

THE STATE OF ARIZONA
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING

Window Rock, Arizona

Eagar, Arizona

Online via WebEx

July 30, 2021

2:00 p.m. MST/3:00 p.m. MDT

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1 LISTENING TOUR PUBLIC MEETING, BEFORE THE
2 INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, convened at 2:00 p.m.
3 MST/3:00 p.m. MDT on July 30, 2021, at Navajo Nation Museum
4 Arizona 264 and Loop Road, Window Rock, Arizona; with a
5 satellite location at Eagar Town Hall, 22 West 2nd Street,
6 Eagar, Arizona; and online via WebEx.

7
8 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT:

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

11 COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE:

12 Mr. Derrick Watchman, Vice Chairman

13 STAFF PRESENT:

14 Mr. Brian Schmitt, Executive Director
15 Ms. Loriandra Van Haren, Deputy Director
16 Ms. Valerie Neumann, Executive Assistant
17 Ms. Michele Crank, Public Information Officer
18 Mr. Roy Herrera, Ballard Spahr
19 Ms. Jillian Andrews, Ballard Spahr
20 Mr. Dennis Burke, Ballard Spahr
21 Mr. Shawn Summers, Ballard Spahr
22 Mr. Ryan Regula, Snell & Wilmer
23 Mr. Mark Flahan, Timmons Group
24 Mr. Parker Bradshaw, Timmons Group
25 Ms. Ivy Beller Sakansky, National Demographics Corp.

PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS:

21 President Jonathan Nez, Window Rock, Arizona
22 Mr. David Nichuis, Eagar, Arizona
23 Mr. David Peelman, Eagar, Arizona
24 Mr. Macky Trickey, Eagar, Arizona
25 Ms. Susan Kelly, Eagar, Arizona
Mr. Steven Kee, Window Rock, Arizona
Mayor Spence Udall, Eagar, Arizona
Mr. Eugene Peplowski, Eagar, Arizona
Ms. Doris Peplowski, Eagar, Arizona

1 PUBLIC COMMENT SPEAKERS (continued):

2 Mr. Jay Platt, Eagar, Arizona

3 Mr. Delos Bond, Eagar, Arizona

4 Mr. Tony Lindsey, Eagar, Arizona

5 Ms. Brandi Overson, Eagar, Arizona

6 Ms. Louva Dahozy, Window Rock, Arizona

7 Ms. Jaynie Parrish, Window Rock, Arizona

8 Ms. Ann Heitland, Window Rock, Arizona

9 Mr. Leonard Gorman, Window Rock, Arizona

10 Ms. Barbara Silversmith, Window Rock, Arizona

11 * American Sign language interpreters, Navajo, and
12 Spanish interpreters are also present.

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P R O C E E D I N G

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3 MS. CRANK: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, madam --
4 Vice President Watchman, members of the Commission, and
5 members of the listening audience.

6 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

7 We'll start with -- we'll start the meeting and I'd
8 like to again introduce myself. My name is Michele Crank,
9 I'm a member of the staff of the Independent Redistricting
10 Commission; and this is my homeland and so I'd like to
11 welcome everybody.

12 So I'm handing it over -- I'm going to introduce
13 Katherine Arviso so she can do the Pledge of Allegiance for
14 us.

15 Ms. Arviso, if you can come up.

16 MS. ARVISO: Thank you.

17 (Whereupon the Pledge of Allegiance is recited.)

18
19 MS. CRANK: Commissioner Mehl.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Now, we'd like to call to
21 order -- call to order the next meeting of the listening
22 tour of the Independent Redistricting Commission; this is
23 our sixth meeting.

24 We'd like to remind the public that COVID-19 is
25 still prevalent. We ask that you follow the Arizona

1 Department of Health Guidelines; if you are not fully
2 vaccinated, you should wear a mask in a public space.

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

5 Please note that if you'd like to make a public
6 comment, you may do so by signing in with staff and filling
7 out the public comment card. If you haven't already done
8 so, please fill out the community of interest survey.
9 There's a QR code on the signs at the sign-in desk and at
10 the public comment card that will direct you to the link.

11 Please see a member of staff if you have any
12 questions.

13 We have an American Sign Language interpreter
14 joining us virtually; and we will have interpreters and
15 headsets available for those in attendance.

16 We also have a transcriptionist who will be
17 transcribing every meeting. Please speak slowly and clearly
18 so we have a clear record of your input.

19 Would the interpreters in attendance introduce
20 themselves now.

21 ALS INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Tiana, I'm one of
22 the interpreters, and my team today is Jonathan.

23 NAVAJO INTERPRETER: (Navajo language - Diné
24 Bizaad.)

25 Hello. My name is Anthony (indiscernible) Sr., and

1 I'm 60 years old; I was born and raised and living
2 (indiscernible) today. So I'm an interpreter here at
3 Chinle.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

6 And at this time we'll introduce ourselves. I'm
7 David Mehl, I'm one of the five Commissioners; I'm from
8 Tucson.

9 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Hello. My name is Erika
10 Neuberger; I am the Independent Chair, and I'm from Maricopa
11 County.

12 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And Derrick.

13 VICE CHAIR WATCHMAN: (Navajo language - Diné
14 Bizaad.)

15 Window Rock is my home and I am the Apache County
16 Democratic representative to the Arizona Independent
17 Redistricting Commission.

18 So Yá'át'ééh, everybody.

19 COMMISSIONER MEHL: And now we'll move on to Agenda
20 Item II, a presentation of the process that we'll all be
21 going through.

22 First is a representative of our legal team.

23 MS. CRANK: Commissioner Mehl, if I -- if I can
24 allow Mr. -- the Honorable President of the Navajo Nation,
25 President Jonathan Nez, to come up and give an opening

1 comment if that is okay.

2 COMMISSIONER MEHL: That is fine. We had it
3 scheduled after the presentation but we would love to have
4 it now if you would like.

5 MS. CRANK: Yes. Thank you, sir.

6 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you.

7 MS. CRANK: Mr. President.

8 PRESIDENT NEZ: Good afternoon, Chair Neuberg and
9 committee members.

10 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

11 First I want to honor my Navajo people by speaking
12 our language; it helped win wars and it will help unite
13 folks throughout this country.

14 And as we did the Pledge of Allegiance there was
15 mention of "unity" and "fair" and "equity" as well.

16 I want to welcome the Arizona Independent
17 Redistricting Commission committee to the great Navajo
18 Nation, sovereign lands, and I appreciate everyone following
19 the protocols that have been put in place for this pandemic
20 that has swept across this country and seen high rates of
21 positive cases all around us. But let me just say, we still
22 have low numbers here, so we must be doing a good job and it
23 speaks because really the great work of our Navajo citizens
24 following through these very tough protocols; we still have
25 a mask mandate, never changed since last year, and high

1 percentage of vaccination here on the Navajo Nation, and
2 that is the reason why we were open to having these hearings
3 to take place here on the Navajo Nation.

4 So I'm just here to do the welcome and if I --
5 Chair and members of the Commission, is this where I will
6 also do the comments?

