


HOBBS, STRAUS, DEAN & WALKER LLP

STATUS OF INDIAN-RELATED LEGISLATION – 114th CONGRESS

(as of April 23, 2015)

ISSUE	STATUS	EXPLANATION
ALASKA:		
H.R. 1729, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to exempt certain Alaskan Native articles from prohibitions against sale of items containing nonedible migratory bird parts, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) on 3/26/15.	3/26/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.	Cosponsors: 0
H.R. 1730, a bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) on 3/26/15.	3/16/16-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.	Cosponsors: 0
S. 872, a bill to provide for the recognition of certain Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and for other purposes, introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on 3/26/15.	3/26/15-Referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Senator Murkowski: "The legislation that I am introducing today would enable the Native peoples of the five "landless communities" to organize five "urban corporations," one for each unrecognized community. These newly formed corporations would be offered and could accept the surface estate to 23,040 acres of land--one township as granted all other village corporations in Southeast. Sealaska Corporation, the regional Alaska Native Corporation for Southeast Alaska, would receive title to the subsurface estate to the designated lands. This version of the legislation has been modified to guarantee that the lands to be conveyed may include subsistence sites, aquaculture sites, hydroelectric sites, tidelands, eco-tourism sites and surplus federal properties to help satisfy any compensation requirement." Cosponsors: 1
CHIEF STANDING BEAR NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL:		
H.R. 984, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-NE) on 2/23/15.	2/13/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/16/15-Referred to Subcommittee on Federal Lands. 3/23/15-Natural Resources Committee markup. 4/15/15-Natural Resources Committee reported. H. Rept. 114-78.	Cosponsors: 1 
S. 479, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Chief Standing Bear National Historic Trail, and for other purposes, was introduced by Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE) on 2/12/15.	2/12/15-Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Similar legislation passed the House in 113 th Congress. A 500-mile forced march from northeast Nebraska to Oklahoma by Ponca tribal members more than 125 years ago could soon be etched into the national consciousness. Rep. Fortenberry plans to designate the trail Chief Standing Bear and his people took on their way to Oklahoma in 1877. The

		<p>trail also would commemorate the chief's return to Nebraska and subsequent trial in 1879, when he became the first Native to be recognized as a person in a federal court decision. "I think this story needs to be told and retold to America," Fortenberry said. "Chief Standing Bear is one of the most important civil rights leaders in our history." Ponca Chief Standing Bear was part of a landmark case that helped determine the rights of Natives. Standing Bear later was the first Native admitted to the Nebraska Hall of Fame.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
CHILD CARE:		
<p>S. 246, the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act; was introduced by Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) on 1/22/15.</p>	<p>1/22/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/4/15-Senate Committee on Indian Affairs business meeting to consider S. 246; ordered favorably reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.</p>	<p>1/22/15 - Sen. Heitkamp: "... this is a bipartisan bill, as Senator <i>Murkowski</i> from Alaska has joined me in this effort, along with 20 of our colleagues. Our bill aims to address the sweeping challenges that Native Americans face by creating a Federal Commission on Native Children. It would begin a national conversation about the state of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children. ... The commission will be directed to complete a comprehensive study on the programs, grants, and support available for Native children, both at the federal level and on the ground in Native communities."</p> <p>Cosponsors: 24</p>
<p>H.R. 1168, the Native American Children's Safety Act, was introduced by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) on 2/27/15.</p>	<p>2/27/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. 3/18/15-Referred to Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. 3/24-25/15-Natural Resources Committee markup; ordered reported. 4/15/15-Natural Resources Committee reported. H. Rept. 114-79.</p>	<p>Amends the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to require background checks before foster care placements are ordered in tribal court proceedings.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>S. 184, the Native American Children's Safety Act, was introduced by Sen John Hoeven (R-ND) on 1/16/15.</p>	<p>1/16/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/4/15-SCIA business meeting to consider S. 246; ordered favorably reported without amendment.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 2</p>
CHILD HEALTH:		
<p>H.R. 2, the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX) on 3/24/15.</p>	<p>3/24/15 -Referred to Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Budget. 3/26/15-House passed 392-37.</p>	<p>Amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program.</p> <p>Section 213. Extension of Special Diabetes Program for Type I Diabetes and for Indians.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 13</p>
CHILD TRAFFICKING:		
<p>S. 166, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Amy Klobucher (D-MN) on 1/13/15</p>	<p>1/13/15-Referred to Committee on the Judiciary. 2/26/15-Committee on the Judiciary business meeting on S. 178 and S. 166.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 26</p> <p>Sec. 7. Establishing A National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking. (a) ... (b) Required Contents of National Strategy- The National Strategy shall include the following: (1) Integrated Federal, State,</p>

<p>H.R. 159, the Stop Exploitation Through Trafficking Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) on 1/6/15.</p>	<p>3/2/15-Reported with an amendment. 1/6/15-Referred to Committees on the Judiciary and Education and the Workforce. 1/7/15-Referred to Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. 1/27/15- Judiciary Committee reported. H. Rept. 114-6, Part 1. 1/27/15-House passed amended by voice vote under suspension of the rules.</p>	<p>local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including-- (A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes; ... (C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; and ... (4) An ongoing assessment of the future trends, challenges, and opportunities, including new investigative strategies, techniques, and technologies, that will enhance Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to combat human trafficking. (5) Encouragement of cooperation, coordination, and mutual support between private sector and other entities and organizations and Federal agencies to combat human trafficking, including the involvement of State, local, and tribal government agencies to the extent Federal programs are involved....</p> <p>Cosponsors: 28</p>
<p>S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) on 1/13/14.</p> <p>H.R. 296, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) on 1/13/15.</p>	<p>1/13/14-Referred to Committee on the Judiciary. 2/26/15-Committee on the Judiciary business meeting on S. 178 and S. 166. 3/2/15-Reported with an amendment. 3/10-19/15-Senate consideration. 4/14-21/15- Senate consideration. 4/22/15-Senated passed amended by unanimous vote of 99 yeas.</p> <p>1/13/25-Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. 2/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 33</p> <p>Rep. Poe: "I was a prosecutor and Judge. I saw the worst of the worst criminals in my courtroom, but it wasn't until I visited the Ukraine, when I first came to Congress, that I learned about the scourge of human trafficking. It is slavery. Soon I became aware that this crime wasn't just happening in far off places but right here in the United States, in our own backyards. Unfortunately, my hometown of Houston is one of the hubs for human trafficking because of its proximity to the border, major interstates, airports, and ports. As cofounder and co-chair of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus with my friend Jim Costa from California, I have made fighting human trafficking a priority."</p> <p>Sec. 4. Victim-Centered Child Human Trafficking Deterrence Block Grant Program. ... 'Sec. 203. Victim-Centered Child Human Trafficking Deterrence Block Grant Program.... '(k) (4) (B) has demonstrated cooperation between Federal, State, local, and, where applicable, tribal law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing child human trafficking; ... Sec. 7. Establishing A National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking. (1) (b) Required Contents of National Strategy- The National Strategy shall include the following: (1) Integrated Federal, State, local, and tribal efforts to investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases, including--(A) the development by each United States attorney, in consultation with State, local, and tribal government agencies, of a district-specific strategic plan to coordinate the identification of victims and the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes;... (C) the participation in any Federal, State, local, or tribal human trafficking task force operating in the district of the United States attorney; ... Sec. 15. Grant Accountability. ... (4) Prohibition on Lobbying Activity- ... (A) (ii) lobby any representative of a Federal, State, local, or tribal government regarding the award of grant funding. ...</p> <p>Cosponsors: 2</p>

