<b>EXHIBIT</b>	F



Mayor

Regina Romero

August 10th, 2021

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, Chairman House Natural Resources Committee 1324 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernández, Chairwoman Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States 1324 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Bruce Westerman, Ranking Member House Natural Resources Committee 1329 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Don Young, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States 1329 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

## RE: Support for the Introduction of the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act

Dear Congressman Grijalva and Congressman Westerman:

It is my pleasure to write to you to express my strong support, as the Mayor of the City of Tucson, for our neighbors and partners, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe ("Tribe") regarding the future introduction of the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act. I fully support the introduction of the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act, which will place approximately 30 acres of land owned by the Tribe within the historic and tribally recognized community of "Old Pascua" into trust for the Tribe.

The City of Tucson has a long history of working with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, including through the development of innovative partnerships on land, water, regional planning, and collaborating on other matters. In fact, in an unprecedented demonstration of partnership, the City of Tucson and the Tribe entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement ("Agreement") in 2019 to specifically support the United States' taking of certain land into trust for the Tribe within the historic and tribal community of Old Pascua, located within Tucson City limits. We are also in discussions with the Tribe to amend the Agreement to increase the amount of land that Tucson will support being taken into trust by the Tribe.

This ground-breaking and historic Agreement establishes our respective responsibilities to deliver and fund police and fire services, build and maintain infrastructure, provide water service and traffic safety, and ensure continued regional cooperation for the benefit of all residents in the



MAYOR

Regina Romero

area of Old Pascua. The Agreement also embraces and recognizes the possibility of the Tribe operating a Class II or Class III Gaming Facility on these future trust lands, which are located in an area of Tucson that has long needed economic opportunity and job creation for its residents. Significantly, the Agreement also provides a transparent process for the Tribe and the City of Tucson to collaboratively mitigate any impacts to Tucson from the development and operation of this Gaming Facility. It also bears noting that all of the Tribes in the Arizona Gaming Compact, recently amended in 2021, support the Pascua Yaqui Tribe operating a Gaming Facility in the area of Old Pascua, as does Arizona Governor, Doug Ducey.

I recognize that what is present-day Tucson has historically been home to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. I appreciate and respect that the Tribe continues to this very day to perform its traditional cultural ceremonies and provide support for its members in places like Old Pascua, where the Tribe's historic community predates Arizona statehood. I also look forward to continuing to work with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in a collaborative and mutually beneficial way in the future.

As the Mayor of Tucson, I urge you and your colleagues to take all action within your power to support the Old Pascua Community Land Acquisition Act upon its introduction in Congress.

Sincerely

Regina Romero,

Mayor, City of Tucson

Cc: Peter Yucupicio, Chairman Pascua Yaqui Tribe

