



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

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATE COMMITTEE HEARS TESTIMONY ON INDIAN GAMING REGULATORY ACT

As West Valley Resort Project moves forward, opposition pushes job-killing bill using discredited arguments

SELLS, Ariz. – Wednesday, July 23, 2014, as part of a U.S. Senate oversight hearing on the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Tohono O'odham Nation's West Valley Resort and Casino project was discussed. Congress is currently considering H.R. 1410, a bill that would unilaterally rewrite a 28-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 bill would prevent the creation of thousands of quality jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars in positive impacts for the West Valley.

The hearing comes on the heels of two major victories for the Nation's West Valley Resort project: the U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to take the project site into trust as reservation land, and the City of Glendale's decision to formally support the project. Four West Valley cities now support the Nation's project, none of the West Valley cities are opposed.

In an attempt to blunt this momentum, opponents of the West Valley Resort rehashed long-discredited arguments that have already been rejected over the course of 15 straight court and federal agency decisions in the Nation's favor. In the face of these defeats, the opposition is desperate to advance H.R. 1410 to circumvent the court process and existing federal law to halt the project.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Ned Norris, Jr. said *"This hearing makes it crystal clear that the only major opposition is driven by two wealthy East Valley tribes determined to protect their market share at the expense of the broader community. Congress should not place special interests above the will of West Valley voters and the Nation's rights under the law. After fifteen 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.

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