<p>H.R. 515, the International Megan's Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking, introduced by Rep. Christopher Smith (D-NJ) on 1/22/15.</p>	<p>1/22/15-Referred to Committees on Foreign Affairs and Judiciary. 1/26/15-House passed under suspensions by voice vote.</p>	<p>Protects children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Sec. 3. Definitions. ... (4) Jurisdiction- The term 'jurisdiction' means any of the following:...(H) To the extent provided in, and subject to the requirements of, section 127 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16927), a federally recognized Indian tribe. ...</p> <p>Cosponsors: 15</p>
<p>H.R. 469, the Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) on 1/22/15.</p>	<p>1/22/15-Referred to Committee on Education and the Workforce. 1/26/15-House considered under suspensions; vote was postponed. 1/27/15-House passed under suspensions by 410-0.</p>	<p>Amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to enable State child protective services systems to improve the identification and assessment of child victims of sex trafficking, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Sec. 3. Definitions. ... (4) Jurisdiction- The term 'jurisdiction' means any of the following:...(H) To the extent provided in, and subject to the requirements of, section 127 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16927), a federally recognized Indian tribe. ...</p> <p>Cosponsors: 60</p>
<p>COQUILLE FOREST:</p>		
<p>H.R.1437, the Coquille Forest Fairness Act, was introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) on 3/18/15.</p> <p>S. 816, a bill to amend the Coquille Restoration Act to clarify certain provisions relating to the management of the Coquille Forest, was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on 3/19/15.</p>	<p>3/18/15-Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>3/19/15-Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Amends the Coquille Restoration Act to clarify certain provisions relating to the management of the Coquille Forest.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p> <p>Amends the Restoration Act of the Coquille Indian Tribe to make forest management activities on tribal lands uniform with the management of other tribal forests.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p>
<p>EDUCATION:</p>		
<p>H.R. 386, the American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) on 1/14/15.</p>	<p>1/14/15-Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.</p>	<p>Provides student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators teaching in local educational agencies with a high percentage of American Indian students. Amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide up to \$17,500 of loan forgiveness to borrowers under the Federal Family Education Loan program or the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program who: (1) are a member of an Indian tribe, and (2) have been employed as a full-time teacher for five consecutive complete school years in an Indian school or in a local educational agency that serves at least 10 Indian students or whose schools have an enrollment of students at least 25% of which are Indians.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p>
<p>S. Res. 62, a resolution to designate the week beginning February 8, 2015 as "National Tribal Colleges and Universities</p>	<p>2/2/15-Senate agreed to introduce, consider, and pass H. Res. 62 by</p>	<p>Text: Whereas there are 37 tribal colleges and universities operating on more than 75 campuses in 16 States; Whereas tribal colleges and universities are tribally or federally chartered institutions of</p>

	<p>2/25-27/15-House considered H.R. 5. Nolan Amendment (No. 28 printed in part B of H. Rept. 114-29) seeks to ensure that Indian children do not attend school in buildings that are dilapidated or deteriorating.</p>	<p>Native Education) of the ESEA and places them under parts A (Indian Education), B (Alaska Native Education), and C (Native Hawaiian Education) of a new title V. Establishes a new program under subpart 3 (National Activities) of part A requiring the Secretary to award grants to states, LEAs, and Indian entities for: (1) Native American language programs, and (2) Native American language restoration programs. Omits from that subpart programs: (1) funding in-service training for teachers of Indian children, (2) awarding fellowships to Indian students, (3) establishing two centers for gifted and talented Indian students and demonstration projects addressing the needs of such students, and (4) supporting the improvement of educational opportunities for adult Indians. Amends the Alaska Native Educational Equity, Support, and Assistance Act under part B to limit Alaska Native education grant activities to those provided specifically in the context of elementary and secondary education. Amends the Native Hawaiian Education Act under part C to revise the duties and composition of the Native Hawaiian Education Council. Includes charter schools as eligible recipients of Native Hawaiian Education program grants. Removes the provision of scholarships for undergraduate or graduate studies from the list of authorized grant activities. Title VI. General Provisions for the Act. ... Requires the Secretary to establish a multi-disciplinary peer review team to review requests for waivers of statutory or regulatory requirements under the ESEA. Prohibits the Secretary from imposing new or additional requirements that are not specified in the ESEA on states, LEAs, or Indian tribes in exchange for the receipt of a waiver.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 11</p>
<p>H.R. 1089, the Native American Indian Education Act, was introduced by Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO) on 2/25/15.</p>	<p>2/25/15-Referred to Committees on Education and the Workforce and Appropriations.</p>	<p>Rep. Tipton said: “The State of Colorado is currently forced to carry the weight of an unfunded federal mandate, which has created uncertainty for this vital program at Fort Lewis College that satisfies our nation’s treaty obligations and ensures that many talented and bright Native American Indian students have the opportunity to get a quality education. Should the state face a budget shortfall, this program could be at risk. Our legislation seeks to address this issue by requiring the federal government to fully live up to its obligation, easing the burden on Colorado taxpayers, and providing certainty for students at Fort Lewis and other impacted institutions.” As of fall of 2014, Fort Lewis College had 1,123 Native American Indian students enrolled (30 percent of the student body), from 155 different tribes. In 2014, Colorado paid about \$15 million in tuition reimbursement for qualifying Native American Indian students attending Fort Lewis College.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 17</p>
<p>EMPLOYMENT:</p>		
<p>H.R. 78, the New Chance for a New Start in Life Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) on 1/6/15.</p>	<p>1/6/15-Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.</p>	<p>Directs the Secretary of Labor to make grants to state and local governments and Indian tribes to carry out employment training programs to assist long-term unemployed persons obtain the skills and training to re-enter the workforce and fill jobs in sectors of the economy projected to have the highest rates of demand during the period 2014 through</p>

