

House Committee on Natural Resources:

I am requesting that the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States consider the information below before sending this House Resolution on to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**BACKGROUND:** Rural areas of Illinois typically (in most cases) have a land ownership model whereby each land owner owns the land to the center of the adjoining roads. This is the case on the north and east boundaries of the land currently owned by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in rural Shabbona, Illinois that is on the southwest corner of University and Preserve Roads. This is also the case for the area defined in the bill (i.e. Beginning at the intersection of Interstate 39 and U.S. Highway 30 and going straight east on U.S. Highway 30 and Preserve Road to State Route 23, then north on State Route 23 to Interstate 88, then west on Interstate 88 to Interstate 39, and then south on Interstate 39 to the point of beginning.) as the area where additional land can be purchased by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

**ACTION NEEDED:** In order to eliminate future highway / road issues, I believe that three minor modifications to the resolution and bill are needed:

1. Allow the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to sell or donate to the Shabbona Road District of the Township of Shabbona the portion of the currently owned land that is between the centerline of University Road and the west edge of the road right-of-way (approximately 33 feet in width) as well as the portion of the currently owned land that is between the centerline of Preserve Road and the south edge of the road right-of-way (also approximately 33 feet in width). This action will allow the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to have a boundary that clearly defines Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation without the general public/tribal 33-foot strip of land that is under a mix of rules that may not be clear cut in all cases.
2. For the same reasons, allow the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation to purchase land in the purchase area defined in the bill only to the adjoining road right-of-way line of any adjoining road. Require inclusion in the purchase contract that the seller must donate or sell for \$10 the road right-of-way to the agency responsible for maintaining that road right-of-way (likely a township Road District or a county Highway Department).
3. With this being the first tribal / sovereign nation (?) land in the state of Illinois, there needs to be education for everyone from the state's elected leadership to the legislature to the local officials to neighbors to the general public. Money for performing that education should be provided in the bill (\$1 mil?) to the appropriate group in the Department of the Interior to assure an unbiased, accurate, and adequate education.

Hopefully these requests can be met without causing any Bureau of Indian Affairs problems or other problems because the intent is make the situation better for all involved. Providing obstructions for any party is not the intent, so feel free to make adjustments to eliminate problems hopefully without gutting this request. Thank you for assisting with this matter.

James A. Johnson, Supervisor  
Shabbona Township