

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4180

To prohibit the withdrawal of acknowledgement or recognition of an Indian tribe or Alaska Native group or of the leaders of an Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, absent an Act of Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 1994

Mr. THOMAS of Wyoming (for himself, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. BOEHLERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To prohibit the withdrawal of acknowledgement or recognition of an Indian tribe or Alaska Native group or of the leaders of an Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, absent an Act of Congress.

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. PROHIBITION ON WITHDRAWAL OF RECOGNI-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—The Federal recognition or ac-
6 knowledgement of an Indian tribe or Alaska Native Group
7 may not be withdrawn, except by an Act of Congress.

1 (b) LEADERS.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph
2 (2), the Federal recognition of the duly elected, appointed,
3 or chosen leaders of an Indian tribe or Alaska Native
4 group may not be withdrawn, except by an Act of
5 Congress.

6 (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of a
7 change in leadership brought about pursuant to—

8 (A) the election process specified in the con-
9 stitution or bylaws of a tribe subject to a constitu-
10 tion or bylaws, or

11 (B) the process traditionally relied upon by a
12 tribe which does not have an election process speci-
13 fied in a constitution or bylaws of the tribe.

14 **SEC. 2. PETITION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior may
16 submit a petition to the committees and Members of Con-
17 gress referred to in subsection (b) to withdraw the Federal
18 acknowledgment or recognition of an Indian tribe or the
19 Federal recognition of the leaders of an Indian tribe.

20 (b) COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS.—

21 (1) COMMITTEES.—The committees referred to
22 in subsection (a) are the Committee on Natural Re-
23 sources of the House of Representatives and the
24 Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

1 (2) MEMBERS.—The Members of Congress re-
2 ferred to in subsection (a) are—

3 (A) each Member of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives in whose district the Indian tribe is
5 located; and

6 (B) the Senators of the State in which the
7 Indian tribe is located.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

9 For the purposes of this Act, the term “Indian tribe”
10 means any Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other or-
11 ganized group or community, including any Alaska Native
12 village or regional corporation as defined in or established
13 pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act,
14 which is recognized as eligible for the special programs
15 and services provided by the United States to Indians be-
16 cause of their status as Indians.

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