



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

Thursday, May 16, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Smith, (520) 321-1111

JOB-KILLING BILL COMES BEFORE U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Opposition's consistent legal defeats have driven them to try again at rewriting the law in their favor

SELLS, Ariz. – Today, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs heard testimony on H.R. 1410, a bill that would unilaterally rewrite a 27-year-old settlement agreement between the federal government and the Tohono O'odham Nation in order to protect the market share of a few wealthy tribes. The sole purpose of H.R. 1410 is to prevent the Nation from moving forward on its West Valley Resort and Casino project, preventing the creation of thousands of quality jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in positive impacts for the West Valley.

H.R. 1410 represents another desperate tactic by opponents of the West Valley Resort after they have lost repeatedly in the courts. Their most significant defeat came just earlier this month, on May 7, 2013, when a U.S. District Court reaffirmed that the Nation's project is in compliance with the voter-approved state gaming compacts, undermining the entire purported rationale for this bill.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris, Jr. said *"Let's understand what H.R. 1410 really is—special interest legislation which would create a no-competition zone for the Gila River Indian Community and the Salt River Indian Community, two wealthy tribes which now share a monopoly in one of the largest gaming markets in the United States. After ten straight legal and administrative decisions in the Nation's favor it is time to move forward with creating thousands of jobs and positive economic development."*

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.

###