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House of Representatives

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Ponka-We Victors  
Representative, 103rd District

March 15, 2018

**Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee**  
**Senator Tyson, Chair**

Dear Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Senate Taxation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Sub HB 2147. Native Americans have a long history of serving in the military and have a higher rate of military service than any other ethnic group in the nation. Even before being considered citizens of their Native homelands, they have proudly served America and continue to serve in the United States Armed Forces today.

From 1977 to 2001, Native American service members who were domiciled on Indian land experienced state income tax being illegally withheld from their paychecks. Under federal law, Native American individual military service members domiciled on Indian land are exempt from state income tax being withheld from their military pay. This has happened for 24 years, and even took place when military service members were stationed across the world. These men and woman, proudly serving their country should not have come home to a problem with their state income taxes being illegally withheld.

Other states across the nation have taken steps to correct this mistake. Both New Mexico and Arizona have passed legislation to return monies to the veterans. In closing, I hope the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee will please address this issue. Thank you for your time and attention regarding this matter.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ponka-We".

Ponka-We Victors, District 103