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SENATE

{ REPORT
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AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL GRANT TO FACILITATE AN IRON WORKING TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DORGAN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1129]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 1129) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron working training program for Native Americans, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill (as amended) do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 1129 is to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, to the extent that funds are available for such purpose, to provide annual grants to facilitate a training program for Native American iron workers.

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) established an iron workers training program for Native Americans in 1972 as part of its general obligations to improve the economic conditions of Indian country. Congress has since annually approved appropriations for the program; however, the program has never been specifically authorized in law.

H.R. 1129 would specifically authorize an iron worker training program for Native Americans. Under the bill, and subject to available funds, the Secretary would be directed to provide grants for classroom and on-the-job training in iron working skills to adult members of federally recognized Indian tribes. The grantee would also be required to facilitate participant job placement. To be eligible to receive a grant under the Act, an entity must show proven experience in providing successful iron working training programs

to Native Americans, and have the facilities necessary to carry out such a program.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (OIEED) has administered the grant over the past several fiscal years. The program has the support of the Council for Tribal Employment Rights (CTER) and a number of individual tribes.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On February 23, 2009, Congressman Stephen Lynch introduced H.R. 1129, and the bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources. On July 7, 2009, the House considered H.R. 1129 under suspension of the rules. It was agreed to by a vote of 329–75. On July 8, 2009, H.R. 1129 was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT

During an open business meeting on August 6, 2009, the Committee considered and approved an amendment to H.R. 1129, offered by Vice Chairman Barrasso. The amendment would make federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal colleges eligible to receive iron worker training grants under the bill. The amendment was accepted by voice vote.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee approved of the bill by voice vote, as amended, at the open business meeting on August 6, 2009, and ordered the bill reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that the bill, as amended, do pass.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

AUGUST 24, 2009.

Hon. BYRON L. DORGAN,
Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for H.R. 1129, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron-working training program for Native Americans.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Leigh Angres.

Sincerely,

DOUGLAS W. ELMENDORF.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1129—An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide an annual grant to facilitate an iron-working training program for Native Americans

H.R. 1129 would specifically authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), to provide annual grants for iron-working training programs for Native Americans. Eligible grantees would include federally recognized tribes, tribal colleges and universities, and other entities that have proven experience in such programs. Based on information provided by

BIA, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1129 would cost about \$2 million over the 2010–2014 period, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting H.R. 1129 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

BIA has administered an iron-working training program for Native Americans since 1972. Over the past few years, the BIA has funded one grant a year at an average level of about \$400,000. The act would codify and expand the current program to provide multiple grants to eligible entities. However, given the current demand for such training programs, CBO estimates that one grant a year would continue to be awarded at the same funding level.

H.R. 1129 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Leigh Angres. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY AND PAPERWORK IMPACT STATEMENT

Paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate requires that each report accompanying a bill to evaluate the regulatory and paperwork impact that would be incurred in carrying out the bill. The Committee has concluded that the regulatory and paperwork impacts of H.R. 1129, if any, would be *de minimis*.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The Committee has received no communications from the Executive Branch regarding H.R. 1129.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee finds that the enactment of H.R. 1129 will not result in any changes in existing law.