7 Okay.

8 Again, I'd like to --

9 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Presentation or --

10 PRESIDENT NEZ: I just saw the Chair nod so that's
11 why I was ready to go.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you very much.

14 And now we will turn to the presentation. Thank
15 you.

16 MR. REGULA: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
17 Ryan Regula, I'm a lawyer with the law firm Snell & Wilmer,
18 and I'm joined by my colleague Shawn Summers from the --
19 Summers from the law firm of Ballard Spahr. Together, our
20 firms represent the Independent Redistricting Commission.

21 The point of the presentation is two-fold. Number
22 one, we'd like to help you understand a little bit what the
23 Independent Redistricting Commission is and what also is the
24 process in terms of the redistricting that will be taking
25 place.

1 So a good place to start is always going to be at
2 the Arizona Constitution, but -- at the U.S. Constitution,
3 excuse me. U.S. Constitution requires regular
4 reapportionment of congressional districts. The states are
5 responsible for creating their own maps; every ten years a
6 new redistricting occurs.

7 Historically from 1912 to 2000, Arizona --
8 Arizona's legislature controlled redistricting; then based
9 upon an initiative passed by the voters, the Arizona
10 Constitution was amended and control of redistricting was
11 given to an independent commission.

12 According to Article IV of the Arizona
13 Constitution, five members are required for the Independent
14 Redistricting Commission. No more than two members may be
15 from the same political party; one member must be an
16 Independent. The current members are Erika Neuberg, who is
17 the Chair and an Independent; two Democrats, Derrick
18 Watchman and Shereen Lerner; and two Republicans, David Mehl
19 and Douglas York.

20 Article IV of the Arizona Constitution also
21 provides six goals for redistricting. First, districts
22 shall comply with the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Voting
23 Rights Act; second, congressional districts shall have equal
24 population to the extent practicable, and state legislative
25 districts shall have equal population to the extent

1 practicable; districts shall be geographically compact and
2 contiguous to the extent practical; fourth, district
3 boundaries shall respect communities of interest to the
4 extent practicable; five, to the extent practicable,
5 district lines shall use visible geographic features, city,
6 town, and county boundaries, and undivided census tracts;
7 and then six and finally, to the extent practicable,
8 competitive districts should be favored where to do so would
9 create no significant detriment to the goals -- to the other
10 goals.

11 Of the six goals, the one that we're here this
12 even- -- this afternoon is to talk about communities of
13 interest.

14 Regarding the projected timeline: From July to
15 August we'll be conducting what we're doing right now, which
16 is the initial listening tour; and then August census data
17 will be released and processed -- at this moment in time we
18 do have not have census data yet; in September a grid map
19 will be drawn and adopted.

20 It's important for you to know that each
21 Independent Redistricting Commission starts from scratch,
22 that is, the old district lines are wiped clean and that the
23 grid map only reflects two of the six criteria the
24 Commission is required to consider: One, equal population;
25 and, two, compactness and contiguousness. Commissioners

1 then modify the grid maps to account for the other four
2 criteria I highlighted earlier, including respect for
3 community of interest.

4 From September to October possible map drafts are
5 developed and eventually an official map draft is adopted.

6 From October to November there's a minimum 30-day
7 public comment period on the official draft map; and then
8 finally from December to the end of the project, revisions
9 to the draft map will be conducted and finally a final plan
10 will be adopted.

11 As I mentioned before, public involvement is what
12 we're doing here today and that is one of the six goals.
13 There are three specific types of public involvement that
14 you should be aware of: One, Commission meetings are open
15 to the public, there you can submit public comments at
16 IRC.AZ.gov/public-meetings; second, initial input on
17 communities of interest. Again, this is why we are here
18 today.

19 Specifically in terms of communities of interest --
20 and this will be discussed a little more in the presentation
21 a little later -- we're looking for information for what
22 geographic areas or neighborhoods should be considered for
23 drawing draft maps.

24 Third and finally, in terms of public involvement,
25 input on draft maps; and you can provide input three

1 different ways. You can submit proposed draft maps and
2 comments on in-progress draft maps prior to the IRC's
3 selection of an official draft map; you can submit proposed
4 revisions and comments after IRC's selection of official
5 draft maps; and, finally, you can submit comments on
6 near-final maps.

7 With that, I will pass the baton to Mark.

8 MR. FLAHAN: Thank you.

9 My name is Mark Flahan, I'm with Timmons, part of
10 our mapping consultant team.

11 Part of my team that is also here today is Ivy
12 Beller Sakansky with NDC and our demographer; and I have
13 Parker Bradshaw, who is our coordinator on our project.

14 What I want to talk to you guys about today is the
15 three empowerment tools that we have for you citizens to be
16 able to interact with the IRC.

17 The first one is the socioeconomic report. It's an
18 interactive website that is available with socioeconomic
19 data and we will get into that more in a slide right after
20 this.

21 The second mapping tool that we have is our
22 community of interest survey, this is why we are here today.
23 You've probably seen some QR codes along your way in that
24 will allow you to scan it on your phone and it will take you
25 to a community of interest survey, and what this will allow

1 you to do is draw your very own community of interest,
2 putting the power into your hands.

3 The third tool that we have that we are working on
4 setting up right now is our actual redistricting system.
5 The system will allow you to be able to draw and submit your
6 own proposed map changes to the Commission.

7 So the first empowerment tool that we have today is
8 the socioeconomic report. The right side of the screen you
9 can see a screen capture of it; it has 14 different
10 demographic points and will allow you to see the
11 demographics across the entire state of Arizona.

12 You do see an acronym there that says "CVAP,"
13 that's citizen voting age population.

14 The next tool that we have today is the community
15 of interest survey and that's why we're today, to learn
16 about your community of interest. On the left side you'll
17 see the introduction to the survey and on the right side you
18 will see an actual map; this will allow you to draw your
19 actual community of interest boundary, that way we can get
20 an accurate representation of what you are telling us today.

21 So we encourage you to go online and fill out the
22 community of interest survey after this meeting or during
23 this meeting on your phone.

24 So the community of interest survey is available
25 24/7 on the Web, accessible at any time for you.

1 With that being said, I'm going to pass it over to
2 Ivy who is going to talk to you about what is a community of
3 interest.

4 MS. SAKANSKY: Thank you, Mark.

5 So let's talk today about what is a community of
6 interest.

7 It is a geographic area of people who share a
8 common story or a common connection.

9 That connection can be common social interests,
10 shared demographic characteristics, similar impacts from a
11 legislative and/or congressional issue, or any other
12 connection that leads people in a given area to believe they
13 would benefit from being kept together united in one
14 legislative or congressional district.

15 As you think about your community, think about the
16 factors listed on the community survey that Mark just
17 reviewed. That survey says: Think about you and your
18 neighbors, do you have similar jobs -- excuse me -- do you
19 rely on similar public services, belong to the same
20 neighborhood association, are you impacted by some regional
21 environmental concern, is your community defined by similar
22 land usage issues?

