

Indian People's Action



Testimony: 01/16/13

HB108

Good morning, Ms. Chair and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Cheryl Eagle, Secretary of Indian People's Action and I live in Butte, MT. I am an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation.

I'm here today on behalf of Indian People's Action. Indian People's Action is a statewide community organization, working alongside Montana Organizing Project working on social, economic and racial justice issues statewide. Indian People's Action is a socially and racially diverse organization of low to moderate income Native Montanans. We empower members to achieve lasting change for social, economic, and racial justice using direct action.

I'm here to oppose HB 108 for several reasons;

HB 108 would disenfranchise our American Indian Students, our American Indian Service men and women, as well as, disabled American Indians living in urban areas. A majority of American Indians living in urban areas, don't have ID's other than their student ID's and/military ID's.

Current Montana law provides multiple opportunities for all citizens to participate in our democratic process. These laws include accessible voter IDs. We all benefit from robust and accessible elections, and must continue to protect the avenues to participation that allow even our most vulnerable community members to vote.