

The Great Spirit created Man and Woman in his own image. In doing so, both were created as equals. Both depending on each other in order to survive. Great respect was shown for each other; in doing so, happiness and contentment was achieved then, as it should be now.

The connecting of the Hair makes them one person; for happiness or contentment cannot be achieved without each other.

The Canyons are represented by the purples in the middle ground, where the people were created. These canyons are Sacred, and should be so treated at all times.

The Reservation is pictured to represent the land that is ours, treat it well.



The Reservation is our heritage and the heritage of our children yet unborn. Be good to our land and it will continue to be good to us.

The Sun is the symbol of life, without it nothing is possible – plants don't grow – there will be no life – nothing. The Sun also represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination and education, everything is possible and we are assured bigger and brighter days ahead.

The Tracks in the middle represent the coyote and other animals which were here before us.

The Green around the symbol are pine trees, representing our name Hualapai – PEOPLE OF THE TALL PINES –

## HUALAPAI TRIBE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Sherry J. Counts  
Chairwoman

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Philbert Watahomigie, Sr.  
Vice Chairman

### HUALAPAI TRIBES SUPPORT OF H.R. 308 - THE KEEP THE PROMISE ACT November 12, 2015

Dear Member of Congress,

I am the Chairwoman of the Hualapai Tribe of Arizona located in rural northwestern Arizona. I write on behalf of my people to ask for your support of H.R. 308 - the Keep the Promise Act. As I'm certain you are aware Arizona is home to many tribes and most have casino operations that help economically support the tribe. Other tribes, like the Hualapai Tribe, cannot operate casinos as our remote location cannot support one. However, the Hualapai Tribe is still able to be an active participant in the Arizona gaming market through lease agreements with other Arizona tribes. We refer to these agreements as Transfer Agreements and under the agreements, the Hualapai Tribe leases our machine allocations to tribes operating casinos in more urban areas of our state. As a result, the Hualapai Tribe is able to generate some income from gaming, although not at the level of tribes with casino operations. The transfer agreements were envisioned and considered when the tribes negotiated the terms of the gaming compacts among each other and when presenting the information to the voters of Arizona in 2002, in Arizonans for Fair Gaming and Indian Self-Reliance, also known as Proposition 202.

Unfortunately, the Tohono O'odham Nation's plans to erect a casino in the Phoenix metropolitan area, in direct opposition to promises the tribes made when negotiating compact terms with each other tribes and when presenting the gaming compacts to the Arizona voters for passage in Proposition 202. Frankly, we are concerned that if the West Valley Resort opens, the state of Arizona will legalize gaming to non-tribal interests. If this happens, there will be no need for transfer agreements. The Hualapai tribe will lose its transfer agreements and will lose all of its gaming revenue.

H.R. 308 reaffirms the promises the 17 tribes made to Arizona voters in 2002 in the Proposition 202 campaign which was premised on limited gaming in Arizona, and specifically included limits on the number and location of gaming facilities as well as limited numbers of gaming machines. During the campaign, the voters of Arizona were specifically told, there would be no additional gaming facilities, or casinos in the Phoenix metropolitan area. The Tohono O'odham Nation actively participated in and contributed to the financing of the Proposition 202 campaign. Now they want to take a different position to the detriment of others.

The Hualapai Tribe supports the Keep the Promise Act because it is narrow in scope, does not affect the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, does not impact Tribal sovereignty and the limitations on the number of machines and gaming facilities in the Phoenix metropolitan area is something all the tribes, including the Tohono O'odham Nation promised the people of Arizona. H.R. 308 protects all Arizona tribes' gaming interests, including the interests of the Hualapai Tribe.

Opponents of H.R. 308 claim the opposition of another casino in the Phoenix metropolitan area is about greedy Phoenix metropolitan tribes trying to protect their market share. However, there is significantly more to the story, specifically, the Hualapai story. Our story and the realistic impacts of the Tohono O'odham Nation's planned facility in Glendale, Arizona on our rural tribe have been overlooked. As a transferring tribe, we will suffer the most. We do not have a casino and operation of a casino is not a realistic option for the Hualapai Tribe. We rely on our transfer agreements for gaming revenue to provide basic substance services for our members such as providing wood to heat our elders homes in the winter, providing eye glasses for our members and numerous other basic services that most people take for granted. If our transfer agreements are terminated, the Hualapai Tribe will not have any gaming revenue. On the other hand, if the Keep the Promise Act is passed, the Tohono O'odham Nation will still have three active casino operations in the Tucson metropolitan area with the ability to open a fourth casino near Tucson and they will still generate the significant revenue they are currently generating. H.R. 308 preserves the current gaming structure in Arizona as negotiated between the tribes, including the Tohono O'odham Nation and as promised to the Arizona voters.

I urge you to support H.R. 308. In the event you have any questions about the impacts the loss of the transfer agreements would have on my tribe, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Sherry J. Counts  
Chairwoman  
Hualapai Tribe