23 Or how else can your community be defined? It can
24 be defined with transit concerns, languages spoken,
25 community celebrations or traditions, or other similar

1 issues or characteristics.

2 Any of these characteristics could define a
3 community of interest.

4 Next slide, please.

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

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

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

17 Thank you for being here today. I will now turn
18 this back over to Commission staff, and they will begin with
19 your comments.

20 COMMISSIONER MEHL: If you would please read the
21 rules for our engagement today.

22 MS. CRANK: Citizens may only (technical/audio
23 disruption) by the Chair or the presiding officer of the
24 meeting if the Chair is (technical/audio disruption).

25 In compliance with Arizona (technical/audio

1 disruption).

2 On the posted agenda which is (technical/audio
3 disruption).

4 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Are they getting feedback?

5 MS. CRANK: Oh. They're getting feedback?

6 Now I lost my place.

7 Speakers are also requested to limit their comments
8 to approximately three minutes. Additionally, speakers are
9 required to follow proper decorum. Speakers must use
10 appropriate language. Foul and/or abusive language will not
11 be tolerated. Any speaker failing to follow proper decorum
12 or any other guidelines may be asked to leave.

13 Any breach of the peace or the disruption of a
14 Commission public hearing may be cause of report to law
15 enforcement, arrest, and prosecution.

16 If someone has expressed the same sentiment, you do
17 not need to speak in order to have your comment recorded; as
18 long as you have filled out the survey, your input will be
19 received and considered by this Commission.

20 Everyone is welcome to speak should you choose to
21 do so.

22 Opposing viewpoints may be expressed by the
23 citizens present. As a courtesy, citizens are reminded to
24 address their comments to the Chair and the Commission and
25 not to audience present.

1 Please show respect for all speakers and avoid
2 personal comments.

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

5 And, again, if you will please silence -- silence
6 your phones, put them on vibrate, we ask that you do so at
7 this time.

8 And I would like to start the public comment
9 section by -- oh. Chairman Mehl.

10 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yeah, I want to just thank the
11 public for being here; we're anxious to hear your comments.
12 We really appreciate your attendance and we welcome the
13 Honorable President of the Navajo Nation, Jonathan Nez, to
14 give the opening remarks.

15 Thank you.

16 PRESIDENT NEZ: Chair and Commission members,
17 greetings from the Navajo people. Yá'át'ééh.

18 I'd -- once again I'd like to thank the Commission
19 for considering our letter requesting that there be hearings
20 held on the Navajo Nation.

21 Excuse me.

22 The Navajo Nation is the largest tribe in the
23 United States in terms of population and land base. We are
24 within the states of New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah;
25 27,000 square miles; very rural nation and 400,000 enrolled

1 members.

2 The largest and most populated portion of the
3 Navajo Nation is in Arizona.

4 According to the 2010 census, there were 173,667
5 Navajos living on the Nation, with 101,835 Navajo living on
6 the Arizona portion of the Navajo Nation.

7 We expect those numbers to have increased in the
8 last census despite the expected undercount. As you know
9 we're going through a pandemic and because of the pandemic
10 it is projected that there has been a large undercount of
11 our Navajo people, as high as 20 percent undercount, and I
12 will forward that information through our written comments
13 to the Commission.

14 As you may know, Native Americans have been
15 historically undercounted in the census, more than any other
16 ethnic group. Therefore, it is highly critical that the
17 Nation's citizens have the ability to elect representatives
18 of their choice; representatives who will champion their
19 causes and advocate for them.

20 We -- we did list and -- as was mentioned happens
21 every ten years, and as a former Navajo County Board of
22 Supervisor and a former lawmaker of the Navajo Nation
23 Council, we followed through those protocols in 2010 and
24 were successful in redistricting areas to elect people of
25 our choosing.

1 The communities of interest, you know, we're in
2 three states, but we're not able to have those three states
3 have one or two or even more congressional representatives
4 and that there is communities of interest. Navajo is in New
5 Mexico, Navajo is in Utah, and Navajo is in Arizona.

6 But we are looking forward to these deliberations,
7 and this is the first of many discussions that we will have
8 pertaining to redistricting.

9 The Commission needs to recognize the participation
10 by those with a diverse set of interests as well as those
11 who hold a critical stake in the outcome of the
12 redistricting process. As Navajo people, we are the data
13 experts of our own communities.

14 On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I respectfully
15 request the Commission to recognize the political boundaries
16 of the Navajo Nation as a community of interest and to
17 recognize that our Navajo communities need to be kept
18 together.

19 There are three significant interests why the
20 Nations should not be included with other non-Native
21 communities, all which lead to -- which all lead to the same
22 conclusion: Life on the Nation is much different than what
23 is experienced by most Arizonans.

24 First, the Nation occupies some of the most remote,
25 challenging, and sparsely populated terrain in the country.

1 The population density on the Nation is estimated at 6.3 per
2 square mile compared to the density of, let's say,
3 Flagstaff, which is estimated to be 409.5 per square mile.

4 Second, one-third of the Nation is in poverty,
5 which is more than twice the poverty rate in the state of
6 Arizona. Only 4 percent of the Nation's membership has
7 obtained a college degree and over 70 percent of households
8 speak a language other than English.

9 Third, the Nation is a racial -- the Nation is a
10 racial and language minority under Section 2 of the Voting
11 Rights Act and is covered for language assistance under
12 Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

13 A fair redistricting must give the Nation's
14 citizens the power to hold our congressional and state
15 leaders accountable. It's important that we as Navajo
16 people have a fair opportunity to elect leaders of our
17 choice.

18 Leaders who have a deep understanding of the
19 socioeconomic hardships the Nation face day after day.
20 Therefore, we ask you keep the Nation within a single
21 community of interest.

22 Thank you, Chairman, thank you, Commissioners for
23 the time. And I don't know if I can yield to questions, but
24 I'll turn it back over to you, the Commission.

25 Thank you so much, Chairman.

1 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Thank you very much.

2 And we'll now move on to other speakers; and we'll
3 read off the name of the next speaker and we'll follow in
4 the queue.

5 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Mr. President.

6 I think we're going to go ahead and start off with
7 Eagar, so I'm going to hand it over to my colleague, Lori,
8 over in Eagar.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Testing one, two.

10 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you, everyone. Can you give
11 me a thumbs up if you hear me?

12 Okay. Awesome. Thank you.

13 So we are joining you from beautiful Eagar,
14 Arizona, where we have a great group in attendance.

15 And our first speaker is going to be David Nichuis
16 followed by David Peelman.

17 MR. NICHUIS: Good afternoon, Chairman and
18 Commissioners. Thank you for this (technical/audio
19 disruption). Come to you today as both a citizen and
20 professional.

21 (Technical/audio disruption) but I served as the
22 prior (technical/audio disruption) far as redistricting.

23 In my capacity as fire chief, I have had many
24 occasions to not only visit the legislators, the
25 (technical/audio disruption) the halls of our Capitol many

1 times.

