

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1855

To permit the Miami Nation of Indiana to apply for acknowledgment as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

---

## A BILL

To permit the Miami Nation of Indiana to apply for acknowledgment as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and for other purposes.

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

3       **SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.**

4       In this Act:

5               (1) **ACKNOWLEDGMENT.**—The term “acknowl-  
6       edgment” means acknowledgment as a federally rec-  
7       ognized Indian tribe.

8               (2) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
9       the Secretary of the Interior.

1 **SEC. 2. MIAMI NATION OF INDIANA PERMITTED TO PETI-**  
2 **TION FOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
4 sion of law (including regulations) that denies acknowledg-  
5 ment to an entity that previously petitioned for and was  
6 denied acknowledgment, the Miami Nation of Indiana may  
7 submit a petition to the Secretary, under part 83 of title  
8 25, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date  
9 of enactment of this Act), for acknowledgment.

10 (b) **EFFECT ON DETERMINATION.**—In reviewing and  
11 making a determination on a petition for acknowledgment  
12 that the Miami Nation of Indiana submitted, the Sec-  
13 retary shall not use, as a reason to deny the petition for  
14 acknowledgment that the Miami Nation of Indiana sub-  
15 mitted, any previous denial of a petition for acknowledg-  
16 ment that the Miami Nation of Indiana submitted, includ-  
17 ing—

- 18 (1) a denial by the Secretary of a petition;  
19 (2) a court decision affirming a denial of a peti-  
20 tion; and  
21 (3) any other denial of a petition.

○