbert. I'm in that little pink section that's
6 right below the green, that -- right, that little
7 sliver. We're slivered in between, you know, that
8 three districts right there. The brown is on the
9 right. So that you can see five different districts in
10 Gilbert.

11 The town of Gilbert is a close-knit community
12 with a small town feel. The new map would break us
13 into five separate districts, which goes against the
14 Committee's goal of keeping districts compact to
15 accurately represent communities of interest who live
16 and work together. The recent draft has a few blocks
17 of northwest Gilbert lumped in with downtown Mesa.
18 Another small slice of northwest Gilbert extends
19 from -- my slice goes almost 30 miles to Ahwatukee.
20 And then there is a third tiny section of North Gilbert
21 that goes into East Mesa, that brown/tan section there.
22 In my case, my house, my church, my school, most of the
23 places where I do business would all be in different
24 districts.

25 Many people before me have said this exact

1 same thing, splintering Gilbert into five districts
2 means that our interests will be vastly
3 underrepresentative -- underrepresented. This
4 absolutely goes against the Arizona Constitution.
5 Gilbert has about half of the population of Mesa, yet
6 Mesa is divided into only two districts, while Gilbert
7 is splintered into five. That does not give Gilbert
8 citizens fair representation. I would also ask that
9 you keep Gilbert in one congressional district with
10 Mesa and Queen Creek to preserve our community
11 interests. CD 5 should not go into Pinal County.

12 I respectfully request that the Commission
13 follow the Arizona Constitution when drawing districts
14 and keep the Gilbert community whole. Thank you.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker will be Tyler Farnsworth.

17 Mr. Farnsworth, can you hear us?

18 MR. FARNSWORTH: I can. Can you hear me?

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

20 MR. FARNSWORTH: Madam Chair and

21 Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to address
22 the Commission and for the efforts and time you have to
23 put into the draft maps thus far. It's certainly not
24 an easy task.

25 My name is Tyler Farnsworth. I grew up, went

1 to school, and currently live in the 85296 zip code,
2 which is in the town of Gilbert. LD Draft Map 10.2
3 splits Gilbert into five different legislative
4 districts, as has been said today. Our high school
5 community, Gilbert High, will be split into four
6 different legislative districts, and this draft splits
7 the 85296 zip code into three different legislative
8 districts and two different congressional districts.

9 This map places my home into the new LD 12 as
10 a part of that long panhandle, which will include South
11 Tempe and Ahwatukee. This completely separates me from
12 my entire community and removes our downtown Gilbert
13 Heritage District from the rest of Gilbert. My faith
14 community, my children's school community, and my
15 business community will all be split in this current
16 draft map. Our community has shared interests, and the
17 way this current map is created disenfranchises those
18 interests. Please split Gilbert at Baseline Road south
19 and Arizona Avenue east. Please keep these new LDs
20 contiguous and respect our faith and education
21 communities.

22 Also, this Congressional Draft Map Version
23 7.1, Gilbert is included in the new District 4 that
24 includes Tempe, parts of Scottsdale, and Ahwatukee.
25 Please consider splitting at the natural dividing line

1 of the U.S. 60 freeway and west -- and west to McQueen
2 Road, keeping Gilbert together. Please revisit where
3 you split up Gilbert, use south of Baseline, east of
4 Arizona Avenue, to maintain proper adherence to keep
5 our Heritage District and key Gilbert communities
6 together.

7 Thank you for all your efforts.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: It looks like Mr. Nelson
9 Morgan is unmuted and ready to speak, if you want to
10 try to speak again, Mr. Morgan. Mr. Morgan, are you on
11 the line?

12 Okay. We will go next to Maria Romero.

13 Ms. Romero, are you on the line? Ms. Romero,
14 can you hear us? We can hear you. Please proceed.

15 MS. ROMERO: Okay. (Speaking in foreign
16 language).

17 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, everyone. I asked
18 her to repeat herself so I can interpret.

19 MS. ROMERO (through interpreter): Hello,
20 everyone. My name is Maria Romero. I live on
21 Sunnyslope section with my husband on 7th Avenue and
22 Hatcher. I'm very happy to be living in District 2. I
23 was in the Hilton for 22 years. Usually officials
24 don't really worry about families like mine. Usually
25 in my district the politicians don't listen in my

1 district when they want to win races. Thank you so
2 much.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: The next three speakers are
4 Nicholas Collins, Jeffrey Tucker, and then Anna
5 Sanchez-Navarro.

6 MR. TUCKER: Hello. Can you hear me?

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Mr. Tucker, please proceed.

8 Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Collins, please proceed.

9 MR. COLLINS: Okay. Hi. My name is Nick
10 Collins. I live in Ahwatukee, just west of Chandler.
11 Since 2003 I've lived here. I remember when the
12 legislature used to draw up the districts, and my
13 congressional district was made of Ahwatukee connected
14 to Scottsdale by a thin strip across Tempe, obviously
15 somewhat gerrymandered, so I really appreciate the work
16 that this Independent Redistricting Commission is doing
17 in undertaking to make districts fair and competitive.
18 Making these districts fair and competitive was part of
19 the language of Prop 106 in 2000 that created the IRC,
20 and also part of the Voting Rights Act. I think that
21 the competitive districts should be the primary goal
22 when drawing our new maps. We just need to look at our
23 most recent election to see how competitive our state
24 is. One-third are Independents.

25 Again, I'm glad for the work that this

1 Commission is doing, and I want to stress the
2 importance of keeping districts competitive. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 The next speaker is Jeffrey Tucker, followed
6 by Ana Sanchez-Navarro.

7 MR. TUCKER: Hello, Commissioners. My name is
8 Jeffrey Tucker, and I join you from South Tempe. I've
9 lived here for eight years, and I work in North
10 Chandler, and as an Ahwatukee property owner I've been
11 a taxpayer in the Kyrene School District for over
12 15 years.

13 I first want to thank you for approved LD
14 draft map recognizing and representing the Kyrene
15 School District so well. You finally made the school
16 district whole within a single LD by including the Lone
17 Butte precinct into LD 12. Thank you so much.

18 Now I would like to raise three major concerns
19 I see with the draft map. First, as a Tempe resident
20 my small city has 204,000 residents. It could actually
21 have a single district of its own, yet the current map
22 splits us up into four new districts, which it seems
23 really only that two districts are warranted, an urban
24 North Tempe district and a suburban South Tempe
25 district, representing the neighborhoods below Southern

1 Avenue.

2 My next issue with the draft maps concerns the
3 area where I work, North Chandler. This is a highly
4 concentrated Hispanic and Latino area of Chandler that
5 has been split from the new District 13. This Hispanic
6 community of interest population has now been lumped
7 into LD 12, when instead it really seems to make more
8 sense to extend the new District 13 northward and
9 remove the LD 12 arm that was created. I had prepared
10 comments about the LD arm or panhandle or finger or
11 whatever you want to call it, but basically it sounds
12 like everyone kind of hates this thing, so please
13 remove it.

14 In summary, my three comments about changes
15 are, one, please split Tempe into only two districts at
16 Southern Avenue; two, please keep the Latino community
17 of Chandler whole in LD 13; and, three, get rid of the
18 panhandle.

19 Thank you so much for hearing my suggestions.
20 Thank you, hosts, for doing a wonderful job. And,
21 further, thank you so much for the tireless work and
22 the many miles you have each traveled for the past
23 year, Commissioners. I appreciate your efforts in
24 making these maps fair, balanced, and representative of
25 the Arizona that I live in.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Ana Sanchez-Navarro.

3 MS. SANCHEZ-NAVARRO: Thank you for the
4 opportunity.

5 My name is Ana Sanchez-Navarro, and I live off
6 of 32nd Street and Union Hills. My community of
7 interest includes the Desert Ridge area and does not
8 include the Sunnyslope area. Your map has shifted my
9 district to the south, and that presents issue for me
10 and my community. It is not competitive, and it does
11 not represent my community of interest and my voices --
12 or my voice and that of my community are being crushed,
13 which is not democratic.

14 I never travel south of Thunderbird into the
15 Sunnyslope area. The crime rate there is very high,
16 and I am having a lot of anxiety over the thought that
17 the crime rate is going to increase in my neighborhood
18 with the shifting south of my district. The Sunnyslope
19 community is very different from the suburban families
20 that live north of Thunderbird, with completely
21 different values and priorities, making it very
22 difficult for legislatures to effectively serve our
23 constituents.

24 I am pleading with you to please move up the
25 southern boundary of the proposed LD 2 map up to

1 Thunderbird and the northern boundary to extend further
2 north to include the area north of the 101.

3 On the west, I would like to request the
4 boundary to extend further, at least to 63rd Avenue.
5 This is because my doctors, hospitals, and many church
6 friends live in this area. We would feel very
7 disenfranchised in all the efforts that we have put
8 forth to ensure proper representation of our values.

9 Therefore, regarding the proposed
10 Congressional District 1 Map, I would like to request
11 that the area between Cave Creek Road and I-17 be
12 included in CD 1, please.

13 I am okay with the rest of the boundaries for
14 CD 1, and I thank you for all the hard work you have
15 done and the many iterations of these -- of these maps.
16 I know that it's not easy, and I really sincerely
17 appreciate that you will effectively issue fair maps in
18 the end, and I would like to ask that you follow,
19 please, the Arizona Constitution when you draw up these
20 maps, and I thank you again.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 Our next speaker -- we're moving back up the
23 list because we were able to find him -- is Jawaher
24 Abbas.

25 Mr. Abbas, can you hear us? There you are.

1 Jawaher? Hi. Please proceed.

2 It looks like we lost a speaker, so let's move
3 to the next speaker, Steve Hetsler, followed by Paula
4 Feely, followed by Noella Kuntz.

5 Steve Hetsler, can you hear us?

6 MR. HETSLER: Yes. Can you hear me?

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

8 MR. HETSLER: Okay. I'm Steve Hetsler. I
9 came to Arizona as a youth, lived most my life in Mesa
10 before moving to Gold Canyon early last year.

11 My disappointment in the maps was compounded
12 when I logged into this event. They asked me what part
13 of the state I wanted to talk about. I consider Gold
14 Canyon at the end of metro Phoenix, but these maps
15 don't reflect that. Three of the Constitutional
16 requirements have not only been ignored, but been
17 ignored blatantly.

18 So first one, geographically compact and
19 contiguous: I'm being placed in a rural county, 200
20 miles from top to bottom, nearly 200 miles from side to
21 side.

22 Communities of interest: Residents of Gold
23 Canyon, Apache Junction have a community of interest
24 with each other and with East Mesa. This is where we
25 shop, go to church, get involved in community events.

1 My wife and I are ten miles from Maricopa County. We
2 cross that line at least once each week.

3 Three, respect for city and county lines: The
4 district cuts right through Apache Junction, which
5 otherwise would be the largest city in the district.
6 It cuts right through the school district, one of the
7 largest in LD 7. It encompasses five different
8 counties, only one of which lies completely within the
9 district. Pinal County is split into four legislative
10 districts. Yes, the Constitutional requirements have
11 been followed to the extent practicable, but it looks
12 like more than half go out of their way to omit the
13 Constitutional requirements as much as they have been
14 in drawing the LD 7 boundaries. If I wanted to test
15 the limits of the law, this is the map I would have
16 drawn. If we want to adhere to the letter and spirit
17 of the law, keeping Apache Junction intact and putting
18 it along with Gold Canyon in proposed LD 15 is optimal
19 and practical. The new LD 15 is less optimal but still
20 practicable. Even putting up gerrymandered LD 17 comes
21 closer to meeting our requirements than LD 7.

22 I'm a numbers person and a math junkie, I just
23 can't fathom how severing our community from metro
24 Phoenix and chopping up Pinal County (audio distortion)
25 meets explicit Constitutional requirements.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 Our next speaker is Paula Feely, followed by
3 Noella Kuntz.

4 Paula, can you hear us? Paula, we can't hear
5 you.

6 Let's move to Noella Kuntz.

7 Noella, can you hear us?

8 MS. KUNTZ: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

10 MS. KUNTZ: All right. Hi. My name is Noella
11 Kuntz, and I'm a retired pharmacist, and I live in
12 Maricopa County. I live in North Scottsdale, near
13 Pinnacle Peak, which is mainly single residential.
14 It's, you know, a suburb with all the unique qualities
15 that other people have mentioned. And I do find that
16 Scottsdale, Cave Creek, Carefree, Fountain Hills are
17 where I do about 90 percent of my dining, shopping, and
18 I worship there as well.

19 Regarding the current draft, the Scottsdale
20 community is split, and I don't believe that should be
21 correct. It should be made whole, except for possibly
22 the southern part. The western border I would like to
23 see as using the natural boundary of Scottsdale Road
24 from about Carefree Highway running down to Osborn.
25 Those parts south of Osborn or whatever is the area of

1 Scottsdale that I would be, you know, willing to give
2 up, basically, because it is a bit different than from
3 the northern area. McCormick Ranch, Gainey Ranch,
4 they're all distinctly Scottsdale communities and
5 should be part of that LD3. We should not have that
6 little part that brings us in with the Phoenix urban
7 areas. I don't believe that that has the same type of
8 community as we do and would not be represented as
9 well, so I respectfully ask the Commission to consider
10 my comments, and I thank you for your time.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next speakers
12 are Jeffrey Apodaca, Trevor Johnson, and Amber Watson.

13 Jeffrey, can you hear us?

14 MR. APODACA: Yes. Can you hear me?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

16 MR. APODACA: I currently live in LD 23 in
17 Scottsdale, east of Hayden and west of the 101, and
18 under the proposed legislative and congressional maps I
19 will be in District 8 and Congressional District 1. I
20 feel being included in LD 8 would put together two
21 communities with conflicting interests. Tempe, which
22 will primarily make up District 8, is largely urban.
23 My community is entirely suburban and therefore has
24 different priorities and interests for which we need
25 representation.

1 Furthermore, my friends and family travel and
2 do business seldom in Tempe and Central Phoenix.
3 Similarly, Congressional District 1 will include urban
4 parts of Central Phoenix. So, therefore, it is not a
5 community of interest for that reason. Ultimately,
6 this will decrease competitiveness and throw together
7 two dissimilar communities of interest.

8 In summary, the parts of Scottsdale east of
9 Hayden and currently in LD 23 should not be included in
10 District 8, and the boundaries of Congressional
11 District 1 should be moved further east, both to better
12 reflect the community. Thank you very much.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speakers are Trevor
14 Johnson, Amber Watson, and then Paula Feely is back.

15 Trevor?

16 MR. JOHNSON: Hello?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: We can hear you. Please
18 proceed.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Hello. My name is Trevor
20 Johnson, and I'm speaking this morning to represent
21 North Scottsdale from DC Ranch. I agree with the
22 concerns of Lori Gray, Joe Junker, Nancy Ordowski, and
23 Craig Stephan, as well as others who have spoken before
24 me. I'll ask the Commission to observe that the
25 handful of speakers who spoke against us were not

1 residents of current LD 23 or Scottsdale, while we are
2 all here to represent our home.

3 It's common knowledge that Scottsdale is a
4 unique, tight-knit community of interest. We share our
5 schools. We share our parks, our shopping centers. We
6 share our churches. We do not share the schools, arts,
7 shopping centers of Phoenix. We do not consider Desert
8 Ridge or I-17 part of our community. That is why we
9 are here today, to protest the legislative division of
10 Scottsdale and integration of Scottsdale with other
11 cities such as Phoenix.

12 It's more than just our values, our culture,
13 and our community. LD 23 has been called its own state
14 within Arizona. Scottsdale is a unique community with
15 its own legislative demands. We are not politically
16 homogenous with the rest of Arizona. I am speaking
17 (indiscernible) of Scottsdale as Americans and as
18 Arizonans deserves to be represented by people who
19 represent them. On behalf of Scottsdale, I implore
20 this Committee to recognize the legislative border on
21 Scottsdale Road. Do not go to I-17 or Desert Ridge.
22 That is not part of our unique, beautiful community.
23 Please keep our community together so that we may stay
24 politically engaged and move our beloved LD and our
25 beautiful state into a brighter future.

1 Thank you.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. We have Amber
3 Watson and then Paula Feely.

4 Amber, can you hear us?

5 MS. WATSON: Yes. Good morning. Can you hear
6 me?

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Thank you. Please
8 proceed.

9 MS. WATSON: Perfect. Okay.

10 Thank you, everybody, for the lovely comments.
11 Trevor Johnson, that is a tough act to follow.

12 Again, my name is Amber Watson. I am a
13 retired nurse, so I live and play in the
14 family-friendly Desert Ridge area, and I have to say I
15 agree with Trevor. Desert Ridge and Scottsdale really
16 are not homogenous areas. So Desert Ridge is family
17 friendly. I live specifically on High Street, so
18 that's my home. It caters more to urban, vibrant,
19 young professionals, and in my opinion it's in stark
20 contrast to the areas that kind of want to get jammed
21 in. Rio Verde is one. I consider that more of an
22 equestrian, active adult community. North Scottsdale
23 is a little more elderly, as well as Fountain Hills.
24 There is more retired versus young professionals. So
25 it's my opinion that the representatives kind of need

1 to stay with their unique communities because they kind
2 of have a feel already for what they need, and
3 artificially combining these areas -- and it's
4 something like 35 miles wide. I think that's a bit
5 much. It's already hard enough for the representatives
6 to do their job. So we have contrasting cultures,
7 contrasting needs. I don't think putting us all
8 together would be in anybody's best interest.

9 So, again, referencing the proposed district
10 map, please, please consider smaller, more manageable,
11 more cohesive areas, ensuring that we the people are
12 fully and properly represented.

13 So thank you so much for your time and your
14 consideration of my thoughts.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Our next speaker is Paula Feely, followed by
17 Nelson Morgan, and Suzanne Mead.

18 MS. FEELY: Can you hear me now? Okay.

19 Hello, Madam Chair and Commissioners. My name
20 is Paula Feely, and I've lived in Chandler for ten
21 years near Alma School and Germann. I've been looking
22 at your 10.0 legislative district map, and I would like
23 to comment about the plans regarding Chandler and the
24 surrounding areas.

25 My first comment is that I would like to see

1 the southwest part of Chandler combine with District
2 12. The population in my part of Chandler is aging,
3 and the area includes the Ocotillo community and the
4 large retirement community of Sun Lakes. In general,
5 the people in the area are highly educated and form a
6 community of interest that has more in common with the
7 people of Ahwatukee than with the people of downtown
8 Chandler.

9 Another comment about the 10.0 map is that
10 Chandler is split into three separate legislative
11 districts: 9, 12, and 13. I realize that Chandler is
12 too big to be a single district, but I hope it can be
13 only two districts, if possible. The way this can be
14 done is if the arm of (audio distortion) North Chandler
15 into Gilbert. Incorporating Sun Lakes into D 12
16 instead would keep the district more compact,
17 contiguous, and competitive. This change would also
18 keep the concentrated Latino population areas of North
19 Chandler, downtown Chandler, and Sunshine Valley Mobile
20 Home Park in the same district.

21 I hope that some of these changes can be made
22 in order to ensure competitiveness and maintain
23 communities of interest so every group can have their
24 representation in our state government. I appreciate
25 all you have done to create these maps, and I look

1 forward to seeing the coming iterations. Thank you so
2 much.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Nelson
4 Morgan, followed by Suzanne Mead.

5 Nelson, can you hear us?

6 MS. MEAD: Can you hear me? Can you hear me?

7 MR. MORGAN: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Nelson Morgan is going to
9 speak first, please.

10 Suzanne, we will call you in just a minute.

11 MS. MEAD: Thank you.

12 MR. MORGAN: That's great. Okay. Very well.

13 Okay, so thank you to all of you, Chairman
14 Neuberg and Commissioners, especially. I'm Nelson
15 Morgan. I'm a retired academic living in Phoenix.