2 I also personally (technical/audio disruption) and
3 years ago. As a result of my meetings, though, I wanted to
4 (technical/audio disruption) to understand as we're
5 (inaudible) to find good solutions for us. (Technical/audio
6 disruption).

7 (Technical/audio disruption). We have many similar
8 interests and many similar needs and we need the problems
9 solved. (Technical/audio disruption). I have with the
10 meeting with the legislature before that at that level to
11 given no times to the community. No ties to the
12 (technical/audio disruption) area and, therefore, they have
13 no understanding of the rural issues that high level
14 (technical/audio disruption).

15 Therefore, when you establish the new legislative
16 districts for Arizona, I strongly recommend that you
17 consider what is (technical/audio disruption) some of the
18 people south of the I-40. Those are the folks that we need
19 to have banded together. So you (technical/audio
20 disruption) folks to represent us to understand our
21 lifestyles and have our meetings and also understand how to
22 (technical/audio disruption) so we can get the proper
23 solution that will help us in our lives. This is such an
24 important move for Arizona and for the future and especially
25 for us.

1 Apache County is (technical/audio disruption), I
2 think it's the (technical/audio disruption) in the Nation.
3 We need help. We need a lot of help in the community. The
4 southern Navajo County, we need to be in the district
5 together represented by people -- people like us, people who
6 work with us, people who know us.

7 Whatever opportunities (technical/audio disruption)
8 we like to make that happen, I respectfully request that.

9 Thank you very much.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

12 Our next speaker is David (technical/audio
13 disruption) followed by Kim (technical/audio disruption).

14 MR. PEELMAN: Good afternoon, Chair Neuberg and
15 Commissioners.

16 My name is David Peelman. I've lived in
17 (technical/audio disruption) for the last 16 years with my
18 bride Kathy. I work as a Realtor. My work takes me all
19 over (technical/audio disruption) all the way over to
20 Payson. These are the communities in which I work; these
21 are the communities in which I play; these are the
22 communities (technical/audio disruption).

23 These are communities which I belong to:
24 Community, religious, political, and religious
25 organizations. This is my community, as most of the people

1 sitting in this audience right now.

2 I've traveled LD-7 and like I said, I have a
3 training aid to show you, but I'll explain it to you. It
4 currently runs from south of Alpine up to Four Corners,
5 across the Arizona-Utah border to Page, Fredonia, and a
6 little zig and a zag down to West Grand Canyon, and then
7 back down along following roughly the I-40 corridor along to
8 Winslow, Holbrook, and back down to Show Low.

9 This is an immense territory. This is the largest
10 single legislative district in the United States. It is
11 338,000 square miles. As President Nez alluded to or
12 mentioned it has -- it's as large as the state of Indiana,
13 and within this district it has the Navajo Nation, which is
14 as large as the state of West Virginia.

15 The Navajo Nation population makes up
16 three-quarters of this district, far outnumbering any other
17 like-minded community of interest, culturally,
18 business-wise, problem solving, recreationally, religiously.

19 I've -- these disparate communities, they do have
20 one commonality and that is a demarcation line roughly north
21 and south of Interstate 40. North of Interstate 40, their
22 issues are terribly different than they are south of I-40.

23 To give you some ideas of the issues that we face
24 down here that are not faced north of I-40, we have the
25 forestry programs of 4FRI, which is a forestry restoration

1 initiative, which is going to limit access to the forest.

2 That's it?

3 Oh. Okay.

4 We also have the forestry departments
5 transportation management plan, again limiting access to our
6 forest, the largest Ponderosa forest in the world. This is
7 one large community of interest much as the Navajo Nation.

8 The problems we face in these forestry issues is
9 wolf preservation, this is not a problem north of I-40; this
10 is not a problem that is faced anywhere except in this
11 forest.

12 We have different outlooks on business and business
13 entrepreneurship and the development. Whereas the Navajo
14 Nation has a very tedious and time-consuming process to
15 create a business, going through 19 different agencies and
16 initial -- initialed by the president, President Nez, we
17 don't have that down here. We can build our own business on
18 our own initiative in a very short amount of time.

19 The interests that we have down here are copper,
20 forest, cattle, business development. One of the things I
21 really want to talk about is problem-solving. Down here
22 south of I-40 on fee-simple land, our problems we solve at
23 our local and state level; we have very little interest in
24 solving issues at a federal level, whereas the Navajo Nation
25 operates largely as a Nation state. We do not operate as a

1 Nation state, we operate as a legislative district and a
2 county and small communities.

3 The Navajo Nation receives funding from the county,
4 from the state, and from the federal government, whereas our
5 area only receives county and state funding.

6 Are we running out of time?

7 MS. VAN HAREN: You're done.

8 MR. PEELMAN: All right.

9 Commissioners, thank you for being here and thank
10 you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words and I
11 look forward to talking to you again tomorrow.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you so much.

14 Our next speaker is Kim Trickey, followed by Macky
15 Trickey, followed by Susan Kelly.

16 Did you hear that? Kim Trickey, Macky Trickey, and
17 Susan Kelly.

18 MR. TRICKEY: Thank you for your time and hearing
19 our concerns.

20 My name is Macky Trickey. I was born here in this
21 community of Springerville-Eagar.

22 I grew up in a ranching family. When I was young,
23 ranching and the log woods were the main industries in our
24 communities. Over the years, these have greatly been
25 depleted.

1 We are concerned about the districting of the -- of
2 our voting area. Over the years there's been a -- the
3 distrust and -- has greatly increased; we feel like in small
4 communities of ours that our voice is not heard. That over
5 the years that we have been thrown into districts that
6 include large metropolitan areas, areas of the reservation
7 and others where our concerns and voice gets diluted.

8 We would strongly urge you as you look at the
9 redistricting of our area that you would consider some of
10 the previous speakers' thoughts of putting like-minded
11 people, like communities that have the same issues, those
12 people can then -- their voice can be heard in our
13 congressional legislature.

14 We would appreciate your consideration in those
15 matters.

16 And I will leave that at this -- or leave my
17 comments at this and thank you for your time.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

20 Our next speaker is Susan Kelly and then we'll send
21 it back to Window Rock.

22 MS. KELLY: So thank you for your time.

23 Hello, my name is Susan Kelly. I actually live in
24 Pima County, in Marana; I have a cabin up here in Greer, so
25 that's why I chose to come here.

1 I have lived in Arizona since 1999 with the
2 exception of three years where I lived in New Mexico, and
3 I've lived all those years in different parts of Pima
4 County, from Tanque Verde Valley to Green Valley to the
5 Foothills, and now Dove Mountain in LD-11.

6 My community is the greater
7 Tucson/Marana/Oro Valley area. My two sons are graduates of
8 Catalina Foothills schools and are now both active duty
9 military officers and deployed overseas. While raising my
10 sons, their dad and I were very active in Boy Scouts,
11 sports, and the high school band in the Tucson area.

12 The town of Marana is not nearly as rural as it
13 used to be; we have lots of restaurants and businesses and
14 churches and are growing. I like living in a medium-sized
15 town with neighbors who like to do the same things as I do.
16 Those things include running, cycling, relaxing, raising
17 good citizens, developing the next generation of science and
18 technology knowledgeable humans.

