

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3787

To require that the Secretary of the Interior hold at least one public hearing in the surrounding community where land requested to be taken into trust for an Indian tribe is located in order to ascertain the needs and interests of that surrounding community.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 2007

Mr. MCHUGH (for himself and Mr. ARCURI) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To require that the Secretary of the Interior hold at least one public hearing in the surrounding community where land requested to be taken into trust for an Indian tribe is located in order to ascertain the needs and interests of that surrounding community.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Land-In-Trust Public
5 Hearing Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEARING REQUIRED.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 6 months before ap-
3 proving any application to take land into trust for an In-
4 dian tribe, the Secretary of the Interior shall hold at least
5 one public hearing (in addition to any hearings held pursu-
6 ant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969)
7 in the surrounding community where the land requested
8 to be taken into trust is located in order to ascertain the
9 needs and interests of that surrounding community. All
10 interested individuals shall be afforded the opportunity to
11 participate in such hearings.

12 (b) COMMENTS.—The Secretary shall—

13 (1) solicit comments from the public at hearings
14 held under subsection (a); and

15 (2) ensure that any comments received at or re-
16 lated to such hearings are part of the record before
17 the agency.

18 (c) TRANSCRIPTS.—The Secretary shall, on a timely
19 basis, make transcripts of such hearings available to the
20 public via the Internet or other electronic means.

21 (d) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if each
22 county in the relevant surrounding community waives the
23 right to such hearings.

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