

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY RECEIVED DURING FIRST ROUND OF PUBLIC MEETINGS REGARDING SENATE

The witness's testimony is organized by date and venue followed by the name of the witness with the time stamp in parenthesis indicating when the witness began testifying.

August 2, 2021 State Capitol, Santa Fe

Roger Taylor (1:11:30) Galisteo resident in CD3, SD39, HD50. Suggests that the CRC consider different community interests when drawing maps. CD3 and SD39 seem to do this but HD50 has incongruities that should be considered. The Santa Fe County component which includes Eldorado, Galisteo, Lamy, Cerrillos, Madrid, has historical cultural interests, with its population including artists, retirees, who are concerned with arts, culture. Further to Edgewood and other counties you have ranching, agriculture. Although the two areas are concerned about the environment and water, they have different needs. Edgewood is split up between counties which is confusing to voters. Suggests a possibility for improvement of the HD50 is to move Galisteo to the Santa Fe County area.

Loyda Martinez (1:17:32) from Rio Arriba. Citizens moving to Rio Rancho, so wants to increase CD3 to include Rio Rancho so that history from Rio Arriba is maintained. Keep northern cultures together.

John Block (1:26:20) He is from Alamogordo. Keep communities of interest together. Oil patch should not go up to Espanola. There are differences between the north and the south. There are also local district problems with the current maps. He is in HD51 which is Alamogordo (?) but HD54 which is adjoining extends all the way to Carlsbad and Artesia. He has a proposed map on the public input portal nmredistricting.org. Suggestion is to move Cloudcroft/High Rolls, Weed, Mayhill out of HD54 and place it with Alamogordo. **He is satisfied with his Senate District.**

Castille Aguilar (1:34:30) (Zoom) representative of Youth United for Climate Crisis Action (YUCCA), stated her concern that the redistricting process will not serve community interests properly and will favor the oil and gas industry.

Liz Stefanics(1:41:40) Senator in SD39, which goes from San Miguel to Lincoln County. Lincoln County does not want to be with Santa Fe, they want to be in a Southern district. Also suggested that the CRC consider that southern Santa Fe

County is in the district but not Edgewood, and Torrance County is also in the district but does not include Moriarty.

August 5, 2021 NMHU, Las Vegas

No comments regarding senate districts.

August 7, 2021 West Mesa High School, Albuquerque

Maureen Skowran (43:43) opposes any population adjustments due to jail and prison populations because everyone is counted “where they live and sleep most of the time”. Military personnel outside of the United States are counted as overseas population. It is up to the legislature to set policy.

Colton Dean (2:05:20) spoke on behalf of the International District split between HD 19 & 21, and SD 16 & 17. Do not feel represented by having two in each house for the international district because they spend more time representing the affluent who live in the district. Boundaries are San Mateo on the West, Wyoming on the East, Lomas on the North, Gibson on the South.

Dean also noted that the 70 HD and 42 SD are divisible by 14, so have separate regional groups work together to build districts to make the system more efficient and less complicated and maybe nest the house districts into the senate districts.

Many people agreed with Dean and spoke on the merits of having a state house and senate district that encapsulates the International District, they feel that it’s official boundaries are San Mateo to Wyoming --and Lomas to Gibson. “Many voices designed these boundaries.” It is multi-racial area in which 48 languages spoken in the neighboring high school. It is underserved (i.e., homelessness and poverty) and needs representation from people who live in the international district, rather than representatives who reside in the neighboring wealthier districts.

Senator Michael Padilla (2:14) suggests the CRC consider the topography when drawing maps, such as rivers by **using the Rio Grande north of Central as the dividing boundary between the Westside and North Valley**. Also, should consider economic viability as a COI. Asked questions about allowable variances, party registration and lawsuits.

Maestas (2:25:55) HD16 Says westside has had 55% growth. Mid heights seat is needed on the westside, so he wants an extra district. Says 2 of 3 maps should

contemplate a new house seat for the westside of Albuquerque. Believes HD 16, 26,29,68,60,57 and 23 will have more than 30,000 people. Question is where will the new district come from? Said westside lost capital outlay money because did not have the representation they were entitled to have. He also asked us to give them a negative deviation to account for future growth.

