

RESOLUTION OF THE TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
(Supporting Enactment of Melcher Amendment  
No. 2124 to S.187)

RES. NO. 222-B-88

1 WHEREAS, Senator Melcher has proposed Amendment No. 2124 to  
2 Senate Bill 187 in order to provide for the protection  
3 and repatriation of Native American human skeletal  
4 remains, grave goods and sacred artifacts and for the  
5 establishment of the Native American Museum Claims  
6 Commission to facilitate such repatriation; and  
7 WHEREAS, Native Americans were advised by a Memorandum of the  
8 Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks  
9 dated April 22, 1988, that the Department of the  
10 Interior asserts a claim that all archaeological  
11 collections, including human skeletal remains, grave  
12 goods and sacred artifacts recovered pursuant to the  
13 Antiquities Act of 1906 from sites located on Indian  
14 lands, are the property of the Department and that they  
15 cannot be relinquished or repatriated for any purpose  
16 other than continued preservation in departmentally  
17 approved museums; and  
18 WHEREAS, this Council concurs in Senator Melcher's findings that  
19 "all Americans should be outraged that museums have been  
20 systematically collecting the bones of their ancestors  
21 and certain ceremonial artifacts as scientific curios,"  
22 and that "Congress must take action to demonstrate basic  
23 human respect to Native Americans who want to retrieve  
24 the remains and grave goods of their ancestors from  
25 museum collections for a respectful burial,"  
26 Congressional Record, S667, May 25, 1988.  
27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tohono O'Odham  
28 Legislative Council does hereby support enactment by  
29 Congress of the Melcher Amendment No. 2124 to Senate  
30 Bill 187, and does urgently request the Congress, and  
31 particularly Senators DeConcini and McCain and  
32 Congressmen Udall, to do everything within their power  
to support enactment thereof into law.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and other appropriate  
2 officers and agents of the Tohono O'Odham Nation are  
3 hereby authorized and directed to do everything  
4 necessary and convenient to the purposes of this  
5 resolution.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tohono O'Odham Nation hereby  
7 seeks the assistance of the National Congress of  
8 American Indians to support the passage of the MELCHER  
9 Amendment No. 2124 to S. 187.

10 The foregoing Resolution was passed by the Tohono O'odham Council  
11 on the 6th day of September, 1988 at a meeting at which a  
12 quorum was present with a vote of 1,539.5 for; -0- against;  
13 100.5 not voting; and 02 absent, pursuant to the powers vested  
14 in the Council by Section 1 (j) of Article VI of the  
15 Constitution of the Tohono O'odham Nation, adopted by the Tohono  
O'odham Nation on January 18, 1986, and approved by the Acting  
Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs (Operations) on March  
6, 1986, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48  
Stat. 984).

16 TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

17 Andrew M. Patricio  
18 Harriet Toro, Legislative Chairperson

19 9 day of Sept., 1988.

21 ATTEST:

22 Teresa M. Choyguha  
23 Teresa M. Choyguha, Legislative Secretary

24 9th day of September, 1988.

26 Said Resolution was submitted for approval to the office of the  
27 Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation on the 9 day of  
Sept., 1988, at 1:53 o'clock, P..M.,  
28 pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of Article VII of the  
29 Constitution and will become effective upon his approval or upon  
his failure to either approve or disapprove it within 48 hours of  
submittal.

30 TOHONO O'ODHAM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

31 Andrew M. Patricio  
32 Harriet Toro, Legislative Chairperson

1 [ ] APPROVED ) on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_,

2 [ ] DISAPPROVED ) at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_.M.

3 **EXCEEDED 48 HOURS**

4 ENOS J. FRANCISCO, JR., Chairman  
5 TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION

6  
7 Returned to the Legislative Secretary on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of  
8 September, 19 88, at 9:46 o'clock, A.M.

9 Teresa M. Choyguha  
10 Teresa M. Choyguha  
11 Legislative Secretary

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