

Columbia River Treaty Tribes access to their traditional fishing grounds. The bill also authorizes the BIA to enter into contracts with Tribes or Tribal organizations to improve the conditions at those sites.

The Columbia River Treaty Tribes, through a series of treaties in 1855, established their continued access to traditional fishing grounds and to certain fishing facilities on the Columbia River. However, starting in the 1930s, construction of the dams of the Columbia River power system resulted in the flooding and destruction of Tribal villages, homes, and traditional fishing sites, severely impacting the ability of the Tribes to exercise their treaty rights.

The Tribes and their citizens have never been fully compensated for these losses.

Starting in 1939, the Federal Government acquired and developed small parcels of land to serve as in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites, providing members of the Columbia River Treaty Tribes access and a way to exercise their rights to fish in the Columbia River and to reside at their traditional fishing places and stations.

Congress also enacted the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites project in 1988, which authorized improvements for certain fishing facilities and directed the Army Corps of Engineers to acquire new lands to provide unencumbered river access for Tribal members.

Today, there are 31 Tribal fishing sites located along the Columbia River, 27 of which are managed by the BIA. The sites were intended to be used primarily for in-season fishing and some temporary camping. However, out of both a need for housing and a desire to be closer to their own traditional fishing areas, many Tribal members now use these areas as permanent residences.

These sites were not designed for and cannot sustainably accommodate this use. In fact, many people at these sites are living in extremely distressed, unsafe, and unsanitary conditions as a direct result of decades of unmet obligations by the BIA.

S. 50 will allow much-needed improvements to the conditions at these sites.

I thank Senator MERKLEY for his work on moving this bill through the Senate. I also thank our colleague from Oregon, Representative BLUMENAUER, for being the champion in the House on this issue and for tirelessly advocating for the Columbia River Treaty Tribes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge quick adoption of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will help ensure that certain Columbia River Tribes have meaningful access to usual and accustomed fishing areas and related fishing facilities as established by treaty.

Due to the construction of dams in the 1930s and 1950s along the Columbia River, the lands of these Tribes were flooded. Congress authorized the Federal Government to acquire and replace lost Tribal fishing areas along the river, including the construction of improvements. However, in recent years, there have been continued reports that the conditions at these fishing sites have deteriorated significantly.

S. 50 directs the Department of the Interior to assess current sanitation and safety conditions on lands that were set aside to provide affected Columbia River Treaty Tribes access to traditional fishing grounds. The Bureau of Indian Affairs would also be authorized to execute improvements at the sites in coordination with the four Tribes that the sites serve.

While this legislation is intended to address safety and basic maintenance needs, it is not the intent of Congress for these fishing sites to become permanent residences but to continue their existing purpose as traditional fishing access sites.

With this caveat, we see no issues with this bill that was favorably reported by unanimous consent by the Committee on Natural Resources last Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 50.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE HISTORIC LANDS REACQUISITION ACT

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 453) to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 453

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act”.

SEC. 2. LAND TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

(a) LANDS INTO TRUST.—Subject to such rights of record as may be vested in third parties to rights-of-way or other easements or rights-of-record for roads, utilities, or other purposes, the following Federal lands

managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority and located on or above the 820-foot (MSL) contour elevation in Monroe County, Tennessee, on the shores of Tellico Reservoir, are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the use and benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians:

(1) SEQUOYAH MUSEUM PROPERTY.—Approximately 46.0 acres of land generally depicted as “Sequoyah Museum”, “Parcel 1”, and “Parcel 2” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 1” and dated April 30, 2015.

(2) SUPPORT PROPERTY.—Approximately 11.9 acres of land generally depicted as “Support Parcel” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 2” and dated April 30, 2015.

(3) CHOTA MEMORIAL PROPERTY AND TANASI MEMORIAL PROPERTY.—Approximately 18.2 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota Memorial 1” and “Tanasi Memorial” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 3” and dated April 30, 2015, and including the Chota Memorial and all land within a circle with a radius of 86 feet measured from the center of the Chota Memorial without regard to the elevation of the land within the circle.

(b) PROPERTY ON LANDS.—In addition to the land taken into trust by subsection (a), the improvements on and appurtenances thereto, including memorials, are and shall remain the property of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

(c) REVISED MAPS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of a land transaction made pursuant to this section, the Tennessee Valley Authority, after consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit revised maps that depict the land taken into trust under this section, including any corrections made to the maps described in this section to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

(d) CONTOUR ELEVATION CLARIFICATION.—The contour elevations referred to in this Act are based on MSL Datum as established by the NGS Southeastern Supplementary Adjustment of 1936 (NGVD29).

(e) CONDITIONS.—The lands taken into trust under this section shall be subject to the conditions described in section 5.

SEC. 3. PERMANENT EASEMENTS TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS.

(a) PERMANENT EASEMENTS.—The following permanent easements for land below the 820-foot (MSL) contour elevation for the following Federal lands in Monroe County, Tennessee, on the shores of Tellico Reservoir, are declared to be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians:

(1) CHOTA PENINSULA.—Approximately 8.5 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota Memorial 2” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 3” and dated April 30, 2015.

(2) CHOTA-TANASI TRAIL.—Approximately 11.4 acres of land generally depicted as “Chota-Tanasi Trail” on the map titled “Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Map 3” and dated April 30, 2015.

(b) REVISED MAPS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of a land transaction made pursuant to this section, the Tennessee Valley Authority, after consultation with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate revised maps that depict the lands subject to easements

taken into trust under this section, including any corrections necessary to the maps described in this section.

(c) **CONDITIONS.**—The lands subject to easements taken into trust under this section shall be subject to the use rights and conditions described in section 5.

SEC. 4. TRUST ADMINISTRATION AND PURPOSES.

(a) **APPLICABLE LAWS.**—Except as described in section 5, the lands subject to this Act shall be administered under the laws and regulations generally applicable to lands and interests in lands held in trust on behalf of Indian tribes.

(b) **USE OF LAND.**—Except the lands described in section 2(a)(2), the lands subject to this Act shall be used principally for memorializing and interpreting the history and culture of Indians and recreational activities, including management, operation, and conduct of programs of and for—

(1) the Sequoyah birthplace memorial and museum;

(2) the memorials to Chota and Tanasi as former capitals of the Cherokees;

(3) the memorial and place of reinterment for remains of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and other Cherokee tribes, including those transferred to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and other Cherokee tribes and those human remains and cultural items transferred by the Tennessee Valley Authority to those Cherokee tribes under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and

(4) interpreting the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.

(c) **USE OF SUPPORT PROPERTY.**—The land described in section 2(a)(2) shall be used principally for the support of lands subject to this Act and the programs offered by the Tribe relating to such lands and their purposes including—

(1) classrooms and conference rooms;

(2) cultural interpretation and education programs;

(3) temporary housing of guests participating in such programs or the management of the properties and programs; and

(4) headquarters offices and support space for the trust properties and programs.

(d) **LAND USE.**—The principal purposes of the use of the land described in section 3(a)—

(1) paragraph (1), shall be for a recreational trail from the general vicinity of the parking lot to the area of the Chota Memorial and beyond to the southern portion of the peninsula, including interpretive signs, benches, and other compatible improvements; and

(2) paragraph (2), shall be for a recreational trail between the Chota and Tanasi Memorials, including interpretive signs, benches, and other compatible improvements.

SEC. 5. USE RIGHTS, CONDITIONS.

(a) **FLOODING OF LAND AND ROADS.**—The Tennessee Valley Authority may temporarily and intermittently flood the lands subject to this Act that lie below the 824-foot (MSL) contour elevation and the road access to such lands that lie below the 824-foot (MSL) contour elevation.

(b) **FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES.**—The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians may construct, own, operate, and maintain—

(1) water use facilities and nonhabitable structures, facilities, and improvements not subject to serious damage if temporarily flooded on the land adjoining the Tellico Reservoir side of the lands subject to this Act that lie between the 815-foot and 820-foot (MSL) contour elevations, but only after having received written consent from the Tennessee Valley Authority and subject to the terms of such approval; and

(2) water use facilities between the 815-foot (MSL) contour elevations on the Tellico Reservoir side of the lands subject to this Act

and the adjacent waters of Tellico Reservoir and in and on such waters after having received written consent from the Tennessee Valley Authority and subject to the terms of such approval, but may not construct, own, operate, or maintain other nonhabitable structures, facilities, and improvements on such lands.

(c) **INGRESS AND EGRESS.**—The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians may use the lands subject to this Act and Tellico Reservoir for ingress and egress to and from such land and the waters of the Tellico Reservoir and to and from all structures, facilities, and improvements maintained in, on, or over such land or waters.

(d) **RIVER CONTROL AND DEVELOPMENT.**—The use rights under this section may not be exercised so as to interfere in any way with the Tennessee Valley Authority's statutory program for river control and development.

(e) **TVA AUTHORITIES.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the right of the Tennessee Valley Authority to—

(1) draw down Tellico Reservoir;

(2) fluctuate the water level thereof as may be necessary for its management of the Reservoir; or

(3) permanently flood lands adjacent to lands subject to this Act that lie below the 815-foot (MSL) contour elevation.

(f) **RIGHT OF ENTRY.**—The lands subject to this Act shall be subject to a reasonable right of entry by the personnel of the Tennessee Valley Authority and agents of the Tennessee Valley Authority operating in their official capacities as necessary for purposes of carrying out the Tennessee Valley Authority's statutory program for river control and development.

(g) **ENTRY ONTO LAND.**—To the extent that the Tennessee Valley Authority's operations on the lands subject to this Act do not unreasonably interfere with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' maintenance of an appropriate setting for the memorialization of Cherokee history or culture on the lands and its operations on the lands, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians shall allow the Tennessee Valley Authority to enter the lands to clear, ditch, dredge, and drain said lands and apply larvicides and chemicals thereon or to conduct bank protection work and erect structures necessary in the promotion and furtherance of public health, flood control, and navigation.

(h) **LOSS OF HYDROPOWER CAPACITY.**—All future development of the lands subject to this Act shall be subject to compensation to the Tennessee Valley Authority for loss of hydropower capacity as provided in the Tennessee Valley Authority Flood Control Storage Loss Guideline, unless agreed to otherwise by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

(i) **PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY.**—The United States shall not be liable for any loss or damage resulting from—

(1) the temporary and intermittent flooding of lands subject to this Act;

(2) the permanent flooding of adjacent lands as provided in this section;

(3) wave action in Tellico Reservoir; or

(4) fluctuation of water levels for purposes of managing Tellico Reservoir.

(j) **CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Tennessee Valley Authority shall—

(1) retain sole and exclusive Federal responsibility and liability to fund and implement any environmental remediation requirements that are required under applicable Federal or State law for any land or interest in land to be taken into trust under this Act, as well as the assessments under paragraph (2) to identify the type and quantity of any potential hazardous substances on the lands;

(2) prior to the acquisition in trust, carry out an assessment and notify the Secretary

of the Interior and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians whether any hazardous substances were stored on the lands and, if so, whether those substances—

(A) were stored for 1 year or more on the lands;

(B) were known to have been released on the lands; or

(C) were known to have been disposed of on the lands; and

(3) if the assessment under paragraph (2) shows that hazardous substances were stored, released, or disposed of on the lands, include in its notice under paragraph (2) to the Secretary of the Interior and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians—

(A) the type and quantity of such hazardous substances;

(B) the time at which such storage, release, or disposal took place on the lands; and

(C) a description of any remedial actions, if any, taken on the lands.

SEC. 6. LANDS SUBJECT TO THE ACT.

For the purposes of this Act, the term "lands subject to this Act" means lands and interests in lands (including easements) taken into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians pursuant to or under this Act.

SEC. 7. GAMING PROHIBITION.

No class II or class III gaming, as defined in the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), shall be conducted on lands subject to this Act.

SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The **SPEAKER pro tempore**. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is one of three federally recognized Cherokee Tribes. Their ancestral homeland includes substantial parts of seven Eastern States, including Tennessee.

In 1979, the completion of the Tellico Dam by the Tennessee Valley Authority, the TVA, caused large areas of their ancestral lands along the Little Tennessee River to be flooded, covering many historic Tribal sites. The Cherokee can never recover these flooded lands, but there are other sites in the area that are in need of protection and preservation.