		2024. Prescribes certain grant condition and use requirements. Declares that receiving services or compensation under this Act shall not cause any reduction in the amount of unemployment compensation that an individual is otherwise due. Cosponsors: 0
H.R. 329, the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Consolidation Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) on 1/13/15.	1/13/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. 4/14/14-Natural Resources Committee markup.	Amends the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes. Clarifies the plan approval process and timelines, the roles of various Federal agencies involved, the transfer of funds mechanism, and the reporting and audit requirements the tribes must fulfill. Cosponsors: 0
S. 248, Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) on 1/22/15.	1/22/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Note: SCIA plans hearing later in April.	Clarifies the rights of Indians and Indian tribes on Indian lands under the National Labor Relations Act. Amends the National Labor Relations Act to provide that any enterprise or institution owned and operated by an Indian tribe and located on its lands is not considered an employer (thus excluding such enterprises or institutions from coverage by such Act). Cosponsors: 8
H.R. 511, Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN) on 1/22/15.	1/22/15-Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.	Amends the National Labor Relations Act to provide that any enterprise or institution owned and operated by an Indian tribe and located on its lands is not considered an employer (thus excluding such enterprises or institutions from coverage by such Act). Cosponsors: 27
ENDANGERED SPECIES:		
S. 736, the State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act, was introduced by Sen. Michael Enzi (R-WY) on 3/12/15.	3/12/15-Referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.	Amends the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to require disclosure to States of the basis of determinations under such Act, to ensure use of information provided by State, tribal, and county governments in decision making under such Act. Cosponsors: 5
ENERGY:		
S. 209, the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2015, and for other purposes, was introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WV) on 1/21/15.	1/21/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/4/15-Senate Committee on Indian Affairs business meeting to consider S. 209; ordered favorably reported without an amendment.	Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Jon Tester (D-MT), Chairman and Vice Chairman of the SCIA, re-introduced the bipartisan Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2015 (S. 209). The bill will give Indian tribes more tools to develop their energy resources and to remove unnecessary barriers to economic development. "As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I'm committed to creating new jobs and economic opportunities in Indian Country. One of the best ways to do this is to give Indian tribes greater control of the management and development of their energy resources," said Chairman Barrasso. "For years, Indian tribes have expressed concerns about federal laws and regulations regarding energy development. My bill will help jumpstart tribal energy and economic development by streamlining the approval process and reducing regulatory red-tape. This will give folks in Indian Country the tools they need to increase our nation's energy security while creating good paying jobs in their communities." "This bill

		<p>puts tribes back in control of their energy resources and opens new opportunities for renewable energy,” said Vice Chairman Tester. “Streamlining bureaucratic red tape can unleash the potential for tribes to build sustainable, self-governed energy programs that can serve their people and communities. The steps that took tribes years to navigate would only take a few months under this bill, allowing tribes more time to focus on creating a better, energy efficient future.”</p> <p>Cosponsors: 9</p>
<p>H.R. 538, the Native American Energy Act, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) on 1/26/15.</p>	<p>1/26/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittees on Energy and Mineral Resources and Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 0</p> <p>Facilitates the development of energy on Indian lands by reducing Federal regulations that impede tribal development of Indian lands, and for other purposes. Argument in Favor: Removing restrictions on energy development will lead to more lucrative projects in the U.S. and thus boost the economy and livelihood of Native Americans, who have the right to lease and profit off their own land. Argument Opposed: The country should be focusing on renewable energy, not energy sources that will destroy the environment. In the long-term, this bill makes it easier to drill and harder to enforce renewable energy practices. Cost: \$29.00 Million https://www.countable.us/bills/</p>
<p>H.R. 1487, the American Energy Renaissance Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) on 3/19/15.</p>	<p>3/19/15-Referred to Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and infrastructure, Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, the Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs.</p>	<p>Expand energy development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and on Indian Lands. The mean estimate for conventional oil in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska is 895 million barrels of oil and 52.8 trillion cubic feet of gas. West of the Mississippi River, Indian reservations contain almost 30 percent of the nation's coal reserves, 50 percent of potential uranium reserves, and 20 percent of known oil and gas reserves.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 5</p>

<p>S. 411, the Natural Gas Gathering Enhancement Act, was introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) on 2/9/15.</p>	<p>2/9/15-Referred to Senate committee on Energy and Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Authorizes the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land The siting of natural gas gathering lines is an especially difficult challenge in states with large amounts of federal land and Indian land. Significant delays in obtaining rights-of-way from the Department of the Interior contribute to unnecessary venting and flaring from oil and gas wells whether or not the wells are located on federal land and Indian land. The Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, has stated that the Department will soon issue new regulations on the venting and flaring of natural gas as part of President Obama's Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions. However, the President's Strategy to Reduce Methane Emissions does not include any steps to end the delays in obtaining rights-of-way for natural gas gathering lines on federal land and Indian land.</p> <p>Exempts Indian lands from participation in the new permit process, unless tribal governments explicitly opt-in to the new process. These provisions are in keeping with the federal government's treaty obligations and need for consultation with tribes, critical to building strong federal and tribal governmental relations.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 3</p>
<p>H.R. 1616, a bill to o authorize the approval of natural gas pipelines and establish deadlines and expedite permits for certain natural gas gathering lines on Federal land and Indian land, was introduced by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) on 3/25/15.</p>	<p>3/25/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 3</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL:</p>		
<p>H.R. 325, the Pribilof Islands Transition Act Amendments of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) on 1/13/15.</p>	<p>1/13/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>Amend the Pribilof Islands Transition Act to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide notice of certification that no further corrective action is required at sites and operable units covered by the Pribilof Islands Environmental Restoration agreement, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>GAMING:</p>		
<p>S. 152, the Keep the Promise Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) on 1/13/15.</p> <p>H.R. 308, the Keep the Promise Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) on 1/13/15.</p>	<p>1/13/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.</p> <p>1/13/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. 3/23/15-Natural Resources Committee markup. 3/25/15--Natural Resources Committee ordered reported by voice vote.</p>	<p>Prohibits gaming activities on certain Indian land in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p> <p>Prohibits gaming activities on certain Indian lands in Arizona until the expiration of certain gaming compacts.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 7</p>

