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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3221

Statement for the Record

**House Natural Resources Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee:
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 411, H.R. 2916, H.R. 3620 & H.R. 3670**

June 25, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Hurd and members of the Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee for holding a legislative hearing on my legislation to ratify the land claim settlement agreement between the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, New York State, Franklin and St. Lawrence Counties, the Towns of Fort Covington and Bombay, and the New York Power Authority.

I am deeply honored to lead this historic legislation ratifying the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement that returns thousands of acres of land back to the Akwesasne Mohawks. This is a significant milestone for the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe following over four decades of tireless advocacy from their council members.

This agreement includes the return of Reservation Status of 3,500 acres and the ability to acquire from willing sellers up to 14,000 total acres in the land claim areas. Additionally under this settlement agreement, tuition and mandatory fees are waived for all Akwesasne Mohawk students attending a State University of New York (SUNY) institution. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe will also acquire nine megawatts of power from the New York Power Authority at a preferred rate and will receive \$70 million from the New York Power Authority over 35 years.

The settlement agreement does not require a federal monetary contribution. Negotiated settlements related to Indian land claims under the Non-Intercourse Act require Congressional approval and in this case, require legislation. My bill would authorize, ratify, and confirm the Akwesasne Mohawk Land Claim Settlement Agreement and bring reconciliation after over four decades of uncertainty.

I thank Chairman Westerman and Chairman Hurd for holding this important legislative hearing and I look forward to working with the Committee to pass my historic legislation in Congress and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

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