For the SD use the river north of central as the boundary, because the Valley is a COI and is opposed to the views of the westside and senate representation comes from the North Valley.

Nancy Bearce (2:35) Bernalillo County Treasurer. HD19, 21 and SD16, 17. Wants the international district to have its own voice. Make Chasey HD18 more compact. SD16 spreads out so that can be compacted for the International District.

Melissa Sanchez (2:51). Executive Director of the Albuquerque Westside Business Association. Speaks of growth of the westside. Use the river as a boundary for the Senate, see precincts 30 and 83 for river. SD13 has two precincts away from boundary she lives in and doesn't think that is necessary.

Vanessa Alarid (4:02:40). Lives on the westside and is very active in the community. Westside is fastest growing and has a job/housing imbalance. Westside is underrepresented. River should serve as the boundary. Very different interests depending on which side of the river one lives in. With Amazon coming to the westside they need to really start focusing on infrastructure. Lack of representation means they are not getting adequate capital outlay money. SD26 Central to Western Trails needs to be redrawn based on river boundary.

Michela Gallegos (4:33) Resides in HD19 and SD16, which is the International District. Main message is to keep rural with rural.

August 9, 2021 San Juan Community College, Farmington with satellite in Gallup, UNM

Laurie Weahkee (40:25) San Juan County lost 5% of population. Do not change the districts leave the Native American population alone, they are trying to go solar, and strengthen the infrastructure. Keep a high NAVAP. More Native Americans are becoming engaged in voting.

Leonard Gorman (1:45). Navajo voter prefers to go to polling places not to convenience centers nor do they like to mail in ballots. McKinley county

cooperated to make precincts align as best as possible with chapter boundaries, San Juan still has not decided. He said they are shooting for minimum 64.8% voting age Native American population for each Native American district. He wants to unpack the 70%+ Native American voting age districts. He wants the CRC to respect indigenous plans, when designing statewide plans. Regarding NAVAP must take 20% off the top because they do not register to vote, take 20% more off the top because these are individuals who get confused by election day polling places since they must vote in different locations, one for Navajo elections, the second for state elections. This may be mitigated with adopting as close as possible precincts to chapter boundaries. Take another 20% for those who struggle voting during election day due to weather conditions, road conditions, lack of resources to get to polls, thus 64.8% NAVAP is the floor to give Navajo's a fair opportunity to elect a representative of their choice. Ceiling is 70-73% NAVAP.

August 11, 2021 ENMU, Roswell with satellite in Portales

Frank Sanchez (51:46) Spoke about Sanchez v King and 1948 lawsuit by Miguel Trujillo the Isleta leader who first sued for voting rights. Two minority districts were created in the Southeast because of Sanchez v. King. Comments are posted at nmredistricting.org. Wants CRC to keep VRA districts HD58, 61, 63 and SD32. See written comments at nmredistricting.org

Hon. Tim Jennings (1:20) former Senator. Spoke of the need for the CRC to draw Communities of interest based on economics. Mescalero is connected to Roswell and says big difference between Native American tribes.

Wendy Austin (1:37:15) (zoom) Carlsbad needs to be kept together in one Senate District. Sanderoff comments that currently SD41 from Hobbs/Carlsbad is a minority district, SD42 from Hobbs west from North Carlsbad, SD34 to Alamogordo is with the rest of Carlsbad. Roswell and Artesia like Carlsbad are also split 3 ways.

Missy Currier for Carlsbad Mayor Dale Janway (1:43:45) Favors a single Senator for Carlsbad. Keep Carlsbad together so that representatives can focus on Carlsbad.

Representative Nibert (1:47:38) said his district HD59 republican district which is a 250-mile roundtrip. Has Chaves and Lincoln counties. Has many school districts. Has both high income and poverty in his district, as do other representatives who represent Roswell. HD58 is lower income, HD66 (Anderson)

middle class, HD59 more affluent. Inference is that might be able to combine 58 low-income, with both 59 and 66. SD39 overlaps HD59 and too many different communities of interest in SD39, i.e. Corona to Santa Fe, Ruidoso to Santa Fe. Does not expect much change in SE for house districts. SD61 from Eunice is a challenge.

Senator Stuart Ingle (02:27:25) Was present because Roswell is part of his district. Urged the committee to think about the people of the State first in drawing maps.

August 12, 2021 NMSU, Las Cruces with satellite in Silver City, WNMU

Tiffany Rivera (1:14:09) with Farm and Livestock Bureau. Urges CRC to keep rural constituencies together which she considers to be geographically distant from large cities.

Uriel Rosales (1:20:00) from Chapparal. Okay with House District 53 but SD31 and 34 which goes from Carlsbad/Alamogordo to Chapparal means they do not have representation because of different economic interests.

William Hudson (1:32:28) from Mimbres Valley east of Silver City. Agrees with complaints about HD38 and HD39, need to be more compact. Urges CRC to keep minority districts in the state noting that Hispanic women are underrepresented.

Senator Crystal Diamond (2:04:40). Represents SD35 which is all of Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra Counties, and westside of Dona Ana County. Consolidate Hatch in the Senate which currently has multiple (5 maybe 6) Senators which means they cannot influence senate elections. She is willing to take Hatch. Vernon town in Hidalgo County on Arizona border needs to be fixed on the House side because it is now in HD38 but that legislator must travel many hours in another district before getting to it. Vernon is a community of about 300 people.

Brian Sanderoff (2:08:41) Percentage of HVAP grew from 42.3% to 44.3%. Dona Ana HVAP grew from 60.4 to 63.0

Ariana Arcienga (2:11:03). NM Café advocacy group. Wants a majority Hispanic district and urges CRC to remain flexible when looking at communities of interest. Needs Hispanic districts in House, Senate and Congress.

Andy Payne (2:13:20) of Silver City. CRC does not reflect the diversity of NM and therefore legislature will ignore the CRC recommendations unless the CRC addresses race equity and maintain or increase majority-minority districts. Consider prison gerrymandering which favors rural counties. Cites to Mario Jimenez. Prison population favors Hobbs and Grants because they are not eligible to vote. In grants one district 38% of population are prisoners who cannot vote.

Nena Benavidez (2:50:37). Zoom. Grant and Hidalgo County community organizer for NM Café. 53% Hispanic population. Wants CRC to increase majority minority districts including making CD2 a majority minority district. Do not decrease Hispanic or Native American districts.

Sanderoff/Brittany (2:54:30) CD2 HVAP is now 50.8% up from 46.9% ten years ago.

Scott Chandler (2:55:53). Lives in Luna County and Ranches in Sierra County has cattle in Hidalgo and Valencia Counties. Urged CRC not to forget the ranching and farming communities in Hidalgo County. Thinks it would be disastrous to put representatives from Las Cruces into these other counties because zero in common with ranching and farming communities. Move CD2 more up to Socorro or Catron County for more rural perspective. Go up to Catron Socorro if you need to grow.

Senator Carrie Hamblen (3:14:45). Albuquerque should have its own CD. Do not split Albuquerque between all 3 CDs.

August 14, 2021 IPCC in Albuquerque

Casey Douma (35:10) from Pueblo of Laguna, made a presentation regarding the history of redistricting with specifics about the Voting rights of Native Americans and the Sovereign Nations of New Mexico. Co-Chair of APCG redistricting task force. Recounted the history of disenfranchisement of the Native population. Mr. Douma described the different eras beginning with the Indian Removal Era 1828-1887, the Allotment/Reservation Era 1887-1934, the Assimilation Era 1887-1934, the Indian Reorganization Era, 1934-1945, the Termination Era 1945-1968, and the Self-determination era beginning in 1968. Native Americans were not granted citizenship until 1924 under the Indian Citizens Act. Yet, citizenship did not come with the right to vote. In New Mexico the right for Native Americans to vote did not occur until 1948, and only occurred due to Miguel Trujillo from Isleta Pueblo who sued New Mexico for the right to vote in Trujillo v. Garley. The right to vote for the Navajo population did not occur until 1962 in the case of Montoya v.