HAWAII:		
S. Res. 109, a resolution acknowledging and honoring brave young men from Hawaii who enabled the United States to establish and maintain jurisdiction in remote equatorial islands as prolonged conflict in the Pacific led to World War II, was introduced by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) on 3/24/15.	3/24/15-Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.	Cosponsors: 1
H. Res. 169, a resolution acknowledging and honoring brave young men from Hawaii who enabled the United States to establish and maintain jurisdiction in remote equatorial islands as prolonged conflict in the Pacific lead to World War II, was introduced by Rep. Mark Takai (D-HI) on 3/24/15.	3/24/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.	Cosponsors: 1
HOMELAND SECURITY:		
H.R. 399, the Secure Our Borders First Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX) on 1/27/15.	1/27/15-Referred to Committees on Homeland Security, Armed Services, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. 1/21/15- Homeland Security Committee markup; ordered reported amended. 1/27/15-Reported amended. H. Rept. 114-10, Part I.	Sec. 12. Prohibition on Actions that Impede Border Security on Certain Federal Land. ... (f) Tribal Sovereignty- Nothing in this section supersedes, replaces, negates, or diminishes treaties or other agreements between the United States and Indian tribes. Cosponsors: 29
HOUSING:		
H.R. 360, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Stevan Pearce (R-NM) on 1/14/15.	1/14/15-Referred to Committee on Financial Services. 3/23/15-House passed amended by 297-98 under suspension of the rules.	Reauthorizes the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996. 1/14/15-The National American Indian Housing Council is once again pushing for reauthorization of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act. NAHASDA first became law in 1996 but it expired in September 2013. A version cleared the House in December 2014 but the Senate failed to take action before the end of the last session of Congress. "Indian Country remains unified in its efforts in Congress, and we are confident that working with our Republican and Democratic friends we will get this legislation enacted early in 2015," NAIHC Chairwoman Sami Jo Difuntorum said today. 3/15/15-Rep. Pearce: "As I travelled around the reservations in my district, I began to be aware of a circumstance that I had not previously been aware of: houses that were maybe several hundred years old, people still living in those. There is one area with no sewer at all. There are cardboard shacks, people living in situations that they should not be living in today. Those things exist. The legislation in front of us today doesn't change the responsibility of the government. It doesn't increase the amount of the dollars flowing to it. It simply tries to make the process a little more streamlined." Cosponsors: 17
S. 710, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2015, was	3/11/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 3/18/15-Hearing.	Sen. Barrasso: "Families need good, safe homes in order to thrive and live healthy lives. There are far too many inadequate homes throughout Indian Country and we've got to address this problem. By

<p>introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) on 3/11/15.</p>	<p>4/22/15-SCIA ordered reported, amended.</p>	<p>reauthorizing this bill, we'll empower tribes to address the housing needs of the families who live in their communities. I look forward to working with other Members of the SCIA to move this bill forward as soon as possible." Beyond simply reauthorizing the NAHASDA, S. 710 improves upon the law by: Establishing the Office of the Assistant Secretary at HUD to oversee Indian programs; eliminating duplicative requirements when multiple agencies are involved in housing-related activities such as when meeting the environmental review standards for a housing project and when administering programs to benefit American Indian veterans; and authorizing tribes to more freely utilize income derived from housing assistance activities</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p> <p><u>Navajo provisions:</u> Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Arizona) also voted no on H.R.360 but did not offer a public explanation. However, she represents the Navajo Nation, whose leaders oppose a provision that would deny the tribe an estimated \$81 million in Indian Housing Block Grant funds that are carried over from prior fiscal years. "If the language goes into effect, the NHA and the Navajo Nation will potentially lose \$81 million in IHBG funding meant for Navajo families and with a \$9 billion housing need on the Navajo Nation this would tremendously impact the services we provide," Navajo Housing Authority CEO Aneva Yazzie said in February, when the Navajo Nation Council passed a bill to oppose Section 302 of H.R.360: "The proposed language is discriminatory as it singles out and deliberately targets the Navajo Nation and the NHA," the council said. S.710 contains a similar provision to address the carry-over funds but Navajo leaders support that version because the effective date is January 1, 2018. The effective date in H.R.360 is January of this year, meaning the tribe would be denied the funds immediately if the bill became law as written.</p>
<p>IRRIGATION PROJECTS RENOVATION:</p>		
<p>S. 438, the Irrigation Rehabilitation and Renovation for Indian Tribal Governments and Their Economies Act or IRRIGATE Act, was introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY) on 2/10/15.</p>	<p>2/10/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 3/4/15-SCIA hearing. 3/18/15-SCIA ordered favorably reported.</p>	<p>Provides for the repair, replacement, and maintenance of certain Indian irrigation projects. A 2006 GAO <u>report</u> concluded that there are 16 irrigation projects that were initiated by the Department of the Interior. But the Department did not complete the projects and has made it difficult, if not impossible, for these projects to be self-sustaining. One of the irrigation projects is located on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. Barrasso's bill ensures the federal government follows through on its promise to build and maintain these projects by providing \$35 million each year from 2015 to 2036 to help cover the costs of operations and maintenance. This includes any structures, facilities, equipment, or vehicles used in connection with the projects. The bill would authorize funding from the revenues in the Reclamation Fund and would also require a longer-term study on the operations of these projects.</p>

