



H.R. 2088, Eastern Band of Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act

H.R. 2088 would place approximately 76.1 acres of land owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and 19.9 acres of permanent easements along the shores of the Little Tennessee River and Tellico Reservoir in Monroe County, Tennessee, into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act would be prohibited on the lands placed into trust.

Background

The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians is a relatively small tribe located in the Great Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina. The tribe is headquartered in Cherokee, North Carolina, and its reservation, the Qualla Boundary, covers more than 51,000 acres.

After the completion of the Tellico Dam in Loudon County, Tennessee, in 1979, the tribe approached TVA regarding areas impacted by the dam that it believed were of historical significance to its people. The tribe currently manages several properties as part of two easements granted in 1984 and 1986 as a result of informal agreements between the tribe and TVA, including the Sequoyah Museum in Vonore, TN.

The tribe has stated that the original intent of both the Eastern Band leadership and TVA was to have the properties currently under easement permanently transferred into trust for the tribe. H.R. 2088 places the parcels of land in question into trust for the tribe while maintaining TVA's ability to carry out river control and development.

The Committee favorably reported H.R. 2088 by Unanimous Consent on October 13, 2021.

Contact

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