Bolack. Many Pueblos that once existed are no longer pueblos but the spiritual lands remain important to the Pueblos and they will seek to take such lands into consideration during redistricting.

All 20 Pueblos are working together to propose maps for the Native American population. Native American approach to redistricting requires adherence to principles of self-determination, consultation, and consent.

Issues of concern include 1) Public safety and Justice, 2) education and culture, 3) communications and technology, 4) environment and energy, 5) infrastructure and housing, 6) transportation and roads, 7) Natural resources, land and agriculture, 8) human services and health care 9) economic development and commerce.

Urged the CRC to adopt maps that will be drawn by the Nations and Tribes because the maps will have gone through an extensive process with compromise and they know what is best for their people. Tribes do not speak in language of Democrats v. Republicans, instead they look for candidates who support their issues and respond to their needs. The goal for the Native Americans is an opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

Arden Kucate Councilman from Zuni (2:28:41). In 2011 Zuni sought to be included in CD 2&3, in SD4 and SD30 and in HD6 based on ancestral lands and their communities of interest which extend beyond the Zuni boundaries and even into neighboring states. Goal is 2021 is the same as their goal was in 2011. Concerns remains about preservation of sacred lands, education reform, natural resources, and healthy lifestyles. Oppose the Arizona Salt River project. Urges the CRC to respect their right of self-determination.

Governor Martin Kowemy from Laguna Pueblo (2:35:15) Laguna was active in the 2011 litigation. Wants the CRC to create as many Native American majority minority districts as possible. Laguna exists in Cibola, Valencia, Sandoval, and Bernalillo counties. Zuni has connections with lands beyond their boundaries, i.e., Mt. Taylor, Chaco Canyon, Zuni Mountains, Magdalena Mountains, Rio San Jose River, Rio Puerco River, and other areas beyond their borders, all of which they consider to be sacred lands. Concerns remain preservation of sacred lands, education, and economic development. Urges the CRC to honor their decision regarding redistricting because it will be based on consensus and consistent with the VRA and redistricting principles.

President Edward Velarde (2:42:45) of Jicarilla Apache Nation. They are pleased with Representative Lente and Senator Schendo.

Brian Vallo (2:47:20) Governor of Acoma reiterates the importance of land to the Tribes. New Mexico at state and federal level have struggled to consult with Native Americans, even when they do so, they are repeatedly asked the same questions, as though their previous input was ignored. The 2011 lawsuit should not have been necessary. Urges CRC to reach out to their experts to understand their thought process if we still have questions about their approach. Wants more balance and equity.

Senator Benny Schendo (2:53:04). Senate District 22. Maintenance of Towa language, which is a unique language, is as important as their historical connection to sacred places like the Pecos area. Self-determination is important. He has a large district but enjoys representing its people.

Austin Weahkee (4:08:22) works with NAVA. Reiterates problems with census count. Native Americans are 10% of population so should have seven house members and three senators. Need to be careful not to disrupt HD65 and HD69. Communities are starting to understand the power of the vote. Urges CRC to give deference to the Ad Hoc committee.

Keegan King (4:19:55) is with the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee and urges CRC to adopt whatever their committee recommends because it would have been thoroughly vetted with considerable efforts at coordination and compromise. Goal remains to keep the six house districts and three senate districts.

Ricardo Caballero (4:37:30) wants the CRC to look at populations under 5 years or within 5 years. Also, immigrant communities undercounted and because of immigrant communities who cannot vote need to have majority minority Hispanic districts that are much larger than 50%

Ahtza Chavez (4:43) Dine/Tewa. Self-determination is the highest priority. There was a drop in voter participation due to closed polling places during primaries, however, voter participation increased for the general election. Expects maps in 2 to 3 weeks from Native American communities.

Mason Graham (4:49:40) Black Voters Collaborative. Believes the African American community has historically been undercounted which negatively impacts communities of color. Urges CRC to consider other data or conduct an independent review of population counts in communities of color.