		Cosponsors: 5
KEYSTONE PIPELINE:		
<p>S. 1, the Keystone XL Pipeline Act, was introduced by Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) on 1/6/15.</p>	<p>1/6/15-Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar. 1/16, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27-Considered by Senate. 1/27/15-Cardin Amendment No. 124 (to Amendment No. 2), to clarify that treaties with Indian tribes remain in effect. 1/27/15-Murkowski (for Barrasso) Amendment No. 245 (to Amendment No. 2), to clarify that treaties with Indian tribes remain in effect. At the appropriate place, insert the following: Sec. _____. No Effect on Indian Treaties. Nothing in this Act may change, suspend, supersede, or abrogate any trust obligation or treaty requirement of the United States with respect to any Indian nation without consultation with the applicable Indian nation, as required under Executive Order 13175 (67 Fed. Reg. 67249) (November 6, 2000). 1/29/15- Senate adopted Murkowski (for Barrasso) Modified Amendment to clarify that certain consultation requirements with respect to Indian tribes remain in effect. 1/29/15-Senate passed amended 62-36. 2/11/15-House passed 270-152. 2/24/15-Vetoed by President Obama. 3/4/15-Failed passage in Senate over veto by Yea-Nay Vote. 62 – 37.</p>	<p>Sec. 3. Coordination of Energy Retrofitting Assistance for Schools. (a) (1)...(D) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; (E) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and (F) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).</p> <p>Sec. 4. Declares that nothing in this Act relieves the United States of its responsibility to consult with Indian nations as required under Executive Order 13175.</p> <p>Sen, Cardin: The bottom line is that for over two centuries, our Nation disregarded the concerns of tribal nations with respect to projects affecting tribal communities. We now have laws and executive orders requiring deliberate and meaningful consultation on any actions taken by the Federal Government that affect tribal interests. This certainly applies to the Keystone pipeline.</p> <p>2/24/15-Presidential veto: <i>To the Senate of the United States:</i> I am returning herewith without my approval S. 1, the ``Keystone XL Pipeline Approval Act." Through this bill, the United States Congress attempts to circumvent longstanding and proven processes for determining whether or not building and operating a cross-border pipeline serves the national interest. The Presidential power to veto legislation is one I take seriously. But I also take seriously my responsibility to the American people. And because this act of Congress conflicts with established executive branch procedures and cuts short thorough consideration of issues that could bear on our national interest--including our security, safety, and environment--it has earned my veto. Barack Obama. The White House, <i>February 24, 2015.</i></p> <p>Cosponsors: 59</p>
LAND INTO TRUST:		
<p>H.R. 249, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) on 1/9/15.</p>	<p>1/9/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), Co-Chair of the Congressional Native American Caucus, has reintroduced legislation that would overturn the Supreme Court's <i>Carcieri v Salazar</i> decision. In <i>Carcieri</i>, the Court ruled that the secretary of the Interior's trust land acquisition authority is limited to those tribes that were under federal jurisdiction at the time of the passage of the <i>Indian Reorganization Act</i> (IRA) of 1934. Since the Court's ruling in 2009, congressional supporters of Indian Country have made enactment of a <i>Carcieri</i> fix a top legislative priority. Restores the Interior Secretary's authority to take land into trust for all tribes but would not make any modifications to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' fee-to-trust process.</p> <p>Amends the Indian Reorganization Act to make it applicable to all federally recognized Indian tribes,</p>

		<p>regardless of when any tribe became recognized. (This effectively overrules the Supreme Court's decision in <i>Carciari v. Salazar</i>, which held that the Secretary of the Interior could not take land into trust for a specified tribe because that tribe had not been under federal jurisdiction when the Act was enacted.)</p> <p>Cosponsors: 17</p>
<p>S. 175, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act, was introduced by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) on 1/13/15.</p> <p>H.R. 387, the Economic Development Through Tribal Land Exchange Act, was introduced by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA) on 1/14/15.</p>	<p>1/13/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.</p> <p>1/14/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>3/16/15- Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>Provides for certain land to be taken into trust for the benefit of Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and for other purposes.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p> <p>Cosponsors: 5</p>
<p>H.R. 407, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, was introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) on 1/20/15.</p> <p>S. 732, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, was introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (R-MT) on 3/12/15.</p>	<p>1/20/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p> <p>3/12/15-Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.</p>	<p>Carciari.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p> <p>Sen. Tester: "This bipartisan bill was built with tribal input and eliminates unnecessary hurdles for tribes to increase economic development opportunities," Tester said in a statement. "The court decision had a negative impact on tribes across the nation by causing costly litigation and harmful delays in critical infrastructure development. This solution addresses one of Indian Country's top priorities and is a strong step forward to fulfilling the federal government's treaty and trust responsibilities."</p> <p>Cosponsors: 7</p>
<p>H.R. 487, a bill to allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands, was introduced by Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK).</p>	<p>1/22/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p> <p>3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>Sec. 1. Approval Not Required to Validate Land Transactions. (a) In General- Notwithstanding any other provision of law, without further approval, ratification, or authorization by the United States, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma may lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of its interests in any real property that is not held in trust by the United States for the benefit of such tribe. (b) Trust Land Not Affected-Nothing in this section shall--(1) authorize the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of an interest in any real property that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of such tribe; or (2) affect the operation of any law governing leasing, selling, conveying, warranting, or otherwise transferring any interest in such trust land.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>H.R. 521, a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK).</p>	<p>1/22/15-Referred to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.</p> <p>3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>1/26/15-The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is expected to announce its approval of genetically engineered (GE) salmon any day now. To make matters worse, FDA argues that these GE salmon don't even need to be labeled. In response to FDA's imminent approval, Congress is taking action. Senator Mark Begich (D-Alaska) and Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) recently introduced</p>

<p>S. 230, a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation located in Bethel, Alaska, was introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on 1/21/15.</p>	<p>4/14/14-Natural Resources Committee markup.</p> <p>1/21/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/25/15- SCIA favorably reported S. 230, S. 321, and S. 501.</p>	<p>bipartisan legislation in Congress that would ban GE fish and require mandatory labeling for consumers. Endorsed by 64 consumer, worker, religious and environmental groups, along with commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries associations, food businesses and retailers—including the Center for Food Safety, Ocean Conservancy, Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development, the Alaska Trollers Association, Food and Water Watch, the National Cooperative Grocers Association and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen’s Associations among others—who know that the approval of GE salmon would represent a serious threat to the survival of native salmon populations, many of which have already suffered severe declines related to salmon farms and other man-made impacts. Wild Atlantic salmon are already on the Endangered Species List in the U.S.; approving these GE Atlantic salmon could be the final blow to these wild stocks. Additionally, the human health impacts of eating GE fish are entirely unknown. If GE salmon are approved, these fish must be labeled so people can make informed choices.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>H.R. 1157, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians Land Transfer Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) on 2/27/15.</p>	<p>2/27/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.</p>	<p>(KJF) HR 1157 authorizes the U.S. Secretary of Interior to take the 1,433-acre agriculture parcel and place it into federal trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, making it part of the tribe's sovereign territory and removing it from the county's tax rolls and planning-processes oversight. The local tribe appears to be covering all its bases while it awaits a final decision from BIA, which approved the Chumash’s fee-to-trust application in late 2014 but must consider appeals from the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and other Santa Ynez Valley organizations to make the act official. Chumash officials bought the land in question along Highway 246 from the late Fess Parker in 2010, and have said they plan to build homes for tribal families.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 8</p>
<p>S. 732, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, was introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (R-MT) on 3/12/15.</p> <p>H.R. 407, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, was introduced by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) on 1/20/15.</p>	<p>3/12/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.</p> <p>1/20/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.</p>	<p>Carcieri (KJF) Tester said. “This bipartisan bill was built with tribal input and eliminates unnecessary hurdles for tribes to increase economic development opportunities,” Tester said. “The court decision had a negative impact on tribes across the nation by causing costly litigation and harmful delays in critical infrastructure development. This solution addresses one of Indian country’s top priorities and is a strong step forward to fulfilling the federal government’s treaty and trust responsibilities.”</p> <p>Cosponsors: 7</p> <p>Cosponsors: 4</p>

