

**Statement for the Record
Department of the Interior
Before the
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs**

**On
H.R. 8954, Tribal Regulatory Reform Implementation Act of 2026; and
H.R. 6917, To take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute
Indians**

June 9, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this Statement for the Record on H.R. 8954, the Tribal Regulatory Reform Implementation Act of 2026, and H.R. 6917, a bill to take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians.

H.R. 8954, Tribal Regulatory Reform Implementation Act of 2026

H.R. 8954 would amend the Indian Tribal Regulatory Reform and Business Development Act of 2000 by transferring responsibilities currently assigned to the Department of Commerce to the Secretary of the Interior. The bill is intended to simplify how the Act is carried out and improve coordination of Tribal economic development and regulatory reform efforts within the federal government.

The Department recognizes the importance of reducing unnecessary barriers to Tribal economic development and appreciates the sponsor's interest in improving coordination of federal programs related to Tribal business development. Tribal governments and Tribal enterprises play an important role in creating jobs, building infrastructure, and supporting economic growth in Tribal communities.

The Department supports the goal of improving coordination and implementation of the Indian Tribal Regulatory Reform and Business Development Act and looks forward to continuing to work with the sponsor and the Subcommittee on implementation considerations related to the legislation.

H.R. 6917, To take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians

H.R. 6917 would direct the Secretary of the Interior to take approximately 3,156 acres of Bureau of Land Management land into trust for the Las Vegas Tribe of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony, Nevada. The bill would also make the land part of the Tribe's reservation.

The bill requires the Tribe to provide an approximately 300-foot-wide right-of-way, through the lands proposed to be taken into trust, for high-voltage renewable energy transmission facilities

consistent with existing agreements. The bill would also prohibit class II and class III gaming on the land. In addition, the legislation would preserve existing water rights claims and ensure that the March 2021 Intergovernmental Agreement between the Tribe and the City of Las Vegas remains unaffected. Further, the bill includes a conforming amendment that repeals Section 3092 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

The Department appreciates the Subcommittee’s continued attention to Tribal land restoration efforts and recognizes the importance of providing certainty regarding Tribal land status and future management. However, the Department cannot support H.R. 6917 as written and would welcome continued discussions with the sponsor and the Subcommittee regarding technical recommendations and implementation considerations for the bill. For example, the Department notes that the lands proposed to be taken into trust are located within the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Disposal Boundary. SNPLMA establishes a mandatory framework for the disposal of lands within the disposal boundary. As written, the bill could create a conflicting statutory mandate with the SNPLMA disposal framework. Additionally, the bill repeals Section 3092 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 in its entirety rather than providing a limited conforming amendment. The Department notes that this section includes various unrelated land conveyances, designations, management actions, and withdrawals – the repeal of which may be unintentional.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this Statement for the Record. The Department looks forward to continuing to work with the Subcommittee and Tribal Nations on these important issues.