

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 725

To take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit of the Crow  
Tribe of Montana, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2025

Mr. DOWNING (for himself and Mr. ZINKE) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To take certain mineral interests into trust for the benefit  
of the Crow Tribe of Montana, 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Crow Revenue Act”.

5       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6       In this Act:

7               (1) BULL MOUNTAINS LEASE.—The term “Bull  
8       Mountains Lease” means the Bureau of Land Man-  
9       agement Lease MTM–97988 dated June 1, 2012.

1           (2) BULL MOUNTAINS TRACTS.—The term  
2 “Bull Mountains Tracts” means the mineral inter-  
3 ests that—

4           (A) are located in Musselshell County,  
5 Montana;

6           (B) comprise approximately 4,530 acres of  
7 subsurface interests owned by the United States  
8 located in—

9           (i) T. 6 N., R. 26 E., sec. 2;

10           (ii) T. 6 N., R. 26 E., sec. 24;

11           (iii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 4;

12           (iv) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 8;

13           (v) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 10;

14           (vi) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 14;

15           (vii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 22;

16           (viii) T. 7 N., R. 26 E., sec. 24;

17           (ix) T. 7 N., R. 26 E., sec. 26;

18           (x) T. 7 N., R. 26 E., sec. 34;

19           (xi) T. 7 N., R. 27 E., sec. 20; and

20           (xii) T. 7 N., R. 27 E., sec. 22;

21           (C) comprise approximately 940 acres of  
22 surface interests owned by the United States lo-  
23 cated in—

24           (i) T. 6 N., R. 26 E., sec. 2;

25           (ii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 8;

1 (iii) T. 6 N., R. 27 E., sec. 10;

2 (iv) T. 6 N., R. 28 E., sec. 8; and

3 (v) T. 7 N., R. 27 E., sec. 34; and

4 (D) are generally depicted on the map en-  
5 titled “Bull Mountains Tracts” and dated Jan-  
6 uary 30, 2024.

7 (3) HOPE FAMILY TRACTS.—The term “Hope  
8 Family Tracts” means the aggregate mineral inter-  
9 ests that—

10 (A) are located in Big Horn County, Mon-  
11 tana, within the boundaries of the Crow Res-  
12 ervation;

13 (B) comprise approximately 4,660 acres of  
14 subsurface interests owned by the Hope Family  
15 Trust located in—

16 (i) T. 4 S., R. 37 E., sec. 33;

17 (ii) T. 4 S., R. 37 E., sec. 34;

18 (iii) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 1;

19 (iv) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 2;

20 (v) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 3;

21 (vi) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 10;

22 (vii) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 11;

23 (viii) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 12;

24 (ix) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 13;

25 (x) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 14;

- 1 (xi) T. 5 S., R. 37 E., sec. 15;  
2 (xii) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 5;  
3 (xiii) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 8;  
4 (xiv) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 9;  
5 (xv) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 16; and  
6 (xvi) T. 5 S., R. 38 E., sec. 17; and

7 (C) are generally depicted on the map enti-  
8 tled “Hope Family Tracts” and dated January  
9 30, 2024.

10 (4) HOPE FAMILY TRUST.—The term “Hope  
11 Family Trust” means the Joe and Barbara Hope  
12 Mineral Trust.

13 (5) LESSEE.—The term “Lessee” means the  
14 lessee for the Bull Mountains Lease.

15 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
16 the Secretary of the Interior.

17 (7) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
18 of Montana.

19 (8) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the Crow  
20 Tribe of Montana.

21 **SEC. 3. MINERAL RIGHTS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.**

22 (a) COMPLETION OF MINERAL CONVEYANCES.—Not  
23 later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act,  
24 in a single transaction—

1           (1) notwithstanding any other provision of law,  
2           including sections 3480.0–6(d)(8) and 3452.1  
3           through 3452.1–3 of title 43, Code of Federal Regu-  
4           lations (or successor regulations), if the Lessee of-  
5           fers to relinquish the Bull Mountains Lease, the  
6           Secretary shall accept the relinquishment;

7           (2) the Hope Family Trust shall convey to the  
8           Tribe all right, title, and interest in and to the min-  
9           eral interests in the Hope Family Tracts; and

10          (3) subject to valid existing rights, and on relin-  
11          quishment of the Bull Mountains Lease, the Sec-  
12          retary shall convey to the Hope Family Trust all  
13          right, title, and interest of the United States in and  
14          to the mineral interests and surface land in the Bull  
15          Mountains Tracts.

16          (b) TRUST STATUS.—On the request of the Tribe,  
17          the mineral interests conveyed to the Tribe under sub-  
18          section (a)(2) shall be held in trust by the United States  
19          for the benefit of the Tribe.

20          (c) NO STATE TAXATION.—The mineral interests  
21          conveyed to the Tribe under subsection (a)(2) shall not  
22          be subject to taxation by the State (including any political  
23          subdivision of the State).

24          (d) REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT.—Before the  
25          conveyances under subsection (a), the Tribe shall notify

1 the Secretary, in writing, that the Tribe and the Hope  
2 Family Trust have agreed on a formula for sharing rev-  
3 enue from development of the mineral and surface inter-  
4 ests described in subsection (a)(3) if those mineral or sur-  
5 face interests are developed at a later date.

6 (e) WITHDRAWAL PRIOR TO EXCHANGE.—Subject to  
7 valid existing rights, pending the conveyances under para-  
8 graphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a), the tracts conveyed  
9 under those paragraphs shall be withdrawn from—

10 (1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and dis-  
11 posal under the public land laws;

12 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining  
13 laws; and

14 (3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral  
15 materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

16 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER FEDERAL BENEFITS.**

17 No amounts or other benefits provided to the Tribe  
18 under this Act shall result in the reduction or denial of  
19 any Federal services, benefits, or programs to the Tribe  
20 or any member of the Tribe to which the Tribe or member  
21 of the Tribe is entitled or eligible because of—

22 (1) the status of the Tribe as a federally recog-  
23 nized Indian Tribe; or

1           (2) the status of the member as a member of  
2           the Tribe.

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