

Dear Colleague,

Next week, the House will consider H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act of 2015. We respectfully ask that you support this bipartisan bill, which seeks to prevent Las Vegas-style gaming in the Phoenix metropolitan area through the length of Arizona's voter approved gaming compact agreement of January 1, 2027.

Last Congress, an identical bill, H.R. 1410, passed the House by voice vote on September 17, 2013. And the Congress before that, a similar bill, H.R. 2938, passed the House by a 343-78 vote, [which can be found here](#).

The bill is needed because one tribe located in the Tucson-area of the State, the Tohono O'odham Nation (TO), is attempting to build a Las Vegas-style casino within the Phoenix suburb of Glendale across the street from a public high school. These efforts are contrary to public commitments that TO made between 2000 and 2002 to the 16 other Indian tribes in Arizona, the State, and the voters of Arizona when it supported passage of Proposition 202, a state referendum to limit casino gambling in the Phoenix metropolitan area until 2027. Arizona voters specifically granted tribes exclusive authority to conduct gaming within the State based upon these commitments. Additionally, other tribes gave up important rights, such as the rights to build additional casinos, based upon these commitments. Now, TO is trying to raise the legal doctrine of sovereign immunity to say that it cannot be held accountable in court. Congress is the only institution that can provide accountability in this matter.

These actions represent a very real and serious threat to existing gaming structure in Arizona if the TO is able to develop a Las Vegas-style casino in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

H.R. 308 halts a precedent that may lead to an expansion of off-reservation casinos and dangerous changes to the complexion of tribal gaming in other states across the country. Tribes across the nation, including many of the other Arizona tribes that played an integral role in the 2002 gaming compact, strongly support this legislation due to the impact this situation could have on tribal gaming enterprises nationally.

It is important to note that the bill would not seek to take any lands away from TO, or prevent those lands from being held in trust status. Consistent with the intent of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, it merely restricts the ability of the tribe to game on the very lands on which they agreed they would not game.

We respectfully ask that you lend your support for this bipartisan bill. If you have any questions, please contact Bobby Cornett, with Mr. Franks, at 5-4576 or [bobby.cornett@mail.house.gov](mailto:bobby.cornett@mail.house.gov). Thank you for your consideration.

Most sincerely,

Trent Franks  
United States Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick  
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Paul Gosar  
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