

Letter from Law Enforcement and Utah Voters Opposing Reef Capital's Shivwits Development

I'm writing to you at the request of my friends on the Shivwits Reservation in Southwest Utah who have asked their neighbors in Ivins Utah to help them oppose H.R. 3078 and S. 1508, "*The Shivwits Jurisdictional Clarity Act*." **I've attached a petition signed by 127 of my fellow Utah residents who join thousands of Utahns and many of our Shivwits neighbors in asking Representative Maloy, Representative Kennedy, Representative Owens, Senator Curtis, and Members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to withdraw sponsorship and support from H.R. 3078 and S. 1508 and make a motion to recommit H.R. 3078 back to committee**

As a former law enforcement officer who served twenty-eight years as a police officer and another fourteen as a Deputy US Marshall, I am attuned to grave injustices like *The Shivwits Jurisdictional Clarity Act*, which marginalizes Native Americans by transferring jurisdiction over the entire Shivwits reservation to the State of Utah without the consent of the area's indigenous people, clearing the way for a private equity firm to take control of their land and water.

- Despite what a few band council members incorrectly testified, most Shivwits people oppose H.R. 3078 and S. 1508. They don't want golf courses built atop their sacred lands.
- There has been no transparency and no informed consent: The Shivwits people haven't been allowed to see Reef Capital's plans for their land or vote on H.R. 3078 and S. 1508. If most Shivwits members wanted to transfer their sovereign legal rights to the State of Utah, they could already do so under existing federal law by a majority vote in a special election.
- Non-Indian developer Reef Capital Partners has misled legislators on the end effects of H.R. 3078 and S. 1508 so it can circumvent existing federal law requiring a Shivwits Member vote on the issue and evade Washington County's drought related water restrictions on new golf courses. Reef wants to use most of Shivwits sovereign water rights for the 99 years to drench three luxury golf courses on parched Indian land in the middle of the Mojave Desert with a huge volume of the area's ever diminishing water, all without consent of the Indians who live there.
- The golf courses and resort amenities are slotted to be put atop sacred land where ancestral burial remains and important cultural items have already been found. Tribal members are concerned that the golf course resort will harm the health of the Shivwits people and their Utah neighbors, contaminate their land and water, destroy the environment, and desecrate sacred sites.

Basic justice requires that all enrolled Shivwits Band Members be allowed the US federal and Shivwits Constitutional right to vote yes or no on the transfer of their sovereign legal rights to Utah Courts and the lease of their land and water to a private equity group for up to 99 years.

My fellow Utah voters and I respectfully ask our US Representatives and Senators not to treat the Shivwits people differently than every other Indian Tribe in Utah and in the country by passing an unnecessary federal law at the behest of non-Indian developers that only applies only to this one tiny tribe in Southwest Utah. Don't disenfranchise the Shivwits people of their basic rights by just listening to a few council members and their developer allies. Instead, please allow every enrolled Shivwits Member the right to choose for themselves.

Kind regards,

Christine Haddad