19 I spend most of my time in Marana/Oro Valley
20 region. I would like our district to be nearly whole and
21 not divided as we have been. I should not be in the same
22 district with someone who is in Casa Grande; they have a lot
23 different problems than we do in the Marana-Oro Valley area.

24 I believe my district should be orientated east to
25 west as this is the community I live in, not a north-south

1 district as we are today.

2 Thank you so much for your time.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CRANK: (Technical/audio disruption)

5 Window Rock. The first one is Steven Kee, the second one is
6 (technical/audio disruption), Steven C Begay.

7 Steven Kee.

8 MR. KEE: (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

9 (Technical/audio disruption).

10 (Pause in proceedings.)

11 COMMISSIONER MEHL: Yes, testing the mics.

12 (Technical/audio disruption).

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Testing one, two.

14 Okay.

15 Hopefully that fixes our issue. Sorry about that.

16 MR. KEE: Can I go on?

17 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

18 What kind of operation are you running?

19 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

20 (Applause.)

21 MS. CRANK: We do apologize for those that are
22 listening on the -- on the stream system, we have some
23 Navajo speakers here in Window Rock, so we're getting
24 headsets for our Commissioners and our attorneys so they
25 will have the ability to understand what our Navajo speakers

1 are saying.

2 So if you'll give us a -- well, we'll -- I'll turn
3 it back over to Lori in Eagar.

4 MS. VAN HAREN: Great. Thank you.

5 Our first speaker is Spence Udall, followed by
6 Eugene Peplowski, and Doris Peplowski.

7 MAYOR UDALL: Good afternoon, Madam Chair, members
8 of the Commission. I appreciate your time and attention to
9 this matter and I don't envy the job you guys have in front
10 of you.

11 My name is Spence Udall. I currently serve as the
12 Mayor of the city of Saint Johns.

13 My dad, he served as the Apache County Attorney for
14 almost 30 years, so I had the opportunity to spend a lot of
15 time on the -- up on the Nation.

16 These meetings are tough because sometimes they
17 feel almost confrontational because there is a difference,
18 and the differences aren't necessarily bad, they're just
19 differences. I always appreciated the time that I got to
20 spend on the Nation because their traditions are not my
21 traditions and it was something that I was able to learn
22 from.

23 But therein lies the problem. Not necessarily that
24 there are differences, but those differences in the areas
25 have a proper representation.

1 Just to highlight this, in our little town we are
2 currently in a lawsuit or litigation, if you will, with the
3 tribe, the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe, over water.
4 When we started in this litigation we paid \$6,000 a year,
5 which that was something we could handle. Since then -- we
6 have done this for about seven years now, I believe -- that
7 has swelled well over to a hundred thousand dollars a year.
8 For a town of our size going up against the Navajo Nation
9 where I believe they have something like a \$1.25 billion
10 budget, you can understand how difficult that is.

11 It's a fight we can't afford but it's a fight we
12 can't afford to fight [sic]; it's something that we have to
13 do. And it's almost impossible for our current
14 representatives to represent us and also members of the
15 Nation, kind of that "one man can't serve two masters" type
16 thing.

17 So I would agree with President Nez that the Nation
18 and the folks south of the Nation should probably be
19 separated in that we have more similar interests and more
20 similar -- or more things in common.

21 And like I said before, the -- having the
22 differences isn't necessarily bad, it's just that we need to
23 have proper representation for both parties in the
24 interests.

25 I appreciate your time. Thank you.

1 (Applause.)

2 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Eugene
3 Peplowski, followed by Doris Peplowski, followed by Jay
4 Platt.

5 MR. PEPLOWSKI: Thank you, Commission.

6 I am a retired teacher but also an entrepreneur and
7 I want to address some of those issues that separate us that
8 we struggle here, and that is the small business issue that
9 we have and has been brought up earlier, family difference
10 issues, and -- and I -- and environmental issues. And those
11 issues need to be addressed for you, which is your best
12 interest, and then for us, which is our best interest, and
13 they are not the same.

14 And so that -- I'm asking that we would become our
15 own -- part of our own district with the like people in our
16 area, Show Low, et cetera, because of those issues.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. VAN HAREN: Our next speaker is Doris
20 Peplowski, followed by Jay Platt, followed by Delos Bond.

21 MS. PEPLOWSKI: Hi. I'm Doris Peplowski from
22 Vernon, Arizona.

23 I grew up on a sheep ranch in Wyoming. In that
24 environment it was a little bit similar to the Navajo
25 culture, however -- Vernon area, well, everything has -- has

1 been mentioned before. Our cultural differences are not
2 just skin deep, it's the environment, it's the demographics,
3 it's the geography. The mayor of Saint Johns stated it very
4 well. We -- I have a deep respect for the Navajo people,
5 for the Apache people; my husband taught on both
6 reservations, I got to know people in a -- in a way that I
7 was unable to -- to relate to them before, and I really
8 respect their keeping their cultural identity in saying the
9 Pledge of Allegiance in both languages.

10 But unity does not mean that we need to address our
11 needs equally. There's a big difference between unity and
12 equity and equality. So, let's address those issues,
13 separate the -- the money and the needs, and use it
14 appropriately.

15 Thank you for your consideration.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Our final three speakers are Delos
18 Bond, Tony Lindsey, and Brandi Overson.

19 MR. PLATT: Thank you very much to the Commission
20 for hearing our concerns and issues.

21 My name is Jay Platt, I live in Saint Johns where I
22 operate cattle ranches with two married sons; I also sit on
23 the board of our local irrigation district.

24 We would propose a legislative district be created
25 of the reservation portions of Gila, Grand, Apache, Navajo,

1 and Coconino counties, together with the city of Flagstaff.
2 This would preserve intact the unique cultural linguistic
3 communities of interest for the reservations, it would allow
4 them to deal with the BIA on the educational matters as well
5 as tribal operational schools; it would also better position
6 them to deal with the IHS on healthcare issues.

7 The city of Flagstaff is something of a shopping,
8 medical, and educational center for many reservation
9 communities.

10 The other legislative districts should be comprised
11 of the nonreservation portions of those same counties
12 together with Greenlee County.

13 Our communities of interests are natural resource
14 issues with livestock and mining. We deal with the forest
15 service, the BLM, on catastrophic fires in large measure
16 caused by agency mismanagement; our school districts and
17 school boards deal with the State Board of Education, not
18 the BIA; we play one another, our schools, in sports; the
19 water adjudications that were just been alluded to are an
20 extremely important issue, and Mayor Udall actually
21 understated the amounts being spent.

22 In Gila County, Gila area, Gila Valley area and
23 southern Navajo and Apache Counties, we are each spending
24 now in the -- in the aggregate, you know, between the
25 communities' irrigation districts, \$100,000 per month. We

1 need legislative representation and congressional
2 representation to craft a settlement.