H.R. 1436, a bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) on 3/18/15.	3/18/15-Referred to House Committee on Natural Resources.	Cosponsors: 0
H.R. 1438, a bill to require that certain Federal lands be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Peter DeFazio on 3/18/15.	3/18/15-Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Cosponsors: 0
S. 814, the Oregon Coastal Land Act, was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on 3/19/15.	3/19/15- Referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Provides for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. Sponsors: 1
S. 815, the Cow Creek Umpqua Land Conveyance Act, was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on 3/19/15.	3/19/15- Referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.	Provides for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on 3/19/15. Cosponsors: 1
S. 817, a bill to provide for the addition of certain real property to the reservation of the Siletz Tribe in the State of Oregon, was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on 3/19/15.	3/19/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.	Streamlines BIA's process for putting land into trust for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Cosponsors: 1
S. 818, a bill to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to make technical corrections, was introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) on 3/19/15.	3/19/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.	Streamlines BIA's process for putting land into trust for the Grand Ronde Reservation. Cosponsors: 1
S. 986, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, was introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on 4/16/15.	4/16/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.	Cosponsors: 1
H.R. 1880, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to take into trust 4 parcels of Federal land for the benefit of certain Indian Pueblos in the State of New Mexico, was introduced by Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) on 4/16/15.	4/16/15-Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.	Cosponsors: 1
LAND RIGHTS:		
H.R. 328, the American Indian Empowerment Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK) on 1/13/15.	1/13/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.	Empowers federally recognized Indian tribes to accept restricted fee tribal lands, and for other purposes. Cosponsors: 0
H.R. 482, the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) on 1/22/15.	1/22/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.	The lands included in this expansion contain important and unique archaeological resources showing the use of this area for over 12,000 years. Support for this expansion throughout Georgia and across the country including the Muskogee (Creek) Nation in Oklahoma. Ocmulgee National Monument move significantly closer to becoming a national park and expand the park's acreage from about 700 acres to more than 2,000 acres. Cosponsors: 1

<p>H.R. 1632, the Samish Indian Nation Land Conveyance Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA) on 3/25/15.</p>	<p>3/25/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.</p>	<p>Would take about 97 acres of Samish-owned land on five parcels and place them in federal trust to be used by the tribe for community and economic purposes. Those parcels include a Head Start and Early Learning Center and the tribal administration complex in Anacortes, as well as agricultural land and salmon habitat in Skagit County. The language of the bill prohibits gaming on the land once it is taken into trust. It does not affect the rights of other tribes, including hunting and fishing on any lands</p> <p>Cosponsors: 4</p>
<p>MARIJUANA:</p>		
<p>S. 683, the Compassionate Access, Research Expansion, and Respect States (CARERS) Act, was introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) on 3/10/15.</p>	<p>3/10/15-Referred to Committee on the Judiciary.</p>	<p>Decriminalizes medical marijuana at the federal level, but only for those states that have authorized the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. It would seem that including tribes within the scope of this legislation would be consistent with the Department of Justice's 2014 memorandum on the enforcement of marijuana laws in Indian Country, and may provide some measure of certainty for tribes that are seeking to decriminalize marijuana.</p> <p>Rep. Booker: "The current medical marijuana situation in America is untenable. It is unfair for the Americans that operate legitimate marijuana businesses. It is unfair to people with disabilities, including veterans with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury or missing limbs who rely on medical marijuana for treatment. It is unfair to children with intractable epilepsy who need cannabidiol-known as CBD-to control their seizures."</p> <p>Cosponsors: 4</p>
<p>MIAMI TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA:</p>		
<p>H.R. 533, a bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes, was introduced by Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) on 1/26/15.</p> <p>S. 321, a bill to revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at the request of that tribe, and for other purposes, was introduced by Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) on 1/29/15.</p>	<p>1/26/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. 3/23/15-Natural Resources Committee markup. 4/15/15-Natural Resources Committee reported. H. Rept. 114-77.</p> <p>1/29/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/25/15- SCIA favorably reported.</p>	<p>Accepts the request of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to revoke the charter of incorporation issued to that tribe and ratified by its members on June 1, 1940.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 2</p> <p>Sen. Lankford: "Outdated laws and regulations hold communities back all around Oklahoma. This federal corporate charter is unused by the Tribe, and yet its existence raises concerns for prospective business partners due to restrictive conditions within the charter. Taking the federal charter off the books eliminates uncertainty for these partners and ensures that the Tribe is free to pursue new opportunities that will benefit the community now and for years to come."</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>MISSING INDIVIDUALS:</p>		
<p>H.R.1742, a bill to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery</p>	<p>4/13/15-Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.</p>	<p>Helps make sure missing children and elderly adults are recovered as soon as possible.</p>

of missing individuals, was introduced by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) on 4/13/15.		Cosponsors: 2
RECOGNITION:		
S. 35, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) on 1/6/15.	1/6/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 3/18/15-SCIA ordered favorably reported.	Extends federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana. Makes the Tribe and each member eligible for all services and benefits provided by the United States to Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes, without regard to the existence of a reservation for the Tribe or the location of the residence of any member on or near an Indian reservation. Considers the federal service area of the Tribe to be the area comprised of Blaine, Cascade, Glacier, and Hill Counties, Montana. Directs the Tribe, as a condition of receiving recognition, services, and benefits pursuant to this Act, to submit to the Secretary of the Interior a membership roll consisting of the name of each individual enrolled as a member of the Tribe. Requires the Tribe to maintain such membership roll. Directs the Secretary to acquire, for the benefit of the Tribe, trust title to 200 acres of land within the Tribe's service area to be used for a tribal land base. 1/9/15-Sen. Tester said: "Congress has a trust responsibility to our nation's tribes, and that responsibility should extend to Montana's Little Shell. Their federal recognition will strengthen all of Indian Country and help us live up to the promises we've made." Cosponsors: 1
H.R. 286, the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) on 1/12/15.	1/12/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.	Cosponsors: 0
H.R. 184, the Lumbee Recognition Act, was introduced by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) on 1/7/14.	1/7/15-Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources Committee. 3/2/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.	Extends federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of NC, which makes its members eligible for the services and benefits provided to Indians because of their status as members of a federally recognized tribe. Deems members of the Tribe residing in Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke, and Scotland Counties in NC to be within the delivery area for such services. Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the Tribe. Prohibits the Tribe from conducting gaming activities. Requires NC to exercise jurisdiction over all criminal offenses committed, and all civil actions that arise, on NC lands owned by, or held in trust for, the Lumbee Tribe or any dependent Indian community of the Tribe. 1/8/5-Rep. Hudson said: "Southeastern North Carolina has made tremendous strides in economic growth, and granting the Lumbee's federal recognition has the potential to spur job creation and further revitalize the region to make life better for everyone in our community...". Cosponsors: 8
H.R. 872, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) on 2/11/15.	2/11/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. 3/16/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.	Extends Federal recognition to the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe-Eastern Division, the Upper Mattaponi Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, Inc., the Monacan Indian Nation, and the Nansemond Indian Tribe. Cosponsors: 3

