International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers



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OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

November 17, 2015

Dear Representative,

I urge you to oppose the misleading Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act (H.R. 511). This union busting legislation would strip workers employed by tribes in commercial enterprises of their rights and protections under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

H.R. 511 would overturn a decision by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino, 341 NLRB No. 138 (2004) in which the Board concluded that applying the NLRA would not interfere with the tribe's autonomy and the effects of the NLRA would not "extend beyond the tribe's business enterprise and regulate intramural matters." The ruling does not apply in instances where its application would "touch exclusive rights of self-governance in purely intramural matters" or "abrogate Indian treaty rights." Clearly, coverage by the NLRA does not encroach upon tribal sovereignty.

The IAM firmly believes that workers all over the world have the right of association, to organize, and to bargain collectively as provided for by the Conventions of the International Labor Organization. HR 511 would undermine these fundamental workplace rights while not providing for any alternative method of worker representation. For these reasons, I urge you to uphold worker rights and vote against HR 511.

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Director Hasan Solomon at (301) 967-4575.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger International President

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