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STATEMENT FROM GOVERNOR STEPHEN ROE LEWIS ON CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS

Sacaton, AZ – The Gila River Indian Community condemns the undemocratic display that we witnessed on Wednesday, January 6th when a violent takeover of the United States Capitol occurred during the Certification of Election Results for the Presidential and Vice-Presidential election.

What the Country, and the world, witnessed was an attempt to overturn the will of over 81 million voters who voted for President-elect Biden and Vice-President-elect Harris. Those who attacked the United States Capitol complex did so after 62 court cases challenging election results were dismissed based on a lack of evidence.

Despite the findings of a co-equal branch of government, President Trump has for months sowed doubts not only in our electoral system, but in the systems that make up our democracy. These subversive actions ultimately led to the death of five individuals including a Capitol Police Officer and left more than 50 others injured.

The election results from the State of Arizona were being objected to when the Capitol was attacked. When Congress reconvened, a total of 121 members of the House of Representatives and six members of the Senate still objected to the election results from Arizona. These votes represent a disappointing attempt to override the legitimate votes of the members of the Gila River Indian Community and all voters in Arizona. Even more disappointing, three Native American members of Congress voted to disenfranchise the voices of the three Native American Electors for the State of Arizona and the record number of Native voters who turned out on Election Day, many for the first time.

While we cannot erase the events of Wednesday, our Country can – and must – do better. History will not look kindly on the insurrection that occurred this week. But history will also show that the Congress reconvened and followed through on the election certification following the failed attempt to stop the vote. To paraphrase a statement by Congressman Ruben Gallego, “democracy did not die tonight.”

The Gila River Indian Community stands with all those elected officials who honored their oath to the Constitution of the United States and voted to certify our votes in the Presidential election.

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Gila River Indian Community located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona and home to the indigenous O’odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) people. The Tribe is comprised of seven districts, the administrative offices and departments are located in Sacaton, and serve the people throughout these seven community districts. 100% of its profits from gaming and 17 other Enterprises are utilized by the community providing services and opportunities to achieve the highest quality of life.