PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT TRUMP’S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON BORDER SECURITY

SELLS, Ariz. – The Tohono O’odham Nation have inhabited the lands of what is now central and southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico since time immemorial. The current international border was drawn through the middle of the Nation’s traditional lands. Today, the Nation’s reservation includes 75 miles of the US-Mexico border, with tribal members residing on both sides of the border.

As a result, the Nation has been on the front line of border issues for over 160 years and takes these issues very seriously. While the Nation does not support a large scale fortified wall, it has worked closely for decades with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and other agencies to secure the U.S. homeland.

The executive order signed yesterday was done without consultation with the Nation or many other border communities. As a first responder on the border, the Nation invites the new President to visit so that in depth discussions can be held on the impacts of such actions. In the interim, the Nation will continue to do its part to ensure the security of the U.S. border.

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