

GREATER VERDE VALLEY  
CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE



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Dear Arizona Delegation and Members of Congress:

On behalf of the Greater Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce and signees, we submit this letter in full support of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act of 2024 (Settlement Act). We are grateful for the leadership of the Arizona Delegation on this critical issue, and we respectfully request that Congress swiftly enact this historic legislation.

The Settlement Act ratifies and funds the recently completed Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Agreement, which resolves the Nation's water rights claims, brings additional, sustainable water supplies to the Verde Valley, protects local groundwater supplies, and helps keep the Verde River flowing.

The Verde River is one of the last free flowing rivers in the Southwestern U.S., and it is a unique global treasure that has been central to local cultures, economies, community health and identity. However, flows in the river have steadily declined in recent decades due to groundwater pumping and a drying climate. A primary goal of the Nation's Settlement is to help maintain flows in the Verde River for the benefit of the Nation, neighboring communities, water users, and all who rely on a healthy flowing Verde River.

We acknowledge the steadfast leadership of Chairwoman Lewis, the Nation's Tribal Council, Elders, and staff, and all those who came before to achieve this truly historic agreement that will help safeguard the water, future of the Nation, neighboring communities, and all who depend on water provided by a flowing Verde River.

We respectfully ask Congress to take the next step: Enact the Yavapai-Apache Nation Water Rights Settlement Act.

Sincerely,

Christian Oliva del Rio, IOM  
President/CEO  
Greater Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce

cc:

Chairwoman Tanya Lewis, Yavapai-Apache Nation  
Pam Williams, Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office, Department of Interior

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