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Congress Should Respect the Autonomy of Indian Tribes to Regulate Labor Unions

In May 2004, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that Indian reservations were no longer exempt from their authority, as states, municipalities, and territories are. This power grab reversed 30 years of NLRB precedent, and would allow a union-packed NLRB to run roughshod over tribal autonomy.

Congress has a chance to fix this injustice. Congressman J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ) has introduced an amendment to HR 5006, the FY 2006 Labor-HHS appropriations bill. His amendment would restore the pre-May 2004 position of the NLRB that Indian tribes are exempt entities from national labor law, just like states, municipalities, and territories.

Nationalizing labor laws in the 1930s and afterward led to decades of industrial decline for America. Today, much of the "old line" economy has been killed off by labor union locusts sucking industries dry while enjoying unfettered protection from Uncle Sam. Indian reservations should be free to protect themselves from union exploitation. <u>ATR supports this amendment and may rate it in its annual "Hero of the Taxpayer" award.</u>

ATR MAY RATE THIS AMENDMENT