

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee,

Thank you for bringing H.R. 6063, *To provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes*, before the Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples for this legislative hearing. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record in favor of H.R. 6063.

For six years I have had the pleasure of serving as the primary sponsor of this legislation.

Furthermore, I applaud the tireless work of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. The tribe has assisted me greatly, and helped to lay a solid factual background for this Subcommittee, which I hope will assist Subcommittee members at this hearing.

While jurisdictional bills are common, H.R. 6063 is a unique piece of legislation. Should this bill become law, it would benefit Tribal and non-Tribal members alike. First, this bill will remove a cloud on the title for non-Indian land owners in east central Illinois, by extinguishing the Tribe's treaty title claim to the land.

Second, this bill addresses a historically esoteric, and politically painful set of facts, one which I believe the tribe has waited long enough to resolve. The Miami Tribe is seeking neither a settlement of their claim under the Treaty of Grouseland, nor an appropriation from Congress. Rather, the Tribe is only asking for its day in court. For that to occur, the Tribe is asking Congress to do what only Congress can: extinguish the Tribe's treaty title claim in Illinois. In that respect, H.R. 6063 may stand as the most mutually balanced jurisdictional bill that Congress has passed in many decades.

I want to thank my friend Congresswoman McCollum for agreeing to serve as the primary sponsor of this bill in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Her willingness to champion this bill is a testament to her dedication to Native peoples in this country. I hope that this legislative hearing before the

Subcommittee is informative on this matter, and that H.R. 6063 will ultimately be reported favorably by the full House Committee on Natural Resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Markwayne Mullin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

Markwayne Mullin  
Member of Congress