16 I would like to comment on the idea of
17 partisan groupings as communities of interest and why
18 it makes no sense, despite sometimes being suggested in
19 recent meetings. Other speakers are elaborating on the
20 more traditional meanings of community of interest as
21 in patterns of shopping, work, recreation, but I would
22 like to focus on the simple numerical reality. Even in
23 the most partisan areas of the state there are still
24 many voters who prefer the minority party. General
25 elections in a 70/30 district entail little expense,

1 and yet all voters still hope for representatives who
2 will improve conditions in our state. We want to
3 support communities of interest in the aspect that can
4 unite us, not divide us. Our concerns are over issues
5 like water, education, and health care, and these are
6 best supported in competitive districts in which
7 politicians must appeal to voters beyond their base.

8 To the Commissioners, I really appreciate the
9 very difficult task that you have taken on. I strongly
10 urge you to eschew the use of partisan identity as a
11 substitute for communities of interest, and rather to
12 maximize the number of competitive districts. You can
13 do this while conforming with actual communities of
14 interest. I would really like to spend my retirement
15 in a state where we have learned to live peacefully
16 with our differences, given all the challenges that we
17 have in common. Fair and competitive district
18 boundaries will aid us.

19 Thank you so much for all of your efforts.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you now.

21 Suzanne Mead, please proceed.

22 MS. MEAD: Yes. I assume you can hear me now?

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

24 MS. MEAD: Good morning. My name is Suzanne
25 Mead from Carefree and Cave Creek community in northern

1 Maricopa. Thank you so much for this opportunity to
2 speak.

3 To start, I appreciate -- I want to let you
4 know that I appreciate our new C1 congressional
5 district. However, I have concerns that the new
6 Legislative D3 District does not meet several criteria,
7 specifically geographic barriers, community of
8 interest, and political balance.

9 First, I'm grateful to the Commission that
10 they have to agreed to separate our district from
11 Yavapai County. However, I am distressed by their
12 decision to include Carefree in yet another rural
13 district characterized by expansive wilderness that is
14 separated from us by a mountain range. This makes no
15 sense given our reliance on Phoenix for most of our
16 health, retail, and entertainment services. Carefree
17 and the adjoining town of Cave Creek are northern
18 suburbs of Phoenix and should not be joined with rural
19 points east of the McDowell Mountains.

20 Second, my community of interest extends from
21 Carefree and Cave Creek down along the Tatum and Cave
22 Creek Road corridors to Thunderbird Road. This takes
23 me to my doctors, shopping at Desert Ridge and Costco
24 and entertainment. This community also shares my
25 concerns about sustainable water and urban development.

1 Third, the proposed LD 3 favors one party by
2 20.4 percent, well beyond the targeted four to
3 seven percent vote spread that the Commission agreed on
4 early in this season.

5 Finally, I believe that voters in both parties
6 benefit when districts are balanced. If there are too
7 many safe districts -- and I count 24 in this draft
8 map -- millions of voters in our state, regardless of
9 parties, will have little chance of electing candidates
10 of their choice.

11 Thank you so much for letting me speak.

12 MR. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker Don Ameden.

14 Don, can you hear us?

15 MR. AMEDEN: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

17 MR. AMEDEN: My name is Don. I live at 2615
18 East Greenway Road in North Phoenix. I've lived in
19 Arizona for nine years. I'm a transplant from New York
20 City. That's where I grew up.

21 One of the reasons I like the Legislative
22 District 2 and the way it has been drawn, drawn up, is
23 it creates a diverse yet connected community. I think
24 diversity is important because it creates a strong and
25 competitive reason for legislators to pay attention to

1 the people within that district, and it gets everyone's
2 needs covered.

3 I also think the way that the lines are drawn
4 up just makes sense. I go down often to Sunnyslope
5 area to the John Lincoln Hospital for my medical care
6 and for shopping, so I'm glad that you chose not to
7 divide the north -- North Mountain community and keep
8 Sunnyslope in District 2.

9 Really appreciate your time and patience with
10 this.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next three
12 speakers will be Nancy Ordowski, Yvonne Cahill, and
13 then Mary-Jeanne Fincher.

14 Nancy, can you hear us?

15 MS. ORDOWSKI: Yes. Can you hear me?

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

17 MS. ORDOWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

18 I appreciate this time to be able to speak
19 with all of you. I live in Fountain Hills, and
20 fortunately or unfortunately, it's a community that
21 definitely connects with Scottsdale, but we also are a
22 community that needs to be taken into account with
23 Scottsdale and not to be set aside, because there isn't
24 any other communities around us that we fit with.
25 Scottsdale is a really important part for all of us in

1 the Fountain Hills and Rio Verde areas, yet one of the
2 things I haven't heard anybody mention is that the fact
3 that our hospitals and our medical care, most of which
4 takes place in Scottsdale region.

5 I really see that our western border should be
6 Scottsdale Road. I rarely am on the other side of
7 Scottsdale Road for either social or recreational or
8 medical care. I would like to see our district go
9 south. I know that a good portion of it looks like
10 it's being taken into 8, but our community in those
11 parts and that region of Scottsdale. Fountain Hills
12 school -- Fountain Hills students often participate in
13 the Scottsdale school district. Rarely am I on the
14 west side of Scottsdale Road and never in Anthem,
15 unless I'm driving up to the northern part of Arizona,
16 and those trips haven't even been made in the last four
17 or five years. This is my community, and I know that
18 we do have to have compromises, and I'm asking that you
19 consider the boundaries and keep us as close as
20 possible this particular community.

21 One of my other concerns is CD 1. Phoenix is
22 an urban area and doesn't meet any of the community's
23 needs. We're not there very, very often. It's a young
24 tech, government people -- employee people, and it's
25 important that --

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Yvonne Cahill, followed by
3 Mary-Jeanne Fincher.

4 Yvonne?

5 MS. CAHILL: Yes. This is Yvonne Cahill. Can
6 you hear me?

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

8 MS. CAHILL: Thank you.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to hear my
10 testimony. My name is Yvonne Cahill. I'm a former
11 registered nurse and currently work as a realtor. I'm
12 an immigrant who came to USA in 1995. I came here
13 legally after ten years of applications and work to
14 become a citizen, so I take my vote very seriously.

15 I live in Scottsdale in McCormick Ranch. I go
16 to church in Scottsdale. I shop in Scottsdale. I play
17 sports in Scottsdale. I also attend sporting events
18 such as the Phoenix Open and Spring Training. My
19 doctors are all located in the Scottsdale corridor for
20 the medical corridor.

21 I'm asking please keep Scottsdale as one.
22 Scottsdale has natural boundaries, which is one of the
23 criteria for you to consider in the Arizona
24 Constitution. We are governed by one city council. We
25 have one school district, SUSD, and the current maps

1 cut Scottsdale into three pieces, and I can't
2 understand how this is really adhering to the
3 Constitution. It also cuts HOAs in half. And we do
4 not go to Desert Ridge. We really do not go to
5 Fountain Hills or Rio Verde to shop, and we definitely
6 don't go anywhere as far as the I-17.

7 And I would say there is a priority of
8 communities of interest in the Constitution. In fact,
9 if you'll look at Arizona Constitution, Article 4, Part
10 2, Section 114, Number F, it talks about the fact that
11 competitive districts should not be created over
12 deterrence of the other goals, which is communities of
13 interest.

14 I'm also very concerned about what you've done
15 to Congressional District 6. It goes way, way too far
16 west and too far south.

17 So I'm asking that you please consider my
18 testimony and keep Scottsdale as one district. If
19 population --

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 The next speaker is Mary-Jeanne Fincher,
22 followed by Roman Ulman, followed by Deborah Howard.

23 MS. FINCHER: Hello. My name is Mary-Jeanne
24 Fincher, and I live in Paradise Valley, east of
25 Phoenix. I'm pleased that the draft congressional map

1 puts me in a highly competitive district. My current
2 congressperson is in a safe seat and apparently sees no
3 value in meeting with constituents in town halls or
4 other open events. He meets with his donors and his
5 base of voters, but that's it. I look forward to
6 having a congressperson who needs to appeal and
7 represent voters outside of his or her party. I urge
8 the Commission to maximize the number of competitive
9 districts in the state, which is better for voters and
10 for democracy.

11 I have two concerns about the process of
12 choosing these draft maps. I'm very troubled by the
13 adoption of Legislative District 17 in Tucson. When
14 the proposal for this district was introduced and
15 discussed by the Commissioners on October 21st, it was
16 referred to as a citizen map at least a dozen times. I
17 have to wonder if the discussion would have gone
18 differently if the Commissioners had known it was not a
19 citizen map but rather a Pima County Republican Party
20 drawn map.

21 In addition, the email from the Southern
22 Arizona Leadership Council proposing LD 17 asks
23 explicitly for a Republican district in Pima County.
24 This is gerrymandering, pure and simple. Please do not
25 allow naked partisanship disrupt us as a community of

1 interest.

2 Second, how can it be that the draft map has
3 the same number of Latino majority districts in 2011
4 when the Latino population has grown significantly in
5 the past 10 years? The Commission seems to go into
6 executive session whenever compliance with the Voting
7 Rights Act comes up, and the public is thereby kept in
8 the dark as to how the Commission is approaching VRA
9 compliance. The Commission is treating the public as
10 an adversary as far as VRA compliance is concerned,
11 rather than a constituency.

12 Thank you for all your work and for listening
13 to my concerns today.

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is Roman Ulman, followed by
16 Deborah Howard.

17 MR. ULMAN: Hello, Commissioners. My name is
18 Roman Ulman. I am a chairman of several senior
19 councils, and I would just like to make this
20 observation: First, at the beginning of the century
21 the voters of Arizona created a Commission to draw up
22 this districts, and they did so because they were tired
23 of gerrymandering, and they also spelled out how those
24 districts should be done. Committees should not be
25 split up. Districts should be compact. Groups of

1 interest should be kept together. Districts should be
2 competitive.

3 I've lived in East Mesa for 23 years in
4 District 15 on your map, and, frankly, East Mesa has
5 nothing to do with Pinal County. And I will tell you
6 right now that we are an urban area; Pinal County is a
7 rural area. The interests of Pinal County and needs of
8 Pinal County have nothing to do with East Mesa. If you
9 have issues about transportation or issues about water,
10 their representatives if they lived in Mesa would not
11 understand that. They need a representative that lives
12 in Pinal County.

13 Another thing, too, that bothers me is that if
14 you elect a representative from that particular area
15 and the person lives in East Mesa, then he's not going
16 to care to go into Pinal County if he gets his votes
17 out of East Mesa.

18 Another thing that bothers me is in the
19 boundaries that you've drawn up for District 15, you
20 are going all the way from the mountains -- the
21 Goldfield Mountains all the way to the San Tan
22 Mountains. And you may not notice this, but there are
23 no north/south roads that drive through that entire
24 area. You know, you go past the airport. You go into
25 those areas. How in the heck are you going to interact

1 physically together? So I would ask very, very much
2 keep the areas in interest areas -- you know, make East
3 Mesa be in Mesa.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker is Deborah
5 Howard.

6 Deborah, can you unmute yourself?

7 Our next speaker is Nancy Norton, followed by
8 Mitzi Cowell.

9 Nancy, can you hear us?

10 MS. NORTON: I can hear you. I can't unmute
11 myself.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: You're unmuted. We can hear
13 you, Nancy.

14 MS. NORTON: Okay. I am a full-time resident
15 of Oro Valley. I dispute the drawing of LD 17, which
16 is neither compact, fair, or competitive, with
17 Democrats at 45.03 percent and Republicans at
18 54.97 percent. I have not lived in a competitive
19 district as a 17-year full-time resident who votes
20 every election. Former LD 11 silenced my voice.

21 Proposed LD 17 reflects one party choosing the voters
22 to win, a perfect description of gerrymandering instead
23 of voters selecting who represents them, the purpose of
24 voting. This vacuum affects your future legislation.

25 The Commission is charged with creating fair

1 and competitive, competitive being a priority,
2 districts which brings about the vote. This is not
3 reflected in the drawing of LD 17. My vote is
4 silenced, as it has been for 17 years.

5 The Commission chose five members without
6 access granted to special interests and outside party
7 affiliates. Please do your jobs as you should,
8 in-house, with input from voters only.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 Our next speaker is Mitzi Cowell, followed by
11 Patricia Hale, Shanna Leonard, and Mike Weingarten.

12 Mitzi, can you hear us? Mitzi, can you hear
13 us? Okay. Mitzi, we'll come back to you.

14 We're going to move to Patricia Hale.

15 Patricia, can you hear us?

16 Okay. We'll move to Shanna Leonard.

17 Shannon -- Shanna, can you hear us?

18 MS. LEONARD: Yes. Can you hear me?

19 MS. VAN HAREN: We can. Thank you. Please
20 proceed.

21 MS. LEONARD: Thank you to the members of the
22 Commission for spending this lovely day listening to us
23 instead of being out enjoying the beautiful weather
24 outside. My name is Shanna Leonard. I'm a citizen of
25 Southern Arizona for over five decades. I'm a mom and

1 IT professional, and I run a small business in the
2 Tucson metro area.

3 My first request is Santa Cruz County, where a
4 good friend lived and worked as a social worker until
5 he passed away. Why was this majority Hispanic
6 district not included in the voting rights analysis of
7 counties, and when will the public get an analysis of
8 this county, and, also, a voting rights analysis of the
9 new maps so that we can ensure that the Constitution is
10 followed?

11 My second question: The new maps divide the
12 tiny and compact county of Santa Cruz into two
13 legislative districts as well as Green Valley. Do
14 county boundaries and city boundaries matter to the
15 Commission? Santa Cruz and Green Valley should be kept
16 whole.

17 My third request is that the Commission honor
18 my community of interest. My parents moved to Pima
19 County in the 1960s. My family has lived here for six
20 decades. Since I've been a child I've lived in five
21 districts represented in the current LD map, from 16,
22 17, 18, 20 and 21. I have friends and family
23 throughout Arizona from Mesa to San Manuel, Bisbee,
24 Green Valley, and Nogales.

25 Arizona is my community of interest.

1 Competitive districts ensure that all points of view in
2 Arizona have a voice. Arizona is closely bound
3 together by more than where we buy our cars. If the
4 Commission only focuses on the tiniest communities, we
5 divide ourselves as if we live in feudal fiefdoms.
6 Members of the Commission, don't you think that Arizona
7 politics is already divided enough? If we can't join
8 together to face the big issues in our state which need
9 bipartisan solutions and cooperation of Arizona, all
10 communities will suffer.

11 This year in Arizona water reservoirs are at
12 an all-time low, threatening farming and housing
13 developments, and climate change causes wildfires,
14 which can eliminate an entire neighborhood of community
15 of interest. I hope that all members of the Commission
16 also hold Arizona as their community of interest.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Mitzi Cowell.

19 Mitzi, can you hear us now?

20 MS. COWELL: Yes. Thank you.

21 Thank you all for the challenging and I hope
22 fulfilling work that you're doing for us. I was born
23 and raised in Tucson and hope to live the rest of my
24 life here. I'm asking you to use Map Version 9.0 and
25 not 9.2. I currently live in east central Tucson in

1 Gabby Gifford's old CD. I'm bringing up Gabby's story
2 because it says some things about Tucson, Pima County,
3 Arizona, and America. When Gabby was shot by an
4 extremist that horrible day in 2011, she was holding
5 Congress on Your Corner, and some of the people killed
6 on that day were Republican constituents there to talk
7 to her because they could. Gabby was a beloved example
8 of the kind of leadership possible in a competitive
9 district where legislatures have to be accountable and
10 responsive to all of their constituents. Her
11 constituents were examples of engaged voters who could
12 trust they could be heard despite ideology.

13 The proposed LD 17 is the opposite, and it's
14 not necessary. We know that partisan districts are
15 unavoidable in some areas because of factors like
16 population density and geography, but to intentionally
17 create a partisan district just because some people say
18 they want one goes against the whole reason we created
19 the IRC. Constitutionally, Version 9.2 violates the
20 goal of competitive districts as well goals C, D, and
21 E.

22 We all know the damage that political
23 polarization and isolation is doing to our country. I
24 used to live in the Democratic bubble of downtown
25 Tucson. It's comfortable to be around folks you agree

1 with all the time, but that's not how America is or how
2 a democracy works. I'm a Democrat with Republican
3 friends, some of them in Marana and Vail, by the way.
4 We all love our kids, our dogs. We all want
5 opportunity and fairness. We have more in common than
6 we think. Intentionally twisting an LD around a
7 population center and across an uninhabited mountain
8 range just so some people can stay in an ideological
9 bubble just feeds the disease of polarization. We have
10 a perfectly reasonable alternative in Map Version 9.0.

11 Thank you very much.

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 Our next speaker is Mike Weingarten, followed
14 by Lisa Wolfe, followed by Lisa Dugan.

15 Can you hear us?

16 MR. WEINGARTEN: Yes. Can you hear me?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

18 MR. WEINGARTEN: So hello, everybody, and
19 thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is
20 Mike Weingarten. I live in the residential midtown
21 area of Tucson, about a mile southeast of the
22 University of Arizona campus.

23 I want to speak about concerns I have about
24 the legislative district draft map here in the Tucson
25 area. I, too, am very much opposed to how District 17

1 has been defined, really for two sets of reasons. The
2 first is due to the process that was followed and the
3 characteristics that district would have, but the
4 second is that there is a spillover effect from
5 defining District 17 that way and for its configuration
6 that that has my neighborhood and the rest of midtown
7 Tucson.

8 For that first set of reasons, as other people
9 have said, District 17 boundaries come from a
10 partisan-submitted map. It violates the Constitutional
11 goals of compactness, contiguousness. It fails to
12 follow the geographic boundaries of the Catalina
13 Mountains. And it's manufactured to include disparate
14 communities for the sole purpose of creating a safe
15 Republican district when we know a very competitive
16 district has been shown to be practicable.

17 As far as the spillover consequences, let me
18 state that my neighborhoods's community of interest is
19 midtown. The draft map would have midtown Tucson
20 unnecessarily fractured into three separate districts.
21 My own neighborhood of Broadmoor-Broadway Village would
22 be in District 21 in the slice of midtown neighborhoods
23 that would be separated from the rest of midtown and
24 instead joined with rural areas in the southern part of
25 the state all the way down to the Mexican border, and

1 that's just not our community of interest, and it's not
2 conducive, I don't think, to effective representation
3 for us. So I also would request that the Commission go
4 back to LD Test Map Version 9.0, which Commissioner
5 Lerner proposed. It solves all the problems I've
6 talked about, the compactness, contiguousness, respect
7 for geographic boundaries, and the legitimate
8 competitiveness --

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 The next speaker is Patricia Hale.

11 Patricia, can you hear us?

12 After Patricia is Lisa Wolfe, followed by
13 Linda Dugan.

14 Lisa, can you hear us?

15 MS. WOLFE: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

17 MS. WOLFE: My name is Lisa Wolfe. I've lived
18 in Tucson for 67 years, so I've watched it grow from a
19 little town of 60,000 people to it's current
20 metropolitan area of many hundreds of thousands more.
21 District 17 under the 9.0 maps is compact, contiguous,
22 competitive, and includes a community of interest that
23 we all respect. Casas Adobes, Oro Valley, and Catalina
24 Foothills are natural extensions of Tucson. I grew up
25 in the central part of Tucson and then went to school

1 at Canyon Del Oro, which at that time was the
2 northern-most place you could go in Tucson. At the
3 time I lived south of Orange Grove, and I do lots of
4 things in all of those areas, Oro Valley and the
5 Foothills and Casas Adobes. Vail and Tanque Verde are
6 not part of anything I do.

7 And as all the speakers before me have said,
8 this was created specifically to give the Republicans a
9 safe district, and that is not one of the key criteria
10 for the maps. The 9.0 version satisfies all the
11 criteria and is a much more compact and contiguous
12 district and should be contained that way rather than
13 this gerrymandered district that speaks -- that selects
14 out Republicans specifically to give them a voice when
15 they already have a voice in all -- in a lot of the
16 other Pima County districts. They have a significant
17 voice. They don't need a district specifically
18 configured for them. Thank you.

