



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

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

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

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

On behalf of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, I am writing to communicate ATNI's support for the Native American Energy Act, H.R. 538, which will be considered on the House floor tomorrow.

H.R. 538 is an important piece of legislation that would remove many regulatory hurdles tribes face when developing their energy resources. Since 1995, ATNI has had energy program to ensure tribal rights and interests were represented in power and transmission issues at the Bonneville Power Administration. Over the years, ATNI's energy work has expanded to regional and national policy processes related to tribal energy, tribal electrical utilities, and many of regulatory issues H.R. 538 is intended to address.

Many ATNI member tribes are located near federal forest land, whether it be U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management land. Section 6 of the bill would establish a Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project, which would provide new tools for these member tribes to ensure that neighboring federal forestlands or rangelands are healthy and do not threaten their homelands with wildfire or disease. The last three months has been the most devastating wildfire season on record for several of our member tribes. This new authority would help ensure that this is not repeated.

H.R. 538 would also make it easier for tribes to enter into Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs) for on-reservation energy development projects, and would clarify that TERAs also apply to renewable resources.

ATNI strongly supports swift passage of H.R. 538. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact ATNI Executive Director Terri Parr at 503.249.5770 or tparrw@atnitribes.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Fawn Sharp, President
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