

Date_____

The Honorable _____

Office Address_____

United States Senate

Washington, DC

Dear Senator _____

I am writing to urge you to **withdraw your support for Senate Resolution 168**,
"A resolution supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive
governance in Ethiopia."

I am an Ethiopian American with strong ties to the country of my birth. I, too, support the respect for human rights and inclusive governance in Ethiopia. I am deeply concerned about the tensions among various groups in civil society that have at times been expressed by violence and the destruction of property. While I condemn the violence, I fully support the right of every Ethiopian to peacefully protest any perceived injustice, a right enshrined in the Ethiopian Constitution.

In the United States, there is a sizeable number of Ethiopian Americans residing in urban centers such as Minneapolis, Atlanta, Boston, Washington, DC, Seattle, Houston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Within those communities are Ethiopian opposition leaders who are well organized and well funded to promote their political interests with their Congressional representatives.

The Ethiopian American leadership in the United States, unfortunately, tend to have been separated from their country for as long as long as 40 years and have lost touch with Ethiopia's current reality.

It is a mistake to assume that the vast majority of Ethiopian Americans share the opposition leadership views about the Ethiopian government and its democratic nation-building process.

To the contrary, most Ethiopian Americans support the efforts of the Ethiopian government, recognizing both the successes and failures in democratization and economic growth in the last 25 years.

This resolution, S.128, is not helpful at all. It challenges the sovereignty of a country that has jealously guarded its independence for centuries. It undermines the mutual respect critical to the strategic partnership between the United States and Ethiopia on

issues of counter-terrorism and security in the rough neighborhood of the Horn of Africa. It is an affront to the Ethiopian people and a threat to the security of the region.

I urge you to do the right thing and **withdraw your support** for this unhelpful resolution.

Your name _____

Your title _____

Your Address, phone number, email _____

City, State, Zip _____