

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

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

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 amongst the nearly three million people of American Indian and Alaskan Native heritage. Drawing on the Chamber's record of business advocacy, the NAEI seeks to promote legislative and regulatory initiatives that lead to economic success in Indian Country.

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 believes energy legislation such as H.R. 538 represents Congress's continued commitment to Indian Country in a manner that will create jobs, accelerate economic growth, and improve the overall competitiveness of the American economy.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten