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Verlon M. Jose  
CHAIRMAN

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Carla L. Johnson  
VICE CHAIRWOMAN

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## Public Service Announcement

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, Aug. 3, 2026

### **NATION PRESENTS STRONG COURT CASE AGAINST BORDER WALL**

***Destructive Border Wall Would Have Massive Impacts on Nation's Sacred Sites, Environment, and More***

SELLS, Ariz. – On July 22, 2026, attorneys for the Tohono O'odham Nation argued the case in federal court for a preliminary injunction to prevent the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from constructing a border wall on the Nation's reservation.

At the time, the Court asked the Nation and DHS to submit additional information that addressed questions raised in the hearing. Those supplemental briefs have now been submitted. The Nation's key arguments included the fact that only Congress has the authority to diminish the reservation, not DHS. Even the law that authorized construction of the border wall did not include any explicit approval from Congress to take the Nation's land.

The Nation also argued that the Tohono O'odham will suffer irreparable harm if an injunction stopping the wall construction is not issued. This harm is imminent and will be significant, with destruction of sacred sites, environmental damage, and further division of our people.

Judge Richard Leon is now reviewing all information on the case. Since the Nation requested a preliminary injunction to swiftly prevent any border wall construction, it is hoped that he will make a positive decision as quickly as possible.

Tohono O'odham Nation Chairman Verlon Jose said *"The Nation's legal team has presented a strong case and we thank the court for their commitment to hearing all the facts. We are hopeful that the weight of evidence will lead the court to approve the preliminary injunction preventing construction of this wasteful and destructive wall."*

Chairman Jose went on to say *"The outpouring of support has been overwhelming – thank you to Pima County, the City of Tucson, the National Congress of American Indians, and leaders, tribes, and individuals across the country for your support. Together we are stronger."*

More information about the lawsuit and the history of border protection on the Tohono O'odham Nation can be found at <https://www.tonation-nsn.gov/nowall> and on the Nation's Facebook page.

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*Together We Are Stronger*