



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

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

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Court - "Written Agreements Matter" *Judge Sides with Tohono O'odham Nation on West Valley Resort*

Sells, AZ - Today, U.S. District Court Judge David Campbell ruled that the Tohono O'odham Nation's plan to build the West Valley Resort & Casino is in compliance with the 2002 Gaming Compact.

Today's ruling is the tenth in a string of legal victories for the Nation and once again reveals that opponents' baseless arguments are meant to protect their massive market share by delaying this important economic development project.

In his ruling, Judge Campbell stated that, "Written agreements matter" and applied that principle to this case stating that, "Parties who reach an accord, particularly on a matter as important and complicated as tribal gaming, carefully document their agreement in writing."

Judge Campbell's opinion eviscerates the opposition's claims, clearly stating "...that no reasonable reading of the Compact could lead a person to conclude that it prohibited new casinos in the Phoenix area."

The judge stated that the Compact itself was the ultimate decider of the issue at hand, quoting from the document itself:

"This compact contains the entire agreement of the parties . . . and no other statement, agreement, or promise made by any party, officer, or agent of any party shall be valid or binding."

Ned Norris Jr., Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, said, "*This ruling confirms yet again what we have held since the beginning of this long and drawn out process – our pursuit of the West Valley Resort is firmly grounded in the law. The Judge's opinion underscores the fact that opponents are only interested in preserving their market share. We look forward to working together to bring jobs and positive economic opportunities to the West Valley and Arizona.*"

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Editor's Note: Judge Campbell's ruling is attached