<p>S. 465, the Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Kaine (D-VA) on 2/11/15.</p>	<p>2/11/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 3/18/15-SCIA ordered favorably reported.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 1</p>
<p>RECREATIONAL FISHING, HUNTING, ETC., ON FEDERAL LAND:</p>		
<p>S. 556, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on 2/25/15.</p>	<p>2/25/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. 3/12/15-Hearing.</p>	<p>Protects and enhances opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes. Sec. 101. Recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting on federal public land. (a) Definitions- In this section: (1) Federal Public Land ... (B) Exclusions-The term 'Federal public land' does not include--(i) land or water held or managed in trust for the benefit of Indian tribes or individual Indians; ... Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>"REDSKINS" NAME OR LOGO:</p>		
<p>H.R. 684, the Non-Disparagement of Native American Persons or Peoples in Trademark Registration Act," was introduced by Rep. Michael Honda (D-CA) on 2/3/15.</p>	<p>2/3/15-Referred to House Committee on the Judiciary. 3/17/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.</p>	<p>Amends the Trademark Act of 1946 regarding the disparagement of Native American persons or peoples through marks that use the term "redskin", and for other purposes. Rep. Honda: "It is unbelievable to me that, in the 21st century, a prominent NFL franchise is calling itself by a racial slur," Honda said in a release. "Allowing trademark protection of this word is akin to the government approving its use. Removing that trademark will send a clear message that this name is not acceptable." Cosponsors: 32</p>
<p>SMALL BUSINESS:</p>		
<p>H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) on 1/26/15. S. 426, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) on 2/10/15.</p>	<p>1/26/15-Referred to Committees on the Judiciary and Small Business. 1/27/15-Committee on Judiciary held markup and ordered reported. 2/2/15-Reported by the Committee on Judiciary. H. Rept. 114-12, Part I. 2/10/15-Referred to Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.</p>	<p>Sec. 2. Clarification and Expansion of Rules Covered by the Regulatory Flexibility Act. ... (d) Inclusion of Rules Affecting Tribal Organizations- Paragraph (5) of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting `and tribal organizations (as defined in section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(1))),' after `special districts,'. Cosponsors: 21 Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>SELF-DETERMINATION:</p>		
<p>S. 209, the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2015, and for other purposes, was introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WV) on 1/21/15.</p>	<p>1/21/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/4/15-SCIA ordered reported without amendment.</p>	<p>SCIA Chairman Barrasso:"Tribes have the potential to contribute to our nation's energy security. This bill will tap into that potential. This legislation will cut the bureaucratic red-tape and let tribes develop their energy resources – putting their destiny back into their hands and not the Federal Government. Cosponsors: 9</p>

<p>S. 286, the Department of the Interior Self-Governance Act of 2015, and for other purposes, was introduced by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WV) on 1/28/15.</p>	<p>1/28/15-Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/4/15-Senate Committee on Indian Affairs business meeting to consider S. 286; ordered favorably reported without an amendment.</p>	<p>SCIA Chairman Barrasso: “This bill has been around in some form or another since at least the 108th Congress. It is intended to improve the process for negotiating, reviewing, and approving tribal compacts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. These compacts are key mechanisms for tribal administration of Indian programs. This bill would reduce Federal bureaucracy and promote local control and accountability.”</p> <p>Cosponsors: 5</p>
<p>TAX RELATED:</p>		
<p>S. 536, the Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act of 2015, was introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on 2/24/15.</p>	<p>2/24/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.</p>	<p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the IHS Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarship Program.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p>
<p>H.R. 1522, the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit (ICPTC) bill, was introduced by Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT) on 3/19/15.</p>	<p>3/19/15-Referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.</p>	<p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and improve the Indian coal production tax credit, Rep. Zinke: “I am proud to introduce this important legislation because making the ICPTC permanent will level the playing field for future development of coal resources on Tribal land and ensure generations of good-paying jobs for the Crow people. Montana is home to 25 percent of our nation’s coal reserves—enough to supply the entire U.S. with affordable electricity for more than 100 years.”</p> <p>Cosponsors: 5</p>
<p>S. 835, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to recognize Indian tribal governments for purposes of determining under the adoption credit whether a child has special needs, was introduced by Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) on 3/23/15</p> <p>H.R. 1542, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to recognize Indian tribal governments for purposes of determining under the adoption credit whether a child has special needs, was introduced by Rep. Kilmer (D-WA) on 3/23/15.</p>	<p>3/23/15-Referred to the Committee on Finance.</p> <p>3/23/15-Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.</p>	<p>Cosponsors: 1</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p>
<p>S. 947, the Indian Lands Accelerated Depreciation Act, was introduced by Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-OK) on 4/15/15.</p>	<p>4/15/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.</p>	<p>Makes permanent the Indian Lands Accelerated Depreciation tax provision. Sen. Inhofe has introduced this legislation each Congress since 2005. This provision in the federal tax code would allow businesses that purchase capital equipment for use on former or current Indian lands to depreciate it more than 40 percent faster than would otherwise be allowed. The provision, which is currently temporary, was a leading reason Macy’s investing \$170 million in a state-of-the-art facility in Owasso, Okla. that is expected to create 1,500 new permanent jobs and an additional 1,000 more during the Christmas shopping season.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>H.R. 1842, the Indian Health Service Health Professions Tax Fairness Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. David G. Valadao (R-CA) on 4/16/15.</p>	<p>4/16/15-Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.</p>	<p>Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health</p>

