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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Governor Stephen Roe Lewis Statement on Introduction of Federal Water Marketing Legislation:**

Today, Senators Kelly and Sinema introduced legislation that would allow an Arizona tribe to market water in the State of Arizona. While the Community does not support the legislation as introduced because it would unfairly advantage one tribe over all the tribes in the Colorado River Basin, the Arizona Senate delegation has committed to working with the Community to improve the bill and make it more equitable as it goes through the legislation process and we intend to take the Senators up on that commitment. The Community will also call on the United States to work with all the tribes in the Colorado River Basin to improve the legislation as it goes through the legislative process and ensure the trust responsibility is applied to all tribes equally. Ensuring equity in any water marketing legislation will remain a top priority of the Community and we will use all of our resources ensure the Community and the other tribes in the Colorado River Basin are treated fairly when it comes to water marketing.

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*Gila River Indian Community, located on 372,000 acres in south-central Arizona and home to the indigenous people of O’Otham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa). The people are known for their farms, deep traditions, basket weaving and pottery. 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.*

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