

January 9, 2018

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U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

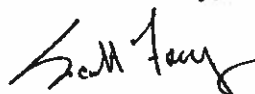
On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge you to oppose S. 140, as currently amended to expand the exemption of employers under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA).

S. 140, as amended, is just another attempt at passing the so-called Tribal Sovereignty Act, which would deny protection under the NLRA to many workers employed by tribal-owned and -operated enterprises on Indian land. A great majority of these workers are not Native Americans and in recent years there has been a substantial expansion of enterprises that would be impacted by this legislation, including not only casinos, but mining operations, power plants, saw mills, ski resorts, high-tech firms, hotels, and spas.

AFSCME supports the principle of sovereignty for tribal governments, but does not believe that this principle should be used to deny workers their collective bargaining rights and freedom of association. We oppose 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 National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) standards. Workers must not be left without any legally enforceable right to form unions and bargain collectively, especially in instances where they are working for commercial operations competing with other businesses.

AFSCME strongly urges you to oppose S. 140, as amended, when it comes before the House for a vote.

Sincerely,



Scott Frey  
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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