

Emergency Resolution to Support and Protect Tribal Sovereignty

Arizona Democratic Party State Committee Meeting | January 28th, 2017

WHEREAS, on November 14th, 2016, Tohono O’odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon Jose raised concern and opposition to then President-Elect Donald J. Trump’s stance on constructing a physical wall along the U.S.-Mexico border; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O’odham Nation Vice Chairman Verlon, according to KJZZ, explains that a wall of any sort would not be supported by the community as tribal members have inhabited the region since immemorial; and

WHEREAS, on January 25th, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order directing “Executive department[s]” under 5 U.S. Code § 101 to “...take all appropriate steps to immediately plan, design, and construct a physical wall along the southern border”; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Order, under Section 12, directs “the Secretary [of Homeland Security], in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior and any other heads of agencies as necessary, shall take appropriate action to” permit and enable all officers and employees of the United States to access and perform such actions on Federal lands as they deem “necessary and appropriate to implement this order”; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O’odham Nation issued a press release on January 26th, 2017 stating “...the Nation does not support a large scale fortified wall” and that the Executive Order was signed “without consultation with the Nation or many other border communities”; and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O’odham Nation’s traditional lands extend into Mexico and their reservation lands include 75 miles of the southern border with “tribal members residing on both sides of the border.”

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party actively support tribal sovereignty that is threatened by Executive Order.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party remain fully committed to protecting and supporting tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and self-determination.

Please note that as of January 26th, 2017, the Federal Register had not published a number to reference said Executive Order that was signed on January 25th, 2017.

Submitted by:

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