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 The next speaker is Linda Dugan.

21 Linda, can you hear us? Linda?

22 After Linda is Richard Ulery.

23 Richard, can you hear us?

24 MR. ULERY: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

1 MR. ULERY: My name is Rich Ulery. I live in
2 the Sahuarita, Green Valley community of Quail Creek in
3 Southern Arizona. I thank the Commissioners for your
4 service on this Commission. I understand the
5 difficulty of your job.

6 The communities of Sahuarita, Green Valley,
7 and Quail Creek are retirement communities with
8 shopping and commercial interests that are contained
9 together. The legislative map inappropriately splits
10 the town of Sahuarita into two separate districts,
11 despite our commonality. We have significant mining
12 interests in our community, and the Green Valley, Quail
13 Creek area has been appropriately included with Cochise
14 County in Legislative District 19, but most of
15 Sahuarita has been placed in District 21, which shares
16 little interest with our community.

17 Southeast Arizona and Cochise County also has
18 mining and cattle ranching in common, and Sahuarita
19 should be combined with Green Valley and Quail Creek
20 and placed entirely in Legislative District 19. In the
21 congressional map, the Commission has confusingly taken
22 our community completely away from the common interests
23 we share with Southeast Arizona and Cochise County and
24 placed us in District 7 on the opposite side of the
25 state, rather than the much more appropriate District

1 6. The Commission should use the same reasoning
2 evidenced in the legislative map and align our
3 community with District 6 in the congressional map.
4 District 7 is driven by farming rather than mining and
5 cattle ranching interests we share with District 6.
6 Please move the entire Sahuarita, Green Valley, and
7 Quail Creek community from District 7 into District 6.

8 To offset this population shift I would
9 recommend that you move the Casa Grande area into
10 District 7. It shares a similar farming economy with
11 District 7. Making these changes will also further the
12 objective of compactness in the congressional maps for
13 Districts 6 and 7.

14 I thank you very much for your consideration.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 Linda Dugan is our next speaker.

17 Linda, we can -- we see that you're unmuted.
18 Can you speak? Okay, Linda. We can't hear you. Maybe
19 you want to log back in.

20 The next speaker after that is going to be
21 Betty Harris, followed by Carole Malan, followed by Roy
22 Verdery.

23 Yes. Please proceed.

24 MS. HARRIS: Okay. Thank you for this
25 opportunity to give citizen input. I live in the south

1 end of the Tucson mountains in a house that my late
2 husband and I built almost 50 years ago. I'm retired
3 from teaching at Pima College. I am an active
4 volunteer with Pima County Parks. I hope to return
5 soon to the nature conservancy as a volunteer. COVID
6 shut those down. Enough about me.

7 I asked to speak because I am unhappy with the
8 form of the latest Legislative District Map 10, in
9 Southern Arizona particularly. I know very little
10 about the Phoenix metropolitan area, although I
11 listened to a lot of stuff about that just now. Sorry.
12 There seems to be little attention to meet the
13 important goal of Proposition 106 to create fair and
14 competitive districts. I realize there are five other
15 criteria you must attempt to satisfy, and it's
16 difficult to balance all. However, I strongly disagree
17 with the idea that being registered Republican
18 constitutes a community of interest, and, indeed, that
19 flies in the face of fair and competitive, as a number
20 of recent speakers have just addressed. Maybe a little
21 bit of this is going to be repetitive.

22 The current strangely shaped District 17 not
23 only seems to form -- be formed to create a Republican
24 majority district, but it causes unnecessary
25 distortions in nearby districts. Tucson Estates is

1 added to a district which extends to Maricopa. Santa
2 Cruz, as mentioned before, is split, to name but two.
3 Whereas Map 9, as mentioned before, 9.0, creates
4 compact, continuous, competitive District 17, not
5 divided by large mountain ranges. Santa Cruz County is
6 one -- in one LD. It is in one LD, and Tucson Estates
7 is in Tucson District LD 20.

8 Lastly, I feel that the Commission needs to
9 pay more attention to the maps submitted by the Latino
10 Coalition --

11 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Carole
12 Malan, followed by Roy Verdery, followed by Linda
13 Dugan, followed by Pete Rios.

14 MS. MALAN: Hello. Can you hear me?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

16 MS. MALAN: My name is Carole Malan. I have
17 resided in the Catalina foothills of Tucson since 1989.
18 And I am a certified public accountant. My husband is
19 a physician who has spent most of his career teaching
20 at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Our
21 son grew up in Tucson and graduated from public schools
22 and the University of Arizona. Our son teaches middle
23 school science in the Tucson Unified School District.
24 We are deeply connected to Pima County in Southern
25 Arizona.

1 We reside in the neighborhood that will become
2 part of District 17. The current test map will result
3 in the fragmentation of my community. The map
4 submitted by Mr. Mehl results in a ludicrous shape for
5 District 17, and includes parts of town that have
6 nothing to do with the Catalina Foothills. It is
7 clearly an gerrymandered map. The district would start
8 in southeastern Pima County in Vail and then snake up
9 to Tanque Verde, go west across the Foothills, and
10 north to Oro Valley and Marana. These are distinct
11 areas that don't have much to do with each other. We
12 never spend time in Marana, Vail, or Tanque Verde, and
13 rarely make the trip to Oro Valley. This new district
14 is neither geographically compact, nor does it
15 represent communities of interest. The current map has
16 been designed to ensure that a Republican is elected.
17 This violates the Constitutional requirement that
18 districting should be competitive. The new District 17
19 map is not compact nor contiguous. I would like to see
20 District 17 be shaped as proposed in that Version 9.0.

21 Regarding the congressional map, the new CD 6
22 and CD 7 separate the University of Arizona and 4th
23 Avenue from downtown Tucson. These areas contain the
24 same congressional districts. The local population
25 moves between them daily. The streetcar runs both --

1 through both areas. The new map also dilutes Latino
2 influence, which is prohibited by the federal Voting
3 Rights Act. I would like to see a map that includes
4 these two areas in the same district. The best way to
5 do that is to keep Campbell Avenue as a north/south
6 dividing --

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 Our next speaker is Roy Verdery, followed by
9 Linda Dugan, followed by Pete Rios.

10 MR. VERDERY: I'm Roy Verdery, a retired
11 physician living in Pima County. I'm commenting on
12 Final Map LD 10.0. We lived in Oro Valley when I was
13 on the faculty of the medical school, and we moved back
14 to Arizona about five years ago to retire here because
15 we love the Sonoran Desert and the ethnic diversity of
16 Arizona. We now live in the Catalina Foothills. Our
17 suburban community extends from the Foothills north to
18 Oro Valley Hospital and west to Costco on I-10. We
19 almost never go east to Tanque Verde or southeast into
20 the area which to me is uniquely horse country. To me
21 District 17 in Final Map 10.0 looks like a Gila
22 monster wrapped around the Catalina Foothills where I
23 live with its tail in Marana and its head taking a bite
24 out of District 19. This is the same problem I
25 commented on for Draft Map 8.

1 District 17 in Final Map 10.0 is not
2 well-drawn. It is not compact and contiguous. It
3 includes uniquely different communities on the west
4 which we relate to and east, which we almost never
5 visit, and they are geographically separated by the
6 Catalina Mountains. Moreover, to balance populations
7 Santa Cruz gets divided between Districts 19 and 21.

8 I also am asking the Commission to please use
9 a map like Draft Map 9.0, which is much better than
10 Final Map 10.0 from the point of view of the Catalina
11 Foothills community. 10.0 creates two noncompetitive
12 districts, while 9.0 creates competitive districts.
13 9.0 also doesn't divide Santa Cruz County.

14 Thank you all for your time and attention and
15 the tremendous effort you are all making as volunteers
16 on the IRC.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Linda Dugan, followed by
19 Pete Rios.

20 Linda? Linda, we can hear you. Linda, there
21 doesn't seem to be something coming through your
22 speaker. Linda, we can't -- we can't hear you. Linda,
23 can you try again?

24 Okay. Our next speaker is Pete Rios.

25 MR. RIOS: Thank you for letting me say a few

1 words.

2 As a member of the Arizona Latino Coalition, I
3 want to continue advocating for eight majority minority
4 legislative districts versus seven Latino citizen
5 voting age population legislative districts only. I
6 still believe that people of color should be allowed to
7 vote for candidates of their choice, even if the
8 candidate is a non-minority. If eight majority
9 minority districts can be created, there is no reason
10 not to create them.

11 On point two, the IRC held a round of public
12 meetings on community of interest, and then you all
13 stuck the Copper Corridor in Eastern Pinal County and
14 southern Gila County with Winslow and St. Johns on
15 Interstate 40 in Northern Arizona where there are no
16 linkages to those areas, either culturally,
17 geographically, or economically. Please leave Eastern
18 Pinal and Southern Gila with the rest of Pinal County,
19 and thank you for letting me make a couple of comments.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 Our next speaker is Thomas Elliott, Jennifer
22 Dawson and Kay Schriener.

23 Thomas Elliott, can you hear us? Mr. Elliott,
24 can you hear us?

25 MR. ELLIOTT: Yes.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

2 MR. ELLIOTT: Okay. Thank you.

3 Good morning, everyone. I first wish to
4 acknowledge the honorable Commission and thanks,
5 Commissioners, as well as all of you for exercising
6 your right to participate in redistricting by the
7 people. It's a democratic process we should all be
8 proud of.

9 I'm from the Copper Corridor in the LD 8 at
10 Kearny.

11 I'm going to turn down the volume on my phone
12 so there is no echo. Can you still hear me.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: We can still hear you. Please
14 proceed.

15 MR. ELLIOTT: For candidates originating from
16 LD 8, particularly the centuries old, multigenerational
17 Copper communities. I also originated and ran the
18 Facebook page LD 8 Democrats news chat with between
19 1,000 and 20,000 members at present. My goal and
20 experience for the past decade is helping those who
21 have the best policies and ability to help our
22 district. I agree with the comments of the previous
23 callers from Gold Canyon and former state Senator Peter
24 Rios, former Pinal County Supervisor Rios.

25 My experience informs me the new proposed LD 7

1 map should not go forward as new possible -- impossible
2 iteration for LD 8 replacement. There is a 30 percent
3 advantage for one party, the Republicans, over the
4 vested, centuries-long communities of LD 8, present LD
5 8. And, also, I don't think you should be counting
6 prisoners as LD 8, because they count them towards
7 Democratic votes usually, and they don't vote, and
8 they're not here, most of them -- many of them.

9 So I do appreciate all the work you're doing,
10 but we have nothing in common with Northern Arizona.
11 It would be impossible for a state senator or state
12 representative without something to beam them around
13 the county to get there to satisfy everybody. It
14 was --

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 The next speaker will be Jennifer Dawson.

17 Jennifer, can you hear us?

18 MS. DAWSON: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

20 MS. DAWSON: Thank you so much for having this
21 hearing. My name is Jennifer Dawson. I have lived in
22 Tucson for 20 years, and I currently live in LD 10,
23 which is a fair and balanced political district, for
24 which I am grateful. I, like many others, am concerned
25 about District 17, which is neither fair nor balanced

1 and blatantly disregards redistricting goals as set out
2 in the Arizona Constitution. Instead, it serves the
3 goal of creating a safe Republican district in a
4 predominantly Democratic county. It has been publicly
5 stated that this was the intended goal. This is not a
6 goal mentioned in the Arizona Constitution.

7 As to the other violations of the required
8 federal and state goals, as has been pointed out,
9 District 17 is not compact and contiguous, made up of
10 cherry-picked Republican-leaning suburbs from opposite
11 ends of Tucson separated by a mountain range and a
12 45-minute drive. It does not respect communities of
13 interest. It wants to put together Tanque Verde and
14 Vail with Marana and Oro Valley. Why are these areas
15 being put together? And in creating a safe Republican
16 district, it is most definitely not competitive.

17 Democrat Commissioner Lerner proposed the alternative
18 version of District 17 that was contiguous and highly
19 competitive, but it was rejected on the grounds that it
20 failed to create a safe Republican district.

21 Therefore, to meet federal and state requirements the
22 IRC needs to go back to LD Test Map Version 9.0 as
23 proposed by Commissioner Lerner.

24 Thank you so much for your time and attention
25 to this matter.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 The next speaker will be Kay Schriener,
3 followed by Margaret Voge, followed by Ellen Shenkarow.

4 MS. SCHRINER: Good morning. Can you hear me?

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

6 MS. SCHRINER: My name is Kay Schriener, and I
7 live in Oro Valley. I shop, do business, access health
8 care and other services and socialize in Oro Valley. I
9 love this community and value its character.

10 I would like to comment on the proposed map of
11 LD 17 because I believe it raises questions about its
12 compliances -- compliance with the requirements for
13 redistricting as set out in the Constitution. As
14 proposed, LD 17 is not compact. It's an oddly shaped
15 sprawling district spread over a large area and
16 swinging around a mountain range. It looks like
17 gerrymandered. It looks like an animal, although I'm
18 not sure which one. The boundaries appear to be
19 arbitrary, with little connecting the disparate parts.
20 The far-flung parts of the district, such as Vail,
21 Tanque Verde, and Marana, look very different from the
22 more densely populated areas. It disrupts natural
23 communities of interest that already exist in Oro
24 Valley, Casas Adobes, and the Catalina Foothills. All
25 are suburban areas with relatively dense population and

1 lots of retail, healthcare, and other services, as well
2 as cultural events. Most of the people I know are like
3 me. They go to Casas Adobes and the Foothills often,
4 but rarely to Vail or Tanque Verde, or for that matter,
5 Mirana.

6 Also, it's not possible to travel from the
7 northern section to the eastern and southern sections
8 without passing through another district. From a
9 practical standpoint it places a burden on most forms
10 of political participation.

11 Our related concern is the process that led to
12 the adoption of the proposed maps. As reported in the
13 media, the map was brought to the Commission by an
14 official of the Republican party in the interest of
15 creating a safe Republican district. This is not the
16 task of the Commission. The Commission is tasked with
17 creating fair and competitive maps, not gerrymandering.

18 Also, before accepting the Republican map, the
19 Commission had put aside maps submitted by the Latino
20 Coalition and the Navajo Nation. The disparity and
21 treatment is concerning.

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

23 The next speaker is Margaret Voge, followed by
24 Ellen Shenkarow, and then we will take a 10-minute
25 break at 1:15.

1 Margaret, can you hear us? Yes. Please
2 proceed.

3 MS. VOGEL: Okay. My name is Margaret, and
4 I've been a resident of Pima County since 1984. Our
5 children were born, raised, and educated from preschool
6 through college in this community. I have worked
7 across Pima and Pinal counties and as a pediatric
8 speech and language pathologist. I've been welcomed
9 into homes across Southern Arizona to work with
10 families of delayed and disabled children, and I've
11 learned that all of us in Southern Arizona have similar
12 concerns about the people in our communities, the
13 people we care about, and their futures.

14 District 17 as outlined in the current
15 proposed map is very troublesome, and I agree with my
16 other citizens in Southern Arizona that Map 9.0 really
17 better reflects our community. The voters approved
18 Prop 106 on a bipartisan basis to protect the voting
19 rights and representation of all of our citizens. It
20 ensures competitive districts for the welfare of
21 everyone, regardless of race and socioeconomic status,
22 so that their voices are heard. If District 17 joins
23 Tanque Verde, Oro Valley, Marana, and Vail, among other
24 outlined areas, the voter mandate for respecting fair
25 and competitive districts is just lost. These areas

1 are also as outlined by my other Pima County residents.
2 It's not geographically compact or contiguous. I'm
3 disappointed that it does not meet the Constitutional
4 requirements of Proposition 106 and instead appears
5 drafted just for political gain. That is not one of
6 the things outlined by Prop 106.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Ellen Shenkarow, and then
9 we will take a ten-minute break.

10 MS. SHENKAROW: Hello. My name is Ellen
11 Shenkarow. I'm a native Tucsonan, and I've lived in
12 the Sam Hughes neighborhood all of my 73 years. My
13 three children all went to our neighborhood public
14 schools, as did I. I also taught at the University of
15 Arizona for over 40 years.

16 The proposed legislative district map divides
17 the Sam Hughes neighborhood in two. The Redistricting
18 Committee has a mandate to not divide neighborhoods, to
19 include people with shared interests. This division of
20 my neighborhood seems very arbitrary and not at all in
21 keeping with the mandate to keep communities of
22 interest together. This simply divides what is a very
23 cohesive neighborhood, and that is not fair or right.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. We will now take a
25 ten-minute break. Our first speaker after the break

1 will be Scott Oldendorph, followed Ronald Brown.

2 (Brief recess taken.)

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is going to
4 be Scott Oldendorph, followed Ronald Brown, followed by
5 Christine Emery.

6 Scott, can you hear us?

7 MR. BROWN: I'm here. Ronald Brown.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Mr. Brown, hang on just one
9 moment. I think Scott Oldendorph is trying to unmute.

10 MR. BROWN: Sure.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

12 MR. OLDENDORPH: Okay, great. Thank you,
13 everyone. My name is Scott Oldendorph. I'm a PC from
14 Precinct 187 and a state committeeman from LD 9. I'm
15 at 1451 West Sun Ridge Drive, and I'm a retiree from
16 Pima County Waste Water in unincorporated northwest
17 Tucson. My community of interest from my last
18 testimony is still northwest and North Tucson, up into
19 Marana, Oro Valley, and Catalina and the Saddlebrooke
20 areas, but not, definitely, definitely not Tucson south
21 the Rialto River.

22 When you look at your CD map, Congressional
23 District Map CD 2, which we are, but will become
24 supposedly CD 6, it should include Green Valley to the
25 west and not Eloy and Casa Grande to the northwest.

1 Keep CD 6 compact, and my community of interest
2 including Green Valley and not Eloy and Casa Grande.

3 Next, on the legislative district -- and, I'm
4 sorry, going back CD map was 7.1.

5 On the legislative district, it's Map 10.0.
6 We are LD 9, but proposed to be LD 18. It should
7 include Oro Valley to the northwest and Marana to the
8 northwest, and definitely, definitely not the city of
9 Tucson south of the Rialto River. And, also, please do
10 not, I emphasize, do not use the Map 10.2, for this map
11 divides my northwest neighborhood west of the La Canada
12 Road at Overton Road in half, along Overton Road by
13 dividing my community of 250 homes immediately around
14 me in half with the LD 17 to the north and LD 18 to the
15 south, and it should be -- all of it should be --

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is Ronald Brown.

18 Mr. Brown, can you hear us?

19 MR. BROWN: Yes. Can you hear me?

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

21 MR. BROWN: Okay. My name is Ronald Brown.
22 I'm a semi-retired academic. I'm a resident of Oro
23 Valley since 2002.

24 My concern of focus is on the proposed plan
25 for placing Oro Valley in LD 17. This district as

1 planned is a stretched out and narrow region running
2 southeast road to the northwest outside of the Tucson
3 city center previously described. This proposed
4 district contains the largest variety of interests and
5 concerns, and as such overwhelms focused political
6 activism as well as effective Arizonan and federal
7 efforts.

8 I wish to impress upon the planning committee
9 benefits of placing Oro Valley into LD 18. The
10 proposed LD 18 district in Oro Valley have a common
11 border and makeup of the communities in terms of
12 interests and concerns with respects to living
13 conditions, resources, occupational opportunities, and
14 interests, et cetera. The geographical nature of
15 medical resources all through the centralized location
16 of integrated care. Each provide personal and
17 professional resources directly and indirectly to the U
18 of A and surrounding technology, development, and
19 distributing the services. And, importantly, Oro
20 Valley within LD 18 usually offered closely located
21 residential areas to the university. In all, these
22 attributes benefit the state's economy. These aspects
23 as outlined bring together a homogenous community yet
24 with a political awareness, the proposed change across
25 each of the Constitutional criteria with respect to

1 Article 4 or 2, Section A.

2 Thank you very much for your consideration.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker will be Carol
4 Schloff, excuse me, Alison Jones, and then Leslie Cox.
5 Carol, can you hear us?