H.R. 453 aids in this cause by transferring approximately 76 acres of historically significant lands from the TVA's management to the United States, to be held in trust for the Eastern Band of Cherokee.

Placing these lands into trust would give the Eastern Band greater control over their historic homelands, as well as the opportunity to memorialize the history and culture of the Cherokee people.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 453, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a relatively small Tribe located in the Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina. The Tribe was opposed to the construction of the Tellico Dam and, after its completion in 1979, worked with the Tennessee Valley Authority regarding impacted areas that were of historic significance to the Tribe. The Tribe currently manages most of these properties under permanent easements granted in the mid-1980s as a result of an informal agreement with TVA.

This bill would permanently transfer these properties, totaling approximately 96 acres along the Little Tennessee River and the Tellico Reservoir, in trust status for the Tribe.

Gaming, pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, would be prohibited. Most of the parcels to be placed in trust under the bill will be used for memorializing and interpreting the history of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The remaining parcels will be used for recreational trails.

I commend the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) for his continued hard work on this legislation, which passed the House last Congress by an overwhelming vote of 383–2. I hope the Senate will take the opportunity to pass this worthy legislation this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I would inquire whether my colleague has any remaining speakers on his side.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have one speaker.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 453, and I thank both my Democratic and Republican colleagues for their great, strong words of encouragement and support on this long-overdue bill.

Mr. Speaker, the great State of Tennessee gets its name from the historic Overhill Cherokee village site called

Tanasi in present-day Monroe County, Tennessee, one of my 11 counties that I proudly represent in this, the people's House. Tanasi served as the capital of the Cherokee Nation from as early as 1721 until 1730.

As a result of several misguided Federal policies, the Cherokee and other Tribes were forcibly removed from Tennessee and surrounding States, including North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, and Virginia. This tragic period in American history led to the infamous Trail of Tears.

My bill, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act, returns important historical land sites back to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

I want the Members of this House to understand that this was a promise that was made by the people of Tennessee and the TVA to the Cherokee decades ago. This is not something new. The promise was made, and the promise was not kept.

Many of the Eastern Band remained in east Tennessee. In other words, when this forced removal came, they refused to go. They hid, and then they came back.

Fortunately, today, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a proud Cherokee Nation in my district, and this 76.1 acres is their sacred homeland. This needs to be returned to them.

My district also includes several areas where Sequoyah was, and still is, honored by the Cherokee. As we go to vote, we see her likeness, her image, her bust here in this Capitol, but that is something that the Cherokees still want to honor on this land in Tennessee.

What is so important? This is so important that TVA, the United States of America, the great State of Tennessee, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians have all come together to right a long-term wrong. We will honor and cherish Cherokee history and Cherokee traditions with this bill in Monroe County, Tennessee.

At a time when this House, perhaps even this Nation, is divided on a lot of issues, I have received overwhelming bipartisan support in this House for this bill, from Republicans and Democrats and from up the hall in the United States Senate. Senator MARSHA BLACKBURN, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, and Senator THOM TILLIS, Representative PHIL ROE, Representative MARK MEADOWS, and Representative TOM COLE have all helped us.

Without further ado, Mr. Speaker, I urge prompt consideration and support of my bill.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again commend the gentleman from Tennessee for his work on this bill. The Trail of Tears passes through my district in Arkansas. Again, this is a long-overdue bill.

I urge passage of it in the House, and I urge our friends in the Senate to take up the bill and pass it, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I also wholeheartedly support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HAALAND) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 453, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAALAND. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3172.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

VOTE TO IMPEACH PRESIDENT TRUMP

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is vested by the Constitution with the power of impeachment to provide a balance to the power of the Presidency. Without this essential duty, the President could exploit the sacred office without any regard for the law.

On January 3, 2019, every Member of the House swore an oath to defend our Constitution, and this week, we are being asked to do just that.

President Trump tried to undermine the 2020 election; and when the House exercised this duty to investigate this abuse of power, the President refused to cooperate and forbade his administration from doing so, obstructing Congress from carrying out our sworn responsibility.

If these actions bear no consequences, future Presidents may act without constraint, and American democracy will be at an end.

Therefore, compelled by my sworn duty to defend the Constitution, I will vote to impeach this President, and I urge the Senate to remove him from office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair