

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

For the last 200 years, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation has been fighting for their land back after it was unlawfully taken.

My colleague Rep. Lauren Underwood and I are seeking to correct that injustice with the introduction of H.R. 8083, the *Prairie Band Potawatomi National Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation Settlement Act*, as a step forward in righting the wrongs committed against the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation.

This bill will seek to provide a remedy for the damages and lost rents to the Prairie Band associated with more than 170 years of being denied the use of its lands by Federal officials.

We believe this legislation is more than reasonable considering that the US government stole their land and has been unwilling to compensate them for their loss, or give them a new home for nearly 200 years.

It would reaffirm the nation's ownership and jurisdiction over their land. This bill is an important first step toward restorative justice.

It took us 173 years to get to this point and frankly, Chairman, I am disappointed in how long it has taken our government to fix this.

Lastly, I look forward to working with DOI and the Potawatomi Nation on the conforming amendments to switch from restricted fee status to a trust.

I also look forward to working with the Nation as they seek to attain a settlement for the damages assessed.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is rooted in its community, and they deserve to finally have this issue resolved by Congress.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I yield the remainder of my time.