6 MS. SCHLOFF: I can hear you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: We can hear you. Please
8 proceed.

9 MS. SCHLOFF: Hi. I'm Carol Schloff. I'm a
10 retired -- I'm retired and a community organizer. I
11 live in Tucson. Thank you, Commissioners, for giving
12 your time to this important process.

13 My precinct is 21. It is the southern most
14 part of LD 16. You refer to it as Tucson Estates.
15 LD 16 is very rural, gerrymandered, and not
16 competitive. It starts with a handful of Tucson
17 precincts, goes north to Casa Grande, Gila Bend,
18 Buckeye, Goodyear and extends east to Coolidge, San
19 Manuel, and ends up Oracle. To my neighbors and I, it
20 seems that at least the Tucson part of this district
21 are the leftovers from combining Marana, Oro Valley,
22 and Saddlebrooke into a district together. It meanders
23 through three counties: Pima, Pinal, and Maricopa.

24 We consider ourselves urban rather than rural.
25 Tucson connects us. We are Tucson through and through.

1 We feel that our LD 16 representation will be geared
2 toward a rural and a suburban Phoenix population, and
3 we know we will be better served and represented by
4 Pima County legislators. In LD 16 our voices will be
5 minimalized. Our most pressing concerning with this is
6 isolation. Precinct 21, my precinct, along with sister
7 Precinct 101, which is right next door, are the only
8 two LD 16 populated precincts for miles. To the north
9 to get to the closest town in our district, which is
10 Picture Rocks, we go through uninhabited Tucson
11 Mountain Park and uninhabited Saguaro National Park.
12 There are additional Tucson precincts in this --

13 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Alison
14 Jones, followed by Leslie Cox, followed by Caleb
15 Hayter.

16 MS. JONES: Hello. Can you hear me?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

18 MS. JONES: Hi. My name is Alison Jones. I
19 live in Pima County and serve on the Tucson Water
20 Citizens Advisory Committee and Pima County Regional
21 Waste Water Recycling Advisory Committee. I'm a
22 hydrologist who works on environmental and water
23 issues. I spoke in a previous hearing about the
24 importance of competitive districts. The IRC-approved
25 LD map features a District 17 that was literally

1 conceived of and drawn by the Pima GOP to give the
2 Republicans a safe district. And I got to hand it to
3 them, it wasn't easy. They had to include a mountain
4 range and wrap it around the city like a boa
5 constrictor. You can't drive from one end of it to the
6 other without driving through other districts.

7 District 17 is drawn as a partisan
8 gerrymander, and the GOP knew this when they drew it.
9 Otherwise, they would not have tried to pass it off as
10 drawn by the Southern Arizona Leadership Council. No
11 one has said this so far today so I will say it: This
12 is shameful. I urge the Commission to use LD Map 9.0
13 for Pima.

14 Counties can be important communities of
15 interest, as I said in a previous hearing, and this is
16 true in Pima, Pinal where they relate to groundwater
17 and the Pima and Pinal active management areas set
18 forth in the Groundwater Management Act of 1980.

19 The Foothills area of D 17 on Map 9 is all
20 similar, compact, competitive, than the boa constrictor
21 version, and 9.0 version of District 17 could be won by
22 any party who advances a capable candidate. I
23 understand the challenges faced by this Commission, but
24 the LD maps must be better. The current maps do not
25 meet goals of independent redistricting. Thank you.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next speaker
2 is Leslie Cox.

3 Leslie, can you hear us? Yes. Please
4 proceed.

5 MS. COX: Hello. My name is Leslie Cox, and
6 I've lived in Tucson for 33 years, so my community of
7 interest for today's purpose is the entire state. I
8 believe that we as a state benefit most greatly when
9 our legislators arrive from districts that are
10 competitive. Therefore, I would ask for the Chair,
11 Dr. Neuberg, to reconsider the boundaries of LD 17 and
12 choose LD 17 Draft Version 9.0 which outlines the
13 competitive district over the currently accepted draft
14 version, which is not competitive. With Draft Map
15 Version 10 there is an overall legislative partisan
16 lean. By moving District 17 towards being highly
17 competitive, this would reduce this imbalance. In the
18 end, it matters that the views of our legislators are
19 more strongly linked to the overall opinion of the
20 district than to the voters from their party in that
21 district. I hope with these changes we can move
22 forward toward more bipartisanship in the state House
23 in the next ten years.

24 Thank you for your time and your
25 consideration.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Caleb
2 Hayter.

3 Caleb, can you hear us?

4 MR. HAYTER: Yes, I can hear you. Can you
5 hear me?

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

7 MR. HAYTER: Thank you so much.

8 I live in Northeast Tucson, and I'm speaking
9 with regards to two districts. First, Congressional
10 District 6. I think that Congressional District 6 as
11 currently drawn is not compact and as contiguous as
12 possible, and it does not include communities of
13 interest. Folks in Graham and Greenlee counties don't
14 have a whole lot in common with folks in metropolitan
15 Tucson, and metropolitan Tucson doesn't have a whole
16 lot in common with northern and rural Pima County. I
17 think a more compact, contiguous district for District
18 6, such as the one in Congressional District Test Map
19 Version 1.1, would be much better.

20 And, secondly, I'm speaking about Legislative
21 District 17. This district is not compact and
22 contiguous. It's not competitive, and it does not
23 respect communities of interest. Folks in Southeast
24 Tucson and Vail have very little to do with Marana and
25 Oro Valley. To get from one end of the district to the

1 other it is required to leave the district completely.
2 And, also, this district as currently drawn is a
3 Republican advantage of at least seven percentage
4 points. I believe that we should go back to the
5 District Map 9.0 as proposed by Commissioner Lerner,
6 which satisfies all these concerns much better than the
7 District 17 in the current proposed version.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Dianne Coscarelli. Dianne,
10 can you unmute yourself? Thank you, Dianne. Dianne, I
11 don't see that you have a microphone. Dianne, we're
12 going to move to the next speaker and then we'll help
13 you try to figure out what is going on with your
14 microphone.

15 The next speaker is Brenda Wexler.

16 Brenda, can you hear us?

17 MS. WEXLER: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Thank you. Please
19 proceed.

20 MS. WEXLER: Yes. Thank you.

21 I'm Brenda Wexler, and I live in Legislative
22 District 10, but when I look at District 17 on Map 10.0
23 I see many voices that will never be heard, not for the
24 next ten years. To crystallize this thought, I
25 personally call this de facto voter suppression. So

1 today I'm asking you to make District 17 competitive,
2 to make as many districts as competitive as possible.
3 Once done this will not only ensure the absolute best
4 candidates to represent us, but, you, the Commission,
5 will ensure this 2021 Arizona Independent Commission to
6 forever known as making Arizona a more perfect state, a
7 state representative of all of Arizona. Thank you.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 The next speaker will be Francine Saccio,
10 followed by Melissa Westbrook, followed by Catherine
11 Nichols, and then Robert Federoff.

12 Francine, can you hear us?

13 MS. SACCIO: Yes. Can you hear me?

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

15 MS. SACCIO: Yes. Thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak this afternoon. My name is
17 Francine Saccio. I'm a resident of Oro Valley,
18 Arizona. I've lived in Oro Valley Sun City. However,
19 I've lived in Tucson since 1999 in the northwest
20 section.

21 I agree with Nelson Morgan, Mitzi Cowell,
22 Mike, Lisa, Carole Malan, Jennifer Dawson, Kay
23 Schriner, Margaret Voge, Ellen Shenkarow, Alison Jones,
24 Leslie Cox, Caleb and Brenda Wexler regarding 9.2
25 version of the -- the map that has been proposed at

1 this point. I do believe 9.0 must survive. I do hope
2 you will reconsider (audio distortion). The
3 competitive districts inspire voter confidence -- what
4 is going on? Okay. Competitive districts inspire
5 voter confidence and participation. They encourage all
6 parties to advance their best candidates, who must run
7 on their merits, not on party affiliation.

8 Something that hasn't been talked about much,
9 but we are a state of three parties. The Independents
10 would truly have a voice and a choice if the
11 competitive -- if the districts were competitive.
12 Ideally this would mean ten districts for each group of
13 voters, and five competitive districts as proposed by
14 9.2 is far too few. Please follow the state
15 Constitution, and --

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is Melissa Westbrook.

18 Melissa, can you hear us?

19 MS. WESTBROOK: My name is Melissa Westbrook,
20 and I live in the far northwest of Tucson. The
21 creation of LD 17 is partisan and clearly favors one
22 party. The gerrymandered map affects every Pima County
23 legislative district adversely. Multiple maps drawn by
24 citizens submitted properly, meeting checks and
25 balances, demonstrate that accepting and adopting this

1 map is unnecessary and detrimental. This map promotes
2 the goal of creating a safe Republican district in a
3 predominantly Democratic county. District 17 is not
4 compact and contiguous. It is made of up of selected
5 Republican-leaning suburbs from opposite ends of the
6 Tucson area that are separated by a mountain range. I
7 mean, just logistically you need to change LD 17 if
8 only for the sake of the person who gets elected to
9 represent it, given the distance factor that he or she
10 would have to cover. The IRC should go back to the LD
11 Test Map Version 9.0 as proposed.

12 As well, the Coconino Board of Supervisors'
13 map emphasizes giving the Navajo Nation the numbers
14 they need to elect representatives of their choice and
15 keeping all the northern Arizona tribes together.

16 I will read you a quote from Pamela Karlan,
17 who is a law professor at Stanford. "It used to be the
18 idea was once 17 years voters elected their
19 representative, and now instead it's every ten years
20 the representatives choose their constituents."

21 I would add that compromise and consensus must
22 be the order of the day, and that includes creating
23 competitive districts. Put our great state of Arizona
24 first, not any party. Remember, history will judge
25 you.

1 Thank you for your kind attention.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

3 The next speaker is Catherine Nichols.

4 Catherine, can you hear us? Catherine, can
5 you unmute yourself.

6 The next speaker is Robert Federoff.

7 Robert? Robert, can you unmute yourself?

8 MR. FEDEROFF: Okay. Am I unmuted?

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

10 MR. FEDEROFF: My name is Robert Federoff. I
11 moved to Tucson in 1960. I live in State Legislative
12 District Number 3, and I am a retired Social Studies
13 teacher in the Sunnyside School District. If I were in
14 a classroom I would be assigning my students the task
15 of assessing the independence and impartiality of the
16 chairperson of the IRC to see if she was, in fact,
17 being fair and impartial in following the six
18 guidelines of Prop 106 that affect Southern Arizona.

19 At this point in the Commission's
20 deliberations the chairperson would be assigned a
21 failing grade. She has allowed -- she has allowed four
22 of the six goals of the Constitution to be violated.
23 All goals, of course, are as if possible.

24 Violation Number 1: The district shall be
25 geographically compact and contiguous. She failed.

1 Violation 2: District boundaries shall
2 respect communities of interest. Fails again.

3 Violation 3: District links shall use visible
4 geographic features, city, town, and country
5 boundaries, and undivided census tracts. Fail.

6 And, finally, Violation Number 4 of the six
7 goals: Competitive districts should be favored.

8 I believe my students would find the
9 chairperson derelict in her duties to be an independent
10 and impartial chair of the Committee. Thank you.

11 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Catherine
12 Nichols. Looks like she is unmuted.

13 Catherine, can you hear us?

14 MS. NICHOLS: I can.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Okay. Catherine, please
16 proceed.

17 MS. NICHOLS: Hi. My name is Catherine
18 Nichols, and I was born and bred in Tucson, Arizona. I
19 am the daughter of a legislator who served for ten
20 years. And I am currently in that area that has been
21 discussed about 17, 18. I would just like to say that
22 as a family member who ran in a competitive district,
23 it forced us to be better campaigners. It forced us to
24 speak to all voters, and that is part of the reason
25 that 106 has that as one of its key components.

1 Competitive districts make for better legislators. And
2 so I just wanted to put my voice in for Map 9.0, and,
3 in general, for competitive districts as one of the key
4 issues after federal laws are accomplished.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

7 Our next speaker is Andy Flach.

8 Andy, can you hear us? Andy?

9 After that our next speaker is Catalina Hall.

10 Catalina, can you hear us?

11 Our next speaker is Joseph Boogaart.

12 Joseph, can you hear us?

13 Catalina Hall, please proceed. Catalina?

14 Okay. We'll go to Joe Boogaart.

15 Joe, can you hear us?

16 MR. BOOGAART: I can hear you.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Proceed.

18 MR. BOOGAART: Okay. What I'm going to say
19 today -- my name is Joe Boogaart from Marana, Pima
20 County. What I'm going to say today -- or this
21 afternoon now is based on two facts. Traditionally the
22 largest minority groups vote Democrat, and the second
23 is in 2015 28 percent of all congressional districts
24 were majority minority in the United States. That's
25 ingenious. That's real ingenuity. The Voters Act

1 requires and prohibits gerrymandering to maintain a
2 voter voting majority. This means that the Democrats
3 start off with a 28 percent advantage, and now they can
4 spend their time (audio distortion) -- they can spend
5 their time redistricting and campaigning to water down
6 conservative majorities.

7 The punch line is Pima County is one of these
8 counties. We were three districts and now two. Draft
9 7.1 shows those along the central I-19 corridor, we
10 have everything in common with communities of interest
11 north of the Rita, and down out the corridor have been
12 neutered, I assume in the interests of competitive
13 districts. The federal government has guaranteed Pima
14 County one district will be Democratic, and now looking
15 at the map it appears that the IRC, in spite of the
16 strong similarities of communities, wants to maximize
17 the opportunity of the left to capture votes. I have
18 attended three sessions. With very few exceptions the
19 argument of the left has been based upon
20 competitiveness. It is not competitive --

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 We are going to try Andy Flach again.

23 Andy, can you hear us? Okay. Andy, I think
24 you need to log back in.

25 What about Catalina Hall? Catalina, can you

1 hear us?

2 MS. HALL: Yes.

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Catalina, please --

4 MS. HALL: My name is Catalina Hall. I
5 identify -- I identify as an Asian American Pacific
6 Islander, and I'm telling you that because I want
7 Chairperson Neuberg to be independent and guided by the
8 goal to fulfill the U.S. Constitution and the Voting
9 Rights Act. I want to thank Commissioner Lerner for
10 defending fair and competitive districts.

11 On October 27th in our local paper, one
12 Commissioner was quoted that maps should ensure more
13 Republicans in Pima County. Now, that is a partisan
14 idea and not a fair goal. If you want to see fair
15 maps, I know that (audio distortion) have submitted
16 better maps, and I would like Commissioners Watchman
17 and York to please consider these fair maps.

18 Proposed LD 16 splits parts of three counties,
19 which is a violation of the community of interest. At
20 least put the small part of Pima that is there in your
21 LD 16. Make it a part of Pima County in LD 20.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: We're going to try and unmute
24 Kay Federoff.

25 Kay, can you unmute? (Audio distortion.)

1 Okay. We'll let you work that out.

2 And we'll go to Deborah McEwen.

3 MS. MCEWEN: Hello.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Deborah, please proceed.

5 MS. MCEWEN: Thank you. First of all, thank
6 you to the Chairman and the Committee for working so
7 hard on this very, very difficult and important
8 endeavor. I am Deborah McEwen from Rio Rico down in
9 Santa Cruz County, and I would like to speak about
10 legislative district proposal 10 for District 21.
11 Santa Cruz County is one of the smallest counties in
12 the state of Arizona next to I believe it's Greenlee
13 County, and population-wise we've got about 46,000
14 people in that county. We have always been placed with
15 another county and also in an area of much larger
16 population, so that means that our legislative district
17 has always had representation and activities and an
18 executive board full of people from an area that is
19 outside of our small rural county.

20 In this particular area, we have agriculture.
21 We have small business economy. We have particular
22 rural education issues and environmental issues that do
23 not meld very well with the urban areas of Tucson, and
24 we keep getting put into the South Tucson area with a
25 large group of population. If you look at the current

1 Version 10 map, we are literally cut in half by our
2 county. We have cut out part of our towns that we shop
3 in and socialize in and spend our money in. We are
4 separated by a lot of the Pima County area. If we were
5 to have a legislative district like Map 10, that means
6 we would be venturing all the way up probably into
7 South Tucson to have our legislative meetings. They
8 are not representative of how we live in our rural
9 areas. Thank you.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 We're going next to have Katie Maass, and then
12 Andy Flach.

13 Katie?

14 MS. MAAS: Hello, and thank you for this
15 opportunity. I'm Katie Maass, and I've lived on
16 Tucson's far east side since 1985, and I work at the
17 University of Arizona. I don't believe LD 17 in the
18 current draft map lives up to the redistricting goals
19 established by the Arizona Constitution. As so many
20 have stated, it is not geographically compact and
21 contiguous. It doesn't respect communities of
22 interest, and it's not competitive. Instead, proposed
23 LD 17 looks to be the definition of gerrymandering.
24 Not only is it not contiguous, it aligns segments of
25 the greater Tucson area that have little in common

1 other than an abundant percentage of Republican voters
2 to make it a safe Republican district. I'm tired of
3 so-called safe districts that don't represent the
4 majority of centrist Arizonans. I'm tired of having a
5 state legislature that passes extremist legislation
6 that often leads to Constitutional lawsuits and
7 citizens ballot initiatives. Arizonans deserve as many
8 competitive districts as possible.

9 Proposed LD 17 affects my neighborhood
10 directly. I live in the city of Tucson and regularly
11 meet a cross-section of Independents, Democrats, and
12 Republicans at my city park. If the pandemic has done
13 one thing for us it has led more people to stop and
14 talk and even broach the sensitive topic of politics.
15 I was encouraged to learn how centric so many people
16 are. My neighbors were (audio distortion) by state
17 legislation attacking public education and voting
18 rights. After extremist legislation was drafted to the
19 state budget bill, these neighbors stopped by my house
20 this past spring to sign petitions, ballot initiatives
21 to safeguard school funding and overturn voting
22 restrictions.

23 I ask this Commission to abandon LD 17 as
24 currently proposed in the draft plan. Instead, please
25 give serious consideration to the very competitive map

1 proposed by Commissioner Lerner, LD Test Map 9.0.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Andy Flach.

3 MR. FLACH: Hi. Can you hear me?

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

5 MR. FLACH: My name is Andy Flach, and I want
6 to start by acknowledging the IRC staff who have done
7 an amazing job running this meeting. It's -- I've
8 helped run some meetings, and I know it's not easy,
9 especially the person who is whipping the map around as
10 people talk about different districts.

11 I live in Tanque Verde, which is in the
12 much-discussed District 17. I live here with my wife
13 and two kids. I've lived here for over 20 years. My
14 daughter goes to school at UHS in Tucson. My son is
15 home schooled, and we participate in lots of groups and
16 events in Tucson.

17 I don't like the way that District 17 cuts me
18 off from every part of Tucson I go to. Our family has
19 gone to Oro Valley maybe three or four times in the
20 past 20 years. We go on vacation there to Catalina
21 State Park. Now, District 17 is theoretically
22 geographically contiguous, but as a practical matter
23 the way people live and travel in their day-to-day
24 lives, it's two separate districts, District 17 west
25 and District 17 east, and as people have mentioned,

1 they are about 40 minutes apart.

2 As many people have mentioned, District 17 was
3 expressly drawn for the purpose of creating a safe
4 Republican district in a Democratic area. If the
5 Constitution said the Commissioners shall strive to
6 create safe districts for the non-majority party in
7 urban areas, then I would say that the Commission is
8 doing a great job. But the Constitution doesn't say
9 that. This goal of a safe district for the minority
10 party is not in the Constitution, was not approved by
11 the voters, and it's not even being enforced
12 consistently. Where is the safe Democrat district
13 for --

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Dianne Coscarelli.