3 In terms of the congressional district, CD-1 now
4 includes San Tan Valley, Casa Grande, and portions of Pima
5 County, specifically the Oro Valley area, with whom we have
6 no communities of interest; Cochise County is in CD-2 with
7 the city of Tucson with whom it has no communities of
8 interest.

9 We would propose that the counties of Coconino,
10 Yavapai, Apache, Navajo, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Cochise
11 County be placed in a single congressional district whereby
12 we may deal with the unique communities of interest which we
13 have educationally, on water issues, dealing with federal
14 agencies, wolf deprivation, so on and so forth.

15 Thank you again.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up is Tony Lindsey followed
18 by -- I'm sorry, Delos Bond, followed by Tony Lindsey,
19 followed by Brandi Overson.

20 MR. BOND: Chairman, Commissioners, thank you very
21 much for having this -- this -- this ability to be able to
22 give us our -- let us give our input.

23 As you know CD-1 splits the following counties:
24 Yavapai, Gila, Pinal, and even takes in small portions of
25 Pima and Maricopa.

1 It is our -- it is our belief that the districts
2 should be more county oriented; should be able to fit the
3 county's boundaries more -- more evenly, and by -- by
4 splitting southern half of Apache County and -- and Navajo
5 County and -- and making the reservation their own district,
6 would -- would not only be -- more beneficial for the
7 reservation, but it would be beneficial for the -- for the
8 nonreservation itself.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 (Applause.)

11 MS. VAN HAREN: Next up we have Tony Lindsey and
12 then our last speaker is Brandi Overson.

13 MR. LINDSEY: Madam Chairman, Commissioners, I
14 appreciate your time in conducting this.

15 As you know, we belong as a nation to a
16 Constitution republic, it's a representative type of
17 government. You as commissioners have the ability to
18 represent our needs based on what was explained by Snell
19 Wilmer as communities of interest.

20 It is apparent to me from what has been stated by
21 those on the Navajo reservation here that we have different
22 and varied communities of interest; and if you follow the
23 recommendations you could make both of us feel like we're
24 being represented in a represented republic.

25 An example of -- of how it's not happening right

1 now. If I look in our little community of Saint Johns, we
2 are a part of Apache County, we're the county seat; yet, in
3 our county, most Navajos vote as a block as Democrats,
4 whereas most people in Southern Apache County in these
5 communities are Republicans; we have no say in our county
6 government because we're so disparate in our political
7 thinking and how things go.

8 We feel like we're taxpayers without representation
9 because we don't have a lot of say in how our money gets
10 spent.

11 I would like to see our communities of interest
12 better represented by legislation -- or legislative
13 districts being more representative of the people who live
14 there in these communities of interest.

15 Secondly, I really support what's been said by
16 Mr. Jay Platt, he said it beautifully, and I would like to
17 second what he's -- what he's stated.

18 That's all. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

21 And your last speaker here in Eagar is Brandi
22 Overson.

23 MS. OVERSON: Hi. I'd like to thank the IRC and
24 those assisting with this meeting for their time that they
25 put in together.

1 My name is Brandi Overson; I teach government at
2 the high school in Saint Johns, Arizona, as part of
3 Apache County.

4 I agree with much of what's been said today so I
5 will keep this short. I believe in equal representation;
6 it's been very frustrating to be grouped with communities
7 that are accountable to different organizations and to
8 different laws. I think it would be a boon to our areas to
9 separate into better suited communities of interest and I
10 appreciate your time.

11 Thanks.

12 (Applause.)

13 MS. VAN HAREN: Thank you.

14 And we will send it now back to Window Rock.

15 MS. CRANK: Our next speaker is Louva Dahozy.

16 And if I can ask the Navajo translator to come up
17 -- step up to the mic and she'll be doing the translation
18 from English to Navajo for those that are listening.

19 MS. DAHOZY: (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

20 (Inaudible/multiple speakers.)

21 We travel throughout this (Navajo language - Diné
22 Bizaad.) Working together in our -- they can't even write
23 their name.

24 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

25 INTERPRETER: She said to thank -- thank you for

1 letting her speak. And on behalf of her elders and
2 hopefully she'd be understood what -- what she is asking
3 you.

4 That's pretty much what her conclusion was.

5 MS. CRANK: Okay. Our next speaker is Steven
6 Begay.

7 And, again, please keep in mind that we do have
8 Commissioners that are not members of the Navajo Nation that
9 cannot speak Navajo; we do have Commissioner Watchman that
10 can understand and -- and hear Navajo, but each and every
11 single one of our Commissioners have to hear your -- your
12 issues and your concerns, so if we are going to continue
13 with our Navajo translator translating from English -- from
14 Navajo to English, we need to stop the Navajo speaker and
15 then allow the Navajo translator to speak English and then
16 go back to the Navajo speaker and then back to the English
17 translator because this is being streamed throughout various
18 parts of the state of Arizona and we have to -- we have to
19 have everybody listen to the presentations.

20 So if you'll bear with us.

21 CHAIRPERSON NEUBERG: Excuse me. Can I just make
22 one quick comment because it's very relevant to what we just
23 heard.

24 I don't know if you can hear me.

25 I want to make sure that everybody is aware that on

1 our agenda Tuesday morning is a presentation from our legal
2 counsel on the Voting Rights Act, the recent Supreme Court
3 decision as it relates to Native American voting rights, and
4 so everybody obviously has -- you know, has interest, so I
5 encourage everybody: Tune in on Tuesday.

6 MS. CRANK: That's Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock
7 Mountain Standard Time, 9 o'clock Mountain Daylight Time.
8 Steven.

9 Thank you, Madam Chair.

10 MR. BEGAY: Thank you, Michele, and I'd like to
11 thank the members of the Arizona Independent Redistricting
12 Commission for having this hearing and also the people from
13 Eagar, the satellite station.

14 My name is Steven C. Begay and I'm originally from
15 Tuba City area, Coal Mine Mesa area, and now I live in St.
16 Michaels, Arizona, here in Window Rock.

17 I've held various tribal positions, served as
18 political appointees in the three prior tribal
19 administrations and I feel like I have a lot of experience,
20 and also a degree in accounting from Arizona State
21 University.

22 In listening to the session here, we're trying to
23 concentrate on community of interest. For Navajo it's land,
24 water, treaty rights, a lot of things that are being brought
25 out that we're living under that are a little bit different

1 from the outskirts of the reservation in the state and the
2 other places.

3 So, yeah, I understand the differences in business
4 and -- and so forth, but there are concerns here, for
5 example, the uranium cleanup -- the abandoned uranium mine
6 cleanups, there's over 500 sites throughout the reservation
7 that's a common area of interest for health; there's also
8 coal mining that has been done, power plants that have
9 closed down, so there's reduced revenues from mining and
10 also power production that affects the transmission lines as
11 well.

12 So there's a decrease in overall economic activity
13 from the resources the Navajo Nation had.

14 So right now, like, the mine here -- east of here,
15 the Chevron McKinley Mine, that's been mined out in 2004 and
16 reclaimed in 2014; seven years later there's people still
17 trying to get their permits back so they can get their
18 grazing permits so they can raise livestock. So there's
19 another land issue there.

