

April 13: USET SPF ACTION ALERT: ACTION NEEDED: Contact Your Senators and Urge Passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

Dear USET SPF Board of Directors and DC Tribal Reps,

As you may already be aware, we are expecting the Senate to hold a vote to begin consideration of S. 140, legislation that includes **the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act** this Monday evening. NOW is a critical time for your Senators to hear from you on this bill—especially Democratic Senators. This bill respects and upholds Tribal sovereignty and self-determination by ensuring that Tribal governments, like state and local governments, are able to determine their own labor practices.

Additional Democratic support will be necessary in order to get this legislation across the finish line. To that end, we strongly encourage you to contact your Senators and let them know that your Tribal Nation expects them to vote yes on S. 140. Below, we provide talking points to assist you in these conversations, as well as NCAI's most recent alert and [template letter](#).

To determine your Senators and receive contact information, please click [here](#) or call 202-224-3121 to be directly connected with a particular Senate office.

- I'm calling to encourage Senator [NAME] to vote for S. 140, which includes the *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act*.
- Tribal Nations across the country support The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act, as a matter of parity for Tribal governments. This legislation respects and upholds Tribal sovereignty and self-determination by ensuring that Tribal governments, like federal, state, and local governments, are able to determine their own labor practices.
- By law, all federal, state, and local government enterprises are exempt from the *National Labor Relations Act* (NLRA). For nearly 70 years, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) included Tribal Nations in this exemption.
- The *Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act* simply restores parity to NLRB's approach in the application of the NLRA to governments by amending the law to expressly exempt Tribal Nations. It promotes and acknowledges Tribal sovereignty by respecting a Tribal Nation's ability to self-govern within its own jurisdiction.
- On behalf of [TRIBAL NATION], I urge Senator [NAME] to vote in favor of S. 140.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

**Liz Malerba** ~ *Citizen of the Mohegan Tribe*  
*Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs*  
**United South and Eastern Tribes**

## **Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)**

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**From:** Jacqueline Pata [<mailto:jpata@ncai.org>]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2018 6:50 PM

**Subject:** ACTION NEEDED: Contact Your Senators and Urge Passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

**Importance:** High

### **NEED ACTION – TLSA VOTE SCHEDULED ON MONDAY**

Dear Tribal Leaders and Advocates

We had a good national call yesterday to discuss the strategy for enacting the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act. Here is a quick recap.

**URGENT:** Contact Your Senators and Urge Passage of the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

The Senate is expected to vote MONDAY at 5:30 to move forward S140 which includes the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act (TLSA). Now's the time. We really need every Democrat Office contacted - especially those that have tribes in their state. Please call AND write and urge them to stand with Indian Country, support tribal sovereignty, and vote in favor of passing TLSA.

We need 60 votes. Please make sure your Senators Republican or Democratic have heard from you. We need additional Democratic Senators especially those who have a relationship with tribal leaders in their home state. If you need any assistance from us please let us know.

*Message: TLSA would provide parity for tribal governments by ensuring tribes have the same opportunities as all other governments to regulate labor issues for government employees. This bill is a simple amendment to the National Labor Relations Act that would include tribes in the same exempt category as all other government employers in the United States.*

A [sample letter is attached](#) for tribes to send to their Senate delegations. Please share copies of your Senate letters with NCAI by forwarding an electronic copy to Lorraine Basch at [lbasch@ncai.org](mailto:lbasch@ncai.org).

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Thank you,  
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Founded in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians is the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. NCAI advocates on behalf of tribal governments, promoting strong tribal-federal government-to-government policies, and promoting a better understanding among the general public regarding American Indian and Alaska Native governments, people and rights.