



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

COMPASSION FAITH TRADITION RESPECT  
T-I:BDAG 'AMJED S-WOHOCUDA HIMDAG PI:K 'ELID

Ned Norris, Jr.  
Chairman

Wavalene M. Romero  
Vice Chairwoman



## PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Smith, (520) 321-1111

## U.S. HOUSE DEBATE OVER FRANKS BILL EXPOSES WEAKNESS OF OPPOSITION ARGUMENTS

*Effort to circumvent courts shows opposition's complete lack of confidence in their legal position*

SELLS, Ariz. – On Tuesday, June 19, 2012, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2938, a bill which would re-write the federal law authorizing the Tohono O'odham Nation's West Valley Resort Project. An aggressive lobbying campaign from project opponents pushed forward the legislation, which would amount to an unprecedented unilateral reopening of a settlement act with a tribe, with dangerous implications for tribes across the United States.

Every other matter raised in the debate over this bill has either already been resolved or is presently before the courts. The opposition's central argument against the project is currently before the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and there are several other current federal cases addressing other issues. There have been a total of eight courts and federal agency rulings already, and each time the rulings have been in the Nation's favor. Since court after court has ruled that the Nation is following the rules, the opposition is now trying to change the law in order to protect their market share.

The fact that opponents are pushing forward with this amid continued uncertainty over the economy is of further concern. The West Valley Resort will create thousands of jobs, have hundreds of millions of dollars in annual positive economic impact, and boost revenues for the Nation, local governments and the state of Arizona. That is why the project has consistently received overwhelming support from West Valley voters, with 75 percent favoring the project in the most recent poll despite a well-funded misinformation campaign by opponents.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris, Jr. said *"The Nation has followed the law and rules set out in P.L. 99-503 and this is why the courts and federal agencies have consistently ruled in the Nation's favor. The Nation will continue to fight this unilateral and desperate attempt to change the rules in the middle of the process as the bill moves to the Senate. We remain committed to moving forward with our project and creating positive economic opportunity in the West Valley."*

The Tohono O'odham Nation is a federally-recognized Indian tribe, with existing reservation lands in Maricopa County, Pinal County, and Pima County, Arizona. The West Valley Resort will be located at 95th and Northern avenues and will generate thousands of new jobs and more than \$300 million in annual economic impact. For more information, visit [www.westvalleyopportunity.com](http://www.westvalleyopportunity.com).

###