20 Then there are 110 chapters throughout the
21 reservation, there's five agencies, and they all correspond
22 with the state, county, and federal government. Especially
23 in elections, there's like five tiers of elections; it's
24 very confusing. So, you know, there's a lot of education
25 that needs to take place there. That's a common community

1 of interest dealing with all these different governments.

2 And then as mentioned, the -- there are people in
3 wheelchairs out there on the reservation, when they do
4 door-to-door canvassing you run into these people, you find
5 they invite you into their home, they can't even get up.
6 They say: Thank for you coming here, I get my mail, my kids
7 and my relatives bring my mail, I do my voting here and they
8 help me turn it in, I can't leave the house.

9 So that's where permanent early voting lists that's
10 being jeopardized now was very important. So you're going
11 to disenfranchise those people if you do away with that.

12 Let's see here.

13 I guess -- using up my time here. No
14 gerrymandering. I know I'm hearing things: I-40 corridor,
15 respect the Navajo Nation and other tribal language,
16 cultural, and tradition and their treaties. Treaties are
17 public land sometimes, allotted land sometimes. Sometimes
18 there's fee lands on reservation -- different kinds of lands
19 throughout the reservation, so don't stereotype the people
20 and the politics and the issues that are on the Navajo but
21 respect that as a whole thing. We are trying to keep
22 together. We might be behind in a lot of areas, but we need
23 help in a lot of those areas as well and just to separate us
24 and say "oh, you guys are different and we're different,"
25 that's not America.

1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Steven.

4 The next speaker is Jaynie Parrish.

5 MS. PARRISH: Sorry. I'm one of the lucky ones, I
6 actually have a computer.

7 So (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

8 My mother is from Window Rock; I grew up here in
9 Window Rock; my father is from Kayenta and I also grew up
10 there; my mother's maternal relatives are from Dilkon. So
11 our families are across counties here in Northeastern
12 Arizona. We also have relatives married into Hopi and
13 relatives married into White River, and so we travel to many
14 of these places quite frequently for family gatherings, for
15 ceremonies and for just family celebrations.

16 So the question about what's a community of
17 interest is interesting because I consider all of that my
18 community, not just the borders of the Navajo Nation.

19 Because our people make their purchases, we -- we
20 support the border towns, everybody knows every border town
21 from Holbrook, Winslow, Show Low to Eagar. They -- they get
22 our money because we do our shopping there.

23 So we -- we get our public services, our
24 healthcare, our education. It's not uncommon for our
25 community members, like some of my relatives, to drive every

1 day two hours to go to work from here or to Flagstaff or
2 even from Kayenta to other parts of the Navajo Nation in
3 other states, like in New Mexico.

4 So it's a very interesting question and I know it's
5 not -- you'll get a lot of input on what that means.

6 But the question about community of interest is our
7 current district, which is LD-6 and LD-7; that's our whole
8 community. We can go further because we're older than the
9 counties, we're older than the state, we're older than the
10 country, and -- but all of us as tribal nations have shared
11 characteristics that you have laid out on that paper.

12 And we all share transportation and, like I said,
13 CD-1, Congressional District 1, is the most Native American
14 district in the whole country. In the whole country. Which
15 includes Navajo, Hopi in our nation and others. Nowhere
16 else in the U.S. do we have this. We have a shared
17 population, we have shared interests, and we have to keep
18 this tremendous power- -- powerful group and community and
19 family intact. There's no other way around it.

20 The Commission has to recognize all of our tribal
21 nations in the state, but especially here in Northeast
22 Arizona. Because, again, we live off the tribal land, we're
23 very transient, we go into a lot of places; and this is very
24 critical: You guys have a lot of responsibility on your
25 shoulders and I strongly suggest that what we have now is --

1 is what's been working good for us, and so keeping the
2 Native voting power and representation is very much
3 important and part of that.

4 As part of my comments, though, I have two quick
5 things.

6 That I think a lot of folks would have been here,
7 but there -- there needs to be better communication. Not a
8 lot of people have the Internet; I do. I'm a little bit
9 younger, I actually know how to access things, but a lot of
10 our voting people are elders, they don't -- we had a hard
11 time getting them out to vote and we had to do that by
12 old-school off-line strategy. So you guys have to do that,
13 too. Have a real good public campaign for them. There's
14 nothing in the paper, there's nothing on the radios, and we
15 have to make sure that that's there.

16 So I think more people would be angry because they
17 want to be heard and those are my comments right now.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. CRANK: The next speaker.

21 COMMISSIONER MEHL: That lady was the Apache County
22 Chair?

23 MS. CRANK: Jaynie? No, she wasn't.

24 Navajo County -- she's going to introduce herself
25 again.

1 MS. PARRISH: No, my name is Jaynie Parrish and I'm
2 a community organizer and I am -- before that I was an
3 advocate, I help people get out to vote; I'm an executive
4 director to help with policy development on tribal lands.
5 So that's who I am.

6 MS. CRANK: The next speaker is Ann Heitland.

7 MS. HEITLAND: Hello. My name is Ann Heitland; I
8 am a resident of Coconino County immediately outside of
9 Flagstaff.

10 I'm here because we care very much about Northeast
11 Arizona in the greater Flagstaff area. We know that Arizona
12 has grown substantially in the last ten years, making your
13 job difficult because it hasn't grown substantially enough
14 to give us a tenth congressional district.

15 With that in mind, I would like to consider that a
16 large chunk of Arizona's population is concentrated in
17 Maricopa County, but as you know as you drive across this
18 vast state, much of the land area of the state is rural; and
19 those rural areas deserve representation in the United
20 States Congress.

21 Those rural areas represent what many people in
22 Maricopa County love as well as the people that live in
23 these rural areas. Right now we essentially have two
24 congressional districts that represent rural Arizona, and I
25 urge you to reserve at least two rural congressional

1 districts so that ranchers, farmers, people who just enjoy
2 living in rural Arizona have two voices in Congress from
3 this state.

4 Coconino County where I live has nearly 30 percent
5 of its voters who are Native American; we share many values
6 with them. When I say "we," I mean those of us who live in
7 the greater Flagstaff area and are not Native American.

8 First of all, many Native Americans live in
9 Flagstaff and essentially have second homes either in
10 Flagstaff or on the reservation, there's a lot of back and
11 forth. They are integrated into our communities and we
12 share their values, we share their interests in things that
13 the federal government can help us all with, like uranium
14 mining clean up, like dealing with water resources, like
15 preserving and protecting our forests. Those are things
16 that are federal issues and we need a voice in Congress that
17 represents all of the people in rural Arizona who share
18 those interests.

19 So for those reasons I ask you to consider rural
20 Arizona as a significant population that should have a large
21 voice in Congress.

22 Thank you very much.

23 (Applause.)

24 MS. CRANK: Our next speaker and our last speaker
25 is Leonard Gorman.

1 MR. GORMAN: Good afternoon, members of the
2 Commission.

3 You will get a package for the information my
4 office wishes to share with you. I'm from the Navajo Nation
5 Human Rights Commission Office and my office is detailed to
6 interact/interface with you as a body from the state of
7 Arizona; we also interface with the New Mexico side and also
8 the Utah side. So we have a tremendous responsibility to
9 interact with you.

10 We've done this the past several decennials, we've
11 gone through the 2001, 2011, and now 2021 periods, and I
12 hail to you your efforts as a body, as an institution to
13 recognize the VRA; that's your job. That's your number one
14 job, to recognize and fulfill the requirements of the VRA.

15 You have that responsibility. Otherwise, as it has
16 happened in the past decennials, we end up in court all the
17 time. So I think part of your agenda through the course of
18 the next several months should be "we don't go to court,"
19 that should be a part of your agenda.

20 But the package that you're supposed to receive is
21 in the envelope -- did you receive that?

22 You're all just looking at me starry-eyed.

23 COMMISSIONER MEHL: We haven't received it yet but
24 I'm sure we will.

25 MR. GORMAN: Okay. LD-7 is a -- is a tremendous,

1 important district, it is the only Native American majority
2 district. It is designed to respect and comply with the
3 VRA.

4 The Navajo Nation makes up a significant proportion
5 of the Havasupai-Walapai to the west and then the Apache to
6 the south. My brothers and sisters have raised concerns
7 about the differences and the disparities from the south; we
8 have to work together, we have to live together, and we have
9 common interests and we have commonality.

10 And I think that commonality is the mighty dollar
11 that we all share in one respect or another. Over
12 \$6 billion of Navajo money go off the Navajo Nation into the
13 respective communities around the Navajo Nation, that
14 includes Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

15 The threshold issue that you need to aspire and
16 comply with is what exists today in LD-7. LD-7 has
17 63.1 percent Native American voting age population. You
18 need to respect that and conform with that.

19 Secondly, you also need to consider the Navajo is a
20 cohesive nation, it's a community of interest in its own.
21 And on the Navajo Nation, as we will be talking with the
22 respective counties, chapter boundaries, political
23 boundaries become communities of interest across the Navajo
24 Nation.

25 And then -- how much time?

1 MS. CRANK: (Inaudible.)

2 MR. GORMAN: And the threshold issues you need to
3 consider is that you need to have 64.8 percent Native
4 American voting age population in LD-7 as we go forward.
5 It's a very important issue. There's no division in that
6 LD-7 as far as congressional district is concerned.

7 CD-1 also is a very, very important district. In
8 Arizona it -- as pointed out, it comprises of Native
9 American voting age population that's the highest percentage
10 in the state.

11 So those are issues that you need to take into
12 consideration. We will be spending a lot of time together,
13 we'll know each other at the end of the cycle.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. CRANK: Thank you, sir.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. CRANK: We do have one final speaker,
18 Madam Chair and Commissioners. Barbara Silversmith.

19 MS. SILVERSMITH: Hello. My name is Barbara
20 Silversmith.

21 I would like to introduce myself in Navajo which is
22 the proper way of introduction to my Navajo people.

23 (Navajo language - Diné Bizaad.)

24 I'll now switch to English.

25 I want to welcome the committee to be able to come

1 here and be with us, but I'm just disappointed that there's
2 not a lot of the tribal delegates, tribal leaders here to
3 hear all the Navajo people that have spoken, their input,
4 and those delegates are supposed to take our information
5 back to each of their communities. And I'm just quite
6 surprised they're not here but, oh well.

7 I've had the best of both worlds. I was born here
8 in Apache County, Arizona; I was raised in Eagar, Arizona;
9 my father was a sawmill worker since the '60s; and I was a
10 community servant, served as a courtroom supervisor with the
11 Apache County Superior Court for 32 years, I retired about
12 eight years ago.

13 So I've seen both sides. And I hope this is not an
14 effort -- when you redistrict an effort to try to divide the
15 county as they have tried to do in the 1980s. There was a
16 case presented by a local attorney to divide the county but
17 it didn't work. I don't know if it was presented again,
18 that part I don't remember.

19 And in the late '60s, I was not very old then but
20 I -- I remember my parents talking about it, my uncle Tom
21 Shirley was the first Navajo supervisor elected to the Board
22 of Supervisors. So prior to that, the Apache County was
23 represented by three members from the southern part of the
24 county for many years.

25 So as far as funding went, I don't know if the

1 Apache -- Navajo -- if the Navajo people were represented or
2 if they got funding from the county back then prior to Tom
3 Shirley being elected.

4 So with this redistricting, I -- like I said, I
5 hope it's not an effort to divide the county again. I am --
6 my parents have been taxpayers since the 1960s.

7 I know the case about -- between the Navajos and
8 the Hopis about the water issues, that case is very old. I
9 don't know if it ever got settled because when I retired it
10 was still going. A very old case.

11 I agree with Ms. Heitland's comments concerning the
12 ranching part because my husband and I do ranching there.
13 We retired in Saint Johns, we still have kids that live in
14 the Round Valley area.

15 I also thank Mr. Jay Platt for the comments he's
16 made, and that was quite an insight mentioning all the other
17 counties, how it affects the redistricting in other
18 counties, which I was not aware of.

19 The other thing I wanted to mention, too, is -- I
20 guess my three minutes is up, so.

21 But, like I said, I hope that redistricting goes
22 well and you consider the Navajos. Navajos are being
23 elected to the state offices now and I'm glad our voices are
24 being heard. My parents still have a home here on the
25 reservation and I still have a home off the reservation and

1 I pay my share of taxes.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MS. CRANK: Thank you, Madam Chair and
5 Commissioners and the listening public, that is our last
6 speaker here in Window Rock.

7 COMMISSIONER MEHL: On behalf of myself and my
8 fellow Commissioners, I want to thank those who have spoken
9 today. I want to thank the people who attended in Eagar
10 and -- for their comments.

11 We take your comments very, very seriously. We
12 will make sure we get translations of the one or two
13 speakers that we did not understand ourselves, but we will
14 make sure we get those.

15 And -- and, again, I want to really appreciate your
16 participation today.

17 Also, as our presenters showed earlier in the
18 meeting, on our website we have easy-to-use tools for
19 learning about and sharing information about your community
20 of interest; and rather than relying purely on the comments
21 that we heard today, we encourage you to go online and
22 submit maps to us or submit other comments to us. This will
23 ensure that we correctly understand the definition of what
24 you want to see in your community of interest.

25 And we encourage your friends and neighbors to do

1 so, too. So share your thoughts with them.

2 Anyone can go online, we're online 24 hours 7 days
3 a week, so you can make comments at any time and there's no
4 requirement to attend one of these meetings in order for
5 your input to be heard.

6 At this point we'd like to adjourn the meeting.

7 And, again, thank you for attending.

8 (Whereupon the proceedings concludes at 3:35 p.m.
9 MST/4:35 p.m. MDT)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF ARIZONA)

) ss.

COUNTY OF MARICOPA)

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

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

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



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

* * *

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



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