15 Dianne, can you hear us?

16 MS. COSCARELLI: Yes. Can you hear me?

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

18 MS. COSCARELLI: Thank you. Thank you so
19 much.

20 I am Dianne Coscarelli, and I want to thank
21 the Commission for all their hard work and for
22 listening to me today. I will be addressing LD 17. I
23 have lived in the Catalina Foothills of the Tucson area
24 for the last seven years. After retiring, my husband
25 and I moved here from Ohio, and one of our first

1 positive impressions of my new community was the
2 vibrant competitive nature of elections. In just the
3 few years that I have been here, the party of my
4 Congressperson has changed not once, but twice. Now,
5 that wasn't the case in Ohio, probably because our Ohio
6 districts were so gerrymandered there was no point in
7 anyone competing for our votes.

8 But now I am very concerned. I am concerned
9 about losing what we have these next ten years, and
10 that is because proposed LD 17 would take that away.
11 LD 17 disregards many of the goals of the Arizona
12 Constitution. It is not at all compact or contiguous.
13 Its communities of interest are far-flung and
14 disparate, and it lacks competitiveness. It sweeps
15 around the outskirts of Tucson, creating an unusual
16 figure to fashion an obviously safe Republican
17 district. I really fear that this version of LD 17
18 will not only kill voter participation, but it will
19 also encourage extremism.

20 And so what can we do about this? I think
21 there is a viable alternative. I urge the Commission,
22 please go back to Test Map LD 9.0 that Commissioner
23 Lerner proposed. That test map corrects the
24 Constitutional shortcomings found in the current LD 17,
25 and it ensures that all of us --

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Thomas Meconi, followed by
3 Vivek Bharathan, and then followed by Louise Good.

4 Thomas, can you hear us? Please proceed.

5 MR. MECONI: My name is Tom Meconi, and I'm a
6 resident of rural valley -- Oro Valley. And like
7 everybody else, I would like to thank the Commission
8 for doing all the hard work that's gotten to this
9 point.

10 Unfortunately, at the last minute something
11 has happened which leads me to remind the Commission
12 that it has an obligation to exercise its power in an
13 independent and ethical fashion. At the very last
14 minute a map created by a so-called business
15 organization with direct ties to a Republican
16 Commissioner was sent directly to Chairperson by
17 Republican operatives. Commissioner Mehl, instead of
18 immediately recusing himself from the obvious conflict
19 of interest, demanded that his map be approved.
20 Instead of avoiding the appearance of impropriety, he
21 embraced it. His map takes the suburb of Tucson with
22 indisputable ties with the southern neighbors and
23 places it in a district with rural communities over
24 70 miles away and a mountain range in between. Just
25 looking at the picture of this district would bring you

1 back to the old dictionary definition of
2 gerrymandering. Had Democrats or any other group
3 steamrolled the last minute map created and submitted
4 by a Democratic commissioner, Republican heads would be
5 exploding.

6 It is not too late to do this independently
7 and ethically. Constitutional criteria can be fairly
8 applied in Oro Valley and statewide, but only if you
9 choose to do so. Thank you.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our next speaker
11 is Vivek Bharathan.

12 Vivek, are you here?

13 MR. BHARATHAN: I am. Can you hear me?

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

15 MR. BHARATHAN: Hi. My name is Vivek. I grew
16 up in Tucson and graduated from high school in a census
17 year, which was 2000. My friends and I had just
18 learned the impact the census can have on our
19 communities and our democracy, so we enthusiastically
20 signed up and interviewed to work for the census.

21 If you're speaking, can you please mute?

22 We had also learned how partisan the
23 redistricting process can be, and it's discouraging
24 that 20 years later we're pretty much in the same boat,
25 and that's how it always has been. I want to echo many

1 of the previous speakers to say that the proposed maps
2 for LD 17 is clearly gerrymandered and needs to go. I
3 join those previous speakers in urging the Commission
4 to adopt Map 9.0. I also echo speakers like Melissa
5 Westbrook to urge the Commission to ensure indigenous
6 people are represented in our state's legislative map.
7 Let's show this years graduates from our schools how
8 this democratic process is supposed to work. Let's
9 have competitive districts, and let's ensure that our
10 elected officials are engaged and accountable to us.

11 Thank you so much for your time, and thank you
12 for listening.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 The next three speakers are Louise Good, Linda
15 Horowitz, and Frank Bergen.

16 Louise, can you hear us? Yes. Please
17 proceed.

18 MS. GOOD: Okay. My name is Louise Good. I
19 strongly believe in competitive districts in which
20 neither party has an overwhelming advantage. This not
21 only keeps representatives on their toes; it also
22 increases voter interest and discourages extremism.

23 I have lived in Pima County just outside the
24 town of Oro Valley for over seven years. I grocery
25 shop in Oro Valley and Casas Adobe, exercise at the

1 Northwest Y, and pray at a synagogue near the Tucson
2 Jewish Community Center. I rarely go more than a
3 couple of miles north of Tangerine Road. I live in
4 what is currently CD 2 and LD 9. Under the currently
5 accepted redistricting map Version 9.2, I would be in
6 LD 18, just barely. Some of my neighbors who are not
7 much different from me would be in LD 17 because they
8 live on the other side of Northern Avenue. Part of LD
9 17 cuts off my area from the rest LD 18. Why? Please
10 keep Oro Valley together with Casas Adobes. Oro Valley
11 has much more in common with northern Pima County
12 demographically and economically than it does with
13 Saddlebrooke, Vail, or Redington.

14 Also, the current version of LD 17 does not
15 take into consideration significant landmarks such as
16 Oracle Road, our transportation corridor, and the
17 Catalina mountains. It's a gerrymandered district.
18 Please reinstate Version 9.0.

19 Thank you so much for taking on this difficult
20 task and giving me the opportunity to speak.

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Linda Horowitz.

22 Linda, are you there?

23 MS. HOROWITZ: Can you hear me?

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

25 MS. HOROWITZ: Thank you for giving me the

1 opportunity to speak. My name is Linda Horowitz. My
2 husband and I moved to Catalina Foothills over 25 years
3 ago. We moved because he had a job with a large
4 company here in Tucson that develops missiles for our
5 country's defense. Soon after I moved here Proposition
6 106 was passed, and I was proud to live in a state that
7 believed in independent redistricting. That's why I'm
8 speaking today.

9 Unfortunately, the maps that are currently
10 being proposed for Southern Arizona do not appear to
11 fit the description that I was so proud to brag to my
12 friends was part of the Arizona law. I'm currently
13 proposed to be in CD 6, which creates a finger to grab
14 us away from Tucson and into the rural districts that
15 have nothing to do with our area. These lines are not
16 compact and not respectful to our community of interest
17 and ignore the fact that we are Tucson and we're not
18 sitting out in those rural areas.

19 I'm also placed in LD 18, but this district
20 and District 17 are snaking around to grab different
21 constituencies without regard to communities of
22 interest or geographic location. They unfortunately
23 have the appearance of being gerrymandered for one
24 political party over another. I'm so disappointed. My
25 current CD and LD are so competitive for both Democrats

1 and Republicans and represented us at various times
2 over the last ten years with both Democrats and
3 Republicans. I hope that this Commission will review
4 these maps, change the lines, so that there is compact
5 and competitiveness back into our districts such as
6 9.0. Please make Arizona proud. Thank you.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Frank Bergen.

9 Frank, are you here?

10 MR. BERGEN: I can be heard, and I'm sure you
11 can hear me. My name is Frank Bergen. My wife and I
12 moved into the Tanque Verde Valley from Southern
13 California 26 years ago. We've lived here in the same
14 house, same place ever since. We are in a -- the
15 valley which is quiet Republican in its leanings, but
16 as I have learned in working in the political life of
17 the community that people here are ready to support a
18 legislator who will support their schools, regardless
19 of party, so it's not exactly as though we were in a
20 terrible place for a Democrat.

21 Now, speaking at least for Precinct 199 as an
22 official of the precinct, a precinct committee member,
23 the -- I can say that the Tanque Verde folks look not
24 north to Marana but west, due west, to Tucson. We shop
25 in Tucson. My wife and I have bought every car that

1 we've owned since we came here in Tucson. We have
2 visited the Tucson hospitals -- that was Tucson medical
3 care -- Tucson recreation, whether it be at the
4 symphony or at the Hillenbrand Stadium or McKale.
5 Everything that we do is directed in the Tucson
6 direction rather than way north past the mountains. I
7 love the mountains, but I can't climb the mountains to
8 get from here in a straight line.

9 As far as competitiveness is concerned, which
10 I have spoken to at every meeting that I've attended in
11 the last two commissions, competitiveness should be --

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

13 The next speaker is Julia Conway.

14 Julia, can you hear us?

15 MS. CONWAY: Yes. Can you hear me?

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

17 MS. CONWAY: My name is Julia Kendrick Conway,
18 and I reside in the community of Sabino Springs on the
19 northeast side of Tucson in the foothills. My
20 grandparents lived here in Tucson. My father grew up
21 in Tucson, graduated from the University of Arizona,
22 attended Tucson High School.

23 And looking at the Map 9.2 for LD 17, it's
24 obviously manipulated to support a certain position.
25 Competitive district does not mean splitting the state

1 up into X amount of districts that are one color and X
2 amount of districts that are another. Competitive
3 means there is an opportunity for a candidate to run on
4 issues within their district that are meaningful to
5 their districts.

6 As far as the way district boundaries are
7 drawn in 9.2, they are not geographically compact or
8 contiguous, as others have noted. It does not respect
9 the boundaries of communities of interest, and it is
10 not competitive. It is partisan, and the people that
11 drafted this map were not even hiding the fact that
12 this was a partisan district. So I urge you,
13 Commissioners, to please reconsider Commissioner
14 Lerner's proposal, Map 9. It presents a much more
15 reasonable district for Legislative District 17 and
16 allows us to remain competitive and represent all
17 Tucsonans at the ballot box.

18 Thank you very much for your time and for
19 working on this very difficult task.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Corliss
21 Jenkins-Sherry.

22 Corliss, can you hear us?

23 MS. JENKINS-SHERRY: Yes. Can you hear me?

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

25 MS. JENKINS-SHERRY: Okay. Great.

1 My name is Corliss Jenkins-Sherry, and I live
2 in Oro Valley, and I'm retired, and I've lived here
3 about seven years. I would like to thank the
4 redistricting commissioners for their work on this very
5 important task. I do not support the configuration
6 of -- the current configuration of LD 17 that is in the
7 adoptive legislative draft map. The Oro Valley area
8 has different concerns from Redington to Vail. Oro
9 Valley is much more aligned with Casas Adobe and North
10 Tucson with Oracle and La Canada business corridors of
11 Tucson. The west side of Catalina are a natural
12 boundary that should be respected. Northern from Pima
13 County to Oro Valley and Amphitheater Unified School
14 District boundary should be respected, also.

15 Thank you so much for your time.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is James Behra.

18 James, can you hear us?

19 MR. BEHRA: My name is James Behra. I'm a
20 retired physician who has lived, worked, and
21 volunteered in north -- in northeast Tucson for over
22 31 years. After studying the current draft map, I and
23 several of my neighbors who could not speak today have
24 serious concerns about it. I think having competitive
25 districts is very important. Ours is a competitive,

1 ethnically diverse state. One-third of voters are
2 Independent. The latest draft map contains several
3 districts that are not competitive and clearly do not
4 follow the intent of Prop 106 and the Arizona
5 Constitution. One glaring example of this is the
6 proposed LD 17, as so many speakers have already
7 pointed out.

8 Excuse me. Could you please mute?

9 One glaring example of this is the proposed LD
10 17, as so many speakers have already pointed out. The
11 Arizona Constitution requires that districts be
12 geographically compact and reasonably contiguous. It
13 requires that competitive districts are to be favored,
14 and they should all respect communities of interest.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Barbara
16 Tellman.

17 Barbara, can you hear us?

18 The next speaker after Barbara is Kalyanraman
19 Bharathan.

20 MR. BHARATHAN: Yes. Can you hear me?

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

22 MR. BHARATHAN: Thank you.

23 My name is Kalyanraman Bharathan, and I have
24 been a resident for Tucson for 33 years. First, my
25 thanks to the Commission for the time you have

1 dedicated to an important cause for our state and for
2 democracy in general. I digress. The two competing
3 cable TV companies were permitted to create their own
4 zones. People in the north part of the county get
5 access to one cable company's services. People in the
6 southern part get access to the other company's
7 services. It's like two football teams playing on two
8 different fields. There is no game to talk about. The
9 idea that you have a fair chance of winning is lost,
10 and there is an incentive to ignore the customer, which
11 I think many people around Pima County will recognize.

12 There is a problem with these maps that is
13 similar. There are two districts in Tucson, LD 20 and
14 LD 21, that are heavily Democratic, and they need not
15 be. I know it's very difficult to actually redraw the
16 maps to make them less of a packed Democratic district,
17 but it's something that could be considered.

18 Similarly, District 17 is very Republican and
19 not competitive, either, as many people have pointed
20 out. For LD 17, it will be great if the Commission
21 would go back to LD Test Map 9.0 where LD 17 is
22 definitely more competitive, but that is not enough.

23 I wish the Commissioners spent more time
24 considering how to make the entire region more
25 competitive in the real sense of the term. It's not

1 too late to do that. I request that you leave us a
2 legacy of fair competition from the hard work that you
3 are doing with such dedication. Thank you kindly.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 The next speaker is Analizabeth Doan, followed
6 by Eric Robin and Susan Anderson.

7 Analizabeth?

8 MS. DOAN: Hi. Can you hear me?

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

10 MS. DOAN: Okey-doke. My great grandfather
11 was the first territorial judge who presided over the
12 courthouses from Nogales to the New Mexico border
13 before Arizona became a state. And I disagree with the
14 Arizona Legislative District 21 Map as outlined. I-19
15 must all be part of the Legislative District 21 and not
16 be added to District 19. Cochise County, which sounds
17 like District 17, is very heavily Republican. A
18 Democrat could not ever win there in Cochise County.
19 The area north of Rio Rico and south of Tucson have
20 been moved to District 19, which covers most of Cochise
21 County. The state, national, and international goals
22 in the southeast of the state are quite different from
23 those of I-19 corridor. The Commission has arbitrarily
24 jumped over the railroad tracks in the Santa Cruz river
25 to pull this area into Cochise County. It makes no

1 sense. The input given by people today on the outline
2 on the other maps represent, again, heavily Republican
3 areas that I-19 has been pulled into. Interstate 19
4 runs form Nogales to South Tucson. The community of
5 interest brings in billions of dollars in revenue to
6 the state of Arizona's tourism, trade and the
7 (indiscernible) industry. The community of interest
8 needs decisions made by the same legislators -- the
9 same senators and representatives, not from two
10 different areas.

11 Another criteria not being met is the
12 incorporation of visible geographic areas. I-19 is one
13 of the major highways in Arizona. The criteria of
14 compactness and contiguousness is totally dismissed
15 because you pull the middle of I-19 into Cochise
16 County. Two other key criteria of equal population is
17 nonexistent by pulling --

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19 The next speaker is Eric Robbins. Eric?

20 MR. ROBBINS: Thank you, organizer, and thank
21 you for your patience and steadiness throughout this
22 process.

23 Everybody, my name is Eric Robbins. When I
24 started it was good morning, but we're all here for a
25 long day. I appreciate your being here. I have lived

1 in Arizona since 1981. I am a graduate of the
2 University of Arizona. As other people have mentioned,
3 I also am a very big fan of Proposition 106, and when
4 it passed I was proud that Arizona had done so. But a
5 few turns of the wheel down the road, I've got some
6 concerns about that. It's been said by people who are
7 probably smarter than me that if you don't have any
8 stomach for cheating you're probably not going to like
9 politics very much, but that's a hard truth that more
10 citizens probably have to swallow than should. But
11 20 years after Arizonans amended our Constitution
12 enshrining fair legislative mapping, we are hearing
13 about backdoor submissions of legislative maps,
14 essentially under a fake hat and moustache, maps drawn
15 that have a blatant partisan intent, submitted in bad
16 faith, containing textbook examples of the
17 gerrymandering Arizonans so clearly rejected two
18 decades ago.

19 There are more issues than I have time to
20 touch on, but District 17 and 19 in particular will
21 serve as a Rorschach Test for Arizona democracy. What
22 I will henceforth be referring to as the moustache
23 submissions of Draft 10 ignores at least half and
24 arguably two-thirds of the six mandates this Commission
25 stands to protect. Communities are being divided.

1 Shared infrastructure is split across lines drawn from
2 what's obviously partisan intent. Frankly, it's a
3 breathtaking bit of I-wonder-if-anyone-will-notice
4 politics. Well, in so far as this process has avowed
5 its transparency, clearly we notice. I ask that you
6 reconsider and redraw these maps fairly. I think the
7 proposed maps in 9 are excellent, and I'll conclude
8 here.

9 Thanks for your time.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

11 The next three speakers are Susan Anderson,
12 Carissa Sipp, and then Barbara Tellman.

13 Susan, can you hear us?

14 MS. ANDERSON: Yes, I can. You can hear me?

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

16 MS. ANDERSON: Hello. I'm Susan Anderson. I
17 have lived in Pima County Precinct 40 for over
18 30 years. My children attended school in Marana
19 Unified School District. My precinct is in an
20 unincorporated area of Pima County between Marana and
21 Oro Valley. I can understand the logic of IRC members
22 wanting to place Marana and Oro Valley in the same
23 legislative district. However, I cannot see any reason
24 for that legislative district to start clear to Tanque
25 Verde and then over to Vail. There is no good way to

1 get from Marana to Vail. In the past ten years I have
2 visited Vail exactly zero times.

3 For the past ten years I have been part of LD
4 11. That's been problematic. LD 11 spans more than
5 100 miles, half in Pima County, half in Pinal County.
6 It is tilted heavily towards one political party.
7 Consequently, we have been represented by some of the
8 most extreme politicians in the entire state, Mark
9 Finchem and Vince Leach. They have listened only to
10 their base because there has been no need for them to
11 listen to other residents in their legislative
12 district.

13 I was looking forward to the redistricting
14 process so we could start fresh in the northwest part
15 of Pima County. My own precinct is very evenly
16 balanced between Republicans, Democrats, and
17 Independents. The surrounding area is similarly
18 balanced. We would like to have politicians from both
19 parties making good faith pitches to win our votes, but
20 it has been publicly stated that the new LD 17 is drawn
21 in a way that is meant to be a safe Republican
22 district. It is worrisome to me that we could end up
23 having a repeat of the same LD 11 problem with extreme
24 politicians, but this can be fixed if the IRC has the
25 will to fix it. First eliminate Vail and Tanque Verde

1 from the new LD 17. Second, respect legitimate
2 communities of interest in the Marana, Oro Valley
3 areas. That could be accomplished by including the
4 entire Marana Unified School District in the new LD.
5 The community of Picture Rocks is in Marana Unified and
6 also within Pima County.

7 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

8 The next speaker is Carissa Sipp.

9 Carissa, can you hear us?

10 MS. SIPP: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

12 MS. SIPP: Okay. So we made it. I'm 175.

13 We're almost done. I really appreciate everybody for
14 keeping the cameras on and listening to us, so I'll
15 keep it brief.

16 And I've changed my speech a little bit, but I
17 want to really stress to talk about the real goal of
18 the Arizona IRC. I know it's -- I want to stress the
19 competitive nature of the legislative and congressional
20 districts, and that's the -- the focus and I think the
21 goal that I actually as a voter in 2000 elected when I
22 was living in Phoenix at that time. I live in LD -- or
23 by the current map proposal I live in LD 18. I work in
24 LD 21, and my daughter attends school in LD 20, so that
25 just shows you how cut up Tucson is to appreciate the I

1 guess LD 17 creation. I have elderly relatives that
2 are in LD 17 that are perplexed at the new mapping, and
3 they've lived in Arizona for over 50 years. It's like
4 a chimera-shaped district. That's the best way I know
5 how to put it.

