



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

Dedicated to Promoting Tribal Self Determination & Sovereignty

Executive Board

President

Fawn Sharp
360-276-8211

1st Vice-President

Aaron Hines
541-429-7379

2nd Vice-President

Alfred M. Nomee
208-660-5203

3rd Vice-President

Lloyd Irvine
406-212-5745

Secretary

Norma Jean Louie
208-686-2331

Treasurer

Sharon Goudy
509-865-7156

Assistant Secretary

Theresa Sheldon
425-508-6556

Executive ATNI Staff

Executive Director

Terri Parr Wynecoop
509-981-8500

The Honorable Raul Labrador
United States House of Representatives
1528 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Labrador:

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) respectfully requests that you vote “no” during the House Committee on Natural Resources markup of H.R. 5780, the Utah Public Lands Initiative on September 21 and 22, 2016.

Most important, the bill proposes to take more than 100,000 acres of the Ute Indian Tribe’s Reservation lands for the State of Utah to develop oil and gas resources. This modern day Indian land grab cannot be allowed to stand. The National Congress of American Indians was so shocked by this proposal that a resolution in opposition was approved just based on a discussion draft of the bill. Please see attached.

H.R. 5780 sets a dangerous precedent and would roll back federal Indian policy back to the late 1800’s. In addition to taking lands within the Tribe’s Reservation the bill creates utility corridors, designates wild and scenic rivers limiting the Tribe’s water rights, includes local governments in the management of lands and resources, and transfers federal rights-of-way to the state. All within the Reservation.

Although the bill is promoted as “a local solution to difficult federal land management issues in eastern Utah,” in fact, much of the bill is built on the back of the Tribe’s Reservation. Please vote “no” on this dangerous bill.

Sincerely,

Fawn Sharp, Board President
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians