

Questions from Rep. Rob Bishop for Douglas Lankford, Chief, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma – H.R. 396

1. The Committee on Resources held a hearing in the 107th Congress¹ on a similar bill concerning the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and other tribes. Congressmen David Phelps (D-IL) and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) included the following excerpts in their statements for the hearing record:

*“They gave up most of its land to the Federal Government for \$600 when it signed that treaty. The tribe now estimates that value of the land to be around \$30 billion.”*²

*“Such is the case along the Wabash River, where the Miami tribe did not give up their title to what encompasses parts of more than fifteen counties with an estimated value of \$30 billion.”*³

Can you clarify what the Miami Tribe estimates that their land claims in Illinois, as contemplated in H.R. 396, are worth?

2. The Department of the Interior’s statement for the July 16, 2019 hearing on H.R. 396 notes that further investigation is needed regarding the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s claim of ownership of certain lands in the state of Illinois.

Question: Can you provide the committee with detailed information and materials regarding the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma’s claim of ownership pursuant to any treaties and how these differ from other tribes’ claims related to the Treaty of Grouseland?

¹ Legislative Hrg Before H. Cmte. on Resources. May 8, 2002. Serial No. 107-115.
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-107hhr79494/pdf/CHRG-107hhr79494.pdf>.

² *Id.* at 7. Prepared statement for the Record. Congressman David Phelps.

³ *Id.* at 80. Prepared statement for the Hearing Record. Congressman Frank Pallone.