

(8) In order to implement the agreements referred to in paragraphs (5) and (6) of section 1775a of this title that address matters of jurisdiction with respect to certain offenses committed by and against members of the Mohegan Tribe and other Indians in Indian country and matters of gaming-related development, it is necessary for the Congress to enact legislation.

(9) The town of Montville, Connecticut, will—

(A) be affected by the loss of a tax base from, and jurisdiction over, lands that will be held in trust by the United States on behalf of the Mohegan Tribe; and

(B) serve as the host community for the gaming operations of the Mohegan Tribe.

(10) The town of Montville and the Mohegan Tribe have entered into an agreement to resolve issues extant between them and to establish the basis for a cooperative government-to-government relationship.

**(b) Purposes**

The purposes of this subchapter are as follows:

(1) To facilitate the settlement of claims against the State of Connecticut by the Mohegan Tribe.

(2) To facilitate the removal of any encumbrance to any title to land in the State of Connecticut that would have resulted from the action referred to in subsection (a) of this section.

(Pub. L. 103-377, § 2, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3501.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 103-377, § 1, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3501, provided that: "This Act [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the 'Mohegan Nation of Connecticut Land Claims Settlement Act of 1994'."

**§ 1775a. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter:

**(1) Lands or natural resources**

The term "lands or natural resources" means any real property or natural resources, or any interest in or right involving any real property or natural resources, including any right or interest in minerals, timber, or water, and any hunting or fishing rights.

**(2) Mohegan Tribe**

The term "Mohegan Tribe" means the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, a tribe of American Indians recognized by the United States pursuant to part 83 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations, and the State of Connecticut pursuant to section 47-59a(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

**(3) Secretary**

The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

**(4) State**

The term "State" means the State of Connecticut.

**(5) State Agreement**

The term "State Agreement" means the Agreement between the Mohegan Tribe and

the State of Connecticut, executed on May 17, 1994, by the Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Chief of the Mohegan Tribe, that was filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Connecticut.

**(6) Town Agreement**

The term "Town Agreement" means the agreement executed on June 16, 1994, by the Mayor of the town of Montville and the Chief of the Mohegan Tribe.

**(7) Transfer**

The term "transfer" includes any sale, grant, lease, allotment, partition, or conveyance, any transaction the purpose of which is to effect a sale, grant, lease, allotment, partition, or conveyance, or any event that results in a change of possession or control of land or natural resources.

(Pub. L. 103-377, § 3, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3502.)

**§ 1775b. Action by Secretary**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary is authorized to carry out the duties specified in subsection (b) of this section at such time as the Secretary makes a determination that—

(1) in accordance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.), the State of Connecticut has entered into a binding compact with the Mohegan Tribe providing for class III tribal gaming operations (as defined in section 4(8) of such Act (25 U.S.C. 2703(8)));

(2) the compact has been approved by the Secretary pursuant to section 11(d)(8) of such Act (25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(8)); and

(3) pursuant to transfers carried out pursuant to the State Agreement, the United States holds title to lands described in exhibit B of the State Agreement in trust for the Mohegan Tribe to be used as the initial Indian reservation of the Mohegan Tribe.

**(b) Publication by Secretary**

If the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (a) of this section that the conditions specified in paragraphs (1) through (3) of that subsection have been met, the Secretary shall publish the determination, together with the State Agreement, in the Federal Register.

**(c) Effect of publication**

**(1) In general**

Upon the publication of the determination and the State Agreement in the Federal Register pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, a transfer, waiver, release, relinquishment, or other commitment made by the Mohegan Tribe in accordance with the terms and conditions of the State Agreement shall be in full force and effect.

**(2) Approval by the United States**

(A) The United States hereby approves any transfer, waiver, release, relinquishment, or other commitment carried out pursuant to paragraph (1).

(B) A transfer made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have been made in ac-

cordance with all provisions of Federal law that specifically apply to transfers of lands or natural resources from, by, or on behalf of an Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians (including the Act popularly known as the "Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790"; section 4 of the Act of July 22, 1790 (1 Stat. 137, chapter 33)). The approval of the United States made pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall apply to the transfer beginning on the date of the transfer.

