

1. Sample Letter FOR CO-SPONSORS, Senate Intelligence and Foreign Affairs
Committee Members OF THE BILL

I[*INSERT DATE*]

The Honorable [*Senator's FIRST and LAST name*]
Office Address [*Senator's Washington DC office*]
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