6 So in looking over the release map and the bad
7 haircut Tucson got, I kind of just wanted to know what
8 was -- what was the protocols or how do we -- so there
9 was a gerrymandering report card I reviewed because it
10 was noted on the landing page from the IRC. I would
11 expect as across the board because this Commission is
12 dedicated to nonpartisan, really getting down to what
13 Arizona wanted. Well, that's not what I saw. I
14 receive -- we receive only an A in a nonpartisan
15 advantage, but the devil is in the details. The
16 competitiveness of the districts almost came out with
17 an F. That means the map could and should be much
18 better. And I go back to the LD Test Map 9.0 as being
19 a better map that we should probably refer to, and a
20 lot of people are making that comment as well.

21 In addition to the low grade in the maps,
22 we're not compact. We're not doing the right thing of
23 thinking about county crossings that we have. We cross
24 over counties over and over again, and our shapes are
25 not even close to what they call the Riock scores that

1 keep optimizing -- are optimizing for the
2 representation according to that --

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

4 The next speaker is Barbara Tellman.

5 Barbara, can you hear us? Barbara, can you
6 hear us?

7 The next speaker is -- the next speaker is
8 Larry Bodine.

9 Larry, can you hear us?

10 MR. BODINE: Yes. I can hear you. Can you
11 hear me, too?

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

13 MR. BODINE: All right. My name is Larry
14 Bodine. I live in Tucson, and I want to focus on the
15 new Legislative District 17 map, which was created to
16 perpetuate the Republican majority in the legislature
17 for the next ten years. This sprawling district, which
18 is split in half by a mountain, connects Red Rock in
19 the north to Vail 71 miles away. This is not a
20 community of interest. This is not a corridor of
21 communities. This is the work of a Republican spy,
22 Anna Clark, who is the second vice-president of the
23 Pima County Republican Party. She sent the LD 17 Map
24 through an intermediary to Commissioner David Mehl, and
25 now it's online.

1 The new District 17 violates the Arizona
2 Constitution in three different ways. For one,
3 District 17 is not compact and contiguous. It is made
4 up of cherry-picked Republican suburbs from opposite
5 ends of the Tucson area that are separated by a
6 mountain range, a 71-mile drive.

7 Number 2, District 17 does not respect
8 communities of interest. The residents of Tanque Verde
9 and Vail have very little to do with the distant
10 suburbs of Marana and Oro Valley and actually have much
11 closer ties to midtown Tucson. Dividing District 17 to
12 create a safe Republican district violates the
13 Constitutional requirement that competitive districts
14 should be favored. LD 17 is the very illustration of
15 gerrymandering.

16 Commissioner Lerner proposed an alternative
17 version of District 17 that was highly competitive, but
18 it was rejected because it failed to create a safe
19 Republican district. For these reasons the IRC should
20 go back to LD Test Map Version 9.0 as proposed by
21 Commissioner Lerner.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

24 The next speaker is Elizabeth Packard.

25 Elizabeth, can you hear us?

1 MS. PACKARD: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

3 MS. PACKARD: Yes. My name is Elizabeth
4 Packard, and I'm a 50-year resident of Arizona, and
5 Pima County has been my home for the last 45 years. I
6 have written more of a biography, but in the interest
7 of time --

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Steven McEwen.

9 MS. PACKARD: Beg your pardon?

10 In the interest of time I have rewritten my
11 script six times and want to simply acknowledge the
12 tenacity of the Commission and the 242 speakers who
13 have either already spoken or will be speaking. I will
14 recognize the fact that at least 50 speakers have
15 already pointed out LD 17 is neither compact,
16 contiguous, nor -- contiguous, and so therefore it
17 cannot reflect communities of interest. My request is
18 to scrap Map 10, as has been asked before, and replace
19 it with 9.0.

20 And because this has been requested by so many
21 people I don't think I need to be redundant by going
22 through all of the exact reasons why this should be
23 done, so thank you for your time.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 The next speaker is Steven McEwen.

1 Steven?

2 MR. MCEWEN: Can you hear me?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

4 MR. MCEWEN: Hi. My name is Steve McEwen. I
5 am the Santa Cruz County chairman for the Republican
6 party.

7 I'm confused as to why the city of Tucson is
8 constantly imposed upon a rural society in Southern
9 Arizona. It's nearly large enough to be a CD on its
10 own, and yet it is split and shared among plans for CD
11 and LD alike. The city of Tucson as a cultural
12 principle is driven by special interest groups that are
13 not shared or respected in the rural community. I
14 would challenge the board to work harder at giving our
15 rural communities of interest the opportunity to
16 represent our own values and principles.

17 The construction of our legislative district
18 for Santa Cruz County is very important in my view.
19 Due to the size of Santa Cruz County, second smallest
20 in the state, we will always be joined with the
21 neighbors of a creation of the legislative districts.
22 I think the citizens of Santa Cruz have unique
23 community traits due to its location on the border and
24 the nearly 90 percent population of Hispanics. Santa
25 Cruz County has been identified by census to be the

1 most concentrated population of Hispanics in Arizona.
2 The Hispanic society is neighbors with the population
3 of retired Anglo-Saxons in the eastern half of our
4 county that is primarily agriculture and mining. This
5 little county is very diverse in many ways.

6 In spite of our diversity, the one thing we
7 have all in common is we are a rural society. I do
8 include Nogales in this label because a city of
9 approximately 20,000 does not represent the same values
10 and principles as a city the size of Tucson. I've
11 lived in counties -- cities the size of Nogales most of
12 my life, and find they have a personality of their own.
13 A proposal for LD 20 (audio distortion) successful in
14 my opinion. The proposed LD is grossly familiar with
15 the gerrymandering of ten years ago. This proposal
16 does not fill the requirement of compactness, border
17 boundaries, or keeping communities intact. In
18 addition, it cuts off the very area that Santa Cruz
19 citizens migrate to shop and entertain ourselves
20 outside of Nogales, just north of our county border.
21 Popular consent would suggest that most citizens in our
22 county avoid Tucson as much as possible.

23 The most serious problem I have with this
24 proposal is the city of Santa Cruz will be subject to
25 mob rule by the city of Tucson.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Maria Hidalgo.

3 Maria?

4 MS. HIDALGO: Can you hear me?

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

6 MS. HIDALGO: Thank you so much.

7 Well, folks, it's four and a half hours later.
8 Like a couple of the other speakers, I've changed my
9 remarks several times, and I want to make sure the
10 Commissioners are hearing them.

11 Thank you, Commissioner Neuberg, for staying
12 on camera. I appreciate your time, as well as you,
13 Commissioner Lerner, for hearing the voices of Tucson
14 and Pima County.

15 It is clear we're not happy with LD -- the
16 proposed map for LD 17. Even through the untrained
17 eyes this proposed LD 17 map appears to have just
18 selected Republican-leaning suburbs that are on
19 opposite ends of the Tucson area. You know, I found it
20 so disheartening to think that a special interest group
21 of the Southern Arizona Leadership Council could submit
22 a map via a political party and pretty much go to the
23 head of the line. This is not why the IRC was set up.
24 The IRC was set up so that citizens could hear the
25 voices. Please listen to these voices. The real map

1 that I think you need to go back to that really shows
2 competitiveness is Version 9.0.

3 I thank you for your time. Listen to these
4 voices. There is a reason why we have hung on this
5 long, because we needed to be heard. Thank you.

6 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Marlene
7 Bluestein.

8 Marlene, can you unmute yourself?

9 After Marlene we will go to Jean Meconi.

10 Jean, please proceed.

11 MS. MECONI: Hi. My name is Jean, and I'm a
12 retiree from Oro Valley. I'm appreciative of this
13 time, so thank you so much. I know you're tired. I
14 am, too.

15 I want to express my opposition to the adapted
16 legislative draft map, again, especially LD 17. LD 17
17 is a sprawling district with significant geographical
18 barriers at the center. There is no shared
19 transportation corridor, no shared community of
20 interest, no shared commonalities. LD 17 is a
21 hodgepodge with vastly disparate economies,
22 demographics, and needs. Oro Valley shares a water
23 supply with Casas Adobes and Pima County, while the
24 far-flung places in Pinal and over the mountains and
25 south, they rely on groundwater. Oro Valley shares

1 developmental -- development concerns with northern
2 Pima County places.

3 Recently the citizens of Oro Valley helped
4 turn a former golf course into a nature preserve. The
5 other places in LD 17 that are rural aren't concerned
6 about development and urbanization because they're
7 rural. Oro Valley shares the Amphi Unified School
8 District with Casas Adobes in northern Pima County. We
9 care about top-rated schools. Vail just voted down a
10 continuation of their maintenance and operation
11 override. There is no common ground in any area
12 between urban, suburban Oro Valley and these distant,
13 rural places.

14 So I would ask you to reconsider LD 17. It's
15 unrepresentative. Oro Valley should be with an LD with
16 communities of interest, Casas Adobes, northern Pima
17 County.

18 Thank you so much for your time, and I hope
19 you have a great Friday.

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 The next speaker will be Nancy Wexler.

22 Nancy, please proceed.

23 MS. WEXLER: Hi. Thank you very much. Thank
24 you to the Commission for this opportunity and for your
25 service.

1 Competitiveness is the lifeblood of our
2 country and our state. In elections it gives people a
3 choice to elect representatives who stand for the good
4 of the many. My name is Nancy Wexler. I've stood
5 before this Commission before as a long-time Arizonan.
6 Pima County, West Tucson, the current LD and CD 3 is my
7 community, and I was raised in Central Tucson, the
8 current District 10. The Draft Map 10 is a
9 self-inflicted wound to the heart of our community.
10 Watching the creation of the legislative draft map was
11 like witnessing a game of Twister, contorting LD 17 for
12 highly partisan purposes, forcing many other districts
13 to also be much less compact and competitive, as has
14 been noted earlier today.

15 While I recognize the task of mapping is
16 complex, earlier test maps such as Version 9 and those
17 submitted by members of my community, like Barbara
18 Tellman's LD 0049, shows the possibility of keeping
19 communities of interest together and making districts,
20 including 17, fair and competitive. Again,
21 competitiveness does serve us all.

22 It's the power of a democratic republic and
23 the power of an independent commission which serves to
24 give the voters the right to chose their electors, not
25 the state. The Independent Commission is a source of

1 pride for Arizona, one for which the voters
2 overwhelmingly enacted to ensure everyone is
3 represented. I urge you to uphold this principle and
4 deliver legislative and congressional maps where
5 Arizona's voters decide, not a predetermined, biased
6 group of special interests.

7 Thank you very much.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker will be Mayor
9 Paul Deasy.

10 Mayor, can you hear us?

11 MR. DEASY: Thank you. My apologies. I was
12 muted.

13 I would like to thank the Independent
14 Redistricting Commission for the opportunity to speak
15 today and on behalf of the Flagstaff City Council. We
16 are very concerned with the current IRC districting
17 maps, and the council would like to voice its unanimous
18 support for the legislative maps submitted by the
19 Coconino County Board of Supervisors on October 27,
20 2021. This preferred legislative map upholds the city
21 of Flagstaff's redistricting values as it keeps the
22 greater Flagstaff area intact and places the city and
23 the district with communities that share similar
24 values. These values include investing in forest
25 health and watershed protection, as well as recognize

1 the positive impact of the ecosystems on our
2 communities. We share health care resources and water
3 management concerns, host Grand Canyon tourism and
4 promote ecotourism, have a strong interest in improving
5 our greater economies with investment infrastructure,
6 shared transportation corridors, and shared workforce
7 developments.

8 As you can see to the south of us, we are cut
9 off at our airport, cut off from our southern Flagstaff
10 greater neighborhoods, such as Kachina Village and
11 Mountaineer. This greater Flagstaff community shops
12 and works in Flagstaff. It's our workforce. Residents
13 in the greater Flagstaff community attend Coconino
14 Community College, not Yavapai Community College. It
15 only makes sense for these shared interests of fire
16 prevention, our watershed and water protection,
17 commerce, health care resources, workforce development,
18 education, ecotourism to be held together in a combined
19 legislative district.

20 Districts 6 and 7, the Coconino Board of
21 Supervisors' maps, are competitive in nature and would
22 also allow Native Americans and Hispanic communities to
23 elect candidates of their choosing. Conversely, the
24 IRC legislative district approved Map Version 2.0
25 features very uncompetitive districts that would not

1 uphold the Constitutional mandate of competitiveness.
2 Flagstaff City Council urges the Commission to strongly
3 consider revising the Northern Arizona portion of the
4 Version 10.0 map in your future deliberations.

5 Thank you for your tireless efforts to uphold
6 the Constitutional requirements of Proposition 106.
7 Thank you.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next three speakers will
9 be Aubrey Sonderegger, Karen Enyedy, and then Marilyn
10 Weissman.

11 Aubrey, can you hear us?

12 MS. SONDEREGGER: I can hear you. Can you
13 hear me?

14 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

15 MS. SONDEREGGER: Thank you.

16 I know it's been a long day, and I know our
17 focus has been mostly down in the LD 17. I would like
18 to shift our focus up to LD 7 right now, the proposed
19 map. I've been a resident of Flagstaff for over ten
20 years now. Both of my children were born here. I and
21 my family live, work, and engage socially and
22 educationally in our community, which expands beyond
23 the city limits. The principal at my children's
24 elementary school commutes in from Parks. I have
25 professionals friends in Bellemont, Mountainaire,

1 Kachina Village, and Doney Park. These people are in
2 many ways the beating heart of our city and community.

3 I'm very concerned by the draft maps for LD 7.
4 The current maps split our community where we all work,
5 shop, send our children to school, receive medical
6 care, and otherwise gather. I think the current map
7 shows no respect for geographic features, economic and
8 cultural communities, or the Constitutional
9 requirements for competitiveness and compactness. I
10 ask that the Commission revisit this region and give
11 serious consideration to the maps submitted by the
12 Coconino County Board of Supervisors, which is
13 unanimously supported by city councils of Flagstaff and
14 Sedona.

15 Thank you, Commissioners, for your time and
16 service on this -- on these important issues.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Karen Enyedy.

19 Karen?

20 After Karen is Marilyn Weissman.

21 Marilyn, can you hear us?

22 MS. WEISSMAN: I can hear you. Can you hear
23 me?

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

25 MS. WEISSMAN: My name is Marilyn Weissman.

1 I'm a 29-year resident of the city of Flagstaff. Thank
2 you for the work you are doing on this difficult task.

3 I have watched some of your deliberation and
4 have been surprised by the small amount of time you
5 have spent discussing the maps in Northern Arizona. I
6 have no idea what the criteria is that you used to
7 decide a defining line of our legislative and
8 congressional districts. I am in the current LD 6. I
9 have written and spoken of the importance of keeping
10 the city of Flagstaff and the communities that depend
11 on it in one legislative district. I have also asked
12 previously that you consider the I-17 corridor that
13 highlights the tourist communities above and right
14 below the Mogollon Rim as part our community of
15 interest. I have also asked that the greater Flagstaff
16 area be put in a competitive district that allows the
17 future possibility of electing someone from our growing
18 town. Instead you have created these using parts of
19 our LD 6 and LD 7 districts, three new districts, LD 5,
20 6, and 7, that are not politically competitive or
21 defined by communities of interest.

22 For the city of Flagstaff, our competition
23 will be your draft District 6, and now with our Native
24 neighbors, a distinct community of interest who I
25 support in their efforts to be able to elect their own

1 representatives, without having the possibility of
2 Flagstaff diluting their ability to do so. This is
3 unfair to both the Natives and the city of Flagstaff.
4 I ask you again to create a legislative district that
5 includes all of greater Flagstaff, including the
6 communities of Kachina and Mountainaire, and join us
7 with the communities below the Rim, Mingus Mountain,
8 and the Verde Valley, Sedona, Camp Verde, Clarkdale,
9 and Cottonwood. The map submitted by the Coconino
10 Board of Supervisors, LDF 050 and LDF 051, does just
11 that. It is supported by the city councils of
12 Flagstaff, Sedona, and Clarkdale. Please consider
13 replacing your draft legislative map of Northern
14 Arizona with the submitted one.

15 I was also disappointed to see that your
16 current draft of the congressional maps puts Flagstaff
17 and its Native neighbors in noncompetitive District 2
18 that will primarily reflect the policy priorities and
19 concerns of the people of the Prescott area, very
20 different from our own. Currently we are represented
21 in Flagstaff by a moderate. This is a result of the
22 district being politically competitive. Districts that
23 are lopsided in one direction, as the new CD2 is, have
24 the effect --

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

1 Our next speaker is Robert Breunig.

2 Robert?

3 MR. BREUNIG: Hello. Can you hear me?

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

5 MR. BREUNIG: Okay. I just want to reiterate
6 the comments of Mayor Paul Deasy and the previous
7 speaker, Marilyn Weissman. I support the map that was
8 submitted by the Coconino County Board of Supervisors
9 and endorsed by the Flagstaff City Council and the City
10 of Sedona. I would like to see Flagstaff kept together
11 as a contiguous community. I would like to see the
12 Native American community of Northern Arizona have more
13 political power. And I would certainly don't -- do not
14 want to see Flagstaff and the city of Prescott included
15 in the same congressional district. Thank you.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 Our next four speakers Lynn Walsh, Adam
18 Shimoni, Dieter Knecht and John Propster.

19 Lynn, can you hear us?

20 MS. WALSH: I can hear you. Can you hear me?

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

22 MS. WALSH: I'm a 33-year resident of Cave
23 Creek and have been very active in the community
24 affairs and environmental education. Your proposed LD
25 maps do not reflect enough competitiveness. Out of 30

1 districts there are only six that meet your criteria of
2 7 percent vote spread. The new LD 3 is not at all
3 competitive, with a 20 percent Republican majority, and
4 is a far cry from the stated goal of 7 percent
5 disparity. This is not acceptable. You are again
6 disenfranchising many citizens.

7 It is very important that new districts be
8 competitive in order to mitigate extremism. When
9 districts do not reflect balanced political persuasion,
10 the result is that one group ruled by the most extreme
11 points of view has no compulsion to campaign to the
12 whole population. Competitive districts require
13 candidates appeal to broad sections of the population
14 and leads to moderation and vibrant communities.
15 Competitive districts and governing by compromise is
16 healthy for a democracy.

17 The proposed LD 3 does not encompass our
18 community centers of interest in Cave Creek and
19 Carefree. We shop, dine, and use specialized services
20 south along the corridor of Cave Creek Road and Tatum
21 Boulevard. Please refer to the proposed map that I
22 will send all the way down to Sunnyslope. Your
23 proposed LD 3 includes --

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

25 The next speaker is Adam Shimoni.

1 Adam, are you there? Adam, can you hear us?

2 MR. SHIMONI: I can. Can you hear me?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

4 MR. SHIMONI: Great. Thank you so much.

5 Good afternoon, Commissioners. I want to
6 thank you so much for taking the time to hear all the
7 public comment that you've heard today. I've been on
8 the line the entire day. My name is Adam Shimoni. I'm
9 a city council member up in Flagstaff, and most
10 formerly our vice-mayor, serving for two years.

11 The Flagstaff community expands way beyond our
12 city boundaries and includes areas and communities such
13 as Bellemont, Kachina Village, Mountainaire, which are
14 currently being divided off from the city by -- by our
15 city boundary of our southern part of our community, as
16 you know. The IRC Draft Map 10 is uncompetitive and
17 problematic. The map divides our greater community up
18 by placing a line right at our southern border. The
19 city council has been in discussions with our common
20 leadership and has unanimously supported the county
21 maps that are being presented to you as alternatives,
22 specifically, county map LD 6, LDF 050, and county map
23 LD 7, LDF 051. There obviously is a lot more work to
24 be done on this front before adopting an official map,
25 and we really hope you take the time to listen to our

1 community's needs and to do the job that you all are
2 here to perform.

