



The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Of Michigan

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August 25, 2016

Senator Debbie Stabenow
731 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Gary Peters
724 Senate Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow and Senator Peters:

I want to express my strong support for S. 248 "The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015." This legislation is currently awaiting action by the full U.S. Senate and I want to urge you to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

As you know, in 1935, the U.S. Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) to provide for new labor standards in the U.S. commercial industries. However, the NLRA explicitly excluded federal, state and local governments from the new law to ensure that governments would be able to provide important services to our citizens without fear of labor strikes. From 1935 until 2004, the National Labor Relations Board also excluded tribal governments from the Act because of their sovereign status as governments.

In 2004, the NLRB reversed 70 years of precedent and ruled in the "*San Manuel Indian Bingo Case*" that Tribal employees who engage in commercial activities would be subject to NLRB jurisdiction. This decision was made without any changes in the NLRA and without any consultation with tribal governments. In order to resolve this inequity, Senator Jim Moran introduced S. 248, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act. This legislation would simply put sovereign tribes as the same status of federal, state and local governments under the NLRA. This legislation would recognize the sovereign status of tribal governments.

S. 248 has passed the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on a bi-partisan basis. An identical bill passed the House last year with bi-partisan support. I would encourage you to vote in favor of S. 248 if it is considered by the full U.S. Senate this year. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Community Member, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe