

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1619

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

AN ACT

To clarify the status of gaming conducted by the Catawba
Indian Nation, 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 “Catawba Indian Nation
3 Lands Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. APPLICATION OF CURRENT LAW.**

5 (a) LANDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—Section 14 of the
6 Catawba Indian Tribe of South Carolina Claims Settle-
7 ment Act of 1993 (Public Law 103–116) shall only apply
8 to gaming conducted by the Catawba Indian Nation on
9 lands located in South Carolina.

10 (b) LANDS IN STATES OTHER THAN SOUTH CARO-
11 LINA.—Gaming conducted by the Catawba Indian Nation
12 on lands located in States other than South Carolina shall
13 be subject to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25
14 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and sections 1166 through 1168 of
15 title 18, United States Code.

16 **SEC. 3. REAFFIRMATION OF STATUS AND ACTIONS.**

17 (a) RATIFICATION OF TRUST STATUS.—The action
18 taken by the Secretary on July 10, 2020, to place approxi-
19 mately 17 acres of land located in Cleveland County,
20 North Carolina, into trust for the benefit of the Catawba
21 Indian Nation is hereby ratified and confirmed as if that
22 action had been taken under a Federal law specifically au-
23 thorizing or directing that action.

24 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The land placed into trust for
25 the benefit of the Catawba Indian Nation by the Secretary
26 on July 10, 2020, shall—

1 (1) be a part of the Catawba Reservation and
2 administered in accordance with the laws and regu-
3 lations generally applicable to land held in trust by
4 the United States for an Indian Tribe; and

5 (2) be deemed to have been acquired and taken
6 into trust as part of the restoration of lands for an
7 Indian tribe that is restored to Federal recognition
8 pursuant to section 20(b)(1)(B)(iii) of the Indian
9 Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C.
10 2719(b)(1)(B)(iii)).

11 (c) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
12 shall—

13 (1) enlarge, impair, or otherwise affect any
14 right or claim of the Catawba Indian Nation to any
15 land or interest in land in existence before the date
16 of the enactment of this Act;

17 (2) affect any water right of the Catawba In-
18 dian Nation in existence before the date of the en-
19 actment of this Act;

20 (3) terminate or limit any access in any way to
21 any right-of-way or right-of-use issued, granted, or
22 permitted before the date of the enactment of this
23 Act; or

24 (4) alter or diminish the right of the Catawba
25 Indian Nation to seek to have additional land taken

