

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 297

AN ACT

To extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Little Shell Tribe of
3 Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) MEMBER.—The term “member” means an
7 individual who is enrolled in the Tribe pursuant to
8 section 6.

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of the Interior.

11 (3) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Lit-
12 tle Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana.

13 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Federal recognition is extended to
15 the Tribe.

16 (b) EFFECT OF FEDERAL LAWS.—Except as other-
17 wise provided in this Act, all Federal laws (including regu-
18 lations) of general application to Indians and Indian
19 tribes, including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C.
20 5101 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorga-
21 nization Act”), shall apply to the Tribe and members.

22 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enact-
24 ment of this Act, the Tribe and each member shall be eligi-
25 ble for all services and benefits provided by the United

1 States to Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes,
2 without regard to—

3 (1) the existence of a reservation for the Tribe;

4 or

5 (2) the location of the residence of any member
6 on or near an Indian reservation.

7 (b) SERVICE AREA.—For purposes of the delivery of
8 services and benefits to members, the service area of the
9 Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of
10 Blaine, Cascade, Glacier, and Hill Counties in the State
11 of Montana.

12 **SEC. 5. REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act diminishes
14 any right or privilege of the Tribe or any member that
15 existed before the date of enactment of this Act.

16 (b) CLAIMS OF TRIBE.—Except as otherwise pro-
17 vided in this Act, nothing in this Act alters or affects any
18 legal or equitable claim of the Tribe to enforce any right
19 or privilege reserved by, or granted to, the Tribe that was
20 wrongfully denied to, or taken from, the Tribe before the
21 date of enactment of this Act.

22 **SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP ROLL.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving rec-
24 ognition, services, and benefits pursuant to this Act, the
25 Tribe shall submit to the Secretary, by not later than 18

1 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a member-
 2 ship roll consisting of the name of each individual enrolled
 3 as a member of the Tribe.

4 (b) DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—The quali-
 5 fications for inclusion on the membership roll of the Tribe
 6 shall be determined in accordance with sections 1 through
 7 3 of article 5 of the constitution of the Tribe dated Sep-
 8 tember 10, 1977 (including amendments to the constitu-
 9 tion).

10 (c) MAINTENANCE OF ROLL.—The Tribe shall main-
 11 tain the membership roll under this section.

12 **SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF LAND.**

13 (a) HOMELAND.—The Secretary shall acquire, for the
 14 benefit of the Tribe, trust title to 200 acres of land within
 15 the service area of the Tribe to be used for a tribal land
 16 base.

17 (b) ADDITIONAL LAND.—The Secretary may acquire
 18 additional land for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to
 19 section 5 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5108)
 20 (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”).

Passed the House of Representatives March 26,
 2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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