



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS®**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

SAM J. CHILIA
International
Secretary-Treasurer

November 17, 2015

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. House Office Buildings
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I write to urge you to oppose the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act (H.R. 511). H.R. 511 would deny protection under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to a large number of workers who are employed by tribal-owned and-operated enterprises located on Indian land. The NLRA is a cornerstone of workers' rights in the United States. The NLRA provides workers the right to form or join unions and collectively bargain for better wages, hours, or working conditions. Taking these rights away is a step backwards that the IBEW does not support.

In recent years, there has been a substantial expansion of enterprises that would be impacted by this legislation. Tribal-owned enterprises are no longer limited to casinos. This legislation would impact mining operations, power plants, saw mills, construction companies, ski resorts, high-tech firms, hotels, and spas. It is clear that the argument that the NLRA exemption afforded to state and local governments should apply to these tribal-owned enterprises does not make sense. The NLRA only exempts actual government employees, not private sector employees performing government work. Additionally, the enterprises outlined above are not inherently governmental in nature. The comparison that is being made between tribal-owned-and-operated enterprises and state and local governments is incorrect.

The IBEW opposes any effort to exempt on an across-the-board basis all tribal enterprises from the NLRA, without regard to a specific review of all the circumstances, as is currently provided by current NLRB standards. H.R. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you do not support H.R. 511, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lonnie Stephenson".

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd