

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2929

To extend the full measure of the Federal Government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To extend the full measure of the Federal Government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina.

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 “Haliwa Saponi Indian
5 Tribe of North Carolina Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe of North
9 Carolina is a confederated Tribe descended from the

1 Saponi Nation, Nansemond, and affiliated Tribes
2 that inhabited the Piedmont and coastal regions of
3 what are now Virginia and North Carolina.

4 (2) “Haliwa” is a geographical designation that
5 is derived from the physical location of the Tribe,
6 which is primarily in Halifax and Warren Counties,
7 North Carolina.

8 (3) After the American Revolution (1775–
9 1783), the Tribe’s ancestors merged together for
10 mutual protection and survival in Halifax, Warren,
11 Nash, and Franklin Counties, in an area known as
12 “The Meadows”.

13 (4) Among the surrounding communities, the
14 Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe has often been referred
15 to as the “Meadows Indians”.

16 (5) In 1889, Warren County, North Carolina
17 resident G.B. Alston wrote to the Smithsonian Insti-
18 tution anthropologist James Mooney and confirmed
19 the residence of a Tribe of 300–600 Indians in the
20 Meadows in Halifax and Warren Counties.

21 (6) The Tribe has continually existed as a sepa-
22 rate community, with leaders exhibiting clear polit-
23 ical authority.

1 (7) Since 1957, the State of North Carolina has
2 had continuous dealings with the recognized political
3 leaders of the Haliwa Saponi.

4 (8) In 1957, the Tribe opened the Haliwa In-
5 dian School for Haliwa Saponi children.

6 (9) Between 1960 and 1963, students from the
7 Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe attended Bacone Col-
8 lege for Indians in Muscogee, Oklahoma.

9 (10) In 1965, the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe
10 won a lawsuit against the North Carolina Division
11 of Vital Statistics to correct the race of Haliwa
12 Saponi citizens on official records to read “Indian”.

13 (11) In 1965, the State of North Carolina took
14 formal legislative action recognizing the Haliwa
15 Saponi Indian Tribe.

16 (12) The United States has been providing
17 Federal funding to the Tribe from the Department
18 of Education’s Office of Indian Education for half a
19 century.

20 (13) The United States has been providing
21 Federal funding to the Tribe for housing and related
22 infrastructure development from the United States
23 Department of Housing and Urban Development
24 pursuant to the Federal Native American Housing
25 and Self-Determination Act for more than 25 years.

1 (14) In 2000, the Tribe opened the Haliwa
2 Saponi Tribal School, a charter school under the
3 State of North Carolina, at the location of the origi-
4 nal Haliwa Indian School, and the school has re-
5 ceived Federal funds from the United States Depart-
6 ment of Education, Office of Indian Education, for
7 Haliwa Saponi Indian students.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) MEMBER.—The term “Member” means a
11 member of the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe of North
12 Carolina.

13 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (3) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the
16 Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe of North Carolina.

17 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF FULL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT-TO-**
18 **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.**

19 The United States hereby extends to the Haliwa
20 Saponi Indian Tribe the full measure of the Federal Gov-
21 ernment-to-government relationship to make all laws (in-
22 cluding regulations) of the United States of general appli-
23 cability to Indians or nations, Indian Tribes, or bands of
24 Indians (including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C.

1 5101 et seq.)) that are not inconsistent with this Act ap-
2 plicable to the Tribe and Tribal members.

3 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFIT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Tribe and its members shall
5 be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the
6 Federal Government to federally recognized Indian Tribes
7 without regard to the existence of a reservation for the
8 Tribe, including services and benefits under the Act of 19
9 June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.).

10 (b) SERVICE AREA.—For the purpose of the delivery
11 of Federal services and benefits to members, the service
12 area of the Tribe shall include Halifax, Warren, Nash,
13 Franklin, Vance, and Granville counties in the State of
14 North Carolina.

15 (c) SERVICE POPULATION.—For purpose of the deliv-
16 ery of Federal services and benefits described in sub-
17 section (a), the Tribal roll in effect on the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act shall, subject to verification by the Sec-
19 retary, define the service population of the Tribe.

20 (d) ROLL; GOVERNING DOCUMENTS.—The member-
21 ship roll and government documents of the Tribe shall be
22 the most recent membership roll and governing docu-
23 ments, respectively, submitted by the Tribe to the Sec-
24 retary before the date of enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE LAND INTO TRUST.**

2 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
3 retary is authorized to take land into trust for the benefit
4 of the Tribe and proclaim a reservation for the Tribe pur-
5 suant to the authorities granted to the Secretary in the
6 Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.), and lands
7 acquired in trust for the Tribe and included in the first
8 reservation proclamation for the Tribe shall be treated as
9 an initial reservation that meets the requirements of Pub-
10 lic Law 100–497, section 20(b)(1)(B)(ii).

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