tee, following the direction of your leader, who happens to be the Chair, is the best political move.

- Michigan's First District
  - o Michigan has eleven federally recognized Indian tribes in the state, and seven out of the eleven tribes reside in the First District: The Bay Mills Tribe, Hannahville Tribe, Keweenaw Bay Tribe, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa Tribe, Little Traverse Bay Band of Ottawa Indians, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa.
  - o Relations among Michigan's Indian Tribes can be intense and create tension. There is respect, but when having to share a limited amount of resources, competition can be heated. A recent tribal casino dispute in the First District has left the newly built Bay Mills Vanderbilt Casino shut down, by a grievance filed by the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and the State of Michigan. The claim is that the Bay Mills Tribe misused the right of gaining land in trust through the BIA and therefore the land the casino is built on is not legal for gaming activity. The Bay Mills Tribe's headquarters is in the Upper Peninsula, yet they purchased 40 acres in the Lower Peninsula (125 miles away) using proceeds from a trust fund designated to "consolidate and enhance" Tribal land holdings (Ranzenberger). The Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Tribe is speaking out against the Bay Mills Tribe because this purchase of land is not consolidating their reservation, nor does it enhance it, only gaining a profit for the tribe. The Vanderbilt Casino is 30 miles away from the Little Traverse Bay Casino and is direct competition for that tribe. The Michigan Attorney General's office supports the Little Traverse Tribe and has also filed against the Bay Mills Tribe. A federal judge has ruled that the casino to be shut down, having been illegally operating on non-Indian land, which makes it under State jurisdiction.
  - o The tribe in question is home to the Seventh District of North Carolina, not Michigan. This decision will not directly affect the constituents of the First District, and as a freshman congressman, it is ill advised to speak out for such a bill that is not favored by your party, and is not affiliated with Michigan constituents.

Advisement

It is in the best interest for you to vote NO on H.R. 27. As a freshman congressman, it is best advised to follow the senior members of the party, especially the chair of your committee. The protection of the party will be needed, after the 2010 election showed how vulnerable the First District seat is. The ideological structure of the First is very swayable, after enduring tenure from Congressman Bart Stupak, a conservative Democrat, the seat could support a Republican or

another Blue Dog Democrat. The Tea Party support that was received during your run would also favor the opposition to this Bill, for it would instill smaller government and decrease entitlement programs. There is not a direct connection to your constituents in the First, but rather one Tribe in North Carolina. The uncertainty of funding this action would be costly to the budget,which as of now lies in shambles. This tribe should use the BIA as a resource for federal recognition, and if they cannot get approved, then that should be final. Also, the cries of discrimination on behalf of the Lumbee are not valid and there is a legitimate process for recognition under the BIA.

Citation

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*McIntyre, Mike (7-NC). Statement of the Honorable Mike McIntyre, U.S. Representative 7th Congressional District, North Carolina. Natural Resources Committee, U.S House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 18 March 2009. http://naturalresources.house.gov/UploadedFiles/McIntyreTestimony03.18.09.pdf

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*Lumbee Preamble. Constitution of the Lumbee Tribe. http://www.lumbeetribe.com/Government/CONSTITUTION.PDF

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