

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4715

To authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to certain members of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2021

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

A BILL

To authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to certain members of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

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 “Quapaw Tribal Land-
5 owner Settlement Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. QUAPAW TRIBAL LANDOWNER SETTLEMENT.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) on December 19, 2012, the House of Rep-
2 resentatives passed H. Res. 668 (112th Congress),
3 which referred H.R. 5862 (112th Congress), entitled
4 “A bill relating to members of the Quapaw Tribe of
5 Oklahoma (O–Gah–Pah)”, to the chief judge of the
6 United States Court of Federal Claims;

7 (2) H. Res. 668 instructed the chief judge of
8 the United States Court of Federal Claims to report
9 back to the House of Representatives findings of
10 fact and conclusions of law “sufficient to inform the
11 Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the
12 Indian trust-related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of
13 Oklahoma and its tribal members for compensation
14 as legal or equitable claims against the United
15 States”;

16 (3) the claims referred to in paragraph (2) re-
17 late to the historical management by the Federal
18 Government of the trust of the Tribe;

19 (4) the hearing officer for the referral con-
20 cluded in the report that “it would be fair, just, and
21 equitable to pay Claimants a total sum of
22 \$137,500,000” for all claims asserted or those that
23 could have been asserted under the terms of H.R.
24 5862;

1 (5) following issuance of the report, each of the
2 parties in the referral filed a notice responsive to
3 Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims
4 and accepted the findings and recommendations of
5 the United States Court of Federal Claims, without
6 exceptions; and

7 (6) the Review Panel of the United States
8 Court of Federal Claims adopted the findings and
9 conclusions of the hearing officer in the report, and
10 on January 9, 2020, officially recommended to the
11 House of Representatives that the claimants be
12 awarded and paid a total sum of \$137,500,000 for
13 the extinguishment of all claims actually or poten-
14 tially included in H.R. 5862.

15 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means a
17 claimant in the referral.

18 (2) REFERRAL.—The term “referral” means
19 the Congressional reference case designated by the
20 United States Court of Federal Claims as Thomas
21 Charles Bear, et al. v. the United States (No. 13–
22 51).

23 (3) REPORT.—The term “report” means the re-
24 port filed by the hearing officer for the referral on
25 December 3, 2019.

1 (4) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
2 Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-
5 rior to pay the claimants in accordance with the rec-
6 ommendation of the Review Panel of the United States
7 Court of Federal Claims submitted to the House of Rep-
8 resentatives on January 9, 2020, \$137,500,000 for fiscal
9 year 2021, to remain available until expended.

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