January 9, 2018

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

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act as rolled into a bill that will be reported as S. 140.

UFCW is proud to represent 1,000 members at casinos that operate on tribal lands. These workers have joined together to bargain collectively for good wages, decent benefits, and a voice on the job. Passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act would take that voice away.

We support sovereignty for tribal governments, but the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act is so broad that it would prevent any worker from exercising their freedom of association under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). The vast majority tribal casino workers are not tribal members and therefore have no voice in tribal policy and are not protected under tribal law.

Most federal laws protecting the workplace apply to tribal businesses including the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and NLRA. The NLRA should not be treated any differently than these other important laws that protect workers.

There are many differences between state and local governments and tribal businesses. State and local governments do not operate multi-billion dollar commercial Enterprises, nor manage enterprises where the majority of the employees and customers are from outside of the jurisdiction. If working people don't like state and local government policy they can change management by voting for different lawmakers, while non-tribal employees and customers have no meaningful way to influence tribal policy.

Congress should be working to expand the rights of American workers, not take them away. We urge you to stand up for American workers and oppose the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

Sincerely,

Anthony M. Perrone

International President