Eileen Schendo (4:54:55) from Cochiti/Jemez. CRC should be in communities getting input, concerned that tribal men are making most of the decisions. CRC should consider the state, shared interests and approach should be global.

Cathryn McGill (5:08:20) with Black Voters Collaborative. Working to bring coalitions together to better participate in the process. CRC could assist with resources so that they can get us the information we need to make decisions that affect the black community.

Julie Radosevich (5:11:40) Submitted a Congressional map online. South Valley connects more with Los Lunas, Vegita and Belen than with Tanoan. South Valley should be moved to CD2. South Valley has farming, language and connections to Mexico that define its interests. Spoke about immigrant population in the South Valley, many of which are DACA students. South of I-40 should be the boundary of the South Valley. See HD16 and SD26. Also has prepared maps for HD16 and SD26.

Sonlatsa Sunshine (5:24:28). Member of Navajo Nation in McKinley County. Is a voter registrar and voter educator. Thankful for this forum. Native Americans have been undercounted. There is a huge distrust in the census system or that anything will be done to repair the problems with the census. Encourages leadership to file a lawsuit to correct the census problems, for example, accessibility. Also concerned about lack of education regarding redistricting.

Pat Woods (5:33). Senator District 7. He has nine school districts, 3 cities with different communities. His district goes from Texico to Des Moines. Believes they received an accurate count and it shows a drop of 3%. Problem is all the money that is being pumped into New Mexico which will at some time end.

August 15, 2021 Santa Claran, Espanola

Charlotte Madueno (1:26:34) Commission on Status of Women Executive Director. Census undercount occurred because census packets were delivered to post office boxes not to houses. Due to the pandemic the public was not allowed to get packets from Post Office. Urges the CRC to rely on alternative data including Medicaid data when considering population.

Committee discusses Census undercount concerns (1:28:55) Member Curtis (1:42:40) moves to have the CRC request Medicaid data by county from the Human Services Department, seconded by Member Rhatigan. Motion passes

unanimously. Committee continued discussing the complexities of identifying alternative reliable data and the need to convert it into precincts within the deadlines imposed on the CRC. Discussion ends 2:10.

Paula Garcia (2:10:25) From Las Vegas, New Mexico Acequia Association. Acequias are a community of interest because of agriculture and water conservation practices. Acequias are predominantly Hispanic, so need to avoid diluting the vote of Hispanics. Recommends that the CRC keep CD3 as is because most acequias are in Northern NM. Regarding legislative districts she does not want Mora and San Miguel counties to be combined with eastside counties. Sangre de Cristo region should remain intact as a community of interest. Elimination of HD58 resulted in a huge HD40. Do not split the acequias. Regarding the discussion of census undercount, Mora County also experienced problems because rural addresses did not match with the format created by the Census Bureau. Census bureau developed a work around for online reporting that did not work. Census Bureau followed up by sending more packets to Mora without explanation. People did not submit the new packet because they thought they had already answered online. Believes minus 15% loss of population seems much higher than what she expected. She believes it is single digit although she does not have data to support her belief.

Member Rhatigan (2:22) suggests the need for a Uniform Statewide Address Database

Isaac Dakota Casados (2:31:45) Chair of Native American Democrat Caucus, emphasized self-determination of Native Americans. Regarding Medicaid approximately 186,000 Native Americans were enrolled in Medicaid. Suggests that where stimulus checks were mailed to the Native American population may assist with an accurate count of the population. Amber Carrillo (2:37:20) explains that Medicaid number for 2020 is 134,737 on Medicaid, 13% increase in MCO, and 5% increase in fee for service. Ms. Carrillo also noted that Native American's are concerned about educational issues as evidenced by the Yazzie lawsuit.

Recess (2:47:30) Chair Chávez contacted Secretary Scrase during the break in the meeting and conferenced in Robert Rhadigan to request Medicaid data.

Rhadigan (3:05:35) explains conversation with Secretary Scrase and the Secretary's assurance to cooperate in getting Medicaid data to Mr. Rhatigan.