

**Mayor Scruggs' remarks at
U.S. Congressman Trent Franks' Press Conference to Introduce Gila Bend Indian
Reservation Lands Replacement Clarification Act**

September 16, 2011

I would like to thank Congressman Franks for his unwavering support on this critical issue --- and for offering me an opportunity to speak today at his Press Conference.

From the very beginning the Congressman has been an outspoken leader on the real and serious impacts of an Indian Reservation in Glendale's municipal planning area.

For over two years now, I have consistently pointed out on every occasion possible, that the Tohono O'odham leadership's proposal will have devastating effects on the City of Glendale, the State of Arizona, Arizona's Indian Tribes and our Nation.

This is evidenced by the strong opposition that has come forward from members of our Arizona Congressional delegation, our State Legislature, our Governor, Mayors of major Arizona Cities and Towns, most Arizona Indian Nations and numerous residents and business owners.

City of Glendale elected officials and staff have made it clear that we do not oppose on-reservation gaming that is conducted in accordance with the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and the Arizona Gaming Compact. We respect the rights of Arizona Indian tribes to conduct gaming on existing reservations according to Arizona and Federal Law.

However, we DO NOT support off-reservation gaming which is what the Tohono O'odham leadership's proposal is centered on.

We respect the right of the Tohono Oodham Nation to develop the 134 acres of land if done as every other land owner and developer is required to do. The land does not need to be removed from State and local jurisdictions and converted into an Indian Reservation in order for the Nation to build the office buildings, hotels, resorts, shopping centers and residences that they speak of.

We welcome these facilities to be built as part of the City of Glendale. In fact, when Glendale voters approved our city's General Plan in 2002, they approved these very uses to be built on the land now owned by the Tohono O'odham Nation.

The only reason the Tohono O'odham Nation needs the land to be taken into federal trust is to use it for off-reservation gaming --- thus breaking the promises made to the Arizona voters in 2002.

Today's announcement that Congressman Franks will introduce legislation in the United States Congress once again demonstrates that our local, state, tribal and national leaders will continue to hold the Tohono O'odham Nation's leadership accountable to the commitment they have already made.

Once again I want to thank Congressman Franks for his leadership --- and I want to also thank all the partners standing here today.