

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

1615 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20062
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July 11, 2017

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kind and Jenkins:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports H.R. 3138, which would support economic development in Indian Country by granting sovereign tribes many of the tools that states already possess.

H.R. 3138 would provide parity for sovereign tribes relative to states in both bonding and pension plans. Regarding bonding, this bill would remove the “essential government function” test that applies only to sovereign tribes, thus ensuring tribes would be able to engage in economic activity for the benefit of their constituency just as states currently do. Further, with respect to pension plans, H.R. 3138 would acknowledge Native American tribes as sovereign entities by providing “governmental” status to plans established and maintained by sovereign tribes; thus, promoting parity between states and sovereign tribes.

Lastly, H.R. 3138 would put tribal sovereigns on an equal footing with how states currently operate for certain tax purposes pertaining to charities, child support enforcement, and adoptions, which would further promote economic development within Indian Country.

The Chamber thanks you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley

cc: Representative Tom Cole
Representative Suzan DelBene
Representative Doug LaMalfa
Representative David Reichert
Representative Norma Torres