

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 622

To amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act to provide for the transfer of additional Federal land to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, 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 “Leech Lake Reserva-
5 tion Restoration Amendments Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND TO THE**
2 **LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a)(5) of the Leech Lake
4 Band of Ojibwe Reservation Restoration Act (Public Law
5 116–255; 134 Stat. 1140) is amended by striking sub-
6 paragraph (B) and inserting the following:

7 “(B) does not intend immediately to mod-
8 ify the use of the Federal land.”.

9 (b) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAND.—
10 Section 2 of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation
11 Restoration Act (Public Law 116–255; 134 Stat. 1139)
12 is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)(1)—

14 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

15 (i) by striking “means the approxi-
16 mately” and inserting “means—

17 “(i) the approximately”;

18 (ii) in clause (i) (as so designated), by
19 striking the period at the end and inserting
20 “; and”; and

21 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(ii) any other land managed by the
24 Secretary, through the Chief of the Forest
25 Service, located in the Chippewa National
26 Forest in Cass County, Minnesota, which

1 records maintained by the Bureau of In-
2 dian Affairs show was sold without the
3 unanimous consent of the rightful land-
4 owners.”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

6 (i) by redesignating clauses (i) and
7 (ii) as clauses (ii) and (iii), respectively;
8 and

9 (ii) by inserting before clause (ii) (as
10 so redesignated) the following:

11 “(i) any land transferred pursuant to
12 an agreement entered into between the
13 Secretary and the Tribe under subsection
14 (c)(2);”;

15 (2) in subsection (c)—

16 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “para-
17 graph (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and
18 (3)”;

19 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
20 paragraph (3); and

21 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
22 following:

23 “(2) AGREEMENT.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—On agreement be-
25 tween the Secretary and the Tribe, the Sec-

1 retary shall substitute, for purposes of the
2 transfer under paragraph (1), alternative Na-
3 tional Forest System land located in Cass
4 County, Minnesota, on an acre-for-acre basis,
5 for those parcels of Federal land to be trans-
6 ferred under that paragraph in a manner that
7 avoids in-holdings and provides a preference for
8 land adjacent to or near existing Leech Lake
9 trust lands and lands of cultural importance to
10 the Tribe, to the maximum extent practicable.

11 “(B) FREQUENCY OF TRANSFERS.—Pursu-
12 ant to an agreement entered into under sub-
13 paragraph (A), the Secretary may transfer land
14 to the Secretary of the Interior on a rolling
15 basis as that land is identified and surveys are
16 completed.”; and

17 (3) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) in paragraph (1)—

19 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
20 “described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i)” after
21 “Federal land”; and

22 (ii) in subparagraph (B), in the mat-
23 ter preceding clause (i), by striking “sub-
24 mit a map and legal description of the
25 Federal land” and inserting “submit maps

1 and legal descriptions of the Federal land
2 transferred pursuant to paragraphs (1)
3 and (2) of subsection (c), as applicable,”;
4 (B) in paragraph (2)—

5 (i) by striking “map and legal descrip-
6 tion” and inserting “maps and legal de-
7 scriptions”; and

8 (ii) by striking “map or legal descrip-
9 tion” and inserting “maps or legal descrip-
10 tions”; and

11 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “map
12 and legal description” and inserting “maps and
13 legal descriptions”.

14 (c) REAFFIRMATION.—Congress reaffirms the appli-
15 cability of section 97A.151 of the Minnesota Statutes, in-
16 cluding the settlement agreement ratified by that section,
17 for purposes of ensuring that the hunting, fishing, and
18 recreation rights of non-Tribal members remain un-
19 changed by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation
20 Restoration Act (Public Law 116–255; 134 Stat. 1139)
21 and the amendments made to that Act by this section.

22 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the amend-
23 ments made by this section, the Secretary of Agriculture,
24 acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall pro-

- 1 vide for public engagement and comment in accordance
- 2 with applicable laws (including regulations).

