



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
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O'ODHAM HA-WE:HEJED
"For the People"



PRESS RELEASE

Monday, Nov. 16, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. HOUSE REJECTS JOB-KILLING BILL *Opponents' Attempt to Move Bill Without Debate Denied*

Washington, D.C. – In a major setback for opponents of the Tohono O'odham Nation's casino project, the U.S. House of Representatives today voted down an attempt to avoid debate and rush through legislation designed to protect their market share. The legislation, H.R. 308, failed to secure the necessary two-thirds vote to move forward under the Suspension Calendar.

Today's vote represented a dramatic turnaround for the House. The 146 members that supported the Nation today nearly doubled the number that voted for the Nation in the last recorded vote (2012).

Despite opponent's massive lobbying campaign to protect their market share (\$17 million and counting) members have clearly begun to look at the dangerous precedent this bill would set. The bill would:

- Unilaterally renege on a land settlement agreement with a tribe for the first time in U.S. history.
- Cost taxpayers up to \$1 billion according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.
- Send 1,800 workers to the unemployment line and halt a \$200 million economic development project in the West Valley (see employee testimonials <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cdDwPAW2bYk>).

In calling on Congress to oppose this misguided legislation, Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Edward D. Manuel said, *"Today, David beat Goliath, again. The special interests spent \$17 million trying to rush this harmful bill through, but in the end it came down to the facts. The more that members of Congress examine this legislation, the more they recognize how harmful it is for Arizona workers, the Nation, and tribes across the U.S."*

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