		<p>Professions Scholarships Program, Seeks to improve healthcare for Native American communities by empowering the Indian Health Service (IHS) to recruit additional healthcare professionals to their facilities. American Indians and Alaska Natives currently have a life expectancy 4.1 years shorter than the average American population and are 1.4 times more likely to die from common ailments such as pneumonia or the flu or even from routine procedures such as child birth. While American Indian and Alaska Native communities continue to battle these significant health disparities, IHS is forced to spend nearly 30% of its Health Professions Account to pay taxes to the federal government instead of investing those dollars into community health professionals.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 35</p>
TRUST ASSET MANAGEMENT REFORM:		
<p>H.R. 812, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, was introduced by Rep. Michael Simpson (R-ID) on 2/9/15.</p> <p>S. 383, the Indian Trust Asset Reform Act, introduced by Sen Mike Crapo (R-ID) on 2/5/15.</p>	<p>2/9/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources. 3/16/15-Referred to the Subcommittee on Indians, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs. 4/14/14-Natural Resources Committee markup.</p> <p>2/5/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.</p>	<p>Authorizes a demonstration project for tribes to negotiate on a voluntary basis with the Secretary of the Interior to manage their trust assets in accordance with relevant federal treaties, statutes, and court decisions.</p> <p>Provides for Indian trust asset management reform. Title I. Recognition of Trust Responsibility. Title II. Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project Act. Title III. Restructuring Office of the Special Trustee.</p> <p>Cosponsors: 3</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p>
VETERANS:		
<p>H.R. 1127, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain grants to assist nursing homes for veterans located on tribal lands, was introduced by Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D-AZ) on 2/26/15.</p>	<p>2/26/15-Referred to Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 3/13/15-Referred to Health Subcommittee.</p>	<p>“Native Americans have a greater proportion of veterans than the general U.S. population,” Kirkpatrick said. “Yet when these veterans return home, they may lack access to the facilities and care they need. Tribal communities are often in remote areas and provide a unique cultural support system, so it’s important to keep veterans near their families when they are in nursing care. I’m introducing this bill because we have a duty to stand up for these men and women who have served our nation.”</p> <p>Cosponsors: 0</p>
<p>H.R. 216, the Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning Reform Act of 2015, was introduced by Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL) on 1/8/15.</p>	<p>1/8/15-Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. 1/27/15-Hearing. 2/12/15-Markup; ordered reported amended. 3/23/15-Reported amended. H. Rept. 114-48. 3/24/15-House passed amended under suspension of the rules by 420-0.</p>	<p>Sec. 120. Quadrennial veterans review... (2) Each report submitted „shall include—... (G) a discussion of the status of cooperation between the Federal Government and State, local and tribal governments in supporting veterans and providing programs, services, benefits, and outcomes to assist veterans; ...</p> <p>Cosponsors: 4</p>
WATER:		
<p>S. 501, the New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act, was</p>	<p>2/12/15-Referred to Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. 2/25/15- SCIA favorably reported S. 230, S. 321, and S. 501.</p>	<p>Makes technical corrections to the Navajo water rights settlement in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes,</p> <p>Cosponsors: 1</p>

introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) on 2/12/15.	3/17/15-Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.	
H.R. 1406, the New Mexico Navajo Water Settlement Technical Corrections Act, introduced by Rep. Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) on 3/17/15.		Cosponsors: 0

Nominations Received by the Senate:

1/8/15-Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

3/11/15-Hearing on Nomination to consider Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. SCIA concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf. Nomination He currently serves as the vice chairman and associate commissioner of NIGC. Chaudhuri, whose mother was a Native American, is a graduate of Dartmouth College with a law degree from Cornell Law School. He was previously senior counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior from 2012 to 2013. He has also served on Native American courts: as an Associate Judge on the Puyallup Tribe of Nations Court from 2011 to 2012, an Appellate Judge on the San Manuel Mission Band of Indians Appeals Court from 2009 to 2012, and an Appellate Judge on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Supreme Court from 2006 to 2012. Prior to becoming a judge, he served as a deputy public defender in the Maricopa County Public Defender's Office from 2010 to 2011. He also ran his own law firm Chaudhuri Law Office, P.L.L.C, where he was managing attorney from 2006 to 2010.

3/24/15-SCIA submitted an executive report for Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri, of Arizona, to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission for the term of three years.

4/16/15- The Senate approved Chaudhuri's nomination by voice vote.



Executive Communications:

Senate:

EC-328. A communication from the Executive Analyst (Political), Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-329. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Land Acquisitions in the State of Alaska" (RIN1076-AF23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 16, 2015; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-387. A communication from the Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2014-15 Late Season" (RIN1018-AZ80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 22, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-580. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior (Indian Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2013 Report to Congress Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 450j-1(c) on the Funding Requirements for Contract Support Costs"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-1017. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015, and requirements for a "Within-Session Sequestration Report to the President and Congress"; to the Special Committee on Aging; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Appropriations; Armed Services; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Budget; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment and Public Works; Select Committee on Ethics; Finance; Foreign Relations; Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Intelligence; the Judiciary; Rules and Administration; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1188. A communication from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Reallocation of Pollock in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands" (RIN0648-XD813) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1189. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2015 and 2016 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish" (RIN0648-XD587) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2015; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1203. A communication from the Division Chief of Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands" (RIN1004-AE26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1223. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Tribal Implementation Plan and Designation of Air Quality Planning Area; Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians" (FRL No. 9924-45-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1228. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Well Production Facilities; Fort Berthold Indian Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation), North Dakota; Correction" (FRL No. 9923-70-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 27, 2015; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

House:

262. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule -- Land Acquisitions in the State of Alaska [K00103 14/15 A3A10; 134D0102DR-DS5A300000-DR.5A311.IA000115] (RIN: 1076-AF23) received January 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

290. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule -- Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program; Limited Liability for Noncoal Reclamation by Certified States and Indian Tribes [Docket ID: OSM-2012-0010; S1D1S SS08011000 SX066A00067F 134S180110; S2D2S SS08011000 SX066A00 33F 13XS501520] received January 20, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

905. A letter from the Division Chief, Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule -- Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands (RIN: 1004-AE26) received March 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

951. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule -- Approval of Tribal Implementation Plan and Designation of Air Quality Planning Area; Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians [EPA-R09-OAR-2014-0869; FRL-9924-45-Region 9] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1087. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule -- Approval and Promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan for Oil and Natural Gas Well Production Facilities; Fort Berthold

Indian Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation), North Dakota; Correction [EPA-R08-OAR-2012-0479; FRL-9923-70-Region 8] received March 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.