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The Honorable Jeff Hurd, Chairman
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hurd:

On behalf of the claimants in *T.C. Bear v. United States* for whom I serve as the lead attorney, I write to you today to convey my strong support for H.R. 1451, the “*Quapaw Tribal Settlement Act of 2025*.”

As you know, the Review Panel of the United States Court of Federal Claims issued a recommendation to the U.S. House of Representatives on January 9, 2020, related to the settlement of the case of *T.C. Bear v. United States*. The recommendation was made pursuant to H.R. 668, which was passed on December 19, 2012, referring H.R. 5862 (sponsored by Representative Cole) and entitled “A Bill related to members of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma,” to the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. H.R. 668 instructed the Court of Federal Claims to “report back to the House of Representatives” finding of fact and conclusions of law sufficient “to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the Indian trust-related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and its tribal members for compensation as legal or equitable claims against the United States.” The claims related to the federal government’s historical mismanagement of the trust property of the Tribal Members.

In accordance with the resolution, on January 9, 2020, the Court of Federal Claims approved a recommendation to the House of Representatives of a monetary settlement in the amount of \$137,500,000. This amount reflects the settlement reached between the U.S. Government, the Quapaw Nation, and individual Quapaw landowners. The settlement would resolve the claims by the individual Quapaw landowners that I represent against the U.S. Government for extensive damage to their lands caused by decades of mismanagement and grossly irresponsible actions by the U.S. Government.

H.R. 1451 would create a structure and process within the Department of Interior for those individuals and families who suffered harm from the Department of Interior’s prior mismanagement of their lands to finally receive the just compensation that the Court of Federal Claims has determined they deserve and are rightly owed. The structure and process for payment articulated in H.R. 1451 reflects almost two years of negotiations between the Quapaw Nation

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and the individual landowners that I represent. These landowners strongly believe that the "*Quapaw Tribal Settlement Act of 2025*" is worthy of your and the subcommittee's support.

I thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach me anytime at 918-584-0506.

Sincerely,

BARKER WOLTZ & LAWRENCE

By:


Terry J. Barker

TJB/skg