H. R. 297

To extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To extend the Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Little Shell Tribe of
Chippewa Indians Restoration Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MEMBER.—The term “member” means an individual who is enrolled in the Tribe pursuant to section 6.
(2) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) Tribe.—The term “Tribe” means the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana.

SEC. 3. FEDERAL RECOGNITION.

(a) In General.—Federal recognition is extended to the Tribe.

(b) Effect of Federal Laws.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, all Federal laws (including regulations) of general application to Indians and Indian tribes, including the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”), shall apply to the Tribe and members.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL SERVICES AND BENEFITS.

(a) In General.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Tribe and each member shall be eligible for all services and benefits provided by the United States to Indians and federally recognized Indian tribes, without regard to—

(1) the existence of a reservation for the Tribe; or

(2) the location of the residence of any member on or near an Indian reservation.

(b) Service Area.—For purposes of the delivery of services and benefits to members, the service area of the
Tribe shall be considered to be the area comprised of Blaine, Cascade, Glacier, and Hill Counties in the State of Montana.

SEC. 5. REAFFIRMATION OF RIGHTS.

(a) In General.—Nothing in this Act diminishes any right or privilege of the Tribe or any member that existed before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Claims of Tribe.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, nothing in this Act alters or affects any legal or equitable claim of the Tribe to enforce any right or privilege reserved by, or granted to, the Tribe that was wrongfully denied to, or taken from, the Tribe before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP ROLL.

(a) In General.—As a condition of receiving recognition, services, and benefits pursuant to this Act, the Tribe shall submit to the Secretary, by not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, a membership roll consisting of the name of each individual enrolled as a member of the Tribe.

(b) Determination of Membership.—The qualifications for inclusion on the membership roll of the Tribe shall be determined in accordance with sections 1 through 3 of article 5 of the constitution of the Tribe dated Sep-
(c) MAINTENANCE OF ROLL.—The Tribe shall maintain the membership roll under this section.

SEC. 7. TRANSFER OF LAND.

(a) HOMELAND.—The Secretary shall acquire, for the benefit of the Tribe, trust title to 200 acres of land within the service area of the Tribe to be used for a tribal land base.

(b) ADDITIONAL LAND.—The Secretary may acquire additional land for the benefit of the Tribe pursuant to section 5 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (25 U.S.C. 5108) (commonly known as the “Indian Reorganization Act”). 