

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4715

To authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to certain members of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2021

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

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## A BILL

To authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior to make payments to certain members of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma in accordance with the recommendation of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

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 “Quapaw Tribal Land-  
5 owner Settlement Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. QUAPAW TRIBAL LANDOWNER SETTLEMENT.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) on December 19, 2012, the House of Rep-  
2           representatives passed H. Res. 668 (112th Congress),  
3           which referred H.R. 5862 (112th Congress), entitled  
4           “A bill relating to members of the Quapaw Tribe of  
5           Oklahoma (O–Gah–Pah)”, to the chief judge of the  
6           United States Court of Federal Claims;

7           (2) H. Res. 668 instructed the chief judge of  
8           the United States Court of Federal Claims to report  
9           back to the House of Representatives findings of  
10          fact and conclusions of law “sufficient to inform the  
11          Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the  
12          Indian trust-related claims of the Quapaw Tribe of  
13          Oklahoma and its tribal members for compensation  
14          as legal or equitable claims against the United  
15          States”;

16          (3) the claims referred to in paragraph (2) re-  
17          late to the historical management by the Federal  
18          Government of the trust of the Tribe;

19          (4) the hearing officer for the referral con-  
20          cluded in the report that “it would be fair, just, and  
21          equitable to pay Claimants a total sum of  
22          \$137,500,000” for all claims asserted or those that  
23          could have been asserted under the terms of H.R.  
24          5862;

1           (5) following issuance of the report, each of the  
2 parties in the referral filed a notice responsive to  
3 Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims  
4 and accepted the findings and recommendations of  
5 the United States Court of Federal Claims, without  
6 exceptions; and

7           (6) the Review Panel of the United States  
8 Court of Federal Claims adopted the findings and  
9 conclusions of the hearing officer in the report, and  
10 on January 9, 2020, officially recommended to the  
11 House of Representatives that the claimants be  
12 awarded and paid a total sum of \$137,500,000 for  
13 the extinguishment of all claims actually or poten-  
14 tially included in H.R. 5862.

15 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16           (1) CLAIMANT.—The term “claimant” means a  
17 claimant in the referral.

18           (2) REFERRAL.—The term “referral” means  
19 the Congressional reference case designated by the  
20 United States Court of Federal Claims as Thomas  
21 Charles Bear, et al. v. the United States (No. 13–  
22 51).

23           (3) REPORT.—The term “report” means the re-  
24 port filed by the hearing officer for the referral on  
25 December 3, 2019.

1           (4) TRIBE.—The term “Tribe” means the  
2           Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.

3           (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4           authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Inte-  
5           rior to pay the claimants in accordance with the rec-  
6           ommendation of the Review Panel of the United States  
7           Court of Federal Claims submitted to the House of Rep-  
8           resentatives on January 9, 2020, \$137,500,000 for fiscal  
9           year 2021, to remain available until expended.

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