**(d) Extinguishment of claims**

**(1) In general**

Subject to subsections (f)(2) and (g) of this section, the following claims are hereby extinguished:

(A) Any claim to land within the State of Connecticut based upon aboriginal title by the Mohegan Tribe.

(B) Any other claim that the Mohegan Tribe may have with respect to any public or private lands or natural resources in Connecticut, including any claim or right based on recognized title, including—

(i) any claim that the Mohegan Tribe may have to the tribal sequestered lands bounded out to the Tribe in 1684, consisting of some 20,480 acres lying between the Thames River, New London bounds, Norwich bounds, and Colchester bounds;

(ii) any claim that the Mohegan Tribe may have based on a survey conducted under the authority of the Connecticut General Assembly in 1736 of lands reserved and sequestered by the General Assembly for the sole use and improvement of the Mohegan Indian Tribe; and

(iii) any claim that the Mohegan Tribe may have based on any action by the State carried out in 1860 or 1861 or otherwise made by the State to allot, reallot, or confirm any lands of the Mohegan Tribe to individual Indians or other persons.

**(2) Approval by the United States**

An extinguishment made pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed to have been made in accordance with all provisions of Federal law that specifically apply to transfers of lands or natural resources from, by, or on behalf of an Indian, Indian nation, or tribe of Indians (including the Act popularly known as the "Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790"; section 4 of the Act of July 22, 1790 (1 Stat. 137, chapter 33)).

**(e) Transfers**

Subject to subsection (g) of this section, any transfer of lands or natural resources located within the State of Connecticut, including any such transfer made pursuant to any applicable Federal or State law (including any applicable treaty), made by, from, or on behalf of the Mohegan Tribe or any predecessor or successor in interest of the Mohegan Tribe shall be deemed to be in full force and effect, as provided in subsection (c)(1) of this section.

**(f) Limitation**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in paragraph (2) and subject to subsection (g) of this section, by virtue

of the approval by the United States under this section of a transfer of land or the extinguishment of aboriginal title, any claim by the Mohegan Tribe against the United States, any State or political subdivision of a State, or any other person or entity, by the Mohegan Tribe, that—

(A) arises after the transfer or extinguishment is carried out; and

(B) is based on any interest in or right involving any claim to lands or natural resources described in this section, including claims for trespass damages or claims for use and occupancy,

shall, beginning on the date of the transfer of land or the extinguishment of aboriginal title, be considered an extinguished claim.

**(2) Exception**

The limitation under paragraph (1) shall not apply to any interest in lands or natural resources that is lawfully acquired by the Mohegan Tribe or a member of the Mohegan Tribe after the applicable date specified in paragraph (1).

**(g) Statutory construction**

**(1) Aboriginal interests**

Nothing in this section may be construed to extinguish any aboriginal right, title, interest, or claim to lands or natural resources, to the extent that such right, title, interest, or claim is an excepted interest, as defined under section 1(a) of the State Agreement.

**(2) Personal claims**

Nothing in this section may be construed to offset or eliminate the personal claim of any individual Indian if the individual Indian pursues such claim under any law of general applicability.

(Pub. L. 103-377, § 4, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3502.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is Pub. L. 100-497, Oct. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 2467, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 29 (§2701 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2701 of this title and Tables.

The Trade and Intercourse Act of 1790, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2)(B) and (d)(2), is act July 22, 1790, ch. 33, 1 Stat. 137, which is not classified to the Code.

**§ 1775c. Conveyance of lands to United States to be held in trust for Mohegan Tribe**

**(a) In general**

Subject to the environmental requirements that apply to land acquisitions covered under part 151 of title 25, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent similar regulation), the Secretary shall take such action as may be necessary to facilitate the conveyance to the United States of title to lands described in exhibits A and B of the State Agreement. Such lands shall be held by the United States in trust for the use and benefit of the Mohegan Tribe as the initial Indian reservation of the Mohegan Tribe.

**(b) Consultation**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall consult with the appropriate official of the town of Montville con-