3 The council emphasizes that the values and
4 needs of our indigenous communities as articulated by
5 indigenous people and leaders should be considered by
6 the IRC during the redistricting process. The council
7 would like to voice unanimous support for the map
8 submitted by the county Board of Supervisors on
9 October 27th. The preferred legislative map upholds
10 the city of Flagstaff's redistricting values as it
11 keeps the greater Flagstaff area intact -- intact and
12 places the city in a district with communities that
13 share similar values. District 6 and 7 in the Coconino
14 County Board of Supervisors' maps are competitive in
15 nature and would allow Native American and Hispanic
16 communities to elect candidates of their choosing.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Dieter Knecht, followed by
19 John Propster, Junior, followed by Matt Ryan.

20 Dieter, can you hear us?

21 We'll move to John Propster.

22 John, can you hear?

23 MR. PROPSTER: I can hear you. Can you hear
24 me?

25 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

1 MR. PROPSTER: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
2 Thanks for hanging in there in this long process.

3 My name is John Propster. I'm a six-year
4 resident of Flagstaff. I'm an active volunteer in
5 several arts and service organizations in the Flagstaff
6 community. I have concerns with the draft legislative
7 district map, particularly to the mandate to create
8 competitive districts. The draft legislative map
9 creates 13 safe Republican districts, 11 safe
10 Democratic districts, two weak Republican, two weak
11 Democratic, and two competitive districts. I know this
12 is a difficult process trying to make districts
13 competitive, but it seems like to comply more than six
14 districts should be considered leaning or competitive.

15 I will address the map for LD 7 specifically.
16 I'm disappointed that the draft map has produced a
17 noncompetitive district. Competition fosters good
18 government rather than extremism. The LD 7 map makes
19 no sense because it splits many different communities
20 of interest and is not geographically compact. I
21 support the map submitted by the Coconino County Board
22 of Supervisors for LD 7. This alternative recognizes
23 communities of interest along the I-17 Oak Creek
24 corridor and keeps the Verde Valley cities of
25 Cornville, Camp Verde, Cottonwood, and Clarkdale

1 together in one district. It makes the district highly
2 competitive.

3 I urge the Commission to incorporate the
4 Coconino County Board of Supervisors' redistricting
5 plan. Please do not separate Sedona, Cottonwood, and
6 Flagstaff and Northern Arizona first nations. All of
7 us make up a cohesive community with cultural,
8 educational, and geographic ties to each other, and we
9 should be grouped together. Additionally, as
10 communities that border the first nations we best
11 understand their needs and problems and should
12 therefore remain together. Please do not separate us.

13 Thank you, Commissioners for taking on this
14 important time-intensive and stressful task in service
15 to the citizens of Arizona as you you adjust the draft
16 maps to create more competitive districts and less safe
17 ones.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19 The next speaker is Matt Ryan.

20 MR. RYAN: Can you hear me?

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

22 MR. RYAN: Okay. Honorable Chair Neuberg and
23 members of the Commission, good afternoon. My name is
24 Matt Ryan, chairman of the Coconino County Board of
25 Supervisors. After much research, deliberation, and

1 consideration of the goals and requirements of
2 Proposition 106, our Board of Supervisors unanimously
3 approved the revision to our originally submitted
4 legislative district map at their October 26th meeting.
5 We submitted the revised maps to the IRC on
6 October 27th. They are LD 0 -- 050 and LD -- that's
7 LDF 050 and LDF 051.

8 I come before you today as my colleagues and I
9 are deeply concerned about the draft maps which were
10 approved by the Commission last Friday, October 29th.
11 In your deliberation on October 28th and 29th there was
12 no consideration by the Commissioners of a revised map,
13 nor conversation about Northern Arizona as a whole.
14 The revised map we submitted includes the values which
15 we have articulated to the AIRC for the past several
16 months, meeting the Constitutional mandates of
17 competitiveness, communities of interest, equal
18 population, geographical compactness, and keeping
19 cities whole.

20 Competitiveness is a significant issue and is
21 reflected in our revised map. To the importance of
22 competitiveness, allowing citizens to elect candidates
23 of their choice, and based on our research our data
24 shows that the legislative district we number LD 6 is
25 one of the most competitive legislative districts, if

1 not most the competitive, at a deviation of minus
2 6.33 percent, at 49.82 percent Democrat and 50.18
3 percent Republican.

4 Further, the district we number LD 7 meets the
5 goals of Native American communities to have minority
6 majority legislative district. The breakdown is as
7 follows: The deviation is minus 6.73 percent using the
8 standard VAP. The LD 7 VAP of Native Americans is 57.9
9 percent, which would allow members of our Native
10 American communities to elect candidates of their
11 choice. These maps reflect many comments that were
12 submitted in writing.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 The next speaker is Cynthia Malicki, followed
15 by Nathan Norris, followed by Sallie Kladnik.

16 Cynthia, can you hear us?

17 MS. MALICKI: Yes, I can hear you.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

19 MS. MALICKI: My name is Cindy Malicki, and I
20 live at 35th Avenue and Cactus in Phoenix. I've lived
21 here for 40 years. First I would like to thank the
22 members of the Commission for all that you do.

23 The Sunnyslope area is included in the newly
24 proposed District 2, and it is a very good idea. I
25 have tutored children at the elementary school and

1 substitute taught at Sunnyslope High School. It is
2 logical to bring the North Mountain communities
3 together and not divide them. Although unique,
4 Sunnyslope has shared values with the rest of the North
5 Mountain community. It helps make our district
6 competitive. Competitive districts can result in
7 increased dialogue between elected officials,
8 candidates, and voters, enhance accountability,
9 encourage citizens to run for office, and get involved.
10 It also can aid in getting representation for a diverse
11 community whose needs are sometimes minimized. I urge
12 you to continue to consider this when you make your
13 final decision.

14 Again, I thank you for all that you do.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 The next speaker is Nathan Norris.

17 Nathan, can you hear us?

18 Let's go to Sallie Kladnik, and then we'll
19 come back to Nathan Norris.

20 Sallie, can you hear us?

21 MS. KLADNIK: Yes. Can you hear me?

22 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

23 MS. KLADNIK: Thank you, and thank you,
24 Commission, for finally getting to hear some voices
25 from Northern Arizona. It's been a very long day.

1 I have been a resident of Flagstaff for 18 and
2 a half years, and I'm currently in CD1 and LD 7. CD1
3 has been working for us. It's competitive, and we have
4 a moderate representative. LD 7, which does not
5 accurately reflect communities of interest, is a
6 perfect example of gerrymandering. It packs Republican
7 voters, giving them a 30-point advantage, and to do so
8 creates a district that's unnecessarily hard to travel
9 and which ignores one of the most significant economic
10 drivers of the Arizona economy, which is tourism in the
11 corridor between the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and
12 Verde Valley. I urge you to look at the Coconino
13 County Board of Supervisors' submitted maps on
14 October 27th for LD 6 and LD 7, which are fairer, more
15 competitive, more contiguous, and better reflect
16 communities of interest. Thank you.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 And it looks like Nathan Norris is back, and
19 then the next speaker is Jordan Greenslade.

20 Nathan?

21 MR. NORRIS: Hello. I'm Nathan Norris,
22 resident of Oro Valley, Arizona, in proposed LD 17
23 bringing that up again. I want to share my concerns
24 about the next ten years. Do you hear that? The next
25 ten years. 10.0, formally 9.2 map, does not lead to

1 equal competition among parties. The -- in the
2 proposed version 9.0 creating -- adding the communities
3 of Marana, Oro Valley, Saddlebrooke area, Casas Adobes
4 to this district makes it very competitive with barely
5 a one-point spread between Democrats and Republicans.
6 This brings the Independents into play. Statewide
7 there were 30 legislative districts that were divided
8 into 12 safe districts, each with Democrats and
9 Republicans equally and six competitive districts. We
10 need to bring candidates who will also appeal to the
11 Independents in our -- in our state. So, again, the
12 version 9.0, which is -- was proposed in Southern
13 Arizona, covers the areas that -- that I spoke of and
14 are independently vetted.

15 Thank you very much. Goodbye.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is Jordan Greenslade,
18 followed by Eric Kramer, and then Wendy Maldonado.

19 Jordan, can you hear us?

20 MR. GREENSLADE: Yeah. I can hear you. So
21 thanks, everyone, for your time today. I know it's
22 been a long day for the Commissioners. Thanks for your
23 hard work.

24 I live in Phoenix on Osborn and 28th Street,
25 kind of near the new borders of LD 1 and 4. I just

1 wanted to say that I really agree with how these lines
2 are drawn. I think some of like East Camelback,
3 Arcadia neighborhoods should stay with like South
4 Scottsdale and that area. It really makes sense as a
5 community of interest and also works to make the
6 district a lot more competitive, which I think is
7 something we've heard a lot today about, the benefits
8 of competitiveness, and I really think it brings out
9 the best in the state, makes it so that elected
10 officials have a chance to fight for people's votes,
11 and it makes it so that any community can't be taken
12 for granted because every vote matters. So I just want
13 the Commission to really keep that in mind.

14 And, also, thank you for your time and have a
15 wonderful weekend.

16 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

17 The next speaker is Eric Kramer.

18 Eric, can you hear us?

19 MR. KRAMER: Yes. Can you hear me?

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

21 MR. KRAMER: I'm here today to ask the
22 commission to create competitive legislative districts
23 in Northeast Arizona. The current plan disenfranchises
24 320,000 people, either because they are in districts
25 where their votes are not needed to win or they're in

1 districts where they could not possibly win. It's a
2 huge number of people. A few people have asked where
3 this very strange new District 7 comes from. It's an
4 attempt to revive the political career of Sylvia Allen.
5 She's out barnstorming around the state. Not a worthy
6 goal for the Commission to accomplish that.

7 The current maps badly fragment Flagstaff. It
8 looks like some glass object was hurled at Northern
9 Arizona from outer space. It's just all over the
10 place, what's in the Flagstaff district and what's not.

11 There are two forms -- two tools used in
12 gerrymandering, one dividing of minority group and the
13 other one packing them. As far as the Natives in
14 Northeastern Arizona, we are currently not dividing
15 them, but we are packing them, and this reduces their
16 political power. We can say, oh, good, we've got
17 Native representatives, but when they get to Phoenix
18 they're not even allowed in the room when the budget is
19 being considered. You can't really bring home the
20 bacon if you don't get to get in the room where the
21 bacon is being carved out. Competitive districts would
22 give them more political power and more fully allow our
23 Natives to participate in the politics of Arizona.

24 Thank you for your hard work. The
25 congressional district I think without part of Yavapai

1 County west of the Mingus Mountains I think is good for
2 Northern Arizona.

3 Thank you so very much.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our next speaker
5 is Linda Johnson.

6 Linda, can you hear us?

7 MS. JOHNSON: Can you hear me?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

9 MS. JOHNSON: Perfect. I live in the Village
10 of Oak Creek, otherwise known VOC. I support the maps
11 proposed by the Coconino Board of Supervisors submitted
12 on October the 26th, known as LDF 0050 and LDF 0051,
13 and endorsed by the Sedona City Council in their letter
14 of October 27th. Both of these organizations and their
15 proposed maps support the importance of our communities
16 of interest in keeping them whole and encourage
17 competitive legislative districts.

18 As an engaged citizen I am distressed by your
19 proposed maps. You have managed to break in half a
20 small town like Sedona and separated the Coconino part
21 of our city from not only the rest of Sedona, but from
22 the region of the Verde Valley, our community of
23 interest. You have placed us in areas where our
24 ability to express our concerns will be significantly
25 reduced and ignored because we have no common

1 interests.

2 As a VOC resident, I shop and dine in Sedona,
3 Cottonwood, and Flagstaff. My husband's medical
4 treatments take place in Sedona, Cottonwood, and
5 Flagstaff. We are part of a significant ecological
6 environment that is critical to our future. Our
7 tourist economies are critically important to all of us
8 in the Verde Valley and Arizona. And, to top this off,
9 we are a very competitive political environment. I
10 cannot imagine why you would want to break this up.

11 I can't help but notice as I've heard this
12 morning and this afternoon that many of your maps
13 heavily favor one political party over another. This
14 is a ticket for disaster. I've lived in such an area
15 for 46 years and witnessed the steady deterioration of
16 political engagements by its citizenry, the increase in
17 political extremism, and rampant corruption. I know
18 you do not want this for our wonderful state. Your
19 current map for Northern Arizona does not reflect a
20 competitive district and opens the door for an
21 environment similar to the one I left behind.

22 Thank you for your time today.

23 MR. SCHMITT: Thank you.

24 Jeannine Reno is next.

25 Jeannine, are you there?

1 All right. We'll go to Judy Dolloff.

2 Judy, are you there?

3 MS. DOLLOFF: Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

4 MR. SCHMITT: Yes. Thank you. Please
5 proceed.

6 MS. DOLLOFF: Hello. My name is Judy Dolloff.
7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I also live in
8 the community of the Village of Oak Creek, and I, for
9 one, am appalled at how it appears as though you've
10 gerrymandered the district. Why on earth would you
11 split up a small town like Sedona into two separate
12 congressional districts? It makes no sense. It makes
13 it so that we can't speak as one voice in our community
14 and address the issues that are important to us.

15 You've put my community in a district with Prescott,
16 Arizona, which I believe we have nothing in common
17 with. Prescott seems to be worried about having more
18 and more development, and we in the Sedona area are
19 trying to restrict development and keep our community
20 in tune with nature and not have so much development.

21 I urge you to -- to adopt the maps that the
22 Coconino Board of Supervisors have adopted. That would
23 be 0051 and 0050. Please keep this community together.
24 Our community of interest has much more in common with
25 Flagstaff, the Verde Valley, Cottonwood than it does

1 with the communities of Payson and Prescott.

2 Thank you very much for the opportunity to
3 speak.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Next speaker is Austin Aslan.

5 MR. ASLAN: Good afternoon. I'm Austin Aslan.
6 I'm a Flagstaff City Council member. I'm also the
7 chair of the Coconino County Plateau Water Advisory
8 Council, which is a large and diverse body of water
9 stakeholders and experts up here in Northern Arizona.
10 I want to thank you all very much for your service and
11 the hard work you're doing.

12 I want to implore you not to put Prescott and
13 Flagstaff in the same congressional district. I grew
14 up in Prescott, and I'm now a long-time resident of
15 Flagstaff. I love both communities, but from my
16 personal experience Prescott and Flagstaff are entirely
17 incompatible and would present enormous challenges for
18 any congressperson constantly trying to reconcile
19 vastly opposing issues and values.

20 This is particularly true from a water
21 perspective. As you may know, Prescott is ruled by an
22 groundwater active management district. Flagstaff is
23 not. This alone is incredibly significant. You're
24 hearing this afternoon from a number of Flagstaff city
25 reps. We are a diverse body, but we have come to the

1 unanimous conclusion that the LD and congressional maps
2 drawn by the Coconino County Board of Supes makes the
3 most sense.

4 But I would like to use my time here to say
5 something to you personally. Here is the reality, so
6 important today: Making incredibly strong partisan
7 districts creates a cognitive dissonance between what
8 local constituents are asking for and what far off
9 political powers dictate. We run the very real risk of
10 encouraging extremism when our party primaries decide
11 elections before general elections even happen.

12 This country is tearing itself apart right
13 now. We need to be mindful and thoughtful about
14 creating districts that create an opportunity for
15 healing and actual dialogue. It's not going to happen
16 in front of the television cable news channels. It's
17 not going to happen unless our politicians are forced
18 to wrestle with the nuances and the overlaps that exist
19 in our politics.

20 You guys are at the front lines of this. You
21 have a hard job. I know what it's like to have
22 nonbinary choices resolved into a black-and-white vote
23 at the end of the day, but this is not hard. Prescott
24 and Flagstaff should not be in the same congressional
25 district and the Flagstaff region should remain whole.

1 Please follow the recommendation put forth by the
2 Coconino County Board of Supervisors.

3 Thank you very much.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Phyllis
5 Smith.

6 Phyllis, can you hear us?

7 MS. SMITH: Yes. Can you hear me now?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

9 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Well, thank all of you
10 for still being here today and for everything that
11 you're doing and especially for the opportunity that I
12 have to speak with you.

13 My name is Phyllis Smith, and I live in Cave
14 Creek. LD 3, the current LD 3 in the new draft maps,
15 includes Cave Creek, but it has a 20 percent spread
16 between the political parties. This does not fall
17 within the 7 percent spread for competitiveness that
18 was adopted by the Commission. Currently only two LDs
19 in Maricopa County fall within the 7 percent spread for
20 competitiveness. The remaining 18 districts favor a
21 single party and have spreads greater than the
22 7 percent adopted by the Commission.

23 I would encourage the Commission to take the
24 time to recreate maps in Maricopa County and actually
25 all of Arizona so that they may meet the 7 percent

1 spread as adopted. Doing so would meet the
2 nonpartisan, voter-approved Proposition 106 which
3 mandated fair and competitive maps. Thank you.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 The next speaker is Alexander Rosado.

6 Alexander, can you hear us?

7 MR. ROSADO: Yes. Can you hear me?

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

9 MR. ROSADO: Perfect. Hello, everybody. My
10 name is Alex Rosado. I live in the Arcadia
11 neighborhood, right at the border of what the new
12 Legislative District 4 in the draft maps, right off of
13 48th Street and Thomas Road. And what I'm seeing is
14 like I am right at the border, and I am somebody who
15 enjoys this Arcadia area neighborhood. I go up to
16 Roadrunner Farmer's Market. I go on the hiking trails
17 in the mountains. And it's just troubling to see if
18 the proposals will come through that I will be cut out
19 of this, of the -- and be pushed into a more heavily
20 Democratic district, and then the district I've been
21 part of will become more heavily leaning Republican,
22 and I think we heard from other speakers that right now
23 we're in a political climate that we should not be
24 drawing maps based on political parties. We should be
25 drawing more mixed and more inclusive districts so we

1 can continue to have real conversations amongst the
2 community, because without healthy dialogue amongst our
3 neighbors how are we supposed to continue to move
4 forward and turn a heel? And I just want to make sure
5 that I continue to stay in District 4. I love this
6 area, and I want to continue to be part of it.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

9 Our next speaker is going to be Bruce
10 Donelson, followed by Jeannine Reno.

11 Bruce, can you hear us?

12 MR. DONELSON: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

14 MR. DONELSON: Okay. Hi. My name is Bruce
15 Donelson, and I live on Toho Trail in Kachina Village,
16 which is a district of Flagstaff. So I get my mail in
17 Flagstaff, the local schools are all in Flagstaff, the
18 library, the Saturday market, shopping, art walk,
19 medical. I'm two miles from the airport. And somehow
20 I have been and my whole community has been placed in
21 Legislative District 7, which has nothing in common
22 with Flagstaff, even though I never leave basically
23 District 6, except for the mile that I've -- that my
24 neighborhood has been placed within District 7. So I
25 support the map drawn and endorsed by the Coconino

1 County supervisors. And I would like to also mention
2 that in addition to Kachina Village, Mountaineire and
3 Munds Park are essentially parts of Flagstaff.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

5 Next speaker is Jeannine Reno.

6 Jeannine, can you hear us? Jeannine, can you
7 hear us?

8 The next speaker is Linda Guarino.

9 Linda, can you hear us?

10 MS. GUARINO: Yes. Can you hear me?

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

12 MS. GUARINO: My name is Linda Guarino, and I
13 live in Doney Park, which is part of the greater
14 Flagstaff area. We were previously in CD1, which was a
15 highly competitive district, and are now in the
16 proposed CD 2, which leans heavily Republican. This is
17 unfair to all Democrats and moderate Independents
18 because there is no reason for us to vote in a district
19 that would have gone Republican in the last nine
20 elections. It also takes away my right to
21 representation in Congress, because a Republican who is
22 sure to win would have no reason to listen to concerns
23 from the other party. A proposed revision submitted by
24 the Navajo Nation is competitive, while honoring the
25 other five criteria for independent redistricting, and

1 I urge you to adopt this map.

2 I have the same concerns with the proposed
3 legislative map because Northern Arizona is split into
4 highly noncompetitive districts, LD 6 with a 42 percent
5 vote spread, and 7 with 30 percent vote spread. Each
6 district should be competitive so that every voter can
7 have an equal chance to elect legislatures who will
8 listen to all of their constituents and not just their
9 base. Politics in Arizona are already too partisan,
10 and these so-called safe districts will make that
11 situation worse by allowing extremists to win on both
12 sides.

13 Please consider the alternative map for LD6
14 and 7 submitted by the Coconino County Board of
15 Supervisors, which makes each district highly
16 competitive while honoring the other five criteria for
17 independent redistricting. These districts proposed by
18 the County Board of Supervisors would encourage
19 moderate candidates to run for office and would permit
20 elected officials to compromise. I ask you to please
21 adopt this map.

22 Thank you for listening, and thank you for
23 your service.

24 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Lena
25 Fowler.

1 Lena, can you hear us?

2 We'll come back to Lena. The next speaker
3 after that is Sandy Moriarty.

4 Sandy, can you hear us?

5 MS. MORIARTY: Yes, I can.

6 Good afternoon, Madam Chair and members of the
7 Commission. I am the mayor of Sedona.

8 If communities of interest truly matter, we're
9 wondering why the current maps adopted split the city
10 of Sedona and split the Verde Valley, which includes
11 Sedona, and in addition splits Sedona from Flagstaff.
12 Sedona, Flagstaff, and the rest of the Verde Valley
13 work together as a region regularly and depend on the
14 partnerships we have among us. We have much in common
15 with each other, and we have very little in common with
16 the other areas we are combined with according to your
17 current draft maps. We strongly support the maps
18 submitted by Coconino County, which meets all of your
19 criteria, not just communities of interest, but
20 competitiveness, equal population, and compactness.
21 Splitting our city of fewer than 10,000 and splitting
22 our region makes no sense to us.

23 It appears that our previous comments, which
24 also align with the Coconino County draft map, were not
25 really taken into consideration. We are struggling to

1 understand why our small city, as well as our region,
2 which has been working together well for many years, we
3 believe more than any other region in the state is
4 being split in many ways. We share so many interests,
5 and it only makes sense that we share our legislative
6 representatives who can then advocate for us based on
7 our commonalities. Thank you.

8 MS. VAN HAREN: Tut next speaker will be Lena
9 Fowler.

10 Lena? Lena Fowler?

11 MS. FOWLER: Can you hear me now?

12 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. FOWLER: Thank you.

15 Yeah, I am Lena Fowler, the vice-chair of the
16 Coconino Board of Supervisors. Thank you so much for
17 this opportunity to provide input and provide -- and
18 provide feedback on both the legislative and
19 congressional redistricting process. It is important
20 to devote our attention and focus on the process to --
21 that will be with us for the next ten years, and we
22 thank you for your service in this process.

23 Coconino County submitted a map, CD 0016 and
24 LD 0013, on September 29th. I'm just really hoping
25 that you all looked at it, because from the map that

1 you have -- have adopted or have -- that you're showing
2 it just is not competitive at all. Our map is.

3 So shortly after we submitted these two maps
4 we discovered that we had an oversight, and we did not
5 include Hualapai and Kaibab Paiute tribe in CD 6 and
6 CD2, so we immediately had a correction and submitted
7 another -- that corrected map. After that we reached
8 out to our communities, to the local communities. We
9 met with tribes. We met with our local communities,
10 and all of them have really been -- really got engaged
11 into a conversation about these redistricting and
12 really have -- have gotten an interest in the map.
13 And, also, organizations throughout the state we met
14 with them. Excuse me.

15 And so we've been really -- really paying
16 attention to what people have been telling us, so then
17 we went back again. We revised the maps again, and
18 specifically the legislative redistricting maps,
19 number -- their numbers are LDF 051 and LDF 050, which
20 addresses mapping scenario --

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

22 The next speaker is Jeannine Reno, followed by
23 Julie Pindzola, followed Cathy Rutherford, followed by
24 Dieter Knecht.

25 Jeannine, can you hear us?

1 Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Jeannine Reno, followed by
3 Julie Pindzola, followed Cathy Rutherford, followed by
4 Dieter Knecht.

5 Jeannine Reno, can you hear us?

6 The next speaker is Julie Pindzola.

7 Julie, can you hear us?

8 MS. PINDZOLA: Yes, I can. Can you hear me?

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

10 MS. PINDZOLA: Thank you.

11 Commissioners, thank you for listening today.
12 I'm Julie Pindzola, a retired city planner and 28-year
13 resident of Yavapai County. I'm here appealing to your
14 sense of professionalism and accountability. You have
15 discounted repeated requests for competitiveness and
16 the COI testimony from much of Northern Arizona,
17 choosing instead to keep an intact Yavapai County for
18 LD 5. Conversely, Draft Map LD 7 breaks up Coconino,
19 Apache, and Navajo counties, Flagstaff and Sedona, and
20 creates overpacked non-competitive LDs 5, 6, and 7.
21 Ignoring the legitimacy of the Verde Valley community
22 of interest and its alignment with Flagstaff is the
23 problem. LD 7 does not achieve compactness, splitting
24 five counties in order to keep Yavapai County whole.
25 Map LD 50, endorsed by the Coconino Board of

1 Supervisors, cities of Flag and Sedona, draws an LD 7
2 that splits only four counties and has real
3 competitiveness at 50/50 instead of 36/64. This shows
4 you can meet the competitiveness criteria along with
5 other criteria.

6 For adjacent LD 6, the Coconino County map
7 fixes the problem of overpacking 71 percent of
8 Democrats into LD 6 and makes it much more competitive.
9 It includes an intact Flagstaff and keeps both Navajo
10 and Apache counties whole and is more compact.

11 Last, the Navajo Nation has submitted its
12 preferred CD map, which is way more competitive than
13 your CD2 draft. It keeps all the Native lands together
14 as a comprehensive COI. It creates a counterbalance to
15 the very conservatives CD 9 to the west, which should
16 also include central Yavapai County, as it does today.

17 Citizens want competitive districts and a
18 purple state. Please study these submitted maps and
19 make the changes needed to meet your obligations on all
20 six criteria as consistently and thoroughly as
21 possible.

22 Thank you sincerely. Thank you very much.

23 MS. VAN HAREN: The next speaker is Cathy
24 Rutherford.

25 Cathy, can you hear us?

1 MS. RUTHERFORD: Yes, I can hear you. Can you
2 hear me?

3 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

4 MS. RUTHERFORD: Okay. My name is Cathy
5 Rutherford, and I live in Sedona. I am here to speak
6 for the mapping considerations for Northern Arizona. A
7 chance to elect a like-minded representative is
8 critical for participation in our democracy.
9 Competitive -- competitiveness matters in these maps.
10 The current draft map for LD7 is not competitive. The
11 existing draft maps do not give me a chance, even a
12 chance, an opportunity, to elect a like-minded
13 representative. They do not even include me in my
14 community of interest. The map, in fact, splits me
15 apart from neighbors across the road from where I live.
16 I live in the Coconino part of Sedona, and it makes no
17 sense, absolutely no sense, to split our city along
18 county lines.

19 By focusing on trying to keep Yavapai County
20 whole, a very diverse and large county, you have in
21 fact totally ignored communities of interest,
22 geographic boundaries, and, most importantly, have
23 taken the previously competitive district of LD 6 and
24 made one that will only ever be represented by one
25 party.

1 The previous LD 6 also puts Sedona and the
2 rest of the Verde Valley in a community of interest
3 with Flagstaff. You've already heard all the reasons
4 why that should happen, and please, please listen to
5 those reasons because they make sense.

6 The problems that I have mentioned above can
7 be solved by using the suggestions that are
8 incorporated in the maps that were put forward by
9 Coconino County Board of Supervisors. These maps
10 support a community of interest that is reasonable and
11 logical. It also creates a competitive district, both
12 for the LD and the CD, that -- and that should not be
13 the last factor taken into account. That should be a
14 priority factor.

15 Please, please take all this into
16 consideration, and thank you so much for listening to
17 my concerns today.

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

19 The next speaker is Dieter Knecht, followed by
20 Ellen Ferreira, followed by Ann Heitland, followed by
21 Tobie Friedman, followed by Holly Ploog.

22 Dieter Knecht?

23 Okay. We'll move to the next speaker, Ellen
24 Ferreira.

25 Ellen, can you hear us?

1 MS. FERREIRA: Yes. Can you hear me?

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Please proceed.

3 MS. FERREIRA: Thank you. I have lived in
4 Sedona for eight years and plan to spend the rest of my
5 life living here. I support the maps submitted by the
6 Coconino County Board of Supervisors. That map is
7 competitive, compact, and recognizes communities of
8 interest. I hope that the Commission will listen
9 seriously to the testimony we're hearing now from
10 Northern Arizona, including that of the mayors of
11 Flagstaff and Sedona. Sedona is a tiny town with fewer
12 than 10,000 people. It's like an island, but instead
13 of being surrounded by water we're surrounded by
14 Coconino National Forest and mountains. It is a
15 community of interest by itself and can easily be
16 paired with the Verde Valley and Flagstaff.

17 There are only three routes in and out of our
18 town. They lead to Flagstaff and the Grand Canyon,
19 Cottonwood and I-17 and the Verde Valley. We're a
20 tourist corridor and share many interests with other
21 parts of our region. We are a close-knit community and
22 face unique issues as some of Arizona's busiest tourist
23 towns. We have nothing in common with Payson or
24 Prescott.

25 The current maps have our tiny town divided by

1 county lines, which makes no sense when it's applied to
2 voting. The county lines were not drawn to be voting
3 blocks. By splitting our town in two arbitrarily by
4 county, our voice and voting power is completely
5 diluted. Two congressional representatives and six
6 legislative representatives will have no reason to
7 listen to the concerns of one half of a small town.
8 Neither congressional nor legislative districts are
9 drawn here to be competitive. It will be nearly
10 impossible to find Independent or Democratic candidates
11 to run because there is almost zero chance that they
12 will win their races, so there goes democracy.

13 Please do not split Sedona or the Verde
14 Valley. Thank you for your time.

15 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

16 The next speaker is Deiter Knecht.

17 MR. KNECHT: Hello? Hello? Hello?

18 MS. VAN HAREN: Mr. Knecht, we can hear you.

19 Please proceed.

20 MR. KNECHT: Hello? Can you hear me?

21 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes.

22 MR. KNECHT: I'm sorry. Thank you.

23 I appreciate --

24 MS. VAN HAREN: Mr. Knecht, can you turn down
25 your -- can you turn down your --

1 MR. KNECHT: I appreciate the Commission
2 sitting through this long session as well as their work
3 for the whole year. I also waited since 10:00 to try
4 get some comments, and the people that spoke before me
5 did such a wonderful job of -- of what I have to say,
6 that I support keeping Sedona in one piece. It will
7 be -- I have tried to -- to participate with the state
8 government in the past, but I can just imagine the
9 laughter I'll get when I try to call my representative
10 from the split. I feel a part of Sedona, Verde Valley,
11 Cottonwood, and Flagstaff, and I feel like we all have
12 the same interests. You can make this a lot more
13 competitive if you keep us together.

14 The other speakers have given you a lot more
15 of the specific details, which I support wholly, so
16 thank you very much for the opportunity to speak.

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

18 The next speaker is Mary Lynam, followed by
19 Ann Heitland, followed by Tobie Friedman, followed by
20 Holly Ploog.

21 Mary? Mary Lynn?

22 Okay. Let's move to Ann Heitland. Ann, I've
23 just sent you a request to unmute. Can you unmute
24 yourself?

25 MS. HEITLAND: Hello. My name is Ann

1 Heitland. I've lived in Coconino County near Flagstaff
2 for 26 years. Thank you, Madam Chair, Mr. Vice-Chair,
3 and Commissioners for your hard work.

4 Our nation is at a tipping point, unlike any
5 place we've been since the Civil War. We need the best
6 representatives in Congress and the legislature that we
7 can get, and a way for you as the Commission to foster
8 this is to make each district as competitive as
9 possible. When elected officials are in safe districts
10 they don't need to respond to most of their
11 constituents. They need to appeal only to those few
12 voters who vote in the primary election of their party,
13 and the way things stand now, those are extremists.
14 You have the opportunity to make competitive districts
15 in Northern Arizona at the -- and at the same time
16 honor the weight of testimony for community of interest
17 between the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and the Verde
18 Valley.

19 I'm concerned that during the draft map
20 deliberation Chairwoman Neuberg recalled a woman in
21 Show Low who was pushing maps with an uncompetitive
22 district like D7. That woman is a former and wannabe
23 state senator who stated in the Arizona Senate that the
24 Grand Canyon is 6,000 years old and used that as an
25 excuse not to enact important conservation legislation.

1 We can't afford that kind of representation in the 21st
2 century. I ask you to ignore her pleas and that of the
3 small group of her followers who took over the limited
4 space available in that hearing in Eastern Arizona and
5 ask you instead to honor the weight of testimony in
6 favor of a competitive district encompassing the cities
7 of Flagstaff, Sedona, and the Verde Valley. Please
8 redraw your District 7 along the lines of the Coconino.

9 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

10 The next speaker is Mary Lynn Zonakis.

11 Mary Lynn?

12 MS. ZONAKIS: Hi. Can you hear me?

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please proceed.

14 MS. ZONAKIS: My name is Lynn Zonakis. I
15 live in the city of Sedona. I am president of the
16 League of Women Voters Northern Arizona and speaking
17 out on behalf of our organization. The League of Women
18 Voters Northern Arizona represents members in the Verde
19 Valley, Sedona, Flagstaff, and Northern Arizona. We're
20 greatly concerned regarding the current maps for LD 5,
21 6, and 7.

22 The city of Sedona has been split into two
23 legislative districts. Neither part of the city is
24 linked to a Flagstaff district. The towns of the Verde
25 Valley have been joined into a district with Prescott

1 and Prescott Valley. The city of Flagstaff has been
2 split as well. We believe in the cross-town community
3 links within the Verde Valley and Flagstaff and the
4 need to retain this area as a community of interest
5 within a single district. It's essential the
6 Commission follow the Arizona Constitutional mandates
7 of competitiveness, community of interest, equal
8 population, geographical compactness in keeping cities
9 whole.

10 The draft legislative district maps break
11 Sedona apart as a city and is a blow against the
12 community. Failure to link the Coconino part of Sedona
13 to the Yavapai part of Sedona separates shared services
14 such as government, school, fire, and library.
15 Breaking Sedona from Flagstaff with an intervening
16 district fails to support and honor our shared land
17 resources and services. Failure to link the Verde
18 Valley disavows our shared economies and facilities,
19 and linking to Prescott across the Mingus Mountain does
20 not make sense to how we shop, access medical
21 facilities, or support our tourist resources. As
22 concerned citizens we ask the IRC to correct these
23 oversights and ensure communities of interest and
24 competitiveness is maintained.

25 Thank you for your opportunity to speak today.

1 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. Our next speaker
2 is Tobie Friedman.

3 Tobie, can you hear us?

4 MS. FRIEDMAN: Yes. Can you hear me?

5 MS. VAN HAREN: Yes. Please -- please
6 proceed.

7 MS. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for allowing people
8 to speak at these hearings. My name is Tobie Friedman,
9 and I have been a resident of Sedona for over 20 years.
10 I live in Yavapai County, LD 26, CD1 in Northern
11 Arizona. I'm a precinct captain and state committee
12 member.

13 Though these are listening meetings, I feel
14 that you've not heard my voice. In your present maps
15 you've divided the small city of Sedona, 10,000 strong,
16 into separate legislative districts. You have not
17 honored my community of interest by hearing that all my
18 everyday activities take place in Cottonwood, the Verde
19 Valley, Flagstaff, as well as Sedona. Those cities
20 share hospitals, schools, grocery stores, hiking areas,
21 music venues, shopping areas, airports, churches,
22 restaurants and more. In 20 years I have only been to
23 Prescott about ten times, and yet you chose to put my
24 city in districts with Prescott.

25 Please look at your maps again, and please

1 take my community of interest into consideration.
2 Sedona, Verde Valley, Flagstaff belong together in a
3 legislative and congressional district. The bill that
4 created your commission mandates that you consider
5 communities of interest, competitiveness, and the
6 Voting Rights Act. The city -- the Sedona City Council
7 agrees with my request. Though you have heard Northern
8 Arizona people last today and me, third from last on
9 the list, I hope that you hope that you hear my
10 request.

11 Thank you, Independent Redistricting
12 Commission committee members.

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you. The next speaker
14 is Holly Ploog. Holly?

15 MS. PLOOG: Yes. Thank you. My name is Holly
16 Ploog, and I'm a member of the Sedona City Council, and
17 you know me because I testified several times before
18 you, so it's nice to speak with you again.

19 When I testified in Flagstaff on behalf of the
20 city of Sedona, we requested the Commission keep our
21 city whole in one legislative district, and we
22 requested to be in the same legislative district with
23 the Verde Valley, a strong and united community of
24 interest, as you heard from our mayor. Unfortunately
25 the drafts -- the draft maps were not changed from the

1 grid maps, and they continue to divide our city of
2 under 10,000 people into two legislative districts by
3 county lines. Many of our residents have communicated
4 with you by written comments and testified in person at
5 at least three public hearings advocating and imploring
6 you to keep our city whole, keep us as part of the
7 Verde Valley region, and keep our communities of
8 interest intact with the city of Flagstaff as they are
9 today. Instead, we have three districts, LD 5, 6, and
10 7, that are not competitive, do not reflect communities
11 of interest, do not conform to compactness, and frankly
12 ignore the voices of a rural region of the state.

13 In keeping Yavapai County whole in LD 5, a
14 county bigger than the states of Connecticut, Rhode
15 Island, and New Jersey, you have sacrificed two cities,
16 Flagstaff and Sedona. Our city council voted by a vote
17 of 7 to 0 -- and we're a diverse group -- to endorse
18 the maps LDF 0050 and LDF 0051, which were submitted by
19 the Coconino County Board of Supervisors on 10/26.
20 These maps keep Sedona and Flagstaff whole, keep us in
21 the Verde Valley community, keep the Yavapai Apache
22 Nation whole -- and I think that's really important --
23 and create one of the most competitive districts in the
24 state in the proposed LD 6. Instead of two districts
25 with variations of up to 30 points, LD 5 and LD 7 are

1 up to 30 points in favor of one political party.

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

3 That concludes all of the speakers for today.
4 I'll turn it back over to the chairwoman.

5 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Okay. Well, thank you,
6 everyone, for this incredibly healthy, constructive
7 dialogue. Really incredibly valuable.

8 We're going to move to adjourn. I encourage
9 everybody to please go online and you can submit a map
10 or feedback through texting or words at irc.az.gov.

11 Our next business meeting is at 8:00 a.m. on
12 Tuesday, November 9th, and our next in-person public
13 hearing is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10th, in
14 Yuma and in Flagstaff. That will be available on I
15 believe YouTube or the link to our website.

16 At this point I adjourn the meeting. Thank
17 you, staff. Thank you, colleagues and public, for an
18 incredible day. Have a great evening. Go Suns.

19 (The Virtual Town Hall concluded at 3:39 p.m.)

20

21

22

23 This transcript represents an unofficial
24 record. Please consult the accompanying video for the
25 official record of IRC proceedings.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the proceedings had upon the foregoing meeting are contained in the shorthand record made by me thereof, and that the foregoing 219 pages constitute a full, true, and correct transcript of said shorthand record, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 7th day of December, 2021.

Deborah L. Wilks

Deborah L. Wilks, RPR
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 50849

* * *

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 7th day of December 2021.

MCR

Miller Certified Reporting, LLC
Arizona RRF No. R1058