

May 10, 2012

Congressman
Washington, DC

Dear Congressman:

The _____ is opposed to the consolidated House bills recently introduced in the United States of Representatives as HR 4297 introduced by Representative Foxx, Representative Heck, and Representative McKeon.

Indian and Native American employment and training programs have a long history of successes providing critical services to clients needing support as they strive for self-sufficiency by gaining the training and work experience they so desperately need. The programs also have played an important part in helping to improve the circumstances and situations of Indian and Native American communities.

These programs date back to the early days of manpower programs. They were authorized with the understanding that American Indian Tribes are sovereign nations that have a unique trust relationship with the United States government. The Indian and Native American programs funded through the employment and training system were funded to provide support and services to individuals who otherwise would not access the mainstream employment and training programs, whether due to remoteness or cultural considerations.

The proposed bill would eliminate all employment and training for Indian and Native American grantees receiving funding under the Workforce Investment Act as well as Native Employment Works Program funding. All workforce investment system funding would be distributed to states to be administered by governors. Indian and Native American programs would not be guaranteed funding to provide crucial services needed by clients to maintain their connection with the workforce.

We urge you to take action to defeat this proposed bill as it is considered in Committee. It is imperative that strong Native American workforce programs, uniquely adapted to the status and circumstances of Native American people and communities, continue in their missions to improve the lives of their clients and communities.

Sincerely,

Tribal Chairman