



# Tohono O'odham Nation Office of the Chairman & Vice Chairwoman

COMPASSION FAITH TRADITION RESPECT  
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Ned Norris, Jr.  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thursday, November 17, 2011

## SUPPORTERS OF JOB-KILLING FRANKS BILL REVEAL TRUE INTENTIONS

*Amended legislation favors special interests over will of voters*

Sells, Ariz. – Today, the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources approved an amended version of the job-killing H.R. 2938 that reveals the bill's sole purpose -protecting the market share of a few special interests.

Throughout the debate, opponents of the Nation's West Valley Resort project have waged a misinformation campaign to distract from the fact that their bill will stop the creation of thousands of jobs in order to protect the narrow interests of a few. Opponents even went so far as to amend the bill in order to draw an arbitrary line that would prohibit only the Nation from gaming in areas that would impact the bottom line of a few powerful interests.

Not only will this bill preserve the interests of a few at the expense of West Valley residents, it will also break a 25-year promise by the federal government to the Nation, with ramifications for tribes across the U.S. The federal law that allows the Nation to purchase replacement reservation lands also settled the water rights claims related to those lands, amounting to as much as 32,000 acre-feet per year. Breaking this promise will disrupt the current water rights adjudication and potentially lead to expensive and protracted litigation which the original land settlement sought to avoid.

The issues raised in today's Congressional hearing are already being addressed by the courts. It is the fact that the Nation has won eight straight favorable decisions from courts and federal agencies that has driven the opposition to try to circumvent the appropriate process by simply rewriting the law.

Chairman Ned Norris Jr. of the Tohono O'odham Nation said, *"The facts are clear. Despite a desperate effort to mislead Members of Congress, this legislation is nothing more than an attempt to shield special interests from competition. The Nation remains committed to moving forward with its economic development project and are confident that Congress will reject this misguided effort to change the rules in the middle of the process."*

Upon completion, the West Valley Resort will draw 1.2 million people to the West Valley each year and have a \$300 million annual economic impact. More than 9,000 jobs will be created during the construction of the facility and the day-to-day operations and the Nation is not asking for any financial offsets from local governments. For additional information on the Tohono O'odham Nation, the West Valley Resort and the history behind this project, please visit [www.westvalleyopportunity.com](http://www.westvalleyopportunity.com).

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