

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

September 9, 2015

The Honorable Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Committee on Natural Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, supports H.R. 538, the "Native American Energy Act."

The Chamber established the Native American Enterprise Initiative (NAEI) in recognition of the revolution in entrepreneurship occurring by Indian tribes and amongst the nearly three million people of American Indian and Alaskan Native heritage. Grounded in Indian self-determination, additional strides can be made in economic development. Drawing on the Chamber's record of business advocacy, the NAEI seeks to remove legislative and regulatory roadblocks to their economic success.

H.R. 538 would be an important step in furthering efforts by Congress to encourage economic development throughout Indian Country. This bill would do so by fostering tribal sovereignty, a sure path to economic growth. Furthermore, this bill would make further headway towards American energy independence while also providing much needed employment in tribal communities and hard-stricken regions of the country.

The Chamber supports H.R. 538 and appreciates your consideration as you mark up this bill.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Committee on Natural Resources