

RESOLUTION NO. 20-2001

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BENSON, ARIZONA,
OPPOSING THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTING PLAN OF THE INDEPENDENT
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the State has established an Independent Redistricting Commission to draw new Legislative and Congressional Districts that are nearly equal in population; and,

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission should be designating districts that provide equal representation to the citizens of all areas of the State; and,

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission should be designating districts that provide representation to the citizens of those rural areas of the State which have common community interests; and,

WHEREAS, the community interests of those rural areas of the State are not shared by the residents of the metropolitan areas included in the proposed new Legislative Districts; and,

WHEREAS, each Legislative district should represent approximately 171,000 persons; and,

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission has split Cochise County into two new two legislative districts that effectively disenfranchise Cochise County residents and will effectively ensure that there will be no legislative representation from Cochise County; and,

WHEREAS, Cochise County would have approximately 1/3 of the population of each of the new legislative districts, effectively insuring that its residents will have extremely limited ability to elect a representative or representatives from its area;

WHEREAS, the new districts make no geographic sense. One of the districts encompasses most of Cochise County, a small portion of Pima County, eastern Pinal County, and a portion of eastern Maricopa County, and is almost 200 miles long. Cochise County has no ties or similarity to Maricopa County. Cochise County is a border county and has little in common with the more northern counties. The second district places Sierra Vista in a district with Green Valley and eastern Pima County, rather than with the remainder of Cochise County; and,

WHEREAS, the concentration of Hispanic voters, primarily in Douglas and Bisbee, will be severely diluted, and opens the work of the Independent Redistricting Commission to challenge on legal grounds; and,

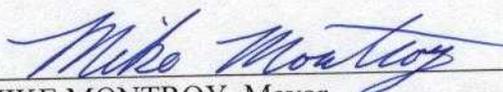
WHEREAS, the shape of the existing district is clearly a gerrymander intended to increase the representation of Pima County at the Legislature at the expense of Cochise County residents;

WHEREAS, the Independent Redistricting Commission is diluting important rural representation at the Legislature;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Benson City Council hereby places the Independent Redistricting Commission on notice that it will consider all options available to it, including if necessary, legal challenges to the unconscionable dilution of representation at the State Legislature;

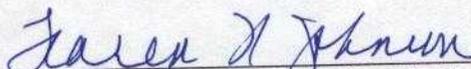
NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Mayor and Benson City Council hereby strongly opposes the proposed Legislative Plan of the Independent Redistricting Commission and strongly urges the Commission to re-draw the plan to include the entirety of Cochise County within a single Legislative District.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of August, 2001.



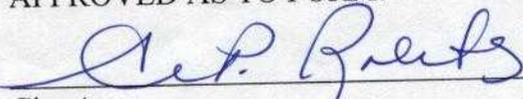
MIKE MONTROY, Mayor

ATTEST:



KAREN JOHNSON - City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



City Attorney