

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 297

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

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

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

5 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Federal recognition is extended to
7 the Tribe.

8 (b) EFFECT OF FEDERAL LAWS.—Except as other-
9 wise provided in this Act, all Federal laws (including regu-
10 lations) of general application to Indians and Indian
11 tribes, including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C.
12 5101 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorga-
13 nization Act”), shall apply to the Tribe and members.

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

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Tribe and each member shall be eligi-
17 ble for all services and benefits provided by the United
18 States to Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes,
19 without regard to—

20 (1) the existence of a reservation for the Tribe;
21 or

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

24 (b) SERVICE AREA.—For purposes of the delivery of
25 services and benefits to members, the service area of the

1 Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of
2 Blaine, Cascade, Glacier, and Hill Counties in the State
3 of Montana.

4 **SEC. 5. REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS.**

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

8 (b) CLAIMS OF TRIBE.—Except as otherwise pro-
9 vided in this Act, nothing in this Act alters or affects any
10 legal or equitable claim of the Tribe to enforce any right
11 or privilege reserved by, or granted to, the Tribe that was
12 wrongfully denied to, or taken from, the Tribe before the
13 date of enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP ROLL.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of receiving rec-
16 ognition, services, and benefits pursuant to this Act, the
17 Tribe shall submit to the Secretary, by not later than 18
18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a member-
19 ship roll consisting of the name of each individual enrolled
20 as a member of the Tribe.

21 (b) DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—The quali-
22 fications for inclusion on the membership roll of the Tribe
23 shall be determined in accordance with sections 1 through
24 3 of article 5 of the constitution of the Tribe dated Sep-

1 tember 10, 1977 (including amendments to the constitu-
2 tion).

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

5 **SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF LAND.**

6 (a) HOMELAND.—The Secretary shall acquire, for the
7 benefit of the Tribe, trust title to 200 acres of land within
8 the service area of the Tribe to be used for a tribal land
9 base.

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

○