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Sent: Monday, May 19, 2008 11:32 PM
Subject: Benson Envisioning Comments

Dear Judy Anderson,

Per your previous commitment regarding the posting of individual comments relating to the Envisioning 2020 process, I am requesting that this memo, as well as the attached, be posted on the county website at your earliest convenience.

The attached summary is from FMR Associates, Inc. This, as you know, is the firm selected by the county as an uninterested third party to conduct the Envisioning telephone survey to be used as a tool for formulating our county's future.

The information FMR used was exactly what was written on the pages and maps that were presented during the Envisioning meeting at the Cochise College Benson Center including the missing page that had the words "Local Autonomy" not mentioned in the original summary. There are no facial or vocal inflections to subjectively impact or influence this information. These results do not apply to the entire county, but they do accurately reflect what was determined by the people during the Benson meeting, using the criteria that meets the "theme requirements" as provided by the facilitator.

There are some who believe that preserving everything is appropriate in order to protect us from ourselves. In contrast, the majority of us believe in proper stewardship.

There are those who believe that it is necessary to control the use of our private property. It is our inalienable right to own and use it as we see fit.

There appears to be an assumption that the majority of "we the people" are incapable of making wise choices for our future because of apathy or lack of intelligence. The lack of information or willful misinformation is causing discernment among that majority.

Most people don't wish to be forced to live in "pods" nor do they all wish to own 4 acres. They do have a right to live here. Diversity has been and will continue to be the mainstay of our individuality. This is a large county, with many divergent communities. Not all feel a vocal minority has the right to impose their personal wishes upon the masses.

If actually given the opportunity, the "masses", with limited leadership and guidelines, will create our future in a responsible, enduring and prosperous manner, whether it is ranching or economic development, education or creation of remunerative vocations.

If an area has a desire to grow and/or conserve, that decision should be theirs.

Thank you Judy, for your time, effort and true passion applied to the job you have done for Cochise County. You have always put your heart into each project and that has been obvious.

Pamela Harlan